



(l-r) BRIG Tim Hanna AM, State President, RSL; the Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, Chairman, Veterans' Advisory Council; MAJGEN Vikram Madan VSM & Bar (Retd), President, SA Indian Ex Defence Officers Club & Chaplain David Prior, 7th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment.

### The Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph Remembrance Service

A remembrance service was held at 11.00am, Sunday, 7 September at the Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Cenotaph Memorial. The Memorial is an elegant yet imposing granite cenotaph surmounted by a cross that sits quietly in Lundie Gardens at the west end of South Terrace, Adelaide.

The service was funded by a grant from the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs and was hosted by Ian

Smith, with Peter Goers OAM delivering the welcome address and the Ataturk Statement and Bill Denny AM BM reciting The Ode of Remembrance.

Often referred to as the "Forgotten Memorial", the Australasian Soldiers Dardanelles Obelisk is believed to be the first ANZAC memorial in the nation and was unveiled by the Governor General on 7 September, 1915 – 135 days after our troops stormed ashore at Gallipoli.

When originally unveiled the obelisk was sited in nearby "Wattle Grove" on Sir Lewis Cohen Avenue. The memorial was moved to its present site in 1940.

The creators of "Wattle Grove" saw it as a symbolic battlefield or metaphor for the Dardanelles, with the obelisk representative of the cliffs the Australians had climbed at Gallipoli. The cross, which was added in 1918, recognises the Allies' withdrawal from Gallipoli and the sacrifice of those who remained buried there.

Wattle Grove and the Cenotaph represent one of our nation's very first attempts to remember those lost at war. Subsequent to the dedication, women from the Soldiers Mothers Association regularly gathered to conduct ANZAC Day services at the memorial. Floral tokens were placed by the mothers and relatives of the men killed at Gallipoli.

This year marked the 99th anniversary of the dedication of this beautiful memorial that means so much. Veterans SA will now begin planning with the RSL, 10th/27th Battalion, Royal South Australian Regiment and the Spirit of Gallipoli Association for next year's 100th anniversary commemoration.



# Veterans' Voice

## A Message from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs



### Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Veterans' Voice.

I was very proud to be appointed your Minister on the 27th of May.

The veterans' community is close to my heart. My grandfather was a rat of Tobruk in World War Two, serving in the 2nd/10th Battalion in the Middle East and New Guinea. My other grandfather served in both World Wars – these people had a significant influence on me. I was pleased to be able to now advocate on behalf of the veterans' community.

It troubled me that my grandfathers and their mates returned home with little support, at a time when there was no comprehension of the psychological impacts of war. Often the only people they could turn to for help was their mother or wife. Sadly many servicemen didn't return home and made the ultimate sacrifice - in the absence of professional guidance, Legacy was formed and has since supported the families that were left behind.

The RSL was also established in 1916. Over the years it has evolved into a beacon for soldiers seeking comradeship and a listening ear. The incredibly tight knit veterans' community has always been galvanised by common experiences and are often the only people who really understand each other.

I decided at a young age that I wanted to be a soldier, and during my 23 years in the Army, witnessed the wonderful influence of these and other ex-service organisations. I served in the Special Air Services Regiment, commanding the 1st Commando Regiment and served as commanding officer of the Australian multinational Peacekeepers in Egypt. I was always acutely aware of issues that affected my soldier's or their loved ones, and I would support them in any way I could.

While my Regiment was deployed, it was also the auxiliary wives clubs that were very active in supporting families experiencing difficulties. This network is arguably more critical now than in the past. During the World Wars there was a sense of national commitment to the conflict, providing some comfort to those involved - everyone had a family member serving somewhere. However later in Malaya, Korea, Vietnam and now the Middle East our commitment is much smaller in terms of numbers and some may say our unified national commitment may have diminished from where it once was.

Expectations within our society have also changed. During World War Two our servicemen and women were often separated from their families for long periods of time, sometimes up to 5 years. Even during the Vietnam conflict families were expected to wait for a year before seeing their partners again. Modern families now have different demands with

mothers and fathers being required to care for children, maintain the home and earn an income in a competitive and costly society – a support network is critical for these families to function.

Despite these challenges, many defence families and ADF personnel enjoy happy and successful lives when they return from deployment. Sadly that isn't the case for everyone, and during my service around 20 per cent of my contingent who were married, experienced marital difficulties. Statistics suggest this is much higher now with both partners balancing careers.

It is pleasing that the Australian Defence Force proactively implements plans to care for families as part of its operational commitments – it's realised that a happy family will indeed make for a happy soldier.

To everyone who supports our servicemen and women, Legacy, the RSL and other ex-serviceman organisations, I thank you on behalf of the Australian community.

We are approaching a significant moment in our nation's history – the Centenary of ANZAC. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during this time.

Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP  
Minister for Veterans' Affairs



In Sinai Desert, Egypt while Commanding Officer of Australian multi-national Peacekeepers

### Veterans Radio Updates

Weekly Updates are featured on the following radio shows from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP.

Show	Time	Station
WF	Tue 6pm - 8pm	88.7 FM (CoastFM)
VVA	Thur 7pm - 8pm	1197 AM (5RPH)
RSL	Thur 6pm - 6.15pm	1197 AM (5RPH)
Vietnam Veterans	Mon 6pm - 8pm	105.1 FM (TraxFM) Mid North of SA
The Legacy Hour	Mon 3pm - 4pm	101.5FM (Radio Adelaide)

### Funding Opportunities

To assist ex-service organisations, Veterans SA has put together a consolidated list of funding opportunities that governments, both State and Commonwealth, are offering to the veterans' community.

Please telephone my office on 8226 8552 should you require any further information about these funding opportunities.

## FAMILY PICNIC FUN DAY

*For veterans, current and former ADF personnel, their family and friends*

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> October 11am to 2pm**  
**Mobara Park, Mawson Lakes**  
**Cnr Mawson Lakes Blvd & Garden Tce**

*Come along and take part in a fun day*

Enter the competition to win a mini iPad

**Free Giveaways**

- Tri-Service Cook-off
- Five Food Groups Trail
- Information Stalls
- Family Games & Races
- Children's Cooking Activities

**Rockwall**

- ADF Football
- Petting Zoo
- Face Painters
- Balloonist
- Glitter & Airbrush
- Tattooist
- Golden Grove High School Band

**MC Brenton Ragless**  
 Channel 9 News Presenter

**Bring a picnic, the family and your friends...**

For more details email [VHWSA@dva.gov.au](mailto:VHWSA@dva.gov.au) OR visit [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)



(l-r) His Excellency the Hon Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia; the Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO, Chairman, Veterans' Advisory Council and the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs

## New Governor

On 1 September, 2014 His Excellency the Hon Hieu Van Le AO was sworn in as the Governor of South Australia.

Governor Le succeeds Rear Admiral the Hon Kevin Scarce AC CSC RAN (Retd), who served in the role with distinction since August 2007. The veterans' community is very grateful for the guidance and support the former Governor and Mrs Scarce have provided it over the last seven years of extraordinary service.

Governor Le is known to many of us and regularly attends Vietnam Veteran events. He is enormously grateful to Vietnam veterans for their service to his country of birth and takes every opportunity to reinforce his gratitude.

As almost their first duty His Excellency and Mrs Le visited the State National War Memorial on Wednesday, 3 September, 2014 to place a tribute. After a few moments of quiet reflection they moved to the Vietnam War Memorial to do likewise. This wonderful tribute so early in his tenure reflects His Excellency's gratitude to all those who served our nation, his adopted home, and who delivered to us the way of life we enjoy today. His Excellency reflected

on the sacrifice made by those Australians who came to the other side of the world to protect him and his family. The memorial also commemorates South Vietnamese servicemen, his fellow countrymen, who fought to protect their homeland. This small, moving ceremony says much about this special couple, their priorities and the gratitude they have to and love for Australia.

His Excellency is also the Patron of the Vietnam Veterans Federation and most recently spoke eloquently at their Coral / Balmoral commemorative service.

We congratulates Governor Le, Mrs Lan Le and their sons Don and Kim (The boys were named after Australian test cricket captains Don Bradman and Kim Hughes) and wish them well for the future.

## Z Special Unit and the Kelabit People of Borneo

Early this year former member of Z Special Unit, Jack Tredrea MM came to Veterans SA with a request. He wanted 82 World War II campaign medals (41 sets each of two) to present to the families of the Indigenous fighters of Sarawak (the Kelabit people) who assisted and were led by Jack and his colleagues in fighting against the invading Japanese during World War II.

Jack had tried Canberra and even the UK (the leader of Z Special Unit was a British officer) but to no avail. Jack knew that the surviving guerrilla fighters and their families treasured their medals, but over the last nearly 70 years many had been lost and the ribbons badly affected by humidity.

What to do? Veterans SA got a similar response from Canberra and the UK so we decided to go local! We sent out a request in the weekly Minister's Message and we were pleased with the positive response from Malaya Borneo veterans, the State Branch of the RSL and "Dogs" Kearney all of whom wanted to help.

Grant and Vicki Morton of I.S. Wright in Adelaide Arcade very kindly donated all 82 medals, fully mounted with extra medal ribbon included.

The value of the donation was \$2,255. This is a tremendous and truly sincere gesture that shows the strength within our ex-service community.

Jack presented the medals to the Kelabit people at two presentation ceremonies held in March, 2014. Jack turned 94 on 15 May. He remains a wonderful example of Australian courage, commitment and ongoing loyalty.

Additional thanks to the National Malaya, Borneo Timor Veterans' Association Australia (SA Inc) who sent \$500 with Jack to help see the small museum in Bario that honours Jack and his mates completed.



The veterans' community farewell inaugural Veterans SA Director, Bill Denny AM BM



The Repat Foundation's Remembrance Business Breakfast will be held at the Adelaide Convention Centre on Friday 7 November 2014 from 7.00am – 9.00am.

The annual Remembrance Business Breakfast provides an opportunity for people from all sections of the community, to join together for a time of reflection to acknowledge our veterans, past and present.

Our special guest speaker this year is the Honourable Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial. Dr Nelson will share his experiences as the Australian Ambassador to Belgium, share stories from the Centenary of the First World War and detail why it is important to tell our story.

Cost is \$65.00 inc GST or table of ten for \$650.00 inc GST.

Book at: [www.therepatfoundation.org.au/2014-RBB](http://www.therepatfoundation.org.au/2014-RBB) or Phone The Repat Foundation office on (08) 8275 1039



## Meet the Minister & Farewell to Bill Denny Event – Wednesday, 16 July, 2014

On Wednesday, 16 July, over 200 people attended a Meet the Minister & Farewell to Mr Bill Denny AM BM Function. The event was hosted by The Hon Sir Eric Neal AC CVO who spoke highly of the outgoing Director of Veterans SA and his contribution to the veterans' community.

Former Veterans' Advisory Council member and Ex Prisoner of War, Mr Bill Schmitt AM also presented Mr Denny with a gift, thanking him for his support over many years.

### An Extract of the Speech Delivered by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Hon Martin Hamilton-Smith MP

The reason we gather today is to farewell the inaugural Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM BM, who is stepping down after six years of tremendous service to the veteran's community, both in South Australia and around the nation.

Bill effectively set up the veterans' affairs portfolio in South Australia and was instrumental in creating the Veterans' Advisory Council (V.A.C.). That same portfolio structure has been adopted by almost all other States around the nation.

Bill was instrumental with others in the creation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander War Memorial. What is less well known is that Bill took it upon himself to coordinate State funding for a memorial to each of the four South Australians that have been killed in recent conflicts. These individual projects were coordinated by Veterans SA in conjunction with the families of those lost.

During his tenure Bill worked closely with "Operation Aussies Home" and the Federal Government to locate the remains of the last two servicemen lost killed in action in the Vietnam War. They were discovered after 39 years and Bill was privileged to be invited fly to Vietnam to help return the remains of Flying Officer Michael Herbert to Adelaide and to read the eulogy at Michael's State Funeral.

Bill has been the instigator or supporter of nearly all the initiatives of the Veterans' Advisory Council. I know Bill feels privileged that his role brought him into contact with Sir Eric.

Bill is known for his exceptional work ethic and passionate support of all veterans, but especially those of the World War II generation to which he has grown extremely close.

Bill's drive and passion will not be lost to the veterans' community. He will continue his positions as Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport, the Patron of the National Servicemen's Association and Patron of the Military Vehicle Preservation Society.

I also know he will remain a passionate supporter of the RSL and be looking to create an exceptional series of ceremonies for the Centenary of ANZAC in 2015.

On behalf of the South Australian Government, I would like to present this small token of our appreciation to Bill and wish Bill, his wife Clare, his children and grandchildren the very best for the productive years that still lay ahead.