



ANZAC Centenary commemorative events

I was privileged to deliver the address at the Shrine of Remembrance on 4 August to recognise the declaration of war against Germany 100 years ago. This was a very moving ceremony at the Shrine, during which the Premier laid a wreath on behalf of the people of Victoria at the Eternal Flame.

On 5 August, I participated, together with the Senior Vice President, State Honorary Treasurer and the CEO, in the 'First Shot' commemorative event at Fort Nepean. This was a truly significant event to commemorate the firing of the first shot of the British Empire at the start of World War I. The event was brought together by Major Bernie Gaynor, in conjunction with John Prentice and the Sorrento/Portsea Sub-Branch, Parks Victoria and the State and Federal governments.

It was a fitting tribute to the events of that day 100 years ago and brought great credit on all those who were involved in its organisation and delivery. A special thanks to John Prentice for the way in which he represented the League on this occasion.

Women's Council State Conference

At the Annual General Meeting of Women's Council, held on 6 August, I spoke about the function of the Council and its relationship with the Women's Auxiliaries around the State. I also stressed that the Women's Auxiliaries are auxiliaries of *their* Sub-Branches. To that end, the relationship between the Sub-Branch and the Auxiliary needs to be cohesive and cordial because, in many cases, the Auxiliaries are very strong supporters of the Sub-Branch.

I also believe that our Sub-Branches have a responsibility to engage in a collegiate way with the Auxiliary to mutually agree on the work that the Auxiliary will provide in support of the Sub-Branch. There is probably a good argument to have a member of the Auxiliary attend Sub-Branch Committee meetings as an observer, so that they are abreast of the activities of the Sub-Branch in a more informed way. They should, on occasions, contribute to Sub-Branch decisions and policies.

Women on Sub-Branch committees

That brings to mind the wider question of the participation of women on our Sub-Branch committees. In Victoria, we now have eight female Presidents of Sub-Branches. However, there are very few Sub-Branches that have female members on their Committee. I believe it is time that we addressed this situation, bearing in mind the contribution that Affiliates can now make in the governance of our Sub-Branches. There are many female Affiliates who would make good Committee members. I ask all Sub-Branch Presidents to consider this in a very positive way.

ANZAC Day follow on

You may recall the incident that occurred during the ANZAC Day March in Melbourne, when World War II veteran Jack Murphy collapsed and was rushed to hospital in a very serious condition. Jack was revived on three separate occasions from the time he fell to his arrival at hospital.

I visited Jack at his home the following month, together with the three St John Ambulance volunteers who attended to Jack on ANZAC Day. I was blown away by these young people – two of them are Doctors of Engineering and the third is studying her Masters in the same profession. They are truly remarkable young Australians of whom we can be very proud. It was a great outcome for Jack and he has promised that he won't march next year, but will ride instead!



VICTORIAN BRANCH STRATEGIC PLAN 2012-2020

Mission Statement

To promote the well being and betterment of our members, serving and ex-serving men and women of the ADF and Allies and their dependants, with the provision of welfare and commemorative services, comradeship and where appropriate contribute to worthy objectives within the broader community.

Vision Statement

In 2020, the Victorian Branch of the Returned & Services League will continue to be the most relevant and recognised ex-service organisation in the State with sustainable membership and an enhanced profile and standing in the community.

OBJECTIVE 1:

Ensure that serving and ex-serving personnel and their dependants have ready access to Welfare, Pensions and appropriate Health Services.

OBJECTIVE 2:

Facilitate appropriate high quality care and accommodation for those members in need of such consideration.

OBJECTIVE 3:

Promote and conduct appropriate commemorative activities.

OBJECTIVE 4:

Optimise the availability and use of technology and resources to deliver our services to Sub-Branches, members and the serving and ex-service community.

OBJECTIVE 5:

Further develop appropriate strategies incorporating best practice to achieve:

a) growth of our membership in a contemporary and inclusive way.

b) enhancement of our profile and

relevance to the wider community.

c) an inclusive approach to policy making and the delivery of advice and support to Sub-Branches to optimise the performance of the Branch.

OBJECTIVE 6:

Maintain the integrity of the RSL.

OBJECTIVE 7:

Embrace other Ex-Service Organisations.

OBJECTIVE 8:

Foster Pride in Australia and Loyalty to our nation.

OBJECTIVE 9:

Engage the younger members of the Community in the affairs of the League.

OBJECTIVE 10:

Encourage "Mateship".

OBJECTIVE 11:

Develop appropriate strategies to optimise the availability of facilities for our members from the available resources.



PHOTO: COURTESY VICTORIAN RSL

Jack Murphy and David McLachlan meet with the St John Ambulance volunteers who assisted Jack on ANZAC Day.

In the last issue of *Mufti*, I made reference to the excellent conduct of the ANZAC Day March. But I failed to make a specific reference to the contribution made by the bands – military and civilian, young and old – who participated in the parade in Melbourne, as indeed they did in regional Victoria and in the suburban marches. We all know the importance of bands and may I say thank you, on behalf of all veterans who participated in marches throughout Victoria. The support provided by the bands helps make ANZAC Day the success it is.

Photographic project

A Sydney-based documentary photographer, Mine Konakci, has approached the Victorian Branch in relation to a photographic project she is undertaking called 'An Unusual Friendship'. Her aim is to photograph 30 people in their homes or work environment; the subjects would be descendants of Turkish and ANZAC soldiers who fought at Gallipoli. The photographer aims to capture the proud spirit of the descendants, whilst shedding light on their lives through environmental portraiture. For more information on the project, please contact:

Mine Konakci

Email: konakci@shfa.nsw.gov.au / mine.konakci@gmail.com

Australian national flag protocol

I have received comment in regard to the protocols related to the use and display of our national flag. I think it is important in the lead up to the Centenary of ANZAC that we are aware of these protocols and ensure that we adhere to them so that we do not cause any unnecessary offence. Please observe the following guidelines.

The Australian national flag:

- should not be flown with another flag on the same pole
- should not be flown together with the Australian Red Ensign

- should not be permitted to lie upon the ground; it should be correctly fastened so that it will not fall to the ground
- should not be used to hide spaces that may exist between the floor and the lower level of a desk, dais or platform
- should not be employed as a cover for a statue or a monument, or as a cover for a plaque at an unveiling ceremony
- should not be used as a cover for a table, a chair or other furniture
- should not be defaced by any object or badge attached to it or superimposed upon it
- should not be flown upside down (it is a myth that it should be flown upside down as a signal of distress).

Thanks

It has been a particularly bitter couple of weeks as we move through winter, and we are very conscious of the impost the climate has had on many of our veterans through the work undertaken in our Welfare Department. Please ensure that if you require help, contact us or your Sub-Branch in the first instance; and, in doing so, make sure that you continue to look after yourself and your mate.

David J McLachlan