



South Australian Division

AGM REPORT 2009

Over the past 12 months The SA Division made a concerted effort to raise our profile particularly with State Government and other ESOs. As you would be aware, I was appointed to the State Veterans Advisory Council, together with a number of other ESO members. While it is early days yet, and only having two meetings since inception, I believe that we will contribute positive input to the State Government on behalf of all Veterans and their partners.

As usual I attended the regular functions associated with our role in South Australia, such as ANZAC Day Dawn Service and March through Adelaide. Unfortunately, during the year I had the sad duty to attend the funerals of a number of our senior long serving members including a past President Mat Pickering. On a more pleasant note, a number of Life Membership Certificate and badges were presented to Branches members. Also, it was with great surprise and totally unexpected that I was awarded Life Membership of the Association while attending the last National Council Meeting in Canberra. I wish to record my profound thanks to the members who saw fit to nominate me. I wear the Life Membership badge with pride.

You may recall the South Australia Air Museum, which was given a grant which would enable them to purchase equipment necessary for restoration of a Fairey Battle. I am pleased to report that the Museum has received the necessary equipment and the Fairey Battle is well on the way to completion. We must thank the dedicated band of Museum volunteers who have made this possible.

I as with previous years, membership continues to be of concern and we continue to examine ways in which to attract younger members both serving and retired. To that end we have approached all the units at Edinburgh and distributed flyers on the base to make members more aware of our presence and activities/services that we can offer.



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In support of this your State Council has offered honorary membership to the Senior RAAF Officer SA and the Base Commander at Edinburgh for their tenure. Both have accepted this offer.

Last year we reviewed the work load required to man the office five days a week and it was clear that the amount of work experienced did not warrant a presence on Tuesday or Thursday. Accordingly, on those days the office phone is now switched to my mobile I believe the system is working quite satisfactorily and I plan to continue the procedure for the foreseeable future. I mentioned in my report last year that we were proposing to relocate some of our museum items. If you look behind you, you will see that the idea is developing, but we still have a long way to go!

Once again I have nothing but praise for the committee and it is with some sadness that I have to say thank you for your long and dedicated service to Ray Deane, Rae Harris and Angus Schulz, who due to failing health, have made a decision to pass the baton. On behalf of the Association may I record well deserved thanks and recognition for their herculean efforts over many years I am sure their record will be difficult to equal in the future.

Finally, the Association is not immune to the world influences and while we are still in a sound financial position, we can be sure that our income for the next period may not be as robust as the past few years. Thank you for attending this meeting..

Dave Helman JP State President

5th April 2009