



South Australian Division

Presidents Report 3/2009

Greetings fellow members, as this report is being prepared, it is with mixed emotions of sadness and satisfaction, that we record the successful return home of the last two Australians from Vietnam, FlgOff Michael Herbert and PltOff Robert Carver almost 40 years on. Closure can now be completed by the families of both these young men. This Association in cooperation with other ESOs and the State Government hosted a wake at the Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground after the funeral ceremony at St Francis Xavier Church on the 7 September. Lest we forget.

Veterans Health week has just concluded and will be a regular item on the yearly calendar. This year the event proved very popular with all those attending and it is recommended that members should prepare for next year. There were many stands that concentrated on the health and well being of veterans and their families with the majority of Show Bags containing practical items and information and all for free!

The Gallipoli Underpass was officially opened on Sunday the 9th of August and it is a tribute to all branches of the service and included acknowledgement of the long association with the New Zealand Defence Force. Unfortunately, the lone pine would not have survived in that location so a Wollemi pine has been planted instead. Perhaps this is more fitting as it is a tree that has survived for many thousands of years, as we would hope; so will the memory of the first ANZACS.

We will be hosting a visit by our patron His Excellency Rear Admiral Kevin Scares and his wife on the 19 September and we look forward to his visit and the chance to introduce some of our members and their wives to His Excellency and his wife.

You will find reference to the Entertainment book in another part of this Newsletter and for those who are unaware; this book is a great money saver and is recommended to all our readers. The cost is reasonable and considering that cost is recovered after only using three or four offers, it is well worth the money. The Association will be selling them from next year so keep a look out for future notifications in this newsletter and from branch meetings. The new book should be on sale about the end of April and lasts for a year, with discounts and one for one offers for popular Restaurants, Hotels and other venues in all areas of Adelaide.



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In closing, dont forget, Headquarters is only manned on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10am and 2pm. At other times I monitor the phone from home, so you can reach us at any time, although I do turn the phone off at 9pm!

Regards

Dave Helman