



South Australian Division

President's Report #4 2018

Veteran's Pin & Card

- Separate from the Military Covenant is the likely release on November 11th, 2018 of a Veteran's Pin to be issued to former serving members. The pin is designed to help the community to recognise those who have served.
- There is consideration of the issue of a Veteran's Card or veteran recognition on some form of commonly issued card, eg driver's licence, etc. Ministers are keen on methods to help the community recognize veterans.

Rebranding Veteran and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS)

- VVCS is the last government-funded mental health service and a wonderful legacy from the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service.
- After extensive social market research, VVCS will be rebadged 'Open Arms' based on a Vietnam War image of a soldier in a clearing calling for a UH-1. Members are encouraged to visit <http://www.vvcs.gov.au> for eligibility requirement and forms of assistance. Also, the site shows the new 'Open Arms' logo. The above information will come as a welcome addition to the history of the Australian Defence Force, I look forward to seeing the results.

This report will be my final one, as at our recent Annual General Meeting I stepped down as President and I am pleased to advise you all that Dr Robert Black AM RFD was elected to replace me as State President. I welcome his appointment and will support him during the year. I have not moved to far as I was elected as State Secretary at the same meeting. I have enjoyed the position and also the interaction with all Branches. I look back at the changes that have occurred during my 12 years as your President and the highs and lows that come with the job. I am concerned that our membership is in decline due to the age of our members. The National President has this problem high on his list jobs and is working tirelessly to redress the problem. We should all actively seek younger members to take our place and ensure the continuance of our Association.

I am pleased to report that RAAF Edinburgh executives is actively supporting us and have added colour to our various commemorations by supplying members to partake in the events that observe Bomber Command and Battle of Britain ceremonies. Hopefully, these activities will attract serving members to join our ranks.

I must mention our Office Manager, Annette Moore, she has been a tower of strength and a positive help not only to the Association, myself and the members but also her efforts relating to the Combined Mess which I am pleased to say, is being supported by all ESOs' and their families and justifies its existence.

Finally, I must thank all current and previous members of the State Council, who without their help and guidance I would not have been able to achieve the results that I have.

Keep your powder dry!

Regards

Dave Helman