



## South Australian Division

### Presidents Report 1/2011

Greetings fellow members, a new year has begun and we are continuing our efforts to recruit new members and recover some of those who have ceased being financial members. In these days of rising costs, it is not surprising that some members continue to battle with budgets and while our membership costs may seem to be relatively minor; to some a dollar a week can mean the difference between being able to enjoy a good cup of coffee on a regular basis. In this regard, your association continues to provide membership at a static cost and I am pleased to be able to reassure all members that our fees will remain the same for the near future.

Also relative to our membership, the National Council has agreed to implement Service Certificates for long service. These Certificates will be issued to members who have attained the following milestones: 15, 25, 35, 45, 50, 60 and 70 years service. Initially, it is proposed to present one award for the longest milestone. For example, a member that has achieved 50 years service will not be issued with the lesser Certificates, but will receive the 50 year Certificate and subsequent Certificates as they are achieved.

Over the past 12 months, I had occasion to review membership numbers for some of our branches and with regret had to advise some members that they were either the last or one of only three or four members still active. As a result, these members have agreed to transfer membership to Central Reserve. At least in that regard they will remain members of our Association.

In November last year, I attended the opening of a number of bridges on the new Northern Expressway. No doubt, members are aware of this and some are wondering why the RAAF did not receive suitable recognition. In fact, the RAAF was mentioned on three of the five bridges and this can be seen on the interpretive sign next to the shared use cyclist and pedestrian path that runs the entire length of the Expressway. The use of the Rising Sun Emblem has been used, rather than the new tri service badge, as this emblem is easily recognised by non- military people and is now the standard emblem worn by all Defence members on overseas operations. In conclusion I would like to draw your attention to the notice of our AGM, please make an effort to attend as numbers are critical.

Until our next newsletter, stay healthy and be happy.

Regards: Dave Helman