



South Australian Division

Presidents Report 3/2011

Firstly let me apologise for an error in my last report, I indicated that the office was open on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, it should have been Monday, Wednesday and Friday. I hope the error did not cause any angst.

I must also record the sadness of the State Council on the loss of a loyal and hardworking member, Don Battams. Don was a very active member of the Council and a very capable Vice President for many years. Vale Don Battams.

On a happier note, I am please to advise our members that the President Mitcham Branch Mr Bob Macintosh AFC has been awarded the US Air Medal for his service in Korea during the Korean War, only 58 years late!! Well done Bob.

The recent closure of Adelaide Airport due to volcano activity in Chile impacted on our National AGM and as a result a number of Councillors, including the writer were unable to attend. This resulted in a number of decisions having to be deferred until our next meeting. Happily, this will be conducted over the phone, (electronic). This type of meeting is held four times per year and produces a considerable saving in air fares.

On a political note, The Alliance of Defence Service Organizations is maintaining pressure on the Federal Government in support of our efforts to have the DFRDB/DFRB adjusted at the same rate as Aged Pensions. It is sad to watch the alacrity at which our Politicians outwardly displaying feelings for the fallen heroes of the current military operations on Television and in the Parliament, but denying equal rights to Defence retirees wanting equal consideration in adjusting our meagre Pensions. They are quick to take advantage of media exposure and extol their gratitude to our defence personnel and recognise our special status within the community but continue to deny justice. Our efforts will not go away and in time it is hoped that the Government will realise their hypocritical unfairness of the current assessment using the CPI and acquiesce to our wishes. I will attempt to keep you informed of developments as they occur.

Regards

Dave Helman



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