



## South Australian Division

### Presidents Report 3/2013

Congratulations go to Arthur Jeeves on the award of the Order of Australia Medal in recognition of his work with the Charles Sturt Museum. Well-done Arthur.

Your state Council is currently in discussions with the Adelaide City Council regarding the installation of some form of footing to ensure the safety of our older members when approaching the Air Force Memorial Plaques. Our suggestions have been approved and it now remains to obtain quotes for placing pavers and a concrete path to the memorial. Once all are in place the memorial will enhance and preserve the memory of those who served and those who did not return. The Memorial will also serve as a common point where all RAAF related memorial services can be held. Giving convenient parking and other support services that were not readily available at the Adelaide Airport. The title has also been changed from The Airport Memorial Plaques to The Air Force Memorial; a fitting name for a state memorial. I am also pleased to report that as a result of representation by your State Council, the SA Power Network has agreed to remove the stobie pole immediately to the right of the memorial. This will be a vast improvement for the site.

The National Council has submitted a reply to a discussion paper prepared by DVA on the subject of Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004. While there is general agreement with the key proposals, concern was expressed regarding some underlying assumptions. Despite efforts to foster development of a partnership the relationship between stakeholders (ESOs, TIP and DVA) remains loose. The recent National General Meeting held in June also addressed a number of matters including how to attract new members. All members are encouraged to actively lobby prospective new members and those who have let their membership laps.

### Non-Emergency Ambulance Transport

Following information received from the Defence Communities Association VHAC has investigated the DVA approval process for non-emergency ambulance transport. This specifically related to difficulty experienced by some veterans in gaining timely approval for non-emergency ambulance transport outside of normal business hours.

These investigations identified that the DVA Fact Sheet contained on their web-site indicated that in South Australia the prior approval of DVA was required for non-emergency ambulance transport. Such approval was not required for other States and Territories. DVA have reviewed this matter and identified that the Fact Sheet was in fact now out of date and that effective from 1 July 2013 the prior approval of DVA is no longer required. However, they emphasised that the conditions which justify non-emergency transport continue to apply.

#### Expansion of Geriatric Services at Repat

The Geriatric Evaluation Management (GEM) service at Repatriation General Hospital (RGH) has been expanded, with the opening of an additional 10 beds designed specifically for people with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia and delirium management. The GEM model of care aims to support and promote independence and self-management for older patients, to assist them to live independently in the community for as long as possible. The new unit complements 30 existing GEM beds at RGH but focuses more



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on providing tailored programs for patients with behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia who are admitted within the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network. Features of the specialist unit include environmental modifications to meet the needs of people with cognitive impairment. The design has been based on dementia-friendly principles including colour coding of furniture to assist with way finding, special night lighting to assist patients with sleeping patterns and the use of imaginative fake bookcases to conceal doors and ensure that patients remain in the unit at all times.

Southern Adelaide Local Health Network Clinical Director of Rehabilitation and Aged Care, Associate Professor Craig Whitehead said it is important to understand the needs of a person with dementia, including aspects of person-centred care. Dementia affects people in different ways, causing a broad range of symptoms. This means that there is not a one-size-fits-all care strategy, he said. Recognition of triggers and early signs that may precede behavioural and psychological symptoms is crucial. In most cases promoting positive activities and developing simple approaches to address these early signs can help prevent symptoms from developing at all.

Promoting healthy living and rehabilitation through music, games and exercise will also be a feature of the new GEM service. The additional 10 GEM beds have been established at RGH following the Southern Adelaide Local Health Network ward reconfiguration process, which aims to provide the right care in the right place, first time. Ten GEM beds were relocated from Noarlunga Hospital to RGH as part of the process. Expansion of geriatric services at RGH has enabled expertise and infrastructure to come together in the same location to provide high quality care for local communities.

### Have Your Say ANZAC Day

At a recent meeting of the ANZAC Day Committee (ADC) it was resolved to reduce the marching pace for all participants to 100 paces per minute. This is to address problems experienced with those less able. Should you experience any problems with the timing please let me know so that I can advise the ADC.

### Did you know?

The Australasian Solders Dardanelles Cenotaph, sometimes referred to as the Unknown memorial is believed to be the first ANZAC memorial in the nation. The memorial was initially located in Wattle Grove in the South Parklands southwest of where it now stands.

The memorial was unveiled by the Governor-General Sir Ronald Munro Ferguson on Tuesday 7 September 1915. In 1940 the memorial was moved to its current position.

Where a remembrance ceremony was conduct on 7 September 2013 commencing at 11am. A major ceremony is planned for 2015 and annual ceremonies will be held at the memorial thereafter.

Regards

Dave Helman