



## South Australian Division

### President's Report to SA Division Council 17th of August 2020.

**Meetings and Functions.** 21<sup>st</sup> of July AFA Board by video; 22<sup>nd</sup> call from Mrs Lan Le; 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting with Catherine Walsh Director Veterans SA; 27<sup>th</sup> Invitations for WW2 members to attend RAAF birthday; 29<sup>th</sup> funeral of Don Roach OAM, Mitcham Membership Officer and Newsletter Editor; (meeting with Annette, Treasurer deputised for me by WR); RSL Peacekeepers informal dinner; 31<sup>st</sup> Mitcham Committee; 3<sup>rd</sup> of August JBSG, as deputy for GW, by Zoom; 4<sup>th</sup> meeting with John Spencer OAM and Lee Bowes re CESM, and with GW re planned commemorations, after closure of building over COVID contact; 5<sup>th</sup> AF2021 meeting postponed to 12<sup>th</sup>, later the 19<sup>th</sup>; 6<sup>th</sup> Legacy meetings; 10<sup>th</sup> CESM Committee; 13<sup>th</sup> RAAF birthday cancelled; 15<sup>th</sup> VP Commemoration is to ahead.

**AFA Board.** Although much was missed we were subsequently asked if anyone would be interested in being nominated for a working group to review DVA Grants. National President has expressed interest in the Moonta SRW sculpture funding disappointment. I have sent him correspondence with Robyn Knight. The funding request will be on the agenda tomorrow. The Alumni proposal had been presented to CAF.

Mrs Le has graciously called me twice now to enquire on our work and welfare during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The **meeting with Catherine Walsh** was primarily to see the so called "Master Plan" for the TPG. A building upgrade is envisaged over three stages. Much of the ground floor, currently under-utilised, will house Veterans SA; an interactive exhibition will adjoin RSL Memorial room; other offices will be created and ESOs invited to join. Current tenants will not have reduced space; nor will rent be increased, except by CPI. I reiterated our determination that Siam/Thailand should be recognised on the Anzac Walk and forwarded to her my files on relevant AWM correspondence. At that date I hoped that we would meet on the 13<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Don Roach's** death was preceded by his handover temporarily to Kevin Gogler his twin portfolios. Brenton Daulby will become Newsletter Editor; the name of Membership Officer will be advised. My eulogy may be sent to anyone who would wish to see it.



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Two matters arising from the FSC report of the 5<sup>th</sup> of July have been addressed. Warwick and John Stapleton met Annette on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July to consider an appropriate **employment agreement**. A draft document is to be discussed, though it may require further consideration by the Finance Subcommittee. We have met with Lee Bowes to discuss the apparent problem with **Annette's work with the CESM** Committee etc. My feeling is that her work is not for the CESM, but with it, for and on behalf of the RAAFA SA Division. Should the Council agree with this many of the problems identified by the FSC report might easily be resolved.

My subsequent meeting with Lee and John Spencer, and email correspondence with David Lyas, concerning our **relationship with the CESM** is reported separately. Our history is linked, we have committee membership and influence, we have mutual interests, our relationship should remain harmonious. CESM would appear to have the liquor licence matter under control; its constitution does not appear to conflict. A set of By-Laws has not been identified. Many of us Councillors, perhaps by inadvertence, are not members of the CESM. Membership application forms will be produced at the meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> of August.

I was pleased to deputise for Greg at the **JBSG Zoom vidcon** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of August. Among its ongoing proposals are: a national (?NSW style) data base; agreed categories of membership; other alignments within our Constitutions; involvement in AWM Last Post ceremonies; a possible AFA foundation; Greg's project of Community engagement and agreement and a correct badge. SA members will know that our separate incorporation will not prove a barrier to "harmonization"

**The COVID contact** within the RSL office space on Monday the 3<sup>rd</sup> caused some confusion. President Cheryl's prudent withdrawal of staff for 14 days' self - isolation the following day became a widely disseminated rumour that the Drill Hall and entire building was to be closed for a fortnight. After email questioning of DEW officers it was explained next day that the "temporary" closure had been reversed. The "contact", after just one negative test, was given the "all clear".

The RSL sponsored VP Day Anniversary commemoration will be reported at the meeting.

Robert Black President SA Division 17<sup>th</sup> of August 2020.