

RETURNED & SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



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The past year has been a time of growth and organisational renewal for RSL (Queensland Branch). Our success is a testament to the hard work of hundreds of volunteers across the state, supported by the dedicated professional staff in ANZAC House. While the past year has seen various challenges, the League in Queensland has grown despite them and we are now engaging with various stakeholders on a range of issues important to the veteran community.

As we reflect on 2016, I would like to take the opportunity to look at our organisation's membership base. Although the common view is that RSL (Queensland Branch) is not attracting younger veterans, in reality our organisation is not only attracting younger men and women, we are retaining them in higher numbers than last year. If we look at the statistics for north Queensland there has been an additional 1,000 new members join.

It is also important to note that in the past 12 months the non-renewal rate has dropped from over 1,000 members to approximately 390. I believe we are starting to see the benefits of our active engagement with both 7th Brigade in Brisbane and 3rd Brigade in Townsville.

In 2016, approximately 2,500 members left through non-renewal, while that number dropped to around 1,800 this year. While we have a lot more work ahead of us, this is good news and reflects how active our organisation has been over the past year. As the State Secretary reports, we have partnered with the Salvation Army to assist veterans who find themselves without a home for various reasons.

We have engaged with the federal government on both the Veterans' Affairs Legislation Amendment (Digital Readiness and Other Measures) Bill 2017 and on the splitting of military invalidity payments during family law proceedings. This is an area of advocacy that we have been absent from in recent times.

Thanks to the professional staff who now work in ANZAC House, we are equipped to develop

STATE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

and present cogent arguments to government, the Opposition and the crossbench senators. We will continue to see more of this advocacy in the future. In addition to having the necessary staff to undertake research and develop policy, we are also moving into an environment where we have the necessary information technology to support our activities. As Chief Executive Officer Luke Traini reports, we are embracing technology and systems which enable us to be far more agile in our reporting and management. This is particularly the case with corporate governance best practice.

While I was travelling around the state attending District meetings, several Sub Branches asked if it was possible to get relief from the corporate governance reporting requirements, particularly those mandated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC). While we recognise this reporting may seem an imposition, the reality is that we must meet the requirements of the ACNC.

The State Board has now changed the way it deals with submissions and requests. A business rule has been introduced to ensure that any major expenditure meets the requirements of the Objects of the League. In particular, the ACNC requires Boards at all levels of the organisation to ensure their decisions can be aligned to one or more of the sight Objects. The reality is that the requirements of the ACNC must be met and the challenge for ANZAC House is to keep the administrative obligations required by the ACNC to a minimum.

Turning to other matters, RSL (Queensland Branch) remains heavily engaged with the Australian Defence Force, in particular the 3rd and 7th Brigades. Our partnerships program ensures we are involved with a range of ex-service organisations (ESO) and other entities providing support to the veteran community. We remain a major stakeholder across the ESO and association groups in Queensland and are the only national organisation that supports

the veteran community by hosting an online directory of all ESOs.

Many of you are likely aware that we hoped to present a new draft State Constitution at this year's Annual General Meeting (AGM). As we have not made progress on several issues about amalgamated entities, we decided to defer the draft until late 2017. We made a commitment to the membership to consult and understand the issues before moving forward. While there are several issues which are still under review, there are likely other issues which we may need to factor into the new draft constitution.

The Board agreed earlier that we want to engage an external agency to review the League in Queensland and make recommendations about how we could improve our structure and processes. We expect there will be an opportunity to discuss the broad outcomes of this review during the second day of the State Congress. We expect the outcomes of the review may challenge our thinking around structure and constitution, however, we must engage in such discussion to ensure we remain relevant for the next generation

of League members. As with last year, delegates will be given an opportunity to ask questions at the AGM. We will also conduct two forums on issues important to all members: 1) the future direction of the League in Queensland and membership, and 2) governance and welfare (what is welfare/what is not welfare). All delegates are encouraged to actively participate in these forums and the outcomes will be used to shape the future of our organisation.

In closing, we ended the year stronger and more resilient than ever before. We have been working hard to engage both the veteran community and those who impact this community, and this work will continue. We have celebrated some amazing milestones, including the centenary of several members and the overall growth of RSL (Queensland Branch). We have also witnessed the day-to-day activities of the many members who give their time tirelessly in support of their mates and the League.

Stewart Cameron CSC
State President
RSL (Queensland Branch)

During 2016, the Directors met 13 times, inclusive of the AGM. Below is the attendance record for 2016.

DIRECTOR	DISTRICT	
Stewart Cameron CSC	State President Chairman	13
John Strachan OAM	State Deputy President	13
Ewan Cameron	State Vice President	13
Vic Reading	President, Brisbane North District	13
Peter Ryan	President, Moreton District (January-November)	8
Wendy Taylor	President, South Eastern District	13
Max Foot OAM	President, Western District	11
Roy Cunneen	Appointed Direct	12
Tony Ferris	President, Sunshine Coast & Regional District	12
Steve Sergeant	President, North Queensland District	6
Peter Sterling	President, Far Northern District	13
Pat Fairon	President, Gold Coast District	13
Barry Vains	President, Pioneer Fitzroy Highlands District	10
Neil Burrows	President, Wide Bay & Burnett District (May-December)	9
Bill Whitburn OAM	President, North Queensland District	7
Luke Traini	Chief Executive Officer	13



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S ANNUAL REPORT

2016 was my first full year in the role of Chief Executive Officer, with opportunities for growth and development within the organisation embraced, and challenges faced by members and staff alike explored.

The year saw celebrations across the nation as we marked the Centenary of the League in Australia. It is remarkable to think that 100 years ago our countrymen rallied together to support each other through the challenges they faced as they returned from war; and that 100 years later we are continuing that legacy by supporting veterans from a number of military conflicts, as well as those currently serving. While the specific challenges that they face may have changed over the century, the fact that they need our support has not.

This need is the driving force behind everything that we do at RSL (Queensland Branch), right across each of the business units. I often reiterate to our staff that it doesn't matter what department they are in or role they play – whether it be in finance, administration, human resources or technology – they are all contributing to the support of the welfare and wellbeing of our veterans and currently serving.

I commented throughout the year that the last century has seen more change in human civilisation than all previous centuries combined, and with this change has come the need to adapt. We are a unique organisation that faces our own challenges, one of which being our membership base stretching over an 80-year age bracket. While traditional methods of engagement and support are important for many of our members, we need to also be adaptable to the needs and desires of our younger veterans and those who are currently serving.

With this in mind, improving our technology and our ability to be connected with veterans across the state is crucial in ensuring we remain current and flexible in today's world, and able to adapt more efficiently to future changes. This has been at the forefront of our work throughout the year, as we continue to undertake an enterprise-wide evolution.

When I commenced as CEO in June 2015, we commenced a wholesale, wide-ranging review of the performance of the organisation that resulted in the development of the business plan, which is our navigation tool in terms of what we need to do, how we are going to do it and when it needs to be done. With this business plan approved by the Board of Directors early this year, we have been working through the steps in the plan.

The first, and one of the of major projects, to come out of the business plan this year has been the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform, which will effectively be the technological base for many of our programs across the organisation. Initially implemented in our finance department to upgrade from a small business accounting system to a mature system that is more suited to our mid-enterprise sized organisation, the ERP will help us to better understand and manage our obligations to the Australian Taxation Office and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, providing an unprecedented level of clarity into understanding our expenditures.

The ERP will not only assist to manage the records of the significant financial turnover we have, but will eventually roll out across the organisation to enable complex processes to be managed more simply. In addition to the financial activities of the organisation being moved over to the ERP, many of the activities of the People and Culture department began to move over

“It is remarkable to think that 100 years ago our countrymen rallied together to support each other through the challenges they faced as they returned from war; and that 100 years later we are continuing that legacy by supporting veterans from a number of military conflicts, as well as those currently serving.”

to the platform this year, and in the following years we will see other departments introduce relevant programs via the ERP to enable the organisation as a whole to be more nimble and efficient. The benefits to be felt most by our members and the wider Defence community are likely to come from the Memberships department and the Veteran Services team, whose database will be streamlined to ensure the accurate, timely and most suitable service delivery to veterans.

A project of this scale takes significant time and financial investment, however the results, progressively and overall, will enable us to meet the evolving needs of our veteran community more efficiently, and ultimately be more adaptable to the changes and challenges that the coming years will bring. It's all about the journey and improving the organisation as we move forward in preparation for the next 100 years.

It is my vision for the future of the RSL in our state that we can meet, and indeed exceed the demand for our support, not only in terms of advocacy support and financial assistance, but in providing modern platforms for veterans to connect, taking the RSL

into the next century.

But we are on a journey, and this growth and development couldn't be fulfilled without support. I would like to thank the State Board for their ongoing backing of our transformation; their understanding of the need for development is crucial to our success in reaching more people throughout the Defence community. I would also like to thank our Executive Management Team, who have been instrumental in not only contributing to the direction and vision of the organisation, but also in ensuring that each department within the organisation is able to contribute their skills and knowledge to the vision. Our staff have embraced the transformation and are driven by the desire to support both our membership base and the wider Defence community, and I thank them for their ongoing dedication to the cause. Finally, I thank you, our members, for your trust in our ability to carry out our work with your interests in mind. You will most certainly begin to see and feel the effects of our work in the year to come.

Luke Traini
*Chief Executive Officer
RSL (Queensland Branch)*



What has RSL (Queensland Branch) learned in 100 years of existence? Some would say not very much, but the reality is that our organisation has undergone subtle but significant changes, particularly in the last decade. These changes basically fall into two categories – regulatory and League.

Government regulation and the advent of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profit Commission (ACNC) in 2012 caused major changes, adding extra work for Sub Branches around compliance and maintaining their charitable status. Some Sub Branches adapted easily, while others struggled with the increased reporting required. We must remember that it is the law, however, and we must comply.

The most significant change has been the directional thrust of the League. As an organisation, we engage with various stakeholders on many fronts, from services of the Australian Defence Force through to the Soldier Recovery Centres in 3rd Brigade in Townsville, 7th Brigade in Brisbane and – coming soon – 1st Brigade in Darwin. This, and representations to service chiefs by State President Stewart Cameron, has given us a credible link and a solid opportunity to engage with currently serving soldiers. The RSL (Queensland Branch) marketing and communications team – and in particular Partnerships Manager Katie Maloney – have done an immense amount of work engaging with other organisations through our partnerships program.

All these initiatives introduced in recent times are tangible proof that we are not “marking time”. Since 2013, our organisation has also committed \$6.75 million to the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation to fund world-first research into post-traumatic stress disorder. When completed, this will have wide-ranging

STATE DEPUTY PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

benefits for veterans around Australia.

Our State President has also spearheaded groundbreaking work to create an ex-service organisation directory for veterans on our website at www.rslqld.org/ESO-Directory. This “one-stop shop” for veterans was something people believed couldn’t be done! The directory allows veterans and their families who require assistance to find contact information quickly and easily.

As your State Deputy President, I have worked closely with the State President over the past year on many issues, attended countless ceremonies, some state Annual General Meetings (AGM) and numerous associated functions. These, coupled with being Chair of the Remuneration Committee, a member of the Lotteries Committee, Protocol Officer for the Brisbane ANZAC Day march and President of my Sub Branch, have ensured a very full calendar.

Another function of my role has been casting a critical eye over *Queensland RSL News* when required and I would like to commend Communications Officer Kylie Hatfield for her hard work on this excellent publication. The year 2016 included many highlights, most notably the Centenary of the Returned & Services League of Australia. The occasion was commemorated with a special edition of our magazine and several regional Centenary dinners. The strength of this organisation is our members – most of whom quietly conduct their League business and take pride in helping people without seeking notoriety or reward. In any organisation with 35,000 members there will be varying opinions about how the organisation should be administered. Some members voice these opinions constructively, while others do so stridently, without substance

“Although it would not appear so to many who believe the organisation has lost its way and is stagnating, we are moving forward in many areas.”

or genuine direction and via any avenue they feel we will listen. The level of transparency and governance in our organisation today is unprecedented and while this is mainly in response to government regulation and the advent of the ACNC, it is also thanks to the efforts and drive of senior staff and the Board of Directors. We highlighted this new philosophy during our last AGM, stating that no question was “off the table” and any reasonable suggestion would be considered. It is unfortunate that recent events elsewhere in Australia have cast a cloud over all states; it does tend to taint the RSL organisation as a whole. Members who feel the level of scrutiny over operations and decisions in Queensland is insufficient were given the opportunity to ask questions in the months leading up to the State Congress and will be offered another opportunity during the AGM – either verbally or in writing.

It is also worth discussing the subject of trust between all levels of RSL (Queensland Branch) – from ANZAC House through to Districts, Sub Branches and individual members. Trust is a two-way street and just as we trust Districts to look after Sub Branches and therefore individual members, we expect the reverse to also be the case! Unsigned emails, unsubstantiated accusations and vitriolic personal attacks do not promote trust either way and unsigned correspondence is usually sent straight to the rubbish bin. Board members, District Presidents and the Board Executive work hard to

improve RSL (Queensland Branch) and the broader membership (we are also members) and personal attacks are counterproductive, distracting and divert attention away from servicing the Objects of the League.

Although it would not appear so to many who believe the organisation has lost its way and is stagnating, we are moving forward in many areas. But we are still not great at communicating our achievements to members, the veteran community and the wider public. This is a work in progress and we will see more improvements in the coming months.

Membership has always been a focus of mine and although the responsibility now lies with the State Secretary, I continue to take a keen interest, both as State Deputy President and as a Sub Branch President. In my Sub Branch, close to 10 per cent of members are under or around 40 years old, which I feel is heading in the right direction. We are still not targeting the eligible female population and non-returned potential members to the degree we should, and I would reiterate that membership levels are a subject we need to work at constantly.

In concluding my report on 2016, it has – and always will be – an honour and a privilege to serve the veteran community. I would also like to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who has assisted me over the past year.

John Strachan OAM
State Deputy President
RSL (Queensland Branch)



STATE VICE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

It will give me great pleasure to present my State Vice President's Annual Report at the 2017 RSL (Queensland Branch) Annual General Meeting (AGM). I acknowledge the support of the delegates at the 2016 AGM in Townsville when I was re-elected into this position, and I was pleased that another member also nominated to provide the delegates with options.

Throughout 2016 I attended District Branch AGMs, District meetings and some Sub Branches meetings. Similar to other state executives and senior management of RSL (Queensland Branch), I appreciate the frank, open and positive discussions conducted at these meetings. They cover a significant amount of business, provide an opportunity to meet with members in their local area and encourage a productive discussion. I find it extremely valuable to visit these regional sites and get fully informed about local issues; the visits provide a better understanding when matters are discussed at the RSL (Queensland Branch) Board meetings.

I represented the State President at several Sub Branch commemorative services and functions, including the opening of the Emu Park Commemorative Walk (stages two and three) and many ANZAC Centenary events. Thank you to those members who made my visits so productive and enjoyable. It is great to see younger servicemen and women volunteer to join the RSL and participate in these activities, as well as others accepting committee appointments in their Sub Branches. I am confident this trend will continue, but I can also understand that

our younger servicemen and women are at a different stage in their lives and will likely be concentrating on their careers and families. I encourage Sub Branches to think about different ways of encouraging our younger members to participate.

I am also pleased to see increased acceptance and conduct of board training at Districts and Sub Branches and that the TOBi training is continuing to be developed and utilised.

As the RSL (Queensland Branch) representative on the Defence Reserves Support Council – Queensland, (Executive Committee), I attended six executive meetings and the Employer Support Awards in Brisbane on April 30, 2016. In each region (not dissimilar to the RSL Districts) a regional committee supports the employers of reservists. The chairs of these committees rarely have a Defence background and are selected for their ability to communicate with employers in all industries. In many cases, the regional chairs contact their local Sub Branches to discuss their programs and seek synergy, in kind support or to make local arrangements to further the objects of both organisations. I strongly recommend this program.

As the Board-appointed executive to liaise with the State Council of Auxiliaries, I attended a number of meetings including the Auxiliaries Council AGM in Townsville and two meetings with the Auxiliaries Council at ANZAC House. These meetings proved informative to the council members, particularly as it gave them access to the staff who manage much of the business

“This increases communications, reinforces that Auxiliaries are a valued class of RSL membership and indicates that RSL nationally is prepared to conduct existing business models with new focus and opportunities.”

affairs that influence Auxiliaries across Queensland. One of the successful outcomes of these meetings was the inclusion of an Auxiliaries webpage on the RSL (Queensland Branch) site. This has already proved beneficial and our President and Secretary of the Council have been invited to another State Auxiliary Council AGM. This increases communications, reinforces that Auxiliaries are a valued class of RSL membership and indicates that RSL nationally is prepared to conduct existing business models with new focus and opportunities.

We continue to encourage support of the Army, Navy and Air Force cadet schemes, and I know that many Sub Branches actively participate, support and advocate for their local cadet units. I know the support we give is greatly appreciated and often makes a significant difference to the activities. Congratulations to those who give their time and

resources to ensure the cadets are supported to the best of our intentions and resources.

Finally, I want to thank all the hard-working volunteers in the Districts and Sub Branches and all our RSL staff, including the CEO and senior executives, veterans advisory staff, Art Union team (without whom we would be doing things very differently), the communications team, finance, compliance, facilities, IT and our dedicated administration team. The CEO will report on the development of these teams, resources and the new and enhanced platforms being developed to support the work of our employees and volunteers in accordance with our objects.

Thanks to the members for giving me the opportunity to write this report and I wish everyone the best for the future.

Ewan Cameron
State Vice President
RSL (Queensland Branch)



**CHIEF
FINANCIAL
OFFICER'S
ANNUAL
REPORT AND
STATEMENT
OF ACCOUNTS
2016**

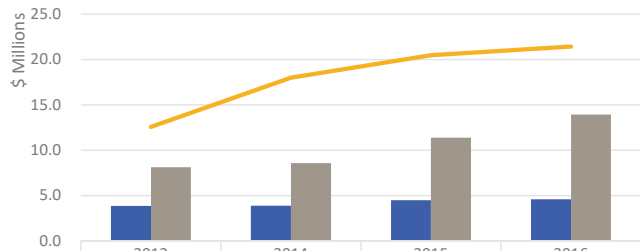
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the past few years, RSL (Queensland Branch) has been on a journey towards greater transparency. In keeping with this goal, we continually added more information to our financial statements each year. This year we changed the basis of financial statement preparation from special purpose financial statements to general purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements. This is consistent with the financial reporting practices of many other large charities. As part of this change, we have added to the notes to the financial statements Key Management Personnel Compensation disclosure.

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

The graph below tells a story of caution. RSL (Queensland Branch) is dependent on the income generated through the RSL Art Union and unfortunately the years of experiencing more than 20 per cent income growth cannot be sustained. Therefore, we must be diligent about how we use our scarce resources as well as find reliable alternate income streams before we spend too much of our cash holdings.

Key Financials



	2013	2014	2015	2016
Investment Income	3,857,190	3,873,415	4,492,803	4,573,516
Donations/Welfare exp.	8,125,227	8,564,255	11,387,787	13,930,851
Surplus	12,565,169	18,000,581	20,461,743	21,425,931

We must ensure that significant due diligence is put into any investment in welfare activities to safeguard our short and long-term resources, to enable RSL (Queensland Branch) to look after veterans and their families to the best of our ability for future generations.

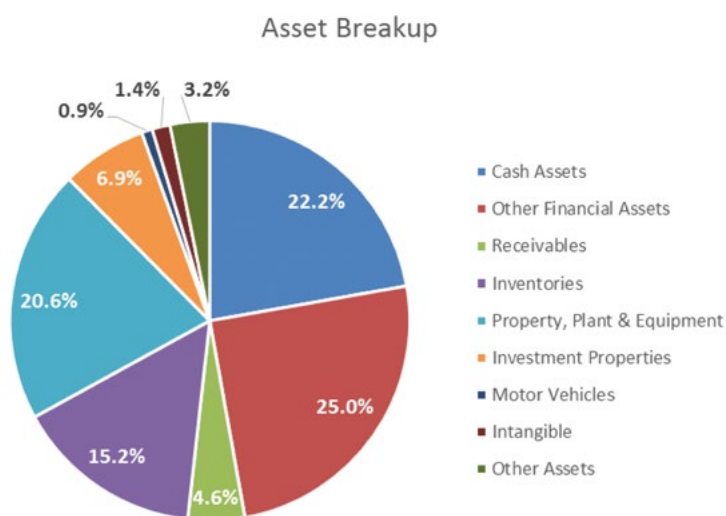
We should also be cognisant that not all our expenditures are seen through the income statement, and that a large portion of our expenditure rests instead on the balance sheet. For example, we completed our refurbishment of the Warhaven housing complex in Cairns this year and the cost for this project rests on our balance sheet. With a surplus of \$21 million for 2016, our cash balance has not had the same increases, and with other large projects planned for 2017 and beyond we anticipate surpluses for those years but not necessarily increases in our cash holding.

INVESTMENT

We must continue to emphasise building a strong and diversified investment portfolio as this will be the key to growing current programs and establishing new initiatives to meet the needs of the

veteran community. While we've had a slight growth in the portfolio, most of our investments are tied to the RBA cash rate and with rates stagnant we are unlikely to see our returns increase without a major diversification of those assets. That said, RSL (Queensland Branch) is a custodian of the members' funds and any diversification of assets for greater short and long-term returns will be made with extreme due diligence and care to prevent exposing those funds to an unnecessary level of risk.

At the end of 2016 the asset portfolio split was:



The graph above clearly demonstrates that our cash and investment holdings comprise over half our asset base. Although large at year end, the cash component fluctuates with each RSL Art Union Prize Home Lottery and the timing of purchasing future products (inventories). This has been heavily mitigated by running tight cash flows and ensuring maximum amount of cash is paid on deposit, with a reasonable rate of return. Unfortunately, a reasonable rate of return has not been particularly high in recent years.

That said, we are still being creative in ensuring other asset classes achieve greater returns while we continue to focus on setting robust strategies that look well ahead. The needs of future generations will be different and RSL (Queensland Branch) needs a strong diversified income stream so we can continue delivering in line with our strategies and focusing on our charitable objects.

CHARITIES

The charities team reviewed almost 200 Sub Branches in 2016 to ensure they comply with the Australian Tax Office (ATO) and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission's (ACNC) charitable status, and I've had the pleasure of reading most of these in detail. The majority of Sub Branches have complied with these reviews, with little issue, and although some required additional work to get them back on track, this work was achievable.

As part of ACNC's requirements to maintain charitable status, Annual Information Statements (AIS) must be lodged with the ACNC and in 2016 for the first time RSL (Queensland Branch) could do a bulk lodgement on behalf of Sub Branches. The information within the AIS:

- provides transparency about our organisation's work
- demonstrates that we meet the object within our Constitution to provide welfare to serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members and their families, and
- focuses on commemorative efforts, especially around the centenaries of WWI and RSL.

THANK YOU

This is my last year with RSL (Queensland Branch) and I wrote this – my last CFO report – with mixed emotions. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all the staff, members and volunteers of this phenomenal organisation. I have learned a great deal from everyone and will miss being able to see lives changed, improved and commemorated daily.

I have witnessed the enormous lengths you will go to and passion you as volunteers have for looking after the people who need it most, together with the invaluable effort you continue to demonstrate to drive this organisation forward.

I wish you all wonderful success in the future and I'm grateful for the many opportunities I've had over the last eight years with RSL (Queensland Branch). It has been an honour working with you all.

Goran Avramovic
Chief Financial Officer
RSL (Queensland Branch)



ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016



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CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	Consolidated	
		2016	2015
		\$	\$
REVENUE			
Welfare Related Income		415,059	1,103,396
Members' Subscriptions		8,798	5,261
Investment & Property Income		4,573,516	4,492,803
Sales		101,315,249	84,130,940
Other Income		494,871	482,662
TOTAL REVENUE		106,807,493	90,215,062
EXPENSES			
Cost of Sales		50,278,173	41,549,464
Charities & Compliance Expenses		534,973	911,664
Coordinator & Commission Expenses		1,081,016	1,388,368
Depreciation Expense		1,951,819	1,834,990
Impairment Investment Property		926,972	-
Donations & Welfare Expenses	3(a)	13,930,851	11,387,787
Employee Benefits Expenses		8,605,997	6,324,378
Meeting & Travel Expenses		1,380,347	1,479,171
National & District Capitations		176,705	179,010
Property Expenses		1,444,232	1,766,795
Other Expenses	3(b)	5,152,214	3,145,612
TOTAL EXPENSES		85,463,299	69,967,239
NET SURPLUS		21,344,194	20,247,823
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Net Changes in Fair Value of Available-for-Sale Financial Assets		81,737	213,920
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME		21,425,931	20,461,743

The consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

**CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF
FINANCIAL POSITION**
AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	Consolidated	
		2016	2015
		\$	\$
CURRENT ASSETS			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	4	38,813,322	29,580,136
Other Financial Assets	5	25,273,568	25,008,885
Trade & Other Receivables	6	1,548,574	3,756,222
Inventories	7	12,244,637	14,925,823
Other Assets	8	3,989,608	815,206
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		81,869,709	74,086,272
NON-CURRENT ASSETS			
Trade & Other Receivables	6	6,468,400	8,002,101
Inventories	7	14,382,473	12,213,788
Available-for-Sale Financial Assets	9	18,354,970	17,724,947
Property, Plant and Equipment	10	38,393,067	24,119,944
Intangible Assets	11	2,518,107	1,286,159
Investment Properties	12	11,156,029	13,085,585
Other Assets	8	1,594,049	470,135
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS		92,867,095	76,902,659
TOTAL ASSETS		174,736,804	150,988,931
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade & Other Payables	13	9,091,996	7,012,406
Provisions	14	1,082,557	864,446
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES		10,174,553	7,876,852
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Provisions	14	239,662	215,421
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES		239,662	215,421
TOTAL LIABILITIES		10,414,215	8,092,273
NET ASSETS		164,322,589	142,896,658
EQUITY			
Reserves	15	1,849,139	1,767,402
Accumulated Funds		162,473,450	141,129,256
TOTAL EQUITY		164,322,589	142,896,658

The consolidated statement of financial position is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF
CHANGES IN EQUITY**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

	Consolidated		
	Available-for-sale financial asset revaluation reserve	Accumulated Funds	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance as reported 31 December 2014	1,553,482	120,881,433	122,434,915
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR			
Surplus for the year	-	20,247,823	20,247,823
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Fair value adjustment for available-for-sale financial assets	213,920	-	213,920
	213,920	20,247,823	20,461,743
BALANCE AS REPORTED 31 DECEMBER 2015	1,767,402	141,129,256	142,896,658
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR			
Surplus for the year	-	21,344,194	21,344,194
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME			
Fair value adjustment for available-for-sale financial assets	81,737	-	81,737
	81,737	21,344,194	21,425,931
BALANCE AS REPORTED 31 DECEMBER 2016	1,849,139	162,473,450	164,322,589

The consolidated statement of changes in equity is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**CONSOLIDATED
STATEMENT OF
CASHFLOWS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

	Notes	Consolidated	
		2016	2015
		\$	\$
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Surplus for the year		21,344,194	20,247,823
ADJUSTMENTS FOR:			
Depreciation		1,951,819	1,834,990
Impairment of investment property		926,972	-
Non cash items (incl employee provisions and loans)		2,242,835	545,755
DECREASE/(INCREASE) IN:			
Trade & other receivables		26,432	(171,850)
Inventories		512,502	(1,635,100)
Trade & other payables		2,079,590	207,709
Other assets		(4,298,316)	(1,090,394)
NET CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		24,786,028	19,938,933
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES			
Purchase of property, plant & equipment		(17,671,120)	(5,862,535)
Sale/disposal of property, plant & equipment		1,216,814	2,271,371
Net movement of investments		(812,969)	(5,840,485)
Repayment of loans		1,714,433	414,044
Loans provided		-	(516,576)
NET CASH USED IN INVESTING ACTIVITIES		(15,552,842)	(9,534,181)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		9,233,186	10,404,752
Cash at the beginning of the period		29,580,136	19,175,384
CASH AT THE END OF THE PERIOD	4	38,813,322	29,580,136

The consolidated statement of cash flows is to be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes

**NOTES TO THE
CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

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NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

1. CORPORATE INFORMATION

The financial statements of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) for the year ended 31 December

2016 were authorised for issue in accordance with a resolution of the Directors on 16 March 2017.

Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch)

operates under Letters Patent issued pursuant to the *Religious, Educational and Charitable Institutions Act 1861 (Qld)* and is domiciled in Queensland.

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of preparation

Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) has determined that the organisation is a reporting entity, therefore, the financial statements are general purpose financial statements that have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements. The financial statements have been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the *Collections Act 1966 (Qld)* and the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012)*.

Historical cost convention

The financial statements have been prepared on the basis of historical cost except for the following:

- Available-for-Sale Financial Assets are measured at fair value.

The methods used to measure the fair values of these assets are discussed in Note 9.

The concept of accruals accounting has been adopted in preparation of the financial statements. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

(b) Basis of consolidation

The consolidated financial statements comprise the financial statements of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) and its subsidiaries, at 31 December 2016 (“the group”). Subsidiaries are entities (including structured entities) over which the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) has control. The group has control over an entity when the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) are exposed to, or has rights to variable returns from its involvement with the entity, and has the ability to use its power to affect those returns. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which control is transferred to the group and are deconsolidated from the date that control ceases.

All intercompany balances and transactions, including unrealised profits arising from intragroup transactions have been eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated unless the transaction provides evidence of the impairment of the asset transferred.

The Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) has a single subsidiary, Mates4Mates Limited, of which

the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) is the single member of the organisation.

(c) Significant accounting judgements, estimates and assumptions

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other various factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgements. Actual results may differ from these estimates. The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(d) Revenue recognition

Revenue is recognised at the fair value of consideration received or receivable. Amounts disclosed as revenue are net of returns, trade allowances and duties and taxes paid. The following specific recognition criteria must also be met before revenue is recognised:

Donations

Donations collected, including cash and goods for resale, are recognised as revenue when the organisation gains control, economic benefits are probable and the amount of the donation can be measured reliably.

Sales of goods

Revenue from sales of goods comprises revenue earned (net of returns, discounts and allowances) from the sale of goods purchased for resale. Sales revenue is recognised when the significant risks and rewards of ownership have passed to the buyer and can be reliably measured.

Investment income

Investment income comprises interest and dividends. Interest income is recognised as it accrues, using the effective interest method. Dividends from listed entities are recognised when the right to receive a dividend has been established.

Rental Income

Rental income on investment properties is accounted for on a straight-line basis over the

lease term. Contingent rentals are recognised as income in the periods when they are earned.

Asset sales

The gain or loss on disposal of all non-current assets and Available-for-Sale Financial Assets is determined as the difference between the carrying amount of the asset at the time of the disposal and the net proceeds on disposal.

(e) Expenditure

All expenditure is accounted for on an accruals basis and has been classified under headings that aggregate all costs related to the category. Expenses are recognised net of the amount of goods and services tax (GST) receivable from the Australian Taxation Office.

(f) Cash and cash equivalents

For the purposes of the Statement of Cash Flows, cash and cash equivalents includes cash on hand and at bank, deposits held at call with financial institutions, other short term, highly liquid investments with maturities of three months or less, that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and which are subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value.

(g) Trade and other receivables

Trade receivables, which comprise amounts due from sales of merchandise are recognised and carried at original invoice amount less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts. Normal terms of settlement are

30 days. The carrying amount of the receivable is deemed to reflect fair value.

An allowance for doubtful debts is made when there is objective evidence that the organisation will not be able to collect the debts. Bad debts are written off when identified.

(h) Inventories

Inventories comprise of goods for resale in the ordinary course of business and future art union properties.

Goods for resale

Inventories of goods purchased for resale are valued at cost. The cost of bringing each item to its present location and condition is determined on a first-in, first-out basis.

Art union properties

The Income Statement comprises of all income and direct expenditure relating to Art Unions drawn during 2016 up to 23 December 2016, the date of the drawing of the final art union for the financial year. Any Art Union properties relating to draws after 23 December 2016, are included in the Statement of financial position at the end of the year as inventories. Art union properties are recorded in the Statement of Financial Position at cost.

(i) Property, plant and equipment

Basis of measurement of carrying amount

Property, plant and equipment is stated at cost value less the associated accumulated depreciation and impairment.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Depreciation

Items of property, plant and

equipment (other than land) are depreciated over their useful lives to the organisation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation is

calculated on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the assets as follows:

CLASS OF FIXED ASSET	DEPRECIATION RATE
Buildings	2.5%
Plant & Equipment	10%-40%
Leasehold Improvements	5%
Motor Vehicles	12.5%-20%

Disposal of assets

An item of property, plant and equipment is disposed when the item is no longer used in the operations of the organisation or when the item has no sale value. Any gain or loss arising from disposal of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is

included in profit or loss in the year the asset is disposed.

(j) Intangible assets Basis of measurement of carrying amount

Intangible assets include computer software and are stated at cost value less the associated accumulated depreciation and impairment.

Depreciation

Intangible items are depreciated over their useful lives to the organisation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the assets as follows:

CLASS OF FIXED ASSET	DEPRECIATION RATE
Intangible Assets	25%-40%

Disposal of assets

An intangible item is disposed when the item is no longer used in the operations of the organisation or when the item has no sale value. Any gain or loss arising from disposal of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included

in profit or loss in the year the asset is disposed.

(k) Investment properties Basis of measurement of carrying amount

Investment properties held for rental are measured and recorded at cost including transaction costs, less accumulated depreciation and impairment charges.

Depreciation

Investment properties (other than land) are depreciated over their useful lives to the organisation commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use. Depreciation is calculated on a straight line basis over the expected useful economic life of the assets as follows:

CLASS OF FIXED ASSET	DEPRECIATION RATE
Buildings	2.5%

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Disposal of assets

An investment property is disposed when the property is no longer used in the operations of the organisation or when the item has no sale value. Any gain or loss arising from disposal of the asset (calculated as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset) is included in profit or loss in the year the asset is disposed.

(l) Financial Instruments

All investments and other financial assets are initially stated at cost, being the fair value of consideration given plus acquisition costs. Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade date which is the date on which the organisation commits to purchase or sell the asset. Accounting policies for each category of investments and other financial assets subsequent to initial recognition are set out below:

Available-for-sale financial assets

Available-for-Sale Financial Assets comprise investments in listed and unlisted entities and any non-derivatives that are not classified as any other category of financial assets, and are classified as non-current assets (unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the end of the reporting period).

All available-for-sale financial

assets are initially stated at cost, being the fair value of consideration given.

Purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade date which is the date on which the organisation commits to purchase or sell the asset with unrealised gains or losses recognised in Other Comprehensive Income.

The fair value of the available-for-sale financial assets is reviewed annually and any movements are to be accounted for in comprehensive income in the profit and loss and the revaluation reserve.

Interest and dividends generated from the available-for-sale financial assets are recognised in the profit and loss and statement of financial position.

Loans and receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. After initial recognition, these are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. Discounting is omitted where the effect of discounting is immaterial. The organisation's cash and cash equivalents, trade and most other receivables fall into this category of financial instruments.

Individually significant receivables are considered for impairment when they are past due or when other objective evidence is received that a specific counterparty will default. Receivables that are not

considered to be individually impaired are reviewed for impairment in groups, which are determined by reference to the industry and region of a counterparty and other shared credit risk characteristics. The impairment loss estimate is then based on recent historical counterparty default rates for each identified group.

(m) Other assets

Other assets represent prepayments of expenses in relation to the operation of future art unions based on the value of the use of the prepayment in relation to each art union. Prepayments for other operating expenditure is represented at cost.

(n) Impairment

The carrying values of assets are reviewed for impairment at each reporting date, with recoverable amount being estimated when events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may be impaired.

The recoverable amount of non financial assets is the higher of fair value less costs to sell and value in use.

Impairment exists when the carrying value of an asset exceeds the assets estimated recoverable amount. The asset is then written down to the assets recoverable amount.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2016

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

(o) Trade and other payables

Trade payables and other payables represent liabilities for goods and services provided to the organisation prior to the end of the financial year that are unpaid. These amounts are usually settled in 30 days. The carrying amount of the payables is deemed to reflect fair value. The amounts also include any monies received for Art Unions drawn after 23 December 2016.

(p) Employee benefits

Employee benefits comprise wages and salaries, annual leave, non-accumulating sick leave and long service leave, training expenses and contributions to superannuation plans.

Liabilities for annual leave in respect of employees' services up to the reporting date which are expected to be settled within 12 months after the end of the period in which the employees render the related services are recognised in the provision for annual leave. Liabilities are measured at the amounts expected to be paid when the liabilities are settled.

The liability for long service leave is recognised in the provision for employee benefits and measured as the present value of expected future payments to be made in respect of services provided by employees up to the reporting date. Consideration is given to anticipated future wage and salary levels, experience of employee departures, and

periods of service. Expected future payments are discounted using market yields at the reporting date on national corporate bonds with terms to maturity and currencies that match, as closely as possible, the estimated future cash outflows.

The organisation pays contributions to certain defined contribution superannuation plans. Contributions are recognised in the income statement when they are due.

(q) Taxation

Income tax

No provision for income tax has been raised as the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) operates solely as a charitable non-profit organisation established to promote the interests and welfare of former and serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their dependants, to carry out commemorative and patriotic activities. Accordingly, the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) is registered as a Taxation Concession Charity (TCC) by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and as such is not liable for income tax, whilst the organisation maintains such registration.

Goods and services tax (GST)

Revenues, expenses and assets are recognised net of the amount of GST except where the amount of GST incurred is not recoverable from the Australian Taxation Office, in which case the amount is recognised as part of the cost of acquisition of an asset or

as part of an item of expense. Receivables and payables are recognised inclusive of GST. Cash flows are included in the statement of cash flows on a gross basis.

(r) New standards and interpretations not yet adopted

The following standards, amendments to standards and interpretations have been issued, but are not mandatory for financial years ended 31 December 2016. They have not been adopted in preparing the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2016. The organisation is assessing the impact of the new standards:

AASB 15 – Revenue from Contracts with Customers

This new revenue standard will apply for the first time to the 31 December 2018 year end and supersedes all existing revenue-related Accounting Standards and Interpretations. The core principle of AASB 15 is that an entity should recognise revenue to depict the transfer of promised goods or services to customers in an amount that reflects the consideration to which the entity expects to be entitled in exchange for those goods or services. This means that revenue will be recognised when control of goods or services is transferred, rather than on transfer of risks and rewards as is currently the case under AASB 118 Revenue.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

2. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

AASB 16 – Leases

AASB 16 eliminates the operating and finance lease classifications for lessees currently accounted for under AASB 117 Leases. It instead requires an entity to bring most leases onto its balance sheet in a similar way to how existing finance leases are treated under AASB 117. An entity will be required to recognise a lease liability and a right of use asset in its balance sheet for most leases.

There are some optional exemptions for leases with a period of 12 months or less and for low value leases.

This standard applies to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2019.

AASB 9 – Financial Instruments

Amends the requirements for classification and measurement of financial assets and will apply for the first time to the 31 December 2018 year end. The available-for-sale and held-to-maturity categories of financial assets in AASB 139 have been eliminated. Under AASB 9, there are three categories of financial assets:

- Amortised cost
- Fair value through profit or loss
- Fair value through other comprehensive income.

The organisation has not yet made an assessment of the impact of this standard and amendments.

(s) Fair values

Fair values may be used for financial asset and liability

measurement and well as for sundry disclosures.

The following assets and liabilities are recognised and measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

- Available for Sale Financial Assets

Assets classified as held for sale are measured at fair value on a non-recurring basis.

All assets and liabilities for which fair value is measured or disclosed are categorised according to the fair value hierarchy as follows:

- Level 1 - Quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities
- Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly
- Level 3 - Inputs for the assets or liability that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. It is based on the presumption that the transaction takes place either in the principal market for the asset or liability or, in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market. The principal or most advantageous market must be accessible to, or by, the organisation.

Fair value is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability,

assuming that market participants act in their best economic interest.

Available-for-Sale Financial Assets are Level 1 assets per the Fair Value hierarchy. Due to their short term nature the carrying amount of trade and other receivables and payables are assumed to approximate their fair values. The carrying value of loans to sub branches are assumed to approximate their fair values because the impact of discounting is not significant. Loans to sub branches are measured at cost.

**NOTES TO THE
CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

3. EXPENSES

(a) Donations and welfare

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
District and Sub Branch Grants	2,024,034	2,800,141
Veteran Services	3,026,818	2,115,690
Youth Development Program	505,228	506,107
RSL News	717,837	669,823
Mates4Mates	4,304,653	2,796,672
ANZAC & RSL Centenary	882,761	395,040
Solider Recovery Centre	5,830	-
Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation	1,000,000	1,250,000
Other Donations & Sponsorships	1,463,690	854,314
	13,930,851	11,387,787

(b) Other expenses

	Notes	2016	2015
		\$	\$
IT/Communications Expenses		1,369,772	1,076,781
Event Expenses		80,589	277,677
Provision for Doubtful Debts		2,121,073	268,813
Insurance Expenses		197,732	195,207
Legal Expenses	3 (c)	196,900	317,946
General Expenses		546,946	898,290
Loss on Disposal of Assets		639,202	110,898
		5,152,214	3,145,612

(c) Legal expenses

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Constitution	16,902	8,631
Facilities	9,873	65,445
General Matters	163,224	116,143
Merchandise	-	101,858
Sub Branches	4,007	3,930
Trademarks	1,827	19,886
Tribunal Matters	1,067	2,053
	196,900	317,946

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

4. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

Cash at bank earns interest at floating rates based on daily deposit rates.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Cash at Bank	38,813,322	29,580,136
	38,813,322	29,580,136

5. OTHER FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Cash on Deposit	25,273,568	25,008,885
	25,273,568	25,008,885

Short-term deposits are made for varying periods on average three months, depending on the organisation's cash requirements. These deposits earn interest at market rates.

The organisation's exposure to interest rate risk for financial assets and liabilities are disclosed in Note 16.

Other financial assets earned interest at a variable rate between 2.00% - 3.20% (2015: 2.20% - 3.20%). All monies invested with A+ rated Australian Banks.

6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

The organisation's exposure to credit risk related to trade debtors and other receivables is disclosed in Note 16.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Trade Debtors	94,007	157,774
Other Debtors & Prepayments	1,269,348	1,232,016
Loans to Related Parties - Secured	3,011,331	3,621,176
Loans to Related Parties - Unsecured	-	22,231
Provisions	(2,826,112)	(1,276,975)
	1,548,574	3,756,222
NON-CURRENT		
Loans to Related Parties - Secured	6,468,400	8,000,239
Loans to Related Parties - Unsecured	-	1,862
	6,468,400	8,002,101

**NOTES TO THE
CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES (CONTINUED)

Provision for doubtful debts

Past experience indicates that no impairment allowance is necessary in respect of trade debtors 'not past due' and 'past due 0 – 30 days'.

Loans to Sub Branches

Loans - Unsecured

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Emu Park	-	12,746
Tin Can Bay	-	11,347
	-	24,093

Loans - Secured

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Beerwah-Peachester	-	326,975
Bowen	40,000	40,000
Charters Towers	1,142,950	1,142,950
Dalby	-	1,281,109
Mareeba	1,984,654	1,896,436
Sarina	583,161	554,317
Southport	5,230,296	5,855,823
St George	218,440	229,937
Yeppoon	280,230	293,868
	9,479,731	11,621,415

(a) Tin Can Bay

The loan was established on 21st March 2007 and was fully repaid during the year

(b) Charters Towers

The loan was established on 24th May 2012 and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 8-10 Prior Street, Charters Towers. The commercial operation ceased in March 2013. During the year, the loan has fully been provided for.

(c) Dalby

An agreement with the Sub Branch dated 6th February 2014, has converted the previous equity in the property to a loan and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 69 Drayton St, Dalby. During the year, the property was sold and the loan settled.

(d) Emu Park

The loan was established on 17th January 2012 and was fully repaid

during the year.

(e) Mareeba

The loan was established on 21st December 2011 and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 88 Byrnes St, Mareeba.

(f) Sarina

The loan was established on 13th August, 2013, and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 34 Central St, Sarina.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

6. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES (CONTINUED)

During the year, the loan has fully been provided for.

(g) Southport

The loan was established on 23rd December, 2010, and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 36 Scarborough St, Southport.

(h) St George

The loan was established on

23rd December, 2011 and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 108 Alfred St, St George. The commercial operation ceased during the year.

(i) Bowen

The loan was established 23rd July 2013, and is secured by a mortgage over the property situated at 38 Williams St, Bowen.

(j) Beerwah-Peachester

The loan was established on 22nd May 2013 and was fully provided for at end of year 2015. During the year the loan amount was written off against the provision.

(k) Yeppoon

The loan was established on 17th August 2015, and is secured by a general security agreement over the plant and equipment of the sub branch.

7. INVENTORIES

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Merchandise	833,644	891,978
Provision for Obsolescence	(315,099)	(118,467)
Art Union	11,726,092	14,152,312
	12,244,637	14,925,823
NON-CURRENT		
Art Union	14,382,473	12,213,788
	14,382,473	12,213,788

8. OTHER ASSETS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Prepayments - Art Union	3,540,243	599,077
Prepayments - Other	449,365	216,129
	3,989,608	815,206
NON-CURRENT		
Prepayments - Art Union	1,594,049	470,135
	1,594,049	470,135

**NOTES TO THE
CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

9. AVAILABLE-FOR-SALE FINANCIAL ASSETS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Funds Managed by JBWere	18,354,970	17,724,947
	18,354,970	17,724,947

The portfolio holds a variety of investments which generate a return based on income from those investments and changes in the market value of the investments. The organisation's investment portfolio can be redeemed on an at call basis at the market value of the investment at the date of redemption less certain fees and charges.

The organisation's exposure to credit risk related to Available-for-Sale Financial Assets is disclosed in Note 16.

The Available-for-sale financial asset portfolio is managed by JBWere on behalf of the organisation. The total costs of funds invested through JBWere, at balance date, was \$16,505,831. The market value of investments, at balance date was \$18,354,970.

The resulting market value portfolio increase of \$1,849,139 has been brought to account. During the year, the realised loss on trading was \$38,238. Dividends received totalled \$567,194, including franking credits. The net increase in the market value of the portfolio during the year was \$81,737.

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Buildings - at cost	36,308,830	20,806,182
Accumulated Depreciation	(3,720,150)	(3,119,787)
	32,588,680	17,686,395
Plant & Equipment - at cost	6,014,209	3,921,832
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,758,292)	(1,333,814)
	4,255,917	2,588,018
Motor Vehicles - at cost	2,230,519	2,089,087
Accumulated Depreciation	(697,049)	(669,334)
	1,533,470	1,419,753
Work in Progress	15,000	2,425,778
	15,000	2,425,778
TOTAL PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT	38,393,067	24,119,944

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

10. PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT (CONTINUED)

Movements in the carrying amounts for each class of property, plant and equipment between the beginning and end of the current financial year:

	PLANT & EQUIPMENT	BUILDINGS	MOTOR VEHICLES	WORK IN PROGRESS	TOTAL
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	2,588,018	17,686,395	1,419,753	2,425,778	24,119,944
Additions, at cost	2,223,535	15,783,676	554,160	(2,410,778)	16,150,593
Disposals, at Written Down Value	(69,477)	(243,385)	(231,291)	-	(544,153)
Depreciation Expense	(485,106)	(634,474)	(213,737)	-	(1,333,317)
CARRYING AMOUNT AT THE END OF THE YEAR	4,256,970	32,592,212	1,528,885	15,000	38,393,067

11. INTANGIBLE ASSETS

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Intangibles - at cost	2,256,807	2,141,871
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,911,407)	(1,622,828)
Work in Progress	2,172,707	767,116
TOTAL INTANGIBLES	2,518,107	1,286,159

Movements in the carrying amounts between the beginning and end of the current financial year:

	Intangibles	Work in Progress	TOTAL
Carrying amount at the beginning of the year	519,043	767,116	1,286,159
Additions, at cost	114,936	1,405,591	1,520,527
Disposals, at Written Down Value	-	-	-
Depreciation Expense	(288,579)	-	(288,579)
CARRYING AMOUNT AT THE END OF THE YEAR	345,400	2,172,707	2,518,107

**NOTES TO THE
CONSOLIDATED
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

12. INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Investment Properties - at cost	13,368,654	14,138,654
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,285,653)	(1,053,069)
Provision for Impairment	(926,972)	-
TOTAL INVESTMENT PROPERTIES	11,156,029	13,085,585

Movements in the carrying amounts between the beginning and end of the current financial year:

	INVESTMENT PROPERTIES
CARRYING AMOUNT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR	13,085,585
Additions, at cost	-
Disposals, at Written Down Value	(672,661)
Depreciation Expense	(329,923)
Provision for Impairment	(926,972)
CARRYING AMOUNT AT THE END OF THE YEAR	11,156,029

13. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

The organisation's exposure to risks related to trade creditors and other payables is disclosed in Note 16.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Trade Creditors & Accruals	1,779,809	1,000,482
Trade Creditors & Accruals – Art Union	7,061,363	5,772,467
Ticket Sales in Advance	250,824	239,457
	9,091,996	7,012,406

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

14. PROVISIONS

The employee benefit liability recognised and included in the financial statements is as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
CURRENT		
Employee Benefits – Annual Leave	794,251	632,906
Employee Benefits – Long Service Leave	288,306	231,540
	1,082,557	864,446
NON-CURRENT		
Employee Benefits – Long Service Leave	239,662	215,421
	239,662	215,421

Any accrued wages and salaries are included in the current trade payables balance.

15. RESERVES

Available for sale financial assets

This reserve is used to record the fair value of the Available-for-Sale Financial Assets.

16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

(a) General objectives, policies and processes

The organisation is exposed to risks that arise from its use of financial instruments. This note describes the organisation's objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks and the methods used to measure them.

There have been no substantive changes in the organisation's exposure to financial instrument risks, objectives, policies and processes for managing those risks or the methods used to

measure them from previous periods unless otherwise stated in this note.

The principal financial instruments from which financial instrument risk arises:

- Cash and cash equivalents;
- Trade and other receivables;
- Trade and other payables;
- Available for sale financial assets

The Board of Directors has overall responsibility for the determination of the organisation's risk management objectives and policies.

(b) Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk that the other party to a financial instrument will fail to discharge their obligations resulting in the organisation incurring a financial loss. This usually occurs when debtors or counter parties to contracts fail to settle their obligations owing to the organisation.

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

16. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (CONTINUED)

The maximum exposure to credit risk at balance date, without taking into account the value of

any collateral or other security, in the event other parties fail to perform their obligations under financial instruments in relation to each class of recognised

financial asset at reporting date is the carrying amount of those assets as indicated in the Statement of Financial Position and is as follows:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Cash & cash equivalents	38,813,322	29,580,136
Other financial assets	25,273,568	25,008,885
Trade & other receivables	8,016,974	11,758,323
Available-for-sale financial assets	18,354,970	17,724,947
	90,458,834	84,072,291

(i) Cash and cash equivalents and other financial assets

Cash and cash equivalents are deposited with the Commonwealth, Westpac, National Australia Bank, ANZ and Australian Defence Credit Union.

(ii) Trade and Other Receivables

Within trade and other receivables the largest debtors are Loans to Sub Branches as outlined in Note 6.

Credit risk associated with trade and other receivables is monitored by the monthly review of trade debtor listings and loan balances.

(iii) Available-for-Sale Financial Assets

The organisation's Available for Sale Financial Assets are disclosed in Note 9. Investments are diversified and are exposed to defensive and growth assets to minimise the risk to the organisation.

The objective of the organisation investing in Available-for-Sale Financial

Assets is a long term approach to support the maintenance and growth of the organisation's mission and strategic plan.

Under the investment policy established by the organisation, risk of future losses is in part managed by setting guidelines that require the organisation's investments be diversified such that there is adequate exposure to both defensive and growth assets. The performance objective of the organisation's investment portfolio is to achieve diversification of income. To help implement the organisation's investment policy and manage the associated investment risk the organisation employs JBWere as an independent advisor, who manages the organisation's investments in line with the Board approved investment policy.

Risk is managed by monthly reviews of investment holdings, policy compliance, economic updates and reviewing the long term cash needs of the organisation. The Board monitors

the quality of investments taking into consideration areas such as credit ratings, returns and investment objectives. As required under Australian accounting standards, a review of the carrying values of Available-for-Sale Financial Assets as at 31 December 2016 was performed to determine whether any impairment existed as at that date, with no changes for impairment required.

(iv) Interest Rate Risk

Interest rate risk arises from the use of interest bearing financial instruments. Interest rate risk is the risk that fair value for future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in interest rates. The organisation monitors its interest rate exposure continuously. Total other financial assets at balance date that earned interest at a floating rate is \$63,219,579 (2015: \$53,444,896) in addition to receivables of \$8,016,974 (2015: \$11,758,323).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

17. COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

Capital expenditure commitments

At reporting date the organisation has entered into contracts relating to the purchase of properties, the construction of buildings and software development for the following, which have not been provided for in the financial statements and are payable during 2017:

- \$5,484,687 relating wholly to the operation of future Art Unions
- \$6,900 relating wholly to the redevelopment of the Warhaven Independent Living Units located in Cairns
- \$2,473,800 relating wholly to the Lotteries Transformation Project

Operating expenditure commitments

At reporting date the

organisation has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding in 2015 with the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation for \$5,000,000. The amount payable for the period of the next 3 years from 2017 to 2019 is \$1,000,000 a year.

Contingencies

The organisation had no contingent liabilities as at 31 December 2016.

18. REMUNERATION OF AUDITORS

During the financial year the following fees were paid or payable for services provided by BDO (including related entities), the auditor of the company:

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Audit Services	57,990	56,250
Employment Advisory Services	24,797	73,162
Taxation Advisory Services	85,504	22,535
Other Services	49,731	4,005
	218,022	155,952

BDO has provided advice and recommendations in a number of areas during the year. These services are provided by separate BDO business units to the audit section and are provided by BDO under the Accounting Professional Ethical Standards (APES) to ensure audit independence.

19. OPERATING LEASES

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Not later than 12 months	666,378	383,429
Later than 12 months but not later than 5 years	1,683,482	356,523
Greater than 5 years	-	-
	2,349,860	739,952

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

19. OPERATING LEASES (CONTINUED)

During the year, property lease agreements have been entered into for properties which are

occupied by the Districts of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch). Mates4Mates also lease a property in Brisbane which is

used for the Family Recovery Centre and Head Office. These agreements are under normal commercial terms and conditions.

20. RELATED PARTIES AND RELATED-PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Subsidiaries

The Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) has one subsidiary, Mates4Mates Limited.

Key Management Personnel

The following persons were key management personnel of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) during the financial year:

Directors

- Mr Stewart Cameron CSC
- Mr John Strachan OAM
- Mr Ewan Cameron
- Mr Vic Reading

- Mr Peter Ryan (finished 2 November 2016)
- Mrs Wendy Taylor
- Mr Max Foot OAM
- Mr Roy Cunneen
- Mr Tony Ferris
- Mr Steve Sergeant (leave of absence from 27 June 2016)
- Mr Bill Whitburn OAM (appointed 27 June 2016)
- Mr Peter Sterling
- Mr Pat Fairon
- Mr Neil Burrows (appointed 26 May 2016)
- Mr Barry Vains (appointed 29 April 2016)

Executive

- Mr Luke Traini
- Mr Scott Denner

- Mr Goran Avramovic
- Mrs Tracey Bishop
- Mr Chris Miers
- Mr Simon Button
- Mrs Julie Hoskison (finished 12 August 2016)
- Mrs Marina Cameron (appointed 4 October 2016)

Total key management personnel compensation was \$2,084,554 (2015: \$1,221,407).

Transactions with Districts and National

Amounts paid during the year to Districts \$2,185,533 (2015: \$2,673,802) and National \$250,994 (2015: \$307,817).

NOTES TO THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

21. PARENT ENTITY INFORMATION

The following information relates to the parent entity, Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch). The information presented has been prepared using accounting policies that are consistent with those presented in Note 1.

	Parent	
	2016	2015
	\$	\$
Current Assets	81,560,798	73,511,376
Non-Current Assets	92,800,324	76,770,731
TOTAL ASSETS	174,361,122	150,282,107
Current Liabilities	9,868,165	7,689,663
Non-Current Liabilities	229,682	209,295
TOTAL LIABILITIES	10,097,847	7,898,958
Reserves	1,849,139	1,767,402
Accumulated Funds	162,414,136	140,615,747
TOTAL EQUITY	164,263,275	142,383,149
Net surplus for the year	21,798,389	20,233,270
Other comprehensive income	81,737	213,920
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	21,880,126	20,447,190

22. EVENTS SUBSEQUENT TO REPORTING DATE

There are no subsequent events following 31 December 2016.

23. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The registered office and principal place of business is:

283 St Pauls Terrace
Fortitude Valley
Brisbane QLD 4006

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2016

DIRECTORS' DECLARATION

For the year ended 31 December 2016

The directors have determined that the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) is a reporting entity and that these general purpose financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements:

The directors of the Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) declare that:

1. The financial statements, comprising the consolidated statement of profit or loss

and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of financial position, consolidated statement of cash flows, consolidated statement of changes in equity, and accompanying notes, are in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act 2012)* and:

- a. Comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Australian Charities and*

Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013; and

- b. give a true and fair view of the entity's financial position as at 31 December 2016 and of its performance for the year ended on that date.
2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the entity will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed for and on behalf of The Board of Directors at Brisbane this 27th day of April, 2017



Mr Stewart Cameron CSC
CHAIRMAN



Mr Barry Vains
AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the members of Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch)

Report on the Audit of the Financial Report

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) (the registered entity) and its subsidiary (the Group), which comprises the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2016, the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the consolidated statement of changes in equity and the consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial report, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the directors' declaration.

In our opinion the accompanying financial report of Returned & Services League of Australia (Queensland Branch) has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012* and the *Collections Act 1966 (Qld)*, including:

- (i) Giving a true and fair view of the Group's financial position as at 31 December 2016 and of its financial performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) Complying with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements and Division 60 of the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013*.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report* section of our report. We are independent of the registered entity in accordance with the *Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (ACNC Act)* and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's *APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other information

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information in the registered entity's annual report for the year ended 31 December 2016, but does not include the financial report and our auditor's report thereon. The annual report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the financial report does not cover the other information and accordingly we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial report, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial report or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the annual report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to the directors and will request that it is corrected. If it is not corrected, we will seek to have the matter appropriately brought to the attention of users for whom our report is prepared.

Responsibilities of the directors' for the Financial Report

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards - Reduced Disclosure Requirements, the *ACNC Act* and the *Collections Act 1966 (Qld)* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the directors are responsible for assessing the group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the registered entity or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

The directors of the registered entity are responsible for overseeing the registered entity's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.



A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial report is located at the Auditing and Assurance Standards Board website (<http://www.auasb.gov.au/Home.aspx>) at:
http://www.auasb.gov.au/auditors_files/ar1.pdf.

This description forms part of our auditor's report.

BDO Audit Pty Ltd

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A J Whyte', is written over a circular stamp. The stamp contains the letters 'BDO' in a stylized font.

A J Whyte
Director

Brisbane, 27 April 2017



AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



**TONY
FERRIS**
CHAIRMAN
(JANUARY TO
JULY 2016)
AUDIT
AND RISK
COMMITTEE



**BARRY
VAINS**
CHAIRMAN
(JULY 2016 TO
THE PRESENT)
AUDIT
AND RISK
COMMITTEE

The committee changed its name to the Audit and Risk Committee – removing the word “management” – in August 2016. The committee made the decision because it felt the role of managing the audit and risk in the organisation actually falls to the executive management of RSL (Queensland Branch).

At the same time, the committee also updated its Terms of Reference to highlight its purpose – which is to assist the Board in ensuring an appreciation of present and future risk regarding the financial and general operation of the organisation.

At the end of 2016, the committee was comprised of non-executive directors Barry Vains (Chair), Bill Whitburn OAM and Pat Fairon and external members Brian Nally, Jamie Whitehead and Michael Quinn.

Peter Ryan and Peter Kinsella served on the committee until July 2016. Tony Ferris also chaired the committee until this time, when he was replaced by Mr Vains. Mr Ferris then stood aside from the committee in December.

Our committee thanks these past committee members for the dedicated service they gave to the committee over several years. Mr Quinn was appointed to the committee in late 2016 and attended his first meeting in October.

The committee plays a key role in assisting the Board to fulfil its oversight responsibilities in two major areas:

1. Risk, policies and control.
2. Internal review and external audit.

RISK, POLICIES AND CONTROL

The RSL (Queensland Branch) executive management team, including CEO Luke Traini, has been busy in the following areas:

1. Introducing an Enterprise Risk Management Framework

to the organisation. A Risk Register was established during the year and a review of State Branch’s insurance portfolio will be completed by the end of quarter one, 2017. The plan is to complete business continuity plans for Lotteries and RSL (Queensland Branch) by the end of 2017.

2. Policy development, review and updates, with a goal of having 10 high-level overarching policies, followed by guidelines and standards. A Risk Appetite Statement is currently being developed and once this is complete a Risk and Investment policy will follow. A Whistle Blower policy and a Drugs and Alcohol policy were rolled out during 2016.
3. Changing the financial management system from MYOB Accounting Package to Microsoft Dynamics AX Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform. The new financial system went live at the end of 2016 and other modules will be added and go live during 2017.

INTERNAL REVIEW AND EXTERNAL AUDIT

The committee established a good working relationship with the external auditor who attends our meetings. The auditor’s role is to provide the committee with oversight of the annual external audit plan and the committee – in conjunction with management – conducts a review of the draft financial statements each year

In 2017, the committee will continue its role of enabling the Board to have a deep focus on the audit and risk profile of RSL (Queensland Branch), which is critical during this time of strategic change and will ensure our organisation is best positioned to serve future generations of veterans.



STATE SECRETARY AND GENERAL MANAGER OPERATIONS ANNUAL REPORT



**SCOTT
DENNER**
STATE
SECRETARY
AND GENERAL
MANAGER
OPERATIONS
RSL
(QUEENSLAND
BRANCH)

In February 2017 at the time of writing this report I had just completed my first year as State Secretary of RSL (Queensland Branch). The act of writing provided the perfect opportunity to reflect on the achievements of our organisation through 2016, and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. My focus in developing this report is twofold – firstly, to highlight the services provided to current and ex-serving Defence members and their dependants, and secondly to examine the structure and membership of RSL (Queensland Branch).

In one of my columns in *Queensland RSL News* earlier this year, I mentioned that I have received feedback from many younger veterans and their families who say the League is no longer relevant for them. An analysis of our 35,000 members reveals the average age of members is 68 and only 14 per cent are under the age of 50. The size and demography of our membership is important for three reasons. The first is that the vast majority of our welfare effort is delivered by members, and our analysis shows that once the average member reaches the age of 75 they are a net user of welfare. This means we need a large proportion of members well below that age to provide our volunteer effort. The second reason is that as a member-based organisation we need more young voices and female voices within the League to ensure our direction reflects the wishes of all veterans and their families, rather than one specific demographic. The third reason is that to generate a genuinely strategic effect, RSL needs to have a membership of sufficient size to capture the attention of politicians at both state and federal level, enabling us to shape and influence policy in support of the military family and the Australian Defence Force.

While our charitable objectives are enduring, RSL (Queensland Branch) is now a very large and modern business, purposed to generate funding for those charitable works. The State of Queensland has grown sevenfold in population since the inception of the RSL, communication is instantaneous and any town can be reached in a single day of travel. Most importantly, society has completely changed. Yet our organisational and governance structures remain almost exactly as they were a century ago, and this is a fundamental barrier to us growing in relevance to all generations, which is essential if we are to survive and thrive as an organisation.

To enact the changes required to ensure the survival and growth of the League, we need to undergo significant cultural change. This will mean many of us consciously changing our attitudes and actively challenging the thinking of friends within our Sub Branch. It will mean determining new ways of operating that attract younger veterans, both male and female, who cannot engage with their local Sub Branch in the same way as a retired veteran can due to work or family commitments.

To build the knowledge to effectively confront this issue, RSL (Queensland Branch) is conducting detailed primary research across Queensland during 2017. This includes talking with representatives of the 170,000 current and ex-service personnel who are not members of RSL (Queensland Branch), and their immediate family. We will conduct the research in urban, regional and rural areas to ensure we understand the needs of all demographics, and this will enable us to shape the organisation to become relevant for those underrepresented demographics, without losing our appeal to current members.

The activities of the League



in Queensland, when put into numbers, are truly astounding. In 2016, between paid staff and volunteers, we conducted 8,300 hospital visits and 9,000 interviews with veterans to assess their needs, followed by a further 1,100 direct welfare support activities for those in significant need. We supported 3,200 veterans in their claims with the Department of Veterans' Affairs, and acted as advocates for 200 during tribunal appeals. We ensured that the service of veterans was understood and remembered in over 100 schools across Queensland through our Community Link program, and established a scholarship program for the children of vulnerable veterans.

There are two veteran health and wellbeing activities that I would like to draw attention to. The first is the \$7 million investment RSL (Queensland Branch) made into PTSD research

within the Australian veteran community, which has led to groundbreaking findings by the Gallipoli Medical Research Foundation. The results of that research are being promulgated nationwide during 2017 as part of an education program for General Practitioners, and will make a meaningful improvement in the way PTSD and its related physical conditions are identified and treated in Australia.

The second key activity is the veteran homelessness program. At last year's State Congress, a report was circulated which included recommendations on how RSL (Queensland Branch) could address this pernicious issue. In a similar manner to our activities on PTSD, we completed the background work during 2016 and began implementing the program in 2017. We are particularly pleased to have partnered with the Salvation Army, who have

fantastic experience in this area and treat veterans with dignity, while concurrently addressing the underlying issues which lead to homelessness. Although the program had just begun as I wrote this report, we are already seeing superb results, with the Salvation Army able to address very complicated housing and wellbeing issues in partnership with RSL (Queensland Branch).

Thank you to all those members and Sub Branches who have generously shared their time and experience with me during my first 12 months in the role. The quiet and often unnoticed work you do in the community to support your fellow veterans and their families is invaluable. I look forward to continuing to work with you through the next year as we modernise RSL (Queensland Branch) to ensure we remain relevant, and to support and empower veterans and their families in need.

TRIBUNAL ANNUAL REPORT



**GREGORY J
FITZGERALD**
CHAIRMAN
RSL
(QUEENSLAND
BRANCH)
TRIBUNAL

This report covers the activities of the Tribunal for 2016.

A total of 28 complaints were received in 2016 from Sub Branch members. Although this was an increase from 2015, 23 of these were from one complainant. The Tribunal also received one appeal from a Sub Branch member petitioning against disciplinary action imposed by his Sub Branch.

The Tribunal conducted seven administrative meetings and five preliminary meetings throughout the year at ANZAC House. Preliminary meetings are standard practice, as prescribed in the National By-Laws, and provide Tribunal members with a clear understanding of matters under consideration.

No hearings were conducted during the year as the 28 complaints and one appeal received were dealt with as discussed later in this report under the headings of 'Complaints Received' and 'Appeal Received.'

In previous years, many complaints received by the Registrar did not comply with the requirements of By-Law 7 and were returned to the complainant for remedial action. In 2016, there were noticeably fewer non-compliant submissions, a pleasing improvement.

In June 2016, the revised National Constitution and By-Laws came into effect. As a result, all State Branches were required to amend their Constitutions and By-Laws, including RSL (Queensland Branch). The Tribunal offered to make appropriate amendments to State By-Laws and By-Law 7, in particular to ensure alignment with the National document. The state executive accepted this offer, and the revision of By-Law 7 was completed and forwarded to the Constitution and Awards Committee chair well before the designated time frame.

TRIBUNAL PERSONNEL

The Tribunal comprised the following eight members for the 12 months to December 21, 2016:

- Gregory Fitzgerald
Chairman
- Paul Peterson
Member and Deputy Chairman (part year)
- Dell Shears
Member and Deputy Chairman (part year)
- David Barnicoat
Member
- John Stanford
Member
- Rod McLeod AM
Member
- Dr Trevor Rogers
Member
- Judith Munday OAM
Member

There were no departures or appointments of new members throughout the year, ensuring stability of membership. Gregory Fitzgerald was reappointed as Chairman for the fourth successive year and Paul Peterson was appointed as Deputy Chairman during the year, replacing Dell Shears, who did not seek reappointment. The Chairman and Deputy Chairman positions both become vacant at the end of May each year, and the Board makes appointments based on the recommendation of Tribunal members.

REGISTRAR

Graham Lucas continued in his role of Registrar of the Tribunal.

COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

As mentioned in the overview, 28 complaints were submitted in 2016. Of these, 23 were lodged by one complainant and, following preliminary consideration, the Tribunal recommended alternative resolution avenues to this person. At the end of 2016 these issues had not been finalised.



The Tribunal advises the following about the remaining five complaints:

1. One complaint was referred to the State Board as the Tribunal deemed it to be a management issue rather than a disciplinary issue. The complaint was subsequently resolved by the appropriate District President.
2. One complaint was determined by the Tribunal to have sufficient grounds to proceed to a hearing, however, prior to the hearing being convened the respondent resigned from the League.
3. A complaint was received by the Registrar citing alleged misappropriation of Sub Branch funds by members of the Sub Branch committee. The Tribunal referred this matter to the State Board and

recommended the allegations be referred to the Queensland Police Service. To assist in this course of action, the Board appointed an investigating officer to examine the allegations.

4. One complaint received was also concurrently the subject of civil action. In such circumstances, the Tribunal cannot act until all court action has been settled. Following settlement of the court action, the complaint was withdrawn by the complainant.
5. A complaint was received about a member wearing medals that it was alleged he was not entitled and to impersonating a “returned” veteran. The member resigned from the League prior to the Tribunal conducting a hearing.

APPEAL RECEIVED

There was one appeal lodged by a Sub Branch member against disciplinary action taken by his Sub Branch. Prior to the appeal hearing being convened, the appellant advised the Registrar that he wished to withdraw the appeal due to remedial action taken by the Sub Branch to the member’s satisfaction.

COUNCIL OF AUSTRALASIAN TRIBUNALS (COAT)

The Tribunal renewed its membership of COAT for 2016.

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Tribunal Chairman provided the Board with the Tribunal’s 2015 Annual Report which was included in the RSL (Queensland Branch) Annual Report presented at the 2016 RSL (Queensland Branch) AGM in Townsville.

LOTTERIES COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



VIC
READING
CHAIRMAN
FUNDRAISING
AND
LOTTERIES
COMMITTEE

RSL Art Union had a gratifying 2016, with great achievements made possible throughout the year thanks to the professional dedication of the lottery team and support of the community.

The Lotteries Committee is comprised of Vic Reading (Chairman), John Strachan OAM (Deputy Chairman), Tracey Bishop (Lotteries General Manager), Goran Avramovic, David Lammey, Warwick Face and Luke Traini (RSL (Queensland Branch) Chief Executive Officer).

The sustained growth of Art Union has further enhanced its ability to deliver a stable, sustainable source of fundraising revenue to RSL (Queensland Branch). This was achieved by continuing to scale field sales operations – a relatively new sales channel that has delivered significant growth to RSL’s VIP base – and by successfully growing Art Union’s customer base through new game concepts.

RSL (Queensland Branch) has carefully managed the field sales channel in 2016, with a focus on ensuring the integrity of its brand and optimising customer experience. It has now established a stable of direct sales channel partners who are equally committed to ensuring their representatives are well trained and respectful in their dealings with the public, and this has seen our VIP base grow by 16 per cent in 2016. This channel is now not only the lotteries’ largest, but is also delivering a recurring stream of revenue that is allowing the broader organisation of RSL (Queensland Branch) to plan for the longer term with certainty.

In terms of lottery game concepts, 2016 saw the lotteries’ first ever \$4 million Sydney beach house, located at Freshwater on Sydney’s north shore. The house generated more than 30 pieces

of online news coverage within days of being launched and was also covered by several television news outlets. The coverage stretched across the globe, generating articles and word-of-mouth as far away as France and the United Kingdom.

This coverage – along with some well-placed advertising – resulted in the game attracting more than 48,000 new customers, the largest number of new customers ever generated by one game. The game captured people’s imagination and has also become the lotteries’ largest ever \$5 game, suggesting that beachfront Sydney properties will feature in future lottery plans.

Other highlights in 2016 include:

- The lottery ran its first ever ‘101 prize’ game where customers could win prizes ranging from a home to an iTunes voucher.
- The lottery had a higher number of sell-outs than any previous year, with nine out of its 10 prize home games closing early.
- The lottery prize pool grew to over \$28 million for the first time, with three of its 10 prize home winners becoming more than \$3 million wealthier overnight.

At the same time it was enjoying this strong growth, Art Union also took the opportunity to align itself with the broader organisation’s technology transformation and pivoted development on its new operating system. The lotteries’ new operating system will significantly reduce the risks associated with its operating model, while also enabling it to more easily innovate as it moves forward. The system will take advantage of the benefits available from running off the same platform as the broader RSL (Queensland Branch), ensuring

“At the same time it was enjoying this strong growth, Art Union also took the opportunity to align itself with the broader organisation’s technology transformation and pivoted development on its new operating system.”

the lottery can more easily meet its compliance obligations and providing the ability to obtain real-time financial reporting for fast decision making.

Thus, 2016 represented a year of continued growth, together with necessary investments to ensure the business has the stable foundations to continue successfully. This dual focus will continue in 2017, with the lottery building and embedding a stable operating platform to help ensure it can continue to fund the initiatives RSL (Queensland Branch) has identified as being key to its support for Australia’s military family.

In closing, we would like to thank everyone for their hard work over the past year. We will build on this success and momentum and launch the Art Union into even greater achievements in 2017, enabling RSL (Queensland Branch) to provide even more support to our military family.



LEGISLATION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



**EWAN
CAMERON**
STATE VICE
PRESIDENT
AND
CHAIRMAN
LEGISLATION
AND AWARDS
COMMITTEE

The members of the Legislation and Awards Committee at the commencement of 2016 were Ewan Cameron (Chairman) and members Vic Reading, Roy Cunneen, Tony McKinnon and Gary Lancaster. The administration team provided secretarial services. The State President and State Secretary are ex-officio members of the Committee and attended when invited or available. In July 2016, I stood down as Chair and Roy Cunneen was appointed to the Chairmanship.

The review of the Constitutions and By-Laws have been reported annually now over a number of years. I am happy to report that currently over 200 Constitutions were approved as at the end of April 2016.

In June 2016, some of the Directors attended the National Conference and witnessed the adoption of the new National Constitution. The adoption of that Constitution of course requires that RSL (Queensland Branch) is required to review and amend our Constitution and this task passed to the new Constitution and Awards Committee under Mr Cunneen. I promote your discussion and contribution to the new Constitutional review.

The Legislation and Awards Committee worked closely with the compliance team (previously known as the tax and then the charities team) and I thank the team for their detailed input and advice. The charities team are able to identify those Sub Branches not currently incorporated and provide advice as to which Sub Branches should or should not incorporate in accordance with their tax status and particular requirements. The bottom line is still that some Sub Branches have unique requirements and these need

“The review of the Constitutions and By-Laws have been reported annually now over a number of years. I am happy to report that currently over 200 Constitutions were approved as at the end of April 2016.”

to be worked through. If Sub Branches are finding difficulty with their issue or definition, I strongly recommend that the initial enquiry should be made to the Compliance Team at ANZAC House.

In conclusion, I thank all District, Sub Branch executives and Committee members for their continued efforts to maintain the good governance of our Districts and Sub Branches as we move to complete the adoption of new Model Rules. I thank the Members and staff of the Legislation and Awards Committee for their dedication and ability to respond to out of session requests to read, interrogate and comment on a wide variety of constitutional documents. Their efforts always continued to improve the work flow of the Committee and I am deeply grateful to them.



CONSTITUTION AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT



**ROY
CUNNEEN**
CHAIRMAN
CONSTITUTION
AND AWARDS
COMMITTEE

The National Branch of the Returned and Services League adopted a new Constitution at its National Conference on June 7, 2016.

As a consequence, all State Branches are required to bring their Constitutions into line with the new National Constitution. In Queensland, that also means the District and Sub Branch Constitutions will also need to reflect the new National Constitution.

Stewart Cameron CSC, our State President, flagged this matter at the Annual General Meeting in Townsville last year. Indeed, the current Board of RSL (Queensland Branch) is hopeful the next State Branch AGM will approve the proposed new Constitution. State Branch By-Laws, District Branch and Sub Branch Model Constitutions will be developed based upon this RSL (Queensland Branch) Constitution.

The Board's Constitution and Awards Committee has been charged with delivering this goal.

These are some of the issues the Committee has been looking to include in the new Constitution:

- It must cascade and comply with the new National Constitution.
- It will be a small Constitution, perhaps 20 pages in length, with many pages of By-laws.
- To reflect that the RSL is a charity with a business element, rather than a business with a charity element.
- Sub Branches and Districts will be a class of membership, thereby connecting voting rights to membership.
- Service Members and Life Members to be the driving force in Sub Branches.
- Sub Branch property issues with Incorporated Sub Branches are to comply with the Associations Incorporation Act.

- Recognise that Amalgamated Clubs comply with the proposed Constitution and the Associations Incorporation Act.
- RSL (Queensland Branch) State Council will have power to deal with professional issues relating to State Councillors, recognising and enforcing that all other disciplinary matters will continue to be dealt with by the RSL (Queensland Branch) Tribunal.
- Broad supervision of Sub Branches to ensure they continue to meet the Objects of the League.
- Reflect the importance of the custodianship of memorabilia.
- Link the existing and future Codes of Conduct for State Councillors to the State Constitution.

The writing team has been working very hard drafting the Constitution under the supervision of the State's Legal Counsel, and I thank them for the professional support they have provided to the Committee.

As Chair of the Constitution and Awards Committee, I have engaged in widespread consultation with all District Councils, seeking Sub Branch input as to the proposed inclusions and exclusions from the proposed new Constitution. It is expected that this process will bring along the Sub Branches so that as many as possible will be fully informed before the next Annual General Meeting of State Branch.

After seeking input from all 10 District Councils (i.e. their Sub Branches), a "watershed" meeting was held on December 8, 2016 with my Committee and Sub Branch members who are not part of my Committee. We met to consider and debate the suggestions and alterations proposed by Sub Branches.

“As Chair of the Constitution and Awards Committee, I have engaged in widespread consultation with all District Councils, seeking Sub Branch input as to the proposed inclusions and exclusions from the proposed new Constitution.”

This new version of the proposed Constitution has been forwarded to the Office of Fair Trading for review.

Before the middle of March 2017, a second round of consultation with District Councils will occur, then another “watershed” meeting will occur to come up with the final version of the Constitution to be presented for consideration at our next AGM.

Since this report is for 2016, I cannot include the further developments which have occurred since December 31, 2016.

I look forward to explaining developments which have occurred since then and recommend to the General Meeting that the proposed new Constitution be accepted and approved by members.



CENTENARY COMMEMORATIVE FUNDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT



MAX FOOT OAM
CHAIRMAN
CENTENARY
COMMEMORATIVE
FUNDING
COMMITTEE

To help commemorate the centenary of the Returned and Services League of Australia in 2016, the Centenary Commemorative Funding Committee created three different avenues of funding, with a combined total of \$5.20 million available for Sub Branches.

ANZAC CENTENARY FUND

Firstly, the ANZAC Centenary Fund was established with \$2 million available from 2015 to 2018. Sub Branches are encouraged to apply for funding to stage events in line with the fund's Terms of Reference, which can be found on the RSL (Queensland Branch) website.

Several Sub Branches have already submitted applications to hold various events including the Centenary of ANZAC Memorial Walk in Emu Park, an ANZAC Centenary Concert in Toowoomba, ANZAC Centenary Ball in Mount Isa, ANZAC Centenary Ball in Mareeba and a Moreton District WW1 formal dinner in 2018.

“To help commemorate the centenary of the Returned and Services League of Australia in 2016, the Centenary Commemorative Funding Committee created three different avenues of funding.”

RSL CENTENARY FUND

Secondly, the RSL Centenary Fund ran from January to December 2016, with \$2 million also available. This allowed Sub Branches to apply for funding in line with the fund's Terms of Reference. These terms covered events pertaining to 100 years of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

This fund also had several applications for various events including the Gold Coast District RSL Centenary Commemoration, North Queensland District Keith Norton History, Far Northern District Celebrates RSL 100 years on and Warwick Sub Branch Gala Dinner.

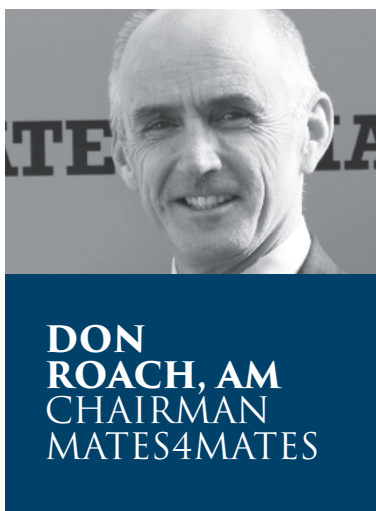
RSL (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) CENTENARY FUND

The third fund established was the RSL (Queensland Branch) Centenary Fund. Sub Branches who would like to apply for funding are encouraged to read the Terms of Reference on the website. This fund contains \$1.2 million and runs to the end of 2017.

If funding is required after this date, please remember the ANZAC Centenary Fund is available until 2018. The committee looks forward to receiving applications from Sub Branches for commemorative projects.



MATES4MATES ANNUAL REPORT



**DON
ROACH, AM**
CHAIRMAN
MATES4MATES

WHO WE HELP

Mates4Mates, an initiative of RSL (Queensland Branch), supports our “Mates”, who are current and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have suffered physical or psychological wounds, injuries or illness as a result of their service. Mates4Mates also supports their immediate family members.

VISION

An Australia where all members of the Military Family are supported.

MISSION

To provide enduring physical and psychological support to the Military Family.

VALUES

Trust, Humility, Mateship, Empathy, Dignity.

OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

In 2016 Mates4Mates continued to grow to deliver and improve services for our Mates and their families across our five service streams:

- Psychological services
- Physical Rehabilitation and Wellbeing Services
- Employment and Education Support Services
- Rehabilitative Adventure Challenges
- Social Connection Activities

This year we moved the Brisbane Family Recovery Centre (FRC) to Milton to accommodate for the increased need for our services within Brisbane. At the end of 2016, we had approximately 1,700 Mates and 1,700 family members – a significant increase since the end of 2015. This growth has seen a commensurate demand-based increase in staff at Mates4Mates, with our team

growing to 35 across the country.

Throughout 2016, the Brisbane FRC had close to 11,000 contacts from our Mates and their families. Similarly, our Townsville and Hobart FRCs experienced increases throughout the year, reaching 9,000 and 5,000 contacts respectively with Mates and their families.

PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES

Mates4Mates provides psychological support to our Mates and their families through individual therapy, family therapy and group programs. Our psychological services are provided by qualified and accredited psychologists using gold standard best practices and our team has extensive experience working with current and ex-serving ADF personnel. They also have experience in community, private practice and hospital settings. To address the range of counselling needs, our services include Eye Movement Desensitisation Reprocessing (EMDR), Cognitive-Behavioural Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), Emotional-Focused Therapy (EFT), as well as relaxation and mindfulness sessions.

The number of Psychological Services conducted by our psychologists increased significantly over the past year, and during 2016 they conducted over 3,900 appointments.

EQUINE THERAPY

Mates4Mates continued to develop our Equine Therapy Program during 2016, with an increase in couples courses. A total of 92 Mates and spouses participated in the program throughout the year. Mates4Mates started working with the Gallipoli Medical



Townsville Team at the Livin' Hot on the Hill in 2016 promoting Mates4Mates.

Research Foundation (GMRF) to evaluate our Equine Therapy Program, and we plan to evaluate our other service delivery programs following this.

PHYSICAL REHABILITATION AND WELLBEING SERVICES

Our Physical Rehabilitation and Wellbeing Services comprise of a range of tailored programs for our Mates. We take a holistic approach to assisting our Mates and their families to rebuild their

lives, listen to their needs and incorporate these into our programs.

Some of our Physical Rehabilitation and Wellbeing services include:

- Individual and group strength and conditioning programs
- Active mindfulness
- Training for adventure challenges
- Riding4Mates cycling activities
- Yoga
- Massage therapy

Mates4Mates Physical Rehabilitation Services are supervised by qualified Exercise Physiologists, who are supported by Physical Training and Rehabilitation Instructors. In 2016 they conducted over 4,900 individual or group appointments.

EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES

In 2016 Mates4Mates continued to work with our specialist employment and education

providers: Ironside Recruitment, Churchill Education and In and Out Fitness, to deliver services for Mates focused on growing their career confidence and finding employment opportunities after military service.

Throughout the year, 30 Mates were referred to Ironside Recruitment to participate in the pilot program. Of these, 20 were referred to the full employment program and 10 for career coaching and mentoring. Within the group of 20 who were referred for the full employment program, 13 have already secured employment, with the other seven continuing through the program.

The Scholarship4Mates program run by Churchill Education created the opportunity for 12 Mates to study a Diploma of Leadership and Management. Churchill Education has further opened this scholarship opportunity to include partners of our Mates in 2017. In and Out Fitness provided six scholarships for Cert III in Physical Training, with six mates continuing the program.

REHABILITATION ADVENTURE CHALLENGES

Our Rehabilitation Adventure Challenge activities are open to Mates and their families nationally. They are designed not only to provide Mates with an achievable goal, but to challenge them. This means taking them out of their comfort zone and encouraging them to extend themselves, by placing them in what some may perceive to be physically and emotionally challenging environments.

A total of 154 Mates and family members participated across the range of Adventure Challenges offered throughout 2016. These activities and their participants included Sailing (36), Kokoda (43),

“Throughout the year, 30 Mates were referred to Ironside Recruitment to participate in the pilot program. Of these, 20 were referred to the full employment program and 10 for career coaching and mentoring. Within the group of 20 who were referred for the full employment program, 13 have already secured employment, with the other seven continuing through the program.”

Big Battlefield Bike Ride (10), Dawson River Retreat (12), Snowy Mountain Horse Trek (20), Tassie Adventure (10), and Kayaking (23).

SOCIAL CONNECTION ACTIVITIES

Mates4Mates FRCs are designed to provide Mates and their families with a place where they feel welcome, safe and connected with like-minded people. We offer an expanding range of activities that include a drop-in environment with coffee areas and recreational games and family fun days, which encourage peer support. Our Mates Monday BBQs at the Brisbane FRC continue to be an integral part of the social connection stream, as do our monthly family BBQs held across the country which often have 100 people in attendance.

THE PLAN FOR 2017

In 2017 we will continue to broaden the delivery of services to Mates and their families, particularly through further expansion of our outreach services. We will continue to work closely with RSL (Queensland

Branch) and our other partners and stakeholders, to ensure Mates4Mates is actively supporting our wounded, injured or ill, current and former, ADF members and their families.

We plan to extend our partnership with the GMRF in 2017, to further evaluate our Functional Movement Screen tool – the current evaluation used by our qualified exercise physiologists when physically assessing Mates. The outcomes of the GMRF evaluation will allow us to refine our processes and metrics and reinforce our ongoing commitment to best practice and support for our Mates.

Mates4Mates continues to make a valuable contribution to the provision of services and support to the community of service families. The diversity and effectiveness of our programs delivered and supported through our community engagement is something we can all be very proud of.

In closing, and on behalf of all associated with Mates4Mates, I would like to thank RSL (Queensland Branch) for their ongoing support.



STATE COUNCIL OF AUXILIARIES ANNUAL REPORT



**LYNNE
GAMBRILL**
PRESIDENT
STATE COUNCIL
OF AUXILIARIES

The main purpose of the State Council of Auxiliaries is to support Auxiliaries, which assist Sub Branches to carry out the Objects of RSL (Queensland Branch), as well as help with social and welfare aspects of Sub Branches.

The year 2016 saw some changes for the Council, with the State Board deciding to fully fund our organisation, resulting in a motion at our Annual General Meeting (AGM) to stop charging capitations. All Auxiliaries in Queensland are now automatically members of the Council of Auxiliaries, but it is their choice if they become active members. We also changed the format of our AGM this year, which proved to be a success.

After the AGM in Townsville, two members of the Council and I travelled over 2,700 kilometres throughout the North Queensland and Far North Queensland Districts to meet with 18 Sub Branches. Five of these have Auxiliaries, including one with both a Women's and a Citizens' Auxiliary operating side-by-side. We were very well received by everyone and felt our efforts might result in new Auxiliaries being formed. One of our aims was to explain to the Sub Branches where there was no Auxiliary what a valuable resource they are. Thanks to the District Presidents who encouraged us to undertake this trip and to the North Queensland District for the use of their vehicle.

I had the pleasure of representing the Council at various Auxiliary and Sub Branch functions throughout year, including some celebrating the 100th anniversary of the League.

Council was once again represented at District Conferences, including South Eastern, Western and Brisbane North. We now comprise members from four Districts, giving us a greater understanding of the needs of both city and

country Auxiliaries and Sub Branches. The Council meets every second month and the executive meet in between these times.

We continue to send a quarterly newsletter to Auxiliaries to keep them informed of activities of the Council and other Auxiliaries.

At our AGM we presented the inaugural winner of the Joy Bryson Shield to the Auxiliary with the highest percentage increase in membership over the previous year. The winning Auxiliary was Beadesert Women's Auxiliary.

Our thanks go first to the RSL (Queensland Branch) for their continued support and encouragement of our endeavours, particularly State Vice President Ewan Cameron for his help and guidance. Thanks also to the Brisbane North District for providing a room for our meetings and use of their vehicle.

I would also like to personally thank our Secretary Maureen Sargent OAM, Treasurer Lesley Boye and all our Councillors for their efforts throughout the year; you are an incredible group and a pleasure to work with.

We were invited to hold our executive meetings in ANZAC House in November, which proved invaluable as it allowed both us and the staff to have a greater understanding of each other's roles within the organisation. At this meeting, we were promised that information about Auxiliaries would be posted on the RSL (Queensland Branch) website prior to Christmas, and I am happy to report this occurred. The value of this was proven when we were contacted by the President of the RSL NSW Central Council of Auxiliaries after she found our contact details on the website.

We hope to visit more Sub Branches and Auxiliaries in 2017 and look forward to the challenges a new year will bring. We also wish all Sub Branches and Auxiliaries a successful year.



RETURNED & SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
QUEENSLAND BRANCH

RSL (QUEENSLAND BRANCH) OBJECTS

1. Provide for the sick, helpless, wounded, aged, vulnerable, destitute and needy among those who are serving or who have served in the Australian Defence Forces and their dependants;
2. Perpetuate the close and kindly ties of friendship created by a mutual service in the Australian Defence Force or in the forces of nations traditionally allied with Australia and the recollections associated with that experience;
3. Maintain a proper standard of dignity and honour among all past and present members of the Defence Forces of the nation and to set an example of public spirit and noble hearted endeavour;
4. Preserve the memory and the records of those who suffered and died for Australia, erect monuments to their valour, provide them with suitable burial places, and establish and preserve, in their honour, the annual commemoration days known as ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and other commemorative days;
5. Encourage loyalty to Australia and secure patriotic service in the interests of Australia;
6. Protect the good name and preserve the interests and standing of members of the Australian Defence Force;
7. Encourage Members, as citizens, to serve Australia with that spirit of self-sacrifice and loyalty with which they served as members of the Australian Defence Forces; and
8. Provide welfare to the sick, helpless, wounded, vulnerable, aged, destitute and needy.



RETURNED & SERVICES
LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

QUEENSLAND BRANCH