

## **State Minister's Message Issue 49 (13 January, 2010)**

A regular update from the Office of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Michael Atkinson M.P.

### **Major Len Opie DCM Biography Request**

Andrew Faulkner is seeking information from people who served with or knew Major Len Opie DCM for an upcoming biography. Any contact – however brief – with Len in war or peacetime would be most helpful as Andrew gathers material for the book.

In 2008, Andrew authored a well respected biography about arguably South Australia's most remarkable soldier: ***Arthur Blackburn, VC: an Australian hero, his men, and their two World Wars.***

Andrew can be contacted on 0401 984 401 or at [andrew.faulkner@bigpond.com](mailto:andrew.faulkner@bigpond.com). Letters addressed to Andrew can be sent to The Australian's Adelaide office, 31 Waymouth Street, Adelaide S.A. 5000.

### **V.A.C. Meeting Dates for 2010**

As listeners may be aware from the 16 December State Minister's Message, the inaugural members of the V.A.C. have been re-appointed by Minister Atkinson for a further 12 month term commencing on 1 January, 2010.

The V.A.C. meeting dates for 2010 are as follows:

- 10am, Thursday, 4 February, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 8 April, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 3 June, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 5 August, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 7 October, 2010
- 10am, Thursday, 2 December, 2010

Members of the veterans' community who wish to have a matter considered by the V.A.C. should contact the Executive Officer of the V.A.C., Mr Bill Denny AM by telephone on 8207 1723 or by email: [denny.bill@agd.sa.gov.au](mailto:denny.bill@agd.sa.gov.au).

### **Overseas memorial database goes live**

Minister Atkinson applauds the new online resource available for those planning trips to Australian memorials while overseas.

The *Overseas Memorials Search* <http://memorials.dva.gov.au> includes details and photographs of more than 110 official and privately constructed overseas memorials that honour Australian service.

The DVA's intention is that the database will continue to grow as data is collected.

**Those who have information about the location or details of overseas memorials are invited to contact the Department's Office of Australian War Graves at [wargraves@dva.gov.au](mailto:wargraves@dva.gov.au).**

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Veterans SA on 8207 1723.