

**Message from the Office of the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Issue 87 (16 November, 2010)**

Please find below a message from Bill Denny AM, Director, Veterans SA for your information, distribution and possible use in newsletters, and on "Veterans" themed radio programs.

Commemorative Tour of the Northern Expressway's Hamel, Tobruk, Kokoda, Kapyong and Long Tan Bridges

Veterans will recall that in June this year, Premier Mike Rann announced that some of Australia's most famous military battles will be honoured along the Northern Expressway.

The Veterans' Advisory Council was closely consulted in selecting the names for the five expressway interchanges, now poignantly known as:

- Hamel (Penfield Road interchange);
- Tobruk (Heaslip Road interchange);
- Kokoda (Curtis Road interchange);
- Kapyong (Angle Vale Road interchange); &
- Long Tan (Two Wells Road interchange).

Hamel, Tobruk, Kokoda, Kapyong and Long Tan are sacred places for all Australians, having helped shape the very future of our nation, they remain etched in our history forever.

On Friday, 12 November over 200 veterans took the opportunity to see the five expressway interchanges and joined the Premier to view the interpretive signage near Kapyong Bridge and joined him afterwards for refreshments at the Adelaide Soaring Club.

A copy of the Premier's 12 November speech is attached.

Remembrance Day & Re-Appointment of Sir Eric Neal AC CVO

Please find below the Hansard record of a question Minister Snelling answered in Parliament on 10 November, 2010.

House of Assembly

REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms BEDFORD (Florey) (14:29): My question is to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs. How will Remembrance Day be marked tomorrow in South Australia?

The Hon. J.J. SNELLING (Playford—Minister for Employment, Training and Further Education, Minister for Science and Information Economy, Minister for Road Safety, Minister for Veterans' Affairs) (14:29): I thank the honourable

member for Florey for her question, and I am glad to announce the reappointment of former South Australian governor, Sir Eric Neal, as chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Council for a further two-year term.

Sir Eric is an honorary life member of the RSL of Australia, a former patron of Legacy, a former honorary air commodore of the City of Adelaide Squadron of the RAAF, and a former honorary colonel of the Royal South Australian Regiment. Sir Eric Neal has done a splendid job as the inaugural chairman of the Veterans' Advisory Council over the last two years. He is highly regarded by the ex-service community, and his contribution has ensured that the creation of the VAC has been warmly embraced by the veterans' community and the wider community. There has been overwhelming acceptance and pride that South Australia has seized this initiative by creating a council that enables the views of veterans to be carried to the cabinet table. The appointment of an independent chairman has also been supported by the veterans' community.

Of course, tomorrow is Remembrance Day, and it commemorates the sacrifice of members of the armed forces and civilians in times of war. It is observed on 11 November to recall the end of World War 1 on that date in 1918. As Minister for Veterans' Affairs, I strongly encourage all South Australians to re-engage with the custom of observing one minute's silence at 11am tomorrow to commemorate the service and sacrifice of our armed forces and civilians in times of war.

We commemorate Remembrance Day in this manner because, at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, the guns fell silent to end the First World War. Some concerns have been expressed that in recent years the custom of one minute's silence appears to have waned, with several approaches made to Veterans SA after Remembrance Day last year suggesting that the acknowledgment be reinstated.

I ask all South Australians at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning to stop what they are doing for one minute, to pause and reflect on the commitment made by those men and women who served in times of war. I have also asked that all chief executives in the South Australian Public Service make arrangements for this formal acknowledgment of Remembrance Day within government departments. I also encourage all South Australians to wear a poppy tomorrow, as I have been doing this week, as a symbol of remembrance and new life.

On Friday I will have the privilege of marking Remembrance Day by laying a wreath at the site of the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam in memory of those who fought in that conflict. Long Tan was the defining battle of the Vietnam War for Australia. I was pleased to be able to attend the Battle of Long Tan commemorative service at the Royal Australian Regiment Association clubrooms on 18 August. From memory, I think the member for Florey was present, and the members for Norwood and Bragg were also there.

The victory at Long Tan was so comprehensive that the North Vietnamese never again attempted a major attack against Australians in Phouc Tuy province, nor did they attempt any significant attack on the Australian base at Nui Dat. While in Vietnam to promote further education, I will also visit the recently opened Phong Phu kindergarten at Nui Dat—a current project of the Australian Vietnam Veterans' Reconstruction Group.

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day, I would like to once again thank and acknowledge those wonderful ex-service men and women who have given so much to our state and our nation. I hope that the initiatives we have made in South Australia in this portfolio will show, quite clearly, that we all, regardless of which side of the house we sit, truly value and respect those men and women who have given so much in our name. We remember them not only on Remembrance Day but every day. Lest we forget.

Lauren Hindmarsh Fundraiser – 12 December, 2010

LEUT Lauren Hindmarsh, an Iraq veteran who served in the RAN, is participating in the Climb for Kids Challenge 2011 in support of Kids Helpline. On Sunday, 12 December, 2010, from 12 Noon, Lauren will be holding a fundraising event at the West Croydon and Kilkenny RSL.

Sunday Lawn Bowls - 12 Dec 10 A Family Fun Day in Support of Kids Helpline and Climb for Kids Challenge 2011

Thank you to everyone who supported me at my last fundraising event 'A Night in the Garden'. I would like to let you know about my next event coming up.

SUNDAY LAWN BOWLS

When: 12 DEC 10, 12-4 PM

Where: West Croydon and Kilkenny RSL, 19 Rosetta St, West Croydon.

Cost: \$10 Adults, \$5 Children (includes bowls and petanque)

Why: To have fun and raise funds for Kids Helpline and Climb for Kids Challenge 2011

Dress: Best bowls outfit and Bare Feet (or flat soles)

Features:

- * Lawn bowls (bowls included)
- * Petanque
- * Groovy Tunes
- * 3 course meal for \$3 - Snag, bread and sauce
- * Beverages at '1980 prices' from the RSL bar
- * Raffle prizes - including the obligatory 'meat tray and chook raffle'
- * Prize for the 'Best Dressed'

Especially for the kids:

- * Indoor carpet bowls
- * And some other competitions and surprises!

Contact: Lauren for tickets 0404 058 540 or email
lauren.hindmarsh@internode.on.net.

www.everydayhero.com.au/lauren_hindmarsh

It would be greatly appreciated if you can pass the invite on to your friends and networks.

This Week in Australian Military History

Did you know that?:

On 19 November, 1941 the *HMAS Sydney* was sunk with the loss of its entire crew of 645 souls, following a battle with *HSK Kormoran* off the Western Australian coast. The *Kormoran* was also sunk, but 317 of its crew of 397 were rescued. The loss of the *Sydney* remains Australia's worst naval disaster. The location of the wreck of the *Sydney* was not confirmed until 2008.

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Paul at Veterans SA on 8226 8552.