



**Message from the Office of the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Issue 85 (2 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.

South Australian Employers Acknowledged

Minister Snelling congratulates four employers from South Australia for their support of Australian Defence Force Reserves. The South Australian Committee of the Defence Reserves Support Council acknowledged employers that have displayed consistent support of their Reservist employees by releasing them to perform Defence service.

The Award Winners were:

Small Business:	Eastern Sports and Spinal Care
Medium Business:	Marymount College
Large Business:	Royal Automobile Association of South Australia
Government:	South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service
State Award:	South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service

More information about the awards and the support available for ADF Reserves and their employers is available at www.defence.gov.au/reserves or by calling 1800 803 485.

Trojan's Trek

Minister Snelling was delighted to receive a report on the Trojan's Trek 2010. The aim of Trojan's Trek, an initiative of the Royal Australian Regiment Association (SA), is to provide a setting and conditions under which veterans will experience a lasting positive shift in personal values and interpersonal relationships.

Minister Snelling was pleased to provide a grant of \$3,500 towards the trek and congratulates Lieutenant Colonel Moose Dunlop OAM (Retd) on the success of Trojan's Trek 2010. Of the eight participants: one was a serving member of the defence force, two were self employed, one was employed and four were on disability pensions. The participants were veterans of recent deployments including East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan and Somalia.

More information about Trojan's Trek is available by contacting Moose Dunlop on by email on moose@olis.net.au or via www.rarsa.org.au.

Posthumous VC for skipper of HMAS Perth

Senators have asked the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Russ Crane to consider posthumously awarding a VC to the skipper of HMAS Perth Hec Walter.

HMAS Perth was sunk during a battle with the Japanese in the Java Sea on March 1, 1942. HMAS Perth, accompanied by USS Houston came across a powerful Japanese Invasion fleet. Skipper Hec Walter and his men inflicted heavy damage on the Japanese and fought until their ammunition was exhausted with the ship sinking beneath them. Captain Walter went down with his ship and only 218 of the 681 Australian Crew survived the battle and following years of captivity.

In 1997 a Collins-class submarine was named HMAS Walter in his honour.

Those Interested in the story of the HMAS Perth may wish to read Mike Carlton's book *Cruiser: The Life and Loss of HMAS Perth*.

Last Chance for Veterans of Kokoda, Tobruk, Kapyong and Long Tan

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 almost-complete Northern Expressway.

Veterans SA would like to hear from veterans who served on the Kokoda Track, in Tobruk or who were at or associated with the Battle of Kapyong or the Battle of Long Tan. This will enable Veterans SA to keep you apprised of information and events relating to the naming of the five expressway interchanges.

The unveiling ceremony for the interchanges is set to occur on 12 November. Any members of the veterans' community who wish to attend this ceremony are encouraged to call Simon from Veterans SA on 8226 8541. Numbers are limited, however Veterans SA will make every effort to accommodate those wishing to attend.

This Week in Australian Military History

Did you know that?:

On 2 November, 1942 the Kokoda Airstrip was re-occupied. The capture of Kokoda, New Guinea, and its airstrip enabled the Australian advance across the Owen Stanley Range to continue.

For more information about any of the items mentioned, please contact Simon at Veterans SA on 8226 8541.