



**Message from the Office of the State Minister for Veterans' Affairs
Issue 72 (4 August, 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.

Lance Corporal Mason Edwards R.I.P.

The Minister notes recent media reports about the loss of Lance Corporal Mason Edwards in a training accident at Cultana Training Area on 21 October last year and the concern of his family that his service and sacrifice may not be "remembered".

The Minister wants to reassure the family of LCPL Edwards that the veterans' community, as well as the broader South Australian community, regard the loss of such a talented, dedicated and professional soldier as a tragedy for our nation.

There is a fine line between those lost while facing the enemy and those lost while preparing to do likewise and this line is completely irrelevant when young men like LCPL Edwards give their lives in the service of our Nation.

The one certain thing is that the commitment to Australia and its people shown by those who give their lives in training accidents or in the face of the enemy, is that their courage and loyalty is identical.

LCPL Edwards proved himself as a man of strong character, integrity with a sound work ethic. He had already completed two tours of Afghanistan.

LCPL Edwards will never be forgotten by his mates, this State or our Nation.

Lest we forget.

Legacy

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Hon. Jack Snelling M.P. notes that Mr Don Stewart retired as General Manager of Legacy in South Australia and Broken Hill on 16 July, 2010.

Don Stewart has had a unique and long term association with Legacy, beginning as a Legacy Ward and then as a Legatee. He became General Manager of Legacy in South Australia and Broken Hill in 1997.

A former army officer, Mr Stewart was initially called up for National Service in 1965. He attended the Officer Training Unit at Scheyville, New South Wales and at the conclusion of his national service obligation he enlisted into the Australian Regular Army.

He saw service in Vietnam in 1968 and later served with the Multinational Force and Observers Force in the Sinai. He retired in with the rank of Lt Col.

Mr Stewart was a popular and reliable General Manager. He has provided strong leadership and a balanced ex-service perspective to Legacy. His contribution will be missed.

I offer Don my thanks, and the thanks of the entire veterans' community, for the efforts he has made to protect and advance the interests of widows and families of our servicemen and women in South Australia.

He has done a splendid job.

Centre for Military and Veterans' Health – ex-service volunteers

During August the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health will be conducting the *Military Health Outcomes Program: Middle East Area of Operations Health Study*. The Centre will be contacting around 2000 ex-serving members and some 6000 reservists asking them to participate in a questionnaire regarding their deployment history.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs encourages those ex-service men and women to volunteer their time to the survey in order to assist the Centre in serving the needs of the ex-service community.

Information can be sought from their website at <http://www.cmvh.org.au> or by phone on 8303 5200.

This Company of Brave Men: The Gallipoli VCs

On Monday, 2 August, 2010, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs along with the Premier, the Hon. Mike Rann M.P. in conjunction with the State Library, hosted a reception for South Australian Veterans showcasing the current Gallipoli VC display, *This Company of Brave Men*.

Over 120 attendees enjoyed the showcase of medals, images and stories currently on display, but more importantly remembered and recognised the service provided to our Nation, not only by the Victoria Cross recipients, but by all servicemen and women throughout Australia's history.

The highlights included speeches from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, the Premier and a very special performance of the song "And the band plays Waltzing Matilda" by its author Eric Bogle.

Were You a National Serviceman?

The National Serviceman's Association of South Australia is trying to contact all National Servicemen from South Australia born between November 1933 to December 1939 and 1945 to 1952.

The Association is trying to track down those who have not claimed their Anniversary of National Service Medal and Australian Defence Medal.

All National Servicemen may be entitled to receive these medals no matter where you served.

You can contact the National Serviceman's Association (S.A. Branch) on 8293 6344 on Fridays between 8.30am and 2.00pm or write to NSAA SA Inc, G.P.O. Box 388, ADELAIDE S.A. 5001

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