



**State Minister's Message
Issue 40 (11 November, 2009)**

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

**Military Vehicle Preservation Society (S.A.) - National Military Museum
Anniversary of Opening**

Minister Atkinson congratulates the Military Vehicle Preservation Society (S.A.) on the first anniversary of the National Military Museum's relocation to 10 Sturton Road (formally Fourth Avenue) Edinburgh Park. Originally the site of the TNT manufacturing plant that was part of the Salisbury Munition Works that was built in 1940 and most recently the Rapier Missile Repair facility.

First formed in 1976, the society has an enthusiastic membership of 110 ranging in age from 17 to 90. Many of whom have served our nation in times of conflict. Between them they own over 200 ex-military vehicles. There are over 60 vehicles in working order and they are displayed among dioramas depicting Australians in different theatres of war, with collections ranging from the Boer War and peace keeping missions, through to memorabilia from more recent conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Every Australia Day, ANZAC Day, and Vietnam Veterans' Day the society provides invaluable support to march organisers and participants, and enhance these important state events enormously. The society's contribution to ANZAC Day in particular not only enhances the historic nature of the March, but makes it far more interesting, relevant and informative. More importantly it gives an enormous thrill to elderly marchers, many of whom could not participate without the society's generosity.

Minister Atkinson encourages all South Australians to take a look at the Museum which is open every Sunday from 10am till 4.30pm. Special guided tours are available for social groups, schools and international visitors.

Remembrance Day (Wednesday, 11 November)

All South Australians are encouraged to observe one minute's silence at 11am today and to wear a red poppy to honour the memory and commemorate the service and sacrifice of all Australians lost in wars and conflicts.

A Service of Remembrance will be conducted at the State National War Memorial, Cnr North Terrace and Kintore Ave, Adelaide commencing at 10.45am.

Minister Atkinson will be attending the Repatriation General Hospital's traditional Remembrance Day Service at the RGH Chapel at 10.40am.

Commemorative Poppies are available from the R.S.L. offices around the State.

R.A.R. National Conference (15-18 November)

The 2009 National R.A.R. Conference will be held in Adelaide between Sunday, 15 November and Wednesday, 18 November 2009. Minister Atkinson is pleased that the R.A.R. Association (S.A.) Inc. is hosting the conference that will be held at Keswick Barracks.

Maj. Gen. B. W. Howard AO MC ESM, the R.A.R. Association National President and Regimental Colonel will be in attendance. The R.A.R. Association (S.A.) will be having a BBQ at their Burnside club rooms on the Sunday evening to welcome Association members.

The conference coordinator is Mike Dennis MBE and any enquiries can be directed to him on 0422 235 356.