



**State Minister's Message  
Issue 43 (2 December, 2009)**

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

**Replica Firearms Legislation**

Veterans SA has facilitated and attended a meeting with the office of the Minister for Police, the Hon. Michael Wright MP to support the RSL and the Military Vehicle Preservation Society in their discussions with the Firearms Branch of SAPOL about the retention and storage of de-activated and replica weapons.

Every Australia Day, ANZAC Day, and Vietnam Veterans' Day the Military Vehicle Preservation Society provides invaluable support to march organisers and participants. 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 National Military Museum at 10 Sturton Road (formally Fourth Avenue), Edinburgh Park that is open every Sunday from 10am till 4.30pm. Special guided tours are available for social groups, schools and international visitors. For more information, you can telephone the museum on p: 8285 3011.

**Gallipoli Underpass Project**

Minister Atkinson welcomes the completion of the military aspect of the Gallipoli Underpass Project. The dedication plaques that detail the military service of the 8 Australian and New Zealand veterans, who officiated at the dedication ceremony on Sunday 9 August, 2009 have been installed at the underpass.

Collectively, these men and women served the Navy, Army and Air Force in World War II, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan. The oldest signed up in 1939, 70 years ago and the youngest only three years ago - yet they are all part of the ANZAC legend forged at Gallipoli.

The plaques are located on ANZAC Highway above the Underpass

**Veterans SA**

Minister Atkinson was pleased to be able to attend the RAR Association Headquarters Christmas Reception at Linden Park on Friday, 27 November.

The Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM visited the Vietnamese Veterans' Association at their Sunday Noodle Bar at the Tao Phung Indo-Chinese Elderly Association at 223 Hanson Road, Athol Park for a good morning of ex-service camaraderie and some delicious Vietnamese beef noodle soup.

Veterans SA also represented Minister Atkinson at the DVA Christmas Reception for representatives of the ex-service community on Monday, 30 November, 2009 at Blackburn House.

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