



**State Minister's Message
Issue 44 (9 December, 2009)**

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

ANZAC Day Commemoration Council

The Minister notes the November meeting of the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council and looks forward to the distribution of \$100,000 in support of events and projects designed to recognise and commemorate ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen who have served Australia in times of war, armed conflict or international peacekeeping operations.

For more information about the ANZAC Day Commemoration Council, please telephone Clare Hennessy on p: 8226 3502 or visit:
www.premcab.sa.gov.au/dpc/community_anzac.html

90th Anniversary of the epic flight of Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith

Minister Atkinson notes the service to commemorate the 90th Anniversary of Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith and crew from England to Australia in 1919.

The service will take place at 11am on, Sunday 13 December, 2009 at Sir Ross Smith Statue, Creswell Garden (King William Road & War Memorial Drive, North Adelaide).

Minister Atkinson encourages all members of the veterans' community to attend and consider placing a children's book for donation to the Women's and Children's Hospital in lieu of wreaths and floral tributes. Awarded medals and decorations may be worn.

Veterans Advisory Council (V.A.C.) Meeting

The V.A.C. will hold its final meeting for 2009 on Thursday, 10 December. Issues to be discussed include: Centenary of ANZAC Projects, the Ex-Service Commemorative Calendar, the review of the concessional treatment of veterans in South Australia, veterans as a special needs group, the Matthews Review, the Repatriation General Hospital, the naming of future major infrastructure projects and the "Valuing our Veterans" project.

Veterans SA

Minister Atkinson (Member 415) is pleased to be able to attend the Vietnam Veterans' Federation (V.V.F.) Christmas Lunch at the V.V.F. Clubrooms, Warradale on Friday, 11 December.

The Director of Veterans SA, Bill Denny AM represented Minister Atkinson at the T.P.I. Christmas Reception for representatives of the ex-service community on Friday, 4 December, 2009 at T.P.I. House, Richmond.

Veterans SA is pleased to provide a guest speaker to talk about the work of Veterans SA and the V.A.C. for any interested Ex-Service Organisation or community event. Such occasions are a good opportunity for the Minister to get feedback on issues facing the veterans' community. If you would like a speaker for an event, please ring Paul Sykes on p: 8463 3286.

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