THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE
OF AUSTRALIA
(NEW SOUTH WALES BRANCH)

Annual State Congress

MINUTES

Held at
Auburn RSL Club Limited,
33 Northumberland Street Auburn,
Commencing at 10.00 a.m.
Tuesday, 28th May 2002
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1ST WORKING SESSION-TUESDAY, 28TH MAY 2002

Congress resumed at 2:05 pm.

Mr G.E. Priest, AM, State President in the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

Major General Peter Phillips AO MC - National President
Mr. B. Ruxton AM OBE - Victorian State President
Mr. D. Roylance - ACT State President
Mr. J. Burgess ED - Queensland State President
Mr. D. Robson - National Secretary

Minutes of Annual State Congress 2001 for confirmation

RECEIVED

Report by Senior Legal Advisor on the National Constitution

Resolved
That State Congress directs State Council to take no action on amending the State Branch Constitution to bring it into line with the National Constitution until the Honorary Legal Advisor has advised State Council of the cost and ramifications of amending the Branch Constitution.

CARRIED

Report by the Computer and Technology Review Committee

RECEIVED

Progress Report on Motion 9 of Annual State Congress 2000

RECEIVED

Appointment of Timekeeper

Resolved That Mr John Ward be appointed as Timekeeper.

CARRIED

Appointment of Tellers


CARRIED

Appointment of Scrutineers

CARRIED

Appointment of Committees (Suspension)

Resolved That Messrs A. Sullivan, S. Pemberton, K. Thompson, M. George, K. Otton, B. Glover, B. Denner and D. Goodworth be appointed.

CARRIED

Nomination-National Officers for confirmation

National President - Mr K. N. Hall
Deputy National President - The Incoming State President
Honorary Treasurer
Honorary Solicitor
National Trustee - Mr G.E. Priest AM

Resolved That the nominations put forward by State Council be approved.

CARRIED

Annual Report 2001 for receipt and adoption

Resolved That the Annual Report for 2001 be received and adopted.

CARRIED

State Honorary Treasurer’s Report

At this stage the Chairman invited Mr B.V. Vanzella JP FCA, State Honorary Treasurer to give the Treasurer’s report.

Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report

Resolved That the Financial Statements and Auditor’s Report be received and adopted.

CARRIED

At this stage Mr B. Ruxton AM OBE Victorian State President was invited to address Congress.

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks.

Mr G. E. Priest AM, State President, advised that the attendance figures for the First Working Session were:
State Councillors 23
Delegates 224

with a total attendance of 247 as registered in the attendance register.

MOTIONS

STANDING POLICY

South West Rocks moved that Motion 1 be deferred until the Suspension Committee had dealt with three motions from the sub-Branch.

The Chairman ruled that the motion be heard.

South West Rocks sub-Branch moved a motion of dissent from the Chairman’s ruling.

The Chairman, Mr G.E. Priest vacated the Chair.

Mr J.E. Haines OAM in the Chair.

MOTION OF DISSENT LOST

The Chairman Mr. G.E. Priest resumed the Chair.

1. South West Rocks (North Coast)

That the New South Wales Standing Policy 1.17, which reads:

“That where approval for a sub-Branch to circularise other sub-Branches is granted, an official permit above the signature of the State Secretary be issued to the sub-Branch concerned and the number of such permit be included in the sub-Branch circular.”

Be deleted in its entirety.

LOST

CONSTITUTION

2. State Council

ix
The current provisions of the Constitution requires that if a State Councillor is elected by By-Election between Congresses then an election for that position is required to coincide with the next Congress. At the May State Council consideration was given to the removal of the requirement to hold a further election. The State Council accepted the recommendations of the Senior Honorary Legal Adviser to amend sub-Clauses 10.55 and 31.12.

Amendment to sub-Clause 10.55

Delete: Existing 10.55 (ii)

Insert: New 10.55 (ii) which reads: -

(ii) those office holders appointed under By-Law 5(4) who have served for a continuous period of three (3) years since their appointment at a duly conducted By-Election

Amendment to sub-Clause 31.12

Delete: The words after the word vacancy “shall hold office only until the conclusion of the next Annual State Congress”

Insert: The words after the word vacancy “subject to the terms of this Constitution, shall hold office until their retirement at the third Annual State Congress after their appointment at a duly convened By-Election.”

Sub-Clause 31.12 will then read: -

“State Secretary as Returning Officer shall on receipt of such notice referred to in sub-Clause 33.11 conduct a By-Election to fill the office to be vacated, provided however that if such vacancy can be filled in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws then such By-Election shall not be held, provided that any office holder filling a casual vacancy subject to the terms of this Constitution, shall hold office until their retirement at the third Annual State Congress after their appointment at a duly convened By-Election.”

CARRIED BY CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY

3. State Council

At the November 2001 State Council meeting consideration was given to the advice that the Australian Accounting Standards Board has introduced new Accounting Standards where there are now “Statements of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance”. As a result the State Council resolved to place the following amendments to the Constitution before Annual State Congress.

(a) Amendment to sub Clause 55.1 (i)
Delete: The words “Balance Sheet” and “Income and Expenditure accounts”

Insert: The words “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.”
Sub-Clause 55.1 would now read:

“Every sub-Branch shall forward by the 31st March each year to State Branch:-

(i) A copy of its duly audited Statement of Financial Position (S.B.A.2), Statement of Financial Performance (S.B.A.1) duly signed by the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditors.”

(ii) Names and addresses of Executive Officers and Trustees elected at the Annual General Meeting (S.B.A.3)

(b) Amendment to sub Clause 55.6

Delete: The words “Balance Sheet” and “Income and Expenditure accounts”

Insert: The words “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.”

Sub-Clause 55.6 would now read:

Sub-Branch shall ensure that a duly audited Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Performance for all other subsidiary organisations duly signed by President, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditors shall be forwarded by the 31st March each year.

(c) Amendment to sub Clause 67.3

Delete: The words “Balance Sheet” and “Income and Expenditure accounts”

Insert: The words “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.”

Sub-Clause 67.3 would now read:

District Council Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance duly audited and signed by the President, Secretary, Treasurer and Auditors of District Council shall be forwarded to State Branch by 31st March each year.

(d) Amendment to sub Clause 36.6

Delete: The words “Balance Sheet” and “Income and Expenditure accounts”

Insert: The words “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.”

Sub-Clause 36.6 would now read:

Duly audited Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance and associated documents accompanied by printed report of operations State Branch of preceding year shall be laid before Congress having been circulated six weeks previously to all sub-Branches.

(e) Amendment to sub Clause 31.5 (i)
Delete: The words “Society of Certified Practicing Accountants.”

Insert: The words “CPA Australia.”

Sub-Clause 31.5 (i) would now read:

“Be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, CPA Australia or National Institute of Accountants; or

CARRIED BY CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY

4. **State Council**

At the February meeting State Council consideration was given to the advice that the Australian Accounting Standards Board has introduced new Accounting Standards where there are now “Statements of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.” As a result the State Council resolved to place the following amendments to the Constitution before Annual State Congress.

(a) Amendment to sub Clause 47.1

Delete: The words “Balance Sheet” and “Income and Expenditure accounts”

Insert: The words “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.”

Sub-Clause 47.1 would now read:

*Officers and Committee shall be elected annually at Annual General Meeting of unincorporated sub-Branch but such election shall not become effective until duly audited Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance for the unincorporated sub-Branch and all its subsidiary organisations for the preceding year have been adopted or otherwise dealt with to the satisfaction of State Branch.*

(b) Amendment to sub Clause 48.2

Delete: The words “Balance Sheet” and “Income and Expenditure accounts”

Insert: The words “Statement of Financial Position” and “Statement of Financial Performance.”

Sub-Clause 48.2 would now read:

*The financial year of the unincorporated sub-Branch shall end 31st December and Committee shall at Annual General Meeting submit report of affairs of unincorporated sub-Branch for the preceding year, together with duly audited Statement of Financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance for the sub-Branch and all its subsidiary organisations.*
5. **State Council**

Amendment to By-Law 6 Item (14)

Delete: After “day” the words “of January, April, July and September”

Insert: After the word “day” the words “of each month”

CARRIED BY CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY

6. **Taree** *(Lower North Coast)*

That sub-Clause 46.2 of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) Constitution be amended as follows-

Insert: After the word “President”, in line 5 the words “or two of the positions of”

Sub-Clause 46.2 would then read: -

*(Subject to Clause 46.4). Management of every unincorporated sub-Branch shall be vested in Committee thereof, which shall consist of one President, two Vice Presidents, one Treasurer and one Secretary, and such other members, as the unincorporated sub-Branch shall elect pursuant to this Constitution. No one person may hold at any one time more than one of the positions of President, or two of the positions of Vice President, Treasurer or Secretary.*

CARRIED BY CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY

Congress adjourned at 4:00pm.

2\textsuperscript{ND} WORKING SESSION – WEDNESDAY 29 MAY 2002

Congress resumed at 9:00am.

Mr G.E. Priest, AM – State President in the Chair.
IN ATTENDANCE

Major General Peter Phillips, AO MC - National President
Mr. D. Roylance - President ACT Branch
Mr. J. Burgess ED - President Queensland Branch
Major General Paul Stevens AO - Services Member Repatriation Commission
Mr. Ian Campbell - Deputy President Repatriation Commission
Mr. Gary J. Collins - Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans’ Affairs
Dr. Neil Johnson - President, Repatriation Commission
Mr. D. Robson - National Secretary
Senator Mark Bishop - Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs

The Chairman advised that Veterans’ Affairs would be dealt with at the commencement of the second working session.

VETERANS’ AFFAIRS

13. **Forster-Tuncurry** (Lower North Coast)

That all Australian ex-prisoners of war held during all conflicts be given the same benefits as given to ex-prisoners of war held by Japan during World War II, the benefit to be a Government grant of $25,000.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

At this stage Dr. Neil Johnson, President Repatriation Commission was invited to address Congress.

The State Vice President – Northern Country Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM moved a vote of thanks.

14. **Rooty Hill** (Far Western Metropolitan)

That all Australian Veterans who were Prisoners of War, irrespective of what country in which they were held prisoner, be granted the same financial repatriation consideration as Prisoners of War of the Japanese.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

15. **South West Rocks** (North Coast)

That upon the death of a Veteran holding a Gold Card the card is to automatically be transferred to his/her surviving spouse/partner along with all current benefits and entitlements.

**CARRIED**
Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President advised that the attendance figures for the Second Working Session were:

- State Councillors: 28
- Delegates: 200

with a total attendance figure of 228 as registered in the attendance register.

16. **Woolgoolga** *(North Coast)*

That the League urge the Federal Government, as a matter of urgency, to grant the Income Support Supplement to all Service Pensioners regardless of age or marital status but still subject to the existing Asset and Income tests and, further, that dependent Service Pension widower(s) should be eligible for the Gold Card not only War Widow(er)s as at present.

**CARRIED**

17. **Werris Creek** *(Lower North West)*

The Department of Veterans Affairs adjust the payment of Travel allowance in keeping with the different prices of fuel within various parts of the State.

**CARRIED**

18. **Hills District** *(Far Western Metropolitan)*

That the RSL of Australia lobbies the Federal Government to amend section 37 of the Veteran’s Entitlement Act 1986 by inserting after sub-paragraph (c) in paragraph 1. New sub-paragraph (d) stating:

“is, in receipt of Temporary Payment of Special Rate (TTI) as defined under section 25 of the Veterans’ Entitlement Act 1986”

Section 37 paragraph 1 would then read:

37 Eligibility for invalidity service pension

(1) Subject to section (6), a person is eligible for an invalidity service pension if the person:

(a) is a veteran; and

(b) has rendered qualifying service; and

(c) is, in the opinion of the Commission, permanently incapacitated for work

(d) is, in receipt of ‘Temporary Payment at Special Rate’ as defined under section 25 of the Veterans’ Entitlement Act 1986
Amendment to Motion 18

That the RSL of Australia lobbies the Federal Government to amend section 37 of the Veteran’s Entitlement Act 1986 by inserting after sub-paragraph (c) in paragraph 1. New sub-paragraph (d) stating: -

“is, in receipt of Temporary Payment of Special Rate (TTI) as defined under section 25 of the Veterans Entitlement Act 1986”

Section 37 paragraph 1 would then read: -

37 Eligibility for invalidity service pension

(1) Subject to section (6), a person is eligible for an invalidity service pension if the person: -

(a) is a veteran; and

(b) has rendered qualifying service; and

(c) is, in the opinion of the Commission, permanently incapacitated for work; or

(d) is, in receipt of ‘Temporary Payment at Special Rate’ as defined under section 25 of the Veterans’ Entitlement Act 1986

LOST AS AMENDED

19. Caringbah (Southern Metropolitan)

That the National body of the Returned and Services League of Australia request the Federal Government to enact an additional Instrument of Entitlement to Veterans Entitlement Act, to enable all Australian Ex-Servicemen and Women who volunteered for overseas Service during World War II, but did not have the opportunity to do so, to be eligible for the Service Pension in lieu of the Aged Pension.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

At this stage Senator Mark Bishop, Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs was invited to address Congress.

The State Vice President – Northern Country – Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM moved a vote of thanks.

20. City of Queanbeyan (Central Southern)

That the Government award the Gold Card to all ex-service personnel who are Australian citizens and hold a Returned from Active Service badge, on attaining the age of 55 years.

LOST
21. **Harrington-Crowdy Head** (Lower North Coast)

That the National Executive of the Returned and Services League of Australia approach the Minister for the Department of Veteran Affairs requesting that a Veterans Access Network Office, with full time officers, be established at Taree.

**LOST**

22. **Taree** (Lower North Coast)

That the Veterans Affairs Category Extreme Disabled Adjustment be changed to Extreme Disabled Rate.

**CARRIED**

23. **Wauchope** (Lower North Coast)

That the DVA Gold Card be issued to all eligible ex-Service personnel on reaching the age of 60 years.

**CARRIED**

24. **Huskisson** (Central Southern)

That the telephone allowance currently paid at $17.20 per quarter to all non WWI veterans be increased to the WW1 veteran’s rate upon attaining the age of 65 years.

**CARRIED**

25. **Oberon** (Blue Mountains)

That the R.S.L. petition the government to review the assets test for aged pensions, so that when determining eligibility of farmers to receive a pension the value of the farm held be disregarded under the requirements of the assets test, provided the applicant is seventy five (75) years of age or older and all other constraints imposed under the income and assets test can be satisfied.

**CARRIED**

At this stage Mr Paul Stevens AO, Services Member Repatriation Commission was invited to address Congress.

The State Vice President – Southern Country Mr K.N. Hall moved a vote of thanks.

26. **Oberon** (Blue Mountains)
That changes be made to the accounting for free medical and dental treatment so that when
the holders of Veterans Affairs Gold Cards, or any other concession entitling one to free
medical or dental treatment, receive treatment or medication they be given a copy of the
statement detailing the work done and, more importantly, the cost of treatment and/or
medication provided.

LOST

27. **Candelo**  (Monaro & Far South Coast)

That the National Executive of the RSL represent to the Federal Government the need to
amend the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1986 so that no limitation is placed on the value of
appliances that are provided to correct disabilities recognised as being caused by qualifying
service.

CARRIED

28. **Bomaderry**  (Central Southern)

That the Federal Government give assistance through the Department of Veterans Affairs
should be given to those W.W.II Veterans who may wish to pursue tertiary education
studies.

**Amendment to Motion 28**

That the Federal Government give assistance through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to
all Australian Veterans who may wish to pursue tertiary education studies.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

29. **Bomaderry**  (Central Southern)

That the Federal Government amend the R.P.B.S. so that all beneficiaries of the scheme are
paid at the same rate, irrespective of marital status.

CARRIED

30. **City of Wollongong**  (Central Southern)

1. That State Branch support this sub-Branch, other sub-Branches and individuals in
their efforts to remove the apparent anomaly of where the Disability Pension,
awarded to ex-service personnel who did not serve overseas, and other pensions are
classified as income in the eyes of Centrelink and the ATO.

2. That legislation be enacted by the Government so that this anomaly is removed and;
3. That the possibility of backdated re-imbursement for all affected ex-service personnel be seriously considered should the requested legislation be enacted.  

CARRIED

31. Huskisson  
(Central Southern)

That the Department of Veteran’s Affairs be requested to adjust dependant’s allowance to the CPI level in keeping with all other allowances which have been increased on a regular basis in line with inflationary trends.

CARRIED

32. Warilla  
(Central Southern)

That the Returned and Services League of Australia formally ask the Commonwealth Government to amend legislation covering war graves of Australian Naval, Military and Air Force personnel to include those members killed and/or dying of wounds, injuries and/or illness caused by service overseas not deemed war service, including UN peacekeeping, UN monitoring groups and other commitments that our Armed Forces are committed to by the Government.

CARRIED

33. Woronora River  
(Southern Metropolitan)

That the National Executive lobbies the Federal Government to amend the Veteran’s Entitlement Act 1986 to recognise the Papua New Guinea indigenous inhabitants who during 1939-1945 War acted as carriers and stretcher bearers for the Australian Armed Forces, by awarding them with a Service Pension.

CARRIED

34. Mungindi  
(Upper North West)

That all servicemen who were present during Marilinga Atomic tests be eligible for entitlements from Department of Veterans Affairs.

Amendment to Motion 34

That all Australian servicemen who were present during atomic testing in Australia at Marilinga, Emu 1, Emu 2 and Monte Bello be eligible for entitlements from Department of Veteran’s Affairs.
35. Five Dock (Western Metropolitan)

That the funeral benefit be immediately raised from $572 to $1,500. This benefit to be paid to the estate of all Australian deceased veterans.

Amendment to Motion 35

That the funeral benefit be immediately raised from $572 to $2,000. This benefit to be paid to the estate of all Australian deceased veterans.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

The Chairman moved a vote of thanks to the representatives of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and Repatriation Commission.

That the running minutes of Congress pages 1 to 7 inclusive as displayed on the floor bulletin boards be confirmed as correct.

CARRIED

At this stage Mr Gary Collins, Deputy Commissioner Veterans’ Affairs was invited to address Congress.

The State Vice President Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM, moved a vote of thanks.

At this stage Mr John Burgess ED, State President Queensland Branch was invited to address Congress.

The Chairman, Mr G.E. Priest AM moved a vote of thanks.

ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS

ELECTIONS 2002-2005 BALLOT

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Mr K.N. Hall advised Congress that he would accept the position of State President.

### STATE VICE PRESIDENT- NORTHERN COUNTRY

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### STATE VICE PRESIDENT- SOUTHERN COUNTRY

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### STATE VICE PRESIDENT- METROPOLITAN

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### HUNTER VALLEY

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<td>C.N.</td>
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<td>COWPER</td>
<td>C.W.</td>
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### MONARO & FAR SOUTH COAST

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### NORTH COAST

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<td>Party</td>
<td>A.A.</td>
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**CONCLUSION**

Congress adjourned at 12:05 pm.

**CONGRESSIONAL ELECTIONS 2002-2005**

**ELECTION RESULTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>%</th>
<th>STATE PRESIDENT</th>
<th>K.N.HALL</th>
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<td>STATE VICE-PRESIDENT - SOUTHERN COUNTRY</td>
<td>A.J.F. SULLIVAN</td>
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<tr>
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<td>STATE VICE-PRESIDENT - NORTHERN COUNTRY</td>
<td>D.E.J. ROWE</td>
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<tr>
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<td>STATE VICE-PRESIDENT - METROPOLITAN</td>
<td>J.E. HAINES</td>
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<tr>
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<td>STATE HONORARY TREASURER</td>
<td>B.V. VANZELLA</td>
</tr>
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<td>STATE COUNCILLOR INTRA MURAL</td>
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<td>STATE COUNCILLOR MANLY-WARRINGAH</td>
<td>R.W. BUSHBY</td>
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<td>STATE COUNCILLOR BLUE MOUNTAINS</td>
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<tr>
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<td>STATE COUNCILLOR HUNTER VALLEY</td>
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<tr>
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<td>STATE COUNCILLOR NEW ENGLAND</td>
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<td>STATE COUNCILLOR SOUTH WESTERN</td>
<td>G.E. STEWART</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Congress resumed at 2:00 pm.

Mr G.E. Priest, AM State President in the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

Major General Peter Phillips, AO MC  - National President  
Mr D. Roylance  - State President ACT Branch 
Mr J. Burgess, ED  - State President Queensland Branch  
Mr D. Robson  - National Secretary 
Lt Col. Michael Godfrey  
Maj Gen Daryl Low Choy, AM, MBE, RFD 

The Chairman invited Lt Col. Michael Godfrey representing Major General Greg Garde AM, RFD, QC to address Congress.

Mr K.N. Hall, State Vice President-Southern Country moved a vote of thanks.

The Chairman invited Maj Gen Daryl Low Choy, AM, MBE, RFD to address Congress.

Mr J.G. Haines OAM, State Vice President-Metropolitan moved a vote of thanks.

That the running minutes of Congress pages 8 to 11 inclusive as displayed on the floor bulletin boards be confirmed as correct.

CARRIED
Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President advised that the attendance figures for the Third Working Session were –

State Councillors 27
Delegates 228

with a total attendance figure of 255 as registered in the attendance register.

**CCWA CONGRESS – 2002 ELECTION RESULTS**

At this stage the Chairman invited Mr L. Dwyer to give a report on the RSL Central Council Women’s Auxiliaries Congress as Returning Officer for CCWA elections.

Mr Dwyer announced the CCWA election results for 2002/2003 congressional year.

State President - Mrs B.L. Willis, OAM
Metropolitan President - Mrs T. Crawley, OAM, JP, AAA
Northern Country Vice President - Mrs N.P. Renwick
Southern Country Vice President - Mrs P.J. Mortlock JP
Honorary State Secretary - Mrs M.J. Hobson
Honorary State Treasurer - Mrs M. Jackson
Central and Eastern Metropolitan - Mrs N. Kearney
Far Western Metropolitan - Mrs C.M. Elliott
Illawarra - Mrs J.W. Beattie
Far North Coast - Mrs A.M. Cribb
Newcastle and District - Mrs L. Bates
North West New England - Mrs M.T. Filmer
Riverina - Mrs L. Vrieling
Western and Southern Metropolitan - Mrs G. Carruthers OAM
Western County - Mrs J. Phillips
South Coast and Tablelands - Mrs J. Brooks

There were no nominations for Northern Metropolitan and South Western Councillors.

**RECEIVED**

7. **Taree** (Lower North Coast)

That sub-Clause 46.4 of the Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) Constitution be amended as follows:
Insert: After the word “and” in line 5 the words “any combination of the positions of Vice President”

Sub-Clause 46.4 would then read:

Sub-Clauses 46.2 and 46.3 do not apply to an unincorporated sub-Branch that has a membership of less than ten (10) financial members, or an unincorporated sub-Branch that has obtained approval of State Council by way of resolution due to extenuating circumstances. An unincorporated sub-Branch to which this sub-Clause applies may appoint members to the Committee in the positions President and any combination of Vice President Secretary/ Treasurer, who shall be empowered to act on behalf of the unincorporated sub-Branch subject to ratification of their actions by the next meeting of the sub-Branch.

8. **Bomaderry**
   
   That sub-Clause 50.23 of The Returned and Services League of Australia (New South Wales Branch) Constitution be amended by:
   
   Delete: $2,500
   
   Insert: $10,000

   **CARRIED BY A CONGRESSIONAL MAJORITY**

   (Central Southern)

9. **South West Rocks**
   
   (North Coast)

   Amendment to By-Law 6

   Insert: The words “(to include an amount that allows remittance of not less than 30% of the annual fee to the sub-Branches)” between the words ‘amounts” and “by” in the penultimate line of By-Law 6 Item (1)

   By-Law 6 Item (1) will then read:

   The minimum annual subscription payable by an Ordinary Member shall be such amount as is determined from time to time by National Congress, but State Branch may, subject to approval of State Congress, impose upon such members within its jurisdiction such additional amounts (to include an amount that allows remittance of not less than 30% of the annual fee to sub-Branches) by way of the annual subscriptions as it sees fit.

   **LOST BY FAILURE TO MEET A CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY**

10. **South West Rocks**
   
   (North Coast)

   Amendment to By-Law 6 Item (13)
Delete: Existing By-Law 6 Item (13)

Insert: New By-Law 6 Item (13), which reads:

Amount of annual subscription fee retained by sub-Branch shall not be less than 30% of total annual subscription fee.

WITHDRAWN

11. **Wingham**

(Lower North Coast)

That the New South Wales Branch Constitution Clause 31.5 be amended as follows:

In sub paragraph (ii) delete, full stop and end quotation mark (.”) at the end of paragraph.

In sub paragraph (ii) insert, after the word above in the third line, semi-colon (;) or insert new sub-paragraph (iii) *Hold a Bachelor of Economics Degree.*

31.5 would then read:

In respect to the position of Honorary State Treasurer referred to in sub-Clause 31.1, any person nominated for such a position shall:

(i) “Be a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants, CPA Australia or the National Institution of Accountants; or

(ii) Hold a Bachelor of Accounting or Certificate in Accounting which would entitle him or her to be eligible to belong to one of the organisations referred to in sub-paragraph (1) above; or

(iii) Hold a Bachelor of Economics Degree.”

LOST BY FAILURE TO MEET A CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY

12. **Kogarah**

Paragraph 31 Branch Honorary Officers

Delete Clause 31.3 and substitute the following:-

“31.3 Metropolitan Vice-President must be a member for at least three years of a Metropolitan sub-Branch.”

LOST BY FAILURE TO MEET A CONSTITUTIONAL MAJORITY
LEAGUE and BCEL

36. **Sussex Inlet** (Central Southern)

That the League moves quickly to preserve its status as principal representative of the Ex-Service community, and to encourage members of kindred bodies to join the League, by the following means -:

By initiating consultation with kindred bodies to encourage their participation in a standing joint welfare and policy initiative, under League leadership, so that major issues of joint concern may be represented to Government as a united front.

CARRIED

37. **Gerringong** (Central Southern)

That steps be taken to explore the possibility of amalgamating all ex-service organisations under a Central Authority. The purpose of such amalgamation being to strengthen overall membership and thus, the influence of the ex-service community as a whole.

LOST

38. **Engineers** (Intra Mural)

That the requirement for Life Subscribers, whose life subscription were paid prior to June 2000, to pay an Annual Fee of $6.50 for Reveille be discontinued from 1st January 2003.

LOST

39. **Castle Hill** (Far Western Metropolitan)

That Congress withdraws, from the rising of this Congress, the $6.50 annual fee imposed at Annual State Congress 2001 on the majority of Life Subscribers of the RSL (New South Wales Branch)

CARRIED

40. **Castle Hill** (Far Western Metropolitan)

That this Congress instruct State Branch to review the structure of State Council with a view of reducing the number of State Councillors in line with the falling State membership. The ultimate aim of this review being to reduce the cost of running State Council. The revised structure is to be presented to Annual State Congress 2003.

LOST

Congress adjourned 4:27 pm.
4TH WORKING SESSION – THURSDAY 30 MAY 2002

Congress resumed at 9:00 am.

Mr G.E. Priest, AM State President in the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D. Roylance - President ACT Branch
Mr D. Robson - National Secretary

That the running Minutes of Congress pages 11-19 inclusive as displayed on the floor bulletin boards be confirmed as correct.

CARRIED

41. Lower North Coast District

That the National body of the RSL lobby very strongly the Federal Government to completely remove the GST from the sale of poppies by the UnitedReturnedSoldiers Fund to all sub-Branches.

Amendment to Motion 41

That the National body of the RSL requests very strongly the Federal Government to completely remove the GST from the sale of poppies by the United Returned Soldiers Fund to all sub-Branches.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
AS AMENDED
42. **Engineers** (Intra Mural)

That each year, following State Congress, State Branch forward to all sub-Branches together with the minutes of the Congress, a copy of the State Honorary Treasurer’s prepared reply to questions raised by sub-Branches, in writing, in relation to the Annual Report and Financial Statements.

**CARRIED**

43. **Engineers** (Intra Mural)

That the New South Wales State Branch conduct a partnership programme, with the view of providing its members with purchasing support through discounts with suppliers, of goods and services. Such a programme is to commence within two months of the close of Congress and be ongoing. Partnerships arranged are to be publicised in Reveille and supporting suppliers offered ongoing advertising at a rate of 50% of the going rate.

**WITHDRAWN**

Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President advised that the attendance figure for the 4th Working Session –

- State Councillors: 26
- Delegates: 197

with a total attendance figure 223 as registered in the attendance register.

At this stage Mr Derek Roylance, President ACT Branch was invited to address Congress.

The State Vice President-Metropolitan Mr J. Haines OAM moved a vote of thanks.

Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President vacated the Chair.

Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM, State Vice President-Northern Country in the Chair.

44. **Engineers** (Intra Mural)
That the NSW State Branch provides, as at 1 January, each year a Business Plan for the NSW RSL members. Such a Business Plan is to cover all facets of the NSW RSL business, and include sub plans for each of its business units and branches, i.e. Hyde Park Inn and the Retirement Villages, to name two such business units. Furthermore the Business Plan is to include the annual budget, capital and recurrent expenditure as well as projected income. The Business Plan is to be presented to the NSW RSL membership along with the Annual Report from the previous year and the agenda for State Congress.

WITHDRAWN

Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM State Vice President-Northern Country vacated the Chair.

Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President in the Chair.

45. **Engineers** (Intra Mural)

That State Branch employs a Qualified Actuary periodically to review the schedule of subscriptions set out in By-Laws 7 and 8 in respect of Life Members and Life Subscribers.

LOST

45A. **Castle Hill** (Far Western Metropolitan)

That this Congress forgive any outstanding debt obligated on Life members or Life Subscribers as a result of the additional impost placed on them with regard to Reveille in both 1997 and 2000. Additionally should any Life Member or Life Subscriber have suffered any period of loss of membership continuity as a result of failing to pay the impost that loss be reversed.

CARRIED

46. **City of Lismore** (Far North Coast)

That the Reveille publication be once again reverted to the newspaper style format.

LOST

47. **North Sydney** (Northern Metropolitan)

That each Annual New South Wales State Congress be informed of the progress and status of all current motions passed to National Headquarters.

xxx
Amendment to Motion 47

That each Annual New South Wales State Congress be informed of the progress and status of all current outstanding motions passed to National Headquarters.

CARRIED AS AMENDED

ANZAC, COMMEMMORATION, CEREMONIAL and MEMORIALS

48. Taree (Lower North Coast)

That this Congress requests the National Body of the RSL of Australia to strongly lobby the Federal Government to seek written assurances that funding directed to the ABC for television coverage of all future ANZAC Day Marches not be cut back in any way, shape or form.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

PROGRESS REPORT ON MOTION 9 OF THE ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS 2000

That this State Congress not continue with a corporate plan.

CARRIED

At this stage Lt Col Scott Warr (Defence Recruiting) was invited to address Congress.

Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM State Vice President-Northern Country moved a vote of thanks.

Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President vacated the Chair.

Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM State Vice President-Northern Country in the Chair.

That the running Minutes of Congress pages 20-29 as displayed on the floor bulletin boards be confirmed as correct.

CARRIED
Mr D.E.J. Rowe OAM State Vice President-Northern Country vacated the Chair.

Mr G.E. Priest AM State President in the Chair.

The Chairman deferred Item 49.

50. **Kingsgrove** (Far Southern Metropolitan)

That the State Secretary be requested to provide every State Sub-Branch with an up-to-date copy of the N.S.W. R.S.L. Constitution.

*LOST*

51. **Warilla** (Central Southern)

That The Returned and Services League of Australia formally request the Commonwealth Government to amend legislation covering the commemoration of Australian Servicemen and Servicewomen at the National War Memorial in Canberra to include those killed overseas currently not deemed so. Especially those undertaking United Nations Peacekeeping, United Nations Monitoring Groups and other commitments our Armed Forces are committed to by the Government.

*CARRIED*

Mr G.E. Priest AM, State President vacated the Chair.

Mr J.E. Haines OAM, State Vice-President-Metropolitan in the Chair.

52. **Springwood** (Blue Mountains District)

That State Branch considers the requirement and initiates required action for an education campaign on certain age groups of the public, particularly those of 25-45 years, in order to teach respect for war memorials.

*LOST*

**DEFENCE, NATIONAL SERVICE and SERVING FORCES**

53. **Taree** (Lower North Coast)

That this Congress requests the National Executive of the RSL of Australia continue to pursue and strongly lobby the Federal Government to honour in full the approved Defence White Paper, particularly in the area of strengthening of our Defence Forces and most
importantly the three (3) Cadet Services- re promises for such and much quicker signing up of Cadet Services Officers/Staff, plus facilities for the Cadet groups.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr J.E. Haines OAM State Vice President-Metropolitan vacated the Chair.

Mr G.E. Priest AM State President in the Chair.

54. **Castle Hill** (Far Western Metropolitan)

That the National Body of the RSL of Australia make appropriate representation to the Minister for Defence and Chief of the Defence Force: -

That this Congress does not support the recommendation quoted in Navy News Vol.44 No. 20 dated 15th October 2001 by the Chief of Defence Force, Admiral Barrie. This recommendation is that, “Defence personnel refrain from wearing the uniform of their service and country to and from their place of duty.” We believe this recommendation should be rescinded.

**CARRIED**

55. **Braidwood** (Central Southern)

That the NSW Branch to make a formal public statement in support of the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force Cadets.

**CARRIED**

56. **City of Wollongong** (Central Southern)

That the Returned and Services League lobby the Federal Government to purchase at least one Helicopter Assault Vessel armed with Sea Sprite, Apache or the new Comanche rotary winged attack aircraft to give appropriate cover for ground and naval forces in various areas of operations.

**CARRIED**

Congress adjourned for lunch at 11:50 am.
5\textsuperscript{th} WORKING SESSION – THURSDAY 30 MAY 2002

Congress resumed at 1:45pm.

Mr G.E. Priest AM State Secretary in the Chair.

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr D. Robson - National Secretary

57. City of Wollongong (Central Southern)

That the Returned and Services League lobby the Federal Government, as a matter of urgency, for the appropriate action be taken immediately to upgrade the Nation’s Patrol Boat capability to ensure that appropriate naval vessels are available to ensure that, through interception, the large number of illegal immigrants invading our shores are deterred from breaking the laws of our country by seeking to enter by unlawful means.

\textbf{CARRIED}

FOREIGN AFFAIRS

58. Moree (Upper North Western)

That this Annual State Congress fully supports the actions of the Australian Government in combating the illegal immigrant problem now facing Australia.

\textbf{CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY}

59. Moree (Upper North Western)

That this Annual State Congress fully supports the actions of the Australian Government in fighting World Terrorism, since the 11\textsuperscript{th} September 2001 attack on America.
CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

GENERAL

60. Huskisson (Central Southern)

That the Federal Government be requested to grant free access to all Federal National Parks for all persons who hold a Pensions Concession Card (Centrelink or Veteran’s Affairs)

CARRIED

61. North Sydney (Northern Metropolitan)

That the League request the Federal Government that Laws be amended to require that proposed international treaties be submitted to review by the Senate and that a two thirds majority approval by the Senate be a condition of any treaty before becoming binding on Australia.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Mr G.E. Priest AM State President advised that the attendance figures of the 5th Working Session were –

State Councillors - 25
Delegates - 156

with a total attendance of 181 as registered in the attendance register.

62. North Sydney (Northern Metropolitan)

That this Congress endorses the Federal Government’s management of illegal migrants and we condemn those who, for their own agenda, invite them to perform violent and illegal acts.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

49. Old Bar Beach (Lower North Coast)
That the National Body of the RSL make strong representation to the Federal Government to have the anomaly associated with the 1939-45 Star corrected and in so doing recognise those personnel for the award who were back in Australia for logistical reasons but short of the required 180 days at wars end.

**Amendment to Motion 49**

That the National Body of the RSL make strong representation to the Federal Government to have the anomaly associated with the 1939-45 Star by reducing the qualifying period to 30 days.

**CARRIED AS AMENDED**

That the running Minutes of Congress pages 30 to 36 inclusive as displayed on the floor bulletin boards be confirmed as correct.

**CARRIED**

That this State Congress thanks and congratulates the members of the RSL Women’s Auxiliaries who are a force to be reckoned with in fund raising.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

At this stage Mr Keith Hall Vice President-Southern Country presented to the retiring State President Mr G.E. Priest AM a Certificate of Appreciation.

**ACCLAMATION**

63. **Venue for Annual State Congress 2003**

Submissions have been made by the following RSL Clubs, which have offered their establishments as the venue for the Annual State Congress 2003: -

1. Auburn RSL Co-op Limited
2. Campbelltown RSL Club Limited.
3. Canterbury–Hurlstone Park RSL Club Ltd.
4. City of Blacktown RSL Club

The method of voting will be by a ballot paper distributed by the Tellers to delegates in attendance at the Annual State Congress.
That the venue for the Annual State Congress 2003 will be Canterbury Hurlstone Park RSL Club Ltd.

CARRIED

CONCLUSION

Congress 2002, Running Minutes

(a) The Running Minutes of this Congress as displayed on the floor bulletin boards be confirmed as to the correct wording.

(b) Copies of completed Minutes to be forwarded to all sub-Branches and District Councils during the next eight weeks.

CARRIED

Appreciation

(a) Thanks to the President and Directors of Auburn RSL Club Co-op Limited, the General Manager and Staff and in particular the Functions Manager, Mr. Chris Ward and the Director Ray Gentles.

CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION

(b) Thanks to the President and members of the Auburn RSL sub-Branch.

CARRIED WITH ACCLAMATION

Closure

The Chairman declared the 2002 Annual State Congress closed at 2:42pm on 30 May 2002.