

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Victory in the Pacific ceremony was quite successful and was conducted by John Curdie our Senior Vice President due to my hospitalisation. Our next remembrance ceremony will be Remembrance Day on Tuesday 11th November 2025.

Ceremonies of remembrance bring to mind the state of our present Defence Force. I was reading the Autumn 2025 edition of SALUTE, the official journal of the TPI's. Apart from a number of interesting articles they have a "History of Conscription in Australia". There certainly was conscription during World War 1 1914 - 1918; then again during World War 2 1939-45. And there was conscription from 1950 - 1953 for the Korean War; later 1955-1972 for the Vietnam War.

It is interesting to think that we have, over the years, always required conscription to bring our Defence Forces up to the required personnel level. Presently, I understand that we are 8% short of the number of ADF personnel allowed in the budget. You may wonder why there are more people watching the football grand finals than are defending Australia.

On the brighter side it is really good that our honoured Sub-Branch Secretary is out of hospital and resting back home.

I know that you will all wish him well as he recovers from his illness.

Kind regards to all,

Brian Swan AM

President

Epping RSL sub-Branch