

**Military Veterans Luncheon – Members Dining Room
Wednesday 10 July 2024 – Guest Speaker Brigadier Philip Winter AM CSC ADC**

Phil noted his greatest achievement was being a father. He recounted the experience of first watching his son Nick play for the Renegades Cricket Team at the MCG – where he bowled numerous wides and was ‘korted for boundaries’ during one infamous over. He explained Nick did get a wicket that day of John Hastings and he was a proud parent watching from the stands.

Phil is the oldest child of five and grew up in the western suburbs of Sydney – his father and grandfather served in both world wars where four of his five siblings also served. Sport has been a big part of Phil Winter’s life.

Brigadier Philip Winter served in the Australian Regular Army for 33 years from 1978 – 2011 serving in Artillery and Intelligence Appointments. Highlights of his service included leading the Counter Improvised Explosive Device Task Force from 2006-2011 and service as the Commander, Land Command Artillery (2001-02) along with service in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and the Balkans.

In 2011, Phil left the Army and served with the Australian Federal Police along with becoming the National CEO of RSL Australia in 2021.

Phil divided his speech up into four themes on this day:

1. The RSL.
2. RSL shaping Youth & Community.
3. Army Life and
4. Recent Reserve Community Work.

Phil advised that the RSL is a federated model with 149,000 members nationally and 109 sub-branches – its primary premise is to support veterans...an independent voice for veterans. Overall, Phil stated the National RSL was happy with Royal Commission outcomes.

Phil advised the group about his 48-week experience as a trainee at Portsea where he had a Drill Instruction named Barry. He trained in boxing and entered a Golden Gloves competition with six mates. Six were knocked out and Phil went the distance in his bout and won on points; later that day being knocked out on the Rugby field and back patrolling that night.



Phil attended the Physical Training (PT) centre in Manly and completed the PT Course as an Officer. He told us the story of the missing food from the Cadet Mess including missing Raison Toast.

Brigadier Winter is currently the Director General of the Australian Defence Force Sports Cell. He was Chef de Mission for our Invictus Games Teams in Toronto 2017, Sydney 2018 and the US Warrior Games in 2019.

“The RSL has always played an important role in Australian society as the premier ex-service organisation for more than 100 years and continues to do so.

“I recognise the importance of this role not only for veterans and their families but for all Australians across the many communities where the RSL has a presence. I look forward to commencing this important work in 2021,” Brigadier Winter.¹



Brigadier's Phil Winter and Mike Annett during the Q&A session Members Dining Room.

Thank-you Brigadier Phil Winter for your dedicated service to Australia and our Veterans.

¹ RSL Website 9 Dec 2020 - <https://www.rslaustralia.org/>