

# 2014-15

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## ANNUAL REPORT

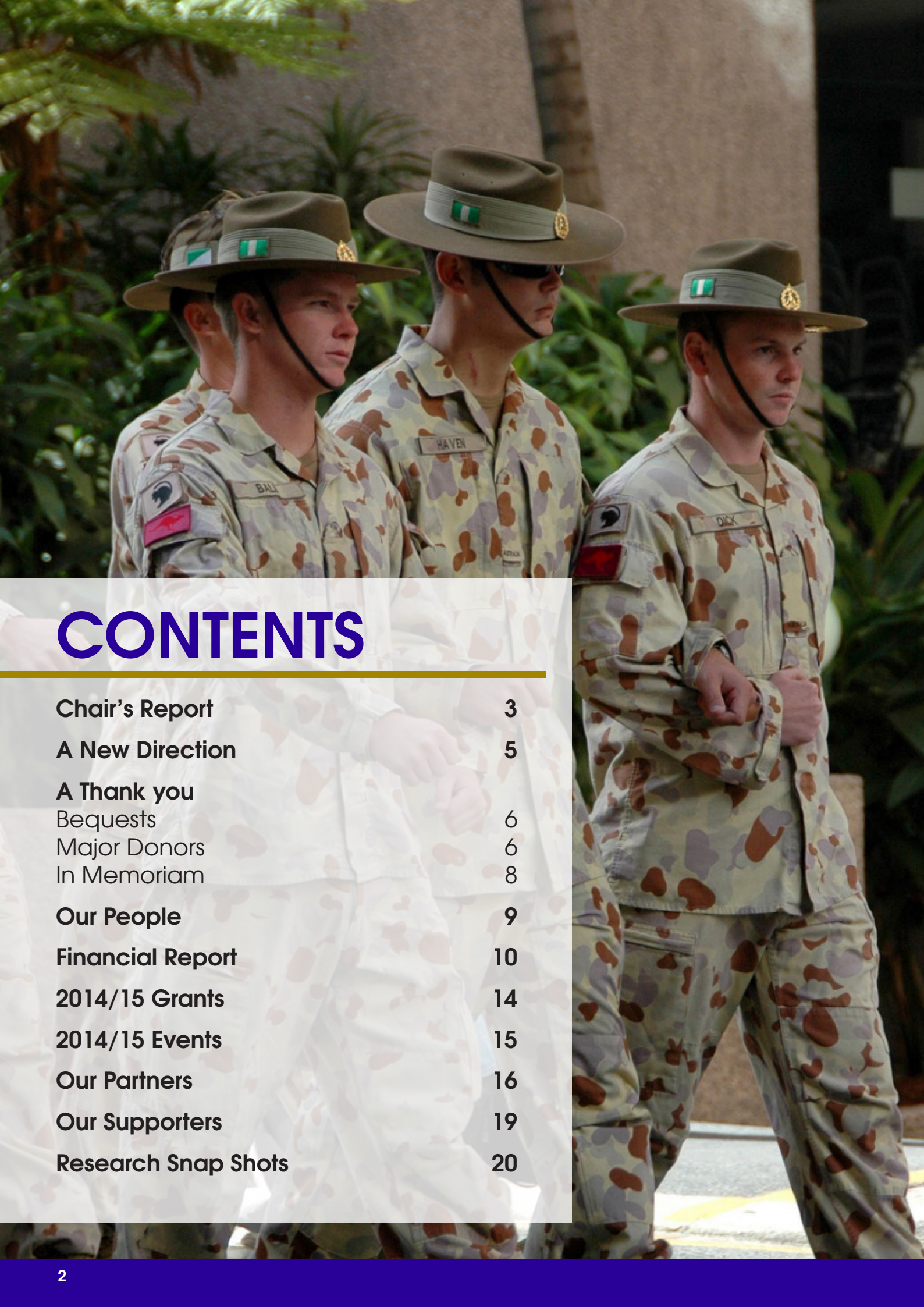


The Repat  
Foundation

*Healthy Veterans,  
Healthy Communities*

**HEALTHY VETERANS, HEALTHY COMMUNITIES**





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# CHAIR'S REPORT

Dear Friends and Supporters,

It is with great pleasure that I present to you to The Repat Foundation's 2014-2015 Annual Report.

It has been a challenging year and a year of change, and we are immeasurably grateful to each and every one of you for your ongoing support.

Change brings challenge, but also presents opportunity. The opportunity now is to build on the extraordinary contribution that South Australia has made as a powerhouse in leading veterans' health research and PTSD research at a national and international level.

On the 1st July 2015, The Repat Foundation transitioned to a partnership with The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) and has now launched its new national brand, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home, which will honour the long history of the Foundation by continuing to support essential research for the health and wellbeing of veterans and the broader community.

***Looking back on the past financial year, I would like to thank our Board of Directors (see page 9) and the Transition Team who have worked tirelessly to steer the organisation through a changing strategic landscape and ensure the best possible transition to a new structure. A special mention must go to our outgoing Board Members, Mr Jim Whalley (outgoing deputy chair), Dr Joe Verco and Mr Glenn Keys – we are incredibly grateful for your support through this challenging yet rewarding time of change.***

I extend a warm thank you to The Repat Foundation's dedicated staff for their ongoing support, including former CEO, Ms Jan Chorley. I also gratefully acknowledge THRF – in particular their Chair, Melinda O'Leary and CEO, Paul Flynn for their grace and willingness to share our vision. This vision ensures that we continue to build a national support base for the health and wellbeing of our veterans, emergency first responders and families across the State and across Australia.

A special thank you must also be given to our group of committed volunteers. These are the smiling faces who provide invaluable assistance with the daily functioning of our organisation as well as



coordination of a number of events, such as the Remembrance Business Breakfast, ANZAC Gala Ball, Alf Gard Race Day and our signature South Australian Defence and Veteran Research Paper Day. Our volunteers create a wonderful community spirit and help the Foundation connect with its current and potential community donor base.

On behalf of The Repat Foundation, I sincerely thank our Patrons for their ongoing support and for sharing our vision of an exciting future ahead: His Excellency the Honourable Hieu Van Le AO, Governor of South Australia and Mr. Graham Cornes OAM, and our Ambassadors, Dr Gill Hicks MBE FRSA and Major General John Cantwell, AO, DSC. We are honoured that such influential and distinguished Australians represent our organisation with dedication and passion and continue to generously devote their time to our cause.

## How Our Research is Making a Difference

In 2014-15, The Repat Foundation provided research funding into causes, prevention and treatment of medical conditions with a particular focus on the health and wellbeing of our veterans. The new brand, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home, will expand this scope to encompass our emergency first responders and service families – recognising there is much in common in the seen and unseen injuries they sustain from their service and the effect this has on those closest to them.

***Without research there is no prospect of finding new ways to treat, particularly the mental health consequences of service;***

# CHAIR'S REPORT cont'd

***to identify those at risk; to give people better outcomes and quality of life and to understand which treatments work and which don't. It is only through research that real advances in healthcare and quality care are made. We are so proud to be able to support these types of translational research.***

In 2014/15, The Repat Foundation funded 11 medical and scientific research projects to the value of \$198,751. This research includes supporting projects that are attempting to combat some of the heartbreaking diseases impacting our wider community. One example is Dr Erin Symonds who supported by the Prabha Seshadri Research Grant, is helping to develop a new blood test screening method for bowel cancer. With the aim of increasing screening participation for bowel cancer by 60 per cent over the next 40 years, this research could potentially prevent 90,000 deaths.

In 2014/15, an additional \$114,740 went towards much needed equipment and other projects to support veterans' health and wellbeing and support the Repatriation General Hospital. This includes projects such as the development of the ANZAC Memorial Garden project, and funding the Arts and Wellbeing project to provide an Art Trolley Project in Rehabilitation Wards.

Once again, under the stewardship of Dr Robert Black AM RFD (Retd), a Grants Review Committee independently assessed each grant application to ensure a high level of due diligence. The full list of grants awarded for FY14-15 is on page (14).

## **Expanding Our Strategic Partnerships**

The launch of the new brand, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home, demonstrates how our partnerships continue to expand and we are constantly exploring new collaborations to support and encourage leading edge research.

We are grateful to our significant corporate supporters – without their support we would not have been able to give life to our research, our projects or our events such as the 2015 Centenary ANZAC Gala Ball. Our strategic partners and collaborations are vital to enable us to showcase the important deliverables of the research we fund.

I also gratefully acknowledge the support of the South Australian State Government, which assisted The Repat Foundation through this recent transition period. The award of an operational grant enabled

us to meet the expenses of transitioning the Foundation without expending hard earned donor dollars; ensuring your valuable donations went to the research cause you intended.

## **To the Future**

It has been a privilege to lead and support the productive environment created by The Repat Foundation and I have been humbled by the dedication of the hardworking staff and volunteers, and the support of our generous community.

As the outgoing Chair of the Board of Governors, I sincerely thank each of the Board members for their support and tireless commitment and I take pleasure in introducing Air Vice-Marshal Brent Espeland AM (Retd) as the new Chair of The Repat Foundation – The Road Home, who will be supported by the very capable new Deputy Chair, Brigadier Alison Creagh (Retd) CSC. Over the last six years I have seen many changes in the organisation, and the changing needs of those we support. What remains unchanged however, is the ongoing need to seek research solutions and to show our support for those who have supported us.

***Thank you once again for your support to The Repat Foundation - The Road Home as we strive to protect those who protect us. These men and women have supported us in times of conflict or danger; now it is our turn to show that we support them in their hour of need.***

**Susan Neuhaus, CSC – Chair**





# A NEW DIRECTION



In 2014/15, The Repat Foundation's priority was establishing our future directions, assuring our valuable supporters of our way forward and the importance of our continued plight to protect those who protect us.

By partnering with The Hospital Research Foundation, we have now embarked on an exciting future in which we can expand the wonderful work we have done in South Australia to raise awareness about the importance of independent research into issues such as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) across our nation.

Our new national fundraising brand The Road Home will be the vehicle to raise awareness and the important funds to support this leading research here in South Australia.

The Repat Foundation – The Road Home will raise funds to support health and wellbeing research for veterans, emergency first responders and their

families to strive for improved health models and outcomes for those who sacrifice so much by putting themselves in harm's way to serve and protect our way of life.

Trauma in the line of service can steal a person away from the people and places they love. Research works to discover the best ways to restore their health and support their families to navigate this journey – to find the road back home.

The Repat Foundation has a 20 year history supporting veterans' health and wellbeing at the Repatriation General Hospital and we continue our work and projects there such as the very well received Veteran's Art Health and Wellbeing Project.

We have been working closely with Repat Hospital staff through this time of change to let them know that the community values their amazing reputation for care and service of veterans, patients and families.

We are committed to returning the courage of our nation's heroes with hope and healing by providing the very best level of care by supporting independent research and projects that support our veterans, emergency first responders and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing support which makes all of this possible.

# A THANK YOU

## Bequests

Thank you to the generous individuals who made the decision to leave a bequest to The Repat Foundation in their Will this year:

- Estate of the late Patricia Lesly
- Estate of the late Kenneth W H Perry
- Estate of the late Leslie Thompson
- Estate of the late Robert James Reid

## Major Donations

We would like to acknowledge and gratefully thank the individuals and organisations who have supported us in 2014/15.

A special thanks goes to our major donors:

- Dr John Cantor
- Peter Bampton
- Connect Adventures
- Geoff Tattersall
- Dee Travers
- Susan Neuhaus
- Nova Systems
- Coca-Cola Amatil (Aust) Pty Ltd
- L Laundry
- Darren Foreman
- Patricia Michell
- Nick Daly
- Edinburgh Branch Playford Elizabeth Lions Club
- James Dixon
- Lloyd Beckett
- Bob Walter
- Richard Boyce
- Graham Smith
- Diané Ranck
- Jean Love
- Alison Creagh
- Ram Seshadri
- Michael Burgess
- Ben Sanders
- Heavypoint Pty Ltd
- Jim Whalley
- Everglades Fund
- Legacy Club of Adelaide Incorporated
- Henry Blythe
- Jack Strapps
- John Webb
- Hilda Lundstrom
- Cassiani Holdings Pty Ltd
- Kenneth Robins
- John Groves
- Michael Redmond
- Athalie Phillis
- Joan Horton
- Lions Club of Blackwood Inc
- Darren Renshaw
- Kirsty Sweet
- Alison Wylie
- Ronald Starr
- Gordon Robertson
- James Speirs
- Andree Strudwicke
- Carl Bryant
- Pauline Tuke
- Judith Hogan
- Russell Coughlan
- Frances O'Connor
- Lisa Paddick
- John Bone
- Brian Herman
- Tim Pimlott
- RSL Salisbury Sub-Branch
- Ron Brierley
- Peter Griffiths
- Edward Nash
- Rotary Club of Mitcham Inc
- Margaret Taylor
- Lions Club of Richmond Inc
- Graham Brookman
- Murray Ness









# IN MEMORIAM

Memorial gifts were gratefully received by The Repat Foundation this year in memory of the following people:

- Eric Woodford
- Neil Robertson
- Robert Farrow
- Betty Carr
- Shirley Greet
- Frank Boettinger
- Frank Wright
- Steve Stevens
- Iris Bishop
- Hillsview Village - Colin Black
- Peter Haywood
- Rhonda Wilson-Smith
- Ronald Payne
- Joan Wyatt
- Ronald Keane
- Gordon McCullogh
- Lasca Kennedy



# OUR PEOPLE

## Board Members 2014/15

The Repat Foundation's Board Members in 2014/15 have helped us through a major transition the new brand, The Repat Foundation – The Road Home.

The new partnership with The Hospital Research Foundation (THRF) ensures that research into veterans' health will not only continue, but will expand on a national scale and also focus on emergency first responders and the families of those who serve us.

Thank you to the following Board Members for making this transition a reality:

- **Chair:** Associate Professor Susan Neuhaus CSC - General Surgeon and Surgical Oncologist, Clinical Associate Professor, University of Adelaide Department of Surgery Associate Professor, Conflict Medicine, University of Adelaide
- **Deputy Chair:** Alan (Jim) Whalley - Chief Executive Officer, Nova Systems
- **Treasurer:** Tim Murton - Director, Deloitte Private
- Christian Hamilton - Organisational Development Manager/Business Partner Operations, ASC Pty Ltd
- Brigadier Alison Creagh CSC (retd) - Executive Director Spirit of Anzac Centenary Experience (THRF Director)
- Dr Joe Verco - Paediatric Dentist, North Adelaide Medical Centre
- Air Vice-Marshal Brent Espeland AM (Retd) - National President, Australian Flying Corps, Royal Australian Air Force
- Mr Glenn Keys - Executive Director, Aspen Medical
- Mr Andrew Mannix - General Manager, Liebherr Australia, Principal of Mannix Solutions

On 1 July 2015, The Repat Foundation officially transitioned to become a subsidiary of THRF.

This was supported by the Members' vote at a Special General Meeting on 1 April 2015 to move to a closed membership and support the transition.

The Repat Foundation Board transitioned to become a Board of Governors who develop the strategy for the organisation and advise the The Repat Foundation - The Road Home and THRF Board accordingly.

## Patrons

- His Excellency Hieu Van Le AO – Governor of South Australia
- Mr Graham Cornes OAM

## Ambassadors

- Dr Gill Hicks, MBE, FRSA
- Major General John Cantwell (retd) AO DSC



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Statement of Surplus or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income for the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>Revenue</b>		
Revenue from operating activities	1,245,895	1,181,032
<b>Expenses</b>		
Depreciation and amortisation expense	624	782
Employee expenses	412,104	413,491
Finance expenses	2,335	2,708
Grant expenses	534,427	233,728
Supplies and services	709,536	630,058
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>1,659,026</b>	<b>1,280,767</b>
<b>Surplus/(loss) for the year</b>	<b>(413,131)</b>	<b>(99,735)</b>
<b>Other comprehensive income</b>	<b>1,394</b>	<b>54,943</b>
<b>Total comprehensive income for the year</b>	<b>(411,737)</b>	<b>(44,792)</b>





## Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	88,350	99,601
Trade and other receivables	100,251	58,848
Inventories	354	8,145
Other current assets	3,000	5,000
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>191,955</b>	<b>171,594</b>
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Financial assets	392,411	812,977
Property, plant and equipment	1,102	1,602
Intangibles	3,200	-
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>396,713</b>	<b>814,579</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>588,668</b>	<b>986,173</b>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Trade and other payables	61,197	96,624
Deferred funding	79,514	20,651
Short term provision	5,388	14,592
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>146,099</b>	<b>131,867</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>146,099</b>	<b>131,867</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>442,569</b>	<b>854,306</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Accumulated surplus	381,752	794,883
Financial asset reserve	60,817	59,423
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>442,569</b>	<b>854,306</b>



# FINANCIAL REPORT

## Statement of Cash Flows For the Year Ended 30 June 2015

	2015 \$	2014 \$
<b>CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Donations – General and Bequests	194,844	399,570
Trading Activities and Event Income	752,145	611,029
Interest received	9,248	17,552
Grants received	435,948	60,000
Other	76,720	127,786
Payments to suppliers and employees	(1,400,873)	(1,091,917)
Grant payments	(534,427)	(233,728)
Interest and bank charges	(2,335)	(2,708)
GST Received from/ (paid to) ATO – Net	38,843	(10,351)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities</b>	<b>(429,887)</b>	<b>(122,767)</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES</b>		
Payment for intangible assets	(3,200)	-
Proceeds from sale of (payments for) investments (net)	421,960	31,727
Payment for plant & equipment	(124)	(597)
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities</b>	<b>418,636</b>	<b>31,130</b>
<b>CASH FLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>		
<b>Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>
 Net increase (decrease) in cash held	 (11,251)	 (91,637)
Cash at the beginning of the year	99,601	191,238
Cash at the end of the year	88,350	99,601





## Statement of Changes of Equity For The Year Ended 30 June 2015

	Financial Asset Reserve \$	Retained Earnings \$	Total Equity \$
<b>Balance at 1 July 2013</b>	<b>4,480</b>	<b>894,618</b>	<b>899,098</b>
Surplus/ (loss) for the year	-	(99,735)	(99,735)
<i>Other comprehensive income</i>			
Revaluation adjustment of financials assets	54,943	-	54,943
<b>Balance at 30 June 2014</b>	<b>59,423</b>	<b>794,883</b>	<b>854,306</b>
Surplus/ (loss) for the year	-	(413,131)	(413,131)
<i>Other comprehensive income</i>			
Revaluation adjustment of financials assets	1,394	-	1,394
<b>Balance at 30 June 2015</b>	<b>60,817</b>	<b>381,752</b>	<b>442,569</b>





# 2014/15 Grants

In the 2014/15 year, the following researchers were awarded with grants to fund vital medical research into patient care at The Repatriation General Hospital and the health and wellbeing of the Australian veteran community.

**Dr Michael O'Callaghan, Prostate Cancer, Wallis Bequest**

**Amount:** \$20,000

**Project:** Prostate cancer and co-morbidities

**Dr Ganessan Kichenadasse, Prostate Cancer, Wallis Bequest**

**Amount:** \$10,000

**Project:** Therapeutic drug monitoring of Docetaxel during treatment for men with Prostate Cancer

**Dr Ellie Lawrence-Wood, PTSD and Mental Health**

**Amount:** \$24,967

**Project:** A detailed investigation of psychological disorder and symptoms among contemporary female Australian Defence Force members

**Dr Ingo Koeper, Prabha Seshadri Research Grant**

**Amount:** \$30,000

**Project:** Development of a novel urinary catheter with improved antibacterial properties

**Dr Erin Symonds, Prabha Seshadri Research Grant**

**Amount:** \$44,458.88

**Project:** Provision of bowel cancer screening for those unsuitable for screening with faecal occult blood testing

**Frank Guerriero, Prabha Seshadri Research Grant**

**Amount:** \$8,500

**Project:** Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm (AAA) screening in at risk populations in South Australia (a pilot program)

**Dr Charles Cock, Prabha Seshadri Research Grant**

**Amount:** \$9,500

**Project:** The role of swallow dysfunction in community acquired pneumonia

**Mr James McLoughlan, RGH Veterans Support Project**

**Amount:** \$8,949.60

**Project:** Gait analysis in older adults – a clinical education program for health professionals

**Matthew Sutton, RGH Veterans Support Project**

**Amount:** \$7,975

**Project:** Establishment of a sensory testing facility presence of central sensitisation in shoulder pain to improve efficacy of treatment for shoulder pain







# 2014/15 Events

**19 August 2014** – Launch of CAD/CAM Technology (equipment purchased for OPSA that was funded by TRF), hosted by Dr Gill Hicks MBE

**7 November 2014** – Remembrance Business Breakfast

**17 November 2014** – Boardroom Luncheon for key sponsors/stakeholders, hosted by Fox Tucker Lawyers, Guest Speaker Lt Col Malcolm Wells DSC

**24 November 2014** – Donor Morning Tea and AGM

**29 November 2014** – Alf Gard Race Day

**24 February 2015** – Welcome Dinner for Dr Nicola Fear, hosted by Macquarie Bank

**25 February 2015** – Research Paper Day

**21st March 2015** – Welcome Home Concert for Troops

**10 April 2015** – ANZAC Gala Ball

**17 April 2015** – Boardroom Dinner for key sponsors/stakeholders, hosted by THRF, Guest Speaker Major-General John Cantwell AO DSC

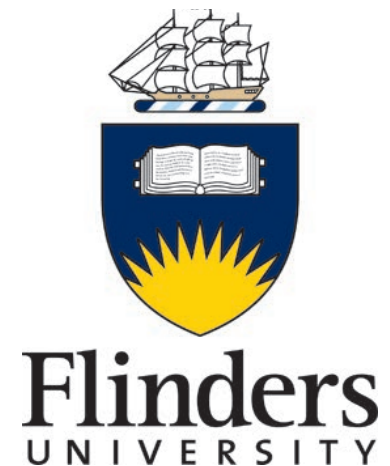








# Gold Partners





# Silver Partners



# Bronze Partners









# Supporters

**A big thank you to our highly valued supporters who all played a key role in our 2014/15 year.**

Adagio Bed & Breakfast	Grant Review Committee	Orange Spot Bakery
Adelaide Chocolate School	Greenhills Adventure Park	Penneshaw Hotel
Adelaide Entertainment Centre	Haigh's Chocolates	Peter Goers
Adelaide Festival Centre	Hanson	Port Adelaide Football Club
Adelaide Flight Training Centre	Harris Real Estate	Premier Concrete
Adelaide Zoo	Heavypoint - Gordon Edwards	Priceline Pharmacy Mitcham
Angorchina Flights	Hemera Estate	Pulteney Grammar School
April Williams	Hodgkison Architects - Dario Salvatore	Raptor Domain
ASC Pty Ltd	House & Garden of SA	Repat Radiology
Bambrick Legal	Jennie Bell Ink	Replas
Barreau Hotel Group	Jet Flight Simulators SA	Ross Roses
BDO	Jim Whalley	Rotary Club of Mitcham
Bianca Spender	Julie McLean	Royal Australian Air Force
Bianco Structural Steel	Just Tickled Pink	Russell Pick
Bookmakers League	Kangaroo Island Ocean Safari	SA Bookmakers League
Brenda Calder	Karen Puttock	SA Life Magazine
Bunnings	Kelle Godwin	Six Degrees Management
Calypso Star Charter Pty Ltd	Legacy Club of Adelaide	South Australian Jockey Club
Carla Zampatti	Lesley's Boutique	Southern Cross Tango
Channel 7	Lorraine and John Douglas	Space Events
Channel 9	Love Birdy face Painting & Body Art	Spotless
Charlesworth Nuts	Lyndon Advertising and Design	State Theatre Company
Claridge Holden	Margaret Young	Sundials Australia
CPR Engineers	Marnie Watts	Tenefet Wines
Deb Smith Photography	Melbourne Racing Club	Terry Kent
Delta Force Paintball	Metron Design	The Kentish
Destination for Men	Michael Keelan	The Lenzerheide
Do Robertson	Midway Hotel	The Photography Room
Ex Prisoners of War Association SA	Minister for Veteran's Affairs	The Wash - Hand Car Wash Café
Friends of the Repatriation General Hospital	Mitcham Council	Victoria Racing Club
Gazebos Galore	Mitre 10	Ward 17, Repatriation General Hospital
Glenelg Art Gallery	Morphettville Race Course	Wirrealpa Home Stays
Governor - His Excellency The Honourable Hieu Van Le AO	Nova Systems	Wohlers
		World Tennis Challenge

# Research Paving the Way for Defence Health and Wellbeing Policy

**Your kind support helps protect the men and women who serve our country by funding vital research into conditions such as PTSD.**

Data collection is underway for an exciting project that will help inform Defence and Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA) policy by examining the health and wellbeing of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members who have transitioned from service in the last five years. In addition, this research program will include the long term follow-up of deployed and non-deployed defence service personnel.

In a grant from The Repat Foundation, Predicting Mental Health Among Australian Servicewomen: Risk and Resilience, Dr Ellie Lawrence-Wood, Research Fellow at the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies University of Adelaide, has been investigating how deployment impacts on mental health outcomes including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) among ADF members.

Extending on this work, Dr Lawrence-Wood has joined Chief Investigator, Dr Miranda Van Hooff, on this new project, the Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme, allowing for long term mental health outcomes to be examined. Data collection for this new study will continue until around November 2015.

"It's really important to know how these people are tracking and how they access available services to predict how they are going to function in the future," Dr Lawrence-Wood said.

***"This research goes across the whole defence force – army, navy and air force. It is quite interesting because there are differences between each service. For example, the air force personnel are not on the ground and in combat situations as much."***

Conducted on a national scale, the project is surveying around 45,000 defence service men and women across the country. Each participant may also elect a family member who will be involved in the study at a later date and Dr Lawrence-Wood says that examining the impact of military service on families will be very interesting.

"It's so great that we have access to these enormous datasets and the support from The Repat Foundation has allowed us the time to really examine this information," she said.

"This research will inform policies around the screening of people pre and post deployment and the varied types of prevention methods that can be used.

***"We have a really good relationship with all areas of Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs, so we know that by translating our findings into policies, they will have a direct impact."***

On an international scale, Dr Ellie Lawrence-Wood believes Australia is right up there and leading the way with using diagnostic tools to determine the prevalence rates of PTSD.

"The things that we are investing in now are certainly tracking highly with the rest of the world, particularly our analysis of the physiological changes these people undergo.

"We are also trying to coordinate what we are doing with other countries because we can take their findings into account."

A passionate advocate for the defence community, Dr Lawrence-Wood believes grants like this from The Repat Foundation help to ensure research is continually advancing in the area of veterans' health.

"I'm aware the community can feel like nothing is happening in this space, but there is a lot going on in the background.

"This sort of research moves slowly, each finding needs to be validated and shared internationally."

"It's really exciting and critical in ensuring we look after the health of our veterans and their families," she said.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a red long-sleeved shirt under a grey apron, and a red beaded necklace, is smiling. She is standing next to a red trolley filled with art supplies like paint cans, brushes, and canvases. The background shows a park-like setting with trees.

# THE HEALING POWER OF ART

**The Repat Foundation ensures its donors are able to support patient care at The Repatriation General Hospital by making programs such as the Veterans' Health and Wellbeing project available to patients. Thank you for your generous support which helps give life to this program.**

Every week, a cheery trolley laden with paints, pencils, fabric and inspiration makes its way through The Repatriation General Hospital's Ward A Rehabilitation Unit and Ward 17 patients participate in art workshops.

It's a welcome sight for patients, who enjoy a creative break from the hospital routine and treatment.

The Art Trolley is one of the projects being piloted as part of The Repat Foundation's Veterans' Health and Wellbeing Project, funded by the Australian Executor Trustees, Thyne Reid Foundation and The Ian Potter Foundation.

Art Trolley artist and art tutor, Kaz Pedersen, said the project brought a lot of joy to patients, many of them veterans, and provides obvious therapeutic benefits.

"It's my experience that patients find art therapy a marvellous distraction from pain and boredom. It also seems to ignite an interest in painting and art once the patients are discharged from hospital and go home. Often patients will ask me what are the best paint and brushes to buy, because they plan to continue their art at home."

With the assistance of a veteran artist, Ward 17 patients have engaged in art workshops producing painted pots and canvases.

A creative area has been established in the western lounge of Ward 17 for patients to use when they need a space for creative inspiration. The activities provide a respite from the mental health ward routine and environment.

Weekly music sessions in the Dementia Ward, Rehab Ward and garden of Ward 17, which provide an opportunity for inpatients to gather, request songs and have a sing-a-long. Performances have included country, rock, pop, jazz, ukulele and choral singing. Veteran Australian performer, John Swan, is a regular highlight for inpatients. Former Repat Foundation CEO, Jan Chorley, said the pilot project was another way the Foundation supports veterans past and present.

"We know from international research that arts in a hospital setting can be very therapeutic for patients. It gives patients a chance to forget where they are for a while, and focus on something that gives them pleasure."

"This project aims to improve the lives of hospital patients, particularly those in rehabilitation and mental health wards, through healing and 'sustenance' for the deeper, emotional needs of those who spend extended periods in a relatively impersonal hospital environment."



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Healthy Communities*

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