



BY-LAW NUMBER SEVEN (07)
COMMEMORATION & PROTOCOLS
OF
THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
(SA BRANCH) INCORPORATED

Motto: The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

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COMMEMORATION AND PROTOCOLS

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This By-Law outlines the protocol requirements expected when conducting commemorative events and activities. This should be read in conjunction with the information provided on the [RSL Australia website](#).

2. RSL Commemorative Ceremonies

- 2.1. Wherever possible, RSL Commemorative ceremonies shall follow a standard order of service.
- 2.2. The sequence of proceedings shall be as follows:
 - 2.2.1. The Ode shall be recited or spoken by the designated person as:
 - 2.2.1.1. *“They shall grow not old (short pause). As we that are left grow old (longer pause), Age shall not weary them (short pause) Nor the years condemn (longer pause) At the going down of the sun (short pause) And in the morning (longer pause) We will remember them (short pause).”*
 - 2.2.2. The gathering repeats *“We will remember them”*.
 - 2.2.3. The Last Post shall be played.
 - 2.2.4. A period of at least one minute’s silence shall then be observed.
 - 2.2.5. Rouse or Reveille shall then be played.
 - 2.2.6. The designated person shall say *“Lest We Forget”* and this is repeated by the gathering.
 - 2.2.7. This ends the formal proceedings and the words ‘thank you’ shall not be spoken to end the ceremony.
- 2.3. The bugle call ‘Rouse’ is more commonly used in conjunction with the Last Post. ‘Reveille’ while also associated with the Last Post, is only used at ANZAC Day Dawn services.

3. State Order of Precedence

- 3.1. The South Australian Order of Precedence is a guide for determining the ceremonial status of arrangements to define the correct order in which introductions and/or acknowledgements and seating arrangements are to be made. A copy of the State Order of Precedence can be found [here](#).
- 3.2. The State Order of Precedence shall be used for all commemorative and ceremonial activities and events.

4. RSL Medal Protocol

- 4.1. There is an established order of precedence for the wearing of Australian service medals, awards or decorations. This [order of precedence](#) is notified by the Governor-General.
- 4.2. Many awards carry an entitlement for recipients to use indicative letters after their name called post-nominals. If the member is entitled to post-nominals

for more than one award, the sequence of letters is indicated by the [Order of Wearing for Australian Honours and Awards](#).

- 4.3. Based on official protocol and practice, RSL protocols for the wearing of medals are published on the [RSL Australia website](#).

5. RSL Funeral Protocol

- 5.1. RSL Policy directs that the Australian National Flag shall be used at all RSL funerals except in those circumstances where the deceased member was a veteran of an allied nation and the next of kin expressly request the national flag of that nation.
- 5.2. The protocol for conducting an RSL Funeral Service including Burial Rituals are outlined in the [protocol guide](#).

6. Speeches and Toasts

- 6.1. The League protocols for speeches and toasts are published on the [RSL Australia website](#).

7. Acknowledgement of Country

- 7.1. An Acknowledgement of Country shall be delivered at significant/large State Branch and Sub-Branch meetings or events. This is usually delivered as part of the Welcome at meetings or events.
- 7.2. There are three types of Acknowledgement of Country:
- 7.2.1. Generic - this should be used if the name of the people on whose land the activity is conducted is unknown or there are multiple Aboriginal peoples identifying as the Traditional Custodians for that area. The words are:
- 7.2.1.1. 'I begin today by acknowledging the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today, particularly those who have served our nation.'
- 7.2.2. Specific - this should be used where there are no disputes and the name of the Traditional Custodians are known. The words are:
- 7.2.2.1. 'I begin today by acknowledging the <insert name of people here>, Traditional Custodians of the land on which we <gather/meet> today, and pay my respects to their Elders past, present and emerging. I extend that respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples here today, particularly those who have served our nation.'
- 7.2.3. General - this shall be used on electronic or printed material. The words are:
- 7.2.3.1. 'The RSL acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to their

Elders past, present and emerging and in particular to those who have served our nation.’

8. Flag Protocol

- 8.1. The RSL guidelines for the use of the Australian National Flag are provided on the [RSL Australia website](#).
- 8.2. The Australian National Flag takes precedence over all other flags when flown in the company of other flags. The order of precedence of flags and the protocol for the appropriate use shall be in accordance with that detailed [here](#).

9. Bibliography

- 9.1. RSL Australia, Protocols, <https://www.rslaustralia.org/rsl-protocols>, accessed 22 October 2023.
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