

Government Abandons Australia's Interest and Kimba Community

With its abandonment of the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility near Kimba, the Albanese Government has sacrificed Australia's best interests at the altar of the Voice. Hellbent on securing a Yes vote in the upcoming referendum and avoiding conflict with any Indigenous group, the Government has abandoned the \$100m, eight-year effort, trying to slide a risky referendum proposal past the public.

That a modern, sophisticated country like Australia cannot find a site to dispose of waste currently lying around in university and hospital basements across the country, is a disgrace. In 2015, the Government asked landholders across Australia to nominate a paddock they would sell for permanent storage of low-level radioactive waste. Nominations were assessed for geological suitability and communities surveyed to find one prepared to host the facility. A series of ballots were then conducted and eventually both houses of Parliament voted to site the facility in Kimba after the community had voted 61.8% in favour. Following a Federal Court decision finding former Resource Minister Keith Pitt guilty of "apprehended bias" in the selection process and anxious to avoid any 'Indigenous conflict', the

Government wilted immediately and abandoned the project, even though two earlier decisions in the same court had found the process in order. The court's decision borders on ridiculous considering the exhaustive efforts and the eight-year timeline taken to finalise the choice.



Rowan with land-owner Geoff Baldock and former Resource Minister Keith Pitt at the site of the proposed low-level radioactive waste facility at Napandee.

The decision infers Indigenous claimants have an ongoing interest in any Freehold Title, including suburbia, despite High Court rulings to the contrary and should be appealed immediately.

It leaves ANSTO with no plan beyond the end of the decade and raises doubts about its ability to continue producing the more than 700k medical radioactive isotopes dispatched to Australians every year.

It raises serious questions as to how the required facility could possibly be in place by 2032 and where it would be. After-all, what community would ever stick its hand up again considering this complete abandonment of Kimba in this process? While unconnected, this weak response nonetheless invites the question as to how this Government could ever have the gumption to deliver a high-level waste site in time to meet the AUKUS guidelines?

This is no small decision and it has a large impact on people who have invested in Kimba and businesses decisions made on the basis of the legislated outcome. They have effectively had the rug pulled from under them. Despite Resource Minister Madeleine King's denials, it opens a pathway for any Indigenous group to claim standing in court (the right) to challenge any development on any Freehold Land in Australia including suburbia.

Either Native Title is extinguished by Freehold Title, as the High Court has ruled, or it is not and the need for clarification on that issue alone is why the Government should dispute this ruling.

Two Wells



Habitat for Humanity is a wonderful not-for-profit organisation providing new affordable homes to families with special needs with huge assistance coming from industry suppliers. Rowan was there for an emotional moment when the key for their new home was handed over to Kiera and Bobbie Lovett and their children Connor, Declan and Evie-Lee.

Sanctuary Cafe Turns Ten



Sanctuary Corner Cafe and Gift Shop in Port Pirie has just celebrated its tenth birthday. Operated by volunteers, the friendly and welcoming workspace not only provides great food, it has assisted many to develop workplace skills. Pictured are Joy Quin and Manager Barb Jackson cutting the cake.

Kernewek Lowender



The Kernewek Lowender was back in May - a terrific celebration of South Australia's Cornish heritage. It is always a highlight to watch the kids performing the traditional Cornish Maypole and Furry Dances. Despite a late Autumn downpour, the enthusiastic dancers gave a great performance.

Kimba Frozen Production



Kimba Area School production of Frozen was fantastic!! Being a small school, the cast and production crew includes kids of all ages and Rowan thought the quality of singing was as good as he had heard from such a group. Well done to the whole team including the teachers and volunteers who give so much to make it all come together!

Christian Schools In Canberra



Rowan was delighted to catch up with Kadina's Harvest Christian College Principal Peter Ayoub and office manager Sarah Harris in Parliament where they attended the Christian Schools National Policy Forum. Schools from around the nation gathered to network and connect with other school leaders to discuss key issues confronting religious education.

Wasleys Celebrates 150 Years



The Wasleys' community marked its 150th recently. Attendees enjoyed a carnival atmosphere and short history lesson. Rowan is pictured with Light Regional Council Cr Bill Close, Member for Frome Penny Pratt, Cr Michael Phillips-Ryder, History Committee Chair Lynette Marker, Community Group Secretary Melissa Bywater and Member for Light Tony Piccolo MP.

On The WA/NT Border



While visiting the APY Lands Rowan caught up with Kalka Chairperson Russell Bryant outside the shop at Pipalyatjara. Kalka and Pipalyatjara are situated on the WA border, 12km apart, but with a mountain between them, they present special challenges with various services like a shop, health centre, school and art centre split between the two.

Singapore High Commissioner



Singapore is a stand-out success in SE Asia and Rowan was very pleased to be invited to a function marking its 58th National Day. Singapore is a great friend of Australia in the region and a very important trading and financial hub for us. Rowan and High Commissioner Anil Kumar Nayar enjoyed time spent discussing mutual interests.

William Creek



In early May Rowan took time to discuss local issues in our Far North communities including Marree, Coober Pedy and Oodnadatta. While in William Creek he met with the Arabana Aboriginal Corporation Director Bronwyn Dodd and her father elder Lionel Dodd.

Port Lincoln



Rowan was very pleased to introduce former Prime Minister Tony Abbott and Senator Alex Antic to the best croissants in Australia at Port Lincoln's Lanse French Cafe and meet owners Marvin and Grace Lattrez who have added another string to the culinary bow of Australia's seafood capital.

Laura Civic Centre Upgrades



The Laura Civic Centre benefitted from \$11,000 Round 7 Stronger Community Grant (SCG) to upgrade the kitchen. Rowan joined Joyce Wode and Ian White to inspect the improvements. The centre also secured \$2500 in Round 8 for painting the kitchen which is extensively used for community events. Unfortunately the SCG's are among the funding streams Labor has axed.

Nyrstar Long Service Awards



Long serving employees at Nyrstar were recently recognised for their great contribution at the 2023 Nyrstar Port Pirie Long Service and Safety Awards. General Manager Mark Eaton is pictured with the 45 Year Long Service Award recipients Paul Nleass, Wayne Harding and Jeff Rawlins.

Rowan Ramsey Federal Member for Grey

Grey, a great place to live and work...

"We are One Together, Not Two Divided"

All Australians will soon be required to vote in the referendum on a Voice to Parliament. The proposal is a fundamental change to our founding document the Constitution. It is not as Prime Minister Albanese would have us believe, a modest change, it inserts a new chapter granting one racial group more access and influence on government. Directly undermining the principals of equality, that every vote has the same value, it does not target need or disadvantage, but instead provides special rights to one racial group and will be permanent even if it becomes unworkable and infiltrated by those with radical agendas.

While unintentional, the proposal itself, is inherently racist, inferring Indigenous Australians can expect to be marginalised forever, incapable of competing on an equal footing, despite the fact the Parliament already has eleven members with acknowledged Indigenous ancestry elected on their own merit. A decade ago, Indigenous anthropologist Marcia Langton wrote idealistically of an "Australian society in which we see each other as individuals – each unique and with a multitude of characteristics. Being aboriginal in that circumstance, would not be extraordinary or contentious or reason for hatefulness. Our status as the first peoples would be a simple acknowledgement of historical fact."

It seems she has changed her view, but she was absolutely right! Only by removing race as a factor will we ever rid ourselves of racism. Regardless of the moral dilemmas the text of the question has been decided by the Government and we must deal with it. How the Voice would work in practice remains a mystery and the lack of clarity virtually ensures the eventual reach of its powers will be determined by the High Court increasing the risk of it holding up projects and making government unworkable.

Mr Albanese now says it is a moderate change, simply "good manners" and subservient to Parliament in stark contrast to his earlier statements that "It would be a very brave Parliament indeed that would defy its wishes." His hand-picked ambassadors including Indigenous activist and Voice working group member Megan Davis, Indigenous unionist Thomas Mayo and Ms Langton agree, speaking of an authoritative body empowered by the Constitution to negotiate terms of treaty and reparations. The PM's absolute commitment to "Voice, Treaty,

Truth" is now glossed over and leaving us with no information on the reach of a treaty, whether it will intervene in determining land use, or if a treaty will challenge the sovereign rights of Australia and become a morass of red tape. The Labor Party has effective control of Parliament on this issue and will control the legislative agenda and design of the Voice should the referendum succeed. They should already know what they plan to legislate, but are choosing not to share it with us. In New Zealand, often promoted as a positive example, the 'advisory only' Waitangi Tribunal was established in 1975. That its powers and reach have been extended significantly since that time by



their High Court offers a cautionary tale. Mr Albanese assures us that won't happen here, the Voice will only deal with issues specifically affecting Indigenous peoples, be advisory only, subservient to Parliament, but will it? While a range of constitutional experts agree with that hypothesis, others completely disagree, and say its powers can be reinterpreted by our courts. **The only clear conclusion is that nothing is clear and the Voice is full of unknowns.**

The Government has abandoned its plans for the direct election of the body, hardly surprising, given there is not a legal definition of indigeneity in Australia that would withstand scrutiny. Increasing suspicion of self-identification, is the 25.2% rise in people claiming Indigeneity in the last census. At best we know the Government plans to ask existing peak, Indigenous bodies to appoint representatives. Similarly, while Mr Albanese gives no detail the best most can surmise, there is likely to be two or three from SA with perhaps just one representative allocated for all regional and remote communities.

It defies imagination how all the multiple family groups across the state could agree on the appointment of one individual representative. It is important for those with little experience in this area to understand Indigenous groupings in remote Australia are not naturally trusting of those outside their direct family groupings. Each community faces different circumstances, and their representative bodies are often far from reaching mutual agreement and understanding.

Additionally, if the Voice is comprised of representatives from the most powerful existing bodies, how likely is it the advice they provide would be substantially different to what they provide now, after all, it will be the same people. This referendum should be a unifying event, the Prime Minister says it will be. The '67 referendum was supported by 90.7% of the population. It declared all Australians equal, regardless of where they came from or who their ancestors were and brought the nation together.

This referendum by comparison is divisive with division deepening by the day and whatever the result, close to half of our population will be convinced we have made a serious error and feel alienated. If the PM was making decisions in Australia's interest he would pause the process, go back to the table and get a model the overwhelming majority of Australia would back. A model that addresses disadvantage wherever it happens.

The disgraceful attacks on Indigenous people who question or campaign against the Voice like Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and Indigenous advocates Warren Mundine and Mick Gooda are appalling.

Surely, we are mature enough to discuss this issue in a civil manner and appreciate that if someone has a different view to yours, it does not make them or their view invalid. Every vote in Australia will be of the same value on referendum day; that is the signature of a true democracy like Australia. We should consider our vote carefully.

I will not be supporting a proposal that will divide our nation on racial grounds and runs the risk of hurting the people we are trying to help.

Rowan is pictured with Shadow Indigenous Minister Senator Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and Shadow Minister for Child Protection and Prevention of Family Violence Kerryne Liddle.

The "Indigenous Voice to Parliament" will wreck our Constitution, rewire our Democracy and divide Australians by race. Its divisive, its dangerous, its expensive and its not fair.....

WE ARE ONE TOGETHER,
NOT TWO DIVIDED.



Meeting with Pharmacists in Grey

During August Shadow Health Minister Senator Anne Ruston and I met with a group of local pharmacists in Port Lincoln who are about to suffer a serious financial penalty from Labor's plan to introduce 60-day dispensing of prescriptions. Generally speaking, 60-day dispensing is a good suggestion, however the Government dropped this plan on the pharmacy industry with no consultation or consideration of the financial impact on the businesses.

The Federal Government and pharmacies reach an agreement every five years seeking to improve efficiency, increase service levels and keep costs as low as possible for consumers. That is where 60-day dispensing should have been negotiated to ensure all parties were treated fairly. While this deal reduces cost for consumers, which is good, the entire cost is paid for by pharmacies with the government contributing nothing.

Pharmacies provide many unpaid or underpaid community services like visiting aged care facilities and hospitals, preparing and even delivering Webster-paks and keeping a watchful eye on their clients.

These services are subsidised by profits in other parts of the business. Losses will be significant, particularly for small regional pharmacies and likely lead to job losses, reductions in services and in some cases, business closures. Some of the group we met with had only recently purchased their business on the strength of previous financial figures and are now viewing the loan servicing commitments with trepidation.

The Coalition supports 60-day dispensing but the Government needs to compensate the worst affected, generally our smaller pharmacies in the regions. We are doing all we can in Parliament

to force the Government to sit down with the industry and cut a deal. If your pharmacy is running a petition, please consider supporting them.

60 day-dispensing is an important policy and we want the Government to get this right. We need to support this vital sector in our regional communities, we need our pharmacists!



With Rowan are Shadow Immigration Minister Dan Tehan, Cummins Cowell and Kimba pharmacist Omololu Tayo, Tumbay Bay pharmacist Tiffany Hibble, Cleve pharmacist Lisa Herbert, Port Lincoln National Pharmacies manager Jess Rose, Port Lincoln pharmacist Jack Ramsey, Shadow Health Minister Sen Anne Ruston and Sam Telfer MP.

Useful Links

The Regional Tech Hub is an excellent resource for advice and support for anyone experiencing communication issues. This is a free service funded by the Government. Phone 1300 081 029 to access the service which is available Monday to Friday 8am to 8pm (AEST) weekdays.

The Community Grants Hub delivers simple, consistent and streamlined information around Government grants to the Australian community. People can subscribe for updates on the latest grant opportunities www.communitygrants.gov.au/



Yes camp must explain how an Indigenous voice to parliament will close the gap

I believe it will achieve virtually nothing at best. At worst, it will leave many Australians, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, disappointed and perhaps angry. The Yes camp insists the voice is what's needed to close the gap in health and wellbeing; yet no clear plan has been offered about how to achieve this.

Port Pirie
104 Ellen Street
Tel: 8633 1744

Kadina
43 Taylor Street
Tel: 8821 4366

Whyalla
45a Playford Avenue
Tel: 8645 4255

Government Shuts Down Grant Programs



I was very pleased to attend the opening of the wonderful new sports facility at the Clare oval in August. Having pushed hard to secure \$2.5M through the Building Better Regions Fund (almost half the project cost) it was fantastic to see the final result. Well done to North and South Clare Football and Netball Clubs who buried their on-field hatchets to ensure this project was delivered and to the very hard-working committee headed by Ryan Tregilgas. Sadly, the BBRF grant was one of the last with the Labor Government axing the program at the last minute, throwing the Round 6 applications and assessments and the hundreds of hours involved preparing them out the window. The BBRF and its forerunner had delivered more than \$50m into Grey. Now replaced, with the Growing Regions Program, the program change has led to a more than two-year break on regional infrastructure assistance. The minimum grant for the new program is \$500k and on the 50:50 basis most of the electorate must meet, small organisations are largely written out of the program. Previously, the BBRF minimum was \$20k enabling small organisations to secure matched funding. Other programs axed include the popular Stronger Communities Grants and Volunteer Grants (currently open for their last round). Small community organisations have been almost completely abandoned. In addition, Labor has axed the Regional Airport Security Program (causing Rex Airlines to leave Whyalla), Regional Airports Program, Remote Roads Program, Roads of Strategic Importance and the Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program, a lifeline for local council's road and infrastructure programs. Little wonder they have all raised rates! The Albanese Government has turned its back on regional Australia with no budget provision for major road works in Grey once the money the Coalition committed in government runs out. Consequently, while I was confident of taking the Augusta Highway dual lanes all the way to the new Joy Baluch Bridge, it will now grind to a halt at Lochiel. Minister Catherine King stalled all infrastructure announcements pending a 90-day review due for completion last month, but we have heard nothing. Labor seems happy to include the regions when they want to plant wind and solar farms and transmission lines all over the place, but the rest of the time we are just ignored.

Shearing Shortage Threatens Australia's Wool Industry

I am increasingly concerned with the number of wool producers shifting focus to meat sheep as an alternative to wool because of the shortage of shearers and its long-term impacts on our industry. Australia's national merino flock sat at 180m in the early 90's. It is 70m today, and while we remain the world's predominate producer of fine merino wool, to ensure this industry maintains a competitive supply chain we cannot afford to lose any more capacity. I have been pursuing options to free-up work visas so we can target shearers from other wool-producing nations to meet our peak spring demand. Backpacker's visas can work, but they cut out at the age of 30, about when good professional shearers are just reaching their peak. Consequently, with Shadow Immigration Minister Dan Tehan on Lower EP during August, I took him to Andrew and Mark Swaffer's property near Tumbly Bay, where the Darby Shearing team was



in full swing. Senior SA shearing trainer Glenn Haynes from the Shearing Contractors Association of Australia (SCAA) came from Naracorte to discuss the challenges facing the industry with us and outline his efforts to recruit, train and retain Australian shearers. Australia has 2,000 shearers today down from 10,000 at our peak. We have filled the shortfall with New Zealand shearers, who can come and go as they please, but for a number of reasons, recruitment has become more difficult. SCAA wants to foster a two-way flow of shearers to meet our seasonal demand and provide a pathway for Australian shearers to see the world. There are good shearers in countries like France, South Africa, Uruguay and Chile and we need to find a way for them to come to Australia to meet the seasonal peak. I have been in discussions with the Australian Wool Industry, Wool Producers Australia and the SCAA and with my Parliamentary colleagues seeking change.

Vietnam Veteran's Day



Vietnam Veteran's Day on August 18 is a very significant event and Rowan was privileged to lay a wreath in Port Pirie. The event also marked 50 years since the end of the war. Attendees enjoyed a very interesting address on advances in medicine on the battlefield from Port Pirie General Surgeon Dr Sam Ali. Later all enjoyed lunch back at the RSL.

Bush Summit in Lincoln



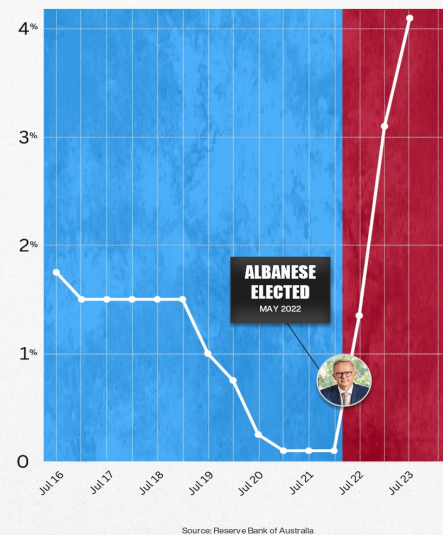
The Bush Summit in Port Lincoln was a coup for the region. A host of regional entrepreneurs presented and were joined by local government and state and federal parliamentarians. The last panel of the day included three local Teen Parliament legends- Seth Kayser, Prapti Pai and India Ciura. Rowan is with Seth who spoke with great passion and knowledge on the need for nuclear energy.

Critical Childcare Shortage



Rowan has been working with Childcare Shadow Minister Angie Bell seeking a solution to critical regional childcare shortages. This lack of options for parents is depriving us of workers, derailing workforce recruitment, overloading parents and exhausting grandparents. They have met interested parties in eight towns, with many more reporting childcare shortages.

Interest rates have increased under Labor



Misinformation Bill Risks Freedom of Speech

Imagine a law which can ban argument coming from individuals, organisations and the Parliamentary Opposition because, in the eyes of the regulator, their claims are false or misleading. This is at the same time saying anything the Government says is true, simply because they are the Government. No, it's not George Orwell's 1984, it is the hard truth of Labor's proposed Communications Legislation Amendment Combating Misinformation and Disinformation Bill. If we needed more evidence that Mr Albanese and his leftist ideologs will do anything to cement themselves in government, this is it. We should all strongly resist any Bill which seeks to restrict commentary to the orthodoxy of the day. Today's disinformation may well prove to be the true tomorrow. In the 17th century physicist Galileo Galilei was declared a heretic for proposing the Earth orbited the sun and not vice versa. People should be free to consume all views, not just those approved of by the Government. The High Court has ruled an implied freedom of communication exists within our Constitution

as an indispensable part of a system of representative and responsible government and we abandon that premise at our own peril. Consequently, Shadow Communications Minister David Coleman has launched the 'Bin the Bill' website and I encourage people to sign up and be kept up to date on developments in the campaign against this plan to muzzle genuine criticism. The Government's definition of 'misinformation' in this Bill is so broad it would capture many statements made by Australians and the penalties are large. Certain academics would be exempt while others who challenge their view would be silenced. Good faith statements made by entertainers cannot be misinformation, but good faith statements made by ordinary Australians on political matters can be misinformation. Aside from deeming the government infallible, always right and never wrong, the law would also empower the Government to force people to appear before the regulator ACMA, to answer

questions about alleged misinformation, with fines of more than \$8,000 per day for non-attendance. The 'Bin the Bill' petition can be found at www.binthebill.au.

LABOR'S MISINFORMATION LAW WILL SUPPRESS YOUR FREE SPEECH

sign the petition
binthebill.au



Cost of Living Hearing In Port Augusta



Rowan attended the Cost of Living Hearing in Port Augusta in August and is pictured with Chair of the Cost of Living Select Committee Senator Jane Hume and Senator Kerryenne Liddle. Senators Hume, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price and Kerryenne Liddle listening to evidence from the community at the hearing.



IS YOUR COST OF LIVING RISING?

I want to hear from you!

Visit yourcostofliving.au to complete the survey and share your story.

Regional Shows in Full Swing Across Grey



Connor Hogan of Bangor put on a world-class display of Trial riding at the Crystal Brook Show with two demonstrations showing his prowess on a bike at this year's event. Connor recently cemented his reputation coming 1st at the 'Rams' Queensland State Championships.

I have enjoyed attending some of our country shows this year including Crystal Brook and the Copper Coast, both fantastic community events embodying all the very best our regions have to offer. The show season in regional South Australia this year, started with Maitland Show back in March. They play a pivotal role in celebrating the agricultural, cultural, and community aspects of the area. Most importantly, with so few people having family links with farmers today, shows provide a window where they can better understand what our farmers do, what fierce advocates farmers are for the environment and how first-rate care for livestock is paramount to profitability. Livestock displays, equestrian, farm and garden produce, cooking, agricultural equipment, art and crafts, entertainment and food stalls, the show encapsulates the essence of regional life. So far this year Maitland, Copper Coast, Port Lincoln, Whyalla, Wilmington and the Wudinna shows have all been held. Still to come are Balaklava and Kimba on the 23/9, Quorn 24/9, Mount Remarkable 30/9, Jamestown 1 & 2/10, Yallunda Flat 2/10, Minlaton 4/10, Burra & Cummins 7/10, Clare & Cleve 14/10 and Eudunda 12/11.



A wonderful display of vintage fashion was one of the highlights of this year's Crystal Brook Show. Tina Hooft of Merriton put together some stunning outfits from her collection of vintage clothes and described each outfit as local models took the crowd back in time.



The Cooper Coast Show was an opportunity to honour a long-term volunteer with the naming of the Graham Sobey Lounge. Graham was recognised for decades of service with the horses-in-action and is a Life Member of the show. He is with Junior Vice President Tash Westbrook. The newly refurbished room in the grandstand looks like a city wine bar and is sure to be used for many functions.



The crowd at the opening of the Copper Coast Show was treated to a beautiful rendition of the National Anthem sung by Georgina Gross. Georgina is currently attending Wildness School in Adelaide and told Rowan she is participating in the school's music program and taking every opportunity to demonstrate and progress her skills.



The Copper Coast Show had something for everyone this year and it was great to see the region's youngsters being involved in this great community event. Lawson and Matilda Jackson entered fantastic Scarecrows in the show which would be guaranteed to keep the birds off the crops!

Addressing Childcare Issues in Our Regions



Last newsletter I wrote about the work I have been doing with Childcare Shadow Minister Angie Bell, meeting with communities with poor or non-existent childcare services around Grey. In June Angie made a second trip to Grey and we met with another five groups from Wilmington, Orroroo, Crystal Brook, Kadina and Adrossan. There must be a new approach, a joint commitment from State and Federal Education Departments working with councils and

community groups. The lack of services has knock-on effects for businesses, employment, family and the economy generally. Whilst in Orroroo Rowan and Angie caught up with Jess Watson, District Council Orroroo Carrieton CEO Paul Simpson, Lucy Hooper, Tessa McNamara, Joan Luckraft, Chloe Hunter, Paul Pitkin, Lisa Slade and at back Luke Ellery holding Logan Ellery.

Enjoying a Chat in Oodnadatta



There is no better place in Oodnadatta to meet than outside the pub about 5pm on a Sunday. Rowan is with Oodnadatta Progress Chair Russell Prowse, Deputy Chair Wayne Stapleton and Dunjiba Community Council Chairman Anthony Smith.

Vietnam Veterans Honoured

Rowan with Port Pirie Regional Council Deputy Mayor Kendall Jackson, RSL President John Chesson and Secretary Gary Fradd following the Port Pirie Vietnam Veteran's Day ceremony. This was a special event which marked 50 years since the end of the Vietnam War.

