



*Australian*  
**Air League**

**Australian Air League Inc.**  
ABN 66 585 094 960

**Address all Correspondence to:**  
PO Box 325  
OATLEY NSW 2223  
Telephone: 0414 580 240  
Email: [chief.comr@airleague.com.au](mailto:chief.comr@airleague.com.au)

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to a new year in the Australian Air League. I'm sure many of you have now started preparing for the year ahead which will culminate with the Australian Air League Review in Queensland on 4 October 2020.

I would like to begin by thanking Chief Comr Rickards for the extraordinary job he has done over the last 13 years. We now have a very different organisation to what we had in 2007, and it is only through his efforts along with the support of our members that we have managed to achieve all of what has been done. The work is even more impressive when you consider we all work as volunteers.

As your new Chief Commissioner, I look forward to working with all members young and old as we move towards the third decade of the 21st Century. I am honoured to have been selected by the Council of the League to be Chief Commissioner, and it is my aim to ensure we remain relevant with the times, whilst not forgetting our history and core values.

For those that don't know, I joined the Australian Air League in 1975 as a young cadet at Waverley Squadron in Victoria. I remained with this squadron until 1994 when I moved to Sydney and transferred to Marrickville Squadron. I soon became Officer Commanding, an appointment I held until 2013. I also took on numerous roles at both Wing and Group level before joining the Federal staff as Field Commissioner in 2014.

Although it is business as usual, I have a few things that I would like to drive forward through my term as Chief Commissioner. The most important one is that we are a safe and open organisation that young people, and indeed adults, can join regardless of their background. It is imperative that our members feel safe and welcome as this is something that the community expects from organisations such as ours today. We have already gone a long way to ensuring this happens, but there is still more work to be done.

I hope to meet as many of you as possible over the next year. If you see me at an event, please feel free to come up and introduce yourself.

Finally, I know many members also volunteer or work with the various emergency services, and they have been very active during the current bushfire crisis. I'm sure you will join me in thanking them for their service. As volunteers I think we all understand the extraordinary sacrifices many of them have made during this time.

Regards

James Dixon MSA  
Chief Commissioner  
19 January 2020