



Media release

Office: 102 North Road, Yakamia
Postal: PO Box 484, ALBANY WA 6331
Phone: (08) 9841 9333
Fax: (08) 9841 4099
Record No: REL042/MR15115741

Date Issued: 11 December 2015

Authorised by: Mayor Dennis Wellington

Consul of Italy visits Albany

The newly appointed Consul of Italy to Western Australia David Balloni visited Albany today to pay his respects to those who have served and fallen in war in what is the centenary year since Italy joined World War I.

After meeting with executives at the City of Albany this morning, Consul Balloni visited Albany Heritage Park where he took part in a short memorial service at the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial and met members of Albany's Italian community.

Among them was 93-year-old Italian World War II veteran Vincenzo Zumbo, who was awarded the Al Valore Militare in 1968 – Italy's equivalent of the Victoria Cross – for bravery during the war. Mr Zumbo accompanied Consul Balloni in laying a wreath at the memorial.

City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington and Chief Executive Officer Andrew Sharpe also laid wreaths during the ceremony.

Consul Balloni said he had been looking forward to his first visit to Albany.

"I really wanted to come here before the end of the year in what is a very significant year for Italy, a century since Italy joined the First World War," Consul Balloni said.

After the memorial service, Consul Balloni visited the Padre White Lookout and took a tour of the National Anzac Centre.

Mayor Wellington said the City of Albany was honoured to welcome Consul Balloni, who is the third Consul to visit Albany in the past month.

"We had a very positive meeting with Consul Balloni this morning," Mayor Wellington said.

"The City is excited and looking forward to fostering a business relationship with the Consulate of Italy in Perth."

Mayor Wellington said the ongoing visitation of dignitaries to Albany highlighted the city's increasing profile on the international stage.

END

Images:

Image 1: Consul of Italy David Balloni meets City of Albany Mayor Dennis Wellington.

Image 2: RSL Albany sub-branch president Jeff McNeill, Committee for Italians Residing Abroad (Com.It.Es) president Vittorio Petriconi, Consul of Italy David Balloni and RSL Albany sub-branch chairman of special functions Laurie Fraser at the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial.