

<b>Member</b>	Jade (Patricia) Benham	<b>Electorate</b>	Mildura
<b>Period</b>	1 April 2024 to 30 June 2024		

<b>Regulation 6 - Expense allowance and electorate allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for electorate allowance	\$14,470.75
Total amount paid to member for expense allowance	\$0.00

<b>Regulation 7 - Motor vehicle allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for motor vehicle allowance	\$0.00
Member did not receive the motor vehicle allowance in the previous quarter and member has elected to receive the motor vehicle allowance for this quarter	No

<b>Regulation 9 - Parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance</b>	
Total amount paid to member for parliamentary accommodation sitting allowance	\$0.00
Suburb in which the member's parliamentary accommodation is located	Melbourne

<b>Regulation 10 - Travel allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Town or city in which accommodation was located	Value of the accommodation

Total number of nights for travel allowance claims 0  
Total amount paid to member for travel allowance \$0.00

<b>Regulation 11 - Commercial transport allowance claims</b>					
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid	Mode of transport	Value of transport

Total number of nights for commercial transport allowance claims 0  
Total amount paid to member for commercial transport allowance \$0.00

<b>Regulation 12 - International travel allowance claims</b>			
Date from	Date until	Reason for travel	Total amount paid
22/04/2024	29/04/2024	Travel to France on Electorate Business to attend the celebration of 40 years of a twin city relationship between Robinvale and Villers-Bretonneux accepting invitations from The Ambassador of France, Mayor of Swan Hill Rural City Council and the Villers-Bretonneux association.	\$2,367.05

Total number of nights for international travel allowance claims 0  
Total amount paid to member for international travel allowance \$2,367.05  
See attached travel report for further details

## **Jade Benham MP – International Travel Report**

### **Villers Bretonneux, Robinvale's sister city 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration & ANZAC Day 2024**

#### **Dates of travel**

The dates on which this report and trip relates to are 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2024 – 29<sup>th</sup> April 2024.

#### **Reason for travel**

After the Swan Hill Rural City Council resolved to decline an invitation from the Mayor of Villers Bretonneux for Mayor Stuart King to attend the celebration of 40 years of a twin city relationship, I raised that this relationship and event was too important for Robinvale not to be represented.

Given I am a resident of Robinvale, a former Mayor and now the local Member of Parliament I raised that I would be happy to travel to Villers Bretonneux to maintain the relationships that have been built and maintain over the past 40 years, many of whom are no longer with us.

This was met with great support from community members when discussed through various media channels and endorsed by the Villers Bretonneux Association in Robinvale.

Following this endorsement I was invited by Her Excellency, Gillian Bird PSM, Australian Ambassador to France to a number of tributes and events in the Villers Bretonneux district over the ANZAC Day weekend.

This included a lunch with Her Excellency, Minister for Veterans Affairs Hon. Matt Keogh MP, and Rupert Holden, representing the Australian Embassy.

Thus the dates of travel related to both parliamentary business and electorate business.

#### **Accommodation**

Accommodation used with respect to the claim include;

Hotel San Dominique, Paris, France – 1 night – before a connecting fast train to Haute Picardi

Total cost \$AUD = \$572.33

Hotel Marotte – Ameins, France – 4 nights whilst engaging in official duties in and around Villers Bretonneux

Total cost \$AUD = 1796.98

Travel Insurance = \$162

### **Commercial transport**

Flights – paid by DPC

Inflight wifi -\$7.69

Train

GLOBAL REPRESENTACION BARCELONA ES ESP Card xx7217 AUD 64.84 Value Date:  
16/04/2024

-\$64.84

-\$105.58

-\$66.74

Uber

-\$41.11

### **Objective**

My initial objective was to maintain and strengthen the relationships that those before me had forged, originally beginning with Alan Wood, Member for Swan Hill in 1984 when he initiated the twinning of the two towns of Robinvale and Villers Bretonneux.

It quickly became much more than that with relationships and meetings with several key people and organisations including members of the French Senate, heads of the Somme Department, meeting Mayors of surrounding towns neighbouring Villers Bretonneux including La Hamme, Bullecourt and developing a close relationship with Didier Dinouard, Mayor of Villers Bretonneux as well as the CEO of Council in Villers Bretonneux Feirouz Hamdane, other Councillors and council staff, including her town planners who are interested in coming to Australia to work either on exchange or secondment.

Given that the Mayor of Swan Hill Rural City Council did also attend after an unscheduled meeting of Council reversed their original decision to allow him to travel, it also helped to forge a stronger relationship with the Mayor and discussions were had regarding how to maintain and nurture the relationship between future generations in Robinvale and those in Villers Bretonneux moving forward.

### **Organisations visited**

Please see attached program

### **Persons met**

- The Honourable Matt Keogh, Australian Minister for Veterans Affairs
- Her Excellency Gillian Bird, Ambassador of Australia to France
- Mrs. Alison McLaren, Deputy Secretary to the Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Ms. Stephanie Matthews, Office of the Minister of Veterans Affairs
- Lieutenant Alexandria Wishart, Australian Defence Force
- Mr Ben Daetwyler, Director of the Sir John Monash Centre
- Mr Rupert Holden, Embassy d'Australia
- Ms Isabelle Fontaine, Embassy of Australia
- Ms. Sarah Moretti, Interpreter, Embassy of Australia
- Mayor Didier Dinouard, Villers Bretonneux
- Feriouz Hamdane, Director of General Services, Villers Bretonneux
- Isabel Avenel, Councillor
- Daniel Arthur, Councillor for cultural development, economic and civic life

### **Documents obtained**

Programs of events from ANZAC Day at Sir John Monash Centre

Tourism marketing collateral

### **Study areas**

The Western Front, Civic Relations and Sister City relationships

### **Results achieved**

Mayor Dinouard has graciously accepted the invitation to travel to Robinvale in October this year for the township's centenary, which is excellent.

The Villers Bretonneux Association will assemble a contingent to travel to Robinvale in 2025 to spend time with the association here.

An organisation caring for those with a disability are planning a trip to Australia including Melbourne, Mildura and Robinvale and have asked me to connect them with similar organisations on the ground here which is currently being worked on.