



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

Issue 4/2010  
Sub Branch Signal

# THE SUB BRANCH SIGNAL

**DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL**  
8:30 AM — 4:30 PM

**ANZAC HOUSE**

28 St Georges Terrace, Perth  
PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832  
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au  
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au  
Tel: (08) 9287 3799  
Fax: (08) 9287 3732  
Country Callers : 1800 259 799

**RECEPTION**

Monday to Friday - general enquiries  
Email: adminassist@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3799

**EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT**

Monday to Friday - PA to State  
President & State Secretary  
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au  
Tel: 9287 3799

**MEMBERSHIP**

Monday to Thursday - membership  
enquiries, Sub-Branch enquiries  
Email: membership@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3705

**WELFARE**

Monday to Friday - welfare applica-  
tions, emergency housing, food &  
lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust  
Fund applications. Overseas pen-  
sions  
Email: welfare@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3707

**ADVOCACY**

Monday to Friday - S31 reviews,  
Veteran Review Board,  
Admin Appeals Tribunal  
Email: advocate@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3708

**FINANCE**

Monday to Friday - all account  
enquiries, Sub-Branch credits  
Sub-Branch Insurance, information,  
claims, grant application assistance,  
DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)  
Email: stateacct@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3703 or 9287 3718

**PENSIONS**

Monday to Friday - pension entitle-  
ments, claims preparation  
Email: pensions1@rslwahq.org.au  
pensions2@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3709  
9287 3710, 9287 3711

**ANZAC CLUB**

Monday to Friday - facilities book-  
ings, catering/hospitality  
Email: anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3714

**LISTENING POST**

Monday to Friday - editorial staff  
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3716

## KOREA - The Forgotten War Do YOU remember it?

The 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
the commencement of hostilities of the  
Korean War

will be commemorated at

the Flame of Remembrance  
Kings Park

25 June 2010  
1030 hrs.

Contacts - Ken Barrington RARWA on (08) 9446 4227  
Garry Burgoyne KASEAVA on (08) 9276 6248

## *Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture*

The Inaugural Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture

Cottesloe Civic Centre War Memorial Hall

Saturday 26 June 2010

6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

*Presentation*

*Major John Fahey DSO*

*11Bn*

*Chaplain of the Great War*

*The Returned Soldiers and Sailors League*

*President 1917*

by

*Ruth Marchant James OAM*

Cottesloe Historian

Admission: Gold Coin

Light Supper Provided



### [ANZAC Day Review](#)

Following the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, Gunfire Breakfast, March and Esplanade Service it is time to review various aspects of the event. The Organizing Committee invites comments from members, through their Sub Branch, on any of the aspects of the conduct of the 2010 Services in Perth. Please note that comments are to be relevant to the Perth service – other metropolitan and country Services are the subject of local organizing committees.

To assist in the framing of comments please find attached a statement of March Protocols which, unfortunately became the focus of attention in the lead up to the March. Any constructive comments would be welcome and they should be addressed to the “Chairman – ANZAC Day Organising Committee, ANZAC House, PO Box 3032, Perth Adelaide Terrace. Submissions close Friday 30 July 2010.

### [Insurance Renewals](#)

Included with this issue of Sub Branch Signal you will find an application to renew your Insurance Coverage for your Sub Branch and or Licensed Club for the period 2010 – 2011. Please consider the coverage you require and make the necessary adjustments. You should review your Asset Register so that a realistic coverage for items listed is applied. It is also mandatory for Sub Branches that employ individuals or pay for services rendered to take out workers compensation coverage.

Insurance forms are required to be returned to State Headquarters no later than 18 June 2010.

Please note that Sub Branch Insurance is to be submitted on the GREEN FORM and Licensed Clubs on the YELLOW FORM.

Should you wish to discuss your insurance requirements please contact Ken Van Lit State Accountant on 08 9287 3718

Your Invoice for Insurance will be issued in July 2010

### [Political Status RSL](#)

Sub Branch Officers are reminded that the RSL is an apolitical organisation, and is not aligned to any political party. With an election due in the next few months we have been advised that some political parties, candidates and sitting members are attempting to use the RSL to gain prominence in their electorates. These approaches are to be fully resisted and no political preference is to be offered to them through Sub Branches. What members do in their own right as citizens is their business but involvement of the RSL in promoting political preference is not permitted.

### [Lotterywest Infrastructure Grants](#)

[Reminder: The sooner you lodge your claim, together with supplier Invoices the sooner they will be paid](#)

[Closing Date: 18 June 2010](#)

### [Annual Financial Return Statement](#)

With this issue of *Sub Branch Signal* we are issuing an **Annual Financial Return Statement** template (also available in Microsoft Excel format) which may be used by Sub Branches when reporting their Financial position for the financial year 2009 / 2010 to Headquarters in accordance with State Rule 27.20. In the past we have experienced problems in obtaining reports from Sub Branches, particularly those with small numbers or small turnover. As at April 2010, 30% of Sub Branches have failed to submit their Annual Financial Statement for the financial year 2008 / 2009.

As part of our accountability requirements we need to be in possession of information relating to the overall financial position of the League. This statistical information is used for Grant allocations from our various funding sources.

Please note that the Annual Financial Statement template attached is the minimum reporting standard for Sub Branches for the 2009 / 2010 financial year. Copies of cash books or bank statements are not acceptable. As you will appreciate reviewing and consolidating 132 Sub Branch reports is a time consuming task and having uniform reports makes this activity easier.

Sub Branches that use a professional Certified Auditor are to continue to do so and report to their members and when accepted at the Annual General Meeting forwarded to State Headquarters in accordance with Rule 27.20. Those Sub Branches who have not in the past had an auditor need to appoint an auditor to ensure compliance with State Rule 27.20.

Sub Branches with a turn over of less than \$50K and overall funds and assets less than \$50k are requested to use the enclosed document. **Please note the document needs to be signed by the President and Treasurer and the person conducting the independent Audit.**

If you have any queries on this matter, please contact Ken van Lit our State Accountant. Ken will talk you through the document and assist you in its compilation requirements.

### [Gunfire Breakfast Acquittal](#)

[Reminder: The sooner you lodge your claim, the sooner you will get your reimbursement.](#)

[Remember, original receipts and it would be helpful if a short write up of the event - and digital photos - could be included to assist us in securing grants for future years.](#)

[Closing Date: 28 May 2010](#)



### [Rick Hart Sponsorship](#)

We are pleased to announce that we have completed sponsorship arrangements with Rick Hart.

Substantial discounts are now available to RSL members upon the production of your current Membership Card. The card may also be used by family and extended family members. *To obtain the discounted price you must identify yourself as an RSL Member by the production of your Membership Card.*

### [Membership Matters](#)

During the last week of this month (May) we will be posting out reminder notices direct to members who have not renewed their membership for 2010. If renewals are being held at Sub Branches please send them to Kathy at Headquarters as soon as possible to avoid members receiving renewal notices when they have already paid.

On the subject of payment, some members who paid by bank transfer did not include their name. Please advise members who have paid by this method and have NOT received their Card and Discount Book to call Kathy (9287 3705) to discuss the matter.

### [Tinnitus Treatment](#)

Although the trial period with those chosen to participate in the assessment for tinnitus by Neuromonics has now been completed, it will be some time before a decision will be made by the Department to extend the treatment to all ex-service personnel who could benefit from such treatment.

Although the treatment is being seen as successful by those who were selected for the trial it does not mean that all who present with tinnitus are treatable. Protocols are in place to establish when a person by undertaking this treatment would be successful.

Although the RSL is seeking an early resolution and is making efforts in this regard we are still in the hands of the Department as to when they are likely to sign off on the arrangements for extending the treatment to all eligible ex-service personnel.

### [T and PI Recipients and Centrelink](#)

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs recently announced that a decision has been made so that those ex-service people, who are receiving part disability pension through Centrelink, will no longer have to be medically examined by this Department.

## Remembering Indigenous Service

National Reconciliation Week 2010 will take place around Australia from 27 May to 3 June, providing an opportunity to focus on reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians

### *Reconciliation - Let's see it through*

As part of National Reconciliation Week, DVA will work alongside the RSL, and other Ex-Service and Community organisations to hold a number of ceremonies across Australia to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Indigenous Veterans

### A Service will be held State War Memorial Wednesday 2 June 2010 10.00 am

All Indigenous veterans and their families  
and the wider community  
are welcome to attend

### Guest Speaker Mr Peter Fitzpatrick AM

### [RSL GOLF DAY](#)

It's on again!  
Please refer to the  
attached flyer for details



### [Sub Branch Maintenance](#)

RSL has received an offer from the Department of Corrective Services to engage certain classification of inmates to undertake community work at Sub Branch buildings owned by RSL. The attached Expression of Interest form details the type of work that can be undertaken and Sub Branches that are interested in using this service are invited to return the form as soon as possible

### [Membership Statistics](#)

As at 30 April 2010

Service Members	7 817
Affiliates	1 226
TOTAL	9 097





### ANZAC OF THE YEAR 2010

#### ROBERT DUNCAN MERCER AM RFD ED

Robert (Bob) Mercer was born and educated in Western Australia. He attended Wesley College and upon finishing school worked in the family company in the fruit and vegetable industry.

In the business environment he showed strong leadership in the produce industry at the Perth Metropolitan markets. He was instrumental in the planning committee that saw the move of the entire metropolitan markets complex in West Perth to the new site it now occupies at Canning Vale.

With his voluntary work at the WA Ostomy Association he demonstrated concern for those with health problems. His strong support for the Association resulted in him emerging as a tireless worker.

Bob also had active involvement with the WA Police and Community Youth Centres. Such centres serve to meet the needs of youth and are conducted by local police and other community youth leaders, particularly in areas where there is a need to provide youth with sporting and other engaging interests. He served on the Federation Council and worked with eleven youth centres in the Perth Metropolitan Area. He has now retired from the Council but his contribution assisted in steering the organization to the success it is today in serving young people in our community.

Mr Mercer has also had a long and distinguished military career that covered 37 years. In his Service he was CMF Observer in South Vietnam in July 1967.

During his military career he demonstrated strong leadership qualities and will long be acknowledged as one of the more energetic military leaders in the 5 Military District. Although retired he has served as Honorary Colonel to Infantry Battalions in Western Australia. He is in regular contact with the Association of Honorary Colonels and is always available through Unit Associations to offer advice and guidance to present Commanders as required.

While his support of the RSL was evident during his time in the CMF his association was formalized with him joining the League in 1984. There he showed keen interest in League affairs and was appointed to the State Executive in November 1990. He served with diligence on State Committees and rose to further prominence when he was appointed a State Trustee in March 1998. In that period of time he presided over some of the most controversial issues that plagued the WA State Branch. It was his wise counsel and ability to show strong leadership skills that saw several investigations into State Branch dealings resolved and new directions for the League in Western Australia charted. He recently retired from that position after some eighteen years of continuous service to the League.

His sustained positive contribution and guidance to the State Executive and management at the RSL War Veteran's Homes enabled good outcomes to be achieved and stability restored to League operations in this State.

His regular participation as a Sub Warden at Memorial Services at The State War Memorial has been long and sustained.

### ***WA AGED RETURNED SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S RELIEF TRUST FUND***

**Ready to Assist**

**Veterans and Dependents in  
Need or Necessitous Circumstances**

**Apply: Welfare Officer – ANZAC House**

