

AUSTRALIA



DAY 2007

## RSL ANNUAL AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS

*Each year the RSL presents Australia Day Medallions to worthy individuals and organizations that have contributed to Australian Society and to the RSL. The Awards are nation wide and made available through the Australia Day Council.*

### INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

**CPL David Scott** –  
Australian Army Band

Cpl Scott has played the bugle calls for RSL Services for many years. He has attended funerals on request and readily assisted families who sought a dignified service for a deceased veteran.

**Mr Alan Barnes** –  
President, Katanning Sub Branch RSL

Alan has provided leadership at the Sub Branch that has seen its profile raised in the town and district. He is passionate in the promotion of the values and ideals of the RSL and with his enthusiasm – making a difference.

### GROUP AWARDS

#### **Busselton Sub Branch RSL**

Busselton Sub Branch RSL has firmly established itself as a vibrant community organization in the growing town of Busselton. The Sub Branch has sought initiatives that will enhance the profile of the veteran community while maintaining sharp focus on the core business of the RSL.

#### **Australian Service Cadets**

Australian Navy Cadets  
Australian Army Cadets  
Australian Air Force Cadets

The Service Cadet movement in Western Australia moves from strength to strength as it provides leadership and

training to our youth. Dedicated adult leaders, many of whom are volunteers give freely of their time to ensure a high level of training is given to our younger generation. RSL is totally supportive of their endeavours and this Award is given to each of the Services in recognition of that commitment

### HONORARY MEMBERSHIP OF RSL

The following members of RSL Retirement & Aged Care Association (Inc) Management Committee are awarded Honorary Membership for the duration of their appointment to the Committee.

Mr Ian Ainsworth  
Mr Chris Elieff  
Mr Victor Van Dyken  
Mr John Hammond

The expertise they bring to RACA is valued and a great contribution to the success of RSL Care

### CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

*Awarded by RSL National Headquarters*

#### **Mr Shane Seers OAM JP**

Awarded for service to the RSL as State Secretary 1998 - 2007

*Awarded by RSL WA Headquarters*

#### **Mr Geoff Dunne**

Awarded for service to the RSL as Assistant State Secretary

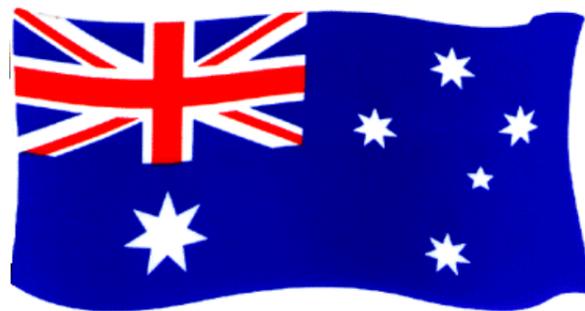
## AUSTRALIA DAY HONOURS

The RSL is pleased to acknowledge the recipient of Australia Day 2007 Awards

Mr Michael Annett CSC – CEO Victoria State Branch  
Mr John Spencer OAM – State Secretary South Australian State Branch

Mr Doug Arrowsmith DFC OAM  
Mr Keith Hayes OAM  
Mr Jim Richardson OAM

The above recipients have given outstanding service to the Veteran Community



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF  
AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

The Sub-Branch Signal

February 2007

# THE SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

Welcome to 2007. I trust you all had a Merry Christmas and will now be looking forward to a Happy and Prosperous New Year. From an RSL perspective it appears as though we are in for a challenging time as we attempt to realize the many objectives we have set for ourselves.

Being an election year we can anticipate some intense lobbying for entitlements and benefits that will result in a quality of lifestyle that is well and truly deserved. The recently issued list of RSL priorities for inclusion in the forthcoming Federal Budget will become the focal point for the League to drive home to our political representatives that there are many shortcomings in dealing with the special needs of veterans. In this lobbying process I strongly urge RSL Members and ESO Members to be united in our approach to government for benefits as, should disunity be detected, you can be sure it will count against us.

On the local scene we will be taking steps to appoint a new State Secretary. As advised, Shane Seers, after eight and a half years of loyal and dedicated service has decided to leave us for a senior managerial position in the North West. We wish Shane and Vivienne well as they take their 'sea change' and start a new phase in their lives. I am assured that they will both be active in RSL for years to come and that Newman Sub-Branch will have unprecedented expertise right on their doorstep.

As an interim measure Ian Griffiths has been appointed to fill the vacancy and has already taken up position. Ian, the recently retired WOD from RAAF Pearce, is well placed to assume the duties of State Secretary and will be an asset to us as we undertake our responsibilities at the local level.

A working committee is currently reviewing the job description for the State Secretary. Much has changed in the administration of the State Branch since Shane's appointment and it was decided to completely review the responsibilities assigned to the position. This will include prime areas of responsibility and appropriate remuneration. We hope to advertise the position in mid-February with the successful applicant commencing duties in early May.

An analysis of our 2006 Membership Statistics shows a modest growth in new members. While we are beginning to see the passing of our Second World War Veterans new entrants are just matching that deficit. Contrary to some claims that members are 'resigning in droves' there is absolutely no evidence to support that claim. It is also pleasing to note the rejoins and the growth in Affiliates. Thanks go to Sub-Branch Membership Officers for their work in recruiting and encouraging veterans to join the RSL. An interesting statistic from our National Headquarters: The membership of the RSL is made up of just over one-third of eligible veterans. This is the greatest percentage number of any other voluntary organization in Australia.

Finally, in the wake of the January storm that devastated the Esperance Region,

#### **ANZAC HOUSE**

28 St George's Tce, Perth  
PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Tce WA 6832  
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au  
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au

#### **RECEPTION**

Monday to Friday - general enquiries

#### **OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR**

Monday to Friday - PA to  
State President & State Secretary,  
Listening Post  
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

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

#### **WELFARE**

Monday to Friday - welfare applications, emergency housing, food & lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust Fund applications. Overseas pensions  
Email: welfare@rslwahq.org.au

#### **ADVOCACY**

Monday to Friday - S31 reviews, Veteran Review Board,  
Admin Appeals Tribunal  
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au

#### **FINANCE**

Monday to Friday - all account enquiries, Sub-Branch credits  
Email: accounts@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9287 3706

Sub-Branch Insurance, information, claims, grant application assistance, DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)

#### **PENSIONS**

Monday to Friday - pension entitlements, claims preparation  
Email: pensions3@rslwahq.org.au

#### **ANZAC CLUB**

Monday to Friday - facilities bookings, catering/hospitality  
Email: anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au



### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

#### AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2006

Service Members	10,455
Affiliates	1,888

### HQ POSTAL ADDRESS

RSL WA Branch  
PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Tce WA 6832

#### Appointment of Development Officer

Following the identification of a need to have a volunteer officer to assist the State Secretary in dealing with developmental matters at Sub Branch level, former State senior vice-president Doug Rasmussen has offered to work in that area. We are currently in a growth phase with requests to form two new Sub Branches currently being considered and it is envisaged that Doug will have a key role in supporting them in their formative years.

#### Appointment of Assistant State Secretary - Administration

For health reasons Bluey Dunne has decided to relinquish the administration position he has held at State Branch since 1999. His support of the office staff and State Secretary has been valued as has been the many other tasks he performed. His support of the RSL and of the veteran community will long be remembered. We wish Bluey well and a speedy return to good health. Denis Connolly has kindly agreed to take up the reins from Bluey.

#### Hitchhikers Goes South

State Branch will present all segments of the Sub Branch Administration Training Modules at the Albany Sub Branch on Saturday/Sunday 26 & 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2007. Full details, including Registration Forms, will be sent to Sub Branches in the Great Southern shortly.

#### Communication with State Headquarters

Sub Branches are asked to remind their members that the first point of contact on RSL matters is the Sub Branch. Routine matters sent to headquarters will, in future be redirected to the Sub Branch for action. Please also be advised that under no circumstances will members receive a response to e-mail traffic. We are not able to resource a system that encourages people to jump the queue and be in front of people or Sub Branches that submit written requests for information. Sub Branches and members who supported our system in the recent ANZAC Day Parade issue are offered our appreciation for that support.

#### ANZAC Day Parade 2007

I refer you to my communication in late December on the subject of the 2007 ANZAC Day format. Since that issue, SAS Association has made written application, together with six other groups, to be considered for a position at the lead of the Parade. These applications will be dealt with at the next meeting of the Unit & Kindred Organizations to be held in February to determine who, if any lead the parade.

#### RSL Awards

Nomination from Sub Branches for Life Membership and Meritorious Medal Awards will close on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2007. Please refer to the Nomination Form and the State Constitution and By Laws for the Application procedure. **Late Applications will not be considered.**

#### State Congress 2007

Sub Branches are advised that Annual Congress is to be held on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007. Please plan for your Delegation to be in attendance on both days and at the Congress Dinner on the Saturday night. We have reviewed the quota-

tions from various venues and advise that **Congress 2007 will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Irwin St, Perth** We are currently negotiating an accommodation package with the hotel and other venues that is value for money. To further contain costs, the Congress Dinner and other hospitality activities will be held at ANZAC House.

#### Gunfire Breakfast - Grant

Just a final reminder that Applications for Funding from Celebrate WA to assist you to host a Gunfire Breakfast following local ANZAC Day Services will close on 16<sup>th</sup> February, 2007. To date the response has not met expectations. The money has been sourced to promote ANZAC Day and it would be a pity to see the future funding jeopardised through lack of interest from RSL and local communities. In other words - apply now and support those who have gone into 'bat' for you.

#### Annual General Meetings

Sub-Branches are reminded that their Annual General Meeting should be held in the period 1st July to 31st October in each year, at a time when their annual financial reports are available for consideration by the membership. It is not necessary to hold an AGM or elections prior to that date.

#### Membership Renewals

Thanks to those members who have been prompt in renewing their membership for 2007. Kathy, our membership officer is working through renewals and capitation forms as fast as possible with preference being given to groups who renew through their Sub Branch. We have received favourable comment on the new Membership Cards and remind members that significant discounts can be obtained through **Westclub** who have generously sponsored our Card System.

#### Associations Incorporation Act - 1987

The State Government has released a draft document on a rewrite of the above Act. The new Bill, if adopted will have some impact on how the RSL operates with its Sub Branch network. The main impact will be on Sub Branch relationships with their Incorporated Clubs. I would strongly advise Sub Branches to obtain a copy of the proposed Bill - available from DOCEP Website - and become familiar with the direction the government is taking Incorporated entities.

#### ANZAC Club

In compliance with the Liquor Licensing Act, the State Executive of RSL WA Branch, the Licensee, has approved the appointment of Matthew Holyday as Approved Manager of the ANZAC Club.

#### Shane's Final Notes

As previously advised I have resigned as the State Secretary of the RSL WA Branch.

Making the final decision to call it a day has been very difficult and at the same time very rewarding, in that I have received much feedback and well wishes for both Vivienne and I in our next life challenges - and there will be many.

After some eight and a half years, I needed to look at my medium to long term future prospects, and what I needed and wanted for my family and myself.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the RSL, and my involvement in the wider ex-service community I have achieved a great deal of job and personal satisfaction over the years. As I near 50, now is the right time for a "sea change" or in my case, a "desert change" as I head off to Newman.

I would like to thank all sub-branches for their support over the years and wish all good health and good fortune for the future.

**MARK YOUR DIARY**  
**SUB BRANCH EXECUTIVE**  
**MEETING**  
**TUESDAY**  
**27TH FEBRUARY 2007**  
**GALLIPOLI ROOM,**  
**ANZAC HOUSE,**  
**09:30 TO 12:30**

#### ANZAC Small Grants

Application Forms are included with this issue of Sub Branch Signal. Please read the Information Sheet carefully as it clearly explains the funding available and the cut off dated for each round of applications. The use of grant money has been widened and many more initiatives can be covered.

#### TS PERTH - Dinner Saturday 24 March 2007

It will be a great night of fun and dancing with a big band. For those that have not heard the Royal Australian Navy Band they are very versatile including Rock and Roll and they are true entertainers. So get a table together and join us. Why not get a hold of your friends and family and treat them to a memorable evening.

Tickets are only \$45.00 each with Bar prices well below any pub or club. Your \$45.00 includes a buffet style dinner which will all take place at Leeuwin Barracks in East Fremantle.

Dress : Mess undress, Lounge suit, Ladies after 5 wear.

We would love to see and your guests. Can you please indicate your intentions so we can plan catering etc.

Contact: Andrew Carlson, Lieutenant ANC, CO, TS PERTH, Mob: 0448539449

andrew.carlson@cadetnet.gov.au

#### National Service Reunion

RAAF, PEARCE, 6<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> INTAKES JANUARY 1954

A 'Nashos' reunion Lunch will be held at the Mt. Henry Tavern, 27 Manning Road, Como on

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2007, (long weekend holiday) from 12.00 to 3.00 pm.**

For further enquiries contact:

Kevin Marshall (6<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Intakes) 9309 5464

Barry Gatti (9<sup>th</sup> Intake) 9450 2232

The National Service & Australian Defence Medals may be worn if so desired.

#### ANZAC Day Choral Group

UPL8 (pronounced "Up Late") is a group of eight acappella singers from the inner-north and western suburbs. They have a repertory of songs suitable for an ANZAC Day Service including

- \* a really lovely choral arrangement of **The Ode**
- \* choral arrangement of **Largo** from the New World Symphony by Dvorak (as made relevant by the story of the nurses from the film Paradise Road)
- \* **Advance Australia Fair**
- \* **I Am Australian**
- \* **Waltzing Matilda**
- \* **And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda**
- \* **Willie McBride**

If anyone would like to engage us for an ANZAC Service, or for more information please contact Colleen Dixon 9461 3111 or A/H 041 382 0079



#### President's Golf Trophy

**Sharpen up your golfing skills!!!**

The President's Trophy will be contested at Burswood Golf Complex on Wednesday 13 June 2007. Mark this date in your diary now! Full details in later issues of Sub Branch Signal.

For further enquiries Doug Rasmussen is point of contact on 9287 3799

## **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**State Congress 2007—Saturday 30th June, Sunday 1st July**  
**Mercure Hotel, Irwin Street, Perth**  
**Details to follow**