



## COMMENTS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

### Advocacy – Our Approach to Government

We will maintain our approach of presenting forceful, cogent and well researched proposals to Government. The comprehensive Annual Budget Submission format will continue to be the principal vehicle for advising Government and other parties of our major veterans' affairs proposals underpinning our priority issues with a clear philosophy of need.

It is important that resolutions brought forward by sub-branches through State to National Congress be grammatically sound, clear in intent, and supported by a comprehensive rationale. Debate at each Congress should draw out any divergence of views to enhance the quality of the resolution.

There is a clear need at the National Headquarters for a research capacity to better progress a range of issues in meeting member expectations. Already, it is noted some assistance has been offered by States to support the staff to provide this capacity.

Our National Veterans' Affairs Standing Policy should be regularly reviewed to ensure that it provides the contemporary underpinning of specific proposals contained in the Annual Budget Submission.

### Managing the Election Year

As 2007 will see a Federal election, it is proposed to make a formal submission to all major parties of the Federal Parliament, seeking their response to issues affecting the veteran community. The submission will, in due course, be on the website and the National President will make reference to it at all opportunities.

The RSL will also work with other ex-service organisations on any combined submission that the collective ESOs may wish to make. However, this will not replace the need for a stand-alone RSL submission.

The National Executive will conduct other activities to support its representations during election year.

### GOVERNMENT HOUSE OPEN DAY

Sunday 29th April 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.  
Special Performance by the British Army Band  
**ENTRY IS FREE**

### Relationships with Other ESOs

The RSL will continue its practice of cooperating with other ESOs and not engaging in public criticism of them. However, the RSL will continue to present itself as a leading ESO and be seen by veterans as the ESO of choice.

The RSL will make its own views known and its own representations on behalf of its members while appreciating and possibly reinforcing the views of others. Where a partnership approach is appropriate, the RSL will clearly indicate this to its wider membership and in the course of any approaches made to Government.

The RSL is positioned to accept other ESOs which may wish to discontinue their stand alone operations. Scope exists to establish specialist sub-branches within the structure of the League.

### President's Cup Golf Day

The President's Trophy will be contested at Burswood Golf Complex on Wednesday 13 June 2007. The inaugural Presidents Cup was contested in 2005 with a very strong field of RSL members and their guests.



Sub-Branches are encouraged to participate in this day to represent their sub-branch, and the RSL. The camaraderie at this event is very reflective of the RSL and one of its prime objectives to provide services and support to veterans.

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

### ANZAC CLUB

#### OPENS FRIDAY AFTERNOONS

The ANZAC Club invites you to relax after work on Friday afternoons from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Cold beer, good service, great hospitality!

**Why not join us?**



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF  
AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

The Sub-Branch Signal

May 2007

# THE SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

DOING BUSINESS  
WITH RSL  
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

#### ANZAC HOUSE

28 St George's Terrace, Perth  
PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Terrace 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,  
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au  
Tel: 9287 3799

#### 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  
Tel: 9287 3708

#### FINANCE

Monday to Friday - all account enquiries, Sub-Branch credits  
Email: accounts@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: 9370 0200  
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  
Tel: 9287 3709, 9287 3710

#### ANZAC CLUB

Monday to Friday - facilities bookings, catering/hospitality  
Email: anzac-club@rslwahq.org.au  
Tel: (08) 9287 3714

## PRESIDENT'S PEN

### The Sub Branch Signal

Recent events concerning communication of matters from State Branch to Sub Branches prompt me to remind Sub Branches that *The Sub Branch Signal* is the official communication link for dissemination of information throughout the League in Western Australia. It is therefore essential that the information sent out is communicated to all members at monthly meetings or selectively repeated in your own newsletters. As a further communication strategy, much of the contents of *The Sub Branch Signal* also appears in *The Listening Post*.

At State Headquarters we must therefore assume that if the matter has been presented in *The Sub Branch Signal* it has been communicated to members who are active in Sub Branch affairs.

### ANZAC Day 2007

Many thanks to all Sub Branches and local communities that organised 2007 ANZAC Day Services. From reports received the public turned out in force to honour our fallen servicemen and women and show support for our troops who are currently on deployment. It was also pleasing to hear from Schools who have contacted us to express appreciation for the support offered by local Sub Branches. Thanks to everyone for the professional manner in which you carried out your presentations.

### State Congress 2007

With ANZAC Day over it is now time to focus on Annual Congress. By mid-May you will be supplied with the Congress Agenda and other Reports. Please consider all material presented and be informed of the issues prior to your delegates attendance at the working sessions. I also remind Sub Branches that your Congress Returns should be lodged with headquarters as soon as possible. And as a reminder, we hope to see as many as possible at the Congress Dinner.

### ANZAC Small Grants Allocation

The first round of applications has been considered and shortly applicants will be advised of their success or otherwise. Some \$300 000 was allocated and accounted for a spread over all stated criteria. In the response letter you will be advised of reasons for any variation from the amount requested.

Should you have not been successful you may reapply in the next round after consideration of any feedback provided. The next round will be called for in July with a closing date sometime in late September.

### CEO/State Secretary

I am pleased to advise the membership that Mr Ian Griffiths has been appointed as the new CEO/State Secretary of the RSL in WA. Mr Griffiths was selected from a strong field of applicants and with his service background and experience I am certain he will serve the League well.

## WELFARE REVIEW 2007

### CLOSURE OF CYPRESS COTTAGE MAYLANDS

At its meeting in March of the State Executive, it was decided to accept a recommendation to close Cypress Cottage.

The decision to close Cypress Cottage was a recommendation of the Welfare Review Committee, which was given responsibility to review all aspects of welfare delivered by the RSL in WA.

Accordingly the closure of Cypress Cottage will be undertaken in conjunction with Homes West from whom the house is leased. This closure will mean that any emergency accommodation that was available at Cypress Cottage will no longer be possible after 30 April 2007. If you have an entitlement to access temporary accommodation through the Department of Veterans' Affairs in WA for medical treatment or other reasons, your first point of contact should be with the Department on 133 254 or toll free 1800 555 254.

However, if you have no entitlement, the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House will be able to put you in touch with other providers who do provide accommodation of an emergency nature and are better equipped to provide this service than the RSL, given the expertise of the alternative providers.

The RSL in WA has an obligation to provide services to the maximum number of veterans and ex-service personnel, with limited resources and this decision to close Cypress Cottage will now free up those resources which can be directed to other services that will benefit a wider range of people.

### REVIEW OF WELFARE AND PENSION OFFICERS

Currently the Veterans' Affairs Committee in conjunction with the State TIP Committee is reviewing all persons who have undertaken a Welfare or Pension Officers course under the auspices of TIP. This has become necessary to ensure that every person who undertakes these roles is aware of changes in practices and procedures as well as legislative changes that have occurred in the area of Veterans' Legislation.

It is also required to ensure that those people who are Advocates have the necessary insurance cover when advising veterans and ex-service persons, so that if litigation is taken by a person then any cost incurred in defending the action can be met by the insurance coverage. Unfortunately, given community expectations when seeking advice or assistance of any kind from an organization such as the RSL, we must be able to provide the very best and latest information possible. We cannot any longer depend on a person having undertaken a course some years ago without regular updating of their knowledge and skills.

Please ensure that if you are a person undertaking Welfare or Pension Officer duties in your Sub-Branch and you have not undertaken a refresher course in the past three years through TIP, then contact ANZAC House to arrange for you to attend a refresher course.

**Ray Ward, Chairman**  
**WA Veterans' Affairs Committee**

### MEMBERSHIP & YOUTH COMMITTEE REPORT

The Air Force winner of the 2006 Cadet Efficiency Trophy was City of Albany 705 Squadron for the second year in a row. Well done Albany. The Perpetual Trophy, commemorative plaque and a cheque for \$1,000.00 was presented by Mr Graeme Sherriff, Vice President of the State RSL and Mr Frank Carville from Defence Credit Union during the Australian Air Force Cadets Graduation Parade held at the RAAF Base, Pearce, on Tuesday 23 January 2007. It was a most impressive parade. Many proud parents and friends were present to view the parade and presentation of awards.

The 2007 programme for the National "RSL Spirit of ANZAC" Award has been planned for this year and nominations will be forwarded to each Service in May.

The Community Youth & Education Display Unit is still in the process of having shelving installed for the display of medals and memorabilia. Bookings will be taken as soon as the complete refurbishment has finished. The delay was a bit longer than the committee anticipated but I am sure members will be very happy with the trailer when they see the finished result.

**Olga Greig OAM, Chairman**

### MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

**AS AT 27 MARCH 2007**

Service Members	8,000
Affiliates	851



### HQ POSTAL ADDRESS

RSL WA Branch  
PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### *ANZAC Small Grants - 2007*

The first round of grants for the above scheme closed on 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2007 and successful applicants will be announced by media release on ANZAC Day. The first round will account for \$250k of the \$1m allocation from the government. Applications for the second round will be called for mid-year and successful applicants will be advised again by media release on Remembrance Day. Funds available in this round will be \$500k. Applicants who were not successful in the first round are welcome to resubmit their submission in the second round.

### *Celebrate WA Grant*

Applicants for grants to assist in the conduct of a Gunfire Breakfast following ANZAC Day Services have been advised of the result of the submission. We have had several comments from Sub-Branches who failed to secure funding, and in follow up to their comments it should be noted that the intent of the funding was to encourage community participation in the activity and preference for funding took this criteria into consideration. If the funding is available in future years then it is suggested that future submissions take this into account.

### *Marketing/Membership Survey*

As a follow-up to last year's Curtin University Research Project a selected sample of the membership will be asked to complete a new survey to enable researchers to make comparisons of material gained from last year's contact. I urge members who receive a request for comment to participate by providing appropriate responses. The information gathered from these surveys is vital in planning the future direction of the League.

### *Hitchikers Go Bush*

With this issue of The Sub-Branch Signal is an application form for Sub-Branches in the Great Southern Region to attend a two day training course in Sub-Branch Administration. The presentations are based on the highly successful courses conducted in Perth in 2006. The presentations will be held at the Albany Sub-Branch on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May, and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 from 9.00am to 3.00pm each day. The days will be so planned to allow Sub-Branch members to discuss local issues with representatives from State-Branch on matters of particular concern to them. Please support this initiative of our 'outreach program' as we wish to enhance the service we offer our country membership.

### *Kokoda Track Memorial*

The much anticipated unveiling and dedication of the A.W. Potts Kokoda Track Memorial will take place at Kojonup on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2007 at 2.00pm. The Governor-General Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd) will officiate and has expressed a desire to meet as many people as possible on this very important occasion. Veterans, RSL Members and the wider community are invited to attend and honour a great Australian Soldier.

### *Accreditation of Pension/Welfare Officers*

Thanks to Sub-Branches that have provided the information on their Pension/Welfare Officers. The provision of this information is vital and if not offered without delay will result in the Officer practicing without insurance. Please do not compromise our volunteers by not submitting the requested information.