



Media Release

Veteran Health

Seventy seven community projects across Australia will receive an average of more than \$10,000 each to improve veteran health and independence, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced today.

Mr. Griffin said the total grant allocation of \$829,476 demonstrated the Rudd Government's commitment to supporting organisations dedicated to caring for veterans and their dependants.

"The Veteran & Community Grants program provides seed funding to local and community organizations for projects that directly support local veteran communities," Mr. Griffin said.

"It is important that veterans have access to a range of programs that teach them skills to help them remain independent and active, particularly for the elderly living by themselves.

"Today's funding supports a range of projects to encourage veterans to learn new life skills including Cooking for One or Two programs, healthy living and computer skills courses.

"Veteran & Community Grants also help fund local initiatives that improve access to community care services and encourage social interaction through Day Clubs, Men's Sheds and social excursions," the Minister said.

Mr Griffin said hundreds of local and community organisations had benefited from more than \$1.5 million in funding through grants programs since the Federal election last year.

Mr Griffin encouraged local and community organisations interested in applying for funding to visit www.dva.gov.au/health/grants or contact their nearest DVA office on 133 254 (for metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (for non-metropolitan callers).

Veteran & Community Grant WA Recipients

- * The Beverley RSL Sub-branch will receive a grant of \$14,931 to help install an air conditioning system and purchase furniture for the sub-branch.
- * The York RSL Sub-branch will receive a grant of \$9253 to help purchase furniture for the sub-branch.
- * The West Australian RSL Bowls Section will receive a grant of \$17,312 to help the members attend and compete in the 42nd National RSL Lawn Bowls Carnival in Perth in December 2008.
- * Pinjarra RSL Sub-branch will receive a grant of \$14,289 to help purchase furniture for the sub-branch.

90th Anniversary Subiaco Sub Branch

Congratulations to the Subiaco Sub Branch for having reached the significant milestone on the 16th of May 2008.

To celebrate this significant achievement a lunch was held with almost the entire Sub Branch membership in attendance with their wives and partners. Both Patrons in Ms Sue Walker MLA Member for Nedlands and Mrs Heather Henderson Mayor of Subiaco attended and spoke highly of the work undertaken by the members over many years of service to the community. A wonderful memento of the event was also produced providing a brief history of the Sub Branch including the citation for the Victoria Cross awarded to Clifford William King Sadlier who was the first President of the Sub Branch. Members of the Sadlier family along with members of the Stokes family were in attendance neither of whom had met before. Stokes was a DCM winner and was with Sadlier during the action that saw Sadlier cited for his VC.

A wonderful history that was commemorated in a most appropriate manner.

DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL

8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

ANZAC HOUSE

28 St George's Tce, Perth
PO Box 3023,
Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au
Email: rslwahq@inet.net.au
Tel: 9287 3799
Fax: 9287 3732

RECEPTION

Monday to Friday - general enquiries
Email: reception1@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3799

OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

Monday to Friday - PA to State President & State Secretary,
Listening Post
Email: rslwahq@inet.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 applications, emergency housing, food & lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust Fund applications. Overseas pensions
Email: welfare@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3707

ADVOCACY

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

FINANCE

Monday to Wednesday - 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)
Email: State.Acc@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3703

PENSIONS

Monday to Friday - pension entitlements, claims preparation
Email: pensions1@rslwahq.org.au
Pensions2@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3709
9287 3710, 9287 3711

ANZAC CLUB

Monday to Friday - facilities bookings, catering/hospitality
Email: anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3724

PRESIDENT'S PEN

ANZAC DAY

What turned out to be a beautiful sunny and warm day again saw the public turn out for the 2008 ANZAC Day in an atmosphere of reverence for the Dawn Service and many thousands cheered the contingents that took part in the march through Perth City.

Reports from Sub branches both in the country and metro areas indicated strong support for the Dawn services conducted in the respective communities and the opportunity to provide a "Gunfire Breakfast" following the Dawn Service indicates that our communities are not only aware of our commitment to the ongoing desire to commemorate this most important day and the events, but the public too are appreciative of the RSL here in WA making sure that the day is appropriately acknowledged.

The ability to apply for the grant to conduct the "gunfire breakfasts" is most important to all RSL Sub branches and it ensures that everyone who wishes to is able to participate not only in the ceremonial side of the day, but to also join with the veterans and make it special for them by sharing their day in a social way as well.

All Sub branches should now be aware of the grant and the conditions that go with it and so in your planning for 2009 ANZAC Day please make sure your community has the opportunity to join with you in what is becoming an integral part of the commemoration activities.

AMELIORATION RETURNS

Thank you to all those Sub Branches that made the effort to ensure the RSL Trustees who requested details with regard to your Amelioration Accounts were forwarded to ANZAC House. There are still some outstanding returns and reminders have been forwarded to those Sub branches concerned. As all members can appreciate welfare is the corner stone of our existence and is of utmost importance when it comes to assisting our members and veterans and their families. It is most important that we have this information so if we cannot provide welfare from ANZAC house then we know that your Sub Branch has the capacity to meet any request for assistance. It also ensures that when we seek funds from the public or government by way of grants than we can provide relevant information at the time.

PETITION- PROTECTING THE AUSTRALIAN FLAG

RSL National Office has advised that Senator Guy Barnett. Senator for Tasmania has introduced into Parliament the Flags (Protection of Australian Flags) Amendment Bill 2008. He now seeks widespread community support to this Bill, bearing in mind it is a Private Members Bill and does not necessarily yet have his own Party support.

Sub Branches are invited to circulate copies of the petition format to your members in your Sub Branch and on completion ensure that the petition forms are returned to WA Headquarters, or to the Senator directly at his address located on the bottom of the Petition form. There is also a website www.guybarnett.com where you can learn more about the petition.

In the past there have been a number of attempts to have the Australian Flag protected by legislation with motions being put to State Congress for adoption. Unfortunately these have not been successful due to the previous government not willing to consider this legislation necessary.

Note: Copies of the petition are available from ANZAC House. Please contact them on 9287 3799 for a copy.



RESIGNATION OF STATE SECRETARY

It is with regret the State Executive has accepted the resignation of Mr Ian Griffiths from the position of State Secretary with immediate effect. Ian had only just returned from the Middle East on deployment in his capacity as a member of the RAAF Reserves on full time duty. On his return and having spent only a short period as the State Secretary, Ian was offered a full time position in the RAAF Reserves which he has chosen to accept. Although Ian overall spent only a short period as State Secretary he did make a valuable contribution to the overall operations of ANZAC House, his relationships with Sub Branches and the community generally were of a high standard.

The State Executive would like to wish Ian all the very best for his future and to thank him sincerely for his time as State Secretary.

Efforts are now being made to recruit a new State Secretary and whilst this is occurring Mr Gary Sutherland who has acted as State Secretary during Ian's absence overseas will continue in the position in a voluntary capacity.

STATE CONGRESS AGENDA

Sub Branches will soon be receiving their copies of the Agenda and motions that will be put to State Congress on 28 and 29 June 2008. Sub Branch delegates and members are encouraged to debate these motions and ensure that what is being put to Congress is understood by members and the implications these changes will have on the operations of the RSL in this state and nationally.

OPENING OF AGED CARE FACILITY MENORA

On Friday 27th June 2008 at 1530 the recently completed Aged Care facility at 51 Alexander Drive Menora, will be opened by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, The Honorable Mr Alan Griffin. A number of VIP's will be attending this official opening. Our new facility will enable RSL Care WA to increase the number of residents in care from 100 to 176 in total. Once all the existing residents are transferred to the new facility the older style cluster houses will be demolished and the area redeveloped for further independent living. Those members attending State Congress will shortly receive invitations to attend the official opening.

SUB BRANCH INFORMATION UPDATE

You will find enclosed with this edition of the Sub Branch Signal a form which requests updated information with regard to your Sub Branch and the details of your office bearers. This information is important to the State Branch so ensuring our records are accurate and relevant. With this information we are able to contact your Sub Branch on any given occasion or issue in a timely manner and also ensures any correspondence gets to the right people so if need be can be acted upon.

MERCHANDISE

Also included with this months Signal is our new Merchandise Catalogue as well as an order form. We have some new stock, as well as some old favourites. To place an order please contact ANZAC House. Sub-Branches will be charged for sales.

Ray Ward

CADET OF THE YEAR TRIP TO CANBERRA

The three Western Australian cadets who won the RSL "Spirit of ANZAC" Cadet of the Year Award in 2007 visited Canberra from the 11 May until the 16 May. They were accompanied by Captain Anita Waters, an Army Cadet Instructor, and Olga Greig as the RSL Representative. They had a wonderful five days visiting RMC, ADFA, the National War Memorial, Parliament Houses, both old and new, the High Court and various other places. The highlight of the trip was being asked to carry the banner for the Armoured Corps Association at the Service for the 40th Anniversary Commemoration of the Battles of Coral & Balmoral.

The committee would like to thank the many sub-branches/associations who have made donations to the cadet programme over the years. The latest donations have been received from the Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch, Mt Lawley RSL Sub-Branch, WRAAF Association WA and Tom's Small Boat Training. Bookings for the Community Youth & Education Display Unit can be made by phoning Chris Campbell on 0409370548. A deposit for \$300.00 from the sub-branch will be required at ANZAC House two weeks before the pick-up date. This amount will be refunded on return of the unit in good condition.

Olga Greig OAM
Chairman

RSL Corporate Golf Day

The Annual RSL Corporate Golf Day and President's Cup is to be held at Meadow Springs Golf Course Mandurah on Thursday the 24th July, 2008.

One of RSL's major supporters – BGC – will host the event

Please reserve that date and encourage your Sub Branch to participate.

Full details and nomination forms were issued with the last edition of the Sub-Branch Signal.



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

AS AT 29 MAY 2008

Service Members 8,560

Affiliates: 1,366 Total: 9,926



HQ POSTAL ADDRESS

RSL WA Branch

PO Box 3023

Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832

VETERANS HOME CARE PROGRAMME (VHC)

At the May meeting of the RSL Western Australian Veterans Affairs Committee a briefing was given by Mrs Karen Milligan of the Department of Veterans Affairs. A summary of this briefing is provided as assistance to Sub Branch members and may assist you in understanding a little more about this very important programme.

VHC was introduced in 2001 and the budget for this is a fixed amount. In Western Australia this equates to \$10 million per annum and the State is divided into regions and is based on where veterans are living.

Domestic Assistance is the service sought by eligible veterans and widows with 98% of those eligible seeking this form of help. Domestic assistance usually covers vacuuming, cleaning of the shower, bathroom and toilets. It is not usual for dusting to be done as it is hoped that the veteran still has the physical ability to undertake this task in their own time and pace. Any domestic assistance is assessed before any work commences. The average time available for each veteran is 1.5 hours per fortnight and a financial contribution by the veteran is \$5 per hour but is capped at that amount.

Another important element is personal care and this usually is 1.5 hours per week although if more hours are needed then a referral is made to community nursing to establish what extra services or time is required to meet the needs of the veteran. Again a financial contribution is made by the veteran for this service but no more than \$10 per week is required to be paid by the individual.

Where respite care is necessary a separate assessment will be undertaken with no charge being incurred by the veteran for this care. This is usually capped at 196 hours per annum.

Although Home and Garden maintenance is part of the programme and is possibly the one service that a number of veterans and widows desire most this too has its limitations due to the number of hours available. If home and garden maintenance is requested then this can only cover the work to keep the home in a safe and healthy condition. It can include the cleaning of gutters or the pruning of trees and shrubs where these can be a hazard. A contribution of \$5 per hour is required to be paid by the veteran and any garden and maintenance work cannot be undertaken by a qualified tradesman.

Given the current employment situation and the nature of the work it is not always possible for the providers of these services to DVA to be able to provide the same person for every visit. This unfortunately means that a veteran or widow will have to appreciate this and be understanding.

A new initiative recently introduced relates to the provision of "Webster Packs" at no cost to the veteran.

Eligibility for these services is available to any "Gold Card" holder or an Australian Veteran holding a "White Card" with disabilities relevant to that card. Age is not a criterion. Where an assessment is required a personal visit can be arranged rather than one being undertaken by telephone so ensuring that the right care is provided at the outset.

Where a veteran needs a higher level of care and incurs a co payment of \$48.50 per week to meet this need then a case manager is appointed in those instances.

If you require any further information or assistance either contact DVA or ANZAC House.

Message from Margot HARNESS

(RSL Welfare Officer):

PLEASE NOTE and HELP TO

PUBLICISE the WA AGED SSA Relief

Fund Trust

ARE YOU, or a veteran/ex-ADF person you know, on a low income? Unable to pay an essential bill or afford something really needed?

HELP may be at hand through the

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

Ring 9287 3707 (ANZAC House) for an Application form to be posted out.

All applications are Strictly Confidential. The Trustees evaluate every application on its merits and financial hardship.