



**THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED**

**Issue 06/2008
Sub-Branch Signal**

THE SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

**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: adminassist@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3799

OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR

Monday to Friday - PA to State Presi-
dent & 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 Thursday - welfare appli-
cations, 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 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 3724

PRESIDENT'S PEN

PRESERVING OUR HISTORY

In a few short years we will be celebrating our centenary. In 1916 veterans returning from the battles of the First World War banded together to form an organization to safeguard promised repatriation rights and secure the welfare needs of their fellow veterans. From that small beginning emerged the largest volunteer organisation the country. That position is still held today as the next generation of veterans work towards the same ideals as were set in place at its foundation. In Western Australia, and indeed the whole of Australia, the development of the RSL parallels the history of the State. Through its sub branch network – a network that had a presence in almost every town, city and village in the State – the Minute Books of sub branches reflect the social, cultural and economic development of the region. Contained in these books is not only the history of the RSL but the history of the development of our State.

Recognizing that the demographics of the State are constantly changing it was determined there was a need to develop strategies to preserve RSL Minute Books and other Records, not only from the State Branch but from the many sub branches that were or are our register. Sub branches form and after a period of time close and we can ill afford to see our written history placed on the rubbish tip or destroyed because no one wants them.

An approach to government with a proposal for funding to preserve our history through an effective record management system resulted in a very sympathetic response and a financial grant of \$107 000 to assist us in such a project.

The funding will allow RSL to employ a research person to search out RSL Records at both State and sub branch level and devise a suitable storage and retrieval system.

Shortly, sub branches will be contacted and asked to fill in a simple survey to enable the research team to assess the extent of the number of such records in existence and their location. When we have that information we can prepare a preservation plan. For your information, State Branch has all its State Executive Minutes dating back to its first meeting in 1916. They are supplemented by minute books of many sub committees formed to address specific issues. This information is priceless and irreplaceable and must be preserved at all costs.

Many of the documents are in a 'fragile' state and expert advice will be needed to ensure the minute books are correctly preserved yet remain accessible for research purposes. This is an exciting project and will be undertaken by experts in their particular fields of record management and archival preservation. We are hoping for an outcome that preserves our history for future generation to see the role RSL played in the development of Western Australia.

Membership Pro-Rata's for July

Fee- \$24 HQ- \$18 S/B- \$6



RSL Care Packages

Australian Defence Force members serving in Baghdad have had a welcome surprise in the mail in the form of care packages from the Returned and Services League (RSL).

Individual boxes – enough for every person – have arrived packed full of edible treats, games and reading material.

The Officer Commanding Australia's Security Detachment in Baghdad (SECDET), Major Ewen Hedges, said the RSL care packages are a huge morale booster for the troops.

"The biggest thing with the care packages is that it means someone at home is thinking of us," Major Hedges said.

"We really appreciate the fact that people have been reaching into their pockets and spending the time and effort to put together these packages.

"We eat a lot of American food over here, and frankly, to get a packet of Allens Snakes or some ANZAC biscuits in the mail really does bring a smile to our faces."

More than 100 soldiers and airmen are serving with SECDET. They are responsible for ensuring protection and mobility for Australia's Embassy staff in Iraq.

PowerPoint Presentation on the Battle of Long Tan

Long Tan vet, Dave Sabben, has produced a 50-slide animated PowerPoint presentation on the Battle at Long Tan.

It can be downloaded free from the net, at <http://www.dave-sabben.com/>

Click on Download LONG TAN PowerPoint presentation.

Dave said:

"The contents are suitable for school teachers & students as well as Viet Vets and others who are just interested. Not to forget serving members of all forces, including those overseas and in Allied forces.

"It's a PC version only (a Mac version may follow, if funded), and runs on PowerPoint version 2003 and later. (Don't try to run it on earlier PowerPoint versions – e.g. 97 – it uses features not available before the 03 version). It's a large – about 5.6Mb – but it's paced to the viewer. May be an hour or more of viewing/study.

"I suggest that you 'save to disk' so you can run it whenever you wish, rather than opening it in PowerPoint? If you download and view it yourself, please feel free to add comments as you pass the message along. May I ask you to ask your contacts to also pass it on as well?"

"It's good to see something worthwhile and free on the Internet – let it ping around the web for a while.

"Cheers to you all, and thanks in anticipation, Dave Sabben."

David Sabben was one of the Platoon Commanders at the Battle of Long Tan in Vietnam in August 1966.

New DVA Mental Health Website launched

About one in five Australians experience a mental health problem at least once in their lives. And it's no different for the veteran and Defence Force Communities.

Deployment, coming home from a war or peace-keeping zone or returning to civilian life may have an effect on mental health and wellbeing. Some have not experienced mental health problems. Others have sought help and recovered. But there are some who continue to experience difficulties. These problems can be identified early, managed and

treated.

Click on the 'At Ease' logo to visit the DVA website.

RSL Scholarships

The RSL Scholarships were introduced in 2006 by the RSL National Trustees. Two scholarships are awarded yearly to children of veterans in necessitous and deserving circumstances while they undertake tertiary education in Australia.

The RSL Scholarships for 2008 were awarded to:

- Ms Melissa Anderson
- Ms Krista McMeeken (From WA)

How to Apply for an RSL Scholarship

This Scholarship is administered by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust Limited, known as AVCAT.

The closing date for applications is 31 October each year for studies commencing the following year.

More information about these Scholarship, including criteria and applications can be found on the AVCAT website at:

<http://www.onmyweb.net/~vvt/index.html> .

Contact details:

AVCAT

PO Box K978

HAYMARKET NSW 1240

Telephone: (02) 9281 7077

Facsimile: (02) 9281 9164

E-mail: vvt@accsoft.com.au

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.



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS**AS AT 26 JUNE 2008**

Service Members: 8, 906

Affiliates: 1, 550 Total: 10, 456

**HQ POSTAL ADDRESS**

RSL WA Branch

PO Box 3023

Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832

Membership Cards

Due to production and distribution problems associated with the proposed three year membership card State Executive has reviewed the whole issue of membership cards and their distribution. We are currently in negotiations with sponsors to ensure the provision of the card, its added on value (by way of member benefits across all members) and its distribution is at no cost to the League, its sub branches or members.

Our aim will possibly be to have an annual card with distribution from State Headquarters following advice from the members sub branch that Annual Subscriptions have been paid. This will be done, as usual, on the Capitation Return.

As for the discounts available to members we are endeavoring to expand the number of outlets offering member discounts to country and regional areas. The system we have is still in its formative stages but, please be aware member support of a business offering discounts will greatly enhance expansion to country locations.

We expect to also be able to offer specific membership cards to life members, and annual cards to Service Members, Affiliates and at a cost recovery, to sub branches to issue to their Social Members. Unit & Kindred Organisation 'Members' will also receive a dedicated annual card.

When details are finalized we will advise 2009 renewal procedures through the *Sub Branch Signal* and *The Listening Post*

Grants

Sadly we have been let down by a small number of Sub Branches that have failed to acquit grants or compile returns when dealing with public monies. Specifically, their failure to account for money granted to them to engage in activities such as Gun-fire Breakfasts and non submission of Returns on collections associated with the ANZAC Day Street Collection and Poppy Day has caused the League severe embarrassment.

State Executive has resolved that this is an unacceptable situation as the creditability of the League is compromised and in future, those Sub Branches which fail to comply with acquittal directives will no longer be able to participate in Grant allocations.

Sub-Branches in default will be reminded of their obligation to comply with statutory requirements.

TAX Ruling

Through the courtesy of the T&PI Association we have been provided with a Private Tax Ruling which answers the question:

Are the fortnightly incapacity payments you receive from the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Service (MCRS) exempt income?

The answer is **YES**.

Should you require further information on this ruling please contact T&PI Federation or the RSL. If this applies to your situation you should consider discussing the matter with your financial advisor.

SPECIAL THANKS

Thank you to all the Sub-Branches who provided the Editor of *The Listening Post* with reports and photographs on their ANZAC Day Activities.

Your contribution enabled us to provide our readers with a snapshot of ANZAC Day throughout Western Australia.

Message from Margot HARNESS**(RSL Welfare Officer):****PLEASE NOTE and HELP TO PUBLICISE***the****WA AGED SSA Relief Fund Trust*****ARE YOU,**

- a veteran/ex-ADF person, 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.



**YOUR NEW STATE EXECUTIVE
2008 – 2011**

State President	William E. (Bill) Gaynor OAM RFD
State Vice President	Graeme Sherriff
Treasurer	Paul Rengel
Director – Veteran Affairs	Ray Ward
Director – Communications	Dilwyn (Digger) Cleak
Director – Membership & Youth	Oliver Lovelle
Director- Corporate Affairs	Ray Galliot
Director – Defence & Conditions of Service	Charles Lammers
Director – Marketing	Vacant
<u>Regional Representatives</u>	
Kimberley & Pilbara	Vacant
Mid West	Ross Davies
Avon	Donna Prytulak
Esperance & Goldfields	Arthur Rae
Upper South West	Ken Parish
Lower South West	Vacant
Great Southern	Vacant

Trustees

Don Blair RFD ED, Wayne Tarr RFD ED, Kevin Trent RFD & John Cox OAM JP
(Vacant – 1 position)



**PURSLOWE
FUNERALS**

gently guiding you through.

“At dad’s funeral mum asked for
a bugler.

No problems they said.”

Proudly supporting the RSL in Western Australia.
25% off professional fees for RSL members and their spouses

MIDLAND	9274 3866
NORTH PERTH	9444 4835
SOUTH FREMANTLE	9335 4111
VICTORIA PARK	9361 1185
WANGARA	9409 9119

All areas. Prepaid funerals available. Australian owned.
24 hours every day. www.purslowefunerals.com.au