



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@iinet.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
President & State Secretary,
Listening Post
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 Thursday - welfare appli-
cations, emergency housing, food &
lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust
Fund applications. Overseas pen-
sions
Email: welfare@rslwahq.org.au

ADVOCACY

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

FINANCE

Monday to Wednesday - all account
enquiries, Sub-Branch credits
Sub-Branch Insurance, information,
claims, grant application assistance,
DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)
Email: judys@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 3714

PRESIDENT'S PEN

With the 2008 Annual Congress behind us I am delighted to acknowledge the feedback we have received from delegates and observers who have indicated it as one of the best conducted Congress in recent years. From the quality of the various speakers, the topics debated, the Annual Congress Dinner and of course the organisational aspects of logistics and administration we are encouraged to have drawn such positive comment and congratulations. We appear to have fine-tuned the operational side of conducting Congress and this has provided us with a solid benchmark for the future. I make special mention of the ANZAC House staff who worked hard to draw it all together – especially the ANZAC Club team who extended unequalled catering and hospitality services to all throughout the Congress.

We will do it all again at the 2009 Congress to be held on 27 - 28 June, 2009. Please mark this in your diaries!!

State Executive Vacancies Filled

In accordance with Constitutional requirements State Executive have filled vacancies not filled at the Declaration of the Poll. I am pleased to welcome the following members to the State Executive:

Director of Marketing – Mr David Messer

Representative – Pilbara/Kimberley: Mr Campbell Cornish (Broome)

Representative - Great Southern : Mr Peter Aspinall (Albany)

Representative - Lower South West: Mr Damien Dixon (Donnybrook)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Sub Branches are reminded that they are required to hold their Annual General Meetings no later than 31 October in each year. At the AGM the Audited Annual Financial Statement must be presented to the membership for approval. It is also a requirement that a copy of that Statement be forwarded to State Branch as soon as it has been passed by the members. We look forward to your compliance with this requirement.



Commemorative Service
3rd September 2008
10.00am
State War Memorial

Membership Pro-Rata's for August (New Members)

Fee- \$20 HQ- \$15 S/B- \$5



[Veteran in Distress](#)

The recent press report that a veteran spent hours on a trolley at the Emergency Department of a public hospital clearly shows a breakdown in procedures that should have been well and truly known by hospital staff and veterans. In most cases veterans with entitlements should be admitted to a Tier 1 Hospital such as Hollywood Private Hospital. In case of an emergency, a veteran taken to an Emergency Department of a public hospital should have their condition stabilised then upon request transferred. In this particular case the patient should have been transferred to Hollywood, not left on a trolley. Veterans and their families should be aware of their rights in this regard. If in doubt please feel free to contact RSL Welfare Officer for clarification.

[RSL Education Trailer](#)

Sub Branches are reminded that the Trailer is available for educational and promotional purposes in your local area. It has proved to be a useful recruiting resource and has attracted wide attention at schools, community events, local shows, displays and other local significant events. The display material is constantly being upgraded and well maintained. Bookings may be made through ANZAC House



[Sponsorship](#)

RSL members and the wider veteran community enjoy wonderful support from the our corporate sponsors and the business world. This support is evident at sub branch level as well as State and National. We are keen to maintain that level of support and wish to encourage local and regional participation in our membership incentive and rewards program. This request is particularly aimed at country areas where we ask members or sub branches to approach local suppliers and ask if they are interested in supporting veterans and RSL Members in their locality by way of discounts or other incentive offers. If you have such a contact please let State Headquarters know and we will do the rest. The project has the potential to serve your fellow members as well as promote a business and their product and or service to a new market.

[Insurance Cover.](#)

We are in the process of finalising our Insurance Cover for Sub Branches, particularly with respect to Public Liability. As soon as these items are completed accounts will be issues and upon your account being paid in full your Certificate of Currency will be issued. There is no need to contact State Headquarters, the documentation will be issued as soon as your payment has been received.

[Country Visits](#)

Members from RSL Welfare, Pensions and Advocacy Service have recently toured Country and Regional areas to assist Veterans in initiating or updating their Pension Claims. The group have also provided a mentor service to local pension officers. We have just been advised that funding has been made available for RSL to continue that service over the next 12 months. Currently planning for area visits is being undertaken and our Office would be please to hear from the members of the veteran community in regional Western Australia whether they would like a visit from the team. Numbers seeking this service would naturally determine the viability of a visit.

[CEO/State Secretary](#)

With the resignation of Ian Griffiths from the Position of CEO/State Secretary we have taken the opportunity to redefine the position and review the remuneration package. It is an opportunity to ensure we offer the best possible package in an endeavour to attract a field of quality applicants who can best serve the League and the veteran community. Advertising has commences and an agency will conduct the selection process on our behalf. We expect to have an appointment made sometime in September. In the meantime I pay tribute to the great work our Acting CEO/State Secretary Mr Gary Sutherland OAM has done – in a voluntary capacity – for the past 12 months.

[Scholarships](#)

Long Tan Bursaries of up to \$9000 were recently awarded to six young West Australians to assist them in furthering their education and achieve long term study goals. The awardees were children from Vietnam Veterans families who have proven their ability and determination to pursue their careers in their chosen field. This year 53 bursaries were awarded throughout Australia bringing the grand total to 250 awards since the scheme was introduced in 2000. RSL is proud to be associated with this project and asks Sub Branches to advertise the availability of this assistance to deserving students who have a connection with a Veteran of the Vietnam War.



MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

AS AT 28 JULY 2008

Service Members: 9, 174

Affiliates: 1, 522 Total: 10, 696

HQ POSTAL ADDRESS

RSL WA Branch

PO Box 3023

Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832

Raffle

It's that time of the year again. RSL's Welfare Raffle. Shortly members who have so indicated a willingness to sell Raffle tickets will receive in the post a book of Raffle Tickets to sell. With attractive cash prizes they should not be too difficult to sell. If you would like additional books, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy at ANZAC House. We do, however make one request: Please return all books, money and unsold tickets to ANZAC House by the requested due date. We are subject to government Audit and failure to comply with their requirements could jeopardise future charitable fundraising activities.

Message from Welfare Officer

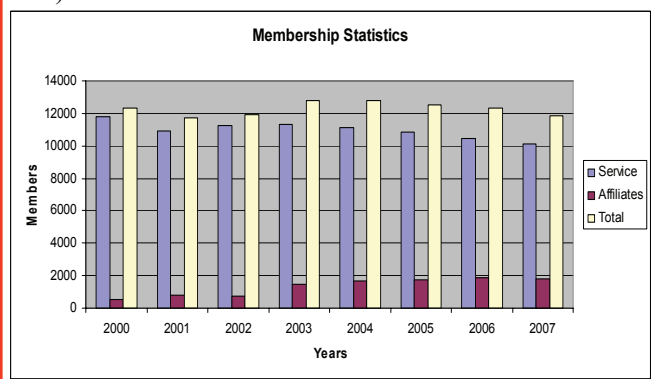
***PLEASE HELP PUBLICISE the
WA AGED Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's
Relief Fund Trust***

**which can HELP veterans/ADF personnel
on low incomes, or those unable to pay essential
bills.**

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

Membership

Shown below is a graph of our membership statistics over the past seven years. From the graph it can be stated that RSL in WA is holding its own with membership around 12,000 members (Affiliate and Service).



Preferential Voting

For Sub Branches requiring guidance on voting procedures, particularly where more than two candidates are contesting a vacancy the following information is offered. Preferential voting is a system of voting where voters must express through marking/selection an order of ranking for each candidate listed on the ballot. To be elected under the preferential voting system, a candidate must obtain an absolute majority (i.e. 50% plus one) of the total formal vote in the count. Where no candidate attains an outright absolute majority, the candidate who is lowest ranking in the count at that particular stage, is excluded and the excluded candidate's ballots are examined to determine, and to physically transfer, that excluded candidate's second preferences to continuing candidates. The process of excluding candidates continues, until one candidate attains an absolute majority.

HMAS SYDNEY Commemorative Service

A special Commemorative Service is to be held in Geraldton on Wednesday 19th November, 2008. Persons wishing to attend this Service will be required to register their intention as soon as possible. As it will be a significant occasion if you intend to be present you should take immediate action to register and book your accommodation.





PRIME MINISTER'S ADVISORY COUNCIL

On Monday 7 July 2008 the Minister for Veterans' Affairs The Hon Alan Griffin MP, held a Consultative Meeting with Ex-service organizations and interested individual veterans about the proposed appointment of a Prime Minister's Advisory Council. This initiative has already been the subject of a number of written submissions by organisations and individuals based on questions put to the ex-service community in the proposal to set up such a Council. In opening his presentation in Perth the Minister did make reference to the fact that his initiative was not a new one as something was in place along similar lines of one when Labour was last in Government.



In his opening remarks he made a number of points

- The Council needed to be independent and transparent.
- Membership would need to be limited to 10 to 12 members.
- Issues raised by individuals not members of an ex-service organization will still require consideration.
- Small ex-service organizations cannot expect to be appointed to the Council.
- The Council membership cannot cover all conflicts or issues.
- The Council needs to be in place by August 2008.
- It is unlikely the Council will be working perfectly from its inception and will need to be reviewed after 1 to 2 Years of operation.
- If the Council were successful in addressing 2 to 3 issues per year the Minister would regard this as being an effective body.
- The appointment of a Chairman will be important and although it has been suggested the Minister should consider chairing the Council initially he has rejected this possibility.
- The Minister will work closely with the Council particularly in the early stages, but it will not be controlled by the Minister.
- If the Minister does choose to attend meetings of the Council it must not be seen that the Council has a relationship with a particular Minister given the Minister could be replaced at any time.
- As the Council will be discussing issues that could be considered by Cabinet it will not be possible for the Council to discuss issues or likely outcomes with the ex-service community during the formative stages.
- If the Council chooses to discuss issues publicly it loses its independence and becomes just another lobby group.

It can be expected that there will be a Secretariat provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, although the size is still to be determined and will be based on the workload of the Council.

The Minister went on to inform the audience of the possibility of reviewing a number of Consultative Committees currently in place and whether the Advisory Committee would have some of these Committees underneath it to assist in addressing issues.

What was important in reviewing these current committees were to ensure that representation on these were limited so the same appointments are not made to a number of committees. It was suggested that a limit of two Committees be adopted. Overall the consultation was greatly appreciated by those who attended and the Minister made very endeavour to address all issues and concerns.

Remembrance Day



Planning is in hand for the Annual Remembrance Day Service and Luncheon to be held on 11th November, 2008. This year we will be holding the Lunch at RAAFA Estate Bull Creek. The change of venue has become necessary to contain costs yet not compromise the quality of the meal. Ticket sales are available from ANZAC House AT \$40 per ticket.

