



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

Issue 11/2008
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@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
Tel: 9287 3707

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

The President and State Executive wish all Members
and their families

a
Merry Christmas
and
a Happy New Year



Christmas Closure

Members are advised that
ANZAC House and Restaurant will close for the Christmas Vacation
at

4.30pm on Friday 19th December, 2008 and re-open on Monday 12th January, 2009.



The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited

**Nomination for Office
NATIONAL PRESIDENT
NATIONAL DEPUTY PRESIDENT**

In accordance with Rule 36.3 and By-Law 10 of the National Constitution nominations are invited from Life and/or financial Service Members of the League for the above positions for the year 2009 – 2010. Nominations are to be submitted through the members' Sub Branch for transmission to the State Branch by

4 pm on Friday 13th March, 2009

Details of eligibility to nominate and a position description statement are available at the National RSL Website at www.rsl.org.au

Late Nominations cannot be accepted!

ANZAC Day Street Appeal 2009

The ANZAC Day Token Street Appeal has been approved for Friday, 24 April 2009. Proceeds aid in the promotion, conduct and the administration of major commemorative events for which the RSL WA Branch are custodians. The conduct of the Street Appeal and the regulations governing the Appeal are the same as those for the Poppy Day Appeal. Collections can only be undertaken in public area during the designated hours of 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the Appeal day. Collections can be conducted on private venues, i.e. shopping centres prior to this date, with management approval.

Nett Funds are divided 50/50 between the Sub-Branch and State Branch. Members should be briefed on the regulations provided by DOCEP prior to collecting. Please note that collections may be made in public locations such as streets/roads, railways/bus stops and taxi ranks. Shopping Centres, pubs, clubs, markets and the like are NOT classed as public places and therefore prior approval of management of these premises is required if pre-collection day collections are required. Further details and order forms will be issued early in the New Year.

Raffle Results

We are pleased to announce the winners of the recently conducted RSL Welfare Raffle

1st Prize: \$20000 Ticket 17984 S. Connell

2nd Prize \$ 5000 Ticket 39003 V Forrester

3rd Prize \$ 2000 Ticket 37965 D Connelly

4th Prize \$ 1000 Ticket 24349 C. Little

5th Prize \$ 1000 Ticket 27566 K. Gildersleeve

The profit from the Raffle was \$25932.72 which has been lodged with the RSL Welfare Account.

Sub Branch Executives Meeting

Enclosed is an attendance proforma for the forthcoming Meeting to be held in the Gallipoli Room at ANZAC House on Wednesday 18 February, 2009. commencing at 9.30am.

Membership Renewals.

To date we have had a fantastic response to membership renewals. For those renewing at ANZAC House the response time for the issue of 2009 Membership Cards is less than a week. Please consider the offers listed in the Membership Booklet issued with your 2009 Card. It contains information from our sponsors offering you significant discounts on a wide range of services and products. We ask that you support those who support the League.

War Memorials

Recent media reports on the provision of a Memorial to the HSK Kormoran at Shark Bay and Carnarvon tend to suggest the project has community and RSL support. While the erection of any memorial is the decision of the local community and the responsible local authority the RSL **does not** advocate memorials in Australia to mark the activities of our former enemies. I have discussed this policy with other major ESO's and they are supportive of our position.

Pension/Welfare Officers Seminar

Enclosed is an attendance proforma for the forthcoming Meeting to be held in the Gallipoli Room at ANZAC House on Thursday 19 February, 2009. commencing at 9.30am.

Gunfire Breakfast Grant

A final reminder – Applications close on 7 March 2009. Late applications will not be considered.

Returns:

A reminder !!!!

Poppy Day Return – was due on 28 November 2008

Annual Financial Statements – was due by 31 October, 2008

Change of Office Bearers – due as the event takes place.



RSL Fundraising

The National President has been alerted by the Veteran Affairs Minister's Office to some commentary in the media where our representatives, and the representatives of other ex-Service organisations, from time to time do not choose their words carefully. To explain why we might be raising funds, it is often expressed in terms of the Federal Government not providing for our veterans. You can appreciate that this would cause some sensitivities in the Government, and indeed even a back-lash, from people in the community who thought that veterans were being well provided for.

The more accurate way to describe our fundraising efforts is to advise the community at large that our fundraising is to supplement what the Government provides in support of veterans, families and war widows. This indeed is why we do it, and it does not have connotations that the Government is not doing what it is expected to do. Of course there would still be some in the ex-Service community who would argue that the Government is not doing what they should do, but I believe that they are in the minority.

Maj Gen Crews (National President) requests any RSL representatives within their State who are likely to be involved in explaining our fundraising endeavours, choose their words carefully so as not to cause embarrassment or misunderstanding in respect of why we are raising funds.

Superannuation for Reservists

There has been an ongoing concern about the apparent inability to recognise Reserve Service by payment of the Superannuation Guarantee Charge. There is a legal limitation to doing so because of the tax free nature of Reserve pay. It was recognised that the RSL's involvement in the Superannuation debate was highly valued. Reserve Service is seen as the only part-time employment in Australia which does not currently attract a superannuation payment by the employer. In an environment when employers need to be competitive and attractive, this was seen as a significant shortfall. The mobility of the workforce also demanded recognition of this concern. Access to superannuation is seen as one of the four top issues impacting on an individual's willingness to perform Reserve Service or remain within the Reserves. There is certainly a hostility to reintroducing a tax regime for Reserve pay in spite of this being one obvious option to allow for payment of superannuation. The Podger Review did not effectively resolve this issue. Perhaps it was seen that minor changes to the Superannuation Guarantee Charge Act could allow super to be paid to Reservists but this requires considerable further work.

Bus Accident

The recent tragic bus accident involving members of the Bedford Morley Sub Branch demonstrated how the RSL family is able to support those in need or distressed circumstances. Offers of assistance were received from around the State and were most appreciated as they supplemented the efforts of DVA, Police and RSL Welfare. The Aged Fund" was also able to financially support those involved in the tragedy. Sub Branch President Reg Cream was most grateful to his neighboring Sub Branches - in particular Mt Lawley-Inglewood & North Beach for their offers of assistance.

The support from country areas, particularly those in the Manjimup area, was also valued.

HMAS SYDNEY

The Commemorative Service in Geraldton to mark the 67th Anniversary of the loss of 645 lives on the sinking of HMAS SYDNEY in 1941 was well conducted and very well attended by dignitaries', relatives and the general public. This Service was particularly important as with the finding of the wreck earlier this year it drew closure for many families as to the fate of their loved ones. A feature of the commemorative activities was a burial service for the unknown sailor. This was carried out in a most dignified manner in both a public and official attended service.

Thanks are extended to the Department of Defence (Navy), The RSL Geraldton Sub-Branch and the City of Geraldton; Greenough for hosting the service and making visitors most welcome to the Mid-West.



The Casket of the Unknown Sailor from HMAS SYDNEY

Message from Welfare Officer

The WA AGED Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Relief Fund Trust

**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.



From The National President

The following items have been reproduced from the National President's Report to National Executive on 26 November, 2008.

Offer of Leopard Tanks Available for Disposal

The previous Government had offered for any established organisation to receive the available leopard tanks in the Australian Army inventory when they were being disposed of. Several RSL Sub-branches had put in bids for a tank, and were expecting delivery some time this year.

The incoming Government has decided that it will now endeavour to sell all of the tanks as a lot for an overseas purchaser. They have therefore walked away from the commitment of the previous Government to make these available to recognised organisations. I was asked to comment on this development.

I had not been aware that there had been a change of plan. However, I had to make the point that this agreement from the previous Government was not contractually binding in any way and the offer involved no purchase arrangement. Therefore, the incoming government could reasonably be seen to be at liberty to change that arrangement if it so wished. They have clearly done so with the prospect of some economic return. While I empathise with those Sub-branches that were expecting to receive a tank and now will not, I believed there was no point in making an issue of this, as there are more important matters to argue about. I understand a few only of our Sub-branches were involved as the acquisition of a tank for Sub-branch display purposes is not an undertaking many would be willing to look into.



Gallipoli Peninsular Road Works

It appears that work on the Second Ridge Road at Gallipoli may have uncovered human remains. As has been the practice in the past, this appears to be the cause of great angst and people want Government action taken.

It needs to be borne in mind that the Gallipoli Peninsular still belongs to Turkey and the road works are being conducted by Turkish workers. There is an agreement between Australia and Turkey that covers most works undertaken on the Peninsular but essentially the responsibility rests with the Turkish authorities.

The Second Ridge Road needs to be refurbished because it is a narrow road that sustains a significant volume of traffic. It had begun to break up. It was always going to be a difficult task because there was a high prospect of remains in unmarked areas adjacent to the road. The protocol, when remains are found, is that they be reinterred in a suitable location nearby, with due respect. I feel sure that would apply in this case.

It appears that Mr Bill Sellers, who is described as a resident of Gallipoli, is the greatest critic of road works on the Peninsular. On this occasion, he has criticised the Turkish authorities for not understanding history. I find that criticism unacceptable. The Gallipoli Peninsular is one of the vital parts of modern Turkish history and I do not think it is appropriate for any Australian to be criticising Turkish lack of appreciation of their history.

I had sought advice from the Department of Veterans' Affairs to clarify the situation but that advice was not available when most of my media interviews had to be conducted. The Turkish Ambassador subsequently spoke with me. He thanked me for the supportive position we had taken, but indicated that if Australia continues to criticise Turkey for its management of Gallipoli, Turkey may limit its support to our presently unlimited access.

Limitations on Attendance – ANZAC Day 2015

In the light of a commentary about the discovery of human remains during road works on the Gallipoli Peninsular, the Turkish Ambassador suggested that there may need to be a limit placed on the number of visitors to Gallipoli for the Centenary Commemorations in 2015, or even in 2009.

The RSL takes the view that we would not want to see restrictions applied. However, while we have an excellent working relationship with the Turkish authorities on the management of Australian attendance at Gallipoli services, we must respect their decisions in relation to the numbers that they can accommodate. We would hope that, through a number of creative measures such as the development of video linkages between the major commemorative sites, a substantially increased number of people can be effectively accommodated without placing undue strain on the infrastructure. This was an issue explored by the Department of Veterans Affairs some two years ago and we hope it can be fully effective by 2015. Should there be too many people to attend each of the major commemorative sites, then satellite locations in the immediate vicinity could also be set up to accommodate such an overflow. In any event we continue to respect the Turkish authorities' right to determine the appropriate access that we may continue to enjoy.