



THE SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

**DOING BUSINESS
WITH RSL
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM**

ANZAC HOUSE

28 St Georges Terrace, 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

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

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: advocate@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: helenb@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

ANZAC Day

Everyone who contributed to the conduct of 2009 ANZAC Day Services is to be congratulated. From reports we have received it would appear as though we had record attendances at Dawn Services and Marches throughout the State. Regional centres experienced attendances well in excess of previous years, and certainly in Perth crowds exceeded our expectation. Of particular note was the support shown for the gunfire breakfasts. They are now part of the ANZAC Day scene and with funding available we are looking forward to further engaging the community in this initiative. Obviously, there is a lot of work that goes into the conduct of the Commemorative Services and Parades and I would personally like to thank the participants, marshals, bands, guest speakers and local authorities that contributed to the success of the day. RSL also acknowledges the support received through *Lotterywest* for the financial assistance they provide for event management and infrastructure. I am sure we can reflect on the day and class it as one of the best conducted and supported ANZAC Day in recent years. Well done!

State Congress

Final arrangements are in hand for the conduct of Annual Congress which is to be held on the weekend of 27-28 June, 2009 at the Mercure Hotel, Irwin St, Perth. A Congress Pack has been circulated to all Sub Branches and we ask that you respond to that Registration Document without delay. Submission of Congress Motions and Life Membership Nominations has closed and shortly the Agenda documentation will be circulated.

It is important your Sub Branch is represented at Congress and at the Congress Dinner. Please make every endeavour to support these activities.

Annual General Meetings

I direct your attention to the requirement for Sub Branches to hold their Annual General Meetings between the 1 July and 31 October in each year.

At the Annual General Meeting there must be an election of officers for the following year (if on an annual cycle) and the presentation of an Audited Statement of Financial Affairs.

These are statutory requirements and must be actioned in that time frame.

Unfortunately we still hear of non compliance with this requirement and this exposes Sub Branch Officers to unnecessary risk in case of mis-management of Sub Branch affairs. In your own interest I seek your compliance with this requirement.

Please refer to State Rule 27 for further details





[Search for AHS CENTAUR](#)

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Queensland Premier Anna Bligh have announced that international dive company Blue Water Recoveries will manage the search for the torpedoed World War II Australian hospital ship Centaur.

The six-member inter-governmental steering committee chose Blue Water Recoveries because of its record in deep-sea research, location and filming of shipwrecks.

The AHS Centaur, brightly lit and clearly marked as a hospital ship, was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine south east of Cape Moreton in May 1943; she caught fire and sank within minutes. Of the 322 persons on board, only 64 survived.

Centaur is thought to lie two to three kilometres underwater

Mr Rudd said finding the Centaur would complete the story of one of Australia's and Queensland's greatest maritime disasters.

"If the search is successful, suitable memorial activities will be undertaken to acknowledge AHS Centaur's resting place and it will be duly declared as an historic shipwreck under the Historic Shipwrecks Act 1976 in recognition of its social and historical significance to all Australians," Mr Rudd said.

[Go shopping with the RSL](#)

The RSL has launched an exciting new shopping facility to boost the organisation's fund-raising efforts. It will give members access to a huge range of RSL and military products, gifts and memorabilia.

National President Bill Crews says, "The RSL Shop has thousands of products ranging from clothing such as jackets, shirts, and hats to lapel pins, travel bags, golf items and many more. It also has an impressive range of products that you can add your own brand to. If you are hosting an event or conference or simply looking for that perfect gift for a friend or family member, the RSL Shop is the place to go."

The RSL Shop will stock quality products at the lowest possible price, thus raising funds for the RSL's continuing work on behalf of members. The new facility has been developed on the RSL's behalf by the Australian promotions and marketing company Brandnet

The RSL Shop is open for business and can be found at: www.rslshop.com.au.

Hard copy catalogues are available by contacting RSL Shop team on 1300 883 130. Staff can also provide expert advice in product selection and branding design.

[Attention BCOF Veterans](#)

The BCOF Executive Council of Australia is seeking information about how many BCOF veterans are still alive in its battle to have their service recognised as "qualifying" service. This appeal is being made throughout Australia to get a more accurate estimate of the number of veterans still around.

If you are a BCOF Veteran you are asked to supply your name, service number, unit and time of service in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces stationed in Japan from 1945 to 1952?

Would you also indicate whether you have the Gold Card, White Card or other DVA entitlement?

Would you please send the information to:

The National Secretary, BCOF Executive Council, Mr Ron Orwin, 2 Finch Court Loganlea, Queensland. 4131 — or email him at

orwinsigs113@hotmail.com

If you know of a BCOF Veteran, please ask him to make contact with us on this matter.

It is the statistics that we need, and need urgently.

For and on behalf of the National Executive Secretary, Reverend Robert J. Walker, Honorary Secretary, BCOF National Association, Queensland, 27/152 Haig Street, Brassall, Queensland 4305

[Membership](#)

Our membership, renewals continues to flow taking our all up Service membership to 8251. This number includes new members to the RSL. To that number we add 1258 Affiliates making our grand total as at 29 April – 9509. We still have around 1000 renewals outstanding and we will be issuing reminder notices in mid May. Many members historically renew their membership around ANZAC Day and if this has been carried out at Sub Branch level we request the Capitation Form be sent to Head Office without delay to avoid the possibility of a member who has recently paid receiving a renewal notice

[Change of Address](#)

It is important we have current contact details of all members. Sub Branch Secretary's are asked to regularly check print outs and in the case of changes of circumstances please, as soon as possible notify Headquarters.

In particular, notification of the death of a member should be a priority

[Resignation Of Welfare Officer](#)

It is with regret we advise that Mrs Margot Harness will be leaving us in mid July 2009. We will shortly be advertising for a replacement.





\$10m for Anzac Trail on Western Front

The exploits of the nearly 300,000 Australians who fought on the Western Front will be better commemorated under a new plan announced today. Outlining the concept of an integrated Anzac trail of commemoration on the Western Front, Mr Griffin, Minister for Veteran Affairs said the Anzac Trail will foster a deeper appreciation of what Australians achieved and endured in the main theatre of conflict of the First World War. The Trail will focus on the potential to develop as many as seven key sites, bringing alive the story of Australians on the Western Front.

Speaking from Pozières, in France, he said that the Anzac Trail concept was the result of careful planning and assessment of the options available to appropriately honour the courage and sacrifice of Australians on the Front.

The Australian Government will commit \$10 million over the next four years to the establishment of the Trail. It is also clear that some local authorities will also contribute funds to assist in a number of the locations.

A range of measures across the Western Front will be planned and developed in consultation with local communities and the appropriate French and Belgian authorities. Options currently being assessed include: major improvements to the museum at Villers-Bretonneux; the relocation of the existing museum at Fromelles; improved links to regional battlefield trails; refurbishing and upgrading of the museum at Bullecourt; and the establishment of an interpretive centre at Pozières.

This approach to commemorating Australia's efforts on the Western Front recognises the efforts of many locals over decades. This approach, particularly the partnership aspect, will ensure that Australian funds are spent carefully and in the best locations to appropriately commemorate and honour the service of our First World War heroes.

“The Anzac Trail will provide long overdue recognition of Australia's contribution all along the Front.

The seven sites currently under consideration are Villers-Bretonneux, Pozières, Bullecourt, Fromelles, Mont St Quentin, Ypres and Tynes Cot.

Remember Indigenous Service

National Reconciliation Week 2009 will take place around Australia from 27 May - 3 June, providing an opportunity to focus on reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

This year is the 42nd anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, the most successful in the nation's history, in which more than 90 per cent of voters said 'yes' to acknowledging Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people as Australian citizens.

The theme for this year's activities is *See a person, not a stereotype* and reflects on the contribution of Indigenous and non-Indigenous campaigners who worked side by side to make the Referendum such a great success.

As part of National Reconciliation Week, DVA, the RSL and Indigenous veterans will work alongside ex-service and community organisations to hold a ceremony in Perth to commemorate the contribution of Indigenous servicemen and women.

The keynote speaker will be Dr Sue Gordon.

A service will be held at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on Wednesday May 27th at 10.00am. For more information on the ceremony please contact June Cuneo on 9366 8465 or email june.cuneo@dva.gov.au

RSL Corporate Golf Day

The Annual RSL Corporate Golf Day and President's Cup is to be conducted on Friday 9th July 2009 at a location to be advised.

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

Full details and nomination forms will be issued in the next edition of the Sub-Branch Signal.





National President Elect

At the close of nominations for National President for 2009-10 only one nomination was received for the position. New South Wales based member Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (Ret'd) was nominated by his State Branch and as such will take over from MAJ GEN Bill Crews AO in September 2009.

The following statement is presented as an introduction to your new National President:

Ken completed 41 years service in the Royal Australian Navy in December 1993. He served in HMAS Vampire during Confrontation and in HMAS Perth during the Vietnam War. Other significant postings were as Commanding Officer of HMA Ships Tobruk and Brisbane; Naval Attaché Washington; and, as a Flag Officer, Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Development); Deputy Chief of Naval Staff; Maritime Commander Australia; and Assistant Chief of the Defence Force (Development). In August 1990 he was appointed to plan, execute and command Operation Damask thereby becoming Operational Commander of all Australian combatant forces deployed to the 1991 Gulf War.

Since leaving the Australian Defence Force he has been a Commissioner for an Inquiry into the East Coast Armaments Complex 1994-96; a member of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal 1996-99; Investigating Officer for the Vice Chief of the Defence Force 2001; National Secretary of the Order of Australia Association 2002-04; inaugural Company Secretary of the Order of Australia Association Foundation 2003-05; Director of Grinkle Press Pty Ltd since 2006; and President of the Australian Institute of Navigation since 2007.

In 2002 Major General Peter Phillips invited him to join the RSL National Defence Committee. At the same time he joined the unattached list of the NSW Branch of the RSL. Since then he has researched and drafted submissions on behalf of the committee for parliamentary inquiries; and has several times appeared as an RSL witness before Commonwealth Parliamentary Committees. He has also been Acting Chairman of the RSL Defence Committee; and occasionally represented the National President most recently at a day long Recruiting Seminar chaired by the Minister for Defence.

Looking to the future, Ken considers he has the service background, business experience and representational skills to undertake the responsibilities of National President of the RSL. He has been company secretary and public officer of a not-for-profit company; set up and managed a new not-for-profit company; and established and managed a family publishing business. His public speaking and media skills have been developed by his experiences as a Military Secretary to Governor General Casey; as inaugural leader of Navy's Personnel Liaison Team charged with explaining conditions of service to Navy's sailors; as Fleet Commander during the Gulf Crisis of 1990 when he gave many press conferences and TV interviews; and, more recently, as a public speaker to various audiences as diverse as the Rotary Club of the City of Melbourne and the Bateman's Bay Probus Club. His vision for the future of the RSL includes:

- *It continuing to be the pre-eminent ex-service organisation in Australia;*
 - *Its advocacy of the needs of veteran's remaining strong, persistent and relevant;*
 - *Its unwavering support for a strong, well equipped and properly managed ADF;*
 - *The institution increasing recruitment of recently retired ex-service personnel;*
- Boldness in promoting greater public recognition of RSL members such as those who undertake hospital visits and other community work.*

RSLWA congratulated RADM Doolan AO on his election to the important position and wish him well in his task of leading the RSL and representing veterans.

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.