



# 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](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799  
Fax: 9287 3732

## RECEPTION

Monday to Friday - general enquiries  
Email: [adminassist@rslwahq.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

## MEMBERSHIP

Monday to Thursday - membership  
enquiries, Sub-Branch enquiries  
Email: [membership@rslwahq.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:welfare@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3707

## ADVOCACY

Monday to Friday - S31 reviews,  
Veteran Review Board,  
Admin Appeals Tribunal  
Email: [advocate@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:advocate@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3708

## FINANCE

Monday to Friday - all account en-  
quiries, Sub-Branch credits  
Sub-Branch Insurance, information,  
claims, grant application assistance,  
DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)  
Email: [helenb@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:helenb@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3703 or 9287 3718

## PENSIONS

Monday to Friday - pension entitle-  
ments, claims preparation  
Email: [pensions1@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:pensions1@rslwahq.org.au)  
[pensions2@rslwahq.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3714

## ANZAC Day

We continue to receive positive statements from local communities and members of the public congratulating the RSL on the conduct of ANZAC Day Services. Without exception the main observation has been the increase in attendances at Dawn Services and ANZAC Day Marches. In certain cases it was noted that extra resources may be needed to cope with the increase in numbers that are now attending our Services. While it is still fresh in our minds can I suggest that you take time to reflect on the Services you were responsible for and make an assessment of the support and resources you may need to conduct the 2010 Services. In August we will be starting our planning cycle and will be asking for your input for likely financial assistance from *Lotterywest* you may require. This year we had some \$60k in the budget but were only asked for around \$25k. Next year ANZAC Day falls on a Sunday with a planned public holiday on the Monday. It is important not to be side-tracked on this issue. There is an Act of Parliament that grants this holiday and it must be disassociated from ANZAC Day.

*ANZAC Day is 25 April in each year and will not be observed on any other day.*

## Gunfire Breakfast

This event is proving very popular and the growth in public attendances is encouraging. Celebrate WA and Lotterywest have agreed to continue to support this community event in future years. There will however be some change to the funding arrangements. Due to the great difficulty Sub Branches that were in receipt of the Grant had in complying with the acquittal process the Grant will no longer be available as an up front amount. The money will only be available to successful applicants on a reimbursement basis. This is regretted and may cause some problems for small sub branches but our accountability process for such funds needs to be preserved.

## Sub Branch Finances

With this issue of *Sub-Branch Signal* we are issuing an **Annual Financial Return Statement** which may be used by Sub Branches when reporting their Financial position to Headquarters in accordance with State Rule 27.20. In the past we have experienced problems in obtaining reports from sub-branches, particularly those with small numbers or small turn over. As part of our accountability requirements we need to be in possession of information relating to the overall financial position of the League. This statistical information is used for Grant allocations from our various funding sources.

Sub-Branches that use a professional Certified Auditor are to continue to do so and report to their members and when accepted at the AGM forwarded to State Headquarters in accordance with Rule 27.20.

Sub Branches with a turn over of less than \$50K and overall funds and assets less than \$50k are requested to use the enclosed document. Please note the new document needs to be signed off by the President, Secretary & Treasurer (or Secretary/Treasurer), and the person conducting the independent Audit.

*If you have any queries on this matter, please contact Ken Van Lit our State Accountant. Ken will talk you through the document and assist you in its compilation requirements.*



### Defence White Paper

The Defence White Paper 2009 was launched by the Prime Minister on board HMAS Stuart at Garden Island in Sydney on 2 May 2009. The White Paper projects the strategic environment and the Defence Force Structure Development over the period to 2030. Details of the White Paper and the accompanying media releases are available at the Defence Website [www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper](http://www.defence.gov.au/whitepaper).

The White Paper presents an ambitious forward program set against a strategic framework of high uncertainty. It particularly focuses on the needs to provide defence of Australia's interests in our immediate region but recognises also the centrality of our alliance with the United States and our obligations to the United Nations. Fortunately it does not stray into the concept of niche forces and identifies a need for balance and strong high level capability in all arms of the Force.

The White Paper identifies a need for some expansion of the permanent Force structure but dictates that there must be a closer analysis of all elements of the Defence work force including permanent Force members, Reservists, Defence civilian staff, and contractors. The White Paper also determines the financial guidance only in respect of real growth from year to year noting that it is the force capability plans coming forward which will identify the year by year expenditure requirements. The forthcoming budget will include specific figures over the four year forward projections.

The RSL in general terms would be pleased with this publication. We have a standing objective to ensure that Australia remains well protected and that we have a highly capable Defence Force in keeping with adequately preserving our security and other national interests. The White Paper certainly focuses on achieving that. However, if we have concerns it might well relate to the ability to properly resource the increased acquisition programs and to sustain them in the longer term. Recognising also the ongoing difficulties of recruitment when the economic recovery occurs we might also have some apprehension about Defence's ability both to achieve the savings outlined (\$20 billion over 10 years).

### 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.

### \$9.4m to Implement Suicide Study Recommendations

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, has announced the Australian Government is allocating additional funding to boost mental health services for veterans and ex-serving personnel,

The Government has accepted all of the recommendations of the *Independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-service Community*, which was released earlier this month. The study was a 2007 election commitment by the Rudd Government, and was undertaken by Melbourne University public health specialist Professor David Dunt.

The study examined broad issues of suicide in the ex-service community and a number of specific cases of suicide in the past three years.

The Government has already met with ex-service organisations to discuss the report. Several recommendations have practical implementation issues that will need to be discussed with the ex-service community. Mr Griffin said the Government would continue to work in partnership with the ex-service community regarding these issues.

*"Changes that will be made include the strengthening of mental health programs, including suicide prevention, and the further simplification of administrative procedures faced by those transitioning out of the Australian Defence Force, or applying for compensation. More experienced case managers will be assigned to support clients with complex needs and DVA will increase access to mental health clinical expertise.*

"The Government has ensured that funds are available so that Professor Dunt's programs and initiatives can be implemented in a timely manner.

"Mental health in the ex-service and veteran community is a critical issue and the Government is allocating \$9.4 million to fund the appropriate support.

"This funding is in addition to the Government's recent commitment of \$83 million over four years to address the gaps identified in mental health care in the ADF and transition through discharge," Mr Griffin said.

While the suicide study found some evidence to suggest veterans may be at increased risk of health problems, and studies have shown some evidence to indicate elevated suicide risk among Australian veterans, this evidence is by no means conclusive.

However, Professor Dunt has made a series of recommendations that will help ensure the system will be more 'user friendly'. This should ensure those who use DVA services, and are at risk of self harm, will find it easier to get the support that they need.

Full text of the study and the Government's response can be found at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au)



### State Congress

Plans are now well advanced for the conduct of the 2009 Annual State Congress. Although there are not many Congress Motions the program is filled with interesting presentations and speakers. Agenda's have been issued to delegates and should be available at your Sub Branch.

I would promote the use of ANZAC Club for breakfast, hospitality, the Annual Dinner and post congress hospitality. You are assured of a warm welcome, food and refreshment at very reasonable prices and good service.

During Congress we will be holding the traditional Wreath Laying Service at the State War Memorial. This will be held on Saturday 27 June 2009 at 4.00pm. Please set aside time to remember our fallen comrades.

Congress will also honour our new Meritorious Medal awardees and those granted Life Membership. So they may be suitably honoured their names and Sub Branches are listed below:



#### *Meritorious Medal*

*R.J. Gilmour - City of Rockingham*

*J.T. Lynch - Cambridge*



#### *Life Membership*

*R. Bandy - Geraldton City*  
*A. Bentley - City of Rockingham*  
*D. Burns - Kwinana*  
*D. Cleak - City of Cockburn*  
*J. Giggins - City of Rockingham*  
*N. McWilliams - Bunbury*  
*L. Pratt - City of Cockburn*  
*M. Till - Scarborough*  
*G. Sutherland - Bellevue*  
*G. Worth - Nollamara*

On behalf of the League we congratulate those who received the above awards and wish them well.

### New Website:

Our new website is now up and running with new sections being added at regular intervals. In the weeks leading up to ANZAC Day we experienced severe disruption to the site due to a succession of virus contamination which infected the entire ANZAC House computer network. Hopefully we have now overcome the problem and we can now progress our development of the site into one that will be informative to members and the general public. As a matter of interest we are working through a system of making on-line payments for membership in 2010.

### Sub Branch Trophies

Entry to Sub Branch competitions will close on Friday 5 June, 2009.

If your Sub Branch intends competing for the following trophies please submit your form by the due date.

The Trophies are:

**Newedegate Cup**

*Metropolitan Sub Branches only*

**Colonel Collett Trophy**

*Country Sub Branches only*

**Mary Cornell Trophy**

*Metro & Country: number of poppies sold in relation to membership*

**Geraldton Shield**

*Country Sub Branches with less than 100 members*

**Ken Bladen Trophy**

*Number of new members recruited in relation to membership*

### Membership Statistics

As at 20 May 2009

Service Members: 8,440

Affiliates: 1,386

**TOTAL: 9,826**

**Note: Reminder notices will be issued to unfinancial members on 27 May 2009**

### Congress Dinner Reminder

Sub Branches are reminded that places at the 2009 Congress Dinner will be allocated on a first come –first served basis.





## AUSTRALIAN VETERANS' CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

### Scholarships for Children of Veterans intending Tertiary Studies in 2010

In 2010 the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust (AVCAT) are expecting to give financial assistance for up to 65 students under many different scholarship schemes. All schemes help the selected children in need of the Australian veteran community with the costs of tertiary education. Applicants are considered for all schemes for which they are eligible.

Applications open on 18 August 2009. To apply you must be:

- a. Within the means test. That is eligible on assets and income grounds for Youth Allowance benefits for full-time education.
- b. Enrolled, or planning to enroll in a full-time course of tertiary education in Australia by attendance at a university, TAFE or college. The course must be of one or more academic years length and at undergraduate level.
- c. The child or grandchild of a person who has operational service with the Australian Navy, Army or Air Force, or if not has three or more year's continuous full-time service as a member of the Australian Defence Force.
- d. Under the age of 25 when applying, unless exceptional circumstances related to veteran's service exist.

The largest scheme is the Long Tan Bursary funded by the Australian Government. There are 50 new bursaries each year. They are valued at \$9,000 each which paid at \$3,000 per year for three years. There are selection number targets for each State and Territory. To apply you must be the child of an Australian Vietnam Veteran, be resident in Australia, be entering any year of tertiary study, having not previously received a Long Tan Bursary.

The other national schemes are the AVCAT Bursary, the two RSL Scholarships, the RSL Reg Saunders Memorial Scholarship (which is only for indigenous applicants), the three Vietnam Veterans' Peacekeepers and Peacemakers Scholarship and the Defence Force Welfare Association Scholarship. George Quinsey Scholarships directly pay tuition fees for economics, commerce and accountancy studies.

Schemes vary between \$3,000 and \$5,000 per year each. Some are restricted to location of residence or studies. Most require veteran service in Vietnam but others are broader. Most schemes continue payments for later years of study. All scholarship schemes but one pays monthly installments. That scheme helps with tuition costs for courses in commerce, economics and accountancy. One scheme is for indigenous students doing substance abuse or related studies. For this scheme there is no upper age limit nor a need to be related to a veteran. In addition to the above there is one grant per year to assist an handicapped eligible veteran's child or grandchild with special extra costs of transition to tertiary studies or employment .

To receive an application form register interest on **1800 620 361**. Applications close on 31 October each year.  
**AVCAT PO Box K978, Haymarket, NSW 1240**

### RSL Corporate Golf Day

*The Annual RSL Corporate Golf Day and President's Cup is to be conducted on Friday 9th July 2009 at Meadow Springs Golf & Country Club, commencing at 11.30 am.*

*Cost is \$200 per team*

*Full details and nomination forms are issued in this edition of the Sub-Branch Signal.*

*Limited places, first come first served.*



### Expression of Interest

The RSL WA Branch is currently undertaking a project which will see the development and management of their archival collection and are looking to establish a 'friends' group to facilitate this. The Friends of the RSL Library and Archives will be assisting the archivist in processing the collection and assessing significance. This presents a unique opportunity for those interested in the collection to be able to work together to develop and protect this significant collection. There will be more information about this posted in *The Listening Post*. Could all those interested please contact Naomi on 9287 3713 or email [archivist@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:archivist@rslwahq.org.au).

