



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 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
Tel: 9287 3703 or 9287 3718

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

As noted in the last issue of *The Sub Branch Signal* we have received many positive comments on the conduct of 2009 ANZAC Day in Perth, however considerable comment has recently come forward over delays in the March and the level of service offered at ANZAC Club. Following my personal investigation on these matters I feel some explanation is required to clear up any on-going criticism.

Delays in the march that caused the parade to 'mark time' on the Terrace were caused *firstly* by the need for the emergency service provider to attend to a collapsed veteran in Mill Street. In the interest of providing the person with timely and appropriate treatment a short halt to the parade was necessary. The *second and third halt* was caused by Association groups halting as soon as they reached the entry point to the Esplanade. Not only did they halt but they conducted a formal dismissal prior to discussion and ultimate departure from the scene. When marshals were alerted to the problem they directed Units on to the Esplanade for dismissal. Further problems were also encountered when some units deliberately slowed their march rate to gain more exposure on television. The events I have just outlined resulted in the march being extended some twenty minutes. More security staff next year will rectify the identified problems.

At ANZAC Club concerns have been expressed over the right of entry and level of service. We accept the level of service was not up to standard and this will be addressed however it is pointed out that ANZAC Club is for members and their guests and entry entitlement is on that basis at all times. The limit on numbers is a Licensing Authority requirement and on this occasion strictly enforced. Non compliance would have seen patrons issued with infringement notices as well as the RSL. I believe RSL management acted responsibly in this situation.

I trust this explanation closes the debate!

Donations

RSL wishes to acknowledge the following generous donation to RSL Welfare.

Burswood Casino -	\$5 000	from Two-Up on ANZAC Day
Women's Auxiliary-	\$1 000	Annual Donation
Lions (Bull Creek) -	\$2 856	Gunfire Breakfast Collection
Rotary (South Perth/Burswood)-	\$1 968	Gunfire Breakfast Collection

Support from Corporate and Community Organisations greatly assists RSL in its Welfare work

Raise - a - Glass

You would be aware of the joint fundraising activity between RSL and Legacy that was supported by Fosters and conducted over the April/May ANZAC Commemorative period. That activity was aimed at providing finance for the welfare support for veterans. The 2009 contract has been completed and from all reports exceeded all expectations. Shortly we will be advised of our share of the distribution



Medicare Rebate

From mid 2009 the Government intends to reduce the Medicare Rebate on cataract surgery. There is a possibility that this may flow through to the reimbursement levels provided by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to service providers providing cataract surgery for entitled veterans. The RSL has written to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs expressing great concern if there is to be an impact, seeking clarification on this point, and arguing that veterans should not be disadvantaged in terms of their access to ophthalmological services by such a move.

Assistance for Serving Members

If you have an injury or disease that you think can be related to your service, our trained Pension Officers can assist you in your claim for entitlements. It does not matter which compensation Act you come under, our Pension Officers are trained in the Safety Compensation and Rehabilitation Act, the Veterans' Entitlement Act and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act.

There is no cost for this service and you do not have to be a member of the RSL - just wearing the uniform will suffice! For those in the Perth Metropolitan area, call **9287 3799** to talk to a Pension Officer. For those serving outside the Metropolitan area, your local RSL sub Branch Pension Officer will be able to assist.

Membership Statistics

Thanks to those members who promptly responded to the Membership Renewal Notices. We had just on 300 renewals.

Our latest membership data to 23 June 2009

Service Members	- 8846
Affiliates	1555
TOTAL	10401

Insurance Returns

It is most important sub branches respond to the recently issued **Insurance Questionnaire** We can not proceed to arrange cover on your behalf unless we have your response. After the cut off date renewals not requested will result in non-insurance. If you have responded – thanks: if not – please do so now.

Records & Archive Survey

Included in this mail is a survey that requests information concerning your sub branch records. Naomi Jones, RSL Archivist is preparing her visitation program and is keen to hear from you as to the material you have. I stress we are not intending to remove anything from your material, we just need to know what you have and whether it needs preservation. Your response in the reply paid envelope would be appreciated.

PMAC on Ex-Service Matters

The Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters has recently met for the third time since the formation of the Council in October last year. The Council, is made up of 14 members who have broad experience across the service and ex-service communities and who serve in an honorary capacity only. During the two day meeting, the Council consulted further with the Minister on the new consultative framework with the ex-service community. The Council, Chaired by Dr Allan Hawke, extended their consideration of mental health issues following a presentation on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder by the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health and the Departments of Defence and Veterans' Affairs. The Council provided views on the operation of preventative and treatment programs provided to ADF members both pre and post deployment as well programs provided to those diagnosed with PTSD.

Dr Hawke noted how the meeting's presentations illustrated the close relationship between the two departments in their efforts to promote the wellbeing of serving and ex-service members and their families. The Council also commenced its consideration of the recommendations of the Clarke Review not acted on by the previous Government following the closure of public submissions in December last year in preparation of providing advice to Government. The Council has arrived at a protocol for receipt of submissions from individuals and ex-service organisations.

Information about the Council, its members and summaries of the meetings is available on the Council internet site at <http://minister.dva.gov.au/PMAC/index.htm>.



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 were issued in the last edition of the Sub-Branch Signal. Limited places, first come first served.



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.

Wearing of Medals

From time to time we receive many queries on the protocols for wearing medals. The following is a guide taken from a number of websites (listed below)

Protocol for wearing medals and ribbons is sometimes misunderstood. RSL guidelines state that medals and awards may only be worn on the left breast where issued to the wearer by the Australian government. Foreign awards that have had Australian government approval may also be worn in the order of precedence specified in the regulations. Commemorative medals (other than those authorized by Government), medals purchased by individuals or medals worn on behalf of another person should only be worn on the right breast.

The RSL State Standing Policy confirms these requirements.

The following extract comes from a company that supplies replica and commemorative medals:

We cannot and do not encourage the wearing of unofficial commemorative medals with official ones. Wearing unofficial commemorative medals with issue medals we believe, destroys the integrity of Australia's honours and awards system. Those who are determined to wear them however, should be wearing them on a separate rack from official medals and wearers should abide by the guidelines laid down by the various ex-service organization peak bodies. The Returned from Active Service badge may be worn at any time, but the Infantry Combat Badge and Army Combat Badge may only be worn on civilian clothes, by those entitled, when worn with medals at appropriate ceremonies.

Further details can be obtained from websites:

www.itsanhonour.gov.au; or

www.defence.gov.au/medals

1800 111 321

Non-Official, Private Commemorative Medals

The Directorate of Honours & Awards advises that the following are examples of non-official, purchased medals. None of these medals are authorised for wear. They should never be worn on the left side nor mounted with officially issued medals.

*Active Service Medal
Allied Ex-POW Medal
Arctic Campaign Medal
Army Service Medal
Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Medal
Australian Logistic Support Forces Vietnam Medal
Australian Merchant Navy Commendation
Australian Merchant Navy Meritorious Medal
Australian Merchant Navy Service Cross
Australian Nuclear Veterans Association Medal
Australian Security Medal
Aviation Service Medal
Battle for Malta Medal
BCOF Medal
Bomber Command Medal
British Forces Germany Medal
CMF/Reserve Forces Medal
Combatant Service Medal
Compulsory Military Training Medal
Conscripted Service Medal
Eastern Service Medal
Far East and Asiatic Service Medal
Foreign Service Medal
Front Line Service Medal
Hors de Combat Medal
International Submariners Medal
Korean War 40th Anniversary Medal
Merchant Navy Service Cross
Merchant Navy Service Medal
National Defence Medal
National Service Medal
Normandy Campaign Medal
Prisoner of War Medal
Queen Elizabeth's Golden Jubilee Medal
Regular Forces Medals
Restoration of Peace Medal
Sea Service Medal
Siege of Tobruk Medal
Simpson Medal
Suez Canal Zone Medal
Vietnam Veteran's Medal
Volunteer Service Medal
Vietnam 25th Anniversary Medal*





Museum of Performing Arts

ANZAC COVES

The Entertainers and the Entertainments

Explore the little known cultural dimension to ANZAC (1914 – 1918)

Named in honour of the troupe of soldier-entertainers who dodged bullets and bombs to perform on the battlefronts of Europe, ANZAC COVES is a deeply moving exhibition exploring the tragic years of World War One through the era's songs, and through those who sang them.

Complemented by photos, programmes and posters, a stunning collection of patriotic Australian sheet music reminds us of the social, political and cultural forces swirling around the newly coined word 'ANZAC'.

The men of ANZAC COVES adopted the traditional costume of British seaside concert parties and dressed as Pierrots in baggy white trousers and blouses, topped with pointed hats adorned with pom-poms. Two were dressed in drag as female impersonators.

Thus attired they performed sentimental songs and comedy routines for audiences of soldiers in sheds and barns close to the trenches.

None had signed on as singers, comedians or musicians. All were on active service, performing only while on leave. Entertaining done, they would return to their guns and others would take their place in the line-up. Some were killed between shows. At least three had survived the first Gallipoli landing. The ANZAC COVES are among Australia's 'unsung' heroes.

In February 1918 they entertained at Buckingham Palace and soon after undertook a tour of British theatres – when they were allowed to call themselves the Royal ANZAC Coves.

Tickets: Admission by gold coin donation

When: Tuesday 2 June to Friday 28 August 2009

Times: Monday – Friday, 10am – 4pm

Venue: DownStairs at the Maj, His Majesty's Theatre, 825 Hay St, Perth

Enquiries: Ph 9265 0900

Website: www.hismajestystheatre.com.au/museum.asp

This is a Winter Arts Season Event

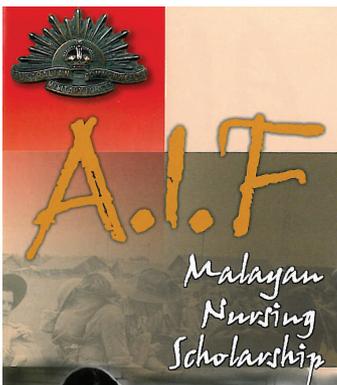
MEDIA INFORMATION:

Phone Irene Jarzabek, Publicist His Majesty's Theatre

Ph (08) 9265 0988 Mob 0419 192 140

Email ijarzabek@aegogdenperth.com.au

Image: ANZAC COVES – Pierrot Troupe direct from the firing line.



This Scholarship is a memorial dedicated to those Australian soldiers who served with the 2nd AIF in Malaya and did not return.

This *living memorial* provides training to nurses from Malaya & Singapore.

These Nursing Scholarships help the bonds of friendship between Australia and two of its important regional neighbours.

Donations to the fund may be sent to:

AIF Malayan Memorial Nursing Scholarship Fund

c/- Australian Red Cross National Office

PO Box 196

CARLTON VIC 3053