



# 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@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3799  
Fax: (08) 9287 3732  
Country Callers : 1800 259 799

**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@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.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 Friday- welfare applica-  
tions, 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: [stateacct@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:stateacct@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

## SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

### *Adjourned Portion of State Annual General Meeting*

**Sub Branches are advised that the Adjourned portion of the Annual General Meeting has been cancelled and will be rescheduled early in the new year**

**We regret any inconvenience however delays in finalising the accounts for RACA was unable to be achieved in time for our meeting.**

## Affiliates

Plastic Membership Cards, similar to those issued for Life and Service Members are now available for issue to Affiliates of Sub Branches.



**RSL WA BRANCH INC.**

On the reverse side the new card will also show sponsors who support the RSL.

If Sub Branches wish to issue the new card to their Affiliates they need to supply Headquarters with the following information to enable the card to be personalised.

- Badge Number
- Full Name
- Sub Branch

**Cards will cost \$5 each**

To facilitate the issue of cards to Sub Branch Affiliates Membership Officer are asked to provide the listed information as a bulk order.

Cards will be returned to the Sub Branch for issue to Affiliates.

**Please note money is to accompany the card order.**



### Flags at Funerals

The following guidelines provided by The Australian National Flag Assoc of WA should be used in reference to the use of the Australian National Flag at funerals.

Historically - there has been confusion about the use of the Australian National Flag at funerals of deceased ex-service men and women. Contrary to popular belief - The use of the ANF is not exclusively for Ex-Service Personnel. The protocol book '*AUSTRALIAN FLAGS*' which is produced by the Awards and Culture Branch of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet makes this statement.

#### Draping a Coffin

"The Australian National Flag may be used to cover the coffin of any deceased Australian citizen at their funeral."

Some Funeral Company's are seemingly ignorant of the above and actually advise the family of deceased non-Service Personnel that the ANF cannot be used to drape a coffin. That, of course, is incorrect advice. Whilst most Funeral Directors will supply the ANF to drape a coffin, they will not give the flag away and will retrieve it as soon as the service is concluded. This action has the effect on the grieving family of the feeling that the service is in some way incomplete.

This can be easily corrected if the flag used on the coffin was neatly folded towards the conclusion of the service and solemnly presented to the NOK for them to keep. This action is a most respectful and appreciated conclusion to the ceremony.

The only way to achieve this however is for the family of the deceased to purchase the flag and hand it to the Funeral Company with firm instructions of what is required of them.

#### Naval & RAAF Ensigns

People wishing to use an RAN or RAAF Ensign to drape a coffin have a more difficult task in that those ensigns are 'controlled items' and permission to use and/or purchase them must be obtained from Navy or Air Force Office in Canberra.

In the case of arranging a funeral - time to do this is not always available.

RSL Sub Branches and Unit and Kindred Associations however - upon application from the above authorities can be given permission to purchase those ensigns for 'display purposes' and Funeral Company's can obtain them for temporary use for funerals.

Further information about obtaining the above ensigns and the Australian National Flag may be gained by contacting the Australian National Flag Association on (08) 9321 7406.

### Asset Register

As part of our Audit process State Branch is required to provide a current valuation on all real estate owned by State Branch. This includes Sub Branch facilities and holdings of freehold, Crown Grants and other property the subject of a Lease arrangement with other parties. This is being done through title searches and other property agencies. If you become aware that your Sub Branch property is being valued, be assured it is being undertaken for Audit purposes only.

### Impersonations

Impersonating a veteran or wearing medals to which you have no entitlement is an offence under the Crimes Act. The recent exposure of the National President of the Ex POW Assoc as a fraud clearly illustrates the anger felt in the veteran community to this type of behaviour.

Recently State Branch were made aware of a member wearing medals to which he had no entitlement. As a consequence he has been appropriately dealt with.

Should you become aware of an individual impersonating as a veteran or wearing medals to which he has no entitlement please address the matter to State Branch with adequate evidence so appropriate action may be commenced against the offender.

### Christmas Arrangements

Advance notice is given that ANZAC House and Club will close at 3.00pm on Wednesday 23 December 2009 and reopen for business at 8.30am on Monday 11 January, 2010.

### Gunfire Breakfast

Applications for funding of Gunfire Breakfast will be issued with the next issue of Sub Branch Signal. For 2010, no money will be sent to the Sub Branch in advance but will be issued upon the production of receipts for goods purchased.

### ANZAC Day 2010 Infrastructure Grants

Thanks to the Sub Branches that sent in submissions for Infrastructure Support to conduct their ANZAC Day Services. We will collate your responses and prepare the submission to Lotterywest. We expect to be able to confirm your allocation early in January 2010.

### Membership Statistics As at 29 October 2009

Service—9 252  
Affiliates—1 764  
Total—11 016



## Reminder

Sub Branches were reminded to return their audited Annual Financial Statements to this headquarters no later than Friday 30 October 2009.

Sub Branches who were not able to meet this requirement should contact Mr Ken van Lit on 9287 3718 without delay. Those who fail to respond will be contacted.

### Cadet of the Year

Early in November the Membership & Youth Committee will be selecting three Service Cadets for our 2010 Cadet of the Year Awards. The Award this year will be a seven day leadership training course on *STS Leeuwin*. The program on board will not only teach nautical skills but focus on leadership and teamwork in a most exciting environment. The awardees will be formally announced at RSL's Australia Day Function to be held at ANZAC House on Friday 22 January 2010. They will sail from Fremantle on 22 February, 2010. Our thanks go to Hollywood Private Hospital for their generous support of this initiative.

### ANZAC Club

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Matthew Holyday as our new ANZAC House/Club Manager. Matthew was with us several years ago and is delighted to return to the position. He will commence duties on 2 November 2009. Just as a reminder, if you are planning to hold a Christmas function at the ANZAC Club, please book early to avoid disappointment. I am certain that between Matthew, Jan and the team, you will be well served. We can also guarantee you a good price for your function

### Poppy Day Collections

Just a reminder that your acquittal documentation for the Annual Street Appeal must be lodged with State Branch by Close of Business Monday 30 November 2009.

Please don't fail us!!

### Amalgamation of Sub Branches

Following an approach from the Como, Manning and City of South Perth Sub Branches, the State Executive have approved the amalgamation on to the Charter of the City of South Perth Sub Branch. While there are some minor issues to attend to it is planned to put the amalgamation into effect on 1 January 2010.

### Membership Renewals

Towards the end of November membership renewal notices will be posted to member's private address. With the renewal will be a reply paid envelope for return of your remittance. Included also will be procedures for payment on line.

We ask that you pay your renewal direct to State Headquarters and not at your sub branch. Payment direct to headquarters will result in your 2010 Membership Card and Discount Booklet being sent to you at your private address within ten working days of receipt of your remittance.

### Financial Management Seminar

**A training course for sub branch executives will be held on Wednesday 17 February 2010. The course will focus on Financial Management and Audit. Presenters will include, State Treasurer, State Accountant and Chairman of RSL Finance Committee. This Course will provide executives, especially treasurers with vital information in implementing best practice in the conduct of the financial affairs of a sub branch. As sound financial management will be a focus for future years we strongly urge your support for this seminar**

**Registration Forms will be included in the next issue of Sub Branch Signal.**

### Pension Officers Wanted

We are seeking the services of members interested in training to be Pension Officers operating out of State Headquarters. If you have a desire to assist veterans in processing their claims for pensions and other entitlements we would love to hear from you. Training is provided and commitment of a small amount of time is all that is required.

If you are interested, please contact Jim Boland at ANZAC House.

### From the Archives

Naomi Jones, our Archivist, has been well received in many Sub Branches as she moves through the State to advise committees on how best to look after their valuable records and memorabilia. She has visited as far a field as Gnowangerup as well as many country locations near the metropolitan area. If your Sub Branch would like a visit from Naomi, please make contact with her at ANZAC House. The work she is doing is vital as it is preserving the history of the RSL in Western Australia.





### **MEMBERSHIP SPECIAL**

***New members joining between 1 October and 31 December 2009 will receive membership up until 31 December 2010***

**Three Months Free Membership!**

**Membership Officer/ Sub Branch Secretary please contact Kathy at ANZAC House for details**

### **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.

### **Pandemic H1N1 (Swine Flu) 2009 Vaccination Program**

The Australian Government has announced the commencement of a H1N1 Vaccination Program for persons aged 10 years and older. The H1N1 Vaccination program is set to commence from Wednesday, 30 September 2009.

Australia's independent medicines' regulator, the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA), has determined that the vaccine is safe and effective for use in adults and has registered the pandemic influenza (swine flu) vaccine.

The TGA has been progressively assessing data from adult human trials of the vaccine. The human adult trials have indicated that the pandemic vaccine is similar to that of seasonal influenza vaccine with a high safety and low adverse events profile, and that only one injection is required for adults.

DVA benefits will be payable for Pandemic H1N1 2009 vaccinations provided by general practitioners (GPs) and practice nurses delivering the vaccinations on a GPs behalf. The vaccine will NOT be available via private script or the PBS and there should be no charge for the cost of the vaccine as this is covered by the Australian Government Pandemic H1N1 2009 Vaccination Program.

The initial rollout of the vaccine will concentrate on vaccinating front-line health workers and vulnerable people with underlining chronic medical conditions who may experience severe effects from the pandemic influenza. The wider population will also be able to access the vaccine.

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring Australia is combating this new strain of influenza in the most effective way possible.

As there is enough vaccine for all adults, DVA clients are encouraged to protect themselves and their families against the pandemic flu by getting vaccinated.

More information is available by phoning the Pandemic Flu hotline on 1802007 or visiting [www.healthemergency.gov.au](http://www.healthemergency.gov.au)

### **Veterans' Health Week a success**

Thousands of veterans and their families took part in Veterans' Health Week, 24-30 August. Laughter workshops in Victoria, family fun days in Darwin, walking groups in Tasmania, health expos across NSW and Adelaide and even belly dancing in Perth were just some of the events on offer. The fun week had a serious purpose encouraging veterans to include physical activity as part of their regular routine for stronger, healthier and happier lives.

DVA would like to thank the ex-service community for their support in organising more than 100 activities across the country. DVA has a range of health initiatives available to the veteran community including the [Heart Health](#) program, [Day Clubs](#), [At-Ease](#) and the [Men's Health Peer Education program](#).

