



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

Issue 1/2010
Sub Branch Signal

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: (08) 9287 3799
Fax: (08) 9287 3732
Country Callers : 1800 259 799

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
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 Friday - welfare applica-
tions, 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
enquiries, Sub-Branch credits
Sub-Branch Insurance, information,
claims, grant application assistance,
DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)
Email: stateacct@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

LISTENING POST

Monday to Friday - editorial staff
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3716

NOTICE OF MEETING

STATE CONGRESS

Saturday 6 March 2010

1.00 pm

ANZAC HOUSE

BUSINESS

To receive and adopt the Audited Annual Financial Statement
For the Year Ended 30 June 2009

To amend State Rule 27.11 to allow Incorporation of Sub Branches
As approved by State Executive

To consider an Independent Report on options available to RSL
For the realisation of RSLWA Branch Assets

Note: The Agenda is contained with this mail out
A quorum of 33 Sub Branches is required to transact business

ANZAC HOUSE STAFF TRAINING DAY

To enable all ANZAC House and Club Staff to undertake essential First Aid
Training we advise that

ANZAC House and Club will be closed for all business on
Monday 25 January 2010.

Any inconvenience is regretted but Staff will be better qualified to serve you in
time of emergency.

Assistance Required—Please!

Indexation of payments for beneficiaries of Australia's three Military Superannua-
tion Scheme is provided for in Legislation. Successive Parliaments have allowed
the erosion of these benefits and measures to adjust those pensions to compensate
for increased cost of living have not been effective.

RSL is preparing a submission to Government to address this matter and as part of
that submission example of how members have been adversely effected by the
inappropriate indexation is urgently required as part of that submission.

If you are willing to allow your circumstances to be used (in confidence) please
register your name with Nola Keen (9287 3799) at State Branch.

We need your support for our submission to have input.



Poppy Day Appeal

Thank you to all Sub Branches and their supporters for participation in the Annual Poppy Day Appeal. It was a great result and the proceeds will boost the Relief Trust Fund considerably.

For the records:

Total Collections	\$375,298
Less costs	\$41,286
Nett Amount	\$334,012
Transfer to Trust Fund	\$167,006

Again, it is pointed out that the RSL conducts the Poppy Day Appeal on behalf of the Aged Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen's Relief Trust Fund which is administered by three Trustees. Unlike Sub Branches, RSL State Branch holds no Amelioration account and has no responsibility in the operation of the Trust Fund other than Administrative support.

Appreciation is expressed to Sub Branches that assisted State Branch to meet its statutory obligation by submitting their returns on time. This allowed compliance in submission of the reconciliation return for the Poppy Day Collection to government by the due date. Unfortunately several Sub Branches let the side down – a situation that will need to be resolved for future collections.

Financial Returns

It is of some concern that we still hear of Sub Branches holding their Annual General Meetings outside the specified time. Annual General Meetings need to be held no later than four months after the end of the financial year – 30 June. Submission of Annual Financial Statements, approved by the Annual General Meeting to State Branch is required immediately following such approval. Several Sub Branches have failed to submit their returns and will now be contacted. For the protection of Office Bearers, particularly Treasurers, compliance with this obligation is absolutely essential.

RSL Street Appeal

RSL has been allocated Friday 23 April, 2010 for its Annual Street Appeal. Application Forms for participation by your Sub Branch have already been issued and a response as to whether you will be involved is urgently required. In the past this Appeal has not been well supported by Sub Branches and its future will need to be assessed in the light of 2010 participation. There are other organizations who would like to collect on that date – the Friday nearest to ANZAC Day and it would be unreasonable for RSL to claim the date if we are not maximising the potential. Proceeds from the collection are shared 50%-50% with State Branch and the use of the funds is for the administration of welfare services provided by RSL.

Membership Renewals

Thanks go to members who have promptly renewed their membership for 2010. All renewals directed to ANZAC House prior to closure for the Christmas break were processed by 23 December. The centralised renewal process has made a significant impact on work flow in the membership office with benefits to everyone. Over 3000 renewals were processed within the 10 working days promised. Renewals sent in on Capitation Forms will be dealt with in the normal course of business.

The popularity of on-line and credit card payments have proved very popular and are a safe and secure way of making payments.

The new Affiliate Cards is also gaining popularity as they will attract additional benefits for Affiliates through the Discount Booklets.

New Sub Branches

State Executive at its December Meeting approved the issue of Charters to Walpole Sub Branch and Halls Creek Sub Branch.. We welcome the new groups to the RSL family and wish them well for their future.

The Walpole Sub Branch is the reformation of a previously Chartered Sub Branch that was formed during the days of the Land Settlement Schemes on the south coast of Western Australia. With keen support from the neighbouring Sub Branches at Peaceful Bay, Denmark and Albany we are hoping the veterans in that specific area will be better supported through the presence of the League.

Walpole will receive their Charter at RSLWA's Australia Day Award Presentation Evening in January.

Returns Required Please!

Last issue of Sub Branch Signal requested returns on the following forthcoming Activities:

- Sub Branch Executives Training Course
- Gunfire Breakfast Applications
- ANZAC Day 2010 ADF Support
- Media Contacts – ANZAC Day

If we are to benefit from support for the above activities it is essential we have information from Sub Branches by the date specified for return.

Your attention to this matter with a degree of urgency would be great.

Membership Statistics

We are pleased to present our Annual Membership Statistics for 2009:

Life Members	150
Life Subscribers	86
Service Members	9,080
TOTAL	9,323
Affiliates	1,780
GRAND TOTAL	11,103



Australia Day Awards- 2010

We are pleased to announce recipients of our 2010 Australia Day Medallions, awarded for outstanding service to the League and Community.

Individual Award – Mr Denis Connolly

Mr Connolly has been Editor of the RSL bi-monthly newspaper *The Listening Post* for the past three years. In that time he has turned the periodical into a well-regarded publication presenting the reader with a variety of historical and topical articles. The production is colourful and provides a true representation of activities in the League in Western Australia. It recently received commendations from the Director of Australian War Memorial as a publication of high standard and interest.

Sub Branch Award – Bedford Morley Sub Branch

Following a disastrous bus accident involving members from the Sub Branch in late 2008 resulting in one death and some 20 persons injured the Sub Branch acted quickly to put welfare services in place to assist those affected by the accident. This was done with compassion and with follow up services supported by the members of this close-knit group, they showed determination to offer mutual support wherever needed. This support is on going and has earned the approbation of all members, neighbouring Sub Branches and the wider community.

Community Award – Marija Jelavic Promotions

Marija Jelavic, Principal of her Company has been associated with the organization of ANZAC Day in Perth for the past five years. In that time the Dawn Service, Parade and Service on Perth Esplanade has substantially grown to the point where it is claimed that we have the best attended, and largest Dawn Service in Australia – in fact the World. Her commitment to excellence and dedication to the veteran community has seen the event recognised Australia wide as one of great significance. Not only does she co ordinate the Perth Services but also acts as a consultant to other suburban and regional centres.

State Executive – Changes

It is with regret we advise of the resignation from State Executive of Ray Galliot and Oliver Lovelle.

Both members' service has been outstanding and their endeavours valued. We thank them for their contribution and wish them well for the future.

State Executive has endorsed Mr Peter Fardon to fill Ray Galliot's unexpired portion of his position and steps are being taken to fill Mr Lovelle's position

Cadet of the Year

In association with our sponsors, Hollywood Private Hospital we are pleased to announce the winners of the Service Cadet of the Year Program.

Aidan Gallagher: TS CANNING (Navy Cadets)

Aidan is currently Chief Petty Officer at TS CANNING and has won awards for Best Cadet of the Year, as well as Seamanship Awards.

Kirsty Roberts: Como Army Cadet Unit

Kirsty is a Staff Sergeant and will be the Units CSM in 2010. She has won leadership awards as well as the most Outstanding Cadet 2009. Kirsty hopes to join the ADF during this year.

Alex Torres: 509 Army Cadet Unit: Lynwood

Alex has been nominated several times as a finalist in RSL Cadet of the Year and has finally achieved the award. He has demonstrated He has demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities and hopes to join the AOF (Army) in 2010.

The winners will be undertaking a five-day adventure and leadership training course on STS LEEUWIN in late February. The awardees will receive their Participation Certificates and other presentation material at our Australia Day Function.

Cadet Efficiency Trophy

The Cadet Efficiency Trophy is open to all Service Cadet Units in WA and is jointly sponsored by Australian Defence Credit Union and RSL. The Award goes to the most efficient Cadet Unit as judged by Cadet Headquarters from set criteria, The Award is a prestigious Award and carries a cash prize of \$1000, a Perpetual Shield and an Annual Trophy Plaque.

2009 winners were

Navy: TS ANZAC (Rockingham)

Army: Christchurch Grammar School Cadet Unit

Air Force: 721 SQN – Madeley

RSL and ADCU congratulate the 2009 winners and look forward to further supporting our young Cadets in future years.

WA AGED RETURNED SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S RELIEF TRUST FUND

**Ready to Assist
Veterans and Dependents
in
Need or Necessitous Circumstances
Apply: Welfare Officer – ANZAC House**





TOODYAY VETERANS SUPPORTED

Following an invitation from Toodyay Sub Branch a delegation from State Executive visited Toodyay and met with representatives of Government Departments, Shire Councillors, Media and local residents. The delegation included State President, Avon District Representative Donna Prytulak and Board Member 'Digger' Cleak. They were welcomed and had the opportunity to see the relief and recovery process in action. State President, Bill Gaynor was invited to address the meeting of Toodyay residents at their daily meeting and was later reported on television in a very favourable light. He was also interviewed on ABC Radio and in the interview he outlined how RSL was specifically assisting Veterans affected by the disaster from the Trust Fund, He also advised he had asked the RSL community to give generously to the main Appeal. Feedback from the RSL presence and comments from locals were very positive.

Accompanied by Sub Branch President, Gary Holland and Sub Branch Member Bruce Prior the delegation toured the affected area and visited veterans that had suffered loss. The scene was one of devastation and while there were those who lost everything there were others who were very lucky to be spared the wrath of the flames.



Most were putting on a brave front but it was obvious the distress they were hiding. Picture is a veteran looking into a skip bin containing all that is left of his business. He lost his livelihood when his work shed was destroyed in the fire. Note the motor cycle in the rear – totally destroyed. In all we were able to identify seven veterans who were in urgent need of financial support. No doubt more applications for assistance will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

We also referred a veteran to VVCS who were prompt to act to his needs - even on New Years Day. He will receive on-going counselling support over the next few weeks.

On 6 January 2010 the Trustees of the Relief Fund met and considered applications for assistance and approved a total of \$27000 in relief payments. The Cheques were immediately drawn up and handed to the Sub Branch Secretary for personal distribution on 7 January 2010.

Financial support to the community has resulted in a WA Government unconditional allocation of \$3000 which has been matched by an anonymous donor and a \$1000 Federal Government Grant. In kind support has come from the business world with food, clothing and items of plant & equipment. Time and machine donations are on offer as well as food and water for stock.

The cohesiveness of the local community in time of adversity is astounding. They are certainly engaging in mutual support and the atmosphere reflects that situation.

Many WA Sub Branches have been in contact with the Toodyay Sub Branch with offers of support ranging from financial to clothing and household goods and equipment.

Electricity was quickly connected to all affected properties but only to the property boundary. Wiring and power distribution on the property is the responsibility of the property owner and contractors are being sourced to connect and make safe houses, sheds, pumps etc. Over the next few weeks Insurance assessors will work as quickly as possible with claimants to facilitate a speedy return to normality.

You are assured that the welfare of veterans in need and necessitous circumstances has been addressed and will be closely monitored over the coming weeks and months. The Trustees of the Relief Fund are on standby should further assistance be required.

Sub Branches, and other State Branches are encouraged to donate to the main Appeal to support a community in need.

