



# 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: (08) 9287 3799  
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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  
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 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  
enquiries, 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

**LISTENING POST**

Monday to Friday - editorial staff  
Email: [listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3716

## IMPORTANT NOTICES

### Financial Accountability

Despite repeated requests just over one third of our Sub Branches have failed to submit Audited Financial Statements to this headquarters. For the effective financial management of the sub branch this requirement is absolutely necessary, not to mention the protection it provides to sub branch committees, particularly the treasurer.

Those in default will receive a separate letter attached to this issue of Sub Branch Signal reminding them of their obligations

### ANZAC Day 2011

While arrangements for Commemorative Services for 2010 are well in hand it is wise to think ahead and draw attention to ANZAC Day 2011 when 25 April, 2011 falls on a Monday – Easter Monday. There will be a need to plan ahead and consult with your local community to see that ANZAC Day Services are well organized. Country areas that are popular tourist destinations can expect a marked increase in attendances and organizers need to factor this in when seeking logistical and financial support.

## *Commemoration of Indigenous War Veterans*

### Commemorative Service

Wednesday 2 June 2010

### Court of Contemplation

State War Memorial

9.45 am

*Reconciliation: Let's See It Through*

*All Veterans & Public Welcome*

## **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**



### Special Congress

A Special Congress was held on 6 March 2010 to deal with specific items of business associated with the governance of the Branch. Fortunately, we were able to form a quorum to conduct the meeting with 34 of the 132 Sub Branches in attendance. The Annual Audited Financial Statement was adopted as well as the amendment to the State Constitution to allow for Incorporated Sub Branches.

In addition, the Congress received and endorsed an In-Confidence Report on the future financial affairs of the Branch with respect to asset management.

The RSL WA Branch operates with finite cash reserves and currently relies on the generosity of organizations such as Lotterywest, DVA, Celebrate WA, ANZAC Day Trust Fund, WAASSATF, bequests and donations to cover operating expenses. We are mindful that this level of support may not always be available and as such we are considering strategic options to secure the long term independent economic viability of the Branch. We recently commissioned a review of our asset portfolio to assist these considerations. The report is on-going and will be completed in the not to distant future. Interim reports reveal we have an extensive property portfolio which is spread all over Western Australia and consists of commercial operations, vacant land and buildings in various state of repair. For example, in Coolgardie we own a hotel (de-licensed in 1926) which is under a Heritage listing. We also own a block of land in the Youanmi Town site (A ghost town in the Murchison). In many cases we are liable for rates, taxes and utilities charges. We attempt to offset these charges by leasing the facility to local enterprises but this is not always possible. The only course we have is to bear the loss or dispose of the property.

Legal opinion confirms that State Executive does not require Congress approval to operate within our Charter and Rules however your State Executive believes it is important the Membership is aware of possible pathways the League can take in realising Assets as well as the reason for such action. This is a decision that must often be made quickly by your elected representatives.

The **Commercial-in-Confidence** Report on asset disposal together with rationale for such action was shared with those who attended the meeting. Those in attendance endorsed the report and supported the State Executive to act in the best interests of the League by taking appropriate action to realize assets.

### Financial Services to Members

As a Service to RSL Members and clients of Australian Defence Credit Union an Agency of ADCU will shortly be operating in ANZAC House. Final arrangements are being negotiated and we expect to announce the Opening Date and Services that can be accessed prior to ANZAC Day.

### Proposed Changes to the Governance of Military Superannuation Schemes

*The National Executive is taking urgent action to challenge the proposed changes without due consultation with superannuants*

On 31 October 2008 the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon Lindsay Tanner announced that “on 1 July 2010 the Boards of the Australian Reward Investment Alliance (ARIA), the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS) and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDB) will merge to form a single trustee board.” The reason cited for this merger was that “consolidation will bring more than 650,000 members and pensioners under a single trustee board, establish a greater pool of assets for investment purposes and apply best practice management approaches across all schemes.”

A press release by Minister Tanner on 26 November 2009 quoted him as saying that “the Government is committed to ensuring governance arrangements for its superannuation schemes are effective and consistent with the broader superannuation industry.”

To give effect to these intentions, the Government introduced the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*, the *Comsuper Bill 2010* and the *Superannuation Legislation (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010* into the House of Representatives on 4 February 2010.

**The Government did not consult the RSL about these proposed changes to the governance of military superannuation schemes affecting many RSL members.**

The RSL has strongly recommended that further Parliamentary consideration of the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Bill 2010*, *Comsuper Bill 2010* and *Superannuation Legislation (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010* be deferred to allow military superannuants time to examine relevant information and make an informed assessment about this material.

**We believe this to be a responsible and sensible approach to the issue.**

### ADCU

Last issue we notified you of the opening of an agency of *Australian Defence Credit Union* opening in ANZAC House. Final details of operating agreements are being worked out and we expect to advise you of the commencement date shortly.



### [New General Service Medal for Korean Service Announced](#)

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support Mike Kelly expected that the medal would be available for dispatch to some eligible recipients before ANZAC Day. Former defence force personnel who served in South Korea during the post-armistice period following the ceasefire on July 27, 1953 should now apply for the award. The Australian General Service Medal for Korea is being struck to recognise former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days participation in operations in South Korea during the post-armistice period from July 28, 1953 to April 19, 1956.

### [Appointment of Permanent RSL Advocate to the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal](#)

The National Executive decided late last year to take a more proactive role in hearings before the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal about Australian Defence Force pay and allowances.

To this end we have been fortunate in obtaining the voluntary services of Commodore Syd Lemon RANR as our permanent representative. The National Executive will fund attendance at all Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal pay case inspections and visits to ADF units to enable Syd to be fully conversant with remuneration issues brought before the Tribunal.

The National Executive is most grateful to Group Captain Phil Morrall for representing the RSL at DFRT hearings in Canberra pending the appointment of a permanent advocate; and values Phil's ongoing role as Chairman of the RSL National Conditions of Service Committee.

### [East Timor Honours Returning Aussie Troops](#)

The President of East Timor, Dr Jose Ramos Horta, has presented medals and expressed his nation's gratitude to nearly 200 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel who are about to return home. In the ceremony at the Presidential Palace, President Ramos Horta praised the role Australian personnel have played in restoring and then maintaining peace in East Timor. Together we have been able to restore peace and security for the people who so much deserved it," President Ramos Horta said to the members of the International Stabilisation Force (ISF).

"As you depart for Australia I wish to thank you for the services you have provided us on behalf of the Australian people." The assembled Navy, Army and Air Force personnel were awarded with the Australian Service Medal and the Timor Leste Solidarity Medal. The ISF Commander, Commodore (CDRE) Stuart Mayer, was also awarded one of the highest accolades that can be presented by the President, the Medal of Merit (Medhala de Merito), becoming one of only a select few people from outside East Timor to receive the medal. CDRE Mayer thanked the soldiers, sailors and airmen and women for their hard work and commitment as well as highlighting the challenges that lay ahead. "ADF in East Timor have been instrumental in returning stability to the people of East Timor and created the stability and opportunity needed so that their nation can continue to grow. In the months ahead the ISF will be looking to consolidate recent achievements and continue to provide that guarantee for the people of East Timor so that they can build for their own future."

### [Toodyay Revisited](#)

It has been nearly three months since the Toodyay bushfire devastated the rural community. This event drew the local community together and with financial and moral support from the wider community they have started the process of rebuilding their lives and homes. While there has been magnificent support there are still many issues yet to be resolved. These will take time. RSL, as already mentioned were there straight after the event and through the Aged Fund provided over \$30 000 of immediate relief to those in need. Local sub branches also provide much in-kind support. I am now able to advise that through the generosity of NSW State Branch \$10 000, Mandurah Sub Branch \$1 000 and Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub Branch \$200 a further amount of \$11 200 will be distributed to Veterans in need or necessitous circumstances. It is also acknowledged that many RSL Members and Sub Branches would have contributed financially or in kind to the various appeals however, the listed groups chose to allocate their funds through State Branch which has, in association with the Toodyay Sub Branch, arranged the disbursement.





### RSL Partnerships

State Branch is in the final stages of forming a partnership with the WA Department of Corrective Services for the programmed maintenance of sub branch premises and War Memorial as well as minor works programs. The strategy is to make use of those persons undertaking community service orders as well as those with certain trade skills to work under supervision on worthwhile community projects. This initiative will be operating statewide and is seen as a great way to provide support to the RSL community.

Full details will be available as soon as a mode of operation is prepared. It is stressed that there will be no risk to the community and work undertaken will be of a professional standard. Funding of any works program is still being negotiated.

### Rick Hart Stores

Clive Peeters Pty Ltd trading as Rick Hart Stores has been a long time supporter of RSL in WA. We are currently negotiating a renewal of the current sponsorship arrangement that will result in enhanced benefits for members. We hope to have a joint media release available before ANZAC Day to make you aware of the value added components of RSL Membership.

### Raise-a-Glass 2010

Carlton United Brewery will again be conducting its **Raise a Glass** Sponsorship program with RSL & Legacy being the beneficiaries. For each carton of specially marked **VB** beer a donation will be made to the sponsorship pool. At the conclusion of the sponsor period (April & May) the pool, which is Australia Wide, will be equally divided between Legacy and RSL with the RSL portion proportionally allocated to States. The RSL portion Australia Wide is allocated to RSL Welfare

## *ANZAC Day at the ANZAC Club*

After the Dawn Service the traditional ANZAC Club Gunfire Breakfast will be on as usual. Starting at 7.00 am and served in the Club, members can enjoy a full cook up of scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, tomato, hash brown, toast and preserves, tea or coffee for just \$12.50.

### *Post March*

To cope with the increased demand on the Club there will be a large capacity marquee, licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for the occasion. This year the Club will only sell and supply prepackaged products at the Marquee, and this will speed up service.

There will be three dispersment points in the marquee and all will be adequately staffed for the day.

Snacks such as pie and chips will be available from the kitchen Servery inside the actual Club.

Any further enquiries can be directed to Matthew Holyday, ANZAC House Manager on 9287 3714 or [anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au)

### Affiliate Registration Form

Enclosed with this issue of the Sub Branch Signal is a new form for reporting details of affiliates. The form provides for the calculation of capitation and also allows for the optional purchase of other items. In the future, affiliates will form part of our database and those purchasing the Affiliate Member Card will be promoted with the League's discount promotion brochure.

