



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

National President's Visit

The recent visit by our National President, RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Rtd), provided members with an opportunity to meet with him in an informal environment and hear first hand of his vision for future directions for the RSL. His presentation to both the State Executive and the membership in attendance at the City of Belmont Sub Branch was forthright and down to earth. He clearly articulated the present position of the League and made suggestions as to how we could move forward ever bearing in mind the purpose for which the League was founded – primarily to look after our mates who are in need or necessitous circumstances.



He indicated that the League needed to better focus on the needs of the younger service and ex service men and women – including reservists. Attention needed to be directed towards families, especially when serving members of the family are on deployment. Membership is important for the continued operation of the League but of greater importance is an awareness of the role of the RSL and its contribution to the service and ex service community. This needs to be better publicised and understood.

In his presentation he outlined the success that was being experienced in the establishment of a Virtual Sub Branch where a link is formed between the RSL and serving personnel. This has proved a very popular with connections being made with over 2000 serving members. They have registered with RSL and now know what we can offer by way of support to them and their families.

A further initiative - Project RSL HELP - is being devised on a national basis and will offer members, service and ex service men and women instant assistance to help them in time of urgent need. With such a project nation-wide systems will need to be set in place and trial centres established before it can be commissioned.

Mention was made also of the need for the organisation to be compliant with our governance protocols. As we hold a privilege position in the not-for-profit sector compliance with State and Commonwealth Laws is obligatory. The privilege of concessional taxation status and access to many State and Commonwealth benefits allow RSL to be effective in fulfilling the elements of our Charter. To retain these benefits we must, at all times, remain focussed on satisfying the requirements associated with retention of those privileges.

Progress on the intense lobbying of government on issues relating to Military Superannuation and Indexation were outlined and progress is being made in those areas announced. From discussion points raised members were fully supportive of the commitment our National President has undertaken and fully endorsed the approach he has made on these issues.

I am certain those members attending RADM Doolan's presentations went away satisfied that the League is in the hands of strong and focussed leadership where the needs of the members are receiving paramount consideration.





[Future of the Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal National President Reports:](#)

There were two concerns about the future of the DFRT. The first arose because of a hiatus about the re-appointment of the President, the Honourable Patricia Leary. This has since been resolved with a temporary fix for the next 12 months. However, the Tribunal still lacks a third member and I intend taking this up with the responsible Minister after the forthcoming federal election.

The second problem arose because of an unannounced administrative move of the DFRT from the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations to the Public Service Commission. I raised this with Minister Griffin immediately it came to my attention – with the Minister admitting he knew nothing about the matter.

I told Minister Griffin that the RSL was opposed to the move because of the perception it gave that the ADF was just another part of the public service; and because the move was at odds with the line we took in our paper about the indexation of military superannuation separating the ADF and the Public Service as distinctly different entities. I also advised that I understood the President of the DFRT has significant concerns that the move might compromise the independence of the Tribunal. The matter remained unresolved at the time the federal election was called and I will take it up with the responsible minister after the election.

[ANZAC Day 2011](#)

The presentation of ANZAC Day Commemorative events and activities, particularly in regional areas, is increasingly affected by the resources available not only to conduct the event but also to expand the process of engaging and educating the community.

With support from Lotterywest, access to funding for ANZAC Day 2011 will be available for Sub Branches to enhance and expand their ANZAC Day commemorations and activities. Many Sub Branches have built partnerships with local government and community organizations to assist in their ANZAC Day commemorations. This opportunity will not affect those relationships – it can only enhance them and all Sub Branches are encouraged to continue building and developing community partnerships for their ANZAC Day events. We recommend that you meet with your stakeholders and community partners to discuss ideas and opportunities for your ANZAC Day commemorations.

Please refer to the enclosed statement on this matter and note the closing date for applications.

This Grant is open to all RSL Sub Branches in Western Australia.

[Archivist Report](#)

Through the generosity of Lotterywest we have been able to secure a Grant to employ Naomi Jones for a further period of three years to enable her to complete the documentation of RSL Records at both State and Sub Branch level. Naomi and her team of volunteers are making good progress with the Archives and the establishment of the Victoria Cross Library. As part of improving the Library and making it more user friendly, it is considered necessary to enhance the display of the collection and promote its availability to those undertaking research.

RSL will be supporting WA Heritage Week and plans are in hand for an RSL Expo at ANZAC House on 13 & 14 November 2010. We plan a display of military memorabilia including military vehicles in the fore-court next to ANZAC House. Part of the display will include the RSL Trailer, a section for dress ups by children, and hopefully it will include the Army Brass and Pipe Band. We are also planning to include Defence support for this project with support from Army, Navy and Air Force, as well as Cadets. Guest speakers and displays will also feature in the Galipoli Room.

[Corporate Golf Day](#)

On Thursday 22 July 2010 golfers turned out in force to contest the Annual RSL President's Cup Trophy at Meadow Springs Golf Complex. A capacity field of 144 players enjoyed good conditions and the camaraderie that is always evident when golfers get together. Winners of the day were the City of Rockingham Team who also took out the Trophy for the winning Sub Branch. Well done, Rockingham. Thanks must also be expressed to our many sponsors who generously supported the event with prizes as well as players.



[It is on again next year at the same time and place, so register when the flyer comes out to avoid missing out on a position](#)

[Centenary of ANZAC Grants](#)

The National Commission has called for public submissions as to how the Centenary of ANZAC may be commemorated. RSL Sub Branches and local communities are urged to consider commemorative activities at the local level and apply for funding to facilitate their project.

Submissions close on 17 September 2010 and information – including the Application Form – can be accessed at

www.anzaccentenary.gov.au/submissions



Welfare Services

During July our Welfare Officer was approached for emergency relief and general welfare assistance from Ex Service and Serving Members and their families.

This comprised of:

Veterans:	54
War Widow/widower:	16
Family Members:	26
Current Serving Members:	0

The presenting issues included: financial assistance, emotional support, crisis counselling, referral to other services and organisations, advocacy, hospital and home visits and assistance with food vouchers and payment of utilities. The total amount of RSL welfare funds expended this month to date is \$3,738.48, being for food \$1,050.00, utilities \$1,345.18, accommodation \$806.25 and other necessities \$537.05. The increase in expenditure is across all categories of assistance.

A number of telephone calls offering to pay power bills for veterans were received in response to the State President's interview on Channel 7. A donation of \$300 was also made at Reception.

In June The WA Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund approved general grants to veterans experiencing financial hardship to a total of \$5762.69. The Trust continues to provide monthly grants to Veterans experiencing ongoing hardship. Two new recipients have been added this month bringing the monthly grants total to \$3,130.

The Official Prison Visitor, Mr Terry O'Neill, visited an additional two ex-servicemen at Casuarina Prison. They both applied for and received assistance through the Trust Fund to purchase additional blankets for the cold weather.

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

Membership SitRep

The design and artwork for a Membership Promotion Brochure has commenced and on completion it will be launched as part of a Membership Drive directed to serving and recently discharged service personnel. Arrangements are also being made to have short segments on 90.50 FM to encourage ex-service persons who are interested to join the RSL.

Discussions will also be held with our marketing people to have our new brochures issued to Sub Branches and other locations.

Membership Statistics to 26 July 2010 are -

Service Members	8,641
Affiliate Members	1,603
Total Members	10,244

Poppy Day 2010

The Annual Poppy Day Appeal is to be held on Friday 5 November 2010 in the Perth metropolitan area. Please note Friday 5 November 2010 is the only day on which Poppies may be given out in the Metropolitan "streets" – this does not include shopping centres. State legislation controls this; local Metropolitan Councils cannot overrule it. The rule does not apply to Country Sub Branch locations.

Sub Branches are reminded that money is collected on behalf of the Trustees of the "*Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Act 1932*" which enables welfare assistance to be provided to ex-servicemen and women, their widows and dependents.

The "*Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Act 1932*" is independent of the Returned and Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated and operated under the supervision of Trustees. The *Act* authorises the League and **NO OTHER BODY OR PERSON** to hold, manage and conduct the Poppy Day Appeal.

Sub Branches are asked to carefully consider the enclosures with this issue of the Sub Branch Signal and submit requests for support within the stated guidelines by the closing date.

Reminder

Sub Branches are reminded that their Annual General Meeting is to be held between 1 July and 31 October in each year. At the AGM the Audited Financial Statement is to be presented to the members and if approved, adopted.

The Annual Audited Financial Statement, together with a list of Office Bearers is then to be forwarded to State Branch no later than 31 October.

Your prompt attention to this requirement would be appreciated.

AFOF Donation

Thanks to Dawesville Sub Branch for their donation of \$1,500 to the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. This donation will be applied by the trustees of the Fund towards the provision of parcels to those members of the ADF on deployment overseas. The WA State President presented this donation personally at the July National Executive Meeting of the League.

Incorporated Licensed Sub Branches

Slow progress is being made on this matter due to the complexities of the legal issues involved in winding up existing Incorporated Clubs. Our lawyers are in discussion with the Australian Taxation Office to achieve an outcome that will be to the best advantage of the membership but this is a slow process. We will keep those involved up to date as progress is made.



*Summary of the Current and Former Members of the ADF
Emerging Issues Forum*

Following the recently held forum on the above matters it is important for the membership to be aware of the interest being taken by the ex service community to identify and address the problems concerning members of the defence forces and their families. The RSL is proactive in participating in discussions and looking for solutions to problems arising from our young men and women serving their country.

While no solutions are offered it is necessary for the concerns to be placed on record.

Items discussed at the forum included:

- Solomon Islands and East Timor by the end of the year will have predominately Reserve members serving in both these campaigns.
- Australia is now in charge of a Transitional Centre in Kuwait, which assists troops entering and exiting operational zones in the Middle East.
- We will see an increased involvement of our ADF members serving in South East Asia in the future.
- Afghanistan, as a joint operation is working very well especially in the areas of mentoring/educational roles; our troops are providing assisting in establishing its own law enforcement and Afghan Army. *It is the most dangerous of all our operations currently overseas and where the majority of our wounded serving members are returning back to Australia from.*
- Sudan operation is hostile and infectious diseases are a worry for our troops who serve in that region.
- Current ADF members see that Mateship, having direct access to the chain of command, are very proud of their own service and representing their country are important issues to them.
- Serving Members feel that monetary compensation is more important to their families for the pain and suffering it causes them rather than themselves. There is a high level of expectation that if they are injured compensation should be paid quickly.
- Communication, being able to access the internet and email for their own admin concerns, having face to face contact with discussing entitlements, being able to communicate effectively their own needs and having their request responded to quickly and having their own families part of the discharge process were other items of interest mentioned as being important to current serving members of the ADF.

I hope the items listed above provide members with insight as to the feelings, thoughts and expectations of our young men and women who are currently serving their country.

Review of DVA- Funded ESO Advocacy and Welfare Services

The Review Team has provided an Interim report to the Department. This Report highlighted and recommended changes in ESO delivery of advocacy and welfare services, governance structure in particular to TIP. Changes to the management and administration of DVA grants and future funding processes have been recommended. The Review Team has developed a Key Issues Paper and ESOs will have until the end of August to respond to the proposals. RSL National Veteran Affairs' Committee will be debating the issues raised in the document in early August at a specially convened conference to be held in Perth..

CONGRESS AT THE ANZAC CLUB!

The ANZAC Club will be open on the evening of Friday 29 October 2010 for all members of the RSL with a Table d'hote menu following the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the State War Memorial



Come and enjoy below hotel prices drinks and the hospitality of the ANZAC Club

