



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

Thank You

Let me offer my thanks to those members and friends who visited me in hospital and extended their best wishes during my recent illness and hospitalisation. The 'Get Well' cards, personal contacts from members and Sub Branches were most welcome and appreciated. I am pleased to let you know that my health has improved and I am looking forward to getting back into RSL activities – perhaps at a reduced pace.

I do wish to acknowledge the support I received from fellow Board of Directors who willingly took over my presidential duties. They did a great job and 'kept the show on the road.' Special thanks also go to ANZAC House Staff who willingly under-
took extra duties to see member services carried out by me were not compromised during my absence.

National Congress

The League's National Congress, held in early September, was hosted by NSW State Branch and held in the Western Plains city of Dubbo. All State Branches were represented with many eastern states observers in attendance. This Congress marked the end of the current format of each State hosting Congress in rotation. The new format of Congress involves it being held only in Sydney and Melbourne, and with an emphasis on 'showcasing' the RSL to the public. It will also provide a forum for the League to develop initiatives associated with defence of Australia and the care and recognition of Veterans'.

WA was represented by the State President, State Vice President, CEO and Director of Veteran's Affairs (WA). The Congress was held over a three-day period and debated policy and considered motions that affected the welfare of veterans.

Under a new arrangement whereby issues are now dealt with at the Quarterly Meeting of National Executive/ National Veteran Affairs Committee there were not a great deal of issues of importance presented. Most topical issues were already dealt with or in the process of being addressed therefore many of the issues raised were 'hardy annuals' presented to keep the item 'alive.'

The proposed new format for 'Congress' will be an Annual General Meeting and speakers/forums for highlighting issues in the veteran community concerning the welfare of veterans and the defence of Australia.

The 2011 Meeting under the new format will be held in Melbourne next September.

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
(08) 9287 3707**





State Congress

The 2010 Annual State Congress will be held at the Mercure Hotel, Irwin Street, Perth, on Saturday 30 October 2010 commencing at 9.00 am. The Agenda and Notice Papers are included in this issue of the Sub Branch Signal in accordance with the State Constitution.

This year Congress will be held on one day only due to motions submitted by Sub Branches being dealt with by State Executive or forwarded on to National for their consideration. This new approach to dealing with issues on an immediate or quarterly basis will result in a speedy attention to motions submitted by Sub Branches. It is anticipated a better outcome will be achieved as the time for responses to issues raised by members will be drastically reduced.

Membership Renewals

Early in 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 members pay their renewals direct to State Headquarters and **not at the Sub Branch**. Payment direct to headquarters will result in the 2011 Membership Card and Discount Booklet being sent direct to their private address within ten working days of receipt of your remittance. Please **do not** pay renewals of membership at your Sub Branch.

Membership Statistics

Service Members - 8,776
Affiliate Members - 1,708
Total Members - 10,484

**Please note that the Pro-Rata payments for
 NEW MEMBERS ONLY is \$10 from
 October-December 2010**

Annual General Meetings

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.

If you require a State Executive representative at your AGM, or at any other occasion, Digger Cleak, Sub Branch Liaison Officer, can be contacted through AN-ZAC House.

Poppy Day Reminder

The Annual Poppy Day Appeal in support of Returned Sailors Soldiers & Airmen's Relief Trust Fund (*The Aged Fund*) is to be held in Perth on Friday 5 November 2010. The Appeal is organised by the RSL in support of the Fund that is an independent Trust Fund administered by Trustees. Funds collected are used to assist veterans in need or necessitous circumstances.

Poppy Day street collections are regulated under "*Street Collections (Regulation) Act and Regulations*" ("*Act*"). Part of the requirements of the *Act* specify that street collectors are required to wear collector cards dated with the actual date of the collection. *The Act* also stipulates that collection containers are to be consecutively numbered and issued by the person to whom the Permit has been granted.

This means that **ALL** Sub Branches who are collecting are required to purchase sufficient Collectors Cards and Tin Wrappers annually to ensure compliance. Any inconsistencies may prevent future Permits being approved.

2010 Remembrance Day Luncheon

Thursday 11 November 2010

12.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Gallipoli Room
 ANZAC House

Cost - \$40.00

RSVP: Friday 22 October 2010

*Only 120 places available –
 tickets issued on a first come basis*



Menu

Roasted Sirloin of Beef on
 Mashed Potato
 with a tomato basil sauce and
 fresh seasonal vegetables

Individual Pavlovas
 with a raspberry coulis

Tea & coffee



Due Dates

Sub Branch Annual Volunteer Consolidation Form - **NOW DUE**
 Remittance Advice & Delegate/Proxy/Observer Nomination - Friday 8 October
 Congress Dinner Payment - Friday 8 October
 Trophy Competition Form - Friday 8 October
 Remembrance Day Luncheon Tickets - Friday 22 October
 Raffle Tickets - Friday 29 October

Lotterywest Grant to Preserve Records

As we draw near to the centenary of the foundation of the League, plans are well in place to ensure one hundred years of service to Australia and to the veteran community is suitably acknowledged.

Through the generosity of Lotterywest, State Branch has been successful in securing a grant to continue the employment of our Archivist, Naomi Jones for a further two years to further her work in documenting the history of the League in Western Australia. Already much work has been done at ANZAC House and plans are now in hand to move into Sub Branch archives to search out information for preservation.

Not only is Naomi interested in existing Sub Branches, but is keen to search out records of those that have closed as they are all part of our history. If you are able to assist in the tracking down of information on past Sub Branches – or if you have any records of value pertinent to this research, please make contact with Naomi at ANZAC House.

We assure you that it is not our intention to remove any items from your Sub Branch, but we are keen to catalogue items of interest and advise you on correct procedures for preservation of the material.

RSL WA 2010 Raffle

The 2010 Raffle books have been posted to members. Please ensure that **ALL** sold and unsold tickets and any payments are forwarded to State Headquarters in the reply paid envelope provided no later than **FRIDAY 29 OCTOBER 2010**. Tickets are \$2 each with up to \$20,000 to be won.

Centenary of ANZAC

The Commemoration of the Centenary of ANZAC will take place in 2015. In the lead up to that date, planning to ensure all Australians have the opportunity to acknowledge that nation defining event on the cliffs and beaches at Gallipoli nearly one hundred years ago will be encouraged. The Commonwealth Government has established a Commission to receive proposals for activities that will honour that event and these will be advertised in the coming weeks.

WA State Branch of RSL has sponsored several proposals and, according to the Commission's Website, many WA organisations have also lodged proposals for consideration and funding. Organisations and individuals are invited to visit the website: www.anzaccentenary.gov.au to obtain more information on this event. We understand that all proposals will appear on the listed website during late October.

Account Details

It is requested that all Sub Branches forward their bank details (Sub Branch name, BSB number and Account number) to the Financial Services Officer, Helen Beech. This will help to ensure a prompt deposit of money into Sub Branch accounts. Helen can be contacted on helenb@rslwahq.org.au or 9287 3703.

Annual Volunteer Work Consolidated Return

This form is now due. Please note that the information contained in this form will assist the RSL in applying for funding through Federal and State Governments. Your assistance in returning these forms as soon as possible is greatly appreciated.

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!



Priority Proposals to Government for 2011 – 2012 Budget

The recently held RSL National Congress approved the following items to be submitted to Government as a priority for inclusion in the forthcoming federal budget. While the full list contains thirty-two items those listed were deemed to require immediate attention. Should members wish to view the full list of proposals please refer to the National Website at www.rsl.org.au

Priority 1: Indexation

“That the indexation of all components of Military Superannuation under the DFRDB and MSBS schemes be calculated by an indexation regime matching cost of living increases.”

Priority 2: Pharmaceuticals

“Those entitled Veterans are provided with free pharmaceuticals for accepted disabilities

Priority 3: Mental Health Disorders and Rehabilitation

“That the Government develop a national mental health rehabilitation scheme for veterans suffering with chronic mental health problems based on individual case assessment and management programs.

Priority 4: Residential Care – Younger Veterans

“That the government develop a system to ensure access to appropriate accommodation for disabled Veterans who require 24 hour supported living but are too young to qualify for aged care services.”

Priority 5: Veterans Aged Care

“That the Government remove the barriers to Veterans and war widows accessing higher levels of community aged care thereby enabling them to make informed and appropriate choices regarding their ability to continue to live in the community. For Nursing Home accommodation, ensure that the Special Needs status of Veterans is recognised consistently across all States in the annual advertising and allocation of new aged care places and packages.”

Priority 6: Home Respite Care

“That the Department of Veteran Affairs adequately resource the provisions of the yearly allocation of eight (8) days of in-home respite care under the Veterans Home Care Program.”

Military Prosecutions

We have received numerous calls concerning the impending prosecution of Australian Troops involved in an incident in Afghanistan. The following statement has been released by RSL National and is presented for your information:

The RSL continues to give steadfast and unequivocal support to all members of the Australian Defence Force. This includes the three soldiers recently charged with serious offences alleged to have been committed during their operational service in Afghanistan.

These soldiers have the same entitlement to the presumption of innocence granted to all Australians charged with alleged offences. This is a fundamental tenet of the Australian system of justice and one the RSL supports unreservedly.

The League respects and has confidence in the Australian system of military justice. We expect that the principles underpinning this system such as the requirement on the prosecution to prove allegations of commission of serious offences "beyond reasonable doubt" will be adhered to during legal proceedings.

We also acknowledge that in some circumstances, those alleged to have committed offences are best able to demonstrate their innocence by tendering evidence or having evidence tendered on their behalf during legal proceedings which result in findings of "not guilty."

The RSL intends to monitor the case against the three soldiers under prosecution but will not engage in public debate about the circumstances which have given rise to the prosecutions. The Law must be allowed to take its course without interference.

Close and careful scrutiny by the RSL of legal proceedings resulting from these prosecutions should give confidence that they will be conducted in strict accordance with the principles underpinning the Australian system of military justice.

