



# THE SUB BRANCH SIGNAL

**DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL**  
8.30 AM — 4.30 PM

**ANZAC HOUSE**

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PO Box 3023  
Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832  
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**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

## STATE CONGRESS 2010

The 94<sup>th</sup> Annual State Congress was held on 30 October, 2010 at the Mercure Hotel and ANZAC House, Perth with 120 members representing fifty eight Sub Branches in attendance. Special guests included National President RADM Ken Doolan AO (RAN Ret'd), National Secretary Mr Derek Robson AM, The Hon Warren Snowdon MP, Minister for Veteran Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veteran Affairs and The Hon Mark McGowan MLA, representing the Leader of the State Opposition. Other guests included representatives from DVA, RMA, Service Chiefs and sponsors.

The National President officially opened the Congress with an address that clearly focused on the new direction the League was taking in raising its profile with government and community. It was to be a strategy that provided a focus on issues that impact on veterans, particularly younger veterans in an ever changing world. His vision was heartily endorsed by those in attendance.

In accordance with custom, Congress attendees then witnessed the annual presentation of RSL Awards. Robert (Bob) Mercer AM received an *ANZAC of the Year Award* for services to the League and the wider community and Cecile Hinton BEM (Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub Branch) and Rodney Hill OAM (Broome Sub Branch) were awarded the Meritorious Medal for outstanding Service to their Sub Branch and the community. Nine other long serving members from city and country locations who had contributed much to the League were suitably honoured with Life Members of the League.

State President, Bill Gaynor OAM RFD then provided Congress with a brief summation of the years activities and achievements. (His address will be published in the next edition of *The Listening Post*.) Special guests, the Minister and the Shadow Minister both addressed Congress and articulated the direction they were taking in dealing with their respective portfolios. Both indicated a genuine bi-partisan approach to veteran issues and indicated they would readily assist veterans wherever they could.

Following presentations from sponsors and RSL Cadet of the Year recipients Congress adjourned for lunch and fellowship.

The Hon Mark McGowan MLA, a former Naval Officer representing the leader of the State Opposition, delivered his address in which he offered the support of the Opposition as WA prepared to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC in WA.

The traditional business sessions followed with much time being devoted to the future of the League and its aged care facilities. Consideration was also given to the declining numbers in country Sub Branches and those in attendance were advised that the next year would be spent in preparing various models for the restructure of the Branch in a changing demographic environment.

Congress summation drew the 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress to a close with members voting the format as one of the most productive in many years.

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### Congress Cont...

In the evening the Congress Dinner was held in the Gallipoli Room at ANZAC House with Max Kay, a great entertainer and League Member acting as Master of Ceremonies. All in attendance voted the evening a great success and a great way to celebrate the annual achievements of the RSL in Western Australia.

### 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.anzacentenary.gov.au](http://www.anzacentenary.gov.au) to obtain more information on this event. We understand that all proposals appeared on the listed website during late October.

### Veterans Warned of Potential Scams

Veterans have been targeted by scam-artists claiming to represent the Australian Government.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) had been made aware of several approaches to members of the veteran community asking for personal information in exchange for new government services such as free electricity or pension benefits. In some cases these people posed as officers from DVA.

These 'offers' are false and DVA is investigating these incidents.

Veterans' in Queensland and Victoria have been most recently targeted however veterans across the country should be aware of the potential scams.

The veteran community is warned to exercise caution when asked to release personal details. Be careful about when and to whom you release details. If you receive a phone call or letter asking for personal information such as your DVA client number or banking details, do not answer straight away. Contact your nearest DVA office on 133 254 to confirm if the source is legitimate.

It is disappointing that our veterans are being targeted by these cowardly scams and members of the veteran community should contact DVA if they have any concerns

### National Launch of RSL Support Pack

The RSL has regularly supported all men and women from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) through the RSL's Australian Forces Overseas Fund (AFOF). RSL AFOF had its beginnings in the early 1960's when it regularly provided comfort packs and recreational equipment to Australians serving overseas. AFOF now provides a package twice a year to every serving member of the Australian Defence Force serving overseas. The package contains items such as ANZAC Biscuits, salted peanuts, glucose confectionary, muesli bars, lollies and a letter of appreciation on behalf of all Australians. AFOF regularly provides around 7,000 of these packages every year.

Since February 2010, the Chief of Army has provided a Simpson Pack to soldiers injured on operations. This contains items such as a track suit, t-shirt, shorts, cap, toiletries and a phone card.

RSL AFOF has identified a further need to provide more positive support for those ADF members who require further and more extensive periods of hospitalisation. AFOF is delighted to be able to provide the RSL Support Pack to every ADF member seriously wounded on overseas service and who requires treatment through the NATO medical facilities in Germany and later long term hospitalisation back in Australia.

The RSL Support Pack consists of an airline style carry case, tote bag, throw rug, ANZAC Biscuit Tin, sports shirt and shorts, socks, notebook, pen, a broad range of toiletries such as toothbrush/paste, razors, shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, chapstick, deodorant, face cloth, combs, soap, wet pack, and a large Australian Flag. All these items are intended to provide some form of comfort to each member and remind them that the thoughts of all Australians are with them through these most difficult times.

It is appreciated that our wounded are well supported by the Defence logistic system but this pack is intended to provide a more personal link between the serving member and the broader Australian community. The RSL has subtly branded the Support Pack on the inside, with a simple message 'RSL - Supporting the ADF' so that the bag can remain within that family for the future as a personal reminder that this was provided as a personal gift on behalf of a grateful nation. Each of the items contained in the pack are also intended to provide a more personal connection for the member and as a reminder that 'our thoughts are always with you and that we appreciate your contribution to our nation's overseas commitments'.

Above all, the RSL has been particularly conscious of providing this pack to each wounded member on behalf of the broader Australian community.



## Membership

All Service members are reminded that membership renewal for 2011 is due on 1 January 2011.

In the coming weeks you will receive your membership renewal notice and you are invited to renew your membership by using any of the processes listed on the account. Please **DO NOT** renew your membership at your Sub Branch. Please give this your attention so that you can receive and begin enjoying the benefits of your new RSL membership card which will give you all the benefits of [RSL Smartcard Discounts](#).

We expect to be able to issue you with your renewal pack within 10 working days. We look forward to processing your renewal before the Christmas break.

## Membership Statistics

**Service Members - 8,809**  
**Affiliate Members - 1,736**  
**Total Members - 10,545**

## 2010 Annual Awards

We are pleased to announce recipients of League Awards for 2010.

### ANZAC of the Year

Robert (Bob) Mercer AM  
 Highgate Sub Branch

### Meritorious Medal

Cecile Hinton BEM  
 Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub Branch

Rodney Hill OAM  
 Broome Sub Branch

### Life Membership

Daphne Axford  
 Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub Branch

Douglas Arrowsmith DFC OAM  
 Nedlands Sub Branch

Carl Larkin  
 Mosman Park Sub Branch

Basil Best  
 North Beach Sub Branch

Kevin Hastie  
 Bicton-Palmyra Sub Branch

Kenneth Stewart  
 Bunbury Sub Branch

Hendrikus Chattilon  
 Narrogin Sub Branch

Joyce Harris  
 Yanchep-Two Rocks Sub Branch

James Lee  
 City of Cockburn Sub Branch

## Military Prosecutions

**As an update on this sensitive matter we are pleased to provide the following 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 continue monitoring 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.

## State War Memorial Warden

We are pleased to announce that Group Capt Ian Petkoff AM MPA former OIC RAAF PEARCE has accepted the position of Warden at the State War Memorial. He will take up the position at the conclusion of the 11 November Remembrance Day Service.

**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**



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