



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA  
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

Issue 11/2010  
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](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto: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](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



*ANZAC Club will close on:*  
Thursday 23 December 2010  
and reopen on Monday 17 January 2011

*ANZAC House Office will close on:*  
Thursday 23 December 2010  
and reopen on Monday 10 January 2011

*Staff at ANZAC Club  
and  
ANZAC House wish everyone a*

*Merry  
Christmas*

*and a  
Safe and Prosperous  
New Year*



## Freedom of Expression

One of the greatest gifts bequeathed to Australians by those who have paid the supreme sacrifice is the freedom to express ourselves on the widest range of matters without fear of retribution. Most understand and respect this enormous privilege. They exercise tolerance for and acceptance of differing points of view, reject the use of personal invective or abusive language and engage in genuine robust debate after taking the time to ensure they have a thorough understanding of issues before advancing their opinion.

The good name of the RSL and of the nation's service and ex-service community is being put at risk by a few who abuse this cherished gift of free speech. These few are rude and intolerant, particularly in emails, when putting forward "demands" to the League's paid and voluntary staff; they threaten and use foul language to those who administer or provide advice about compensation or veteran entitlements; and they leap to conclusions about complex issues without even trying first to inform themselves about the facts.

The RSL puts considerable effort into representing issues to Government on behalf of the service and ex-service community. Our advice is heeded and our point of view is respected because we advance considered, telling arguments to substantiate what we put forward. Our submissions to Government for each budget cycle are a consequence of our democratic processes at Sub-Branch, Branch and National levels. Our interaction with the Federal Parliament on prospective legislation or Parliamentary inquiries is always based on thoroughly researched papers backed up by appearances before Parliamentary Committees of well informed RSL witnesses who argue forcefully but politely for the RSL point of view. It is for these reasons that the League's opinion continues to be sought and why we continue to be given a fair hearing by decision makers in our parliamentary democracy.

The RSL lines of communication will continue to remain open to all Australians and most particularly to those in the service and ex-service community on all subjects.

We will not shut out or turn away from any Australian who seeks our help, poses questions or remonstrates with us about issues with which they disagree with the RSL.

In return we ask that all who contact the RSL by telephone, email, facsimile, post or in face-to-face conversation use the norms of civilised behaviour and have consideration for others when exercising their right to speak freely.

## Divestment

As mentioned at State Congress, steps were being taken to resolve a long standing issue relating to the relationship between RSL War Veteran's Homes and the State Branch.

The Australian Tax Office has been monitoring this situation for a number of years and, in an advisory capacity, assisted the RSL to move towards a compliant Tax situation. Acting on professional advice RSL divested itself on 24 November 2010 of the responsibility for the operation of the RSL Retirement and Aged Care entity which moved to a separate management group of persons not connected to the RSL.

This divestment was effected by a sale agreement that will ensure the future financial viability of the RSL in WA. It also provides the 'Homes' with independence to pursue its aim of providing quality community aged care. It should however be noted that for the veteran community the facilities at the various sites will still be available to veterans but under a different management structure.

For veterans and ex-service residents we are confident it will be business as usual – it is only the administrative structure that will change.

## Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month

February 2011 is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month and Ovarian Cancer Australia are trying to raise awareness of this intestable cancer. 1 in 77 women will develop ovarian cancer in their lifetime, and every year 800 women die from the disease. If your Sub Branch would like to receive an information pack for your members please contact Jeff Kaplan on [jeff@insightcommunications.net.au](mailto:jeff@insightcommunications.net.au) or (02) 9319 3844. For more information on ovarian cancer you can also visit their website on [www.ovariancancer.net.au](http://www.ovariancancer.net.au)

## Annual Financial Returns

Unfortunately we have to remind Sub Branch Treasurers that Audited Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2010 were due at ANZAC House by 31 October 2010. Without naming those in default we remind Treasurers that prompt submission of these returns is a requirement of RSL and government.

If your Sub Branch has not sent the Return in please attend to the matter without delay. If you have a problem or require assistance please contact ANZAC House staff. They are more than happy to assist.





## Membership Forms

All RSL WA membership application forms have recently been updated to ensure applicants meet RSL membership guidelines. Changes to membership application forms are as follows:

Applicant Declaration and Agreement

### **I DECLARE THAT**

- (i) I have not been convicted of a criminal offence and do not have charges outstanding pertaining to a criminal offence.
- (ii) My application details are true and correct.
- (iii) I agree to uphold the Constitution of the League and its By-Laws.

Administration (section completed by Sub Branch)

I hereby confirm that the applicant has not been convicted of a criminal offence and does not have charges outstanding pertaining to a criminal offence. Proof of membership eligibility has been sighted and the Sub Branch considers the applicant to be a fit and proper person to be admitted as a member. The applicant qualifies for membership in accordance with The RSL WA Branch Constitution. **(Where any doubt exists regarding an applicant's suitability or eligibility for membership the application must be referred to the State Branch for consideration).**

Sub Branch Secretaries should destroy all copies of previous membership application forms and commence using the revised forms (Copies attached). The revised membership forms are also available from the RSL WA Branch website.

## National Commission

Funding submissions for activities associated with the Centenary of ANZAC are currently being assessed and we understand that details of proposed events will shortly appear on the Commission's website. At this stage we are uncertain as to the funding source that will underpin the events but anticipate some indication will be made early in the new year.

### **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**

## Street Appeal

While we are awaiting final returns from some Sub Branches and collection points it is becoming evident that the recent Poppy Day Street Appeal was a huge success. With the support of many corporate partners and local business proprietors we were able to extend our 'catchment area' and gain access to areas where we have not been before. Special thanks are extended to all who participated and be assured your contribution is valued and funds collected will be applied to assist veterans in need.

## **ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast**

Please find enclosed with the Sub Branch Signal your ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast Small Grants Scheme Forms to be completed and returned to this office either by mail, fax or email by 4 March 2011.

Only one application per RSL Sub Branch to a **maximum of \$500** will be accepted.

**Please note Closing Date:**

**Friday 4 March 2011**

**Late applications will not be accepted.**

## Membership

Membership Statistics as at 30 November 2010

Service - 8,831

Affiliate - 1,745

Total - 10,576

Please be reminded that members should pay their subscriptions to RSL WA State Branch, not to their Sub Branches. This means that their payment will be processed within 2 weeks of receipt. If a member has sent their payment to State Headquarters and has not received their card within this timeframe, please ask them to contact State Headquarters to assess if there is a problem.

### Attachments to this edition of the Sub Branch Signal

*(sent as necessary)*

- ANZAC Day Package
- ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast Forms
- Correspondence re RSL Defence Sub Branch
- New Service Membership Forms
- New Affiliate Membership Forms
- Sub Branch Executive Seminar Forms
- Sub Branch Pension/Welfare Seminar Forms
- Unit & Kindred ANZAC Day Parade Forms





# REMEMBRANCE DAY

## 2010

