



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
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au
Email: 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
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

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

Victoria Cross awarded to SAS Trooper

The Governor-General awarded Corporal Roberts-Smith with the Victoria Cross in Perth on Sunday 23 January 2011. During his tenure with the Regiment, he deployed on Operation VALIANT, SLATE, SLIPPER, CATALYST and SLIPPER II. Corporal Benjamin Roberts-Smith was awarded the Medal



for Gallantry for his actions in Afghanistan in 2006. On 11 June 2010, a troop of the Special Operations Task Group conducted a helicopter assault into Tizak, Kandahar Province, in order to capture or kill a senior Taliban commander. Immediately upon the helicopter insertion, the troop was engaged by machine gun and rocket propelled grenade fire from multiple, dominating positions. Two soldiers were wounded in action and the troop was pinned down by fires from three machine guns in an elevated fortified position to the south of the village. Under the cover of close air support, suppressive small arms and machine gun fire, Corporal Roberts-Smith and his patrol manoeuvred to within 70 metres of the enemy position in order to neutralise the enemy machine gun positions and regain the initiative.

Upon commencement of the assault, the patrol drew very heavy, intense, effective and sustained fire from the enemy position. Corporal Roberts-Smith and his patrol members fought towards the enemy position until, at a range of 40 metres, the weight of fire prevented further movement forward. At this point, he identified the opportunity to exploit some cover provided by a small structure. As he approached the structure, Corporal Roberts-Smith identified an insurgent grenadier in the throes of engaging his patrol. Corporal Roberts-Smith instinctively engaged the insurgent at point-blank range resulting in the death of the insurgent. With the members of his patrol still pinned down by the three enemy machine gun positions, he exposed his own position in order to draw fire away from his patrol, which enabled them to bring fire to bear against the enemy. His actions enabled his Patrol Commander to throw a grenade and silence one of the machine guns. Seizing the advantage, and demonstrating extreme devotion to duty and the most conspicuous gallantry, Corporal Roberts-Smith, with a total disregard for his own safety, stormed the enemy position killing the two remaining machine gunners.

His act of valour enabled his patrol to break-in to the enemy position and to lift the weight of fire from the remainder of the troop who had been pinned down by the machine gun fire. On seizing the fortified gun position, Corporal Roberts-Smith then took the initiative again and continued to assault enemy positions in depth during which he and another patrol member engaged and killed further enemy. His acts of selfless valour directly enabled his troop to go on and clear the village of Tizak of Taliban. This decisive engagement subsequently caused the remainder of the Taliban in Shah Wali Kot District to retreat from the area.

Corporal Roberts-Smith's most conspicuous gallantry in a circumstance of extreme peril was instrumental to the seizure of the initiative and the success of the troop against a numerically superior enemy force. His valour was an inspiration to the soldiers with whom he fought alongside and is in keeping with the finest traditions of the Australian Army and the Australian Defence Force.



[Free Photocopiers to a Good Home](#)

The Busselton Sub Branch has an older model photocopier in good working order that they no longer use. If any Sub Branch is interested in it please contact Tony Mapson on 9752 4812.

The Mt Hawthorn Sub Branch has a MFC laser printer surplus to its requirements and is willing to make it available at no cost to any Sub Branch who would appreciate it. The details are - Brother Model MFC8820D mono laser printer that prints, copies, scans and faxes. With the printer comes the manual and software disks.

The Windows disk supports Windows 95, 98, 98SE, ME, NT Workstation 4.0, 2000 professional and XP operating systems.

The Macintosh disk supports Mac OS 8.6 to 9.2 and Mac OS X10.1, 10.2.1 or greater. (scanning requires OS 10.2.1 or greater).

The printer has both USB and parallel interface connectors, (USB not supported by Windows 95 or NT workstation 4.0)

Drivers can be updated at <http://solutions.brother.com>
Any Sub Branch that may be interested should contact: Malcolm Sargent at malel@iprimus.com.au or 9245 5207

[Honours & Awards](#)

RSL is pleased to extend congratulations to members who were recipients of Australia Day Honours.

Medal of The Order of Australia

- **Mr Francis Cocks** of East Victoria Park Sub Branch, for service to veterans, particularly through the WA Branch of the National Servicemen's Association.
- **Mr Walter Holding** of Mandurah Sub Branch for service to veterans and their families.
- **Mr Malcolm Hughes** of Port Kennedy Sub Branch, for service to veterans and their families through the WA Section of the Naval Association of Australia.
- **Mr Brian Prangnell** of Quinns Rocks Sub Branch for service to the community through church, youth, sporting and ex-service organisations.

We also extend congratulations to Lt Col David Thompson AM (Mil) of 13 Bde for his service in the Solomon Islands in 2009 – 2010 on Operation ANODE.

In addition we acknowledge the Award of Member of the Order (AM) to Mr Barry Court son of our late esteemed member, Sir Charles Court.

[RSL Australia Day Awards](#)

The RSL is pleased to announce recipients of our 2011 Australia Day Medallions, awarded for outstanding service to the League and Community.

Individual Award

Mrs Hazel Donald

Mrs Donald has been a dedicated member of the War Widows' Guild for many years and has been President periodically over the past five years. She has always supported and made herself available for her members. Her experience and expertise has been invaluable to the War Widows' Guild. She has also been a member of the WA Veterans' Affairs Committee for three years, ensuring that important issues for the ex-service community are widely disseminated.

Community Award

Colonel Philip Skelton AM

Colonel Skelton has been the Deputy Warden of the State War Memorial for many years. His knowledge of the Memorial and protocols relating to the Memorial are extensive, and he is responsible for the running of over 30 ceremonies per year, including the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day, and the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service. His dedication and commitment is invaluable. Western Australia owes a debt of gratitude to Phillip and his team.

Sub Branch Award

Dawesville Sub Branch

Dawesville Sub Branch is a young Sub Branch which has made an impact in the community over the 11 years of its existence. The Sub Branch organises a periodic Swap-Meet which provides a friendly environment within the community for people to sell and promote their wares. This allows them to make numerous donations to the Australian Forces Overseas Fund and local community organisations, which include a wheelchair for the Peel Health Foundation.

[Cadet of the Year](#)

The Cadet of the Year Awards for 2010 were announced at a presentation evening on 21 January 2011, with Participation Awards going to five Cadets:

CPO Kieran Benedetti
CAS Elizabeth Kennon
CLS Aaron Moore
CCPL David Olman
CUO William Olman

The three overall winners that will be going on the STS Leeuwin are CPO Kieran Benedetti, CLS Aaron Moore, and William Olman.



Operational Restructure

State Executive and members of our many sub committees participated in a one day workshop/seminar to examine the role, function and governance structure of the State Branch. While acknowledging the dictates of the State Constitution the workshop participants were of the opinion that a better service delivery to members across the whole State could better be achieved by delegating the League's operational functions to the CEO and his staff and directing the role of the State Executive to a more strategic and planning function that would be focused on policy making rather than implementation.

This, essentially, would see the existing Board of Directors cease to exist as such in their current role with their current operational function being the responsibility of the CEO and his Staff.

As current Board members are a subset of the State Executive no change to their executive position will be necessary – they will simply be absorbed into the existing group as members of State Executive. Naturally, they will bring expertise in their particular field to the table but decision making will be enhanced as we will be operating in a larger group of members who will be representative of all members rather than the small group as is currently the situation.

The new State Executive will meet bi-monthly as a policy making group and much of the face to face work with Sub Branch officers will be carried out by staff. This will result in a more focused and prompt delivery of our services to members and Sub Branches. We anticipate the structure will be operational by the beginning of March.

RSL Street Appeal

RSL has been allocated Friday 16 April, 2011 for its Annual Street Appeal. Application Forms for participation by your Sub Branch have already been issued and a response as to whether you will be involved is urgently required.

In the past this Appeal has not been well supported by Sub Branches and its future will need to be assessed in the light of 2011 participation.

There are other organisations who would like to collect on that date – the Friday nearest to ANZAC Day - and it would be unreasonable for RSL to claim the date if we are not maximising the potential.

Proceeds from the collection are shared 50%-50% with State Branch and the use of the funds is for the administration of welfare services provided by RSL.

Military Prosecutions

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 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.

WA AGED RETURNED SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S RELIEF TRUST FUND

Ready to Assist

**Veterans and Dependents in
Need or Necessitous Circumstances**

**Apply: Welfare Officer
(08) 9287 3707**



Assistance Needed

The West Australian Participant Pool (WAPP) is currently looking to recruit some more members to participate in our various studies. We are looking for people aged 55 and over who may be interested in helping the community through participating in research projects. The West Australian Participant Pool (Director: Romola Bucks) is a not for profit community group based at the University of Western Australia that investigates cognition and emotion through quality research and the valued participation of members of the wider community. Participation remains voluntary at all times and can take place at the university, by phone, by mail, or over the Internet. WAPP members can specify how frequently they would like to be approached for research purposes, and are completely within their rights to turn down involvement in research projects for whatever reason. We also send out a newsletter quarterly to all WAPP members about the results from research being conducted at UWA.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could please circulate this email and its attachments to any of the members of your organisation who you think would be suitable and/or interested in becoming a member of the WAPP and be willing to volunteer in our research. WAPP members are usually financially reimbursed for their time or travel expenses.

For more information please contact Brenton Maxwell on maxweb01@student.uwa.edu.au

Welcome to New Staff

Geoff Garside, will commence duties as Chief Financial Officer for the State Branch in early February. Geoff has a Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting) and a Master of Business Administration from Curtin University. He is also a Certified Practising Accountant, an Associate of Chartered Secretaries, Australia and is currently studying a Graduate Diploma of Applied Corporate Governance.

Geoff was recently the Finance and Performance Manager as well as Company Secretary for the Australian Wildlife Conservancy, prior to which he had an extensive career in senior management including many years with Woodside Energy Limited where he was the Senior Management Accountant LNG Projects until 2006.

Geoff will bring expertise in financial management to the RSL at both State and Sub Branch level thus heralding a supportive approach to issues and practices within our organisation. Much of Geoff's time will be spent in advising Sub Branches on financial management and accountability of the organisation to its members.

Please make Geoff welcome to the RSL at the earliest opportunity.

Patrick Scammell will join our executive team in mid-February as our Chief Operations Officer. Patrick has high level communication and management skills as well as an impressive sporting background. He participated in two Olympic Games for Australia as a distance runner and has a wide network in sporting and sports administration.

He has had considerable experience in working in the not-for-profit sector and is looking forward to working with sub branches throughout the State. His previous experience in sporting bodies has given him a strong focus on marketing and using these skills he is looking forward to promoting RSL in local communities. Patrick is an inspirational speaker and will no doubt interact well with members as he familiarises himself with the many challenges that are ever present in our organisation.

Please welcome Patrick to our organisation.

