



THE SUB BRANCH SIGNAL

DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL
8.30 AM — 4.30 PM

ANZAC House & Reception

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

Acting CEO / State Secretary

Monday to Friday
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au
Tel: 9287 3799

Administration Manager

Monday to Friday
Assist to State President & CEO
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au
Tel: 9287 3702

Membership

Monday to Thursday
Membership Enquiries
Sub Branch Enquiries
Email: membership@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3705

Welfare

Monday to Friday
Welfare Applications
Emergency Housing
Food & Lodging Grants
ASS&AR Trust Fund Applications.
Overseas Pensions
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: helenb@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3703

Pensions

Monday to Friday
Pension Entitlements
Claims Preparation
Email: pensions1@rslwahq.org.au
pensions2@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3710 or 9287 3711

ANZAC Club

Monday to Friday
Facilities Bookings
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

From the Presidents Pen...

IMPORTANT NOTICE FINANCIAL REPORTING

With the end of the League's Financial Year on 30 June 2011 the WA Branch is required, under the provisions of the *Associations Incorporation Act 1987*, to report to Government and League Members on the financial situation of the Association.

As this requirement includes all Sub Branches in WA it is necessary that a certified copy of *Sub Branch Annual Audited Statement of Financial Affairs* is forwarded to ANZAC House no later than 30 September 2011.

It is noted that some Sub Branches have not complied with the requirement to have their financial year end on 30 June in each year. If your Sub Branch is not in compliance with this reporting period steps need to be taken to correct this situation.

Your compliance with this request, by the stated date, is necessary for State Branch to meet its reporting to government obligation.

Staff Changes at ANZAC House

With RSL's divestment of its Aged Care facilities to a separate group we are pleased to announce changes to the staffing profiles at the RSL Headquarters and also at the Retirement and Aged Care Association.

At the Aged Care facility Mr Kevin Davidson MVO OAM will assume full time duties with that organization as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer and withdraw his connection with RSL.

Mr Patrick Scammell, Chief Operating Officer at RSL Headquarters has been made redundant as that positions job description, together with other administrative and operational duties, will be allocated to The Returned and Services League of Australia (WA Branch Incorporated) CEO/ State Secretary when appointed after due selection process.

As an interim measure we have invited Mr Gary Sutherland OAM to assume the position of CEO/State Secretary while we advertise the vacancy. This will occur over the next few weeks and an appointment is expected to be made in early August. Mr Sutherland has previously acted as CEO /State Secretary and is committed to ensuring the membership is well served over this transition period.

Have a free blood pressure check at a participating pharmacy today.

www.strokefoundation.com.au/kynpharmacyfinder



Remembrance / Poppy Day 2011

You will find enclosed with this Sub Branch Signal your Remembrance Day Pack. Please read your package carefully and ensure that any documents relevant to your Sub Branch are filled out and returned to State Headquarters by the due date.

Those Sub Branches collecting their poppies from Paraquad, please note that the carpark at their premises has changed - details are in the package.

Sub Branch Finances

With this issue of *Sub Branch Signal* we are issuing an **Annual Financial Return Statement** template (also available in Microsoft Excel format) which may be used by Sub Branches when reporting their financial position for the financial year 2010-2011 to Headquarters in accordance with State Rule 27.20.

In the past we have experienced problems in obtaining reports from Sub Branches, particularly those with small numbers or small turnover. As part of our accountability requirements we need to be in possession of information relating to the overall financial position of the League. This statistical information is used for Grant allocations from our various funding sources.

Please note that the Annual Financial Statement template attached is the minimum reporting standard for Sub Branches for the 2010-2011 financial year. Copies of cash books or bank statements are not acceptable. As you will appreciate reviewing and consolidating 132 Sub Branch reports is a time consuming task and having uniform reports makes this activity easier.

Sub Branches that use a professional Certified Auditor are to continue to do so and report to their members.. When accepted at the Annual General Meeting, it is then to be forwarded to State Headquarters in accordance with Rule 27.20. Those Sub Branches who have not in the past had an auditor need to appoint an auditor to ensure compliance with State Rule 27.31 (g).

Sub Branches with a turn over of less than \$50K and overall funds and assets less than \$50k are requested to use the enclosed document. **Please note the document needs to be signed by the President and Treasurer and the person conducting the independent Audit.**

If you have any queries on this matter, please contact Geoff Garside our Chief Financial Officer. If you would like a copy of the template in the Microsoft Excel format, then please contact State Headquarters.

Bonus Scheme for Working Veterans

From 1 July 2011 additional incentives will apply for veterans, war widows and widowers over the relevant pension age to remain in the work force.

The *Work Bonus Scheme* will be enhanced and will continue to support eligible income support pensioners to undertake some paid work by reducing or removing any adverse effect to their pension.

From 1 July 2011, changes to the *Work Bonus Scheme* will mean that the first \$250 per fortnight of income earned by eligible service pensioners, income support supplement recipients and age pensioners paid by the Department of Veterans' Affairs, will be excluded from the income test.

The Scheme is about supporting members of the veteran community to take-up some paid work or return to the work force, if they choose to, and alleviating concerns about how the extra income will affect their pension.

To be eligible, an income support pensioner must be of relevant pension age or over and be receiving employment income. Work can be casual or permanent, part time or full-time or any variation.

For more information on the *Work Bonus Scheme* or the *Work Bonus Bank* visit the factsheets page on the DVA website www.dva.gov.au or call 133 254 (metro areas) or 1800 026 185 for regional callers.

RSL Golf Day

Please note that due to the divestment of RSL Care, the Golf Day will now be organised from ANZAC House at a later date in the year. As more details become available, the Sub Branches will be made aware.



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

**Ready to Assist
Veterans and Dependents in
Need or Necessitous
Circumstances**

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





From the Department of Veterans' Affairs

The **Coordinated Veterans' Care (CVC) Program** is a positive step to improve the wellbeing and quality of care for chronically ill Gold Card holders.



The program will pay General Practitioners and nursing providers to coordinate care for Gold Card holders who are at risk of hospitalisation.


Through improved community based care, the program is intended to improve the health of participants by:

- providing ongoing planned and coordinated care from your GP and a nurse
- educating and empowering participants to self manage their conditions
- encouraging the most socially isolated to participate in community activities.

Scams

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is aware of scam activity which specifically targets DVA clients. There is now a dedicated page on the DVA website with information on potential scams and measures you can take to avoid being scammed. Another useful government website to monitor is [SCAMwatch](#), this site contains information on how to protect your privacy and regular updates on scam activity.

Veterans' Health Week will be held the week of **24 - 30 October 2011** this year.

VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK  This year's theme is *building on the strengths of the veteran community – mental wellness*. We are working in partnership with ex-service and community groups to develop and fund a program of activities.

Like previous years, *Veterans' Health Week* will encourage the veteran community to consider their health needs and provide suggestions for positive changes to live stronger, healthier and happier lives. For more information on how to get involved visit the [DVA website](#) or email yhw@dva.gov.au.

Find Your Mates with touchbase

The *touchbase* website now also provides users with the opportunity to keep in touch or reconnect with other former serving personnel, family and friends using a new online community *Find Your Mates*.

You can search for people that you served with by name, gender, age, location and service. *Find Your Mates* is available through the touchbase website.



Upcoming trips for the RSL Living History Project

- 30th June 2011 - Merredin Sub Branch
- 5th July 2011 - Quairading Sub Branch
- 6th July 2011 - Tammin Sub Branch
- 8th July 2011 - Northam Sub Branch
- 13th July 2011 - York Sub Branch
- 12th July 2011 - Wongan Hills Sub Branch
- 14th July 2011 - Wyalkatchem Sub Branch



We need your stories!
If you have a story to tell about the RSL in your community then please contact Naomi at ANZAC House

MEMBERSHIP
PRO-RATAS
JULY-SEPTEMBER
2011

NEW MEMBERS
ONLY!

Fee: \$20

Headquarters: \$12.50
Sub Branches: \$7.50



Unwarranted Delay in ADF Justice

From RSL National President

The Returned & Services League of Australia is greatly concerned at the inordinate delay in the legal process surrounding the decision of the Director of Military Prosecutions to prosecute three members of the Australian Defence Force charged with very serious service offences alleged to have been committed during operational service in Afghanistan.

The alleged offences occurred during an operation against the Taliban in February 2009 but it was not until 19 months later on 27 September 2010 that the Director of Military Prosecutions announced her decision to charge the three soldiers. The charge sheet against the lieutenant colonel was signed at about the same time in September 2010, but those against the other two members were not signed until 14 January 2011, almost two years after the event. Then it was not until 28 March 2011 that the pre-trial hearing by the Chief Judge Advocate commenced hearing charges against the sergeant and lance corporal - during which the prosecution amended the charge sheet.

On 20 May 2011 the Chief Judge Advocate found that no service offences had been committed by the sergeant and lance corporal.

The RSL publicly welcomed the decision of the Chief Judge Advocate but expresses its concern about the charges for which there is no precedent. The RSL understands there has never been an occasion where soldiers in combat on a battlefield owe a duty of care to civilians, as alleged by the prosecution.

The lieutenant colonel accused still has not had his charges considered by a Judge Advocate or a court martial, and no date has yet been announced for this. Such delays in finalising these important matters is a denial of justice and is unacceptable to the soldiers involved, their families and the defence and veteran communities as a whole.

The pre-trial findings of the Chief Judge Advocate on 20 May 2011 are a matter of public record but they indicate significant shortcomings in the prosecution of these serious service offences which, if proven, could result in the imposition of substantial periods of incarceration and the termination of the men's careers as professional soldiers.

The League understands that as a consequence of the decisions by the Chief Judge Advocate at the pre-trial hearing, the matter has been referred back to the Director of Military Prosecutions who has the following options:

- appeal the decision of the Chief Judge Advocate to the Federal Court;
- prefer alternative charges against the two men; or
- withdraw the charges altogether and discontinue the court martial proceedings.

Even accounting for the time taken to investigate the incident by the Australian Defence Force Investigative Service and its referral to the Director of Military Prosecutions, there has been far too much time taken to process and prosecute this case. Added to this is the slowness of the Director of Military Prosecutions' response to the Chief Judge Advocate's decision of 20 May 2011. The transcript for each day's proceedings was available within 24 hours as was the Chief Judge Advocate's findings and determination. The proposed course of action should be both known and publicised by now.

It is also reasonable to assume that the Director of Military Prosecutions' decision about the way ahead could and should have previously been well researched to cover all possibilities arising from the pre-trial hearing. If this is not the case, the League asks why not? If it is the case, we ask why the Director of Military Prosecutions hasn't by now made her decision known to the accused soldiers and to the public?

Whilst the RSL believes in and supports the process of military justice and respects the independence of the Director of Military Prosecutions, we also insist on our democratic responsibility to raise concerns about what we believe is a denial of justice in this instance.

The excessive and unexplained delays in these legal proceedings is deleterious to the morale of the Australian Defence Force, is an affront to all who have previously served the nation and is the antithesis of what members of the League believe should be a robust, fair and efficient system of military justice.

