



THE SUB BRANCH SIGNAL

DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL
8.30 AM — 4.30 PM

ANZAC House & Reception

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CEO / State Secretary

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

Assistant State Secretary

Monday to Friday
Assist to State President & CEO/
State Secretary
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 / 9287 3718

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...

New State Executive Elected

Following 2011 State Congress the following members were elected to the State Executive for the period 2011 – 2014.

President:	William E. Gaynor OAM RFD
Vice President	Denis Connelly
Treasurer	Vacant
Director	Dilwyn (Digger) Cleak OAM
Director	Ken Barrington
Director	Ian Johnstone RFD
Director	Peter Fardon
Director	Neil MacNeill
Director	Doug Rasmussen
Country – Pilbara & Kimberly	John McCourt
Country – Esperance & Goldfields	Gary Scott
Country - Midwest	Ross Davies
Country – Avon	Donna Prytulak
Country – Lower South West	Damian Dixon
Country – Upper South West	Vacant
Country – Great Southern	Peter Aspinall

Note: Vacant positions will be filled by State Executive.

Appreciation: Our thanks are extended to Duncan Warren, Richard Carter and Bill Collidge for their past services to State Branch administration and their commitment to the RSL.

Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

The State President, Mr William (Bill) Gaynor OAM RFD and members of the State Executive extend Christmas Greetings to all members and their families. May you all have a safe and happy time over the festive season



Christmas joy warms the heart



National Scene

Ex-Service Organisations Round Table Meeting 24 November 2011.

Items discussed included:

a. DVA presence on ADF bases.

As at 23 November 2011, DVA had established a presence at 37 ADF bases throughout the nation. The exemplar is Lavarack Health Centre Townsville where there is DVA presence 5 days each week. At Puckapunyal it is 1 day per month. This is a welcome improvement of services to members of the ADF and complements the efforts of the ex-service organisations which will continue to be needed for the foreseeable future.

b. BEST Round 14 funding.

Minister Snowdon was present for discussion about this item. It was agreed DVA would arrange meetings for negotiations about BEST Round 14 funding with all indications being that these would start in December 2011.

c. Standardised OH&S Laws.

Safe Work Australia explained that the three levels of government are seeking to harmonise OH&S laws throughout the nation. This will take effect in all states and territories from 1 January 2012 **except for WA and VIC** whose governments have indicated a one year delay. The major change is that the OH&S laws are not confined to employees/employers but recognises the concept of workers including volunteers. The new laws also impose duties on senior officers. There are some exemptions for volunteer organisations that do not have any employees. Volunteer officers do have responsibilities but are immune from prosecution. The implications for the RSL appear to be that there will be a once only administrative load imposed as the new OH&S laws are introduced. All are advised to visit the Safe Work Australia web site and, in particular, the section on Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ).

d No likelihood of a single agency for Defence Force Income Support Allowance (DIFSA).

This allowance is an income support payment made by DVA to those whose social security income support payment is reduced or not payable because of adjusted disability pension. It would be preferable that this be paid by a single agency but this has not been arranged because it would require IT system funding of \$30M over 4 years.

e Coordinated veterans care program.

Dr Killer advised they are working on a new concept for veterans and doctors because of changes in primary health care. New factors include that only 25% of new doctors are choosing to become GPs and that it is taking a lot more time to manage older patients. The aim in the new model is to identify veterans with complex issues; to up skill practice nurses so some of the care can be delegated to them; to provide home visits where appropriate; and to provide resources to GPs managing complex veteran cases. On a voluntary basis doctors will be encouraged to identify patients with a high usage of services. Dr Killer also advised that a home medication review is underway and explained the benefits to veterans and doctors likely to arise from this review.

Indexation Issue

The quest for improved indexation of military superannuation payments.

This was most recently debated at the WA State Branch Congress on Saturday 26 November where delegates were provided with a comprehensive explanation about what the RSL has done and is doing to try to convince the Government to the validity of the issues put forward in our comprehensive submission of February 2010. Important issues arising from this debate are:

- the RSL approach to this issue complements the efforts of other ex-service organisations while retaining the RSL apolitical stance.
- Government has not yet responded to our comprehensive February 2010 submission
- Prime Ministers Rudd and Gillard separately indicated there is no prospect of the government agreeing to any change to any of the indexation of military superannuation schemes. This is consistent with the government's rejection of the Fair Indexation Bill put forward by the Opposition in the Senate in June.
- the RSL will not relent in this quest and every opportunity is taken to put the validity of the case to members of the Commonwealth Parliament.

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

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or necessitous circumstances**

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



HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL





Reminder - Return Dates



Poppy Day Remittance - **NOW OVERDUE**

Gunfire Breakfast Forms - **FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 2012**

ANZAC Day Cadet Support Request, Street Appeal Order Form, Media Contact Form - **FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 2012**

Two-Up Advice, ADF Support - **MONDAY, 30 JANUARY 2012**

U&K Parade and Service Participation Form, Cadet Support Request - **FRIDAY, 2 MARCH 2012**

Update on Medals

A primary function for DH&A is to process and prepare instruments of declaration and determination in relation to honours and awards.

In recent months, Her Excellency the Governor-General, the Hon Quentin Bryce AC, has approved the following instruments of declaration and determination:

Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp 'SIERRA LEONE' - This determination supersedes the Australian Service Medal with Clasp 'SIERRA LEONE' following upgrade of service on Operation HUSKY for the period 15 January 2001 to 28 February 2003 to warlike. (*Published in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S49 of 30 March 2011*).

Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp 'MIDDLE EAST' - This determination establishes the award for service on Operation PALADIN within the prescribed area of Southern Lebanon during the period 12 July 2006 to 14 August 2006. (*Published in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S81 dated 19 May 2011*).

Australian Active Service Medal with Clasp 'SOMALIA' - This determination incorporates service by the naval component on Operation SOLACE during the period 10 January 1993 to 21 May 1993. (*Published in Commonwealth of Australia Gazette S86 dated 20 May 2011*).

Membership Statistics as at 20 November

Service	8,422
Affiliate	1,584
Total	10,006

Included in this Sub Branch Signal is:

Sub Branches

Sub Branch ANZAC Day Package
Gunfire Breakfast Forms

Unit & Kindred

ANZAC Day Parade Forms

Centenary of ANZAC Project

It was announced at the State Congress on 26 November 2011 that \$1.3 million initial funding has been allocated towards the design and development of the ANZAC Interpretive Centre in Albany, Western Australia, the first major project for the Centenary of ANZAC.

The establishment of the Centre was a key recommendation of the National Commission on the Commemoration of the ANZAC Centenary because the convoys carrying the ANZACs gathered and departed there in October-December 1914.

Albany was the last the troops saw of their homeland before they started training in Egypt and the landings at Gallipoli in April 1915, and many would not ever return home.

The Interpretive Centre will overlook King George Sound where the convoys of ships gathered. It will house innovative, interactive technology which provides commemorative and educational material. The Centre will be supported by an Internet-based virtual Interpretive Centre, which will allow Australians and people from across the globe to access information on the convoys and the troops, sailors and nurses they carried.

For design concepts and an artists impression of the ANZAC Interpretive Centre, visit www.dva.gov.au/media

Release of personal records from National Archives

The release of personal service records from the National Archives is a cause for concern. One case recently cited less than complementary comments on a confidential report were included in an obituary and could have caused offence to the deceased person's family. The National Executive has agreed to prepare a comprehensive submission about this matter and it is planned that this will be ready for consideration at the first meeting in 2012.



[Order of Wearing Foreign Medals](#)

Over the years a variety of medal ribbon posters have been produced by various commercial entities. These have been produced as a visual reference guide for medal ribbons only and should not be used as an authority on the order of wearing foreign awards.

The *Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards*, which is approved by the Governor-General, is the authority for the order of precedence for wearing Australian honours and awards. It directs that foreign awards are worn immediately after all Australian honours or awards, in the order of date of approval to wear. The only exceptions to this direction are:

- When all foreign awards are approved on the same date, they are to be worn immediately after any Australian honours and awards which the member may have or subsequently receive. They are then worn in the order of precedence specified by the awarding country. This will mostly apply only to ADF personnel who have received awards for prior service with a foreign defence force.
- Any Imperial honours and awards that were issued under the Australian system of honours and awards up to 5 October 1992 are considered Australian and their status will be upheld. They are to be worn in accordance with the *Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards* and will carry any appropriate postnominals. In situations where a foreign award that carries postnominals has been issued or is being requested (in the case of lateral transfers) after 5 October 1992, the postnominal is not to be used.
- If more than one foreign award from the same nation has been given to an ADF member, as a courtesy to that nation they are worn in accordance with that nation's order of wearing. For example, if an ADF member is given approval to wear the US Meritorious Service Medal and later the Legion of Merit Degree Commander, they are worn according to the United States' order of wearing but they must still be worn after any Australian honours and awards.

The full *Order of Wearing Australian Honours and Awards* can be located on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet website at www.itsanhonour.gov.au

[WWI & WWII Memorials](#)

The Memorial(s) Development Committee (MDC) are hoping to construct 2 separate, but complementary, national memorials in Canberra to appropriately recognise the sacrifices made by our nation in World Wars I and II.

Richard Kirks unique and iconic design complements the Canberra National Memorials Committee's recent decision to extend the allocation of the Rond Terraces site in our nations capital for World War I and II Memorial(s) construction purposes. The chosen site at the foot of the ANZAC Parade memorials precinct on the northern shores of Lake Burley Griffin is most appropriate.

The Committee is seeking further donations, and for more information, please contact them on 0417 237 165, PO Box 27, Deakin, ACT, 2600 or www.mdc.com.au

[Broadband network provides in-home healthcare](#)

An \$8 million trial will be conducted which will enable chronically ill veterans to have their health monitored by health professionals without leaving home.

The use of in-home telemonitoring technology combines the National Broadband Network (NBN) high speed broadband with chronic care management to benefit many in the veteran community. An individual healthcare plan will be developed and vital statistics will be monitored from home. Veterans will also have access to video consultations with their GP or nurse coordinator when required. The program will also be linked with the Coordinated Veterans Care Program

Approximately 300 veterans Australia wide will have access to the trial, with Mandurah and Geraldton being the two locations in WA.

More information can be obtained at www.dva.gov.au

