



# 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  
EAST PERTH WA 6892  
Website: [www.rslwahq.org.au](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3799  
Fax: (08) 9287 3732  
Country Callers : 1800 259 799

#### CEO / State Secretary

Monday to Friday  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

#### Assistant State Secretary

Monday to Friday  
Assist to State President & CEO/  
State Secretary  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3702

#### 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 Applications  
Emergency Housing  
Food & Lodging Grants  
ASS&AR Trust Fund Applications.  
Overseas Pensions  
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: [helenb@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:helenb@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3703 / 9287 3718

#### Pensions

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

#### ANZAC Club

Monday to Friday  
Facilities Bookings  
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

## From the Presidents Pen...

### RSL Vehicle Number Plates

The Department of Transport has advised that from August 2012, car number plates with the prefix RSL (and League Badge) will no longer be available to RSL members. This decision was discussed with the League and since there was no demand from members for the specially allocated number plates the series would be discontinued. Should any member wish to obtain a set of these plates they need to contact ANZAC House without delay to secure an allocation.

### Indexation Issue

As you would all be aware this on-going issue is receiving considerable attention within the veteran community with little response from government. The RSL reaffirms its a-political position on this matter and will support its members in their endeavours to persuade government to act in the best interests of veterans. At the February National Executive Meeting in Darwin, it was resolved that the National President request an immediate interview with the Minister to express our concerns and disappointment that *our Minister* had failed to progress our claims to government. National Executive considered that it was unacceptable that it took the Minister an unreasonable time to respond to our letter expressing concerns conveyed to him nearly **two years ago**.

Ignoring the concerns of veterans' will not see them go away but will galvanise the veterans approach to issues concerning their entitlements.

### New facility to request permission to use the Service emblem for Second World War veterans

The Office of Australia War Graves (OAWG) has recently implemented a simple 'self-service' way for NOK of World War II veterans who are not entitled to official commemoration (i.e., death was not related to their service) to gain approval to use the Service Badge for use at the grave site or crematorium niche. An on-line facility has been developed to assist in obtaining the necessary letter of permission to use the Service Badge on the commemoration/memorial of a deceased veteran. Veterans may wish to print a letter of permission for placement with their personal papers. Families, cemeteries and crematoria are also able to print permission letters without delays when a veteran passes. The facility to print a letter of permission is available for each veteran listed on the Nominal Roll. This is more information available from the OAWG website [http://www.dva.gov.au/commems\\_oawg/OAWG/Pages/index.aspx](http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/OAWG/Pages/index.aspx)

### Superannuation for Reservists

The RSL Conditions of Service Committee is currently working through issues related to Superannuation for Reservists. In a progress report it was advised that the National President had held discussions with representatives from Defence and was currently working with General Jim Barry to determine future direction and timelines. It should be noted that the initial thrust for this had come from Reservists in Victoria and there was also impetus from within Defence as part of the changing integration of forces, principally concerning Army.

## Breakfast at ANZAC House

The famous Friday Breakfast has returned to  
ANZAC House on Fridays from 7.00 - 9.00 am for only \$12.00!

Eggs (fried, poached or scrambled), tomato, mushroom, bacon, hash browns and chipolatas, as well as toast, fruit platter, juice, coffee, jams and spreads are all available.

Come on down and support the Club that supports you!



### Corporate Plan

Our writing team, following consultation with interest groups, has commenced the rewrite of the 2012 – 2015 Corporate Plan. This document will be the 'blueprint' for League operations as we move towards the Centenary of The League. Thanks are expressed to Directors Dr Neil MacNeill and John McCourt for their guidance in this project. We expect to have the draft copy available to members for comment by early April.

### Aged Fund

It has been drawn to attention that use of money held in Sub Branch Amelioration Accounts is not clearly understood by members. In addition, the appearance of packaged Poppy sale items in shops with proceeds going to all States on a pro-rata basis has brought into question the whole exercise of Poppy Day Collections.

The sale of Poppy Badges in commercial outlets in WA is also possibly in contravention of *The Aged Fund Act*. Following reference to the *Act* that governs street collections in WA, the State Branch has prepared a set of By-Laws that will govern the sale of Poppies on Remembrance Day and the disbursement of funds collected. This document will be circulated to Sub Branches when approved for release by State Executive. Other States have been made aware of this State's Collection Laws and requested to comply with the *WA Act* by not seeking funds through the sale of product in this State.

### Albany Update

Progress on the organisation of activities to commemorate the departure of the fleet transporting troops from Albany in 1914 to the battlefields of the First World War have reached the stage where planning for infrastructure has commenced. The master plan for the Mt Clarence and Mt Melville Sites including the 'Forts and Lower Forts' area is well under way and commitment to funding by government is now confirmed.

At last, nearly two years of planning has produced results that will, when fully realised, put Albany and Western Australia as the starting place of the ANZAC Legend.

This is an exciting project with the WA State Branch of RSL, and the Albany Sub Branch taking the lead role in conjunction with the City of Albany and Lotterywest bringing this project to fruition.

### ANZAC Day – Perth 2012

With the Perth Esplanade not being available for the 2012 ANZAC Day Service the ANZAC Day Organising Committee has been obliged to consider alternatives for the conduct of the Perth March and Service not only for this year but for future Marches and Commemorative Services. While we would prefer the current arrangement as it has been part of our history for nearly a century we must prepare and plan for the future.

The proposal for 2012 will see Units form up on St Georges Terrace WEST of William Street and march to the EAST along St Georges Terrace then turn RIGHT into Barrack Street. It will then turn LEFT into Riverside Drive and enter Supreme Court Gardens and form up facing WEST for the Service.

Motor Vehicles will access the Parade Ground by an entry point on Governor's Avenue. The length of the March will be almost the same as the current route. The logistics of form-up points and location of Units will be promulgated as soon as possible. The Saluting Dais will be located in the vicinity of Sherwood Court.

### Membership Renewals

Thanks to members who have promptly renewed their Membership for 2012. We are pleased with the steady flow of renewals and encourage those who have not actioned renewal to do so as soon as possible. Reminders will be sent to unfinancial members in early May but we are hopeful this will not be necessary. Special thanks are offered to the volunteers who assisted Kathy in maintaining a quick turn around of renewals. The backlog is almost cleared.

### Welfare Report

During January the State Welfare Officer, Rosalind Howat was approached for emergency relief and general welfare assistance from 97 veterans and their dependents. This number was a slight increase over previous months and covered costs of \$3470.75 associated with food (\$500) accommodation (\$211), transport (\$40) and Utilities payments (\$2719.75). Total support given equalled \$3470.75.

As well as providing services from ANZAC House Ms Howat has had contact with sub branches at Mandurah, Rockingham and Geraldton.

We are keen to ensure veterans and their families are fully supported in time of need. Should sub branches know of veterans or families in distressed circumstances please make ANZAC House welfare staff aware of the situation.





## Reminder - Return Dates



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

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

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

**NO FORMS = NO SUPPORT**

### RSL Congress Elections - Update

The processing of documentation (affidavits, chamber summons, acknowledgements and waiver to rights) for the Supreme Court determination continues. Expectation is that the State Executive, original nominees and others involved in the process will be forwarded such documentation for perusal prior to 21 March. This date is currently the forecast by which to have all effected parties sign the Acknowledgment & Waiver of Rights. Many members have asked of the cost in legal fees to date. This is currently \$7002.60.

### From the Archivist

Our Archive Project Team have been active in visiting sub branches and locations in the Upper and Lower South West with focus on the latter region. Sub branches visited have welcomed the visit and all have provided vital information that pieces together almost a century of League activities in Western Australia.

The information made available will form part of an on-line exhibition to be constructed in the near future. It is envisaged that the exhibition will be launched at the State Library in April 2013 and will run for two months.

Naomi Lam and her team express thanks for the welcome and hospitality extended to the team when visiting locations and look forward to future return visits. Sub branches are invited to contact Naomi at ANZAC House to indicate support for her project.

### Annual General Meeting – Deferred Portion

Unfortunately, the adjourned portion of the AGM called for 22 February 2012 failed to attract a quorum and therefore, in accordance with the State Constitution, was recalled seven days later to deal with the business. This matter was then dealt with under those arrangements.

### State Treasurer

We are pleased to announce that Phillip Draber JP FCPA has been appointed to fill the vacancy of State Treasurer. Phillip is highly qualified in financial management and is looking forward to working at executive level in the League and heading up our finance department. He not only has a strong financial background but is also a LT COL in the Army Reserve.

### From our Pensions Officers & Advocate

Staff have been active in both an operational and instructional role servicing members and sub branches. As part of the service they offer sub branch pension officers an advisory and mentor service. Our service to veterans includes processing claims across all four Acts; VEA, SRCA, MRCS and MRCA as well as other supplementary claims for ancillary benefits. As part of our expansion program the Advocacy department are active in attending Resettlement Seminars conducted by the ADF. From these visits RSL is attracting a steady flow of contacts from personnel who are contemplating leaving the ADF.

### Staff Changes

Our Chief Financial Officer, Mr Geoff Garside has tendered his resignation and will be leaving us next month. We thank Geoff for his contribution to the State Branch and wish him well for the future. Advertising has begun for his replacement and we expect to make an appointment in sufficient time for an effective hand over.

**Members and Guests are reminded that ANZAC Club is open 10.00 am - 4.00 pm Monday - Friday, and for breakfast Friday mornings**

## **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**



## Celebrating The Centenary of the RSL

### Concept

The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) became a Federal entity in June 1916 and has evolved over nearly a century to become and remain a powerful force for good in the nation. Many who fought in distant battlefields, foreign skies and throughout the world's oceans and seas returned home at the end of wars and lesser conflicts to render years of selfless voluntary service to the RSL.

This great legacy of service by so many over such a long period of the nation's history is a matter worthy of celebration and commemoration when the League marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in June 2016.

The challenge is to determine a project aligned to the objects of the RSL which will remain meaningful well into the future and will continue to serve the needs of the veteran community.

The project will also need to be one capable of capturing the imagination of the RSL members and hence their overwhelming support.

The establishment of an RSL Centenary Veterans' Mental Health Centre is one means by which this goal might be achieved.

### Role

The role of the Centre is envisaged as being the pre-eminent Australian centre of excellence for all aspects of the mental health of Australia's ex-service community.

### Objectives

These are envisaged as being

- To be a trusted and respected initial point of contact for any veteran seeking advice or treatment for any aspect of mental health,
- To be a trusted and respected conduit between veterans with mental health issues and those in the Australian medical profession with the expertise and experience to diagnose and provide treatment of mental health conditions,
- To foster an to the extent possible fund research in ways in which the mental health of the Australian veteran community might be improved,
- To seek ways of gaining greater public awareness of the mental health needs of veterans and their families and in so doing to promote greater acceptance of the disease and a diminution of the stigma attached to it,
- To be active in promoting suicide prevention methodologies amongst those in the veteran community and their families and dependants who are diagnosed with or give indications of having a propensity to self harm.

### Location

While it is envisaged that the administration centre would be based at the new National Headquarters in Canberra, operational centres would be in areas throughout Australia where there was an identified need.

### Funding the Project

As this would be a national project it would be a funding project for the whole organisation.

### Comments

As National Executive would welcome comments on this initiative, members and sub branches are invited to make comment to National Headquarters through your State Branch

