



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
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3799
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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...

ANZAC DAY 2012

From reports received it would appear as though Sub Branches and local communities are well on the way to presenting Commemorative Services to mark the 97th Anniversary of ANZAC Day. Through community support and the generosity of *Lotterywest* we are able to present dignified services throughout Western Australia to mark this very special anniversary. It's that one day in the year when all Australians remember those who serve and have served their country.

In Perth, the Dawn Service will be conducted under the same arrangements as previous years with Rover Scouts maintaining the night vigil leading into the traditional Dawn Service. We anticipate a public attendance of around 45,000 and logistical arrangements are well in hand to accommodate that number. Full details of public transport and ceremonial arrangements will be published in *The West Australian* newspaper on Saturday 22 April.

Following the Dawn Service there will be a Gunfire Breakfast in Stirling Gardens to which the general public are invited.

ANZAC Day 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.

Veteran carrying 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 available on the website and will be in the next edition of *The Listening Post*, released on 16 April 2012. The Saluting Dais will be located opposite Trinity Church, with an EYES RIGHT.

Keeping RSL Members informed

The 2010 initiative of compiling and forwarding regular National President's Newsletters to State and Territory Branch Presidents improved the flow of information from the National Office to Branches, Districts, Sub Branches and Members - but has generally worked well in keeping us all informed on current issues. We are of the view that it is now time to extend the coverage of the newsletter so that our broader membership is similarly kept informed.

As a consequence 2012 National Presidents Newsletters will be posted on the RSL National Website. The reaction of RSL members to this further attempt to improve the flow of information will determine whether other changes will be made.

Please note that the RSL annual budget submission remains posted on the League's national website. This document is revised and updated every year to take account of issues brought forward through debate at the State Branch Conferences and at the National Congress. We continue to urge action on all matters included in this budget submission at every opportunity.





Coalition Committed to Military Superannuation Reform

At a meeting at Bendigo RSL with the leaders of the RSL and other ESOs, the Leader of the Federal Opposition, the Hon Tony Abbott MHR, reaffirmed the Coalition's commitment to the fair indexation of DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions.

5 March 2012

RADM Ken Doolan AM RAN (Retd)
National President
Returned and Services League of Australia
POBox303
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Rear-Admiral Doolan,

Today I am personally recommitting the Coalition to the fair indexation of DFRB and DFRDB military superannuation pensions.

As you will be only too well aware, the Coalition announced prior to the last election our commitment to fair, just and equitable indexation of DFRB and DFRDB pensions. Under our plan, all DFRB and DFRDB superannuants aged 55 and over will have their pensions indexed in the same way as aged and service pensions. This \$100 million commitment was and remains fully funded and fully costed.

Despite narrowly losing the election, the Coalition persisted with our commitment and introduced legislation into the Senate on 18 November 2010 to deliver fair indexation. In March 2011, the Coalition opposed Labor and the Greens sending the Bill to a committee for yet another inquiry which, predictably and on party lines, opposed the legislation. On 16 June 2011, the Senate voted to defeat the Coalition's legislation in a tied vote.

Since the Senate's decision, I have repeated the Coalition's commitment to deliver this reform, including during my speech to your National Conference in Melbourne last September. Today in Bendigo I have personally restated this position.

The Coalition Government that I lead will deliver this reform. You have my word.

Together with my colleagues Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Mr Stuart Robert MP, Shadow Minister for Defence Science, Technology and Personnel, the Coalition stands ready to deliver this reform. Our veterans and their families have waited too long. When the Government changes, my Government will deliver the fair go our veterans deserve.

Yours sincerely,

TONY ABBOTT
Leader of Federal Opposition

ANZAC House

A review of our facilities show that the IT system is out of date, in particular that used by membership, welfare and our archive team. These areas, and ANZAC House in general, needs to go through a major IT update that will hopefully provide a speedier more comprehensive service to the membership.

What do you want of ANZAC House in the future?

We have recently modernised the fire detection system and are in the process of obtaining quotes for modification of our ablutions and air conditioning system which becomes obsolete in 2015.

Many of you will be aware that our Chef, Michael, and his team prepare up to 200 meals a day in a cramped out-dated kitchen, which is causing problems in terms of service delivery. Our building is showing serious signs of fatigue and the facility is in need of freshening up. We intend to apply for grants to achieve this but you may have ideas as to what else you'd like your HQ to look like in the future.

If you have ideas please forward to: ideas@rslwahq.org.au



Included in the Sub Branch Signal is an updated page 2 of Congress Minutes, held in November 2011 - Please adjust your records accordingly

State Election

The documents required are close to completion and subject to a few amendments to the Memorandum of Consent recently highlighted by your Executive, will reach the Supreme Court by late April/early May. There are a number of rumours floating around and whilst I have not heard them all, those that I have heard are vastly exaggerated or simply untrue. For those of you who believe that the State President has concealed 20 votes in a safe in his office I can assure you that all voting forms have remained in a safe, within a strong room requiring two person entry since the evening of 26 November. As they say "never let the truth get in the way of a good story". The cost to date: Legal fees \$13,905.70. Staff time approximately \$6,000.

Corporate Plan

This continues to be drafted and will be completed by June. The Management Structure including the various committees is enclosed. Do you have ideas for the various portfolios? Can you steer the RSL into the future? Here is an opportunity to help. If you want to be involved email us at: ideas@rslwahq.org.au

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.

Change of State Treasurer & Accountant

We wish Geoff Garside good luck for his future employment with the Variety Club and welcome Phillip Draber as State Treasurer & Peter McGlade as State Accountant.

Geoff and Peter will be conducting a hand over from 10 April, and Peter will be flying solo shortly afterwards.

Government House Open Day

Government House is having an Open Day to tour the gardens and public rooms on Sunday, 15 April 2012 from 11.00 am - 3.00 pm. Entry is Free.

From the National President

A meeting was held with the Minister Snowdon on 23 January 2012. The matters discussed included:

- *The quest for recognition by ex-service personnel who served in the British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) after the Second World War.* Minister Snowdon was unequivocal in his commitment to bring this matter to a final decision in the near term. I am advised the Minister has since given similar advice to members of the BCOF Association. The Minister was left in no doubt that the RSL considers this matter must be dealt with as soon as possible – and that we will continue to support the quest by members of the BCOF Association.
- *The advice from all RSL Branches that the League does not support a proposal to award the Victoria Cross to the Unknown Soldier interred at the Australian War Memorial.* I have since written to the Chairman of the Defence Honours & Awards Appeals Tribunal advising him of this decision. This letter referred to a question without notice I was asked when I appeared before the Tribunal on 2 December 2011.
- *Relocation of defence assets to the north.* Minister Snowdon advised that no new information was available but that his Chief of Staff would seek information from the staff of the Minister for Defence. I hope to include more information in a future newsletter.

Amelioration Fund

A By-Law is being written to further define how this fund should be used. This will be dispatched by May.



State War Memorial Update

The Memorandum of Understanding between RSL WA HQ & Kings Park & Botanical Gardens Park Authority has been signed off. BGPA are the owners & RSL WA HQ the custodians.

Resolution of Inscription Criteria – the criteria amendment from that previously formed in 1921 by our forefathers, has been completed and will be displayed on our website. The details are as follows.

The Australian Defence Force personnel who are eligible to have their names inscribed on the Memorial must meet the following criteria:

1. The Eligible person must be an Australian citizen and have died as a result of active service in war/conflicts and must have:
 - A. been born in Western Australia; or
 - B. enlisted in Western Australia; or
 - C. been domiciled in Western Australia at the date of his or her death; or
 - D. had next of kin domiciled in Western Australia at the date of his or her death.

2. For the purposes of this Inscription Criteria:

“Domiciled” means the Eligible Person or the Eligible Person’s next of kin had his/her or their permanent and primary residence in Western Australia. The RSL may use its discretion to determine domicile taking into account the length of time of continuous residence in Western Australia and or registration on the Western Australian electoral role of the proposed Eligible Person or the proposed Eligible Person’s next of kin.

“Next of kin” means the proposed Eligible Person’s surviving parent/s, surviving spouse or surviving de facto spouse or surviving children.

3. An Eligible Person’s name will be inscribed on the Memorial as soon as reasonably possible after the date the RSL agrees that the person is an Eligible Person.
4. The New Inscription Criteria is not retrospective and will only apply to any current wars/conflicts at the date of the Resolution on 26 November 2011 and to any future wars/conflicts from that date. The inclusion of such wars/conflicts on the Memorial will be in the sole discretion of the RSL including the form of inscription which may if the RSL chooses only include a plaque recording the war/conflict without inscribing the names of any Eligible Persons.

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!

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

ANZAC Day March 2012 on DVD

Each year the ABC broadcasts ANZAC Day marches from Australia’s capital cities as well as commemorative services from overseas.

The following services can be purchased:

- 2012 ANZAC Day March from any Australian Capital City
- Gallipoli Dawn Service
- Villers-Bretonneaux Dawn Service
- Lone Pine Service.

To purchase, please contact:

progsales@your.abc.net.au or 1800 650 587

