



# 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@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  
Tel: 9287 3799

## Assistant State Secretary

Monday to Friday  
Assist to State President & CEO/  
State Secretary  
Email: rslwahq@inet.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...

### State Congress 2012

With over one hundred and fifty delegates, observers and guests the 2012 Annual Congress has been hailed as a resounding success. From its beginning at the wreath laying ceremony at sunset on Friday to the Congress Dinner on Saturday evening one could sense a positive attitude amongst delegates who were appreciative of the overall organisation of the event. We were delighted to have Congress opened by The Hon Colin Barnett, State Premier who in his address announced the establishment of a ministerial portfolio of "The Minister for Veterans' Affairs" at the State level.

Following the Premier declaring the Congress open Life Membership Awards were presented to Arthur Scanlan (Donnybrook), Dorothy Balcombe (City of Belmont), Clyde Goddard (Shenton Park), Eric Matthews (East Victoria Park) and Barry Fotheringham (Nollamara).

Following individual Awards, Sub-Branch Trophies were presented to acknowledge excellence in many areas of RSL Operations.

The State President delivered his Annual report in which he outlined achievement realised over the past year and set the scene for 2013 in which there will be many new initiatives that will address matters of corporate governance as we move towards compliance with new Not-For-Profit Governance Legislation. He concluded his address with, "Your League in Western Australia is in good shape. It is well managed, held in high regard and trust in the community, financially secure and achieving good results when measured against its Objects."

Matters associated with RSL WA Cadet Program were then addressed with Sponsor, Hollywood Private Hospital making a donation of \$8,000 followed by a short address from Cadet Chief Petty Officer Rhiannon Thompson, a recipient of last years Award. Rhiannon delivered most inspiring, and entertaining address on her experience as a 'sailor' on STS LEEUWIN.

The mid-morning session was occupied with addresses from representatives from State and Federal Government. The Hon Mark McGowan, Leader of the State Opposition spoke of the importance of Defence Assets being located on the West Australian coast line, particularly in the North West and of his intention, when in Government, of appointing a 'Minister Assisting the Premier on Defence Issues.'

Senator Sterle, representing the Minister for Veterans' Affairs spoke on government initiatives with respect to the portfolio while Senator Ronaldson, Shadow Minister for Veterans' Affairs outlined features of the Opposition's commitment to key issues currently 'on the table' with respect to indexation and other matters critical to the welfare of veterans and their families.

The final address before the luncheon adjournment was a presentation on the Lotterywest sponsored Living History Project. Delegates were provided with an audio visual presentation that showed the achievements of the research to date and outlined its future direction. Visual images of back editions of *The Listening Post* Newspaper from 1920 to 1950 were shown to delegates who were advised that they could be perused on-line at the RSL Website.

The afternoon session began with a presentation by Mr Noel Harding, a Taxation Advisor, who addressed matters concerning the new legislation for not-for-profit organisations. This was a most informative address, the contents of which need to be understood and addressed by every Sub-Branch. It will certainly impact upon the League.

The formal part of Congress concluded and the State President opened the Annual General Meeting of the WA Branch.

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### Annual General Meeting

With the formalities of the Annual General Meeting, including the acceptance of the Annual Balance Sheet and the appointment of Cdre Steve Davies RAN (Retd) as Warden for the State War Memorial, the items listed for debate were addresses. With the exception of the first motion on same sex relationships that was withdrawn by the originator, all the remaining motions were either defeated, lapsed or were withdrawn.

The Minutes of the AGM will be circulated to Sub-Branches in due course through the usual means.

### New Constitution & Rules

As indicated at State Congress RSL will be required to undertake a major revision of its current Constitution (Rules) and By-Laws. This is necessary to ensure we are compliant with proposed changes to the organisation of the not-for-profit sector of the community. A model constitution has been prepared by solicitors Williams Winter in Melbourne for the RSL and with some adaptation can be made suitable for RSLWA. Over the coming months a writing team will be working on a draft discussion document which we hope will be available for distribution to sub-branches early in the new year. This is a major move for RSL as if we 'get it right' we will have a higher Taxation Status which will bring additional financial benefits to all sectors of the League.

### PAWS on the Move

Members are advised that with effect 9 November, 2012 the Pensions/Welfare annex currently located in Irwin Street will be closing and relocated to Level 1 at ANZAC House. Telephone numbers are unchanged.

### National Tribunal

Expressions of Interest for the National Tribunal panel are requested. Although there are no prescribed criteria for membership of the Tribunal in the Rules, common sense and an understanding of the objects and rules of the League would be appropriate qualities. EOI should be forwarded to the CEO by COB 9 November to [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au). The subject line should read 'EOI National Tribunal'.

### **Membership as at 31 October 2012**

<b>Service</b>	<b>8,053</b>
<b>Affiliate</b>	<b>1,472</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,525</b>

### League Honours Long Serving Members.

During Annual Congress the following long serving members were awarded Life Membership of the League.

National President, RADM Ken Doolan AO RAN (Retd), State President, Bill Gaynor OAM RFD and The Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of WA made the presentations to:

Mr Arthur Scanlan – Donnybrook Sub-Branch

Mrs Dorothy Balcombe - City of Belmont Sub-Branch

Mr Clive Goddard OAM – Shenton Park Sub-Branch

Mr Eric Matthews – East Victoria Park Sub-Branch, and

Mr Barry Fotheringham – Nollamara Sub-Branch.

### State Branch Trophies

The following received Trophy Awards

The Newdegate Cup

(Most Efficient Metropolitan Sub-Branch)

City of Rockingham Sub-Branch

The Colonel Collett Cup

(Most Efficient Country Sub-Branch)

Donnybrook Sub-Branch

The Geraldton Shield

(Meritorious Country Sub-Branch)

Donnybrook Sub-Branch

Mary Cornell Trophy

(Most Poppy Sales in Proportion to Membership)

Halls Creek Sub-Branch

Ken Bladen Recruiting Shield

(Recruitment of New Members)

Kununurra Sub-Branch

## Christmas Card Competition

RSL State Branch is looking for old photographs to use on our Christmas Cards that show the activities Sub-Branches have participated in over the past 96 years.

Previous examples of photographs used on Christmas Cards can be seen on the RSL Website: [www.rslwahq.org](http://www.rslwahq.org)

Entries are required by 14 November 2012 and will be attributed to your Sub-Branch.

**HOLLYWOOD**  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL



**Cash & Carry**  
WA





**Reminder - Return Dates**

Remembrance Day Luncheon Payment - **Now Overdue**  
Voting Forms - **7 November 2012**



**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**

*Annual ANZAC Club  
Springtime Tea Dance 2012*

*Wednesday, 7 November 2012 from 10am to 2pm*

*Entertainment to be provided by Bill Louwen & The Sapphires!*

*Morning Tea, Dancing, Lunch and Bar Services at the usual fantastic value of  
the ANZAC Club.*

*Reserve your table or group for this fantastic morning of memories*

*Ph: ANZAC Club on 9287 2714*



**Australian Car Washes provide a Free Car Wash for Veterans and Service Personnel on Remembrance Day**



The Australian Car Wash Industry has joined the international *Grace for Vets* program which honours veterans and current military service personnel by providing FREE car washes on November 11 2012.

Simply go to one of the locations listed below on Sunday 11 or Monday 12 November mention you are a Veteran and you will receive a free car wash.

Participating stores are:

KwiknKleen Carwash	1145 Albany Highway Bentley
KwiknKleen Carwash	1770 Albany Highway Kenwick
Albany Clean and Green Carwash	88 Chester Pass Road Albany
Balcatta Car Wash	355 Wanneroo Road Balcatta
Cars We Wash	395 Wanneroo Road Balcatta
Prowash Busselton	18 Peel Terrace Busselton
Silver Sponge Hand Car Wash	Garden City Shopping Centre Booragoon

For more information go to [www.acwa.net.au](http://www.acwa.net.au) or [www.graceforvets.org](http://www.graceforvets.org)





## Projects 2013

The new-year will provide many exciting challenges for RSL WA as it prepares to enter into the second century of our operations. Over the years society and times have changed and we are faced with the task of addressing those cultural changes so we remain relevant in the future.

Some key issues that will impact on our future operations have been identified and are listed below. They are not in any particular order but must receive attention.

- **Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission Bill 2012 (ACNC)**

The ACNC is a new organisation being established by the Commonwealth Government to regulate charities. The ACNC's objectives are to maintain, protect and enhance public trust and confidence in the Not-For-Profit sector; to support and sustain a robust, vibrant, independent and innovative sector; and to promote the reduction of unnecessary regulatory obligations on the sector. This initiative will impact on all sub-branch operations and training will be offered by RSL Headquarters in the lead up to implementation. It is important that the provisions of the new Act are understood and implemented at Sub-branches

- **Indexation**

This issue has been uppermost in our negotiations with the Government and Opposition for quite some time. Assurances offered by the Government have been welcomed while the Government remain steadfastly opposed to any change. RSL, through its National Executive, are driving this issue and it appears that the forthcoming Federal Election will prompt some positive result to this issue.

- **New Constitution**

In our quest to obtain a higher taxation status our legal team has confirmed that we must revise our Constitution to meet the requirements of that status. There will need to be significant changes, almost a total rewrite of our current Constitution to meet the required standard. Our solicitors have been instructed to prepare such a document which we expect to have before sub-branches for comment early in the new year. To meet implementation requirements we need to have the new Constitution in place at the 2013 State Congress.

- **Futures Fund**

The State Executive has moved to establish a 'Futures Fund' which will be administered by a group of eminent persons with expertise in financial management. A legal framework is currently being professionally prepared and it is expected that when all statutory and professional requirements have been met the proceeds from the sale of the War Veterans Homes will form the initial deposit in the Fund. We expect the initial deposit to the fund will be in the order of \$12.3m

- **Sub-Branch Welfare**

As we move towards gaining a higher tax status certain areas of our welfare activities will need to be restructured. The adherence to the provisions of the *The Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Act (1932)* will see 50% of the nett proceeds of the Annual Poppy Day Appeal collected by Sub-branches lodged with the Fund and the remainder placed in a new specially designated RSL Sub-Branch Welfare Fund. Funds collected by sponsor agencies will be remitted, in full, directly to the Fund. A new By-Law dealing with this matter has been prepared and endorsed for implementation in November, 2012.

- **Centenary of ANZAC**

Plans are well advanced across Australia for the commemorative activities associated with the Centenary of ANZAC. Albany, in our own State will host the beginning of the ANZAC commemorative functions that will span the period from 2014 to 2018. In November 2014 at Albany there will be a re-enactment of the departure of the convoys followed by interactive displays etc for the following years. The entire Mt Clarence and Mt Adelaide area will form a heritage site dedicated to those who served their country in time of conflict. The new infrastructure will be designed to tell the ANZAC story to the many visitors expected to visit the Region during the period of the commemorative activities.

It is further anticipated that cities and towns throughout Australia – and, indeed, Western Australia will embrace the many commemorative activities that will honour the men and women of our defence forces.

- **Sub-Branch outreach program**

With the new initiatives of Corporate Governance, Financial Management and Constitutional matters the State Executive will be offering familiarisation courses on these topics early in the new year. Seminars will be conducted in major towns where we have sub-branches to make members aware of the changed governance issues and to facilitate compliance matters. We expect to have a draft itinerary available in early March 2013.

- **Living History Project**

Our Living History Team has been active in visiting country sub-branches and generally has been well received. Sadly, on some occasions the full potential of the visit could not be achieved due to local issues. The combination of face to face meetings and access to records and documents has enabled a good report on the growth and development of the RSL in Western Australia to be developed. The material gained from the visits will be documented for future generations and will form a major part on the history and development of the League in Western Australia. Unfortunately, the report will not be as detailed as we had hoped as access to information in certain areas was not possible. Future visits planned include the Pilbara and North West. Plans are also well in hand for the presentation of an on-line exhibition on the history of the RSL in this State.

- **New Sub-Branch**

A submission from veterans in the Gingin area has confirmed their intention to proceed with the formation of an RSL Sub-Branch in their location. We invite Service, Ex Service and other interested persons who have a desire to support the reformation of the Sub-Branch to contact ANZAC House for further details.