



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@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...

STATEMENT BY GRAHAM EDWARDS AM, INCOMING PRESIDENT TO STATE EXECUTIVE 18 DECEMBER 2012

I believe I come here claiming a significant win. I claim this win as President as a mandate to seek change in how we do our business here and how we consult, involve and inform our branches and members of our State Executive business.

I also claim a mandate to ensure that in the future our activities are fully accountable, transparent and financially prudent and that we ensure that we operate here with the highest possible standards of governance, integrity and credibility.

I believe that the heart and soul of the RSL is our branches and the work they do in a community sense and in support of the welfare and well-being of fellow members.

The RSL is a broad church. Collectively we do an immense amount of volunteer work in the ex-service and broader community. We are made up of men and women of all walks of life, from different eras, wars and conflicts and while we reflect the Australian community as a whole we also fulfil, on Australia's behalf, a tremendous role in the commemoration of those who have paid the supreme sacrifice; and we do that well.

We are approaching a once in a hundred year opportunity to Honour our ANZACS. This is not just an honour, it is a fundamental responsibility and duty of the RSL.

To assist our branches, I will be writing to all Sub-Branch Presidents early in the new year to encourage them to start work, if they have not already, on plans to commemorate the Centenary of ANZAC in their local communities. I will also be writing to all local authorities encouraging them to connect with their local RSLs in sponsoring, encouraging, and supporting Commemoration activities. To this end, I want to establish within State Executive a subcommittee to formulate our own approach to the Centenary of ANZAC. I will also contact the City of Perth to develop appropriate plans for the Centenary here in Perth. I intend to chair that subcommittee.

I also want to ask State Executive to roll over until the March meeting the consideration of our subcommittees.

I am not convinced that the current subcommittees are what we need to carry us into the next three years. I would like the opportunity to give consideration to our subcommittee structure and also want to discuss with you what that future structure might be and to seek your ideas and input.

For instance and as you would be aware, some 18 months ago RSLWA divested itself of RSL War Veterans Homes (known as RACA). Presently that money is being invested in Term Deposits in various banking establishments. This has been done to ensure a proper investment regime is set in place so that the money can be allocated back to the RSLWA in a way which reflects the financial needs of the organisation. The aim is to set in place an appropriate framework that secures this Fund for current and future generations. With this in mind we are in the final stages of establishing a Future Fund & Strategies Fund Committee who, with the Finance Committee, will examine appropriate investment opportunities in order to meet the short and long term needs of RSLWA.

We are heavily involved with the Centenary of ANZAC including the Departure of the Fleet and the building of the Albany ANZAC Centre. As President, I have met with the Albany Alliance representatives, competently chaired by Peter Aspinall, the Premier's Office, DVA, and have had discussions with the Minister For Veterans' Affairs Office and arranged to meet with the Albany City Council early in the New Year to work toward finalisation of plans to ensure this project proceeds. I can assure you that all parties are insistent on a world class centre. I believe the RSL must also insist on a strong interpretive focus at the centre all of which must be completed by 1 November 2014.

continued...

HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL



Cash & Carry
WA



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While Albany will have a huge local, national and international focus it is not the only commemorative project of importance in WA. Hence, the need to involve our Sub-Branched, local government, local communities and service clubs who support the RSL, particularly in country areas, in our Centenary of ANZAC commemorations.

Other priorities I will pursue are the re-write of our Constitution. I understand people have been working on a rewrite for some time but I am unable to ascertain where that rewrite is at and our CEO/State Secretary is unable to advise me because he has not been involved in the discussions.

That the CEO/State Secretary is not involved in discussions of such fundamental importance to the RSL here is unacceptable to me and should be unacceptable to you. I intend to ask Trustee, Wayne Tarr to take over the rewrite of this constitution and to work directly with the CEO/State Secretary to bring it to fruition inside of a tight timeframe. Other suitable people will need to be appointed to a subcommittee under his Chairmanship and advance this long awaited rewrite. We will need to consult with our Sub-Branched and, in my view, undertake a number of discussion papers with them in order to ensure their views are considered before we take it to a Congress.

Of major concern to me is the future of many of our Sub-Branched particularly in some of our country towns. Some branches are on the verge of closing and merely hanging in there for the Centenary of ANZAC. I said earlier that I believe the heart and soul of the RSL is our branches. If numerous branches are battling for numbers or simply losing interest then we must do all we can to offer them support and I intend to address these issues with SE as a matter of priority.

In making this opening statement I have endeavoured to forecast to you the direction I want to take and some of the issues which I feel we need to work on collectively if we are serious about growing RSLWA into the future. This future must of course involve a good working relationship with other ESOs who play an important role in the veteran community and with whom we must seek positive working relations.

In doing this I expect your full support and cooperation. I also expect you to be direct in your views at State Executive and to be relevant and to the point. I am happy for there to be robust debate on the issues which are important to us but I also expect common courtesy to each other to prevail at all times.

As State President of RSL WA I will give all of you a fair go here at all times and expect the same in return.

We are entering a challenging but exciting time as we plan for and approach the Centenary of ANZAC. We owe it to past generations to get it right and to keep faith with them. We owe it to current veterans and serving members of the ADF to secure the future during this time so that we meet our responsibilities to them and to the legacy of RSLWA.

Australia Day Awards

On Friday, 25 January 2013 the annual Australia Day Awards, Cadet of the Year Presentation, and Cadet Efficiency Shield Presentations took place at ANZAC House in front of over 100 guests. Congratulations to the winners of the awards and we are please to announce the recipients:

Cadet of the Year

The Cadet of the Year Awards for 2013 were announced by Mrs Olga Greig, Youth Coordinator, who outlined the selection criterion and introduced the finalists.

Navy Cadets

CDTLS Teisha Benedetti - TS PERTH
CDTCPO Elizabeth Kennon - TS MARMION
CDTCPO Jason Moir - TS MARMION
CDTLS Joshua Newberry - TS PERTH
CDTCPO Angus Stewart - TS MARMION

Army Cadets

CDTSGT John Foster - 509 ACU LYNWOOD
CUO Luke Jones - 509 ACU LYNWOOD
CUO Amanda Ward - 509 ACU LYNWOOD

Air Force Cadets

CWOFF Samantha Brandstater- 703 SQUADRON
CUO David Jorritsma - 703 SQUADRON

Congratulations to CDTCPO Angus Stewart, CUO Amanda Ward, CUO David Jorritsma on winning the competition, and a trip to Canberra for 5 days, and Victoria to accompany the Air Force Cadets trip to the Avalon Air Show.

Cadet Efficiency Trophy

2013 is the first year the Cadet Efficiency Trophy has been presented at the Australia Day Awards. Congratulations to the three winning units, who are determined by internal testing within the Cadet program.

Navy Cadets

TS Pilbara - Port Hedland
TS Vancouver - Albany

Army Cadets

Christ Church Grammar School Cadet Unit

Air Force Cadets

713 Squadron - Cannington

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Ready to Assist Veterans and Dependents in need or necessitous circumstances.

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Reminder - Return Dates



NOW OVERDUE - ADF Support Request, Two-Up Permit Request,
Friday, 1 March 2013 - Cadet Support Request Forms, Street Appeal Order Form, Media Form
Friday, 8 March 2013 - Sub-Branch Executives Seminar Attendance
Friday, 8 March 2013 - Sub-Branch Pension, Advocacy & Welfare Seminar Attendance

Australia Day Medallions:

Community Award - Compu-Stor

In addition to their generous donation of storage for our Poppies and collection supplies, Compu-Stor provide the RSL with a range of services including secure document destruction, secure electronic media destruction and offsite storage for our inactive records. The records stored at the offsite facility are accessible and, depending on the urgency, can be recalled and delivered to our offices at short notice. The database provided by Compu-Stor is available online and fully searchable, enabling us to retrieve specific records.

Compu-Stor also provide a high level of customer services and any queries we have are addressed and resolved in an efficient and prompt manner. As a not for profit organisation that provides welfare and resources for returned service personnel, the RSL is conscious of receiving value for the money they spend and Compu-Stor kindly offer us numerous savings on their already competitively priced rates. The support of Compu-Stor has strengthened our delivery of a secure and effective service to the veteran community in the management and storage of records.

Sub-Branch Award - Port Hedland Sub-Branch

Over many years the RSL Port Hedland Sub-Branch has raised funds for the local community. In 2003 they opened a community shop in order to raise funds for its own operations and welfare commitments and to provide an avenue where funds raised from donated goods can help the local community. As a result of this venture the Sub-Branch has provided an avenue where people can donate their unwanted goods; raised the profile of the RSL in the local community; and provide customers access to affordable items.

The RSL Community Shop has raised in excess of \$200,000 since establishment. This has enabled the Sub-Branch to actively support those in need, for example: donations to the Victorian Bushfire Appeal and packing & shipping in excess of 500 boxes of clothing and other items for Red Cross in Victoria. Other groups supported include: Percy Gratwick VC Memorial Annual Sports Awards; Navy & Army Cadets; Schools; Country Week; Aged Community Care; Sporting Groups; Indigenous Organisations & Honouring Indigenous War Graves; Pilbara Music Festival and the Seafarer's Centre.

The Committee and Members of the RSL Port Hedland Sub-Branch are commended for this community support and for raising the profile of the RSL within the community of Port Hedland.

Individual Award - Mr Bill Heel OAM

Bill HEEL OAM has had a long and distinguished career in Scouting. Beginning in 1937 as a Cub in Queensland he has worked his way through almost every section of the Scout movement and has been awarded Scouts highest honour for Uniformed Scouts, that of the Silver Kangaroo Award.

Bill holds the Southern Cross Award of the Baden-Powell Guild that is Scouts Highest Award. In recognition of his lifetime service to Scouting he was, in 2010, granted the honour of Life Member of the Scout Association.

In June 2000 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for Services to Scouting – a richly deserved recognition for his outstanding and dedicated service to youth.

His association with the RSL goes back some 15 years and in that time has provided and trained Scouts to engage in the ceremonial aspects of ANZAC Day at the Perth Parade. Scouts have played a major role in Services provided at Perth Ceremonies and the participants presentation and precision movements can be attributed to the work of such dedicated Scout Leaders – organised by the Award recipient, William (Bill) Heel OAM.

Congratulations to **Mr Alan Richardson OAM** on becoming a recipient of a Medal of the Order of Australia in the recent honours list. The recognition is a just reward for over 20 years as a member of the RSL, time during which he has given commendable service to veterans and the local community.



Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (“ACNC”) Update

Further to the preliminary advice in *The Sub-Branch Signal* October 2012 edition in regard to the proposed ACNC legislation, we provide an update as follows:

An independent regulator for charities, the ACNC formally commenced operations on 3 December 2012.

The ACNC is responsible for determining charity status for all Federal tax purposes and for administering tax concessions including income tax exemption, FBT rebate or exemption, GST charity concessions and deductible gift recipient (DGR) status where applicable.

Registration with the ACNC is voluntary, however ACNC registration is now a prerequisite for charities (Sub-Branches) to access charity tax concessions.

Once an organisation (in this case, the RSL WA and every Sub-Branch) registers as a charity with the ACNC, there will be ongoing obligations which must be met including:-

- Notifying defined changes in the organisation within a specified period.
- Keep financial records to show financial transactions, position and performance.
- Keep operational records such as meeting minutes, reports and written details of a charity’s activities (to allow the ACNC to assess whether an organisation continue as a charity).
- Reporting to the ACNC in the required ACNC format / statement. (Reporting obligations will vary depending on the size of the charity and will be introduced over two phases – details will be provided to Sub-Branches in due course).
- Meeting ACNC Governance standards (and if sending funds or engaging in activities overseas – meeting external conduct standards).

The ACNC has indicated that it will provide more information to help understand how to meet these standards..

The RSL WA HQ has engaged the services of Harding & Thornbury, Accountants & Auditors) to:-

- assist in all matters related to Tax Concession Charity (“TCC”) endorsement on behalf of the RSL WA and ALL Sub-Branches,
- assist in preparation of guidance notes for TCC application,
- advise RSL WA HQ staff and work with Sub-Branches in the preparation of TCC endorsement applications,
- oversee the submission of TCC applications and where appropriate, submit as such direct to the Australian Taxation Office or ACNC as appropriate.

The ACNC is currently updating details on the ACNC Register and has indicated it will send a form to every charity to update information held on the ACNC records.

Should a Sub-Branch receive any form from the ACNC, it may be completed but the form must then be sent direct to RSL WA HQ. It will then be dealt with as part of the ‘bulk’ submission of TCC endorsement with the ACNC by way an ACNC template spread sheet that will be provided to the RSLWA to cover all Sub-Branches.

Sub-Branches can follow developments in regard to the ACNC via its website: www.acnc.gov.au

RSL WA HQ is in the process of organising an in-house workshop at ANZAC House on 14 March, 2013 for Sub-Branch Presidents and Treasurers. Alternative arrangements/information packages will be made for country Sub-Branch or metropolitan Sub-Branch Presidents and Treasurers not able to attend the workshop.

Full particulars will be issued to all Sub-Branches as soon as details have been finalised.

Guide Dogs WA are looking for Volunteers to help out in its Mini Dog Program.

This program funds many areas and is a vital part of the organisations fundraising.

If you are interested contact Teena on 9311 8238 or teena.liddle@guidedogswa.com.au

