



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
WA Sailors, Soldiers & Airman
Relief 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...

RSL WA State Congress 2013

Numerous Eastern States visitors attended our State Congress this year. They joined the 128 delegates, 27 guests and observers from around the State and a successful Congress followed.

Our special guest, who opened the Congress, The Hon Dr Brendan Nelson BMBS FRACP (Hon) FAMA and his wife Gillian, National President Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO RAN (RETD), Federal Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator Michael Ronaldson and his staff, Secretary of DVA Simon Lewis, Repatriation Commissioner Major General Mark Kelly AO DSC RAR (RETD), Deputy Secretary Shane Carmody and Doug Humphreys, Chair of the VRB.

Among the State guests were Veterans' Minister Joe Francis MLA and Leader of the Opposition The Hon Mark McGowan, MLA.

Dr Brendan Nelson made a passionate speech at the opening, detailing in part, his time as Ambassador to various countries in Europe including NATO and his approach to his job as Director of the Australian War Memorial (AWM). He also talked about his many trips to the Menin Gate and other Commonwealth War Cemeteries and the services he attended and initiated during his posting.

Dr Nelson also spoke passionately about his attitude to the Centenary of ANZAC and the need for the RSL to be true to our history and heritage but also to be innovative as we plan the next few years of commemoration.

He spoke for just on 35 minutes without a single note to guide him and he beguiled the audience with his recall of facts, dates, quotes and historical detail.

From my own point of view there were several highlights of Congress: Firstly the organisation of Congress was spot on with much positive feedback from delegates.

Congratulations to our State Secretary Phil Orchard and his team at ANZAC House for this as it helped promote RSLWA and showcase us in a very professional light.

Two other areas I want to comment on include the decision of Congress to adopt the same policy as the AWM and allow the State War Memorial (SWM) to have engraved on its Roll of Honour the names of those servicemen and women who have been killed on non-warlike operations whilst on deployment with the ADF.

This for me this was I admit a rather emotional decision for a couple of reasons.

Firstly, in the audience as a member of the Ballajura Sub-Branch, was Mrs Avril Clark. Mrs Clark is the mother of Jamie Clark, a former student at Ballajura Community College who was killed in the Solomon's some years ago whilst on patrol with the 3rd Battalion RAR.

After his death Mrs Clark was devastated to discover that her son's name was not eligible for the Roll of Honour at the AWM as his service was not considered warlike and with other wives and mothers led a campaign to have that policy changed.

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Under the leadership of Dr Nelson and our National RSL President and with the support of the Chiefs of the ADF she succeeded and earlier this year Jamie's name, along with others now eligible were added to the Operational Roll at the AWM.

The State RSL's decision to follow suit was the right decision.

At the start of the debate I introduced Mrs Clark to the Congress.

Here was a mother who had given her son to the ADF who in turn had given his life overseas in the service of his nation. That the State Congress of the RSL dealt with this issue in such a mature, understanding and decisive way is something I thought we should be proud of.

Indeed they got it right.

This decision in my view reflects well on the fact that we have come a long way in recent times and that we in RSLWA now indeed understand the nature of deployment confronting the modern ADF.

Who could have envisaged all those years ago when the SWM was first dedicated following WWI that the nature of deployment would change to the extent it has all of these decades later.

While the anguish will never end for Mrs Clark and others like her, at least this part of the journey will be complete when Jamie's name is added to the Roll at the SWM.

Another decision taken by Congress was the decision to support the appointment of Ms Jan Stewart, CEO of the WA Lotteries Commission, as Warden of the SWM. Jan's father spent many years as a POW and she is a strong supporter of the RSL in WA and passionate about the Centenary of ANZAC. Her appointment also reflects the respect and appreciation we have for the staff of Lotteries West who continue to assist RSLWA in a myriad of ways.

Below is the email she sent when advised of her appointment:

Dear Graham,

Thank you very much to you and the RSL for this honour. It means a great deal to me. Congratulations on the organisation of the congress today and on the presentations which I heard including your own. The whole thing was inspirational. I really hope you will achieve your ambitions of making the important changes the RSL needs for the future while retaining the traditions which are part of its history. I am really looking forward to the Centenary years - I believe like you that this will be a once in a lifetime opportunity to build community and community values based on the telling of the stories of those who have served their country. I am glad we have been able to support that.

Cheers

Jan Stewart

CEO Lotterywest

Warden of the State War Memorial

Message from St Georges Cathedral

At the Cathedral **on Sunday, 10 November at 10 am** we keep a traditional Remembrance Sunday service with Two Minute Silence and Last Post & Reveille. This is with full choir and the Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, is the guest preacher for this significant occasion.

On Armistice Day, Monday, 11 November, at 11 am we keep a short Act of Remembrance at the Villers-Bretonneux Cross, which is kept in the Soldiers' Chapel in the Cathedral. We remember Australian forces and also our French allies.

This is intended for those who, for work or mobility or other reasons, cannot get to Kings Park for the 11 am there.





Reminder of Return Dates!

Poppy Day Acquittal Form - **Friday, 22 November**

2014 ANZAC Shirts

Included in this Sub-Branch Signal is an Order Form for the 2014 Special Limited Edition ANZAC Shirts. Please distribute this to your members. A sample of the shirts is available at ANZAC House

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**

welfare@rslwahq.org.au

Bunbury Men's Shed - Call for Support!!

The proposed Bunbury Men's Shed, which is sponsored by the South Bunbury Rotary Club and supported by the Bunbury City Council, is in the development stage and is seeking sponsorship from the wider community. The Council has made available an area of land opposite the Bunbury Race Course between Bussell Highway and Adam Road and north of the St John Ambulance Buildings.

Four months ago a meeting was called for those men who would be interested in joining the Shed, and from there a Committee was elected to take the project forward to completion.

At least \$290,000 is needed to bring the project to the stage where it will be ready to use and be debt free by mid 2014. So far, over \$160,000 has been raised, including major donations from Bunbury City Council, ANZ Bank, Chefs Long Table, ADM Accountants, Iluka Resources and BHP Billiton.

If your Sub-Branch or Association is able to help, please contact Bruce Minchin on 0417 943 206

Information regarding the ANZAC Centenary

ANZAC Centenary Report

Copies of the Centenary Report are available from DVA now or from www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

All Sub-Branches and Associations are encouraged to make themselves familiar with this document.

Regional Shires are all allocated with \$125,000 towards the Centenary, so please discuss this with them to ensure your Sub-Branch has a say!!!

Lotterywest

Sub-Branches and Associations are also encouraged to visit the Lotterywest Website www.lotterywest.wa.gov.au/grants/grant-types to familiarise themselves with Grants available for the Centenary.

Brochures regarding Lotterywest Grants are also available from ANZAC House.



Remembrance Day 2013

The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated

invites you to attend the

Remembrance Day Commemorative Service

Flame of Remembrance, State War Memorial

Monday, 11 November 2013 at 11.00 am

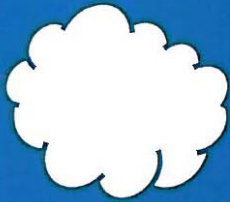
(please be seated by 10.50 am)

Please inform RSL WA if you will be laying a wreath to ensure seating is available on 9287 3799 or

rslwahq@inet.net.au

What is your Sub-Branch or Association doing for Remembrance Day?

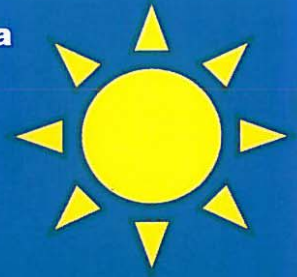
Please send articles and pictures to appear in *The Listening Post* by 15 November 2013



**The Returned & Services League of Australia
WA Branch Incorporated**

proudly presents the

Poppy Picnic



**Monday, 11 November 2013
11.45 am**

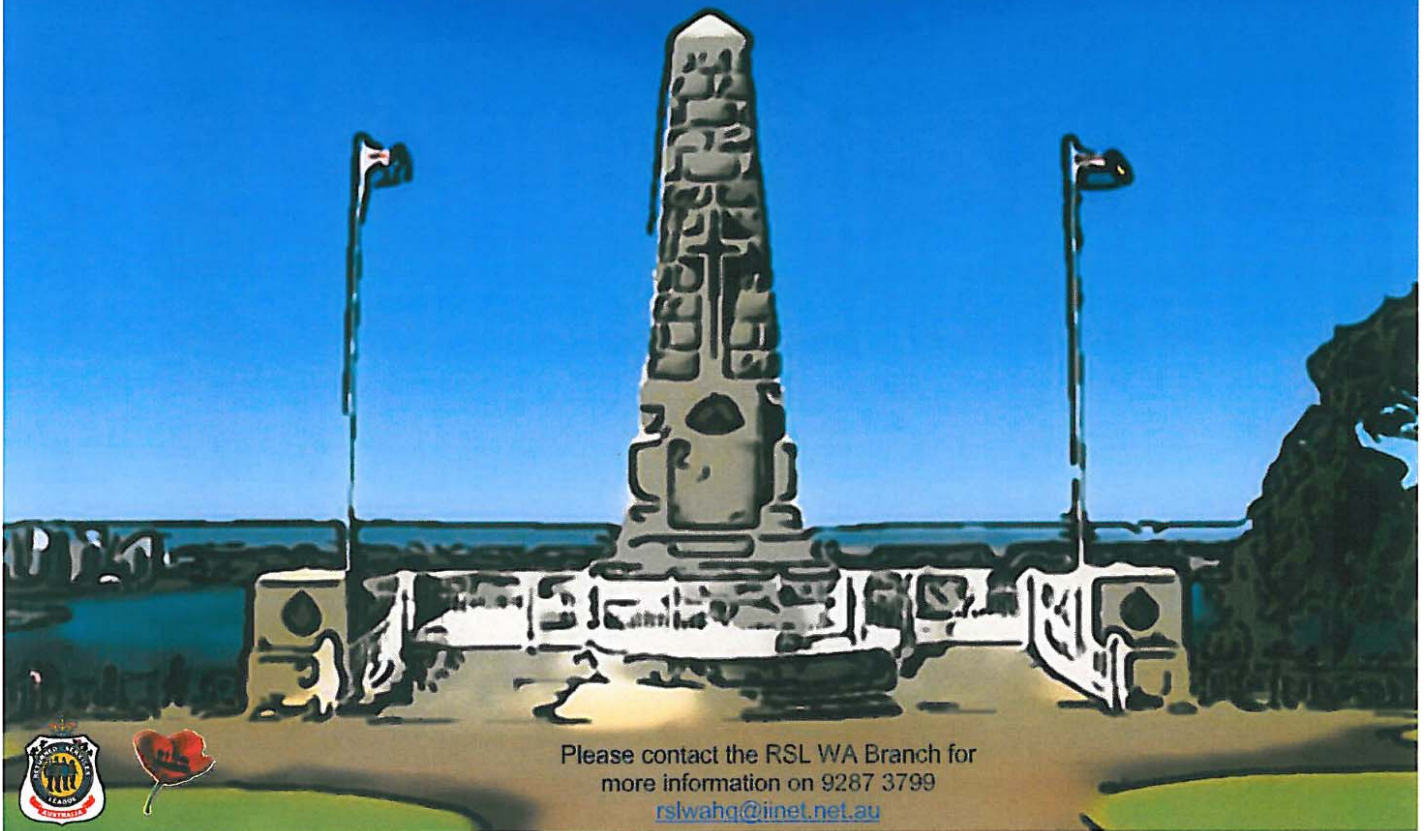
State War Memorial, Kings Park



*Bring your own picnic lunch and show your support
for our Service & Ex-Service Community*

*Tea, Coffee and Cake provided for a gold coin donation
by the Salvation Army*

Treasure Hunt for School Children available



Please contact the RSL WA Branch for
more information on 9287 3799
rslwahq@iinet.net.au

**ANZAC Day Forms will be in your next Sub-Branch Signal
at the end of November.**

Please contact RSL WA if you DO NOT receive these forms!