



Issue 7/2014

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

THE SUB - BRANCH SIGNAL



DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL

Mon - Fri, 8.30 AM - 4.30 PM

ANZAC HOUSE AND RECEPTION

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ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY

Assistant to State President & CEO /
State Secretary
Email: rslwahq@inet.net.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3702

MEMBERSHIP

Monday to Thursday
Membership Enquiries
Sub - Branch Enquiries
Email: membership@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3705

WELFARE

Welfare Applications
Emergency Housing
Food & Lodging Grants
ASS&AR Trust Fund Applications
Overseas Pensions
Email: welfare@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3707

ADVOCACY

S31 Reviews
Veterans Review Board
Admin. Appeals Tribunal
Email: advocate@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3708

FINANCE

All Account Enquiries
Sub - Branch Credits
Sub - Branch Insurance
Information & Claims
Grant Application Assistance
DVA & Lotterywest (ABN, tax)
Email: helenb@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3703 / (08) 9287 3718

PENSIONS

Pension Entitlements
Claims Preparation
Email: pensions1@rslwahq.org.au /
pensions2@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3710 / (08) 9287 3711

ANZAC CLUB

Facilities Bookings
Catering & Hospitality
Email: anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au
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LISTENING POST

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From the President's Pen...

Strong sub-branch support for the restructuring of our management body has paved the way for the election of a new Board of Directors.

79 credentialed delegates, including 10 proxies, representing 54 sub-branches attended our Extraordinary General Meeting at ANZAC House last Saturday.

Delegates overwhelmingly supported Constitutional amendments to combine the State Executive and Board of Directors into a single management body, and for that body to meet monthly.

The changes will replace our existing outdated, cumbersome and unfair management structure which disadvantaged our regions, which were represented only at the quarterly State Executive meetings.

Saturday's EGM was concluded in brief time after explanations for the amendments were offered to delegates. Strong support was expressed for the changes with delegates voting in strength for the changes.

The only amendment of significance was the renaming of the Esperance and Goldfields Region to the Eastern Region.

The constitutional changes mean that new elections will be held under the auspices of the State Electoral Commission for all elected positions – State President, Vice President, Treasurer and eight ordinary members. The Trustees will remain part of the structure.

Following Saturday's meeting our amended constitution will go to the Department of Commerce for ratification. Further discussions will now take place with the Western Australian Electoral Commission (WAEC) regarding the timeline and procedures for the new election.

This timeline, when finalised by WAEC, will be notified to sub-branches during the next few weeks.

The newly elected Board of Directors will take office immediately after the State Congress and, because of these changes, no further election will be required until 2017.

"To RSLWA following your restructure can I say congratulations it is a great step forward."

- National President, RADM Doolan

I want to thank all of the delegates who gave up precious time on Saturday to attend the meeting and particularly those who travelled from all ends of the State to support proposals for a more efficient and inclusive management structure.

I have no doubt that this restructure is another positive step forward for RSLWA.

At the conclusion of the meeting there was an informal Q&A discussion between delegates about various issues of concern to sub-branches and the RSL as a whole.

These included the divestment of the RSL Retirement and Aged Care Association (RACA), the future of ANZAC House, proposed changes to Amelioration Fund rules, liquor licensing and several other matters.

One specific issue that was raised which I would like to mention: Northam Sub-Branch President, Donna Prytulak, brought to all members' attention the RSL Women's Forum being held on Saturday 23 August at ANZAC House.

As women increasingly enter the services with an expanded role they have much to offer the future of the RSL. We all need to encourage greater women's participation in the RSL and to also encourage women to attend this forum and have their say about the future of the RSL.

Graham Edwards AM

Applications for 2015 ANZAC Day Funding and the complete 2014 Congress package have been sent out earlier this month. If you have not yet received either of these please contact us immediately as due dates are fast approaching.

Please refer to back page for more information.



Lift-off for our ANZAC grevillea

Members may recall I made a personal approach to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) (Kings Park) last year to examine the possibility of their producing a unique Australian plant to commemorate our ANZACs.

After due consideration, their expert horticulturalists grasped the idea with enthusiasm and propagated a special beautiful red grevillea which blooms for about nine months of the year.

RSLWA supported an approach to the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson, to use the name ANZAC in identifying the new plant. He explained at the time he had several commercial applications pending from around Australia for similar use of the word ANZAC in relation to plants and refused our request.

"I took the issue to our National President and National Executive and they strongly endorsed the concept. In writing to the Minister requesting a review of his decision I reiterated we are not a commercial organisation and that any profits from the sale will go into RSL-related services for veterans and serving members. Following a personal phone conversation with the Minister, we are pleased to say he has now reconsidered and approved the name RSL Spirit of ANZACs Grevillea".

The "RSL Spirit of ANZACs Grevillea" was primarily selected for its lush red flowers, its trans-Australia heritage and the tough geographical conditions in which it grows and thrives.

Thousands of plantlets have been developed and supplied by the BGPA to Benara Nurseries, which will have responsibility for marketing the plants nationally through outlets like Bunnings and Masters. Part of the profits will benefit The Returned & Services League throughout Australia.

It is expected the plants will be on sale within a month before ANZAC Day 2015. The grevillea will be suitable for home gardens, around memorials and hopefully war cemeteries overseas.

The red flowers remind us of the blood shed by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps - at Gallipoli and the more than 61,000 who died in the First World War. They remind us that ANZACs landed and fought in incredibly hostile conditions - the parents of this hybrid grevillea are from Mt Finke, surrounded by hundreds of square kilometres of inhospitable sand dunes more than 500km NNW of Port Lincoln, as well as Western Australia, between Perenjori and Wongan Hills, and Southern Queensland.

RSLWA thanks the Minister for this decision, the Premier of WA for his support and most importantly the BGPA for their innovation, expertise and simply for just being a great and iconic WA institution.



strokefoundation

The National Stroke Foundation's StrokeSafe Ambassadors deliver free talks about stroke to help all Australians understand the risk factors and signs of stroke.

The talk takes approximately 30 minutes and covers:

- What stroke is
- How to prevent stroke

- How to recognise the signs of stroke
- What to do if someone is having a stroke

If you and your group or workplace are interested in becoming StrokeSafe, click here to complete the online speaker request form.

Alternatively, please call 1300 194 196 or email strokesafeseminar@strokefoundation.com.au.

Please be aware that despite our best efforts to provide a speaker, in some instances it may not be possible. If we cannot provide a speaker, we will discuss with you other ways to help your group learn more about stroke.

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Bankwest Gallipoli Run

Athletics WA invites all Bunbury and surrounding residents to be a part of the commemoration of the courage and sacrifices of all our service men and women in the Gallipoli campaign.

On Sunday 7 September 2014, with the support from Bankwest, Athletics WA (AWA) will be conducting a community run to remember those service men and women. 'AWA, which is a not for profit organisation, distributes the funds generated from the run to the RSL, Legacy and for athlete development. To date AWA has distributed over \$100 000.00 between the RSL and Legacy.'

With the support of Bankwest three commemorative runs will be conducted in 2014, Kings Park Perth and regionally in Bunbury and Albany prior to the re-enactment of the departure of the ships from Albany, the last contact the service men and women had with Australian soil, en-route to Gallipoli. Athletics WA will be raising and contributing financial support to assist the RSL to conduct the commemoration events in November 2014 and April 2015.

The Bankwest Gallipoli Run is a series of runs conducted in Perth, Bunbury and Albany during the 100 year remembrance commemoration of Gallipoli and will be followed up by events in 2015 during April.

A 4 km and 8 km course has been created, which starts and finishes at the Naval Cadets Units in Turkey Point Road Bunbury. The first male and female of the 8 km event will be invited, all expenses paid, to compete at the 2015 Bankwest Gallipoli Fun Run.

The event will be held annually on Fathers' Day to honour all the fathers who took part in this campaign.

The first 1000 runners will receive a Bankwest 'Bunbury' Gallipoli Run Shirt.

Do you have the commitment to be part of this great commemoration of the ANZAC spirit?

Entries open soon at www.waathletics.org.au.

WA AGED SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S RELIEF TRUST FUND

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

**Welfare Officer
(08) 9287 3707**

Assorted RSL Merchandise is available at ANZAC House.

All enquiries to Wendy on 9287 3799.



Reminders from Edition 6/2014

RSL Sub-Branches holding Firearm Licenses

The WA Police are in the process of upgrading their Firearm Licensing System and part of that process is to ensure that they have all the correct information in respect to organisations that hold Firearm Licenses.

It would be appreciated if sub-branches that hold a Firearm Licence, whether it be a Corporate or a Collectors Licence, contact Roger Howell either by phone or email.

Phone Number - (08) 9454 1358

Email - roger.howell@police.wa.gov.au

Life Membership and Meritorious Award Nominations

Criteria is available at www.rslwahq.org.au under Membership - Applications for Awards and further information in Rule 10 of the Constitution. Nominations must be received by 31 July 2014.

Membership Pro-Ratas

Membership Pro-Ratas for July-September 2014 have now started! (NEW MEMBERS ONLY).

Fees are \$20.00:

\$12.50 is to be sent to RSL WA HQ

\$7.50 is retained by the sub-branch.

Preference for electronic copy of The Listening Post

If any members would prefer to receive their Listening Post electronically rather than posted out - please advise.

If we get enough interest we will investigate how we can facilitate this.



Important Dates

ANZAC Day Funding

By now you should have received your Application for ANZAC Day Funding for 2015 which was posted on 11 July 2014. If you have not yet seen the application form in its new format please contact us ASAP as applications must be received no later than **Friday, 29 August 2014**.

If you have any queries please contact Amy (amyh@rslwahq.org.au) or Nola (nolak@rslwahq.org.au)

98th Annual State Congress

The package for the 98th Annual State Congress was mailed out on 25 July. If you have not yet received it or have any queries please contact us.

Applications for competitions are due by **Friday, 29 August 2014**.

Remittance Advice and Delegate Nominations are due by **Friday, 3 October 2014**.

Agenda Item submissions are due by **Friday, 29 August 2014**.



Women's Forum

Saturday, 23 August 2014
9.00 am – 4.00 pm
ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth

The Cost is FREE and includes morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea.

The Women's Forum is designed to find out what women want from the RSL and how RSL WA and its sub-branches can provide better services and a more inclusive environment.

We are interested in your input why you joined the RSL, what you would like to see changed, what you would like to see stay the same etc so we can make changes.

Your Story

The Organising Committee is also interested in your personal story of your service and/or RSL involvement for inclusion in a booklet to be made available at the Forum and for use in The Listening Post etc. (One A4 page and photograph)

RSLWA Poppy Workshop

Where: ANZAC House – 28 St Georges Tce, Perth
Date: Friday 29 August
Time: 10.00am-1.00pm

Morning tea will be provided

Please bring along red wool, needles and hooks and any green and black buttons. Some wool will be provided and knitters will be on hand to help

Please RSVP to Sharon on 9287 3706

Poppy Patterns can be found at:
<http://5000poppies.wordpress.com/poppy-patterns/>

We thank Spotlight for providing the wool



The Listening Post

This is your publication, we welcome your ideas, comments and submissions. Submissions for the next edition are due on 22 August.

Please email listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au



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