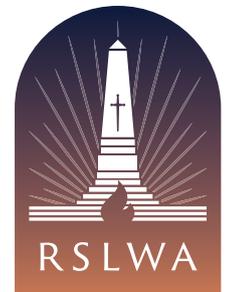




Issue 5/2014

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

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

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

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
Tel: (08) 9287 3714

LISTENING POST

Editorial Staff
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3716

From the President's Pen...

The State Executive of The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated ("RSLWA") has decided to take legal action against The RSL Care (WA) Retirement and Aged Care Association Incorporated ("RACA") over the divestment of the retirement village and aged care facility assets formerly owned by RSLWA.

Members will recall that these assets were sold to RACA under a contract entered into in November 2010 with the transfer of ownership taking effect on 1 July 2011. Around the same time the constitution of RACA was amended to make the organisation independent of RSLWA.

This decision follows serious concerns relating to the sale, which have been brought to light following nearly 12 months of investigation by our legal team. These concerns relate directly to the integrity of information which was provided to the then State Executive and Board of Directors, and formed the basis for their decision to proceed with the sale. There is a serious concern that this information was incomplete or misleading, and that the structure of the divestment and the provision of information about it may have been influenced by conflicts of interest.

Importantly, the action will challenge the inclusion of the premises of the Mandurah Sub-Branch in the package of assets sold. It will be alleged that this benefited RACA but produced no corresponding benefit to RSLWA or its membership – again, due to the influence of conflicts of interest. As a result of the inclusion of the Mandurah RSL Hall in the sale, Mandurah is facing eviction from their home premises on Vietnam Veterans Day in 2014.

Indeed it was because of approaches made to me as a new president of RSLWA by members of the Mandurah Sub-Branch over their concerns for their future that led to serious questions being asked over the probity and propriety of the overall sale.

In arriving at its decision to commence legal action, State Executive has acted with extreme caution and careful consideration to ensure that our determinations reflect the high standards of governance that you are entitled to expect from your elected representatives.

Given all of the information now at hand State Executive has concluded that there is no alternative to decisive legal action.

There are of course always risks associated with legal action and no guarantees can be given as to the success of such action. However, it is clear to State Executive that we cannot sit on our hands given the information which has become available to us through the investigation of the divestment transaction.

A conciliatory personal approach taken by myself late last year as State President to RACA over matters relating to the divestment was rejected.

Finally, may I say that it is a matter of great personal regret to me that we are now compelled to take legal action against an organisation which was formerly so closely related to us – and is still associated with us in the eyes of the public, due to the concession in the divestment agreement relating to the use of our RSL name.

Extraordinary General Meeting

Many thanks for the strong sub-branch response to the request for support for an Extraordinary General Meeting. The meeting will be held at ANZAC House on Saturday 26 July with a 9.30am sign in and coffee. The meeting will be starting at 10 am.

We will circulate the proposed amendments to the constitution so all sub-branches have ample time for consideration and to elect delegates.

The Listening Post

Finally, the new look Listening Post will be delivered shortly. After some 18 months of deliberation a switch to a magazine has been achieved. I believe it is a quality product and we will be interested to receive any feedback members have on the concept.

The new look Listening Post coincides with the launch of our Facebook account and the revamped Web Site.

Kindest regards,
Graham Edwards AM



The Bond

A special website has been created in which stories of those who have served our country or been effected by family members or others who have served can be shared.

This website is called 'The Bond' and we are asking RSL members and their family members to share their stories on the website as the years of the Centenary unfold. After the Centenary, this repository of stories will be given to the RSL as a contemporary collection of stories for future generations.

'The Bond' is intended as a way of capturing the powerful connections and enduring friendships that form between those who have and who continue to serve in theatres of war or peacekeeping efforts, and the people closest to them.

Our very own Bellevue Sub-Branch President Scott Rogers, a member of the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment (2001-2006) shared his story as part of this initiative. His video can be viewed on 'The Bond' website. We hope you will check it out and will tell your story of the 'bond' you have with your mates.

Visit 'The Bond' website www.thebond.org.au to share your story.

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 Nominations

It is that time of the year again when nominations for Life Membership and Meritorious Awards need to be considered. The criteria can be found under Membership - Applications for Awards at <http://www.rslwahq.org.au> and further information in Rule 10 of the Constitution.

Nominations must be received by 31 July 2014.

Requests for Ex-Service Records

The form used to request ex-service records from Defence has been updated. (FORM ENCLOSED)

Men's Health Week: 9-15 June 2014

National Men's Health Week is coming up, please visit the Men's Health week website for activities or ideas (www.menshealthweek.org.au). We would encourage you to consider doing something with your sub-branch, Mens' Health Peer Education (MHPE) groups or newtworks to celebrate this coming week.

Men's Health Week is all about celebrating the many and wonderful contributions that boys and men bring to our lives. And it's about celebrating the many everyday achievements in our lives as boys and as men, which in turn provides opportunities to think about our health and our wellbeing in a positive way.

To improve the mental, physical and social health of boys and men in Australia means working locally alongside them, and understanding how their health is shaped by the various aspects of their lives.

4 Things To Do Right Now

- Download the Inspiring Ideas Event Pack - full of great ideas about running events.
- Start planning your events - make it fun and welcoming for men, boys and their families.
- Register your event - show Australia the right approaches are for your area.
- Share your event on social media - show your friends and colleagues what you have planned.

Men's Health Week resources are available to order.

Important Reminder for Grants

The Sub-Branch Funding Grant and Gunfire Breakfast Grant Acquittals must be in by **13 June 2014**.





The RSL Living History Exhibition is on the road again!

The Exhibition has just finished its first tour and is now booked out until December 2016. Local sub-branches are encouraged to become involved with the host organisation, and if you are visiting the area don't forget to drop by and have a look!

Upcoming Tour Locations

1 June – 5 July 2014: Newman Visitors Centre
13 July – 16 August 2014: Manjimup Library
24 August – 27 September 2014: Donnybrook Community Library

Indigenous soldiers recognised

St George's Cathedral is a treasurehouse of memorials to those Western Australians who have served in the world conflicts in which Australia has been involved. Yet, to date there has been no memorial to our Aboriginal soldiers of WWI, and this is to be rectified in NAIDOC Week this year. Chris Thomas, an indigenous monumental mason, will create the memorial from Western Australian granite, mounted on marble.

At 5pm on Sunday 6 July the memorial will be dedicated by the Dean of Perth, the Very Reverend Dr John Shepherd, at St George's Cathedral to the everlasting memory of those men who, without even the right to vote in their own country, nonetheless volunteered to fight overseas on its behalf.

Christ Church Scholarship

The Old Boys' Association Scholarship Trust will award the Arch Campbell Memorial scholarship to a boy entering Year 7 in 2015. This scholarship is open to all students who fit the required criteria and carries a value of 100 per cent of the school tuition fees and while subject to annual review, is tenable for the duration of a boy's education at Christ Church.

Applicants are considered on their ability to benefit from a Christ Church education and must clearly demonstrate financial need. Applicants are required to sit the scholarship examination and parents or guardians are required to provide evidence of financial need by submission of a Statutory Declaration of family income and other requested documents.

For further enquiries, or should you need assistance with any aspect of the application, please contact Mr Andrew Baird on 9442 1528.

RSLWA Poppy Workshop

Come along and join us in making knitted and crocheted poppies to place on Middleton Beach in Albany for the Centenary in November 2014.

Where: ANZAC House
Date: Friday 20 June
Time: 10.00am-4.00pm

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.

Spotlight at Joondalup is now holding 2 workshops - one on Saturday June 14, the other on Friday June 20 for those who can't make it in to the RSL. They are donating wool to the project for the workshops on these days. They are also providing a discount on wool for anyone making poppies - just let them know.

Poppy Patterns can be found at:

<http://5000poppies.files.wordpress.com/2013/06/poppy-patterns-knit-crochet.pdf>



If you would prefer to receive your Sub-Branch Signal electronically please email Wendy:

wendy@rslwahq.org.au

The Listening Post

This is your publication, we welcome your ideas, comments and submissions.

Please email listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au



WELFARE ASSISTANCE

CAN WE HELP?



RSL WA Branch provides a full range of welfare services to the veteran community including allied, currently serving members and their dependents. Assistance is available with but not limited to the following areas:

- Emergency relief
- Advocacy
- Overseas Pension applications
- Crisis counselling to point of referral
- Financial assistance
- Referral to other services
- Home and Hospital visits
- General crisis assistance
- Prison visits/ Legal Support Group
– Mr. Terry O'Neill 9440 6233

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Where possible it is best to arrange a face to face appointment with the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth. For regional members assistances may be sought through the local sub branches.

Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm. Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.

ANZAC CLUB

Great value dining in the ANZAC Club bistro and discounted beverage ticket options when buying a meal. FREE members' self-serve tea or coffee facility all day.



ANZAC CLUB



28 ST GEORGE'S TERRACE, PERTH

Suicide Prevention

Suicide Prevention Australia is holding its national conference in Perth on 23-26 July at Pan Pacific Perth. The conference has a goal of halving the number of suicides that occur in the next decade.

A workshop and a special session aim to help organisations such as the RSL to build skills and capabilities to drive suicide prevention programs.

More information:
(03) 9863 7606 or
eecw@eecw.com.au



THE BOND

ALL THOSE WHO SERVE OR WHO HAVE SERVED HAVE A BOND.
WE WELCOME RSL MEMBERS AND THE COMMUNITY
TO SHARE YOUR STORY.

WWW.THEBOND.ORG.AU

