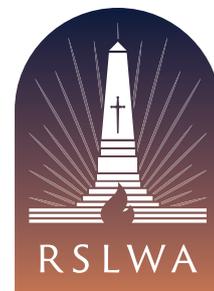




Issue 8/2014

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](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto: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](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3799

#### ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY

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

#### MEMBERSHIP

Monday to Thursday  
Membership Enquiries  
Sub - Branch Enquiries  
Email: [membership@rslwahq.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:welfare@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3707

#### ADVOCACY

S31 Reviews  
Veterans Review Board  
Admin. Appeals Tribunal  
Email: [advocate@rslwahq.org.au](mailto: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](mailto:helenb@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3703 / (08) 9287 3718

#### PENSIONS

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

#### ANZAC CLUB

Facilities Bookings  
Catering & Hospitality  
Email: [anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3714

#### LISTENING POST

Editorial Staff  
Email: [listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3799

### From the President's Pen...

ANZAC House seemed a little different on Saturday when nearly 100 women gathered to discuss how women might get more involved with The Returned & Services League in WA.

This RSL Women's Forum brought home to me how things are changing.

As of 1 April 2014:

- 14.9 per cent (8,440) of the Australian Defence Force permanent workforce was female.
- The breakdown was Navy 2,530 (18.5 per cent), Army 3,360 (11.6 per cent) and Air Force 2,552 (18.1 per cent).
- 210 women were serving on overseas ADF operations, representing 16.2 per cent of the total deployed force.

We were fortunate to have at the Women's Forum some excellent presenters in Anne Pahl of Victoria, former member of PMAC advising the Minister for Veteran's Affairs and who is currently employed by the Victorian RSL, Sam Jackman, CEO RSL South Australia, Jan Stewart, Warden of the State War Memorial, Hayley Barbetti, Secretary of Applecross Sub-Branch, Captain Angela Bond, CO HMAS Stirling, Brigadier Steve Coggin CSC, WO1 Leanne Iseppi and Krista McMeekan, State Finalist Young Australian 2012.

Women from all sectors of our organisation attended including DVA, serving and ex-serving members, widows, affiliates and partners of veterans.

My own observations suggest that the RSL needs to acknowledge and accommodate the emergence of women in the ADF. Recently, I visited Hollywood Hospital and learned that at one PTSD course, the majority were women.

It set me wondering about just how relevant the RSL is to women today and what it is we need to do to ensure that we are as open, welcoming and friendly as we should be. Importantly, I also wonder if we are indeed meeting the needs of recently and currently serving women of the ADF?

Anne Pahl, who is a nationally recognised representative on veterans' affairs matters, was last year selected to take part in the ADF Service Women Steering Committee co-chaired by Defence and DVA, to consider the needs of current and former serving female members.

I can't do justice to all of the things that Anne said, but here's a few of her observations:

- Female members are the fastest growing cohort in the ADF and over the past two decades, an increasing number of women have deployed, often repeatedly, in ADF operations. Among this group are peacekeepers, reservists and veterans of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan. Significantly, the cohort of servicewomen who have deployed now also includes mothers with dependent children.
- Despite active service, multiple deployments and combat-like roles, invariably women did not identify themselves as being veterans.
- The committee was concerned that significant numbers of female veterans may be accessing health services through the general health system for service related conditions, because they do not feel DVA services are an option for them.
- The committee felt strongly that a more inclusive type of language is the key to engaging with women. For example asking the simple question as "Have you served" rather than "are you a Veteran".

These issues picked up by the committee were also raised in various guises during our all-day Women's Forum, during which the key focus was a workshop, facilitated by Associate Professor Dr Linley Lord.

The Women's Forum suggested the development of a new women's "Poppy Club" where women across all sectors of the serving and ex-serving communities and their families could meet and which would provide a series of opportunities for engagement and activities.

The forum suggested early engagement of women with the RSL, including strategies for connecting in with school students, cadets and early recruits to the ADF.

The forum felt that it was time to think about some of the culture, language, branding and messaging by the RSL.

My special thanks to Donna Prytulak and her team for putting the Women's Forum together.

Graham Edwards AM  
State President



## Election 2014

The WA Electoral Commission has agreed to undertake the election process for all of the key positions on the new Board of The Returned & Services League of WA.

The advertisement incorporating key dates was placed in *The West Australian* on Friday 22 August 2014.

Nominations open on Friday 29 August 2014 and close at 12 noon, Friday 12 September 2014.

The mail out of election packages will be on Wednesday 24 September 2014 with the poll closing at 10am, Friday 17 October 2014.

The declaration of the result will be read by the Returning Officer during the business session of State Congress, on Saturday 25 October 2014.

Nomination forms can be found on the RSLWA website at: [www.rslwahq.org.au](http://www.rslwahq.org.au) together with the new geographical regions and the list of sub branches making up that region.

**NOTE: Nominations Forms are to be forwarded to the Returning Officer as directed in the attached document and NOT RSLWA State Branch.**

## RSLWA Constitution

Our full rewrite of our constitution remains on hold until the rewrite of the National Constitution is complete.

However, the title of State Executive is now deleted throughout and replaced with Board of Directors.

The new Board will consist of: State President; State Vice-President; Honorary State Treasurer; four Life or Service Members from a Sub-Branch within and who resides in the Greater Metropolitan Region; and one Life or Service Member from a Sub-Branch located within and who resides in one of the following geographic regions of Western Australia: the Great Southern; Eastern; the Mid-West; and the Pilbara and Kimberley.

You will recall that previously the State Executive (19 members made up of regional reps & the Board) met quarterly and the then Board of Directors (12 members) met monthly. Unless otherwise directed the new Board of Directors will meet monthly.

## Charity Bike Ride

Ocean Reef RSL is planning a charity bike ride from Ocean Reef RSL to Pinjarra RSL on Sunday 12 October leaving at 10.00am. All proceeds will go to the mental health of our veterans. Come on down and make a difference.

## RSLWA Membership Officer Retires

One of the RSL's longest-serving staff members, Kathy Clark, is retiring with her husband Robin to a new home in Busselton.

Kathy has seen the membership of the RSL diversify and grow to about 10,000 during her past 18 years at the league. Her legacy is to leave the RSL with a new membership database, which she worked on from 1996.

"I have seen many changes over the years - although we do have a tendency to re-invent the wheel - and many colourful figures have passed through," Kathy said. "I worked with seven State Secretary/CEO's and six State Presidents.

"Today the membership comprises of servicemen and women from the Second World War, Vietnam, East Timor, Iraq, Afghanistan as well as National Servicemen from the 1950s, peacekeepers and Reservists. The majority is within the age of 40-60," she said.

"I feel very proud to have been a part of this. I was told in the early 90s that the RSL in WA would not exist by the year 2000. It is now 2014 and we are still here."

In 1988 Kathy joined the Wanneroo Branch of the RSL Women's Auxiliary.

"I was elected to the Women's Auxiliary State Executive in 1992 and in 1993 became State Treasurer and still hold the position today. In 2005 I was awarded Life Membership of the Auxiliary.

"Through my work with the Women's Auxiliary I was asked to do relief work at ANZAC House which I did for around 18 months. When the position of Membership Officer became vacant I was asked to apply for the position. I started on 11 November 1996."



On 27 August, Kathy was guest of honour at a lunch with the State Executive and RSL Staff.



### PA System free to good home

Nedlands RSL has a large professional Public Address system that is no longer required. It is in good working order. Rather than dispose of we would prefer to see it go to "a good home". We would happily donate the PA system to another sub-branch if there is a need for such equipment.

Email Barry Nunn for more information  
[barrynunn@optusnet.com.au](mailto:barrynunn@optusnet.com.au)

### Expressions of Interest

WA Police have kindly offered a number of innocuous .303 Lee Enfield bolt action rifles for use at RSL sub-branches for display and ceremonial purposes. Because there is a limited number available, they will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. The rifles are priced at \$100 being the cost of rendering innocuous.

If interested please contact by e-mail  
Bill Collidge - Riverton RSL Sub-Branch  
[bcollidge@optusnet.com.au](mailto:bcollidge@optusnet.com.au)

## Assorted RSL Merchandise is available at ANZAC House.

### All enquiries to Wendy on 9287 3799.



### Have a great day at Fremantle Ports

# Maritime Day

Victoria Quay | Saturday, 8 November | 10am - 4pm



**FREE ENTRY**



- Visit an Australian navy ship!
- Harbour activities
- Svitzer tug on show
- Free harbour boat rides
- Maritime displays and careers information at B Shed
- Inner Harbour Classic yacht race
- Bands and other entertainment
- Kids' activities
- Delicious food
- E Shed Markets and B Shed Café open
- Maritime Museum gold coin entry



Be there for a day of **fun, action and colour.**

## Curtin Family Home

### 2014 Programme

Home of former Australian Prime Minister John Curtin, his wife Elsie Curtin CBE & children 1923 - 1998

The National Trust of Australia (WA) invites you to

- Enjoy morning/afternoon tea at Curtin Family Home
- Come with family or friends to the Open Day and/or
- Experience the wicked wit of the *Prime Time* cabaret show

Read below or visit [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au) for details.

#### Talk and Tour Wed 10 Sep – Fri 12 Sep



Enjoy morning/afternoon tea, a guided tour of Curtin Family Home and readings from John and Elsie's diaries and letters and newspapers of the times.

When: 10am – 11.30am or 1.30pm – 3pm  
Location: Curtin Family Home, 24 Jarrad St, Cottesloe. Please note there is no parking on site. Refer parking map on website and parking signs on the day.  
Cost: \$12 National Trust Members \$10  
Bookings: Bookings essential. Maximum 20 per session. Groups encouraged. Ph: 9321 6088 or email [rsvp@ntwa.com.au](mailto:rsvp@ntwa.com.au)

#### Open Day Sat 13 Sep



Enjoy Curtin Family Home at your leisure. Explore the house, one of only three homes of former Australian Prime Ministers open to the public. Enjoy games for children and 'Elsie' Curtin as she takes you on an audio tour of the house.

When: 11 am – 4 pm  
Location: Curtin Family Home, 24 Jarrad St, Cottesloe. Please note there is no parking available on site. Refer parking map on website and parking signs on the day.  
Cost: Entry by donation  
Bookings: Simply turn up on the day

#### Prime Time

Join us at the State Library of Western Australia on Wed 22 Oct for *Prime Time* by Shortis & Simpson, a witty look at Australia's 27 Prime Ministers in a live performance of cabaret, comedy and drama. Register your interest at [rsvp@ntwa.com.au](mailto:rsvp@ntwa.com.au). Bookings open soon.

#### Accommodation with a twist!

Thinking of a weekend away by the seaside? Need to find accommodation for a visiting friend or relative close to the coast? Consider Curtin Family Home. For availability and information visit [www.cbhstays.com.au/listings/the-curtin-family-home](http://www.cbhstays.com.au/listings/the-curtin-family-home).

Visit [www.nationaltrust.org.au](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au) or phone 9321 6088 for information.

The National Trust of Australia acknowledges The Grove Library as part of the Curtin Family Home Annual Programme.





## Important Dates

### ANZAC Day Funding

Due: **Friday, 29 August 2014.**

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

### 98th Annual State Congress

Applications for competitions due: **Friday, 29 August 2014**

Remittance Advice and Delegate Nominations due: **Friday, 3 October 2014**

Agenda Item submissions due: **Friday, 29 August 2014**

### Remembrance Day

Order forms due: **Friday, 19 September 2014**

Seminar attendance due: **Friday, 19 September 2014**

Financial statements due: **Friday, 21 November 2014**



### 98th Annual State Congress

#### Wreath Laying:

Friday, 24 October 2014 at 4.00 pm  
Flame of Remembrance, Kings Park  
Dress: Smart Casual

#### President's Reception:

Friday, 24 October 2014 at 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm  
ANZAC House  
Dress: Smart Casual

#### Official Opening:

Saturday, 25 October 2014 at 9.00 am - seated by 8.50 am  
Mercure Hotel - Irwin St, Perth  
Dress: Smart Casual (neg medals)

### Remembrance Day

Tuesday, 11 November 2014

The service at the State War Memorial, Kings Park will be followed by a Poppy Picnic.

Please note: the Poppy Day collection in the metro area will be on this day also

### 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*



### The Listening Post

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

Submissions for the next edition are due on 17 November, 2014.

Please email [listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au)



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