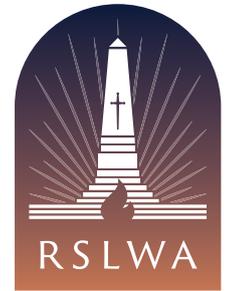




Issue 006/2015

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  
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EAST PERTH WA 6892  
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Tel: (08) 9287 3799

#### ASSISTANT STATE SECRETARY

Assistant to State President & CEO /  
State Secretary  
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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  
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: [advocate2@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:advocate2@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3710 / (08) 9287 3711

#### ANZAC CLUB

Facilities Bookings  
Catering & Hospitality  
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Tel: (08) 9287 3714

#### THE LISTENING POST

Editorial Staff  
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Tel: (08) 9287 3799

## From the President's Pen...

### ANZAC House redevelopment concept goes to Premier

I'm pleased to advise the State Government has positively received a proposal from RSLWA to hand back ownership of the headquarter's land in Perth to us to allow for a possible futuristic multi-storey redevelopment and better facilities for members, serving personnel, veterans and their families.

Premier, Colin Barnett and his Minister for Veterans Joe Francis were briefed on 14 July and given a 32-page submission detailing our concept and architect's impressions to build vastly improved facilities and a possible 120-room four-star hotel on the corner of St George's Terrace and Irwin Street.

The Premier indicated to me and our deputation of CEO, Phil Orchard, and senior adviser, Vietnam Veteran and businessman George Jones that the proposal will be very carefully considered with a Government response likely before the end of this year – our ANZAC Centenary year.

The proposed redevelopment and subsequent additional revenues will enable RSLWA to build toward a sustainable and viable future.

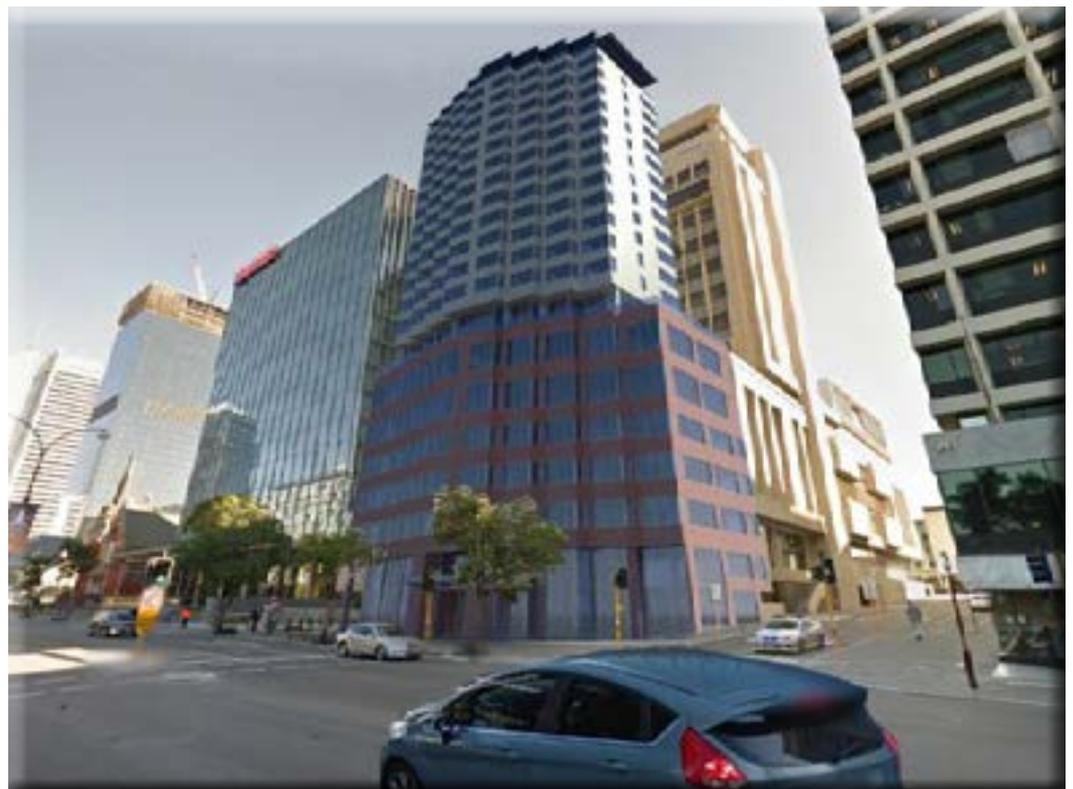
The aim is to also allow for the creation of a "one stop shop" by encouraging other Ex-Service Organisations to join with the RSL in offering coordinated delivery of services to members and veterans seeking advocacy, welfare and other related services.

It is hoped the building will provide hotel style accommodation for veterans at discounted costs for accommodation when needing to stay in Perth.

However, the project hinges on the Government gifting back the land upon which ANZAC House sits plus an adjacent vacant area immediately to the west.

As most members are aware, RSLWA once owned the land upon which ANZAC House sits. However, it was gifted to the Court Government in 1976.

*Continued on p2*



*Could this be the future ANZAC House?*



In recent years the building has been high maintenance and is now in urgent need of significant repairs and renovation. A report by external consulting specialist HFM Asset Management estimates an immediate cost of \$750,000 for the building to become compliant with current building regulations.

The unavoidable and required maintenance includes key systems such as air conditioning, electrical switchboards and fire warning panels. The capital amount is not a final cost as other necessary building code compliance issues are also of pressing urgency, including elevator upgrades, modernisation of ablutions and data cabling.

Total capital expenditure requirements are estimated to be \$3.2 million, comprising of \$1.7 million in capital expenditure and \$1.5 million of operational expenditure. None of these provide for a modernisation of administrative spaces which currently do not adequately meet the needs of RSLWA or meet suitable workplace standards. This includes our food and beverage preparation and serving areas.

RSLWA, as lessee to the government, is responsible for all these costs. In addition, it is currently costing us in excess of \$100,000 annually to subsidise the use of public and member facilities at ANZAC House. It seems ludicrous to me to spend this money simply to maintain the building inadequacies that already exist.

The challenge I believe is to look forward with confidence and certainty and to plan accordingly.

Next year we celebrate our RSL Centenary and it is time to build to secure our future in a viable and enduring way.

As I reported in the June edition of The Listening Post, RSLWA has set an ambitious goal of replacing the existing headquarters by 2018. We've dubbed the campaign "Project ANZAC House – Building for the Future". A reference group has been established with outside expertise to assist and advise the Board in this venture.

RSLWA has held informal discussions with Bradley Woods, CEO Australian Hotels Association WA and Derryn Belford, Executive Director Infrastructure and Development, WA Tourism. Both have provided positive and enthusiastic support for the initiative.

Productive discussions have also been held with Graeme Gammie, A/Executive Director at the State Heritage Commission, who highlighted the very strong heritage connection RSL has with the site. An informal discussion with Graham Castledine, Asset Manager, Planning and Procurement Asset Management and Contracts Directorate, Department of Attorney General also welcomed our initial early approach.

### Concept Summary

It is important for RSLWA to reach out to other associated ESOs in an endeavour to bring coordinated services into a future ANZAC House-sharing resources and thereby providing better advocacy and other support services to veterans, serving members of the ADF and their families. This view is strongly and enthusiastically endorsed and supported by your Board of Directors.

I have had preliminary discussions with other ESOs which have in principle supported such a model. Similar discussion with Lotterywest has indicated their support for funding a facilitator to workshop this proposal and Mr Ken Michael AC is currently addressing/leading this approach to other ESOs.

### Conclusion

RSLWA simply cannot afford to continue to carry the costly burden of maintaining our activities in an outdated, expensive and inefficient building. Subject to the government granting us security of tenure we have an exciting opportunity to create a modern building supporting the needs of members, veterans, families and the WA community.

RSLWA is closely associated with and identified with this land which we once owned. This site is the spiritual home of ANZAC House in WA.

A modern, bold and stylish facility is an entity changing project that will take RSLWA into and beyond the next 50 years. It will provide a first class asset for the community and a work environment that will result in a positive cash flow and a valuable asset for RSLWA.

We will work to develop this concept in consultation with members and plan to have more refined detail and costings to bring forward at our Congress in October.

We have a long way to go with this concept but if RSLWA is going secure its future the time to start is now.

**Graham Edwards AM**

#### Membership as at 30 June 2015:

7,444	Service
1,738	Affiliates
<u>9,182</u>	(451 increase from May)





### War at Sea Display

The Australian National Maritime Museum (ANMM) is offering sub-branches the opportunity to feature the War at Sea - The Navy in WWI graphic panel display this year.

The ANMM will provide marketing materials, an education pack and copies of films which can be screened at your venue. It is easy to set up and includes eight 1 x 1.5 metre banners. There is no cost and the museum will arrange and pay for the delivery and removal of the display. Proposed times and dates are for a display from September to correspond with the major touring exhibition War at Sea on display at the Western Australian Museum in Geraldton, Albany and Fremantle through 2016.

Exhibition content and interactive elements are featured on the museum website: <http://www.anmm.gov.au/whats-on/exhibitions/on-now/war-at-sea-the-navy-in-ww1>

To discuss hosting the graphic display, please contact Emily Jateff at [ejateff@anmm.gov.au](mailto:ejateff@anmm.gov.au) or 0448 588 374.

### Military Antique Roadshow

As part of the Heritage Perth weekend of activities ANZAC House will be hosting an RSLWA Military Antique Roadshow on **Sunday, 18 October**. You are welcome to enjoy a Devonshire Tea in the iconic ANZAC House. First World War memorabilia is likely to be a feature of the antiques roadshow. The day will feature displays and experts who will assess and value military memorabilia:

1. The Westralian Great War Living History Association: This group, made up of military history buffs and living historians, will display their WW1 Bell Tent and associated memorabilia. They will be located outside ANZAC House in the Law Courts forecourt.

2. Members of the public will be able to bring in no more than 2 items of memorabilia to be valued by our specialists who include John Burrige, an expert in military antiques; Henry Fijolek, a buyer and dealer in antiques and collector's items for over 35 years; and Wayne Gardiner has been an auctioneer and valuer of antiques and collector's items specialising in militaria since 1977.

### 2015 Women's Forum

The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch invites you to attend the 2015 Women's Forum on **Saturday, 12 September 2015, 9.00 am – 3.30 pm at ANZAC House - 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth**

The Women's Forum is designed to find out what women want from the RSL and how RSLWA and its Sub-Branches can provide better services and a more inclusive environment. The forum will include speakers, workshops, morning tea, lunch and afternoon tea. Feel free to bring a friend!

Please RSVP via: Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au) / Ph: 9287 3799 / Post: PO Box 3023, EAST PERTH WA 6892

### 30,000th Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate



Benoit Mottries, chairman of the Ypres Last Post Association, received a magnificent Perth Mint 'Lest We Forget 2015 One Kilo Silver Proof Coin' from Graham Edwards, President of RSLWA.

The coin, valued at \$1,750, and a specially designed box were gifted by Perth Mint to RSLWA for the presentation to mark the historic 30,000th daily bugle playing at Menin Gate, Ypres, on 9 July.

Since its formation in 1928, the Ypres Last Post Association has organised a daily tribute to the war dead at Menin Gate. Every evening at sunset, traffic is halted, and buglers from the local fire brigade station themselves at the centre of the Hall of Memory to sound the Last Post. Menin Gate commemorates almost 55,000 soldiers of the British Commonwealth, including 6,000 Australians, who died in Belgium during the First World War and who have no known resting place.



# VP DAY

AUSTRALIA REMEMBERS • 15TH AUGUST 2015



## State Congress: 9 - 10 October 2015

The Congress package has been sent out.  
If you have not received any of the following  
please call 9287 3799 ASAP.

1. Programme Guide
2. Agenda Item Submission  
(Due Friday, 28 August)
3. Remittance Advice & Delegate Nomination  
(Due Friday, 18 September)
4. Annual Sub-Branch Competitions  
(Due Friday, 28 August)

## The Listening Post:

Submissions for the next edition of  
The Listening Post are due no later than  
**21 August 2015** to: [amyh@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:amyh@rslwahq.org.au)



### 6 August 2015

Behind The Wire Exhibition opens: Behind the Wire, is an exhibition about Vietnam Veterans, their jobs and their experiences, in their words.

Visit [www.behindthewire.com.au](http://www.behindthewire.com.au) for more information. The exhibition will be at the State Library, Perth until 11 October.

### 9 August 2015

Guildford to Gallipoli: has been presented on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day to hundreds of visitors since 2006 and continues to be a very moving story.

Visit [www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa) for more info. The presentation starts at 2pm at Woodbridge House, Guildford.

### 15 August 2015

70th Anniversary of VP Day: 10:00 am at the State War Memorial. Visit [www.rslwahq.org.au](http://www.rslwahq.org.au) for more info.

### 18 August 2015

Vietnam Veterans' Day

