



Issue 008/2015

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

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MEMBERSHIP

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

WELFARE

Welfare Applications
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: advocate2@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: (08) 9287 3710 / (08) 9287 3711

ANZAC CLUB

Facilities Bookings
Catering & Hospitality
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THE LISTENING POST

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From the President's Pen...

Just the other day one of our Sub-Branch members took his life after a long struggle involving his treatment in the ADF many years ago and more recent financial worries.

He waited until his wife was out, called an ambulance and then ended his life.

These details, tragic as they are, represent the tip of a very big iceberg affecting serving and former military personnel which has prompted Defence Chief Mark Binskin to launch a high-level review of suicide in the Defence Force.

Mental health and modern veterans was also the theme of the National RSL Congress in Brisbane on September 22-23 and the National President of the RSL, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan (Retd), is preparing a position paper on the issue.

Professor Sandy McFarlane AO, Director of the Centre for Traumatic Stress Studies at the University of Adelaide is assisting the RSL with the paper.

Some RSL members in WA were fortunate enough to hear Lieutenant Commander Kelly Haywood at the recent RSLWA Women's Alliance Forum, when she spoke bravely of her mother's suicide and said, "There are almost seven deaths by suicide in Australia each day"

"The most recent data (ABS, Causes of Death 2013) shows that 1,000 more people died from suicide in Australia than in transport deaths. For every death by suicide, it is estimated that as many as 30 people attempt to end their lives. That is approximately 65,300 suicide attempts each year."

The mental health of ADF personnel is also the focus of a Senate probe. On 25 March, 2015 the Senate referred the following matter to Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee for inquiry and report by 19 February, 2016.

The sad record of suicides linked to military service has been broken already in 2015 with 22 serving and former military personnel taking their own lives so far surpassing the 19 deaths in 2014.

I welcome the move by Chief of Defence, Air Chief Marshal Binskin to review suicide in the ADF to try to save lives.

"I have now appointed a one star officer to conduct a systemic review into suicide and related mental health issues in the ADF," ACM Binskin said. "Unlike previous studies, this review is deliberately designed to have a much broader remit than health alone. I intend that the review look at all aspects of a military career from the recruitment phase through until discharge from the ADF."

There is no doubt that a more appropriate response is required to deal with suicide. If anyone needs help at any time please do not hesitate to contact the RSL, VVCS or any appropriate agency. Lifeline is available on 13 11 14.

RSLWA has a Veterans' Health Week function at the Army Museum on Sunday October 11 at 9.30am where Glen Menezes from VVCS will be giving a talk on mental health. To register please call 9287 3799.

DEFENCE AND VETERAN SUICIDES

2009: 9
2010: 13
2011: 12
2012: 10
2013: 18
2014: 19
2015: 22 (up to September 17)

Graham Edwards AM

Chief of Defence Air Chief Marshal Binskin
has a high level review underway.





WA's former Defence personnel sought for survey

WA's Public Sector Commissioner Mal Wauchope is exploring the experiences of former defence personnel who have joined the WA public sector to better understand the challenges and opportunities they may have experienced in transforming from defence force members to the public service.

The commission has engaged a former defence force officer David Deane-Spread, who is an experienced facilitator and has worked extensively in the public sector, to assist in the design and delivery of this project.

Survey

The commission requires 100 former defence personnel currently working in the WA public sector to assist in this project by completing a short survey. This survey will provide the qualitative and quantitative data needed to better understand what the sector can do to assist the transformation process. All details of survey participants will be protected.

Focus groups and report

From that survey, the commission will facilitate a number of focus groups to gain a greater depth of understanding and clarity and then report to Minister Francis with recommendations on how to better help defence force members transforming to enjoy their new roles in the WA public sector. The report will also be made available to all survey participants.

Register your interest to assist

If you are a former defence employee currently working in the public sector and are interested in taking part in the survey please contact Giacinta Smith at giacinta.smith@psc.wa.gov.au or on 6552 8809.



Congress Wreath Laying Ceremony 9th October 2015

State Congress, Government House 10th October 2015

Veterans Health Week 11th October 2015

Remembrance Day 11th November 2015

go to www.rslwa.org.au for more information

Don't miss this Royal Show highlight!

An exhibition about the 10th Light Horse is showing at the Perth Royal Show. We urge you to check it out!

The exhibition was officially launched on September 23 – with guests including Major Jason O'Keefe OC XLH Sqn, Mr Peter Tinley AM MLA, State RSL President Graham Edwards and Councillors from the Royal Agricultural Society.

The exhibition is being held in the Guest Town Pavilion at the Royal Show. Alongside the exhibition are family activities including slouch hat making and colouring in. During the Show the RSL knitting ladies will be there teaching people to knit and crochet while making beanies and scarves.

The 10th Australian Light Horse Regiment AIF was the only AIF light horse regiment recruited in Western Australia during the First World War.

The Regiment was raised in October 1914 when it became apparent that Western Australia could provide more than a single squadron of mounted soldiers. The Regiment joined the 3rd Light Horse Brigade in Egypt and served dismounted at Gallipoli. The Regiment's most famous actions were the charge at the Nek on 7 August 1915, and Hill 60 on 29-30 August. It was in this last action that West Australian Lieutenant Hugo Throssell performed the valorous deeds for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross. He was the only Australian light horseman to be so decorated during the Great War.

If you are at the Show come along and learn more about the 10th Light Horse and its links with the Royal Agricultural Society.



State President Graham Edwards with the Westralian Great War Living History Association Inc. dressed in WWI military uniforms at the Royal Show exhibit.



REMINDER TO ALL SUB-BRANCHES

There appears to be some confusion as to which bank account should be used when forwarding payments to RSLWA HQ.

Sub-branches are requested to please use the correct bank account for the type of payment being remitted

Membership payments only are to paid to:

Bank: ANZ
BSB: 016-104
Account: 1945-04134

ALL other payments are to be paid to the general cheque account:-

Bank: ANZ
BSB: 016-104
Account: 4232-21884

Should there be any query, please do not hesitate to contact HQ. 08 9287 3799



Join RSLWA and Army Museum of WA

For a tour of the Army Museum of WA and a talk from Glen Menezes from VVCS on Veterans' Health
Sunday, 11 October 2015
at 9.30am

FREE EVENT!

Please RSVP to Wendy Moss - 9287 3799 or wendy@rslwahq.org.au for catering purposes

Poppy Merchandise

RSLWA stocks a large variety of Poppy Merchandise. It is selling fast so get your orders in for Remembrance Day now! Come in to have a look or phone ANZAC House on 9287 3799 for more information.

Membership as at 30 Sept 2015:

7652 Service
1919 Affiliates
9,571



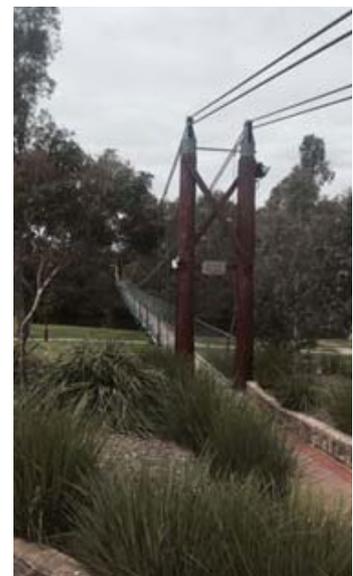
Commemoration of the Swing Bridge in Pinjarra Built by the 22 CONSTRUCTION SQUADRON 1985

A gathering of 22 Construction Squadron and families are invited to commemorate the construction of the swing bridge that was opened on the 10th of November 1985 in Pinjarra.

A lot of work is commencing to make this gathering a very popular and well attended occasion.

Please keep the 8th November free from 11am onwards and come along for a BBQ or Picnic to share. BYO drinks. Town Side of the Bridge.

Please Contact Richard James on 0438 890 003
youcancanoeyoucan@gmail.com





Grant Programmes

Grants:

The Department of Veterans' Affairs funds organisations through the Saluting Their Service (STS) Commemorative Programme (the STS Programme) to undertake projects and activities that directly commemorate Australia's involvement in all wars, conflicts and peace operations. Three categories of grant are available:

Stronger communities

The Federal Government's Stronger Communities Programme provides funding for projects between \$5,000 and \$20,000.

This funding must be matched by applicants on at least a dollar for dollar cash or in-kind funding basis. For your reference, examples of projects which may be funded include:

- Construction and fit-out of men's sheds,
- Fit-out of community centres, health centres including kitchen upgrades and equipment purchases such as computers, TVs and furniture and fittings,
- Sporting facility upgrades including new scoreboards, seating, new turf, fit-out of changes rooms, new canteen, new lights, upgrade water systems, gymnasiums, skate parks, and
- Streetscapes; bike paths.

Applications are required by October 14, 2015. Sub-branches should contact their own MP with an expression of interest as soon as possible, with:

- A summary of your project outlining how it will deliver social benefits to the local community,
- Total funding required under the Stronger Communities Programme, and
- An assessment of matched funding to ensure your project is eligible.

Guidelines are at <http://www.infrastructure.gov.au/SCP>

Vietnam War

In August the Federal Government announced funding to assist local communities in honouring the service of our Vietnam veterans.

The Vietnam War Commemorative Grants Programme has been established under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Programme for 2015–16. Grants between \$4,000 and \$20,000 are available for community-based commemorative projects and activities that directly commemorate any aspect of the Vietnam War, and which focus on camaraderie.

Examples of projects that may be considered for funding include commemorative events and reunions.

The Vietnam War Commemorative Grants Programme funding round is now open and closes at 5pm AEDT on October 31, 2015.

The STS Programme Guidelines and Application Forms are available on the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) website: www.dva.gov.au

For further information, please contact the Commemorative Grants Section in DVA's National Office on 1800 026 185 or email commemorativegrants@dva.gov.au.

Major Commemorative Grants

Grants in excess of \$4,000 are available for projects and activities that are significant, usually from a national, state or territory perspective.

Funding for individual projects and activities can only be provided through one category of the STS Programme, except in the case of projects and activities funded through the Vietnam War Commemorative Grants category.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) and Veterans Line can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling.

*Phone 1800 011 046
(international: +61 8 8241 4546)*

The Listening Post:

Submissions for the next edition of The Listening Post are due no later than 15th November to: johna@rslwahq.org.au



**Remembrance Day
Commemorative Service
November 11 2015**

**Flame of Remembrance
State War Memorial**

