Centenary of the End of World War I

2018 marks the centenary of the conclusion of the First World War, the “war to end all wars.” There are generations alive who have no direct knowledge of this conflict or of the sacrifice made by all who fought for their country. Our debt to them is immeasurable making it more important than ever that we remember their courage with a lasting commemoration. Approved by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, this new crown coin honours the fallen with a moving, raised-relief portrait of a digger remembering his mate. In the foreground, a field of poppies, the symbol of remembrance, are created in hand-applied enamel, providing a vibrant contrast to the pure, 24-carat gold. Struck to a high specification, only 19,999 numbered issues will ever be minted. The earliest applications will receive the lowest edition numbers. For this reason, applications will be processed on a strictly first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one per Australian household. Applicants will be notified within 7 days if their application is successful. Successful applicants also qualify to view the next coin in The First World War Centenary Crown Collection for only $79.99 (plus $9.99 postage and handling) sent entirely without obligation on our 14-day home approval service. Applicants may cancel at any time and all purchases are covered by The Bradford Exchange 14-Day Money-Back Guarantee.

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM: 2018 marks the centenary of the conclusion of the First World War, the “war to end all wars.” There are generations alive who have no direct knowledge of this conflict or of the sacrifice made by all who fought for their country. Our debt to them is immeasurable making it more important than ever that we remember their courage with a lasting commemoration. Approved by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, this new crown coin honours the fallen with a moving, raised-relief portrait of a digger remembering his mate. In the foreground, a field of poppies, the symbol of remembrance, are created in hand-applied enamel, providing a vibrant contrast to the pure, 24-carat gold. Struck to a high specification, only 19,999 numbered issues will ever be minted. The earliest applications will receive the lowest edition numbers. For this reason, applications will be processed on a strictly first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one per Australian household. Applicants will be notified within 7 days if their application is successful. Successful applicants also qualify to view the next coin in The First World War Centenary Crown Collection for only $79.99 (plus $9.99 postage and handling) sent entirely without obligation on our 14-day home approval service. Applicants may cancel at any time and all purchases are covered by The Bradford Exchange 14-Day Money-Back Guarantee.

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100 years of RSL Victoria Park
Riverton Members
Timor Tour Report
Osbourne Park focus on youth
On Ya Bike Donnybrook RSL
Capel - Korean War Mates
Army Art
100 Buglers
Social Contest

Contact Details
The Returned & Services League of Australia – WA Branch Incorporated
Level 3/66 St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6000
PO Box 2023, East Perth WA 6892 | T: 08 9287 3799 | F: 08 9287 3732
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Writing and Advertising Information: marketing@rslwa.org.au
Graphic Design: Kore Design | Printer: Quality Press
Few people in the world can say that their job or career runs through their blood, though many people say they felt that their career or job was inspired by their parents. Some even feel pressured to do what their parents had done. For the Hale family, however, being a part of the Australian Defence Force was never a career path that they felt pressured to take, more like something that they fell into.

The Hale family has been a part of the Australian Defence Force for five generations, beginning with Alan Park, Michelle’s great grandfather. Around 1912, when Alan Park was seventeen, he ran away from home and started working at Fairbridge, where he met...
and married his wife. When the war rolled around in 1914, Alan Park joined the British Army. Posted to Gallipoli, he was shot in the leg on disembarkation and never made it ashore. Due to this injury, one of his legs ended up quite a bit shorter than the other.

During World War II more and more women were joining the defence forces, Alan Park’s daughter and Alan Hale’s mother was one of these women. Mary Park enlisted in the Royal Air Force and became an aircraft mechanic, mainly working on Tiger Moths. During this time, Alan Hale’s father was in the Navy working as a gunner on corvettes. As a member of the Royal Navy at this time, he was stationed in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese signed the surrender. The two met after the war and married.

Fast forward a number of years and eighteen year old Alan Hale, having worked three years in the bush and uncertain of his future prospects, enlisted in the Australian Army. ‘After 20 years in the Army and working with the Air Force and the Navy a lot, I think I was best in the Army but would’ve been in better in the Air Force,’ he said, reminiscing of his time at Butterworth in Malaysia when the usual ration pack fed soldiers supped on the Air Force’s fresh milk, meat and vegetables that were flown in on a Hercules from Perth every other day.

From Malaysia to Vietnam, Alan joined the 6RAR in Townsville and was shipped out to Singapore for a seven year stint where he met the woman he would marry. A true Perth boy at heart, Alan missed his home, after returning to Australia and ‘moving around all of the time with the unit. I went to RAEME for a year and a half of training and then it seemed like every two years there were new postings or promotions.’ It seemed like he was being posted everywhere but Western Australia. The straw that broke the camel’s back was his final posting to Victoria. Tired of moving his family around the country, Alan took his discharge and the Hale unit moved back to Perth.

Michelle, Alan’s daughter, spoke of the difficulties of this life on the move. Having changed schools often, she found herself not doing as well as she’d have liked. Having spent her school holidays on base with her father, Michelle had the goal of becoming an Army Typist. When her father suggested taking up a trade, she considered her options. Not favouring the mint green dresses the WRAAC wore, Michelle enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy. At just sixteen years old she was shipped off to Sydney. ‘It was just lucky that I did well in the selection process, especially because they only let a few girls in to do a trade,’ she said.

Two years in Nirimba, Michelle fell pregnant and took a posting back to Perth. A few years later she discharged and decided to do something completely different. Michelle started a dog grooming business and concentrated on raising her two children in the southern suburbs of Perth.

Following in her mother’s footsteps, Michelle’s second child enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy for her gap year. Soon to fall out, she is sure to be met with plenty of advice passed down from the generations before.
When I made this address to last year’s Congress I spoke mainly on 3 issues.

RSLWA’s financial position, property issues, more specifically the ANZAC House redevelopment, and advocacy and welfare services for Veterans and their families including mention of relationships with other Ex-Service Organisations.

At the end of my address I said “….the Board of Directors has taken professional advice and ensured good governance when it comes to planning our future, your future, to place RSLWA in the best possible position to grow – on an enduring basis – our core business of wellbeing, support and advocacy for Veterans and their families. This includes bricks and mortar as well as service delivery……” So how do those 3 issues measure up today?

Our financial position

In the latter half of last year we established an Investment Advisory Group to consider investment options and opportunities for the RSLWA Board’s consideration. This Group, chaired by Mr George Jones, recommended that as an interim position RSLWA should invest a major proportion of its capital (then parked in low interest term deposits) into a Morgan Stanley moderate risk portfolio returning a substantially better rate of return. Early this year we made the first of regular drawn downs on dividends and interest earned which will allow us to deliver an end of year budget surplus for the first time in many, many years, if not decades.

Now that we are in a sound financial position will we start spending some of our capital? Yes but only on projects that will see a growth in asset value and that would positively impact our balance sheet.

Last December we received advice that RSLWA had been granted Public Benevolent Institution and Deductible Gift Recipient status back dated to July 2017. This status has provided us the opportunity to commence engagement in fund raising and sponsorship activities. To this end State Branch has appointed a highly experienced marketing and fundraising specialist.

Within its terms of reference the Investment Advisory Group oversees our property portfolio which, over the decades, has contributed virtually nothing to RSLWA’s financial position.

Property portfolio

Last Congress I indicated that redevelopment of the ANZAC House site had been slowed down pending resolution of 3 issues:

(1) implementation of a financing strategy to reduce the impact on our capital base (now resolved);
(2) granting of PBI/DGR (also resolved); and
(3) the need for assurance of prospective tenants (now no longer relevant).

However, last year emerged an issue over the ANZAC House title. Our expectations were that the title would be unconditional while early drafts offered by the Department of Lands contained numerous conditions unacceptable to RSLWA. Such were the conditions our Board determined that as we did not own and did not effectively control the site we could not commit funds to the development. We felt we had no option but to stop any further activity once demolition was complete.

Thanks to the outstanding support and efforts of Minister Tinley and his office and our determination at State Branch to seek an acceptable outcome, the land title issue has been resolved and while 3 conditions to the title still exist they are quite acceptable to RSLWA. In early May I and the CEO signed a Deed of Agreement finalising the transfer of land which now sees the resumption of works on site with below ground level works now taking place. Expectations are that we will be occupying the new ANZAC House by ANZAC Day 2020 if not a little earlier. And yes, there will be an ANZAC Club.

So Minister, may I publicly express our appreciation for your support in this matter.
Earlier I mentioned an issue was about tenants. As a result of negotiations ANZAC House now will be occupied only by RSLWA and other ESOs who would wish to co-locate with us and also any other entity or organisation that is directly involved in delivering services to Veterans and their families. So I now make a public invitation. Anyone who is a member of, or is associated with, another ESO that would wish to join us, or establish a presence, in a Veterans’ Central facility in ANZAC House, please make contact with RSLWA.

With ANZAC House progressing, State Branch is moving ahead with opportunities to develop Veteran Central hubs in the greater Perth metro area, such as Ellenbrook and in regional areas such as a potential hub in Busselton. These two projects will pave the way for even more hubs that would complement the ability for Sub-Branches to deliver Veteran services.

Tw further property related points. First, the long running obligation RSLWA committed to in 2010, to assist in the relocation of the City of Mandurah Sub-Branch following the divestment of our aged care asset, that obligation is almost at an end. A strata title was acquired and recently a contract to fit out the facility was formalised with occupation likely early in the second half of this year. Secondly, RSLWA is in the early planning stage with the Busselton Sub-Branch for a substantial redevelopment of the entire Busselton site.

Finally to Advocacy and Welfare.

State Branch has put much effort in to growing partnerships to provide a wider capability to assist Veterans – services that naturally fall within our innovative Veteran Central model.

Developed, or is developing, are key partnerships with a range of providers including:

**Working Spirit:** a registered not-for-profit charity based in WA helping with the transition from military to civilian life. RSLWA and Working Spirit know that employment is the best form of welfare.

**Fortescue Metals Group:** is currently working with RSLWA to place, initially, 20 Veterans from the eastern states in resource industry jobs within FMG in the Pilbara region. Future engagements will provide placement opportunities for Western Australian Veterans.

**St John of God Health Care:** partnership discussions have been held on the provision of outreach services by providing comprehensive mental health support including fully-trained and experience counsellors, social workers and psychologists.

**At Home Hospital:** allowing Veterans in hospital to recuperate at home, giving them the freedom to be cared for and rehabilitate in their own home environment.

**Soldier On:** this organisation is now co-located at RSLWA Head Office, providing complementary services alongside RSLWA which include psychological, social and sporting activities and programs as well as education and vocational training.

**Mole Patrol Services:** a new corporate medical service providing State-wide skin cancer services for any Veteran and his or her family members at no out-of-pocket expenses – from initial skin checks through to surgical removal of cancers if needed.

**The Hearing Clinic:** a private hearing service providing State-wide audiology services to Veterans and family members again with no out-of-pocket costs, operating out of RSLWA premises.

**Military Arts Program Australia:** a charity based in Perth offering free classes in the arts for Veterans including painting, sculpture, drawing and photography as a form of mental therapy and relaxation. MAPA is endorsed by the Navy, Army and Airforce as well as the SAS Association in Western Australia.

**Companion Dog Program:** our partnership with Legacy, the Defence Bank and Correction Services WA for this successful dog-training program that assists Veterans with PTSD. The innovative program provides a second chance for rescue dogs, a second chance for prisoners who train the dogs under expert supervision and a new future for Veterans.

Over the next few weeks RSLWA will be disseminating information on how Sub-branch advocates and welfare officers can access the services provided through the partnerships that have been formalised.

Over the past year we have made great strides but we have plenty more work to do. I look forward to your ongoing support for our drive to forge a new era in what is our core business of looking after those who deserve and need our support.

Thank you.
WHY CHANGE IN THE RSL IS SO NECESSARY

The way ahead is shared by the leadership shown by the State President, Peter Aspinall AM, whose Congress speech is contained within this edition. I also encourage all to read an address to Congress by retired businessperson, mentor, philanthropist and chair of RSLWA’s Investment Advisory Committee, George Jones AM – himself also a Vietnam Veteran.

Like them, I share the imperative that our only real way forward is developing and implementing new ways of doing the business, we have done as an organisation for more than 100 years.

Looking Forward
When we talk about investment it is not only the importance of sound financial management – it’s about investment in veteran’s needs – especially our new and younger veterans; investment in fundraising to ensure our ability to service such needs and investment in who we are as a fantastic organisation.

RSLWA is responding to one of the largest increases in Veteran numbers for decades. There are now more than 25,000 veterans in WA alone. Wherever they are and whatever they need, RSLWA needs to be there as an agile, responsive and proactive provider. I have said before that we can’t (and should not) do it alone and that’s why RSLWA needs to be more a facilitator of a collaborative approach to services and support by embracing other Ex-Service Organisations and other like-minded businesses and community and government entities.

John McCourt JP
Chief Executive Officer

For those who attended our recent State Congress, a slide presentation I prepared as CEO played in the background as delegates and invited guests arrived. The presentation pointed to why and how we, as the RSL in Western Australia, need to move forward.

The Unacceptable
The reason for the urgency in ensuring RSLWA helps lead such efforts is the unacceptable facts that include the reality that:

- the suicide rate among ex-servicemen between 2002 and 2015 was 14% above the national average;
- one in every 20 homeless Australians has served in the ADF; and
- veteran unemployment is five times the national average.

- With approximately 6,000 ADF personnel leaving defence each year, the Department of Veterans’ Affairs own findings show that many contemporary veterans feel:
  - a loss of role, identity or purpose;
  - find civilian life somewhat chaotic;
  - feel isolated or ‘different’ from civilians;
WHY CHANGE IN THE RSL IS SO NECESSARY – AND NOW

• find it difficult to get a job or adapt to new work; and
• feel ashamed if they left the military involuntarily.

To a very significant extent Veterans are not broken. They just need more support – and from the very organisation that is the lead ESO in the country, the RSL.

RSWLA has, and needs to continue, to reach out and welcome our newer veterans while of course looking after our existing and older Vets. Turn around and welcome them. That is our job and it demonstrates a history of caring. It’s what we as an organisation have always done - remember those who never returned and look after those who did.

Centralised Service

It is my conviction as your CEO that, only a responsive and agile approach to deliver a centralized model of veterans support will truly deliver on the ever-increasing need to support emerging needs for support for our Veterans in the advent of new conflicts and changing times. It means placing the Veteran and his or her family at the centre of the circle of support.

Through partnerships, RSLWA is already working to do things better together for the benefit of Veterans and their families. Such partnership with like-minded service providers can deliver services our Veterans need and deserve.

As the President has outlined in his address in this edition, the RSLWA operational arm has been working closely with a number of organisations to forge proactive partnerships that put words into action.

However, to do all of this we need a solid financial future and essential fundraising. The RSLWA Board, the Investment Advisory Group headed by George Jones, the State Branch Finance Committee and the Veterans Affairs Committee work hard to ensure solid adherence to good governance and compliance as a charity.

Building Capacity

Ahead of us is building our capacity to provide services by building a Veteran Central facility in the new RSLWA ANZAC House – now under way and due for completion ahead of ANZAC Day 2020.

It also means committed, innovative and enduring fundraising campaigns to ensure we have the financial resources to deliver and grow Veteran services that include the development of Veteran Central hubs in:

• the Perth CBD at ANZAC House;
• the Greater Perth metro area including Perth CBD, Ellenbrook, Joondalup and Cannington; and
• in regional centres throughout WA including Busselton, Broome, Albany and Kalgoorlie.

It’s about family. It’s about our new Veterans. It’s about our older Veterans. It’s about doing things better together.

We have a duty and a responsibility to be an even better organisation as we move forward. We are a proud organisation to which our newer Veterans are looking to for leadership, support and embracing their desire for inclusion because of what we have always stood for and what we can continue to provide with even greater effort and innovation.
MINISTER’S MESSAGE

The July 2017 issue of the Listening Post provided me with the first opportunity to speak directly through this publication to RSL Members, to outline where I saw the opportunity for the State Government to be directly involved in Veterans Issues and tell a little of my personal story that has led to me being the responsible Minister at state level.

A year into my role as Veterans’ Issues Minister seems the logical and appropriate time to reflect on that initial column, and on what we have achieved as a Veterans community; the priorities of the State Government in this space; and where we may need to focus or increase our efforts.

One of the great news stories of the past twelve months is the resolution of the ANZAC House land transfer. Having been bobbing around for several years in a state of flux, the State Government and RSLWA have finally reached an agreement that is great for the future of RSLWA and will allow construction to commence shortly of ANZAC House, giving a new spiritual home for all Veterans in Western Australia and their families.

In addition to this, I recently met with the Busselton Sub-Branch and was extremely impressed with the planning being done down there to create a Veterans Hub that when completed will have the fire power to service the south west, the area with the highest number of Veterans outside of metropolitan Perth. The State Government looks forward to working closely with the local Sub-Branch and RSLWA to make sure the outcome and eventual facilities in Busselton represent the best we can offer to our community. This facility should replicate in every way the one-stop-shop approach that is envisaged for ANZAC House in the city, once it is operational.

One area that I have been activated on over the past year and that I believe is vital to Veterans, yet extremely lacking in critical infrastructure in WA, is Veterans Employment Transition. Some of the most difficult times for a Veteran are around initial separation from the ADF and finding employment in civilian-land, on top of all the other adjustments around transitioning to civilian life. We are fortunate in Western Australia that Working Spirit has taken the lead and I have actively supported this organisation, speaking at employment summits, breakfasts, and most recently a sundowner, where members of our veterans community are put in the same room as employers who understand the enormous benefits in productivity and professionalism that come from employing former ADF members.

Finally, it was a privilege to speak for the second time at the RSL State Congress and to listen to the other speakers, including our new governor and new patron of RSLWA. The Honourable Kim Beazley AC spoke about his passion for the defence of Australia and that we should not rely on the goodwill of our allies to do our work for us. Our patron has a deep passion for veterans and I believe we could have no better advocate for our organisation.

I also had the opportunity to catch up with the Federal Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Honourable Darren Chester, on the sidelines of the congress. It was my first encounter with the Minister since his appointment and I found him very receptive to the issues in spite of his short time in the role. I took the opportunity to raise a range of issues with him, from individual cases to State Government initiatives currently being worked on. I look forward to our first formal Ministerial Round Table at the Invictus Games in Sydney in October to progress our agenda.

Hon Peter Tinley
Minister for Housing, Veterans Issues, Youth
George Jones has over 40 years’ experience in the mining, banking and finance industries. He has been chair of a number of private and public companies and is involved in a number of charities including Parkerville Children and Youth Centre Incorporated and the Ear Science Institute Australia.

George holds a Bachelor of Business Degree from Curtin University, has been a Fellow of the Corporate Governance Institute of Australia and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

George is a Member of the Order of Australia; the WA Citizen of the Year for 2011; the Western Australian Senior Australian of the Year for 2012; holder of the 2011 Gold Medal for the Australian Institute of Company Directors and is an Honorary Doctor of Letters awarded by Curtin University.

For some years now George has been assisting RSLWA in its financial and fundraising endeavours and is currently Chair of our Investment Advisory Group and member of the RSLWA Fundraising Committee.

George also knows what we are all about being a Vietnam Veteran himself. Ladies & Gentlemen, please welcome George Jones.
CONGRESS
Address by George Jones

I originally became involved with the RSLWA after being approached in 2015 by former President, Graham Edwards, who helped with a range of ideas he had with respect to the redevelopment of RSL Headquarters in St Georges Terrace.

In the three years since working with Graham, Peter Aspinall, the RSL executives, the Board and others advisors, there has been a wide range of initiatives developed, some of which are before you for consideration today.

These initiatives have centred on some of the following matters I will talk about – some of which have been covered earlier today by Peter Aspinall.

1. The recommended restructure of the RSLWA Board and some of its committees to help ensure the RSLWA fulfils and expands its objectives into the future.

2. Recommendations now put forward to amend the Constitution to facilitate those changes.

3. A full Board Corporate Governance Review has been carried out that has recognised that in 2018, the structure was out of date and not fit for purpose in the election of Directors – their qualifications, training, experience and skill sets.

4. A full Strategic Planning Review has also been completed to allow RSLWA to better develop and fulfil its objectives into the future.

5. A key initiative has been the establishment of the Investment Advisory Group as a sub-committee of the Board. This group is comprised of key Board members, the CEO and CFO, plus three external veterans with extensive business experience – James McMahon, Peter Fitzpatrick and myself.

The brief from the Board that the Investment Advisory Group operates under is to:

1. Preserve and grow the current RSLWA balance sheet by active management and development of all its assets.

2. Using the RSLWA Balance Sheet to generate sufficient income to cover operating costs of Perth HQ and a surplus to allow new welfare initiatives and services for the veterans under its care. It is worth noting that the current financial year’s budgeted surplus will be the first surplus in several decades.

3. With the granting of the DGR status by the Federal Government to RSLWA we have established fund raising initiatives to supplement funding for the HQ development and an expansion of welfare initiatives to veterans. Further information on these key fund raising initiatives will be made available later this year with our campaign to be called “Help our Heroes”.

4. The Investment Advisory Group has no line function with the RSLWA. Its recommendations are vetted by the RSLWA Finance Committee and then submitted to the full RSLWA Board for approval or otherwise. Its recommendations, if approved, are then carried out by RSLWA executive with the CEO being the responsible officer.
With the changes outlined, when fully implemented, the RSLWA Board will be operating under current ‘A’ Grade Corporate Governance Guidelines and we all should commend President Peter Aspinall and CEO John McCourt for their leadership in championing these changes.

Let me briefly talk about the new HQ building on St George’s Terrace. From the information available to me, the original land and building were acquired by the RSLWA in the 1920s by way of donations from Government, organisations and citizens of WA in what was a State-wide campaign. A commendable effort given WA’s population in 1926 was 381,000.

In the 1970s the RSL, facing some financial difficulties funding its activities, plus the essential refurbishment of its HQ building, came to an arrangement with the WA Government to transfer ownership of the land to the Government to allow it to build the Law Courts now on the site. This exchange was for a new building made available to RSLWA for peppercorn rent - title of which rested with the WA Government. That building has now been demolished.

This meant, across the period from the mid-1970s to 2017, the RSLWA, from what I am sure could be argued to be legitimate reasons at the time, had moved from ownership of a very valuable piece of land on St George’s Terrace to having no legal ownership of the site. Moral ownership perhaps but not legal.

The St. George’s Terrace site is the spiritual home of the RSL in WA. For all the reasons it happened, that is from full ownership to nothing and I am not sure it reflects well on the stewardship by RSLWA of that asset.

Negotiations began in 2016 with the previous government to regain ownership of the site and Peter Aspinall has spoken about the support received from the present government to minimise conditions on the transfer of the land. This transfer has now taken place.

Work has commenced on the site with completion expected of the new building by ANZAC Day 2020. The delays in getting started on the redevelopment have been necessary to prudently protect the RSLWA investment and will result in a good outcome for RSLWA.

We will have a first class facility that we can be proud of to serve our veterans for a long time into the future. We can record this asset on our own balance sheet.

I strongly recommend that RSLWA, into the future, manages its assets well and fights tooth and nail to retain this site as a permanent HQ for RSLWA.

There has been a lot of discussion today about the need to preserve, protect and grow the RSLWA Balance Sheet.

Let me give you a further simple example of why we are so strongly recommending this approach.

Thinking positively and looking forward, the RSLWA is still in a good financial position and with sound planning and management can achieve a lot in supporting its veterans across the second hundred years of its history.

The changes being voted on here today are important steps towards achieving that and I wish you well with your deliberations.

Thank you for listening to me.
The heavens smiled on the city of Perth for the 2018 ANZAC Day event. Though the morning was chilly, the sunrise over the city was simply stunning and enjoyed by over 30,000 attendees at the Dawn Service.

Once again many thousands of West Australians turned out to ANZAC Day dawn across the state including at Kings Park, memorial parks throughout the Perth metro area and regional cities and towns throughout the State.

The new location of the traditional Gun Fire breakfast in the grounds of Government House lead to record numbers in attendance and the change from the classic sausage sizzle to bacon and egg burgers was well received by all. A special thanks goes to Rotary for their assistance in cooking and feeding those in attendance.

The parade was popular with many folks, both young and old lining the streets, Australian flags in hand and smiles on their faces. In a year of firsts, there was the creation of the post 1990’s ADF personnel banner as well as the descendants of Chinese allied forces marching.

The Commemorative Service, held for the first time at the Perth Concert Hall, was the crowning glory on an already wonderful day. With our elderly and audience out of the warm sun and cradled in air conditioned, padded comfort, the original objectives of the move of location were met. When the choir sang and Commander Cath Hayes spoke, the atmosphere in the room was tangible. Tears freely flowed and the overwhelming response was fantastic.

RSLWA wishes to formally thank all of those who attended, volunteered and marched on the day.
Royal Australian Navy stepping off for the beginning of the parade

Veterans ride in vintage jeeps

Spectators proudly wave Australian flags, handed out by Australia Post workers.

The 1990 Former ADF Personnel banner allowed for many who previously felt unrepresented the opportunity to march.
ANZAC DAY 2018
PERTH

Rotary members still smiling after feeding the many who turned up for the Gunfire Breakfast.

RSLWA President Peter Aspinell presents Honorary Life Membership to former WA Governor Mrs Kerry Sanderson AC.

Proud descendants sharing memories at the Gunfire Breakfast at Government House.

Some of our newest veterans taking part in the traditional street parade.
For this year’s ANZAC Appeal, we were grateful to have the assistance of volunteers from the ANZ Bank. With their time came paypass machines, allowing our teams to take donations via card as well as cash. The morning began quite dreary and wet, but the ANZ volunteers arrived bright eyed and bushy tailed, ready to be teamed with their Australian Defence Force serving member and begin the old tin shake.

As the weather cleared, the sun returned and the streets began to fill, our teams began to really stretch their muscles as their tins grew heavy and their machines were tapped. Smiles were wide, compliments were plenty and we’re so glad to announce that, within just a few hours, the various teams had raised just over $14,000 to assist veterans in need.

Thanks go out to each and every person who gave up their time and braved the dreary weather to help us help those who served.
BOYUP BROOK

The air was still and fog engulfed the town, creating an eerie atmosphere around the town’s War Memorial. However it did not stop around 100 people gathering for the Dawn Service, the first of Boyup Brook’s 2018 ANZAC Day commemorations.

DONNYBROOK

Our Dawn Service had a memorable crowd of approx. 400 people attending. This was one of our larger crowds and it was pleasing to see our numbers increasing. Our local deputy headmaster carried out a moving display of locals that were lost in wars. A large crowd returned to the Soldier’s Memorial Hall for the gunfire breakfast which was cooked and served by our local Lions Club.
ANZAC DAY
2018
Sub-Branch

For the first time at a Dawn Service, the 10th Light Horse Esperance Troop stood quietly to attention, with heavy breath lingering in the chilled air mixing with the haunting bugle notes of the Last Post. Scott Lawrence, President of the 10th Light Horse Troop dismounted and broke the silence with a single shot fired from his wife’s grandfather Phillip Mills 303.

The Light Horse joined the main march with the many veterans, service men and women, volunteers, emergency services, musicians, local government, community clubs and businesses, and youth, along with newly recruited 503 Army Cadets.

GREENBUSHES

Three hundred and twenty people attended the Dawn Service in Greenbushes on ANZAC Day. Guest speaker, Heather Domoney of Bridgetown, described her 10 years’ experience in the Women’s Royal Australian Air Force in the 1960s and her recollections of the Vietnam War. Greenbushes RSL President Trevor Bottomley addressed more than 300 people gathered for the Greenbushes ANZAC Day Dawn Service.
ANZAC DAY 2018
Sub-Branch

LEONORA

The Dawn Service at 5:30am concluded at 6:15am with 200 in attendance. The Gunfire Breakfast was held at our RSL meeting place and venue, The White House Hotel, which supplied and provided sausages, scrambled eggs, bacon, beans, toast, coffee tea and sugar for approximately 130 people. The main street march and ANZAC service were held at 11am.
On ANZAC Day 2018 the Dawn Service was held at 5:55 am at the war memorial. 25 RSL members and 350 locals attended the service. After this a Gunfire Breakfast was served by the local Rotary club with approximately 50 people attending.
NANNUP

Anzac Day - 5.30am saw hardy patrons assembled at the War Memorial in readiness for the Dawn Service. By the start of the service there were some 70 plus patrons who observed Bruce Wilde lead a small group of veterans into the Memorial precinct. Crowds for the main service began gathering as early as 10am and it was noted that a lot of people were having a good look at the newly rejuvenated memorial. Our parade Marshall Bruce took charge and got the parade lined up. On arrival at the memorial we were greeted by an estimated 250 people.

NEDLANDS

The 2018 Nedlands RSL ANZAC Day Service was held at the War Memorial, Birdwood Parade Dalkeith, in bright sunny conditions and with over 400 community members in attendance.

The Service was held in conjunction with considerable support and encouragement from the City of Nedlands.
Very good morning with 200 attending the dawn service as we had some rain. Approximately 180 attended the Gunfire Breakfast.

Once again, the RSL Albany Sub-branch presented a highly successful ANZAC Day memorial service for the City of Albany and surrounding district. There was a capacity crowd of some 3500 at the DMC service notwithstanding the inclement weather and large attendance at the remaining venues. The Gunfire Breakfast was well attended by some 1000 members and we received outstanding support from the AEC, Probus, Police & Community Youth Group, Albany Soapbox Club and St. John Ambulance.

Right: WA Premier Mark McGowan MLA and Member for Albany, Peter Watson with Laurie Fraser MBE OAM and President of Albany RSL Sub-Branch Geoff McNeil.
ANZAC Day 2018 at the Bullsbrook and Districts RSL Sub-Branch was once again a memorable day for members and the community. The crowd was estimated at around 1400, with attendees gathered along the road, well beyond either side of the hall. Around 400 stayed for the Gunfire Breakfast which was cooked and served by ‘West Chef’. Two large marquees were erected to provide shelter for breakfast. Our grateful thanks go to the many volunteers who helped in all preparations before and on the day and the businesses and organisations who donated their products to help make the day such a success.
ANZAC DAY 2018

Sub-Branch

ANZAC DAY

This year’s ANZAC Day ceremonies were enhanced by the Shire of Toodyay’s $110,000 War memorial Park upgrade with a more level area for veterans, relatives and friends to gather and remember. The traditional Dawn Service drew about 400 people.

TOODYAY

A highlight of this year’s ANZAC Day Service was the Battlefield Cross comprising of hat, rifle and boots. The “Cross” was especially crafted for the occasion by local, well-known artist, Mark Grey-Smith, with all items having been donated to the Pemberton RSL Sub-Branch.

The Service was an outstanding success with approximately 300 people in attendance. The proceedings were expertly choreographed by Leanne Roche from the Pemberton District High School, and students from the Pemberton District High School and St Joseph’s Catholic School delivered the program with dignity and respect. The servicemen from Pemberton who served as Commandos in the infamous “Z Force” in WWII were acknowledged and details of their exploits were read out at the Service. The contribution the Z Force made is still very secretive although knowledge of their existence is now well known.

The proceedings were conducted solely by the students from Pemberton. They were handsomely groomed and presented themselves with pride in full school uniform. Their families must have been very proud to see their young citizens delivering the ceremony in such a professional manner.

PEMBERTON

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The North Beach Sub-Branch ANZAC Day Dawn Service commenced at 0530 with an audio visual display that continued until 0600 when the service commenced. There were approximately 7,000 in attendance. The service concluded at 0645 and attendees were invited to the North Beach Bowling Club for breakfast.

The ABC sought a small country town to interview about ANZAC Day and the meaning of the event. Kojonup was chosen and the small 6 serving-member, 20 affiliate member Sub-Branch happily represented. 200 people attended the local dawn service, with 80 from Kojonup moving on to attend the Muradup day service. The Muradup service attracts well over 150 people, despite being a small town with a population of around 20.
My Unusual ANZAC Day

By Ken McLennan (SQNLDR Rtd.)

Over my 40-year service career, I have had the privilege and honour of attending ANZAC Day commemorations in some fairly special locations, including Jakarta, Dili, Balikpapan, Kuwait City, and Doha, Qatar, among others.

However, ANZAC Day 2018 was possibly my most unusual dawn service. I was on the cruise ship NCL Pearl, on the eastern Pacific Ocean en-route Seattle from New Orleans, having passed through the Panama Canal a few days earlier.

Of some 2300 passengers on the cruise, there were more than 350 Australians, a number of whom were former serving members. The ship’s Cruise Director, Vincent Teschel, had organised an Australian social ‘get-together’ in the first few days of the cruise, and from this gathering, the proposal to have a ship-board commemoration was raised and agreed to as we would still be at sea on 25 April.

An impromptu ‘committee’ was formed to work out the details and advise the Cruise Director who was to organise and coordinate the event. As Vincent Teschel was from a military (USAF) family himself, he was delighted to undertake the MC role for the commemoration. To ensure the correct Order of Ceremony was adhered to, he was directed to the RSL website to gather the necessary information.

Following a fair bit of informal liaison, a second ‘committee’ meeting was held on 24 April to confirm all was in place for the Dawn Service. This had taken some organisation as the commemoration was to be held on the rear deck of the ship, which served as an outdoor dining area for one of the 24-hour restaurants. At this time our Cruise Director advised...
that we would have the services of the ship’s band trumpeter for bugling duties and that Australian members of the cruise entertainment troupe would also participate. Furthermore, the Prayer was to be delivered by Staff Captain Vicente Amicone, the NCL Pearl’s 2nd in Command, who was currently in the process of becoming an Australian citizen. Details of the ceremony had been posted throughout the ship.

Attendees were arriving on the rear deck from around 0530hrs and, before commencement at 0600hrs, there were an estimated 200 to 250 people gathered. Conditions were cool but clear with a light breeze across the decks, and in the pre-dawn darkness, it was still possible to see the phosphorescence of the ship’s wake streaming away behind us. It was not lost on those gathered that this was a scene probably not too different from that observed by the first ANZACs as they steamed away from Albany on the 10th of January 1915.

The Commemoration was set underway with a welcome by our Cruise Director, and then an introduction by Maryanne Nucifora, an Australian dancer. Staff Captain Amicone delivered the Prayer, followed by another Australian dancer, Nickolas Mills, introducing the Veterans Address, which was delivered by Graham Smith (CPL Rtd.). In a slight departure from the standard format, Cruise Director, Vincent Teschel, gave an emotionally stirring acapella rendition of Amazing Grace, followed by Mr Peter Reus (WO1 Rtd.) leading in the Ode. Exactly at the moment, the sun rose over the Pacific Ocean, Mr Maksym Kravchuk of the NCL Pearl Showband, delivered The Last Post, the minute silence, and Rouse. I had the honour of leading the National Anthems of Australia and New Zealand, and the closing remarks were provided by Mr Stephen Arthurson (WO1 Rtd.)

Although we were unable to partake of the traditional Gunfire Breakfast due to various ships regulations, a magnificent breakfast spread – including ANZAC biscuits – was provided by the catering staff for those who attended the commemoration. There was a great spirit of camaraderie among everyone there, and quite a few Brits, Americans and Canadians commented that it was most moving service of this type they had seen, even compared to their own remembrance services. We were truly humbled to have been able to observe the ANZAC Day Commemoration in the traditional manner, and for that our thanks go to the staff and crew of the NCL Pearl, and in particular to Staff Captain Vicente Amicone and Cruise Director Vincent Teschel.
It was wildflower season a hundred or so years ago when many of the Anzac troops left Albany in Western Australia for the World War I battlefields of Europe and Africa.

Soldiers had bunches of flowers in their hats, or in their hands. Gold, green, yellow, white, splashes of colour against the sea of khaki, these flowers were literally the last contact with home.

It will be wildflower season again when these colours inspired by the national flowers of Australia and New Zealand shine out from Mount Clarence as part of a major, site-specific and immersive art installation called Field of Light: Avenue of Honour. Tens of thousands of fibre optic light-emitting spheres, ‘planted’ on slender stems beneath the trees of Albany’s Avenue of Honour will offer a moving memorial to the bravery and sacrifice of the ANZAC servicemen and women who sailed out from Albany, and to those who did not return.

The creative mind behind this installation is the acclaimed British artist Bruce Munro, who for over 30 years has used light to make artworks and installations which have delighted audiences all over the world (including at Uluru). He was commissioned to develop this latest work specifically for Albany and the ANZAC centenary commemorations by cultural organisation FORM (which is also managing the installation) and the City of Albany. The project is also being supported by the Australian Government through the Building Better Regions Fund and the State Government through Tourism Western Australia and LotteryWest.

‘Flowers are nature’s fleeting smiles; tangible gifts from past generations to the present’ says Munro. ‘The Avenue of Honour is just such a moving space. I’ve never created literally an avenue of light and it felt extremely relevant to place the Field of Light under the trees to coincide with the centenary of the Anzacs.’

Despite having lived in Australia in the 1980s and travelled extensively through the continent, until 18 months ago, Munro had never visited Albany, whose coastal views he says reminds him of the seaside town in Devon where he grew up.

He has spent time in the city to familiarise himself with the community’s connection to the ANZAC story and select the site, then to assess how exactly to configure the artwork. As Munro observes ‘an installation doesn’t start when you put it in. It’s actually the processes. It’s the process of going into the space, the process of meeting people. It’s so many people’s thoughts and ideas.’ He will return in September to oversee the
installation, which will be carried out by teams of technicians and local volunteers.

Then on 5 October, Field of Light: Avenue of Honour (which is free to view) will be launched in time to coincide with the conclusion of the centenary commemorations and Remembrance Day on November 11 in 2018. It will stay in situ until ANZAC Day 2019.

‘It is too easy for our generation to forget the sacrifices that were made and it is difficult to attribute the freedoms that we take for granted today to a war that ended one hundred years ago’ says Munro. ‘This whole space is a commemoration for people who have given their lives, but it’s also a message to us all that we mustn’t do this again. If the Field of Light stands for anything, let us live in peace and not war.’

Munro, FORM and the City of Albany hope that Field of Light: Avenue of Honour will not only offer a moving and memorable experience for visitors to Mount Clarence and the National ANZAC Centre (one of the Lonely Planet top 10 ‘must sees’), but will also prove to be an extra drawcard for tourists from the rest of Australia and overseas to spend time in Western Australia’s southernmost port city and the Great Southern region. ‘I would love people to come and see the installation, but there are so many reasons to come to Albany anyway’ says Munro.

This is a place which is unique. One of only 25 biodiversity hot-spots world-wide, Albany is the gateway to a wild and dramatic coastline. Some parts of it owe their contours to the Dreamtime as much as to meteorology; they are an archive of Australian cosmogony, history, and industry. Other parts resonate with the lived experience of exploration and settlement, conflict and achievement. It is rare to have all these elements converge in one place, and yet they do: in Albany.

For the visitor who wants to make Field of Light a major part of their experience, there are several packages on offer which use the artwork as a centrepiece, and which include botanical walks, a visit to the National ANZAC Centre, and time with a local Aboriginal guide to understand and appreciate the site’s cultural significance to the Menang Noongar people of the Great Southern.

As long as it glows from the slopes of Mount Clarence, the Field of Light: Avenue of Honour artwork will be one of Australia’s ‘must sees’ for every traveller. For each time it lights up against the dramatic Albany coastline, this poignant memorial will symbolise wild beauty, and the sacrifice, courage and honour of the few to whom so much is owed by so many.

For more information about FORM and Bruce Munro, visit fieldoflightalbany.com.au.

To plan your journey to Albany for ANZAC Day or for the end of the Centenary visit theamazingsouthcoast.com. To find out more about the National ANZAC Centre visit nationalanzaccentre.com.au. For a full list of ANZAC commemorative services and events, visit anzacalbany.com.au.

About Us

FORM is an independent, non-profit cultural organisation that develops and advocates for excellence in creativity and artistic practice in Western Australia. FORM firmly believe creativity can be a catalyst for positive change, and the most vibrant places to live are the ones that nurture dynamic creativity, showcase cultural diversity, insist on quality, and are shaped with people in mind.

FORM’s activities span high-level artist development and exhibitions, place-making, social and multicultural engagement, cultural infrastructure development, Aboriginal cultural maintenance, research, and advocacy. Central to the Amazing South Coast of Western Australia, the City of Albany is poised to embrace the outcomes of increased investment in their arts and cultural infrastructure, with major partnerships being developed to deliver a cultural tourism strategy centred on Albany’s heritage, pristine environment and public art collaborations. As well as artistic excellence and international connections, the Field of Light: Avenue of Honour by Bruce Munro will foster product development for cultural tourism, such that Albany can grow its creative credentials and reputation as a destination for artistic innovation.
COMMUNITY

MINISTER AT CHIDLOW MEMORIAL

The Chidlow District RSL Sub-Branch is a glowing example of community members coming together to preserve and celebrate their rich military history.

A recent visit by Veteran’s Issues Minister, Peter Tinley with colleagues, heard about the important local work they are doing in the lead up to the Centenary of ANZAC Day.

Thank you to Corinna and all of the members for the work you do in our community.

L to R: Chidlow RSL member and owner of the Chidlow Tavern, Norm Brewer with Minister Tinley and his colleagues Jessica Shaw (Member for Swan Hills) and Lauren Palmer (ALP Candidate for the Federal Seat of Hasluck).

CITY OF COCKBURN

POPPY CLUB RETREAT 2018

On March 15 earlier this year Poppy Ladies and an 8 week old baby travelled to Busselton Legacy Camp for a weekend of craft and fun. It was the second time this camp was held and it was bigger than ever with a Hawaiian Themed BBQ, trips to various wineries, Busselton Markets, the inaugural Busselton Pride Parade, Margaret River Chocolate Factory and a “formal” Op Shop Dress Dinner.

There was some craftwork achieved in between walks on the beach, charades, watching old movies and enjoying each other’s company.

The City of Cockburn RSL Poppy Club is a very successful initiative which came out of the Women’s Forum some years ago and has grown into a very popular part of the Cockburn RSL culture. The ladies have taken on the twice-monthly meal nights and also providing refreshments after all the commemorative services during the year. The only criteria to join the Poppy Club at Cockburn is that you are a member of the sub-branch but if you wish to come along for a visit, please do so. We meet on the second Saturday of each month 1 – 4 pm. Please check with Kay Cleak 0439833501 to make sure we will be there as we may be out somewhere doing something different and exciting.
CELEBRATING OUR SUB BRANCH

By Moz Nugent

Victoria Park is now officially 100 years old as a Sub Branch

It is an honour to be amongst one of the oldest RSL Sub-Branches in Western Australia. The Sub Branch has served returning veterans who have served in conflicts including the Boer War, World Wars One and Two, Korea, Malaya Emergency, Borneo, Vietnam, Timor, Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan and other peacekeeping operations. The Victoria Park Sub Branch is also known as The Gurney Club Inc, in honour of Arthur Stanley ‘Stan’ Gurney VC. Stan Gurney was the recipient of a Victoria Cross for bravery in the Battle of Tel-El-Eisa, Egypt during World War Two.

To all our members both past and present it could not have been achieved without your dedication and commitment to honouring our purpose and objectives through all the years. We have seen a lot of changes through the 100 years but we have not forgotten our core business which is the welfare of our veterans, both past and current serving. We will continue to serve our veterans for as long as they may need us. Our delivery of service may have changed from 100 years ago but we are still committed to helping our veterans.

We were privileged to receive our 100 Year letter from Her Majesty the Queen and His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia.
It was a fitting tribute to a valued veteran when two members of the Riverton RSL were presented with special service medals during the club’s ANZAC Dinner last week.

Riverton MLA Mike Nahan and RSLWA’s Bill Collidge presented Korean War veteran Ian Raymond with the Republic of Korea War Service Medal.

Last February, Governor-General Peter Cosgrove announced Korean War veterans were now approved to wear the medal.

Dr Nahan said the announcement meant veterans were able to get the recognition they deserved.

“It’s therefore special to be able to finally give Ian this medal and some further recognition of his service to Australia and its allies.”

Sylvia Carmody was also presented with a replica Australian Service Medal in recognition for her service in the Royal Australian Navy during World War II.

Mr Collidge said he felt compelled to organise the medal after noticing Ms Carmody never wore it, despite changes to eligibility in 1996 that allowed her to do so.

“It occurred to me that Sylvia was like many other veterans who didn’t know they were now eligible, and so as a proud supporter of the Sub-Branch for many years, we needed to make sure Sylvia received the acknowledgement that she deserves,” he said.

“While this is a replica, we are committed to instigating a claim for the issue of her original medal which is probably lying in a dusty drawer in Canberra along with thousands of other unclaimed medals.”

By Jessica Nico
A tour of sites connected with the No.2 Independent Company’s (2/2) campaign against the Japanese on Portuguese Timor during 1942 began on Sunday 22 April this year and was successfully concluded on Wednesday 2 May. The tour was led by 2/2 Commando Association Committee member Ed Willis and guided by Julio dos Santos of Timor Adventures. 12 people participated in the tour including 11 family members of 2/2 soldiers. Mick Stone, Program Director of Timor Awakening, was also a valuable tour member.

A highlight of the Campaign Tour was participating in the ANZAC Day Dawn Service in Dili at the Jardim de Cristo Rei. Tour group members were gratified by the references made to the commando campaign and the presence of the tour group by both the President of Timor-Leste Dr Francisco Guterres and the Australian Ambassador Peter Rogers in their addresses. Genevieve Isbell and Trish Parr, daughters of the original Commanding Officer of the 2/2 Major (later Lt Colonel) Alexander Spence, laid a wreath on behalf of the 2/2 Commando Association of Australia. Peter Servante also laid a wreath in honour of his father Sig John Servante. It was a very moving experience for all to be collectively present at the service.

Given the strong interest in the tour, Timor Adventures (the tour operator) is calling for expressions of interest from others who may like to tour around ANZAC Day in 2019. If you are interested in touring next year, please contact: Ed Willis on 0438 907 480 or ew988662@bigpond.net.au
ANZAC DAY
Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch focused on youth

By Laura Pond

DESpite its nearly 100-year history, Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch is focused on youth.

Junior vice-president Dan Byles, of Osborne Park, is leading a new member strategy aimed at “delivering health, wellbeing, career growth and advocacy services for 21st century veterans.”

The 36-year-old Afghanistan war veteran said the Sub-Branch knew that to survive, it needed to stay relevant to younger veterans.

“The RSL as an organisation has been there for 100 years for past servicemen and as new ones, we have a responsibility to carry it on,” he said.

“We’re a Sub-Branch that is supportive of new and younger members.

“We have our own hall - a place where they can come and get advice.”

Mr Byles said they identified needs of modern veterans, which included addressing mental health challenges and difficulties finding work.

The website has been updated to provide a “one-stop shop” for veterans to access services and the hall is also intended to offer the same, with a focus on health and wellbeing.

A long-held tradition of holding weekly meetings at noon on Wednesdays has changed to make it more accessible, with meetings now at 6pm on Fridays.

Though the Sub-Branch is trying to shake its stereotype and wants to attract younger members, Mr Byles said it was about being inclusive for all veterans and there was much to be gained from the older members.

“Younger people can benefit from the mentorship of the older ones,” he said. “It’s about the passing on of history.”
The group’s usual fundraising is for ‘Breaking Ice’ in aid of getting a Crisis Support Centre established to help addicts get clean.

Last year we greeted for the first time in Donnybrook, a group of motorbike riders. Warm-hearted Kiwis and Maoris group are known as the Nga Uri Riders who were not only enjoying the ride but were doing so raising funds for the RSL. Once again they had the best of weather for their journey.

On Saturday, April 14 they left Bunbury and arrived at Capel where a Sausage Sizzle was being held outside IGA, with all money raised going to the RSL. From there along the scenic route of Goodwood Road to Donnybrook where they stopped for lunchtime refreshments and then back to Bunbury.

The group’s usual fund-raising is for ‘Breaking Ice’ in aid of getting a Crisis Support Centre established to help addicts get clean, plus of course to help the families who have the worry and stress. This is the second year they have conducted the Bunbury RSL Combined Forces Charity Ride.

This year 35 bikes with riders and passengers totalling 50 were still giving their time, as well accompanied by a support vehicle in case of breakdowns of which there were none. Also along with the group was a Special First Aid Officer who was, we are pleased to say, not needed. Better to be safe than sorry.

Donnybrook RSL President Ric Evans said it was great to have them here again and the camaraderie between them was terrific. “We thank them for their efforts in all they are doing for the RSL and hope they return again next year,” said Ric.

Not satisfied with helping raise funds for RSL during May they were kept busy riding to raise funds for the Bunbury Bush Fire Brigade, another very worthy cause. Funds raised will go towards the Cadet training for the Brigade.

Money that is raised from this ride totalled over $1000 which was a great effort.

Thank you each and every one and hopefully, we will see you all back here next year.
CAPEL - Korean War Mates
Gundy and Bondi
By Hayley Barclay

Mateship. It is the essence of the Australian identity and a key part of the Australian Defence Force. When you have a good mate, someone to confide in, to help you in times of trouble and with whom to share all the spectacular moments, life is a little bit easier and a little bit lighter. For Gundy and Bondi, two Australian soldiers this sentiment remains true.

Eric ‘Gundy’ Thomas and Leo ‘Boni’ Boni joined the army on the same day in Western Australia and have been best friends ever since. Prior to serving together in Korea, they trained in Northam and then on the East Coast of Australia. They were always together or close to each other. Together they fought a war, lost mates and witnessed extraordinary events enacted by brave and courageous men and women. They also got into quite a bit of trouble with hilarious moments that only these two young men could enjoy at the time.

These eccentric characters have a collection of wild stories about their many travels together, ranging from the time they landed in military prison with a broken foot, to that moment in Korean when they went to extreme lengths to get to a bar, throwing coal over the fence of their base camp to lure in Korean fisherman who would ferry them across the river for a small fee.

Gundy and Bondi stuck by each other in the toughest of times and are still extremely close to this day. In their greying days they are not always travelling the best, but even in their twilight they still do everything they can to see each other and never miss a chance to spend time with one another.

In late October of 2017, the 3RAR held their annual reunion and it was here that Gundy and Bondi were greeted with a red carpet from the 3RAR members. This warm and touching welcome showcased just how truly wonderful and charismatic these men are, and how much their friendship and general character affected those around them. Part of this evening by the 3RAR was the auctioning off of the 3RAR Flag, signed by many of those in attendance. Funds raised were given to Legacy. In the bidding for this flag, Bondi and Gundy came to be the highest bidders, even after bidding against each other, climbing the total to over $750. This, of course, started a friendly argument about who owed who money from twenty-plus years ago.

While the two now reside on opposite sides of the country, their friendship remains strong and their stories clearly highlight that mateship and humour were never lost. Gundy and Bondi continue to be the troublemaking duo they were so many years ago.
19th February, 1942. The war had come to Australia closer than anyone could have imagined. Japan had bombed Darwin. All that stood between Australia and the advancing enemy were the brave pilots of the airforce who were determined to protect Australia, whatever the cost. Their story is now retold in the magnificent new “In Defence of Darwin Clock” which puts you in the co-pilot seat alongside our gallant airmen.

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Army Art is Perth's longest running charity art exhibition. Started in 1974 by then President of the SASR Ladies Auxiliary, Maureen Smethurst, the Auxiliary wanted to further foster the positive relationship between the ADF and the Perth community by providing a platform for both emerging and established artists to exhibit their work. With the exhibition held at the normally off-limits Campbell Barracks, the enthusiasm to attend was enormous. Funds raised were donated to local charities.

This year Army Art chose the theme ‘Transition’ to focus understanding of the event and explain the reason for selecting our two beneficiaries. Life transitions are something we all experience, whether it is becoming a parent, supporting a sick child or partner, relocating or embarking upon a new career. The threads of our lives reweave themselves often in unimaginable and unexpected forms. Army Art wanted to encourage a proactive engagement with what can be a difficult process, to assist people as they reorient themselves and move through any transition process, positively adapting to change.

This year we are supporting Tiny Sparks and Working Spirit, both organisations started by passionate individuals committed to ensuring positive change in our community.

Working Spirit is an organisation established to redress the difficulties faced by serving men and women as they transition to civilian careers. This transition poses particular challenges and assisting people to positively overcome these is something Working Spirit founder Karyn Hinder is passionate about. Karyn, who has served twenty-five years in the ADF, in both the RAAF and the Australian Army, was motivated to establish a service to highlight and advocate for the employability of veterans and their partners/spouses after witnessing the exceptional challenges faced by military colleagues as they embarked on their career transition.

Working Spirit wants businesses to capture the talent that comes from military service. Karyn’s message to prospective employers, “military veterans have many intangible skills they bring to the table, over and above any technical skills.” Two veterans who have benefitted
from Karyn’s passion and energy are Ange and Matthew.

Ange had been out of work for five months and was struggling to find a new career path on her own. With Karyn’s guidance, support and contacts Ange secured a job within two weeks! Ange said Karyn was always on hand to offer advice and kept her updated throughout the process. “She has given me back my confidence and helped me find a new career that I can be passionate about,” Ange said.

Matthew joined the RAN in June 1991. After spending fifteen years as a chief petty officer he started to think about new challenges and, “what might be out in the big bad civilian world!” An email inviting people to attend the first-ever Working Spirit seminar for veterans stepping out caught his attention and he decided to give it a go.

“I didn’t even have a resume 48 hours before I attended the seminar!”

After engaging with the great advice on offer, Matthew says his next step was to go and talk to several companies that were in attendance and start some conversations about their businesses and what he could offer them. Matthew is now employed full time.

Matthew encourages other serving personnel thinking about transitioning, or veterans who may be finding it tough to get work, to connect with Working Spirit. “I can only say that this program is an excellent step and absolutely fantastic as a way to showcase great people to great companies through excellent coordination and support.”

Army Art is proud to support both Tiny Sparks and Working Spirit through its Fine Art Fundraising Exhibition and would like to invite you to attend the Exhibition the weekend of 24th – 26th August 2018 at Leeuwin Barracks, East Fremantle. This year the Army Art exhibition is to be formally opened by the Governor of Western Australia, The Honourable Kim Beazley AC. To see and have your chance to purchase incredible artwork, while supporting two very worthy causes, come along to Army Art’s opening night, Friday, August 24th.

Tickets are $20 and available now for purchase through Sticky Tickets.

Media Enquiries: Army Art WA
Michelle Saleeba
0481 067 676
armyartwa@hotmail.com
ONE hundred bugles will ring out across Perth to mark the day 100 years ago when the guns fell silent on the Western Front.

That is the dream of ex-navy and WA Fire and Emergency Services Band musician Ted Tait, who wants to create a special memory for the centenary at 11am on 11 November – the 11th hour, of the 11th day of the 11th month, when the Armistice signalled the end of hostilities.

“Every year on Remembrance Day we sound the Last Post before observing one minute’s silence and then the Rouse to commemorate what was supposed to be the war to end all wars,” Mr Tait said.

“This year we want to mark 100 years since the conflict with 100 buglers, to send a clear message that, as the Ode says, ‘At the going down of the Sun and in the morning, We will remember them’.”

Mr Tait is joined in the project by Perth Hills and Wheatbelt Wind Band leader Peter Hind and WA Symphonic Wind Ensemble player Barry Telfer.

They have the backing of RSLWA, which is organising the commemoration and celebration of the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day.

In previous years a dozen buglers have played at street junctions in the CBD for Remembrance Day but, this year, Mr Tait is appealing for extra volunteers to join a special act of remembrance.

“We would like to encourage any ex-servicemen and women who would like to commemorate the occasion but are a bit out of practice or don’t have an instrument to get in touch and we will work with them to make it happen,” Mr Tait said.

“If there are regional centres that would like to be involved and don’t have a bugler they can get in contact and we will see if we can organise a local bugler or send someone from Perth.”

Volunteers will be invited to an information session on Sunday 29th July at 10am, and a rehearsal on Sunday, October 7, again at 10am. Written music for the Last Post and the Rouse will be provided, and mentoring is available.

Anyone interested should visit www.100buglers.com or contact 100buglers@gmail.com.

(For media inquiries and interviews, contact Sam Knowles on 0422 401 421 or 100buglers@gmail.com).
Each month since ANZAC day, RSLWA has held a contest on our social accounts to encourage interaction, storytelling and community engagement. These contests have been quite popular. Our most recent contest asked RSLWA members to tell us why their Sub-Branch was the best and there were some wonderful entries.

The winners included Shane Miller from Esperance, Michelle Hale from Port Kennedy, Chris Barry from Kalamunda and Vicki Billington from Pinjarra.

**Chris Barry:** The Kalamunda RSL is by far the BEST RSL Sub Branch that I as a current serving soldier have had the pleasure to attend in all of Australia. It is a homely and welcoming Sub-Branch that has a fantastic feel about it. It has a great community spirit making all that visit feel welcome. I recommend this Sub Branch to anyone in the Kalamunda region.

**Michelle Hale:** Port Kennedy RSL is the best!!! Where else can you get a $5 chicken schnitzel and chips on a Wednesday night, which also coincides with State Of Origin?! Cheap and tasty feed with entertainment!!!

**Shane Miller:** The Esperance Sub-Branch is the best for RSLWA because of the way we present our ANZAC day and Remembrance Day service. People travel from over 800kms to see our services. We involve school children in our service because we believe that the school children are the ones that will take our ANZAC spirit into the future. Many schools offer to help at the services by presenting the opening address, reciting poems and placing crosses in the rose garden around our cenotaph, representing the men that went to WW1 from our area.

**Barry:** The Kalamunda RSL is by far the BEST RSL Sub Branch that I as a current serving soldier have had the pleasure to attend in all of Australia. It is a homely and welcoming Sub-Branch that has a fantastic feel about it. It has a great community spirit making all that visit feel welcome. I recommend this Sub Branch to anyone in the Kalamunda region.

If you’re not on social media, fear not, you will not miss out on the opportunity. We are now taking submissions for the “Listening Post: In Your Words Competition”. All you have to do is submit your story.

Perhaps you have a funny tale from recruit school, or maybe you overcame a huge obstacle in your life. Did you embark on a trip or pilgrimage to walk in the footsteps of veterans before you? Are you the child of a veteran that didn’t return? Whatever your story is, we want to hear it.

One story will be chosen each edition to be published in The Listening Post and the writer will also receive a commemorative prize pack.

Submissions should be between 200-700 words and emailed to <socialmedia@rslwa.org.au> with a high resolution print quality image.
Residents of Lady McCusker village, including the village cat, came together for a short ceremony last Remembrance Day, followed by afternoon tea. At this ceremony, North Beach RSL Sub-Branch member Fritz Gfeller dedicated the small garden he had created on the grounds to those who served.

Born in Switzerland, Fritz or Fred to his friends, migrated to Australia in 1954 to make a fresh start. Just two years later, in 1956, he joined the Australian Army as a musician, though soon retrained as a medic.

Fred proudly served his new country for many years and now hopes to inspire other Retirement Villages to take up his challenge and incorporate a Memorial Garden within their grounds. His garden is made up of the Spirit of the ANZACs Grevillea and includes a plaque he donated.
The 2018 Poppy Project is well underway with donations of beautifully handcrafted poppies pouring in from all over the state.

Some of these boxes and packages piled high with ruby red pieces have even included a few short stories. This is one of those.

Whyalkatchem District High School, a small school 205kms north east of Perth in the Central Wheatbelt, set the goal of contributing a poppy for each student. The school community, from kindergarten to year 10, rose to the challenge and exceeded expectations, knitting and crocheting a grand total of 231 poppies.

The generosity of the West Australian community in participating in The Poppy Project has been overwhelming and RSLWA wish to thank each and every contributor. We are still collecting poppies and look forward to sharing the end display with you all.
HEARING TEST

The gradual, and often undetected, loss of hearing can mean that many people do not realise when it is happening to them.

Of course, there are also those who have perfected the art of ‘Selective Hearing’ … but we shouldn’t confuse the two! Loss of hearing affects many of those who have served, whether it be from constant fire of weaponry from the shoulder, the whir of rotor blades and engines or the high pitched frequencies from headsets and communication tools. Without specialised hearing tests, it can be difficult to pinpoint just how much the mechanisms of the ears have been damaged.

RSLWA have recognised this need and are pleased to announce our partnership with The Hearing Clinic. Due to open within the RSLWA building on August 20th, this service will be open to all RSL members with free follow up and adjustment services.

To find out more about the Government Hearing Services subsidy, book a hearing test or find out more, please call The Hearing Clinic on 1300 456 001 or visit their website www.thehearingclinic.com.au.

MOLE PATROL

RSLWA has successfully partnered with WA’s first comprehensive skin cancer clinics able to offer all RSLWA members and their family members skin cancer services – from initial screening to excisions if necessary.

Chief Executive Officer, John McCourt, said the Mole Patrol Clinic situated at a number of Perth metro clinics can offer a comprehensive all-inclusive service at no cost due to its ability to provide bulk billing and no out-of-pocket costs.

“As a skin cancer sufferer myself I know how important it is to have regular check-ups,” Mr McCourt said. “This service is strongly supported by RSLWA and it is pleasing to be able to provide the benefit of being able to go to one medical outlet that can perform all the services needed from initial screening right through to more complex hospital treatment.”

Mole Patrol Medical Director, Dr Kim Hames, said the company was privileged to provide services to veterans and their families, as well as financial affiliate members of RSLWA.

The Mole Patrol organisation currently has one new outlet at Bibra Lake and is planning other clinics in the Perth metropolitan area and, over time, in regional centres. Also, the organisation is able to make visits to Sub-Branches for scheduled skin checks as well as examining telehealth technology to provide services to those who live in regional and remote areas of WA.

“With our bulk-billing and related arrangements, there will be absolutely no cost to patients unless they want a non-cancerous mole cut out or multiple dressings are required," Dr Hames said.

“All onsite biopsies and excisions will be performed by experienced Practitioners and Surgical Specialists with more complex in-hospital treatment organised and arranged by our clinical team with no out-of-pocket fees.”

RSLWA members wanting to take advantage of the service can find out more by going to www.molepatrol.com.au.
Emergency services regularly face severe and traumatic experiences, which can have a long-lasting impact on a person’s mental and physical wellbeing, and social and economic participation.

Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) can develop in people who have experienced or witnessed a traumatic event. It is estimated that approximately 6 per cent of Australians aged 16 to 85 live with PTSD in any one year. Defence forces, emergency services, prison officers and veterans experience higher rates of PTSD and Complex Trauma which is as an alternative to the narrower definition of PTSD which encompasses ‘changes in victims’ attitudes about self, the perpetrator, relationships and belief’.

There is an emerging recognition of Complex Trauma and PTSD across Emergency Services; and their responsibilities to ensure staff safety and mental wellbeing. Organisations and corporations have a responsibility both legally and ethically to ensure the safety and mental wellbeing of their employees. In emergency service there is an emerging recognition of complex trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder. However, the system is failing our heroes.

Trauma-informed care is an organisational structure and treatment framework that involves understanding, recognising and responding to the effects of all types of trauma. For the best recovery outcomes, the causes of a person’s ‘symptoms’ or responses must be understood. How can these symptoms and responses be understood? A Peer Support model of emergency service personal that incorporates the teaching of Trauma-Informed Care is the mechanism designed to understand a person’s ‘symptoms’ or responses.

There is a clear need to provide ongoing education to members – especially all levels of management – to encourage a culture of openness about mental health issues, encompassing lived experience and the Principles of Recovery.
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For 95-year-old Douglas Whitworth who lives at Baptistcare David Buttfield Centre Residential Care in Gwelup, ANZAC Day holds special significance.

It’s the day the former Australian Infantry Forces (AIF) Private, who served in World War II in New Guinea defending the city of Lae, remembers his time in service and his fallen mates who fought so bravely.

Mr Whitworth enlisted as an 18-year-old in 1941, something he needed his parents’ permission to do as he was not yet 21.

He joined as a ‘Choco’ National Serviceman before being transferred to the AIF as a signalman responsible for keeping communication lines open by laying and maintaining long cable wires, while most importantly keeping his head down.

Recognising the importance of commemorating ANZAC Day, staff at Baptistcare David Buttfield Centre organised for cadets from Marmion Army Cadets to conduct a service at the residential care facility on Tuesday 24 April 2018.

“The event is part of Baptistcare’s commitment to enriching the lives of older Western Australians living in our residential care facilities. We recognise the personal connection our residents have to World Wars I and II and acknowledge their experiences and contribution,” said Russell Bricknell, Baptistcare Chief Executive Officer.
The majority of people under forty years of age find their information in one of two places, Google and social media. With almost 10% of West Australian veterans under the age of forty and a high number of this age bracket currently serving, it was imperative for the RSLWA to meet them on their territory in order to remain relevant.

Over the years, while baby steps had been made to make us become a more digital entity, there was still a long way to go in order to become relevant in the digital realm.

With the recruitment of an Integrated Marketing Officer a plan was created to further grow RSLWA’s digital presence. This means creating plenty of meaningful content. Content, basically, is what a person posts online, including websites, blog posts, images, videos and social media. It is information, education, entertainment and all the media that comprises this.

In today’s digital age, strong content can win you awards, send your message viral, gain you deals and sponsorship opportunities and, in some cases, even pay your bills.

The new content hub will cross social channels such as Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and YouTube, include a new contemporary designed and easily accessible website, digitised newsletters for Sub-Branches, sponsors and schools and consistent blog posts to maintain Google standings and provide consistent information, education and entertainment. Each and every one of these channels serves to direct people to a central place, the RSLWA. The idea is simply to centralise resources and make it clear to all just what we do, what we stand for and who we assist.

Digital elements also allow us to track information more effectively. It is no longer a simple guessing game to see who is interested. Digital insights allow us to see our audience and direct information accordingly. This can only serve to assist future campaigns, services and events within the RSL and our Sub-Branches.

With the intention of not reinventing the wheel and, instead, utilising the varied skills of the veterans within our community, much of the content will be collaborative in nature. A consistent stream of video content is set to be produced including topics about health and fitness, lifestyle, entertainment, information for children of veterans and much more. While some of these are already under production, we are seeking future projects.

We will also be branching into podcast territory. Podcasts have been rapidly growing in Australia over the past few years and are popular with various age groups. For those not familiar with the term, think of it as radio on demand. Podcasts are easily accessible, able to be downloaded to mobile and tablet devices, simple to track with automatic reminders of new episodes and incredibly cheap to produce. Much of Australia’s mainstream media agencies are producing their own and I felt that it would be a lost opportunity for the RSLWA not to do the same. The beauty of podcasts is that we also have full control of advertising, unlike mediums such a YouTube, allowing us to create revenue by selling ad space, granting veteran owned businesses the opportunity to be broadcast and presenting topics of direct importance to a specific audience.

These varied means of presentation will allow RSLWA to present information of importance, educate veterans and their families and, most importantly, allow us to assist the coming generations and remain relevant to the needs of our audience. We are constantly on the search for new ideas and we welcome each and every person who feels they may have something to contact us at socialmedia@rslwa.org.au and discuss the possibilities.
As a tourist, think of Scotland. Mountains, lochs and haggis (well, maybe not haggis so much).

Apart from the stunning natural beauty of what the Romans called Caledonia, there’s a place not on the tourist trail that’s of particular interest to Veterans. The Lady Haig Poppy Factory makes and sells poppies to raise funds for Service personnel and their families. It’s been doing so since 1921, when it began as The Earl Haig Fund Scotland. Now known as Poppy Scotland, last year it raised $5.7 million.

To do that, the charity, which is part of the Royal Legion of Britain, hand assembles five million Poppies (in various forms) and more than 10,000 wreaths every year. It also processes more than 25,000 collection tins and makes up and dispatches orders to Poppy Appeal Area Organisers all over Scotland.

The charity was started by Field Marshall Earl Haig, the Commander of British Forces in World War I, who was horrified by the plight of so many Service personnel struggling after they returned home.

Haig established the first Poppy Factory in Richmond, Surrey, but such was the demand for poppies that few reached Scotland. In 1926 his wife, Lady Doris Haig, established a Poppy Factory in Edinburgh to produce poppies exclusively for Scotland.

From a humble start of “three workers, a pair of scissors and a piece of paper”, numbers soon rose to 28, by which time the bulk of the poppies required for Scotland had been made. At the height of production in 1937 it reached 90 workers.

It seems poppies are ingrained into the Scottish psyche. My wife and I had travelled throughout the country and were amazed at the poppies at almost every town’s war memorial.

However, it was only by chance I came across the factory in Leith, as I had attended British Armed Forces Day in Edinburgh and learned of the factory at one of the stalls.

My wife and I headed there one Friday just after lunch. However, as the custom in Scotland, many workplaces have an early knock-off on Fridays. Ray Lunn, the site manager, however, kindly gave us a tour. Ray is a British Army Veteran with multiple tours overseas.

The Poppy Factory now has a workforce of 40 ex-Servicemen and women, most of whom are registered as disabled. The aim is to provide a dignified working environment.

Many of the workers have been with the organisation for many years and there is a palpable feeling of the military about the place, as evidenced by the thousands of plaques, flags and photos. I’m not sure there is any available wall space for more memorabilia.

Ray is particularly proud of the annual art competition for primary school students. “Every year the students astound us with both the quality and amount of art,” he says. “It’s certainly important that we keep people aware of the ongoing problems Veterans face.”

The charity also operates in England, Wales and Ireland. You can take an online tour of the factory at ladyhaigspoppypfactory.org.uk

* Greg Smith is an Army Veteran and member of Noflamara RSL and the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club, for whom he is a welfare officer.
The Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group was formed 19 years ago by a group of Vietnam Veterans living in Mandurah. Over the subsequent years, the group has grown to over 250 members and now boasts its own clubhouse on the banks of the Murray River at Ravenswood along with other important infrastructure.

It is a non-political organisation and its aims are to keep alive the close bonds of comradeship and esprit-de-corps created by members of the Australian Defence Force and Allied Armed Forces and to assist ex-service personnel when they are in need of help. Membership is open to any past or present member of the ADF or Allied Armed Forces and their Partners and ADF or Allied Armed forces widows/widowers.

Activities include weekly cycling, kayaking and walking groups, yearly caravan and 4WD trips and monthly sundowners at the clubhouse. The Group also organizes a commemorative service in Mandurah each year on 18th August.

At the AGM of MMVVG in 2014, a vote was taken to change our constitution to offer full membership to Australian Veterans of other conflicts besides Vietnam and also for all current and ex-military service personnel plus Allied Forces. At the AGM in 2017, it was further decided to change the name to Mandurah Murray Vietnam & Veterans Group to better reflect the Group’s status as a club for all service personnel.

The aim is to attract younger Veterans to the Group so that the assets, infrastructure and experience developed by the Group over many years will continue into the future.

More information can be found at www.mmvvg.asn.au where contact details can also be found.

Have you served or had a relative in the 66th BN 2nd AIF, 2 AR, 2 RAR or 2/4 RAR? Do you have images, gear, medals, maps, photographs, movies etc. from you or your relative’s service in these units which form the lineage of today’s 2 RAR (AMPHIB)? Are these items sitting in boxes or a trunk not seeing the light of day, with the possibility they could be thrown out by your family if you passed? The Unit has served in places like The Dutch East Indies, Japan, Korea, Malay, South Vietnam, Malaysia, Rhodesia, Cambodia, Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, The Solomon Islands, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Timor Leste. We are not just interested in operational service we are very much interested in the Battalion’s daily life, exercises, and sport, special activities, parades, ETVCC, BN balls etc. during its time.

The 2 RAR Historical Collection would like you to consider donating these items for display and to be preserved as part of the collection. We would like copies of any digital images or scanned copies if you don’t want to part with the originals. Remember your negatives and photos are slowly degrading. These items will be available to view and be appreciated by all who visit the historical collection. Ex-members, relatives of these members, current and future members will be able to appreciate and view these items knowing they are at their home at 2 RAR. The museum is funded by donations, sponsors and grants. If you are an individual or business that would like to be a “friend of the 2 RAR Historical Collection” please contact the curator. The museum is looking to completely upgrade and refurbish the Historical Collection display in the near future. If you would like to visit or donate to the collection please also contact the curator. The curator (CPL J Harrison, soon to be Mr) can be contacted on PH 0419749198 or email 2RAR.Museum@gmail.com.

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By Verity Talbot Hobbs, B.A. Hons, UWA

We are now halfway through the last year of the Centenary of World War I, a hundred years since the decisive battles on the Western Front.

At the beginning of World War I, our great-grandfather, Lt Gen Sir J J Talbot Hobbs by the war’s end, was Colonel and “Commander of the Royal Artillery (CRA) to the 1st Australian Division at Gallipoli.”, then the 5th Division and finally the five Australian Corps on the Western Front. “His performance at Gallipoli had been highly regarded so that when he moved to the Western Front in France, he again became commander of Divisional Artillery. After gaining distinction as CRA, he was promoted as GOC Fifth Australian Division on 18 December 1916.” (Kings of Water, Tally Hobbs, 2003, p.3)

Amongst all our father told Guy and me about the war through our lives, two facts I recall him bringing up a few times, about our great grandfather’s role in this struggle. One was that the highly successful second battle of Villers Bretonneux was based on his battle plan and had the effect that the Germans came no closer to Paris. The other was that during the battle, his troops crossed the Hindenburg Line at Villers Bretonneux, he said, a point previously considered impassable, and that this breakthrough symbolised the beginning of the end for the German war effort.

Monash was General Officer Commanding (GOC), our great-grandfather, second to him. They
were knighted twice at the same time, promoted at the same time, they fought together at Gallipoli and at the Western Front. On horseback, they led the Australian troops during the Victory Parade past the George VI, 1919, King of England, in London together.

They both ended up as Lieutenant Generals. When the war concluded, Monash passed his leadership to our great-grandfather, before he went to England to demobilize the Australian troops. Lt General Hobbs came to be regarded as Western Australia’s own World War I hero and, as such, he was feted upon his return. We continue to be very proud of the difference he, as Monash, and mostly, their troops, made, to the victorious ending of the war and the freedom we in Western Australia enjoy.

Following Hobbs’ death in 1938, a statue of him in uniform was erected on the Swan River foreshore in 1940. It was erected by the people of Perth in gratitude for his architectural, as well as his military, contributions. The statue was situated on the waterfront of the river he loved, and in and on which he and family spent much time, rowing, swimming and racing different classes of yachts in four, perhaps five generations. He was looking up to the city, so many buildings of which he designed in his architectural practice. Our family has continued to shape the architecture of the city, our grandfather, Athol, and our father, and Mike’s second son, Peter.

In 2014, the statue was transported to the Supreme Court Gardens, making way for the re-development of the Perth foreshore. The move exacerbated my sadness at the passing of time, as I still keenly feel the loss of my brother, Guy, who had died in February 2014. Barely two months later, the statue was transported to the Supreme Court Gardens where it remains in a less prominent position, while the bustle of the city carries on around it.

**Lt. Col. Athol Hobbs** (1899-1979)

Very unfortunately, World War I was not the war to end all wars. In many ways, it turned out the opposite, and one led to the next. When World War II broke out in 1939, the next two generations of my immediate family joined immediately. My grandfather, Lt Col Athol Hobbs, had become a professional soldier during the inter-war years. Too young to join, Athol was at school in Bedford, England, when World War One ended. At the age of 18, he was commissioned in the British Army and dispatched to India to train at Quetta. Finishing training, he saw active service in the Persian Gulf and the North West Frontier (Afghanistan). At the end of the war, he continued as a Regular Soldier in the Indian Army, rose in the ranks and joined the British war effort when World War II broke out.

**Gunner John Athol Talbot Hobbs** (1922-2003)

My father, John Athol Talbot Hobbs, turned 18 at the Bungalow in 1940. After training in Narrogin, he was transported to the Middle East. He served in North Africa, fighting against Germany and Italy, took part in the Battle of El-Alamein and Tobruk. Subsequently, Dad served in Bougainville fighting against the Japanese invaders until the end of the war in 1945.

All three, my father, my grandfather and my great-grandfather, my three immediate family members, were gunners, as were other military men in my extended family who participated in the World Wars, as other wars. My great grandfather’s brother, Frederick Hobbs, Joseph’s brother, won a Military Medal in World War I, and my grandparents’ oldest son, Mervyn Talbot Hobbs, joined him at Gallipoli and later became a Brigadier in the Ghurka Indian Army. Dorothy, great gran and great grandfathers’ first child, Mervyn, was a nurse during World War I and married Major Sydney Hunn, a staff officer on General Hobbs’ divisional staff and later on his corps staff towards the end of the war. Three Generations marked by loyalty, dedication, sacrifice, humility and utmost professionalism.

“It might be assumed that I would turn out to be a spoilt brat, and to some extent, it would be true, but at the same time, mainly through my grandfather’s influence, discipline at the Bungalow was in many ways quite strict.” (J.A.T. Hobbs, Kings of Water, p. , 2003)

*On the back of the photo was written, “To John Hobbs, eventually”, signed M.N.H. (Nancy Hobbs), and below this “AIF re monument, Guildford, 1931”*
Think Albany and the National Anzac Centre for your next reunion event.

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VISIT WWW.AMAZINGALBANY.COM.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION.
Perth was in the throes of receiving some much-needed winter rains as our annual service was being conducted. Except for one brief squall dampening some 100-120 attendees, we were spared the torrential showers of the previous day and sunshine again prevailed. In spite of more than the usual challenges facing the organising committee (our Treasurer flying back in from Manila in the early hours of the morning and the secretary being more befuddled than usual) it all came together on the day due in no small degree to the adroit management of our MC, Col Mike Page RFD, ADC.

Senator Linda Reynolds CSC (Brig Rtd) fresh from a resounding win in her party’s pre-selection, was our keynote speaker for the day (our first ever female speaker) and she delivered a well-pitched delivery on how the (convict) character of the nation shaped both the Boer War veterans and the ethos of future generations of Australian servicemen and women laying the foundations of what was to become forged at Gallipoli as ‘The Spirit of ANZAC’.

With our regular chaplain travelling overseas the Rev Ian MacPherson, a Retired Navy Chaplain from the Uniting Church in Australia, performed admirably in his stead.

We were fortunate to have something of a Commonwealth naval trifecta with Commander Darren White RAN representing Captain Brian Delamont, Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling, LT CDR Leon Harvey RNZN, representing the government and the people of New Zealand and the NZDF and Lieutenant Commander Oliver Nokes, Royal Navy representing Her Majesty’s Armed Forces and HMG. The venerable Mr Peter Ramsay BEM, doubling up with grandparental duties, represented the RNZRSA and helped keep the ‘NZ’ in ANZAC front and centre with LTCOL Campbell Waterman representing the Commander 13 Bde, BRIG Charles Moore. FLTLT Dan Hodgson and CPL Shaun Murphy did the honours for the CO RAAF Base Pearce, Wing Commander Brett Mitchell. It was decidedly non-flying weather.
Among our elected representatives were Senator Linda Reynolds, aspirant Patrick Gorman, Mr Mark Folkard MLA, the Member for Burns Beach and Liza Harvey MLA Member for Scarborough (another of our staunch supporters) all laying wreaths on behalf of their respective parties.

Our old stalwarts from the South African Veterans of Australasia (SAMVOA) were again out in strength, with Vrouw Yolande de Klerk and her daughter both in period costume laying the Emily Hobhouse Wreath, as were the Rhodesians with Mr Peter Glynn and Mrs Dawn Losper their able representatives. Our own songbird of renown Miss Moira Wilson and her choral group, the Wembley Entertainers Choir, regaled us with a couple of well-known Boer War songs ‘Goodbye Dolly Grey’ and ‘Soldiers of the Queen.’

Mr Brian Ross, the grandson of a Boer peace accord signatory, laid the Lalapanzi Heritage Trust and Anglo-Boer War Museum of Louis Trichardt – the Republic of South Africa wreath giving us a direct link to both the Boer Republics and modern day South Africa.

Municipal representatives were again prominent with our ‘parent’ city being represented by the Mayor of Cockburn, Mr Logan Howlett JP and his wife, Deputy Mayor, Cr Lee-Anne Smith OAM and DVA Deputy Commissioner for WA, Mr Peter King (who also kindly visited me during my recent hospitalisation). Mr Dan Bull did the honours for the City of Bayswater.

Bob Wise and his well-drilled team from the Westralian Great War Living History Association again provided the Catafalque Party. Mr John Tick (RAE Lt-Col Rtd) again demonstrated his well-honed skills gained at staff college as our Wreath Marshall and was ably assisted by Mr Murray Robbins whose organisational skills also reflected a military background (the number of wreaths was again impressive). Our Bugler, John Short from Churchlands Senior High School, did a sterling job. Thank you John.

The Boys’ Brigade attended to the flags, handed out the flyers and laid a wreath supervised by Andrew Twine. It was pleasing to note that all BB attendees were wearing a Boer War commemorative medallion thanks to the foresight and initiative of Andrew. Well done Boys Brigade!

President of the 10th Light Horse Daniel McDonald and member Harry Ball laid the wreath for the horses and transportation animals involved in the conflict.

Our service closed with our Treasurer, Mr Brendan Cook reading Banjo Patterson’s evocative poem from the Boer War, ‘The Last Parade’.

Although numbers were slightly down this year, understandably due to the weather, it was still nonetheless a successful event that commemorated the sacrifices of all who fell in that sad conflict.

**LEST WE FORGET**
November 11th this year commemorates the centenary, to the very day, of the Armistice of the First World War. This is a special moment for all citizens to review the value of peace and to feel grateful to those who fought to help retain world harmony and allow us to live our privileged lives.

Following its long tradition of ANZAC concerts the outstanding and internationally recognised choir, Perth Symphonic Chorus, along with the Perth Philharmonic Orchestra, will mark this significant occasion with a special performance at the Perth Concert Hall at 4pm on Remembrance Day.

The programme will consist of the exquisite Fauré Requiem and Vaughan Williams’ immensely stirring Donna Nobis Pacem.

Under the inspired musicianship of conductor, Dr Margaret Pride OAM, Perth Symphonic Chorus will present a concert of rare beauty and intensity. The choir is delighted to have two of Australia’s leading vocalists Sara Macliver and Christopher Richardson joining them, along with well known Australian actor, Igor Sas, as narrator.

The meaning of the music’s texts and the day’s significance will be enhanced by readings from relevant contemporaneous writings and poetry. Even greater connection to the Centenary of Armistice will be brought into focus by the projections of historical photos above the 250 performers.

In addition, the Perth Concert Hall, RSLWA and the Army Museum of WA are joining with the choir in the presentation of foyer and forecourt displays of remarkable war memorabilia and commemorative items.

This profoundly moving event will mark the day with the gratitude and respect it deserves.
Hunger is a very real threat to many veterans in our community. When times are tough and something has to give, it is often a meal. We believe that no veteran should go hungry.

That is why RSLWA are pleased to announce our partnership with Foodbank WA.

Foodbank WA fight hunger throughout the state by rescuing food from landfill and delivering food education programs that promote healthy eating. This collaboration will allow veterans and their families to access affordable and essential food items in times of need.

No veteran should go hungry.

Why Donate to RSLWA?

By Donating to RSLWA, funds go directly to assist our veterans and their families in need.

As an additional benefit, RSLWA has been endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift recipient (‘DGR’) organisation.

Our DGR status is registered on the Australia Business Register and on the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission database.

This means that donations of $2.00 and over to RSLWA are now tax deductible to the donor.

Donations made before 30 June 2019 can be claimed in the current financial year tax period.

Please consider making a donation today.

I would like to help our veterans and their families in need by donating:

☐ $10  ☐ $20
☐ $50  ☐ $100  ☐ Other $ ________

PAYMENT DETAILS:

☐ MasterCard  ☐ Visa  Expiry:  ____  ____  CVV:  ____  ____  ____

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☐ My cheque is enclosed and made payable to The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated

All donations over $2 are tax deductible. A receipt will be sent to you shortly.

Thank you for your generosity.
‘Pompey’ Elliott was under no illusions about war. Such a view was not driven by selfishness, but an understanding how war impacts not just on the individual, but families and all those whom one serve’s alongside.

Ross McMullin’s *Pompey Elliott at War: In his own words* is testament to one of Australia’s best-known military leaders and commander of troops in the field. The uniqueness of having accessed and gathered Pompey Elliott’s letters, personal diary entries and his unstinting correspondence to his family back in Australia, gives the reader an insight into the thoughts and views of a most extraordinary person.

Pompey is shown for the man he was; courageous, thoughtful and caring. He was not just a fine leader and commander, but a loving husband to Kate and father to his children, Violet and Neil. Both children were born only a few years prior to the outbreak of the so-called Great War, and were not to see their father for almost the next five-years. Shining through the many loving, thoughtful letters to his wife, children and members of his extended family, sister-in-law Belle and cousin Emily, was his humanity.

No doubt these letters, both sent and received, kept alive for him a link back home to Melbourne, especially as the war continued to drag on and as he came across the endless, horrifying industrialised killing fields of the Western Front.

Pompey was a veteran of the Boer War where he was awarded a Distinguished Conduct Medal. It was there that he realised “one learns exactly what the men have to put up with and can learn to do things and the need for doing things for their welfare as one can learn in no other way.” Putting into practice such an attitude garnered the utmost loyalty and respect of his troops, whom he led at Gallipoli and the Western Front.

Famous for his role in the recapture of Villers-Bretonneux, launched on the eve of ANZAC Day 1918, Pompey exemplified the care for the lives of his troops yet aware of the importance of retaking that most difficult of objectives from the Germans.

Days later, at the request of Keith Murdoch, he wrote of that action: “It is always a terrible decision, this launching of magnificent men towards death. One knows that every time it means sentences of death to many, despite one’s utmost care and thought for such men – each one priceless, indeed.”

For Brigadier-General H. E. Elliott of the 15th AIF Brigade, the loneliness of command weighed heavily on Pompey when such orders were given: “then, when the plans are made, one can only sit and wait.”

He cared about the welfare of his men, but demanded effort and the utmost competency in military skills. They in turn delivered greatly. He eschewed pomposity and the vain glorious; despising wanton waste in lives from foolish and irresponsible orders. His troops fought knowing Pompey always argued and supported their case.

McMullin writes how on 20 March 1919, “to Elliott’s amazement, the brigade voluntarily marched back to his chateau with their bands and colours, and executed a ceremonial manoeuvre in tribute to him, followed by three cheers from each company. Pompey...
now outside, acknowledged this unique tribute proudly." Not too many commanders could claim such an honour from their troops.

At war’s end, and only just on the other side of forty years of age, he wrote to Kate: "...But I fear you shall find me greatly changed dear, very much older." His life back in Australia was one of service to, and commemoration of, veterans. Elected to Federal Parliament as a Victorian Senator, the post-war years brought increased pain and anguish, as it did for many returned servicemen and women. He tragically took his own life at the age of 52.

McMullin’s work provides important textual links between the diary entries, family letters and correspondence. Sometimes short annotations, sometimes with more detail, the reader is always aware of significant people, their role and key events, which provides Pompey words in context.

Published by Scribe, this book is superbly written, thoroughly researched and beautifully compiled. Complete with detailed index, photos and maps, it more than does justice to Australia’s best known fighting general. While Pompey’s place in our military and civic history is once again rightfully acknowledged, it is through this exceptional book that we are reminded of a man who not just led, but cared deeply.

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**MY GRANDFATHER’S WAR**

By Ashayla Webster

*My Grandfather’s War* is a different kind of children’s book. Its focus is upon family relationships, but the topic is the Vietnam War and PTSD. It’s not a fluffy little bedtime story, it’s a serious topic of discussion that has been made accessible to children.

The book focuses on the relationship of a young girl and her grandfather. They have wonderful times together and clearly care for one another, but Sarah knows something isn’t quite right. Her grandfather carries a weight on his shoulders, one she seeks to better understand. As she reaches out to her Grandfather hoping to learn more, she unknowingly triggers his mood.

The author, Glyn Harper, has an easy to read style. Some children’s book come across as a little condescending when matched with such a style, but Harper’s words hold weight. The illustrations, by Jenny Cooper add to this serious atmosphere. Her drawings are stunning and highly emotive. They’re beautifully coloured and so detailed that you want to keep looking and soaking it in.

As the child of two veterans, I found the subject matter to be difficult. When the protagonist, Sarah, describes her grandfather’s moods, it hit pretty close to home. While the topic is Vietnam, the overall theme could easily be applied to more recent conflicts. I am sure many children of veterans would appreciate this book and perhaps gain a little understanding about mental health issues.
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This month saw the farewell of our dear friend Jeff Andrews from the Esperance Sub Branch. Jeff has been an outstanding member and the Treasurer for our Sub-Branch for over 19 years as well as Treasurer for TS Kybra Naval Cadet Unit in Esperance. Jeff was awarded Life Membership of the RSL at this year’s 102nd State Congress just in time for him to take it with him as he leaves Australia.

Jeff is leaving to join his wife Pop in Thailand after retiring from his position at the Esperance Port. He is leaving due to health issues having recently been diagnosed with MND but is going to be with his loved ones to enjoy a happy life.

He will be taking with him treasured memories of his time in Esperance and great fun had with his friends at RSL. Jeff was the gun firer for 6 years at the Dawn Service and enjoyed the comradeship of the RSL environment. He will miss the clean air and blue oceans and his many friends in Esperance. His plan for the future is to relax in his house by the ocean, 2 hours from Bangkok, to visits by friends, going to the beach and to having his beloved Pop getting fresh fish from the market and cooking for him.

Farewell, dear friend, safe travels and thank you for all your hard work for the Esperance RSL Sub Branch.

Esperance Sub Branch members Stan Starcevich (left) and George Starcevich (Right) with Jeff Andrews at his farewell.
"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning. We will remember them. Lest We Forget."
This year marks the end of the ANZAC Centenary period and four years of commemorations acknowledging those who served our country in the War to End All Wars. As we did 100 years ago, Australians across the nation will come together in respectful celebration to mark the Armistice that brought an end to the hostilities of WW1.

Across Western Australia communities will show their support by holding various activities, hosted by local RSL Sub-Branches or their Shires. Many of these events will shortly be available for viewing on the RSLWA Events Page so as to enable all Western Australians to take part in their local community’s events.

In the Perth CBD, RSLWA has been working closely with Lotterywest, the Australian Defence Force, Department of Communities, City of Perth, and Kings Park to bring together a week of significant displays and events. These will include a light show in prominent areas of the Perth metro area, a field of 62,000 handmade Poppies in the grounds of Kings Park, 100 buglers for 100 years, a large Commemorative Service at the State War Memorial and a free community picnic in the grounds of Government House.

These events are open to all with more information about individual events available in the coming months on our website: www.rslwa.org.au/events/ and our Facebook page.

WRANS-RAN Women's Association WA is delighted to announce that the next National Reunion will be held in Perth, from 27th-30th August, 2020.

We invite any ex-WRANS, RAN-Women to join us in an early celebration for the 70th Anniversary of the formation of the WRANS.

Send your expression of interest details to reunion2020@gmail.com or post to PO Box 3504, Mandurah East, 6210
In the Mood
a 1940s musical revue

Daytime and Evening Shows!

Celebrating Swing and the Big Band Era

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Manpac Mandurah

19 & 20 October
Regal Theatre Perth

22 October
Brec Bunbury

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