



# THE SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

**DOING BUSINESS  
WITH RSL**  
8:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

#### **ANZAC HOUSE**

28 St George's Tce, Perth  
PO Box 3023,  
Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832  
Website: [www.rslwahq.org.au](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799  
Fax: 9287 3732

#### **RECEPTION**

Monday to Friday - general enquiries  
Email: [adminassist@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:adminassist@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

#### **OFFICE CO-ORDINATOR**

Monday to Friday - PA to State  
President & State Secretary,  
Listening Post  
Email: [rslwahq@iinet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@iinet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Monday to Thursday - membership  
enquiries, Sub-Branch enquiries  
Email: [membership@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:membership@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3705

#### **WELFARE**

Monday to Thursday - welfare appli-  
cations, emergency housing, food &  
lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust  
Fund applications. Overseas pen-  
sions  
Email: [welfare@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:welfare@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3707

#### **ADVOCACY**

Monday to Friday - S31 reviews,  
Veteran Review Board,  
Admin Appeals Tribunal  
Email: [advocacat@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:advocacat@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3708

#### **FINANCE**

Monday to Wednesday - all account  
enquiries, Sub-Branch credits  
Sub-Branch Insurance, information,  
claims, grant application assistance,  
DVA, Lotterywest (ABN, tax)  
Email: [judys@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:judys@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3703

#### **PENSIONS**

Monday to Friday - pension entitle-  
ments, claims preparation  
Email: [pensions1@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:pensions1@rslwahq.org.au)  
[pensions2@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:pensions2@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3709  
9287 3710, 9287 3711

#### **ANZAC CLUB**

Monday to Friday - facilities book-  
ings, catering/hospitality  
Email: [anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3714

## **RSL Appoints new CEO/State Secretary Kevin Davidson MVO, OAM**



Chief Executive Officer - Hunter Regional Sporting Venues Authority  
Chief Executive Officer - Hunter Regional Sporting Venues Authority  
Chief Executive Officer - Hunter Regional Sporting Venues Authority  
Chief Executive Officer - Hunter Regional Sporting Venues Authority

Kevin has successfully held many diverse and challenging appointments during his career, requiring him to live and travel extensively overseas and throughout Australia. It is these unique senior executive experiences and strong personal attributes that he brings to The Returned and Services League of Australia.

In June 1999, following a 22 year career with the Royal Australian Navy, Kevin was appointed Senior Advisor and Executive Branch Head to Governor-General, Sir William Deane, AC, KBE, and remained in the role serving Governors-General Dr Peter Hollingworth AC, OBE, and Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC until May 2004.

Subsequently, Kevin was appointed Chief of Staff to the Executive Chairman, Westfield Group Limited, Mr Frank Lowy AC. The Westfield Group is the largest retail property group in the world by equity market capitalization. It has investment interests in 118 shopping centres in four countries, with a total value in excess of A\$63 billion.

In September 2007 Kevin was appointed Chief Operating Officer with an Australian based financial services and on-line payments solutions company with operations in China and Australia and was a participant in the World Bank's 2008 High Level Roundtable on remittance fees in the Pacific Island region following the World Bank's Labour Mobility Report.

From October 2004 until August 2008 Kevin was Executive Chairman of a boutique recruitment firm specialising in providing professional staff for high net worth individuals and their families and is also an Advisory Board member for a Melbourne based not for profit business consulting organisation specialising in corporate social responsibility initiatives and solutions.

Kevin has been awarded numerous awards and commendations for outstanding logistic and administrative service delivery in a range of high level and complex environments. These awards include an MVO (Member of the Royal Victorian Order) presented personally by Her Majesty The Queen, and an OAM (Medal of the Order of Australia) presented personally by former Governor-General, Sir William Deane, a letter of appreciation from current United States President, George W. Bush, and several other national commendations.

### **The Listening Post**

Sub-Branches are invited to submit photographs and text of their Remembrance Day activities for the next edition of the Listening Post. Please submit electronically no later than the 24th November 2008.



### Defence Attitude Survey Findings

The Department of Defence has released a summary of the latest Defence Attitude Survey findings. The 2007 Summary of Results reflects the views and opinions of a 30 per cent sample of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and Defence civilian employees surveyed late last year. The voluntary survey gives Defence personnel an opportunity to comment candidly on a range of employment-related matters that includes leadership, conditions of service and remuneration, career intentions, wellbeing and family issues. \ Survey findings highlight perceptions of the positive aspects of working in Defence, as well as areas that may require more attention. A key factor in conducting the Defence Attitude Survey annually is to assess emerging trends in opinions from one year to the next. The 2007 survey findings broadly improve upon those of previous years or are generally consistent with the 2006 results.

Confidence with, and satisfaction in, immediate supervisors remains very positive, as does pride in service, while confidence in senior Defence leadership has increased noticeably since 2001 (Navy by 17 per cent, Army by 23 per cent, Air Force by 32 per cent and civilians by 19 per cent). The 2007 survey also shows a marked improvement in knowledge of mental health issues as well as members' assessments of their own mental health. Since 1999, the data also shows an increasing proportion of personnel who believe that unacceptable behaviour is well managed. Another benefit of trend data is that it helps to identify areas that may require further development, and evaluate the effects of policy and program implementation.

Satisfaction with current salaries has improved since the 2006 survey, but more work is needed in this area. The proportion of ADF personnel indicating they are adequately recognised and rewarded for their work by awards, honours and medals has increased (Navy by 11 per cent, Army by 19 per cent and Air Force by 21 per cent), but requires further attention, as does perceptions about work-life balance and individual performance appraisals. Defence has a number of recruitment and retention initiatives underway for ADF members and is currently reforming its strategic human resources framework to attract, develop, engage, retain and transition its people. These long-term programs may take some time before they are reflected favourably in future survey findings.

Defence also offers its people a range of financial and non-financial benefits as part of their remuneration package and recognises that a 'total rewards' approach is required to communicate the salary, benefits, career opportunities and family support available.

This approach will enhance Defence's position in the employment marketplace and give its people a better understanding of their total benefits package. The survey results are used as a reference along with other information such as demographic data obtained from the four-yearly Defence Census. This assists Defence in the development of personnel policies and programs to support its military and civilian workforce.

The 2007 Defence Attitude Survey Summary of Results is available for download at:

[http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe\\_site/publications/2007\\_Defence\\_Attitude\\_Survey\\_Summaryof\\_Results.pdf](http://www.defence.gov.au/dpe/dpe_site/publications/2007_Defence_Attitude_Survey_Summaryof_Results.pdf)

### **Dog Memorial Dedication**

The Minister for Veteran Affairs, The Hon Alan Griffin MP officiated at the dedication of a Memorial at Baldvis to those dogs that served their country in time of conflict and peace. In unveiling the memorial Mr Griffin acknowledged the contribution and sacrifices dogs and their handlers have made to the defence and security of Australia. Apart from stressing wartime service he pointed out that dogs play an ever increasing role in the corrective services departments in each State as well as boarder protection and quarantine duties. Following the Ceremony of Memorial Dedication medal presentations were made. This was an historic occasion organised by The Australian Defence Force Trackers and War Dogs Association on whose initiative and through public subscription were able to show recognition to the excellent contribution made by working dogs operating in Federal and State Government services. Two types of medals were issued during this ground breaking event and were presented by The Hon. Robyn McSweeney MLC Minister for Child Protection & Community Services representing the Premier of Western Australia.

Both Medals are of distinctive design being rectangular in shape suspended from a ribbon of symbolic significance that represents the three Services with indicators to show operational and peace-time service. The *War Dog Operational Medal* requires a minimum of 28 days service in an operational area and the *Canine Service Medal* is available to other dogs that have five years continuous service.



### Christmas Closure

Members are advised that  
ANZAC House and Restaurant will close for the Christmas Vacation  
at  
4.30pm on Friday 19th December, 2008 and re-open on Monday 5th January, 2009.

### Membership Renewals

In the next few weeks all Service Members will receive their Membership Renewal Notice mailed direct to their home address. Members are asked, where possible, to renew their membership, by post or in person direct to State Headquarters. As we have now centralised our data base and automated card issue procedures upon renewal your individual member card will be promptly processed and posted direct to you. Should you chose to renew at your sub branch your return will be much slower as your renewal will need to be sent in by your secretary on capitation summary sheets – resulting in a lengthy time delay for receipt of your Card. Your prompt renewal would be appreciated.

Annual Subscription remains at \$40.

### Raffle Reminder.

We have received a great response from members in the sale and return of Raffle Books. Our profit is growing day by day and we hope to finish with a profit of about \$25000. This is down a little on past years but the Welfare fund will benefit through your efforts.

All books – sold (with money) or not sold must be returned to ANZAC House by Friday 7th November – at the latest.

### New Sub Branches.

We are pleased to formally welcome two new sub branches on to the WA Register.

On 12<sup>th</sup> December 2008 The Jurien Bay Sub Branch will receive their Charter in a Ceremony to be held at Jurien Bay and on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2009 The Turkish Sub Branch will receive theirs at the Australia Day Awards Presentation Ceremony to be held at ANZAC House. The Jurien Bay group will meet in the Senior Citizen's Hall and the Turkish group are finalising arrangements for their meeting place.

### Poppy Day Returns

Sub Branches that participated in the Annual Poppy Day Collection are required to complete the Financial Return and return it to ANZAC House with 50% of the nett collection no later than 28th November, 2008. The total proceeds sent in by Sub Branches will be transferred to The WA Aged Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund. The money retained by Sub Branches is to be placed in the separate Sub Branch Amelioration Account.

Late submission of this documentation will cause problems. Your co-operation is requested, please.

### Navy Cadets Efficiency Shield

Congratulations go to TS VANCOUVER in Albany for being judged as the most efficient Navy Cadet Unit in Western Australia. As winners they receive the RSL-Australian Defence Credit Shield and a cheque for \$1000.

Several years ago TS VANCOUVER was in danger of closing but through the dedication of their Officers and Cadets they refocussed and set goals that they were able to achieve. Well done to all for this great achievement.

### Pension & Advocacy Services

RSL has Pension Officers and Advocates who are qualified to assist with disability pensions, war widow claims, and income support payments, compensation payments, associated allowances, and treatment available to eligible past and currently serving members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and their families.

This service is offered at the State HQ and at many RSL Sub Branches throughout Western Australia

### Are You Eligible For Compensation?

If you are a past or currently serving member of the ADF and have an injury or illness that you believe is or may be related to your ADF service, or you were discharged on medical grounds, you may be entitled to benefits under one or more of the following forms of legislation:

- VEA - Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
- SRCA - Safety, Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 1988
- MCRA - Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act 2004

By examining your service history we can determine your eligibility under each form of legislation and advise and assist you through the process of obtaining any entitlements you may have - even if you are not a member of the RSL.

### Reservists & Cadets

All ADF Reservists and Cadets have compensation coverage under the provisions of the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) and post 1 July 2004 Military Rehabilitation & Compensation Act (MCRA), for injury and/or illness arising out of, or in the course of, their service duties. This includes injury sustained while travelling between a member's place of residence and place of employment, including reserve parades camps and other approved training activities etc



## New veterans council holds first meeting at Parliament House

The fourteen members of the newly established Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters have met for the first time.

During the meeting, conducted on October 9 and 10 in Canberra, the Council have confirmed its terms of reference, investigated some of the current consultative arrangements for the veterans community and began considering some of the major issues facing the portfolio.

The Council also met with the Prime Minister, who said that the establishment of the advisory body was an important achievement for the Government and that he looked forward to receiving its advice.

The Chair of the Council, Dr Allan Hawke, said he was pleased by the progress of the first meeting.

"We have decided how the Council will work and report to the Government.

"We have also begun to discuss key topics such as mental health in the veteran community and how we plan to address other priority areas," he said.

"It was encouraging to have the Prime Minister join our first meeting and hear his views on the importance of the Council," said Dr Hawke.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin, also attended the Council meeting. Dr Hawke said the Council would work closely with the Minister in providing advice to the Government.

Mr Griffin said he expected the Council to provide advice and recommendations and identify priority issues facing the ex-service and defence communities.

"I am pleased that the Council has now been established, as we promised prior to the election. Based on the outcomes of the first meeting, I believe the Council is well placed to fulfil its role of providing a collective voice for the veteran community," he said.

Prior to the next formal meeting of the Council in March 2009, it will have informal, out of session meetings.

The Council's Terms of Reference and names of the Council Members are attached.

### Members of Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters

Dr Allan Hawke - Chair, ACT

Mr Frank Benfield, Queensland

Group Captain Dr Robert Black AM RFD, South Australia

Hon Graham Edwards, Western Australia

Mrs June Healy OAM, ACT

Commodore Nick Helyer MBE RANR, NSW

Warrant Officer Peter Hind OAM, Queensland

Mr Kenneth Kipping AM, ACT

Ms Gail MacDonell, NSW

Ms Anne Pahl, Victoria

Mr Phil Pyke, Tasmania

Ms Donna Reggett, Queensland

Brigadier Keith V Rossi (Rtd) AM OBE RFD ED, Victoria

Brigadier Neil Weekes (Rtd) AM MC, Queensland

### Terms of Reference - Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters

The Prime Ministerial Advisory Council on Ex-Service Matters is a body established to consider and advise the Prime Minister and Government on strategic and complex matters. Its aim is to:

- \* provide advice on major issues affecting the ex-service and defence communities with a view to facilitating a better future for members of these communities;
- \* review proposed legislation and its impact on the ex-service and defence communities;
- \* advise on ex-service matters which impact directly on the responsibilities of other government departments; and
- \* consider and assist the prioritising of issues raised or referred by the Prime Minister and/or the Minister.