



Issue 009/2015

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

THE SUB - BRANCH SIGNAL



DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL

Mon - Fri, 8.30 AM - 4.30 PM

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Sub - Branch Enquiries
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Veterans Review Board
Admin. Appeals Tribunal
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Sub - Branch Insurance
Information & Claims
Grant Application Assistance
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Claims Preparation
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From the President's Pen...

RSLWA's 99th State Congress was a great success with incredibly positive feedback about the content, speakers and venue. We made some changes after listening carefully to members who attended last year's Congress and acted on their ideas.

There were many highlights, some of which are dealt with later in the Sub-Branch Signal. But they include:

- Sam Jackman, National CEO of the RSL, speaking of the need for the RSL to adapt and change to meet its current market of increasing numbers of younger service personnel and Veterans. Her full speech is available online at our website www.rslwahq.org.au
- The appointment of Peter King, Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs in WA, as State Warden of the State War Memorial. Awards to ANZAC of the Year Mrs Anne Leach and Wayne Gardiner; Life Membership.
- Awards to seven RSL members and 50-year Certificates to three more members. There were many other honours given to individuals and sub-branches for their excellent contributions over the past year or in some cases, decades.

The contributions of the Honour Avenues Group going back to 1922 epitomise the extraordinary contributions by the voluntary army of RSL members throughout Western Australia.

I was privileged to present to Chairman Norm Manners and members of the Kings Park Honour Avenues Group a new award recognising a group or individual that has made a long standing contribution to the RSL. Every year this group holds four dedication services in Kings Park for families and friends who wish to honour the fallen.

The Honour Avenues Group call themselves HAGs – and their average age is around 75.

The tradition of dedicating a plaque in the memory of those who gave their lives began in 1919. Lovekin Drive, named in 1931, commemorates Arthur Lovekin, second President of the Kings Park Board and the man responsible for the initiation of the Honour Avenues.

RSLWA accepted responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the plaques along Kings Park's Honour Avenues in 1922. Since 1976, the role has been the responsibility of the Highgate Sub-Branch.

At the base of each tree in the Honour Avenues is a plaque inscribed with the name of the deceased, age, date and manner of death and who dedicated the plaque. There are currently almost 1700 memorial plaques in Kings Park.

The Honour Avenues Group researches each of the fallen members and gives an overview of their service and character at the dedication service. They are also responsible for the development and maintenance of the data base of plaques.

In addition, they provide an ongoing program of maintenance and upkeep and work tirelessly in a voluntary capacity to ensure that all the plaques are beautifully maintained. They meet each Tuesday at Kings Park and are currently replacing all the older cast iron plaques with aluminium plaques.

Each year on the day before ANZAC Day, they work with students from Carine Senior High School to ensure that each plaque is cleaned. They then place a posy of flowers and the Australian Flag alongside each of the plaques.

The Honour Avenues Group give tirelessly of their time and dedication, ensuring that future generations will continue to commemorate and remember those who **joined the services** in Western Australia but were killed in action overseas, and have no grave in Australia.



The Kings Park Honour Avenues Group

Pictured after being awarded special certificates recognising their outstanding voluntary work. From left, National RSL President, Ken Doolan; Dick Jones, Helen Birch, Norm Manners, Chair of the group; Ken Jones, secretary; John Homer, Mike Harne, Rod Halcombe and the State President, Graham Edwards.



State Congress Honours Achievers

A host of outstanding individuals and groups were announced and presented with awards during the 99th State Congress.

The awards were presented at ANZAC House and at the Government House Ballroom. Here is a brief list.

ANZAC of the Year – a National RSL Award

- Mrs Anne Leach and Mr Wayne Gardiner.

The Award recognises Mrs Leach's more than 50 years of dedicated service to veterans and communities in WA, including extensive nursing during WWII and since.

Mr Gardiner has contributed for more than two decades to the veteran community, selecting display objects and themes for the Army Museum, performing as an expert ABC commentator during ANZAC Day Parades and raising \$350,000 for Perth Legacy as a professional Auctioneer and Valuer.

Life Membership for lengthy, continued and outstanding service to the RSL, primarily at Sub-Branch level

- Peter Ross Bremner, Beverley Sub-Branch.
- James Mervyn Thomson, Bunbury Sub-Branch.
- Kenneth John Parish, 31 years of service in, Westbury Tasmania, and Bunbury WA.
- George Bruce Harrower, City of Cockburn Sub-Branch.
- Patricia Anne Butler, City of Rockingham Sub-Branch.
- Edward Kenneth Tisdale, Kwinana Sub-Branch. (posthumous award)
- Colin Ching, Port Kennedy Sub-Branch.

RSLWA President The Hon Graham Edwards AM with the above Life Membership recipients



50 Year Certificate

- Keith James Ross.
- Stewart John Campbell.
- Donald Gibson.

Newdegate Cup for the most Efficient Metropolitan Sub-Branch

- Port Kennedy Sub-Branch.

Colonel Collett Cup for the most Efficient Country Sub-Branch

- Busselton Sub-Branch.

Geraldton Shield for the most Meritorious Country Sub-Branch with less than 100 members

- Denmark Sub-Branch.

Mary Cornell Trophy for the Sub-Branch that sold the most poppies in proportion to membership;

- City of Subiaco Sub-Branch.

Ken Bladen Recruiting Shield for the most outstanding Sub-Branch for the recruitment of new members in proportion to membership

- Jurien Bay-Sub-Branch.



Maritime Day Fremantle 31 October 2015 10am -4pm

St Georges Cathedral, 40th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War, 8 November 5pm

From Guildford to Gallipoli The Harpers, The ANZACS, Lest We Forget 8 November 2015

Remembrance Day 11th November 2015
Please be seated at 10.50am for 11am start

Education and Information Sessions run by the Office of the Public Advocate. And Have A Go Day
11 November 2015

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

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RSLWA Women's Alliance are holding a Melbourne Cup Lunch in the ANZAC Club.

Please join us at 11.00am for one of our famous counter meals and a glass of bubbles.

For your chance to frock up and join in the fun please register your interest to Sharon on 9287 3799 or sharonh@rslwahq.org.au



Returned Services League Western Australia

**Remembrance Day Commemorative Service
Wednesday, 11 November 2015
11:00am**

**Please Arrive by 10.50am
Flame of Remembrance, State War Memorial,
Kings Park**

Veterans Health Week

Following on from a very successful State Congress on Saturday, 10 October members of the RSL took part in a visit to the Army Museum in Fremantle on the Sunday.

Captain Wayne Gardiner, recent recipient of an ANZAC of The Year Award, welcomed the group and after an extensive tour of the museum Mr Tom Locke provided a presentation on the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service and the services provided, particularly that of mental health.

Tom also spoke of his recent Gallipoli trip. The entire event was organised by Wendy Moss. Copies of the Winter 2015 issue of the Men's Health Peer Education (MHPE) magazine are available in ANZAC House. The magazine's theme is aligned to this year's VHW theme of Mental Wellness, one of the four VHW themes and the front cover is especially designed for VHW. Many of the stories in the magazine are of a generic nature and therefore the content is applicable to both the men and women.



VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK

RSL Receptionist, Wendy Moss; CEO Phil Orchard; Mr Tom Locke, Veterans, and Veterans Family Counselling Service and Mr Ian Johnson, DVA at the Army Museum Fremantle.

The Ear Science Institute Australia

The Ear Science Institute of Australia is offering to provide a hearing aid to a veteran with a "high level of need". The institute wrote to State President, Graham Edwards, with the offer – so if you know someone who qualifies ring RSLWA headquarters on (08) 9287 3799





Adapt and grow, RSL CEO Sam Jackman says

The future of the RSL lies in it adapting to a new market, the National CEO of the RSL, Sam Jackman, told the 99th RSLWA State Congress at Government House Ballroom this month.

Sam, who is still a reservist after spending 20 years in the Royal Navy, said the RSL had a highly recognised brand which struggled for relevance.

“Changing public perceptions means changing the way we tell our story and remaining relevant into the future. Achieving such cultural change requires strong leadership,” she said.

RSL nationally had limited itself to a few major goals:

- Delivering better services and governance structures,
- Communicating better, and
- Marketing the RSL brand.

To be successful the leaders of the RSL needed to:

- Set the strategic focus and stick to it; make sure the RSL has a plan with clearly defined goals with outcomes which improve

our service delivery;

- Communicate, communicate, communicate, this is the key to any successful venture a clear concise and positive message backed up by successful engagement strategies will smooth the path to achieving our goals; and
- Involve members in the decision making – because they deliver RSL services and they must have a stake in the outcomes.

With more than 70,000 men and women having been deployed to the Middle East in the last 20 years or so, the need for the RSL’s services was still as vital today as it was 100 years ago.

“Next year we will be focusing on the RSL centenary. To get this off with a bang we will be airing a documentary on Channel NINE at prime time on 6 February which will tell the real story about the RSL and its people. We will highlight all the good work you do in the advocacy space and get your story, not the club’s story, out to the public.”

Mrs Jackman said in South Australia, the RSL developed a program in conjunction with the Royal Society for the Blind called Operation K9, where we provide assistance dogs to

veterans suffering injury or illness. In Queensland, The RSL developed a program called Mates4Mates where it worked with wounded, injured or ill contemporary veterans for rehabilitation and reintegration services.

“Both these brands appeal to the younger Veteran Community and are focused on service delivery. Both are good brands, telling a strong story and are community focused. However, there is one problem, there is something missing, the RSL.

“We made the mistake of not attaching the letters RSL to these new and appealing programs, they clearly showcase the RSL in a positive light but why didn’t we include them in our name!”

RSL National CEO

Sam Jackman

full speech www.rslwahq.org.au



REMINDER - ACNC Returns for 2015

Pursuant to current ACNC legislation, Sub-Branches are reminded that the Annual Information Statement (“AIS”) for the financial year ended 30 June 2015 is required to be lodged with the ACNC by 31 December, 2015.

The ACNC preferred method of lodgement is online at www.acnc.gov.au although a

hard copy can be downloaded and lodged by post.

To assist with the 2015 AIS lodgement, the ACNC has provided on its website a **Checklist: 2015 and 2015 Annual Information Statement Guide**.

Login to the ACNC website is via the individual ABN issued by the ATO to the Sub-Branch together with the Sub-Branch password.

RSLWA HQ is in the process of providing a Checklist with generic answers to assist Sub-Branches in completing the 2015 AIS.

This will be issued within the next 2 weeks.

Should there be any query in the interim, Sub-Branches should not hesitate to contact the State Accountant, Peter McGlade, on 9287 3799

The Listening Post:

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

Remembrance Day 2015

Participating Sub-Branches and Locations can be found on www.rslwahq.org.au

