ANZAC lighthouse
legend grows

Story page 26
Welcome to your new Listening Post!

This is our 2nd edition of The Listening Post in its new magazine format. We focus, of course, on the 100th anniversary next month of Australian and New Zealand troops departing from Albany for Egypt and ultimately Gallipoli. We hope the stories and guides to events in Albany and in Perth are helpful and informative.

Don't forget to enter our competition on page 12 to win a magnificent Silver Coin from the Perth Mint ANZAC Spirit 100th Anniversary Coin Series. This is your magazine and we welcome your ideas and comments.
Next month, tens of thousands of people will gather in Albany and Perth to commemorate the departure 100 years ago of ANZAC troops for Egypt and Gallipoli. In access of 26,000 troops left King George Sound on 1 November 1914 and 1,590 left Fremantle on 31 October 1914. This is the story of one of those men who kept a meticulous diary of the first convoy’s journey.

Life on board ANZAC convoy 100 years ago

A 100-year-old diary, written by a cycling champion, has emerged to tell the personal side of the first ANZAC convoy’s historic journey from Albany to Egypt.

Fred White was a relatively old 34, and a seasoned WA builder, when he joined the convoy of more than 40 ships to depart King George Sound on 1 November 2014.

In his handwritten diary, Fred carefully details the Battle of Cocos – in which Germany’s destructive raider SMS Emden was attacked and forced aground by one of the convoy’s escorts – of seven men going overboard during the journey and of the often ‘plurry hot’ and hellish conditions.

He details ships colliding at sea, the boredom and routine, and the choking dust of Egypt.

Fred was born in Wellington, educated in Melbourne, and worked in WA as a ‘chippie’ and amidst that, joined the Army in 1903 to be stationed at Albany’s famous Princess Royal Fortress.

He was one of more than 26,000 Australian and New Zealand troops who left Albany on 1 November 1914 in 38 transport ships escorted by three cruisers - His Majesty’s Australian Ships (HMAS) Melbourne, Sydney and Minotaur. (For more details about the centenary of the departure see pages 21 to 26)

The convoy was joined at sea two days later by two ships carrying 1,590 troops from South Australia and Western Australia, along with the Japanese cruiser, HIJMS Ibuki and HMAS Pioneer. A second convoy departed in late December 1914.

Albany is the last Australian port these troops saw before commencing their training in Egypt and, for the majority, ultimately taking part in landings at Gallipoli from 25 April 1915.

Fred White’s family recently handed over his diary to The Returned & Services League for safe-keeping. His grand-daughter, May Hayes-Thompson (78) was raised by Fred at Hovea (Parkerville) from the age of six after her own father was imprisoned at Changi in 1942.

“Before the war grandfather rode everywhere by bike,” recalls the former Kellerberrin District High School principal. “In Wiluna he’d cycle 60 miles for a dance. "In those days, cyclists crossing the Nullarbor were six a penny. Twenty years earlier his brother, Alex, was the first to ride completely around the coast of Australia. Another, Frank, set the world long-distance ride of Perth to Rockhampton and return.

“In 1911, grandfather rode from Fremantle to Sydney in record time, beating the record by a couple of hours. He went alone and carried everything he needed on his bike. In 1914, just before enlisting, he broke the record for the Fremantle to Adelaide section.”

Fred, who died in 1972 aged 92, is remembered as a man of imagination and big ideas who developed orchards, dug deep wells and around 1960 took it upon himself to repaint all of the plaques to fallen soldiers in Kings Park.

Continued page 43
Fred White kept a meticulous diary throughout his journey from Melbourne to Mena, the training camp outside of Cairo where the Australians trained before heading to Gallipoli. He boarded the SS Shropshire on Tuesday 20 October 1914 at Port Melbourne. On Sunday 25 October 2014, the Shropshire arrived in King George Sound, and anchored alongside about 19 other transports. The next day it was ‘raining like hell’.

These are excerpts from his handwritten diary, given to the RSLWA by his family:

**Sunday 1 November 1914**
On guard all last night, no sleep. The (King George) Sound looked lovely in the moonlight, all the transports got steam up and we left very silently at 7am. It was a grand sight to see the fleet file out of the Sound in lines, no whistles were blown, a crowd of about 100 people witnessed the departure from the Marine Drive. It is now 5pm and land is still plainly visible on the starboard side.

**Tuesday 3 November**
The West Australian transports joined us during a rain storm this afternoon and there were six warships visible about 10 miles on either flank.

**Wednesday 4 November**
I constructed a wooden horse, finished today, for the purpose of instruction in fitting harnesses. (The Shropshire was carrying 432 horses, 38 officers and 788 other ranks). It affords material for a lot of fun on board. All the ships – 39 not including warships – are still in their relative positions three abreast but the pace is slow, nine knots.

**Friday 6 November**
It is reported that a man was buried at sea from the Rangatira last night. A staff sergeant went overboard in King George Sound and was picked up on Middleton Beach and buried at Albany.

**Saturday 7 November**
Soldiers were paid today - $1 each.

**Sunday 8 November**
Another man was buried at sea this morning.

**Monday 9 November**
We just got the good news that one of our escorts, the ‘Sydney’ engaged the German cruiser ‘Emden’ and wrecked her completely. Our loss was two men killed and 15 wounded. There was another burial at sea about 1.30pm from the Euripides.

**Tuesday 10 November**
We have just received full particulars of the fight between the German cruiser ‘Emden’ and ‘HMAS Sydney’ which took place yesterday. It appears that the wireless operator on the Cocos Islands sent out a distress signal which our fleet caught and the ‘Sydney’ started off for the island at 7am. At 9.30am she sighted the enemy going at full speed. She was able to get within range within 20 minutes, at the same time she signalled to our fleet that the chase was steaming north. At 10.45am she was engaging the enemy briskly, and at 11.10 the enemy beached herself on Cocos Island to save herself from going to Davy Jones locker. The foremast and three funnels were down. The ‘Sydney’ then went off in pursuit of the vessel which was availing the ‘Emden’, caught her, took off her crew, then sank her. She then returned again to the ‘Emden’, (which) surrendered. The ‘Sydney’ is not with us now; she will sail for Colombo as soon as she had got the German wounded and prisoners on board. God save the King. (Again, good information about the Battle of Cocos.

SMS Emden had wreaked havoc in the region, capturing nearly two dozen ships, attacking Penang and sinking the Russian cruiser Zhemchug and the French destroyer Mousquet.

Captain Karl von Muller decided to raid the British facilities at Direction Island (Cocos Islands), but before their capture wireless operators got off an SOS to the ANZAC convoy.

On 9 November 1914, HMAS Sydney fired 670 rounds of ammunition and destroyed Emden's three funnels, foremast, wireless and steering gear, and set the engine room on fire. The German ship beached herself on North Keeling Island and the Sydney then went after the supporting collier Buresk, but the ship had already commenced scuttling.

Continued on page 16
We all should pitch in for ANZAC centenary

By State President
Graham Edwards, AM

The Returned & Services League of Western Australia is entering a very challenging period. Not that we have not had our share of challenges over the decades.

However there are extremely strong signals and indications from the community that Australians want to be involved and engage with the centenary of the commemoration of ANZAC.

In most regions, areas and neighbourhoods people are or will be looking to the local RSL for that engagement and guidance as to how to engage.

It is evident that the opportunity exists for us to shine a light on the RSL in local communities and we should take this important time of commemoration to profile ourselves, the work we do, our history, our heritage and our members.

I am also aware that in some local areas where the RSL is small in number the bulk of community expectations are being carried by too few who are often elderly WW II era members.

At ANZAC house we are working to provide support for these smaller sub-branches. It is also true that in a number of sub-branches too much work is left to too few with the same people year in year out doing the heavy lifting. This is not the way of the ANZAC Spirit.

If you can lend a hand then please pitch in. Let us in RSLWA do all we can to secure its future now and to live up to the expectations of the quality of mateship.

Help keep the Spirit Alive.

Visiting Albany? ‘The Shapland Collection’

After a thirty minute drive west from Albany along the South Coast Highway you will see the sign ‘Halycon Park’.

While a working stud cattle farm, the property is also the home of an outstanding collection of military memorabilia orientated towards, but not exclusively, World War II air force. The latest addition to the display is a substantial collection of Red Cross artifacts and uniforms requiring John Shapland to build another large room to house it. John and Kathryn Shapland’s interest in things military has grown into a deep passion reflected in their remarkable personal collection of wartime memorabilia, which they willingly share with veterans, their families and descendants and others with a keen interest in military history.

They have collected an impressive library of war related books including many rare editions. To arrange to see the collection it is best to email the Shaplands at jargondesigns@bigpond.com and please bear in mind that both John and Kathryn are working people and that it is a private collection.

Peter Aspinall

The Great War that gauged a nation

The First World War impacted Australia like nothing else, before or since.

From a population under five million, 417,000 enlisted and 332,000 served overseas. Of men aged 18 to 42, almost one in two served in uniform. More than 61,000 were killed and 152,000 wounded. Many had mental scars that never healed.

Over the next four years that mark the centenary of the Great War, we will remember all the key events in which Australia was involved. Above all else, we should remember the Western Front, not just for its carnage, but also for Australia’s moment on the stage of history.

When the last big German offensive split the British and French armies in March and April 1918, it was largely the Australians that plugged the gap and held the line. In the closing months of the war, the five divisions of the First Australian Imperial Force, fighting together for the first time, bested no fewer than 39 enemy divisions, took 29,000 prisoners, captured 338 guns and advanced over 40 miles of contested ground.

The AIF were less than a tenth of all British Empire forces but made nearly a quarter of all the gains.

Extracts from a commemorate address by the Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, on ANZAC Day 2014.
Dear Editor,
I am writing to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation for the assistance and support of the Mandurah Sub-Branch during the serious illness of my late husband, Ian Lankester. The last six months have been the most stressful and worrying time of my life and it was during this period that their staff provided some much-needed support.

Following some timely orchestration by Graham Edwards, the RSL provided emotional support and practical assistance at my home while I was totally consumed by the circumstances I found myself in. I would particularly like to mention Glenda Dawson as someone who devoted much time for me and who continues to provide selfless support. Her support of my family and myself at this time reflects those qualities that I relate with returned servicemen and women, and that reflect so well on the RSL as a whole.

I rarely express myself formally in this way, but the support of the RSL and your sub-branch has moved me to the point of doing something to show my appreciation. I sincerely thank you, your staff, and your members for the work that you do. The RSL’s role in support of veterans and their families is so important, and I am grateful to be a recipient of such support at this time.

Yours sincerely

Judy Lankester
Halls Head

Dear Editor,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank-you for supporting Toowoomba’s recent departure for Operation Manitou.

The Western Australian Returned & Services League’s attendance and financial support of the event was greatly appreciated and emphasised the strong bond between the RSLWA and the Navy units based in Western Australia.

The support from RSLWA ensured Toowoomba’s Op Manitou departure was a memorable occasion for the ship’s company and their families.

We look forward to seeing members of the RSLWA on our return to Australia later this year.

CR Hayes
Commanding Officer HMAS Toowoomba

Dear Editor,

The latest Listening Post I received was the best in about 50 years membership. Congratulations. To all who had anything to do with its publication it’s now a great little magazine I look forward to receiving many more. Well done and thank you all.

Jim Clarke
Jurien Bay sub Branch

Congratulations

Dear Editor,

The June Issue in the new format is the best yet and will stay on coffee tables for many weeks. It is great to see so many photos from around the State with people and faces that we know or have met.

I marched in Perth on Anzac Day and was surprised to see such a large turnout, and I am so looking forward to next year. Well done the Listening Post and also Graham Edwards and his staff.

Les McGoldrick
Donnybrook

It’s Kokoda Track!

Dear Editor,

In Daryl Binning’s well written letter (Kokoda Conundrum, The Listening Post June 2014, Vol.37 No.3), he raised the issue of which is correct; ‘Track’ or ‘Trail’, in connection to the Kokoda campaign of 1942 in Papua New Guinea.

As someone once involved as a newsreel cameraman, he has approached the subject from a newsreel/cinematographer’s perspective in addition to his own observations including the American influence.

I agree with his conclusions especially the influence that American reporting and American cinema had in constantly referring to the Kokoda Trail.

It is generally accepted that either ‘Track’ or ‘Trail’ is correct.

Interestingly, in the late nineteenth century it was called a ‘road’ by the government surveyor, Henry Stuart-Russell. Hence, ‘Kokoda Road’ also being used during World War Two in some publications.

The ‘official’ stamp of approval to the word ‘Trail’ may be because this was the name agreed upon by the Battle Nomenclature Committee as the official British Commonwealth battle honour in October 1957.

Over the years I have been fortunate enough to speak with many veteran’s of the Kokoda campaign and when in conversation with those former soldier’s from Victoria’s 2/14th Battalion and Western Australia’s 2/16th Battalion; they have always referred to it as the Kokoda Track.

Despite officialdom and how historians may choose to refer to it, with the actual veterans of that campaign calling it the Kokoda Track; then in my opinion it will always be - the Kokoda Track.

Wayne Gardiner
President – Military Historical Society of Australia, WA Branch

Editor’s Footnote: Thank you to all those who sent in messages of support; we will seek to continually improve and welcome feedback.
Many of you are now familiar with and using our website and Facebook sites so my apologies if I’m repeating something you have already seen.

**Election 2014**

Following the Extraordinary General Meeting on 26 July 2014, the resolutions amending the State Constitution have been accepted by the Department of Commerce. Furthermore, the WA Electoral Commission has agreed to undertake the election process.

The advertisement incorporating key dates was placed in The West Australian on Friday 22 August 2014. Nominations opened on Friday 29 August 2014 and closed at 12 noon, Friday 12 September 2014.

The mail out of election packages will be on Wednesday 24 September 2014 with the poll closing at 10am, Friday 17 October 2014.

The declaration of the result will be read by the Returning Officer at the start of the business session of State Congress, on Saturday 25 October 2014.

Nomination forms can be found on the RSLWA website: www.rslwhq.org.au together with the new geographical regions and the list of sub branches making up that region.

**RSLWA Constitution**

Our full rewrite of our constitution remains on hold until the rewrite of the National Constitution is complete. However, the title of State Executive is now deleted throughout and replaced with a new Board of Directors.

The Board will consist of: State President; State Vice-President; Honorary State Treasurer; four Life or Service Members from a Sub-Branch within and who resides in the Greater Metropolitan Region; and one Life or Service Member from a Sub-Branch located within and who resides in one of the following geographic regions of Western Australia: the Great Southern; Eastern; the Mid-West; and the Pilbara and Kimberley.

You will recall that previously the State Executive (19 members made up of regional representatives and the Board) met quarterly and the then Board of Directors (12 members) met monthly.

Unless otherwise directed the new Board of Directors will meet monthly.
Up for a brew, anyone?

Three young guns of the RSLWA are organising a coffee get together for serving and ex-serving men and women of the ADF. Gavin Briggs, John McCourt and Scott Rogers, all members of the State Executive, are leading the charge to connect with a younger cohort.

“This is not a meeting, but a meet-up,” said John. “It’s part of our drive to help re-energise the RSL and to do things better together in supporting serving and ex-serving men and women in our community.”

The get together will be held around the beautiful family-friendly environs of Zamia Café at Kings Park. It will start at 10.30am on Sunday 26 October.

Gavin said, “The whole point of going there is to make it family-friendly; there’s plenty of free parking and things for kids to do.

“We want to raise awareness of what people are entitled to and to extend a helping hand.” Scott says it will be an ideal opportunity for friends and families of ex-serving and currently serving personnel to catch-up in a friendly environment: “This is an inclusive, not exclusive event. We are extending an open invitation to men and women, of serving and ex-serving personnel and their families.”

RSVP is not essential but will help guide catering requirements. Please contact the RSL headquarters on (08) 9287 3799.

Hannah recovers through Games

Former Navy medic Hannah Amigh (28) is this month competing in the Invictus Games in London, courtesy of the nomination and support from the Returned & Service League in NSW and WA.

The Invictus Games is an international sporting event designed for the physically and mentally wounded ex-servicemen and women and is championed by Prince Harry and the Royal Family.

For Hannah, these games have provided an opportunity for further recovery after becoming unwell during her eight year service in the Royal Australian Navy.

“Incorporating daily physical fitness has provided me a sense of empowerment, certainty in my abilities and has helped me to gradually regain psychological wellbeing – an experience I would like to share and encourage others to incorporate into their lives,” Hannah told The Listening Post. “My goals for the Invictus Games are to swim a personal best time in the 50m and 100m breaststroke, and demonstrate that sports is a great way to meet people and to make yourself feel good,” she says. “Through a positive physical and psychological fitness regime I hope to finish my university degree in Emergency Management and Disaster Response, to then successfully obtain full time employment in Perth.”

Hannah enlisted from Brisbane at the age of 18 and considers herself fortunate to have been deployed to the west coast of America for weapon trials; the Middle East for anti-piracy enforcement and the Philippines and Indonesia to provide humanitarian aid to the host nations. Being deployed for the second and third time, although fulfilling, were less enjoyable for Hannah, which unfortunately led to her struggles with anxiety and depression.

While serving on various deployments, Hannah left behind both her biological family and Navy Family, who she grew to love as sisters and brothers. The Invictus Games are helping to rebuild her outlook.
When the ANZACs left our shores, we proudly kept the lights on for them.

This year marks the centenary of the First Fleet leaving Albany’s shores for Gallipoli. To remember the sacrifice the ANZACs made for our country, Albany is hosting a special event 30 Oct to 2 Nov.

As we’ve been delivering electricity to the Great Southern region for over 100 years, we’re honoured to be involved in this special event and supporting the continued growth of this community we call home.

To learn more, visit anzacalbany.com.au
• 'Glenn’s garden’ is a place of reflection where Roslyn Walker and her husband Sam, quietly remember their son.

Poppies link to a mother’s love

When Roslyn Walker dropped off nearly a hundred poppies into the RSL, she attached a note saying they honoured her grandfather, Norman Hanbury and all the men who served, fought and died in the First World War.

But there was another reason; one that only became apparent when visiting Roslyn’s garden in Thornlie.

A sign says ‘Glenn’s garden’. It is a place of reflection where Roslyn and her husband Sam, quietly remember their son, who died 11 years ago in a quad bike accident. He was 24.

“Poppy-making and crocheting blankets for Anglicare is something tangible that has brought a lot of pleasure and personal satisfaction in dealing with my own grief for my son,” Roslyn told The Listening Post. “I can identify with other women who lost their sons so many years ago.”

Roslyn and Sam have cruised the world, but look forward to attending the Albany centenary to honour Roslyn’s maternal grandfather Normal Hanbury who served in both world wars – including in the 1/2 Trench Mortar Battery, probably in Gallipoli as well as France, where he was wounded on 30 June, 1916. He was also Mayor of Cabramatta and Canley Vale and foundation treasurer of the Cabra-Vale Ex-Active Servicemen’s Club.

A prolific producer of charity blankets and poppies, Roslyn takes only 15 minutes to crochet an expertly-bound poppy which curls like a flower. She can make four or five a night and when The Listening Post visited her home, had already produced more than 200.

Centenary poppies have been made by a host of individuals and groups throughout the State. In Albany, 30,000 plastic poppies are being made for installation at Middleton Beach in memory of the same number of ANZACs who left in the first convoy on 1 November 1914.

Another 10,000 fabric poppies will be produced for Albany’s centenary by schoolchildren, mums and knitting groups from across the State. “These poppies will be displayed on tombstone-like structures at Albany and later be taken to the City of Wanneroo’s Art Gallery for display,” says Sharon Harford, the RSL’s Centenary Program Manager. “They will then go to Melbourne’s Federation Square for display on ANZAC Day 2015 and will be returned to Perth for display during Remembrance Day 2015.”

One of the most prolific supporters has been Claire Hunt, the Defence Transition Mentor for Comet Bay College - an independent public school in Secret Harbour. She has organised workshops and groups with the goal of producing huge numbers of poppies.

Already, 30,000 poppies have been made in the Eastern States for Melbourne’s Federal Square for display on ANZAC Day – they are aiming to plant a field of over 100,000 poppies to represent the total number who have died in all conflicts.

More details at www.rslwahq.org.au or please contact Sharon Harford on 9287 3706.
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Get the ANZAC Spirit – and win!

The historic Perth Mint is honouring Australia’s servicemen and women with the launch of The ANZAC Spirit 100th Anniversary Coin Series.

To commemorate the ANZAC Centenary, The Perth Mint and RSLWA are giving 10 lucky readers the chance to win a The ANZAC Spirit - Declaration of War 2014 1oz Silver Proof Coin.

Each coin is valued at $99.

The coin’s reverse features a group of soldiers marching underneath a representation of Britannia holding her trident, and wearing a Corinthian helmet, symbolic of British liberties and democracy. The inscription, ‘1914 – When the Empire is at War, so is Australia at War’, a red poppy motif and The Perth Mint’s traditional ‘P’ mintmark are also incorporated into the design.

All you have to do to win one of these stunning coins is post your name and contact details in the fields below. Winners will be drawn out of a slouch hat by State RSL President Graham Edwards and announced in the next edition of ‘The Listening Post’ on 11 December.

Good luck!

To find out more about Australia’s ANZAC Spirit commemorative program visit www.perthmint.com.au/ANZAC or call 1800 098 817

10 LUCKY READERS CAN WIN!

The competition is open to financial members of the RSLWA. Staff are excluded.
Pay tribute to the diggers of the South East Asian conflict with a handsome men’s ring hand-crafted in gleaming sterling silver plate. The ring cap features the famous Iroquois ‘Huey’ chopper in silver-plate, rising from a bed of genuine black onyx. The inner band is engraved with the message Sacrifice • Mateship • Pride, recalling the bond which defined a generation of veterans. The sides are flanked by military stars in dramatic raised-relief. Time-intensive hand-crafting may limit supply, so act now to reserve yours for just $149.97, payable in three installments of $49.99, plus $14.99 postage and handling. Our 120-day money-back guarantee ensures your satisfaction. To reserve your ring, send no money now. Return the coupon or go online today at www.bradford.com.au/veterans.

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Each side features raise-relief military stars

The FLANDERS FIELD POPPY Bracelet

An elegant symbol of life’s fragility, the poppy makes a fitting tribute to those who laid down their lives in service of our great nation. Now you can honour a loved one who served with the “Flanders Fields Poppy Bracelet,” exclusively from The Bradford Exchange.

Inspired by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae’s epic poem In Flanders Fields, this stunning treasure features hand-applied 16-carat gold-plate to create a truly opulent look. Nine radiant Swarovski crystals rest in the centre of each bloom which is hand-enamelled in red to capture the lifelike vibrancy of the poppy. The brooch is accompanied by a Certificate of Authenticity reproducing McCrae’s In Flanders Fields poem as a beautiful finishing touch.

This exclusive bracelet is exceptional value at just $149.97, payable in three installments of $49.99, plus $9.99 postage and handling and backed by our 120-day guarantee. This touching Anzac tribute is only available from The Bradford Exchange for a limited time, so don’t miss out. To reserve your brooch, send no money now. Just return the coupon today at www.bradford.com.au/lwf.

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Certificate reproduces the In Flanders Fields poem

IN FLANDERS FIELDS
John McCrae, May 1915
In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Surrounding us with their wings.

When poppies grow and损ervs die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
in Flanders fields.

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Percy Garratt - a quiet hero

Quietly-spoken West Australian Percy Wilfred Larratt served in two wars, won the Military Medal and spawned a family that has served the nation.

His son, Clem, who lives at Meadow Springs, served in New Guinea during the Second World War and Clem’s son, Kevin, served in Vietnam.

Percy Larratt, a clerk in civilian life, was just one of the 32,000 West Australians who enlisted for the First World War.

During very heavy fighting in the trenches of France, Percy volunteered to run messages from the Hindenburg Line near Reincourt on the morning of 17 April 1917.

The recommendation for the Military Medal, later awarded, stated: “He knew that he volunteered for this service with very little chance of getting through the heavy barrage of artillery and machinegun fire which then swept ‘no man’s land’.”

Nearly all the previous runners had been shot. The recommendation also said Percy displayed great courage and devotion to duty during earlier fighting in the trenches. Later in the year, back near Messines, Percy was shot through the jaw and recuperated in Rouen and England.

During the Second World War (October 1939-January 1944), he served in the Citizen Military Forces in Australia before being discharged as a staff sergeant.

Percy never spoke about his war activities to his son and his grandson, Kevin remembers him as a ‘fairly quiet sort of a bloke’.

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Ascot has a proud tradition of commemorating WA Diggers Departure Day with the feature race on November 1. Be there for a day that helps celebrate the past duties and ongoing commitment by members of the Western Australian armed forces.

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Percy Larratt, a quiet bloke and war hero.

Proud family: Rona and Clem Larratt and Clem’s son Kevin.
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The diary of Fred White – ANZAC convoy 1914

Continued from page 4

In the battle, three of Sydney’s crew were killed and 13 wounded. A total 134 German personnel were killed, but the shore party commandeered the schooner Ayesha and escaped.

Thursday 12 November
Still plurrily hot…we are over the equator. The ‘Melbourne’ (5,400 ton Australian warship) left us this morning and our sole escort is the Jap (Ibuki – 14,600 ton warship).

Sunday 15 November
We got word last night that the ‘Sydney’ would pass our fleet early this morning on her way to Colombo with the Emden’s wounded and prisoners – she passed us at 5am – land was then in sight…also swarms of catamarans – fishing craft (from Ceylon (now called Sri Lanka). We are now anchored half a mile out from Colombo.

Monday 16 November
Still at anchor off Colombo. The natives came alongside and were diving for silver coin; they would not dive for copper.

Wednesday 18 November
Lost sight of Ceylon (Sri Lanka), but the south of India is visible in the north…lost sight of India 2pm.

Thursday 19 November
I have just heard that the man who fell overboard from the ‘Wiltshire’, the day before we reached Colombo, was picked up by the last boat in that line. His luck was in.

Friday 20 November
We sighted the rest of our fleet this morning and we are rapidly catching up. They look grand in the distance – 29 boats and our fleet of 10, will complete the original fleet of 39 transports, then there are the men of war hovering around. There is at least one (Russian) warship (escort). The boat the Japs have here was captured from the Russians in the Russian-Japanese war.

Saturday 21 November
On this day, Fred White describes being woken up violently as the 10,048-ton transport ship ‘Ascanius’, carrying West Australian troops, ploughed into the SS Shropshire. Significant damage occurred. On 30 July 1944, the Ascanius was torpedoed en route to Normandy beaches but survived that too).

I jumped out of my hammock only in time to be pitched up against the rail. Then I saw a large steamer, seemingly climbing over our stern – at the same time a voice through a megaphone from our bridge roared “where in the hell are you going; are you coming aboard?” No lives were lost so all’s well. The soldiers behaved splendidly considering most of them thought we were sinking.

Monday 23 November
Sighted Africa this morning. Rifle practice.

Wednesday 25 November
Arrived at Aden at 7am very high and rocky cliffs, the Somalis came alongside in scores calling all manner of things, we were coaled by about a hundred coolies, they fought like dogs for food which was thrown down to them by the troops; a leg of mutton was torn to shreds...

Thursday 26 November
Entire fleet got under way (from Aden) at 6am. (Frederick White described a ‘peculiar incident’ when the fleet passed a Turkish fort and no shot was fired - “On the contrary, they sent us a signal wishing us luck, which signal was acknowledged by HMS Hampshire”).

Friday 27 November
We are in the Red Sea. (Frederick White records the seventh death at sea since the convoy’s departure).

Tuesday, 1 December
Anchored off Suez. Just heard that 75,000 Turks (are) advancing on Egypt. Let ’em all come.

Wednesday 2 December
After an interesting trip through the (Suez) canal, we arrived at Port Said at 11am. There were patrols of Indian troops all along the banks.

Friday 4 December
Left our anchorage off Port Said at 5.30pm yesterday and arrived at Alexandria and tied up at the quay at 5pm today. All the Australian and New Zealand troops are disembarking tomorrow and will proceed to Cairo, where we will begin training.

Wednesday 9 December
After loading our guns and wagons, stores, saddlery on electric trains at Cairo we came on to Mena, (about 10 miles from Cairo) and camped at the foot of the pyramids. There must be 25,000 troops in our camp alone.

(Camp Mena, near Cairo, was used by the so-called Australian Imperial Force to defend the Suez Canal against Turkey which had declared war on 29 October.)

Monday 4 January 2015
Rations very short lately. We are always hungry.

Thursday 7 January
The day has been extremely miserable, one continual cloud of sand, like a mist, enveloped the country all day. The Australian mail arrived today; men in my tent got up to eight letters each; none came for me.

Friday 8 January
Field movements (training) all day. Could not see the pyramids 50 yards away for the dust.

(Fred White later fought at Gallipoli and was invalided home in 1916 to become a recruitment officer in Victoria. In 1917, he re-enlisted as a Corporal in the 60th Infantry Battalion and became an instructor at the training depot in Codsworth, England. At war’s end he returned to Western Australia where he and lived at Hovea until his death at the age of 92 in 1972.)
Barbara Nash simply dreaded going to the toilet, the combination of arthritis and a bad back made what is a simple thing for most people almost impossible for her. Usually she had to have a shower after going to the toilet; it was a secret she kept to herself for years.

Her doctor had said a Bidet would solve her problem but the cost for installation and space required for the traditional stand alone BIDET to be installed in her home was just too expensive.

Barbara’s luck changed when visiting her friend Norma. While visiting she had to go to the toilet—a thing she dreaded most while she was out. Barbara was amazed by what was on her friend’s toilet! She asked Norma what it was and Norma explained that she had a Bidet toilet seat installed a few weeks ago by The BIDET SHOP®. “The chap was so nice and helpful; he had the Bidet installed in a jiffy.”

“It has a heated seat and soft closing lid but the best thing is, once I have finished going to the LOO I simply press the wash button on the remote control and the Bidet cleans me with a stream of warm water, the in-built fan then dries me off with warm air and I haven’t used toilet paper since. It’s the best thing since sliced bread!”

Barbara hesitantly went in to the toilet and used the COWAY Bidet, she pressed the large button on the remote control and she was clean. She cried tears of joy and relief now that her toileting problems were solved.

Barbara rang The BIDET SHOP® straight away and ordered one. The Bidet was installed within a week.

Since then Barbara has introduced 4 of her other friends to this life changing machine. She said “I just didn’t know how many other people out there were having trouble going to the toilet. My advice to everyone is get a COWAY Bidet put on your toilet, I did and it changed my life.

Phone in store for more information on any of our bathroom products! 1300 243 387 (Free call)
Women critical for RSL growth

State RSL President Graham Edwards told the inaugural women’s forum that the Returned & Services League needed their full involvement.

“There are several reasons why I requested this forum be held,” he said. “Firstly we in the RSL need to grow our organisation into the future. We cannot do this without the full involvement of women in our organisation.

“We need to do this in order to survive and we need to survive because we are the pre-eminent strong voice in Australia on behalf of veterans and on behalf of serving men and women in the ADF.”

Mr Edwards said as of 1 April 2014, 14.9 per cent (8,440) of the ADF permanent workforce was female and 210 women were serving on overseas ADF operations, representing 16.2 per cent of the total deployed force.

“From 1 January 2013, all Australian Defence Force employment categories are open to women currently serving in the ADF.

“The move to open previously restricted employment categories to currently serving members aligns with the comprehensive and phased implementation plan agreed by the Government in 2012.”

Mr Edwards said the emergence of women in the ADF also meant the RSL had an increasing responsibility to care for them.

In a recent visit to Hollywood Hospital he was advised that in a particular PTSD course the majority of participants were women.

“I wonder just how relevant the RSL is to women today and what it is we need to do to ensure that we are as open, welcoming and friendly as we should be.”

He thanked Donna Prytulak and her team for organising the forum.

RSL ready for change

Sam Jackman, the CEO of the RSL in South Australia, is a living example of how the RSL has adapted to change.

As she told the inaugural RSL Women’s Forum at ANZAC House, “I’m living proof that the RSL is ready to embrace change – or I wouldn’t have been appointed.”

A career Navy officer of 22 years standing, Sam Jackman came away from the forum inspired.

“I think West Australia is really leading the push of integrating women into the folds of the RSL,” she said.

“If you look at the people at the forum, they ranged from 22 year-olds right up to 92 year-olds and unlike at a men’s forum, there was no judgment by any of them over what service that any of them had done. And I think that was quite refreshing.”

Ms Jackman said the RSL realised that it could no longer afford to recruit from only half of the population.

The Listening Post posed a few other questions to Ms Jackman:

What’s your view about who should call themselves a veteran?

“That’s a really interesting question and certainly one that’s been debated quite significantly. I reckon everyone pretty much agrees that the DVA has got it right; and they call a veteran anyone who has put the uniform of this nation on; or any of our Allies. I think it’s fairly encompassing and I like it.”

Why?

“Because if you make the decision to sign up with the ADF, to represent your nation in armed conflict, then that should be recognised. It is an inherently dangerous organisation to be part of and that should be recognised and certainly the DVA definition recognises it.”

You earlier gave a couple of examples of people who were in a peacemaking role or simply serving being caught in dangerous situations... what were they?

“The examples were HMAS Westralia, which suffered an engine fire just off WA and lost four of their shipmates.. which was deeply, deeply troubling for that ship’s company and especially their captain; and the other that I was certainly personally involved in was the crash of a Sea King helicopter in Indonesia (2005 Nias Island Sea King crash).

“They were doing tsunami support and we lost nine service people in that crash. For the captain of that ship and certainly those who survived the crash that was one of the most defining moments of their life.”

You had no problems with being accepted in the RSLSA as a woman or being an officer; but what about your type of service?

“That’s right, I did 20-odd years in the Navy, but the biggest issue was that I was not Returned. I had never come back from operational service. I had never come across that before because that is not inherent in the military today. But to their credit they soon got over that. But yes that was the biggest issue that I came up against; a reluctance to accept me because I had not Returned.”
Northam honours 521 killed in Vietnam

On Sunday 17 August the Northam RSL Sub-Branch hosted a Vietnam Veterans’ Day commemorative service.

The warm morning was perfect for the small but dedicated crowd assembled at the Northam War Memorial for the 11am service. Northam RSL President, Donna Prytulak welcomed those attending and spoke of the Armoured Corp experience in Vietnam.

Treasurer Mr Geoff Scarterfield, formerly of 2 Battalion RAR, delivered the main address speaking about the Battle of Long Tan as well as Vietnamese attacks on Fire Support Bases at Coral and Balmoral.

Mr Russell Couper, formerly of Headquarters 1st Australian Task Force, read a prayer of Remembrance.

Wreaths were laid at the memorial by the Northam RSL and Red poppies were placed by veterans and members of the public. Geoff Scarterfield placed a wreath dedicated to the memory of his Platoon Sergeant, Tom Birnie, who was killed in action on 24 March 1971.

Birnie was 10 months into his second tour of Vietnam.

The Last Post was played and sub-branch Warden Jim Donovan read the Ode of Remembrance prior to a period of silence.

The silence was broken by the playing of the Rouse, after which the Australian National Anthem was sung.

Members and guests gathered after the service and drank a toast to the memory of those who died and were wounded on service in Vietnam before adjourning for lunch.

The service is held to remember the 521 Australians listed on the Roll of Honour for the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1975. Also remembered are all those 60,000 Australian men and women who served and the over 3,000 who were wounded.

Reg Stevens
Secretary Northam RSL

Old soldiers never die... they take up art

Since retiring many years ago, former British paratrooper David Burns has been turning out highly-detailed military works to commemorate the fallen.

His latest offering, to Geraldton RSL Club members who served in Vietnam, is in the pipeline.

David (73), moved to Geraldton a year ago, hopes to have the latest artwork completed for Vietnam Veterans Day 2015. The research alone took him more than a month.

Measuring a metre by a half metre, the works are a cross between art and heraldry, incorporating layered paint and embossing. It’s immensely detailed work but is a labour of love for David, who spent more than 10 years in the British Army, serving served in Germany, Cyprus and Libya.

An engineer by profession, David now devotes his time to his love of the Military through the Geraldton RSL. Once the Vietnam tribute is finished, David will produce a tribute to the Mid West’s aboriginal servicemen and women.
‘Soldiers must be looked after’

Greenbushes played host to Vietnam Veterans and their families when they held the South West Vietnam Veterans’ Commemoration Service on Sunday 17 August.

The Returned & Services League of WA President Graham Edwards AM was the guest speaker at the service which was attended by about 180 people.

Mr Edwards told the gathering that Vietnam Veterans had much to be proud of, most particularly the way they had been able to change Government attitudes towards returning soldiers.

“Government learnt that when they commit soldiers to a war they then need to look after those soldiers for life, not just for the term of government,” said Mr Edwards.

“This is a legacy of Vietnam that we are able to pass on to other war veterans in the future.”

Mr Edwards said Vietnam Veterans were now the strength behind the RSL and that all Australian soldiers should be shown a warm welcome when they returned home.

The Greenbushes Commemoration Service included a march led by the Bunbury City Band and a fly-over by four Royal Australian Air Force PC 9 aircraft. Greenbushes girl, Commander Cassandra Ryan from the Royal Australian Navy was reviewing officer at the commemoration ceremony. Four officers from HMAS Stirling formed a Cataphalque Party around the Cenotaph for the service. The Vietnam Veterans and their families enjoyed lunch with community members at the Greenbushes District Hall after the service.

Debbie Walsh
Greenbushes RSL

Iroquois mural honours Vietnam Veterans

Kalamunda RSL is honouring its Vietnam veterans by installing a mural on a back wall of our hall featuring Bell UH-1 Iroquois helicopters.

The mural is being done by one of our affiliate members – Gary Welch – a renowned local tattooist artist, with paint and materials kindly supplied free by our local Bunnings.

The Sub-Branch held a brief service at our Memorial on Saturday 16 August at 11am to commemorate Vietnam Veterans’ Day. After an introduction from our President, Wayne Loughrey, wreaths were laid and the Ode delivered. Those attending adjourned back to our hall for light refreshments.

Doug Carpenter
Kalamunda RSL
1 November 2014 will mark 100 years since the first convoy set sail from Albany carrying Australian and New Zealand troops to the First World War.

For many, Albany was their last sight of Australia. Now, generations later, the Anzac legend lives on.

VISIT ALBANY TO REMEMBER

30 October to 2 November 2014

Programme of Events p22
Your Albany Centenary Guide p24 & p25
The Lighthouse Girl p26
Sailing Disaster p27
Join the March p28

www.anzacalbany.com.au
COMMEMORATIVE & COMMUNITY EVENTS

ANZAC PROJECTIONS & STORYTELLING
Fri 30.10 – Sun 2.11.14 from sunset, daily. Various venues around central Albany
Buildings in central Albany will be projected onto, depicting stories of the First World War.

STIRLING TERRACE MESS HALL
Noon–10pm Thurs 30.10. 9am – 10pm Fri 31.10 - Sun 2.11 on Stirling Terrace
An eclectic food and arts destination, featuring the best of the region's produce.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CEREMONIAL SUNSET
Fri 31.10, 6.30-7pm at Anzac Peace Park
A Naval Ceremonial Sunset, one of the world’s oldest naval ceremonies, will be held in Anzac Peace Park.

PRINCESS ROYAL HARBOUR LIGHTS
Fri 31.10, 7pm at Albany Foreshore
An interpretive sound, lighting and pyrotechnic display following sunset taking place outdoors, around the Albany Entertainment Centre. Listen to the live broadcast on 783AM RadioWest.

TROOP MARCH
Sat 1.11, 9-10am at York Street
Troop March with representatives from the Australian and the New Zealand Defence forces, cadets, the Royal Australian Navy Band, and the ex-service community.

COMMENORATIVE SERVICE
Sat 1.11, 11-12 noon at Anzac Peace Park
A Commemorative Service will be held in Anzac Peace Park commemorating and remembering the individuals of the first convoy departure.

SYMBOLIC DEPARTURE OF NAVAL SHIPS
Sat 1.11, 1.30pm at King George Sound
Naval ships will depart King George Sound representing the original convoy departure.

COMMUNITY CONCERT
Sat 1.11, Park opens from 4.30pm, concert starts at 5.30pm at Centennial Park
A Community Concert featuring the West Australian Symphony Orchestra with The Waifs, Dan Sultan and Katie Noonan, The Royal Australian Navy Band and NZDEF Maori Cultural Group.

OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NATIONAL ANZAC CENTRE
Sat 1.11.14, Invitation only at the Albany Heritage Park
Located within the Princess Royal Fortress Military Museum Precinct, the National Anzac Centre will be a show piece for the Anzac Centenary. The Centre will provide a unique opportunity for people to experience an emotional connection with the men and women who were involved in the First World War, understanding the sacrifice that they, their friends and families, made on behalf of their nation and its allied nations. The Centre will be accessible not only physically, but also virtually via the internet and will highlight the significant role Albany played in the creation of the Anzac Spirit. Invited guests will attend the official opening. Tickets to visit the National Anzac Centre during the weekend of Anzac Albany events can be booked in advance, through www.ticketek.com.au from 25 August, 2014.

NAVAL SHIP OPEN DAY
Sun 2.11, 9am - 3pm at Albany Port
Docking at the Albany Port, some of the visiting naval ships will be open for the public to tour. Time allocated ticketing for the Ship Open Day will be available from late September.

LOCAL SUPPORTING EVENTS

SCULPTURE IN THE HARBOUR - REFLECTIONS
Tues 28.10 – Sat 8.11 at Princess Royal Harbour
An exhibition of sculptural works by notable WA artists, displayed in the waters of the Princess Royal Harbour.

SPENCER PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL ART EXHIBITION: OUR SUNBURNT COUNTRY
Wed 29.10 – Wed 12.11 at WA Museum
Spencer Park Primary School is proud to hold Our Sunburnt Country, an exhibition celebrating art and community featuring artworks from 400 students.

THE ANZACS: 100 YEARS ON
Sat 18.10 – Wed 29.10 & Mon 3.11 – Wed 12.11 at RSL Club Rooms
The 90 minute audio-visual presentation incorporates 200 images, sound and historical commentary from Dr Ted Egan AO.

MOVIE NIGHT
Thu 30.10 – Sun 2.11 at Great Southern Distillery
Join the community for the screening of the acclaimed Australian movie Gallipoli in an outdoor cinema in the grounds of the Great Southern Distillery.

WESTRALIAN GREAT WAR LIVING HISTORY ASSOCIATION
1AIF ENCAMPMENT
Thurs 30.10 - Sun 2.11 at Stirling Terrace Mess Hall
An interactive historical display of WW1 uniforms and equipment located within a period military encampment.

MY WAR?
Thu 30.10 – Sun 2.11 at Vancouver Arts Centre

LETTERS TO EVIE
Thu 30.10 – Sun 2.11 at Southern Edge Arts
A performance with projections, gramophone and sound, based on a chronological account of letters to Evie Percy of Geraldton between 1914 -1918.

DESERT MOUNTED CORPS MEMORIAL SERVICE
Fri 31.10 at Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, Mt. Clarence
This annual service commemorates the all Australian Mounted Divisions, Australian Flying Corps and other Australian and New Zealand units and formations that served in Egypt, Palestine and Syria.

Please note that some events are ticketed. Please see www.anzacalbany.com.au for more information.
PRSC DIGGERS & SAILORS DANCE  
Fri 31.10 at Princess Royal Sailing Club  
A dance to honour the yacht club members who left home for war in the first convoy.

MIDDLETON BEACH GROUP BEACH POPPIES TRIBUTE  
Thu 30.10 – Mon 3.11 at Middleton Beach  
Poppies in the Sand will feature 30,000 poppies on Middleton Beach & Lest We Forget, a display of 10,000 wool poppies at the Albany Entertainment Centre.

IN CONVERSATION WITH FIRST WORLD WAR AUTHORS  
Sat 1.11 at Albany Entertainment Centre  
A group discussion between leading authors in their particular area of expertise offering vast insight into the First World War era.

TWO UP  
Thu 30.10 – Sat 1.11 at RSL - Stirling Club  
Two Up held at the RSL Stirling Club.

ONE HUNDRED POSTCARDS  
Sun 2.11 at WA Museum  
This exhibition features over 100 postcards sent to a nurse back home during the First World War by six soldiers serving in the Australian Imperial Force.

WAR HORSE AT THE RACE COURSE  
Sun 2.11 at Percy Spencer Race Course  
An acknowledgement of the equine involvement in our early wars. The day will include bush poets reciting war theme yarns and poems with links to our gallant horses and other entertainment.

SOULS OF ANZAC REFLECTIVE WALK & MASS  
Sun 2.11 at St Josephs Church  
A walking pilgrimage led by the Catholic Community of Albany, will depart St Joseph’s Catholic Church, Aberdeen Street, and conclude with a Catholic Mass at 4.30pm.

KATANNING COMMEMORATIVE DISPLAY  
Mon 3.11 – Fri 21.11 at Katanning Gallery  
The 10th Light Horse Display will include photos and memorabilia relevant to local ANZACs.

TRANSPORT & TRAFFIC  
There will be a free shuttle bus service from a number of Park and Ride facilities around Albany to the events area. Road closures will be in place and there will be some disruption. Local patrons are encouraged to plan their movements and mode of transport well in advance and consider walking, cycling, car-pooling or using the free shuttle service. Full details will be announced closer to the event. Registering for the Anzac Albany e-newsletter via www.anzacalbany.com.au is highly recommended. The Anzac Albany Public Transport Network is supported by the RAC.
Kings Park
Post war, Kings Park became the major State focus point for commemorations with the main State War Memorial Cenotaph. The Avenues of Honour were also created, where families could place plaques at the foot of the trees to commemorate the war dead.

Fremantle
A major focal point during the First World War as the majority of Western Australian soldiers left from Fremantle on troopships and also returned through this port.

Fremantle Maritime Museum: Stories of bravery, war, peace, weapons and naval defence are showcased in exhibitions exploring the role of naval defence in protecting Australia. The WW1 Tenix AE2 Submarine conning tower and Sleeping Beauty replicas are bought to life here.

Artillery Barracks: In Burt Street, Fremantle, the Artillery Barracks were garrisoned by the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery during WW1, also used as a hospital from 1914-1918.

Nannup
Wadi Farm Walers
An equine centre in Nannup, rescuing and breeding Waler horses, which were used in WW1.

Nannup Historical Society
Throughout 2015, the Nannup Historical Society are holding an exhibition on the stories of residents of Nannup who enlisted in WW1.

Brigadier Arnold Potts statue
Involved in both the First and Second World Wars, ‘Potty’ commanded the brigade that held back the Japanese advance during bitter fighting on the Kokoda Trail in World War II. He also received a Military Cross decoration from King George V at Buckingham Palace in 1916 for serving on the Western Front. ‘Potty’ was immortalised by a bronze statue in his home town of Kojonup.

Collie War Memorial
The first war memorial in Western Australia to commemorate the local Aboriginal people who went to war, with a Sacred Stone.

Karri Forrest (Bridgetown)

Diamond Tree Look Out
Climb the massive 51m Karri tree, operating as a fire lookout tower for over 65 years.

Augusta War Memorial

ANZAC 1914-2014

FOR A SAFER JOURNEY
BE SEEN, BE SAFE
SWITCH ON YOUR HEADLIGHTS.
MAKE SURE YOU AND ALL YOUR PASSENGERS BUCKLE UP.

Giants Tree Top Walk
Explore the Valley of the Giants Tree Top Walk between Walpole and Denmark, amidst the tall Red Tingle trees.
Stirling Range National Park
Home to one of WA's highest peaks – Bluff Knoll, “the Stirlings” are known for its staggering variety of wildflowers, many native to the area.

Fitzgerald River National Park
One of Australia’s largest National Parks with nearly 20% of WA’s plant species.

Little Beach
Little Beach in Two Peoples Bay National Park was voted one of Australia’s top 5 secret spots, and top 10 beaches.

Wagin Historical Village
Started by volunteers with a few pieces of old machinery in 1978, this village has grown into the largest social history museum in Western Australia.

Balingup
Opened in 1932 by Sir William Birdwood, the Birdwood Park Avenue of Honour in Balingup is made up of 80 year old Oak trees – which commemorates the 47 soldiers from this district who didn’t return home.

The National Anzac Centre
The National Anzac Centre is a state of the art interpretive museum providing a means for people of all ages to learn about and reflect upon, the services and sacrifice of Australian men and women during the First World War.

www.anzacalbany.com.au
ANZAC ALBANY

Light falls on an Albany legend

“It was one of the greatest moments of my life to walk on the same land as my mother did 100 years ago. It was the most emotional moment of my life.”

These words of Don Watson (83), of Bibra Lake, bring to life events that occurred on the rocky, barren island as the first ANZAC convoy of nearly 40 ships assembled in rain-swept King George Sound.

It is the stuff of legend; part truth, part fiction. In 1914, Don’s mother, Fay Howe, was the 14-year-old daughter of a lighthouse keeper on Breaksea Island, 12km offshore from Albany at the entrance of the sound.

She became the inspiration of a recent book called The Lighthouse Girl, written by local resident Di Wolfer.

Fay Howe was the last point of contact for many soldiers before they sailed for Egypt and Gallipoli and Don remembers seeing dozens of ‘beautifully embossed’ cards sent to his mother from Egypt addressed to the ‘little girl’ on Breaksea Island.

Unfortunately, the cards have disappeared. Don Watson says his mother, as a young girl, acted as sole support for her father – one of two lighthouse keepers living on the Island.

“Her name and addressed them to the little girl on Breaksea Island.

“She signalled to the soldiers because they made requests to her and asked her to communicate with their parents around Australia via telegraph, which they had on Breaksea Island.

“She received two to three dozen beautifully embossed cards from soldiers in Egypt. They didn’t know her name and addressed them to the little girl on Breaksea Island.

• As a 14 year-old, Fay Howe created an ANZAC legend when she communicated with troops in King George Sound.

“I do believe she answered some of those letters…but as far as the story about Charlie the soldier goes, she didn’t get friendly with him; that’s a fictional part of the story in which he goes on to get killed.”

Nor does he think Fay Howe communicated with soldiers via the semaphore flag signalling system, as depicted in the book, purely because of the distances involved.

But many other parts of the legend – including the ruggedness of the island – are accurate.

“My mother used to go ashore occasionally – but most of her time was spent on the island. She cooked and looked after grandfather. Sometimes they had to make do when supplies were scarce and shoot rabbits and muttonbirds and collect stinging nettles for greens.”

Several years ago, Don Watson visited the rocky, barren island by helicopter. He walked in the same steps as his mother, and was awestruck.

“It’s a very rocky, barren island with low bushes. Even though the lighthouse is supposed to be 300ft above sea level, when the sea is up it broke over the top of it.”

ANZAC Convoy would have been an amazing sight

By Di Wolfer

An important part of the writing process involves immersing yourself in your story’s setting. This is not always possible. After hearing about ‘the little girl on Breaksea Island’ signalling to the departing troopships, I often looked across King George Sound, trying to imagine what life was like for Fay Catherine Howe in 1914.

Breaksea Island is a nature reserve managed by the Department of Environment and Conservation, so access is not freely available. When the chance to help on a restoration project arose, I jumped at the opportunity.

Getting onto Breaksea involves a challenging climb onto a swinging ladder. Once on the jetty it was exciting to walk along the zigzag track to the old lighthouse, just as Fay would have with her donkey 100 years ago. Then to crest the hill, and see the two lighthouse keepers’ cottages.

With three others, I camped in one of the cottages, perhaps in Fay’s room. At dusk, shearwaters returned from fishing at the edge of the continental shelf. They wheeled through the sky before finding their burrows and courting/squawking all night. As the sky darkened and stars appeared, I imagined Fay looking out at the troopships gathered in King George Sound 100 years ago. Watching the troopships sail past in three columns then reform behind Breaksea Island before sailing west in one massive convoy must have been an amazing sight. Visiting Breaksea; being surrounded by sky, hearing the wind and birds, touching the convict built lighthouse, tasting the salt in the air and seeing King George Sound from a completely different perspective all helped me bring Fay’s story to life.

Di Wolfer is author of The Lighthouse Girl and has lived in Denmark and Albany since November 1995.

“I think part of the reason the book has resonated with young readers, and others, is because it is a story of those left behind during the war, told from a female point of view.

“For a lot of those young men (on the ships) she represented who they were fighting for and for many of them, who they would die for.”
Sailing disaster claims three Diggers’ lives

By Sandra Playle Fremantle and Graeme Hosken Dubbo

Three young men, mates from Western Australia, survived all of the travails of the Great War only to tragically lose their lives in a sailing accident in Wilson’s Inlet, Denmark in 1922.

Today, Harold Stuart Weight and Victor Mainwaring Green are buried together in identical graves in Albany, befitting their mateship. The remains of Lawrence (Edgar) Rushton were accorded a military funeral at Denmark, where ‘practically the whole of the town and district joined in paying their respects to a lad who was universally popular and esteemed’.

The three mates all served in the 4th Brigade, and while not in the same unit, there would have been opportunities to mix out of the line, and, at Bullecourt, to fight in close proximity.

The Albany Advertiser on Wednesday, 6 September 1922 records the sailing incident: ‘A yachting fatality that resulted in the loss of three splendid young lives, occurred in Wilson’s Inlet, Denmark, on Sunday afternoon. The fourth member of the party, a youth named Dickenson, was the sole survivor.’

The newspaper reported that Victor Green and Harold Weight purchased a 14ft yacht, the Thistle, in Albany and sent it by rail to Denmark for a trial spin on Wilson’s Inlet. They set off with Edgar Rushton and a youth named Dickenson.

Near Pelican Island, a strong gale overturned the Thistle, hurling the occupants into the water. The three victims, being strong swimmers, tried to reach the shore. Dickenson, who was unable to swim, stuck to the Thistle, which eventually drifted into shallow water, allowing the Dickenson to wade ashore.

Edgar Rushton was farming in Denmark when he enlisted on 10 August 1915 at the age of 18 years and 11 months. In Egypt, Edgar joined the 4th Division Ammunition Column on 1 May 1916 and sailed for the Western Front on 6 June. He remained with his unit in France until he was sent to England for treatment for influenza and jaundice on 19 November 1916. Edgar rejoined his unit on 19 April 1917. He went on leave to England in February/March 1918 and spent the period 25 April to 19 December attached to the 12th Infantry Brigade’s 4th Light Trench Mortar Battery as a gunner.

Harold Weight was a farmer near Albany when he enlisted in the AIF on 21 June 1915 at Blackboy Hill, WA, aged 20. Weight joined 16th Battalion at Mudros on 23 October. He sailed for the Western Front on 1 June 1916 and transferred to the 4th Light Trench Mortar Battery on 5 September. On 11 April 1917 Weight was reported missing in action, following his capture at Reincourt (in the Battle of Bullecourt). He was interned at Limburg POW Camp in Germany, until he was repatriated to England on 30 December 1918 following the Armistice.

Victor Green was a 21 year-old farm hand in Denmark when he enlisted on 19 June 1916 and appointed to the 21st Reinforcements for the 16th Battalion. Green was wounded in the left hand and captured at Reincourt on 11 April 1917. He appears to have been imprisoned at Gefangenenlager, Dulman, in Germany until his repatriation to England in December 1918.

The funerals of the victims were reported in the Albany Advertiser, Wednesday, 19 September 1922, and said of Weight and Green: ‘... both were members of the 16th Battalion AIF and were taken prisoners of war by the Germans on the same morning. They were repatriated together, returned to Australia in the same vessel and were discharged simultaneously. They later worked together until they met their sad end. It was fitting indeed then that in death they should not be divided.’
All veterans who are visiting Albany for the Centenary weekend are invited to join the march along York Street, the main street of Albany.

Unit and association banners are welcome.

The nationally-televised march starts at 9am

Final details of the march, and the weekend, will be posted when confirmed on the Albany Sub-Branch website at www.albany-rsl.org.au and at www.rslwahq.org.au

For further information and registration details contact clanfraser09@bigpond.com or 0400 446 954

Over the weekend of 31 October – 1 November 2014, Albany will commemorate the Centenary of the departure of the ANZAC convoys on 1 November and 31 December 1914. This is the first major commemorative event of the Centenary of ANZAC. The convoys took New Zealanders and the 1st AIF to the Middle East and wading ashore to immortality at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

More details www.rslwahq.org.au
WA’s extraordinary contribution to the First World War will be underlined by the 100th anniversary of first WA diggers departing from Fremantle on 31 October.

About 10 per cent of WA’s total population, or 32,231, volunteered to serve in the war 100 years ago – the highest proportion of any State.

Indeed, more than one quarter of the Australian soldiers who landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 were West Australian.

Today, WA continues to outshine other states with massive turn-outs at ANZAC Day services in Kings Park and in dozens of regional centres.

When war was declared by England on Germany on 4 August, 1914, Australia simply fell into line. Young men rushed to enlist.

Among them – 14 young men who were working on the transcontinental railway, who downed tools and headed for Kalgoorlie, where 13 were accepted for duty before being sent to Blackboy Hill, Greenmount.

On 17 August, 187 volunteers marched through Kalgoorlie, a march replicated this year. (Story next page).

On the same day, Blackboy Hill became an Army camp. The first horse and cart was driven there by Lt Colonel Kenneth McLennan (Story page 41).

So began the first battalion raised in WA, the 11th Battalion.

“No battalion ever consisted of a finer body of men,” Captain Walter Bedford, of the 11th Battalion, wrote in The Western Mail newspaper.

“There were bushmen and bank clerks, lumpers and shearmen, teachers and miners, farmers and timber-getters, all being welded together into one splendid unit.”

On Friday 31 October West Australians will remember the first 1,590 rapidly-trained volunteers who boarded two ships – the transport vessels Medic and Ascanius – after travelling from Blackboy Hill, Greenmount, on the same day.

Services will be conducted to remember their sacrifice and to replicate their journey by train.

(Details of these events are on pages 31 and 32). Continued page 46

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**Become StrokeSafe**

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To book a speaker call 1300 194 196 or email strokesafeseminar@strokefoundation.com.au

This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Chronic Diseases Prevention and Service Improvement Fund.

www.strokefoundation.com.au
Goldfields honours 187 volunteers

Kalgoorlie residents turned the clock back 100 years to re-enact the march of the first ANZAC soldiers through the town on their way for basic training at Blackboy Hill (Greenmount).

On Sunday, 17 August they gathered at the Army depot in Cheetham Street and marched to the Kalgoorlie railway station – the same as 187 young volunteers did 100 years ago to the day.

“It was a hugely successful event,” said Anne Skinner, chair of the organising committee. “We had all 187 name badges marching on the street - borne by men, women and children in the end.

“I am so impressed that there are 187 people who care about what our men did 100 years ago. Everyone took on board the solemnity of the event and played their parts really well. This was a real coming together of the community to honour the first troops to leave the Goldfields. By extension, they were honouring all the men who left during the entire war.” An enthusiastic crowd lined the streets to cheer them on, wave pocket handkerchiefs and hand out flowers to the departing troops.

Perth as it was in 1914...

by Richard Offen
Executive Director of Heritage Perth

Over the coming months much will be written and told about the Western Australian troops who experienced the horrors of war at the front line, but what of those left behind in the cities and towns like Perth? How did they cope with war? Indeed, what did Perth look like in that era 100 years ago?

During the 20 years leading up to World War I, the first gold boom had transformed Perth from a sleepy country town, whose modest buildings were dominated by the relative grandeur of Government House and Perth Town Hall, into a thriving and busy city. With the boom came a rush of new buildings which gave Perth’s still un-metalled streets a new air of refined elegance.

The war changed all that. With 10 per cent of the population, many of them tradesmen and labourers, away at the front, the burden of ‘keeping Perth going’ fell to those left behind. Mining declined and building work in the city all but ceased.

As part of Perth Heritage Days 2014, Heritage Perth is putting together a photographic exhibition next month to present Perth and the people who lived here in 1914.

The exhibition will be held from 18 to 25 October in the Burt Memorial Hall, which is an important historic symbol of Perth’s Burt family, who played a significant role in the government of the Swan River Colony when it was first established. Archibald Burt was the first Chief Justice of Western Australia. The Burt’s had three sons but tragically, two were lost in the Great War. Burt Memorial Hall was built as a memorial to his son’s.

The connection to the Burt’s loss makes this exhibition even more special and one not to be missed.
On 31 October 1914 the first Western Australian troops departed from Fremantle on two troop ships. Two days later they joined the rest of the convoy that departed from Albany. This began their journey to active service in World War One. One hundred years on we commemorate their departure.

Program of Events

**Thursday 30 October 2014**

**BLACKBOY HILL COMMENORATIVE SITE**

Community Event, 5 – 7.30pm

Come and see what life in a WW1 training camp was like and participate in storytelling, live music, memorabilia displays and demonstrations by the 11th Battalion Living History Unit.

Families and people of all ages are invited to join Australian Defence Force Cadets and the 11th Battalion Living History Unit for an evening of activities and storytelling.

The 11th Battalion Living History Unit, Australian Defence Force Cadets, YMCA and other organisations with historic links to Blackboy Hill will be re-enacting the experiences of the first Western Australian troops to depart from the training camp in 1914.

This will include period tents, uniforms and a program of activities detailing the experience of Western Australian troops 100 years ago.

Places are limited so please register your interest in attending at www.anzacfremantle.com.au or by calling 9227 8266.

**Venue:** Greenmount Primary School, Greenmount

**OVERNIGHT BIVOUAC AT GREENMOUNT PRIMARY SCHOOL FOR ADF CADETS AND SUPERVISORS**

Following the evening’s activities, a contingent of ADF Cadets will participate in an overnight bivouac on the Greenmount Primary School Oval. The oval is located where the Blackboy Hill Training Camp tents were erected on the eve of first troop departure.

The cadets will be joined by the 11th Battalion Living History Unit in period costumes and period tents.

The bivouac will allow the cadets to experience what life would have been like for the troops before they departed for War.

The 11th Battalion Living History Unit will tell stories of camp life and the cadets will participate in other activities throughout the evening.

**Venue:** Greenmount Primary School, Greenmount

**Friday 31 October 2014**

**BLACKBOY HILL DEPARTURE SERVICE, 8.30AM**

The public is invited to attend the RSL service to be held at the Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site at 8:30am.

The short service will provide a commemoration for the centenary of the first ANZAC departure from Blackboy Hill. Public parking will be available at Fraser Park, Fraser Drive Greenmount.

At the conclusion of the departure service, the ADF Cadet contingent accompanied by the WA Military Cadet Drum Band, 11th Battalion Living History Unit and the Avon Valley Light 10th Horse Memorial Troop will march from the Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site to the Bellevue RSL.

This march will provide historical significance as it re-creates the march taken by ANZAC soldiers 100 years ago to the day.

The Bellevue RSL is the site of the old Bellevue train station. This is the train station that the troops would have boarded the train to Fremantle Port.

RSL members and direct descendants will be invited to participate in the march.

**Venue:** Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site, Greenmount

**HERITAGE TRAIN JOURNEY**

The troops will journey to Fremantle in historic looking carriages that have been used for many years by Hotham Valley Railway. The train will be pulled by a C class diesel locomotive which was built by the English Electric Company at Rocklea, Queensland.

The locomotive is similar to those used for many years by Western Australian Government Railways across Western Australia.

Hotham Valley Tourist Railway operates from Dwellup into the Darling Range and through the Hotham Valley.

The journey from Bellevue to Fremantle in 1914 was by steam locomotive. This could not be recreated on the Perth suburban rail system due to safety and other technical issues.

School children have been invited participate in the commemoration of this journey by making Australian flags and ‘waving off the troops’ at stations along the route as the train passes by, much as they would have done throughout WW1.

**FREMANTLE**

- Heritage Train arrives at Fremantle Train Station, 10.50am
- Students from local schools will be at Fremantle Train Station (which was operational and built in 1914) waiting to greet the ‘troops’ or cadets as they get off the train.

“There was a vast concourse of people down at the wharf to see the troops off” – Captain Bellford (author of the history of the 11th Battalion).

- 11.05am – March, Fremantle
  - The public is invited to come and wave as members of 10th Light Horse memorial troop (Pinjarra), 11th Battalion Living History Unit, WA Military Cadet Drum Band and a contingent of Army, Navy and Air Force cadets march from Pioneer Park, down Phillimore Street to Victoria Quay.

- 11.28am – RAAF Fly Past (TBC)
- 11.29am – Ship’s bell signals commencement of commemorative service.

- Fremantle Departure – ANZAC Centenary Commemorative Service
  - All are welcome to attend this public commemorative service to be presented by the City of Fremantle and the RSL.
  - **Venue:** Victoria Quay (in front of the WA Maritime Museum)

- 11.30am – 12.10pm – Service addresses by:
  - Hon Graham Edwards AM, State President RSL
  - Hon Colin Barnett MLA, Premier of Western Australia
  - Ms Anne Patricia Pike, relative of digger Charles Carhill, on his leaving Fremantle

- 12.10pm – Official Wreath Laying, Last Post and One Minute Silence

- 12.25pm – Closing Speech, Dr Brad Pettitt, Mayor of Fremantle.
- 12.30pm – Ceremony concludes – public invited to lay wreaths.

The Fremantle Port Authority will be hosting a photographic exhibition within the B Shed commencing Friday 31 October. The exhibition will show photos depicting the role the Port has played in Western Australia’s military history.

**Transport**

The public are encouraged to use public transport as parking spaces in the Fremantle CBD are limited.

Continued over page
BLACKBOY HILL

Today, apart from the Blackboy Hill Commemorative Site, St Anthony’s Primary School and Church, and Greenmount Primary School, Blackboy Hill has been absorbed into the pleasant residential suburb of Greenmount.

However, from August 1914 until November 1918, the site was a military training camp which prepared large numbers of Australian Imperial Force troops before they left for the various battlefronts in Europe and the Middle East.

Within days of Britain declaring war on Germany on 4 August 1914, beginning Australia’s involvement in what was then known as the World War or the Great War, and which we now refer to as the First World War or World War I, the first of 32,000 troops who would go through the camp over the next four years marched on to Blackboy Hill to begin training.

The 11th Infantry Battalion was the first battalion raised in Western Australia after war was declared. There was a rush of eager young men, including 14 who had been working on the transcontinental railway. They immediately downed tools and travelled to Kalgoorlie, arriving on 15 August 1914. Of the 14, 13 were accepted as recruits and the next day boarded a special train to Perth. After a rousing public send-off in Kalgoorlie, the recruits were met with further cheers, congratulations and refreshments at every stop on the journey to Perth. They marched to Blackboy Hill on 17 August. The 11th Battalion was composed of a disparate bunch of fine men, truly representative of Western Australia. They were bushmen and bank clerks; shearers, labourers, teachers, farmers, miners and timber workers.

Together at Blackboy Hill they were moulded into a cohesive unit. Initially, there was no camp, so the first thing they had to do was draw tents and pitch camp. Over the following months they began marching, drilling, and learning the skills of an effective fighting force. After 4am parade at Blackboy Hill on 31 October 2014, they boarded the train to Fremantle to begin their journey to the Great War.

FREMANTLE

Albany was the departure point of most Australian and New Zealand troops travelling to the Great War.

However, on 31 October 1914, two transport ships carrying the majority of the Western Australian contingent sailed from Fremantle to await an Albany convoy, comprising 36 transport ships and three cruiser escorts. Medic had sailed from Adelaide on 20 October with the 3rd Field Artillery Brigade (South Australia), and 1st Division Ammunition Column 1st Division Artillery (South Australia). In Fremantle, these troops were joined by the 8th Field Artillery Battery (WA). Ascanius carried the 11th Infantry Battalion (WA 2nd Brigade) Fremantle turned out in force to farewell their men. “There was much excitement and great rejoicing,” said Captain Walter Belford of the 11th Battalion. “There was a vast concourse of people down at the wharf to see the troops off.”

On 1 November, HMAS Pioneer and the Japanese HIJMS Ibuki also sailed from Fremantle as escorts.

Two days later, Ascanius and Medic joined the Albany convoy off Fremantle, and sailed together to their destiny. After posing for a famous picture at the pyramids in Egypt, the 11th Battalion soon saw action.

In early 1915 it was decided to carry out an amphibious landing on the Gallipoli peninsula to open up a second front and secure the passage of the Dardanelles. Australians and New Zealanders, grouped together as the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC), went ashore on 25 April 1915. As part of the 3rd Brigade, 11th Battalion troops were among the first ashore at 4.30am at what is now known as Anzac Cove.

For the next eight months the Anzacs, alongside their British, French and other allies, fought a costly and ultimately unsuccessful campaign against the Turks. The Anzac force was evacuated from the Gallipoli peninsula in December 1915 and returned to Egypt.

The 11th Battalion served in France and Belgium from 1916 to 1918. After the Great War ended on 11 November 1918, the Battalion was disbanded on 5 February 1919.

As 100 years since 31 October 2014 passes, for many Western Australian diggers who left Fremantle that day, it was their final glimpse of their State.

Website: http://anzacfremantle.com.au
Community Enquiries: (08) 9227 8266
Welcome! Says Peter
Albany RSL President Peter Aspinall says veterans will have much to do during the Albany ANZAC commemorative weekend from Friday 31 October to Sunday 2 November.
Highlights include: seven naval vessels forming the fleet on Friday and later, services for Desert Mounted Corps and the 97th anniversary of the charge at Beersheba; a commemorative troop march up York Street on Saturday; a memorial service on Albany Peace Park and the opening of the National ANZAC Centre; and on Sunday, the Navy opening ships for public inspection.

11 Battalion Events
Members of the 11 Battalion Association are pursuing their goal of a community-based event at Fremantle Port Authority’s B Shed to commemorate the departure of WA troops from Gage Roads in the First World War.
Led by Rod Halcombe, the association plans to recognise the ‘service and sacrifice’ of West Australians who boarded the transport ships Media and Ascanius on 31 October 1914 but did not leave Gage Roads until 2 November.
Rod plans to sail the Leeuwin out to sea on 2 November with descendants of the battalion and to hold a community event at B Shed from noon on the same day.

Naval Engineering Reunion 2014 Canberra
All serving, retired and civilian members of the Naval Engineering branches are cordially invited to attend the 2014 Naval Engineering Reunion to be held on Friday 14 November 2014. Inquiries can be made by contacting one of the committee members listed: Glen Murch – (02) 6261 1675, Neil Garvin - 0403 324 858, John Bryson - 0400 630 521 or Garry Smee - (02) 6201 7915.

Vietnam Vets
Three Springs Arrino Sub Branch could never miss Vietnam Veterans Day with President Ray Morgan from 17 Construction Squadron RAE and Secretary Con Kikeros, from 1st Field Regiment, 105 Battery.
Both men did year-long tours and this year spoke of their experiences after laying a wreath and saying the Ode.

Dear Editor
Whoa! The new magazine that has replaced The Listening Post, of old newspaper style, is superb. Everyone must be highly congratulated.
This surely reflects the changes I can see coming through with the RSL organisation.
Keep up the standard.

Joan Dalglis
Hon. Secretary
Mt. Lawley/Inglewood Sub Branch

The Returned & Services League of Australia
WA Branch Incorporated
proudly presents the
Poppy Picnic
Tuesday, November 11, 2014 at 11.45am
STATE WAR MEMORIAL, KINGS PARK
Tea, Coffee and Cake provided for a gold coin donation by the Salvation Army
Treasure Hunt for school children available

Please contact the RSL WA Branch for more information on 9287 3799 email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au
Pinjarra RSL entertains Pinjarra Primary

Sub Branch NEWS

Sixty students from Pinjarra Primary School enjoyed their visit to the Pinjarra RSL and Pinjarra War Memorial on Monday 28 April.

The RSL has a new military display area which is open by arrangement to schools, groups and the general public. The military display is a work in progress and will be greatly enhanced with the delivery of eight new display cabinets. The display cabinets were purchased from a recent funding grant of $14,413 from Lotterywest. The Pinjarra Bendigo Bank provided a donation of $3,530 to help with the security of the display shed.

Merv Wilson from Kelmscott/ Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Troop gave a presentation on the involvement of 10th Light Horse in WWI and Gallipoli.

Sue O’Donnell
Secretary - Pinjarra RSL

Ray Fiori again donates to RSL

For the last four years Rockingham Mitsubishi has donated to the City of Rockingham RSL a sum of money from sales of new cars during the month of April. This year it was $6,400, bringing the total for the last four years to $24,400. Truly a magnificent effort by the Dealer Principal Mr Ray Fiori and the team at Rockingham Mitsubishi Kia.

Mick Ryan
President - City of Rockingham RSL

JOIN THE RSL NOW

Check our website at www.rslwaq.org.au or phone our Membership Officer on 9287 3705 or email membership@rslwaq.org.au

Sue O’Donnell – Secretary, Pinjarra RSL
Mystery of Toodyay’s WW1 departed Heroes

With the fast approaching centenary of ANZAC, Toodyay RSL is trying to get to know something about those individuals whose names appear on our monuments.

On the Toodyay War Memorial in ANZAC Park there are 27 names of people who made the extreme sacrifice. In the Memorial Hall foyer there is a ‘Roll of Honor’ to commemorate the heroes of Toodyay Road Board District who enlisted during World War One. At the bottom there is another section of 26 names headed ‘Died for King and Country’. The reason for the difference between the two memorials is Frank Stamp, who was a merchant seaman.

He was omitted from the roll because merchant seamen were ruled ineligible as they were not members of the Australian Armed Services. The roll records the names of those Australians who died during or as a result of wars in which Australians served, but who were not serving in the Australian Armed Forces and therefore not eligible for inclusion. It includes Australians who died while members of Allied Forces, the Merchant Navy, and philanthropic organisations attached to the forces, or as war correspondents or photographers.

The mystery of our departed heroes grew deeper when the Toodyay RSL instigated a program to restore the plaques in ANZAC Park. Some years ago we found plaques scattered around the shire in various places – like the shire gardeners’ shed at the Toodyay Museum. On investigation we learned that these plaques do not agree with the names on the War Memorial; we also discovered that the plaques had been commissioned, and paid for by relatives of the deceased.

These plaques were then placed in ANZAC Park with a tree; we believed they were trying to establish an Avenue of Honour similar to Kings Park Avenue of Honour. We soon realised that the plaques we had found were not a complete set. We did not know if some plaques had been lost or that relatives of the deceased members could not afford to have a plaque made at the time. We also had a plaque for an individual who was not listed on our memorial - it was commissioned by the departed person’s mother who lived in Toodyay.

We then decided to undertake a search of the Australian Archives site for all those individuals who had a link with Toodyay (ie, born in Toodyay, signed up in Toodyay etc). We could not establish the link one of our memorial names has with Toodyay - one Gunner Patrick O’Shaughnessy. Some told us that maybe Patrick was a barman working at one of the hotels in Toodyay.

We, the Toodyay RSL, would like to enlist the help of the community to improve our knowledge of our World War One heroes. We would like to know if there are any relatives left in the surrounding districts, to help us with family stories of these individuals.

Frank Stamp was 19 when he died; he was serving on SS Marie Elsie on 10 Jun 1917. He was one of three individuals who were lost when the ship was sunk.

3301 Gunner Patrick O’Shaughnessy, of 5th Division Trench Mortar Australian Field Artillery, was accidentally killed at Ypres on 26 Oct 1916 aged 32. He was a barman prior to enlisting in the army. He was killed in a mortar accident whilst undergoing training.

Any information please contact Lou Kidd (Honorary Secretary/Treasurer – Toodyay RSL), (08) 9574 4310 or email: Lou101@bigpond.com

Pinjarra hosts Military Brotherhood

Pinjarra RSL Sub-Branch welcomed the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club (MBMMC) Perth South Sub-Branch on Sunday 22 June. The MBMMC lunched at the Pinjarra RSL, conducted a general meeting and ran a raffle in support of ‘Soldier On’.

The MBMMC are a Tri-Service Military Club comprising of serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force and Commonwealth Force Members, their families friends and support riders. It is requirement within the MBMMC’s constitution that the club actively involve themselves with RSLs Australia wide.

Pinjarra RSL Vice President Chris Hartney welcomed the interaction shared between the two clubs

Chris extended the invitation for MBMMC Perth South Sub-Branch and their other branches to return at any time in the future.

Barbara Hartney
Social Coordinator – Pinjarra
Camp Gallipoli 2015

Ascot Racecourse and a planned three regional centres in Western Australia will host Camp Gallipoli on the eve of ANZAC Day 2015.

The camps promise to be an educational, respectful and unforgottably moving tribute to all serving and ex-serving defence personnel.

Camp Gallipoli organisers expect in excess of 10,000 to participate in WA and to enjoy authentic tucker, iconic music artists, a world-class documentary and movies.

Metropolitan and regional events have been designed to provide an experience of how 100 years ago thousands of our nation’s youngest and bravest would have gathered at the same or similar campsites before embarking on their long journey to fight for Australia.

A highlight of the evening before Anzac Day will be the RSL ANZAC flame entering Ascot Racecourse at dusk carried by a mounted light horseman.

The choice of West Australia and in particular Albany for the launch was simple. By the end of 1914 54 Australian and New Zealand ships in two convoys carried 40,000 troops from the Australian Imperial Force and New Zealand Expeditionary Force from Albany. It would be the last sight of Australia many of these boys would ever see. They were joined by West Australians from the mighty 11th Battalion - accredited as being the first to land on the beaches of Gallipoli on April 25, 1915. The Camp Gallipoli Foundation’s beneficiaries are the RSL and Legacy.

Ticket sales start at $80 for the Ascot events and $30 at regional and will go on sale early October through Ticketek.

For any further details please contact Camp Gallipoli on 1300 951 951 or RSLWA on 9287 3799.

Sally McGilvray

Paver sales will honour fallen

Rosalie Primary School in Shenton Park has been awarded a substantial grant from DVA to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary and to assist with the building of a new courtyard and pergola – the ANZAC Courtyard.

Rosalie Primary School has a long association with the local 11th Battalion (now 11/28th Battalion). The school colours of brown and blue are significant. These were the colours of the 11th Battalion (The City of Perth Regiment). It is believed the school adopted the colours of the 11th in recognition of, and respect for, their Head Teacher (Harry Naylor) who lost his life in the First World War while serving as a member of the 11th Battalion. Members of the school community and the local community have been invited to be a part of history, honour the ANZAC’s and purchase their own paver within the ANZAC Courtyard.

Sally McGilvray
Anne Leach – epitomy of loving service

‘True and loving humanitarianism - a lasting general propriety’

These words, inscribed on the reverse of the Florence Nightingale Medal, truly describe the life of Anne Leach.

In this year of the centenary of ANZAC and the centenary of Australian Red Cross, a truly remarkable Western Australian, Mrs Anne Leach, has also celebrated her centenary.

Born in Meekatharra in June 1914, Anne Metzke studied nursing at Perth Hospital from 1935. One week after war was declared in 1939 she enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service and was called up on 22 July 1940.

WFX 3412 Anne Metzke, member of the 2/7th Australian General Hospital, sailed from Fremantle on 10 February 1941 on the Aquitania and met her future husband Vernon Leach, who was with the Western Australian 2/16th Battalion, after being diverted to Port Tewfik.

Anne and Vernon were to later announce their engagement while still serving in the Middle East.

From 1941 until embarkation on the Nieuw Amsterdam on 1 February 1943, heading home to Fremantle, Anne nursed alongside her colleagues of the 2/7th in a 1000-bed ‘tent’ hospital in Rehovot, moving on to Sidon in Syria, and finally to a desert site in Egypt, Buselli, 64km from Alexandria, where they nursed the casualties from the 9th Division’s Desert Campaign.

Eighteen days later in Perth, before going home for leave in Cuballing, Anne was greeted by Vernon who, fortuitously, was also on leave; they married within the week.

No longer allowed to serve overseas because of her marriage, Anne worked with the 118 AGH in Northam before transferring to the 110 AGH Hollywood. Anne was discharged with the rank of Captain in August 1945 and happily settled into married life with Vernon who returned safely from New Guinea. It was at this time that

Anne has received the Service Medal, the Distinguished Service Medal and is an Honorary Life Member. The highly coveted Florence Nightingale Medal was awarded to Anne in 1983.

The Florence Nightingale Medal is the highest international distinction in the nursing profession.

Anne Leach’s devotion, exemplary service and lifetime of giving certainly made her a worthy recipient.

In her 61 years of service to Australian Red Cross, Anne has represented Red Cross on many kindred bodies. Within Red Cross Anne has an incredible record of serving on the Divisional Council for 30 years, the Divisional Executive for 22 years, Divisional Commandant (the most senior uniformed member) for 12 years and 32 years on the Blood Transfusion Committee. In 1994 the donors’ lounge in the Blood Centre was named the ‘Anne Leach Donors’ Lounge’ in her honour.

Also, in 1994, Anne received an OAM for services to Community Service groups, particularly the Red Cross Society.

Anne lives the principles of Red Cross and remains an invaluable member today.

Anne has left an indelible mark on many other organisations including the Ladies Auxiliary of the Royal Flying Doctor Service, serving terms as President; foundation member of the Government House Foundation of WA, foundation member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Army Museum, the Girl Guides from whom she received a ‘Thanks’ Badge, and also the Royal Perth Hospital ex Trainees’ Association, the Florence Nightingale Committee and Eleanor Harvey Committee.

Sheila Rod
Executive Assistant, Red Cross
Husband and wife team Joan Walsh-Smith and Charlie Smith met, at age 17, in art school in Ireland and for more than 40 years have been designing and creating some of the most iconic memorials in Australia. They are a creative powerhouse, designing the magnificent HMAS Sydney II Memorial in Geraldton and the powerful national memorial to the Australian Army in ANZAC Parade Canberra. They are the only artists who have created two national memorials in Australia.

After a visit to Australia in 1983, they decided to base themselves and their three children in Perth, setting up their studios in the bushland hill-setting of Gidgegannup, surrounded by native wildlife and their own bird sanctuary where they care for injured and abandoned birds.

Since then, they have been responsible for large scale public art projects around the world.

Over the years, they became specialists in memorial design.

At present they are involved in creating ANZAC 100th commemorative memorials all over Australia – ranging from Fremantle to the Cocos Islands to Onslow, Paraburdoo, Tom Price, Geraldton and Ocean Reef in Perth.

They are also working on an ANZAC memorial in Swansea NSW which will become part, with Onslow, of a major nationwide ANZAC Dawn Service which will be televised live on April 25 2015.

Their artworks can be seen at www.smithsculptors.com

• **TOP:** The Gidgegannup couple created the powerful Australian Army memorial in Canberra, in addition to Geraldton's Sydney memorial.

• **LEFT:** Joan Walsh-Smith and Charlie Smith met in Ireland and are a creative powerhouse.
Cis and Barbiche

Perth Theatre Trust and Agelink Theatre present Cis and Barbiche by Jenny Davis featuring Mark Desebrock, Siobhan Dow-Hall and Alinta Carroll with music by Nikki Dagostino. Written and directed by Jenny Davis, Lighting & Sound Design by Aaron Stirk. Fresh from a UK tour to York Theatre Royal where Cis and Barbiche received standing ovations, Agelink Theatre celebrates Remembrance Week 2014 with this moving tribute to young lovers in WWII. It is England 1944 and young Barbara Rigby, aged 19, falls in love with a young French airman, Francis Usai, fighting alongside the RAF and training to be a gunner on the Halifax Bombers. ‘Cis’, as he was called by his family, wrote over 200 passionate, playful and poetic letters to his ‘Barbiche’. Barbara (now Harper-Nelson) kept an informative daily diary of her life in wartime England. She has lived in Perth for 50 years and kept the letters and diaries from the time when, as she says, the world was for her ‘brightly coloured’. Join us during Remembrance Week with a story that, 70 years on, remains as captivating as ever.

Venue: Subiaco Arts Centre, 180 Hamersley Rd, Subiaco
When: Tues Nov 11, Fri Nov 14, Sat Nov 15 @ 7.30pm, Matinees: Thurs 13 & Sat Nov 15 @ 2pm Tickets: www.ticketek.com.au, Ticketek outlets or 1300 795 012 / Groups 1300 364 001

ANZAC Day 2015 in Sandakan

With the commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing approaching Travel Tree has designed an escorted tour with a goal of being in a significant place on the day. The tour will be escorted by Bob Coventry who served 40 years in the regular army and CMF and is currently a volunteer guide at the Army Museum WA. The tour has number of highlights including attendance at the Dawn Service in Sandakan, an invitation to the President of the Municipality of Sandakan dinner, a visit to the Orang Utan sanctuary at Sepilok, with a visit from Kota Kinabalu to Kundasang War Memorial on a full day tour.

The cost of the tour is $2,305.00 per person share twin (single room cost is available) which includes flights from Perth to Kota Kinabalu and return, airline taxes, six nights accommodation with full daily breakfast and airport transfers plus sightseeing.

For bookings and information contact Ms Maxiema Lager on 9382 5044 or email: maxiema@traveltree.com.au
Rain or shine, our fallen are honoured

Every year, come rain, hail or shine members of the RSL Highgate Sub-Branch, through the Honour Avenues Group, hold four dedication services in Kings Park for families and friends who wish to honour the fallen.

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.

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 more than 1500 memorial plaques in Kings Park and since 1922 the Honour Avenues group has worked in a voluntary capacity to maintain them.

The last service was well attended and nine groups of families and friends were there to dedicate a plaque. The Honour Avenues group researches each of the fallen members and gives an overview of their service and character. Families then head off to the tree where their plaque is being placed and return to May Circle for the Last Post and the Ode.

The most recent dedication ceremony was held on 16 August and officiated by Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority CEO, Mark Webb, who said the service was an honour to attend and a tribute to the Honour Avenues volunteers whose presence makes the service so special.

Nine Honour Plaques were dedicated:

- Private Thomas James Baker of 44 Battalion, KIA 12.01.1917, Armentieres, age 21 – Family member receiving Plaque: David Baker - second cousin
- Sapper Dawson Foster of 2/6 Field Park Company, DPOW 07.06.1945, Sandakan-Ranau track, age 40: Paul Foster - grandson
- Private Robert Banks of 28 Battalion, KIA 28.03.1917, Lagincourt, age 26: Doreen Savage - great niece
- Private Edward James Kavanagh of 2/28 Battalion, KIA 16.08.1945, Brunei Bay, age 28: Olive Kershaw - niece
- Private Charles Frederick Litton of 16 Battalion, KIA 27.04.1915, Gallipoli, age 22: Enid Rose - niece
- Private Ernest James Meagher of 28 Battalion, KIA 04.10.1917, Belgium, age 29: Roaald Meagher - nephew
- Private Clarence Sibley of 16 Battalion, DOW 11.08.1916, Pozieres, age 24: Kerry Goadby - great niece
- Flight Sergeant Alexander John Hine of 11 Squadron RAAF, KIA 06.05.1944: Manokwari New Guinea, age 28 – Don Davie - nephew
- Trooper Maurice Joseph Barry of 10 Light Horse, KIA 23 04. 1917, Palestine, age 24: Penny Carter - great niece

To dedicate a plaque follow this link www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/contact-us/17-honour-avenue-group or contact the Secretary by email: honour.avenue@bgpa.wa.gov.au or by phoning (08) 9448 2415.
The Western Australian Genealogical Society’s 11th Battalion Project is going gangbusters, says Chris Loudon, who conceived the latest project.

“We started on 10 January 2014, with the 126 men which had an identification recorded by Allan and Raye Ellam in their collection,” Chris said.

“The Ellam-Innes Collection is currently held by the Princess Royal Fortress Military Museum in Albany and curator David Theodore kindly provided us with the names of these soldiers, and photographs of the Ellams’ Cheops photo showing where they had identified the soldiers.

“We have clarified that some of the initial Ellam identifications were incorrect, and verified many others as being correct. This process is ongoing”.

At the time of going to press, WAGS had identified 153 of the 703 soldiers in the photograph.


Mr Loudon said the society was taking a cautious approach and had only verified 60 of the soldiers, saying “we acknowledge that there is potential for errors to be made”.

“With quite a number of emails still to be processed, we envisage getting above 200 of these men identified, and hopefully fully verified, by the Centenary anniversary of the photo, being 10 Jan 2015.”

In conjunction with RSLWA, the society is inviting descendents to gather for a service and group photo on 10 January 2015. The registration form is available via the 11th Battalion website and WAGS websites.

Murray and Graeme McLennan are pictured at Kings Park’s 11th Battalion’s ‘nook of rest’ paying tribute to Lt Colonel Kenneth McLennan - Murray’s great grandfather and Graeme’s grandfather. “He drove the first horse and cart up to Blackboy Hill to set up the camp,” Graeme says. “He was an acting lieutenant and quartermaster.” He also features in the famous Cheops Pyramid photo – taken of the WA-based 11 Battalion on 10 January 1915.

Lt McLennan at rear, with Capt Charles A Barnes in front left (on McLennan’s right) and Padre Fahey front right. Capt Barnes records in his diary: ‘After Church this morning the whole Battalion was marched up to the Pyramid (Old Cheops) and we had a photo took or at least several of them.’
This will be the last time

Amy and David Searle are promising each other that their latest five-month separation will be their last.

Petty Officer Amy is onboard the RAN’s Anzac class frigate HMAS Toowoomba, which left Fleet Base West, Garden Island, on 2 August after a rousing send-off attended by families and friends from around Australia.

“This is the last one,” said Amy just before the ship left. “It’s been nine years of going away. We are hoping to have a family next year.”

David left the Navy as a leading seaman back in 2012, after a seven-year stint. He is now a commercial pilot for freight charter company Gam Air in NSW.

“Amy helped me get through it all while we were scooting around the place,” he said. “It was all hard work and study.”

Toowoomba and her crew of 191 are deployed for five months in the Middle East under Commander Cath Hayes.

Toowoomba is part of Operation Manitou, providing support to the international campaign aimed at countering and deterring terrorism and the trade of narcotics on the seas.

The RSL was proudly represented by its CEO Phil Orchard, Rockingham Sub-Branch president Mick Ryan, Simon Larkin from Port Kennedy Sub-Branch, and other staff. The RSL met the cost of the large marquee used for the official send-off.

Vale: Edward (Ted) John Miller

10 September 1929 - 9 July 2014

Military history was one of Ted Miller’s great passions; though Ted himself never served in the military.

Ted lived in awe of the 10th Light Horse Brigade and the sacrifices of our service personnel in both world wars and all recent conflicts. He had a unique knowledge of the spirit and kinship of the RSL.

For the past 14 years, Ted was secretary and historian the Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch. Ted was not a computer person and hand wrote all correspondence.

One of Ted’s greatest contributions came after he visited a war cemetery in France. Ted said “you could buy a small cross for a couple of dollars and then place it on a grave. The cemetery looked so reverent with all the crosses, so I decided to bring the idea back to Kalgoorlie.”

Today the Kalgoorlie RSL has 300 white crosses, which are adorned with poppies and covered with green cardboard rings. Residents write the name of a family member and the conflict they served on a ring and with the cross, are placed on the Kalgoorlie War Memorial for ANZAC Day.

Ted, the consummate gentleman, was a devoted and loving husband, father and grandfather. He had four children, eight grandchildren and eight great grandchildren.

Ted will be deeply missed by the Kalgoorlie RSL. We will continue to uphold the honour and sanctity that Ted always put into ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day and all important functions.

Lest We Forget - RIP Ted Miller
Sudoku

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Solution in next edition

Across
1 Whipped dairy food
6 Pace
10 Had been
13 White
15 Air (prefix)
16 Business abbr.
17 Thin strip (used in building construction)
18 Tennis player Steffi
19 Self
20 Business person’s game
22 Hairspray type
24 Danish physicist
26 Negative (prefix)
28 Lotion brand
29 Frash
30 Compass point
31 Vice
32 Check
33 Scourge
34 Enemy
35 Vienna locale
37 Few (2 wds.)
41 Owned
42 Former magistrate of Venice
43 Pod vegetable
44 Cupboard or pantry
47 Possessive pronoun
48 Dagger
49 Knife
50 Channel
51 What cars travel on
52 Leaf used for pies
54 Listen to
56 Paddle
57 Gambling game
59 Leafy green vegetable
63 Atmosphere
64 Heroic
65 Allowance
66 Arid
67 Compass point
68 Penned

Down
1 Cycles per second
2 Knock
3 Wing
4 Perch
5 Younger
6 Choke
7 Supply oxygen
8 Iranian’s neighbor
9 Meat alternative
10 Hot dog
11 Rages
12 Nova
14 New Jersey’s neighbor
21 Matador’s passes at bull
23 BB Player Abdul Jabar
24 Boyfriend
25 Globes
27 Compass point
29 School group
30 Told
31 Ballot
33 Laugh loudly
34 Mists
35 Pounds
36 Pound
37 Opp. of south
38 Capital of Western Samoa
39 Smart person
40 Wild ox
42 Last month of year
44 Far from home
45 Angora hair fabric
46 Hazy
47 Cockiness
48 Totter
50 Hang
51 Grant an extension
53 Some (2 wds.)
55 Elver
58 Halloween mo.
60 The other half of Jima
61 Tub
62 Hurricane centre

Solution in next edition

Life on board ANZAC convoy

From page 3

He once told May – who now lives on her family wheat farm in Doodlakine with Robert (93), who served with 25th Light Horse and Army water transport group in the Second World War – of an incident at Gallipoli.

“I remember him saying the Australians were all in their dug-outs and trenches when the British troops came down. He warned the British to get off a road, because he knew the Turks would shell it.

“But the troops wouldn’t listen, so grandfather eventually said ‘I’m a corporal. I’m giving you orders to move’. When the officer came back he was extremely relieved that his troops had moved. That was the difference. Australians were independent, whereas the British if told to sit, would sit.”
Mystery of WWI AANS Uniform

In 1978 whilst on a Returned Services League 60th Armistice Anniversary tour, a woman donated 3 items to the Musée Franco-Australien, Villers-Bretonneux:
1. a WWI AANS uniform,
2. a framed photo of the nurse who wore the uniform during service in France and other theatres of war and
3. a 1978 commemorative RSL 60th ARMISTICE ANNIVERSARY ribbon

Unfortunately that person did not leave their name or contact details and the volunteer/s on duty that day did not record the name of the nurse whose uniform and photograph were being left in their care.

They did remember that the donor advised the uniform was worn during WWII service in France (no doubt amongst other theatres of war).

It is thought they were donated along with the uniform by either the nurse or her daughter, when she came as part of a group in 1978 during a commemorative Tour.

We are hoping that donor is still alive even though this event was 36 years ago, and that they have maintained their RSL membership/ties, or that a descendant will recognise the photographs.

Anyone with any information should send email to: museeaustralien@neuf.fr
ATTENTION: Lorraine Musée Franco-Australien 9, rue du Victoria 80800 Villers-Bretonneux tél./fax : 0033. (0)3.22.96.80.79 www.museeaustralien.com

Postcard

I have an old post card sent from a concentration camp 106 Vercelli XIX in Italy by a Private Leslie Arthur Parker wx14394. I know he was killed fighting with the Partisans and his name is in Canberra panel 60. I would like to return this card and information to any of his descendants.

Janene Parkinson
Janene_parkinson@hotmail.com

2nd / 11th Battalion

My dad, Harold Thomas Digwood (WX1462), took part in the Battle of Crete with the 2nd/11th Battalion and was taken as a POW by the Germans to Italy. I have been researching family history and visited Camp 106 in Carpenetto, Italy in 2000.

Next year, 2015, I am again going to this area and wondered if there is anyone I can contact that may have been in the same prison camp.

I realise we have lost many with age but perhaps there is a relative that can pass on information.

Dad passed in April 1996 and even though I had spoken to a Ken Johnson years ago, he could not shed light on camp 106. Ken has also since passed.

I know that dad attended a POW reunion in either 1992 or 1993 but have no other details. I would be very interested to hear if we have a similar event to my attachment, here in WA.

I would really appreciate any help you can provide and thank you in anticipation.

Fran Looby (Mrs)
Email: kevnfran@westnet.com.au

5411477 George WILMOT

I would like to get in touch with 5411477 George Wilmot who I haven’t seen since 1RAR returned in 1966. George returned in 68 for a second tour with 9RAR.

Angus Mackay
angus.mackay@activ8.net.au

Seeking Past Carey Baptist Grammar Students

Seeking Carey Baptist Grammar, Melbourne, past Students 1945 to present, who have had service or are currently serving in the Australian Defence Force. I am a member of The Carey Heritage Committee, and my task is to match past students post 1945, with service in the ADF.

The details are to be compiled into a Compendium and presented to the Carey Archives as a record of past student service to the Nation.

Please contact John Pritchard, Carey Alumni 1961 and former serving member at 0411 107 445 or email jpritc@iprimus.com.au

Search for medals

Searching for medals belonging to WX28495 (Army) and 436594 (RAAF) Peter L Nicholson WWII.
Peter’s son, Russell Nicholson, is searching for his father’s medals.

They were loaned to an organisation by Peter some years ago and after a series of deaths (including Peter’s) they have become lost.

Russell would dearly love to retrieve the medals thus enabling him to represent his father in future ANZAC and other commemorative ceremonies.

Anyone with information is requested to please contact Russell on (08) 9534 2685.

Searching for RAE Soldiers

I am trying to contact the following persons if possible:
Fred Danby, Arthur Foster, Les Robertson, Graham Rodgers and Derek Styman. All were RAE Soldiers

Jim Patterson
email: ljabylr@gamil.com
8 Field Ambulance Association

The association will be marching under their banner at the ANZAC Albany Commemorative Troop March on Saturday 1st November. All service and ex-service men and women who served with the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps or in a medical unit are invited to join in. For further information please phone Warren Austin 9375 3161.

Expressions of Interest

WA Police have kindly offered a number of innocuous .303 Lee Enfield bolt action rifles for use at RSL Sub-branches for display and ceremonial purposes. Because there is a limited number available, they will be dealt with on a first come first served basis. The rifles are priced at $100 being the cost of rendering innocuous. If interested please contact by e-mail at - Bill Collidge - Riverton RSL Sub-Branch: bcollidge@optusnet.com.au

For Sale - Woodlands Village Home

Spacious two bedroom villa with a study. Corner location with a nice garden area. Built-in-ropes, reverse cycle air-con, pergola and car port. Expressions of interest: call 0415 822 235 or email francismc@primus.com.au

Charity Bike Ride

Ocean Reef RSL is planning a charity bike ride from Ocean Reef RSL to Pinjarra RSL on Sunday 12 October leaving at 10.00am. All proceeds will go to the mental health of our veterans. Come on down and make a difference.

Rick Green - President Ocean Reef RSL

Replica WWII Medals Found

Replica WWII medals found at the entrance to Karrakatta Cemetery on 30 May 2014. Please call Peta at Office of Australian War Graves on 9386 3807.

16 Battalion Plaque for Gallipoli

A tour group from 2/16th Battalion Association and 16th Battalions’ Foundation, including direct descendants of 16 Battalion WW1 soldiers and the scholarship winner from 16 Royal Western Australia Regiment, visited the Gallipoli Peninsula and sites of 16 Battalion activity for three days prior to presenting the Founders Foundation plaque at West Footscray. A shell from a 1 pounder “Pom Pom” was included in the casting.

One down and three to go - funding is still required to complete the remaining horsemen. See: www.bwm.org.au/

Boer War Commemoration and Reconciliation Service 2015: We will again be conducting the 113th anniversary Boer War Commemoration and Reconciliation at the South African War memorial in Kings Park on Sunday, 31 May 2015. Sub-Branch secretaries are requested to mark this date on their commemoration calendar. Please consider conducting your own commemoration service. We will be happy to assist if you need any additional information.

Boer War History Conference 2015: The Boer War Memorial Committee in conjunction with the Military History Society of WA are planning to conduct a Boer War History Conference (BWHC) over Queen’s Birthday weekend on Sept 2015. Anybody with an interest in this or would like to contribute/donate/sponsor or assist, please contact the BWHC - 2015 secretary on 0422896813, e-mail: kbovill@iinet.net.au

Shipmates for Cancer Cycle Riding Team

The HMAS CANBERRA HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association, in partnership with the Shipmates for Cancer Group, have organised a team to ride in the Ride to Conquer Cancer 2014 in WA on 18-19 October 2014. The ride is conducted over 2 days at a distance of 215 km. The Shipmates for Cancer riding team will be raising donations for very important cancer research at the Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research. The riding team of nine is represented by serving and former members of the Navy.

The HMAS CANBERRA HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association recognises this to be a great opportunity to represent the Australian Naval and Defence Community in fundraising for such an important cause that has affected many of our shipmates and the broader Australian community and request your support.

For further Information on how to donate to the Shipmates for Cancer cycle team please contact Lee Webster or visit http://pr14.conquercancer.org.au/site/TR/Events/Pethyr2014?team_id=12394#pg=team&fr_id=1142

Lee Webster – President HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association WA Division Inc

Mobile: 0447 114 807
Email: presidentl@hmscanberra-shropshire.asn.au
Web: www.hmscanberra-shropshire.asn.au
Web: www.hmscanberra.com

Reunions & Services

Reunion in Hong Kong

A reunion is being planned in Hong Kong to commemorate HMAS Voyagers 50th anniversary year and the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Cocos (HMAS Sydney/S2 Emden) on 8 November 1914. The prime dates are 7 – 9 November 2014. There will be a meet and greet on the Friday 7 November followed by the main event the next day. On Sunday 9 November - the official 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Cocos - a service is to be held at the graveside of Ernie Howes (ME) who is buried in the Happy Valley cemetery on Hong Kong Island. We are hoping to have the meet and greet and the main Saturday evening at the Harbour View resort on the Island nearby Wanchai/Central and Happy Valley. It will be a requirement of all attending to make their own passage to/from Hong and arrange for accommodation however it will be necessary to confirm as soon as possible your intention to attend so that we are able to provide numbers for the main Saturday evening dinner. A couple of very nice memorabilia items will be available in a raffle as well as a couple of surprises in store for those attending. We have a framed canvas print of HMAS Voyager and a full brass scuttle, mirror inset and engraved with HMAS Voyager crest and Voyager profile.

Les Sheehan

HMAS Canberra-Shropshire Association (WA) Inc

Clear lower deck of all former and serving members of HMAS Shropshire and HMAS Canberra I, II and NUSHIP Canberra. The Association aims to bring together those men and woman who served on the ship bearing the name HMAS Canberra and those men who served on HMAS Shropshire. It is intended to form a National HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association later this year to assist the State Divisions.
The purpose of a National Association is to support the State Divisions that are in decline and to assist in reactivating the State Divisions that have wound up in the past. This will also provide an opportunity for personnel to join the Association who are overseas or in states where the Association State Divisions are currently not active.
The active State Divisions are all currently in different levels of maturity, WA and Queensland are being re-established and are in decline. The WA Division was reactivated in 2011 with 6 members, the membership base has grown to over 40 members and includes 4 x WW2 veterans from HMAS CANBERRA 1 and HMAS SHROPSHIRE, this number includes interstate and overseas members. The WA Division has been working very hard to establish itself in the ex-Defence Community over the past 3 years, we have developed strong relationships with the RSL, NAA, DVA the Navy and NUSHIP CANBERRA through our network of ex HMAS CANBERRA 2 personnel and community engagement through charity work in the community.

For further information please visit http://www.hmscanberra-shropshire.asn.au/

Al Daish - Membership Secretary
WA Diggers gave their all

Continued from p29

Among those first volunteers were the Adcock boys – Frank Henry Adcock (24) and Frederick Brenchley Adcock (21) – who were probably photographed together for the last time on 10 January 1915 at Cheops Pyramid and who historians believe died on the first landing at Gallipoli by ANZAC troops.

A similar fate at Gallipoli awaited Captain Joseph Lalor, who led the WA 12th Battalion, and who was grandson of the leader of the Eureka Rebellion, Peter Lalor.

Andrew Pittaway, the City of Fremantle's archivist, says between 27,000 and 30,000 West Australians ultimately went out through Fremantle. His own research established that 849 of those who had lived in the greater Fremantle area did not return.

www.anzacfremantle.com.au

Goldfields honours 187 volunteers

Continued from p30

The parade was led by the Eastern Goldfields Highland Pipe Band while the Goldfields Brass Band was at the Kalgoorlie railway station to send them off. The most poignant moment of the ceremony came when the names were read out of the 50 (of the 187) who did not return. Mayor Ron Yuryevich and Member for Kalgoorlie Wendy Duncan read the names in turn as the men fell out of the parade and formed a separate line.

They then marched into the railway station to the sound of a single piper playing a lament. After the last man had passed through the station doors, between ranks of Army Cadets forming a guard of honour, the doors were closed and the Last Post was played, followed by a minute’s silence. The crowd then sang Auld Lang Syne.

Bits & Pieces...

Continued from p7

Honours & Awards

Under the chair of Bob Allen the committee has made selections on those nominated for Life Membership & Meritorious Awards. These awards, together with the Australia Day awards, the ANZAC Peace Prize and ANZAC of the Year awards are nominated by you the members.

There are three categories in the Australia Day medallions - the community award presented to an organisation which has worked closely with RSLWA in the previous year (eg, a school which has had participated in several community/commemorative events); an award for a high performing Sub-Branch and thirdly an individual award for a member of the community who has shown exceptional support to RSLWA.

The Committee welcomes and encourages your input and recommendations. Please give serious consideration to forwarding your nominations especially for the ANZAC Centenary year in 2015.

It is also requested that the names of the recipients be forwarded as soon as possible, but definitely by Monday 27th October 2014. This will enable the National Australia Day Council to include them in the list on their website: www.australiaday.gov.au

Membership Prize

To boost early payments, financial members are being entered into a draw, kindly sponsored by RSLSA & Great Southern Rail, which will entitle the winner to a gold class ticket for two, Perth to Sydney one way. The winner will be informed on completion of the draw and formally announced at State Congress.

Sad News

For many years Mr David Khoo (57) has been our IT consultant. David, sadly and unexpectedly passed away in August. Many of the staff attended his funeral and our thoughts remain with Ling and the family.

That’s the round up from me. Thanks to all for your patience during my short absence as I had my starboard stabilising equipment (right hip) replaced.
Can We Help?

RSL WA provides welfare services to the Veteran community including Allied, currently serving members and their dependents.

Contact us for Emergency relief; Advocacy; Overseas Pension applications; Crisis counselling to point of referral; Financial assistance; Referral to other services; Home and Hospital visits; General crisis assistance; and Prison visits/ Legal Support Group – Mr. Terry O’Neill 9440 6233

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9am to 3.30pm.

Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.
AMAZING SPIRIT

Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.

amazing

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

hollywoodprivatehospital.com.au