Out and About with the troops

109th Signal Squadron

This unit is situated in McKays Lines near Barracks Karrakatta. Signals have been represented in Western Australia since 1906 when a company of signals was formed and located in Perth and Fremantle. The Corps has undergone many changes since 1906, with two main units operating after the Second World War, 109th Company Command Signal Squadron and Western Command Intercom Troop.

405th Signal Squadron was raised from these two units and a battle Group Signal Troop was raised to cater for other Western Command units. 405th Signal Troop was primarily responsible for all communication between Western Command and other units.

A further change in 1965 saw the raising of 126th Signal Squadron from 106th Signal Squadron on the 12th of November 1966. 106th Signal Squadron was raised from the battle group signal troop's units were in Leederville WA. In 1973 all army reserve signal members were transferred from 126th Signal Squadron to 106th Signal Squadron. 109th Signal Squadron was responsible for providing communications to 2 Task Force.

109th Signal Squadron moved to Lord Forrest Barracks in 1977 and has remained there until 1987. Early in 1988, the unit moved to Leederville Barracks and then came under the command of 147th Brigade.

A significant change occurred in the unit's establishment in 1989 as a result of becoming a brigade signals unit. In the five years following the unit undertook several large exercises in the Pilbara region, which has become its area of operations as part of the Defence and Strategic Group.

The concentration of 13th Brigade units in the Pilbara Barracks Karrakatta saw the Signals Unit move once again to another new location in 1992. This new home of the squadron was re-named McKays Lines after a distinguished member of the family.

109th Signal Squadron is a communications unit, which supports the Headquarters and units within the 13th Brigade by the provision of telephone, radio and television services. These are necessary for command and control.

With some background knowledge of the unit's history, I decided it was time that I visited 109th Signal Squadron and shared my experiences with you.

On my arrival at the Squadron I met Major Brian D'Cunha OC of 109th Signal Squadron when I had met previously. He showed me around the unit. It was Saturday morning and the signals personnel were taking part in a communications exercise. I was introduced to Lance Corporal Kristen Barnes, Major D'Cunha explained that I was from the RSL, Listening Post Newspapers. Major D'Cunha explained that I was interested in writing a short article on 109th Signal Squadron and in its members Major D'Cunha asked Kristen if she would mind giving me an interview about her role in the unit and why she enjoyed being in 109th Signal Squadron. Kristen was in command of a communications vehicle. This vehicle was equipped with the communications equipment; Kristen apologised for not allowing me to take any photos of the inside of the vehicle.

Kristen has aspirations of furthering her career and attaining the rank of Corporal, from what I saw of Kristen, I'm convinced it is only a short period of time before this happens.

When I asked Kristen how her family would feel if she were to be sent to Timor, and what would they have on them? She replied, 'my dog would be very unhappy to see me go, as Kristen lives with her sister and dog. I never did ask the name of her dog, I wonder if it's called Sig.'

I asked Kristen a couple of general questions about the RSL, to gauge her interest.

Kristen did not know a lot about the RSL, however she was aware that the RSL looked after veterans.

Kristen was also unaware that Reserve force soldiers could join the RSL.

Kristen would like to see an information pack from the RSL, made available for the reserves, outlining the many benefits available to the members of the reserves.

Corporal Niki Macleod.

My next interview was with Corporal Niki Macleod. Niki is a regular soldier, posted to 106th Signal Squadron. Niki has had four years in the regular army.

Serving in a reserve unit is a new experience for Niki, however it brings with it many challenges, that are not present in the regular army.

Niki is from New South Wales, a small town called Tottenham.

When I asked Niki, what was the one most influencing factor that convinced her to join the army? She replied my brother, he joined at sixteen as an army apprentice, and Niki joined at seventeen.

Niki enlisted into the signals, and has enjoyed being in the signs. Niki served in East Timor for four months, and was stationed in Dili, Baloi and Suai.

Regiment, Niki found the Kisirs very friendly and great to be with, Niki also served with the 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment in East Timor.

Niki will have served twelve years in the army this year, and at this stage in her career has not decided whether she will continue in the army or take discharge.

Niki enjoys the adventure training with the army and is a PT instructor. Her partner is in the Special Air Service Regiment and she does not see very much of him lately. There was a time when they only saw each other for, four weeks in a ten-month period.

Niki does not have any children, therefore does not have the worries as other soldiers have or many find.

Niki was a recruit instructor for two years and enjoyed that type of work, she would not swap it for being a very fit young lady. I would prefer to talk to her than go for a jog.

Niki was well informed of what the RSL could do for her, as her father is in the RSL and keeps her well informed of what happens.

Niki thought the RSL could make their presence more visible in the reserves.

I said to Niki that the RLS was exploring the idea of equipping a car trailer, for use as a welfare trailer. Then asked Niki if this would be of any help to the reserve. Niki replied that it would be very welcomed and well utilised.

Niki said she liked working in 109th Signal Squadron, though it had taken some time to get used to it, as it is completely different from a regular unit.

Niki said she would like to see an RSL information pack for the reserve as some服役 specific to the army and some swings and see saws for them.

Niki has had a bit of a rambing from her colleagues and would like to see an RSL commercial. Every time it is playing she is like a nightmare come true.

As a highly qualified electronics expert, Niki is in great demand for her services. These jobs can involve a variety of tasks, laying of fibre optic, installation of satellite and computer equipment.

Niki has travelled to most parts of Australia and always finds himself in really remote areas of our country. She said she would like to buy many beers in the outback.

Niki said he considers himself to be very lucky, or fortunate to be one of those that have a job that they truly enjoy doing.

Niki could be quite handy in the bush, as he can fix videos, computers and televisions. If you were that you could go out with the engineers when i was in the engineers, I'm sure that would be the best job to buy many beers in the outback.

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From the President's pen...

Next month we focus our attention on Remembrance Day and the various commemorative activities associated with that very important occasion. Each year all sub-branches have appropriate ceremonies in place for their members and the community. With the renewed interest in such commemorative activities it is most important we demonstrate to the community our strong commitment to honouring and remembering our fallen.

In Perth Remembrance Day will be honoured with a wreath laying ceremony at the State War Memorial and the sounding of the Last Post in the Central Business District. Following the Service the annual 'Poppy Day' lunch will be held at the Novotel Langley Hotel. Should you wish to attend this dinner please contact ANZAC House for details. Tickets are still available at $40 each and any profit goes towards our welfare programs.

At the dinner it is planned to draw our annual raffle. Sales have been really good mainly due to the wonderful support from several sub-branches that sold additional books on a pre-order arrangement. Any sub-branch interested in raising funds for their own fundraising needs are welcome to join in the scheme as there is still time – and plenty of books available for sale.

From media releases you would be aware that the National Executive of the League plan to visit Japan in late November. Before agreeing to be part of the group I needed to be assured that the objectives for the visit were clearly defined and that it would not be seen in any way as compromising our organisation. Other members of National Executive sought the same assurances and on such understanding all available for the visit accepted the invitation. Let me assure everyone that the decision to go was not taken without considerable thought. The last thing any of us wanted was for division or dissension amongst League members and I am disappointed that several members in Western Australia resigned over the issue. I also must add that there has been a constant flow of communications supporting the visit and I am grateful for such support. In conclusion on this matter, let me assure all that I certainly respect others points of view on this matter.

At the recently held National Congress the Veterans Affairs Committee moved over the granting of the Gold Card to a wider group of veterans. It was felt that by widening eligibility the integrity of the card and the entitlements included could be compromised. Further it was advised that a Gold Card is worth about $4600 to the holder and extension would impose a tremendous cost on the budget. Nobody disagreed that those with entitlement should not be deprived of their benefits but caution was needed in any plans for wider eligibility.

The reluctance of some doctors to treat Veterans with Gold Card entitlements was also discussed. Payments to GPs and Specialists had fallen well below an acceptable fee for service and the responsibilities required for copayments for the service. A wide publicity campaign was under way by the doctors – sufficient enough for the issue to be referred to government and cabinet for consideration. The RSL is supportive of a review of the Service fee structure and looks forward to a good outcome. It is unacceptable to the RSL for Services in keeping with their entitlements to be asked to contribute to their funding.

The RSL's stand on Australia's involvement in the potential conflict in Iraq was a topic of much debate. It resulted in a Media Release being published, which clearly stated RSL Policy would be that any involvement would be at the request of the United Nations. This stand was communicated to the Government at the time.

The progress at the Monora sub-branch redevelopment has reached the stage of demolition and by the end of November we hope all demolition work should have been completed. Once plans have been approved by Stirling Council building can begin. The Board, headed by Barry Staton, is now embarking on the revision under the new organisation, The

The Prisoner of War Association of Western Australia are in the process of developing their memorial. They are seeking funding from both Federal and State Government for the improvements, more are appealing to any member who wishes to, for donation to the Association. The POW's are endeavouring to have the memorial and redevelopement completed by this time in 2003, the expected cost of the redevelopment is $32,000.00. Contact details for the POW's Association are: Secretary, Mrs Ruth James Phone: 9497 8727.

The State President, Senior State Vice President and myself attended the RSL National Congress and Executive during the period 1 - 3 September 2002 in Brisbane.

As a result of the Congress the RSL Executive has set its priority list for the 2002/2003 period. This list is covered in the Listening Post for members information.

Mr General Peter Phillips AO MC (Retd) was re-elected National President after a ballot, with a nomination from WA having been received.

Mr Ian Kenneth OAM JP of Tasmania was elected Deputy National President with four nominations having been received.

The National Congress primarily focuses on Veterans Affairs issues, entitlement and benefits related to eligible recipients. From the 150 plus agenda of the Congress a priority list, however all items carried remain active and are pursued at National and State level.

SHANE M SEERS OAM JP

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Unit: __________________________
Names of Guests: __________________________

STATE SECRETARY'S REPORT

The preceding two months have been very busy for the State Branch Sub-Branch and a number of Unit & Kindred committees and c ommemorative and camaraderie activities.

In August the Ex-Service Committee conducted a commemorative service for Vietnam Veterans and a number of Unit & Kindred committees and c ommemorative and camaraderie activities.

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achievable.

In the past, there has been considerable debate over this visit and the outcome to be achieved from such a visit. It has been widely acclaimed that there will still not be the long awaited apology from the Japanese Government to Australia and its Allied POWs or their families. It has therefore been questioned as to why go at all. The San Francisco Peace Treaty, which came into effect on 28 April 1952 provides that Japan shall accept full responsibility and, therefore not achievable.

The RSL National Executive has been given the task to achieve.

It is expected that the visit will result in an outcome of raising the awareness of the Japanese actions as to their involvement in WWII. It is hoped it may improve the educational awareness of the Japanese of that conflict. Japan like Australia is now at its third post WWII generation and we must ensure that we don’t forget (‘Lost We Forgot’). We must continue to improve their education and raise their awareness for present and future generations.

The RSL WA Branch was asked why every member was not consulted in preference to selected groups. This was, you would appreciate is a mammoth task, which would probably result in an outcome that would be similar to that of the past month. Therefore, there has been positive supportive reaction to the trip more than three times.

If any member of post WWII Japanese were to undertake research on WWII, the Japanese actions and their effects, Australians and Allied Servicemen, women and other national civilian communities, then something has been lost that the RSL can restore and this alone will validate the trip.

The RSL National Congress conducted in Brisbane, 3-5 September 2002, endorsed the following list of proposals for presentation to the Government for consideration in the 2003 Budget

- Ensure that entitled veterans receive medical treatment with doctors of their choice in accordance with the objectives of the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme (RPPS) and that specialists and other health service providers be adequately reimbursed to achieve this.
- Request Government action as follows:
  a. Centralise to cease counting disability pension as income when means testing the Disability Support Pension;
  b. Index the TPI pension to the final agreed monetary value of the TPI pension.
- Acknowledge that some erosion to the TPI pension has occurred over the past years because of inappropriate indexation; and
c. Grant an increase in the TPI pension of not less than $60 per fortnight.

- Continue to seek a Repatriation Commission Section 180A determination in favour of BCF veterans for those who suffer from one of the diseases that the RMA recognition can be caused by ionising radiation. This is to apply to BCF veterans who served in the Hiroshima Prefecture up until December 1947.
- Continue to seek a Repatriation Commission Section 180A determination for those veterans who were exposed to ionising radiation during the British atomic tests in Australia. In addition, continue to seek eligibility under the Veterans’ Entitlement Act 1956 for these veterans.
- Increase the funeral allowance to $2,000.
- Continue to seek provision of the Gold Card, as an act of Government generosity, for Australian and Allied WWII veterans without qualifying service and British and Allied WWII veterans who have qualifying service, are recipients of the Service pension and who meet Australian residential criteria.
- Request the Department of Veterans’ Affairs not to instruct its Assessors on how to interpret RMA SOP’s in a way which makes it virtually impossible for you to make a successful claim despite their been entitled to the “reasonable hypothesis” degree of proof.
- Seek significant improvement, including the provision of greater resources, to the Transition Management Service (TMS) which exists to ease the trauma of compulsorily medical discharge ofADF members.
- Ease the EDA criteria by reducing the current requirement to have a lifestyle rating of 5 or worse to having a rating of at least 5 as a result of averaging a gross score of not less than 50, derived in part from each of the four elements of the lifestyle rating: Mobility, Personal Relationships, Social Activity and Domestic Activities.

Veterans’ Affairs - ISSUES

In recent times there has been media coverage on the Gold Card not being accepted by General Practitioners (GPs), Specialists and hospital facilities provided by DVA. The RSL is concerned on how many veterans are affected by this.

Any member who has difficulty with either of these issues is requested to complete the Information sheet and return it to ANZAC House - Attention WACJ.

**DVA CARD (GOLD/WHITE) ACCEPTANCE**

- Have you visited your General Practitioner (GP) or a Specialist recently and been refused treatment and/or been requested to provide a Medicare Card or pay the “Gap” fee?

  ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes please provide brief detail: ___________________________

**DVA FUNDED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS**

- Have you recently had difficulty in accessing hospital admissions under DVA arrangements?

  ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes what difficulty was had: If no, how could they be improved: ___________________________

- Are the current DVA hospital arrangements in Perth (Greater Metropolitan area) appropriate and meeting your needs?

  ☐ Yes ☐ No

If no, how could they be improved: ___________________________
The following letter, dated France, 20 October 1917, was received by Mrs B Green of Katanville from her brother, Private H Abbott, of the AMC, and is a thrilling narrative of events during the war. This is an advance in which he participated and was killed as a stretcher bearer in the 10th Australian Field Ambulance:

"I am commencing this afternoon, but I am sure you will agree that I was not able to do so, or some may defend the event which I might not have be able to do, or some of my others which proved ridiculous and unnecessary when we get them. We could use every trace of such qualities and feel almost anxious to get there.

"The air is almost electrical here and we all feel there are great events in the balance, and some of us are beginning to acknowledge it. We are all statements, that the end may be in sight."

Evening, Oct 3. - We left the place we were in on the farmhouse last night, and marched to a rest station. We are getting beyond the border, this place, which is really a great hospital for the slightly wounded, was an immense slough and full up, and the patients are flowing in all the time. We are very much under strength and consequently the task of coping with great cities within our unit will be impossible. I had sole charge of four large messes, with seventy men, 60 and 70 patients. The men came straight in from the line, most of them passed with their new mustard gas and covered with greaves of like weeds, and we found we must change them. The work was almost impossible, but I was able to do it. I had only one stretcher bear, and I was in charge of many patients, and we had none to give them. The task was almost an impossibility, but I was flying around doing my best to "flavor" the boys, and at times not knowing if I was on my head or feet. Fritz comes out at night and repeats his chorus, "You are going to bomb the place. He has been making a bad impression on the hospitals the last few months and has killed a number of Sisters and Doctors and patients in hospitals and patients of time. Well, we got a call to fly up the hill, so we left our patients in charge of a RAMC crowd who came after us, and we went off to the next city. I am sure it should say it is as big as Perth, and there is not a house in it that has not been wrecked. It's great.

The cathedral has been one of the world's finest, but now just a few of the pinnacles of the walls and the great steeples are left. It was a typical autumn afternoon with the sky of a week's sun and a cold piercing wind driving the rain and snow. The wind whirled and howled through the church and we cut up a few of the hour's rest until the great offensive was being prepared. Our dug-out was between the artillery and the front line, and no words could convey to you the immensity of the thing. The earth shook with the constant tremors and you had to get your mouth close to your neighbour's ear and believe if you were at all reasonable, we had a great crowd of prisoners killed. On the day of the parade, we walked up the sky was full of flashes and we were thrilled with roar. Our boys had gone on and on, taking all theCollingwood and the front of the road, we met a stream of Hun- dreds and thousands. I was where I was all day and most of the night. They made these men help with the stretcher bearing, and even our ambulances could hardly cope with the wounded. Never had I worked so hard and constantly. We had to have a number of relays in view of the danger and to keep up our charge, the work was great. Two of our boys in our camp were killed, one a number wounded and shell shocked. There was a road on the hillside and troops were marching up the hillside. We were standing on the hill near the road and yelling and carrying on and white flares shot and white flares were on. The work was a great enthusiasm, you never saw a more enthusiastic one. The roar of the guns was so loud and clear and you thought you were二维码。
Hollywood opens two new wards

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Donna Vale, officially opened two new 30-bed wards at Hollywood Private Hospital, on Wednesday, July 24.

The wards are part of a wing, which has been named after Miss Sylvia Perry, MBE, for her services to the veteran and general community and her link to Hollywood.

The ground floor ward, John Carroll Ward, specialises in Haematology and General Medicine, with a 16-bed Day Chemotherapy Unit.

The first floor ward, Clifford Sadlier Ward, is a General Medicine, Haematology, Rheumatology, Endocrinology and Isolation Ward.

In conjunction with the opening of the new wards, Hollywood has launched a new comprehensive cancer service made up of a team dedicated to holistic care and best medical practice.

The addition of the Carroll and Sadlier wards is part of the hospital’s current $23 million expansion programme which makes Hollywood the largest private hospital in Western Australia, with the capacity to treat 480 patients.

As a sign of respect for Hollywood’s veteran heritage, these wards, as with the other wards in the hospital, have been named after World War II Australian recipients of the George Cross and George Medals of Honour.

Miss Perry was a special guest at the official opening of the new wards and guests were invited to tour the facilities after the formalities.

Miss Sylvia Perry was born on January 17, 1925.

In 1941, Miss Sylvia Perry enlisted for full-time duty with the Army and became Captain Perry. Prior to that Miss Perry was the first Commandant of the Voluntary Aids Detachment Unit.

In August 1942, Miss Perry was appointed to Deputy Assistant Controller at Medical Headquarters Army South West and she later served in Darwin under the Australian Army Medical Warfare Service during the Second World War.

In 1947, control of the Australian General Hospital was passed to the Repatriation Commission to provide acute care for veterans and war widows/wars and became the Repatriation General Hospital (RGH) Hollywood.

At this time, Miss Perry returned to the hospital and took on the position of Hospital Assistants Supervisor for the Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood. She retired from the position with the hospital in 1966, after almost 20 years.

A life member of the Returned and Services League (RSL), Miss Perry has held two terms as president of the Returned Ex-Servicemen Women’s Sub-Branch of the RSL. She has been awarded a certificate in recognition of her service to the RSL, as well as an MBE for her work with the Army and Girl Guides.

She has since been an active member of the community with two terms as the Commissioner for the Girl Guides in Western Australia.

Miss Perry holds a special place in Hollywood’s heart and was invited back to the hospital in 1998 for the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the contribution of women in war. Both Miss Perry’s sister and brother served overseas in the Army.

Breakthrough in knee surgery – A Hollywood first

A pioneering new computer-assisted technology for knee replacement surgery is now available in Western Australia at Hollywood being the first hospital in the country to use this cutting edge technology.

The Knee Navigation Unit at Hollywood, under the leadership of orthopaedic surgeon Mr Peter Sikorski, performed the first Computer-assisted Knee Replacement on 21st September 2001, and since then the technique has become routine in both primary and revision knee replacement surgery.

Mr Sikorski said that this new technology could substantially reduce the risk of patients undergoing knee revision surgery.

The new technology enables a higher level of surgical accuracy and efficiency, can be less invasive and is expected to give patients better long-term knee function.

Knee replacement is one of the most common major orthopaedic procedures in Australia with 20,000 knee replacements performed each year, the majority of which are on elderly people with arthritis.

Australia is leading the way with this new technology called “Knee Navigation.”

Knee Navigation uses an infrared navigation system to assist the surgeon in aligning the knee implant. The surgeon’s cuts into the bone can be guided to within one degree of surgical accuracy.

Mr Sikorski has performed over 42 knee replacements on patients using Knee Navigation.

“Knee Navigation is a breakthrough advance in orthopaedic surgery for aligning knee implants to the mechanical axis of the leg. We know from studies that better alignment increases the longevity of the implant,” he said. “It is also less invasive, making the operation safer.”

The Navigation procedure is available at other hospitals in Albany, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Sydney.

Current knee replacement techniques have relied on the surgeon’s skill and judgment to position mechanical guides, screws and bone cuts, referencing the anatomy by eye.

Unlike these systems, Knee Navigation produces a precise computer-assisted image of the patient’s knee and delivers computer-generated information to the surgeon.

“The computer provides constant and precise information that can be acted on immediately, allowing us to make the implant fits more accurately,” said Mr Sikorski.

Knee Navigation 21st century technology enables orthopaedic surgeons to provide enhanced mobility and quality of life to patients suffering a tailored operation.

“With Knee Navigation, of which there have been over 42 in Hollywood, the risk of failure is reduced,” said Mr Sikorski.

Nurses return from ‘Quiet Lion’ tour

Hollywood Private Hospital nurses Ann Heline (Les Habit Goldworthy Ward) and Grace Buchanan (Care Unit) recently returned from the annual ‘Weary Dunlop’ Quiet Lion tour of the Far East.

The two nurses spent ten days in Thailand on a pilgrimage to the area where Australian POW's worked on the ‘Death Railway’.

The camp where the tour group was based, on the River Kwai, is close to Hellfire Pass, a memorial to the 12,000 POW's and 9000 enslaved Asian civilians who died building the infamous railway.

They also represented Hollywood at the ANZAC day memorial services at Kanchanaburi.

“The ANZAC Day Dawn Service, at Hellfire Pass, then at the war memorial at Kanchanaburi, was a highlight of the trip. Being part of this experience along with school children, ex-servicemen and civilians who were an unforgettable event,” they said.

Ann and Grace had the opportunity to meet original POW's and had first hand accounts of the WWII atrocities.

“The trip challenged our hearts, minds and bodies, it was very confronting but at the same time an amazing and invaluable experience,” they said.

Hollywood sponsored two nurses every year, to go on the tour, which honours WWII veterans and specifically the ex-POWs. This is the fifth time the hospital has supported nurse participation on the tour.

“We think it’s a well worth while cause because the nurses gain something from the tour and they come home with a better understanding and appreciation of war veterans.”

“T hey talk about their experiences with their colleagues, which is really important, because care for our patients,” said Hollywood’s Executive Director Kevin Can-Ryan.

The Quiet Lion Tour was named in memory of Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop who was a POW and camp surgeon on the Burma-Thailand Railway. He was also known as the Hospital because of his great heart, spirit and quiet nature.

BALCATTA

Department of Veteran Affairs Approved Clinic for Gold Card holders

Back & Neck treatment

Spine related disorders

BALCATTA

Northern Districts Chiropractic Centre
3/10 Arriva Street, Ph: 9344 1909

CHIROPRACTOR

David Ponton BSc. B.Apple
Member of Chiropractors Assoc. of Australia
Taking care of our veterans

We are writing to give you the facts about Hollywood Private Hospital and what privatization has meant for veterans and war widows/en in the past eight years.

Did you know?

• Gold Card holders are entitled to be admitted to any public hospital in the State as private patients, without prior approval from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. As Gold Card holders are private patients, they have a choice of doctors within the public hospital. All public hospitals are Tier One providers.

• Gold Card holders are also entitled to be admitted (without prior approval) to the Department of Veterans' Affairs) to Hollywood Private Hospital in Nedlands, Perth, and St John of God Hospitals in both Bunbury and Geraldton. These hospitals are also Tier One hospitals.

• The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) is currently in discussion with Peel Health Service, in Mandurah, regarding Gold Card holding in its private hospital under Tier Two approval from DVA. This would mean that the private Pe5 Ward would become a Tier One hospital. Gold Card holders can already access Peel's public wing of Peel Health Service as a private patient.

• The only private hospitals outside the metropolitan area in the State of WA are St John of God Bunbury and Geraldton and the Peel Health Service. There are NO private hospitals in any other regional centres - there are no private hospitals in any hospital or in the north of the State.

• Hollywood Private Hospital has a contract to treat veterans until 2006.

• A major contribution to the hospital's success is the large volume of veterans and war widows/en who use Hollywood's services. This means Hollywood can provide a comprehensive range of services. In all other States, except Queensland, there is no hospital dedicated to the needs of the veteran community and veterans' services in those states are scattered. Hollywood is a one stop shop for the veteran.

• Veterans and war widows/en account for 70 per cent of Hollywood's business. Hollywood's veteran and war widows/en workload has increased significantly since 1994. Increasingly, veteran and war widows/en patient days have increased by 21 per cent over the past two years and war widow/war theatre patients have increased by 43 per cent.

• Hollywood Private Hospital has made a major contribution to Government to Australian-veterans' services. Since privatisation in 1994, there has been a major redevelopment of the hospital. Ramsay Health Care has invested in excess of $100 million in the Hollywood site, developing many new facilities for the benefit of the veteran community. In addition the range of services available at Hollywood has been greatly increased. For example, it was not possible to conduct the prostate cancer screening at Hollywood has been increased from 300 to 400 beds since 1994.

• One of the major contributions made to the veteran community is the increase in the number of specialist medical consultants accredited to admit patients to Hollywood.

• The number of specialist consultants accredited to admit patients to Hollywood has increased from approximately 100 at the time of privatisation to in excess of 200 currently. This means veterans and war widows/en have a greater choice of doctor; easier access to medical services and less time and cost for operations/procedures.

• The number of single rooms at Hollywood has increased by 22 at privatisation. Since then the hospital has added 16 more to its modern accommodation. Since privatisation Hollywood has been able to accommodate the needs of many older wards and to open new wards of innovative, new modern wards.

• Hollywood provides an extensive range of services to veterans and war widows/en, both profitable and non-profitable. This includes providing care to the veteran community. In addition, the hospital is open to all metropolitan private hospitals, Ramsay Health Care would be forced to reconsider this situation and probably would not be able to continue the current arrangement.

• Hollywood makes a significant contribution to the veteran community. As a result of privatisation, Ramsay Health Care support includes;

• part sponsorship of the Flame of Remembrance at King's Park,
• two Hollywood nurses accompanying the Quiet Lion Tour for POWs to the ANZAC 2003 Pilgrimage to France.

The candidates were only given five complete assignments for their presentations at the memorial function on Tuesday 10th September 2002, in Boyup Brook.

Amidst the varying representational duties of Australian veterans and their families, the dedication also associated by the employees of State and Catholic Schools, presented inspirational public presentations on readings/reading poems and music. The presentations were enjoyed emotionally with the up set of flags/corsage/audio visual documentary, to add to the atmosphere to the total memorial тор.".

The culminating of the event was the presentation of the assignments by each of the final seven candidates. It was evident by the exceptional quality of their research, knowledge, sensitivity and opinion about this 'horrible event'. The words which were made clear in history, still be fully divulged it would be a difficult task for the defensive, respectable nation."

The five nominees had to be chosen. After the performance of the Carmel McLean, 15yrs, was announced the winner, her also also agreed she was a worthy choosing. Her assignment was excellent and the presented in a very mature and confident way. The knowledge of the school and the Boyup Brook community will be very proud of her role and her return from the Scholarship Award will be the culmination of the Ted McLaughlin Memorial Tour for the ANZAC 2003 Pilgrimage to France. The general consensus by all those present at this year's presentations that through the requisition of this programme, we WILL be developing the memory, delegating the promotion of our history and the new generation into their future, thus restoring the legend of 'Lest We Forget'.

I sincerely hope this is informative enough and worthy of comment in a continuing segment in The Listening Post.

Ryan Rowland

Former Governor to speak on crisis

Former Western Australian Governor Major General Michael Jeffrey will speak at the South Perth Civic Centre on December 6th at 7:30pm.

Organised by the WA Committee of the Council for The National Interest, and open to members and the public, Major General Jeffrey, who is now the Chairman of Centre for International Strategic Analysis, and Studies will address the topic 'The Crisis Facing Australia'.

The CNI was established in the 1980s by a group of eminent Australians who were concerned at the lack of direction of Australia's defence and foreign policy and Table 7, Major General (Retd) James Giger."

"The coming crisis," said Denis Whitely, Executive Director in charge of events, "is evolving from a convergence of trends critical to the national interest. These include the ageing and declining population, the increasing global family, the terrorist threat and the lack of defence capability. The CNI has a number of questions of whether in the long term, Australia can survive as a sovereign nation."

RSL members are invited to attend Major General Jeffrey's address. Further details are available in the advertisement in this issue.
WHILST attending the Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11, 2001, held at the Commonwealth War Graves site, Vestre Gravlund, Oslo, it came to my notice that there are two Australian Servicemen laid to rest at the aforementioned War Graves site. As a result of this I undertook research into the number of Australian and New Zealand Servicemen who died in Norway during World War II.

My research revealed that there are 27 identified Australians and 15 identified New Zealanders who were buried at various sites throughout Norway after the 1939-1945 war. Of these 42 servicemen, the only two graves in Oslo are those of Australians - RAAF Flying Officer John Leonard Breed (previously from Caulfield, Victoria) who died on 10 May 1945 aged 24 years, and RAAF 41026 Warrant Officer Hugh Joseph Kidby (previously from Yarragon, Victoria) who also died on 10 May 1945 aged 31 years.

As an aside, Flying Officer Breed and Warrant Officer Kidby are laid to rest at Vestre Gravlund with 106 other military personnel from Great Britain, Canada and Australia. It is very sad to note that six of the British personnel were contrary to the Geneva Convention, executed on direct orders of Hitler.

*Those executed were:*
- James Frank Blackbum, Sapper, (Airborne) Field Coy, Royal Engineers
- Frank Bonner, Sapper, (Airborne) Field Coy, Royal Engineers
- John Brede, (Airborne) Field Coy, Royal Engineers
- Thomas William White, Sapper, (Airborne) Field Coy, Royal Engineers
- Robert Evans, AB RN, HMS Trinidad

The first five came from a glider’s forced landing on an expedition to prepare for the attack on heavy water plant at Rjukan. They were caught by the Germans and executed at Trandum on 18 January 1943 and buried there. Robert Evans was part of Shetlands-Larsen’s (Shetland)agge’s) abortive attack on the German battleship “ Tirpitz” in November 1942. Trying to escape to Sweden, the Shetlands-Larsen crew was attacked by Germans. Evans was wounded and taken prisoner. He was executed at Trandum on 19 January 1943.

After the war the remains of all six were transferred to Vestre Gravlund and re-interred there...” Courtesy of Lieutenant Colonel Ellinor (Thebien) Norway, Norwegian War Graves Service.

My research revealed that an ANZAC Day Ceremony has ever been held in Oslo, therefore I took it upon myself to explore the possibility of organising a commemoration this year.

To this end, and commencing November 2001, I took initial advice from Lieutenant Colonel John A Poole-Warren, the former British Defence Attached and from The Revd Canon Dr Trevor Park of the Anglican Chaplaincy in Norway. Following their advice I contacted the Australian Ambassador, Dr Malcolm Leader (Copenhagen) and the Honorary Consul for Australia, Ms Anne Grete Nordlie Am (Oslo) who gave their support to my concept of organising an official ceremony.

I am pleased to say that the Spirit of ANZAC came alive on Thursday, 25th April 2002 when the first ever ANZAC Day Remembrance Ceremony was held at The Commonwealth War Graves site at Vestre Gravlund, Oslo.

Michael W Coyle
RSI Peacekeepers Sub-Branch

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MONUMENT

by Jayar

Today we marched to the top of a hill
This Sunday, eighteenth of November
A testament to dedication.
And ensure we will always remember

Six hundred and forty five men
who were last,
Sixty years ago on the morrow
They and their ship disappeared without a trace
Leaving nothing but mystery and service

And grey haired old men, from that long ago war
And men from recent wars too
School children we hope who will never see
All paid homage to that long lost war

The kindred of those men, who are now long gone
Were the ones who were hunting the most
And many a tear was shed among them
As the bugler played that final call

Now standing on that sacred hill
Forever gazing out over the past
A somber reminder of times and wars
For the men who will never come home

---

AN INVITATION...

"The Crisis Facing Australia"

The Western Australian Committee of the Council for the National Interest warmly invites you and your wife, partner and friends to hear

Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC, K St J., CIWA

give a wide ranging address, with ample time for your questions, on the Crisis Facing Australia. The convergence of the issues of ageing and declining populations, immigration and refugees, terrorist threat and lack of defence capability, family breakdown and other issues threatens the long term survival of Australia as a democratic and sovereign nation.

Major General Jeffery, the highly respected former Governor of Western Australia and now Chairman of the Centre for International Strategic Analysis Pty Ltd, is constantly qualified to comment on these issues of national interest.

WHERE: Wednesday 4th December 2002
7.30pm sharp

WHERE: South Perth Civic Centre Main Hall

The Council for the National Interest is non-party political and has no allegiance to or support from any political party. CNN is dedicated to trying to build a better Australia for this and future generations.

DENIS O’SULLIVAN
Chairman — WA Committee

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THE LISTENING POST October 2002
Great War he was a charismatic, controversial and outstandingly successful Commander. An accomplished tactician and the bravest of the brave, he was renowned for never sending anyone anywhere he was not prepared to go himself.

A man of unimpeachable integrity and unwavering commitment, as straight as a ruler line, he was also forthright and volatile. His uncompromising nature generated a host of Pompey anecdotes that amused his men and disconcerted his superiors. No Australian General was more revered by those he led or more famous outside his own command. An Officer on his staff even concluded that no greater soldier or gentleman ever lived.

Yet surprisingly little has been written about Elliott, until now. A comprehensive, deeply researched new biography, Pompey Elliott by Ross McMullen, was published by Scribe Publications. Finally tells his extraordinary story.

Pompey Elliott is a fascinating, illuminating and very readable Australian history. It is also an important work of Australian history. The book was launched by Kim Beazley, who was an ancestor of Pompey Elliott when entering Parliament. He described Pompey as one of the finest Australian biographies ever written. It sold out within two weeks of its release.

Some of his personal photos are now available in the bookshop for $50.00.

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**LORNE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN**

A Memorial Book based on the life and family of the crew lost in HMAS Sydney II.

Almost 200 families have contributed to this book. A soft coloured cover, of some 230 pages, with over 200 personal photos.

The first Limited Edition will be released approximately August 2002.

Price: $29.95 (special pre-release price): $39.95 (all-cash exclusive) posted within Australia.

Available only through:
Keith Sheehy
16 Brook Street,
Port Addison 5145
Email: psy841@cknow.com.au
Ph. 08 84475669

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**ACCLAIMED NEW BOOK ON POST WWI AIF**

Harold Pompey Elliott was a remarkable Australian. During the

A further insight into the memoirs of a gentleman, A Remarkable

Harold Pompey Elliott, now an Australian

Great War he was a charismatic, controversial and outstandingly successful Commander. An accomplished tactician and the bravest of the brave, he was renowned for never sending anyone anywhere he was not prepared to go himself.

A man of unimpeachable integrity and unwavering commitment, as straight as a ruler line, he was also forthright and volatile. His uncompromising nature generated a host of Pompey anecdotes that amused his men and disconcerted his superiors. No Australian General was more revered by those he led or more famous outside his own command. An Officer on his staff even concluded that no greater soldier or gentleman ever lived.

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**STEW'S VIEW OF A VETERAN'S REFLECTIONS**

I have finished reading the book of poems written by Steve Roll, Member of the RAAE-W, it is excellent work, it reminds me of our service and our service mates. I read several poems particularly about our mates and families for that insight into what was never said when we went on leave.

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**MEMOIRS OF A HOUSEHOLD CAVALRYMAN**

The Lifeguards and The Blues and Royals, with the Royal Horse Guards, 1966 to provide mounted escorts for the Monarch.

The Blues and Royals have passed through the ranks of both regiments and this is the story of just one.

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**ACCLAIMED NEW BOOK ON POST WWI AIF**

Harold Pompey Elliott was a remarkable Australian. During the

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**GREEN MULES - GREEN GIANTS**

by Tony Eastbery

This is another enjoyable book written by an ex-digger about his life and army experiences, full of anecdotes and feelings about others, and his time spent in the Australian Army.

I really enjoyed the insights into the army with what Tony Eastbery has written about in this book. I have just completed real service in the army with 6 RAR second tour, and on one occasion his colleague took a photo of him out side of a fire support base, setting up the mortar gun.

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**VOICES FROM THE TRENCHES LETTERS TO HOME by Noel Chastrell**

This book is very well written, diary entries from the trenches of the AIF and the Great War One with the 1st AIF.

Voices from the trenches is as good as an eye witness account, of how the Australians, New Zealand and English soldiers lived and fought in the trenches, with incompetent leaders.

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The Blues and Royals have passed through the ranks of both regiments and this is the story of just one.
Tony was lost in tall jungle grass on patrol and the Section Commander kept asking him where he was. He would point to a position on the map and say about here. From about the middle of the tall jungle grass, they came upon some Americans on armoured guns, sitting on top of these guns sitting lunch. The section of Australians walked up to the Americans and asked were they were. Unfortunately for the Americans they had neither seen, heard, nor were approaching. When Tony asked one of the Americans were they were, he threw his lunch away in fright and said were the hell did you come from. Tony's reply "Australia" was not received by the American in good humour. I can understand this; he was going to be very hungry.

Tony has written this book with a little blood and gone as he can, so can concentrate on events, the people and situations they found themselves in as they unfolded. This book would make a great text for school children as it is light reading, and is not heavy in blood and gore.

Copies of this book can be obtained:

Tony Eastbury
27 Opal Drive
Edgewater WA 6027
Telephone 08 9405 4205
Cost $22.00 inc GST
Postage $6.00
Total cost $28.00

BATTLE INITIATION
Bardia 3 January 1941
by Neville Blundell

This is not a book, it is one soldier's account of the battle of Bardia. Neville Blundell's account is in a book form, however it only contains 29 pages. It is a passionate account of the Battle of Bardia by the sixth Australian Division in its role of spearhead of General Wavel's Army of the Nile.

Author Neville Blundell
Published by W Jenkins
GPO Box 660
Sydney 2001

The OFFICER TRAINING UNIT
SCHUYVILLE
by Roger Donnelly

I thoroughly enjoyed this book, it is well written. It describes the life of Officer Cadets, as they progress through officer training at Schuyville. Tony later in their military career, as they put into practice their skills they acquired as cadets. The self-doubt they had about their ability to lead men in action, and do all the right things in a combat situation.

Their self-doubts were soon dispelled after their first patrol. They soon realised that they had had excellent training for the dangerous tasks ahead of them in Vietnam

When you look through the lists of Officers that graduated from Schuyville, it is very impressive indeed. David McKay the Platoon Commander of D Company 6 RAR (with the D Company 6 RAR (with the 6th Anzac Division) in New Guinea, the role of spearhead of General Wavel's Army of the Nile.

by Gary McKay
Published by Elizabeth Stewart

The photos in this book have been reprinted in other publications over the past twenty years. It is another great book put together by Gary McKay and Elizabeth Stewart.

It is a photographic account of Australians at War. It is worth having a look at in your favourite bookshop.

Publisher: Allen & Unwin
Cost of this book $45.
The Bush Wireless

PENSION UP-DATE CORNER

The RSL sometimes comes in for some "flak" from dissatisfied, veterans, for not taking a more proactive stance with governments of the day on some issues. Generally these criticisms are unfair and misplaced, as in fact, a good deal of energetic, on-going lobbying is done - particularly via the National body (the National Veterans' Affairs Committee) - to which all State Branches contribute ideas, issues and matters of concern.

Members would be aware that the organisation is a democratic one, and the mechanism for seeking changes in policy matters is via the membership, through such avenues as State Standing Committees (eg: Veterans' Affairs Committees), and then taken further at National meetings, conferences and congresses.

In addition, paid officers like me (under the auspices of VACAt) may sometimes undertake to try and advocate for change too. My area of special personal interest has been to try and put together submissions to the Retirement Medical Authority to argue for changes in some of the SoPs - which I've perceived as being unjust or incorrect. (They are, after all, the document that defines and matters to the administration of policy matters in the organisation.).

Another area in which the NAC has lobbied to seek modification to DVA policy (and because CARP V rules are also part of the VEA: legislation - is regarding the EDA, and its requirement for a Lifestyle level of "6". The RSL holds the view that a "5" or more should be sufficient, if the level of frailty has been acknowledged at the 70 points level.

I have supported our State submission in this - reasons being -

That the Lifestyle level of "7" has become absolutely meaningless. Somehow the scale has "re-calibrated" itself - with the effect being that a person has to be near death, it seems, to even register as a "6" (must be shown to be completely housebound, and physically dependant on another person, totally unable to leave home unaided etc). With those parameters, how could anyone claim to be a "7"? If they have to be in bed, at death's door - then the descriptors should say so. (They are sometimes difficult for grieving relatives to make decisions about funeral arrangements.)

BOWRA & O'Dea Funeral Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia by the O'Dea family for more than 110 years, is now offering a special service to RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans. There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

* You obtain peace of mind, knowing your family will not have to make burdensome decisions at an already difficult time.

- You have the opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish, and not as others would like it.
- You can protect your pension, as the financial amount paid into the plan will not be considered part of your assets.
- You receive a price inflation guarantee. By taking out a PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively "freeze the price" of your funeral costs in the future.
- Your PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and it is not subject to any administration.
- You lessen the anguish of the survivors, concerned that they "did the right thing".

- We will arrange an obligation-free appointment to discuss your personal needs. The Pre-Paid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL Members:
- Free extra linens
- No administration fee for immediate payment in full.
- 5% discount on selected coffins.
- Free standard Will from Corser & Conser to the value of $100.

Savings of up to $600 for RSL Members!
Can u help?

LOST COMRADE

As a National Serviceman I was posted to Korea. The unit I was with was the Royal Australian Service Corps, 33 Bulk Loading Platoon. One day I was posted to the front line units. The Australian Army and the New Zealand Gunners were two of the groups supplied.

One day I was speaking to one of the Australian reps and I expressed an interest in the headgear. The next time he called he brought me a brand new hat. I think his name was Tim.

I wore the hat most of the time. On our return to Australia we sat on the 'Hackleback Mars', which was previously the Hong Yang. On board we met a number of people complete with uniform but no hat. Knowing that the Hong Yang would view such a loss I offered him mine, which he accepted. Also gave me a lecture on how you could judge a soldier by the way he shaped his hat. I went with him down to the waterfront, he filled a balsa wood case with hot water and immersed the hat and twisted and bent it until it became the 'official' shape.

On landing in Japan we parted and never saw each other again.

I am enclosing a photo of myself (below left) at work as a craftsman carpenter in the REME aided by 'Tommy'. The bit of ply was used to make a panel for a mobile office for the REME.

I am now 72 and if the Australian comrade can remember any of this I would be pleased to hear from him or them.

Gordon Matthew
1 Shelley Drive, Seaford
NZ 04 78

United Kingdom

MARITIME IS NUMBER TEN

Several enquiries have been received for a copy of the book "Maritime Is Number Ten" (History of the 2/3 Armoured Division) by Flight Lieutenant K C Hail.

Unfortunately it is now out of print and is no longer available.

However if any person is holding a copy and would be prepared to sell it for $50.00 plus they would please contact:

Keith Greemdale, Secretary
Queen Victoria's Wrens
26 Sandstone Dr, Mansfield QLD 4122
Phone: (07) 3349 8514.

REUNIONS

EX SEARCHLIGHTERS

If you were a male member of the 5th, 6th, 7th or 2/3 Searchlight Battery, would you like to renew contact with your old mates we would like to get as many present members to meet 5 times a year for lunch and a beer. If interested please ring Mer Morish on 9317 1500 or Jack Manners on 6549.

THE WHEATBELT VETERANS GROUP

In conjunction with the "Year of the Outback" invite YOU to support the "Wheatbelt Traditions" by coming to a reunion on the 2 November 2002, in Bruce Rock. All service personnel from all conflicts are invited to join us on the day.

For further information please contact:
Merv Gould, Ph: 099611143
Email mgould@bigpond.com
or
della Turner, Ph: 099611197
Email du1955@bigpond.com

RAE MUSTER

4-10 November 2002

2002 Accommodation Plan.

5ME has made available tentage accommodation and stretcher beds for serving and former serving members of the Corps, as there is insufficient standard accommodation at Steele Barracks and we can provide

3ME and 5ME will be the only groups available on a first come first served basis.

There are limited caravan spaces although they will not have access to water or waste water facilities.

Contact: WO1 Alan Harwood
RSME SME Fax: (02) 9680 1794 or email: alan.harwoodi1@lansdocs.gov.au.

NANNUP ENLISTMENTS

The Nannup Sub-Branch is compiling a list of those who served with the Nannup Jarrahwood area from World War I, World War II and any other conflicts.

If you can be of assistance, please contact:

Marj Williams
27 Alston Drive
Nannup 6275
Phone: 9756 1228

FOUND MEDALS

Medals have been handed into the RSAL WA Branch belonging to the following ex-servicemen:

23 Sgt AK Button 2 Mob Vet Sec
236 Pte FCHam 28th 8 Field Amb
132 Pte HJ Kirk 28th 8 Field Amb

For the individual or relatives wishing to claim the medals please contact WA Branch on 6032 4979.

Women's Auxiliaries

Here we are into the second half of the year and a busy time ahead. Our members will have completed with parcel packing for Christmas in December.

Things have settled down after our conference. I have attended the Greensubbs Sub-Branch and have awarded Edith Tate's with a certificate for 50 years of being Secretary / Treasurer of the Women's Auxiliary.

Have also attended Murray District to present two certificates to Mrs Patricia Jones, Mrs Jean Ryan, Mrs Sandra Watson and Mrs Nancy Bennett from Belvoir Auxiliary.

At the Conference this year Sheila Robertson and Cambridge Auxiliary were presented with a certificate for 80 years continuous service.

Also presented with a certificate for 750 continuous years served in the following Auxiliaries members of the Australian Army and New Zealand.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

Mrs J Spencer, State President

The Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial Appeal

Between the Boer War at the turn of the last century and the Korean War in the 1950's, 34,737 Australian servicemen and women were incarcerated in Prisoner of War (POW) camps. Many suffered inhuman and inhumane treatment from their captors. To this day there is no Memorial in Australia such as this dedicated to those of all the men and women serving in their pain and suffering that they endured in the service of our Nation.

The motto of these brave prisoners was: "When you go home, tell them of us and say that we gave our tomorrow for your today."

A memorial has been designed and is being built in the Botanical Gardens in Ballarat. A plan to fund the Memorial has been developed and fund raising has commenced.

The proposed monument has been designed by well known sculptor Peter Blizzard and is intended to provide Ex-Prisoners of War, their descendants, visitors and future generations with a reflective experience where they can pay homage to those who endured so much.

The PWCM monuments' design uses the basic idea of a journey through time and an expression of hope and peace. The start of the pathway is long and straight heading off into the shape of railway sleepers, a reference to the Burma Railway. Running parallel to the pathway is a polished black granite wall, 10mm thick etched with the names of all the Australian POW's. Standing in a reflective pool are huge basalt obelisks up to 4.5m high with the names of the POW camps. The columns are cut of reach and across the water symbolizing that all the PWCM camps were away from Australian shores.

Further on there is another wall with the words "Forever lost" engraved, allowing for an area of contemplation and reflection.

The entire Memorial will be a thought-provoking place of contemplation, remembrance and tranquility.

The Appeal is being conducted by the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial Appeal Committee.

All donations over $2.00 are tax deductible.

Donations can be sent to the PWCM Appeal Treasurer, C/o Ballarat RSL, 5 Lytton Street South, BALLARAT VIC 3350.
BELMONT

Our ANZAC commemorative service held on the Sunday prior to ANZAC Day was held in ideal weather and we were pleased to see many members of the public participated in the service. On ANZAC Day a dawn service was held at the Sub-Branch followed by a ‘gun’ breakfast and afterwards several of our members travelled into Perth to march through the city streets with their various associations.

In the Queen’s Birthday Honours List of 2002, Captain (now Major) Bruce Birkett, Sub-Branch National President, was awarded the OAM for service to the Sub-Branch and the ANZAC Day March. Captain Birkett undoubtedly took the lead in Aberfoyle to Olga and also to the other RSL recipients of the award.

The social events at the Sub-Branch have been very successful and it is pleasing to see many of our members and friends attending these popular social evenings. Each annual dinner is held in July with over 100 people attending, accompanied by the late President Bill Gilling and the Mayor of Belmont Peter Passerini.

A bus trip has been organised to take place in October and this year we will be travelling to Canberra. The past two years have seen a full bus on each occasion and we are anticipating the same this year as everyone who has been on it has thoroughly enjoyed the outing.

In November the usual Melbourne Cup Day Luncheon will be held. This event is always very popular with our members and their families and is an event where there is much in attendance. The Pensioners and Widows Luncheon will take place on Saturday 21 December. Christmas social on Friday, 20 December and the final event for the year will be the New Year’s Eve Cabinet on 31 December.

Din Balcombe
Publicity officer

CAMBRIDGE

Joint effort by the Cambridge Council and the Cambridge Sub-Branch of the Returned and Services League will see a new Old Boys ceremony held in the eldest sporting Precinct at the corner of Brookdale Street and Oceanic Drive.

A letter received from the Minister of Veterans’ Affairs Dunia Vale MP has advised the Sub-Branch of the approval of the maximum Grant of $400.00 to assist with the project.

This will be the only Monument to be erected in the Town of Cambridge since the 1914 - 1918 Movement was built alongside the Leederville Town Hall and will afford recognition to all those Servicemen and Women who answered the call to duty in all conflicts since that time.

It is estimated that the project will cost over $15,000.00. The Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch will provide $10,000.00 of this amount and will offer the younger generation an opportunity to understand the significance of conflicts and the hardships associated with them.

Already significant donations have been made by several Business Houses in the Town, however it is anticipated that early completion further financial support will be provided by the Sub-Branch from the Business and Private sector and in this regard a call has been made to the Cambridge Community Council and the Cambridge Cricket Club.

The Secretary Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch 69 Evanston Street (08) 6014

By contacting Vic Tyrell on Phone No. 93878085, all donations will be acknowledged and receipted by the Sub-Branch and appropriate recognition will be given to all those who contribute to the completion of this project. Your support will be greatly appreciated and will provide a fitting and appropriate place of Remembrance for the benefit of the People of Cambridge and for all those who have contributed to our various Educational occasions and where people may pay their respects as a mark of respect and appreciation.

It was time to reminisce when the remaining Ladies of the Cambridge RSL Auxiliary finally closed the Annual Meeting and graciously decided to retire from office.

The Auxiliary, formed 60 years ago by Miss Kathleen Dennis, continued to work hard for the Sub-Branch, and these items were received recently: a letter from Mrs Mary Warner, the Auxiliary President, acknowledging the financial gift made by the Auxiliary in 1996, which is only a small step in their 60 years of service. It is this type of cooperation that has made the Auxiliary such a forceful and well established Auxiliary.

State President Mr Bill Gaynor acknowledged their contribution to the RSL, as did the Ladies Auxiliary, and paid tribute to their members for their work. Bill Gaynor is a man who emphasised the need for the Auxiliary to continue and keep alive the women of our community. Community newspaper however contributed good coverage, which was most pleasing.

Maybe there was some significance in weather conditions forcing last minute changes to the planned program. It would appear the inaugural performance of the Ladies of the Veterans as emotion peaked to the tune of We’ll Meet Again, was done under the guidance of the conductor at the start of the Luncheon.

Stand Tall and Real Easy in retirement Ladies you have set a standard that is an example to be followed.

Sub-Branch Secretary Mr Vic Tyrell

** CITY OF COCKBURN **

What can justifiably be claimed as a major annual occasion for the future of the Sub-Branch locality got off the ground on Wednesday 20 April when over 800 children from sixteen schools in the area attended this function.

Highest honours must go to forward thinking, imaginative Arthur Stanton our Treasurer whose concept it was and who put unending hours of thought, planning and organise into the running. Traffic Police had to be called and the Sub-Branch and its leadership were of course the people to organise the event.

It has been decided to name it “Our Heart” marshals to guide the marshalling and usual direction and formation could be maintained and then finally send the Sub-Branch to the Park.

But it wasn’t all beer and alkafiles! The proposed march, scheduled to take place on Thursday 21 April, was cancelled due to poor weather conditions. After the sixteen schools had arranged the escort at the Cockburn Civic Centre, March. World Two World Veterans were foreclosed as the principal speakers. Our Own Year 7 Tara Attwood of the Sub-Branch, especially the speakers, (Congratulations on your striking and diction Tara).”,

Two people from each school laid the wreath and Ken Bladen gave a final speech at the wreath and life and self respect.

Wally Eves

Present were the Minister For Community Development, the Hon SM McFlake, Mr Stephen Lee, Member for Cockburn, Chief and Immediate Past President of the RSL, Ken Bladen, all of whom contributed very fine speeches. Mr Geoffrey Crace blessed the wreaths laid by our main speakers, and the Junior Schools and Arthur Stanton carried out his duties as Parade Commander with efficiency and precision.

School children directly involved were Adam Tousands of Joondalup Senior Primary and Alex Carter from Primary who read the First Resolution and Julia McMenyer who read the Second Resolution.

First verse of The Ode was read by Tara Atkins of Spearwood Primary – with Tara from Carter Chisholm School reading the second verse.

Andrew Symonds gave efficient performances on the bugle of the Sub-Branch. Both of these former school children now being involved in the world of politics.

Local newspaper The Herald was the weakest link in the whole chain of activities, the paper’s editor was nowhere to be seen. The Sub-Branch was motivated to contact their corresponding Community newspaper however contributed good coverage, which was most pleasing.

It is also reassuring that both Spearwood and Phoenix Park Primary Schools saw fit to include articles in their regular school newsletters. The Phoenix school’s article accompanied a picture of Amy Pande and Chloe, said:

"On the last Wednesday of every month Mrs Kirkland-Smith, Miss Brooke and Mrs Mavor and we school children from rooms Count 6A to 6C at the City of Cockburn Schools ANZAC Ceremony which is held by the Cockburn RSL. This was a wonderful day for our children to commemorate the ANZAC tradition. Our Phoenix children were outstanding in their behaviour, attitude and respect for the importance of the occasion. Congratulations to all involved!"

Spearwood Primary School’s article, accompanied by a photo of Mr Duff and the Grade 6 children read:

"On Wednesday 17th April Rooms 14 & 16 were invited to be part of the Inaugural 100th ANZAC Parade. Due to rainy weather the march was cancelled (boo hoo), however our school was still well represented in the Civic Service. After the sixteen schools had arranged the escort at the Cockburn Civic Centre, March. World Two World Veterans were foreclosed as the principal speakers. Our Own Year 7 Tara Attwood of the Sub-Branch, especially the speakers, (Congratulations on your striking and diction Tara).”,

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Wally Eves

** DARLING RANGE **

Yes you can make a difference, so please help now.

My name is Phill Quartersime and I am the President of the Darling Range RSL Sub-Branch in Coogee. I write this letter on behalf of Mrs Pat Rowland and her welfare staff at ANZAC House in Darling Range to help others in trouble. (Most people will know Pat or have had some dealings with her).

If ever Mrs Rowland retries they will have to put on three people to replace her with the work she does talk about above and beyond in the call of duty, she deserves a medal.

I don’t know if all RSL sub­branches know this but you can donate some money each year from your Amelioration Fund to Mrs Pat Rowland to help with welfare, one day it could be helping you or someone from your RSL, or they may be able to help others. In this case they will be there when it is required.

Pat does not require you to send anything in every RSL sub­branch in WA could send Pat a collective cheque so you can only donate an amount of money on request from what they need to help with welfare, so please everyone bring it up at your next meeting and get a letter of Pat at welfare in ANZAC House telling all Sub-branch members at the next Sub-branch can donate to help others.

Lest We Forget

** EAST VICTORIA PARK AND VIETNAMESE VETERANS **

The Sub-Branch has its new Webpage on the net. This replaces our previous site which was not accessible from the web to 23 April 1995. There are still a small amount of tickets left for the Stan Gurney Luncheon, Ring Eric De-vriend at the Sub-Branch.

** GERALDTON CITY **

Final Voyage.

"A Song for the Sydney," a tribute to the 560 men who lost their lives when HMMS Sydney II was sunk with the loss of all members of her crew on 24 April 1940, was sung by the veterans of the Sub-Branch. This song was composed by an Ex-RN sailor one Jim Rogan originally as a poem in the memory of the crew for the 60th Anniversary of the Disaster.

When Geraldton RSL Social Member Mr John Saunders heard the words he asked Jim if he could put the poem to music and this is a song in memory of those 645 men who were born.

Copies of the CD are available by contacting the following:

Geraldton RSL Sub-Branch P.O. Box 1243

GERALDTON WA 6530

* Continued next page**
SUB-BRANCH NEWS

MT HAWTHORN

A delegation of Sub-Branch members, President Keith Boskhall, and former Sub-Branch members Ken Hawke and Committee member Graham Watts, were invited to attend the Vietnam Day ceremony at Leeman. The Ceremony started with a march up to the Suburban Sports Club, led by the local Constabulary driving several proud invalid veterans and were followed by three school children carrying the flags, they were then followed by approximately 50 ex-service men marching according to the wide scale memorial site. Mr Terry Gow, a Vietnam veteran, was the MC and main organizer who had a host of local supporters.

The service and wreath laying was backed by the local school choir and the address was given by Nollamara President, Keith Boskhall, ably supported by Ken Hawke. The Last Post and the Reveille was sounded by Graham Worth. Representatives from many RSL Sub-Branches were in attendance, from Geraldton and including through to Beaufort. At the conclusion of the service, a hearty luncheon was provided and afternoon coffees were offered before another march to the memorial park at sunset at 5.52 om when the bugle was sounded.

On the 26th of May, a visit to the Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch by a bus full of Sub-Branch members was received by President, Bob Gilmore, who, along with his committee made the journey extra pleasant. Thanks Bob, we are getting the team back to your visit to the big smoke.

Rasoe Jones, F.R.O

RETURNED EX-SERVICE WOMEN

The Returned Ex-Service Women's Sub-Branch is an active group and is the President Mrs. Nancy McManis OAM was delighted to welcome the Newsagent Ltd for the Most Efficient Sub-Branch in the Metropolitan Area for the 14th year running. Nancy welcomed her guests to cheer us on those who are not feeling the best. We presented Australia National Flag to that Association and have Guest on the podium. Tours are organised in conjunction with the Blind Ex-Servicemen and 4 of our members, first Mrs Joan Dowson MBE OAM and now Mrs Barbara Clinton are the Convenors of the Poppy Day Lunch which is a major fund-raising event for the Sub-Branch.

Wreaths are laid on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day and our members sell ANZAC Day tokens and badges. We have our own Newsletter “Light Diet”. Our next meeting is the 2nd of December in the Gallipoli Room at ANZAC House on the 3rd Thursday of every month. We welcome all ex-service women from all Allied Services. Don’t forget and join us contact Joan Dowson 9467672 or Cecile Hinton 93671237.

Cecile Hinton

SCARBOROUGH

Our August meeting was well attended possibly because of the better weather, which must be attributed to lower attendances in the winter months.

Armistice Day will be celebrated at our Memorial Park at Shearm Crescent and Millcrest Street at 1100 hours on Sunday 11th November. We will assemble at 1030 hours wearing your medals.

All are reminded of the Poppy Day Appeal in November – Please give us two hours of your time to collect for this worthwhile appeal, which helps the Sub-Branch with their funds.

Again all are reminded of the Annual Bowling Premises on Friday 29th November at 1800 hours for dinner at 1900 hours.

The Committee have charged caterers and our menu has been increased in variety and at a reduced fee per person. This is a great thing today, to have more courses for low-cost per person. Don’t miss out on this great night.

Contact Secretary Doug Piggott for any further details – simply ring the Club on 9464 1531. He will be happy to help and you take your bookings.

Gordon Harvey, PRO

NOLLAMARA

Following the presentation of Life Membership certificates, lapel badges and identity folders to Samuel Seaman, Bill Agate and Roy Weir at Congress by Australian RSL President, Major General Peter Phillips AO MC, and the framed certificates were re-presented at the Sub-Branch on Saturday, 29th June. The presentation was carried out by our Patron, Graham Armstrong and State Secretary SM Seers OAM II. A Certificate of Appreciation was also handed to Sub-Branch President, Keith Boskhall.

For services to the RSL and the Sub-Branch, bomber jackets were presented to Graham Armstrong, Shane Seers, Ken Hawke and Carlos Lipari. An honoured guest was Head, three World Champions, six Australian records in Royal Life Saving teams, Shane Seers, PAW, Ken Hawke and Carlos Lipari.

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By Peter Barden, PRO

SOUTH MANDURAH

photo courtesy of Mandurah Telegram

Photo shows Fred Abbott presenting Bob Russell South Mandurah Sub-Branch President with certificate for 36% increase in membership for the 2001 Year presented by Graham Smith who thought of the idea of a South Mandurah Sub-Branch and put a small notice in the local paper in the Year 2000. There were 14 responses and on the 1st of February 2001 just 4 of us found out we get serious. In 2006 we had 49 members with many more interested in joining. This is our local paper. We have an agreement with the Port Bouvard Sporting and Recreation Club so we meet under perfect conditions with a bar, barbecue and lovely view over the Bowling greens and the Estuary.

Bob Russell, President
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

The Editor of The Listening Post recognizes that mistakes happen. It is the responsibility of each MP to keep its information for this section up to date. We will strive to ensure changes to the Office bearers are being updated. Changes to the Office bearers must be in writing. Only President & Secretary details will be updated. Further details will be published.

AIRBORNE FORCE ASSOCIATION (AFA) INC

Correspondence: President: Bill Lucas, PO Box 2724, Baldivis WA 6171; Fax: 9479 3125; Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month.

AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES VETERANS' ASSOCIATION (AAFA)

Correspondence: Secretary: Dr Bill Cogan, PO Box 4016, Stirling St, Perth 6049; Ph: 0401 6151.

“W” CLASS DESTROYERS’ ASSOCIATION

Correspondence: President: Jim Robertson; Ph: 0427 1313; Fax: 0428 7924; Meetings: Committee 13:30am 1st Mon & 3rd Wed of the month.

ARMY VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Correspondence: VA of WA; President: Frank McGraw; 120 Stirling St, Perth 6049; Ph: 9367 3380.

ARMY VETERANS & DEFENCE SERVICES COUNCIL (WA) AVDSC

Correspondence: President: Ian Mountain, 20A Ross Rd, South Perth 6151; Ph: 9219 2888; Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month.

AUSTRALIA'S RELIEF WORKERS ASSOCIATION (ARWA)

Correspondence: Secretary: Dr David Ferry, PO Box 292, Kewdale, WA 6105; Ph: 0897 8362; Meetings: 1st Thursday of the month.

BRITISH EX-SERVICE ASSOCIATES INC

Correspondence: Secretary: John Mountain, 79 Tepford Rd, Cooloongup WA 6168; Ph: 9493 1222; Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month.

PROJECT CHANGEOVER

Correspondence: President: Bill Lucas; Secretary: Karen Waterhouse; PO Box 2724, Baldivis WA 6171; Ph: 9479 3125; Meetings: 3rd Thursday of the month.

RAAF AIRWING ASSOCIATION (WA) INC

Correspondence: Secretary: Graeme Roberts, 16 Hamersley Rd, Floreat WA 6014; Ph: 0894 3220; Meetings: 1st Wednesday of the month.

POW/PR MEMORIAL

Correspondence: Secretary: John McGowan, PO Box 292, Kewdale, WA 6105; Ph: 9493 1222; Meetings: 1st Tuesday of the month.
Anthem
HOCKING, Augusta
BRIDGJLL, Busselton
McGLENCHY, Keith
BUCHER, Rank
GOEDECKE, Norm
BOSSE, Morris
HARRIES II, SYMONS, Philip
BROOME, Canton
QUINLAN, Clark
MCGLENCHY, Ian
ARMY
RAN
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RSL member Jim Spencer was down on his back.
Not only was he finding it difficult to get around, but he also didn’t have the money for the walking stick he badly needed to help his mobility.
The RSL came to his rescue, buying him the walking stick, as well as other personal items that most of us simply take for granted. Jim’s now much more independent.
RSL Insurance Management is the RSL’s official insurance provider. Our House & Contents Insurance also helps RSL members get back on their feet, not only by providing insurance cover, but by paying a percentage of every premium back to the RSL to assist in its work helping people like Jim.
So when your House & Contents policy next comes up for renewal, make the move to RSL Insurance Management. You’ll pay no more to protect your home with cover that’s better than most.
In fact, you’ll be helping the RSL to help the many people who need it.
Peace of Mind:
Award-winning care, when you need it most

Why choose Hollywood?

★ The very best in personal care, accommodation and equipment
★ One of Australia’s largest private teaching hospitals and a centre for excellence
★ Over 500 leading Perth doctors in all major medical specialties
★ 24-hour supervision by a dedicated, professional team
★ Quality meals from award-winning chefs

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