Remembrance Day 2002

On 11 November up to 800 people assembled at the State War Memorial to remember those servicemen and women that had paid the supreme sacrifice in all wars.

On this occasion wreath layers were in attendance representing a score of ESO's, Federals, State and Local Government authorities and fifteen of the Nation's Consuls and Embassies.

Concurrent to the 11.00 a.m. Service at the State War Memorial, the Central Business District of Perth came to a halt as buglers from Navy, Army and the Salvation Army moved to assist major intersections for Last Post, Silence and Reveille, a long-standing tradition in the City of Perth.

The Lieutenant Governor Deputy to the Governor, The Hon. David Malcolm AC, delivered the Remembrance Day address to those gathered at the State War Memorial, during his address the Deputy Governor noted the terrorist bombing in Bali on 12 October and the direct effect that it had on the Nation and in particular the people of Perth.

At the Remembrance Day Service it is customary for the handing over of the Wreath of Flowers to the outgoing Warden, Mr Kevin Campbell AM and the State President Mr William Gayner OAM RDF inducted Brigadier Laurie Filsma AO (RFD) as Warden for 2003. An introduction to the Warden is covered in this edition.

At the conclusion of the service a special medal presentation was made to the family of Squadron Leader Francis Kain DFC on behalf of the Polish Government for his services during WWII. This presentation is covered in detail in this edition.

Remembrance Day School Service

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) hosted its annual School Remembrance Day Service this year at the Flame of Remembrance and Pool of Reflection. Traditionally, DVA held this service at the Army Museum in Fremantle.

DVA selected the Flame of Remembrance for the conduct of this year's service having been committed to the construction of the Flame of Remembrance and its dedication in 2000.

The School Service was conducted by St Mary's Anglican Girls School of Duncraig assisted by Hale School in providing band support.

DVA reported that some thirty schools were represented from the metropolitan area; DVA said they were very pleased with the positive response from the schools approached and in particular the important role of the students in the service. The service was also attended by a large number of invited ESO's and invited in Kings Park.

Many of the ESO's representatives commented how pleased they were to see the involvement of our youth, their understanding and commitment to the conduct of the service for Remembrance Day being one of our major commemorative activities of the year. The students demonstrated that they had conducted a significant amount of research on the history and tradition of Remembrance Day.

DVA were very pleased with the service and confirmed that they would be holding school services at the Flame of Remembrance in future years.

RSL Raffle 2002

The RSL Raffle for 2002 was drawn on Monday 11 November at the Poppy Day/Remembrance Day Luncheon.

The winning tickets are listed below:

- 1st Prize: 06137
- 2nd Prize: 56460
- 3rd Prize: 09870
- 4th Prize: 43296
- 5th Prize: 43449

All the winners have been notified. Thank you to all who assisted the RSL in our annual fundraiser.
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Deadline: 24 January 2003
for contributions to next edition

If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via E-mail. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.

Address to:
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From the President's pen...

The Annual Poppy Day Appeal provides an opportunity for us to extend our welfare funds to assist needy veterans. I personally share the enthusiasm of our Members and supporters for their time and effort collecting on the appeal day.

This year we were assisted by a National Executive initiative that sent in Woolworths collecting for Poppy items to its customers in the lead up to collection day. The arrangements were made quite late and unfortunately we were not able to communicate the intent and organisational details to sub-branches prior to collection date. Let me assure everyone that the involvement was a huge success and boosted funds throughout the country.

In the review of the distribution of funds it is proposed to allocate Woolworths collections to sub-branches in accordance with the stores proximity to sub-branches. We will be notified as soon as dates are confirmed. Again, for everyone's information, the money raised at Woolworths and any other sources is placed in a separate fund and is audited annually by the trustees and is allocated according to need. The RSSL is a major user of this fund in support of veterans in need or veterans' welfare but please remember that it is not restricted to RSSL Funds. At the sub-branch level a portion of the collections are retained by the sub-branch but no expenditure must be made in any separate fund without clearly established guidelines.

Gratitude is also extended to the coordinating committee for the Annual Poppy Day Appeal. This well-attended function was a bonus to all of us, particularly veterans, civic leaders and the many supporters of the League. Then, from today to 12th of November and the committee made a presentation of all life members which will be used in the construction of the War Veterans Home.

It is pleasing to receive reports on successful Remembrance Day Services. In many areas, the service has been taken from schools and other educational institutions to recognition that the remembrance is not just to note the attitude of some school administered cadets and that it is an important day for all of us. The number of comments we have received at ANZAC House indicates we need to talk to schools more about the importance of Education to ensure ALL schools are involved in such an important Day. Let's make sure that this is totally unacceptable to have the sacrifice made by young Australians ignored.

By now you should have received your membership renewal notice. Please respond promptly. You may update your membership through your sub-branch. Don't forget to advise us of any change of address or any other information relevant to our database. On the back of the notice is the return address for your membership. We would like you to 'answer. They are important notices and look that you spend a few moments to complete this task. When filling out the renewal form, please check and return to your membership to 'West Club'.

Life was a good starting point for the value of the discounts you can access.

Renewals should be paid by the due date - 1 January 2003.

Last year we had just over 12,000 members and we mustered up 13,000 in 2003.

STATE SECRETARY'S REPORT

2002 has seen one of the most positive and productive years for the management and administration of your State Branch in recent years. In this time we have had a fair share of trials and tribulations this year as well.

January saw the introduction of a new contractor to assist the RSSL with the planning and coordination of ANZAC Day 2002. The consultants primarily advised the League about how to deal with the growing commitment of the public to attend ANZAC Day activities in Perth and prepare a 'Risk Management Plan' to meet all statutory requirements. It is noteworthy that the ANZAC Day activities are the fastest growing community events, as was proven with an attendance of 25,000 at the Dawn Service the largest in any Australian capital city. With a very generous donation from Lottoland and donations from consultants, Perth's ANZAC Day was very successful and widely acclaimed by attendees.

In March we saw the recordings of the 2001 State Congress to debate and resolve the introduction of The Section DRA and & the successful development of Australia WA Branch Inc. 'Commissions'. We had the privilege of previous RAWS and the Congress resolved to accept the Commission was established for the Branch. The Constitution was written to bring an end to the State Branch in line with the National Body of the RSSL.

April was one of our most successful months this year with a very successful ANZAC Day calendar of events, with the introduction of several for the viewing public at both the Dawn Service and the Parade and Service at 11:00am. These successful events would not have been possible without the finance to provide the necessary infrastructure.

The RSL was also provided outstanding support from the Award. Help in the form of a Economic AHC (EHAC) who donated $1000 for each car sold during the ANZAC Week. This resulted in a presentation of $33,000 to the League for Anzac Day commemoration in 2002 and beyond.

The May/June period was primarily focused on the conduct of the Annual Congress. This year was held at Government House Ballroom, a truly magnificent facility and appropriate for the conduct of our Official Opening and working sessions of Congress.

We look forward to more members attending the opening and visiting the working sessions to observe the successes of our future direction and objectives for the ex-service community.

In the later part of the year our focus must be on achieving more information being provided to the Branch by way of grants, donations and bequests, to all those that have assisted we must be thankful for their generosity to the RSSL.

Many of the successes this year have been achieved through the support of the large number of our volunteer committee people at all levels, in sub-branch, State or Federal.

The RSL Retirement and Aged Care Association formerly the ANZAC House has also had a very successful year with its developments at Mandurah and Mendooran. The Mandurah development is complete and has sales offers for 18 of the 27 units. The Mendooran development is progressing on schedule and all excess building have been demolished in preparation for the re-building over the next two to three years.

With all the positives achieved this year there remains one major concern, that is the costs borne by the Branch and their need to maintain the ANZAC House. The operation of the ANZAC Club has been a concern now for a number of years and that various changes have been implemented it is not covering costs. The Executive is committed to directing a priority to the need of maintaining the ANZAC House patronage. One way to do this is for members to visit the ANZAC House on a regular basis and drink and socialise. Members could also request their sub-branches to hold one function (at least) per year in the ANZAC House. The turnover substantially, it is your Club.

That gives a brief overview of the year that this time I would like to recognise the work and support of all WA Branch staff, they have worked tirelessly this year to achieve the level of service and financial savings in our operations.

I would like to wish each and every member a joyous Christmas and New Year and look forward once again to your support in 2003.

SHANE M SEERS

OAM JP

ANZAC HOUSE / ANZAC CLUB CHRISTMAS CLOSURE

ANZAC Club will be closed for the period Tuesday, 24 December 2002 – Sunday, 5 January 2003 (inclusive).

ANZAC House will be closed for the period midday Tuesday, 24 December 2002 – early morning Sunday, 5 January 2003.

Please be advised that emergency contact details for the latter period are:

ANZAC House – the State Secretary will check answering machine regularly – EMMERGENCY calls will be attended ASAP.

EMERGENCIES can also be directed to:

Office: 0412009191

WA RSL State President William Gaynor receiving the Letters Commission cheque from Ian L. Eberlein MLA, State Member for North Metropolitan.
Updates on SoPs: ‘TUNE IN’ PLEASE?!

by MARGOT HARNESS
War Compensation Officer

The Bush Wildlife

As you would be aware, the fundamental basis for any new change in the Australian Privacy Principles (SoP) for each of the various sets of circumstances and published by a body called the “Reparation Medical Authority” (RMA) — and are part of the Veterans' Entitlements Act. From time to time, particularly where there have been no changes out in the past, the RMA periodically produces "upgraded" versions, now updating medical and research data on the subject.

The repeat system “shifts-the-gear” in other words. When this happens, I try to preclude change through the process because although the “causative factor” may be "tightened" - they are sometimes "loosened up". As I’ve remarked before, the latter is always a bonus, as this makes a successful claim by a veteran more achievable.

Among some of the most recent advantageous changes are:

Psoriasis: I have never before seen an SoP “sensitised” and broadened in scope more dramatically than this. It now allows assessment of the injury/infection (which can be quite extensive e.g. multiple scars, or avulsion [barred wire/ puncture wound]) or oral, nasal, lymph nodes, speech or hearing conditions even psychotic conditions/alcoholism as causal factors — none of which has been on the grounds of causation previously.

Cervical/Lumbar/Thoracic Spinal Injuries: The new version, now recognise more fully:

- the long terms impacts from ‘G forces’ for air crew - so former pilots and navigators tune in!
- the effect of high G factors on the ‘spinal cord’ - more fully representative.
- the most important aspect so far — much improved understanding of the dysfunctions which occur.

Cystic Fibrosis: the disease process — now appreciated, as is the extent of the impact on the cranial nerves and the associated immune responses.

“Hypermuscle” would have to be satisfied (first) or suffering from severe mental illness (second) having been exposed to war - or would have to be related to war - causation as a pre requisite.

The SoPs for Cancer of the Breast and the cancer of the Rectum have been revised and replaced by a completely new and much more specific set of directions.

In general, so far as the law is concerned, a claim for compensation for service-related injury or sickness is the same as a work-related claim.

In general, so far as the law is concerned, a claim for compensation for service-related injury or sickness is the same as a work-related claim.

NOTE FOR PENSIONERS: I offer no force as to the extent that NSW pensioners and other citizens in the country generally, might be interested in this claim (DON’T WAIT for the DVA to initiate follow-up details; anticipate - put everything possible forward in this instance, WITH THE CLAIM).

I also always inquire as to whether past MVA’s and/or NCAs ever occurred — as many people tend to discount the severity of these claims, or also have had in the past muscle-skeletal injuries. If there has never been a previous accident of this nature, it would be wise to make that point with the DVA. or, if none occur consider the case at this point of excluding this as an option because of its effect on the premature degeneration.

Bear in mind that muscle-skeletal claims to DVA cases are based on medical evidence, and to what extent it is objective evidential standards than claims such as psychiatric claims, which are based on subjective matters, which are based almost entirely on the patient’s own treatment.

Despite all the information dispensed in TIR training courses, etc. I am still seeing, time and time again cases for a back injury for arthritic knees/bits/hips and another for arthritic ankles/feet. It is a most unfortunate condition and one which can be remarkably difficult to correct.

The explanation of the “softer” approach to “causing heavy leads in Vietnam, than just playing football” and so on.

The so-called "work-related" factor has been limited to terms and expressed appropriately.

Best regards to all.

RSL WA BRANCH INC.
LEGAL SUPPORT GROUP

In May 2001 the State Executive Committee of the RSL WA Branch Inc., endorsed the establishment of a Legal Support Group (LSG) to provide free legal advice and representation to veterans, defence force members, their immediate dependants and allied veterans. THIS SERVICE IS FREE.

The LSG was formed by a number of experienced solicitors who have considerable experience within the legal system, having served many years as police prosecutors, police officers (both State and Federal) and Judges. They have encountered many fellow ex-service people who have problems with the process and procedures of the lower courts and have been known to be at the heart of disability and the number of years of service and other matters.

It is important to bear in mind that the Private Sector Act will not stand alone. A number of States and Territories have similar acts and a number of other states have similar “employee” personal information.

In addition, other existing forms of regulation of information and handling practices will remain after the implementation of the Private Sector Act. Of particular relevance to many organisations are common law obligations of confidentiality.

The aim of the LSG is to provide advice, guidance and representation in some cases, representation, on basic legal matters. (A SoP is not the Legal Advice Bureau and will concentrate on matters that might be dealt with by the police or Courts of the Small Claims Court or Court of Petty Sessions). More Complex legal issues are of course referred to an appropriate practitioner.

The LSG offers the service at no cost to the user of the range of services that are currently being provided through various ESO welfare schemes and DVA’s BEST scheme. It will help fill in the gap that exists between the pension-based LSG, the Legal Support Group through its programmes and the low-level, but important, needs that happen on a day-to-day basis. The LSG has been involved in discussions with DVA, ESO stakeholders and the Judiciary, all of whom are supportive of the LSG’s concept plan.

To further explain what the LSG can offer, it is our intention that any new joint branches of the RSL, as well as providing help with SoPs, as the RSL is very keen to have this concept as ‘productive’ as can be.

Nothing will be provided where there are joint branches of the RSL, as well as providing help with SoPs, as the RSL is very keen to have this concept as ‘productive’ as can be.

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West Australian
December 2002
In the footsteps of

I
in 1942 Australia faced its most perilous year. We were losing the war. The Japanese were on our doorstep. Only Port Moresby and a thin strip on the underside of Papua New Guinea stood between us and the 'Greater East Asia Co-prosperity Sphere'.

On 15 February, Singapore, long considered our northern bastion, had surrendered. Four days later Darwin was destroyed and 238 people killed. The following day the State Ship Koollamu was fatally damaged and was later sunk off Wyndham.

By March, Japanese Zeroes from Timor were strafing airfields in Broome, Wyndham and Derby, destroying 16 flying boats at anchor in Broome and killing 70 people. Later the raids came far south to Bathurst.

Invasion by a ruthless and vindictive foe seemed certain. Western Australia prepared for the worst. Women and children were sent inland. Guildford Grammar School moved to Fairfield. St Hilda Girl's School sent its boarders to the little Wheatbelt town of Bencubbin. There at the same time were young Mike Jeffery's, later a Major General to be State Governor, and young Ken Blundell, later a Colonel and State RSL President.

But the Japanese High Command had other ideas. They wanted instead to extend the bounds of their new won empire down along the east coast of Australia taking in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu) and New Caledonia, then east to include Samoa, Fiji and Midway and north to Garrison Islands in the Solomons.

But first they needed air bases at Port Moresby and Talagi, off Guadalcanal in the Solomons. The Americans had lost all their airfields as they lay moored in Pearl Harbour on the first day of the war but their aircraft carriers had been at sea. Two were waiting in the Coral Sea. One was sunk in the ensuing battle and the other badly damaged. In turn the Americans inflicted heavy damage on a Japanese carrier. More importantly they sank a light carrier escorting the invasion force heading for Port Moresby. The transports turned back to Rabaul. For the first time the Japanese threat south had not gone according to plan.

The following month, the planned invasion of Midway was also thwarted when three American carriers, again forewarned, surprised and sank four Japanese carriers as their planes were attacking Midway. They lost one carrier but it was a

The Quiet Lion Documentary

What happens now?

The Bali tragedy will certainly affect The Quiet Lion tours in future. There has been a Government warning that Thailannd, particularly Phuket and other places where tourists gather in large numbers, could be a target.

The Quiet Lion tours, as they are now, are now considered by the organizers to be a serious risk. Strategies and safety precautions now in mind should make them safer still.

In the end it will be a matter of weighing the possible risk against conceding victory to terrorist tactics.

These are early days. We will wait developments. Meanwhile the veterans who began telling the Weary Dunlop story in person in 1985 have also been recording it since 1986.

That was the year three former POWs – Keith Flanagan, Bill Hastie and the late Eddie Saleeba – floated Three Pagodas Productions Pty Ltd, as a company whose sole purpose was to make a documentary about Weary Dunlop and the Burma-Thailand Railway. Later they were joined by Rae Hussey, a former nurse who had served in the Middle East and then in the Seventeen-mile Hospital at the Port Moresby end of the Kokoda Track.

Filming began in 1987 when Weary came with us to dedicate the Hellfire Pass Memorial Walk Trail to the memory of the 13,000 POWs and an estimated 80,000 expected Asians who had died on the 415-kilometre railway built to support the Japanese 'March on India'.

Professional film crews came with us on five other tours down the Kowai and there were two filming expeditions to Thailand between times.

The most recent footage was shot this year when the Tattersall's foundation in Melbourne bought 14 of the sketches done by Weary’s British hospital artist, Jack Chalker.

Jack was flown out for a week's liaising by the media and Three Pagodas had a camera crew there to cover the handling over and to get Jack to tell us a few things we wanted to know. Tattersall's also donated $30,000 to help complete the documentary.

Bob Saunders, the former senior producer of the BBC's 'The World About Us' series, told us that the original concept 'had all the elements of a gripping and moving documentary'. Walter Koenigke, of CBC in America, found it 'fascinating'.

The Three Pagodas believes that it has some remarkable footage to tell a remarkable story. It has produced a 'prime' of film excerpts to send first to the ABC in the hope that it will join them with its production expertise and access to archival and graphic resources. The final goal is a version available for schools, community organisations and anybody interested in one of the greatest Australian stories of our time.

In dedicating the Hellfire Pass Memorial Walk Trail in 1987, Weary Dunlop quoted Pericles' oration over the Athenian dead:

'The whole earth is the tomb of heroic men. Not they in their graves green only in clay which covers their bones, but all that everywhere, wrought in the stuff of other men's lives.'

It was in reference to those who died on the railway. It is more than ever apt as the theme in telling Weary's story.
British artist Jack Chalker thought that "whatever he was, he seemed to give us the strength to carry on". Ray Parke, who was at the helm of HMAS Perth when she was sunk in the Sunda Straits, noted in his diary "I am sure that it is his presence which holds this body of men from moral decay in bitter circumstances which they can only meet with emotion".

Donald Scorp Stuart, in a newspaper article, wrote "When death and despair reached for us he stood fast, his only thought our well-being. Faced with guards who had the power of life and death, ignoble tyrants who hated us, he was a lighthouse of sanity in a universe of suffering and madness".

In 1985 others who were with him decided that Weary Dunlop's inspiring story should be known throughout Australia.

That year we retraced the journey we had taken with him from Java into the Thai jungle in 1943 and invited the media to send back daily reports. We introduced him to the people who brought out his 'War Diaries' still unpublished more than 40 years after the war's end.

At first we were concerned only with telling the story of an Australian War Hero. We soon learned that there was more to it than that. Weary had returned from the war with an appreciation of Asian culture and values. He had gone out under the Colombo Plan to lead medical missions to Sri Lanka, India and Thailand, head an Australian civilian surgical team in South Vietnam and to co-found the Australian-Asian Association.

On that first tour, Weary had told us how a Thai trader, Boonpong Sirivajthan, had risked torture and a slow death to smuggle medicines into the prison camps. We created the Weary Dunlop-Boonpong Exchange Fellowship to help young Thai surgeons study in Australia.

We had begun again to follow his lead, as we had nearly 50 years before. Weary died in 1993. On our 1994 tour his ashes were blessed in a Buddhist ceremony as those of an 'enlightened soul'. Then we floated them down the Kwai in a candlelit boat while a Scotch College piper played 'The Flowers of the Forest'. Ten boats followed - five launched by Thais, five by Australians. Among the Australians was a young Japanese missionary living in Perth. Thais too are following in his footsteps. Kanit Warachote has created a 'Peace Park' on his 190 ha Kwai estate. A wooden statue of Weary stands in front of a Weary Dunlop Pavilion. A Jack Chalker Gallery housing photographic reproductions of Jack's paintings and sketches was opened by Princess Galyani Vadhana in 2000.

Each year one third of those on The Quiet Lion tour were students sponsored by RSL sub-branches, Rotary and Lions. They brought small bits of Australianana for the Dunlop Pavilion. They helped float his ashes down the Kwai and to bring Jack's sketches to Thailand. They sang Weary's favourite hymn in front of a makeshift obelisk at the site of his Mountain Camp.

They come to be part of a continuing story. They came not just to hear the story but to be part of it.

(Synopsis by Keith Flanagan)
Support for Federal Government

The Government appreciates the League’s support for its actions in the war on terrorism. The support is particularly important following the recent terrorist bombings in Bali in which so many innocent Australian lives were lost. As the Prime Minister has said, those acts of terrorism reaffirm the Government’s determination to work together with the international community to help prevent further spread of terrorism around the world.

Defence Funding

The Government remains fully committed to delivering the equipment acquisitions outlined in the Defence白皮书 Our Future Defence Force. These will cost an additional $27 billion over the next decade. The White Paper capability goals demonstrate an appropriately allocated level of commitment by the Government to providing the resources necessary over the long term for the development of Australia’s Defence Force (ADF). The Government’s Defence budget for the financial year 2002-2003 is $4.45 billion or 3.5 per cent of GDP. This is significantly higher than the 2001-2002 Budget and will provide an annual amount of $50 million in research and development of Australia’s ADF assets. The Government has committed $1.5 billion in Defence spend over the next 10 years. The total spend will continue in 2002-2003 and 2003-2004.

Increase in Defence Capabilities

This matter is being addressed by the replacement of ADF equipment. The ADF is in the process of replacing many of its older equipment. This will ensure that the ADF is better able to perform its duties and assist the community.

Defence Ammunition

The ADF has sufficient ammunition stocks for all current operations. The ADF still relies on stocks of ammunition for its training needs. The ADF is taking steps to ensure that these stocks are maintained in order to meet their training needs.

ADF Recruiting

The strength of Australia’s ADF forces has always been a matter of quality for its people. The key to maintaining Australia’s operational capability is the ability to attract and train quality personnel for the Defence Force.

While there was some significant under achievement in previous years, Defence recruiting is now increasing in recent times and a number of strategies have been developed to address the shortfall that has shown and are expected to show some significant improvement in Defence recruiting. There is every expectation that targets will be met this financial year. Ongoing strategic advertising campaigns are successful and promoting the ADF as a career option for young people is generating increased enlistment. In 2001/2002, 7,097 Australians were recruiting by the ADF, an increase of 31% over the 5,588 recruited in the previous year. In FY 2001/2002, 8,096 people were recruited, a further increase of 13% over the results for the previous financial year.

The implementation of a new recruitment program during 2002/2003 is expected to increase target recruitment numbers for direct, graduate and under graduate officer entry. The program aims to increase the overall officer entry numbers through the Australian Defence Force Academy. Results from recent discussions in east coast universities have been extremely good with a significant increase in eligible inquiries.

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RAF officer honoured for WWII heroics

SQUADRON LEADER FRANCIS KEAST DFC (RAF)
(D 1905 - 1949)

An unusual ceremony formed part of this year's Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park. A long deceased British RAF Officer, Squadron Leader Francis Keast DFC, was honoured, on Australian soil, for service rendered to the freedom of Poland during the Second World War.

There is an interesting background to it. From the early days of World War II, a significant underground force, known as the Home Army was being built up in Poland, which was then jointly occupied by Germany and the USSR. The Poles urgently needed the supply of arms, equipment and trained pilots. The military and political realities of the day were such that satisfying this need could only be contemplated through airdrops from aircraft operating from Great Britain, where, incidentally, the wartime Polish Government had its seat. Grave concerns prevailed as to the feasibility of successfully dropping formidable German air defences, which long overflights of the enemy territory, inbound from Poland, would entail. The British Air Ministry steadfastly resisted the Polish requests and continued to refuse. When Montréal in Kings Park aircraft for what was thought to be a hopeless operation.

Everything changed when an ambulance delivered the freedom of Poland. Eventually mounted on the night of 15 February 1941. A Mark V Armstrong Whitely Bomber, Z.66/7, fitted with additional fuel tanks, took off at 1530 hours from Stradishall Airfield, north of London, for the long journey to Poland, via a prearranged meeting point, some 85 km north of Krakow in southern Poland. The aircraft was drawn from the 219 Special Duty Flight of the RAF, with a British crew of six, led by the then Flight Lieutenant Francis Keast. Also on board were three Polish paratroopers: a major, a captain, a Polish Government courier and some containers with equipment.

The chosen flight path was the shortest possible, which led for 80% of the way over German held territory. The containers and the three parachutists were duly dropped, albeit, due to a navigational error and insufficient fuel on board for extended search, some 130 km to the southwest of target. Although all valuable containers were lost in the process, the three parachutists, thanks to their excellent training, managed eventually to make their way to the occupied Warsaw, which was their ultimate destination.

As a digression, their experiences after landing so much off target and thus lacking any support from the Polish party on the ground but nevertheless making their way to Warsaw were documented and must rank as one of the great stories of the War. In particular, one of them, the courier, had bad luck and was detained by the German police. His well rehearsed cover story of being a communist forerunner to the interrogations. He was consequently put between a magin fluoride, sentenced to three months jail and a small fine. After serving his time, he was released and promptly made his way to Warsaw.

In spite of drawing some anti-aircraft fire over Germany, the Whitely returned to base safely in the morning of 16 February, having been airborne for 11 hours and 45 minutes. On landing there was only enough petrol left for about 16 minutes flying time. As the mission was considered to be risky, not too many expected the crew to make it home. The peril of low altitude overflights of the enemy territory by slow single aircraft was underscored by the fact, that the same crew was shot down while executing a similar airdrop over the occupied Belgium, only a mere two days later. Although they all survived the crash-landing, which ensured, they spent the rest of the war as POWs. Squadron Leader Keast was awarded his DFC in June of 1941 while a POW.

Squadron Leader Keast's mission proved to be a defining event because it confirmed the sceptics, demonstrated that night airdrops to occupied Poland were feasible and opened the way to more than 900 similar vital flights which were undertaken between November 1941 and December 1944. However, it was decided that the twin-engine Armstrong Whitely Aircraft was too slow and had to operate at the extreme limit of its range. Consequently all subsequent night missions were flown in four-engine Halifax and Liberator Aircraft which were capable to follow longer but safer routes. More than half of these missions were successful. A total of 365 parachutists were dropped into occupied Poland. The losses from all causes amounted to 71 aircraft.

The year 2001 marked the 60th Anniversary of Squadron Leader Francis Keast's and his gallant crew's historic flight. To commemorate this event, and in grateful recognition of his service to the freedom of Poland, the Polish President awarded him last year, posthumously, the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit of the Republic of Poland (a Polish equivalent of the OBE). The insignia were presented by Mr. Marek Kolański, the Polish Consul from Sydney, at the conclusion of the Remembrance Day Service at Kings Park. The recipient was the late Squadron Leader's eldest son Simon who was supported on this occasion by his twin brother Francis. The Polish party, at the foot of the War Memorial, was presented by Dr W Goski OAM, Past President of the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association in WA, who introduced the Consul and Mr Simon Keast both of whom spoke briefly. The Keast brothers and their families moved from UK to Australia back in 1948 and are now true blue West Australians in every way, doubtless proud of their father's war record.

Dr W Goski OAM

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**HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

Veterans Council meets at Hollywood Private Hospital

A veritable "who's who" of the veteran community gathered at Hollywood in October for a meeting of the Australian Veterans and Defence Service Clubs Council.

The hospital hosted the meeting and Medical Administrator Dr Margaret Study took members on a tour of the hospital.

Pictured above are, from left, Mr Garth Beggary, of the Korea and South-East Asian Forces Association, Dr Margaret Study, from Hollywood Private Hospital, Mr Brian Caporn, OAM, from the Secretary Treasurer of the Regimental Defence Forces Welfare Association, Mrs Yvonne Cooper, Mrs Ross, Harvey, from the Atomic Ex-Servicemen's Association, Mrs Lenore Delphian, Squaddie Leader Chris, President of the Regional Defence Forces Welfare Association, Mrs Marjorie Le Souef, of the War Widows' Guild WA, Mr Bruce Jones, Mr Max Buske, President, of the Australian Veterans and Defence Services Council Chairman, Mr Castle, Senator, Special Air Service Association (WA), Mr Peter Draper, from the Royal Australian Engineers Association (WA).

**A MORNING AT PERTH ZOO**

Enjoying the lovely sunshine at Perth Zoo were (left to right) speaker Keith Edington, from the Zoo's Dozen volunteer Association, with veterans Milton Hogg and Alan Sopp.

Thursday, October 22, was a wonderful day to visit the zoo — just ask the 180 veterans and war widow/er who attended 'a Morning at the Zoo' organised and sponsored by Hollywood Private Hospital.

Organised to celebrate Veterans' Health Week, the event featured talks from Ian Combis, Curator of Horticulture at Perth Zoo and Keith Edington from the Dozen' (volunteer) Association, and included morning tea.

Entry to the zoo was free to those present and following the talks many took the opportunity to have a wander through the zoo.

**Hollywood’s new FREE Bus Service**

Hollywood Private Hospital is delighted to advise that a free bus service will be introduced from 20 January 2003.

There has been some discussion within the veteran community that it is difficult for the spouses of entitled veterans who live in the outlying areas of Mundaring, Kalamunda, Joondalup and Armadale to visit their husband’s/ wife whilst they are inpatient at Hollywood.

The service has been introduced to help alleviate this issue and because Hollywood is committed to the veteran community.

The bus will operate four times a week, Monday to Thursday, on the following timetable:
- Monday and Thursday — Mundaring/Kalamunda to Hollywood and return
- Tuesday — Joondalup/Armadale to Hollywood and return
- Wednesday — Armadale to Hollywood and return

**BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL**

For more information or to make a booking, contact the Community Relations Department at Hollywood Private Hospital on (08) 9346 6666.

**Veteran author also Hollywood patient**

When Jack Wong Sue’s second book, Blood on Borneo, was knocked back by three prominent Australian publishers, he and his son decided it was a story that needed to be told, and published the book themselves.

Happy to just sell the first print of 2,500 copies, the book is now on its third print run, with over 10,000 copies of the book sold to date.

Blood on Borneo focuses on the Australian "hush hush" (secret) unit — the Z Special Force.

These men served throughout World War II in the South West Pacific area, fighting behind enemy lines and gathering intelligence.

The unit comprised men selected from the Navy, Army, Air Force and civilians together with allied troops and all were volunteers.

Perth-born Mr Sue, 77, started writing the book four years ago following a stroke in 1997 which forced him to retire from running his dive shop.

"There has been a much better than expected response to the first print of the book," Mr Sue said. "At the launch in the last year, over 600 books were sold."

An active member of the veteran community, Mr Sue is Chairman of the Z Special Unit International group, a Distinguished Conduct Medal winner and has been a Justice of the Peace for the last 25 years.

No stranger to Hollywood, Mr Sue was first a patient here in 1948. "I have always received great care at Hollywood," he said.

Mr Sue is now writing his next book.

We will remember them

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918, World War I ended.

Remembrance Day 2002 was a time for Hollywood to commemorate all those who served and lost their lives in war time.

A ceremony was held at the hospital which involved Hollywood staff, Hollywood Primary School children and members of the Veteran community.

Anglican Chaplain Graeme Manders co-ordinated the service which saw World War I Navy Veteran George Ramsay read the ode, World War II Name Anne Looch lay the wreath, and Corporal Snezana Kenny from the Australian Army Tyer and raise the Australian flag.

Bauget Peter Wood, of the Salvation Army, poured everyone's emotions with his playing of the reveille.

The Hollywood Primary School choir sang four songs and the children also performed a poem written about Remembrance Day.

"With the events of recent times, it is understandable that we might become pessimistic and even fearful," said Anglican Chaplain Graeme Manders.

However, today, the children have shown us their optimism and energy and their desire for a peaceful future — a fact that is, as they encourage us all to work on.

Staff, patients and visitors all found the morning moving and meaningful.

Children from North Comoole Primary School also attended the hospital on Remembrance Day and planted flowers in Veteran patients.

The children visited, most of the hospital's wards and brought a smile to many of the patient's faces.
Course brings help to Veteran after 50 years

For more than 50 years, World War II veteran George Madigan has suffered the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). It is only in recent months that Mr Madigan found help — and hope — in the form of the Seniors PTSD program at The Hollywood Clinic in Nedlands.

Mr Madigan served as an engineer in the 2/4th armoured regiment, in the South Pacific Islands, from 1942 to 1946 and when he came back he found it difficult to adjust to civilian life.

"It was pretty hard to settle down — so I went up north," he said.

His wife of 49 years, Joan, has also had to cope with Mr Madigan’s symptoms — from nightmares to mood swings. The couple has four children. During their married life, they have lived in the North-West as well as Perth.

"Since the course has been a different person — absolutely," Mrs Madigan said.

Mrs Madigan explains how they first heard about the course.

"George had been having a lot of trouble sleeping and terrible moods," Mrs Madigan said. "I said to him that we had to do something."

They went to see Mr Madigan’s GP who referred him to a psychiatrist at the Clinic. The doctor then suggested Mr Madigan try the course.

"It’s been absolutely marvellous for both of us," Mrs Madigan said. "We were all doubtful at the beginning. The hard part is admitting you have a problem."

Mr Madigan (the course participant) started off as total strangers — but we gradually opened up and made good friendships.

"As the course went on we all bared our souls — we had the chance to understand and open up. I never realised what we were suffering.

World War II Veteran George Madigan and his wife Joan were both participants in the Seniors PTSD program at The Hollywood Clinic.

"In the community, there is a focus on what happened to those who came back from Vietnam, but people forget that we had just as hard a time."

"Our symptoms are nearly all the same. You don’t like to admit it — but it affects you really badly."

An important part of the course was the time allowed for wives to have their own, separate sessions.

"Having the wives made all the difference — because it’s not easy for them," Mr Madigan said.

Mrs Madigan said: "For me it was very worthwhile because I realised I have not been the only one coping with it too."

So what would the Madigans say to any veteran who felt they may benefit from the course?

"We would wholeheartedly recommend it! Give it a go — and stick with it," Mr Madigan said.

The program involves meeting with other veterans and their wives/significant others in a group one day a week for approximately 12 weeks. During one group per day, women, men meet separately. Individual counselling is provided for veterans as well as group therapy. Groups cover a range of topics including: understanding PTSD, learning ways to cope with painful memories and feelings; managing depression, anxiety and anger; enjoying life and relationships; healthy living and reviewing meaning in your life so far.

The program is funded by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs. A referral is required.

Course co-ordinator Allison Rolle said: "Staff felt privileged to work with the senior veterans and their partners during this program, and hope to be able to offer the opportunity to others."

For more information, please contact The Hollywood Clinic on (08) 9346 9001.

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**HOLLYWOOD**

**PRIVATE HOSPITAL**

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**Put on your dancing shoes**

**Spotlit twirling around the dance floor at the Hollywood-sponsored Tea Dance were Doreen and Alan Deveraux.**

The dance floor was full when 160 veterans and their partners tripped the light fantastic at the Annual Hollywood Tea Dance on October 10.

The new venue, the Belmont Sports and Recreation Club, was a big hit and with the assistance of Master of Ceremonies, Mike Hall, OAM, JP and the Senior Musicians’ Band (whose average age is 81!), those present enjoyed a range of dances from the Quick Step to the Barn Dance.

Hollywood Private Hospital sponsored the tea dance, which is always very popular, as part of Veterans’ Health Promotion, which is an initiative of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

Special thanks to Renato Falcone and Sam Urosevski from Catering who fed the hungry dancers.

Hollywood also sponsored the food for the launch of Veterans’ Health Promotion which was held in September at Australind Senior High School.

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Kenneth Broadhurst  
FRAIA ARIBA

Ken Broadhurst pictured in front of the State War Memorial in Kings Park.  
Ken Broadhurst responding to the State President’s address.

Plan to upgrade Ex-POW Memorial in Kings Park

Our memorial was originally dedicated in 1966 to the memory of all Prisoners of War from all our nation’s conflicts, not only to those who still have lives but also to those who have passed away during the past 57 years and those who died in captivity.

The Returned & Services League of Australia has appointed an investigation team and we believe that the Royal Commission into Veterans’ Affairs will recommend that any funds raised be used for the memorial.

Our association intends to upgrade its memorial and an annual event will be held in the near future.

Arthur Leggett, State President  
The Ex-Prisoners’ of War Association of Australia (WA Branch), 20A Littlemore Way, EDEN HILL, WA 6064

New warden for State War Memorial

11 November 2002, is an important date in the calendar. In Perth we celebrated Remembrance Day with an impressive service at the State War Memorial and at the same time handed over the responsibility of the Memorial to the new Warden for a period of 12 months. This year we farewelled Mr Kevin Campbell AM and welcomed Brigadier Laurie Palmer AO (Retd) to the position.

Brigadier Palmer, born and educated in Western Australia, served in the Australian Regular Army and held a variety of appointments within the Ordinance Corps and a number of Headquarters appointments in Australia and overseas. During this period he graduated from the Army Staff College and the Joint Services Staff College.  

Brigadier Palmer was awarded the honour of Officer in the Order of Australia in 1978. For his outstanding contribution to the Ordinance Corps and the Australian Army over many years, Palmer Barraclough of Guildford was named in his honour.

On retirement, and again for his excellent work with the Australian Institute of Management he was invited to receive the rank of Fellow within the Organisation. Golf has also kept him busy as President of the Melville Glades Golf Club and in addition he was President of the WA Branch of the Order of Australia Association for several years.

The State War Memorial will be in good hands for the next 12 months and Brigadier Palmer will ensure that the traditions of the Memorial and that of the Warden will be preserved during his tenure.
Leadership Award

The No. 2 Flying Training School held the Graduation Parade of No. 191 Pilots Course on Friday, 9 August 2002. Mr William Cayzer, RSL WA Branch State President presented the Leadership Award to Sub-Lieutenant Michael Brown who displayed the highest quality in leadership. The Graduate received an inscribed platter as a record of achievement.

RSL Cadet of the Year Spirit of ANZAC Tour 2003

The RSL WA Branch Cadet of the Year competition was changed slightly this year. The Officers Commanding each of the three services were requested to hold a mini-cadet of the year competition, and select the best five cadets from their own service (Army, Navy and Air Force). The aim of this was to give the cadet unit some input into the competition and at the same time take some pressure off of our hard working clerical staff.

On Saturday, 26 October 2002, 15 very nervous cadets assembled at ANZAC House ready to take the various tests. At 9:00 a.m. the tests began, a short break was taken for sandwiches and soft drinks and then back to the tests. At 1:30 p.m. the tests were over, you could see the relief of the pressure and all you could hear was the chatter of the candidates expounding their theories on the answers to some of the questions.

The presentations took place on Wednesday, 13 November 2002 at ANZAC House. Mr Kevin Cass-Bryall, CEO Hollywood Private Hospital presented the three winners with their awards. The recipients are 8 Sergeant Chris Moss 507 RCU, Petty Officer Lauren Butterfly 75 Canning CJO Timothi Hard 798 SQN.

The League would like to thank the Hollywood Private Hospital and Heath Lambert Insurance for their very generous support in sponsoring the tour. Thanks must also go to the Applesens, Bellevue and the City of Perth Sub-Branches for their generous donations, which enabled the committee to purchase books of military interests, which were presented to the cadets.

L-R 8Sergeant Chris Moss 507 RCU, Petty Officer Lauren Butterfly 75 Canning CJO Timothi Hard 798 SQN and Gordon Norton.

and the Committee who put in a lot of time and hard work to make the tests and presentation so successful.

Gordon Norton
Chairman Membership and Youth Committee

New hand on the helm of the Naval Association

Highgate Sub Branch member, Commodore Bob Trotter RANR has been elected as the new National President of the Naval Association of Australia. He takes over from Admiral Mike Hudson who had led the Association for six years.

Born in Bunbury, WA, Commodore Trotter enjoyed a 35-year career in the RAN before his retirement in February 1998 from the position of Commodore Fleet Bases and Senior Naval Officer WA on Garden Island.

Commodore Trotter is familiar with the difficulties facing ex-service organizations having been the WA President since 2000. He sees a big challenge in ensuring that the Naval Association is relevant to today’s sailors as well as to the older members. His tenure as National President is for three years during which time he hopes to have the Association well on the path to a successful 21st Century!
Gold Card concerns

Some years ago there was a Government initiative extending total health care cover to special groups of veterans, namely (a) ex-prisoners of war, (b) war widows, (c) those who were totally and permanently incapacitated and (d) those who had served overseas. This initiative was designed to provide some level of income support and to some orphaned children.

These special people were given a Gold Card for all conditions - in fact a fully funded private health care scheme covering all medical costs. It was both recognition of need and recognition of service, which came with a cost to Government but appeared to be worthwhile.

Today we have of course something very different. Gold Cards aplenty! The Veterans' budget has increased by almost $3 billion in five years to a total of $9.5 billion, yet it is hard to see where those in need have gained.

We still have the poorest war widows renting private accommodation without rent assistance!

We still have some veterans' disability pension being treated as income in the means test by Centrelink! This includes 300 TFRs and thousands of WWII ex-service people on age pension.

We still have war widows who remarried prior to 1984 being refused the war widows pension!

Now we find the Gold Card, the symbol of the community's regard and care for veterans, in a state of collapse. Sadly the losses will be our war veterans and their widows.

Is the Government about to break the trust of veterans, their widows and families?

We hope not.

T&PI Pension increase

The bid by ESOs on behalf of T&PI veterans and ex-service men and women to gain an increase to their pension for what they believe has been eroded over many years continues in the face of government resistance.

The DVA have conceded that this year's Clarke Review findings will not be considered until the budget of 2003/2004, with the likelihood that it may not be considered until 2004/2005.

This is most disappointing, particularly when issues are clear and should be within the capability of any policy advisory function to manage more urgently.

60th Anniversary completion of Burma Thailand railway

2003 is a special time for the Australian 'Quiet Little Team' pilgrimage to Thailand. The tour includes a dawn service at Hellfire Pass, followed by a service at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. The tour party will include ex-prisoners, their families and the families of deceased prisoners. It is also open to interested members of the public. The pilgrimage applies to students under 18.

The tour committee made up of organiser, ex-Servicemen and other interested people works on a voluntary basis. Their motive is to keep alive the story of Australian courage, fortitude and mateship under brutal captors. One in three of Australian prisoners of the Japanese lost their lives. For many years, country SES and Service clubs have worked to collect the funds to send students on this pilgrimage. These young Australian's have been wonderful ambassadors and have enhanced our country's reputation.

In addition to the ANZAC Day activities the tour taken in visits to POW camp sites, the famous River Kwai Bridge, the Three Sisters Peak and the Burma border visits to famous Thai centres and a relaxing houseboat trip down the Kwai River.

The cost of $1900 for seniors and $1950 for students includes excellent accommodation, all meals, air conditioned bus travel, but does not include departure taxes or travel insurance. A commentary from POW's who worked on the railway will keep you entranced, stories of gruelling times, mateship, sacrifice and the work of doctors and medical staff. It also includes much dazzlement. There will also be an English speaking Thai guide on each bus who will explain the Thai history and culture.

The tour is limited to 80 people (2 busloads). The past two tours were filled a week prior to departure. It is advisable to apply early.

For more detail please contact the following:

Bill Haskell, 5350 3525
Dirk Arverkle 9271 0066
Petre Wstonkard 9304 3588
Neil MacPherson 5354 4082 or e-mail macpherson@bigpond.com

DVA services available Christmas/New Year period

This year the Department of Veterans Affairs will be closed for general business from Christmas Day until Thursday 2 January 2003. The DVA's Veterans' Affairs Network office in each State capital will be open from 9.30am to 4.30pm on Monday 26 December and Tuesday 1 January 2003. Please call only for matters requiring urgent attention during this period.

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service will continue to offer 24-hour crisis counselling throughout the Christmas and New Year period through Veterans Line. This service is available to veterans of all conflicts and their families. Free-phone (toll free) 1800 801 046. Defence Service Home Insurance is also contactable throughout the Christmas-New Year period on the following after hours emergency number 1800 801 945.

DVA Country Visits Calendar

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Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

DVA's main telephone line 133 254 (or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia) - will also be handling urgent inquiries on Monday 26 December and Tuesday 1 January 2003. Please call only for matters requiring urgent attention during this period.

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service will continue to offer 24-hour crisis counselling throughout the Christmas and New Year period through Veterans Line. This service is available to veterans of all conflicts and their families. Free-phone (toll free) 1800 801 046. Defence Service Home Insurance is also contactable throughout the Christmas-New Year period on the following after hours emergency number 1800 801 945.

Do you look after someone in their own home?

You may be entitled to support and benefits that can help you...

In the WA Veteran community there are many people providing care for another. Often, without this care, the person would not be able to remain in their own home. Perhaps you look after a War Widow/Widower? It could be that you are a Veteran who is looking after an elderly family member? There are many support benefits you may be providing care for another. Perhaps it is out of a sense of duty, perhaps from love, maybe you feel there is no alternative. Whatever the relationship and whatever the reason, one fact remains: 

YOU ARE A CARER.

Almost 3000 family carers in the veteran community have become members of the Department of Veterans' Affairs Carer Support Program.

Information on financial, emotional and practical assistance is provided through a free quarterly newsletter, 'The DVA Carers News', and referrals to community agencies and Carer Support Groups are made where appropriate.

The Carer Support Advisor Lynee McHale needs to hear from you, to listen to your concerns and to assist you in obtaining whatever practical, financial and emotional support you may be entitled to, to enable you to carry on as a carer.

For further information on how the DVA Carer Support Program can help you, please contact: The Carer Support Advisor, Lynee McHale on 9366 8348, country callers Tollfree on 1800 555 254, extension 348.

"Supporting carers in the veteran community"

My friend, I do not how many miles you travel.

To find out more about the Department and its services

Please telephone 133 254 or country callers 1800 555 254

INFORMATION FOR VETERANS & FAMILIES

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs provides a wide range of benefits including pensions, allowances and health care.

The Department also runs several programs and provides information to help you remain active and independent.

To find out more about the Department and its services

Please telephone 133 254 or country callers 1800 555 254

Christmas and New Year period through Veterans Line. This service is available to veterans of all conflicts and their families. Free-phone (toll free) 1800 801 046. Defence Service Home Insurance is also contactable throughout the Christmas-New Year period on the following after hours emergency number 1800 801 945.
THE LISTENING POST  December 2002  15

RIMA KAYA (Deep Virgin Jungle) By Oliver Hatley

I requested and was granted, an interview with Oliver Hatley, the author of this fascinating book.

Oliver, now 82, lives in Kalamunda. He suffered terribly whilst a prisoner of war of the Japanese in Changi and on the Burma-Owen Railways, where at one period he was in the same camp, as Wray Dangl. His health, which suffered whilst a POW, has now deteriorated and he is quite ill. He still retains his sense of humour, however. He began writing this book, a few years before his retirement was suggested that he write about his wartime experiences. This proved too traumatic so he decided to write about the jungle instead.

Rima Kaya relates Oliver’s experiences in the Vietnamese jungle; in what was then known as Malaya, and of his father, who was sent from tea and coffee plantations in Ceylon (Sri Lanka) to establish rubber plantations in Malaya. Little did they realise the consequences.

When their carefully tended rubber seedlings were planted in soil cleared for the first time in many good years, they created a new and dangerous environment for the forest and for the native animals of the region - pigs, monkeys, elephants and buffaloes which not only destroyed the crops but introduced an ecolological change of living in those remote area.

Oliver’s wonderful stories revolve around the battles between man and beast, each fighting for survival in a vastly changed land.

This book is a must-read for the population. Oliver came face to face with one when he was four years old!

The men who undertook the tasks of clearing the jungle, were done to crops and protecting the lives of themselves, their families and their workers required skill and courage.

In the early part of the 20th century their weapons were primitive (black powder rifles and shotguns) and the danger was real. Following Oliver’s stories through dangerous hunts, frightening superstitions and life in a living environment of great beauty that sadly, no longer exists. His stories are told with truth, humility and a sense of humour.

Oliver relates a fascinating tale of a young girl dancing with a kiting 16-18 madamnyad (king cobra) and only mentions his time as a POW of the AIF.

Rima Kaya is, I feel, an important historical account of times dating back to the 1950’s.

I strongly recommend Rima Kaya, especially to those of us who have served in Malaya during WWII, the Emergency, or later.

This book is available from the Kalamunda Bookshop, selected Dymocks Bookstores and from the publisher, Pat M. Hosking, P.O. Box 257, Perth 6872. RPP $27.95 and worth every penny!

Ken Morrison

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SIR JAMES WHITESIDE MCCAY

by Christopher Wray

This is a very good book as it has been well researched by its author Christopher Wray.

It is one of those books; if you get angry at sheer stupidity then possibly you should not read it.

The stupidity is not about going to war, but about the way the British and Australian armies were led. An opinion of my own. I have not had the privilege of being on the front line, so I have no idea of what it is like. My view is that the heroism and brilliant tactics by the soldiers of the 1st and 2nd Divisions has not been told before. The cavalry had their own mini battle of Long-Tan before escaping D Company. When they sneaked their way through the Viet Cong they describe how the diggers of D Company greeted them with cheers and how they were wounded. 2nd Battalion was the sight of the cavalry arriving just in time.

I can thoroughly recommend this book to anyone and also to military historians. It is a must read book.

Paul Anderson was a former member of 3rd Cavalry Regiment and in 1973 he served as a tour en- ombier in South Vietnam and his companionship was most useful in his retirement in 1996. He passed away in 2001.

Publishers Allen & Unwin Price $49.95

Editor Len Copely

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THE OLD BATTLE DRESS

By Brian A Gale

In a bag in the tool shed, Tore and stained, but a piece of his past, A uniform, that once was worn with pride.

At a time when things were made to last. So proudly he was, from the first time he wore it. Some allegiance to honour the Queen. It was there every Winter to the day of his discharge.

From the line he had turned eighteen.

It befell with the honor of his love one, So gallantly he was by her side. With a heart beating fast 'neath the rain. When she told him that she'd be his bride. Came the Winter, wind and cold in the face.

The battle dress worn once again. Cutting pigeons on the edges and wind. Through the heat, the wind and the rain.

But time as we have will take its toll. Life's changes make so many things. As destiny will change our sorting.

Just to see what the other lives bring, To see the dress is placed in the shed, With the Memories and things from his past. But it's April once again and the sky flows. He takes out the last of his past. He tries to replace the fear, It does not work the same this year. But for one more time he'll wear it again. Though he knows this will be the last year.

So he wore it once more on ANZAC Day. And his pride returned once again. Some papers were washed away. To the last thread that tied it all as. As he marched down the street once more.

On April Twenty Fifth of that year. His thoughts wander back to his ancestors. And how he wished they were here. Yes, he saw that battled old battle dress. Though it didn't look the same today. Long age it was new, there was holes showing through. Now it sits, in the shed.
Dear All,

I trust apologising for taking so long to give you an update on the developments within RACA, formerly known as War Veter.
SUB-BRANCH NEWS

GERALDTON CITY

Cockburn

Afters a prolonged series of formal meetings and informal discussions about how best to go about clearing away unwanted sections of the building, Council has finally established a new sub-branch. Due to Council building by-laws, a completely new, re-sided building, as had been hoped for, was not possible, which meant extensive re-designing of the original structure was the best we could do.

Our sub-branch finances of course were of primary significance and in order to reduce expenditure, volunteers were called from membership ranks and the response was astounding. Led by David Basely and Ron Stolk, two members qualified in building construction, an eighteen strong team of enthusiastic volunteer members moved in with willing hands and eager hearts to perform the mundane, unskilled, dirty demolition work — and whatever other challenges might be encountered.

Among them however, are two lady members — Hon Secretary Vic Boreham's wife, Lyn and Heather Colley — who ensure that light refreshments are on hand to fortify working women.

But perhaps the most interesting statistic is that the average age of the workers is seventy-three years.

At this point in time the original structure is now reduced to a skeletal framework awaiting extensive cosmetic covering.

As can be expected in situations like this, mishaps and minor accidents have occurred but, in line with the spirit of the volunteers, a was enough to almost bring the building to its knees. The long chain — is hung around the neck of anyone injuring themselves and worn for a specific period, but it is all in good fun.

Another significant thing is the beer consumption since the project began.

Significant is the natural development, the combined efforts of the volunteers have saved our sub-branch an estimated forty thousand dollars against costs that professional workers would have been called to do the work.

The spirit of ANZAC lives on!

Vale Gordon Connor

During the month of August our Cockburn sub-branch lost a distinguished and dedicated member with the sad passing of Gordon Connor after a long illness.

Gordon's dedication to the RSL was unchallenged and, apart from enjoying Life Membership of the Cockburn sub-branch, he was a member of the RSL State Executive for three years and Delegate to the City of Perth sub-branch, involvements which earned him Life Membership of the RSL.

A man involved in numerous activities, Gordon was also a member of the Royal Historical Society.

Quiet and unassuming, his presence will be sadly missed around our sub-branch, particularly on monthly meeting Sundays.

Wal Fy Eves

Editors, Cockburn Revue

Geraldton City Sub-branch which originated on ANZAC Day, 1917, decided at its monthly meeting on 21 November 1920 to embark on a two-million-dollar project over a twenty-year period.

It involves the creation of a Millennium Heritage Centre on reserve 203 Forrest Street on the former site of the school where an old building still stands near Heathcote Street.

As the Department of Land Administration (DLA) had told the City of Geraldton that it had no objection to the proposal to charge the reserve purpose, the Sub-Branch confirmed that it was prepared to accept the management order for the land.

President Allan Groom told the October 1920 meeting that the club had been able to raise $5,000.00 on behalf of Geraldton's St John of God Hospital.

It will go towards the development of the Education and Memorabilia Centre for the Western Australian Millennium Heritage Centre. A very enthusiastic member also decided to open a special Trust account for this purpose.

In association with the cheque presentation, Mr Snowball also said "We have been delighted to be able to offer choice of hospitals to veterans and widowers and appreciate the support of the RSL in achieving this outcome." Members were delighted when the City of Geraldon agreed to have what we will call the Black Wall (which is part of the reserve 204 Forrest Street) now occupies the Memorial Park nestled in the sub-branch for a Millennium Heritage Centre.

Midwest Minister Kim Chance has also confirmed on numerous occasions that he fully supported our proposal to increase the size of the reserve. He said the Memorial Park in the Memorial Gardens will become a part of the Memorial Park in the Memorial Gardens.

Mr Groom said the opening of the Memorial Park on Friday, 9th November, would be the culmination of years of planning and work.

He said much of the park had been made possible through the support of the local business and the untold voluntary effort of both members and local business, and he listed 24 businesses associated with the wall and park.

Mr Wiston said the opening would see the blessing of the Wall of Remembrance by the Archbishop of Geraldton and Archbishop Neil Whalhoff of Bathurst.

Referring to the Memorial Wall at our October meeting, Mr Groom said when lighting was installed in the pavilion to light the wall at all times after dark, the flag now flies all day. There had been much interest shown about the wall and flag and the spectacular view at night — including the comment 'at least the RSL got it right and illuminated the flag at night'.

Mr Wiston paid a substantial tribute to the 19 members who worked on the Memorial Park on 19 October when their work was valued at $22,000.00.

Ron also reported that a consignment of Remembrance Day medals and wreathes was sent to Sutton Primary School in Korea and as a follow-up to the visit by Andy Hayward to the local churchyard — there were more than 140 ANZACs buried. They all died of the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1916 while convalescing from wounds or passing on the Western Front.

Ron Wiston had also been told that the school would feature a special program to be made on Remembrance Day.

Having read of Andy Hayward's generosity in giving Gallipoli relics to the memorials section of the Anzac Day ANZAC Day, Ron said he would like to thank Alastair Hay, when he and cousin Mick Hay of Wangan Hills visited Gallipoli for the presentation.

Ronnie's father, Evan Bean, who had come from Karratha, had been in London and served in Gallipoli with the 10th Light Horse during World War I and had ridden in the war wounded in Gallipoli and in a hospital in Cairo.

The 10th Light Horse Regiment.

Peter Bardeen, PRO

NOLLAMARA

The boys have finished their work at Gallipoli Gardens and have now commenced learning wood working techniques. They continually amaze us and have taken to working with wood like ducks to water. The looks on their faces when they turn a rough piece of timber into something more attractive and usable is reward enough for us. "Just like a baby's bottom, Mr Coulton" proudly stated Toby as he showed me a nice piece that he had completed. It was a picture frame of the eyes to the clydes of this young soldier!

The boys will get the chance to display their work at the annual Opening of the Mental Play Projects. The event will be held on Monday, 11 November at 10.45am. The Hon. Mick Murray, MLA will address the gathering and will be part of the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service. All interested persons are invited to attend the service and speak to those who have those taken part in the project.

Now that the boys are consuming wood at a great rate Iissue this

my job as secretary an absolute delight.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held in the RSL Hall on Sunday, 8 December 2002, commencing at 12.00 noon. As several positions become vacant on that date all members are urged to attend so that they can have their say at the election of new office bearers. Following the AGM, the traditional XMAS BBQ will be provided and I have heard a rumour that the first couple of drinks are compliments of the club. It is a little known fact that families of RSL General Members are eligible to apply for membership as Affiliate Members. Personnel who have served in organisations such as the RAAF, RAN, RSL, St John's Ambulance, nurses, doctors form a large and diverse corps of people that are eligible to apply for membership as Affiliate Members. If you are interested in becoming a part of the RSL family please phone me on 9731 1970.

Many thanks to all who participated in the selling of pork pies and onions. Special thanks to Dave Fluskey and the cadets from 31 Regional Cadet Unit who were under our control, and were a treat with their turn and manners.

On Saturday 31st August President Stan Webb and 36 guests from Button Palmyra Sub-Branch made the trip to our Sub-Branch and were over four hours, shared convivially each other's company.

On completion of a hearty lunch (thanks to Terri and her crew) our darts were as always on the agenda, with Button Palmyra taking out the winning round. Raffles were well supported and the return bus appeared to arrive too early to meet the 4.30pm schedule. We are looking forward to our return early in 2003.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday, 11 November at 10.45am. The Hon. Mick Murray, MLA will address the gathering and will be part of the Remembrance Day Commemorative Service. All interested persons are invited to attend the service and speak to those who have those taken part in the project.

Golf Sporting Division (Sub-Branch). The Army Golf Club played the Nollamara RSL Golf Club on 21 November. A good turnout from both teams.

A four ball better half comp. was played and a good game was enjoyed by all as always between our two teams. The winner was the Nollamara RSL, first time since we formed our club in 1999.

Both clubs enjoyed the 19th hole back at the Sub-Branch and it went long into the night with plenty of comradeship and later the black jackets and helmets came out.

Army Golf Club plays north of the river at 12 noon every Wednesday. The Nollamara RSL Golf Club plays every Wednesday at 8.30am. Army Club Captain, Charlie Brown, 0411 774 888. Nollamara RSL Captain, Bill Roberts, 0412 492 432.

Dart Sporting Division (Sub-Branch). Mixed Doubles. Singles title was won by Gary Tregonning, Runner Up, Frank Taylor Treble title won by Steve Lisman and Diane Winter and Clem Riley. Women's Division 28 Grand Final won by RSL Midfield 6 - 5.

Special praise to Ray Smith who joined our club with the West Coast Darts Association. 

Proud of you Ray.

Rose Jones, PRO

DONNYBROOK

The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the sender and are intended for educational use only. However, we encourage sharing and discussion of the information presented.

[Editor's Note: This section contains material that may be sensitive or inappropriate for certain audiences. Please handle with care and consider the audience before sharing.]
"Corinthi—a sense of place, a sense of history"

by Peter Giopon

A dog barked lazily at us as we struggled over the sharpened limestone rocks that barred our way into the ancient city. Rocks that could piece by piece rip the skin from your feet and leave you barefoot on your sandalless legs. A crumbled wall and the colour and texture of how history is sometimes lose under our feet, small irregular pieces roll downhill toward the sea. At this point of our tour we are back to the departing ships and think of it.

We fight, swords flash in the light, we kill Corinthians they kill us. Suddenly we come to the house of the screaming stone. Scared we hear the ancient city of Corinth, sleeping in the dark. The Centaur is pleased and the Emperor delighted with his new conquest, we will all be promoted.

** **

Living in Corinth is living with history. It's like being on the same rocks and think of it, a city occupied since Neolithic times, the most prominent city in Greece where Corinthians could control everything that went on. Between Greece and the Peloponnesian Wars, Corinth, a rich commercial city with its own navy in that area, the Corinthians chose to lead the army against the Persians and the Romans destroy it and rebuild it; here the apostle Paul came too, by its setting a Christian church. It is in the same blue and glinting sea in which you dangled your feet - a sense of place, a sense of history.

As a modern new comer have to learn to understand and respect Corinth as in all of Greece, there are certain values that newcomers should quickly grasp.

Nothing is done in a rush, especially in such a country with a long history. Some small china cups that ultra strong coffee, strong and reading a newspaper.

What you must never do, and what you must avoid is everything political or religion; except for members of your own family and off, another thing you must never do you don't plane spot, whatever that is.

When dealing with the Greek psyche and the hard road to master, questions are mostly answered by more questions. Even something such as "Is it going to rain today?" will probably be answered by another question "when does it do if it does?" or "did it rain last Friday?"

Generally, and stay alert for this, you may be answered by a very slight almost imperceptible hint of your head nod, coupled with a minute raising of the eyebrows. The Greek does not say "yes" or "no". This movement can be hard to spot but you must try to communicate. Try it in the privacy of your own home.

** **

As with anywhere in the world the people make the biggest impression; it's a four-mile act of friendliness or kindness can make history. Never forget that the whole nation is very friendly. A little old man with skin the colour of burnt beans and 2 weeks growth on his chin greeted me with a hug and kisses on the cheek. He said "Welcome to Corinth, it's like coming home." We'd only just met but his question for me completely. He asked me the question "Are you English or German?"

"English," I replied tentatively, judging by the repeated hugs he preferred this answer. He had been a World War 2 air force resistance fighter in World War 2.

We passed the afternoon under his olive tree drinking sweet black coffee and talking to the old man. I talked to the war and the man.

You must go and see the canal, go and stand on the rickety bridge that shakes with traffic while you look down to the dirty ships slipping by in the clean water. The Corinth Canal is world famous; it's a four-mile long cutting into the limestone, work that took 7 years to finish and was done himself wielding a golden spade and finished in AD1893. Hold you nothing is done in a rush.

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They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, in the morning, we will remember them. Lest We Forget.
While we’re asking you to run with us, the RSL is helping less fortunate members to have a walk on them.

RSL member Jim Spencer was down on his luck. 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. But more importantly, you’ll be helping the less fortunate members who really do need it.
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