AUSTRALIA DAY MEDALLION FOR HIGHGATE SUB-BRANCH

At the RSL Sundowner in January the State President, Mr WE Gaynor (main picture), on behalf of the State Executive presented an Australia Day Medallion of Achievement to the RSL Highgate Sub-Branch.

The achieved award was presented for the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch services as the Honour Avenue Custodians and the State War Memorial Sub-Warden.

Mr Gaynor in his address paid tribute to the past and present members that had provided meritorious service in the maintenance of our Honour Avenues, in which some 1,183 plaques are erected in memory of fallen comrades. The RSL Honour Avenue Committee has been in existence since 1922. The Sub-Wardens were acknowledged for Ceremonial services to all Ex-Service organisations who conduct services in the State War Memorial precinct, these can number up to 46 in any one year.

Mr Don Meredith on behalf of the Highgate Sub-Branch acknowledged several past members who had provided distinguished service as both Honour Avenue and Sub-Warden members.

Mr Meredith said that it was a great pleasure to accept the Australia Day Medallion of Achievement on behalf of all Highgate Sub-Branch members.

ADF – Our appreciation

The State President of the RSL WA Branch, Mr WE Gaynor, on behalf of the Branch membership and Unit and Kindred Organisations presented Certificates of Appreciation to the three Service Chiefs of Western Australia. The Certificates of Appreciation citations read:

"On behalf of the Ex Service Community, we extend our appreciation to the Australian Defence Forces for their commitment and dedication in the conduct of Commemorative and Ceremonial services in recognition of Australia's contribution to World Peace." dated 17 January 2003.

The three Service Chiefs responded by thanking the RSL and other Ex Service Organisation for their continuing support to those men and women serving in our forces today.
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Elections - Sub-Branches

During the December / January period I have been contacted by numerous members of the public in the conduct of their Annual General Meetings, they contact ANZAC House due to real or perceived discrepancies in the conduct of the proceedings or the election of office bearers.

The RSL WA Branch Constitution details that the branch must conduct a meeting and the election of office bearers.

As a Delegate or a Branch Secretary is what constitutes a financial member at an AGM?

RSL Membership is from 1 January to 31 December in each year; therefore if you have not paid your annual membership between 1 January and the opening of the AGM you are unofficial. Often members refer to the April date in the Constitution; this refers specifically to an election to remove a branch secretary who does not have real financial or unofficial status. In accordance with the By-Laws, branch meeting rules, those who have not paid their annual subscription are not eligible to vote, therefore are no longer members of the RSL.

Requests can be seen to contact the Commonwealth RSL, and requests to the branch secretary for further information.

Annual General Meeting
27.16 The annual general meeting shall be the controlling body of the sub-branch.

27.17 Each annual general meeting must be held after the end of the previous financial year.

27.18 The following business shall be transacted at each annual general meeting:
a. the presentation and adoption of the President's annual report,
b. the receiving of the statement of accounts, assets and liabilities and of mortgages, charges and security affecting the property of the sub-branch for the last financial year,
c. the reviewing of the audit report on the financial affairs of the sub-branch for the last financial year,
d. the record of the audit statement to the meeting for adoption,
e. the election of the sub-branch officers and committee, and
f. the discharge of the auditor.

27.19 The State Branch must be notified of the annual general meeting held within 30 days of the sub-branch annual general meeting.

27.20 Each sub-branch shall, within 30 days of the expiration of the date of the annual general meeting, forward a copy of the audited balance sheet and statement of income and expenditure for the sub-branch to the State Branch within the year preceding the said annual general meeting, to the State Secretariat.

27.21 Nomination shall be signed by the sub-branch members who propose and second them and be endorsed by the nominee. In the event of there being more than two candidates for the office of President being nominated, the positions of President and Vice-President of the sub-branch shall be called for at the meeting.

27.22 Election of Officers
27.23 The officers, except paid officers of the sub-branch, and members of any committee shall be elected from among its members each year at the annual general meeting of the sub-branch. These elections may be held by a President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Auditor, Secretary, a Membership Officer, a Branch Secretary, or any combination thereof. The President and Secretary shall be ex-officio members of all committees.

27.24 The executive officers of the sub-branch shall be deemed to be the President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurer, Honorary Secretary and such other persons as the sub-branch may decide, and shall hold office at the pleasure of the sub-branch.

27.25 A special nomination for not more than two positions, shall be called for by the State Secretariat, and not more than two such positions shall be filled by the election at the sub-branch meeting.

27.26 Vacancies, however occurring, in any of the offices, shall be filled at the next annual general meeting, if held within the period as soon as is practicable after the date of the meeting. Provision is made that should any sub-branch fail to fill the office of President, Secretary or Treasurer within two calendar months from the date upon which a vacancy occurs, the State Executive shall be empowered to call an extraordinary general meeting of the <Sub-Branch> concerned for that purpose.

The State Secretariat was the AGM and do hope it will receive your consideration as if we are to debate the issues at a National level with your comments and reactions to the proposals. To remain silent will be seen as an acquiescence to the above.

This month will see Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting take place. The AGM was approved at last Congress, clearly states that AGM's are to be held in the first full month of the year and it also states that the Annual General Meeting shall be held at such time as to be presented at that meeting. From reports received at ANZAC House, (not to mention the problem in interpreting this Rule, however, the statement is that it is part of the Constitution of the RSL and compliance is necessary. Should any sub-branch require advice or assistance in resolving matters of our sub-branch under this Rule, please contact ANZAC House.

To all outgoing office bearers: may I thank you for your commitment to your sub-branch and the League for a job well done. To newly elected office bearers, thank you for offering your services to assist you wherever it can - you only have to ask a President, Secretaries and Treasurers induction course at ANZAC House. I trust that the administration of your sub-branch at the 2003-04 financial year, will be a success.

I hope you will support this initiative.

Affiliate Members form part of the membership profile of our sub-branch system. Your Membership Committee will continue to monitor how the impact this class of membership is having at sub-branch level. If we are to see a continued increase in the strength of the League at this level, we need to encourage this form of membership. Objects of the League is vital that your views on how this is best achieved. A survey is to be carried out by your sub-branch asking details of the Affiliate Membership profile and members attitudes to them. Also invited is any other relevant view. I would wish to consider the issues of membership profile, subscriptions and make comments and suggestions.

The RSL was invited by the Office of Prime Minister and the Department of Veterans' Affairs to brief them on the proposed Bamiyan Memorial. We have a strong interest in War Memorials in the Park it was considered that the interest of this park became involved. The decision to place the proposed memorial... Kings Park was a non negotiable issue - it was more a matter of its location and form. We advised of our opposition to it being in the Park and asked that if it had to be in King's Park it not be located in the vicinity to any War Memorial is communicated to our fallen servicemen and women.

Towards the end of last year the Department of Defence decided to have an 'in-depth' review of the current system of categorizing the various forms of service personnel are currently in the War Memorials, Namely, Australian War, Anzac, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Peacekeeping, and others.

The RSL would also like to acknowledge the immediate response of the Botanical Gardens staff on having the graffiti removed, and the assistance that we received from police service in advising the location of the graffiti and recommendations on how to monitor and limit a recurrence as we lead up to ANZAC Day. SHANE M SEERS OAM JP
ANZAC Day March & Service – Perth CBD

The March this year will commence with the Australian Defence Forces ‘stepping off’ from Langley Park at 9:20 a.m. The Veterans Convoy will ‘step off’ at 9:40 a.m. from the Barrack St and St George’s Terrace intersection.

• The Parade marches past the saluting Dais located on St Georges Terrace (opposite Howard) saluting to the ‘Right’. The Reviewing Officer will be the Governor of WA, His Excellency Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC.
• Parade participants to enter Alf Curlwits Gardens (The Esplanade) from Williams St entrance.
• The Parade will form up on the Northern Side of the Alf Curlwits Gardens facing the City buildings.

The ANZAC Day Service will commence at approximately 11:00 a.m. when all Units and Associations are assembled.

ANZAC Day Transport for Disabled Veterans on ANZAC Day

Please advise all your members that if they can no longer march the distance of the parade on ANZAC Day, there is a very willing group of volunteers who will pick them up from their residence, assemble on Langley Park, drive them through the parade, provide seating and light refreshments for them during the service, then return them to their homes. This way they can still be involved in the parade.

This service has been provided since 1974 when one car picked up three veterans from Hollywood Hospital and drove them through the parade.

There is absolutely no charge for this service, and the volunteer drivers consider it a privilege to be able to assist in this small way.

Please contact Les Portelli on 9339 4007 should you have any veteran who would benefit from this service, or contact Norm Chester on 9291 6767 for Military Veteran Car transport.

ANZAC Day Token Appeal 2003

The 5th ANZAC Day Token Appeal will be advertised for the week beginning 19 April 2003.

Congress 2003 resolved that all proceeds from the ANZAC Day Token Appeal would be divided equally, that is 50/50 between your sub-branch and State Branch (after costs) for the benefit of the health and well-being of current and ex-service personnel and women.

All ANZAC Day Token Appeal sub-branches are requested to give the ANZAC Day Token Appeal the same support given to Poppy Day, funds raised pay the maintenance of the provision of services to eligible recipients and for ceremonial and commemorative activities such as ANZAC Day/Remembrance Day and Wreath Laying Services.

Order forms for tokens are available from ANZAC House.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Kings Park & Botanic Gardens

The annual Dawn Service will be conducted in the State War Memorial Precinct. This precinct encompasses the State War Memorial, Centenary Hall, Court of Contemplation, the Eternal Flame of Remembrance and Pool of Reflection.

The conduct of the Dawn Service comprises:
• Arrival of the Official Wreath layers at the Memorial.
• The sounding of the ‘Silent’ at 0600 a.m.
• Laying of Floral Wreaths.
• ‘Last Post’.
• ‘Silence’.
• ‘Revelle’.

The reciting of the ‘Ode’ signifies the completion of the protocols of the Dawn Service.

At the conclusion of the Dawn Service an address will be delivered by an invited speaker.

ANZAC Day Dawn Service

AGE/D/FRAIL/DISABLED PARKING

Limited parking for the aged / frail and disabled will be available in the car park behind Fraser’s Restaurant. Car passes are required for entry to this car park; they are available from ANZAC House.

THE LISTENING POST February 2003 5

KINGS PARK – DAWN SERVICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE – BUS SERVICE

A bus service will operate from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in May Drive to the State War Memorial vicinity for the Dawn Service.

The bus service will commence at approximately 4:00 a.m. from the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial.

The return bus service will commence at approximately 7:00 a.m. from the State War Memorial vicinity.

The Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Service is to be held at the Memorial commencing at approximately 7:30 a.m.

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Gold Card issues

Following a study by the Repatriation Commission in 1936, all returned Service-women of WWII were granted a Gold Card to cover the full range of health care benefits and services. The review reported that these women had suffered discrimination and disadvantage in comparison to their male counterparts, both during and after the war service.

At the RSL National Congress held in Adelaide in September 1997, the League adopted a motion for the granting of the Gold Card to all WWII female veterans. This was seen as a major priority issue to be taken up with the Government in order to mirror the generous grant originally made to WWII Veterans. The continued lobbying by the RSL resulted in the Prime Minister, The Hon. John Howard, meeting with the National President Major General Maurice Donovan in January 1998 to further consider the implications of that motion.

The Gold Card was finally introduced in January 1999 and at that time it was estimated that an additional 50,000 Australian Veterans who had incurred danger from hostile forces of the enemy, would be eligible for the issue. The benefits were finally made available to over 70 year olds and over with qualifying service.

Arguments for Increases to Scheduled Fees

From mid August of this year, all State Presidents have been subject to an intensive letter campaign from the medical community, mostly located on the South Coast of Queensland, seeking the League's support for an increase in fees. The major arguments advanced, especially by the AMA, follow the general theme that "the fees for specialists treating patients under the RPPS (Repayment Private Patient Scheme) are capped at the Commonwealth Medical Benefit Schedule, and specialists are prevented by the Department of Veterans' Affairs from charging a higher fee" (and the specialist) accept a patient under the Scheme.

Both the specialists and general practitioners, claim to be sympathetic to the needs of veteran patients and that they have "willingly subsidised the veterans' medical treatments" however "there comes a time when this is no longer acceptable and the value of the payment has been eroded to less than half of what the Scheme was intended.

The Position in Western Australia

Recent media reports on the future of the Gold Card and its acceptance by medical practitioners has caused concern in the ex-service community over the possible loss benefits. In particular TFP and Widows, their spouses and carers who provide support to those with severe medical conditions have been distressed by these reports.

Meetings with the DVA WA office staff have confirmed that a limited number of medical practitioners have withdrawn their acceptance of the Gold Card. The RSL will continue to monitor the situation in conjunction with medical opinion, the provision of medical services to DVA recipients in WA.

Congress and Ex-Service Considerations

Despite the situation in Western Australia, the RSL National Executive and the Brisbane National Congress, appreciated that there may have been some recent since the rates were originally set. They felt that adequate remuneration to the medical practitioners should be considered in order to protect the integrity of the RPPS. The Congress submitted to Government that there is a need for a special review of the situation and it is pertinent to consider if specialist's case should be determined. If a similar case could be raised on behalf of other GPs, the fees should be reviewed and adjusted accordingly.

There was some concern however, that the veteran community might have been used as a pawn in the negotiations between the AMA and the Government. This point of view has also recently been expressed by Brian McKenzie, National President of the Vietnam Veterans' Association when said "Gold Card holders in the veteran community are being used by the Australian Medical Association (AMA) as a bargaining tool to pressure the Government to increase their "meat and drink" to the doctors". He went on to say "the facts are that LMO's currently receive a smaller payment than the schedule for treating veterans with a Gold Card, but only 80% of the schedule for others, so why is the AMA singling out veterans". Like the RSL the VVA has called upon the Government and the AMA to sit down at the negotiation table and to discuss fee adjustments without causing unnecessary stress and angst amongst the veteran community. Such an approach must recognise that using the sick and disabled as a bargaining tool is a slight on the service rendered by our members. Since then, the AMA have publicly stated that if their demands are not met, they will cease to honour the card from January 2003.

Ongoing Monitoring

If a doctor no longer accepts the Gold Card, the Department of Veterans' Affairs feels it is undertaking to find a doctor who does, and will pay transportation costs. Should any member become aware of the Medical Practice, which has withdrawn its acceptance of the card, the incidence should be immediately notified to the State Branch Office who will represent the matter to the Minister.

The DVA has written to every Gold and White Card holder in Western Australia. The 80 per cent of providers have responded positively, however that still leaves over a card that have either not responded or who are no longer to accept the DVA cards.

A recent survey conducted by the RSL did not indicate that there had been widespread non-acceptance by medical practitioners; however there were particular locations, in particular in the rural areas where services had been withdrawn by some GPs.

The RSL will continue to liaise with DVA with the progress of provisions of these entitlements in WA.

No Risk to Gold Card

I read with great concern the full page article in the December issue of "The Signal" regarding the AMA's threats to unde rstand for refusing to provide Gold Card services.

From the outset, let me say there is no crisis, the Gold Card is quite safe and your correspondent is correct; veterans are being used as pawns in a political debate.

The AMA has behaved disgracefully by threatening to withdraw services.

By way of background, I am a full GP in Belur, SA. Until recently, I was on the AMA SA Council and the AMA SA Council Practice Scheme (PSC). I resigned from the AMA a few months ago, in no small part due to the AMA's shameful distortion of the facts with respect to the AMA's threat to withdraw services. I believe the AMA's threats are hollow and that a political stunt designed to increase rebates for a select group of GPs who are already receiving a very generous rebate. The AMA does not represent the views of all GPs, despite the noise they are making.

The fact is that there are two groups of GPs. One group, for reasons largely unknown gets rebates 40% higher than the other group. Yet, the bulk-billing rate for both groups is virtually identical, and the acceptance of the Gold Card by both groups is virtually identical. The AMA wants even higher rebates for the group already getting the higher rebate. The clear evidence is that there is no need to increase rebates, and that rebates could actually fall by at least 40% without any change in acceptance of the Gold Card.

Non VR GPs, like myself, have not had a rebate increase under the Gold Card since 1990. The majority of AMA members have had a yearly increase until now, so why are these greedy doctors want even more? Like many doctors, I accept the frozen rebate as full payment. In fact, veterans make up only a small percentage of my patients, and PSC's could easily afford to treat veterans, if they were not rebate at all.

Your article states the AMA will continue to honour the Gold Card after January 2003. This AMA's statement is misleading, since the AMA does not actually have the ability to dictate whether the card is withdrawn. Their campaign is a bluff. Even if one or two doctors stop honouring the card, how can the AMA counter the possibility of alternate GPs who will.

This campaign is a cynical attempt by the AMA to gain a rebate increase for some GPs. Veterans are the main losers, and I am deeply concerned that this may have caused undue stress to veterans. There is absolutely no risk to the Gold Card.

I'd be interested to hear from any veterans who have suffered stress over this matter.

Dr James Moschon
Acting President
Australian College of Non Vocationally Registered GPs
The RSL has received advice from the AMA on their position in relation to ever-increasing refusal for the acceptance of the ‘Gold Card’. The problem of the non-acceptance of DVA’s medical, disability cards, both the Gold and White, can potentially affect up to 30,000 card holders in Western Australia.

Detailed below is advice received from the AMA in February 2003.

**Background**

The AMA has campaigned throughout 2002 for increases to medical fees for both GPs and Specialists treating veterans under the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) Local Medical Officer (LMO) and Repatriation Private Patient Scheme (RPPS). DVA medical payments to treating doctors have simply not kept pace with the escalating costs of medical practice and many private medical practitioners have indicated they are unable to continue to subsidise the schemes to the extent they have in the past.

The AMA declined to extend the Memorandum of Understanding with DVA on the LMO Scheme in late 2002 and withdrew support for both the RPPS and LMO Scheme due to lack of progress on the fee, issues. This prompted DVA to write directly to all 11,500 GP LMOs in November and December 2002, asking them to renew their appointments as LMOs until June 2003 – at which time DVA claimed a new MoU would be in place.

**Issues**

A large number of GPs who have practised under the LMO Scheme at risk. DVA also reported to the Federal Parliament late in 2002 that over 250 Specialists had provided written advice they were no longer participating in the RPPS – which is probably an underestimate as Specialists are not contracted to DVA and do not need to give written notice.

DVA is concerned that significantly more GPs and Specialists will withdraw from the RPPS and LMO Scheme in June if no acceptable fee outcome is reached with the AMA and reflected in the budget.

Federal Cabinet will be considering the DVA fee issue in late February.

The pressure from DVA to subsume any remuneration enhancements for GPs treating veterans into the PIP or similar blended payments schemes, however, represents a significant threat to the retention of separate private medical care arrangements for veterans. These were put in place specifically to recognise veterans’ service to the Australian community.

In the absence of clear direction from Cabinet to date, DVA has resisted discussions with the AMA on both the Specialist and GP issues and it can be anticipated this will continue under the guise of Cabinet or budget confidentiality. The AMA will press for discussions with DVA following the Federal Cabinet meeting and continue to lobby for the retention of a properly funded and separate private medical care scheme in recognition of veterans’ service to the community.

The AMA is meeting with the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Darryl Vale, and ALP shadow Veterans Minister, Senator Mark Bishop, this week on the issue.

**Developments**

Over 2,500 GPs have declined to renew their LMO contracts – placing the continued operation of the LMO Scheme at risk.

DVA also reported to the Federal Parliament late in 2002 that over 250 Specialists had provided written advice they were no longer participating in the RPPS – which is probably an underestimate as Specialists are not contracted to DVA and do not need to give written notice.

DVA is concerned that significantly more GPs and Specialists will withdraw from the RPPS and LMO Scheme in June if no acceptable fee outcome is reached with the AMA and reflected in the budget. Federal Cabinet will be considering the DVA fee issue in late February.

It is understood a specific proposal for Specialists providing services through the RPPS will be considered, although the details have not been provided to the AMA.

In relation to GP fees, it is understood there is pressure from the Minister for Health and Ageing and/or her Department (DHA) for DVA arrangements to be subsumed into the Practice Incentives Program and that no separate DVA payment beyond the scheduled fee be available. DVA is seeking to resist this approach, but the details of the GP component of the Cabinet submission are also not known.
News from the Veterans’ Affairs Committee

The Veterans’ Affairs Committee (VAC) met for the first time this year on Thursday, 6 February.

The Chairman, Mr Doug Rasmussen said that he was looking forward to a very productive year and is hoping to make veterans’ problems a more public issue and in particular veterans’ health and its effects on families.

Mr Rasmussen has indicated that there are some veteran issues that the committee would be pursuing, in particular Muscular Skeletal problems. He said: “We have had some information from Dr Peter Anderson (Orthopedic Surgeon) on this subject and from worldwide universities studies.

Mrs Margot Harnes (RSL Senior Advocate) supports Dr Anderson’s efforts to pursue more realistic SOPs in relation to Muscular Skeletal disability claims. Mrs Harnes said “This problem has to be sort out for you cannot compare civilian complaints to servicemen where they are carrying heavy packs and are required to do arduous and gruelling activities, where reporting injuries is seen as being ‘not the done thing’. We have to be more pro-active in these matters. The BMA needs to revise its criteria for SOPs.”

Also on the VAC Agenda is the ongoing problem of ‘EDA Lifestyle Rating’ which both Mr Rasmussen and Mrs Harnes believe should be reduced from its current Level of 6 to a Level of 5.

“These and other pressing problems will be receiving our focused attention as these are very urgent problems for our Veterans”, Mr Rasmussen said.

It is envisaged that this column will be included in future issues of The Listening Post so members will be receiving a number of current VAC issues.

If members wish to have anything brought before the VAC then Mr Rasmussen can be contacted on ANZAC House, 28 St George Terrace Perth.

The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Inc. – Veterans’ Affairs Committee (WAVAC)

In the Vol 25 No 3, Edition of The Listening Post a brief questionnaire was published on two very topical issues in the Veteran Community, these questions can have a direct impact on up to more than 39,000 eligible Gold and White Card (DVA) holders in WA.

For the RSL WAVAC to prepare a factual and accurate submission to Government we need your response. When this questionnaire was previously distributed over 11,000 RSL members of the WAVAC received some 30 responses. We are very concerned over the current debate between Specialised GPs and Government in relation to fees for services.

Please note the WAVAC is the RSL based veterans committee and not WATMOC, a DVA sponsored committee, contrary to some members’ beliefs.

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 had difficulty with either of these issues is requested to complete the information sheet and return it to ANZAC House – Attention WAVAC.

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:

• If you had any difficulty with any of the above questions, what actions did you take, or did you advise your Sub-Branch of the occurrence?

What is your postcode:

Rehabilitation Appliances Programme Changes

Changes to the supply arrangements for the Rehabilitation Appliances Programmes (RAP) which are the Department to supply over the next twelve months. As you know, RSL’s Federal Government programme, administered by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, to which veterans who have been reviewing for some time to achieve a successful conclusion.

The programme provides self-help and rehabilitation equipment to veterans with a clinically assessed need.

The reforms will improve access and equity for all veterans across Australia, achieve value for money and simplify the arrangements for the veteran community, health professionals and suppliers. We recently completed a tender process to identify the most appropriate product suppliers and are in the process of negotiating with the tenderers.

The suppliers have been chosen to deliver the highest level of customer service to veterans.

How Vietnam veterans and other veterans who have depression or anxiety disorders can obtain treatment for these conditions through the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA).

All Australian Vietnam veterans diagnosed by a psychiatrist as having depression or anxiety disorders are eligible for treatment if these conditions at DVA’s expense. Treatment is available regardless of whether the veteran has claimed their condition as a disability caused by wartime service.

Why is this limited to Vietnam veterans?

The Vietnam Veterans’ Health Study found that Vietnam veterans have a higher incidence of anxiety and depression than the general community. Depression and anxiety are not generally regarded as psychiatric disorders and can often be successfully treated. This means that with both appropriate treatment, veterans will be better able to cope with these conditions.

To apply for treatment of depression or anxiety disorders, the veteran must first be diagnosed by a psychiatrist. DVA can arrange for a diagnosis but the department cannot compel the veteran’s authority to do so. He or she need to sign an Authority to Release Personal Information – Vietnam Veterans Treatment of Depressive/Axiety Disorder and return it to DVA. This form is available by telephoning or visiting any DVA office.

If, in the past, the veteran has had an application for treatment of anxiety or depression rejected on the grounds that it was not war-related, the veteran may have a record of a confirmed diagnosis of anxiety or depression. However, the veteran will still need to complete the authority form and return it to DVA. If the diagnosis is confirmed, the veteran may need to be re-confirmed by a psychiatrist. DVA has the right to use this if it is required.

Any Vietnam Veteran who already has received a psychological diagnosis, should return the completed authority form to DVA with any documentation from the psychiatrist that confirms a diagnosis of anxiety or depression.

To obtain treatment for anxiety or depression:

• Once eligibility is determined the veteran will be notified in writing and issued with a Repatriation Health Card – For Specific Conditions (White Card). The veteran must nominate a Local Medical Officer (LMO) with whom to access care. The LMO can prescribe necessary medications and make referrals to be provided with clinically necessary treatment for anxiety or depression. Referral is not required to access the services of the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS), which can also provide treatment.

Types of treatment:

A wide range of services can be accessed that are clinically necessary for the treatment of your anxiety or depression. These services include psychological or psychiatric treatment, counselling and pharmacological.

Veterans who have a Gold Card can contact their LMO or prescribed product suppliers. Those that have a White Card for a condition other than anxiety or depression, will need to apply before accessing treatment for those additional conditions at DVA expense.

For those who are not Vietnam Veterans:

Treatment may be provided to veterans of conflicts other than Vietnam if their anxiety or depression has been accepted under the Veterans’ Entitlements Act 1956 as a war or defence-caused disability.

Veterans of all wars and conflicts who served in the Australian Defence Force are eligible for counselling from the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS).

Information for Veterans, their families and other users of Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service for more information about accessing the services of the VVCS.

Making a claim:

If you believe their anxiety or depression is caused by military service a claim for a disability pension can also be lodged. To claim a disability pension, veterans will need to complete a Claim for Disability Pension and/or Application for Increased Disability Pension form.

Please contact your nearest Veterans’ Affairs Network (VAN) office on 1300 131 945 for a claim form. For further information contact your DVA office on 133 254.
Minister responds to Veterans’ Affairs proposals

National RSL President MAGGIE Bolger has written a letter to the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Danella Vale, enclosing a list of Veterans’ Affairs proposals which the National RSL consider should be put to the Government for consideration.

A list of proposals was received from Mrs Vale, which she is confident that will achieve a positive outcome for Australian veterans.

RESPONSES TO MOTIONS

a. Call time to cease counting pensions as income when means testing the Disability Support Pension.

Response: I am aware that there is concern in the ex-service community that veterans’ disability pension is regarded as income by Centrelink in the assessment of any means to determine whether a pension is available under the Social Security Act.

b. Ensue that the TPI pension is not payable where a veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

Response: The TPI pension is payable in all countries. However, to ensure that the veteran is not liable to a claim in his or her home country, the TPI pension is not payable where a veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

c. Benchmark the TPI pension payable in Australia against the TPI pension in the UK, where the veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

Response: The TPI pension is payable in all countries. However, to ensure that the veteran is not liable to a claim in his or her home country, the TPI pension is not payable where a veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

d. Acknowledge that some erosion to the TPI pension has occurred over the past years because of inappropriate indexing; and, where the TPI pension of not less than $60 per fortnight.

Response: The TPI pension is payable in all countries. However, to ensure that the veteran is not liable to a claim in his or her home country, the TPI pension is not payable where a veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

e. Grant an increase in the TPI pension of not less than $60 per fortnight.

Response: The TPI pension is payable in all countries. However, to ensure that the veteran is not liable to a claim in his or her home country, the TPI pension is not payable where a veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

f. Ensure that entitled veterans receive medical treatment with doctors of their choice in accordance with the objectives of Reportation Private Patient Scheme (RPPS) and other health service providers be adequately reimbursed to achieve this.

Response: The TPI pension is payable in all countries. However, to ensure that the veteran is not liable to a claim in his or her home country, the TPI pension is not payable where a veteran receives a military service pension from other countries.

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Resolutions of the RSL 2002 National Congress sent to the Minister for Defence, Senator Robert Hill

Support for Federal Government

The League fully supports the actions of the Australian Government in fighting World Terrorism since the 11 September 2001 attack on America.

Defence Funding

The League lobbies the Federal Government to maintain its commitment to the White Paper over its ten year life.

Increase in Defence Capabilities

The League has lobbied the Federal Government, as a matter of urgency, for the appropriate action to be taken immediately to upgrade the Nation’s PATROL Boat capabilities to ensure that appropriate naval vessels are available to ensure that, through interception, the large number of illegal immigrants invading our shores are deterred from breaking the laws of our country by seeking to enter unlawful means.

Defence Expenditure not to be spent on Refugees

That the League call on the Federal Government not to use any part of the Defence budget on refugee housing, aid or the like, unless it is used to provide manpower and equipment to protect our coastline and air corridors from illegal entrants trying to land in Australia.

Defence Ammunition Reserve

That the League express serious concern with the levels of all Service Branches ammunition supplies which has been reported at less than 30% of our peacetime needs for training and defence usage.

We request the Government treat this issue as a serious situation and to bring all ammunition reserves up to full capacity as a matter of priority.

Defence Land at Point Nepean

That the League lobby vigorously to ensure that no portion of the Defence area at Point Nepean be sold for commercial development.

ADF Recruiting

That the League expresses its concern about the Defence on the continuing shortfall being experienced in recruiting and retention in the ADF.

Cadet Recruiting

That the League submits to the Minister of Defence a proposal that additional finances be made available to fully fund all aspects of the ADF Cadet Program.

Issue of Innocent Weapons

That the National Congress urges the Federal Government to honour its promise to provide pools of innocuous arms to all Cadet Units for training and Ceremonial Parades.

“The Bush Wireless”

by MARGOT HARNESS

RSL Senior Advocate

Appeals seeking review of rates of pension must be lodged within three months of the date the claimant received the DVA Decision. Once that period has expired, any right to appeal has lapsed.

That's all for this issue. The Veterans Affairs Committee and I are expecting the report from last year's "Committee of Review" to be handed down within weeks. (You are probably aware of this Committee - appointed by the Federal Government to look into grievances and perceived anomalies/disappointments with current veterans' issues etc). Next "Listening Post" we will probably comment on some of the issues that will feature in that report.

Warmest regards to all.

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Warmest regards to all.
Letter sent to State President and State Committee

In the latest Listening Post (Vol 24, No. 12) I mentioned to Mr. Robert Hill, the former President of the Returned Service League of Australia, a number of motions raised at “National Congress 2000” which received the votes of the members.

The RSL, in order maintain its integrity and strength, as an effective advocate and custodian of veteran’s rights, must by its very nature remain A-political and non-sectarian. The welfare and rights of our veterans always remain our priority.

The Listening Post tries to ensure that all information is relevant to its membership, unfortunately the lengthy "lead time" for publication sometimes limits the inclusion of topical items and information, which may be out of date, or irrelevant by the time it reaches the membership. It takes a minimum of two months to produce an issue of the periodical.

Submissions for publishing are welcome, if they are well written, researched, concise and objective. It is preferred that they be submitted, using "Microsoft Word", on a three and a half inch disk or via E-mail.

The Editor always maintains the right to select or reject articles for publication within The Listening Post.

Letter to the Editor

Greek students worthy winners

I write to advise you of the recent awards for the 2002 Greek Division Scholarship, as advised by the Australian Embassy in Athens.

The 4th Division Scholarship, Marina Mathioudaki who has entered Faculty of Medicine at the University of Athens and Preveli Monumentary Award - Georgia Kapetanaki who has entered the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the National Technical University.

The Certificate has been forwarded to Athens for presentation by the Ambassador, a ceremony that will take place at the Nonius Hall in Athens on 12 November 2002.

K T Johnson

In appreciation of Kings Park Memorial article

I wish to express our Association’s appreciation of the article, "Kings Park Memorial", published in the December issue of The Listening Post.

The fund-raising is progressing well and we have a adequately, half the estimated cost.

We shall be making further determined efforts now the New Year Festivities are over and, no doubt, the above mentioned article will prove to be of assistance.

I have also written a similar letter of appreciation to the state secretary.

Yours sincerely,

Arthur Leggett

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HMAS Australia Memorial

A memorial was recently erected in Bunbury dedicated to those who were killed in action during World War II on HMAS Australia.

Mr Newton Roberts who was responsible for erecting the memorial said, "It was the least I could do to honour my fellow shipmates". He had been trying to erect the monument for a long time, as it was something he always wanted to do.

The memorial is situated at the front of the Administration Block at the Bunbury Port Authority near the entrance to the outer harbour. The memorial, similar to a ships anchor, lists the names of those who were killed in action during WWll. It is a truly fine memorial of remembrance to the HMAS Australia, WA Veterans.

LEST WE FORGET

Recruitment trailer for RSL

The Membership Committee of the RSL State Branch has taken possession of a new car trailer (pictured below) which has been designed specifically for recruiting activities. With a membership in decline the Chairman of the Membership Committee Mr Gordon Norton, sees the trailer as an essential element, as part of a strategy in arresting the falling membership and raising awareness in the Service and Ex-Service community of benefits and services that are available to RSL members and their families.

Mr Norton said, "It has been a difficult task to raise the necessary funds to have the trailer to this point, but recently we have had some excellent support from some sub-branches and in particular City of Perth, Armadale and Applecross and others. This financial support will help to equip the trailer with a video, posters and handouts and information pamphlets. DVA has also "come to the party with some assistance" said Mr Norton.

"This unit will allow us to 'Show the Flag' at various functions, agricultural shows and other events throughout the State", Mr Norton said, "and because of its design it can be deployed within a few minutes on arrival on site."

It is proposed to allow sub-branches to have access for their recruiting activities in the near future.

Computer upgrade for State Branch HQ

The State Branch HQ was successful in late 2002 in application for a Lotteries WA Grant to upgrade the Information Technology and printing facilities in ANZAC House.

The Branch now has modern equipment to aid both volunteers and staff in meeting the needs of the ex-service community. The RSL is very thankful to Lotteries WA for the grant to improve our services.

The Hon. Ed Deven colour in the story of the State President with a cheque for eighty thousand and forty thousand from the Lotteries Commission for the purchase of Information Technology/Offer Machinery.

GALLIPOLI: Our Last Man Standing

The Extraordinary Life of Alec Campbell

Written by Jonathan King

Gallipoli is the official biography of Alec Campbell.

Alec epitomises the Aussie larrikin as well as the reluctant hero. He was the knockabout boy who enlisted for an adventure and ended his life as a national treasure.

Landing on the beach at Gallipoli, aged 16, Alec Campbell looked more like a twelve year old in a big brother's uniform. A young Australian caught up in a war that he knew very little about and in a country and on a beach head that he couldn't even spell. But the kid soldier's sense of national spirit did not end at Gallipoli. On returning home, he took on a larrikin life jackarooining in the bush, building boats and eventually did a stint as a builder in Australia's new capital. His patriotism and love for others transported him from the bush to the Australian Workers Union, he stood for elections in the local council before working for the Department of Labour to help repatriate World War I veterans. And to the age of 80, he worked tirelessly for the Heart Foundation.

Available in March from all good book outlets.

WILEY
National Bowls Carnival a success


Fine weather, top greens and a high standard of play contributed to the success of the recent 36th National RSL Lawn Bowls Carnival held in Perth. Nearly 300 players from all over Australia gathered in Perth for the annual carnival which ran from 26 December 2002 to 6 January 2003. According to Carnival Director Dudley Docking the event was a resounding success.

"The carnival was a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and have a game of bowls in the spirit in which it was intended," he said.

Hollywood Private Hospital, together with the Commonwealth Department of Veterans' Affairs and Challenger Life, was a major sponsor of the event. The carnival was played in two series:

1. The Jack Hamilton, VC, and Dr Sydney Kanzius Trophy event (a 'round robin' event with each state playing each other once). The NSW team won this event, with the West Australian team coming third.

2. The Sir Arthur Lee National fours event (played on a sectional basis over three days followed by a section 'knockout' and finals). This event was open to all RSL male bowls members and the NSW team was again victorious.

As well as eight days of bowling, the event also included a National Council Meeting and a Ceremony of Remembrance at the Kings Park War Memorial.

Hollywood Private Hospital's Medical Administrator Dr Margaret Studdy attended the carnival's opening ceremony and also presented trophies for the round robin series and the national fours event at the closing ceremony.

Organising a carnival of this size is no mean feat - one, Kondalilla, conducted a great tournament to the WA RSL Bowls Section and in particular, President Les Webb, Secretary Les Fynnmore and Treasurer/Carnival Director Dudley Docking,

Hollywood offers new free bus service

Hollywood Private Hospital is delighted to advise that a free bus service was introduced on 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 Mandurah, Rockingham, Joondalup and Armadale to visit their husband/wife whilst they are an inpatient at Hollywood.

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

The bus operates four times a week, Monday to Thursday (except for public holidays), on the following timetable:

- Monday and Thursday - Halls Head Shopping Centre, Mandurah RSL, RAAFA Estate Meadow Springs, Rockingham Shopping Centre to Hollywood and return.
- Tuesday - City of Joondalup Library, RAAFA Estate Mooroona, RAAFA Estate Cambray to Hollywood and return.
- Wednesday - Armadale RSL Hall, RAAFA Estate Bull Creek and return.

Bookings are essential and the deadline for bookings is 12 noon on the weekday prior to travel.

New Year's resolution?

Have you ever felt you should cut down on your drinking?
Have you ever felt guilty about your drinking?

The Hollywood Clinic, Hollywood Private Hospital's medical health unit, can tailor a treatment program to suit your individual needs as a private patient or entitled veteran.

Programs run for twelve days and group sizes are small to ensure individual attention.

To register or for more information, please contact Linda Welsh, Program Coordinator on (08) 9346 6239 or Jason Berry on (08) 9346 6269.

HOLLYWOOD SERVICES 2003

Below is a list of the Cathedral services for 2003 being held at Saint George's Cathedral, Perth

HMAS Perth, Sunday 16 March 5.00pm, Service-Evensong
Villers Bretonneux, Sunday 27 April 5.00pm, Service-Evensong
Palestine Police, Sunday 11 May 5.00pm, Service-Evensong
Normandy Veterans, Sunday 8 June 12.00pm, Service-Special
Guards Association, Saturday 14 June 11.00am, Service-Special
Airborne Association, Saturday 28 June 11.00am, Service-Special
Special Air Services, July Information to be Confirmed

Bruce Rock Vets in surprise presentation

The Bruce Rock Vietnam Veterans, part of the Wheatbelt Vietnam Veterans' Group, gave Hollywood Private Hospital's Executive Director Kevin Case-Ryall, a surprise presentation in December to thank Kevin and the hospital for their support and dedication to Veterans of all wars and conflicts that Australia has been involved in.

Bruce Rock Veterans - Colin Turner and his wife Sue, Merv Gould and his wife Judy, Bill Stewart, Paul Hutton and his wife Heather, and Bruce Rock Shire President Stephen Strange and his wife Karen - travelled from Bruce Rock for the presentation.

Over 1,200 veterans and their families, along with members of the local community attended the weekend of festivities. People travelled from as far as Queensland to the small WA wheatbelt town.

Bruce Rock Shire President Stephen Strange said the event was fantastic for the community, booking, attending the presentations as well as generating great community spirit and pride. It is planned that the relevation will be an annual event.

Kevin accepted the presentation - two perspectives of the window and an explanation of its significance beautifully framed - on behalf of the hospital. It has been hung in the hospital's "corridor of fame" near Admissions.
The Batu Lintang Teachers Training College was the site of the former Batu Lintang Prisoners' of War Campsite during the Japanese Occupation of 1941 to 1945.

The Batu Lintang Barracks at Kuching was built early in the war for troops of 3rd Battalion, 15th Punjab Regiment during the reign of the Brooke administration. The barracks were of seven timber with attap roofing. On 23 December 1941, the Japanese landed at Kuching and the barracks became an intern Camp for civilians who were forced to repair airfield. In 1942, British Prisoners of War arrived at the Camp followed by Australian Infantry Force prisoners captured in Java. By 1943, the Batu Lintang POW Camp held up to 3,000 prisoners continued to within about 8 km barbed wire perimeter fencing. Their approximate numbers were as follows:

a) 250 Civilian women and children
b) 200 British civilian men
c) 150 Dutch officers and other rank

d) 1,500 British and other rank (and few AIF)

e) 125 British officers
f) 146 Australian officers
g) 80 Dutch nuns
h) 50 Dutch men

The imprisonment tested the strength and revealed the weaknesses of human mind and body. All the evidence recorded by writers, show on the part of virtually all these prisoners, their instinctive understanding of the need for survival. This is the motivating factor to the many acts of creativity and resourceful of their part. This was demonstrated in that every inch of the soil that was cultivable in the Batu Lintang Camp was turned into a vegetable garden fertilized by human excreta themselves. These activities help to supplement their food rations and their dream for food. Their resourcefulness was shared among many Sarawankians like the late Chong Tiang Swee who own adjacent land, helped the officers secretly with extra food whenever he could.

The Japanese also established a central library of over 2,000 books manned by the British prisoners as librarians to issue books to the intern of the Camps. It was recorded that an intern Anglican Bishop, among others smuggled pencil for the Australian and suffered heavy severe punishment himself. One of the prisoners among the prisoners made satisfactory ink from bark and the rust of an iron bar. On this basis, education classes thrived. There were extensive, carefully planned courses on history etc. through the initiative of the prisoners, which resulted in the birth of the special "underground university" which awarded degree certificate – the first of its kind. The aim was to keep their minds alert, to cultivate a civilized awareness of the world and to maintain a spirit of self-reliance. There were regular meetings of small professional groups such as lawyers and medical profession, aimed at keeping their knowledge alive. In the evening one Captain Bob shared with his comrades the story of several operas, accompanying his narrative by whistling the musical score. This made concert flourish in the camp with a stage constructed at the centre of the camp. Their human ingenuity also played a vital role in keeping abreast with the war intelligence.

The British prisoners in Batu Lintang Camp successfully operated a clandestine radio, which they created from tin and wire during the entire period of their captivity. The radio was nicknamed 'The Old Lady'. When news was available and received they would send signal by banging blue shorts and two khaki shorts. The British officers passed on the news to the Australian officers. In January 1945, electricity in the camp was cut off and the news flow ceased. On 14th August the electricity supply was restored which enable the radio receiver to be operated once more. This led to the happy news of Japanese surrender on 15 August 1945.

Captain JK Cook OAM

An enlargement of the inscription on the memorial headstone.

The existing memorial headstone – my wife and I self-presenting Mr Lim with an Australian Merchant Navy Red Ensign, donated on behalf of the Allied Merchant Seamen's Association of Western Australia.

The original site of the Japanese camp headquarters.

PLANNING A FUNCTION?

The ANZAC Club is proving a popular venue for both office and social functions and current serving ADJ Units.

From as little as $28 per person (Mon-Fri), there are four 3-course menus including tea/coffee and mince. There are also four very reasonable $30 per head (Mon-Fri) menu selections which include 3-course with cheese and biscuits, tea/coffee and mince, as well as horderves on arrival. Price include room hire, pre-dinner soft drinks and GST.

The Club staff are happy to arrange morning or afternoon teas. Bar facilities are available.

Contact the ANZAC Club Manager – Vicki, phone 9325 9079, fax 9325 7432 or e-mail: rslwaq@inet.net.au

The ANZAC Club is open:
Monday to Thursday 12:00 noon - 6:00 p.m.
Friday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Club Bistro hours are 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Monday-Friday with the popular Club's 59.00 Blackboard Menu selection.

ANZAC CLUB
social membership is welcomed.

PROPOSAL FOR THE PRESENTATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF WAR MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN BY SARAWAK TOURIST ASSOCIATION (STA) AND ITS COMMITTEE

The last remaining barracks building used by the POW's.
Considering that it is over fifty years since I drove or travelled in a ‘duck’ and performed before and after duty maintenance, I trust that my memory serves me correctly in relating the following.

DUKW s were amphibious vehicles widely used by the US and Australian armies during and after WWII. The DUKW was built on a six-wheel-drive GNC truck chassis, which was topped by a boat-like steel body. It had a fold-down windshield very similar to some of today’s powerboats and was usually open to the elements.

An ‘optional extra’ was a heavy khaki canvas canopy which could cover the entire vehicle from windshield to the rear of the cab compartment or leave the cockpit uncovered.

Out of the water the ‘truck, two and a half ton amphibious’ (as I think they were designated) was cumbersome in appearance but had quite a turn of speed, especially when unladen. It could negotiate sealed or unsealed roads and tracks, loose sand, fairly rocky terrain and shallow swamp, in addition to crossing rivers and wading in moderate seas.

Little difficulty was experienced in entering the sometimes fierce surf, provided the driver chose his point of entry wisely. For this reason former lifesavers and beach fishermen usually made excellent drivers.

The DUKW was fitted with a steel ‘surf board’ which lay flat on the forward deck, when not in use, but could be folded over the bow to extend beyond it to break any waves when entering surf or travelling in rough water.

Perhaps the most innovative feature was the built inty inflator-deflator, which enabled the driver to select tyre pressures while the vehicle was in motion, either on land or in the water. For example, if it were travelling on hard ground and approaching soft sand, each of the six tyres could be deflated to the desired pressure simply by pressing a lever on the dashboard. Six small gauges were engaged in sequence to match the position of the wheels. The driver could flick back the lever and the pressure in that particular tyre would appear on its gauge. If the pressure were too high or too low another appropriate flick of the lever would correct it.

To achieve this minor miracle a small compressor was located in the hollow bow section and could be reached via a hatch in the forward deck. A hollow copper tube ran to each wheel and emerged from the centre of the hub and into a type of revolving airlift ball-joint, from which another tube extended into the valve.

In the water the vehicle was steered by a small rudder in the stern and the front wheels turning in the conventional manner assisted manoeuvres.

A DUKW returns to the old William Street Jetty with civilian passengers. (Skyl Bill Tate standing 2nd right, sunglasses)

The propeller was engaged by means of a manual clutch just before entering the water and neutralised after emerging. The propeller, housed in a tunnel under the stern all of the rear wheels, generated a lot of thrust considering its surprisingly small size.

During the late forties, 10 Transport Company, AASC, later 10 Company RAASC, (granted the prefix ‘Royal’ in recognition of WWII services), was equipped with the DUKW to add to its fleet of trucks and jeeps.

About the same time the powers at Western Command initiated a series of public relations activities to aid recruiting. The 10th enthusiastically embraced its assignment of taking the public for rides in the Swan River and into the surf at North Cottesloe or Swanbourne Beach during the summer.

Most of the troops preferred the latter duty because they came into close contact with scarily clad bathing beauties and they could also have a swim before returning to base at Karrakatta Camp, later known as Irwin Barracks. During these outings the company raised money for Legacy children by asking the public for donations, in other words, a voluntary fee for the ride.

During one training period at Rottnest Island several officers became very unpopular with their troops for using the DUKWs to go easy fishing and then expecting the men to carry out the fairly extensive water duty maintenance.

In later years a few ex-service DUKWs were to be seen at various coastal and river settlements around Australia and the islands. However, their gas guzzling habit, costly and time consuming before-water and after-water maintenance (tell me about it) and rapid deterioration if it were neglected, eventually caused these amphibious vehicles to become museum pieces.

How planning ahead can help you ease the pain of a family’s loss

In the confusion and emotional numbness that follows when a person dies, it is 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. For more information, call John Ranger at Bowra & O’Dea on (08) 9231 5100

- 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 PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL Members:

- Free extra limousine
- No administration fee for immediate payment in full.
- 5% discount on selected coffins.
- Free standard Will from Corser & Corser to the value of $100.

Savings of up to $600 for RSL Members!

Bowra & O’Dea Funeral Directors

For more information, call John Ranger at Bowra & O’Dea on (08) 9231 5100
The Australians part in the Great Escape

Four of the seventy-six men who escaped were members of the Royal Australian Air Force. All were shot by the Gestapo. They were Squadron Leader John Williams, Flight Lieutenant Rusty Kierath, Squadron Leader James Catanach and Flight Lieutenant Al Hake. John Williams played a key role in the escape, not only was he chosen to lead his group of twelve escapees out of the camp area, he was also appointed wood-quarter master. Vast quantities of wood were required to show the tunnels in the trowerous yellow sand upon which the camp was built. Al Hake also had an important role as compass maker. In order to avoid the risk of any escapee being caught with one of these compasses and suspected of being a spy, each compass was stamped ‘made in SäisigLuft III’.

THE ESCAPE

The selection of escapees was not an easy task for the Escape Committee. Only two hundred were to be allowed to escape out of some 1,500 Officers, although a number of them was no doubt preferred to stay in the warmth of their huts rather than face the bitterly cold Silesian countryside on foot. The first thirty places went to those who in the opinion of the Escape Committee had the best chance of making a home run. John Williams was included in this elite group. John’s group of twelve included fellow Australian Rusty Kierath, Flight Lieutenant ‘Rusty’ Kierath, Squadron Leader James Catanach and Flight Lieutenant Al Hake. John Williams played a key role in the escape, not only was he chosen to lead his group of twelve escapees out of the camp area, he was also appointed wood-quarter master. Vast quantities of wood were required to show the tunnels in the trowerous yellow sand upon which the camp was built. Al Hake also had an important role as compass maker. In order to avoid the risk of any escapee being caught with one of these compasses and suspected of being a spy, each compass was stamped ‘made in SäisigLuft III’.

The plan for the escape was to catch a train in the early morning of 25 March from Reichenberg, a country station near the town of Sagan. They would travel for about sixty miles south to the small station at Beberichofen. Here the group would split up and make their way across the mountains to the Czech border. On the eve of the escape, the 200 escapees were gathered together in a single hut in which the escape hatch was hidden under a stove. News came back from the tunnel that an unfortunate error had been made by the surveyors. The exit hole had come out ten feet short of the woods, not far from the brightly lit perimeter road. This problem, together with a major fall of sand, combined to cause a serious delay it was thus only sixty escapees instead of the 200 planned.

The escapees were given some theatre tickets and made their way to Hambeln Gaol. One of those hanged was Johannes Post who had shot James Catanach in the back. A feature of the testimony of prisoners during their interrogations was its shock value to escapees. The first day of interrogations was a task in itself. The prisoners were forced to endure the taunts of a man they maintained that the captive airmen had asked for the car to be stopped so that they could relieve themselves and then were shot whilst making a dash for it. One thinks of Al Hake with his badly frostbitten feet ‘making a dash for it’.

AFTERMATH

At the time of their capture the airmen had little idea of the fury of the escapee their escape had caused in Germany.

The matter was soon taken out of the local Camp Commandant’s hands. When the full extent of the escape became known a national alert was ordered. When Hitler heard of the escape he flew into a violent rage and summoned Goering, Keitel and Himmler to an immediate meeting. He demanded that all those responsible should be shot. Later he agreed to death by firing squad, but went on to say that the men were to be shot at the order of the police rather than the command of the police. He also warned that the escaped officers were shot whilst trying to escape.

A General Nebe (later hanged) was given the task of selecting those for execution.

The Australian part in the Great Escape

THE FINAL BALANCE SHEET

Let the last word go to one of the very few survivors of today’s Great Escape, Squadron Leader B.A. Catanach through the heart of the nearby Mountains to the Czech border.

At Cottbus, on 30 March, three large blocks of concrete were hit in the prison yard. News of the escape spread like wildfire. The Gestapo took large quantities of wood and drove away. Before they did, a guard and told him that they were phoning back. Staling Luft III, the prisoners were driven off to a nearby camp where, in an attempt to escape, they were prodded back with bayonets. The prisoners were then taken about a hundred yards into the woods and shot. According to the Gestapo, the escapees were killed ‘in cold blood’, showed considerable calm and courage in the face of this fear. A N.D.

James Catanach was held at Flensburg along with other escapees, Christiansen, Espild and Poulman. They were taken away in two cars the operation being led by the deputy chief of the Gestapo, Johann Popp. He was the last car with Catanach and a police officer. They were given a small banquet near Konigsberg, then taken to a train which took them to a military camp with Catanach and a police officer. They were given a small banquet near Konigsberg, then taken to a train which took them to a military camp. They were interrogated for several days in the cells. They were taken away from Reichenberg at four o’clock on the morning of 29 March and were never seen again. They were probably executed at Cottbus along with many others.

RETRIBUTION

In 1945, the Special Investigation Branch of the RAF GB was a two-car track down the Nazis involved in the murders. On the face of it, the task was an impossible one. As war worn Europe but they were very successful. In 1947 a special war tribunal was set up to try those captured at Cottbus and the prisoners were executed. The prisoners were shot or hanged. Eighteen Nazis were tried and thirteen of them were hanged in Hanemund Gaol. One of those hanged was Johannes Post who had shot James Catanach in the back. A feature of the testimonies of prisoners during their interrogations was its shock value to escapees. The first day of interrogations was a task in itself. The prisoners were forced to endure the taunts of a man they maintained that the captive airmen had asked for the car to be stopped so that they could relieve themselves and then were shot whilst making a dash for it. One thinks of Al Hake with his badly frostbitten feet ‘making a dash for it’.

What events were used by the Gestapo we shall never know.
Some other news for you however, the RACA is moving towards developing a Foundation for long term fundraising. We hope to have this in place in four to six weeks and perhaps have a launch of the Foundation and the DA approval as a significant step forward for the RACA. Watch this space.

The other news is that Mr John Howie (pictured above), one of the maintenance team at Menora has decided to walk the Bibbulman Track to raise funds for the Care Facility. John is a retired Navy chap (but don’t hold that against him) and a Vietnam Veteran.

About 15 years ago John was paralysed from the waist down as a result of an accident whilst in service and was not expected to walk again. Through some dedicated medical rehabilitation, a positive frame of mind and a family that formed a strong support team, John fought his way back and is now walking, canoeing etc to keep fit in mind and body. The events have left John as a chronic pain sufferer but with a great approach to the rest of his life. John is firmly committed to our development and has declared that he would like to help in some tangible way, in this case a walk of some 853 kilometres!!!

Should he decide that individuals or sub-branches like to support John and through him the new Care Facility, please contact The RACA on 02 9700 0200. We will also be seeking corporate support and personnel support to form the admin team for this and other fundraising activities. We would love to hear from you.

Thanks and good health,
Barry Staden Chairman

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RSL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY 2002

As part of our continuous improvement programme to members, spouses, families and ESOs in the provision of welfare, advocacy and support a survey was indicated on the reverse of every membership renewal application.

At this point it is noteworthy that the RSL WA Branch was the only State Branch to show an increase in its ordinary membership in 2003, with 11, ordinary (inclusive of Life Members and Life Subscribers.) This increase was achieved after removing the names of members recorded in “Last Post” in our Branch newspaper.

The survey results on the 4 questions which members were asked to indicate their opinions proved very beneficial for planning for the next phase of our strategic plan for the next 5 years.

Responses are detailed in the graph opposite.

The comments received from members also provided some sound information and recommendations for follow up, however not all can be actioned in an alliance with the Charter and objects of the League.

The most commented was the introduction of the newspaper style “The Listening Post”. Many members commented that the magazine style was preferred.

As many will recall we were offered an opportunity for a much improved magazine at no or a very reduced cost, an offer that proved too good to be true.

The cost of the production of and distribution of The Listening Post accounted for up to 75% of an annual subscription given to State Branches. It was unsustainable.

The current newspaper style has cost the League some $15,000 a significant reduction on previous years. The Branch can now focus on the content, and provide current relevant information for members in future editions.

There was also very positive comment on the commitment provided to our youth and general support for further commitment on youth ventures.

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Attention RSL Members

Exclusive Offer to RSL Members:

- $200 off any scooter
- $100 off any liftchair
- $50 off any stairlift

FREECALL YOUR LOCAL DEALER:
1800 622 633

Scooters
Liftchairs
Stairlifts

Perth • Adelaide • Melbourne • Sydney • Brisbane • Regional Centres
SHADOWS ON THE WALL

By Stan Krasnoff

This novel is written about the experiences of a top-secret suicide mission which uncovered the North Vietnamese plan to mount the Tet Offensive in 1968. The story is grippingly told by Stan Krasnoff, an Australian Army Captain attached to the project.

The story tells how BG Oritz, an American is required to raise Project Rapid Fire to find and fix General Than’s enemy headquarters. Somewhere on the Cambodian border in war zone C, with a base set up in the hamlet of Tay-Ninh, Ortiz and his troops, including Australians Stan Krasnoff, Sonny Edwards and Jim Cahill, with 400 Cambodian mercenaries begin operations shadows on the wall. Stan has written the story as a novel, it jumps back and forth with anecdotal stories, when Stan thinks he needs a background information on what is occurring is needed.

It is written very much in the American style of English. This does not detract from the book itself. The novel has a good story line and is excellently constructed.

Len Copley

Allen & Unwin
83 Alexander Street
Canberra ACT 2601
Australia

National Library of Australia
ISBN: 1 86506 887 0
Price $25.95

THE ANZAC DAY MARCH

By H. Millson

Well, another ANZAC Day is days away. As it always falls on the 25th of April.

Each and every year:
This is truly the day of the year where there is war.

The sound of marching feet
And the sound of artillery fire down the streets.

Every year on this day they march
And a lot of old mates they like to meet.

Each year the parade on the march gets smaller
And a lot of our old mates are not there to greet.

Some have been called to that good man above
So to all those lovely ones they have left behind
We send our dearest and sincerest regards.

And to those who are too sick to march on this special day
Well we wish them all well, the way
And may God bless you all on this ANZAC Day.

You went and fought so this world could be kept free
And when you fought or where you fought Made history.

Let’s all join in and keep this up alive every year.

And as you march down the streets of your town
Let’s give them all one hell of a big cheer.

Because you fought in those wars for you and me.

So come one and all to this great country of Australia and be free.

SPIRIT OF ANZAC

by Justin Stephenson

An April dawn is breaking as the battle unfolds.

To share a silent moment and remember those long dead.

They’re in the dusty morning to honour those who fell.

On the distant, sacred beaches, just near the Dardanelles.

The day’s first rays reveal the faces, young and old alike.

They’re Anzacs all, here to recall our country’s great fight.

A shade that now is recognised as our defining day.

The day we sent our finest to Johnny Tart.

One little bay is shimmering in the morning light.

It’s his first time ANZAC Day and he will never forget.

Of shells and bullets and many more sad memories.

Before today, he’d only read about these men in books.

As he stands here, he feels the legends of the past.

And as the bugle starts to play and the songs are sung.

He realises the guns, shells, islands.

And to him it is clearer why they gather here this day.

Len Copley

THE WALL

Published by Lionel Veale
PO Box 408
Ashmore City 4214

National Library of Australia
Veale, Lionel P. 1918- ISBN: 0-957785-0-1

LONG ISLAND

By Lionel Veale

This is another novel written by Lionel Veale on coastwatching. It is about those brave individuals who paid with their own lives to save others.

The story describes how four beach watchers were killed by the Japanese at Kavieng, on the Island of New Britain, New Guinea during World War II.

Lionel tells how four coast watchers and a Catholic Priest (German) paid with their own lives to help them to escape. The four Australians were killed by the Japanese using Katara. These brave Killings secured Liek Lik Nousa in Kavieng Harbor.

The Australians had penetrated a Japanese camp and were returning with vital information for a bombing raid. They were almost captured, by the Japanese. Four Australian coast watchers and a Catholic priest sacrificed their own lives to enable the remaining coast watchers to escape with the collected vital information.

The living Prior Father Hanson, also paid with his life, for helping the Australians to escape. He was later decapitated.

Len Copley

Wewak Mission

By Lionel Veale

This is a novel based on the experiences of the author during missions as a coastwatcher commander in New Guinea during World War II.

It is the first book written on coastwatching during World War II by Lionel Veale.

Wewak Mission

Published by Lionel Veale
PO Box 408
Ashmore City 4214

National Library of Australia
Veale, Lionel P. 1918- ISBN: 0-957785-1-x

THE ROLL OF HONOR

by F. W. N. Tresse

Names of those who have given their lives in the service of the British Empire.

Stood stately, bearded, things of battle.

Of bullet, bomb, and shell, and all that men may know.

Through men which fought and died, yet stood the test

Of war and peace.

And then I pondered how we might repay
The sacrifice of men who passed this way.

And realized if we could somehow

To this sick, war-torn world those simple things.

They struggle for—

The very right to play,

To think and love and hope.

To play, to seek the greatest of
to all the world.

To keep the secrets of all joys—

The carnal desire of their girls and

The men who loved them.

They asked no more.

If we in time to come forsake our
grace, and grant, to rich and poor, to every child

Those rights, then all the toll, the fear, the path,

And death they suffered, shall not be in vain,

And they may rise—

Will rise in glory, and, like

souls, prepare to watch, while over hill and
dell

The foliage fresh of peace will grow

And men with freedom, love and

For evermore.

TO THOSE WHO MOURN

BY P399

Why do you mourn?

From immortal time your men

Have laid to stripe their titles to hold.

And why they could their sons receive

The heritage that is their own.

Who do you mourn?

Although he counted not the cost,

He bore the prize of sacrifice

That you should have to pay, to ground

Beneath the invader’s grinding heel,

In living death.

Why do you mourn?

His sacrifice was shared by you—

And do you sternly lose the

Orbs of gifts that you have freely given

To bring security or joy

To those you love?

And what of them?

He knew he has your love and

thoughts—

He can no longer give you his

You, by labouring not, despise

The friend they brought in travail and

To Disturb his rest?

Lift up your hand

And in the world address yourself

With pride: "May you, and you enjoy

And let your sacrifice for you

Be not in vain."
Our Remembrance Day was very well attended. A speech was given, at the monument by our President Vin Murphy followed by a short service and wreath laying. Following the ceremony upwards of eighty people made their way to the RSL Hall for refreshments.

Our Annual dinner was held on 30 November with a good turnout. The usual door prize and raffle were conducted with our President Vin Murphy scoring the top prizes much to his embarrassment.

The Thursday lunch on 12 December were entertained by a group of pre-school children taught by Mrs. Nancy Connu. The children’s entertainment was very well received and the kiddies got to see Father Christmas (some of them were a bit overawed or even frightened of him). It was obvious that a lot of preparation was put into this excellent programme and we would like to convey our thanks to the organiser of this event.

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs in conjunction with The Cancer Foundation of WA held a series of four presentations at the Hall. Each presentation was followed by a lunch prepared by as prepared part of the Fundraising Cookbook. Each presentation was on a different aspect of senior health. The subjects ranged from bowel cancer, prostate and testicular cancer, skin cancer and diabetes and nutrition. The final presentation was physical activities and relaxation. On the final presentation Vin Murphy was presented with an award for his loyal and dedicated work in welfare. The whole of the series was very well attended. The presentations were very well conducted by Wendy Maslin.

We held an AFL final day at the hall along with a ‘pie fiasco’ lunch which was organised by our functions officer Ken Usher. A sweep was run on the final score.

The next two largest fund-raising events on our calendar are the golf ‘Hole in One’ Tournament and the ‘Petticoat Lane’ event. The ‘Hole in One’ is run annually with a large first prize. It is a single day event with a major prize for morning and afternoon. ‘Petticoat Lane’ is an event where the main street is closed to vehicular traffic and the street is lined with stalls. The RSL run a food stand selling mainly chips and BBQ foods. It is a good fund raiser and our new hall requires more money for day to day running than the old hall.

As with all branches of the RSL the time here again for nominations of members wishing to serve the branch, in any position, to be submitted for voting at the AGM. It looks as if we will be (sadly) losing our president Vin Murphy. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of all of the Busselton Sub-Branch to wish him all the very best in any future venture he takes part in and to thank him for all that he has put into this branch on our behalf.

M Bougourd F.R.O.

BUSSLETON

GERALDTON CITY

Remembrance Day 2002 was certainly a red letter day for Geraldton RSL sub-branch which was inundated with copqratulatons from numerous WA area including Perth, Mandurah and Rockingham. They included the service at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month - a fitting way to remember Remembrance Poppies.

Lieutenant Ian Andrews of Training Branch provided the cenotaph guard commanded by Leading Seaman Lauren Cooper that included Able Seaman Raun O’Connor, Seaman Emily Godden, Able Seaman Kristy Deerd, Gemma Walker and Renee Petersen and Recruit Karen Clark.

Traffic Officers led by Sgt Ron Watkins brought traffic to a halt for the service part of the service which included the bugle calls by Irene Davies on the treasured Gallipoli bugle. The recitation of The Ode by J/V/N Nancy Peacock.

Wreaths were laid by Greenough MLA Jamie Edwards, Geraldton MLA Shane Hill and Greenough Shire President Michael Calloton, sub-branch President Allan Gronow and by representatives of Legacy, RSL Women’s Auxiliary, Geraldton Golf Club and the Greek community.

Former 39th battalion Sgt Kevin Grey handled the big parade of veterans at the cenotaph in front of Birdwood House where TV, radio and newspaper representatives were active with cameras.

$67,000 from Poppies

Remembrance / Poppy Day collections at Geraldton from 1976 to 2002 totalled more than $67,000.

The latest collection totalled $4,030.75, of which $2,750 was kept at Geraldton and $2,750 sent to Perth including $530 as the cost of poppies.

2001 saw our second consecutive record collection of $5,800, compared with $5,100 in 1999.

However, in 2002, Remembrance poppies were also sold by Westwood’s at Geraldton. Nevertheless, our latest collection of $4,030.75 was bettered only by our 2001 collection of $5,800.

White crosses with poppies attached were placed at the headstones of graves of WWII servicemen in Geraldton’s War Cemetery during the annual pilgrimages on 17 November.

The servicemen included 42 members of the RAAF, of whom 22 were killed in four separate accidents near WWI airfield in the Geraldton area in 1943.

The other 41 graves in the war cemetery are of graves of those who served including 16 from NSW, 15 from WA, nine from Victoria and one from Queensland.

In addition, poppies were placed on the graves of ex-service, service and ex-service personnel in the general cemetery.

Apart from RSL, Legacy and Women’s Auxiliary members, the Gallipoli bugle was played by a number of the local RSL members; Sister Britt and Leanne de Haan, Scout Leader Trevor Warn, and scouts, cub and guides. Youngsters laying poppies on the graves included seven-year-old Lachlan Britt, proudly wearing the WWI medals of his great-grandfather Charles Jackson.

A guard of honour of both sexes from Lieutenant Ian Andrews’ training branch were on hand to provide for the service at the Cross of Sacrifice memorial in the war cemetery where the Gallipoli bugle was played by Irene Davies and was laid by sub-branch president vice-president Frank Sharp, Auxiliary president Gillian Petersen and Executive Vice-President Kevin Forrest. Mr Sharp also recited Laurence Binyon’s Ode to the Fallen.

Lost — But Not Forgotten

A copy of Keith Shergog’s book, “A Lasting Memory” concerning HMAS Sydney II, was presented by the author at Birdwood House on 19 November and accepted with thanks to the organisers of the function and full of praise for what Keith Shergog had described as a “call to duty”.

Mrs Harrison was among the wreath-layers at the annual commemoration held on 17 November of the magnificent HMAS Sydney II Memorial earlier that day.

They also included three sisters of our only brother, Neil Knight of Midland who was lost on HMAS Sydney II: Ruth Clapp of Midland, Cheryl May of Kelso and Doris Pritchard of Ashwaunee, Yarrawonga.

ADF chaplain Father Brenton Taylor delivered a beautiful prayer in honour of the 65 lost crew members; Charles Britt and the Naval Ode. Irene Davies sounded the Last Post and a Naval Ode in memoriam of those who served. The sub-branch President Allan Gronow, LCPCR Peter Jones, piper Tim Powell and MLC Murray Criddle; and a guard-of-honour of cadets from the Geraldton Sea Cadets at the seagull-dome area supported by the City Band and other cadets.

In association with handing over control of the memorial to the City of Geraldton, Rotary Club President Don Robson presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mayor Vicke Petersen, who described the memorial as a beautiful icon.

There was no pourer crowd at our barbecue night at Birdwood House on 6 December than Vietnam Veteran Rose Davies and her mate Hazel. Sub-branch President Allan Gronow presented her daughter, Gemma with a Certificate of Appreciation and a photo of Irene playing the bugle which was presented by grandson of the late Stuart Sharp to the magnificent HMAS Sydney II Memorial located on Mount Scott, Geraldton.

Irene Davies’ name has become synonymous with the Gallipoli bugle over the years. She continues to be a major contributor to numerous commemorative services as a member of the Geraldton RSL Legion and many other clubs. She extended best wishes for her life times friend and mentor,蔺 Stock, who she will join the Canning City Band which will be competing in the national band championships in Newmarket next year.

Peter Baden, F.R.O.
VETERANS OF THE KOREAN WAR (RVKV) 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CESSION OF HOSTILITIES 1950-1955

A Cordial invitation is extended to all Veterans of the War who saw service there between

1950 and 1956, from any of the 22 countries that were involved in the conflict, to attend and participate in this 50th Anniversary of the Armistice Celebration at the New Farm, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia on 24 and 25 April 2003.

The plans for the reunion are for a "Meet and Greet" and reception to be held on ANZAC Eve, and for the Closing Ceremonies, to be awarded a prominent place in the Order of March on ANZAC Day. A special arrangement to follow the ANZAC Day Parade is planned for these arrangements will be circulated when they are finalised.

The after-Parade gathering will be held on the Brisbane River at New Farm.

The 50th Anniversary year of the cessation of hostilities in Korea has been chosen as the appropriate year for this reunion as the Veterans are in their 70s and 80s and this will be the best opportunity for them to meet comrades and to welcome veterans from other countries who are being organised by individual Associations for 27 July, the date of the Armistice.

No 'Welcome Home' Parade is planned for these veterans, many of them who just faded into the community, and this will be a chance to pay tribute, especially, to the dedication of those who served, seamen, privates, airmen and nurses.

Any assistance you are able to give in providing some type of a reunion will be sincerely appreciated, to ensure that these men are received with an overdue recognition so they richly deserve.

For further information, please contact
RVKV Office (Qld State RSL HQ ANZAC Day) 26 Gunnel Mon to Fri 10.00 to 2.00
Ph: 07 3225 9683
Fax: 07 3225 9853

Bob Downey Reunion Secretary
after hours (H) 07 3226 6875
Digger James, Reunion Chairman
after hours (H) 07 3822 5041
(M) 07 5564 8468

**RE-UNION WEBSITE**

The reunion website reunionfriends.com.au has just introduced a new service to help Reunion members to keep in touch with the other attendees.

If you would like to take a look at the site, got to: www.reunionfriends.com.au/au

**TRACKERS-RE UNION**

The Australian Army Trackers Association Inc. was formed in August 2001 and will be holding its 2nd reunion between 23-27 April 2003 to be held in Goodwood, SA. A dedication of a Memorial to all soldiers who have served with Australian Army War Dogs in all theatres of war since 1939 will be held on Saturday, 26 April 2003. Any past or present members of the Association are invited to contact Bob Bett, 22 Pickering Place, Mount Gambier, SA 5290, Ph: 0412 793 580, Email: cabdhill@bigpond.com.au

**PARKES-RE UNION**

An invitation is extended to all ex-service personnel who served or still serve in the Parkes RSL Sub Branch to attend a reunion to be held on 24-26 April 2004. For further details please contact

Arthur Parker (02) 6662 2701
Frank Eason (02) 6662 5678
Gordon Dickson (02) 6662 2035
Mike Greenwood (02) 6662 2071

Arthur Parker
Hon. Secretary

WA RSL Bowls Section

The 56th National RSL Bowls Carnival was held in Perth WA over the period 28 December 2002 to 6 January 2003. The event was declared a happy and successful carnival, State RSL President, Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RFD then officially declared the 56th National Carnival closed. The WA RSL Bowls began the first of the five test matches played at Opal E

Winners of the Jack Hamilton V.C. series were NSW from Victoria WA in 4th place. The Dr Grolman Trophy was also won by NSW from SA with WA in 3rd place.

The Sir Arthur Lee National Championships commenced on 2 January 2003 at various venues. Section winners continued to Kelvin Grove. Section winners at the finish of the closing ceremony. A NSW team skippered by R. Thomas was declared the Queensland winner of John Blake, 3rd and 4th plaing to Queensland’s lead of the Tour of the States. The WA RSL Bowls Section to our sponsors for their generous financial assistance. They are Challenge Life, Dept of Veterans Affairs, Hollywood Private Hospital, Swan Brewery, A & M Bookshop and the WA RSL Bowls Section.

Leads thanked all who contributed and there were many: the ladies preparing and serving meals, greenskeepers, umpires to name a few, however the funds raised will not be sufficient. We have decided to seek at least $150 accounting fee for all WA Section Members are deeply grateful.

A Meritourous Service Award was presented to Max O’Loughlin in recognition of his contribution over the past two years. The funds raised over the past two years that contributed to the funding of the awards.

The 37th National Carnival will be held in Hobart, Tasmania and Travel Officer Les Flynn is now making arrangements for the event.

Bill Richards PRO
849 3520
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

The Editor of the Listening Post reminds all Unit Associations that it is essential to keep their information for this section up to date at State Headquarters. Changes in Officers and other matters must be in writing. Only President & Secretary's details with meetings information will be published.

AIRBORNE FORCES ASSOC. OF WA (INC)
President: Patricia Ward, Ph: 9480 9104. Correspondence/Secretary: Mick Coyte, 54 Tam Lagoon, Yangeep 6164; Ph: 9417 2522. Meetings: 1st Wed monthly, 11am to 1pm, ANZAC Club.

AIRCREW ASSOC.
Co-ordinator, Late to 0011 Dover; Ph: 3373 1176. Correspondence/Secretary: Basil Louthie, 8/1777 Dampier Ave, Karratha 6714; Ph: 9185 3601. Meetings: 2nd monthly as arranged.

ALLIED CHINESE SHIPS ASSOC.
Correspondence/President: Neville Philips, 14 Hamilton Terrace, Greenmarket 6506; Ph: 9254 1798. Secretary: Beanie Philip, Meetings: 1st Mon evening (from Feb), ANZAC House.

ALLIED MERCHAND SEAMEN ASSOC. (WA)
Correspondence/Secretary: Pat Edwards, 1 Corner Rd, Breenhead 6153; Ph: 9295 6172. Meetings: 3rd Mon from Tue monthly, ANZAC House AGM JUN.

ARCTIC & SUB极 ASSOC.
President: Geoff Taylor, Ph: 9399 2314. Correspondence/Secretary: Ted Slinger, Voxtel 254-525 544 Laga St Wldwood 6161; Email: eslinger@ozemail.com.au. Social functions.

ASSOC. OF WRENS WA BRANCH
President: Tony Toepf, Ph: 9255 1294. Correspondence/Secretary: Terry Whiteman, 9 The Crescent, Jandakot 6164; Ph: 9314 6653. Meetings: 10am 4th Thu monthly.

ARMY ARMED SERVICES ATOMIC SURVIVORS ASSOC. INC
President: Max Kimberley, Ph: 9304 5708. Correspondence/Secretary: Len Hollingworth, PO Box 405, Greenwood 6159; Ph: 9417 4521. Meetings: 3rd Mon from Feb monthly.

ARMY CHAIN OF COMRADES ASSOC.
President: John Upton, Ph: 9202 3551. Correspondence/Secretary: Harvey Madsen, 90 Roydon Way, Girrawheen 6064; Ph: 9421 1099. Meetings: 1st Mon every 3th month, ANZAC House.

BRITISH SURVIVORS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGIMENT ASSOC.
President: David Clarke, Ph: 9309 1046. Correspondence/Secretary: Neil Startan, 20 Ruyton Way, Girrawheen 6064; Ph: 9234 0612. Meetings: 1st Mon every 3th month, ANZAC House.

BRITISH SURVIVORS ASSOC. OF WA (INC)
President: John Wray, Ph: 9302 3002. Correspondence/Secretary: Pat Barton, 31 Lomond St Melville 6152; Ph: 9388 5409. Meetings: 3rd Mon from Feb monthly.

BUNKER HILL N.D.A.F. ASSOC.
President: Brian Rose, Ph: 9270 4653. Correspondence/Secretary: Max Bokeley, 3/14 Coral Drive, Joondalup 6226; Meetings: 1st Mon (if holiday), 2nd Mon (if Febob) at Belmont RSL, 9371 Ironside Ave.

BUNKER HILL N.D.A.F. BRIGADE ASSOC.
President: Pat Walters, Ph: 9533 3002. Correspondence/Secretary: Pat Barton, 31 Lomond St Melville 6152; Ph: 9388 5409. Meetings: 3rd Mon from Feb monthly.

BUNKER HILL N.D.A.F. REGIMENTAL ASSOC.
President: Great Jones, Ph: 9416 1599. Correspondence/Secretary: John Sweeney, 2771 Royal St, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9202 3796. Meetings: Contact Secretary.

BULL CREEK BRANCH RAAF
President: Peter & Phineas Kent, Ph: 9843 6555. Correspondence/Secretary: John Stead, 84 Bull Creek Dr, Bull Creek 6155; Ph: 9285 8246. Meetings: 2nd Mon from Feb monthly, ANZAC House.

BUNKER HILL N.D.A.F. BRIGADE ASSOC.
President: Pat Walters, Ph: 9533 3002. Correspondence/Secretary: Pat Barton, 31 Lomond St Melville 6152; Ph: 9388 5409. Meetings: 3rd Mon from Feb monthly.

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President: Great Jones, Ph: 9416 1599. Correspondence/Secretary: John Sweeney, 2771 Royal St, Floreat 6014; Ph: 9202 3796. Meetings: Contact Secretary.

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UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

RAEME ASSOCIATION OF WA
President: John King; Ph: 9279 3909.
Correspondence/Secretary: John Curtis; P.O. Box 1034, Nedlands 6009; Ph: 9242 6350; Email: curril@bigpond.com.
Meetings: 8pm last Tue monthly, Navy Club, High St, Fremantle. AGM 5pm Feb.

ROYAL NAVAL ASSOCIATION
1201 BRANCH WA (INC.)
President: Roland Trewin; Ph: 9236 0250.
Correspondence/Secretary: Ed Ralcott; Y11
dale Rd, Nedlands 6006; Ph: 9275 3307. Meetings: 7:30pm last Tue at Sportsmen's Club, Bankstick St, Mt Lawley.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMED CORPS ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: John Allen RTD ETD Ph: 9236 9510.
Correspondence/Secretary: Peter Soper; 25 Wanneroo Dr, South Perth 6151; Ph: 9249 7275. Meetings: Second Tue of each month (May, Nov) 7pm Light Horse Club, Irwin Barrack, Karrakatta. AGM 2:30pm 29th Nov.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSING CORPS ASSOCIATION (WA) INC.
President: Non Arandous; Ph: 9002 5404.
Correspondence/Secretary: Olga Greig OAM, 3 Napier Rd, Mount Lawley 6050; Ph: 9276 3847. Meetings: Quarterly.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY ASSOCIATION
165 WA (INC)
President: Ray Bird; Ph: 0194 1914. Friends of the Royal Australian Navy, 161 William St, M unarmed, near Cullen. AGM: August.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CORVETS ASSOC. (WA)
President: Bert Reed; Ph: 9300 0139.
Correspondence/Secretary: Ed Sheppard, Unit 4/5455 Kallaroo Dr, City Beach 6015; Ph: 9305 9400. Meetings: 3rd Mon of the month, Shire House. Open to members and members of affiliated Associations.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN CORPS OF ENGINEERS CORVETS ASSOC. (WA)
President: Bill Swedord; Ph: 9338 1481.
Correspondence/Secretary: Paul Rayfield, 14 Flood St, Ambergate, Mundaring 6070; Ph: 9391 4244. Meetings: 12pm 3rd Tue monthly at ANZAC House. Open to members and members of affiliated Associations.

ROYAL MARINES ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Bill Agate; Ph: 9247 1383. email: Bill.Agate@tomonline.com.au.
Correspondence/Secretary: Nick Bell, 1 Slewnew Rd, Maddington 6105; Ph: 9272 4448; Mob: 0431 299 236. Email: nrbill@intel.net.au. Meetings: 8pm last Tue monthly, Navy Club, High St, Fremantle. AGM 5pm Feb.

RAAC ASSOC. (WA)
Correspondence/President/Secretary: May Tomor, PO Box 6149, East Perth 6004; Ph: 9278 2077.

RAAF BRANCH - RAAC ASSOC.
President: Judy Bylent; Ph: 9421 0296.
Correspondence/Secretary: Richmond Jnr, P.O. Box 2106, Rockingham 6168; Ph: 9273 4744.

UNITED KINGDOM COMBINED EX-SERVICES FEDERATION
CORPS OF RADAR, MICROSCOPES ASSOC (WA)
President: Maj Gen Sir William Hynie, GCMG, CB, CBE, DSO, DSC, DL, OBE, MBE; 8 St George's Square, SW1. Ph: 0207 616 8000. Meetings: 12pm 14th Mon of each month, Radnor Hall, Embankment, London SW1A 2JB.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY ASSOCIATION (WA)
President: Ivan Hunter; Ph: 0624 7506. 
Correspondence/Secretary: Geoffrey Payce, 100 Landsdown St, Kensington 6001; Ph: 9016 1455. Meetings: 14th Mon of each month. Meetings in Perth, and members welcome.

ROYAL NAVY ASSOC. (KINGDOM DISTRICT BRANCH)
President: Ted Haines; Ph: 9256 9066.
Correspondence/Secretary: Dorothy Rawle, 600 Frederick St, Stoolwell Place, Osborne Park 6017; Ph: 9242 7276. Meetings: Second Tue of each month (May-Dec), The Naval Association of Australia, Cootamundra, Ph: 9356 0048. Meetings: Quarterly.

ROYAL NAVY ASSOC. (KINGDOM DISTRICT BRANCH)
President: Ivan Hunter; Ph: 0624 7506. 
Correspondence/Secretary: Geoffrey Payce, 100 Landsdown St, Kensington 6001; Ph: 9016 1455. Meetings: 14th Mon of each month. Meetings in Perth, and members welcome.

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Can u help?

IMAS VENDETTA

IMAS. Vendetta personnel who served with me off the coast of Bougainville 1994. Please assist me in my research by contacting me by phone or e-mail.

Regards,
John Balabonsich
8 Oakdale St, BURBANK QLD 4105 Ph: 701-349 9270
copaljohn@pg.com.au

HONOUR AVENUE COMMITTEE

We are looking for someone to take up the secretarial functions left by Chris Brooks' resignation. I will endeavour to 'hold the fort' until the appropriate person can be found. Would appreciate any nominations that may surface.

My contact info is:
P/O Box 2101 Churches 6018 Ph/Fax: 9387 5113
alflhi@optusnet.com.au

Alfred Till

THE PARTNERS OF VETERANS' ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (NSW BRANCH) INC.

The Partners of Veterans' Association of Australia (NSW Branch) Incorporated was formed in 1999. Many partners were looking for assistance, companionship and understanding. We are endeavouring to improve conditions that are accessible, unacceptable and of major concern to all partners and children of veterans.

There is a tremendous need for support for partners/carers and children of our veterans both now and continuing in the future, as our defence forces are called on to do their duty in stormy areas of the world – we are here to assist.

Sub-Branches, support groups and individuals across the nation are uniting and presenting one strong voice independent of existing veteran organisations, but still able to work in conjunction - with these existing groups.

Originally confined to NSW, the Association, after being joined by sections of interstate, early 2001, is now progressively incorporating towards a National Association.

We hold our 3rd AGM and Annual Conference in August 2002. Many of us have made special and enduring friendships; joy, laughter and fun is also high on our agenda. Our membership is increasing rapidly and now has represented in all Australian states, and territories including Western Australia.

Not all members belong to a sub-branch or support group. We have many independent members, who, for various reasons including living in rural and remote areas, are unable to access to a group. To keep members updated and informed on current issues, events and activities, a quarterly newsletter is sent to all current members.

An invitation to come join us is extended to anyone who is, or has been, the wife or partner of a veteran who has served in any theatre of conflict or peacekeeping force in which Australian Armed Forces have been involved. We have a 30 day joining fee for $10 (including Association Lapel Badge) and an Annual Subscription of $10.

For further information please contact:

Sandra Sam/Cross, Secretory, Box 3177, MALAGA WA 6945 Ph: 08 9248 1104
wooccross@westcoast.com.au

Members' Services website

Soldiers Choice is a new "not for profit" Australian Defence Force Members. We aim to provide not only information but a directory of providers, giving choices for Armed Forces personnel, training, career transition. Our support will also extend to those members being discharged with confusion and without entitlements.

In January of this year, Soldiers Choice made its services available online, allowing easier access for PDF and registered members. The Services Online website will include:

a. An overview of entitlements including Dafoe and proper appropriate guidance
b. Information on community support programs to assist those discharged members
c. Message Board for members to stay in contact
d. Employment Services
e. Training providers, and
f. Government representatives

Soldiers Choice is committed to providing members with accurate information, and support information from the ADS Reintegration Network will ensure information provision is accurate and up to date.

To browse the site, go to: www.soldierschoice.com.au

Correction

We would like to apologise for the misprint of the name 'Weary' Dunlop's in the 'In the Steps of Weary Dunlop' article of the last edition of The Listening Post, Volume 25 Number 4.

The State President and members of the State Executive extend a welcome to new members, 're-enlistments and transferences (December 2002 - January 2003) to the League in WA. Their names are listed by Sub-Branch.

LATEST POST

The deaths of the following RSL Members (Branch) were recorded at ANZAC House between November to December 2002.

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, and in the morning, we will remember them. Let us forget.

NAVY

ARMSTRONG, Cyril, F5098, Mossman Park JACOB, John R, FE5077, City of Mandurah PLANT, George, J598639, City of Mandurah STEVENSON, Kenneth, 179, City of Mandurah WRIGHT, Stanley, SCHMIRL, Applecross ARMY


GILL, Birdwood, H, WX6001, Manning GILPIN, James, WX18299, Albany GREEN, Lawrence, WX14707, Bunbury HAYES, Alfred, WX31593, Fremantle City HAWORTH, Alec, WX2532, City of Rockingham HILLMAN, George, WX2450, Perth HOOVER-HALL, Robert, 46018, Perth HUGHES, Walter, WX6696, Perth KAMBRAND, Allan, 5, WX33504, Bedford-Albury MAILING, Derrick Charles, Walter 1447518, Mundaring MCDoNNELL, Ronald, 971055, Mundaring MARDON, James, 1111, City of Mandurah McDOUGLAS, Maurice, WX2806, Yokojo-Joondanna PRATT, George, WX25807, Mundaring PURDY, Albert, WX38135, Boulder STRICKLAND, R, WX15661, City of Mandurah TOMLINSON, Robert, WX43709, Canning Towns Biddlemore WALKER, Colin, WX39208, Applecross WALKERS, Herbert, WX3621, Denmark

AIR FORCE

BOYD, Geoffrey, 85341, Cascoyce CHAPMAN, Arthur, 80950, North Beach CLUSTON, Andrew, 44660, Applecross FORREST, Jeffrey, 406780, Kogarah FORSYTH, William, 16276, Kellereenil GEILS, Arthur, 62623, Murray GREEN, R.H, 44495, City of Mandurah HEWITT, Raymond, 42719, Albany HILLIARD, John, 5271, East Vic Park and Vietnam Veterans MAIN, Alexander, Clifton, 40649, Albany MELVIN, Alexander, 16732, City of Perth SNELL, R.E, 42975, Donnybrook VEAL, Peter, F4147, Albany

NEW-MEMBERS

The Returned and Services League WA Branch Incorporated by Healy Maher Publishing, 17 Southport St Leederville WA 6007.

Advertising rates start at $6.00 per single column centimetre plus GST.

All advertising inquiries should be directed to Terry Healy on Ph: 9381 5551 Fax: 9381 5559 email: healy@nw.com.au
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 RSL to help those who really do need it.

Call 1300 135 169 for details.

RSL INSURANCE

RSL House & Contents Insurance  RSL Motor Vehicle Insurance  RSL Health Insurance
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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