It was my privilege to lead the fourth ANZAC Group of dedicated WA participants to Borneo for the April 2004 ANZAC Services.

The pilgrimage was in honour of Ted McLaughlin, deceased 1990. Ted was a long time resident from Boyup Brook, who right up to his passing aged 92 years was rewarded with the approval to have a monument built in the Shire of Boyup Brook in 1991. This accreditation for his mates who he never saw again after parting in Changi Prison, culminated with a further positive result with the names of all Western Australian soldiers who died as a result of their captivity in Borneo with another monument in 1993.

Ted has left us the legacy of continuing his work of educating and promoting all aspects of the Borneo incidents. It was an honour to have his eldest son Joe and Judy his wife accompany the group on this very special journey. There were many special moments of emotion we were able to share during the dedication services that were held along the way.

The group also had the honour of having the company of Mr Ben Hart and his wife Kath. Ben was a young AIF soldier attached to the 2/8 Commando Squadron serving in the Far East region. His squadron were noted for their liberation of Labuan Island and then into North Borneo. Ben, who is nearly eighty, was able to recall many sobering events of the Japanese occupation and the heroism of his mates and the locals who assisted the Allies. The sad truth that he and his comrades were so close but unable to save the POW's from their fate, still haunts him to this day.

Somehow, from sixty years since the event still has not removed the shame and guilt that nothing was done by the powers to be, for an order to front line troops who felt that they had the capacity to win the encounter. His emotion came to the surface and was our beacon to make sure we too did not ignore the fact much of the Sandakan history has been hidden away for too long.

Then there was the positives of this incredible journey. To encounter kindred spirits who heard of the groups' visit and a Dawn Service at the Sandakan Memorial Park. The small parkland, last remnants of the notorious 8 Mile Camp. I am sure we were once again watched by many tormented spirits who are finally released to their maker.

The attendance of the President of the Sandakan Municipal Council, Dato Adeleine Leung and several locals who assisted the POW's from the Sandakan Prison, all having their to assist pay homage to their brothers who died in Kuching and those who also gave of their lives to assist the Allies. I am sure that there will be an increased gathering of these groups in the future and the story of Sandakan will continue.

Our thanks to Wing Commander Noel Tisch, Defence Attaché from the Australian High Commission in Kuala Lumpur and his officers who conducted the Service. Mrs Daisy Wong, caretaker of the Memorial Park, she too having a personal connection with the place. Her father was the boiler house attendant in the Camp. I thank her for wonderful hospitality, empathy and warmth shown to all the visitors. I also make a specific comment of thanks to the local people we met during our 13 days, who made us very welcome with their goodwill and respect for our nation.

- Ryan Rowland

The Ted McLaughlin Scholarship Programme – ANZAC Tour 2004

An integral part of the ANZAC Tour to Borneo each year is the selection of a young student from the Boyup Brook District High School, with the sponsorship of the local Lions Club, local businesses and the Travel Coordinator for the RSL WA, Flightline Travel, the annual scholarship programme conducted in the memory of Ted McLaughlin, the founder of the Sandakan Memorial Day in Boyup.

Since being formalised in 2002, this was the second year there was representation with the winner from last year's award. The programme is organised with the cooperation of the local high school, with year 9-11 students encouraged to apply for entry. All entrants are given equal opportunity to achieve the selection criteria of presenting an essay explaining the history of Sandakan in a variety of ways e.g. video, photo, story or composition, or by using any form of art depicting the story with an oral explanation, or finally by computer medium with a Powerpoint presentation, with script, photos, map, statistical and/or historical information.

A select panel of judges have the very difficult task of selecting a winner at the Annual Sandakan Memorial Day in September where the finalists are asked to present their assignments to the Annual ANZAC Tour. The winner is rewarded with the privilege of going on the ANZAC Tour the following year. He or she are required to be Ambassadors for their school, district and family. They are required to also be their school representative at the ANZAC College in Kota Kinabalu, Sabah. The College has a proud heritage of having originated through the generosity of the Australian and New Zealand Army Associations who donated the money in 1969, for the local Council to secure land for a school for the squatter metropolitan children. The school is well established with prior winning credentials in the state region. Since commencing dialogue with the College Administration, and 1600 pupils, we are proud to say that it is hoped that in the very near future the Scholarship Programme will be instituted on a similar scale as Boyup Brook and maybe a school exchange programme in the year 2007.

This year's visit was a very memorable occasion that was a follow up to the initiation of the ANZAC Heritage Class Room. We were overwhelmed by the welcome and I am sure the winner of the Ted McLaughlin Scholarship would have wanted to slip away from the official duties. To the contrary, our winner Mr Alex Vaughan, showed us all why he was selected and I am very proud, as was his father and members of our party. Alex gave a very polished presentation to the gathered assembly. The goodwill gifts of Aussie rules football, autographed photo of the Boyup Brook Monument books, didgeridoo and bell 'Last We Forgot' clock, were accepted in heartfelt appreciation. The most memorable was the Principal Madame Rosmin and some...
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PUBLISHERS
The Returned & Services League
WA Branch Incorporated

ANZAC House
28 St Georges Tce PERTH WA 6000
Tel: (08) 9325 9799
PO Box Y202 PERTH WA 6852
Facsimile: 9325 7432
WA Country Callers: 1800 259 799

WEB SITE: www.rswa.org.au

E-mail: rswmp@bignet.net.au

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for submissions to next edition

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STATE SECRETARY'S REPORT

FINANCES

2004 is proving to be another positive year for the RSL in Western Australia with a continuing growth in our services and funds provided to members. One of the most satisfying results is the continual improvements in the finances of the Branch. In 2003 the audited financial reports detailed a substantial improvement, in that it shows a surplus. This is a first for many years and represents a great success for our Branch.

The surplus is due to the several key initiatives and decisions that have been taken to control costs and provide the purchase of equipment which have been brought on line and put into operation by the Branch, including the State Medical and Funerals Fund and the Commemorative Funds.

The funds for 2004 should show another large surplus to that of 2003 at year's end. The Branch has further reduced4 outgoings and increased revenue with several initiatives, the Sands of Gaussian auction, the Salaries and Wages of members and grants from the Government for various items of furniture and fixtures.

The Branch is also receiving a moderate bequest from a deceased member, the proceeds from the bequest will assist in the improvement of the financial status and support to members in WA.

ANZAC CLUB

The ANZAC Club has returned one of its best half year reports in a number of years. All meetings are still showing a loss but has shown a marked improvement over the same period at the end of May and had on actual cash less a $1,250 loss. This figure does not include depreciation.

The club has several associations returning to ANZAC Club for meetings, and has had a number of new approaches for groups to meet here. More recently there has been some outside interest in having of some meetings room within our organisation and it is hoped that all sub-branches will make that extra effort to be represented.

Honours & Awards

Congress is also time to recognise excellence and celebrate achievement. At the forthcoming Congress we will present sixteen members with Life Membership and two honour members with the Meritorious Award. Trophies will also be presented to sub-branches for achievements in a number of areas relating to sub-branch administration and fundraising activities. There are extended to individual recipients of Awards for 2003 - 2004 and also to winning sub-branches.

Annual Elections

At the close of nominations for office on 21st May, 2004 only one nomination was received for each of the positions of President, and the two Vice-Presidents. The current office bearers were unopposed for their positions. The current office bearers were unopposed as were several of the country State Executive members. As there were seven nominations for the six State Executive positions, there will need to be a ballot for vacancies. The position for State Executive member to represent the northern region will also go to ballot. Those elections will be conducted by the Returning Officer on Sunday morning of Congress.

May I take this opportunity of expressing thanks to the current State Executive for their hard work over the past year and also to the membership for supporting them and for the unopposed to their positions.

Congress Dinner

This year we will again be holding our Annual Congress Dinner at the Acacia Hotel on Saturday 10th July, commencing at 7.00pm. This is a great night and social occasion where we can get together to celebrate our achievements over the past year. It is an opportunity for us to welcome our other better and hopefully mix with other members and guests for our dinner on the project from the Government that secured us are still awaiting final release of Commonwealth funds for the project. We expect this any day now and will commence the project for the completion to be planned for ANZAC Day 2006.

ANZAC CLUB

The working party to review the organisation of the ANZAC Club have invited feedback on the refurbishment plans on display in the club. The group will be there for over two months in recent times we have had high praise for the redevolvement concept. From this we plan to seek the general views of members approvals from the building and approval from the Council. This will enable us to prepare funding applications.

Amelioration Funds

Well in our core business and we are also considering to look at the needs of our veterans particularly the long term needs through age, sickness or in distress circumstances are readily met.

While we expect that sub-branches will be interested in this matter, there is a strong interest on ANZAC House to have that need. Our welfare section is stretched to the limit to act as a back up to the current funding being funded is, we offer thanks to this group that answered to our call for financial assistance to support some of our work. The donations will go a long way towards assisting veterans in need.

War Veterans Home

The construction at the Menzies Centre will be completed by the end of October, exceptionally well with strong interest from both prospective residents. If you wish to view the Menzies Centre and observe progress it is best seen from Freeeman Rd. It is one of the largest care facilities in Western Australia. When finished it will have a capacity of 80 beds, and is an extension centre with below ground pool, library, meeting rooms, resident doctor, restaurant, bar and a Chapel.

There is particular interest in the apartment blocks that will enjoy a full range of services. Prices start at $500,000 (ground floor) and rise to $100,000 for a fourth floor penthouse.

Planning is also well advanced on $100,000 new flats which will be to the current consensus.

We should be notified that it is a very difficult and in most cases we can meet future deadlines with respect to ANZAC Day.

All enquires on this project should be directed to the Administrator on 9370 6200.

Cadet of the Year Programme

Once again the League wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support from Hollywood Private Hospital Private Memorial Hospital, for its support of our Cadet of the Year Programme. The ongoing financial support is rewarding excellence in youth and promoting the Service to the Cadet Units in Western Australia.

W.E. (Bill) Gwynn OAM RFD State President
Stuart enlisted in the AIF 2/4 Casualty Clearing Station (CCS) on 8 January 1941 with the rank of Captain. His unit was commanded by Lt Col Thomas Hamilton (author of the book Soldier Surgeon in Malaya). The unit was deployed to Malaya in 1941 and was subsequently forced back into Singapore where it was located on capitation on 15 February 1942.

In May 1942 the unit was moved to Burma as a part of 3,000 POWs on A Force. They were moved on the overcrowded and unhygienic Japanese troop ship the Geels Merry. Initial Stuart was at Thaybyunna where some of the POWs were forced to finish an aeroplane and formed part of a hospital facility. The Medical Officers there were Lt Col Hamilton and Major Alan Habs, Sgt Kranz and Ted Fisher along with Captain Tom Bremner. The Senior Australian Officer was Lt Col, later Brigadier Varley. Stuart established a Dental Section there and was ably assisted by a 2/4 CCS Medical orderly named Bill Pok. Stuart provided dental treatment to the Japanese (he had no choice), the Australian large numbers in Thaybyunna when Allied aircraft bombed it and a number of POWs were killed. It was from the same time that 8 POWs attempted to escape and were executed.

Stuart was able to get cocaine for local anaesthesia. In fact, he provided a large quantity to Lt Col Albert Costes and these were used for amputations at 50 Kil Camp. Stuart remembers the courage of some of his patients, in particular, one Dutch fellow who had extraction when no cocaine was available. Bill Pynch sculptured a dental chair from a tattered moust (not active). Other treatments were carried out on tree stump. Following completion of the Railway at the end of 1943, Stuart, along with others, moved to Camps in Thailand and at the end of the war he was at the Chulalongkorn Hospital in Bangkok.

Post-war Stuart resumed in dental practice in Brisbane. He married and had four children - Stuart a librarian, Anne a dentist, Andrew a doctor and Peter an engineer. As of 2004 Stuart Simpson lives in retirement in Clayfield, Queensland. Rowley Richards (Medical Officer on A Force) describes Stuart as “one of nature’s gentlemen”.

An account by Lt John Ross of the POWs, Capt. John Ross VX48259, about Dental Officer John Rosson was a dentist in Seumang Baracks. He managed to stake a claim in a tin-cake garage which, with a medical officer Capt. John Sterby, they used as their surgery.

One day the Japanese Commandant, Col John Rosson, called on John Rosson in his ‘dental surgery’ and commanded him to attend to the tooth of a Japanese guard. When John inspected the abscessed tooth, his eyes boggled at the size of its huge gold crown. It looked very much a crown to a non-dentist. John soft peddled on to a 2/4AIF whom he agreed to extract it the next day. He then laid plans to win the gold.

Capt. Johnakashiji dally arrived at the surgery in the morning, his courage primed with sake. Drawing the tooth carefully with all his professional expertise, John casually teased it into the spitton beside the chair and down went the tooth with a crown of gold. Their spitton consisted of a heavy piece of rusty two-inch metal pipe with an inverted metal light shade on top to serve as a bowl. The spit went through the floor, deep into theestury mud below.

The Japanese Commandant followed this with a letter that he intended to get his tooth towed away so nonchalantly. In his next comment when John quickly placed a swoosh in his mouth and instructed him to blow into the flow of blood. He busied himself swirling and attacked the damaged gum for quite some time.

“Taka” could say nothing. When he had prolonged the task long enough to take Taka’s mouth off for a subterfuge, he gave him a mouth cinch which, in due course, followed the tooth down the pipe. He refused to give any credit to John Rosson, the dentist, for his work.

This story was provided by John Rosson in his book entitled: "On my return-home, I studied dentistry and now for one moment I have regretted it. At 1940 John told me that he had approved reproducing the article as it was from Cohn Finkemeyer the author of the book "Beggard To Us". 

The story was therefore included in the book published by the late Dr Roy Millers entitled ‘Dentist Diary & Memoirs’ and proven to have been given to acquiesce from the book.

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The Christmas Island ANZAC Day dawn service took place overlooking the Flying Fish Cove from the picturesque location of the Tai Jin House Government Premises. ANZAC Day Commemorations were well attended by approximately 250 CI residents, all wishing to pay their respects to fallen servicemen of past conflicts. Christmas Island Detachment (CIDET), consisting of personnel from HMAS Adelaide, the ADF Liaison Officer, and members of the Australian Royal Army added a strong military presence to the ceremony.

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The sinking of the SS Athenia – first U-boat victim of WWII

The first incident of the U-boat war occurred just hours after the German invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939, when Oberleutnant Fritz-Julius Lemp, commanding U-30, attacked and sank what he thought to be an armoured cruiser.

His target was, in fact, the SS Athenia, a 2,520-ton passenger liner carrying 1,103 civilians, including more than 300 Americans hurried home ahead of the clouds of war. This case of mistaken identity resulted in a large-scale cover-up on the part of the Reich, and had far-reaching consequences both for the subsequent conduct of the U-boat war, and for some of the key players in the affair – Lemp, Dönitz, and Raeder.

On the afternoon war was declared, OKM sent three radio messages, at intervals of about an hour, to all Kriegsmarine vessels indicating that a state of war was in force, that attacks on enemy shipping were to commence immediately, and that crews of armed merchant vessels should regard themselves as enemies without awaiting permission.

Lemp was patrolling the area north-west of Ireland. Having absorbed these instructions, Lemp saw a ship on the horizon, benefited from a fresh breeze, and in a north-westly direction. He ordered U-30 to dive to periscope depth, and observed that the vessel was blacked out and zigzagging, and appeared to carry guns on her deck, all indications that it was an armed merchant or auxiliary cruiser, and therefore a legitimate target.

According to the testimony of Dönitz at Nuremberg, Lemp had been specifically warned to be alert for armed merchant cruisers. Believing it was one of those which had hung his sights, but dispensed with the shot across the bows specified in the Prize Rules, he fired two torpedoes, one of which struck squarely, and one which missed. U-30 divèd to avoid the danger that the two deliverers might circle back toward the U-boat.

Surfacing once more and observing that the ship did not seem to be sinking, he fired a third torpedo, but this too missed. U-30’s fifth torpedo was responsible for the claims of survivors that U-30 shelled the Athenia after the initial torpedo strike. Close enough now to note its silhouette, Lemp compared it with his Lloyd’s Register and discovered his mistake. Soon afterwards, U-30 intercepted a plain-language transmission from the stricken ship identifying itself as the Atlantic.

"Seeing the phantom of the Lusitania rising again, Hitler decreed that accusations would be confronted with categorical denial."

Although the Athenia’s distress calls had eliminated the need to issue formal firing instructions, Lemp did not take the opportunity to make a report. Knowing full well the magnitude of his blunder, he opted to maintain radio silence, and did so until September 14. On this date, eleven days after the sinking of the Athenia, he broke radio silence to report damage sustained in confrontation with two destroyers following the sinking of British freighter Frelon Han, and to request permission to disembark a wounded man in Iceland for medical attention. He also did not mention the Athenia.

He also did not aid the survivors, as the Prize Rules required, although he did do so after sinking Blücher some days later. Probably he had observed the Norwegian knut Nelsen in the area earlier in the evening, and felt that help would soon come to those in the lifeboats. Doubtless he believed that departing the scene before further attention was focused on U-30 was the wiser course.

The Knut Nelsen was indeed soon on the scene. Two other merchant ships, City of Flint and Southern Cross, as well as three British destroyers, Electro, Escort, and Fame, aided in rescue operations.

Berlin learned of the sinking from British news broadcasts. The rude surprise of hearing it in such a way was compounded by despair; the years of effort to erase the world’s memory of the unrestricted submarine warfare of the First World War were outflanked, in an instant, in the first hours of the new conflict.

Noting the location of the sinking with the U-boat deployment charts, it was clear that only one boat could have been responsible for the sinking, and that this boat had torpedoed the line themselves in a scuriform attempt to bring down another merchantman. Surprisingly, the Atlantik Lohn occurred on October 23, fully a month after Lemp had confirmed the truth.

"The pretense that U-boats had had nothing to do with Athenia’s demise was maintained for the duration of the war."

Lemp in the damaged U-30 limped slowly back from Iceland, (having landed the wounded man there on Sept. 19), arriving in Wilhelmshaven on September 27. He immediately reported to Dönitz that he had sunk Athenia, and was sent to Berlin for a full debriefing.

The pretense that U-boats had had nothing to do with Athenia’s demise was maintained for the duration of the war. The risk of admitting it was too great. Dönitz even denied that the only successes of U-30’s first mission were SS Blücher and SS Feudal Han. Lemp’s own Kriegstagebuch was altered, although clumsily. The original carefully detailed pages were removed, and a false page inserted which did not match the rest of the diary as to handwriting. This new version of events placed U-30 200 miles west of her actual position on September 3.

There remained the matter of the wounded Adolph Schmidt, who had been left in Iceland. Lemp assured Dönitz that Schmidt would not be a security risk. In fact, before he had been taken off the boat, Lemp had made him swear an oath not to reveal the details of the matter. Although he became a prisoner of the British when they occupied Iceland in 1940, and was interrogated repeatedly, he kept his silence. This story, after the war, provided the basis for Hollywood’s use at Nuremberg, believing that the oath was nullified.

In spite of initial fears in Berlin, the Athenia did not become an issue. It was not as great a public relation disaster as it first had seemed. However, the very first U-boat success of the war did have far-reaching ramifications.

The next day, September 4, Hitler ordered that under no circumstances were attacks to be made on passenger ships, even in convoy, regardless of nation. This caused confusion as to what sort of vessel it was now permissible to attack. Freighters sometimes carried passengers; passenger ships sometimes carried troops. Were these legitimate targets?

Lemp was not court-martialed for his error, but neither was he promoted from the field as were many of his contemporaries. At the Nuremberg Trials, the cover-up and the accusations that the British had staged the sinking came back to haunt Raeder, who was accused of committing deliberate fraud in the Athenia affair.

Of the Athenia’s passengers and crew, 1,103 were killed in the explosion or died later as a result of the sinking.

"This caused confusion as to what sort of vessel it was now permissible to attack. Freighters sometimes carried passengers; passenger ships sometimes carried troops. Were these legitimate targets?"

The final chapter of the SS Panamanian

A follow up to the story from The Listening Post Vol. 27 No. 1

After the fire aboard the Panamanian, she was repaired in Freemantle and took on cargo. She continued voyages from Adelaide, Melbourne and Buenos Aires with cargoes of bagged flour.

- I joined her in June 1946 after 5 years Army service and change in 1945. In her early days she was the SS Mongolia and registered 13,100 tons with 1,000 passengers. On one stage she featured in a film that was made, I think, in the mid 1920s.

She was a mixed cargo ship and also carried many passengers in her early years. On one passenger voyage I left her on the middle deck as a supernumerary and was taken to Hong Kong breakers yard. In Singapore I joined a 700 ton hopper being despatched to Melbourne Harbour. We had two sister ships under tow, they were the Empire Doncaster and the Empire Gresley.

Off the North West Cape, we took a blow and the Grassland broke free. After some days we picked up a wake and before she broke free again and nearly took us with her. This was a voyage that we all suppose happened to take place, but it took two months to get to Freemantle and we were the only ship.

The SS Panamanian was one of the last riveted hull ships in Freemantle with the exception of the Finders which was replaced in 1983.

- George Dime
There is no doubt that the League will survive

TED MILLER

As I see it, the future of the sub-branches will come to depend on affiliate members. In our sub-branch, Kalgoorlie, which in its heyday was a very large organisation, our membership has fallen away rapidly in recent years. The WWII men have either passed away or are too old to take an active part. Our present committee is made up of one president who is WWII, a senior vice-president who is Korean Ex-RAN, the secretary and treasurer who is an affiliate and the rest of the committee is made up of two ex-national servicemen and a further three affiliates.

There is no doubt that the League will survive because the schools are now more active in educating the children about our military history. In addition to this, with our Defence Forces on active service throughout the world there is an awareness of a bigger role in patriotic pride. This was highlighted in our Dawn Service at Kalgoorlie this year with an attendance of some 3,000 people who ranged in age from the young to the very elderly.

Born in 1929, I was 16 when the 1939-45 war ended. There was no cased prior to the war. In 1951 when National Service came in I was 22 and again not involved in any call-up. I had an uncle who served in France in 1914-18; he was lucky enough to return home but he was a victim of gas and died in 1954 at the age of 38. A cousin of our died in a Japanese POW camp in Singapore in 1945.

As a small I had a passion for horses and was fortunate to know a original 10th Light Horseman who had served and told me stories of his experiences in the Middle East. I never lost my enthusiasm for horses and as a young man I began collecting old H. memorabilia. When I returned to Kalgoorlie to live, the local RSSI invited me to lead the ANZAC parade in the Light Horse regalia (see photo). This did with support provided for a few years. In addition to this I introduced the dismantled trooper with the boots in reverse and the hat attached to the empty saddle. This is a very touching and sentimental ceremony which we hold at the Dawn Service every year. The trooper leads the hope around the Memorial during the silence. We are now the only sound is of the horse's feet, which gives a wonderful feeling of nostalgia. We still use our trooper in the main ANZAC march, fully mounted with the rifle slung over his shoulder, leading the march down Hannan Street.

Since finished my riding days I have two, turn-of-the-century horse-drawn vehicles i.e. bulky and buggy (see photo left), and have travelled by horse and buggy from Perth to Kalgoorlie in 1986, and from Kalgoorlie to Perth in 1993. These were professionally organised treks which covered 600km over 12 days. Again, this makes one aware of what the Light Horse men and their mounts achieved under rugged conditions with the support and comfort we experienced on our little 600km jaunts.

In conclusion, I would like to add that prior to and following ANZAC Day, the President of the Kalgoorlie Sub-Branch, Mr Rip Haybow I visit several primary and senior schools as guests for their ANZAC Ceremonies.

ANZAC Eve vigils, old saucepans and other memories of Fremantle

The article in the May issue of The Listening Post, Scouts WA honour 70 years of Boy Scout work, brought back memories of ANZAC Eve vigils around the Fremantle War Memorial.

My father was transferred from Albany to Fremantle Customs Department at the beginning of 1940 and we then lived in East Fremantle. Having been a member of the cubs and scouts in Albany I joined the East Fremantle Boy Scout Troop.

By ANZAC Eve I was a patrol leader and several of us were chosen to mount a vigil around the War Memorial. Other local troops may have been involved but I cannot recall seeing any others. What I do remember is the freezing cold in the early hours of ANZAC Day before and during the Dawn Service.

Again in 1941 I was one of the members of the East Fremantle Troop honoured to mount a vigil and as I had been promoted to Troop Leader I was in charge of our own Vigil Troop. The Vigil Master had joined the services.

Fears of the Japanese bombing Fremantle prevented my father to persuade my mother to take my younger sister and me to our parents' farm at Mt Barker. A year later we returned to the metropolitan area but lived in Cottesloe.

I cannot recall any Rover Scouts mounting a vigil at the Fremantle War Memorial, but of course many young blokes in their age group had joined the services.

My wife lived in Fremantle in the 1950s and she remembers family friends who were members of the sea scouts maintaining a vigil when she attended the Dawn Services.

When I lived in East Fremantle people were asked to leave scrap metal out the front of their house, including old saucepans etc, and we Scouts wheeled our carts around the streets collecting and taking it to the scout hall. From there a truck collected the pile and took it to a central depot and it was eventually melted down to make items needed for the war effort.

My father, having been a gas technician and the Palm Depot, was a signals instructor in the East Fremantle platoon of the Volunteer Defence Corps (VDC) [Dad's Army]. I attended several night parades with him and being a Scout was made a 'runner', which involved taking messages from point 'A' to point 'B' on my bike. Perhaps the platoon captain, Les Charlton, a WRI, veteran, was my school teacher may have helped my appointment.

W. L. (Bill) Tate

The Remembrance Day Lunch

will be held at the

Novotel, South Perth
Thursday 11 November 2004

Tickets $40.00

In the presence of HRH The Governor of Western Australia
Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC

Accompanied by Mrs Sanderson

Bookings through: Barbara Clinton Ph. 9341 1983

Update: More facts about the ex-POW Memorial in Ballarat, Victoria

The May 2004 edition of The Listening Post, Scouts WA honour 70 years of Boy Scout work, contained an item on the ex-POW Memorial in Ballarat, Victoria. The memorial was dedicated by the Governor General, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery on the 6th February 2004.

The idea of the memorial was formed when an ex POW received a letter from the Federal Government in 2000 asking if an ex POW Memorial could be established. The Government donated $20,000 to get it started. Various RSSI's and local residents subsequently passed on an additional $15,000.

Work commenced on the memorial in 2003. The original design called for a ship-like structure of stainless steel, but was subsequently altered to Tattersall's lattice style.

The Memorial was officially opened in June 2004.

I am afraid I was unable to attend. Some 10,000 people attended the dedication. In excess of 1,000 people attended the service.

Albert Cousens (Medical Officer) from the ex-POW Association of WA, Roy Young (Vulcan Castles), and John Sanderson (AC) were some of the ex-POW's who attended.

I was unable to obtain the names of those who attended on his behalf.

In summary, I think it was an appropriate memorial to the ex-POW's who served in the various wars our country was involved in.

Left to right: Jack Thorpe, Mrs Cherrondell and Jack Bingham (Old 1 Squaddie RAAF).
Following my visit to Malaysia last August to experience their Malaysia Independence Day Celebrations, I was personally invited, as the editor of The Listening Post, to visit Malaysia over Christmas, 2003.

Tourism Malaysia advised me that an inaugural Christmas Celebration was to be conducted for all Malaysian people residing in Sabah, in North Borneo. The celebration was linked to unity and living together harmoniously, focusing upon acceptance and respect for multicultural differences and recognition of Christianity as part of the cultural diversity of the nation.

I was excited about the invitation because my father had taught the Japanese during the Second World War. Major Whittingham told me about his interactions with the local people, how they had always respected their way of life, and politi­cal demeanour and I enjoyed listening to the stories and learning about the cultural diversity of the people.

As I was preparing for the trip I reflected on aspects that make a really great holiday. After reflecting for while I decided that there are a conglomerate of crucial factors involved, such as: organisation, transportation, destination, weather, accommodation, service, food, people and holiday activities.

Choice of airline and the service experienced were a key role in setting the mood for the commencement and closure of an enjoyable holiday. I have flown with Malaysian Airlines previously and been very impressed. Once again I experienced a very pleasant, efficient, courteous service and friendliness from all staff, from the airport to flight attendants and of course the pilots. I have never had to queue, an expected feature, ensuring very pleasant flights. One tip I do have for passengers on Malaysian Airlines is to stay young and sprightly, so that you can indulge whilst in flight, as the food served on board is excellent, in terms of both quality and quantity.

I arrived in Kuala Lumpur on Christmas Eve, and spent the night, courtesy of the Pan Pacific hotel, prior to boarding a Malaysian Airways domestic flight, on Christmas morning. The flight was on time and we took off to Sabah took two and a half hours.

The flight enabled me to compare the differences between Malaysian Airlines international and domestic operations. There were surprisingly few, both were excellent.

My group and I arrived at Kota Kinabalu, in Sabah and were met by our tour guide. We then embarked on a short drive between the airport and Sutera Harbour Resort, which is situated on the shores of the South China Sea, Sutera Harbour Resort, became the base from which my group spent five fantastic days touring Sabah and is conveniently situated a short five minutes drive from the Kota Kinabalu town centre.

We found the local people to have a great sense of fun and humour. They appear to enjoy interacting with the tourists. The railway system is slow and antiquated. Cars easily pass the trains carrying the locals about their daily lives. Youthful passengers overhang the windows, waving to all and sundry. Other workers who are employed to wait by level crossings, are actually raised and lower the boom gates, appear to enjoy chatting to motorists, as they wait for the trains to cross.

There are countless activities in which we were encouraged to indulge and enjoy within the variety of man-made and natural environments of Sabah.

A ride on the North Borneo Railway is recommended, as it offers an experience of a bygone era. Time is encapsulated in an hour long train journey transporting passengers back to the days of the early British Colonial era. When young English gentlemen set out to be colonisers owners or overseers.

Opportunities are also provided for visitors to Sabah to climb aboard a small motor boat and explore parts of the 569 km long river, of the Lower Kinabatangan. Along the way we spotted many Proboscis monkeys. The river is also renowned for its huge monitor lizards. Our group spotted one of these incredible lizards eating wild fruit, about 20 metres from the riverbank.

During the return journey along the Lower Kinabatangan we spotted many Proboscis Monkeys. As dusk fell and the river descended we saw in the distance a tree within the jungle, which appeared to be decorated with little Christmas lights, which were in actuality, hundreds of thousands of fireflies.

Fireflies weren’t the only creatures “shining” in the jungle river that night, as the guide showed us the bioluminescence of the water. We noticed crocodile eyes appearing near the side of the boat and the decaying leaves on up the river water was made fairly repulsive.

Sabah is also renowned for its Rafflesia flower, the largest in the world. The Rafflesia takes about 15 months to bud, but unfortunately, its magnificent flower lasts only 7 days.

Most Australians are familiar with our military link to Sabah. While were in Sabah we discovered that in 1979, ex-servicemen of Australia and New Zealand Army Corps (ANZAC) who fought in Sabah during World War II, spent four days for a 2-acre plot of land, to erect a monument and construct a school to commemorate the bond of friendship established between the people of Sabah and the ANZACs, during the war.

The bond of friendship that was forged in the Second World War, between the Australian, New Zealand and North Borneo people continues to be strong today. The Sabahans are the ‘relatives’ of the Ancestors.

The day following the Christmas festivities was to visit to the Tunku Abdul Elahma Islands Reserve for a look around. On the island there were magnificent, colourful species of fish, which could be seen by the naked eye, everywhere in the tropical waters.

What an incredible experience. I had never before seen so many fish so close to the shore.

The conservation reserve is comprised of a group of five islands, Calpa, Sepi, Mamukan, Mamutik and Sabah. The islands were created over 200 million years ago, through the natural processes that produces sedimentary rock. They have been set aside to assure the continuation of native animal and plant species.

I recommend a visit to enjoy the wonders of these natural habitats and their inhabitants. The biodiversity of the islands, with their white sandy beaches, tropical islands, blue waters, coral reefs and atolls is breathtaking.

An exceptional experience is ensured for those who participate in reef diving at Matakai, which is situated on the east coast of Sabah. It is not far from Sipadan, a well known diving spot. The diving experience is said to be so incredibly beautiful, that participants might think that they had died and gone to heaven.

After spending five wonderful days in Kota Kinabalu I travelled back to Kuala Lumpur, courtesy of Malaysian Airlines, for three days of sight seeing, shopping and free time in which to experience the Malaysian culture and the local wildlife.

I was given magnificent accommodation through the courtesy of the Westin Hotel, which had only been in operation for three months. I was allocated one of their best rooms and was afforded the very best of service.

The Westin Hotel has incorporated a couple of theme bars within the premises, including the Italian Grego and a Cuban Bar. The Cuban Bar has a distinct Cuban atmosphere enhanced by a four piece Cuban band, conducted for the next two years.

The atmosphere in the bar was fantastic and I spent a few evenings soaking up the atmosphere and enjoying the company of members of the group, with whom I had made the trip.

While in Kuala Lumpur I had dinner in the KL Revolving Restaurant, courtesy of Tourism Malaysia. What a view! What a fine dining experience. I sampled a variety and volume of food served in Malaysia never ceases to amaze me.

I also visited the Petronis Twin Towers to see the sights of KL. What a magnificent view!

My last day in Kuala Lumpur was spent shopping for those bargains that we all like to take home and show off. The Aussie dollar exchange rate made it worthwhile.

I had a terrific time in Sabah, and Kuala Lumpur enjoying the culture, people and shops and the natural and man-made landscapes. Malaysia offers a holiday to suit all tastes and needs. Next time you are in the market for a holiday consider "Malaysia, Truly Asia!".

An experience to be remembered and shared!
Don’t be a victim: 
Tips for the flu season

With winter upon us, Hollywood Private Hospital’s Laboratory Manager, Dr. Meredith Acrux, has some tips to lower your risk of catching the flu this winter.

“We should all consider having the influenza vaccine. However, it is recommended that the following groups, in particular, have the flu vaccine: everyone aged over 65 years; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders over 50 years; children and adults with chronic medical conditions including heart and lung disease, diabetes and renal failure; and anyone over the age of six months.” Dr. Acrux said.

“Flu symptoms begin one to three days after exposure to the highly contagious virus with fever, headache, shivering and generalised muscle aching. A sore throat, dry cough and a watery discharge from the nose then develop.”

“Complications from the flu are more likely to occur in the elderly, those in poor health, people with allergies and heart disease.”

“The main risks of influenza are that the infection may spread to the lungs causing bronchitis or pneumonia.”

“Don’t forget to take care of your immune system by eating a healthy diet including fresh fruit and vegetables, getting regular exercise and enough sleep!”

Dr. Meredith Acrux
In Sickness and in Health

Imagine if a loved one depended on you for the small tasks of day-to-day living?

Then compound the dependency with the stressful knowledge that your loved one is seriously ill. This is the reality for 2.3 million Australians who are currently acting in the role of carer for a parent, partner or child.

Voluntary carers of people living with a terminal illness can now receive free nursing and medical advice thanks to a unique education programme developed to support their needs.

The 'Learn Now, Live Well' programme is completely free and the only one of its kind in Western Australia. It is targeted at the increasing numbers of unpaid carers caring for the terminally ill.

Hollywood Private Hospital, the Silver Chain Hospice Service and Edith Cowan University (ECU) are coordinating the 'Learn Now, Live Well' programme after receiving a grant from the Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing.

Julie Bennetts has cared for her elderly mother for more than four years and recently took part in the 'Learn Now, Live Well' programme.

"It's been uplifting to meet other people who can relate to my experiences and struggles," Ms Bennetts said. "I have also learnt new skills which enable me to help both my mother and myself."

Hollywood Private Hospital nurse and Programme Coordinator, Nina Graham said the 'Learn Now, Live Well' programme has been shown to make a significant difference to carers' knowledge while increasing the confidence they have in their demanding role.

"The reality is that it is the family and friends of the terminally ill person who are often thrust into the role of carer. However, they can lack the skills and resources to cope. This can be very stressful for the care," Nina said.

To register to part of the 'Learn Now, Live Well' programme or for further information please contact Hollywood Private Hospital's Palliative Care Unit on 9346 6198.

Each day the GPs of Western Australia are confronted with cardiac emergencies.

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Hollywood Private Hospital offers you a comprehensive cardiology service in a very caring environment.

Hollywood's Acute Chest Pain unit is designed to treat patients who need help 24 hours a day, seven days per week.

The Hollywood Private Hospital Coronary Care Unit and the on-site Perth Cardiovascular Institute offer the very latest technology and the combined expertise of Australia's leading cardiologists.

Hollywood was pleased to recently extend an invitation to all GPs to attend a detailed update on the latest improvements in the treatment of acute cardiac conditions.

Hollywood co-hosted 'Heart to Heart' in conjunction with Pfizer Australia at Matilda Bay Restaurant in Crawley.

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other female staff kicking the footballs around in the forecourt in front of the monument bearing the three flags – Australia, New Zealand and Sabah. A wonderful buffet reception was held and a Powerpoint presentation outlining the college ethos and future development.

It is significant to say that our group and the Boyup Brook District High School are part of these future plans. Discussions also took place with the Kota Kinabalu Lions Club who intend to assist with sponsorship in Sabah. I am happy to report that Alex, our representative, will have an enormous chapter to present to his school in Boyup Brook and extend his communication to the community as the years pass. Congratulations Alex, you did a great job when called on and you are a wonderful young adult who will achieve in whatever choices you make for your future.

Any other organisations or schools reading this text who wish to gain information please contact Mrs Non Meston on 9364 8885 or Ryan Rowland on 9255 3135.

**Film Review**

**The Fog of War**

With US and Australian troops currently in the ongoing turmoil in Iraq, it is perhaps an opportune time to view and reflect on Ernest Morris’s latest film The Fog of War.

This film is based on the recollections of Robert S. McNamara, the former US Secretary of Defence during the turbulent 60s. Although you have to admire his courage for speaking out on a number of traumatic events with wide-ranging consequences, for some reason you never really get inside his head, so to speak. He says a lot about revealing too much because of the ramifications this may have. However, he does drop a few bombshells of his own when he refers to the role of the US in today’s world. Consider these words:

We are the strongest nation in the world today. I do not believe that we should ever apply that economic, political and military power unilaterally. If we had followed that role in Vietnam, we couldn’t have been there. None of our allies supported us. Not Japan, nor Germany, not Britain, not France. If you can’t persuade nations with comparable wealth of the merit of our cause, we’d better re-examine our reasoning.

If you get the chance to see this film I would recommend you do so. It covers events in world history from 1918 to Vietnam and is thought-provoking to say the least.

– Peter Hopper
"Suddenly the world shakes, glass and ceilings fly past the cupboard door. A searing bolt of light blasts through the open door right at us. The shelter, the red tin, our supper, they’re all gone, just a smoking white hole in the chalk."

The Mourning Hole

By P.S. Gipson

An instant, I was back in 1940 sitting terrified with my Thister and grandmother in her air-raid shelter. Above us through the steel and dirt we could hear the drone of engines and the whine of bombs as they raced through the night sky. Why do they want to kill us? We are only children. Our hands are strangely wet and cold as we clutch our Gran’s warm unflicking body. Holding her ever tighter to her bosom we are safe in her arms.

Gran is our friend. She’s in charge of everything, in the shelter and out, and always so calm. The food for the night, the blankets, the candles; we never have new ones, always stubs, which she lights at the very last moment from the old one as it guttered fitfully to a close. I can see the battered red tin in which she keeps the candles and matches, red ones that in a streak of incandescence strikes the underside of the shelter.

As the explosions get closer, we are pressed together as one. Cold fear gripped our hearts as we wait for instant death. Will it hurt? I can taste blood in my mouth. Then, without warning there is a different sound, a thud and a shake, it seems so close. A bomb has hit the ground and is exploding. The candle flickers as dust trickles over us from the corrugated roof. Gran is shaking; her whole body is shaking. She fiddles with her thin wedding ring, twisting it around her bony finger. I think of the Grandfather I never knew and wish he were here now. Somehow, I know she is thinking the same.

"It’s a dust," I try to be calm for my sister’s sake, “Close too."

“We can hear no sounds, the bombers, Gran, nothing. Can we have a look? We shout.

There is no reply.

In the grey light of the dawn between house and garden just see a pile of fresh chalk in the garden. Gran is peering into it.

Suddenly she cries, "No, no, don’t, there’s something there, in the hole." in the smoky daylight, we can see her arms waving frantically at us.

She turns towards us, and tries to push the door to get the pile of debris but stumbles and falls in the house chalk, without thinking, we run to help her.

"No, get back, tell someone, anyone." Her voice trembles with fright. She looks at each other but continue to her.

I steal a glance into the fresh pile of chalk. There are green bits of an unexploded bomb, streaked with white.

The house looks safe. "Quickly, to the house," I cry to my small sister. My young Gran has helped us but now it is our turn. Instead of her, we find Gran, her body is pressed close into the house. The door is strangely open, in fact, it’s wide open there.

Amongst some mouselops and empty storage jars, we huddle together under the stairs. Gran crushes under her weight. The room is trembling and unusually quiet. Suddenly the world shakes, glass and ceiling fly past the cupboard door. A searing bolt of light blasts through the open door right at us.

The shelter, the red tin, our supper, they’re all gone, just a smoking white hole in the chalk.

The man at the door had been shot. His belt thin and quite old. With his lefty black hat he appears to go half way to the sky. His belt was bowing his hat when he sees us. He can see the dark almost black strews in the back of his hand as they press through the hole in his sunburnt, colour skin. Behind him, there are more men dressed like their leader in long black coats and tall hats.

Black skittles standing at the doorway.

"Mrs Collins," He speaks with care, head lowered. "We’ve come for your mother.

The day of the funeral dawned wet and grey, matching our sombre moods. Before we leave we stand holding hands in the driveway behind the remains of our shelter; Rivulets of water are trickling in the rusting metal gullies.

There are 12 to be buried that morning. 12 white holes in the ground. A churchyard full of grieving people, holes in the chalk. Men like ours in black hats move from grave to grave. More men follow filling in the white holes. They say, "Can we have a look?" We shout.

There is no reply.

In the grey light of the dawn between house and garden just see a pile of fresh chalk in the garden. Gran is peering into it.

Suddenly she cries, "No, no, don’t, there’s something there, in the hole."

We can hear no sounds, the bombers, Gran, nothing. Can we have a look? We shout.

There is no reply.

We lock up to Gran for reassurance; in the straw coloured jar around each other. Suddenly they’re gone, as one. Cold, if they come.

We are reassurance; in the straw coloured jar around each other. Suddenly they’re gone, as one. Cold, if they come.

They’re gone, as one. Cold, if they come.

We go to Gran for reassurance; in the straw coloured jar around each other. Suddenly they’re gone, as one. Cold, if they come.

You can see the concern in her anxious face.

"I’ll take a look, you stay here, " she says. She gets painfully to her feet and makes us wrap our arms around each other. Suddenly alone, we cling tightly to each other, watching the flickering candle that would not last until morning.

Our house is a wreck but it is in house. Gran lived there; we live there. Most of the roof has blown away, glass is broken, and it looks like a mess. The world is a mess.

A red door, ours was green, has been screwed into our open door way. It is open so we enter a new world without our Gran.

From nowhere people, some sad, some less so, arrive at our new door, the knocker sounding so strange. Between them, they have brought some food and drink. My sister sits in the corner cuddling her doll. We’re not hungry and we don’t want to talk either. Mother speaks quietly to some friends. Someone laughs, how cruel, surely they know our Gran is dead.

I look at my sister and without speaking; we go together to stare sadly into our own white hole.

"You think Gran’s in there don’t you." She says.

"Don’t you?" I reply, unwilling to admit to our own fears.

"Yes, let’s fill it in.

People appear from the house, the street, with buckets, shovels and hands. By nightfall, we can stand on the mound that had been our hole. Life can begin again.

"Can we have a look? We shout.

There is no reply.

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In the grey light of the dawn between house and garden just see a pile of fresh chalk in the garden. Gran is peering into it.

Suddenly she cries, "No, no, don’t, there’s something there, in the hole."

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Memorial to National Servicemen
dedicated on a memorable and
historical day for York – 4th April

This Memorial was built to recognise the service of the young men who served in the Navy, Army and Air Force as National Servicemen from 1951 - 1972.

This was truly a great historical event for York, with the parade led by the Irwin Barracks Brass Band dressed in ceremonial uniform. This was the perfect setting for the event. The band was followed by approximately 250 personnel who marched, representing Navy, ex-servicemen, Royal Australian Navy, Veterans, Nurses and the York High School Cadets who led the colour party followed by the magnificent Army Veteran Motor Vehicles.

The parade marched proudly down the main street of York, cheered on by bystanders waving small Australian flags handed out by a group of school children.

Commander Dicks, Senior Naval Officer, took the salute. He was accompanied by Lieutenant Colonel McDonald, Senior Army Officer, Group Captain Peter Stephenson, Senior Air Force Officer, WA, Nabsos Assoc Patron Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) George Howell ED RL, and York Sub-Branch Patron Mr Max Trenorden MLA, leader of the National Party.

The parade was received by the Official Party, which included Ms Judi Moylan MP. Member for York.

On retirement they settled in many countries around the world. Over 25 settled in Western Australia with their families, many becoming Australian citizens.

With old age many have now passed on, but a few remain to be involved in many local organisations including the RSL and the West Australian Police Services.

Lack of members may prevent them marching in future ANZAC Day Parades. I would like to thank the opportunity to say Thank You, for our years in this great State where we entered into hosts of work opportunities and social activities, gaining many friends and feeling completely at home, raising our children and grandchildren in a land we have grown to love and call our own.

Charles Eadon-Clarke
President
Palestine Police Association

Joyce Gaynor
Salvation Army.

Wreaths were assisted by Father Stephen Gaynor performed a spectacular fly past, returning after 30 seconds, to thrill everyone with a vertical bomb burst over the event.

The Memorial respected at the picturesque rose garden at the corner of South and Howick Streets, York.

Members of the York Sub-Branch wish to thank every one who attended, to make it a special day to remember.

Who are the Palestine Police? That’s the question people frequently ask when they see them at the ANZAC Day marches.

It is now appropriate to answer this question. The Palestine Police was a branch of the British Colonial Police who served throughout the colonial possessions during the days of the British Empire.

Those who served in Palestine operated under the British Mandate in the hope of maintaining peace in the troubled region. This was a dangerous situation.

At the outbreak of WW11, the force became a military wing of the British Military Forces in the Middle East.

After the end of the war they served in Palestine until the end of the Mandate in 1948, when its members returned to the UK or transferred to other colonial police forces.
The ANZAC Commemoration service which was held on Saturday morning on the Sunday before ANZAC Day was this year dedicated to Ex-Servicewomen, and was attended by an estimated 230 people, our largest gathering for several years.

The service took place at the Memorial Gardens, with the Annual ANZAC Memorial service preceded by a short march this year led by the South Districts Brass Band. The Mayor was Lii-Col John Burrows and the salute was taken by Mr Rachel Madoc (ex-WAL Officer, 19301). The Address during the Service was given by Mr Roy Whitling, President of the Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch - an interesting account of early days in the WALM and most appropriate for the occasion.

Our guests included the State President, Helen Gwynn and Mrs. Gwynn, the Mayor Mrs. Catherine Gilchrist, Mr. Graham Night, and Mrs. Marilynn West representing the City of Scarborough, and Mr. Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs. The support of members of Bicton/Palmyra ANZAC Sub-Branch, ex-service organisations, and very many individuals with some visiting cadets from Canada was appreciated. Wreaths were laid this year to the accommodation of the 'Sing from the Heart Choir', a pleasant addition to the Service. Even the rain which threatened from the south west veered away at the last moment to allow us all to finish in the dry, and enjoy the refreshments kindly provided by the Melville Returned Services League.

The sub-branch mourns the loss of one of our most popular members, Diane Dillin, who passed away briefly still in the Chair in March was cut short by heart problems which unfortunately led to his death on 23 April. The new President is John Weimartz (ex-RAN), Senior V/F Reg Day (ex-RAF), Junior V/F Jim Frawley (ex-AIF), all WWII veterans.

Regular 'Games Days' are planned for the future by some of our younger (under 90) members, to allow more young people to provide more interest for members, affiliates and their partners.

NOLLAMA

Previous to ANZAC Day 2004, Mr John Brinkworth (President), Mr Bob Wise (Secretary), Mr Greg Jacka (Secretary), Mr Graham Worth (Committee Chairman and Delegate), and Mrs Diana Jones (Committee member) visited eight schools, and in conjunction with the ANZAC Day Sub-Branch, members the ANZAC Day, the membership has increased now to 50.

Praise should be heaped on the Principals and organisers for the outstanding preparations and choirs. The schools were Nollamara Primary, Balga Primary, West Morley Primary, Waddington Primary, Hampton Park Primary, Balcatta Primary, Alexander Park, Camboon Primary, East Balcatta Primary, and Balga Senior High School. As part of the tours, a large poster was given to each school with the attention of the students and wish that the parents who attended.

The sub-branch held their pre-ANZAC Day march on the 18th April and was attended by approximately 400 people. As the marchers passed the Nollamara church the Reverend bathed the service so the attendees could come out and cheer. The troupe from the

WESTERNIA Great War Living History Association led by Bob Wise, was on time, and was most comment along with Stone Lewis and his group of Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club.

Wreaths were laid by the Hon. Mr John Kibbuley MLA, Mr Jan Manion, Mrs Carolyn King President Nollamara Sub-Branch, Mrs Caryn Russell President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mr Stone Lewis President of the WA Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, SS Marmion Authorised Sub-Branch, Mrs Caryn Russell President of the Ladies Auxiliary, Mr Stone Lewis President of the WA Branch of the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club, SS Marmion Australian Sub-Branch, Mr CPO Ron Ridde, RACU Carline Unit by both Nikki and Nita, Navy seaman Marcus Bear, Army CSM Greg Chapman. Graham Worth played the bugle for the Last Post and Reveille and the Ode was given by Mr Bob Wise. Mr Kibouleey, then went to the Ladies Auxiliary for their efforts in serving up a wonderful repeat.

A single wreath was laid by Mr Bob Kociera MP at the dawn service and CPO Charles Callahan laid a wreath in the name of the Rev. Graham Worth by playing the bugle for the Last Post and Reveille.

Resco Jones PRO

CITY OF PERTH

ANZAC Day has been and gone and discussions I've had with numerous personnel who participated in the parade, while many missed the new route and venue. The crowds at all venues indicates that ANZAC Day is getting stronger than ever.

I am sad to report that two of our ladies named away in May, namely Margaret Taylor and Trudy Philpott was the last President of the Ladies Auxiliary for many years and with husband, visited many places, then was a huge part in the organizing of the Annual ANZAC Day Parade and the Veterans Home. Our Collectives are extended to all family members of these two ladies who should be missed.

Members of our branch took part in a great river trip on Wednesday May 19th. On what a beautiful day weather we took a trip on the Swan River, stopping at St John's Island and Snelling, attended a service at the Swan River Memorial. All services were very well attended.

Our extremely versatile Secretary Gus Hansen is presently confined in hospital. We wish to extend our sympathy and hope he recovers soon.

J.L Edwards PRO

NOLLAMA

This is the quiet time of the year when the ‘lucky ones’ go up north for the winter. In the Sub-Branch we sold 400 copies.

It is quite surprising how new members keep coming out of the woodwork, so if you know anyone who has been in any of the services for more than 5 years, including the reserve (male or female) then we would welcome them aboard.

Just a phone call to the office (9721 5962) on any weekday morning is all that it takes. All our, our membership officer is the only too happy to sell such a form to anyone who can’t make it to town.

Our meetings are very short these days but the mailout is always out. Third Wednesday of each month, starting at 7.30 pm.

Our band of collectors helped the St John the Baptist. We collected about $670 in the area of Carley Park in little over an hour. Well done.

The Mothers Day raffle was an outstanding success and the Fathers Day raffle was a great success. These are vital to help cover our running costs and we have the co-ordinator Trevor Kenney and a lot of willing workers to thank for the result.

All Mainstone

BUNBURY

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All Mainstone
The THE MEDICAL

There's a memorial in our village
To the ladies who fought and fell
In two great wars in a long ago
Where they shared a life like hell.

There's a memorial in our village,
And perhaps it's just as true
That the mum and dad
Of those brave lads
Are no longer here to tell.

Of how it has been neglected.
With dirt and sand all round,
It should be more respected
It is ballasted ground.

I went up to the Council,
Just to air my views,
But the words of an old soldier
I hadn't just had but men.
They said that money was short.
There wasn't any spare
So you couldn't afford to keep it up
So no one seemed to care.

But when Armistice Day comes around
It will be swept and spack
So they can come and pay their tribute.
As so old veterans can,
With a nod and an honest silence.
I hope they can recall
That, while we are here,
To see them each day.
These brave lads gave their all.

- Harry Stacey
South Wipinston, Lextoniarl

WHO ARE THESE MEN?

Who are those men who march so proud
Who quietly wipe eyes closed, hands bowed?
These are the men who face the war
Who missed out on youth and all of its joy.
Who are those men with aged faces
Who silently count the empty spaces?
These men, men who gave all
Who fought for their country for all.

Who are those men with sorrowful look
Who still remember the lives that were took?
These are the men who saw young men die
The price of peace is always high.

Who are those men in the midst of pain
Whispered comfort to those they won't see again?
These are the men whose hands held tomorrows
Who brought back our future with tears and sorrow.

Who are those men who promise to keep
Alive in their hearts the ones God holds asleep?
These are the men who to whom
Veterns, my friends, I WILL REMEMBER THEM

- By Julie Johnson (Age 11)

QUICKMATCH

The only water taps her sides
In the blackness of the night:
Asleep, her breathing is so fine
And she's restless for the light.

"Let go forward! Let go!" she shouts at the cry,
Stop out to see an angry look.
For it's where her pleasures lie.

She slips her head in salute
to the names
And they smile upon her while
The her son's yep is lost in
And she turns on a wading song
To the further.

- Graham Focks
FH 7515

The medal – an amazing story

In early September, 2002 there was an ad put in the 'Can You Help' section of the West Australian, by John Meyers, a Gallipoli Historian from Fremantle, seeking people who had a copy of a diary written by his father during his time in New Guinea and France (Ken donated the original to the War Museum in order to have it in any further deterioration), an unbelievable story.

John Meyers is always on the lookout for old medals but mainly Gallipoli medals. Approximately 3 years ago he had a phone call from a medal shop in his spare time telling him of a Stirling Silver medal issued to Army Personnel for long service (over 18 years) called the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Decorative Medal, Gallipoli. He immediately contacted Ken and John offered it to Ken, which he gratefully accepted.

We believe the chances of this happening, a person we had never met or heard of before and living on the other side of Australia, meeting up with us through a notion in a medal belonging to Ken's Grandfather plus being generous enough to pass it back to us!
The Soldier's Chapel – St George's Cathedral

Set back as it is from St George's Terrace, the Anglican Cathedral dedicated to St George in 1930, this building is away among the shopping arcades and offices of the Perth Central Business District that threaten to catch the passer-by. It is a pity as the architecture and furnishings of this century-old building are a delight to the eye of any who take the time to step through the impressive West Doors.

Of particular interest to the readers of The Listening Post would be the Soldiers' Chapel. This chapel was built in 1923 to commemorate the West Australian soldiers and other service personnel who served in the 1914-1918 war. During the years that followed, many have been broadened to commemorate those who served in subsequent conflicts and especially those killed in action, paid as a result of wounds received.

The range of memorials and artistic works vary and contrasting as the Victorian Cross won by Lt. CWK Sadler at Villers-Bretonneux in 1918 and the World War II Bomber Command cross given by a B.E. B. Anderson to his wife the morning before the Krauser left Fremantle on her last voyage in February 1942. There are three rolls of honour encompassing the names of those killed in the 1914-18 war, whilst in service with the Royal Flying Corps in 1918, with the Special Air Service Regiment. A particularly striking feature of the chapel are the re-dedicated engravings and banners of regular defence units and old comrades associations which have been replaced by the Tax Office to provide reminders of the loyalty and steadfastness of those who have gone before.

But of all the memorials, perhaps the most poignant in its simplicity and starkness of structure is the Memorial to the 1st Battalion AIF Memorial Cross erected at Villers-Bretonneux following its recapture by that battalion on the night of 24-25 April 1918, which has eventually re-dedicated and placed in the chapel on Remembrance Day, 11th November 1956.

With such specific reminders of those who did or did not come back, justice, including the freedom to determine what is right and wrong, is not within our competence. This, the Soldiers' Chapel is an appropriate sanctity set aside for the national prayer and thanksgiving.

Any pilgrim, particularly a West Australian, will find the chapel appealing, and will be rewarded for the time taken to visit it.

Booklet to help retirees understand tax

The Tax Office has produced a booklet which provides useful information for retirees, including people who are planning their retirement and those who have already retired.

The booklet, Understanding Tax in Retirement, can be downloaded from the Tax Office website or obtained by phone, the Tax Office on 13 28 61 or visit www.ato.gov.au

To order the booklet, or to find out about other publications the Tax Office has which are relevant to you, please call the Tax Office on 13 28 61 or visit www.ato.gov.au

If you are a member of an organisation and you would like copies of the booklet, or would like to present it to your organisation on tax matters, you may need to speak to 13 28 61.

Presentations can be matched to best suit your needs.

LAST POST

The deaths of the following RSL Members (WA Branch) were recorded at the RSL between April and May 2004

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

FLOYD, Keith, F4545, North Beach
HITHE, A.J., P212, Scabaroburn
JONES, John, R6549, Riverside-Carriean

ARMY

APPLEGATE, Sidney, WX19871, City of Mandurah
BASKER, Leonard, R6859, Albany
BELL, Ronald, 1/21156, Bankstown
BENNETT, WX27102, York
CASEY, Robert, WX36529, Albury
CHAPMAN, WX36529, York
CHAVIS, D.D., WX27102, York
CUMMINS, Donald, WX36529, City of Mandurah
DEAN, WX27102, York
DOUGLAS, WX36529, City of Mandurah
DUFFY, WX27102, York
DUNNE, WX27102, York
FAIRBRAND, WX27102, York
FOWLER, WX27102, York
HUGHES, WX27102, York
JENKINS, WX27102, York
JONES, WX27102, York
KIRK, WX27102, York
LITROW, WX27102, York
MCGUIRE, WX27102, York
McLACHLAN, WX27102, York
McTAVISH, WX27102, York
McWILLIAM, WX27102, York
MORRIS, WX27102, York
MURRAY, WX27102, York
O'CONNOR, WX27102, York
O'BRIEN, WX27102, York
PARKER, WX27102, York
PURCELL, WX27102, York
RUSSELL, WX27102, York
SCOTT, WX27102, York
SMITH, WX27102, York
SPEARS, WX27102, York
STUART, WX27102, York
THOMAS, WX27102, York
TAYLOR, WX27102, York
TURNER, WX27102, York
WHITE, WX27102, York

WOMEN'S SERVICES

BACON on Whithal, Margaret, WX2229, Returned
HENDERSON, Eileen, WX4074, Geraldton City

APOLOGY

We would like to apologise for a mistake in the Last Post section of the last edition of The Listening Post, Volume 27, Number 1. It should have read:

NAVY

WILLIAMS, Adrian, 52549, City of Rockingham
Have you been looking at...

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- Holden Astra
- Toyota Corolla
- Mazda 3
- Mitsubishi Lancer

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