The Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) has presented the Meritorious Medal at its 88th Annual State Congress.

### Meritorious Service Medal

The RSL Meritorious Medal is the highest award that the National Congress may confer for awarding to a member, as an honour over and above the life membership. Qualifying members are nominated by their respective sub-branches, before being reviewed by the State Branch awards committee for prioritising and forwarding to the National Executive.

The allocation of awards is on a prorate membership basis with an annual allocation of two (2) for WA.

This award is presented to those Life Members who have continually demonstrated outstanding and meritorious service and leadership to the League and the community. The minimum qualifying requirements for the award are:

- Members to have been appointed as Life Members of the League;
- Having served 30 years continuous membership of the League; and
- Who, having been in the opinion of the National Executive, provided a minimum of 25 years outstanding service to the League, the veteran community and the wider community.

This award requires the member to be dedicated, loyal and practice the ideals of the Charter of the Returned & Services League of Australia.

The following two West Australian Life Members are worthy recipients of the Meritorious Service Award.

**Mr A D (DACRE) BARTLETT-LENNARD**

Sub-Branch: Berkeley

Life Membership: 2000

Mr Bartlett-Lennard has been an active member of the Berkeley Sub-Branch since 1967 where he held the position of Treasurer until 1992 - a total of 25 years. During this time he also held the position of Pensions/Welfare Officer and is currently a Committee Member for the Sub-Branch Hall in 2003, was presented with his 50 year service certificate - being his 60th year as a member of the Berkeley Sub-Branch. Mr Bartlett-Lennard has spent almost 30 years assisting eligible veterans and their widows lodge claims and continues to visit veterans in the local hospital where he is highly respected in the community of Berkeley.

**Mr KEVIN WILLIAM BACKSHALL**

Sub-Branch: Bayley

Life Membership: 1950

Mr Backshall was awarded Life Membership for his work and dedication to the League in 1950. Since then he has continued to serve on the Sub-Branch Hall in 2003, was presented with his 50 year service certificate - being his 60th year as a member of the Berkeley Sub-Branch.

Mr Backshall has been able to provide a much needed service to the local community and continue to provide a much needed service to the local community.

19 awarded Life Membership

The honour of Life Membership is awarded by the National Executive of the Returned & Services League of Australia to an ordinary member of the League, who has given continuous and outstanding service to the League, been a continuous member of the League for 35 years and who has provided 10 years voluntary service to the League.

Life membership is initiated at the membership sub-branch, reviewed by an awards committee at the State Branch, where it is assessed in accordance with the criteria laid down in the national constitution of the League, for recommendation to the National Executive. When endorsed, the nominee is then selected by the RSL National Executive to ‘Life Member’ of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

The following people received Life Membership:

- **Mr LEONARD ARTHUR BAGLEY**
  - Sub-Branch: City of Mandurah
  - Joined League: 1946

- **Mr DESMOND RICHARD ELLIS**
  - Sub-Branch: City of Mandurah
  - Joined League: 1988

- **Mrs VICTOR ROBERT SIMON**
  - Sub-Branch: City of Cockburn
  - Joined League: 1974

- **Mr JOSEPH HERBERT ROGERS**
  - Sub-Branch: Busselton
  - Joined League: 1946

- **Mrs LILLIAN OLIVE BEVEN**
  - Sub-Branch: Bellevue
  - Joined League: 1987

- **Mr ANTE LIZAVOYCH**
  - Sub-Branch: Beverly
  - Joined League: 1952

- **Mr BRIAN DAXON**
  - Sub-Branch: Armadale
  - Joined League: 1944

- **Mrs MYRTLE A HOOKWAY**
  - Sub-Branch: Fremantle
  - Joined League: 1990

- **Mrs DOREEN LILIAN DEARDEN**
  - Sub-Branch: Armadale
  - Joined League: 1989

- **Mr JAMES KEENAN PATON**
  - Sub-Branch: Fremantle
  - Joined League: 1945

- **Mr KEVIN WILLIAM BACKSHALL**
  - Sub-Branch: Bayley
  - Life Membership: 1950

- **Mr CHRISTOPHER MUNSON MILLSPJr**
  - Sub-Branch: Sub-Branch
  - Life Membership: 1984

- **Mr J ACK SCOTT**
  - Sub-Branch: City of Mandurah
  - Life Membership: 1966

- **Mr ERNEST DIBB**
  - Sub-Branch: City of Cockburn
  - Life Membership: 1950

- **Mr OSMOND (MON) HENDERSON**
  - Sub-Branch: Sub-Branch
  - Life Membership: 1960

- **Mrs KAREN JONES**
  - Sub-Branch: Sub-Branch
  - Life Membership: 1950

- **Mr RONALD CURLEW**
  - Sub-Branch: Bunbury
  - Life Membership: 1960
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STATE VICE PRESIDENT
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S. M. Seers OAM JP

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B. A. Martin

COMMITTEE

TRUSTEES

Deadline: 24 September 2004

Krott Gunning

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Conveyancing and Settlements
Anne Hurley

Enduring Powers of Attorney
David Miller

Family Law
Colin Kaeser

Criminal Law
Michael Clarke

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Last year at State Congress I reported on the initiatives that we had taken to move the RSL into the twenty-first century. I am now able to report that these initiatives are starting to take place and to start producing results.

We have put together a Strategic Plan and our direction and outcomes are regularly monitored to ensure we are progressing along the planned course.

The veteran community acknowledges the RSL as the peak ex-service organisation in Australia and we receive similar status and recognition from the wider community. Our public image is at all time high, our activities are conducted with integrity and our public presentation of our achievements and excellence. This position can be attributed to the collective efforts of our members and the 120 sub-branches established throughout Western Australia.

We have been provided with the opportunity to show a good public image of the RSL as a caring organisation that takes the future planning and development of our country seriously. Many queries have been consulted on many topical issues and our written responses to public comments on social, community and security and veterans' matters.

Our responsible comments, with a willingness to address controversial matters, are acting as a credit to the esteem with the media and the general public.

In every area of our operation, whether it is ceremonial, community activities or any other community interest, we must continue to ensure that we are doing our utmost to benefit the society in which we live.

I believe that we excel in each of these areas and must continue to make progress and take the course with enthusiasm and determination.

Welfare

The welfare of our veterans is our core business and continues to be the main focus of our activities.

I stress, we are there for all veterans, not just RSL members. Our responsibility is to care for the needs of those veterans in distress, irrespective of the circumstances. Our welfare groups at both state and sub-branch levels exist to assist veterans in need, with those who seek our assistance.

All comments and support received with those in genuine need requires an ongoing and vigilant support. Confidentiality is of primary importance and the rights of the individual are well respected by our trained officers.

Throughout this State Branch well over 1400 veterans are distributed annually to those in need.

Fortunately, we are able to access funds for our activities in response to the growing demand for welfare funding. Government grants and the Retirement and Aged Care Act 2002 and the Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund are generously supporting us and this is further supplemented at sub-branch level from the Poppy Day Street Appeal which forms the basis of their Annual Appeals.

In our society we do have needy persons and many of them are from our veteran community. In order to help them to their needs and ensure welfare officers have the means to provide them with care may require assistance. More importantly, we need to be sensitive to the needs of others that may exhibit a personal and caring response, as well as a realistic financial allocation to assist in alleviating their situation.

Our outreach programs continue to operate with Mrs Pat Rowland as a key person in the coordination of the various entities. She is assisted by a dedicated group of volunteers who all give freely of their time. Cypress cottage (our half-way house) and the Services Assistance Programme are the full responsibility of the RSL and the Legal Service, prison welfare and overseas pensioner applications all fall within the overall framework of our welfare operations.

Veterans’ Issues

Veterans’ Affairs issues received prominence during the year with the recommendation in the government’s response, to the Clarke Reviews of Defence Compensation and the implementation of legislation to ensure that there is a good outcome of Rehabilitation and Compensation Act. To be effective the priority list to take to government.

The new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act became effective on 1 July 2001 and he received cautious support from the veterans’ organisation. There is concern that procedures continued to focus on both primary level claims and the array of Defence Affairs and the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme regulations. The Veterans Review Board, however, also occasionally represents veterans at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Advocacy

Our advocacy continues to represent Ex-Servicemen's pensioners in their on-going claims for entitlements. In the last twelve months our senior advocate, Mrs Frey has devoted considerable time to focus on both primary level claims and the appeal process. The Defence Affairs and the Military Compensation and Rehabilitation Scheme regulations. The Veterans Review Board, however, also occasionally represents veterans at the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

Her work extends to providing a service to veterans and pensioners - both within the RSL and to external agencies. The extent of her work with her has in handling Repatriation Medical Authority claims and she has knowledge of the various Department of Veteran Affairs’ laws, policies and procedures.

Her work load is on the increase, with ageing veterans of World War II veterans seeking EDIA pensions.

RLS Retirement & Aged Care Association

The jewel in the crown of the RSL, at the moment, is the intense interest of the Evening Women’s Homes and the Retirement and Aged Care Association was charged to reflect a more flexible and innovative vision. The new sub-branch or a more focused Board of management that better reflected the dual role of development and aged care.

At this point I must acknowledge the generosity of sub-branches that supported our call for funds to service our welfare programme. Their efforts are reflected in the materiastic assistance those in need. In particular, the financial support extended to Department of Veterans Affairs’ Aged Persons Facilities, the State Government and Lotterywest for their continuing support for veterans in funding equipment and events without such support many of these would not be able to place.

ANZAC Club

The ANZAC Club has been the focus of much attention over the past year. Many committee members have been kept fully informed of the procedures that we have imposed in the Club’s operation and the resulting financial losses. I am pleased to say that with the assistance of the financial support the members have undertook to return it to a viable operation.

New Staff appointments resulted in the new President, Mr Graeme Jackson as Executive Officer with a challenge of working with the redevelopment team as well as coordinating the activities of the aged care facilities at Members House and the Meadow Springs in Mandurah. She also has responsibility for Coral Estate, Pearson Village and the Geraldton complex with its Units and outreach programmes.

The restructured Board of Management now has a greater focus on less experienced lawyers and the consultation with the legal profession and those that would be involved in the reprogramming process of the Aged Care facilities and the operational viability of our aged care facilities.

Their Chairperson, Grevine Sherriff is to be congratulated for restructuring such a Board. Treasurer, Brian Martin is also thanked for his professional guidance in placing the whole financial operation on a sound footing. The professional approach by the Board has seen outstanding progress on the redevelopment project and the turning of the aged care facilities into a viable operation.

Sales of our Units and apartments are within our expectations and should be able to complete sales of the first stage before we commence Stage Two. We need to keep the Board on our line of credit at the development stage through a significant positive on our financial commitment to the project.

We anticipate Stage Two will be completed by Stage Two of the contract early in the year.

Finance

Our financial position continues to improve. Some budget controls are in place and the members of the Finance Committee met regularly and through the prudent management of our funds.

There is still a demand of concern but this is being tackled. We still have to suffer some short term losses, but we are focused on long term solutions.

At this point I must acknowledge the generosity of sub-branches that supported our call for funds to service our welfare programme. Their efforts are reflected in the magnificent effort and support to our new Board.

Department of Veterans Affairs have committed to supporting our club and we now have a programme of events for the whole year, with the whole military operation.

This enables us to spend three days with the ANZAC Club on the Quiet Lion Tour to the Burns Memorial Railway as well as participate in the National ‘Café of the year’ programme.

BSL, at all levels, is proud to be involved in youth programmes. The enthusiasm and positive response from the recipients’ schools, families and wider community is proof that our organisation is held in high esteem in the community.

Defence

The Defence Committee has been active throughout the year, particularly with subsides to policy decisions concerning the War in Iraq and on homeland security. The deliberation of the Committee, advice has been of value, and I am pleased to say that I have no hesitation in commenting on the interpretation of defence policy.

To promote the RSL and the beneficiaries, of the State Members Committee has a recruiting and information campaign to be made available at the RSL sub-branches for the Defence Force. The League has been, and still is our target that is well and truly achieved.

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The recent announcements by the government on the issue of a tax on superannuation is not to service in the Australian Defence Forces is a welcome gesture that is well supported by those who serve their country.

While the RSL takes issue with the imposition of the tax on superannuation, it welcomes the initiative and thanks the government for its action.

State War Memorial

The State War Memorial in King’s Park is the focus for the majority of our commemorative services.

We are indeed fortunate to have the services of Mr Don Rowland, Ms Patricia Kaill AM OBE and the Sub-War-Captain from The Highland Sub-Branch, Mr Alex Borland and Mr. John Curr who is an original member of the Sub-Branch and has received a special dedication to this well imposed task. They also participate in the annual solemn ceremonial service held within the precinct.

A recently commissioned government body, continuing our youth activities, is that of the Department of Education and Training in the planning, direction and selection of students is a positive way of promoting this to youth and our commerative activities.

To service our cadet travel programme, we continue to enjoy generous financial support from the Hollywood Private Hospital.

This enables us to send three groups of cadets on the Quiet Lion Tour to the Burns Memorial Railway as well as participate in the National ‘Café of the year’ programme.

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Community War Memorials

War Memorials throughout the State were also the target of a government incentive to encourage local communities to refurbish, and in certain cases upgrade their War Memorial.

This initiative was announced by the Premier of Western Australia, Dr Geoff Gallop when he opened our 2003 Congress. Some 40 communities received grants of up to $10,000 to carry out refurbishment work. On reading each of the submissions I was delighted to see the community involvement in the projects.

We were also delighted when the allocations committee was able to source some funds to assist the Highgate Sub-Branch Honour Avenue Committee with their refurbishment of memorial plaques programme in King’s Park.

The support of the King’s Park and Botanical Gardens Board is also acknowledged. Without their assistance many of the community and commemorative activities associated with the veteran community could not be held. The willingness of the Administration and grounds staff to help us in a feature of the co-operation that exists between both organisations.

Commemorative Services

Our commemorative services on ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day continue to enjoy outstanding community support. This support is not uniform throughout the length and breadth of Western Australia. In Perth the generous funding from Lotterywest enables us to provide facilities for the ever increasing crowds at King’s Park and on Langley Reserve.

Veterans preparing for the ANZAC Day March

This year an estimated 40,000 attended the Dawn Service while some 30,000 witnessed in the March and Service.

At the Dawn Service, the gathering crowds were provided with visual images and appropriate commentary on large television screens of Australian troops on the First and Second World War battlefields.

The ANZAC Day March and Service on Langley Reserve was televised and transmitted over the ABC Network throughout Western Australia so providing a fitting reminder to all of the sacrifices our service men and women made in the defence of their country.

Remembrance Day is also highlighted as we specifically remember our World War I veterans. Sadly, there are but a few left to honour in person, but their deeds and actions will live on and be recognised by future generations.

Remembrance Day is associated with our Annual Poppy Day Appeal and through the generosity of the West Australian public, and the collective endeavours of our members, we are able to swell our welfare fund base to service ever increasing demands on resources to service veterans in circumstances.

The Annual Remembrance Day Dinners also honours that generation and appreciation is extended to the organising committee for making this event possible.

ANZAC Day Act

The government’s review of the ANZAC Day Act was a consultative process, having the opportunity to respond to many of the changes. The most controversial section was the requirement for all government schools to conduct ANZAC Day Commemorative Services. However, for the clarification of several issues the Act received a second reading and is now progressing through parliament.

It is hoped that sub-branches will support schools in the conduct of these services through the provision of quality speakers to ensure due recognition is given to the importance of the Day.

Communications

Effective two-way communication is vital in any organisation. We have been able to provide sub-branches with up to date information through the Sub-Branch Signal and the membership newsletter. The information and items of general interest through the Listening Post.

Both these publications are of high quality in their production is of professional standard. The Editorial Board and the production staff are to be congratulated for their efforts and also for the vision they have in making the issues attractive to the reader and relevant to the target audience.

Remember, The Listening Post is your newspaper and feedback - and written contributions - would be most welcome.

Sub-Branches & Associations

The strength of our organisation is in our sub-branch network. Our 126 sub-branches do a magnificent job, not only in servicing the needs of the Veterans, but also presenting the public face of the RSL to their local community. It is through these communities working in partnership with us we then have a strong voice on service, civil and social issues.

As I visit sub-branches I am impressed at the warmth of the welcome that is offered and of the professional manner in which issues are treated. I have endeavoured to honour all invitations that have been sent to me for meetings, ceremonial occasions and social functions. There is a great deal of pleasure in celebrating your achievements with you and assisting with advice on matters of concern to you when required.

I also acknowledge the members of our Unit and Kindred Organisations. While the RSL is responsible to its membership through the sub-branch network, the input on ceremonial and policy matters is valued and enables the RSL to be aware of the specific needs of members of various associations. The RSL is there to assist all veterans and where possible will work in union to achieve good outcomes.

Working side by side with sub-branches are the ladies of the branch Support Group.

For years they have supported the RSL in social activities, fund raising and catering for, and visiting our elderly and sick veterans. Their work is valued and to their President, Mrs Joan Spoor, their Executive, and the many members throughout that help, we wish you good and that you continue your wonderful work.

Our Disabled Body: The Returned and Services League of Australia Limited meet quarterly in Canberra. Major General Bill Crews AO has our full support as he attends the duties of his office. This Branch is represented by myself and the State Secretary State, if we have the support of both organisations.

Major General Bill Crews AO has our full support as he attends the duties of his office. This Branch is represented by myself and the State Secretary State, if we have the support of both organisations.

The time and effort given by our National Executive is often not appreciated, however many of the benefits we enjoy today are a direct result of their endeavours.

League Awards

The incentive trophies for achievement and excellence at sub-branch level are keenly contested and to the winners we extend congratulations.

To those two members who have been awarded the Meritorious Medal for their efforts. I extend congratulations from all members of RSL. Their service is unsworn and the Peogt points it is now recognised.

Similarly we honour those 19 members who have been honoured with Life Membership. Their collective endeavours have made the League the great organisation it is today.

Acknowledgements

To the State Executive, my thanks for your commitment to the League and loyalty to the State Branch. Your task of serving on committees and representing the membership is a demanding one and hopefully rewarding one. In particular the country representatives do a magnificent job in keeping our country sub-branches in touch. The reports that are received are extremely important to provide the State Executive with a good overview of happenings at our many country branches.

I particularly acknowledge the work of State Secretary Shane Burt, his office staff and his assistant State Secretaries Gary Sutherland and Geoff (Blue) Dunn. Their loyalty, professionalism and willingness to undertake tasks at short notice are very much valued.

Conclusion

We still have a long way to go in the development of the League but I am confident that with the commitment of your elected representatives and the sub-branches we will forge a bright future for the League.

W. E. GAYNOR OAM RFD
STATE PRESIDENT

STATE SECRETARY’S REPORT

Over the past two years there has been a great deal of discussion on the need to carry out urgent repairs and maintenance to our State War Memorial, particularly the undercroft and the crypt.

With the full support of the State Government and the Federal Government, Department of Veterans Affairs the required repairs and maintenance is to commence forthwith.

The programme for the works is:

1. 13 August 2004 Close Tenders
2. 27 August 2004 Appointment Contractor
3. 30 September 2004 Commence progressive tendering of packages
4. 4 October 2004 Establish initial contracts and tenders
5. 10 October 2004 Commence de-construction
6. 6 December 2004 Undertake remedial works
7. 10 January 2005 Commence reconstruction
8. 19 March 2005 Complete reconstruction

As can be seen from this programme, the State War Memorial will not be available for commemorative services from September through to March. These works will NOT cause any disruption to the commemorative services to be continued. Within the Memorial precinct we have the Flame of Remembrance which will be used to conduct the services that are normally held at the State War Memorial.

The use of the Flame of Remembrance during the repair period will in no way defect from the saluting and protocols from any service.

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ANZAC Cottage: Australia's first Gallipoli Memorial

The ANZACs had not left the gullies of Gallipoli when in October 1915 the Western Progress Association formed a committee to build ANZAC Cottage (sometimes spelled ANZAC House) at No 38 Kalgoorlie Street, Gulgong. The ANZAC Cottage Association wanted to perpetuate the name "ANZAC" and build a memorial cottage, in effect, providing a home for a wounded soldier who took part in the famous landing.

Members of the Progress Association had been selling raffle tickets by contributing the large sum of 5 pounds each and the heavily decorated single tickets were sold by volunteer labour on Saturday, January 29th 1916, when about 100 men assembled armed with shovels, axes and saws, to clear the land. At 4pm the Ladies Patriotic Guild regaled the workers with afternoon tea and a red carpet was laid out in front of the standing tree they called "Lone Pine".

The foundation stone, Saturday, February 5th, 70 days laden with donated building materials formed a spectacular procession through the town. James Street, Perth, accompanied by about 150 men all on their way to the building site. Mrs Roberts, the "Soldiers' Queen", loaded the procession in her house, which also carried a boat and a motor car, and was accompanied by two other motor cars. Thus the party of 100 persons, one of cement and planks, one of scaling, one that has seen the rough and the refined. Thousands of them, it was agreed, were to contribute to the building of the cottage. Members of the public between the ages of 21 and 60, some of whom were of the cream of Australian society, were among the contributors.

The cottage was opened on Sunday, October 14th 1922 by a donation of £500 from the widow of the first ANZAC to be killed in action, Mrs Robert Trumper, who was accompanied by her husband and the Mayor of Gulgong. The cottage was opened in 1922 in memory of the 38 men from the district who died in the Gallipoli campaign. The cottage was later occupied by the ANZAC Village, which was a popular gathering place for ANZACs and their families. The cottage was eventually sold to the government and is now the headquarters of the VFWAV.
Mrs Vera Hall

Vera, a mother, grandmother, great grandmother, mother-in-law and wife of sixty years to a long serving past President of the WA Branch of the RSL, Mr Jim Hall, passed away late last night, the 6th of October, 2004. Vera is survived by her three children, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. She was the last of the three widows of the original founders of the Applecross RSL Sub-Branch.

Vera was a dedicated member of her family and community. She was a member of the Applecross Community Club and a supporter of local charities and community events.

Memorial Grove in Baldivis will honour servicemen and women

The Totally & Partially Disabled Veterans Association of WA are to have a memorial grove named after their property on their property on Old Mandurah Road, Baldivis in memory of their servicemen and women who have died in service of the country. The grove will be planted on 30th November at the Memorial Day service at the RSL Sub-Branch in Baldivis. The grove will be named “TheTotally & Partially Disabled Veterans Association Memorial Grove”.

The grove will contain 100 trees, one for each year of service the veteran has given to the country. The trees will be planted in the shape of a wave, representing the sea and the ocean, and also symbolizing the, often, harsh and challenging conditions that the veterans faced.

The grove will be a place of remembrance and reflection for the families of the servicemen and women who have died in service of the country. It will also serve as a reminder of their sacrifice and dedication to their country.

The grove will be maintained and cared for by the families of the servicemen and women who have died in service of the country. The families will be invited to participate in the planting and maintenance of the grove.

The grove will be open to the public and will be a place of reflection and remembrance for all who have lost a loved one in service of the country.
88th Annual Congress a resounding success

Despite a short Congress Agenda, the 88th Annual Congress provides a forum for the debate of several key issues. It was attended by the President of the League of Western Australia, Mrs. Yole, and by several other delegates. Mrs. Yole also announced that the Government would support the refurbishment of the State War Memorial at Kings Park with $445,000 to match the State Government’s contribution to this programme.

Senator Mark Bishop, Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, spoke on aspects of the government’s Veterans’ Affairs programme and further outlined some of the oppositions direction on this major issue currently before the Department of Defence and Veterans’ Affairs.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, the Hon. John Sinclair AC, Governor of Western Australia, formally opened the Congress and in his address listed the major achievements of State Branch in the past year. He also urged the ex-service community to be vigilant on social issues but at the same time zealously guard the gains that had been made with respect to benefits. The importance of a good public image was also stressed and seen as the baseline for public support.

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ANZAC House and Club to be upgraded

At Congress 2003 a great deal of concern was expressed regarding the trading positions and the future of the ANZAC Club. A number of suggestions were put forward by various delegates and these were used as a basis for improvement. The State Executive commissioned the Finance Committee (airing as the ANZAC Club Board) and the ANZAC House sub-committee to put in place a number of strategies to arrest the continual high losses and lack of turnover within the social, recreational and catering facilities at the Club.

To arrest a decade of ongoing losses that have plagued the ANZAC Club, a complete review of all financial practices was carried out. As a result, the following strategies have been put in place:

- New budgeting procedures and financial reporting formats.
- New Stock recording and reconciliation procedures.
- New utilisation made more efficient and flexible.
- A staff development program to ensure staff is up to date with what is happening with similar organisations.

These changes and efficiencies initiated will not turn our plight around immediately; nevertheless improvements are slowly starting to become apparent.

As a further initiative an architect was brought in to draw up plans to upgrade the decor and amenities of both the ANZAC Club and ANZAC House.

This upgrade includes a new look to club furniture in the club, Gallipoli Room and administration. The foyer ceiling is to be lowered, improved lighting and relocation of the doors to the club is planned. An a la carte dining area is proposed for the VC room, with the manager's office making up the greater part of a reading room and club lounge at the entrance to the dining area. The servery and bar area would also be modified to make them more efficient and attractive to our patrons.

The toilets will be modified by shifting the doors to ensure greater privacy and the inclusion of a toilet for the disabled is planned.

On the upper level improvements to the Administration area will result in better utilisation of space and the creation of a reception foyer with the inclusion of a security door. The Gallipoli and Board Room will be modified by raising the ceiling with the installation of improved lighting.

To achieve all of this we first need approval of the Department of Justice and the Liquor Licensing Department, and those approvals are being sought.

Funding for this project is by way of grants and no League funds will be used. By way of interest an agreement has been reached with Carlton United Breweries to upgrade the beer dispensing facilities as soon as the modifications are completed.

A very important factor for the survival of the ANZAC Club is membership. The club operates on a club license and as a result only members of the club can use the facilities. Because the members of the RSL are automatically members of ANZAC Club one would think that we should have no trouble getting people through the door, but sadly that is not the case. Only a very small percentage of the membership (less than 40 per cent) use the facilities. As a result it is necessary to seek membership from outside the RSL. This has prompted the need to modify the image of the building to make it more appealing to prospective members.

On a brighter note, interest has been shown in hiring out sections of the building on a daily and weekly basis by local and eastern states firms. This is a valuable revenue source for the State Branch. All of our aims and objectives are measured as long as we have the support of our membership. A vibrant and successful ANZAC Club can produce the sort of income that can ensure the viability of the Club and allow us to provide the quality of service that our members desire.

W.E. Gwynn OAM RDF
STATE PRESIDENT

Bill Coolburra: 'I am proud to call him my brother'

By George "Swan" Wilson

Clarence William Bill Coolburra joined the ARA in 1962 at age 17. On completion of Recruit Training at Kapooka he was allocated to the RAE Corps and sent to Matoumba for Corps Training. Bill then was posted to 1st Field Squadron as a Cheif Engineer. During 1964 was a busy year for young Bill and the squadron executed a basic parachute course, culminating in the installation and finally the deployment of the Squadron to Sabah (the old Borneo); together with 7 Field Squadron who had just completed a six months tour commencing construction of a road for the Malaysian Government to make the area more accessible if the confrontation with Indonesia escalated.

During this time Bill was employed in all aspects of road construction including the "new boy". On our return from Borneo we took annual leave and Bill was able to secure employment as a laborer for service in South Vietnam with 2 Div. This was the first Engineers to serve as an independent force.

After our tour in Borneo together, it was only natural for Bill and I to team up again and we lived, worked and played together both in and out of uniform.

The Hobo: Words January 1966, whilst attempting to rescue Bob Bowtell, Bill was spent and Medevaced out by Chopper to the Big Red 1 (7th Infantry Division) Medical Centre. Here his vital signs were so low that he was placed in the morgue, prepared dead. Bill swears to this day that the African-American who was on duty supervising this area, turned over the body when he sat up demanding where the hell he came from.

Bill was wounded again by sniper at Operation Silver City in March, putting him in the uncomfortable position of being one of the few men to be wounded twice before he was 21 years old, or allowed to vote (certainly the only full blood Aboriginal, who did not get the right to vote until 1967).

After returning from SVN in September 1966, we were again off in August 1967, this time to Malaysia. Bill married Edna on his pre-embarcation leave - causing much confusion as he was posted as a single man. However, after a couple of months a married quarter was organised and Bill's bride joined him, which certainly curtailed our "playing around", and this would be understandable.

After Malaysia Bill and I went our separate ways (1969) happening in the Green Machine, but kept in touch. Bill served in Townsville, Singapore, Buckland before being discharged at his own request (due to the death of one of his children).

Bill returned to Palm Island where he became a Lay Preacher in the Catholic Church and a Tribal Elder until ill health forced him to retire.

VVCS commemorate the Battle of Long Tan

Staff from the Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service (VVCS) will participate in activities on the 30th of August commemorating the Battle of Long Tan.

VVCS staff will be attending Long Tan services and laying wreaths in Margaret River (Koonjara Aboriginal), Rockingham/Port Kennedy (Allison Rasmussen) and Mandurah (Sandhrah Hartmann).

Long Tan Day has special significance for Vietnam Veterans. Long Tan day commemorates the loss of 147 Australians and Viet-Cong at Nui Dat on the 18th August 1966. Nui Dat was the first base for the 1st Australian Task Force’s Phoc-Pho operations.

In all, 18 Australians were killed, 24 wounded and 245 Viet-Cong were killed during the battle.
New programme helps trauma victims

Everyday the media reports a never-ending succession of horrific accidents, violent robberies, sexual assaults and natural disasters taking place around Australia and the world.

If these reports are upsetting to watch, you can imagine the negative psychological impact such events cause to those involved.

In fact, if left untreated, the symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder can be just as devastating as any physical injuries sustained.

A unique Hollywood programme is now helping people to recover from the serious effects of trauma.

The Trauma Recovery Programme is facilitated by a dedicated team of mental health professionals in The Hollywood Clinic, Hollywood Private Hospital's mental health unit.

Some of the aims of the Trauma Recovery Programme include providing a safe environment for people to help the patient to understand and explore the impact of the trauma, as well as developing anxiety management strategies and positive ways to enrich life.

Clinical Director and Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Brendan Jansen, said it was vital that people who had experienced a trauma seek medical help as soon as possible.

"There is clear evidence that this disaster was not treated, can lead to long term health, social, intellectual and family problems," Dr Jansen said.

"A very special aspect of the programme is Art Therapy, which helps participants communicate their feelings in powerful, non-verbal ways."

Trauma Recovery Programme Coordinator Dr Robert Segal said, "After a trauma, it's difficult to file away our memory of what happened, putting it to the back of our mind. As if we are trying to pack the event away into a box.

"In this way the content of the box becomes like a ghost that we are terrified of confronting. As part of therapy it's important that we confront this fear, open the box and inspect the contents for what it really contains."

The recent pilot of Trauma Recovery has been a great success with very positive changes achieved by participants.

The Hollywood Clinic has now made the Trauma Recovery programme available to the general community.

All enquiries to The Hollywood Clinic, part of Hollywood Private Hospital, on telephone: (08) 9333 8000.

Bill Sedman (CBE) has worked in a voluntary capacity at Hollywood Private Hospital since 1985 as an Official Hospital Visitor.

At 84 years of age and after almost 20 years as a hospital visitor, Bill has decided the time has come for him to hand in his badge.

Bill said he had thoroughly enjoyed his time at Hollywood and couldn't have imagined a better place to volunteer his services.

"I have been very happy volunteering at Hollywood. I've got nothing but praise for the hospital."

"Hollywood has become my second home and the staff are my friends."

Bill was in active service for almost four years and was in Darwin during the bombing of 1942. He has been associated with Hollywood since this time, when upon his return he was admitted for malaria.

"We greatly value Bill's contribution and we thank him. Bill will be sadly missed," said Hollywood Private Hospital, Executive Director, Kevin Cass-Ryll. "He has been a great source of strength and understanding for the many veterans he has assisted over the years.

"Bill's exciting plans for the future include travelling with his son on The Ghan Railway from Adelaide to Darwin, where he will visit the war museum and donate photographs and historical memorabilia from his WWII service in Darwin.

Hollywood salutes you Bill.

Hollywood’s ongoing commitment to care

This year, the Australian Red Cross celebrates the 30th anniversary of its Perth Soup Pated Service.

Each evening for 30 years, the soup patrol van has made its way across Perth to Hollywood Private Hospital to collect urs of soup for Western Australians in need.

Red Cross Senior Manager, Community Services, Barbara Holfin said the support of Hollywood Private Hospital is critical.

"Basically, we would not be able to run the Soup Patrol Service were it not for the generous support of Hollywood.

"Over the three decades that Hollywood has been providing the soup, we estimate it would have cost the Red Cross $350,000 to purchase the soup just for the Perth service," said Ms Holfin.

Sadly, the number of people requiring this service has dramatically increased over time, however with Hollywood's ongoing support the Red Cross has been able to keep up with demand.

Hollywood Private Hospital's Executive Director, Kevin Cass-Ryll said, "Hollywood is proud to have supported and increased this worthwhile service for the last three decades."

"Every night soup that is made by the hospital's award-winning chefs is placed in urns and loaded into the Red Cross soup patrol van. Hollywood is very proud to partner with the Red Cross service in feeding 10,500 West Australians each year.

"I congratulate the Australian Red Cross and its Perth Soup Patrol Service on the vital work it continues to do and on reaching this fantastic 30 year anniversary."
The City of Mandurah has recently announced Hames Sharley will design and construct their War Memorial to be located on the City's western foreshore.

Chairman of the War Memorial Committee Brett Clement said that the three designs which were presented for consideration by the committee applied varied approaches to the brief developed by members but the tenderer that ranked highest in the scoring was Hames Sharley. "The Mandurah War Memorial Committee is well represented with members of the Returned Services League, ex-service men, elected members and the local community. These representatives worked diligently with a representative of the State Headquarters RSL to ensure that the design brief met all the requirements of a war memorial whilst taking advantage of the spectacular waterfront location," said Mr Clement.

The preferred tenderer Hames Sharley is a highly respected architectural firm that has been involved in the design and construction of many Mandurah and state iconic designs, including the Mandurah Performing Arts Centre, The Swan Bell Tower and Northbridge Platea Helia.

"In their design presentation and formal tender submission, Hames Sharley noted the significance of this memorial to the Mandurah community, clearly stating that the role of the design was to allow a range of uses, including a place of public ceremony, individual reflection, collective consolation, respect, recognition and communal solace and most importantly – a place of memories that will not be forgotten," Mr Clement said.

"The design has embraced this philosophy and is striking in its simplicity and stature. Features of the memorial include an axis on which the sun rises on ANZAC Day, a remembrance stone made from a block of granite donated by the RSL and a water feature that dips into the estuary. It will be particularly moving at the dawn service on ANZAC Day when the rising sun will light up the carefully orientated reflecting faces of bold white columns and create a temporary golden light to the memorial, which will be further enhanced by the line of dark shadows cast along the axis. The design has encapsulated the very essence of a war memorial and honours the enormous contribution of Australian servicemen and women who served in conflicts in which Australia was involved," said Mr Clement.

For further information, please contact:
Ms Tammy Wayne
Tel No: 9550 3777
Communications Officer
Fax No: 9550 3889

Submissions invited from sub-branches on Governance of the League

The executive governance policy of the State Branch has been in operation for just on three years. It has proved to be a useful transitional arrangement to carry the League into a sound business environment.

In accordance with our Strategic Plan it is time now to progress our governance policy. To review current and possible future structures, the Constitution Committee has established a working party to undertake such a review.

The Executive Officer of this review is Assistant State Secretary - Projects, Mr G. J. Sutherland OAM and sub-branches are invited to make written submissions to the working party for their consideration.

Topics you may wish to consider could include:
• Structure of State Executive – How many?
• Profile – who do they represent?
• Terms of Office – length of time?
• Method of election or appointment
• Qualifications of members – sub-branch experience?
• Executive governance – Board of Directors
• Any other suggestions

We intend to operate the following timeline:
• Written submissions close – 30 October 2004
• Working draft issued – 30 November 2004

Comments on draft close – 28 February 2005
Discussion paper with recommendations issued – 30 March 2005

Should the recommendations receive wide acceptance from the membership it may be worthwhile considering holding a special congress to enable any new system to be in place for the 2005 round of elections.

Further information on the project should be directed to Mr Sutherland at ANZAC House.

Return to Greece for Veterans

Four WWII veterans returned to Greece and Crete to pay their respects at Anzac Day ceremonies in May 2004, at their own expense. Mr 'Blue' Heron (2/11th Bn) and his daughter Judy O'Brien (2/11th Bn) and Dawn Taylor, Mal Herrick (2/11th Bn) and John Anderson (2/2nd Ed Army) were welcomed with open arms and were feasted on Greek hospitality.

Congratulations must go to Stuart Hume, the Australian Ambassador to Greece and his staff for their participation and welcome and also to Col. Mal Regden, attached to Rome.

Head and heart insurance.

Insurance buying decisions are usually made with your head... emotions play no part in making a considered purchase.

Well have you considered using both? Sure, an RSL Insurance Management House & Contents or Motor policy satisfies the head criteria, because it is extremely price and features competitive – for instance, our House & Contents cover includes flood and accidental damage up to $5,000 with a nil excess.

But with our cover, your heart may want to have its say too...

Unlike all other policies, an RSL Insurance Management policy helps all RSL members, especially those who are disadvantaged, because with every policy you take out with us, a good chunk of the premium goes back to the RSL to help continue their supportive work throughout the RSL community.

So please, definitely use your head, but listen to your heart too and call us for a quote on 1800 816 312.
Your RSL – providing quality Aged Care and Accommodation in WA

The care of our Aged Veterans is an important aspect of RSL operations. The RSL Retirement and Aged Care Association Inc. continues to progressively rebuild its purpose as providing quality lifestyle for older people rather than merely supplying accommodation and services. Our Management Development Process now in place will ensure that not only will we meet the needs of our aged in today's climate, but whatever we plan, implement, or build will also meet the needs and demands of future residents into the next 5 to 10 to 15 years.

PERTH

The Mt Lawley / Menora campus is located only 4 kilometres from the Perth Central Business District. It comprises two separate sites in close proximity, namely, Peason Village and the new Menora Gardens Estate.

This part of the metropolitan area remains a favored location by older people as it is only 5 to 10 minutes by car or bus from the CBD and is in a central and convenient position for access by family and friends.

Pearson Village has 33 x 1 bedroom and 25 x 2 bedroom, non-industry Independent Living Units in total. Prices range from $25,000 to $110,000. The first Stage was built in 1976 and the second Stage built in 1981.

The Menora Gardens Estate is located on a larger site. Mt Lawley consists of 4.6 hectares of land granted to the RSL in May 1967 for the sum of $11,500.

Buildings on the site built between 1962 and 1968 have been demolished, with the only buildings remaining being the 46 hostel units with ensuites built in 1992 and the relatively newer Houses Centre with 52 units with ensuites officially opened on 5th September 1998. We currently have 25 residents in care at this location.

Mandurah

At Mandurah we have two separate developments located some eight kilometres apart.

The Mandurah RSL Village was the first RSL homes project in this area and is located in the outer part of Mandurah. This group consists of 21 x 2 bedroom Independent Living Units built in 1988. These units represent a market value of approximately $285,000. They are located at the rear of the RSL Hall site in Third Avenue near the Mandurah bypass and are very close to the Mandurah shopping centre and Mandurah railway.

In 2002 the Coal Estate complex was completed, consisting of 27 x 3 bedroom IllUs adjoining the same RSL Hall site. These IllUs represent a value of some $164,000.

The Meadow Springs Hostel is situated at Oakham Avenue in the subdivision of Meadow Springs and is approximately 4 km from the Mandurah CBD. This site has an area of some 7,500m². The RSL also owns a 2,600m² vacant lot of which the rear joins the northern side boundary of the Hostel site.

This Hostel was built in 1993 with 55 host in-suite rooms. It comprises of 6 ‘house’ units each having its own kitchen and laundry to suit the needs of residents of all levels of mobility, connecting to a central administration building.

The Administration Centre provides several essential services that adds the function of the hostel, kitchen and office.

Menora Gardens Estate comes to life

Momentum is building at the new Menora Gardens Estate with residents enthusiastically waiting to take up occupancy of their new homes. What a wonderful start to a whole new life with quality homes and facilities second to none. Reservations have been sold as long as we plan it is planned that the first 20 Independent Living Units (IllUs) will be ready in August 2004.

The Village will then take life. As a result we are working hard with our builder Doric Constructions to take possession of all the IllUs within the budgeted timeframe. Some small delays have been experienced with the delivery of bricks and inclement weather; however, the project is progressing as anticipated well. Of the 57 IllUs at varying stages of construction, 32 have now been sold and the remaining 25 IllUs left to be purchased.

As the Independent Living Unit will be sold out, intended residents of Menora are focusing on the new 20 unit, non-industry apartment building known as ‘Highview’. Construction progress of the ‘Highview’ apartment building continues at a very fast pace with residents enthusiastic and looking onward to their new lifestyle and new independence.

New 120 Bed Care Facility

As part of the new Menora Gardens Estate an additional new Aged Care Facility is to be built on site. Architects for this project will shortly be appointed. It is envisaged that construction will commence by September 2005, the project taking approximately 12 months to complete.

Construction will be in the form of three levels with basement parking of some 75 parking bays. It is planned that laundry facilities will be located at basement level.

The ground floor will provide for 70 Jeds, which will include 23 dementia residents. 30 to 55 beds will be located on the first floor.

It is planned to have large occupational and physiotherapy rooms and a medical suite for visiting Doctors. The new Care Facility will adjoin our existing Houses Centre and will be purpose built for future expansions. The Facility will be built so as to take advantage of the views to the Menora Gardens central park area.

This new Care Facility is a bright step forward in confirming our commitment to the Veteran Community and the public at large, in providing superior services, ensuring a high quality of life for those reaching their senior years.

The provision of ‘quality’ care to our Aged is a high priority and is part of the RSL Retirement and Aged Care Association Mission Statement.

Our Geriatrician campus consists of the RSL Hostel and the RSL Village. Both developments are located on a 1.5 hectares site that lies between Gregory and Francis Streets. The land was vested as a Crown Grant to the RSL on 29th November 1937.

The complex is conveniently located approximately one kilometre to the north of the RSL Gardens Central Business District and three quarters of a kilometre from the Regional Hospital.

The Hostel comprises of nine ensuite rooms structured around a central lounge, dining and kitchen. A nine room hostel is not a viable proposition. Subsequent to much deliberation the decision was made to close the hostel some 2 years ago.

The hostel has now come back to life, opening again on the ANZAC Day weekend in the form of the ‘RSL GUEST LODGE’.

Essentially the RSL Guest Lodge is the ideal choice of accommodation for adults, youth and elderly groups and is located only minutes from the town centre.

The RSL Village has been constructed at the southern end of the site and has its entry from Francis Street. It consists of 23 x 2 bedroom Independent Living Units, 3 x 3 bedroom and 3 x 1 bedroom units. These IllUs are very affordable being priced from $110,000 to $125,000.

In addition, at Geralton we have 13 Units available on the site whereby care is delivered in the homes of residents.

For bookings and further enquiries please telephone (08) 9843 1306.
The Army Museum of WA – the battle continues

About The Museum

The Army Museum of WA was initially established in 1977 and was located at the site of the historic barracks which was an existing defence premises in North Perth. The museum was relocated to Artillery Barracks in Burt Street, Fremantle in 1995. Those historic barracks dating from 1910 and are state registered "Historic Places". Barracks left within the State remaining under Commonwealth control.

The collection encompasses material from the pre-Federation period to the present day, covering both from time Army units as well as the involvement of Western Australia in all major conflicts and operations that Australia was engaged in throughout this period. These includes the First World War, Second World War, Korean War, Vietnam and the more recent peacekeeping operations such as East Timor.

Opening Hours

The Museum is currently open Wednesday 11am until 5pm, and Saturday and Sunday 12.30 to 4.30pm. Admission charges are $5.00 for adults, $3.00 for children and free for members (adults and unlimited children).

RSL members and readers of The Listening Post are entitled to free entry to the museum. Sub-branch groups and Unit Associations are invited to organise group tours of the museum. Booking should be arranged for Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

You can contact the museum on (08) 9353 2077.

Your Veterans' Affairs committees continue...

Chairman: Ross O'Connor
Secretary: Ken Morrison
Treasurer: Des McDonnell
Deputy Secretary: Norm Johansen
Director: John Trethowan
Assistant Director: Tony Thatcher
Assistant: Les Steele
Assistant: Philip Steele

In the last 18 months Your Veterans' Affairs (VAC) has spent considerable time and effort reading, digesting and responding to the Federal Government's new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCRA) of 2004. We also appeared in front of the Senate Estimates Committee in Perth to give further submissions on this Legislation.

As we know, this Act is now law, and we of the RSL, along with other Service Organisations (ESOs) have been able to influence the law makers to some extent, so thanks to those of you who made those submissions.

Unfortunately, we were unable to influence the government's thinking on the 'senior clause', Section 51C, which allows off payment of compensation at age 65.

Appropriate treatment continues...

However, we have not given up on this or other issues, and we will continue to lobby for better treatment in some of the provisions of the new Legislation.

We are happy to have our ability to influence the Government's thinking on the 'senior clause', Section 51C, which allows off payment of compensation at age 65.

In this instance, and to allow those veterans who will report on these matters in this column.

In past years, your VAC has quietly gone about the business of representing the membership of the RSL, and has had considerable success in their pursuits and endeavours.

It has now been decided that we should advise our members and interested to date on just what VAC is doing on your behalf.

Perhaps more importantly, your VAC is trying to influence new legislation.

 Welfare matters, dealing with both State and Federal Government Departments, is just a few of the areas the RSL members are concerned with, and if we can be of assistance, we will be only too happy to provide whatever help we are able.

Please, remember, we are human too, and there are limitations on what we are able to achieve, but rest assured, we will give all matters our best efforts.

By now those persons receiving Accrued General Rate (AGR) payment from DVA have been informed of the 9% increase from Thursday, 22 July 2004.

Your VAC believes this increase must be applied to all recipients of AGR, and in any payments whether AGR or General Rate (G/R) paid.

To do any less than lobby for all disability payment recipients of the VEA to be treated as equally would be unthinkible.

After, injuries and/or disabilities received in service of Australia are dealt with equally under the Veterans' Entitlements Act, which is the Act of Parliament (Law) that governs the Administration of Veterans'
A LOT TO FIGHT FOR
The War Diaries and Letters of Squadron Leader J. E. Jackson DFC

A LOT To Fight For is a vivid chronological account of the wartime life, impressions, thoughts, reflections and opinions of RAAF pilot, Squadron Leader J. E. Jackson, DFC, who was a Queensland grazier and businessman, prior to enlisting as a pilot when war broke out in 1939.

Jackson spent a year serving with 3 Squadron in the Middle East. He returned to Australia and became an instructor, until he was given command of 75 Squadron, an operational unit in New Guinea. He was killed in action in the defence of Port Moresby in 1942.

The book is edited by Jackson's children (Patricia and Arthur) and contains letters and ejaculations by Jackson. Jackson's recordings impart insight into his personal and military life, the text is interspersed with numerous anecdotes, many of which portray the sense of humour inherent within the man.

Throughout the entries Jackson frequently expresses grief at the loss of mates, provides forthright opinions regarding other pilots and the aircraft they operate, relates rumours and blunders and expresses opinions as to how he believes the war should be fought.

This book provides one of the few surviving written accounts of events written as they occurred, as it was against air force regulations to maintain a diary, write on active service. Letters home from servicemen overseas were also often discarded after being sent, therefore the contents are historically significant. Also of historical interest are Jackson’s references to family life and business in Australia, during that period. The greater side of Jackson recounts to his family, farming methods operations in other countries, which are also of interest.

The publication contains photographs, maps and appendices, which are related to Jackson’s notes on air fighting, 3 Squadron victories, a record of his final combat and excerpts from letters received since the book’s first publication.

This book is a labour of love. The format is interesting and very easy to read. It would make a great Fathers’ Day gift. The publication would also be appropriate for youth exhibiting interest in our wartime military history, as it is easy to read and gives a personal perspective on war, unlike many of the academic texts available.

First published in 2001, by E. A. Jackson
ISBN 1 874194-24-3
270pp including maps and 35 pages of photos and extracts
Softback
AUD $35 (including GST), plus postage $7
Enquiries to E. Jackson, Phone 07 5641 1362
PO Box 6057, St Lucia, QLD 4067
Email: p.m.Jackson@iinet.net.au

A GREAT CAST
1 in 10

HATCHING AN AIR FORCE
2 SFTS, 5 SFTS, 1 BFTS
Uranquinty and Wagga Wagga

Peter liber

Hatching an Air Force is a referenced text detailing the history of the Service Training Schools, based at Uranquinty and Wagga Wagga during World War II. The book contains relevant maps, photographs and logbook entries. The book is well written and would appeal to military historians or former World War II airforce students who learn to fly at the bases. It would make a great Father’s Day gift for those who trained or served at Uranquinty or Wagga Wagga during the war.

Published in 2002, by Banner Books
ISBN 1 870593 34 1
219pp Paperback

Website: www.warbooks.com.au
AUD $54 (including postage, packing and GST)

DEFENDERS OF AUSTRALIA
THE THIRD AUSTRALIAN DIVISION

Alber Plazzo

The 3rd Division was Australia’s longest serving division. It was raised in 1916, its first commander was Major General Monash. The main body of soldiers in this division came from Victoria, however, reinforcements did come from all other states. Possibly the most famous unit in the 3rd Division would be the 9th Battalion, because of its gallant stand on the Kokoda Track.

The soldiers of the 3rd Division describe just how important the natives were in achieving victory over the Japanese. Robert Capron, a wireless operator who lived his life to one local lad, who died into the Yellow River and dragged him out before he was swept downstream. This is a well researched history of The Third Division, from its formation Through to 1991. The book is very well referenced and great to read.

This is another well researched book that would be an excellent reference book for military buffs young and old. A great gift for Father’s Day.

Published by Australian Military History Publications
13 Veronica Place, Loftus 2232
Available from: The War Book Shop, 13 Veronica Place Loftus 2232.
Phone 12 9542 6771 or other good bookshops.
Website: www.warbooks.com.au
ISBN: 1-876439-03-3
245pp Hardback
AUD $45 (including postage packing and GST)

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NO. 1 ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:
Moved: Beliveau
Seconded: Somerton
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THE AMENDMENTS TO THE RL.WA BRANCH CONSTITUTION, RULES 8 & 9 AS DETAILLED BELOW, THEY ARE:
RULE 33 A
DELETE RULE CURRENT 33 A AND INSERT:
"RULE 33 A. THE OFFICE OF THE STATE PRESIDENT AND THE OFFICE OF BOTH STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE TERMINATED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STATE CONGRESS AFTER THEIR ELECTION."
RULE 37.09
FIRST LINE AFTER: "PURSUANT TO DELETE RULE 25.9B, AND INSERT" Rule 27.9B.
BY-LAW 8.2 D
DELETE THE CURRENT BY-LAW 8.2 D.
8.2 D "THE OFFICE OF THE STATE PRESIDENT AND THE OFFICE OF BOTH STATE VICE-PRESIDENTS SHALL BE FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS AND WILL BE DEEMED TO HAVE TERMINATED AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE THIRD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE STATE CONGRESS AFTER THEIR ELECTION."
BY-LAW 8.5 1
SECOND LINE AFTER THE WORD "DELETE" DELETE "AT THE ANNUAL MEETING" INSERT "AT THE END OF THREE YEARS AT AN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING."
BY-LAW 8.5 4
DELETE THE ENTIRE WORD "DELETE AND INSERT"".
BY-LAW 8.5 5
SECOND LINE WORD "THREE" DELETE AND INSERT "SIX".
BY-LAW 8.5 6
SECOND LINE WORD "THREE" DELETE AND INSERT "SIX" WHERE IT APPEARS.
BY-LAW 8.7 1
FIRST LINE AFTER WORD "VOTING" DELETE WORD "HOWEVER, IN THE CASE OF A TIED VOTE, THE NAME DRAWN FIRST AT THE RETURNING OFFICER" AND INSERT "AND WHERE THERE IS AN EQUALITY OF VOTES CAST, THE PERSON NOMINATED IN THE ELECTION SHALL BE DETERMINED BY LOT CONDUCTED BY THE RETURNING OFFICER."
NO. 2 YEARLY CLASPS ON RSL BADGES
Moved: City of Mandurah
Seconded: Osborne Park
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS VOTE TO REINSTATE THE YEAR CLASP FOR THE RSL BADGE.
NO. 3 AFFILIATE MEMBERS
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THAT AFFILIATE MEMBERS BE GRANTED THE SAME RIGHTS WITHIN THE RSL AS ORDINARY AND LIFE MEMBERS IN ORDER THAT THEY CAN DO THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH THIS CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBERS HAS BEEN CREATED.
WITHDRAWN
NO. 4 VOTING RIGHTS AFFILIATE MEMBERS
Moved: Port Kennedy
Seconded: Kalgoozie
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THAT AFFILIATE MEMBERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE POSITIONS OF PRESIDENT AND SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE PARTICULAR SUB-BRANCH TO WHICH THEY BELONG.
WITHDRAWN
NO. 5 AFFILIATE MEMBERS FEES
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS RESOLVE THAT AFFILIATE MEMBERS DO NOT HAVE AFFILIATE MEMBERS FEES, THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO PAY CAPITATION FEES TO STATE HEADQUARTERS AND THIS REDUCTION TO BE REFLECTED IN AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP FEES.
WITHDRAWN
NO. 6 CLARKE REPORT
Moved: City of Cockburn
Seconded: Rockingham
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THIS VIEW BE MADE AVAILABLE TO AFFILIATE MEMBERS AS A GUIDE TO مواضBY THE 2003 STATE CONGRESS IN ORDER THAT IT MAY BE DEBATED LOCALLY, THEN SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE NEXT NATIONAL CONGRESS.
CARRIED
NO. 7 CONCESSIONS TO VETERANS
Moved: Belmont
Seconded: Ellenbrook
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT TO LEGISLATE TO ENSURE CONCESSIONS GRANTED TO VETERANS ARE AVAILABLE ACROSS AUSTRALIA WITH THE MOST GENEROUS CONCESSION FOR EACH CONCESSION BEING THE BENCHMARK.
CARRIED
NO. 8 VIETNAM VETERANS COUNSELLING SERVICE
Moved: City of Mandurah
Seconded: East Vic Park & Vietnam Vets
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION, THROUGH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, TO AMEND THE NAME OF THE VIETNAM VETERANS COUNSELLING SERVICE TO VETERANS SERVICE VETERANS.
WITHDRAWN
CARRIED (with amendments)
NO. 9 NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE INCREASE OF THE GENERAL RATE OF DISABILITY PENSION TO CPI OR MWAGE WHICH EVER IS HIGHER
Moved: Highgate
Seconded: Bassendean
NO. 10 NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF RENT ASSISTANCE TO WAR WIDOWS
Moved: Highgate
Seconded: Bassendean
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THAT AFFILIATE MEMBERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE ON THE POSITIONS OF PRESIDENT AND SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENTS OF THE PARTICULAR SUB-BRANCH TO WHICH THEY BELONG.
WITHDRAWN
NO. 11 NOTICE OF MOTION FOR THE EX GRATIA PAYMENT TO AFFILIATE MEMBERS
Moved: Highgate
Seconded: Bassendean
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE IMMEDIATE PAYMENT OF RENT ASSISTANCE TO WAR WIDOWS.
CARRIED
NO. 12 INDEXATION OF DISABILITY PENSION
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS RECOMMEND TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INDEX THE DISABILITY PENSION SO THAT IT IS IMPACTED TO THE MWAGE WHICHER IS THE GREATER.
WITHDRAWN
NO. 13 THE CLARKE REPORT
Moved: Belmont
Seconded: Bassendean
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS REQUEST THE GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CLARKE COMMITTEE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY AND APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:
A CATCH UP PAYMENT OF $66 PER FORTNIGHT TO RING UP THE DOOR AS A MEASURE OF URGENCY.
CARRIED
A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE $25 000 GRANT TO THOSE WHO WERE POores IN EUROPE
AN EXTENSION OF FULL ENTITLEMENTS TO COMMONWEALTH AND ALLIED EX-SERVICE MEN WHO ARE NOW AUSTRALIAN CITIZENS, AND
AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESCRIBED PERIOD OF SERVICE FOR THOSE WHO SERVED IN BCOP
L0ST
NO. 14 MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE AFFILIATE MEMBERS WHOLDDISCHARGED FOR MEDICAL REASONS
Moved: City of Rockingham
Seconded: Bassendean
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDORSE THAT AFFILIATE MEMBERS OR M/C/S ACT BE ALTERED TO ALLOW A VETERAN WHO HAS BEEN DISCHARGED FOR A REASON OTHER THAN DISORDERED TO BE TREATED FOR THAT INJURY OR ILLNESS DURING A PERIOD OF 2
CARRIED
NO. 15 COMMERCIALISATION ON ANZAC DAY
Moved: City of Mandurah
Seconded: East Vic Park & Vietnam Vets
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS RECOMMEND TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT THAT THE LEGISLATION BE ALIGNED TO THE ANZAC TRADING / SPORTING EVENTS ON ANZAC DAY IN ALL STATES, AND THAT THE RULES BE CLEARLY ADVERTISED THROUGH ALL MEDIA.
CARRIED
NO. 16 AMELIORATION / BENEFICIENCY FUNDS
Moved: Ellenbrook
Seconded: Bridgetown
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS RECOMMEND TO SUB-BRANCHES WITH AMELIORATION FUNDS EXCEEDING $2,500.00 AS AT 31 OCTOBER ANNUAL ASSESSMENT FORWARD THOSE FUNDS TO THE STATE BRANCH FOR WELFARE RELATED ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ACT.
CARRIED
NO. 17 AMELIORATION ACCOUNTS
THAT THIS STATE CONGRESS ENDSORSE THAT ALL SUB-BRANCHES MAKE A MINIMUM OF 10% OF THEIR MONIES IN THESE ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE TO ANZAC DAY RELATED WELFARE EACH YEAR.
WITHDRAWN

SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEMS
1. A total of 17 items were dealt with at State Congress.
2. Result of Motions at State Congress:
   a. Carried...
   b. Lost...
   c. Withdrew...

STATE CONGRESS AGENDA ITEM LEAGUE RESOLUTIONS

THE Remembrance Day Lunch will be held at the Novotel Langley Perth • Thursday 11 November 2004
In the presence of His Excellency the Governor of Western Australia
Lieutenant General John Sanderson AC
Accompanied by Mrs Sanderson
Tickets $40 + Bookings through Barbara Clinton Plt 9341 1983

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BELMONT

Belmont Sub-Branch 75th Anniversary

A gala event was held on Sunday, 23rd March 2004 to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the sub-branch. During the proceedings, Mr Jim Noble, a past president of the sub-branch was presented with a 50 Year Certificate by the State President Margaret Taylor. Ms Bertie Bassett, the first woman president of the Belmont Sub-Branch, gave the opening address expressed her deep appreciation to the Belmont Branch which has supported her during her time as President. Mr Noble gave a wonderful address to the members which included a full history of the Sub-Branch. The afternoon was concluded with a delightful luncheon in the newly upgraded facilities at the Belmont RSL. It was an enjoyable and memorable afternoon for all those who were present.

BUNBURY

The most exciting news for this edition is that we are about to get a new facility. If you ever thought the Friday evening event was our first objective with a few minor changes to the 'club' area. We are actively looking at strategies to attract younger members to the RSL with both current and affiliate memberships. The Police and Fire Brigade will inject young blood into our activities whilst social members for a fee of $20 per year will be able to join in such events as luncheons, dash/pool nights and Friday night socials. They will be recognised by a special RSL social members badge.

The next dart/pool night will be held on 17th Sept at the Army drill hall. All enquiries to the hall office on 9212 5277.

The Fathers Day raffle is drawn on 4th September and thanks go out to all willing helpers and their wives.

The annual dinner will be held at the hall on 17th October with tickets being sold now at $30.00 per head. Guest of honour and keynote speaker will be Police-Inspector John McWhirter.

We have a very worthy association now meeting at the hall on 9am on the first Monday of each month. Partners of Veterans (PAV) is an incorporated body with its national office at 3402 PAV fills a need not met by other ex-service organisations and all enquiries can be directed to Anne Barker (Bunbury) on 9795 6554.

ALF MAISOTEN

BUSHELTON

Members of the Bushelton RSL would like to congratulate Bert Rogers for recently becoming a life member of the RSL. Well done Bert for this wonderful achievement.

We are all very proud of you.

Congratulations also go to our President Bob Wood, and his long-suffering wife Valerie, on recently becoming grandparents to another cute baby girl. Well done to you both.

The Korean Veterans Day was held at the Bushelton War Memorial on the 21st July. A good crowd attended the service and many schools and organisations well represented. Reflections and a wreath laying followed and fellowship was held afterwards at the Bushelton RSL Hall.

Two Bushelton RSL members have recently completed the VEA Pension Officer Training course in Perth and are now eligible to undertake their duties soon and will be assisting the current Officers. Both members currently have helping our veterans and their widows with welfare and pension issues.

Vietnam Veterans Day will be held in Margaret River on 15th August for local South West communities. Many of our members will be travelling to Margaret River for the service which will be followed afterwards by lunch and fellowship at the Margaret River Hall.

Other events coming up for our members are the Kiln Bush Races on the 8th and 10th of October, Melbourne Cup Luncheon on 2nd November and our annual Bronze Rock Outback veterans gathering on early November. Our Autumn Dinner is also being held in November with the date yet to be confirmed. All members are urged to be attending a fishing trip in the South West on 10th October in order to attend one of their very successful fishing excursions to the Mackenzie Rivers in May.

We wish all our members currently holidaying in our lovely Western State a very safe trip home and we look forward to seeing you soon.

Jane Weston

PRO

Geraldton

Any member who has not visited Geraldton and the sub-branch for sometime will be surprised at the changes that have been achieved. The two main tasks targeted to be operational by ANZAC Day were the permanent covered structure over the outside licensed speakers and barbecue area. The other was the full renovation and relocation of the area. The work has been installed on time that several members christened the new area.

The expanded ANZAC Day down service, started last year, apparently the best attended of the public, about 800 people attending, an increase on previous years.

Numbers remained consistent with the main parade, 130 ex-service members took part in the other contingents, the public being early 2000 with a large portion of youth. 550 Geraldton Cadet Unit provided the Cadet Guard at ANZAC Day and all were commended on their drill.

Sergeant Derek Parsons 16 was Post in Parade on Parade. Members of the RSL committee member Bob Ball, Margaret Taylor and Ron Haynes were held services his experience in a well conducted way. A recorded 45 wreaths were placed with the majority of schools and colleges involved in spite of the holidays. The RAAF Flyover at midday was on time.

We were fortunate to have Captain R Criggs CSC RAN take the salute and give the main address at the Margaret River RSL.

The Vase of Youth introduced into the ceremony some years ago were purchased from Geraldton Grammar in Sara Gagliano and Lindsay Ryan and were well presented.

Chaplain Major Father Michael Morgan and Chaplain Michael Hohn were well received.

The day had special significance for senior vice-president Ross Davies, "for not only was his ex-unit 32 involved in the re-union in Geraldton, his daughter is a new Cadet, and we made the trip back home to play and watch the 4th of July and the WYBUG at both ceremonies."

Work continued during the year on our current building, which is the front block next to Birdwood House.

Collie-CARDIFF

COLLIE-CARDIFF

City of Perth

Our monthly meetings continue to be well attended and are always something the members are always trying to assist our target groups to make their lot more enjoyable.

We were saddened to learn of the passing of two of our fellow members, Mrs Margaret Taylor and Trice Punter, whose kindness and encouragement is extended to Tom and Sandy. Apart from reading the obituaries and our monthly meetings, Margaret and Tom were involved for many years with the RSL War Service Committee.

Our member Lieutenant Mike French of 75 Maroon headed north with 97 Cadets and staff to report to all is a wonderful achievement. The cadets took part in sailing skills, power boat's, leadership skills and general duties, plenty of fun and games of course the pass out parade.

Sorry to report that our popular member Bill O'Brien and wife Loris are still on the spinal list and in bed in hospital; we trust they soon be back on deck and be able to enjoy our monthly meetings again.

Due to the popularity of our 'Mad Hatternoon' and return, our very active social committee under the leadership of Robin Baker and his team put on a magnificent tea.

A steering committee of 7 RSL and 4 other organisations have planned the project and raise funds to an estimated total of one million dollars.

Mr Jim Noble, Bertie and State President, Mr Bill Gaynor.

Dennis Moss
Publicity Office

NOLLAMARA

Firstly Nollamara Sub-Branch would like to thank Mr Rosco Jones for his past 9 years as PRO and wish him the very best for the future.

On Wed 21st August, 15 members of our Sub-Branch went on a tour of a two day trip to the opening of the St George's Institute for a tour of the World War II Tunnels. Everyone enjoyed the morning and found the tour really very interesting and informative. Following the tour the members returned to the sub-branch for some lunch and refreshments. All members who attended were in favour of future trips and Mr Graham Worth has offered to organise a trip to the maritime Museum.

Reminder dates: 18th Aug 2004 - Our Vietnam Veterans Day Summer Breakfast at 9.00 a.m. at the Sub-Branch, Bannister Rd, Collie.

Steve Bengles, PRO

PORT KENNEDY

The Port Kennedy RSL is still growing strong, a year after its official opening in May 2003.

The Port Kennedy Sub-Branch Committee, with State President Bill Gaynor OAM RSL and State President Margaret Taylor, opened the new building on the 12th of May 2003.

In the past few months we have had such entertainers as Larry Burton, the Australian Wildlife Tours, ABBA-SALTILY, the stage Show and Sheep and Pete Dee who have been well supported. One event was our Blake Hughes youth night which featured following events coming up: Kevin Hughes Youth Night on Friday night with keepers, Dragonfly Night with Lonnie Lee and as our special Friday night entertainment.

Sunday 5th September we will be having a Fathers Day lunch, afternoon and auction. 15th August will be Vietnam Veterans Day with a march starting from the Rockingham Forester at 10.30 followed by a function at the PK RSL with entertainment by band "Hot Ice". All Vietnam Veterans, service personnel and ex-servicemen who have served in recent overseas conflicts are encouraged to attend. Last year was a great success and we are hoping for an even bigger turnout this year.

The club's kitchen is open for lunch and dinner every day apart from Sunday and Wednesdays with a Friday night buffet and raffles. The club also has a Karaoke machine, projector, extensive museum, ATM and a more than friendly atmosphere. The club currently hold 1100 members and are still taking new members.

For enquiries about any of the above please contact the Club Secretary, Tony Lomas.

We would like to thank our members for their support and would like to see you all down the club soon.

Robyn Maddison, Secretary
I am looking for information of the 2nd 16th AIF 2nd World War association in the 2 16th Sub Sections, for living members, for any sort of historical visual memories and material of 2 16th Unit/Committees.

I am trying to contact Captain G. McGee, VX3265, born 10 October 1913 in Dobellia, Tas. Date of enlistment 1940, place of enlistment Perth, Date of Death 7 September 2003. He was the last of a place of Adelaide, Officer Cadet Training Unit.

I wish for anyone that can provide insight into the above to please contact me Wayne McGee, 31F Quantum Rd, Kingsmeadows, TAS, 7249.

 Anything I need to cover will be by money order.

I would be most grateful for anything.

Les We Forget

W.M. McGee

* * * * *

HMAS DIAMANTINA

Attention former crew members of HMAS DIAMANTINA. The DIAMANTINA Association is planning a 60th Anniversary of her commissioning during ANZAC week 2003. Please visit HMAS DIAMANTINA, HMAS Stirling (Foot Base West) and other areas of interest including the ANZAC Day march through Perth and an Anniversary Dinner.

For further information contact DIAMANTINA Association c/o Rockingham Naval Club, PO Box 791, Rockingham WA 6168 or email bandist@iinet.net.au

* * * * *

AUSTRALIAN ARMY BAND CORPS

2004 NATIONAL REUNION

24, 25 and 26 September 2004

Ex servicemen and women from Army, Air Force and Navy Bands who have been on Regular or Non-Part Time units are invited to attend the above.

Please contact;

Bob Keach
AAACA 2004 Reunion Secretary
150 Major J.M. Fraser Road
CARINDALE 6020

Residence: 9417 6690
Mobile: 0418 574363
Email: keachybigpond.com

* * * * *

HMAS SYDNEY II COIN RELEASE MAY 2000

In May 2000, the Royal Australian Mint released a $1 coin to celebrate the voyage and action of the Australian Cruiser, HMAS Sydney II. The coin was lost with all hands of the Western Force, after being involved in the Dardanelles campaign in WWI.

The coin release was done with much fanfare, on board the present HMAS SYDNEY, whilst the date was in Sydney. Many invited guests, including many veterans, who I met during this event at NOK and relatives of those who lost their lives Invited NFO and the crew of the present HMAS Sydney.

Information at hand, confirmed by the RAM, is that all those who attended the release, were given a "HMAS SYDNEY II $1 coin in a specially marked folder". It is information from this folder that this request is to be forwarded.

I would like persons who received this boldered coin to contact me by phone or Email at All the information given at the address given above.

Bruce Mansfield
PO Box 13830, Perth
Email: bigjoe100@hotmail.com

* * * * *

W.A GREAT WAR LIVING HISTORIY ASSOC

The WA Great War Living History Association is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the memory of Australian men and women who served the Great War. Many of you will recognise our logo which was used during the ANZAC Day parade at the Nellalama RSL, and in recent years the sponsor of our being in the forefront of the big parade on ANZAC Day in Perth. We are accurately depicted Australian soldiers we are always on the lookout for wedding, pack uniforms or equipment etc to help in this task. It is especially the case that we are now receiving requests to do renditions of Australian soldiers in more recent campaigns (eg. WWII, Korea, Vietnam).

It is with this mind that we are writing to all members and supporters of the leadership of the Reading Post if you have any old kit from the WWII to the Vietnam war that they no longer want and would be pleased to donate to our Association. Any item would be gratefully received and would exclusively used for the memorial function for which our Association exists. The kit will be ready for collection at your address by the person who will contact you via Bob Wills at the address given above or 1440 2481 or email: mki@brushway.com.au

Thank you

Mike Bell
President

* * * * *

WA RSL Bowls section

Welcome to the new season.

To members of the bowls season welcoming the 2004 - 2005 bowling season.

As some country clubs are holding bowls building 48 bowls, and several less than a smaller basin, there are some changes made to our rules, which you will see on your program countenance.

The match committee has once again arranged a full season of metropolitan and country bowls, the social committee will be working to ensure that members enjoy the bowls and competitions and will be considering the interests of club members, we look forward to welcoming you to the Bowls season.

The highlight of this season will be the WA RSL National bowls, coming in September, a decorated season will be held in Victoria and as the bowls will be the RSL, you should know how to play, you will also see from the past few seasons that we are interested in the history of the RSL.

Friday October 22nd is the day set for the State bowls, with the state bowls making the bowls that are recommended. You will find your chances of playing for the State your game are 48, 1476.

Good bowling and good luck

Tony Sadler
President

WA Service Cedates feature in ANZAC Day Ceremony

Four cadets from WA, travelling with the Quiet Lion 2004 Tour in April, will attend the major events in the ANZAC DAY Wreath laying ceremony at the Lone Pine, Asutralian War Cemetery. The three ANZACs, sponsored and supported by the RSL State H.Q., and sponsored by Hospitals were W.O. 2 Callan Walter, W.O. 2 Craig Gregson and Sgt Sarah Freigard. Medals for the Sub-Branch selected and Sgt Todd Snowden.

The Defence Attache in Bangkok Bruce Fraser R.A.N along with the New Zealand D.A. were responsible for introducing the ANZAC Ceremony in 2003 and it has now become a tradition. Capt Fraser was also responsible for having an ex POW make a major contribution in 2002 the late George Beard (a prominent Queensland POW) gave the initial address followed by Bill Haskell in 2003 and Neil MacPherson in 2004.

Year 2005 is the 60th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific, which saw the release of some of the most renowned Australians from bondage and slavery throughout the Japanese occupied countries in Asia. To mark this important anniversary the former and current RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Association (Inc) which organized an annual nine day Anzac Day Ceremony

We Forget

until next time.

Joan Spencer
State President

The bowls season is on the lookout for life membership and $20 for the lady of your life, you won't get better bowls for anywhere. At the moment all clubs are, at this time, very busy, are not eligible, under the national constitutions, but service personnel can contact Les Frey for application forms. Entry fees are cheap, prize money is excellent and the bowls are very sociable. Think about it!

KICKOFF

September – Wednesday 22 Meadow Springs carnival 07:30 Am
Mandurah
P2 9403 5400
October – Friday 8

First Week of Month
Contact Max O'Loughlin
P 9444 4999

October – Tuesday 20

Busselton Roy trip
Contact Sandsuk
P 9352 1981

October, November, December 2004

YOUNGER VETERANS FORUM

There will be a Younger Veterans’ Forum held at RAAF Estate in Bull Creek on Saturday 23rd October, commencing at 6:30am.

The forum will aim to speak to younger veterans (post Vietnam) on various issues including:

- Rehabilitation/Compensation
- Employment
- Superannuation
- Family

Pilgrimage to Thailand will be calling few young applications to the 2005 Tour.

As well as the Cadet involvement in the tour, which we expect to see present, there will be up to 25 High School Students from mainly country towns will participate in RSL sub-branch, service clubs, and high schools in the country area all work in collecting funds to cover the students’ involvement. The limited number of places is closely sought by students. Only 10 places per tour in the past, one tour in the past decade. With a limit of 30 places available, applications are recommended.

The estimated cost of the tour will be $3990 (includes all funds. Enquiries can be made to any of the following:-

Voyager Tours Pty Ltd
E-Mail clarahain@tourists.com.au
Eric Wilson
Tel 9339 8027
E-Mail ericjowill@optusnet.com.au
Neil MacPherson
Tel 9338 6684
E-Mail mmacpherson@optusnet.com.au
Bill Haskell Tel 9230 3022

The bowls section is on the lookout for life membership and $20 for the lady of your life, you won't get better bowls for anywhere. At the moment all clubs are, at this time, very busy, are not eligible, under the national constitutions, but service personnel can contact Les Frey for application forms. Entry fees are cheap, prize money is excellent and the bowls are very sociable. Think about it!
To the young men who served on Australian Corvettes in World War II – we salut


The Flats are a shell of a building that was never completed during the 19th century. It is just like a construction site, with sandy concrete floors, steel reinforcing protruding from elevator shafts and a feel of abandonment that isn’t quite and not a pane of glass anywhere. It is being used for office space by the Aussie Diggers who have transformed it into their home and work against the many threats.

Major Karl Fegan, the Officer Commanding SBS, is there to greet the patrol. It is now half past eight and Major Fegan asks me how the patrol was going. I tell him that everything is as it should be, that one of the things that the Australian Army does on operations. We have a job to do and we will do it.

We enter a windowless room that is decorated with tactical maps and satellite imagery of Baghdad, for a briefing of the patrol. As the briefing continues I observe a growing expression of relief and confidence on the faces of the men with whom I have just spent a few hours training. The Australian patrol has been deployed.

As I look at the infantrymen, I cannot help but admire them. These soldiers in their fatigue suits are truly the self-effacing, laconic, Australian hero.

At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, the man who will remem...
We don’t just live here... On Patrol in Baghdad with Australia’s security detachment

By Lieutenant Ian Lunsden

If Australia has a front line in the war on terrorism, I have now walked along it.

Recently, I went on foot patrol for two hours from ten until midnight in Baghdad. It’s a dangerous job, but the people we are fighting are even more dangerous. In fact, they have been described as the most violent in the world.

In the first week of April, Australia’s Commonwealth Security Personnel (CSP) was deployed to Iraq to provide security to Australians in the country. CSP is now part of Operation Muscular, which is the Iraqi security effort involving Australia in Iraq.

As the ASP’s leave, it becomes more obvious that we are Australians. The Secdet soldiers have a lot to do. As they leave, I see the permanent security personnel move into their positions.

It is now 4am and we have mustered around two ASP’s (Australian Light Armed Overlord). They are going to take us to our drop off point. The area of Baghdad that the ASP’s patrol is known as the Green Zone. It’s a safe area and we are taken to the “Green Zone” to begin our patrol as a Naval officer. I must admit that I am very nervous about the coming patrol.

In the back of the ASP’s that we are travelling in, there is a 19 year old, who is not wearing his helmet. He is not a very fit bloke and he is carrying a machine gun. He looks as if he is suffering from a severe case of nerves. He is the only sign of any construction into his home and place and takes up his area of responsibility.

As the ASP’s leave, it seems strange to see the droves of vehicles, and apartments left behind. The street is filled with the sounds of small arms fire, sirens and occasional mortar炸火. Many buildings in Baghdad have flat roofs and balconies, lined with many small arms, that could conceivably be an enemy. It would only take a moment for someone to appear on a balcony and fire a burst from an AK-47, or worse still an RPG (rocket propelled grenade). Death in this environment would come very swiftly.

There is nothing to stop someone throwing a grenade over a wall or taking a shot from a rooftop, even from the ones that are still being lived in.

Before we come across a group of Iraqis. They are very friendly towards us. One of our soldiers, a young boy, speaks Arabic to them. They enjoy polite conversation. The rest of the patrol is not so friendly. Most of them have never been out of their 360 degree defensive posture. There is no space to concentrate. The population of Baghdad has become used to seeing the Australian soldiers and the Australians have become used to seeing the Aussies live nearby. Most people in Iraq want to get on with their lives, have a job, get married, raise their kids and live in peace.

There is no security for the members of the Australian security personnel. They are adding to their own security.

Under Saddam’s rule the people were ruthlessly taught through torture and execution to obey soldiers.

Aft an a time we move on and pass in front of a small boutique hotel tucked away off the main street. It is not unusual to see the brightly lit foyer and neon lights. This is not the Baghdad that I was told of. A couple of English speaking Iraqis stop and ask us where the hotel. They are interested in meeting the soldiers. "What has happened?" their eyes tell me. They probably imagine that we are part of some sort of occupation, but they are interested in something they are seeing. This is a city that is without incident. There is a village on the outskirts of the city, near four miles of traffic and hundreds of cars. A soldier steps off the curb and like a traffic cop, speeds up the traffic for the traffic to stop. They correctly draw a blank. Under Saddam’s rule the people were taught to obey the command and execution to obey soldiers and now in this city that has been freed of the occupation, it is very clear to see how the coalition soldiers with equal alacrity.

After crossing the busy road the bastard before we come across a difficult part of the vehicle once the ramp goes down. In that moment I realise that these men are trained to do these things for themselves, but they are genuinely caring about our safety. For the next couple of hours I am going to be among brothers.

At the drop off point there is a bus parked where we planned to dismount. I’m hoping the bus will be near the ramp so that we can cut down the time. In the absence of a bus, I think the ramp is down and we are in the tree. The section lines out, taking us to the outskirt of the city. The area appears to provide protective fire through a 360 degree arc. There is no confusion. Each soldier silently goes to his place and takes up his area of responsibility.

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Without a word spoken the patrol begins to stealthily, forward along the predetermined route. As we move down the street we pass buildings that are half constructed, others that are abandoned. There is nothing to stop someone throwing a grenade over a wall or taking a shot from a rooftop, even from the ones that are still being lived in.

As we move forward the ASP’s leave, it becomes more obvious that we are Australians. The Secdet soldiers have a lot to do. As they leave, I see the permanent security personnel move into their positions.

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