Australian Peacekeepers honoured in pure silver

To celebrate our nation's distinguished history of peacekeeping and to mark the 60th Anniversary of the formation of the United Nations (UN), the Perth Mint will issue a magnificent tribute - Australian Peacekeepers.

As part of UN or Multinational Force peacekeepers, Australians are involved in difficult and often dangerous operations which aim to help countries recover from tension and conflict, giving them the chance of a better future. Australian Peacekeepers comprises five 2oz proof quality coins struck from 99.9% pure silver, created in honour of Australians who have served in world trouble spots since 1947. The coins depict members of the Australian Army, Navy, Air Force, Police or humanitarian aid teams conducting a range of international peacekeeping activities.

The reverse of each coin features the 2005 year-date, the inscription AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPERS and either ARMY, AIR FORCE, NAVY, POLICE or AusAID. In addition to the main design, the coins include a coloured representation of the Army, Air Force, Navy, or Police badge.

The Perth Mint's Australian Peacekeepers is housed in a beautifully crafted timber presentation case, with a lid that doubles as a display stand, printed with the words Australian Peacekeepers.

Each case is then packaged in a colour sleeve depicting an Australian military peacekeeper wearing the UN's blue beret, and the national flag, accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

Australian Peacekeepers will be available from Friday 13 October 20004 by phoning the Mint toll free on 1800 098 817, through The Perth Mint Shop located at 310 Hay Street, East Perth, Australia Post outlets, select coin dealers and on the web at www.perthmint.com.au

Further information: Veronica Magazine
Australian Minted Products
The Perth Mint
Telephone (08) 9421 7222
Mobile 0411 114 290

Cadet of the Year 2004 awarded; national competition announced

A presentation evening for the Western Australian "Cadet of the Year" competition was held at ANZAC House, on Saturday 20th September 2004.

The Western Australian RSL "Cadet of the Year" initiative is now in its sixth year since its inception. It was developed to encourage young people to reach their full potential and promote leadership within the Service Cadet Movement.

The evening was the culmination of a process which involved the nomination, selection, assessment, evaluation and recognition of the top five cadets, each of the services, army, navy and air-force.

Each of the cadets was assessed in three areas of expertise, general knowledge and the presentation of a short address, on a subject of personal choice. The cadet with the highest score, from each of the individual services, was then selected as "Cadet of the Year".

Attending the function was Diane Guiney, representing the Premier, Dr Geoff Gallop. Family members of the cadets, RSL Staff Executive and representatives from the three service units were also present to support and provide secondary recognition to the cadets, who aspired to achieve the honour of representing their service.

The "Cadet of the Year" for the navy was awarded to Able Seaman Tara Atkins, of TS Cockburn. Corporal Glen Yench, from 596 Army Cadet Unit, won the army section and Cadet Corporal Anthony Rangel, of 172nd Squadron was the outstanding cadet from the air force. All three, in recognition of their effort and achievement, will be participating in a trip to the Burma - Thailand Railway early next year.

Recognition was given to Corporal, Hollywood Private Hospital and DEF (Defence Credit), who provided generous financial support to the three outstanding cadets on the Quiet Line Tour.

The 12 runners-up finalists were presented with a book, relevant to their service, in recognition of their effort.

The book awards were donated and presented by members of the Returned Ex-service Women, the Women's Auxiliary, Beuwarna Beach, Belmont, Bellevue, Applecross, and the City of Perth Youth Branch.

Three special encouragement awards were provided by members of the East Victoria Park and Vietnam Veterans RSL Sub-Branch. The awards were "The Australian Spirit Sands of Gallipoli" medallions.

Gordon Norton, the Chairman of the Membership and Youth Committee, thanked both the members of his committee and the army medical personnel, who assisted with aspects of the assessment and organisation of the competition.

RSL State President Mr William Geyser announced that the National Peacekeeper had approved the proposition, put forward by the WA branch of the RSL, for the National Cadet of the Year Competition, using our Western Australian formula for selection.

Army cadet Stephanie Wong was informed of her selection to represent Western Australian cadets at the inaugural "Cadet of the Year" competition. Stephanie was advised that, as our state finalist, she would be joining the battlefield of Europe towards the end of the year. All the cadet finalists were then presented with a certificate of participation.

Mr Geyser then addressed the assembly and encouraged them to visualise the cadets as the future leaders of the RSL, for it is with our youth that the future of the organisation lies.

Mr Geyser gave recognition to the efforts of the parents of the cadets, in their support and encouragement of their children, during their participation with the competition and the Service Cadet Movement.

The formalities being concluded, the President then invited the guests to partake of refreshments and offer their congratulations to the entrants.
Nissan 4WD Giveaway Offer!

Purchase a 4WD from our great range of New Vehicles & you’ll receive an exclusive 4WD Training Course at the Driver Training Centre – Absolutely FREE!

**Nissan Navara**
A tireless workhorse, tough, reliable & always great value, the Navara is one powerful mean machine that’s built to last & packed with creature comforts.

From **$34,250***

- 3.0Ltr, 110kw DOHC turbo diesel engine
- Power windows & mirrors
- Sports bar & side steps
- 3,000kg towing capacity
- 3 yr Warranty & Roadside Assist

*RRP for STR 3.0 litre turbo diesel manual & includes GST. Price does not include dealer delivery of $1495 or on road costs. Excludes Govt contract sales.

**Nissan Pathfinder**
With one of the most advanced 4WD systems in the world, discover why the Pathfinder is such a pleasure to own. Test drive it today.

From **$35,218***

- 3.3 ltr SOHC V6
- Dual SRS airbags
- Luxury seat trim
- Air conditioning
- Power windows & mirrors
- 3 yr/100,000 warranty & 24hr Roadside Assist

*RRP for ST manual & includes GST. Price does not include dealer delivery of $1495 or on road costs. Excludes Govt contract sales.

**Nissan X-Trail**
Make life an adventure! With more space, more power & more features the X-Trail will take you through the extreme of the outback to the hustle & bustle of the city.

From **$26,833**

- 132kW 2.5 ltr DOHC engine
- Remote keyless entry
- Engine Immobiliser
- 3 yr / 24 hr roadside assist
- 3 yr/100,000km warranty

*RRP for ST manual & includes GST. Price does not include dealer delivery of $995 or on road costs. Excludes Govt contract sales. Metallic paint $200 extra.

**Nissan Patrol**
Start a legend of your own in your Patrol. With its high standards of reliability & ability to survive any extreme. There’ll be more than a few stories to tell the grandkids.

From **$41,746**

- 116kW, 3.0 ltr turbo diesel engine
- Remote keyless entry
- 3,200 kg towing capacity
- 3 yr/24 hr roadside assist

*RRP for ST manual & includes GST. Price does not include dealer delivery of $1465 or on road costs. Excludes Govt contract sales. Metallic paint $200 extra.

All prices are based on TPI Card Owner only

**BEST PRICE GUARANTEED**

**NORTHSIDE NISSAN**

5 PRINDIVILLE DRIVE  CALL  TODAY 9409 0000
WANGARA

PICS FOR ILLUSTRATION PURPOSES ONLY. DL0811
Deadline: 19 November 2004

for contributions to next edition

If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via E-mail.

Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.

Address to:
The Managing Editor, The Listening Post
RSL, PO Box Y3023 PERTH WA 6832
E-mail: nwahq@inect.net.au

Opinions expressed by contributors in articles and reproduced articles are the individual opinions of such contributors or the authors of such reproduced articles and are not necessarily those of the RSL.

Reproduction of articles (or extracts) contained in The Listening Post is welcomed provided the owner is acknowledged. The Editor reserves the right to accept, reject, sub-edit and to re-arrange material submitted for publication.

PLEASE DIRECT ALL ADVERTISING ENQUIRIES TO HEALY MARIER PUBLISHING
Ph: 9381 5551 / 0418 944 850

Kott Gunning

YOUR LAWYERS
WE ARE PROUD OF OUR LONG ASSOCIATION WITH THE RSL AND ARE PLEASED TO PROVIDE MEMBERS WITH A FREE HALF HOUR CONSULTATION

Probate and Deceased Estates
David Miller

Conveyancing and Settlements
Anne Hurley

Enduring Powers of Attorney
David Miller

Family Law
Colin Kaesser

Criminal Law
Michael Clarke

WILLS AT SPECIAL RATES

Telephone: (08) 9321 3755
Facsimile: (08) 9321 3465

Level 11, Australia Place, 15 William St, PERTH 6000
Website: www.kottgunn.com.au
E-mail: partners@kottgunn.com.au

Contents
Page
State President's Message 4
Recruiting/Membership Report 2003 4
Governance of the League 5
National Defence Committee Report 6-7
Profiles 8
Bogong Brook Memorial Day 9
Hollywood Private Hospital 10-11
Student Acclaimed for ANZAC Poem 12
Mandurah Honours Vietnam Veterans 12
RLS's Stand on the Defence Medal 13
World-first Cream for Skin Cancer 13
Sub-branch News 14-15
Can You Help/Reminiscences/Poetry 15
Unit Associations 16-17
The RSL Veterans' Affairs Proposals for the 2004 Federal Budget 17
WA RSL Bowls 17
New Members 18
Sundakon – The Continuing Story 19
Last Post 19
With State and National Congress now behind us it is time to move forward and address the immediate issues that came out of those forums. From the Sydney National Congress some delegates spoke about the need for a list of priorities for the League to take to government for implementation. These priorities were drawn up from congress motions submitted by the various State Branches and represent the 'grass roots' wishes. Inevitably some of these issues are of a very nature and require the highest level of attention. The full list of priorities will be published elsewhere in this publication and it is recommended that the content of this document receives wide distribution and full support throughout the membership.

The underlying message is that your League is working for you to see that your views are represented just and dealt with.

Annual Report

The Annual Report of the State Branch on membership and financial issues for the year 2003 is now available on the internet. It includes details on activities of the State Branch over the year, lists members and officers elected from the various committees that have worked on your behalf to promote the interests of the League. It is available on the internet. Without the dedicated service and commitment of the committee members and the support groups we certainly would not enjoy the progress we have made or the profile we now enjoy in the community. Through their efforts we have achieved many benefits for the veteran and their families and we commend the report to you. Thanks are also extended all committee members and the office staff, who contributed to the timely production of this very professional report.

National Annual Report

The National Annual Report is also available on the internet. It includes details on sub-branches. It provides a state by state summary on League activities throughout Australia. By comparison, our state is well up to, and in many respects ahead of, our state in performance and results. It particularly highlights the terrific work done by the Student Volunteer Programme and the Defence Committee. The Ninga Centre is the most advanced in this state and is now a reality through the hard work of its Secretary, Mr Arthur Skelton. We commend all involved in support of these and other sub-branches who have a genuine interest in our work.

New Deputy Commissioner DVA

With the transfer of Russell McLaughlin to Canberra we are delighted to announce the opportunity to meet with Arthur and his team. The new veteran community will enjoy a professional and positive relationship with veteran organisations with the Perth office of DVA.

Membership

Membership Secretary, Mr Geo Clark, advises that our membership applications and renewals have slowed down. While we have reached our 2003 target we are still about 1,000 short of our 2006 goal of 14,000 members. We need to contact those who have not yet renewed 2004 membership and constantly be on the lookout for new members. It is a prority for each sub-branch so let's see a strong showing of our target membership.

Administrative and League Governance

Sub-branches have been invited to send in their report of their thoughts for a future governance model for the League. While our existing structure is providing a sound governance base it needs to be refined to take the League through the next five to ten years. It is imperative that the plan be fully addressed as upon it rests the future of the League. Please discuss this matter at your next sub-branch meeting and provide a report when it is complete for comments - 31 October, 2004.

School Volunteer Programme

As part of our community profile members are asked to consider involvement in a programme that assists young people to reach their full potential and directs them towards becoming good citizens in our society. The initiative, the School Volunteer Programme is a national programme and has over 2,000 members (in Western Australia) working with young children and children in need of an education. The programme is growing and we are aiming to set a mentor then you are in a position to make a real difference to a young person.

Should you wish to become involved, please contact the School Volunteer Programme (Inc), 14/15/17/19, 6-17 Gillard Cl, St Scarborough WA 6019.

Introduction

The ageing nature of the League membership undoubtedly continues to be demonstrated, particularly in New South Wales this year with a 10% decline in ordinary member numbers as a result of the loss of the year 2004 goal. General affluence and a decline in family size have been mentioned as two reasons for this trend. It is a trend that is being experienced elsewhere and is of great concern to the League. There are few programs that have been successful in increasing membership and attracting new members to the League. In Victoria the launch of the Future League to enhance youth membership, particularly girls, has resulted in more than 2,000 affiliate members maintained by youth in 2003.

State Branch Activities

State Recruiting/Membership Administration

A Manual of Membership Administration prepared by the Victoria Branch有幸 has been produced by a number of great effort by sub-branch members, veteran leaders and weary members. It is aimed at providing guidance to sub-branches and secretaries on how to keep membership records up to date and to encourage new members to be attracted to the League.

RSL Sub-branch Membership includes the acquisition and development of members, the recruitment of young people and the maintenance of membership. The League remains the only organisation that can provide a unique opportunity for young people to learn about the history of the nation and to get involved in the democratic process. This is particularly important in the defence of the freedom and democracy which we now enjoy.

State RSL/Cub card is proving popular with members

The RSL /WestClub joint venture has proven to be one of our more recent successes in widening the provision of services to the RSL Membership.

Recently we have received correspondence and verbal comments on the savings achieved by members when using the card. In a recent letter of 'thanks' for the introduction of the card a member confirmed that he and his family had made substantial savings in shopping at P&L.

The RSL Victoria Branch has held discussions with WestClub and requested that they expand the providers into regional and country locations; this has been done and is continuing.

The WestClub WestClub card is a very good and continue to grow with each edition.

The cost of joining RSL/ WestClub is $15.00 per year and is very easily recouped after just one use in any one of the many participating centres.

Some of the services and products include: accommodation, dining, recreation, sporting and leisure. Importantly these services and projects are appropriate to all ages in the membership.

If you would like more information please contact ANZAC House reception.

Should you not be attached to a sub-branch your thoughts would still be very welcome.

Cadet of the Year

The selection process for the 2005 Cadet of the Year has been completed and the winner has been announced. Service cadets from each state were considered through a rigorous selection process and the outright winner awarded the WA Cadet of the Year 2003. The occasion is presented as WA Cadet of the Year. The competition is open to all sub-branches who assisted in the provision of prizes and also in the conduct of the competition. Congratulations. Of course, it is extended to the cadets involved to the Cadet Units that sponsored their participation. Full details of the competition and award presentation appears on page 1 of this edition.

Affiliates

National Executive is still addressing the issue of the rights of Affiliates in sub-branches. This process will be fully addressed at an inaugural special session during the November National Executive Meeting. I expect that following that meeting a position will be made as a recommendation and in voting rights Affiliates as well as positions available to the Affiliate movement. It is important to understand the frustration this matter has caused and that the Affiliate movement has consistently addressed this matter with interstate cooperation and a degree of flexibility sought. In the meantime, please encourage Affiliates to join your sub-branch. Their contribution to the efficient operation of the movement and to the functions of the sub-branch is invaluable and in many cases a means of survival.

RACA

During September the first group of officers completed and have issued a comprehensive independent living manual for sub-branches. This is a product that we have been preparing for some time. Over the next few months units will be released to purchasers and Members Branch will expect all to be fully occupied. The apartment block units will sell in a very fast. Concurrent with the publication of the manual the process is progressing well and should be ready for use by the end of the year. Plans are currently being prepared for the Nursing Home Manual to start early in 2005.

Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day is but a few weeks away. This is one of the important commemorative moments in our calendar. I trust each sub-branch will undertake to present a dignified commemorative service to their local community. It is a reminder of the years ago that the Armistice was signed and ending one of the most horrific wars of our times, and it is important that we pay our respects to each and every veteran who sacrificed their life for the defence of the freedom and democracy which we now enjoy.

W.E. (Bill) Gaysor OAM RFD
State President

In participating in the public debate on national security and key issues, you can actively contribute to that debate.

The-State is made up of all the parts of the League to enhance on membership - both in numbers and in the level of member satisfaction.

Challenges for the Future

The state is currently at the branch level. Active, informed and interested sub-branch members are the strength of the state. These are the members who renew our legacies for the League ideals within the community, and who recruit new members into the RSL. A strong membership means a greater ability to meet the administrative costs of running the RSL and of generating funds and capacity to meet the League’s wellbeing responsibilities. It is the greatest signal to our organisation in Australia; a strong active and proud will keep it that way.

BILL CRIEVES
Honorary National Membership Director

## National Recruiting/ Membership Report 2003

### Introduction

The ageing nature of the League membership unfortunately continues to be demonstrated, particularly in New South Wales this year with a 10% decline in ordinary member numbers as a result of the loss for the year 2004 goal, 6,071. Affiliate member numbers in those states and sub-branches that have generally but marginally improved. The strength of the RSL of Victoria is due to the affiliation of more than 20,000 affiliate members more that 20,000 affiliate members for that year. A summary of membership numbers for the year is provided at this time.

### State Branch Activities

#### Recruit Programmes

The RSL/Southwest Card has been very successful and continue to grow with each edition.

The cost of joining RSL/Southwest Card is $15.00 per year and is very easily recouped after just one use in any one of the many participating centres.

Some of the services and products include: accommodation, dining, recreation, sporting and leisure. Importantly these services and projects are appropriate to all ages in the membership.

If you would like more information please contact ANZAC House reception.

### New Deputy Commissioner DVA

With the transfer of Russell McLaughlin to Canberra we are delighted to announce the opportunity to meet with Arthur and his team. The new veteran community will enjoy a professional and positive relationship with veteran organisations with the Perth office of DVA.

### Membership

Membership Secretary, Mr Geo Clark, advises that our membership applications and renewals have slowed down. While we have reached our 2003 target we are still about 1,000 short of our 2006 goal of 14,000 members. We need to contact those who have not yet renewed 2004 membership and constantly be on the lookout for new members. It is a priority for each sub-branch so let's see a strong showing of our target membership.

### Administrative and League Governance

Sub-branches have been invited to send in their report of their thoughts for a future governance model for the League. While our existing structure is providing a sound governance base it needs to be refined to take the League through the next five to ten years. It is imperative that the plan be fully addressed as upon it rests the future of the League. Please discuss this matter at your next sub-branch meeting and provide a report when it is complete for comments - 31 October, 2004.
Donnybrook’s sheds are a roaring success

Donnybrook’s sheds are a roaring success

"Friday the 13th" was certainly not "Black Friday" in Donnybrook. It was a day of celebration for the community as they marked the purchase of new equipment for their "Men in Sheds" project.

A recent grant of $22,000 from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs enabled the Donnybrook community to purchase a much-needed sander and air filtering system, as well as a spray booth with its own dust extraction. This new equipment will allow more people, some with respiratory problems, to access the "Shed" facilities.

The Donnybrook "Men in Sheds" project is one of the most successful in the state. After beginning with one shed and a small group of men in 2002, today they have three sheds frequented by around eighty people each week.

The whole community is involved in the fantastic facilities in the Donnybrook shed! Every one from primary school students to people with disabilities and seniors have had the opportunity to learn skills in horticulture, wood turning and metal working.

In accordance with our Strategic Plan it is now time 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 – Policy, Greg O’Connor. He has made written submissions to the Working Party for their consideration.

Topics you may wish to consider could include:
- Structure of State Executive – how many?
- Purposes – 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 – 31 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.

Out of Africa – ‘Paddy’

In that, Paddy was most unfortunate because in the whole length of road he had been on, there were so few, indeed so few, that he marooned in a northerly direction towards the city of Cairo, 6,000 kilometres away, only a few short hours from the city, were he was the earliest of evidence.

Upon hitting the kerbstone, the makeshift coffin and sadly and totally disintegrated, the contents, partly liquefied, dispersed over the pavement. The consternation of the passer-by was the greatest.

However, there are as we know, two sides to every coin and Paddy was most fortunate in this respect. There being no known relative of the dismembered deceased, there was very little likelihood of a law suit demanding ‘Make good or replace’.

As for the monkey, he was never seen again. He had finally lost his position with Paddy.

W. E. Miller

Governance of the League – written submissions invited from sub-branches

The existing 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.

Australian citizens may accept foreign awards when the offer is made by the head of state or the government of a foreign country with which Australia maintains diplomatic relations or by an international organisation recognised diplomatically by Australia.

In normal circumstances, foreign governments are asked to seek Australian Government approval before bestowing an award on an Australian citizen.

This requirement may be waived in the event of awards being presented to Australian citizens without warning, where the non-acceptance of the award might cause offence.

Nevertheless, in such cases arrangements are to be made as soon as possible for a formal approach to Australia through official channels.

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

Tickets $40 • Bookings through: Barbara Clinton Ph: 5541 1983

WINE OFFER 2004

Your Daihatsu Genuine Service includes engine Oil and Filter, and is equivalent to the Owners Handbook 10,000km Service. It will be carried out by Daihatsu Trained Technicians, to ensure quality, performance and reliability we only use Daihatsu Genuine Parts, covered by a 12 month unlimited kilometre factory warranty.

OFFER IS AVAILABLE BEFORE 31 OCTOBER 2004.
In February 2003 Australia deployed elements of the Army and Air Force to Iraq. These were substantially withdrawn as the conclusion of formal hostilities in April, leaving behind small special forces elements only in the post-war period. In late June the Minister for Defence announced the withdrawal of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group from Bougainville saying that the situation was now under control. The commitment of a battalion group to East Timor continued during the period and will continue in some form to at least May 2004. In June also, Australia announced the deployment of military and police elements to Solomon Islands in order to restore civil government, law and order to that country. The Australian and other South Pacific elements of the force deployed by late July. Internal security continued to attract political and media interest and it is becoming increasingly apparent that responsible government agencies were extending contacts with the security services of South East Asian nations. In mid year the security situation on the island nation remained a matter of significant concern, with North Korea maintaining a dangerously belligerent stance. This situation has continued throughout the year although by the end of the year some heat had gone out of the confrontation.

General

In February 2003 Australia deployed elements of the Army and Air Force to Iraq. There were a number of significant events, not the least of which was the withdrawal of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group from Bougainville. This was seen as a significant event in the continued decline of the conflict in Bougainville and the restoration of civil government to the island. The commitment of a battalion group to East Timor continued during the period and will continue in some form to at least May 2004. In June also, Australia announced the deployment of military and police elements to Solomon Islands in order to restore civil government, law and order to that country. The Australian and other South Pacific elements of the force deployed by late July. Internal security continued to attract political and media interest and it is becoming increasingly apparent that responsible government agencies were extending contacts with the security services of South East Asian nations.

The question of the rights and wrongs of an attack on Iraq continued into 2003. In the first instance it appeared that the United States might be about to take unilateral action with or without allies or United Nations (UN) approval. There was subsequently a strong move for multilateral action, notably from the UN Security Council. The US continued its lobbying, particularly in the British Parliament, for a vote of support. In Britain, was a number of significant events, not the least of which was the withdrawal of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group from Bougainville. This was seen as a significant event in the continued decline of the conflict in Bougainville and the restoration of civil government to the island. The commitment of a battalion group to East Timor continued during the period and will continue in some form to at least May 2004. In June also, Australia announced the deployment of military and police elements to Solomon Islands in order to restore civil government, law and order to that country. The Australian and other South Pacific elements of the force deployed by late July. Internal security continued to attract political and media interest and it is becoming increasingly apparent that responsible government agencies were extending contacts with the security services of South East Asian nations.

In mid year the security situation on the island nation remained a matter of significant concern, with North Korea maintaining a dangerously belligerent stance. This situation has continued throughout the year although by the end of the year some heat had gone out of the confrontation.

The question of the rights and wrongs of an attack on Iraq continued into 2003. In the first instance it appeared that the United States might be about to take unilateral action with or without allies or United Nations (UN) approval. There was subsequently a strong move for multilateral action, notably from the UN Security Council. The US continued its lobbying, particularly in the British Parliament, for a vote of support. In Britain, was a number of significant events, not the least of which was the withdrawal of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group from Bougainville. This was seen as a significant event in the continued decline of the conflict in Bougainville and the restoration of civil government to the island. The commitment of a battalion group to East Timor continued during the period and will continue in some form to at least May 2004. In June also, Australia announced the deployment of military and police elements to Solomon Islands in order to restore civil government, law and order to that country. The Australian and other South Pacific elements of the force deployed by late July. Internal security continued to attract political and media interest and it is becoming increasingly apparent that responsible government agencies were extending contacts with the security services of South East Asian nations.

In mid year the security situation on the island nation remained a matter of significant concern, with North Korea maintaining a dangerously belligerent stance. This situation has continued throughout the year although by the end of the year some heat had gone out of the confrontation.

The question of the rights and wrongs of an attack on Iraq continued into 2003. In the first instance it appeared that the United States might be about to take unilateral action with or without allies or United Nations (UN) approval. There was subsequently a strong move for multilateral action, notably from the UN Security Council. The US continued its lobbying, particularly in the British Parliament, for a vote of support. In Britain, was a number of significant events, not the least of which was the withdrawal of the Australian-led Peace Monitoring Group from Bougainville. This was seen as a significant event in the continued decline of the conflict in Bougainville and the restoration of civil government to the island. The commitment of a battalion group to East Timor continued during the period and will continue in some form to at least May 2004. In June also, Australia announced the deployment of military and police elements to Solomon Islands in order to restore civil government, law and order to that country. The Australian and other South Pacific elements of the force deployed by late July. Internal security continued to attract political and media interest and it is becoming increasingly apparent that responsible government agencies were extending contacts with the security services of South East Asian nations.

In mid year the security situation on the island nation remained a matter of significant concern, with North Korea maintaining a dangerously belligerent stance. This situation has continued throughout the year although by the end of the year some heat had gone out of the confrontation.
additional personnel to Special Forces and a further commando company.

$80 million over three years to boost individual force recruitment, which is consistent with the government's intention to fund at least 50 per cent of the cost of the ADF by 50 per cent over each of the next three years.

$71 million over two years to enhance security for Defence facilities and personnel around Australia.

Against these increases there has been a concern expressed today in $642 million of capital investment for various reasons. While the increased funding for the areas noted is welcome, the sign-up in capital procurement is a matter of concern. If the $200 White Paper promises are to be kept in being, there will need to be a significant increase in Defence funding in subsequent budgets.

Community Consultation

The RSL National Defence Committee welcomed the continuance of the Community Consultation due process as a way to be in the best interests of the Australian Government. The Defence Minister, Senator Robert Hill, has stated that it is part of the process to improve the advances the government had made in the past. The final consultation was to create The Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI), an organisation that is envisaged as part of its charter to determine community attitudes. It is worth noting that the ASPI now has a comprehensive Community Consultation program in operation which should keep this valuable link between the Government and the people alive.

The Kinsail Review

The Kinsail Review of the procurement processes in the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) was published on 18 September 2003. Key decisions by the Government in implementing the Review's recommendations include:

- Establishing the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) as a prescribed agency under the Financial Management and Accountability Act (FMAA) to facilitate the execution of current and future trends towards more business-like identity. As a prescribed agency the DMO will be subject to the Government Financial Management Standards and auditable financial statements. In particular, it will have to maintain high levels of financial transparency and accountability of the DMO.

- Strengthening the capability development and assessment process in the defence sector. This will be achieved by forming a new capability group within Defence Headquarters to be managed by a three star official (military or civilian) reporting directly to the Chief of the Air Force and the CDF. The new three star position will be appointed on merit for an extended tenure and will be solely focused on the capability development and ensuring that project proposals are based on defensible cost and schedule estimates.

- Establishing a Chief of the Defence Force (CDF) as a part of the Defence Minister's portfolio to provide advice to the Defence Minister on the DMO's strategic issues and to report to him on the implementation of the Defence and Finance and Administration (DFAA) at regular intervals on the implementation of the recommendations. The Advisory Board will comprise four private sector members (one of whom will be a representative of the Australian Secretaries of Defence, Finance and Administration and CDF.

- Giving the CEO of the DMO an expanded range of powers to make improvements to the delivery of Defence projects and the management of the DMO, including empowering the CEO to review and, where appropriate, amend procurement policies in order that the DMO be able to attract and retain high quality project managers from the military, industry or public service on the basis of merit and for extended term. Strengthening the two pass system to facilitate early engagement with industry and provide a better basis for project scope and cost. This will be achieved by ensuring funding at first pass approval to allow Defence to undertake a detailed study of capability options by mandating the early involvement of DSTO and DOFA to provide external evaluation and verification of project proposals.

- Establishing a Two Pass Costs in Defence and Finance and Administration, which will build on Defence's decisions earlier track systems, improvements to existing fire control radar and the transportability of battle systems. The second is a $250 million investment in a new lightweight anti-submarine torpedoes for the FFG and ANZAC, frigates, Sealink and the AP-3C Orion maritime patrol aircraft.

Australia to participate in US Missile Defence Programme

In December also the Minister for Defence announced that the government had decided to participate in the United States' missile defence programme. Senator Hill said Australia was in a position with the US to determine the most appropriate form of Australian participation to enhance our strategic defence interests, but also be part of good opportunities for Australian industry.

Conclusions with the Defence

Consultations Committee

During the year there have been a number of consultations with various sections of the defence industry. The following consultations occurred:

- Lieutenant General Leathy, Chief of Army, in January the Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Leathy briefed the Committee on the current state of the Army's projects and future developments. He described the Army's need to progress critical commitments and the issues associated with the increase in the numbers of Special Forces.

- Mr McFarlane, Director General of the Department of Defence, on the Defence Project Portfolio. He described the Army's need to progress critical commitments and the issues associated with the increase in the numbers of Special Forces.

- Mr McFarlane, Director of Homeland Security (ADF), in March Mr McFarlane gave an interesting presentation on recent developments in the use of security measures in Australia and overseas.

- Brigadier Hannan, Head of Special Forces, in March Brigadier Hannan gave a very timely update on recent developments, particularly as they affected ongoing operations, specifically in Iraq.

- General Cougoure, Chief of Army (COF), in March the CDF briefed the Defence Minister on the progress of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) on the state of the ADF.

- Vice Admiral Ritchie, Chief of Naval Operations, in May the CDF gave a very comprehensive overview of the current situation in the Navy. He spoke frankly on many issues including the high operational tempo and the need to ensure continuity of responsibilities.

- Senator Evans, Shadow Minister for Defence, in June Senator Evans spent some time briefing the Defence Minister on the progress of the Department's review on the formation of a Coastguard, now part of the Defence Force's responsibilities.

- Lieutenant Colossal, Director of the Defence Intelligence Agency, in June the Defence Intelligence Agency, now part of the Defence Force's responsibilities.

Improvement in Maritime Defence

In December the Minister for Defence announced the funding of defense projects in the $200 million to improve Australia's maritime defence capabilities.

- The first is a $500 million project to upgrade the anti-ship missile defences of the RAN's TANPA and cap class frigates. These improvements include a new infra-red search and question of niche capabilities, a term used frequently by government, specifically what it meant. By this was meant that while the RSL supports the provision of limited capabilities to larger coalition operations, this requirement cannot be a substitute for the development and retention of a balanced force structure. Another point made was the RSL's strong reservations with regard to the direct recruitment to Special Forces from the street. The meeting was left to use the RSL's own view.

Conclusion

The emphasis on defence and security by government and the media has not changed over the last few months. The war in Iraq which continues in fact if not in theory has contributed to the situation, as has the Australian leadership of a combined military and police contribution to Solomon Islands. Both the Iraq and Solomon Islands involvements are a demonstration of the vastly more realistic attitude by government to defence and security issues. This is also becoming evident that Australia is prepared to play its part in contributing to stability and security not only in the region, but in other parts of the world. While the budget has increased to some degree due to operational requirements there is also a need to ensure that capital procurement does not suffer as a result. Inevitably Defence will require increased allocations in future.

A Charles Ross, RSL National Defence Committee

 INFORMATION FOR VETERANS & FAMILIES

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

To find out more about the Department and its services
Please telephone 133 254 or country callers 1800 555 254
Capt. Colin Juttert-h heroic and outstanding leadership, devotion and dedication... 

PROFILE
Medical Officers on the Burma-Thailand Railway, WWII

Capt. Colin Percival Juttert

29 Field Ambulance and Medical Officer - "F" Force

Capt. Colin Juttert was born in 1920 at Tamanda in South Australia. He was educated at Adelaide Grammar School, Adelaide and studied Medicine at Melbourne University and graduated in 1943. He took residence at Perth Hospital—now known as Royal Perth Hospital. It is of interest to note that fellow POW medical officers Claude Anderson and Tim Godlewski, moved from Adelaide to Perth to practice medicine. He became a doctor and travelled to the UK with the intention of a second attempt to do his surgical degree. When his medical degree was cancelled (temporarily as it turned out) and they hastily returned to Kuantan to enable Colin to enlist.

Colin enlisted as a medical officer (M.O.) of Section "F" Forces at Kuantan. He was sent to Malaya later in the year as an assistant of Captain A. A. Wilson, Australian General Hospital (AGH). Later he was transferred to 2/2 Field Ambulance and Medical Officer, the force which was deployed into Malaya in the last week of December 1941. He was posted to the East coast, in support of 2/2 Brigade. They had been sent into Singapore Island. In these conditions and in the varying reactions of people to these conditions, some cotised in a noble fashion and others failed to set an appropriate example. The Field Ambulance element met up with the Australian 3rd Division, Albert Coates with anaesthetics, followed the operations in due course with working parties to various locations. There was much work in the matter of recovering corpses, collecting periods and identity discs.

In April 1943, Colin was one of 10 Australian MO's in support of 3,600 Australian troops attempting to cross the River Kwai as part of "F" Force (the balance of "F" Force was 3,400 British). It is well known that following the horrendous days' journey train in steel stocks, Fort St. John was surrounded and marched by the Imperial Japanese Army. Colin was sent on a special mission of 600 km at a distance of 300 km over a period of 18 nights. Colin was with a group, under charge to Kama Songkuti, the north-western channel of the river, a distance of 800 km from the Burma border. During the march he saw and experienced the sadism and brutality of the IJA. He actually inferred that the IJA was nothing but a bunch of killing machines. Strangely, two Korean nuns who survived the party and later that night put mercurochrome all over the cuts on his legs and helped him. This was just a sample however of many things he had to come over the next 7 months.

When in Kani Songkuti, Colin had received a bullet wound and amongst others, Colonel Kappe the senior Australian Officer "F" Force and the senior medical officer of "F" Force Major Jose Stevens (captained by Timon) and Sir Roger Swartz. The camp was situated in a war-damaged hilltop. These formed a swampy low lying valley into which water ran from all sides and turned the camp area into a quagmire when it rained. The terrain was unlike the southern camps where there was less chance of contact with some form of organisation. Here they had contact with a notorious and dreadful guard by the name of Konan who had been sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment, for his misdeeds and others such as Captain Fukada (POW camp commander) and Lt Abe (Japanese engineer).

Comments by fellow POWs follow:

Arthur Kearton

"I was one of the only medical officer with whom I had an opportunity to converse in the camp. It was a matter of the fact that we were both banished into isolation, having been associated with the military carriers. I felt in that with very little chance of escape that it gave some hope that we at least had a chance of living and made his subsequent heroic and untiring efforts of leadership, devotion and dedication to his impossible task, under horrific conditions, was worthy of the highest commendation and thanks.

James Boyle, author of "Railroad to Burma"

"Capt. Juttert, with the assistance of the capable and willing carfords, fought every fight to the death, preferring to forget that the battle was lost, so long as a chance existed and the result a forgone conclusion. Capt. Juttert... was my opinion one of the most confiding and capable doctors we had in the camp. Juttert invariably exhibited an attitude of complete indifference towards the Japanese and it is pity a few more of our doctors did not try to emulate him!"

G.W. (Billy) Skeets (medical orderly)

"At the isolation last night as a chalera carrier—along with 23 others, including Chua, Capt. Juttert the MO and Barney Woodburn (R.M.) I Arthur (Arthurs) was also identified as a chalera carrier on that occasion. 21 March 1943 by Major Stevens and Capt. Juttert. Patient's story of starvation and the signs were complete.

Standard Bears commended

A dignified and colourful addition to the memorial services held around the country is the placing of the national flags and the standards of the veterans associations.

Whether exhibited as a static display, or marched on and off the field of the presentation of these symbols of loyalty and reverence, indicates a sense of pride and remembrance.

Submitted by the Arctic Convoys Veterans Association

George Main
What a marvelous legacy former POW and late resident, Mr Ted McLaughlin, left for the community and the new generation in WA.

This gentle giant of a man took the time to empathise with all those families whose husbands, sons, uncles, grandfathers, brothers and relatives did not return from a place of war that was geographically unknown or able to be pronounced by many.

If it was not for his tireless efforts that culminated in the first Memorial site in WA in 1971, we would have had to wait a long while to pay homage to all those who paid the ultimate price during their service to their country during their captivity under the Japanese occupation in Borneo during 1942-45.

Since Sept 1991 there has been a dedicated Sandakan Memorial Day in the lush green hamlet of Boyup Brook. With the green rolling hills, silvery grey wandoon, white feathery sheep in pastures almost reminiscent in golden carols. Rare are that typical of the special cocoon surrounding their Great Southern region.

From those early beginnings, that ever widening Ted, back from far and wide turned up to his special space in the backyard of the Shrine of Boyup. Visitors who are passing through, that miss the annual event are backtracked to pull up and get a closer look at the simple but emphatic obelisk paying testimony to the ANZAC Spirit of those 113 diggers lost in Borneo. Another chance for them to realise that "time long ago in Borneo" there was an incident in our war history that has received very little recognition" until recently, there has been an awakening for all good Australians to ask and wonder why?

Before Ted’s passing to his heaven he emphasised the importance for the next generation to carry the burden forward. He knew that technology, dedication, passion and imagination would speed up the process, a lot faster than his twenty years of sole effort to reach the inaugural 1995 dedication. He also asked that annual pilgrimages be continued to Sandakan: the War Graves Cemetery in Labuan Island, and also along the path of the 'Death Marches', so that our community and especially the youth of today could experience the area where so much pain and sacrifice was endured. He also wished that his connection with the Boyup Brook district would be remembered by the continuance of the annual Sandakan Memorial Day.

I am happy to report that on all of Ted’s requests, the plan is on track. I am also proud to say that there are so many people interested in what Ted did that the progress has been remarkable to say the least.

The development of the Memorial Day is increasing with more interaction of the community youth that are encouraged by the many stories of the school educators and families.

The formalising of the Ted McLaughlin Scholarship Programme through the District High School, an initiative that is now being put into place in other country schools in WA, also in Kota Kinabalu at the SANZAC College and very soon into the selected schools in Sandakan, Sabah State, Malaysia.

The support of Shire and Community Sponsor Groups such as the Lions Club, RSL, POW Association, 2/4th Machine Battalion Association and supportive families who did have a loss in Borneo are making this programme a success.

Mr Joe McLaughlin, who recently visited Sandakan in April and again for their inaugural Sandakan Memorial Day on 15 Aug 2006, was the guest of the President of the Sandakan Municipal Council, Dato' Adelin Leung. Discussions took place and the opportunity for dialogue towards a student exchange programme in the near future was established.

Local connections with business contacts and the Lions Club in Sandakan were put in place. Joe had the opportunity to meet with some of these business people, Mr Richard Chung and Judy Lim. Dato Adelin delegated Mr. Chong to act as her representative at this years Boyup service and be their special guest speaker.

Richard spoke passionately about his connection with Sandakan and the opportunity to have met one of the escapers of the death at the Loknabu Camp, in 1995. How he and his family knew many Chinese families who also survived the Japanese. He also explained how this inspiration from Owen Campbell had altered his life and many others in the Sandakan community and that there was the same energy being placed in formalising days of remembrance and education of the new generation as to the history and heritage. After the ceremony he was a guest of the Shire at a Civic reception. At the conclusion of his talk, Mr Eric Biddle, Principle of Boyup District High School called upon the winner of the Scholarship, Miss Brenna Ridout, to present her winning assignment.

The third worthy recipient of the Scholarship, Miss Brenna Ridout, will be the 2005 Sandakan ANZAC Ambassador for the 60th Anniversary Tour. Brenna and her parents are very proud and honoured that she was selected from the group of 15 applicants this year. All the judges found it exceptionally difficult to make a final selection, however only one could be a winner. Brenna’s work was exceptional in writing as fitting to be selected the winner. All the other applicants are to be commended for efforts and we are extremely proud of them. Their knowledge of Sandakan, The Story that Must be Told will be everlasting. I am sure for Brenna I am also sure that her Grandfather Mr Percy White (de) would be in place by being a permanent inspiration to her during her choice to enter and present her assignment the way she did. Congratulations go to her and the Ridout Family.

Mr Richard Chung addressing the gathering at Memorial Day.

Congratulations also go the Mr Grant Warle and his helpers for organising the day.

Registrations for the 60th Anniversary Tour to Borneo for the ANZAC Services are being taken now. For all enquiries, contact the author of this column, Ryan Rowland, the RSL Travel Coordinator for WA.

Phone 9295 2155, Fax 9295 1288 e-mail: ryan_flightlines@westnet.com.au

---

**Boyup Brook Memorial Day... ten years on**

---

**ANZAC Tours for 2005**

**Turkey**

Gallipoli ANZAC Day Tour 13 days, 17th April 2005

Istanbul • Gallipoli Peninsula • Canakkale • Troy

---

**Turkey France & Belgium**

Gallipoli & the Western Front ANZAC Day Tour 20 days, 17th April 2005

Istanbul • Gallipoli Peninsula • Canakkale • Troy • Brussels • Ypres • Somme • Paris

---

**Thailand**

Thailand ANZAC Day Tour 8 days • optional 5 day extension to Cambodia

20th April 2005

Bangkok • Ranong • Karon Beach • Phuket • Phi Phi Island

---

**Vietnam**

Vietnam ANZAC Day Tour 11 days • optional 7 day ext. 20th April 2005

Saigon • Yung Tau • Baia • Dal Dinh • Hanoi • Hoi An • Ha Long • Long Hai

---

**Extension**

For a brochure or enquiry please phone or email

**1300 139 450**

info@battletours.com.au

Batttle Tours is the registered trading name of Australian Travel Pty Ltd.

---

Price is based on twin share and their respective weights or Government Rates.
Peace of Mind: Award-winning care, when you need it most
- The very best in personal care, accommodation and equipment
- One of Australia’s largest private teaching hospitals and a centre for excellence
- Over 500 leading Perth doctors in all major medical specialities
- 24-hour supervision by a dedicated, professional team
- Quality meals from master-winning chefs

Hollywood Private Hospital
A member of Ramsay Health Care
Memorial Ave, Nedlands
Tel: 9346 6000 Fax: 9389 8470
www.hollywood.ramsayhealthcare.com.au

Ramsay Health Care – 40 years of better health care

This year Ramsay Health Care celebrates its 40th anniversary, since it was founded in 1964.

Its founder, Paul Ramsay, began the company with only a small psychiatric and convalescent facility in Mosman, Sydney.

Now Chairman of Ramsay Health Care, Paul said it was an honour to be part of the development of a great Australian company and reflect on the last 40 years of achievement.

“This company is particularly special because of its people and I have met and worked with many wonderful people over the decades,” he said.

Ramsay Health Care Managing Director Pat Critser said, “We are proud of our culture and our heritage and we look forward to celebrating our 40-year milestone.”

Ramsay Health Care now has 35 facilities throughout Australia and has grown to become not only one of the largest but also one of the most respected operators of private hospitals in the country.

The company’s first medical/surgical hospital, Barings Private Hospital in Coffs Harbour, celebrated its 25th anniversary last December.

This year Hollywood Private Hospital celebrates its 10-year anniversary since becoming part of Ramsay Health Care.
Bridge over troubled waters

Industry-respected psychiatrist Dr Winston Chiu is demonstrating outstanding innovation and pioneering spirit with a new venture in the field of mental health.

Dr Chiu, a Hollywood accredited psychiatrist with more than 30 years experience, has established a general practitioner mental health clinic to provide a unique intermediary service to the public. If someone is feeling depressed or anxious their first port of call is often to their general practitioner.

And although the GP community is becoming better equipped to identify mental health issues, most have limited time in which to counsel and treat these patients. For this reason Dr Chiu recognised an urgent need for a dedicated mental health centre, staffed by GPs with training and support from qualified mental health professionals.

The Bridge GP Counselling Service is located at 66 Aberdeen St Northbridge. The clinic will act like a bridge between the general community, GPs and mental health professionals. It will provide compassionate medical advice and counselling to help patients resolve their mental health issues.

"Hollywood Private Hospital is assisting the clinic and offering support in the form of qualified psychiatrists and clinical psychologists. These mental health professionals will be in regular contact to advise GPs, on a patient-by-patient basis, as may be required," Dr Chiu said.

The returned & service league of Australia WA Branch Inc. is to conduct the traditional Remembrance Day Service on Thursday, 11 November 2004.

State President, Executive Committee and Members of the League invite the People of Western Australia to attend the Remembrance Day Service.

"Lest We Forget"

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.
Student's acclaimed ANZAC poem put to music

For five years the combined schools at Ellenbrook have held their ANZAC ceremonies at the picturesque lake in Ellenbrook. The ceremony, which now attracts an audience of nearly 300 students and parents, has steadily grown in size and sophistication each year.

This year a young student from St Helena's Catholic Primary School read a poem that she had written. Brian Union, President of the Ellenbrook RSL, remarked at that time that he thought the poem was excellent and captured the spirit of ANZAC.

The poem goes as follows:

"This is the ABC singing programme for professionally have now 'Cry:~~~r~c~~~~~f;~t:~~n~tic~~

schools at Ellenbrook have held
and parents, has
ANZAC.

picturesque Helena's Catholic Primary
time that he acclaimed poem put

Student's jack
to music

with

ANZAC poem.

By Jas Cappucca
Aged 9

Take a leap back to 1915,

And was

song .

Keith McDonald, the

poem

said: "The Australian

word was

to music

ceremony, and sophisti
cation

life for

visitor

As a result of a passing comment

about the Borneo Jervy and

books written about that war's

history, Mr Richard Chung, who

was visiting Perth for the Boyup

Brook Sandakan Memorial Day,
stated how he had the Jack Sue

autographed book 'Blood in

Borneo'. When told of Jack's ill

health and recent hospitali
sation, he insisted that arrange
ments be made to visit him.

A quick call to Patricia Rowland
of RSL Welfare and Counselling
sorted out his appointment with
daylight for this historical meeting.

McChung related the events as

to how he acquired the book as a

present because Jack was an

opera fan and a member of the Z-Special

Force during WWII in Borneo

through the Beaufort region

where Jack was once born and

and his family resided.

He had heard of the Z-Fighters

secretary of the Z-Fighters

family connections as a young

student at the Mares Brothers College

in Lismore, NSW. It was much

to his delight that he

was presented with Jack's

book as a gift.

One can only imagine the

excitement when it was

confirmed by Mrs Rowland that a

visit was arranged.

Jack is recuperating in

Hospital from injuries he sustained some

days ago. He recently had a

recurring back problem that was
diagnosed as a fractured spine. Mr Chung

was overwhelmed with his visit, which seemed

quite fortuitous that Jack has

recently been honored by the

NSW Premier, Mr Bob Carr,

announcing the launch of the

Jack Young Sue Award, which

recognises the contribution of the war veteran to the Australian

and Chinese communities.

After the visit Mr Chung spoke

with high admiration about

Jack's current battle with health

and has taken back many photos

and memories to move

forward with the Sandakan

scholarship programme to be

conducted in conjunction with

the RSL, the Department of

Veterans' Affairs, the Shire of

Kalgoorlie and the Boyup

Brook District High School. 

Reported by Byron E, Rowland RSL

Branch.

Mandurah honours Vietnam Veterans

On Vietnam Veterans' Day, the 18th

of August, people all around the

country paused to remember the

59,000 Australians who served in

the Vietnam War, and the 720 who

lost their lives.

In WA, a large Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorations was held in

Mandurah. The service was

planned by the Mandurah-Murray Vietnam Veterans group and

attended by representatives from

the T&FA, State RSL and a number of local ex-service

organisations.

The Deputy Commissioner, Mr Arthur Edie, attended and laid a

memorial wreath on behalf of the

Department of Veterans' Affairs.

This year is the 30th anniversary of

the Battle of Long Tan, and Dana

Vale, Minister for Veterans' Affairs,
said: "The Australian victory in the

Battle of Long Tan demonstrated the
courage and determination of our tread to fight on, despite being

vastly outnumbered.

The Parade approaches the eastern esplanade in Mandurah.

RSL State President Mr Bill Gaynor
with Jas Cappucca who wrote the

ANZAC poem.

The RSL (WA) Retirement and Aged Care Association (Inc)

12 months of achievements

• New well-experienced Board of

Management and Executive

Officer

• Accounting functions and

reporting outsourced at

significant cost savings

• Additional staff employed to

provide for a greater focus on

income

• Menora redevelopment of 41

independent living units, 23

apartment buildings each of 28

apartments and extensive

community centre and chapel

contract signed with Dorian

Constructions Fly Ltd. Con

struction now well underway in

all aspects with the first resident

Mr and Mrs Neil Edwards

moving into Menora Gardens

Estate on Thursday 16th

September 2004.

• Extensive maintenance pro

gramme well underway at

Pearson Village, Menora Hostel,

Geraldton Guest House and

Mandurah Village. In addition a

major 'upgrade' of Meadow Springs

Hostel at Mandurah will

commence in the New Year. Our

maintenance programme will

ensure that residents live in a

comfortable and acceptable level

of surroundings.

• Focus on facilities at Geraldton

including the RSL Guest House

the independent living units and

the outreach care packages, to

ensure that all operators are at

an acceptable viability level.

• Comparison August 2003 Year

to date August 2004 Year to
date emphasises a return to

profit - a turnaround in excess of

$1 million. This profit will

ensure that the RACA can

proceed with necessary

activities as now outlined. This

is a fantastic improvement for

RACA, brought about by the

introduction of good manage

ment practices. Well-deserved

congratulations and acknow

ledge ment to all staff whose

loyalty and dedication is

nothing short of extraordinary.

We have a great team.

The task ahead:

• Ongoing management of the

Menora Gardens Estate from

both a construction and resident

level

• Planning and development of

the new RSL Menora Gardens Care Facility. This is a major

project and will encompass three levels and 120 beds (40 beds

per floor). Significant parking will be at basement

level with a commercial 'on-site'

liability. The new care facility

will overlook the parkland area

on the estate. It is envisaged

that construction will commence in

September 2005 and be

completed in some 12 months.

• Major Redevelopment Plan for

Meadow Springs Hostel.

• Close and careful financial

management of all RSL Retirement and Aged Care

facilities to ensure profitability at all levels. Profitability

provides for good maintenance,

good facilities for residents and

growth for the future. Without it

we have no future.
RSL takes stand on the Australian Defence Medal

The proposed introduction of the Australian Defence Medal has generated a substantial number of enquirers from ex-service men and women, particularly concerning the nature and national levels of the RSL.

The National RSL President has issued a letter responding to the enquirers directed to RSL National Headquarters.

The letter clearly addresses the primary concerns and details the RSL position on the allocation of the medal. We await the outcome of the Federal election and what the criteria will be.

I thank you for your letter and bring to your attention the following:

The Government's recent announcement of an Australian Defence Medal was in response to the Standing Resolution of the Returned Services League of Australia and some active lobbying by an organization known both as the New Medal Group. You may be aware that the RSL has had a resolution before Government for approximately five years. Initially, that Resolution advocated voluntary service for a period of 3 years, but that was subsequently reduced to 2 years. The resolution, according to reports of the National Congress in September 2003 reads:

"That the League recommends the Federal Government introduce a Defence Force Medal for all persons who have served in the Defence Force both full and part and this to include Reserve Forces. A qualifying period of two (2) years service, nil necessarily continuous, is accepted as the minimum requirement."

The resolution by the Government of the Anniversary of the National Service Medal complicated consideration of this issue. Understandably, there was heightened interest in the recognition that had been given to those who served under the National Service Scheme, but no equivalent recognition was given to those who served under the schemes that were their own volition. We have on several occasions expressed such concern. When he assumed the responsibilities as Minister Assistant, the Minister for Defence, Mr Mal Brough committed to seeking some resolution on this outstanding issue of the League. He engaged a team of independent experts who were charged with the task of examining their respective views of key stakeholders, including the serving members of the Australian Defence Force. It was his conclusion that the period of two years minimum put forward by the RSL was not sustainable. I understand further, that he may have been forced, under the circumstances to become operationally deployable, particularly those involved in light lead-time training activities.

In conclusion, a medal should not just recognize that a person completed an induction engagement period, but showed a commitment beyond the minimum initial engagement period. It was to be a "Service Medal" rather than a "Defence Medal". For all these reasons the Government decided that the period of service would be 2 years.

You would no doubt be aware that there are quite a number of RSL members and Veterans beyond the RSL who believe that a medal of any kind is not warranted. Equally, there are a number who believe that a medal of any kind should be received. Typically, the responses included in the Light lead-time training activities.

My press release after the Government's announcement indicated that we had been waiting quite some time for a Government resolution and were grateful for that response. While pointing out it had not satisfied the full ambit of the RSL request, I also felt frustrated by the process. It was not just the Government that was engaging in coming to a conclusion on this matter. I did intend to withdraw my comments in the press release. Not only would it just be totally impractical, but I meant what I said. That may indicate some personal comment by my comment.

In the light of the considerable expressions of concern raised with me, many of which I well understand and appreciate, I have sought the advice of members of our National Executive Committee. We have also consulted with the Defence Minister and his Administration with the Minister Assisting the Minister for Defence in the formulation of the new medal. After some consideration of the constituted in the issuing the media regulations, then I will use every opportunity, further, that was so.

It needs to be stressed that in spite of the wording of RSL Resolutions, we should never assume that Government will always comply with our requests. In this case they have complied however, they have done it on a different basis with a somewhat different proposal. That is the outcome of the process to date. Government and Oppositions are obliged to consider all stakeholders' interests in making their decisions, determinations, and proposals.

I am now able to advise that, at the 2004 RSL National Congress, held in Sydney in September, it was resolved:

"(That the Federal Government be requested to revisit eligibility criteria for the award of the Australian Defence Medal and adopt the criteria proposed under the RSL proposal which the National Congress requested the minimum eligibility for be for two years service."

We have begun the process of discussing these issues with transport medics and we expect little response until after the Federal Election.

Yours sincerely,

Bill Crews

The "Buy a Bed" campaign was officially launched at the 80th Annual Veterans' Day Commemoration held on the 10th-11th July 2004. This initiative was due to the change in the past six months from Low Cost Housing for some 42 residents at both Menora and Meadow Springs Hostels.

I am pleased to advise that donations have been received from the following:

- RSL, Narrangra $1,000
- RSL, Bungaree $1,000
- RSL, Warnerojoondalup $2,500
- RSL, Stromeo $2,500
- RSL, Biceo $2,500
- RSL, Victoria Park & Vietnam Veterans $2,500
- RSL, Highgate $9,000

These much needed donations received to date total some $12,000 and are greatly appreciated by both staff and residents at Menora and Meadow Springs Hostels.

"World-first drug to combat skin cancer" A new first-of-its-kind treatment which helps to rid itself of the most common form of skin cancer through simply applying it, has been launched in Australia.

Aldara, a world-first skin cancer treatment, is now available via prescription to treat superficial cases of the most common skin cancer. Basal Cell Carcinoma, or BCC, is a skin cancer that is considered inappropriate.

About 96 percent of Australians diagnosed with BCC are aged over 40 years, and 40 percent are aged over 70 years. Typically skin cancer develops in patients decades after the original sun exposure.

Aldara is a cream that can be used as a new treatment option because typically patients diagnosed with BCC have not had their BCC cut out, burnt or frozen off, scraped off, or have had to undergo photodynamic therapy.

Aldara on the other hand gets rid of BCC with the simple application of a cream. This means patients do not have to lose their BCC cut out, burnt or frozen off, scraped off, or have had to undergo photodynamic therapy.

Aldara on the other hand gets rid of BCC with the simple application of a cream. This means patients do not have to lose their BCC cut out, burnt or frozen off, scraped off, or have had to undergo photodynamic therapy.

Aldara on the other hand gets rid of BCC with the simple application of a cream. This means patients do not have to lose.

"The patients particularly suitable for Aldara are people with very large superficial BCCs in areas such as the chest of women and some men where frozen off, scraping or even freezing who experience pain or discomfort from surgery will also benefit," he said.

Dr Shumack said while Aldara would make some skin cancer treatments an easier proposition to face for patients, this should not become complacent about skin care. Nor should Aldara's benefits become the sore rationale to use the cream.

Aldara's entry onto the Australian market follows three years of research in Australia and global trials. It is the world's first Immune Response Modulator (IRM) skin cancer treatment, which means that it used the body's own immune system to fight the cancer.

Dr Stephen Shumack said Aldara worked by using the body's immune system to directly attack cancerous cells - the science behind this was impressive, it was being remarkably effective and it could help the body tackle cancers and diseases ranging from skin problems and cosmetic benefits become the sore rationale to use the cream.

"I think one of the advantages of Aldara is that we are going down a new track as far as therapy for skin disorders is concerned," Dr Shumack said. "We are not trying to use a cream that is directly attacking the cancerous cells. We are using a cream to stimulate the patient's own immune system to attack it's own cancerous cells, so it's actually the patient's own immune system doing the good work."

Each year, as many as 250,000 Australians are diagnosed with the most common type of skin cancer. A proportion of these may be superficial BCC cases and eligible for Aldara.

As we launch into spring and summer and the peak skin cancer season, it is vital that people who previously had superficial BCC skin cancers removed surgically - by excision, freezing, scraping or by undergoing photodynamic therapy - may now be eligible for this treatment option.

"Memorial Grove" In the last edition of The Listening Post Vol 27 No. 4, there was an article about a Memorial Grove to be planted at the Retirement Village & Disabled Veterans' Association of Victoria (RVDVA). Unfortunately the telephone number for the Association was wrongly printed. If you would like to provide support or assistance to the Association would you please telephone TIPPA (WA) direct on 9523 2011.
BUNBURY

We have four new life members who have all made an enormous contribution over many years to help make the Bunbury Sub-Branch what it is today.

Chris and Leslie Mills, Curley Tremble and Tom Keough have been recognised for their outstanding service in vastly different roles displaying strength, leadership and dedication.

In an effort to boost numbers at meeting it has been suggested that the monthly general meetings be held at 4.00pm on a Friday to lead into happy hour. The general idea is to concentrate on generating fellowship and to deal with "business" at a committee meeting on another night.

Once we get some feedback from members on this move an informed decision can be made. It may be possible to make an announcement at the Annual Dinner on 17th October (which may be long gone when you read this).

Don't forget the Christmas windup on November 27th, 2004.

Ken Parish keeps our website full of interesting information, so check it out at burns@gateway.net.au

All Mainstone

BROOME

Broome RSL opens new clubrooms

State President Bill Gaynor, accompanied by State Secretary Shane Seers, recently visited Broome to officially open new clubrooms for the Broome Sub-Branch. Before a crowd of over 150 sub-branch members, town dignitaries including Local Member of Parliament Mrs Carol Martin MLA and other invited guests, Sub-Branch President Capt Peter Blinkwopp outlined the history of the sub-Branch and the reason for the decision to name the new building the 'Norm Back Pavilion'.

Norm Back was an icon in the North West town and a dedicated RSL member. He was one of five brothers, all of whom volunteered to serve in World War II. Norm, being the youngest was a little late to see overseas service but went to Japan as part of BCOE. Upon returning to Broome after Japan he decided that as the Army offered fulltime service and the meatworks employment was only seasonal, Korea was the next best option. After Korea he returned to Broome to live out the rest of his days. He was a colourful character and earned to appreciation of all who knew him. Sadly, Norm passed away in 2001 after a long illness just prior to the presentation of his Life Membership of the League.

Today, his 50 year Certificate and Life Membership Award have pride of place in the building – either side of the Sub-Branch Charter which was presented on its foundation in 1920.

The new building replaces one which was destroyed by Cyclone Rosita in April, 2000. With the generous assistance of Lethbridge, DVA and local community support the Town and RSL have a first class facility that will service the needs of the locals as well as the many visitors to Broome during the tourist season.

After winning the Geraldton Shield for the fifth time in six years, Donnybrook RSL Sub-Branch is not ready to rest on its laurels and is going from strength to strength with hard work and community input.

Donnybrook RSL Sub-Branch Men in Sheds program has grown from strength to strength with local veterans helping local community kids with monitoring and woodworking classes has just constructed 3 honour boards for RAAF Cadets.

It's so good to welcome you! The coming of spring and an end of some warmer weather Unfortunately I was unable to join these lucky 'Geriatric Gypsies' who journeyed north to enjoy warmer climates.

Some compensation was gained by several enjoyable coach trips down south organised by the committee.

One excursion allowed us to experience the changes within Pioneer World then to travel through to Churchman's Brook where we enjoyed a tasty morning tea before calling at Roebourne Orchard on the way to a lunch appointment at the revolving Kangaroo. After enjoying the prospect and the food we continued our journey with wine tasting at defined sites.

On the next occasion we travelled to Northam allighting at Churchman's Brook for a view and a stroll. Resuming our trip after refreshments we stopped at 'Cooinda' – a delightful scenery – for a sip or two before lunching at our local destination. After an excellent meal we toured the town, observing some historical old homes, various recreational open areas and a number of white swans lazing on the placid waters of the Avon River before boarding the Prospector for a scenic rail journey through the river valley. This was an enjoyable experience...

Back to the working side, it is a pleasure to report that the addition of the footpaths, landscaping of our memorial gardens is complete (see photos). Many thanks to Mr Van De Loo and the City of Stirling for their assistance and advice, also appreciation to our branch stalwarts for their organisation and roll.

There's always a dark side. Unfortunately one of our plaques on the Wall of Remembrance was pried off and stolen. Such vandalism and desecration is disturbing and is an insult to deceased veterans and their loved ones.

The active action is most disappointing especially as much effort, time and money has recently been extended in revamping the memorial and surrounds. Thanks to Councillor Bill Stewart for his contribution in rectifying this matter.

Appreciation is extended to member Cedric Sharland, RANR, for his donation of a Japanese ceremonial sword which has been passed on to the Army Museum. Condolences are extended to family and friends of the following members – Syd Moore, Arthur Perry, and Mrs Barbara Crisp after the sounding of the last post. A strong welcome to new members George Wells and Peter Harris.

Donnybrook RSL was asked by Wing Commander Leon Griffiths to make 3 honour boards for yearly OC award Cadets. Wires were made and handed over at Anzac house Perth by Donnybrook RSL President Damian Dixon, with State President Bill Gaynor to Wing Commander Leon Griffiths.

Veterans in Donnybrook were proud to make honour boards for our up and coming future protectors of our great nation.
**SUB-BRANCH NEWS**

**CITY OF PERTH**

Our branch continues to function very smoothly, which speaks volumes for our very hard working office bearers and committee.

A river trip was conducted on Wednesday August 29th and all who attended enjoyed the trip. Unfortunately there were no members of the public who had intended taking part but were stuck down with all types of viral infection.

I am very sorry to report that Bill Olsson, a highly respected member of our sub-branch passed away and we extend our deepest sympathy to Bill’s wife June and all the family.

Like most other sub-branches and kindred associations we are gearing up for Poppy Day. The new collection cans are quite good and easy to handle, I only have one complaint to those cars, that is the restricted slots to insert banknotes. They could have been wider.

Jack Edwards

**SOUTH MANDURAH**

At a sub-branch BBQ, the sub-branch was presented with a Membership Improvement Certificate from the State Headquarters for a 21.28 per cent rise in membership for the year of 2000.

South Mandurah President Bob Russell receiving a certificate for Membership Improvement for the 3rd time from the RSL Country Representatives Ken Parish of Bunbury.

---

**VISTA WESTERN AUSTRALIA**

Rugged hills, wide plains and uncluttered views. A brief call at the city, next stop Geraldton, then tiny Gingin before we arrive at Geraldton. The shortest distance between two points is a straight line, so why should you miss out on the delights of a visit to this area? Certainly you should give this area a try if you haven’t already done so. Whether you are a first time visitor or a seasoned visitor, you will have a great experience here. For more information contact: 08 9654 3100.

---

**Can you help?**

RAAF Ground Staff All mustering who served at No.45TS

Details are urgently needed from male ground stuff for a book being assembled in conjunction with the very important training base for tropic pilots (note — already many ex RAf Airlines). It is my intention to concentrate on the very important role played by all the 150 personnel, who served there to support the four separate courses of some 200 tropic pilots, each course graduating every 26 days after being there for four months.

Details needed: Call up date, Rookie Training, Trade Mastering Training to be expanded, and Service at No.4 SFS operated, etc. Photographs if possible on loan to scan and immediately returned.

Contact: Leslie R. Jobes ex RAAF Pilot, 09-9309-2211 or 17a Robertson Way, Kingsley 6026 WA. bruce@jobes.net.au

**An Appeal to Forgotten Veterans**

I was in the 2/5th Armoured Regiment in Queensland Regt of the 1st Armoured Division. After we completed three months manoeuvres in NSW we were then prepared to leave for the Middle East.

The Japanese entered the War. We broke up into smaller armoured regiments on the 2/4th and the 2/10th Regiments. We were sent to the Middle East, to fight the enemy for 2 years. We were there whenDarwin was shelled 70 times in 11 months. The 2/5th Regiment was sent to Southport Qld to go to Java but the war ended.

In January 1999 the Government passed a Health Benefits Gold Card for those veterans who had fought the enemy.

When the veterans, who were not通知 the Australian Government, do not have the fault of our own, we felt that we had been insulted.

In 1942 we were heroes, but in 1999 up to the Year 2000 we have been told that we are a financial burden to the budget.

How is it that the Government can afford to fight a war in Iraq?

We forgotten veterans are demanding that the Government simply give us our rights, we digressed, and in the blink of an eye.

Is that too much to ask for?

We would have fought well as our wounded comrades in arms if given the chance. We are appealing to every veteran of the AIF who were not given the chance to fight for the Japanese in February 1942 to 1945.

We only need 8,000 veterans of the 84,500 still alive to establish a fighting fund to take our cases.

Please send any contributions to:

Dr O’Halloran & Co Trust Account

**3rd Cavalry Regiment (Vietnam) Association**

**1st Armoured Regiment Association**

**Reunion Melbourne 2005**

The 3rd Cavalry Regiment Veterans’ and 1st Armoured Regiment Associations have put together an exciting reunion commemorating the 40th anniversary of the landing of the Armoured Corps in Vietnam by the Prince of Wales 4/1965, which was the first deployment of an Army in a conflict zone since the Second World War.

All Vietnam Veterans who served in the Armoured Corps during the Vietnam Conflict are invited to attend the Melbourne Reunions over ANZAC Day Weekend in April 2005. For those of you who are unaware of this event and not registered please contact the Committee at the address below and a registration form will be sent to you. Alternatively you can find one at one of the following websites:


You are welcome to attend even if you are not a member of either Association.

**Orientation Melbourne**

The following committee members are available to answer any queries regarding the reunion:

John Sheehan (03) 9496 4225
E-mail: sheehanphd59@ahomail.com
Ken Turner (03) 9496 4956
E-mail: kturner@optusnet.com.au
John O'Dwyer (03) 9623 3749
E-mail: treasurer@vvaavic.org.au

**Address:**
Reunion Committee
50 Fourth St
ROSSANA EAST VIC 3014

**EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST**

**Former Members & Civilian Staff of:**

3 Army Recruiting Unit

**Recreational Army Recruiting Unit (Bunswick)**

Located in Victoria & Tasmania during the 1970’s & 1980’s

It has been decided to hold a reunion for these units during Spring of 2005. We are currently in the process of gathering information about the activities.

Please contact Lance Stokes on stoke_rml@bigpond.com or by phone on 0417 682464.

---

**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans’ Affairs**

**OFFICE CHANGES**

As of the 4th of October 2004 the WA Office of the Department of Veterans’ Affairs is relocating to new floors within the AMP Building, 140 St George’s Terrace.

Our Main Reception area for general enquiries will be located on Level 5. The Veterans’ Review Board will be located on Level 7, as well as the Ex-Service Organisation Volunteers Office.

The signage in the main foyer on the ground floor will be changed to direct visitors appropriately.

---

**Australian Government**

**Department of Veterans’ Affairs**

**COUNTRY VISITS CALENDAR**

**OCTOBER**

Narrogin 28 October
Katanning 29 October
Bruce Rock 29 October

**NOVEMBER**

Mandurah 3 November
Rockingham 4 November
Dunsborough 10 November
Mt Barker 10 November
 Albany 11/12 November

**DECEMBER**

Beverley 6 December
Barrydale 6 December
Bunbury 16 December
Busselton 17 December

All interviews are by appointment only.

To book please call 1800 555 254

---

The Listening Post is published for The Returned and Services League WA Branch
Incorporated by Heavy Motor Publishing, 17 Southport St Leederville WA 6007.

Advertise rates start at 16.00 per single column centmetre plus GST.

All advertising queries should be directed to Terry Healy
Ph: 9381 5551 Fax 9381 5139 Email: terry@hemypublish.com.au
UNIT ASSOCIATIONS

The Editor of The Listening Post reminds all Units that it is the responsibility of the Secretary to keep his/her files up to date and to make changes to the names and addresses of State Headquarters. Changes to the office bearers must be written in only. Please President & Secretary’s details with meeting information will be published.

ARDFORCE ASSOCIATES OF WA (INC)
President: Jim Ward: Ph: 0407 994 668.
Correspondence/Secretary: Mcky Coley, 1 4 Delaware Rd, East Victoria Park, 6101. Ph: 9417 2576. Email: cor@broadband.net.au. Meetings: 2nd Wed at 11.30 am, ACW Club.

ARCHWAY ASSOC
Chairman: Graham Oliver: Ph: 6337 7163. Correspondence/Secretary: George James, 132 Long St, Thornlie, 6108. Ph: 9478 6111. Email: cor@broadband.net.au. Meetings: 2nd Wed at 11.30 am, ACW Club.

ALLIED MERCHANT SEAMAN ASSN (WA BRANCH)
President: Capt. John Cook OAM: Correspondence/Secretary: Jack Edwards, 1 4 Oneonta Rd, Boodjidup 6215; Ph: 9393 9768. Meetings: Bi-monthly as arranged.

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION (AVAC)
Chairman: Les Slinger, 60 246, 14 Hills Rd, Subiaco, Ph: 9249 6577. Meetings: 1st Wed of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

AUSTRALIAN VETERANS DEFENCE SERVICES COUNCIL (AVAC)
Chairman: SGM Dick Phillips, Correspondence/Secretary: Ood Cameron, 2 446, 14 Hills Rd, Subiaco, Ph: 9249 6577. Meetings: 1st Wed of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

AUSTRALIAN WATER TRANSPORT ARF AIAA (WA BRANCH)

EX-AUSTRALIAN WOMEN’S LAND ARMY (WA)
President: Mrs Phylis Phillips, 9779 8455. Meetings: 1st Wed of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

VIETNAM WAR PRESIDENTS & WIVES ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Joan Aboe: Ph: 9345 5635. Meetings: 1st Tue of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

VIETNAM SERVICE ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President: Robert Sylvester, 9394 4190. Meetings: 1st Thu of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

WAR SERVICE ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRIA (WA BRANCH)
President: Khristof Hummer: Ph: 9912 4020. Meetings: 1st Thu of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

Austalian Legion of Ex-Servicemen & Women (WA inc)
President: Alan Barn: Ph: 0418 579 329. Meetings: 2nd Wed of each month, 14 Bar Beach Rd, Joondalup. Phone inquiries to 9288 3200 or 9971 8967.

Australian Society of Lawrence of Brangagen
President: Michael Rothen: Ph: 9331 5502. Meetings: 2nd Wed of each month from 7pm, Feb & Dec at 60 300, 14 George St, Perth. Club.

Australian War Veterans (WA) Inc
President: John Wooldridge: Ph: 9331 5237. Meetings: 2nd 2pm each month (except May), Warm 64, Binnington Club, 500 9248, 12 Warm 64, Binnington Club, 500 9248.
I found the book easy and engaging to read. It contains maps, diagrams, photographs and poetry. The book would be of interest to those who were engaged in the operations, military buffs and those interested in military history.

Many technical aspects, military and nautical terminology, are well explained in the context of the book, which assists the understanding of those not familiar with these areas. Glossary and abbreviations are also included in the back of the book.

Published in 2003, by Australian Military Publishing
ISBN: 1 76429 11 1
125pp Hardback

Available from: The War Book Shop, 13 Veronica Place, LOFTUS, NSW 2230, Phone 02 9542 6771 or other good bookshops.

Website: www.warbooks.com.au
AUD $39 (including postage, packing and GST)

**PRISONERS OF THE JAPANESE**

POWs of World War II in Asia

When writing this book, Gavan Dawes notes the lack of information in official histories of the POWs of Japan. He describes the lack of recognition by the Japanese and the British as appalling, the Australian veterans a lot better.

however, the Dutch version as being forty years too late.

He also notes that the war in Asia and the Pacific was a clash of armies, a clash of cultures and most brutally a clash of races. Race war was the way the conflict was understood on both sides, that was the way it was fought and the POWs suffered for it.

It is brilliantly written, his portrayal of the POWs suffering at the hands of a brutal captive may even repulse you. His description of the brutality by the Japanese to fellow humans is almost unbelievable.

They chopped the fingers off officers to get at their gold West Point rings. One captain had some Japanese money and for that they chopped his head off. Another officer was holding his men's money, white money; the Japanese took it and shot him. A Lieutenant went to help a captain who had fallen; the Japanese shot the captain and ran a bayonet up the Lieutenant from behind. Filipino soldiers from the Wiet 1 Division were tied at the wrists with wire, then the Japanese officers and noncoms started at one end of the line with their swords, the Japanese enlisted men at the other end with their bayonets. They killed from behind.

The butchering took two hours, between three and four hundred bound men were killed. They were cut up and screaming until nightfall.

A book not for the faint hearted, however, a book that should be read.

To understand how the Japanese and their Korean guards conducted themselves during the war, you have to read this book.

The Japanese and their Korean guards acted like wild animals.

They showed no mercy to their prisoners, and would behead or bayonet them if they were truly sick and demented people.

Possibly one of the best books that I have ever read on military history – Managing Editor, The Listening Post.

Published April 2004 by Scribe Publications P/Y LTD
Scribe Publications PO Box 523
Carlton North Victoria 3054
Phone: 03 9349 9550 or Fax 03 9349 2772
Website: www.scribecorp.com.au
ISBN: 1920769 129
416pp Softback

AUD $35.95

**AUSTRALIA'S DAMBUSTERS**

Collin Burgess

A fantastic account of the dambusters squadrons of the Second World War. It describes in detail the planning and the bombing attacks by 617 Squadron RAF Bombardier Command’s renowned Dambusters.

The exploits of 617 Squadron, with Australian pilots and crew were the first to bomb the German dams at the Moride, Elster, Ems, Ennepe and Diehl. 617 Squadron also used Tallboy bombs to blast underground tunnels that the Germans were using to transport tanks and fire their V2 rockets. 617 Squadron was known as the suicide Squadrons.

If you have seen the movie of the Dambusters, this book is a must have. It is possibly even more exciting to read than to watch the movie.

I enjoyed reading Australia’s Dambusters, and this would be another book to consider for Christmas.

Published first in 2003 by Australian Military History Publications
13 Veronica Place, Loftus 2232
Available from: The War Book Shop, 13 Veronica Place, LOFTUS, 2232
Phone 02 9542 6771 or Fax 02 9542 6771 or from any good book shop
Website: www.warbooks.com.au
ISBN: 1 876439 877
179pp Hardcover

AUD $39 (including postage, packing and GST)

**ANZAC CLUB**

ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Tce, Perth
Come in and try the new menu

Including Triple Decker Club Sandwich, Chicken Salad and Risotto from $8.50

For bookings phone: 9325 9079

City of Perth

City of Armadale

City of Bayswater

City of Joondalup

City of Joondalup

City of Joondalup

City of Joondalup

City of Joondalup

**NEW MEMBERS**

The State President and members of the State Executive extend a welcome to new members, re-enlistments and transfers (August to September 2004) to the League in WA. Their names are listed by sub-branch.

**The Fight Leaders**

Australian Battledfield Leadership – 3 JAR
D. Butler, Argent and J. Shelton

The Fight Leaders is a book of Australian Army leadership during World War 2 and the Korean War. It provides accounts of many of the battles fought at Kapyong and Maryang Sun. The book is published in association with the Australian Army History Unit. It is a reliable, referenced text for military historians.

The text outlines the problems and remarkable achievements of three Australian Army commanders—Green who was killed by enemy artillery, Ferguson who was relieved of his command for reasons that are still not entirely clear, and Hassett, who proved to be not only a great leader, but a true citizen and a general.

Butler, Argent and Shelton, the authors, served in 3 RAR with the battalion leaders and therefore bring life to this book, outlining the major achievements of these three highly regarded Australian military leaders.

Published in 2002 by Australian Military History Publications
Available from: The War Book Shop, 13 Veronica Place, Loftus 2232, Phone 02 9542 6771 or other good bookshops.

Website: www.warbooks.com.au
ISBN: 1 876439 761
179pp Hardcover

AUD $45 (including postage, packing and GST)

**Hands to Boarding Stations**

The Story Of Minesweeper Stokers

John Foster

Hands To Boarding Stations is a personal, factual account of the ship’s operations, during the nine months, in the mid-1960s, that John Foster and his crew, were patrolling South East Asia waters during the Indonesian Confrontation.

During his account Foster reveals how, prior to his assignment, he was told at the minesweeper in the Robertson Post Korps and, as most people at the time, little real understanding of the volatile political situation that was within the region during the period of operation. As it transpired minesweeping was only once a month of the role of the ship, which indirectly engaged in counter- piracy and anti-smuggling patrols.

Foster has an engaging writing style, which would appeal to most readers of the genre. The read develops a sense of the emotional highs and lows of the crew, as they experience periods of isolation and boredom, interspersed by intense terror and fear when they are engaged in actual battle situations.

During the narration of the events Foster recalls an incident of significant risk, when one of his men went berserk with a automatic weapon and compromised the safety of both Foster and his crew.

18 THE LISTENING POST: October 2004
I never fail to amaze me why people do what they do when it comes to celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and funerals. There has been since time immemorial the need to have commemorations and memorial celebrations. Along the medieval minstrels and story tellers of old times, we haven’t changed much, thanks to all those dedicated groups, associations and clubs that thrive in our community. We are helped along in our remembering of the local minstrels, sending out the impetus to create and relay all the local rumour, gossip, scandal and newly bits about the region... and its people.

Such is this of a scribe who uses the effective medium of the ‘secret message’ namely the Listening Post, to put out the story of Borneo...The Land Beneath the Wind.

How fortunate for this, as it is always so exciting waiting for such messages. The main premise is to be bothered with stories of war history, unless we have discovered some new DNA result that proves thousands of heroes, young, loyal men died as a result of their fellow man’s military administration.

Once again I am extremely honoured in being able to present and offer this wonderful and unique opportunity to visit an exhibition that honours and pays respect to some of those thousands of young men.

The tragedy of all wars scars all those that it affects. For the sake of the history the incidents of the fall of Singapore, surrender of the Allies to Japan and then the inhumane inhumanity of man against man must go down in the annals of history. In WW2, as being parallel to that of the wanton murder in Europe. So it is also the need to continue the telling of story of Borneo and the incidents in the Japanese Occupation.

The exhibition highlights the stories of capture, incarceration, transportation from Singapore to Borneo, slave labour in Labuan, Kuching, Jesselton, the building of an airstrip in Sandakan, torture and brutalisation, the use of ‘cages’, heron, ‘bathrooms’, and those ‘death marches’ that caused the death of thousands.

This year we had the good fortune to connect with Mr John Tuppen, a ‘radio bloke’, as he aptly describes himself. John discovered that after he visited the exhibition in Murubting earlier this year he had heard of another ‘radio bloke’, POW 12 Rod Wells on doing some research on a website he found. Rod’s transcript of an interview that took place at the Bournemouth University in September 1995. The topic was the building of a ‘secret radio’ whilst a prisoner in Sandakan. A Captain Linsell Matthews, Rod Wells, several Western Australian prisoners and numerous local underground activities, were also involved and unfortunately suffered atrociously at the hands of the Japanese when they were discovered, chiefly due to a Jap collaborator who found out about the use of the radio.

Since that fateful meeting with John, he decided to put his knowledge and archives to this story of the secret radio that is an actual working replica of the radio.

And now once again proved the enormous ingenuity, skill and ability, under duress, that Wells and his group achieved which might have been impossible. Truly awe inspiring that Aussies are renowned for.

We have dedicated this story of the radio to all the ‘radio blokes’, civilian or service personnel who carried out their tasks during WW2, so as to maintain the communication link vitally important to the allies. Rod Wells only died last year after surviving the horror of Sandakan, due to a twist of fate not being selected for the firing squad after the trials in Kuching because of a typographical error received from Tokyo. As an alternative he was sentenced to twelve years solitary confinement in Chuanan Road Prison in Singapore. He was liberated on the surrender of Japan on 15th August, 1945. May he Rest in Peace.

Ryan Rowland
Senior Exhibition Co-ordinator, RSL Travel Consultant

McBryan Martin formerly of 2/9 Commandos Squadrons and Mrs Keith Hart, at the Opening Ceremony of Bornean Exhibitions at the State Library.

The BORENO EXHIBITION 1942-45...SANADAKAN THE CONTINUING STORY

(last page)
Hollywood Salutes You

At Hollywood Private Hospital, our expert team of doctors, nurses and allied health professionals are proud to provide world-class medical attention to the veteran community. To ensure patient recovery time is assisted, Hollywood also offers five-star rooms, a wide variety of delicious meals and relaxing in-house entertainment.

You did the right thing by Australia. Hollywood will do the right thing by you.