The "official" commencement date for the Australian involvement in Viet-Nam is set at 23 May 1962, the date on which the (then) Minister for External Affairs announced the decision to send military instructors to Vietnam. The first Australian troops committed to Viet-Nam arrived in Saigon on 3rd August 1962. This group of advisers were collectively known as the "Australian Army Training Team" (AATTV).

As the conflict escalated, so did pressure for increased Australian commitment, this commitment grew to involve the Army, Navy and Air Force as well as civilian support, such as medical / surgical aid teams, war correspondents and officially sponsored entertainers.

At its peak in 1968, the Australian commitment amounted to some 83,000 service men and women. A Government study in 1977 identified some 59,036 males and 484 females as having met its definition of "Viet-Nam Veterans".

Continue Page 5.
NISSAN FULLY LOADED DEALS

DRIVE AWAY NO MORE TO PAY

NISSAN X-TRAIL ST-S $27,336
Manual 40th Anniversary Special Edition
• Powerful 2.5L DOHC engine • Dual SRS airbags • ABS brakes
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DUAL CAB • 2,800kg towing capacity (trailer with brakes)
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2.5 TURBO DIESEL PETROL AUTOMATIC 7 SEAT
• 128kw of power/403nm Torque • 3,000kg towing capacity
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FREE ALLOY WHEEL, POWER WINDOWS AND LUXURY SEAT TRIM. LIMITED TIME ONLY

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ALL NISSAN VEHICLES COME WITH 3 YEAR/100,000KMS WARRANTY
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*Prices are TPI prices only. TPI customers exempt for GST and stamp duty.
HMAS Ballarat, deployed in the northern waters of the gulf

HMAS BALLARAT, deployed in the Persian Gulf, is the Royal Australian Navy’s current contribution to maritime security operations in the region. The ship, which is part of Task Force 158 (TF158) is serving in the northern waters of the gulf, where its duties include oil platform protection, maintaining Iraqi boarders, humanitarian assistance and denying illegal trade.

HMAS BALLARAT is the eighth ANZAC Class Frigate and the sixth for the Royal Australian Navy, two being bought by New Zealand. The ship which was commissioned on the 26th June 2004 is on its first deployment to the Middle East.

The ship, which was the location of the Eureka Stockade, takes its ship motto, ‘Defend the Flag’ from that famous fight for equality.

As part of TF158, HMAS BALLARAT will be under the command of Commodore Peter Lockwood and his team of 21 Australian Naval Officers and specialist sailors. This is the second time the coalition naval elements have been under the command of Australians.

The Australian Navy is invaluable to the Coalition Naval efforts in the Middle East, because of their professionalism, their independence and their ability to stick to the task. In the North Arabian Gulf in command of 158, Australians will be playing a key leadership role in the Coalition. Captain John Peterson, Chief of Staff, U.S 5th Fleet.
Change of Financial Year

Congress approved an amendment to State Rules to change the financial reporting period from the Calendar Year to the Financial Year. While this was evident throughout the entire year, it was only in early September that the change became effective. From 2008 onwards all audits will be conducted as at 30th June, 2007 and presented Annual Reports will be adopted by the Annual Congress and the Branches Balance Sheet will be adopted by postal ballot prior to 31st October, 2006.

With Annual Congress now behind us I would like to express my appreciation to sub branches, Delegates and members who attended and participated in the celebration of the Leagues 90th Anniversary. It was a great occasion, not only for members who attended and Delegates and Branches want to initiate the change immediately but, this is not possible as we need to restructure timings of our AGMs and reporting financial positions to our membership. The Membership year WILL NOT change. Renewals will be required by 1st January – as now is the case. How will it affect State Branch?

There will be no change to State Branch operations. Congress will still be held in early July, triennial elections by postal ballot will take place prior to Congress and the Branches Statement of Financial Affairs and Balance Sheet will be adopted by postal Ballot before 31st October, each year.

National Congress

I wish to alert the membership and seek support for the 90th National Congress activities over the period 10th – 14th September, 2006. These include the Official Opening at Government House Ballroom on 12th September and the Congress 90th Anniversary Dinner at ANZAC House in that evening. A further-Line addition to the programme is the Official Opening of Moncrief Gardens the redeveloped War Veterans Homes – on Wednesday 13th September at 9.30am by The Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia. His Excellency Maj-Gen Michael Jeffery AC, CVO MC (Ret’d)

Late Notice from the Minister.

Post Armistice Service in Korea Review of Medal Entitlements

The Australian Government set up an independent review into the level of recognition of service following the armistice in Korea in 1953. The Working Party was to investigate the appropriateness of the award of the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-1975 with clasp “Korea” and the Returned from Active Service Badge for this period of service in Korea.

Working Party Members were:

Baird Admiral Ian Crawford AO, AM (MEURAN (Retd), Co-Chair; Former Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives Mr Garry Nield AM, Co-Chair; Ms Colleen Thurgar AM of the Order of Australia; and Brigadier Gordon Jones AM (Retd). The Working Party completed the review and the final report was presented to Minister Kelly on 20 December 2005.

The Post-armistice Korean Service Review identified the names of 18 Australians who died after the cessation of hostilities. The Government’s response to Post-Armistice Korea Service Report was announced today by Bruce Billson MP.

The Stop the Toad Foundation Inc (STTF) is planning a major offensive against the cane toad as it sweeps across the Northern Territory toward the WA border this Dry season. The culmination of that exercise will be a six week ‘window’ when we can hit the toads at their most vulnerable. The dry climate is working against ‘window’ when we can hit the toads at their most vulnerable. The dry climate is working against the enemy, but right now we need experienced people who can help us feed, mobile – and ready to engage the enemy.

We seek:

Planners – people with experience in tactical planning and managing teams on manoeuvres.

Team leaders – people who can take small teams into some of the more remote areas to conduct surveillance and toad control activities.

Ground support – people who can help us feed, cook, keep and transport the workers and the equipment efficiently.

Call Lisa on 08 9420 7266 or email info@stopthetoad.com for more information. Together we can keep WA CANE TOAD FREE www.stopthetoad.com

Field and logistics leaders sought

The Stop the Toad Foundation Inc (STTF) is planning a major offensive against the cane toad as it sweeps across the Northern Territory toward the WA border this Dry season. The culmination of that exercise will be a six week ‘window’ when we can hit the toads at their most vulnerable. The dry climate is working against ‘window’ when we can hit the toads at their most vulnerable. The dry climate is working against

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Some 12,400 naval personnel served in Viet-Nam from 1965 to 1972. The history of their service in the Viet-Nam War is recorded in the book "Royal Australian Navy in Viet-Nam." The first RAN ship to see operational service in Viet-Nam waters was the troop transfer HMAS Sydney, which transported the main body of the First Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR) from Sydney to Vung-Tau in May 1965. Between that date and March 1972, HMAS Sydney made a further 21 voyages. Other ships involved in providing logistic support for the Australian force in Viet-Nam included the Australian National Line vessels MV Jeparit, which made 43 voyages between June 1966 and March 1972; and MV Boonaroo, which made two voyages. In order to avoid industrial disputes, both of these ships were commissioned to the RAN. As a result, the Jeparit made its last 17 voyages and the Boonaroo its second voyage as RAN ships crewed with a mixture of civilian and navy seamen. During 1967, the navy commitment to Viet-Nam expanded rapidly. The first group consisted of eight RAN helicopter pilots, four observers and 84 supporting staff. Subsequent contingents were of a similar size. The unit operated in Viet-Nam until 16 June 1971, by which time four companies had completed tours of duty.

In addition to RANHFV, navy helicopter pilots flew with No.9 Squadron, RAAF during a period when the air force was short of pilots who served at varying times between February 1968 and April 1969. The Australian Army involvement in Viet-Nam commenced with the arrival in Saigon on 5 August 1962 of the first 30 advisers of the AATTV. By June 1964, the AATTV had been expanded to 80 advisers. It was a further expanded to 100 by 1965 and had reached over 200 by December 1972, when the withdrawal of Australian forces from Viet-Nam was announced. The team, by now known as the Australian Army Advisory Group (AAAG), returned to Australia on 19 December 1972 after completing over 10 years of service to Viet-Nam.

In April 1965, the Australian Government announced the commitment of an infantry battalion group. This consisted of 1 RAR, together with some logistical and support groups. The group was fully established in Viet-Nam by 10 June 1965 and operated under the control of the United States 173rd Airborne Brigade, located in Phu-Thu, northeast of Saigon. During March 1966, shortly before 1 RAR's tour of duty was due to finish, the Australian government announced that it would expand the army commitment to two battalions with supporting arms and services and that national servicemen were to participate with the army in Viet-Nam. The new formation, known as the 1st Australian Task Force, had a total strength of 4500 men and was assigned an operational area in Place-Tuy Province. From its base at Bien-Dinh, the task force conducted an active program including patrols, ambushes and cordon and search operations in surrounding villages, aimed at disrupting enemy supply lines. In addition, the taskforce conducted a number of civic action programs and other activities aimed at winning the support of a third battalion and supporting locals, giving it the capacity to operate more widely.

On 10 November 1964, the prime minister announced the reintroduction of national service conscription. The decision to do this was related to both the difficulty that the army was experiencing in attracting sufficient volunteers and the cost that would have been incurred in offering sufficient rates of pay to attract more volunteers during a period of full employment. Moreover, by introducing conscripts, the government was able to do a more on a more educated and skilled section of the workforce than it was currently attracting. Under the scheme, all Australian males aged twenty years required to register with the exception of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, non-religious municipal, employees of a foreign government or members of the permanent military forces. There were two registration periods a year in January; for those turning twenty in the first half of the year; and in July, for those whose twentieth birthdays occurred in the second half. The scheme operated from January 1965 to December 1972, when the newly elected Whitlam Government announced its abolition.

During January 1965 and December 1972 almost 70000 men turned twenty and were required to register for national service; of these, 3500 took the CMF option approximately 6740 men were conscripted and of these, 490 went to Viet-Nam. The RAFFA presence in Viet-Nam was established on 8 August 1964 when the first three Caribous landed at Vung-Tau. This group, which operated under the title of RAFF Transport Flight, Viet-Nam (RITTF) was expanded to six aircrafts on 24 August, followed by a further 24 aircrafts over the following months throughout the length and breadth of Viet-Nam. On 1 June 1966, following the decision to deploy No.9 Squadron to Viet-Nam, an RAFF unit was renamed No.45 Squadrons, RAFF to ensure equality in status.

The decision to send a squadron of eight Caribou bombers to Viet-Nam was announced by the prime minister on 22 December 1966 as part of an expanded Australian commitment to that country. The arrival of No.2 Squadrions aircraft and personnel deployed on operations at any time since the end of World War II. The aircraft operated a high level night bombing runs. Later, low level daylight bombing missions under the direction of a forward air controller became a regular feature. Such missions came to dominate squadron work and by November 1969, high level night bombing runs were largely discontinued.

Australia provided civilian medical and surgical teams to Viet-Nam under a SEATO aid programme administered by the (then) Department of External Affairs. The teams came under the general jurisdiction of the Australian Embassy in Saigon and operated purely in the Viet-Namese civilian environment. They provided:

- Assistance to Viet-Namese doctors and nurses in the country's run down, ill equipped and understaffed provincial hospitals;
- Education and training in western medical techniques for Viet-Namese medical personnel; and
- Tangible evidence of Australia's concern for her neighbours in South East Asia.

The group known as 'official entertainers' consisted of both show business personalities and popular groups of the day. All were volunteers who were organised into tour groups by the army, which provided transport, accommodation, etc as well as an Escort Officer for the duration of the tour. Tours were organised at regular intervals throughout the year and normally included one tour over the Christmas period. Each tour lasted on average 19 days.
The rear of our Club.

Collie/Cardiff

We raised the funds for the garden through the “buy a brick” appeal on ANZAC Day 2006, we placed plaques on the wall.

On ANZAC Day Father Ian Mabey officially opened and dedicated the wall in memory of all deceased veterans. The wall is for families of deceased Veterans, who would like to have the Veteran remembered this way. The only criteria is that they must have served and be eligible to have their name on the wall.

Highgate

I presume that being a very new editor of the Highgate News, a Presidential remark to me “that it is about time that our sub-branch made a contribution to The Listening Post” was also a suggestion that I take over this project as well. Here it is.

A scheduled challenge in the summit of the Western Front, the sub-branch committee was faced with some difficult decisions. With some members of the sub-branch having served in both World Wars, some had been killed in action and others were prisoners of war. It seemed that there was a thorough grip of their responsibilities and a good year in store.

An important social event in a member’s life in the sub-branch is undoubtedly the 90th Birthday of a member. This is a month long celebration and it is very well attended with more than 25% of members represented, and with the membership of the sub branch Committee saw that there were of those reaching their 90th.

Phil Loffman, a member of the 2/11th, a Western Australian battalion, was one of those who wore the “Rain Ridge” Almiron on the 27th July 1942. A short description of this battle historical battle was described in the Perth Daily News dated 29th July 1942, in the following terms:

“West Australians who yesterday stromed “Rain Ridge” appear to have been overhelmed by the enemy’s forces. After they had captured their objective the West Australians clung to it heroically for more than 11 days. They were the only those who had done more. But they were men against 12,000 and the German armoured strength simply overran them”.

As an aside; the “Daily News” of the 27th July 1942 also reported on the 90th Birthday of the Honorable James McClellan with the following:

“Phil was taken prisoner by the Germans and handed over to the Italians and there his experiences as a POW began. At the time of the collapse of the Italian Government Phil was imprisoned in the Villaibort war camp. With the fall of the government the camp commander called all the Australians and of which he announced, “Soldiers go home – Prisoners go to London”. He and his fellow POWs were transported to Switzerland. He wished the parade good luck and said that it is reported that he got on his bike and pedalled away.

The plan of most of the Australians was to try and break the unique allied front over them. However the advance slowed and then stopped and they became untenable. Switzerland became their plan and through the generosity and at the great risk of the Italian people they reached the Swiss-Italian frontier at Bramble, only to be arrested by the Guardia Financia (Customs). Although the Officer in charge abused the guards for their actions and apologised, he stated that he had informed Phil and the others that he would have to pass them on. They were then transferred to prison in Como where they were put in the Russian compound and then were paraded before a group of German Officers enjoying morning tea in the sunshine. So far so good. But as they continued their way to the American Air Crew compound. He had been in that compound for a few moments when an American approached him stating “what luck, my size” explaining that he had planned to decamp that night. The exchange of clothing was made and Phil later learned that the escape was successful. Finally he was transported to a British camp Lamsdorf-Stalag V11B. From there he was sent on a temporary parole. On 5 May 1945 with the collapse of Germany imminent Phil and a Brit had sailed to join the thousands of civilians heading west towards the American Front. His journey from there to Europe was itself filled with adventure and challenge and would provide enough material for a book.

When we let our imagination run free this drastically abridged story of the way in whichmost has been deleted conjures up vivid and extraordinary scenes. It reminds us that within our ranks we have many whose tales are personal stories of the various era and whose experiences are the like of the one Phil has experienced at great international turmoil. This is why we, members of the RSL, will remember and nurture our war veterans.

Mandurah Murray

Australia’s military involvement in Vietnam was the largest in duration any war in Australia’s military history. It lasted over 10 years, from August 1962 to January 1975. More than 50,000 Australian Service Personnel including 17,000 National Servicemen were committed to the war effort and 517 paid the ultimate sacrifice.

As a result of the Abbott Royal Commission into Agent Orange in 1985, the Commission recognised and recommended to the Government that a special day should be set aside to commemorate Australia’s Viet-Nam Veterans.

In 1998 the Government accepted this recommendation and 18th September, “Long Tan Day”, was accepted as being the appropriate day because it had wide community support. In 1995, Long-Tan Day as it was known was changed to Viet-Nam Veterans’ Day. On the 18 August each year the Mandurah Murray Viet-Nam Veterans’ Association organise a special ceremony and fellowship to commemorate this day.

They are joined by other Viet-Nam Veterans from all areas of the country and their allies from New Zealand, America and the Republic of Viet-Nam Veterans Association. Military, political, youth, cultural and the general public are actively involved in the ceremony.

Veterans meet and form up behind the Gallipoli Cenotaph and proceed to the Mandurah Community War Memorial at 10:45hrs. Afterwards social activity takes place at the Mandurah Round Sub-Branch of the RSL, Third Avenue, Mandurah.

Manjimup

The Manjimup Sub-Branch invites you and your members to attend the combined South West and Mandurah Viet-Nam Veterans’ Day in Manjimup on Saturday 19th August 2006.

The programme is to form up at 10am and proceed to the RSL Hall for an official address by the RSL President, accompanied by the Navy Band, march to the War Memorial in Gillett Street. At 11:00 a.m. the Service and Commemoration will take place and should conclude by midday. Weather permitting, it is hoped that the RAAF will arrange for a flyover during the Service. From there, the march will proceed to the Manjimup Timber Mill for a function to conclude the day.

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs has provided funding for this occasion to recognise and commemorate the sacrifice of all Veterans of the 40th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan. The funding will enable all members of the sub-branch to be provided with a meal free of charge. The day will accommodate up to 500 people, a restaurant for lunch, plus tables, chairs, heating, etc.

Undercover seating will be provided for visitors and those not marching in the covered walkway adjacent to the Memorial. There is ample parking opposite the RSL and at the Manjimup Town Hall.

Commemorative Wine and Stubby Holders will be on sale plus there will be a raffle going through the day. Coffee and tea will be available at the RSL Hall from 9:30 a.m. and we very much hope that as many of your Members as possible will attend, as we want to make this a very memorable occasion.

If you need to clarify anything, please contact the sub-branch President, Rose Brown on 0402 771 875 or Secretary John Crook on 0409 394 074 or john.andere@westnet.com.au

Programme for Vietnam Veterans’ Day

Manjimup 19th August 2006

09.00 am 0rd and 11.00 am 10th Anniversary of Battle of Long Tan

09.00 am Form up at RSL Hall in Brookman Street, Manjimup.

11.00 am March to Memorial Park, Gillett Street, Manjimup

11.00 am Ceremony and Service

11.30 am March and proceed to Manjimup Timber Mill

11.45 am Refreshments at the RSL

12.30 pm Lunch provided in adjoining Restaurant

To allow for catering, could you please pass on the numbers of persons attending as soon as possible.

Accommodation can be arranged through the Manjimup Tourist Bureau. Phone 8771 1831 or email manjmouse@westnet.com.au

Further details available from

Rose Brown (President) 0402 771 875 or John Crook (Secretary) 0408 931 849.

RSL Manjimup Sub-Branch, PO Box 783, Manjimup 6258.
President, Bavan Butler, called his input to the Listening Post (with regard to our lack of assistance on this important day on the Australian Calendar. Especially thank the Leonora Shire for their refreshments and drinks were supplied by the Shire of Leonora at the Central Hotel. The ANZAC Day march began at 10:30am. The ANZAC Day march began at 10:30am.

We have had some contact with employed staff. A result of that is a new Bar Manager, Graeme and his off-sider Sandee, both of whom are characters in their own ways. You are all invited in to meet them.

So what's on at our branch? Well let's start with Mondays: We have indoor bowls, so if you want to have a go get in here at 12.00 and have a play. Bar open from 1500hrs.

Tuesdays: Bar opens from 1500hrs. We just get together and have a few Beers.

Wednesdays: The Merv Leach (social) Pool Competition commencing at 10.00hrs until finished. (Bar open from 1500hrs). Come along and enjoy some great fun (you may even win a new pool cue) and good food. You don't even have to play just come along and have a laugh. Every third Wednesday the Naval Association meet here.

Thursdays: The Club Social Night Bar open from 1500hrs to 2200hrs this includes the Money Wheel Draw, a huge 25 prize raffle and meals (dine in or take away). Bar open from 1500hrs.

Last Thursday of the Month: This is the big night out. It includes the Thursday Social as mentioned previously joined by a Dance Night. Bar open from 1500hrs until close, entertainment provided by our own Lionel Morris.

Fridays: Bar open from 1500hrs. Meals (dine in or take away), Raffles and Jag the Joker Free tickets in Jag the Joker. If your number is drawn you get three chances of winning, but you have to get in and get your tickets each week to win.

Saturdays: Bar opens from 1500hrs. We just socialise and watch the footy when we can. Keep an eye out though because when the hall is booked out the bar can be open all day.

Sundays: Normally this is a day off, but when the hall gets booked for functions the bar is open to all.

Last Sunday of the month: BBQ. This is fast becoming the social event of the month. Now this is a huge feed of BBQ meats complemented by salads, fruits and during the colder months some hot dishes. Now you and your guests get all this for only $5.00 per person.

The Returned Ex-Servicemen's Sub Branch was founded in 1948 and is a happy group of ladies from all Services. We take part in various RSL activities and have bus tours which are reasonably priced. Our Newsletter 'Light Diet' keeps members in touch and those who are not so well receive cards, phone calls, and Christmas visits.

Our meetings which are followed by a cuppa, and fellowship, are held on the third Thursday of each month at 1pm in the Gallipoli room at ANZAC House.

We have indoor bowls, so if you want to have a go get in here at 12.00 and have a play. Bar open from 1500hrs. We just get together and have a few Beers.

The Returned Ex-Servicemen's Branch in March 2006, the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long-Tan our new bar will be officially opened and dedicated as the Long-Tan Bar. So those who can make it please do so.

Return to the Listening Post August/September 2006 Volume 5 Number 1

Sub-Branch News

Armadale

On the 6th June 2006, the Armadale RSL had its third annual lunchbox for its WWII Veterans and their partners. This has now become an integral event for some 30 veterans.

They enjoyed a 3-course meal, and were entertained by “Fancy That” who put on a fabulous show for our veteran. Also celebrating D Day was one of our members, Mrs Rose Kirby celebrating her 80th birthday. The committee put on this event at no cost to our veterans, with the Committee doing the bar service and the catering.

Anthony Mulvaney, Hon Secretary.

Bunbury

Our annual dinner will be held on Sunday 29th October 2006 and will be a huge success only if members support it.

The cost is heavily subsidised by the RSL which means that tickets are only $25 per head. Tickets must be picked up and paid for asap, so please join us and enjoy what will be a top show. All enquiries to the office on 9711 2375.

The all important Welfare Committee is going well and experiencing a high success rate with determinations and working very well with DVA. We have a dedicated team of well trained welfare staff very capable lead by Ken Parish. Our office is manned 5 days per week, 9 am to 12 noon, so feel welcomed to drop in at any time.

The Father's Day BBQ is well under way with good support from our members helping as tickets sellers at Bunnings.

Friday night Happy Hour is being well attended and is a very cheap and enjoyable evening.

Alf Mainstone

Leonora

Another successful ANZAC Day was held in Leonora.

The day beginning with the traditional Dawn Service attended by 80 people. The Service was a broadcast of the ABC Canberra Dawn Service. At the conclusion of the service light refreshments were made available at the Central Hotel, courtesy of the Shire of Leonora.

The ANZAC Day march began at 10.50am headed by the Kalgoorlie Brass Band. Dave Grills once again was the March Marshall doing a good job in keeping groups together and orderly.

Then followed the RSL, bearing the Australian flag, New Zealand flag and the RSL Flag. Followed by Leonora Fire Brigade and Police Rangers. Many of the marchers wearing medals of deceased fathers or grandfathers.

Mr Bill Johnson took the salute and the march concluded at the Cenotaph Park where the flagstaffs flew both Australian and New Zealand flags.

The ANZAC Day address was given by Mr John Watson who spoke of the men from Leonora and Gwalia who took part in the Gallipoli landing on 25th April 1915. All would agree later that John did a good job.

The Prayer of Remembrance was recited by Mr Boyd Spriggs, and B.J. supplied the sound equipment. Following the laying of wreaths and the Ode, one minute's silence was observed and in a new addition to the Leonora ANZAC Day Service, the National Anthems of both Australia and New Zealand were played.

This service was, as the Dawn Service, attended by a large crowd, who by all reports agreed that the service was a moving experience. At the conclusion of the service refreshments and drinks were supplied by the Shire of Leonora at the Central Hotel.

The RSL Sub-Branch of Leonora would like to especially thank the Leonora Shire for their assistance on this important day on the Australian Calendar.

Mandurah

After coping a revving at the 2006 State Congress (with regard to our lack of independence) I think you will agree with me that President, Bavan Butler, called his committee in for a “Cup of Coffee”. Needless to say this submission is the result of that very bitter cup.

2006 has been a very interesting year for this Sub Branch. We have had some contact with employed staff. A result of that is a new Bar Manager, Graeme and his off-sider Sandee, both of whom are characters in their own ways. You are all invited in to meet them.

So what's on at our branch? Well let's start with Mondays: We have indoor bowls, so if you want to have a go get in here at 12.00hrs and have a play. Bar open from 1500hrs.

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Major up coming events

The City of Mandurah Sub – Branch has built a new outside bar and on the 19th August 2006, the 40th anniversary of the Battle of Long-Tan our new bar will be officially opened and dedicated as the Long-Tan Bar. So those who can make it please do so.
 Margaret Harness  
Senior Advocate

SMOKING QUESTIONNAIRES:

Many veterans who have submitted DVA claims for such disabilities as lung cancer have found the present treatment of chronic bronchitis, ischaemic heart disease (IHD), stroke (CVA) or Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) to be unsatisfactory. The emphasis on war-time smoking, will be familiar with the form QUESTIONNAIRE.  A questionnaire setting out the details and data of their smoking histories.

This form poses various key questions, such as: “WHEN did you start to smoke on a regular basis?”. “WHY did you start to smoke?” “HOW MANY cigarettes were you smoking, when that habit became established?” If there was any later variation in that pattern – give details of the increase/decrease, and when it occurred; Describe daily consumption pattern, a veteran smoked tobacco, and “rolled-his-own” – the DVA asks for an estimate of the ounces smoked per week (With “tailormades” – an accurate estimate of the number smoked per day is requested). Just above the signature block, the form carries a brief certificate: “The above particulars are a true and faithful record of my smoking consumption history as best I can recall”.

Too many are filled out carelessly. Unfortunately, and once again, claimants have failed to provide the information of the form. Cases that had been refused by the DVA at the primary level often came to me on review at the VRI – and my heart would sink when I read the details provided on the smoking history form and now that little care or trouble had been taken. I cannot emphasise enough, that if any reader puts in a claim in the future, based on a war-time smoking habit that led to his lung cancer and death. Mr LAW, born in 1959, was aged 31 years and was a non-smoker on enlistment. He was drafted to the Middle East before being taken prisoner in Java in March 1942. He was a pilot in the RAAF, but had become a dustman for more than three years, in appalling conditions. By the time he left the Army in 1945, he had become a dustman in Java. He died in 1976. At 31 years of age at enlistment – hence already a man of maturity – who, up until then, chosen NOT to smoke, it is almost certain that had it not been for the war, and his particularly traumatic experiences as a POW of the Japanese, he probably would never have taken it at all.

One needs to be aware too, that during those years – unlike today - few people had any understanding of the health hazards of smoking. It is a paradox that whilst tobacco is a stimulant drug – it imparts calming effects. It is far more toxic than most people realise. Citing “Smoking” as a basis for Disability Claims today:

Unlike the era of James LAW, the health risks of smoking are now very well-known and well-publicised. Packets have borne a warning that it is hazardous, and can kill – give smokers a reason to quit. I have briefly outlined Mr LAW’s story, to illustrate that the DVA expects a claimant to similarly draw a link between war service and the health risks that led to commencement of smoking (or the trigger for a marked increase in smoking), and that the claimant should respond to the question: “Why did you start to smoke?” by truthfully entering: “Everybody did” or “I wanted to”. These reasons apply equally to a civilian. If a person took up smoking prior to enlistment, and was already on 20 a day prior to service in a war zone – then that person simply chose to smoke; and nobody would have to account for the commencement of that habit, unless it led to an increase to, say, 30 a day – in which case, the difference in rate (e.g. 10 cigarettes a day) will be taken into account as the “war-time smoking rate”.

Many, many veterans have explained their smoking histories satisfactorily, and had their claims accepted. For example: WW2 bomber pilot, described how he could not sit in the cockpit around airfields ready to go on “ops”, with nothing else to do but smoke to “settle the nerves”. Scores of WWII, Korean and Viet-Names veterans in the field found smoking to be one of the few ways of relieving stress and tension – with little to do at night to relax or help alleviate apprehension and often miserable living conditions. Watch-keepers in the ARVN were often used to smoke to help themselves awake and deal with uncertainty and the crush of information.

In short – there are the sorts of reasons that relate to a uniquely WAR-related commencement (or worsening) of a smoking habit. PTSD and VPI officers would have had to endure what the late James LAW went through on the Burma-Sarn railway, or anything like it – but I suggest that if submitting a smoking Questionnaire, you hear in mind that it was his experiences that led to the rights, and provisions of claiming successfully for smoking-related health disabilities.

Where asked for the QUANTITIERS – do your level best to detail any fluctuations in smoking you have experienced. I have known many WW2 men who came home from the war and tried to cut back citing post-war rationing, etc. or the批, of habits, that reduced their ability to purchase. Quite often, once they were on better wages, their smoking habits built up again. These variations should be noted on the form, given that, the smoking-related claim was increased in consumption took place.

In conclusion, then, be forthright with the details the form asks for. Be as accurate as possible, and never pass up the chance for a joke and a chuckle!

MARGOT HARRISON

On Wednesday 19 July one hundred Army Cadets from the 28 Cadet units located around Western Australia were given the opportunity to celebrate the Centenary of the Australian Army Cadets by abseiling down the WA Police Headquarters: 1 Hay Street, East Perth.

The WA Commissioner of Police Karl O’Callaghan led the first contingent over the edge.

The Army officer in charge of the abseiling Cadets was Captain Bronwyn Struthers.

The event was part of a five day adventure training program designated as a Cadet Instructor Training Program (“CITP”) which commenced on 19 July 2006 and concluded on 21 July 2006. All the abseiling Cadets also participated in other adventure training activities during the week. These included caving, mountain biking and canyoning.

Qualified Unit Adventure-Training Leaders are from various ADF units. Civilian accredited ACF members provided instructor support for all activities.

Army Cadets offer one of the most respected youth training programs in the nation. There are over 16,000 male and female Army Cadets in 352 units throughout Australia. Statewide there are 28 regional cadet units linked to the Australian Army Cadets, which is headquartered at Leewin Barracks. These units have adult officers who supervise approximately 1,300 Western Australian teenagers. The ages of Cadets range from 12 to 21, and half a thouhse to eighteen-plus.

There is continual emphasis on safety, self-motivation, mate ship participation and leadership training. Most cadets learn these life skills in a very short space of time. And with very little supervision. Australian Army Cadets (AAC) are particularly proud to have been a part of this year. Information about unit locations can be obtained by phoning Brigade Headquarters on 08-9315.
The Battle of Long-Tan

Introduction

40 years ago, Australian soldiers fought the Battle of Long-Tan, a significant battle involving Australians during the Vietnam War. In the late afternoon of 18 August 1966, the Delta Company 6 RAR fought for their lives in the mud and jungle, in pursuit of a small enemy force of some 2500 NVA and Viet-Cong. The battle resulted in the loss of 2LT David Sabben to the centre rear and 298 Railway Parade Cannington - Phone 9358 5058

The Battle

The Battle of Long-Tan occurred in the late afternoon of 18 August 1966 in a rubber plantation some 4500 meters to the south east of the Task Force Base at Nui-Dat. The events of previous days set the scene.

On 16 August, 5 RAR were patrolling in an area of jungle to the north of 1 ATF Base. They were trying to locate enemy identified in the late afternoon of 18 August 1966. This was “The Battle of Long-Tan”, named after the rubber plantation.

At 1315 hrs Delta Coy left the base and began their patrolled eastwards, at that stage a full strength company of about 110 men. Meanwhile Alpha Company was continuing their patrol south back to the 1 ATF Base. At 1200 hrs the B Coy patrolled that had followed the enemy trail to the south found another RCL position, another ambush, and again killed 1 wounded VC, presumably as a result of the enemy counter fire.

The enemy were effectively fired their RV with B Coy at 1300 hrs. The two CHQs exchanged the relevant information about the enemy positions and then B Coy returned to Nui-Dat. Major Smith decided to follow the trail to the east and Delta began its search along the track companion for the two companies of Alpha Company. At the point they had lost contact and 2LT Gordon Sharp on the high ground near the forward right brought the position under 2LT David Salbon to the centre rear.

At 1540 hrs a group of six VC literally walked into 11 Pl. They were fired at and subsequently withdrawn. 11 Pl reported the contact to CHQ and stated that the enemy was dressed Khaki uniform. This report was basically unconfirmed by all concerned, the enemy may have been Main Force soldiers and not the expected village guerrillas. The Pl CO of 11 Pl, LT Sharp called in any fire on the enemy withdrawal route about 500 meters from the original contact. 11 Pl then followed up the enemy and chased them to a small hut, where a Pl attack was conducted to ensure the hut was free of enemy. No one was found and they then continued the advance into the rubber plantation. The soldiers were not fully alert and 11 Pl were moving towards a small clearing in the rubber.

At 1600 hrs 11 Pl reached a small barbed wire fence, when a mass of fire broke out. Pl fire halted and began to give ground. 11 Pl set forth to withdraw to the CHQ position. This time the fire appeared to be heavy, but after covering about 600 meters, as the casualties and reinforcements had been landed, they were able to withdraw to the CHQ position. Artillery fire engaged the enemy positions and communications were soon restored. Artillery fire engaged the targets to the south and helped to support the fire of an enemy mortar position to the east. Casualties on 11 Pl were then brought to 1 ATF Base as the fire engaged activity continued.

This time the fire seemed to be heavy again and 11 Pl were able to withdraw and made an attempt to conduct a clearing patrol to the platoon front. No sooner had 5 Sect begun to carry out this task when the mass of fire ceased again.

To our direct front 42 surrounded, 83 pinned down attempting to reach them. The artillery continued with rounds now falling dangerously close to the friendly forces. The position this had on preventing enemy assault from the position was immeasurable. At 1720 hrs, artillery fire engaged the enemy position and 11 Pl were able to withdraw to the CHQ position.

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Meanwhile 11 Pl were almost surrounded, suffering heavy casualties and unable to withdraw. LT Sharp was killed and SGT Bob Buck took over. 11 Pl were pushed out from the north of 1 ATF Base to support to 11 Pl and allow them to withdraw. A mass of fire started in 10 Pl, 10 Pl and communications had been restored. Artillery fire engaged the targets to the south and helped to support the fire of an enemy mortar position to the east. Casualties on 11 Pl were then brought to 1 ATF Base as the fire engaged activity continued.

Meanwhile, JAC PAPs carrying A Coy were deployed towards D Coy location, as was the CO 6 RAR, LT Col Townsend. The going in the late afternoon torrential downpour was very poor and all operations in the area were on hold for the next 6-8 weeks as we are now able to give the trailer a complete overhaul.

The Nollamara Sub-Branch has very kindly given the trailer a home under cover and plan to make the necessary alterations to enable the trailer to be used as an educational tool. A large number of volunteer history teachers have been联络ing Olga Greig 92763493.

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The LISTENING POST August/September 2006 9
On 22 June 2006, approval was given to proceed to Full Rate Production for the MK 48 Advanced Capability Common Broadband Advanced Sonar System (ADCAP CBASS) Mod 7 heavyweight torpedo. The torpedo is a product of a joint engineering, development, manufacturing and support project between Australia and the United States and will be the primary weapon aboard both nations’ submarines. This important milestone demonstrates the continuing success of the joint program, highlighting the development and operational testing carried out in Australia as well as the work of Australia’s weapons facility in WA in building up the weapons for test.

HMAS Warramunga is the second Royal Australian Navy (RAN) ship to bear the name and is the third ANZAC Class Guided Missile Frigate to be built for the RAN by Tenix Defence Systems in Williamstown, Australia.

Warramunga is a long-range frigate capable of air defence, surface and subsurface warfare, surveillance, reconnaissance and interdiction. Warramunga is fitted with an advanced package of air and surface surveillance radars; omni-directional hull mounted sonar and electronic support systems that interface with the state-of-the-art 91DV55 Mk3 combat data system. The ship can counter simultaneous threats from aircraft, surface vessels and submarines.

The ship’s main armament comprises one five inch (127 mm) gun capable of firing 20 rounds per minute, ship launched Mk 46 torpedoes and a Mk 41 vertical launch system for the Evolved Sea Sparrow point defence missile. Warramunga also has eight anti-ship/land attack casitere launched harpoon missiles and a vertical launch system for the Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile. The ship’s other defence systems include the Nulka active missile defence system, offboard chaff and a torpedo countermeasures system.

HMAS Warramunga, like her sister frigates HMAS Ships ANZAC, Arunta, Stuart, Parramatta, Ballarat and Toowoomba feature a “Combined Diesel or Gas” (CODOG) propulsion plant enables the ship to sustain sprint speeds of greater than 25 knots and allows an operational range in excess of 6,000 nautical miles at 18 knots.

The SH-2(GA) Super Seasprite helicopter can be embarked to enhance anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare capabilities. The Seasprite is capable of delivering air-launched torpedoes and the Penguin anti-ship missile. The S-70B-2 Seahawk helicopter can also be embarked as an alternative to the Seasprite.

HMAS Warramunga (I) was the second of three Australian built Tribal class destroyers. She served with distinction in WW II with the US 7th Fleet in the Pacific, the Korean campaign, the Malayan Insurgency and with the United Nations Forces in Korea. The following battle honours have been awarded to Warramunga (I): Pacific 1943-1945, New Guinea 1943-1944, Leyte Gulf 1944 (Philippines), Lingayen Gulf 1945 (Philippines) and Korea 1950-1952

The WARRAMUNGA name is derived from the Warramunga (also spell Warramunga) Aboriginal people from the Tennant Creek area and the ship’s badge depicts a fearsome Warramunga tribesman about to throw a boomerang. The blue and yellow background represents the sky and a desert landscape. The motto “Courage in Difficulties” honours the Warramunga tribe’s life of courage in their harsh environment as well as the Second World War Tribal Class Destroyer, HMAS WARRAMUNGA.

HMAS Warramunga departs fleet base West for operational duties in the Gulf

Commander John Hielscher, RAN and the 184 ship’s company of the ANZAC Class Frigate HMAS Warramunga, were today farewelled by family and friends as the ship departed her homeport of Fleet Base West at Garden Island Western Australia to commence passage to the Persian Gulf.

HMAS Warramunga will take over duties from HMAS Ballarat to provide an ongoing contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq. This includes the important work of protecting Iraq’s offshore export oil terminals and monitoring, intercepting and boarding vessels suspected of illegally trafficking cargo that diverts funds from the Iraqi economy.

"After intensive training and preparation the ship’s company of HMAS Warramunga are well prepared and are looking forward to this deployment" Commander Hielscher said.

Senator David Johnston, representing the Minister for Defence, joined family and friends to farewell Warramunga as she left Western Australia.

Background

This is HMAS Warramunga’s first deployment to the Persian Gulf and is the fourteenth rotation of Navy ships as part of coalition operations since 2001.

HMAS Ballarat, which is currently on station in the Gulf, departed Australia in March 2006 and is planned to return to Australia in early September 2006.

Welcome Aboard

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You never know who it might help

Bring new hope to those with cancer by making a gift in your will. Bequests to The Cancer Council WA help fund life saving research and will ultimately help defeat cancer. For confidential information about making a bequest to The Cancer Council WA please call Suzanne Cavanagh on (08) 9121 4333.

The Cancer Council WA

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e-mail: susanne@cancerwa.asn.au
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COLLINS CLASS SUBMARINE

Heavyweight torpedo full rate production decision

This was demonstrated in test firings in December 2005 in a shallow water environment off the Western Australian coast by a UNI submarine against the Royal Australian Navy’s (RAN) world-class Collins diesel submarines.

The joint operational test activity demonstrated the extent to which the two countries utilise each others’ capabilities and assets to develop and test a state of the art weapon.

From weapons assembly, to firing, to data analysis, the United States Navy (USN) together with the RAN performed the international testing in harmony.

Modifications to HMAS Walley, the first submarine to be converted to handle and fire the new weapon is progressing to schedule during its current Full Cycle Docking. Initial sea trials are scheduled for mid 2007.

Go-Operating with the US Navy means we have the opportunity to influence design and development of systems and to participate in a continuous improvement programme to deliver the latest technology advances for Australia’s submarine fleet.

Australia’s Submarine fleet is an important element of our National Maritime Strategy and a vital asset in the protection of Australia’s strategic interests.

The Maritime Commander, Rear Admiral David Thomas also thanked the families and friends of the Navy personnel deploying to the Gulf for their ongoing support.

“Their support to the men and women who deploy today makes a difference to the ability of our personnel to get on and do the job they are tasked with,” Rear Admiral Thomas said.

HMAS Warramunga
The past year has been an outstanding year for the W.A. Branch. The administrative restructure and governance model has delivered a progressive, responsive and sharply focused organization that is committed to serving its membership.

Many of the initiatives set in place as long term projects several years ago have now started to deliver the expected outcomes and this can be seen in almost every area of our operation. We are now operating within the corporate environment and have retained control and control over our traditional functions and core business.

Our Corporate Plan is regularly reviewed against our key performance indicators to ensure we are operating within our Charter. I am confident we are conducting our business with best practice, aimed at achieving excellence in our service delivery.

The current Plan will continue to be a blueprint from which the State Executive will operate for the next five years and it will be constantly monitored to ensure progress is along the planned course.

The RSL, as the peak ex-service organisation in Western Australia, continues to show strong leadership in the veteran community and contributes responsibly with comment on many social and community issues. It regularly challenges decisions that have or could impact on veterans and at all times stood steadfastly for those traditional values that are essential in our society. In that context we continue to maintain a strong apolitical position and as such have enjoyed the on-going support from both sides of parliament at Commonwealth and State level. Our responsible comments, coupled with a willingness to address controversial issues places us in high esteem with the media and the general public.

Above: Soldiers at the Opening of the 90th Annual Report. Inset William E. Gaynor OAM RFD State President

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the League and I am honoured to be able to report to you on its achievements for the current year and the vision we have charted for the future.
We continue to take every opportunity to publicise our work through our exposure as a caring organisation that takes the future security and development of the country seriously. We are regularly consulted on many topical issues and are invited to make public comment on social, communicative, security and veterans' affairs matters.

The welfare of veterans is our core business and continues to be the main focus of our activities. As part of the founding Charter the RSL is for all veterans, not just RSL members. We are a lifeline to those veterans in distressed or necessities conditions. Our welfare work is a welfare network which extends to both State and branch levels in dealing promptly with those who seek assistance as each case is dealt with and those in genuine need receive suitable care. Confidentiality is of prime importance and the rights of the individual are well respected by our trained officers.

In the year under review the State Branch has initiated a complete review of RSL welfare operations. A select committee has been established with terms of reference to look at how we serve the veteran community to gauge the effectiveness of our commitment. The committee will look at the operations at State and sub branch level and make recommendations. The committee’s task is our aim to engage in providing superior service to veterans though the application of some of the principles contained in the Act may need to be addressed.

We have identified that the new Act is primarily applicable to the military. The Australian Federal and State Police who are deployed overseas on peace-keeping duties are not provided with appropriate cover under this new legislation. Consequently the government have implemented an interim arrangement to protect those so deployed. There is still a need for some independent legislation to cover those on such duty.

The State Branch continues to host the veteran’s forum, aimed at discussing the reputation need of post-Viet Nam service personnel. While we have seen progress made in overhauling administrative processes, superannuation and compensation issues, health and wellbeing programs and counselling services there are still on going concerns in these areas that need to be addressed by RSL at both State and National levels. We have undertaken to work with this group of young people to assist them to establish a sound and secure future for themselves and their families.

Tenders closed in March 2006 for the supply of Tier One hospital services in Melbourne where he was able to put on display to the veteran community in Western Australia and once fully operational the veteran community in Western Australia and once fully operational the veteran community in Western Australia and once fully operational the veteran community in Western Australia and once fully operational the veteran community in Western Australia and once fully operational the veteran community in Western Australia.

The new method of operation has been tested for ceremonial and welfare matters, and all are serviced with efficiency and due to the late Brian Martin, our treasurer, until his untimely death an August last year. We are now benefiting from his wise counsel while he occupied that position. His success, Mr Paul Bengel has taken up the reins from Brian and firmly established himself as part of the executive team.

The Finance Committee meet regularly and monitor all aspects of League finances. There are still areas of concern but these are being addressed.

The Branch also expresses gratitude to the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, the State Government and in particular Lottery West for their on-going support for Veterans in funding equipment, furniture and event services without support we would be struggling. The support of ANZAC House was most welcome and with the headquarters transformed into a facility that will service the members and veteran community for years to come. I am sure all members will concur with my remarks.

I must at this stage acknowledge the bequest State/Territory received from the will of one of our members. His bequest will be applied to the welfare and administration of the League.

In an endeavour to facilitate best practice in sub branch administration a series of training modules has been developed to raise awareness of sub branch officers in matters related to the financial management, welfare issues and also the local perspective before a national level from the Annual Poppy Day App. Although the Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund are exposed to Tier One hospital services in Melbourne.

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with the heightened interest in the community for ANZAC Day and other RSL matters it is essential we maintain a presence in as many areas as possible. The Community Link Programme – an initiative of the Queensland State Branch – is beginning to find its way into Western Australia. Boddington and Ballajura Sub Branches have solid support from their local schools and with the involvement of our youth in our affairs we can certainly see our way forward in passing our values and traditions on to future generations. I do acknowledge Dr. Shylist Sichon, Principal of Ballajura Community College for embracing Community Link and getting his students involved in our activities. Incidentally, it is the RLC that is providing us with our musical program today – and at the 90th Anniversary dinner this evening.

Our recruiting initiatives have produced remarkable results. The recruiting information trailer, our travelling information centre – is about to undergo a refurbishment and with some modest sponsorship this will become a regular feature at city and country shows and functions.

Affiliates
Affiliates of sub branches play an important role in assisting in the administration and development of our organisation at sub branch level. They have joined us as a way of showing support for the ideals and principles for which the League stands.

National Congress in September approved new rules to cover affiliates and this will empower State Branches to prepare By Laws governing their affiliation with the RSL. The only limitation specified was that an affiliate is not to be a sub branch of an RSL. The only limitation specified was that an affiliate is not to be a sub branch of the RSL. The only limitation specified was that an affiliate is not to be a sub branch of the RSL.

Government’s Spirit of ANZAC Tour program has seen groups of young senior school students visiting battlefields where Australians have fought. These tours are now firmly supported by the RSL, our sponsors and the Government and are a fitting reward for our young people.

RSL involvement in the Education Department’s Spirit of ANZAC Tour in the planning and selection of students is a positive way that shows our commitment to you and our commemorative activities.

To service our Cadet travel programme we continue to enjoy generous financial support from the Hollywood Private Hospital with generosity services our National and State Cadet of the Year programs.

The Sixtieth Anniversary of the end of World War 2, 2005, was a memorable occasion for all Australians and particularly Western Australians. In Perth the ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies were conducted with visual images and appropriate music. Gathering crowds were provided with audios of how the Day came about and future generations will be able to view images of the occasions.

With the assistance of Curtin University we are pleased to present the public face of the RSL to their students.

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and caring for, and visiting our elderly and sick veterans. This work is valued at both branch and sub branch level.

Our parent body, The Returned and Services League of Australia Limited meet quarterly in Canberra. The State President and the State Secretary represent this branch. Matters relating to Veterans’ affairs issues as well as League Policy are regularly discussed. They are at all times clearly focussed on satisfying the need of the veteran community.

Our 90th Anniversary
As mentioned, this year we celebrate our 90th Anniversary. To provide a legacy for our younger generation the League commissioned Byrock Media to produce a resource for schoolchildren that will encourage them to research the foundations of the League and how RSL has influenced the society in which we live. It is an impressive programme and one which will open the enquiring minds of our children. We could have funded a range of commemorative activities that would not really have achieved our desire to promote that which many Australians fought and died for – freedom, democracy and a very unique way of life.

The Way Ahead
The next twelve months will be challenging for the League in Western Australia as we continue to implement our Corporate Plan.

Priority initiatives will be:
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Welfare Review
- Further development of RSL Care WA profile in the Aged Care industry
- Continuation of strong alliances with corporate entities
- A Review of sub branch operations through regular visits and training modules; and
- An enhancement of our leadership role in the Veteran Community

Acknowledgments
To the State Executive and League Trustees, thanks are expressed for the commitment made to the League and loyalty to the State Branch. The task of serving on committees and representing the membership is demanding but also rewarding. In particular the country representatives do a magnificent job in keeping our country sub branches in touch. The reports that are furnished provide the State Executive with a good overview of happenings at our many country outposts.

The work of State Secretary Shane Seers, his office staff and his assistant State Secretary’s Gary Sutherland and Geoff (Blues) Danne is valued. Their loyalty, professionalism and willingness to undertake tasks at short notice are very much valued.

The branch further acknowledges the support given to the League by our Patron, Dr Ken Michael AC, Governor of Western Australia. His Excellency recently commenced his term of office and has willingly participated in League activities – even though it is his official function was a bit of a wash out. We do however all wish, Dr & Mrs Michael well for the future.

Conclusion
We still have a long way to go in the development of the League but with the commitment of elected representatives and the sub branches there is a bright future for the League.

WILLIAM E. GAYNOR OAM RFD
STATE PRESIDENT
Australian troops depart Camp Smitty

Australian troops have departed Camp Smitty in Al Muthanna province in Iraq following a successful and dedicated mission to provide a secure environment for the Japanese Iraq Reconstruction and Support Group (JIRSG), and Multi-National Division – Group (West) as part of the Multi-National Division – South East (Iraq).

Chief of Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston has praised the men and women of the Al Muthanna Task Group and the success they have achieved during the course of their important mission.

“Our three rotations of personnel to Al Muthanna have provided an outstanding contribution to the reconstruction and rehabilitation activities in the province. Their success across a range of tasks has helped considerably with the transition of Al Muthanna to Iraqi control. All Australians can be justifiably proud of the contribution to the Al Muthanna province. As well as providing security to the Japanese troops, the Australians provided training to the 2nd Brigade of the Iraqi Army’s 10th Division, which is now playing a key role in providing security in Al Muthanna Province.

The Australian task group also managed a Civil Military Cooperation Programme, which employed local people to undertake work that will benefit their own communities. 19 projects have been completed including renovation of a grain silo, abattoir, and media centre (to support radio, television and print media) establishment of a veterinary centre, ambulance station and mobile health clinic supporting a doctor, dentist and optometrist.

The departure of the Australian troops follows the transfer of the Australian task group’s responsibility to Al Muthanna to the Iraqi Government on 13 July. This is a significant step towards the Iraqi Government taking control of its own security across Iraq.

Above: Pictures of the departure of Australian troops from Camp Smitty in Al Muthanna province after completing their mission to provide a secure environment for the Japanese Iraq Reconstruction and Support Group (JIRSG).

Lack of sleep can cause obesity and diabetes

A recent health study has shown one in five people are sleeping less than six and a half hours a night, making them prime targets for diabetes and other chronic illnesses.

More than one in 10 people suffered from chronic daytime sleepiness, and more than three in 10 had insomnia or some other sleeping disorder.

According to the study, involving a random selection of 3,300 working-aged NSW residents, sleep-deprived people were also more likely to eat more as their hormones became confused – leading to obesity and possibly diabetes.

The Hollywood Clinic Insomnia Treatment Programme of renowned Stephanie Martin said common problems arising from lack of sleep included poor concentration, irritability, no energy or motivation to exercise and not having the time.

“The people in my programme feel like their life is passing them by because they are living in this bubble of lack of sleep,” Stephanie said.

“They lack the ability to regain contact with their social life and they feel isolated and envious of people who do sleep.”

Stephanie said most of the people she saw didn’t present with physiological problems, as they were mainly dealing with psychological issues related to their sleep disorders.

“I have a couple of patients who have physiological problems, such as being overweight, and I’ve found lack of sleep will only exacerbate those problems,” she said.

“You recover physiologically during sleep, so when you’re not sleeping you don’t give your body that chance to recover.”

The survey showed people slept an average of 7.3 hours a night during the week and 7.5 hours on the weekend.

Stephanie said that everyone was different and sleeping hours depended on how each individual felt upon waking in the morning.

“The average person needs eight hours a night, but that’s not for everybody. If you feel bright, alert and ready to go in the morning you’ve had enough sleep but if you’re feeling sleepy and insatiable then you haven’t had enough,” she said.

In America they found people sleeping less than five hours a night were 46 per cent more likely to get diabetes 10 or 15 years down the track.

Why is sleep necessary?

It is essential for stimulation of growth.

To enable dreaming which is essential for healthy psychological balance.

For rejuvenation of cells in the body, particularly those in the nervous system.

You may be aware that the Department of Veterans’ Affairs has recently negotiated Tier 1 contracts with multiple private hospitals in Perth, giving veterans greater choice of private hospital care.

Hollywood Private Hospital has been successful in securing an ongoing contract with DVA to provide inpatient and day hospital services to eligible veterans and their widows.

Hollywood takes great pride in its reputation as ‘The Veterans’ Hospital’. You can expect to continue to receive a high level of expert and personal care, with priority access to Hollywood.

Veterans have been able to access Tier 1 hospitals in Geraldton and Bunbury for a number of years. More recently Coastal Private Hospital, Armadale Private Hospital in Armadale, Peel Health Campus and Joondalup Health Campus private hospitals have received Tier 1 status.

According to Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall, the July 2006 changes mean greater choice for accommodation for country cancer patients, the AH Crawford Lodge in Nedlands.

The building in Shenton Park was formerly the Cottage Hospice and has been modified as an interim measure to ease the pressure on the Lodge in Nedlands, with a full-scale renovation expected to take 12 to 18 months to complete. The rooms at Shenton Park all have an ensuite bathroom, tea and coffee making facilities, a fridge and television.

The complex has a communal kitchen, dining room, lounges, a laundry and garden areas. Supplies for breakfast and also included in the tariff. Its within easy driving distance of the major treatment centres. Bus and train services are nearby, as is the local Subiaco shopping area.

People should contact the PATS Clerk at their local hospital to apply for accommodation for country cancer patients. People should contact the PATS Clerk at their local hospital to apply for accommodation for country cancer patients.

The 13 new rooms will help ease demand for accommodation which has forced the Cancer Council to turn away up to 400 people a year from its existing facility for country patients, the AH Crawford Lodge in Nedlands.

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People should contact the PATS Clerk at their local hospital to apply for accommodation for country cancer patients.
Notice

ASIST workshops in Albany and Bunbury in October (dates to be confirmed) are an initiative from the area who is interested in registering for further workshops.

Parratts of Veterans Association of Australia - WA Branch Inc. PO Box 5610 Gepps Cross P.E. SA 5014 Room 2 Box Mardo Acaide 80 Barrack St Perth WA 6000 Ph/Fax: (08) 9225 6990

Younger Veterans

A Younger Veterans Forum will be proposed for the RSL to be held on Sunday 27th of August 2006 commencing at 2pm.

This forum will be held at the Special Projects and Community Association House Campbell Barracks Swanbourne. All younger veterans are welcome to attend along with wives and partners and is open to all veterans.

There is a secure area for children to play whilst the meeting will be in progress.

If there are any particular items for discussion would you please forward your suggestion to ANZAC House prior to the meeting.

I read with interest the story in "The Listening Post" June-July 2006 about the article “Former Beirut hostage trashes quân". It may be of interest to readers of "The Listening Post" about an occasion aboard an aircraft on a flight from Perth to Kuala Lumpur a few years ago, not long after the 11th September. Nonetheless, at the 11th September we were destined to grace the World Trade Center in New York.

My wife and I were about to board an aircraft at Perth when the crew of an aircraft along came on their way to board the aircraft. Not sure if they noticed my introverted approach to the climate I had to approach the captain and asked if he was the one to fly it to Kuala Lumpur. He confirmed he was indeed the captain of our flight and 2nd Officer. I must say that in case of total engine failure he should call me as I was an experienced engineer.

The captain wanted to know my seat number so I told him seat no F22. Would you believe? Half way through our flight a lady from the air crew came to inform me the captain was in our row of the cockpit deck. I told my wife there seemed to be some trouble but not to worry and accompanied the air-hostess I was to fetch the cockpit to the cockpit J. Didn’t want to send an extra "first officer" who also had to answer the call in the cockpit.

Mr Bodey’s recent letter regarding the RSL preserving the status quo and championing conservatism. I would say keep up the good work. Do you want to write fire breathing radicals?

At a recent RSL State Congress in the Sate and to most men and women. These items are then passed on to lobby the Government. Some are adopted some not.

Now to the plight of disabled ex-service men and women who comply with an extensive list called the "Pay-wagon". If severely disabled (i.e. Total and Permanently Incapacitated) they get what I would call a quite generous allowance. A married TAFT with his wife would receive a net $1,672.30 per fortnight tax free, plus free medical, transport, no GST on vehicles and allowed to work 8 hours per week.

I say good luck to them but don’t knock the RSL all the DVA.

K Costello

Bullcreek

Remember this

between the wind and waves
between the ocean and the hills
between the moon and the sun

The War Widows’ Guild of Australia WA Inc will celebrate its 60th Anniversary on 29th November 2006. During the week commencing 28th November the Guild will be holding different celebratory functions all transport, no GST on vehicles and allowed to work 8 hours per week.

I say good luck to them but don’t knock the RSL all the DVA.

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K Costello

Bullcreek

Letters to the Editor
Puzzles

The Listening Post Crossword

Across
1. Tree gum
9. Light switch covering (2 wds.)
10. MOBILE VETERINARY SECTION
11. Neither’s partner
12. Legume
13. Loots
14. Vivify
15. Ancient Indian
16. State as an opinion
17. Electroencephalograph (abbr.)
18. Galled
19. Slippery frigid
20. Nile’s home
21. Ref
22. Sticky stuff
23. LIEUTENANT COLONEL EM
24. Lower limb
25. Low flight for a show
26. The Australian Army, RAAF and
27. Thief’s hideout
28. Atmosphere
29. In charge of salaries
30. Swiss-like cheese
31. North northeast
32. Swamp
33. Loose gown worn at mass
34. Pinned
35. Licensed practical nurse
36. Boulevard
37. Appearance
38. The Capital of Crete
39. Compass point
40. Of the sense of smell
41. The Australian Army, RAAF and
42. Thousand
43. American College of Physicians
44. Major John Glubb’s Arab Legion
45. American Kennel Club (abbr.)
46. NEAD
47. Football offensive goal
48. Expensive
49. Positive vote
50. North by west
51. Hurricane center
52. Billion years
53. Back to school mo.
54. Hurricane center
55. Hurricane center
56. Hurricane center
57. Hurricane center
58. Hurricane center
59. Hurricane center
60. Hurrican
61. Hurricane center
62. Hurricane center
63. Hurricane center
64. United States of America
65. Hurricane center
66. Cake or Bread ___
67. Cooking vessel
68. Cake or Bread ___
69. Cake or Bread ___
70. Ocean gem
71. Tangle
72. Outer garment
73. COLONIAL NAVAL DEFENCE
74. South east
75. South east
76. South east
77. South east
78. South east
79. South east
80. South east
81. South east
82. South east
83. South east
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116. South east
117. South east
118. South east
119. South east
120. South east

Down
1. Private Snowy ….. of the 53rd
2. Deer
3.中心
4. __ Lanka
5. Center
6. Bipartisanship
7. Flip
8. Rendezvous
9. Home
10. Division (abbr.)
11. Spots
12. W.C.
13. Center
14. __ Lanka
15. The Australian and New Zealand
Army Corps
16. Tommy guns.
17. and captured many Vicky French
18. the main road to Damascus-Beirut
19. the 2/3rd Battalion blocked
20. NO2
21. NO2
22. NO2
23. NO2
24. NO2
25. NO2
26. NO2
27. NO2
28. NO2
29. NO2
30. NO2
31. NO2
32. NO2
33. NO2
34. NO2
35. NO2
36. NO2
37. NO2
38. NO2
39. NO2
40. NO2

Recipes

Australian Winter Soup Dish

Fresh vegetable and chicken soup.

Ingredients:
1 fresh pack of soup vegetables from your supermarket
4 litres of water
300 grams of cut up chicken breast
50 grams of flavoured noodles
20 grams of Massel chicken stock powder.

Method:
Add water to the pot and place over heat, chop chicken breasts and add to pot, cut up vegetables and add to pot, when soup is about twenty minutes from cooking add noodles and chicken stock.

Presentation to RSL

Mr Barry Peterson and Mr Paul Hudson from Ministry of Justice presenting the piece made by an inmate of the Casuarina Prison, sell care unit.

On Friday 14 July 2006 the State Branch of the RSL received a presentation of a replica 25lb Artillery piece made from match sticks.

Mr Barry Peterson and Mr Paul Hudson both employed by the Ministry of Justice presented the piece made by an

THE LISTENING POST August/September 2006
17

On Friday 14 July 2006 the State Branch of the RSL received a presentation of a replica 25lb Artillery piece made from match sticks.

Mr Barry Peterson and Mr Paul Hudson both employed by the Ministry of Justice presenting the piece made by an
I saw a kid marchin’ with medals on his chest.
He marched alongside Diggers, marching six abreast!
He knew that it was ANZAC Day: be walked along with pride.
He did his best to keep in step with the Diggers by his side.

And when the march was over the kid was rather tired.
He did his best to keep in step with the Diggers by his side.
He knew that it was ANZAC Day— he walked along with pride.

I saw a kid marchin’ with medals on his chest.

From the Bunker

Christmas in July at the ANZAC Club

Once again the staff and facilities provided an excellent venue for the annual Christmas in July functions at the ANZAC Club.

Members and their guests enjoyed an excellent meal and festivities from The City of Perth Sub-Branch, on the 30th July, Returned Sisters on the 6th July, Catalina Club on the 13th July, and the 2/28th Battalion on the 23rd July.

The State Secretary, Mr Shane Beers said “that it is very pleasing to see members and guests are using the refurbished facilities of ANZAC House to a greater extent for social activities.”

Poetry

A Shaggy Ridge Veteran

I saw a kid marchin’ with medals on his chest.
He marched alongside Diggers, marching six abreast!
He knew that it was ANZAC Day: be walked along with pride.
He did his best to keep in step with the Diggers by his side.

And when the march was over the kid was rather tired.
A Digger said “those medals son?” to which the kid replied.
“They belong to Daddy but he did not come back”

He died up in New Guinea on a lonely jungle track.
The kid looked rather puzzled, and didn’t understand
We Diggers know that he was there— it’s like that on ANZAC Day.”

Julie Wilson has joined RSL as Club Manager responsible for Restaurant and Bar operations. Julie replaces Sarah Scott, who has made application to join the Police Service. Julie comes to the ANZAC Club from Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre where she ran a 5 star restaurant and bar facility.

Julie has a Diploma in Tourism and speaks fluent Japanese as a part of her studies. She also holds qualifications from Queensland, United Kingdom and Western Australia that allow her here to act as a Licence holder for liquor outlets.

Julie enjoys music, romping, dining out and wine tasting.

Southern River is where Julie lives with her eight pedigree cats and her son Sam, where he is home, who is also in the hospitality industry, currently working in England as a chef for Cadis Fashion House. Sam represented Australia in the Culinary Olympics in 2004.

Julie hopes to continue to promote the ANZAC Club to its full potential.

Julie can be contact on (08) 9287 3799 or e-mail scms@rslwa.org.au

Dennis Connelly
Women’s Auxiliary 79th Annual Conference

The RSL Women’s Auxiliary held their 79th annual conference at ANZAC House on the 23rd May 2006.

Mrs Christine Blackman (President) opened the conference by welcoming members and invited guests to the 79th conference.

Mrs Blackman then spoke of the Auxiliaries activities for the last year and how difficult this had been, “everyone is aware all year in how hard all our Auxiliaries worked to raise funds through their fun and friendship days, that we on the State Committee can continue to visit our service members in nursing homes and hospitals. Mrs Blackman continues this year unfortunately we had some more of our Auxiliaries closed – so we of the State Committee would like to thank each and every one of you for your support through all the years, well done ladies, keep up the good work.”

Mrs Blackman then asked the State President, Mr W Gaynor OAM RFD to address and open the conference. Mr Gaynor “thanked President Blackman and spoke of how RSL (WA) appreciated the support and donations to the War Veterans Homes (WVH) and RSL (WA) over many years” Mr Gaynor said.

Mr Gaynor also spoke of “challenges that confront Women’s Auxiliary with a declining membership, alliances with partners of younger veterans and perhaps an affiliate membership which could assist with eroding your base for potential membership”. Mr Gaynor then declared the conference open and wished all present a constructive and meaningful conference.

The Secretary, Mrs Daxon then addressed the forum and delivered her annual report on the Women’s Auxiliary and how she “has enjoyed the hospitality and friendship of Auxiliary ladies at their birthdays and friendship days” Mrs Daxon continued “with such a small committee of ladies this year it has been difficult to cover the number of hospital and nursing homes but the ladies have once again done an excellent job with monthly visits to the ex-servicemen and women. Once again we thank Mrs Peg Jack who also assists with the visiting duties”. Mrs Daxon then spoke of Christmas activities, “at Christmas the ladies visited the RSL Care at Menora and delivered 100 parcels of Christmas Cheer and enjoyed a lively morning with the residents at Hollywood Private Hospital. Christmas cards and scratchy tickets were given to the ex-servicemen and women – all gratefully received. The knitting and crochet ladies never seem to get tired of making rugs, bed socks, beanies, and scarves which are all very welcomed by the hospitals and nursing homes and give cheer and warmth to the residents” Mrs Daxon concluded, “thank you all ladies once again for your wonderful efforts.”

Mrs Blackman then asked Mr Gaynor to lead the presenters in presentation of awards to recipients for 2005-06.

Cup Competition

Metropolitan Cup, Presented by Mr Gaynor Armadale 84 pts
Executive Shield, Presented by Mrs A Gaynor, Bayswater 42 pts
Tray, Presented by Mrs G Bully, Belmont 30 pts
Encouragement Certificates – Metropolitan
1st Certificate, Presented by Mrs H Donald, City of Perth 41 pts
2nd Certificate, Presented by Mrs J Whitting, Seabrook 30 pts
Country Cup, Presented by Mr A Edgar, Murray Districts 55 pts
Geraldton Shield, Presented by Mrs J Jackson, Geraldton 51 pts
Tray, Presented by Mrs G Gaynor, Waroona-Hamelin 36 pts
Encouragement Certificates – Country
1st Certificate, Presented by Mrs V Fitzgerald, Geraldton 79 pts
2nd Certificate, Presented by Mrs S Bennetts, Bullsbrook 35 pts
3rd Certificate, Presented by Mrs V Gaynor, Northam 29 pts

The Secretary, Mrs Daxon delivering her annual report.

Mr Shane Seers OAM JP (State Secretary) presented with cheques of $1000.00 to RSL WA and a cheque of $1000.00 for War Veterans Homes (WVH)

Mr Seers thanked the Women’s Auxiliary “for their support over many years and that these cheques are greatly appreciated and would assist the RSL and RSL Care, in ongoing programmes and endeavours for the RSL membership.”

Mrs Blackman then declared the official opening of the conference closed and asked all present to join her and the committee for morning tea.

Denis Connelly

State President, Mr W Gaynor OAM RFD opening the conference.

Mr Shane Seers OAM JP (State Secretary) presented with cheques of $1000.00 to RSL WA and a cheque of $1000.00 for War Veterans Homes (WVH)

The THE LISTENING POST August/September 2006 19

THE TOP TEN BEST SELLING CD’S

Brought to you by Adrian at Abbott’s Music Centre.

Shop 12 Stargate Shopping Centre Kelmscott.
email: abbottscd@hotmail.com

2. Charlie Landsborough - With You I Mind/ Further Down The Road
3. Charlie Landsborough - Songs From The Heart/ Live In Dublin
4. Johnny Cash – Personal File
5. Dusty Springfield – Pop Diva
7. Katherine Jenkins – Living A Dream
8. Russell Watson – The Voice2 – Ultimate Collection
9. Song Book – Various Artists
10. Andrea Bocelli – Amore

These CD’s can be heard on Curtin Radio

If you mention seeing the Top Ten CD’s in the Listening Post, Adrian will give you a discount on your purchase.

Best Selling CD’s

1. SAB 03 000 000
2. CBA 01 000 000
3. EGA 02 000 000
4. DIT 03 000 000
5. AVV 04 000 000
6. NOZ 05 000 000
7. MAC 06 000 000
8. EVA 07 000 000
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10. FEL 09 000 000

Denis Connelly

The Secretary, Mrs Daxon delivering her annual report.

Crossword Solution – Aug/Sept 06

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10. SAB 03 000 000

Denis Connelly

The Secretary, Mrs Daxon delivering her annual report.
The Synergy Gallipoli Run was held in the picturesque setting of Kings Park on Sunday 23rd April, commencing at 9.00am.

Race patron and Changhi representative from Synergy presented a cheque to the RSL at the conclusion of the race.

For any enquiries or further information please contact Silvia Hoskins the Residences Coordinator, RSL Care WA on 93709489.

Footnote: The Perth relics were returned to Djakarta where they stayed for several weeks in 1967, until then the Malaysian-Singapore Airlines, Perth TV Station, Charro, 9 with the help of then Sales Manager, Norm Mannix, and the Sunday Times publicised the Perth. Most are now in the National War Museum in Canberra, except for the Guns which are in the Perham Museum. The Last Post was then played and a wreath was laid on the 2005 event. This was an increase of about 16% on the 2005 event. This was an encouraging result after a restricted promotional campaign due to Synergy only becoming an official entity on 1st April.

The winners on the day were:

8km (W) Hamish McElwee 26.32; (W) Tina Major 34.34; (M) Ben Green 14.03; (W) Monique Hollick 16.08

The largest corporate team was won by Synergy and Penrhos College was successful in the schools category. Olympic heptathlete Kylie Wheeler will present Penrhos with a framed certificate at a school assembly.

The Synergy Gallipoli Run raises funds for the WA branch of the RSL to assist in the ongoing welfare and support to the veteran community and spouses. Western Australian Athletics Commission Chief Executive Officer, Wayne Lloyd, and representative from Synergy presented a cheque to the RSL at the conclusion of the event.

The Synergy Gallipoli Run was held on 1st April.

Peter Finn.
I've been to Malaysia a couple of times now, and it never ceases to amaze me that, you can see and experience something different on each visit. The Sze Ya Temple in Kuala Lumpur is one of the oldest Buddhist temples in Malaysia. The temple was built in 1882, by Kapitan Cina Yap Ah Loy, in memory of Kong Sejig, a tin mine tycoon who was murdered. It is constructed of brick and tiles and comprises a main hall and two lesser side halls. The temple is not easy to find. It is quite small and is hidden in amongst other high-rise buildings, in Kuala Lumpur and the front courtyard is used as a car parking area. As you enter the temple grounds a sense of tranquillity is apparent. The sounds, of the Buddhist religion, being emitted from within the temple, as is apparent with many other Chinese temples, seems to invite people in, by way of its open design. Unlike some Chinese temples, the Sze Ya Temple did not appear to contain ancestral ashes, which hold particular significance for the Chinese Buddhists. During my visit to Malaysia I have discovered that each Chinese temple is unique. The Sze Ya Temple, which is quite small, compared with others that I have visited and is extremely ornate, particularly for such a small temple. Even though it is small, interestingly, it appears uncluttered and spacious. This temple, as is apparent with many other Chinese temples, seems to invite people in, by way of its open design. During my visit to Malacca I visited the Historic Town of Malacca it is about 128 kilometres from Kuala Lumpur. Prior to embarking on the trip I informed my Doctor, that I was going to visit Malacca he appeared astounded and said there was nothing to see in Malacca. It transpired that he was born in Malacca into a farming community. I informed Peter (my doctor) that, on my return, I would inform him of how I found Malacca as a tourist destination. My visit confirmed that his recollections of the past are very different from the reality of today. The Malacca State Government’s slogan, devised to promote tourism in the area is ‘Visit Historic Malacca Means Visit Malaysia’. I consider it to be a catchy slogan. On arrival in the Historical Town of Malacca my initial perception was one of peace and tranquillity. I was overwhelmed by the quietness and relaxed pace of the town. It was unlike the busy hub of other major towns, in the other states within Malaysia. Malacca, is one of the oldest states within Malaysia, being settled in 1405, by an exiled Hindu prince, from the Kingdom of Sri Vijaya, in Sumatra. It is truly unique, with its Portuguese heritage reflected throughout the architecture of the old, historic town ship. The influence of the Dutch and English cultures, is also very apparent, within Malacca’s buildings. The old world charm that is in abundance within the town lends itself to a carefree type of holiday. The local people are exceptionally friendly and transmit a gentle, laid back approach to life. I strolled through the old town site of Malacca, taking in the sights, smells and sounds of my surroundings. The traders are not pushy and will accept the time-honoured tradition of bargaining. If you start bargaining, at less than fifty percent of their first price and then work up. You should be able to purchase most products for about fifty percent of the original asking price. Jonkers Street is certainly worth visiting on Friday and Saturday nights, as the night Flea market is worth seeing. It is similar to the one in Kuala Lumpur, but only a fraction of the size as its counterpart in Kuala Lumpur. You can purchase the same sort of articles in Jonkers Street as in China Town in Kuala Lumpur. There are lots of places of interest in Malacca. The old Portuguese Fort (A Famosa) was built in 1511, when the Dutch invaded Malacca in 1641 they destroyed quite a lot of the forts structure. The fort had a moat surrounding it and the moat contained crocodiles, just to add a further deterrent, to would be attackers. Members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) deployed to Beirut and Cyprus from Sydney International Airport today. The 165 members of the ADF are being deployed to support the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the evacuation of Australian nations from Lebanon. The ADF group includes specialist staff to conduct liaison and evacuate processing support.
I am pleased to report that we are negotiating with two Western Australian businesses to provide ‘value added’ benefits to RSL Members in WA.

The first offer we are working on is free membership to every service member of the RSL. In the club format, this scheme would provide members with discount vouchers and special offers on the purchase of the new membership card to be introduced in 2006 for year 2007 members.

Membership fees will not increase for Service members to make use of this excellent members’ benefit.

There will be regular updates on the progress of this initiative. It is subject to sufficient support to the value of over $50,000 being raised. The second initiative is with a local named the Rick Hart stores in the greater metropolitan area.

The proposal in brief is:

No cost to you or your family members
Warehouse direct prices
Free storage (conditions apply)
Specialist advice
Working models on display
Savings, savings and more savings

What Rick Hart is offering:

For all RSL (WA) members including all administrative staff and RSL (WA) members’ immediate families, as well as any other categories that RSL (WA) might mutually agree to include, we offer exclusive special discount pricing everyday, which amounts to very substantial dollar savings, especially on the bigger ticket items. This special pricing arrangement means that your members, staff and others, will enjoy immediate and significant discounts by merely providing details of your RSL (WA) membership, or affiliation with RSL (WA) – without having to haggle.

Once again we are starting to provide WA members value added benefits.

Remembering core role is Welfare, Pensions and care of all ex, current members without having to haggle.

The deaths of the following RSL Members (WA Branch) were recorded:

The State President and members of the State Executive extend a welcome to new members, re-enlistments and transfers to the League in WA.

They are listed by sub-branch.
Ten pilots from No 204 Pilots Course graduated from No 2 Flying Training School at RAAF Base Pearce on Friday 26 May. The graduates included eight RAFF and two RAN pilots who will now begin conversion training on operational aircraft including the F/A 18 Hornet, Challenger 2K/6X and the Hawk lead-in fighter. The Navy graduates will begin conversion on the RAN's Squirrel Helicopter.

By: FLTLT Simon Webb
AMAZING

STORIES

Our Veterans secured our future
Hollywood looks after theirs

COMMEMORATING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN - AUGUST 18TH 1966