Funeral service for Captain Mark Bingley

Major Scott Watkins received the distinguished Flying Cross award.

Major Scott Watkins, from Baulkham Hills, in Sydney was on exchange with the British Army in the Joint Helicopter Force during 2004/05, in Iraq. Major Scott Watkins an Australian Army helicopter pilot received his award for providing support to the 1st Black Watch Battle Group.

Major Scott Watkins was presented with the United Kingdom’s Distinguished Flying Cross by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. He is the first Australian to receive the Distinguished Flying Cross since the Vietnam War, and one of a small group of Australians to have been presented with the UK award. The award was announced on the 10th September 2005.

Australian Army Pilot Honoured by Queen

“A...
ALL NISSAN VEHICLES COME WITH 3 YEAR/100,000KMS WARRANTY AND 3 YEAR 24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
Breakfast’ following the Service. In association with communities that conduct ANZAC Day Services. In Melbourne. The National Executive held its June meeting in Melbourne, just as the Founding Executive held their meeting 90 years earlier. The League used this occasion to launch its interactive education programme and announce additional scholarships for Australian youth. ANZAC Day confirmed the commitment by the community to honouring of fallen servicemen and women. The annual event is a credit to the League and a special treat for the WA Cadets as the selection process for the three service cadets to represent Western Australia has now been completed and winners will join the eastern states winners on a trip to Borneo and the site of the Sandakan Death Marches. It will be the experience of a lifetime for the cadets and I am certain they will return much more aware of our military heritage. The parcels are kindly provided by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. The parcels contain Christmas gifts that will remind them that they are not forgotten by a grateful and supportive ex-service community. The parcels are kindly provided by the RSL membership donors and support comes from the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. The CSL Western Australia members fully support this Fund by generous donations from individuals and sub-branches. The RSL. Western Australia is well placed to meet those demands and challenges. We are delighted that there is a demand for the presentations and firmly believe that we can only improve our sub-branch administration through such training programmes.

Our Younger Veterans
Following a rather disjointed approach to the issues affecting younger veterans, National Executive have taken the initiative and appointed a representative committee to address the problems currently being encountered. Several meetings have been held and some serious issues have been identified. There appears to be no limit to the problems but they appear to centre around the education of personnel as to their entitlements. It becomes a little more complex when transition and discharge procedures are taken into account. There is still a lot of work to be done in this area but assurance things are starting to move and problems are being addressed. We will keep you informed as information comes to hand.

Thinking of Others
This year the RSL will be sending 2885 Christmas Pards to our service men and women who are currently on deployment overseas. The parcels contain Christmas gifts that will remind them that they are not forgotten by a grateful and supportive ex-service community. The parcels are kindly provided by the RSL membership donors and support comes from the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. The CSL Western Australia members fully support this Fund by generous donations from individuals and sub-branches. The RSL. Western Australia is well placed to meet those demands and challenges. We are delighted that there is a demand for the presentations and firmly believe that we can only improve our sub-branch administration through such training programmes.

From the President’s Pen
What an eventful year! Looking back on 2006 it is a credit to the League to have achieved so much in almost every area of our operations.

In Western Australia we hosted the National Congress and were delighted that the Minister used that forum to announce the allocation – out of Budget – of $625m over four years to enhance the operation of the Gold Card. In effect this restored credibility to a system that has as its prime objective the quality health care of our veterans. Earlier in the year RSL celebrated its 90th Anniversary in Melbourne. The National Executive held its June meeting in Melbourne, just as the Founding Executive held their meeting 90 years earlier. The League used this occasion to launch its interactive education programme and announce additional scholarships for Australian youth. ANZAC Day confirmed the commitment by the community to honouring of fallen servicemen and women. The annual event is a credit to the League and a special treat for the WA Cadets as the selection process for the three service cadets to represent Western Australia has now been completed and winners will join the eastern states winners on a trip to Borneo and the site of the Sandakan Death Marches. It will be the experience of a lifetime for the cadets and I am certain they will return much more aware of our military heritage. The parcels are kindly provided by the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. The parcels contain Christmas gifts that will remind them that they are not forgotten by a grateful and supportive ex-service community. The parcels are kindly provided by the RSL membership donors and support comes from the Australian Forces Overseas Fund. The CSL Western Australia members fully support this Fund by generous donations from individuals and sub-branches. The RSL. Western Australia is well placed to meet those demands and challenges. We are delighted that there is a demand for the presentations and firmly believe that we can only improve our sub-branch administration through such training programmes.

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Secretary’s Notes

Veterans’ Home Care – helping veterans remain living in their own home

Sometimes it is simple things like assistance with personal care or house cleaning that make the difference that enables elderly veterans and war widows/widowers to remain living in their own homes.

This is why the Government has committed over $475m since 2001 for the Veterans’ Home Care (VHC) programme. The programme provides domestic assistance, personal care, respite and safety related home and garden maintenance services to more than 70,000 clients.

The VHC programme improves the general health and wellbeing of veterans and war widows/widowers by helping them to remain living at home for longer and reducing the prospect of unnecessary or early admission to residential aged care. Those receiving services spend less time in hospital and need fewer medications and medical services. Most veterans and war widows/widowers indeed most older Australians – want to live in their own homes for as long as possible.

The Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) is keen to ensure that VHC services are of the highest quality and continue to meet the needs of veterans. With all current Veterans’ Home Care contracts soon to expire, a nationwide tender process was undertaken for the delivery of VHC services. As a result, some existing assessment agencies and service providers will no longer provide services to veterans on behalf of the Department.

For some veterans, the care worker who currently delivers their service will change. Veterans can be assured that a change in care worker will not affect the quality of VHC services they receive. All affected veterans will have received a letter from DVA informing them of the change.

The majority of veterans receiving VHC services will not be affected by these changes at all.

DVA’s focus continues to be on maintaining the quality of care to the veteran community throughout the change over to new contractors. If you experience any disruption to your services or have concerns please contact your VHC service provider in the first instance. For questions about the tender process contact DVA on 133 254 and ask to speak to staff in our Veterans’ Home Care section.

If you need an assessment for VHC services, ring your local VHC assessment agency on 1300 550 450.

Royal Australian Air Force Squadrons celebrate new role

The parade was held to farewell No.36 Squadron and signify the merger of the Hercules operating units to 37 Wing.

No.36 Squadron became the first RAAF unit to fly the Hercules when it accepted delivery of 12 C-130A models to Richmond in 1958. In 1978, the Squadron replaced the C-130A with the C-130H Hercules.

Under this merger, 36 Squadron commanding officer, Wing Commander Paul Nicholas, will take over as commanding officer of 37 Squadron.

Wing Commander Linda Corbould, who has overseen the RAAF’s C-130H Hercules program, was appointed to the role.

No.36 and 37 Squadrons march past in slow time as the Escort Squadron presents arms.

It was my privilege to have known Joan, both as a friend for twenty-five years and as a colleague on the State Executive

Joan knew how to run successful campaigns for women’s rights, her organisational skills became particularly apparent when she organised a campaign, to have local nurses trained to medical standard. As well as returned ex-servicewomen from WWII. When Joan had achieved success with this campaign, her attention was turned to the RSL, where she lobbied for members of the Australian Women’s Land Army to be eligible to join the RSL.

Joan served on many committees including, ten years with the Navy League, ten years with the Australia Defence Association and eight years with the HMAS Perth Memorial Committee. She was also a member of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Army Museum and inaugural member of the Women’s Committee of the Cancer Council.

A fantastic achiever, whilst being a very gentle lady, Joan worked hard and often achieved the seemingly impossible. It appears that no one told Joan, that there may be times when she may not have achieved her objectives. Thank heaven they forgot as many of the benefits that members of Western Australia’s population now enjoy can be directly attributed to the effort put in by Joan, on her many committees.

At a Poppy Day function organised by Joan, about six years ago, the then RSL State President, Ken Bladen introduced Joan, to the assembled guests, as an RSL icon and Living Legend. This proved to be a very appropriate introduction for a true Western Australian.

Editor Len Copley.

JOAN DOWSON
0AM MBE 1918-2006

Born 4th June 1918 at Cottesloe Western Australia. Died 11th October 2006

Born Dorothy Richardson, but always known as Joan, this one-time ballerina joined the Australian Red Cross and the local VAD Detachment (VAD) in 1937. While in the local VAD, Joan successfully completed training in First Aid, Home Nursing, Motor Mechanics and Anti-Gas Warfare, while still employed as a Secretary for Eagle Star Insurance.

In 1938 Joan was one of two women in Western Australia to be awarded, Bronze, Silver and Gold Medals from the London Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing.

In 1941 Joan enlisted as a nursing VAD in the army and on 17 March 1943 joined the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service. She served in Egypt, Syria, Rhodesia and Gaza with the 9th Division. Joan was later posted to New Guinea with the Australian Army Medical Women’s Service, serving in the 2/9TH AGH. On her return from New Guinea Joan worked at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital.

In 1945 Joan was appointed to the Red Cross Field Force and was at sea for three months with the Royal Navy, on HMS Formidable, as a Red Cross Field Officer caring for former prisoners of war. At the end of the war Joan still felt a need to look after service people and therefore joined the Western Australian Branch of the RSL. After being in the RSL for a number of years, Joan was elected, by her peers at a State Congress, to the State Executive, Joan served on the State Executive for 16 years - she was the third woman to be elected to the executive.

After the war Joan continued working with the Australian Red Cross and Girl Guides. Joan Dowson also became a member of the Friends of Batley Library.

1974 President of Middle East VAD reunion in WA.

1975 Founding member of Australian Defence Association.

1978 Elected RSL State Executive, followed by 16 years service.

1998 Awarded the OAM for her service to the community and ex-service organisations.

1999 Member of the British Empire (MBE)

2005 Order of Australia Medal (OAM).

She was known as a great speaker and always had a way with words that conveyed her message.

The words she used were always clear and concise, and she was a master of storytelling.

The community she served was always at the forefront of her mind, and her work with the Red Cross and the RSL was always driven by a desire to help others.

Her legacy continues to this day, as the work she did for the community and the veterans she served is remembered and celebrated. She will always be remembered as a dedicated and hardworking member of the community, and her contribution to the RSL and the wider community will never be forgotten.
The official opening of RSL Care WA’s Menora Gardens Village was recently launched in September with a celebration led by the Governor-General of Australia.

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey AC CVO MC Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia unveiled a plaque commemorating the official opening of the Menora site at 9.30am on Wednesday 13th September at the Menora Gardens Village.

As the event approached, there was a little trepidation for the organisers of the ceremony as to what the weather would bring because it was set to be an outside event, but the gods turned on a splendid blue sky day for invited guests to enjoy.

Guests from all over Australia were invited, with many RSL members and veterans convening on Perth not only for the opening, but also for an annual conference.

The ceremony was opened by Graeme Sherriff, the Chairman of RSL Care WA, who went on to welcome guests and speak of his delight at the finished product of the Menora Gardens Village site.

RSL State President of the WA Branch, Bill Garnor OAM RDF, was the next speaker, giving a brief history of both RSL Care WA and the changes that the Menora site has seen over the last fifty years.

Mr Garnor explained how the RSL purchased 4.6 hectares of land in Mount Lawley in 1960, which originally contained buildings and dormitory and institutional type accommodation, which remained in use until 1990.

In 2002 a $45M construction redevelopment project began on the site and today the village includes the Menora Community Centre, Chapel, 42 villas and 56 apartments.

Commencement of a 118 bed Residential Care Facility began in December 2005 with a total budget of $16M including fit out and is scheduled to be completed by July 2007.

The role of the Governor-General has evolved over the years and thus his role includes, to encourage, articulate and represent those things that unite Australians as a nation. In this capacity, the Governor-General and his spouse have many important constitutional, official and ceremonial duties to perform, so it was with great pleasure that he attended the opening and was accompanied by his wife, Her Excellency Mrs Marlena Jeffery.

The Governor-General’s speech was warm as he spoke of his travels throughout Australia, of the people that he speaks with and meets, of his gratitude for war veterans, of a time social transformation and the aging population in Australia and of Menora Gardens.

He said, “This Estate provides a wonderful space for living – the beautiful landscaping, the tasteful design of the independent living units and the lively, invigorating atmosphere of the community centre. It is a reaffirmation that older age is not a short, down-hill run to obscurity, but rather a magnificent opportunity to be liberated from some of the strictures of work; a chance to explore, a time to follow a range of personal interests, and importantly, to share a lifetime of knowledge and experience.”

“I am proud today to be opening not only a state-of-the-art facility, but also one which is run by an organisation whose values the whole country admires and who serve all those in their care with integrity and sensitivity.” The Governor-General continued.

“My Chairman, Marlena and I are delighted to be here to support the activities of RSL Care WA and to commend you and your team on this redevelopment project. We congratulate you on transforming Menora from a great idea into a superb reality. I’m sure in 50 years time the history books will note how RSL Care WA played a leading role in helping solve the growing challenge of providing relevant, well-balanced retirement living options. I wish you the ongoing success you deserve.” He concluded.

A performance by the Ballajura Community College Barber Shop Quartet was one of the highlights of the ceremony with beautiful renditions of both Advance Australia Fair and Amazing Grace.

Morning tea followed the ceremony in the Menora Gardens dining area, where guests mingled and enjoyed some light snacks and refreshments.

Sally Hamilton

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AT Dawn on August 18 this year - Vietnam Veterans' Day - the 36th anniversary of the battle of Long Tan - a diverse group gathered at the National War Dog Memorial at Alexandra Headlands on the Sunshine Coast to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian war dogs.

The group which comprised Vietnam veterans, including several former Trackers, their partners, mates and dogs took part in a short but solemn ceremony which was followed by a toast to the war dogs that were left behind in Vietnam in 1971.

The story of these 11 black Labrador tracker dogs was first told by author and former handler Peter Haran in his fine book 'Trackers - the untold story of the Australian Dogs of War' which was published by New Holland Publishers. Because the Army refused to bring the dogs back to Australia after their service in South Vietnam, the handlers felt tremendous anguish when they were parted from their dogs. The way in which the dogs and their handlers were treated struck a chord initially among other Vietnam veterans and then through the wider community. Author Haran summed it up when he said that his dog Caesar "had been forgotten as a soldier and soldiers should not be forgotten in war, there should be some sort of memorial to them".

In April 2001 the memorial became a reality thanks to the hard work of the Vietnam Veterans' Sunshine Coast Branch. Ian Atkinson, in particular, worked tirelessly raising funds and involving others such as Dick Meisenhelter who carved the stone memorial which features a Labrador profile and a drinking bowl for dogs. The memorial was the centre point of an impromptu reunion of past and present service dog handlers and those who had no involvement but wished to pay their respects.

"We marched under our own banner for the first time in Adelaide on ANZAC Day," Bob said. "Trackers from all over Australia had gathered there for the unveiling of the National Trackers Memorial at Goolwa." A need for recognition of a group of black Labradors/labrador-kelpie crosses left in Vietnam more than 30 years ago has now led either directly or indirectly to the establishment of a new national ex-service organisation and impressive memorials in Queensland and South Australia with another planned for the Australian War Memorial.

War Heroes Remembered

St George’s Cathedral
Cathedral Services 2007
Sunday 18 February 17:00 Evensong
HMAS Perth Survivors
Sunday 22 April 17:00 Evensong 51st Bn
AIF Commemoration
Saturday 16 June 11:00 Guards
Association
Saturday 23 June 11:00 Airborne Forces
Association
Saturday 14 July 10:30 RWAR Association
Sunday 16 September 12:30 RAF
Association
Sunday 21 October 12:00 Nelson Society
Sunday 11 November 12:30 Federation of
UK Associations
Heel pain is a common complaint that I deal with and it is often misunderstood. Many patients roll up at the clinic, X-rays of their heel in hand and point out the heel spur that is causing them so much grief. I prefer to call it a Plantar Fascia Spur and think that it has not been sufficiently mentioned or understood by the public. In my experience it isn’t always worse over a few months, and is not caused by the little bony heel spur. I think you can guess what the next question is that is asked of me. Yes, that’s right. Well there is no (very obvious extra bit of bone) heel spur causing my discomfort, what is it! When I say Plantar Fascia pathology (often referred to as fasciatitis), I get that look. You know the one. “I think he is making this up as he goes along” or “I think he’s trying to confuse me with big words” hence the title of this article. It is very rare that the small bony spur showing on X-ray is the cause of pain. The spur is an accumulative growth due to calcium deposits that form when the plantar fascia starts to cause excessive stress at the heel. What I’m saying is, the heel spur forms as a reaction to some other pathology and it is not that pathology that is the cause of discomfort. Let’s backtrack to the start and look at some basic anatomy of the foot. The heel bone (calcaneus) is the largest bone in the foot. When we walk it is the bone that makes contact with the ground and so it absorbs a lot of the initial shock and trauma. There are three or four mechanisms in the foot that assist in shock absorption and one of these mechanisms is the plantar fascia. The plantar fascia is a broad, thick, non- elastic band of fibrous tissue that attaches at the bottom of the heel and runs along the foot, forming out to attach to the bottom of the toe boxes (Morton’s Toe). It is the underside of the foot. Now that was a mouthful. Simply put, the plantar fascia is like a leaf spring in an old car or trailer and it supports the arch of your foot. If you look at a normal foot as an arch this tight band of tissue (plantar fascia) is at the base of the arch. The act of weight bearing on the foot is walking, jogging, running or simply putting your weight on the foot. When we walk it is not always painful to start with, but the body’s reaction to the tissue damage is to produce a spike like projection of new bone called a heel spur. The spur can take many years to grow and so the stress/damage producing it has been there for many months or even years. That pain is the end stage, when the plantar fascia has been put under so much extra stress that the damage finally becomes painful. With some people, running or sports people, this pain can come on quickly and for others (like myself) it can come on slowly over a period of months. The people who develop plantar fasciitis often have one, two or even three of the following risk factors:

- Overweight
- Flat feet
- Rapid change in activity level
- High arches, rigid feet
- Tightness of the lower limb muscles
- Increased age
- Poor arch support in shoes
- Wearing poorly fitted shoes
- Running on toes, hills or very soft surfaces (sand)

Looking at the list tells us that the heel pain has a good chance of getting better if the current treatment is successful. Luckily for us the majority of plantar fascia cases respond favorably to non- operative treatment. Unfortunately, recovery time can vary tremendously with some patients getting better after 6 weeks of treatment and others needing 6 months or longer.

Treatment will include a large variety of methods because there isn’t one. Different treatments help different people. Some treatments may include stretching, activity modification, taping, anti-inflammatory medication, arch supports, heel pads and rest. People who are overweight, losing weight helps significantly. This is not all of the treatments available, and so you can see the importance in talking to your doctor or physiotherapist about what would best suit you.

If you take one thing away from this article, let it be that the sooner you get the heel pain properly diagnosed the sooner your doctor and physiotherapist can begin to help you get rid of it. You don’t have to suffer ongoing heel pain, it is a lot we can do to help, so stop putting it off and get it sorted.

Until next time, happy exercising.

Margaret Harrison
Former Senior Advisor

The value of the “Corroboration”:
Jim Boland has asked me to mention this important issue. Most Physicians and Advisors are aware that some claims (especially those for Post War service) can be an incident as the “severe stressor” which was never officially reported. In recent years, a few of these claims have been closely scrutinized and challenged by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, who, if doubtful, now seek further substantiation of some of these described events through a formal channel. Increasingly the DVA approaches a greater percentage of claims for corroboration. I believe if one is working steadily worse over a few months, is not caused by the little bony heel spur then there is something else. I think you can guess what the next question is that is asked of me. Yes, that’s right. Well there is no (very obvious extra bit of bone) heel spur causing my discomfort, what is it! When I say Plantar Fascia pathology (often referred to as fasciatitis), I get that look. You know the one. “I think he is making this up as he goes along” or “I think he’s trying to confuse me with big words” hence the title of this article. It is very rare that the small bony spur showing on X-ray is the cause of pain. The spur is an accumulative growth due to calcium deposits that form when the plantar fascia starts to cause excessive stress at the heel. What I’m saying is, the heel spur forms as a reaction to some other pathology and it is not that pathology that is the cause of discomfort. Let’s backtrack to the start and look at some basic anatomy of the foot. The heel bone (calcaneus) is the largest bone in the foot. When we walk it is the bone that makes contact with the ground and so it absorbs a lot of the initial shock and trauma. There are three or four mechanisms in the foot that assist in shock absorption and one of these mechanisms is the plantar fascia. The plantar fascia is a broad, thick, non- elastic band of fibrous tissue that attaches at the bottom of the heel and runs along the foot, forming out to attach to the bottom of the toe boxes (Morton’s Toe). It is the underside of the foot. Now that was a mouthful. Simply put, the plantar fascia is like a leaf spring in an old car or trailer and it supports the arch of your foot. If you look at a normal foot as an arch this tight band of tissue (plantar fascia) is at the base of the arch. The act of weight bearing on the foot is walking, jogging, running or simply putting your weight on the foot. When we walk it is not always painful to start with, but the body’s reaction to the tissue damage is to produce a spike like projection of new bone called a heel spur. The spur can take many years to grow and so the stress/damage producing it has been there for many months or even years. That pain is the end stage, when the plantar fascia has been put under so much extra stress that the damage finally becomes painful. With some people, running or sports people, this pain can come on quickly and for others (like myself) it can come on slowly over a period of months. The people who develop plantar fasciitis often have one, two or even three of the following risk factors:

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Until next time, happy exercising.

Margaret Harrison
Former Senior Advisor
Welcome Home 2 RAR

Soldiers from 2nd Battalion The Royal Australian Regiment (2 RAR) have returned following a deployment on Operation Catalyst with Australia’s 500-strong Overwatch Battle Group (West), based at Camp Terendak, Tallil Air Base, Iraq. Its mission is to support Provincial Iraqi Control in Al Muthanna Province. This is achieved by continued engagement with Iraq Security Forces (ISF) and local authorities in the province. It involves a range of activities, including meetings with local leaders, exercising with the ISF and supporting and mentoring them as they consolidate their capabilities. Another key role is the Battle Group’s on-going CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) Programme. This provides reconstruction assistance in Al Muthanna Province. Australian Army members also train Iraqi Army personnel at a Basic Training Centre in Tallil.

Operation Catalyst is the Australian Defence Force’s (ADF’s) contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq.

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RECONSTRUCTION TASK FORCE AFGHANISTAN

A contingent of Australian Defence Force personnel is working in Afghanistan as part of the Netherlands-led Provincial Reconstruction Team under the NATO International Security Assistance Force.

Australia’s contribution, known as the Reconstruction Task Force (RTF), will be a mix of engineers and security personnel deployed to Afghanistan for up to two years and will work on reconstruction and community-based projects as part of Australia’s commitment to assisting Afghanistan achieve a stable and secure future.

The majority of the task force will be drawn from the Darwin area and made up of personnel from the 1st Combat Engineer Regiment based in Darwin which will provide combat engineers and tradesmen (carpenters, plumbers, electricians and plant operators) that will undertake the majority of the RTF’s construction activities. This includes skills training for the local population to ensure the benefits of the deployment continue well after our personnel have returned home.

The Australian protective force for the RTF is provided by the Brisbane-based Motorised Infantry of the 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment, 5/7 Royal Australian Regiment and the Darwin-based 2nd Cavalry Regiment. Command, logistics and support elements have come from the Darwin-based 1st Brigade.

Clockwise from top left: 1. Blocks of fun as 1st Reconstruction Task Force’s Captain Clare O’Neil boxes up more toys to be delivered to the Tarin Kowt hospital in southern Afghanistan. 2. Private Ben Huff from the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment completes a radio check prior to moving out on patrol in southern Afghanistan. 3. Private Scott Steer from the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment hands out sweets to the local Afghan children during a visit to continue reconstruction work. 4. Corporal Clint Dunn from the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment provides a security screen during a visit to continue reconstruction work and to deliver Australian Aid. 5. A local Afghan man watches on with interest as 1st Combat Engineer Regiment carpenter Corser & O’Dea. 6. Soldiers from the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment. 7. Australian Light Armoured Vehicle provides protection as part of a Reconstruction Task Force. 8. Interested local watch on as an Australian Bodmaster provides protection. 9. Private Ben Huff from the Brisbane-based 6th Battalion Royal Australian Regiment maintains a score watch with his Mag 58 machine gun.

IN THE CONFUSION AND EMOTIONAL NUMBNESS THAT FOLLOWS WHEN A PERSON DIES, IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT FOR GRIEVING RELATIVES TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

Bowra & O’Dea Funeral Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia by the O’Dea family for more than 110 years, is now offering a special service to RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans.

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• Your PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and is not subject to any administration.
• You lessen the anguish that those left behind may feel regarding whether they ‘did the right thing’.
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BOWRA & O’DEA

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The RSL Spirits of ANZAC National Cadet of the Year Presentation Evening was held on Friday 17 November 2006 at ANZAC House. Present were the cadets and their family and friends, cadet representatives and guests. The State president of the Western Australian Branch of the RSL, Mr Bill Gaynor OAM RFD opened the proceedings and extended a warm welcome to all present.

The cadets were presented with Certificates of Participation and packages containing an RSL cap and an RSL polo shirt embroidered with the words “RSL Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year 2006” on the front of the shirt and the re-versible logo showing on the right hand sleeve. These packages and certificates were presented by Mrs Cezile Flinton BEM representing the Returned Ex-Servicewomen's Sub-Branch RSL, Mr Len Copley representing East Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch, Mr Ken Morrison representing Ocean Reef RSL Sub-Branchs, Mrs Judy Gibson representing the RANQ Association WA, Mrs Mary Timms representing the WRAC Association WA and members of the Membership & Youth Committee. Donations had been received from these sub-branches and associations as well as from Belmont RSL Sub-Branch and the Returned Sisters' Sub-Branch RSL who were unable to have representatives present on the evening. The committee was most grateful for their support and thank you all very much for your generosity.

The president, Mr Bill Gaynor, kept the cadets in suspense before announcing the winners of the trip overseas, a real test of their endurance! After the presentation of the packages and certificates, the Encouragement Awards were announced. The winners were:

Midshipman Sean Cully ANZC TS PERTH
CPO Ryan Twort ANZC TS PERTH
CPO Joakim Siira AAFC 713 SQn

These three Western Australian cadets will join the cadets from Victoria and South Australia to compete in the RSL National Cadet of the Year Competition 2006 on a tour to Britain in April 2007. The Membership & Youth Committee would like to thank our sponsors Hollywood Private Hospital and Australian Defender Credit Union, for making this trip possible for our three cadets.

The guests were then invited to congratulate the cadets and partake in the refreshments provided.

Every year the RSL awards each of the cadet units a “Cadet Efficiency” trophy and a cheque for five hundred dollars. The Australian Defence Credit Union has increased their contribution this year which has enabled the RSL to increase the amount to $1000.00.

The Annual Ceremonial Parade for the Western Australian Cadet Brigade was held at Brooklands on the 7 October 2006 where around 700 cadets from 27 cadet units from all over Western Australia were on parade.

The RSL presents “Cadet Efficiency” trophies this year and the presentation of the trophy and a cheque for $1000.00 were presented to LT Daniel Wilson at the closing of the HMAS Sydney 11 Memorial Service on 19 November 2006.

The memorial service for HMAS Sydney 11 was held at sunset at the magnificent memorial erected to remember the sailors who lost their lives fifty years ago. The navy cadets from TS Morrow and also army and air force cadets were involved with the service which was organised by the City of Geraldton and the Geraldton RSL Sub-Branch. It was a very moving experience and a large crowd were in attendance.

The Membership & Welfare Trailer has undergone a name change as well as a refurbishment. It will now be known as the Community Youth & Education Display Unit. Bookings can be made by contacting Olga on 08 9276 3493 or Keith on 08 93424731 mob 0419380808.

The cadets were presented with Certificates of Cadet Efficiency and extended a warm welcome to all present.

The Australian Navy cadets held their end of camp parade at Leeuwin Barracks on the 15 October 2006. There were 120 on parade and they looked very smart in their uniforms.

The “Cadet Efficiency” trophy and a cheque for $1000.00 were presented to the winning cadet unit CCPL Joakim Siira AAFC 713 SQn.

The following week saw the RSL ANZAC House 50th Anniversary Presented Evening. The RSL ANZAC House Sub-Branch and the Returned Sisters’ Sub-Branch RSL who were unable to have representatives present on the evening.

The committee was most grateful for their support and thank you all very much for your generosity.

The Australian Army Cadet Brigade was held at Bindoon Barracks on 4 November 2006. The Australian Army cadets held their end of camp parade at Leeuwin Barracks on the 15 October 2006. There were 120 on parade and they looked very smart in their uniforms.

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This conferences predecessor, Thinking Drinking: Achieving Cultural Change by 2020 (February 2005, Melbourne) explained our alcohol problems.

Now it's time to turn those problems into solutions. Thinking Drinking II: From Problems to Solutions will set the agenda for changing problematic drinking cultures in Australasia. Thinking Drinking II is organised by the Australian Drug Foundation in partnership with the Community Alcohol Action Network. It is the main event for policy makers, researchers and workers who want to make a difference to the way we produce, market, sell and consume alcohol.

To register your interest, email: thinking.drinking@adf.org.au or telephone (03) 9278 8137.

When: Monday 26 - Wednesday 28 February 2007

Contact: SARAH JAGGARD, Manager Alcohol Projects
Injury Control Council of WA
[Inc] City West Lotteries House
2 Delhi Street, West Perth WA 6005
Phone: (08) 9420 7212
Fax: (08) 9486 7955
Web: www.iccwa.org.au
We are saddened to have to report the passing of a great West Australian mining engineer Sir Lawrence Brodie-Hall CMG AO.

Sir Lawrence or “Brodie” as he preferred to be called is referred to here in WA as the Father of the Gold Mining Industry”. He will be remembered by many as the Chairman of WMC.

Many will not know that Brodie was a member of the RAE in WW2 having enlisted as a private. He later became an officer in the 2/6th Field Coy RAE and a Captain in the 2/2nd Boring Platoon. Served NT, Mouat and Balikpapan.

He gave me a signed copy of his autobiography (No 181 or 250) and it is a great read. In it he states that “what motivated me to get out of the rank and file was the shockingly poor quality of the NCO’s and commissioned officers charged with the responsibility of teaching me how to become an efficient soldier”. He was transferred as a trouble maker to Narrogin and posted near an engineer unit. The Captain there made a big impression of him and recommended him for officer training at SME Casula.

Brodie had a great sense of humour and a lot of fun in him even at a later age. When he attended his first meeting at the RAEA WA everyone was calling him “Sir Lawrence” especially the WW2 olds and bolds. One old boy even called him “your lordship”.

At the end of the meeting when I asked if there was anything anyone wanted to say before we retired to the bar, Sir Lawrence stood up and said, “Mr President might I say some thing”, given the go ahead he said “I only have two things to say, firstly my names Brodie not Sir Lawrence , and secondly …The beers are on me!” A cheer, he’d won us over!

I remember he was Guest of Honour at a Waterloo Dinner held at ANZAC House Perth a number of years ago. When it came his time to talk he said” I was asked to give a talk about my distinguished military engineering career...unfortunately I didn’t have one...” It was great to see the looks on the faces of the young lads of 13 Field Sqs. He then had us in stitches with some of the things they got up to in the islands.

He was proud of his Royal Australian Engineers service.

A great man with a great sense of what needed to be done and when. From a very poor beginning in London (Born 1910) he rose to become a great Australian.

Facimus et Frangimus.

Mick Ryan

---

Support to Tonga

After receiving a request from the Government of Tonga on Friday, 17th November, Australia, in conjunction with New Zealand, has deployed forces to assist the Government of Tonga in establishing an environment in which to achieve a peaceful resolution to the current unrest being experienced in the capital of Tonga.

The New Zealand-led military deployment includes approximately 50 Australian Defence Force personnel. Their mission is to support the Tongan Security Forces in stabilising the situation following rioting in Nuku’alofa. 61 Australian Federal Police officers have also deployed to support the Tongan Police Service.

The ADF contribution is drawn primarily from the 1st Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment and includes infantry soldiers and logistic personnel.

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Farewell "Brodie"

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The Australia-US alliance is an important, but often misunderstood part of Australia's security strategy. The book, The Partnership: The Inside Story of the Australian-US Alliance, by Greg Sheridan, has produced a new perspective on the relationship between Australia and the US.

The book, which focuses on the relationship between Prime Minister John Howard and US President George W. Bush, provides valuable insights into the complex and dynamic relationship between the two nations.

Some key takeaways from the book include:

1. "Chinese leaders are focused on domestic stability.
2. China's increased global activism is intended to secure its power.
3. China's increased global activism is intended to secure its economy.
4. China's increased global activism is intended to secure its influence.
5. China's increased global activism is intended to secure its power globally.

The book highlights the importance of understanding the Chinese perspective and the challenges it poses to the United States and its allies. It also underscores the need for a long-term strategy to address China's rising power.

Overall, The Partnership is a valuable read for anyone interested in China's global ambitions and the future of the US-China relationship.
**Sub-Branch News**

**Beverley**

On the 18 August 2006 the Beverley RSL Sub-Branch held a Vietnam Veterans Day Parade and ceremony.

With many members from the York RSL Sub Branch attending the evening Ceremony which started at 5:30pm.

Followed by a meal and fellowship back at the RSL Hall.

This was the second year that Beverley has held a Vietnam Veterans Day Parade and ceremony and are planning for next year as there has been an increase of interest by the community and the Veterans who have attended the services.

This has been a busy year so far with upgrades to our hall, the dedication of the War Memorial and ANZAC Day.

On the social side we held our annual Christmas in July with over 60 attending the dinner. With planning underway for our annual New Years Eve Supper Dance.

**Cockburn**

Sub-Branch

Arthur J Stanton Treasurer/Events Organiser RSL City of Cockburn

assistance in making this successful.

thanks to the small band of volunteers from the sub-branch for their

presented to a selected student from year seven, in twenty primary schools within the City of Cockburn. These awards are presented at the schools' final assemblies by an RSL member, once again a vote of

the annual presentation of the ANZAC Memorial Awards which are

BBQ lunch for the members and visitors.

photo is attached). The RSL members then provided the cadets and band with a sausage sizzle and soft drinks, this was followed by a

Garden, where they provided music for a further thirty minutes (a

After the service the band then moved to the RSL Memorial Rose

with a combined navy cadets and emergency service cadets from

from TS Cockburn formed the catafalque party on the monument,

the service was held at the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall Monument.

Outstanding results with the gross taking of $9,500.00. Congratulations

volunteers, who put in long hours at shopping centres and produced

The month of November is producing quite a lot of activity around

Cockburn. Firstly, with the annual poppy sales we had a small band of volunteers, who put in long hours at shopping centres and produced outstanding results with the gross taking of $9,300.00. Congratulations and a job well done by those dedicated volunteers - thank you.

Remembrance Day was an outstanding success, with a large crowd of participants both from the ex-service personnel and the community, the service was held at the Hamilton Hill Memorial Hall Monument. This year the inclusion of youth was applauded by all, navy cadets from TV Cockburn formed the catafalque party on the monument, with a combined navy cadets and emergency service cadets from Laleland Senior High School as the Colour Party and also formed a guard of honour. The forty piece band from the Hamilton Senior High School provided music during the service. This is the third time that we have engaged this band, they are excellent and we acknowledge them with a large vote of thanks, and we will continue to support the band and cadets in the area.

After the service the band then moved to the RSL Memorial Rose Garden, where they provided music for a further thirty minutes (a photo is attached). The RSL members then provided the cadets and the band with a sausage sizzle and soft drinks, this was followed by a BBQ lunch for the members and visitors.

We continue with our support of youth in the City of Cockburn with the annual presentation of the ANZAC Memorial Awards which are presented to a selected student from year seven, in twenty primary schools within the City of Cockburn. These awards are presented at the schools’ final assemblies by an RSL member, once again a vote of thanks to the small band of volunteers from the sub-branch for their assistance in making this successful.

Arthur J Stanton Treasurer/Events Organiser RSL City of Cockburn Sub-Branch

**City of Perth**

The City of Perth Sub-Branch members, guests and invited Service members from the ADF, celebrated the 90th Anniversary of the foundation of the RSL City of Perth Sub-Branch.

A luncheon was organised by the sub-branch committee, and held at the Parmeck Hilton Hotel, an excellent venue for such an occasion.

After the pre-lunch drinks the guests were invited by the MC Mr. Vern Ridge to be seated at their allotted tables and join in the camaraderie with the City of Perth Sub-Branch, on the auspicious occasion of 90th Birthday of City of Perth.

The Army, Navy, Air force and Allied Merchant Seamen’s Standards were marched into the formal dining area. The four Standard bearers all displayed a very high level of proficiency in their drill movements.

The Royal Australian Naval Reserve Band played while the flag party standard bearers marched into the formal dining area for the ceremonial placing of the different Service’s flags.

The President Mr Gordon Norton welcomed those present and invited the members and guests to enjoy themselves. “With tongue in cheek”, he said that it would be a long time before they would celebrate another occasion.

When everyone had enjoyed an excellent meal that was accompanied by a superb wine list, it was time for those all important formal speeches.

The sub-branch vice president gave a brief speech on the formation of the sub-branch, outlining in chronological order the life of the sub-branch from inception to present, he also informed the dinner guests that the City of Perth RSL was formed in June 1916 and was therefore one year older than the State Sub-Branch, State Executive.

After the formalities, the naval band performed some excellent background music that was appreciated by all present. The vocal backing was just as impressive as the playing abilities of the musicians. The choice of songs was excellent. It set the mood helping to conjure up that important mood of a nostalgic era of bygone years. Even the young people in attendance enjoyed the magnificent performance by the Royal Australian Naval Reserve Band and vocal accompaniments. The hours just seemed to fly past, and it seemed that the time had come for the last waltz all too soon. I’m sure that everyone who attended will have fond memories that they will cherish for a long time.

**Murray**

Murray RSL Sub-Branch held its Annual General Dinner on Sunday the 19th November. The sub-branch dinner continues to be a huge success, and the sub-branch meeting hall was once again filled to capacity.

The sub-branch guest from RSL HQ was Len Copley and he presented some of the awards in conjunction with the Deputy Commissioner of Veteran’s Affairs.

Mr John Southern, awarded a 30 year Certificate.

Ms Brian O’Toole Certificate of Appreciation.

Ms Barina Giles Certificate of Appreciation.

Certificate of Service presented to the principal of Pinjarra Senior High School, for their ongoing support to the Murray Districts RSL Sub-Branch.

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Gordon Norton President
Rememberance Day in Perth

The State President, Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD handing over the Key to the State War Memorial Crypt from the Immediate Past Warden, Richard Court, to the new Warden Cdre Clem Littleton AO RAN (Ret)

Rememberance Day in Perth

The State President, Mr William Gaynor OAM RFD handing over the Key to the State War Memorial Crypt from the Immediate Past Warden, Richard Court, to the new Warden Cdre Clem Littleton AO RAN (Ret)
A Young ANZAC Poet

An insight into the ANZAC spirit of mateship is expressed in the poetry of Lauren Pow who is only 10 years old. She comes from a family which is steeped in commitment and service. She had two great, great grandparents who fought in WWI, two great grandparents in WWII and a grandad in Vietnam.

What ANZAC Means to Me

When all of the ANZACs went out to fight
They would get so scared
They would not sleep at night
So say goodbye my cobber, my friend, my mate
As I shall not forget you at any rate.

Lauren Pow

Poetry

A Young ANZAC Poet

An insight into the ANZAC spirit of mateship is expressed in the poetry of Lauren Pow who is only 10 years old. She comes from a family which is steeped in commitment and service. She had two great, great grandparents who fought in WWI, two great grandparents in WWII and a grandad in Vietnam.

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When all of the ANZACs went out to fight
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So say goodbye my cobber, my friend, my mate
As I shall not forget you at any rate.

Lauren Pow
From the Bunker

ANZAC House Staff

Kristie is responsible for reception duties, merchandise purchase and distribution, including items for Poppy Day and ANZAC Day. Kristie can be contacted on 9287 3799. Christine has joined our very confident hospitality staff at the ANZAC Club. She enjoys just about every function at the Club.

Portrait of an Australian Veteran

It is proposed that a series of articles on 14 members’ relatives who have served in Australian Armed Forces and those who have paid the ultimate price for dedication for such service will be published regularly in the Listening Post. The first of such articles is dedicated Ivan Malcolm Walter who was the last recruit of the 2/11th Battalion.

In 1914, Ivan Malcolm Walter enlisted for service with the militia in Western Australia country town of Cunderdin where he was working as a shop assistant. Ivan had a chequered career trying to join the Australian armed forces. At 16 he had signed for 12 months in camp when he sailed for Egypt on the 15th February, 1915. He was only 16 years of age and was told that applications had closed and so reenlisted as a land social assistant. At 17 he saw an advertisement for RAAF aircrew. He travelled to Perth, passed the selection exam, was given 21 books, told to go home and study and that he would be called up when he reached 18. However, feeling he could not wait, Ivan put his age up and joined the army. Unable to join the AIF he was not yet 19 was called up for full duty on 9 April 1942 and was sent to Northumb Arm Camp for training. On 8 March 1943, Ivan transferred to the AIF and two weeks later, he joined the 2/11th Battalion when “claimed” by his foster brother, WX15898 N.C.O. Ivan served with D Company for the entire Aitape/Wewak campaign. His foster brother, one of many casualties of the campaign, lies buried in the Lae Cemetery as do many others of the 2/11th Battalion dead.

Matthew Holyday, ANZAC Club Manager, has advised that those members who are anticipating holding their Christmas function at the ANZAC Club be advised to make an early booking so as to obtain preferred dates.

If Mr Holyday said that ‘there is a set menu available with either a two-course or three-course meal available, all with traditional fare, as well as our usual meals. All tables will be decorated with Christmas themes’. Mr Holyday went on to say that ‘the ANZAC Club is receiving very favourable support from local business, from RSL units and ANZAC clubs for Christmas functions and activities’.

For further information please contact Mr Holyday on 9287 3714.
Fleet on show at Stirling Open Day

The pride of the fleet was on show at HMAS Stirling on November 26 when the Navy’s biggest base hosted its popular open day.

Thousand of members of the public converged on Garden Island to inspect all the Navy had on offer, including four ANZAC Class frigates and three Collins Class submarines that were open to the public.

As well as the popular CTF4 diving tank, a static display exhibiting many of the Navy's achievements was on display.

HMCS Stirling Commanding Officer Commander Paul Bartlett said the day was a fantastic opportunity for the public to see what the Navy can do.

The open day kicked off with a flypast of four aircraft that took off from Garden Island and headed out to sea.

Open Day co-ordinator Lieutenant Louis Young said the organisation received great feedback from members of the public who attended the day.

“Everyone that I spoke to said they thoroughly enjoyed the event and were most impressed by the professionalism and friendly manner of the officers and sailors who looked after them on the day,” he said.

The “Darwin’s submarines” were a highlight for many of our visitors while the ANZAC Class frigates provided an impressive sight from the ocean.

Landing at 1300.

“This involved HMAS ANZAC’s boarding party and a number of members of CTF4 boarding HMAS Toowoomba, HMAS Toogoom and HMAS Collins during the Open Day,” he said.

“Heavy weather and heavy weather meant that several of our visitors were unable to enjoy the event and provided feedback from people who attended the day.

“Despite the heavy rain and high winds, the ANZAC Class frigates provided an impressive sight from the ocean.

“The frigates that were open to the public on the day were: HMAS ANZAC, HMAS Toogoom, HMAS Toowoomba, while the submarines HMCS Stirling and HMCS Darwin were also open to inspection.

By Lieutenant Gary McHugh RANR

Perth Strategy Group visits local Naval Base

Perth Strategy Group has just completed a tour of HMAS Stirling, which included visits to a Collins class submarine, and the Submarine Escape Rescue Centre (SERC). This closed door tour, held on October 27, 2006, facilitated important discussions between the members of Perth Strategy Group, students studying national security and international relations at Curtin University of Technology, and members of the Royal Australian Navy. One of the Perth Strategy Group’s founders, Dr Alexey Muraviev of Curtin University, described the event as “a unique, new initiative which brings together young strategic thinkers and defence personnel”.

Perth Strategy Group is a voluntary, non-partisan group of Australian citizens with an interest in broader issues around national security. It is comprised of young strategic thinkers with experience in private sector, public policy, military, academia and community organisations. The organisation does not receive any government funding and is not aligned with any political party.

While Perth Strategy Group facilitates various activities aimed at raising community awareness of matters of national security and defence, such as through tours of key defence bases, and platforms, it also looks to engage the broader community in discussions.

“Everybody that I spoke to said they thoroughly enjoyed the event and were most impressed by the professionalism and friendly manner of the officers and sailors who looked after them on the day,” he said.

“Darwin’s submarines” were a highlight for many of our visitors while the ANZAC Class frigates provided an impressive sight from the ocean.

This article was written by the author of the book "Portrait of an Australian Veteran".

Elmo Henry Clark was born on the 24th of May 1893 at Cradoc, Tasmania. He joined the Australian Imperial Force on the 18th April 1918. He returned to “Fernos” and played the tenor horn with the Frankston Brass Band until his death due to an accident at the sawmill on “Fernos”. Pass away passed on the 7th of May 1964 at Hobart, Tasmania.

For further information, or to register your interest in participating in the commemorations, please contact:

Mrs Sarah Gillespie
The Embassy of Australia
501 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington DC 20036
Tel: +1 202 797 3502
Fax: +1 202 483 3546
Email: sarah.gillespie@defence.gov.au
Again I have chosen some very different types of books for Christmas, also an opportunity to acquire some articles in a manuscript form. The books vary in price and can be purchased at all good bookshops. The manuscripts are available for a small cost from the authors. The Listening Post has the contact information for the authors of the manuscripts.

The first manuscript is from Errol Pentony, it is about his journey through life, from early childhood and military service in South Viet-Nam to his eventual marriage breakdown. Errol tells us how he had to put his own life back together after his marriage fell to pieces. He describes that he felt he was not in control of his destiny and had to be strong to enable him to pick up the broken threads, of what was left of his life and make a new one.

TAPPER GEORGE
Tapper George starts off just prior to the Second World War.

The plot unfolds and moves at a very fast pace, making excellent reading. As the plot unfolds it soon becomes clear that the manuscript has a fantastic plot about terrorists, these terrorists are up with some Western Nations and seek revenge. They have infiltrated the everyday society of these nations and have planted time bombs that are set to explode in ten years after the planning. The problem is that is they are nuclear bombs that have been acquired from Old Russian scientists, as the USSR was being dismantled. All Muslim people helping the terrorists to achieve the aim of destruction and have been members of the planning cells will also be killed. As they have all served their purpose.

The manuscript was written many years ago and Stuart Alexander the author finds it hard to come to grips with what is now reality, as some of the plots has written about have now been real.

The Kilted Battalion
This book is about the history of the 16th Infantry Battalion (The Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia).

The book is very well written and tells the history of this famous infantry battalion in Western Australia. During WWII this CMF unit saw active service in New Guinea as a re-classified unit in the AIF. The book is dedicated to the history of the 16th Cameron Highlanders, and does not go into the detailed accounts of the individual members of the unit, during its active service period it was in battle during the Second World War. A great look for those of us that enjoy reading a well-written History of a famous Western Australian Unit.

Like all good histories written about army units it covers the units Battle Honours, Battalion Colours, Badges, Nominal Rolls and other valuable information about the Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia.

The book is available from, The 16th Battalion Cameron Highlanders of WA Association.

AMARYLLIDACEAE
The Genius of the Daffodil

A great collection of stories, written by 7 RAAF Engineering Apprentices; an engineering apprentice training scheme in 1948. The philosophy behind this scheme was to enable the RAAF to have the necessary skilled personal to service and keep their increasingly sophisticated and complex aircraft flying.

This book contains the stories of sixty contributors and has many black and white photos. As you probably guessed, when young men get together there is quite a bit of larkiness. A great book for reading when you just want to relax and enjoy yourself.

Brought to you by Adriam at Abbott’s Music Centre.
Shop 12 Stargate Shopping Centre Kelmscott.
email: abbottscd@hotmail.com

1. Il Divo – “Siemgre”
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4. Tony Bennett – “Duets”
5. Cliff Richards – “Two’s Company – The Duets”
6. Timeless – Various Artists
7. Westlife – “Love Album”
8. Boney M – “Magic”
9. Human Nature – Motown II
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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.
HMAS Perth
Welcome aboard

HMAS Dechaineux constructed in Adelaide at the ASC on the 4 March 1993 and is the fourth Collins Class Submarine built for the Royal Australian Navy. The submarine is named after Captain Emile Dechaineux, the Commanding Officer of HMAS Australia during the latter stages of World War II. On the morning of 25 October 1944, Australia was part of a bombardment force supporting the Allied landing at Leyte in the Central Philippines. During the battle, a Japanese Dive-Bomber was engaged and hit by HMAS Australia and HMAS Shropshire. At first, the aircraft appeared to fly away from the ships, but it subsequently turned and dived into Australia’s, hitting the foremast and causing a large explosion and intense fuel fire. Captain Dechaineux died of wounds received in the attack and was subsequently awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) by the United States Government.

Submarine Dechaineux was launched in Adelaide by Captain Dechaineux’s widow, Mrs Mary Purbrick on Thursday, 12 March 1993.

HMAS Dechaineux commissioned at Fleet Base West on Friday, 23 February 2001 along with the fifth Collins Class submarine, HMAS Sheean. The submarine was subsequently awarded the Legion of Merit (Degree of Officer) by the United States Government.

Meet the Commander

Commander Simon Gregg was born in Griffiths, New South Wales and educated in Sydney prior to joining the Royal Australian Naval College in January 1985.

After graduating from HMAS Creswell in 1987, with Diplomas in Applied Science, he served in the Fremantle Class Patrol Boats HMAS Townsville and HMAS Whaly in 1987/88 prior to being awarded his Bridge Watch Keeping Certificate in HMAS Brisbane in 1988. He saw further service in HMAS Adelaide and, as Navigator, in HMAS Geelong in 1990. Promoted to Lieutenant in 1991, he served as the Flag Lieutenant to the Maritime Commander prior to posting as Assistant Principal Warfare Officer in HMAS Brisbane in 1992.

In 1993 he undertook the Principal Warfare Officer’s course, before graduating as a Gunnery and Air Warfare Specialist. He then served as the Gunnery Officer in HMAS Melbourne in 1994 prior to serving on exchange at sea in the Royal Navy for two years in the destroyer HMS Glaucoster (1996 - 1998). He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Commander in 1997, returned to Australia in 1998, and then posted to the Maritime Development Division in the Australian Defence Headquarters as the Staff Officer for Above Water Warfare. In 2000 he assumed the duties of Operations Officer to Commodore Platix and the Deployable Joint Headquarters Maritime prior to being appointed Executive Officer of HMAS Warramunga in 2001. He was promoted to the rank of Commander in 2002. In 2003 he attended the Australian Command and Staff College in Canberra where he obtained a Masters degree in Management (Defence Studies). In 2004 he joined the National Sea Training Group as the Fleet Executive Officer responsible for training and standards in the Fleet. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 2005 for his services as the Fleet Executive Officer. This was followed by a six month posting as Chief Staff Officer Operations to the Maritime Commander. Commander Gregg was appointed as the Commanding Officer of the ANZAC Class Frigate, HMAS Perth with effect from November 2005.

HMAS Ararat commissioning ceremony

HMAS Ararat became the latest Australian Patrol Boat to join the Royal Australian Navy’s operational fleet following a traditional commissioning ceremony in Docklands Melbourne on Friday, 10 November 2000. Mrs Jennifer O’Malley of Tasmania, NSW was the Guest of Honour for Ararat’s commissioning. Mrs O’Malley is the daughter of the late Lieutenant Commander Norman Marlow who was Commanding Officer of the first HMAS Ararat throughout World War II.

The first HMAS Ararat was a Barbour Class Corvette, which served in Australia and in the Pacific during WW II.

The commissioning ceremony was attended by The Hon. David Hawker MP (representing the Minister for Defence), Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Russ Shales, ASC, RAN and Maritime Commander Australia, Rear Admiral David Thomas, AM, CSC, RAN.

The ship’s Commissioning Order was read by her Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Paul Rahl.

Decommissioning of HMAS Adelaide

HMAS ADELAIDE is scheduled to decommission in late 2007 after 27 years of outstanding service and excellence. To celebrate the life of the RAN’s Number One warship, a hard-covered book will be produced about the ship’s life, from womb to tomb. The book will be available soon after decommissioning. In order to ensure the quantity required, and hence the costs, registrations of interest are sought.

Articles, photos, stories, other items of interest or memorabilia for possible inclusion in the book are sought from former members of the ship’s company. Scanned or original items are preferred. Any items submitted will be professionally copied and returned.

A Decommissioning Ball is planned at a date and venue in Perth yet to be determined. Serving and former members of ADELAIDE’s company and a guest are invited. Registrations of interest are required in order to evaluate the size of the venue required.

ADELAIDE’s point of contact for both the Decommissioning Book and the Ball is LCDR Brian Chase, RAN at 014@R11.navy.gov.au or HMAS ADELAIDE, Wallsand Mail Section, Rockingham WA 6169.

HMAS ADELAIDE, Warships Mail Section, Rockingham WA 6958.

Emergency only: 1800 011 046

THE LISTENING POST December 2006 21

Crossword Solution – Dec. 06

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LAST POST

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, they shall grow as we that are left. Merry Xmas to all our Loyal readers and hope that the New Year will bring you health and good fortune.

Regards Len Copley.

Editor

New Members

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

Albany

- KNAPP, Geoffrey
- CITY OF SOUTH PERTH
- FORKNER, Bruce
- SHIRLEY, Robert
- GRACE, Robert
- DOUTHWAITE, Garry
- GRACE, Dwayne
- GWYNNE, Colin
- HAYLEY, Ralph
- HAYLEY, Paul
- HEALY, Eric
- HOPKINSON, Michael
- JAMES, Ivan
- JONES, Gari
- JONES, Lornard
- JUDKINS, Louis
- KENNEDY, David
- Lockwood, Daryl
- MANNARD, Paul
- MCKENZIE, Sharon
- METCALFE, Doug
- MUNRO, Frederick
- NELSON, Jason
- PAP, Ronald
- PENNEY, Judith
- PETERTON, Simon
- PETERS, George
- RENNOLDS, Meredith
- RICHER, Julian
- RYAN, Richard
- SMITH, Richard
- STANNERS, Gary
- STEVENSON, Timothy
- STYLES, Colin
- THOMAS, Mark
- WILLIAMS, Gowendale
- WILLIAMS, Gary

Serpentine-Jarradale
- COURT, Kenneth
- VICTORIAN SERVICES
- TRAN, Mong
- ARMY

Wagin
- DUNLOP, George
- ARMY

Wanneroo-Joondalup
- JAMESON, Charles
- RAADF

Wyalong: BUTLER, Kenneth
- COCKE, Thomas
- ARMY

ANZAC House Closure for Christmas

Closing 12:30 p.m.
Friday 22nd December 2006
Re-Opening 8:30 a.m.
Monday 8th January 2007
Emergency only: 1800 011 046
Araluen is located in the Darling Range, 35 kilometres South East of Perth, at 362 Croyden Road Roleystone.

Araluen was established in 1929 by JJ Simon, as a holiday camp for the Young Australia League on 60 hectares (150 acres) of land, in Roleystone. It has a deep shaded valley running North/South.

Simon called his valley “Araluen”, an Eastern States aboriginal word meaning “singing waters”, “running waters”.

A series of terraces descends a steep slope flanked by pencil pines formed in the shape of a Lyre, the symbol of music. A waterfall cascades through the terraces and finishes in the pond of reflection.

Len Copley

REMEmBRANCE DAY SERVICE

Grove of the Unforgotten Araluen Botanic Park 10th November 2006

One of the many features still in existence today is The Grove of the Unforgotten, It was built in memory of 88 Young Australia League members killed in World War I.

A soldier never dies; he just fades away

While a funeral will mark an end, it is also a beginning. For it is from this day that you will ensure the memory of the person you have lost, is not forgotten. Helping others remember that person however, isn’t always easy. How do you create a fitting farewell ceremony when your mind is swimming with emotions?

When there are so many decisions to be made, in such little time?

At Seasons, we’re here to take the weight of your shoulders. And because we understand the importance of individualising the service, you can rely on us to take care of all the details and special touches that can turn the funeral into a more appropriate personal tribute, ensuring that the memory of your loved one will never fade.

For assistance, or a copy of our free booklet ‘A Seasons Funeral’, please call your nearest Seasons Funeral Planner. We can be reached 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

BALCatta 9440 4688  BELmton 9479 4173  KELmscott 9495 2400  WIlletton 9354 8811

100% WA family owned. Member of Australian Funeral Directors Association.
AMAZING FRIENDSHIPS

Wishing our veterans and their families a Merry Christmas & safe New Year.