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Address to the 62nd Annual State Congress, by State President of the RSL, Mr LEN PHENNA, MBE, JP.

The National President of the Returned Services League, Sir William Hall, officially opened the 62nd Annual State Congress in the perfect setting of Government House ballroom, on Friday, May 19.

In his opening remarks, Sir William emphasised that the RSL has a great responsibility because it is one of the few national organisations which is sworn to loyalty to Australia, the monarchical system and all the old ideas of service to the nation.

He wondered where Australia was heading and by whom it was being headed — the Government of the day or the disruptive elements within the community.

"We will all work," he said, "for true freedom as understood by those men and women who sacrificed their lives to maintain a country where the old-fashioned virtues of loyalty, reverence and law-abiding behaviour will result in true freedom."

Official guests included the Hon lan Medcalf (representing the Premier) and Mrs Medcalf, Mr K. Mclver MLA (representing the Leader of the State Opposition) and Mrs Mclver, Senator J.W. Wheeldon (representing the Leader of the Federal Opposition), Commodore N.A. Boase and Mrs Boase, Lt-Col D. Mclachlan (representing Brig A. M. Wells) and Mrs Mclachlan, Sqn Ldr R. Roddy (representing Air Commodore Hubble) and Mrs Roddy, and Councillor Eric Silbert (Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Perth).

Also present were more than 300 invited guests and representatives of sub-branches, unit and kindred associations.

The President's address was as follows:

Thank you all for joining us on the occasion of our 62nd Annual State Congress, and a very special welcome to our National President, Sir William Hall. He is visiting us this weekend for the last time as the National President of the League.

Later this year he will step down to make way for his successor. Sir William has served the League for many years, as a member, State president of the Victorian branch, deputy national president, and for the past four years as national president.

Welcome to Western Australia, Sir William. I trust your stay will be a pleasant one and that you will some day visit us again in company with your charming wife. We wish you well in your retirement, good health and good fortune in the future.

CONSOLIDATION

In contrast with 1976 which was a year of many new initiatives, 1977 has been a period of consolidation for the League.

The Federal Government has taken the first steps in the rationalisation of certain repatriation measures contained within the Toose Report.

Internally the League has, at both national and State level, considered in detail the future of our organisation and has made some progress towards future planning and development.

In the community and the nation, the problems that were apparent in 1977 are still with us.

Basically, it seems that the problem is one of uncertainty and lack of confidence. Why this should be so in a country like Australia, with so many advantages, is hard to understand. But it remains our major problem and one that deserves the attention of Governments, responsible organisations and individuals.

We must all combine our efforts to find an answer to indifference, apathy, to the poor level of productivity, to the selfishness which is so apparent around us today.

We desperately need a resurgence of responsible nationalism and a return to vitality. We need to recapture the courage and determination that has identified our people throughout our brief history.

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2 — JUNE 1978 — LISTENING POST
opponent who has achieved significant political and military progress in recent times by deceit and treachery, and has exploited every situation to strengthen his own position.

These activities outside the country are matched by the efforts of the same political persuasion within Australia.

IT IS NOT JUST A MATTER OF COMMUNISM.

There are those other fanatical fringe elements and bed-fellows of Communism who are equally responsible. By devious means they have manipulated themselves into positions of very great influence, in the trade unions, the universities, the media and in other sections of our community life, where they can have an effect far beyond their real numerical strength within Australia.

In March of this year, at the quarterly national executive meeting, Sir William Hall said:

"Our greatest task, both as responsible individuals and as members of a patriotic, loyal and responsible organisation, must be to find a way to effectively combat these trends, to awaken the Australian community to the danger that daily gains strength in our society and to find a means of co-ordinating community efforts to contain those who would bring this country to its knees."

I repeat what I said on Anzac Day — it is imperative that Australians respond with enthusiasm to the great opportunities, the great good fortune we all have as Australian citizens.

We are at a time when we must clearly depend on our own resources for our own security, yet we are devoting less and less of those resources to developing an independent defence structure.

PARTISAN-CONFLICT

Around us we see partisan conflict; we see selfishness, as competing interests struggle for a greater share of the material things that are available; we see an indifference to the problems of the world; and we see a determination to get as much as we possibly can while doing as little as possible for it.

We have in addition in the community a small number of academics who act as apologists for the fanatical few. These people live in some sort of academic ivory tower removed from the real world, using it as a base from which they postulate on the practical problems facing the people and the nation.

It is time we faced facts, it is time we recognised the real situation for what it is; it is time we moved to correct it.

FOREIGN POLICY: A nation’s defence and foreign policies are closely inter-related, the success of one depending very largely on the effectiveness of the other.

Foreign policy must be supported by a clearly demonstrated military capability; and diplomatic initiatives must be fully exploited as the preliminary phase of any military involvement.

In the League’s view, therefore, the following policies on international relations are essential pre-requisites to a sound defence policy:

- The American alliance and the need to retain that goodwill and close liaison on which the success of the ANZUS Treaty inevitably depends.
- Closer ties with, and eventually, membership of ASEAN.
- Continuing co-operation in the five-power arrangements involving the United Kingdom, Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and Australia.
- The New Zealand partnership, with the need for closer integration of all national policies.
- The continuing close association with Papua-New Guinea.
- The active development of our trading relations with Japan, Korea and China, and the countries of South-East Asia as a pre-requisite for foreign policy initiatives.
- An objective awareness of developing problems and the increasing marxist encroachment on the continent of Africa.
- Diplomatic and political support to Malaysia and Thailand in the increasing insurgency crisis on their borders with Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia.
- Greater moral, political and economic support for the republic of Korea.
- Contacts with Taiwan, however low-key, to co-ordinate common interests in trade, tourism and international affairs.

VITAL POLICY

As a nation, we seem unwilling to pay the premium on an increasingly vital insurance policy — a comprehensive and adequate defence system.

Defence is indivisible. Events in the Middle East, in Africa, in Asia and South America can set off chain reactions that can have a profound and far-reaching effect on Australia’s security.

Consequently, whilst it is self evident that we are primarily concerned with issues arising within our area of strategic interest, we must at the same time, play our part in a responsible way in those issues that clearly affect our national self-interest.

I do not intend to dwell on the subject of defence, as I have dealt with this matter in more detail in my annual report to Congress.

As I did last year, I have broken with tradition and have not delivered my full report at tonight’s opening. The complete report will be available to all delegates when they register tomorrow morning.

You will have time during the day and overnight to study it and hopefully, will be in a situation whereby you can support the adoption of the report during the course of Congress.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate my remarks of last Anzac Day.

The motto of the RSL is: "The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

That motto has guided us over many years in relation to questions of national significance. Today, the need for that vigilance, in the defence of liberty, justice and freedom, remains as crucial as ever.

Finally, I desire to express my appreciation and thanks to my two vice-presidents and their ladies, country and regional vice-presidents and to the State secretary and staff of Anzac House, all of whom have given so much of their time and efforts on behalf of the League.

To the chairman of committees, and to all members of the State Executive for their time and energy spent in the service of others, I extend my sincere and grateful thanks; and here I would like to make special mention of the chairman of the finance committee and the trustees, for a tremendous job well done.

Last, but by no means least, my grateful thanks to a most understanding wife and family for their support and encouragement, without which it would be impossible to continue.

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4 - JUNE 1978 - LISTENING POST
MINISTER REPLIES TO PROTEST

Following the December meeting of National Executive, submissions were made to the Government protesting at the fees imposed on applications for Defence Service Homes assistance.

A reply has now been received from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and a copy is attached hereto.

"I refer to your letters of December 13, 1977 and February 2, 1978 about a recent resolution passed by the League's National Executive concerning the fees to be imposed on applications for Defence Service Homes assistance. I regret the delay in replying to you.

"Eligible persons who receive loans under this scheme enjoy highly concessional benefits compared to other members of the community and in view of these benefits it was considered no longer justifiable that all of the administrative costs of the Scheme should continue to be borne by the community. Moreover, it is the common practice of other Government and private lending institutions to charge fees to offset some of the costs of processing applications.

"I have noted your reference to the views of members of the Executive on the current interest rates and the 'maximum loan' offered under the scheme.

"With regard to interest rates, as I advised you in my letter of December 13, 1977, the degree of advantage currently enjoyed by Defence Service Homes borrowers over borrowers from the major home finance institutions is of the order of 6 or 7 per cent, which is much greater than the historical margin of benefit.

"I would also mention that, though the financial constraints on Government expenditure have prevented any increase in the maximum loan and it represents a smaller percentage of the cost of a home than some years ago, the economic strategy pursued by the Government has achieved a substantial reduction in the underlying rate of inflation.

"This has resulted in a consequential lowering of the rate of increase in house and land prices in most areas which has been of benefit to all prospective home-owners and is directly linked with the reductions in interest rates that are now occurring among the major lenders of housing finance.

"The views expressed by your members have been noted but I must confirm that it is the Government's intention to introduce the necessary legislation to enable the fees to be levied." — R.V. GARLAND (Minister)

State President Len Phenna presents the retiring National President Sir William Hall with a silver tray and goblets on behalf of the State Branch at the State Congress on May 20th, 1978.
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62ND ANNUAL STATE CONGRESS

The following is the address to the Congress by Brig. Sir William Hall, CBE, DSO, ED, on May 21, 1978.

It is a very great pleasure for me to be here this morning. It is very difficult to make two speeches to the same people between 12 and 14 hours because one has, at the back of one's mind, the ground that's been covered which one tries to express, and I have today to do it over again.

I will dwell on the recent history of the RSL and the endeavours that members have made for the rest of the community and for members in general.

We have had rather real success in the material things over the last decade, successive Governments have been very kind to us, and I am not going to reveal which way I vote this morning because this is a non-political meeting.

When Gough Whitlam retired from the office of Prime Minister, I sent him a letter on your behalf thanking him for what his Government had done for the RSL while they were in office.

They made certain promises before they won their election and they kept all those promises as far as one could possibly expect them to do and the same thing applies to the present Government.

Before the election they made certain promises and they are trying to do their best to honour them. We are very fortunate indeed that throughout the whole of our history this is the way we've been treated by successive Governments of all sorts, and all sides.

IF YOU TALK SENSE

I am only quoting, because I may look old, but I'm not as old as all that, but Billie Hughes did say when the RSL was formed in 1916: "If you talk for ex-servicemen and women and talk sense, then my Government will listen to you and successive Governments will listen to you."

And this has proved to be correct. We do try to talk sense. There is no good coming up with stupid motions on occasions like this asking for the moon, or complaining about something that you know nothing about and want to go to the Government and cry about it.

If we do that, we will very soon lose their confidence, so therefore it's most important that Delegates make sure that when you do attend these Congresses, that you deal with motions in a very, very, sensible and thoughtful manner, and that you don't go forward to National Executive any motions which we will have to rip up, because we've got no intention at any stage of spoiling our reputation with the Government of the day.

After all, the Government of the day is the thing that counts and from whom we receive all our benefits.

Therefore we have to discipline ourselves and make sure that we do what Billie Hughes said in 1916 and we will go alright.

A new thing which is before the Government at the moment, that you won't know about.

I had an hour with the Prime Minister a couple of weeks ago and I will read a bit of a submission which was made to him, and with which he agreed, which proves as I say, that if we talk sense we will get the co-operation from whichever Government is in power.

ABOUT ANZAC DAY

This is about Anzac Day. We think of Anzac Day in different ways, some of us think of Gallipoli; or some of us think of the Anzac spirit, some of us think of it in other ways, whichever way we think of it — that's the way it appears to us.

But a young Australian doctor, who lives in America, had some thoughts on Anzac Day and he came to see me two years ago, and at the time I had been negotiating with the Government and had the Prime Minister on side, so I'll read you what this is all about.

Pardon me reading it, but it's rather important because it's the first time I've announced this anywhere. It has been given to State Presidents, but I don't think it's even reached your executives yet.

"There seems to be something missing on Anzac Day, and that something is of great relevance to the needs of the present. If a Commemorative Day is to be observed with benefit in years to come, it's message should have a certain timelessness. The historic events of the past are important, but are not enough if the day is to be retained in importance. There should also be a message with the needs of today."

"It would then seem reasonable to add the missing ingredient to Anzac Day. This new dimension would make the historic message of the past, applicable to the needs of the present and the future."

This is the submission I made to the Prime Minister.

NEW DIMENSION

A new dimension should be made to Anzac Day so that Anzac ideals of service for Australia and mutual concern for one another may be carried forward to future generations.

The present features of marching and Memorial services are important reminders of past sacrifices, but ways should be found so that the message remains vital and contemporary.

Many people already regard this important National Day as just another holiday.

This is sad, because there is much significance in Anzac Day, especially the ideal of service which motivated the deeds of Australians in past years, is alive in many ways today.

AWARDS FOR SERVICE

The proposed Anzac Awards for service to one's fellow human beings and the community will serve to highlight many positive deeds which are taking place.

This will be a welcome and refreshing change from the day-to-day forms of violence and sadness which is prominent in the daily news.

Consideration has prompted two major recommendations, the first is a proposal that we honour deeds of service by recognising the Anzacs of today.

It is strongly suggested that Anzac Day Awards be given each year to individuals in every-day life whose efforts or achievements would be worthy of the accolade of "Anzac of Today."

It is proposed that these Awards be given in each State Capital each year in the afternoon, morning or evening of April 25.

The second recommendation is that Anzac Day also be associated with the desires of veterans and all people for future peace in the world.

To this end we urge that an Anzac Peace Presentation Award, or simply, "Anzac Peace Award" be given each year to an individual or group publishing some basic work to advise peace.

It is intended that this Award go to a person who, by study, research or publication, has added to our knowledge of how wars begin and how wars may be prevented.

It is proposed that this Award be given in Canberra each year on the afternoon or evening of April 25.

PROPOSITION TO P.M.

And so the proposition to the Prime Minister goes on a bit further, but I don't think you want any more, you've got the idea and I hope you approve of it.
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It is a further extension of our trying to get into the community with the idea of service that was given by our men on Gallipoli and at subsequent wars.

It's another extension of our desire to include youth in our thoughts in the League of today and the Service Membership is the first real step we have done to achieve this.

I have heard that you haven't had a great surge of Service Members in the West, but in some of the other States — in Victoria — South Australia, particularly, they have had many thousands of Service Members who are bringing to the League a new thinking, youthful thinking, which most of us, let's face it, are getting a bit old, that's why I won't be here after September this year, because I feel it's time for someone younger to take over.

And so we've got to do this if we want the spirit of the League and the spirit of Anzac to continue.

It has been a great pleasure for me to come over and to take part in your Congress and I'm looking forward to the remainder of it and will have, I'm sure, enjoyed myself today and tomorrow and then return to the sunny City of Melbourne on Monday morning.

Mr. President, I don't think I've got any more to say at the moment, thank you very much indeed for allowing me to address Congress.

Thank you, gentlemen, for listening to me, finally God bless, and I hope I see you all at some other Congress when I won't have to talk.

---

National Anthem & National Song

The Minister for Administrative Services, The Rt Hon. R.G. Withers, recently gave details of Commonwealth guidelines for the use of the National Song.

"Senator Withers said the Government believed the National Anthem (God Save the Queen) should be played on the following occasions:

"Royal Salutes for Regal and Vice-Regal personages:
"During Defence Force Service occasions:
"In association with proposals for the Loyal Toast:
"Occasions where singing is appropriate:

On all other occasions, it should be left to the organisers of the function to choose either God Save The Queen or Advance Australia Fair.

Senator Withers said that at the national poll on May 21, 1977 the majority of voters had chosen "Advance Australia Fair" as the tune for the National Song. Before that poll it had been made clear that "God Save The Queen" would be the National Anthem to be played on Royal and Vice-Regal occasions.

"Advance Australia Fair" was regarded as the people's choice for a National Tune and there are no official words for it," Senator Withers said. "It is a tune to be played; not a song to be sung."

Senator Withers also said that the Government also planned to arrange the recording of cassettes of both the National Anthem and the National Tune. These would be issued on request through Senators and Members of the House of Representatives, Schools and those eligible for the free issue of the Australian Flag should apply to their local Member or Senator for these cassettes which would be issued when available.

THIS INFORMATION IS BROUGHT TO YOUR ATTENTION FOR SUB-BRANCHES AND MEMBERS.

---

WYALKATCHEM ON THE MOVE

- Not only was Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch rejuvenated in March but it has already formed a Women's Auxiliary.

Mrs Joy Ford, State president, attended a meeting on May 30, at which nine ladies were present.

Following a general discussion the Auxiliary was formed and the following office-bearers elected: President: Mrs V. Parks; Secretary: Mrs J. Gerick; Treasurer: Mrs P. Bellis; Vice Presidents: Mrs N. Nelson, Miss M. Parks.

We wish the ladies every success and thank them for their support.

On August 19, the Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch will host a Group Conference.
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AMY'S 48 YEARS RECOGNISED

Mrs Amy Turner, of Gertrude St, has received a top award for service with the RSL women's auxiliary.

At the RSL Geraldton sub-branch annual reunion, Mrs Turner was presented with a certificate of merit and gold medal.

The presentation was made by RSL State president Mr Len Phenna.

The certificate citation stated recognition and appreciation of long and meritorious service to ex-servicemen and women, the war disabled and the bereaved.

Mr Phenna said the presentation recognised 48 years service by Mrs Turner on the Services Canteen Committee and the women's auxiliary which she joined in 1934 and served as secretary and treasurer.

Mrs Turner also helped with meals and accommodation when people were evacuated from Carnarvon to Geraldton when the town was flooded several years ago.

Mr Merv Williams of Coorow presented his trophy to sub-branch president, Mr Ernie Gleded for the most money raised towards the War Veteran's Fund.

The Collett Cup and Country Cup won by the sub-branch were on display at the reunion.

150 YEARS IN SWAN RSL

State President, Len Phenna presented Bob Lowson, Eric Harrison and Don Ferguson, all from the Swan area, with Service Awards which notched up 150 years of League membership and all are in their 80s.

Mr Lowson and Mr Harrison were foundation members of the Sub-Branch and Mr Ferguson was a former president of the Swan Shire. He was made the first, to date only, Freeman of the Shire after 45 years of service to Local Government.

Three RSL women honoured

MANDURAH: Three members of the RSL women's auxiliary were this week given the highest RSL honour.

The award, a certificate and badge of merit comes from the national executive. The three residents are Mrs Dot Paylor, Mrs Alice Kingdom and Mrs Kate Muncle.

All three joined the RSL as founder members of this sub-branch in July, 1939:

Each held numerous executive positions, including secretary and treasurer, and still work hard for the league.

They have been on nearly every committee since the sub-branch began. Members of the RSL State executive came to Mandurah on Wednesday to present the awards.

SANDWICH LUNCHEONS

Sandwich luncheons have proved to be an outstanding success and members are invited to bring their friends and participate in these informative and entertaining sessions at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court.

FRIDAY, July 28:

- The Lord Mayor of Perth, F.C. Chaney, CBE, AFC.
- "Looking Back."

FRIDAY, August 25:

- Mrs Frank Statham (nee Vivienne Bullwinkel) MBE, ARRC, ED, FNM, Dip. NA, FCNA.
- "Experience."

FRIDAY, September 29:

- Air Commodore J.W. Hubble, CBE, DSO, AFC, Officer Commanding RAAF Base; Pearce.
- Drinks and fellowship at Anzac Club, noon-1 pm; lunch (sandwiches and tea) 1 pm, Cost $1.00. Guest speaker 1:20-1:40 pm.
- To assist with catering, please advise Mr Melvin at Anzac House (325 9799) or Mrs J. Dowson (384 6712). Non-member friends are welcome.

LEGAL AID: NEW ARRANGEMENTS

Legal Aid in WA (other than that provided by the Aboriginal Legal Service) is now provided by the Legal Aid Commission of WA.

The Commission's head office will be in the Royal Insurance Building, 105 St George's Terrace, Perth, phone 322 6022. Other offices will be at: Wesley Arcade, Cantonment Street, Fremantle, phone 335 7108; and Hamilton House, 14 Stafford Street, Midland, phone 274 3327.

Application for legal aid may be made by going to any office of the Commission between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm weekdays, by asking a private solicitor, or by writing to the Director of Legal Aid, Legal Aid Commission of WA, Box L916, GPO, Perth. 6001.
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The League is proud to announce that His Excellency, the Governor-General, Sir Zelman Cowen, has accepted the award of Honorary Membership of the Returned Services League.

The honour was conferred on the Governor-General at the meeting of the National Executive on Sunday, June 18, after which the Governor-General and his party were entertained to lunch at the National headquarters.

ANZAC AWARDS: The Prime Minister has given the green light to the League's proposals for "Anzac of the Year" awards and for an "Anzac Peace" prize.

Details are still to be finalised, but it is confidently expected that agreement between the League and the Government will be reached in time to make the first awards on Anzac Day 1979.

NATIONAL CONVENTION: The National Executive meeting on March 5 completed further plans for the National Convention to be held in Sydney commencing on Remembrance Day next, November 11.

The Convention will commemorate the 60th anniversary of the end of the First World War and the establishment of Remembrance Day.

It will be an opportunity for rank and file members from all States to gather and participate in discussions on matters vital to the League's future.

Papers on a variety of subjects from Defence and Security, the energy crisis to alternative forms of membership for the RSL in the future, will be presented by a series of speakers.

A panel of three will then make brief comments on the principal speech and discussion will follow from the floor of the meeting.

It is hoped to have at least 1,000 members from different parts of Australia present at the Convention which will also feature a Trade Fair of many articles of interest to Sub-Branch and Club members. Sub-Branches are urged to promote the Convention and ensure that their State Branches are well represented.

FUTURE OF THE LEAGUE: Concern was expressed at the recent National Executive meeting that the study of the RSL and the future which was launched some 18 months ago was not proceeding rapidly enough, and more importantly, had not involved individual members and sub-branches to a sufficient degree.

The Executive resolved that State branches and sub-branches should give closer study to the problems of the future of the League and come forward to the National Executive with ideas on how changes might be made for the better functioning of the RSL in the future.

It would help the Special Committee greatly if members would forward opinions and views on the aims and objects of the League and how it should function in the future through their State branch headquarters or to the National Executive.

The main thing to be kept in mind is that the work of the League in providing assistance to the aged and unwell will continue to increase until at least 1990, and at the same time, judging by present trends, the League's membership will decline dramatically. The work must be done, and for this purpose, a work force must be maintained.

RSL SCHOLARSHIPS: The National Executive, at its meeting in March, approved a series of scholarships for Indonesia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Korea.

The scholarships will be awarded under arrangements made by the Australian Embassy in each country, in conjunction with the local Veterans' organisation.

Expenditure on the scholarships will total $750 per year for each country, and are a practical means of demonstrating the League's interest in the welfare of veterans from neighbouring countries and their families.

These are an extension of programmes already operating in Malaysia, Singapore and Papua-New Guinea.

ANZAC TRIP TO NZ: Plans for an RSL party to travel to New Zealand this year have proved attractive to members and their wives. A party totalling 103 will be going over for the Anzac period, some to Auckland, others to Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

Most members of the party will be billeted with NZ ex-servicemen and their families and they will participate in Anzac Day services throughout the Dominion. We look forward to an equal response from New Zealand in 1979.

ANNIVERSARY TOUR: Plans for the tour of the Middle East and Europe to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Remembrance Day are now well advanced. There are 30 firm bookings and State branches are stepping up promotion for further numbers.

Suggestions have been made to sub-branches and clubs that they sponsor some deserving member, possible with service in the First World War or one who served in the Middle East during the Second World War, and who may not be able to make the trip without some financial assistance.

This will be a "once in a lifetime" trip, and the opportunity should not be missed but to be part of it;

VERA LYNN ACCEPTS: Dame Vera Lynn has written to National Headquarters accepting the invitation to be present at the ceremony at Villers Bretonneux on November 11.

Dame Vera will be remembered with deep affection for her morale-boosting concerts during the Second World War.

REUNION FOR PEACE: Already there are ten firm bookings for the RSL party to go to the Philippines in October. The price of $900.00 includes ten nights, bed and breakfast and fares.

Members of the RSL party will be the guests of the Philippines Veterans' Federation and will have an exciting time in one of the most famous tourist countries in the world.

The first party is being restricted to 40, but as other names come in, other parties will be formed.

In launching the programme, the Philippines Government and the Philippines Veterans' Federation have expressed a desire to bring ex-servicemen and their dependants and families together for the purpose of becoming better acquainted.

In this way, they hope to further the cause of understanding and the cause of peace. Interested members are urged to contact League Leisure and Travel at Hunts of the Pacific, GPO Box 5169, Sydney, Phone 290 2700.

VILLERS BRETONNEUX MUSEUM: In the Sir William Leggett Museum at Villers Bretonneux there are many examples of Australian memorabilia.

Included in this collection are uniforms of Australian sailors, soldiers and airmen. However, to complete this collection, the organisers of the tour to the Middle East would like to present to the Museum a uniform of a World War I Nursing Sister, but so far, a search for such a uniform has proved unsuccessful.

If any readers of this message can assist, would they please get in touch with the National Headquarters.
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WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION

The following is a progress report on repairs and maintenance carried out up to April 30.

WORKS DONE — (a) Vermin treatment: Eradication of insects within the structure carried out on the 1914-1918 Memorial.
(b) Cleaning down: Stone-work to 1914-1918 Memorial completed and stone treated with stone polish to minimise penetration of moisture and pollutants.
   Cleaning down also carried out on 1939-1945 section and includes paving and steps between both sections. Some problems still to be overcome with respect to final cleaning and treatment of stonework.
(c) Jointing: All joints to 1914-1918 Memorial have been ground out and repointed with selected mastic material to prevent penetration of moisture.
   Expansion joints to main floor slab have been cut out and renewed with flexible mastic pointing material. Some stone repointing has to be done again where unsatisfactory.
(d) Marble tablets: These have been cleaned and loose sections taken down for later refixing. Quotations being called for making good old fixings and installing new.
(e) Bronze tablets, insignia and lettering: Missing lettering has been replaced and all bronze tablets, plaques and insignia cleaned and polished.
(f) Flashing: A stainless steel flashing is being installed at the base of the obelisk to prevent water entering the floor structure.
(g) Lighting: New and better lighting fittings have been installed to highlight obelisk from the Eastern aspect.

WORK TO BE DONE
Design and construction of W.W.I grilles and gates to undercroft; installation of new flagpoles to two locations 1939-1945 section; relocation of unit colours to better storage place section; pointing-up joints to 1939-1945 section; making good existing W.I gates and rails.

FINANCIAL SITUATION
Expenditure to date $21,000. Anticipated total expenditure for the above works, about $33,600.

WAR MEMORIAL RESTORATION APPEAL

INCOME — Donations, $33,587; bank interest, $706; RSL, $2.
TOTAL, $34,295.

EXPENDITURE — RSL, $2; printing and stationery, $80; postage, $223; War Memorial maintenance, $5,997. TOTAL, $9,302.

Surplus for year: $24,993.

In my opinion, the above Income and Expenditure Statement for the RSL State War Memorial Restoration Appeal is properly drawn up so as to give a true and fair view of the state of affairs as at December 31, 1977. — L.J. TURNER (Chairman, Finance Committee)

Memorial plaque at the entrance of the Singapore war cemetery. In memory of all who serviced and fell in Malaya 1935-45.

Building on whose walls contain the names of those who died or were killed in action.

Photos by courtesy WO1 Pickering of Victoria and supplied by Lou. A. Reid who paid a recent visit to Singapore with WO Pickering.
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WE SALUTE THE ONES WHO DIED

On this 37th Anniversary of the siege of Tobruk, we are gathered to pay tribute to all who paid the supreme sacrifice in the service of their country and the high ideals of democratic freedom, not only for us but for future generations.

We hope and trust that their sacrifice, and those who have since through wounds and war service answered their final roll call, "will not have been in vain".

One cannot but reflect upon the deeds of our brothers-in-arms of other units, whether Navy, Army or Air Force, each with respective tasks to perform, dedicated to the task of serving their country to the best of their ability in the hour of need, in a world at war.

Here in the struggle for survival, man of all nations were bonded together in the common cause — defeat of the enemy.

Here in the service of his country was born the truest of comradeship, loyalty and devotion — each depending on the other — each with unfailing courage through all the hardships and miseries of war to perform their duty.

On Good Friday, April 11, 1941, were to be lit the fires of hope, as Christians throughout the world celebrated the significance of Easter, for here to this desert fortress the blitzkrieg tactics of the enemy were to suffer their first defeat on land in World War II.

And the longest siege in British history of 242 days began.

Here, 23,000 fighting troops — comprising Australians, British and Indians, later joined by the Polish Carpathian Brigade including a Czech Battalion were to have contemptuously bestowed on them the name "Rats of Tobruk."

APPROPRIATE TITLE

It was a title at that time fitting to our very existence.

We of this Association now wear with pride and 'honour the title conferred. We are proud also of our achievement, the defence of Tobruk, sent as were were as occupational troops for advance training and till equipped for combat.

But under the astute leadership of Gen. Sir Leslie Morshead, we had three options — fight, swim or surrender.

Today, on our Association plaque, are two words — portion of that signal given, "NO SURRENDER."

And so, today, at this 37th Commemoration Service, we pay homage to the Royal Australian Corps of Signals, whose duty it was to despatch that communication to all troops and to whom today's service is dedicated.

How could anyone comprehend, at that time, the magnitude, urgency and arduous task confronting Lt Col Veron when given that simple order "set up Communication HQ here."

What with? To whom, and where?

But set up they were. Recovering vital materials, relaying lines time and again — improvisation was the password.

Even using clothing materials for insulation, working feverishly through uncharted minefields, bombing and enemy fire; day and night they toiled regardless of personal risk of life with unerring loyalty and devotion to their motto — Certo, cito (surely and swiftly).

For surely and swiftly they completed their link-up to all within the perimeter of that desert fortress.

Their casualties and decorations will forever indicate to us the cost incurred.

Here the nerve centre of any operation — whether Navy, Army, Air Force or civilian, with all its complications, but couched in one word COMMUNICATIONS, built and repaired again and again, day and night — they never faltered in the job to be done.

COMMUNICATIONS — the word itself denotes their duties. Security, Intelligence, Guidance, Nerve centre, Alertness, Loyalty — service to all.

Surely and swiftly, it behooves us all to keep faith to the memory of 700 Australians and fellow-Rats buried in the cemeteries at Knightsbridge and Tobruk.

They died to uphold, protect and maintain those high ideals of freedom, for now and future generations.

To all members of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals and fellow-Rats in particular, we — the Rats of Tobruk — "SALUTE YOU". — GORDON THOMPSON (President, R.O.T.A. Branch, W.A.)

Services Canteens Trust Fund

The Trustees of this Fund, which is to assist only ex-servicemen of the 1939-45 War or their dependants, have laid down that assistance will be given where there is acute need — either existing or impending — which can be alleviated by the assistance asked for.

They intend assistance given to be constructive. They do not envisage that the fund is of sufficient proportions, in view of the number who will be eligible to apply, to extend help to meet the ordinary problems of everyday living.

Welfare assistance to widows, of up to $300 over a period, may be approved by the Regional Welfare Committee, without reference to the Trustees.

Applications for assistance beyond that amount must be referred to the Trustees, if the Regional Committee considers further assistance warranted, and funds are available.

In the case of a recently-bereaved widow, IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE for living expenses can be obtained from the Fund, pending receipt of pension and other statutory benefits.

Applications for immediate assistance MUST be made within four weeks of the death of the ex-service-man. If the widow’s cash assets are less than $400, a grant of $100 (and $30 for each child) is made immediately.

If there is an afflicted child in the family, generous assistance is available in any form that may be necessary, eg, expenses of treatment, transport for treatment, therapeutic appliances or other special equipment.

In all cases, however, full particulars are required and the Sub-Branch secretary should ensure that these are supplied and the necessary form of application completed.

A copy of the completed application form should be forwarded to the office of the WA Regional Committee, Swan Barracks, Francis St, Perth.
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COUNTRY CUP GOES TO GERALDTON

The 51st Annual State Conference of the Women's Auxiliary, held on May 4, was quite successful, the weather was kind to us for our wreath-laying ceremony, and the Conference finished with a most enjoyable luncheon.

We were pleased to have Mrs Phyl. Stewart, State President of the NSW Women's Auxiliaries, as our guest.

The Country Cup was won again by Geraldton Auxiliary, with 47 points; Mt Barker Auxiliary (27 points) won the Geraldton Shield and Katanning Auxiliary (24 points) took the third place Spoon.

The Metropolitan Cup was won by Armadale (34), the Ames Shield went to Bellevue (33) and Milten received the Spoon for their 32 points.

Congratulations to the winners for a very good effort.

Mrs Jolley retired from Executive at Conference, and we thank her for her years of service. Have a good rest, Marj, and better health to you in the future. Welcome to Mrs Windsor, our new member.

After the busy time during the Christmas season with the packing and delivering of our Christmas Cheer parcels, Executive welcomed the break during January and returned ready for 1978.

Mrs Lowe and her husband enjoyed their holiday in Tasmania and brought back greetings from our friends in that State.

The response to our suggested return visit to Tasmania has been well supported and March, 1979, should see a small invasion.

Early in March this year, I visited the Mt Barker Auxiliary, where, at an informal luncheon, I was able to meet the members and have a chat about Auxiliary matters.

My next stop was Albany, were I attended the Auxiliaries' annual meeting. Once again it was nice to meet the members and enjoy a friendly chat.

I stayed in Albany over the weekend, and Molly and Ken Daniels made sure I saw all the sights of Albany.

Katanning was my next port of call, and here I spent a couple of days with the Auxiliary girls. Altogether it was a most rewarding time and I thank them all for their welcome and hospitality.

SURPRISED LADIES

Since last reporting, Mr Ford and I have attended the War Veterans' Home birthday party on March 11, and the Armadale Auxiliaries' 21st birthday party on March 22, when I presented Certificates of Service to two very surprised ladies, Mrs Wilson and Mrs Cooke.

We also attended an evening with the Scarborough Auxiliary and Sub-Branch.

I have been a guest at the following functions: The Gallipoli Legion luncheon on April 12, the Ex-Servicewomen's luncheon on May 12, and the Unity Cheerio Party on May 16.

On March 13, Mrs Sullivan and I met Mrs Ann McGill, State Secretary of the RSL Women's Auxiliaries of Queensland, and over lunch talked of the work of Auxiliaries in each State.

Members of Executive attended the Anzac Eve Service at the War Veterans' Home, where I laid the Auxiliary wreath. Madge and I laid the Auxiliary wreath at the Dawn Service.

All Executive helped with the catering for the League Congress, half of us at the Conference Room in Allendale Square for morning and afternoon teas, the rest organising the lunches at Sherwood Court.

On May 24, Mrs Sullivan and I went with members of the League to the Mandurah Auxiliary meeting, where Roy Bell, junior vice-president of the League, presented Certificates of Merit to Mrs Muncle, Mrs Kingdon and Mrs Paylor. I had the honour of presenting the Gold Badges.

Congratulations to these ladies on receiving the League's highest award for their outstanding service to the League.

I have just returned today from Wyalkatchem, where I helped to re-form the Auxiliary. We welcome them to our ranks and wish them every success.

State Executive for 1978-79:

State President: Mrs G. Ford; Immediate Past President: Mrs A. Rowe MBE; Vice-presidents: Mrs G. Rolfe BEM, Mrs H. Holder; Hon State Secretary: Mrs M. Sullivan; Hon. State Treasurer: Mrs N. Lowe.

Committee: Mesdames Angel and Adams (Bullsbrook), Baker (Wanneroo), Bettridge (Scarborough), Chilcott (Cockburn), Johnson (City of Perth), Mortimer (Cockburn), Presdy (Subiaco), Ryniker (Bassendean-Guildford), Taylor (Milan), Windsor (City of Perth), Young (N.E. Fremantle).

Cheerio until next time. — JOY FORD, (State President)

HOSPITAL VISITING

In line with resolutions passed at State Congress, we are calling for volunteers to assist with hospital visiting. Can you help?

Currently, our old friend Ron Boyes and part-time helper Bill Rattigan, of Claremont Sub-Branch, are working at least three days a week, endeavouring to visit every person admitted to Hollywood Hospital.

The task is a bit difficult for two men, and if we can get some volunteers, the prospects of reintroducing the system of advising sub-branches will be so much brighter.

If you are interested in assisting, or require any information, please contact Welfare Officer W.B. Melvin at State Headquarters (phone 325 9799).

An additional service has been introduced to Hollywood — a member of the State Executive, Bob Charles, will be available to patients at the hospital between 10 am and 2 pm every Thursday. He can be located in the Red Cross hall.
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MEMORIAL UNVEILED AT AUGUSTA

April 21 was an historic occasion for the Returned Sisters' Sub-Branch when, at the invitation of the Karridale-Augusta Sub-Branch, members journeyed to Augusta for the unveiling of a Memorial to the Australian Army nursing sisters who died as the result of enemy action during the World War.

Of the 40 members who attended with friends and relatives of those nurses 'who failed to return,' 29 made the day trip by chartered bus, while others travelled by private transport, the numbers being augmented by country members from the surrounding districts.

On arrival, the guests were welcomed by the president and members of the local sub-branch and Mrs Pauline Wilson, who was a prime mover in getting the memorial established. After lunch, we went to the Augusta War Memorial for the ceremony.

It was a moving and impressive service, conducted by the "new" pioneers of the district — the primary school children, as part of their Anzac Day commemoration.

SOLE SURVIVOR

The ex-service sisters were invited to march a short distance to the Memorial, which was unveiled by Mrs Statham, formerly Vivienne Bullwinkle, an ex-POW, and sole survivor of the Banka Island massacre in 1942.

In speaking to the children, her theme was the heritage of nursing and its future as a challenge to them.

Following the unveiling, wreaths were laid at the foot of the memorial which is a fine piece of rough-hewn granite with a plaque bearing the following inscription: In reverent memory of the Australian Army Nursing Sisters who died as the result of enemy action whilst serving their country. Lest we forget.

The memorial itself is believed to be the only one of its kind erected solely to Army Sisters, though they have been honoured by the establishment of scholarships and memorial buildings, and there are plaques to individuals in hospitals and churches.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, those present went to the Pioneer Memorial Park opposite where the Augusta branch of the Royal WA Historical Society unveiled a further plaque on the Pioneer Memorial to those intrepid settlers who came to the district in the early days of the State and to whom we owe so much.

Before returning to Perth, all were invited to afternoon tea in the Community Hall.

Responding to the good wishes and vote of appreciation to those who came, Mrs A. Leach, president of the Returned Sisters Sub-Branch, thanked the organisers and people of the district for the privilege of being there and for their kindess and overwhelming hospitality.

Further appreciation of the Nurses' Memorial has been expressed in a letter from Mrs Wilson, who states that it has attracted a constant stream of visitors. Several small posies were left at its foot.

A tribute from the staff of the Fremantle Hospital had arrived in the form of a magnificent sheaf of flowers, which incorporated a spray of 24 Singapore orchids.

This was placed on the plinth by Mrs Statham the morning after the ceremony.

On Anzac Day, the children who had taken part in the ceremony took great pride in showing visitors the Memorial and telling them exactly what it was all about. — V. HOBBS.

The Nurses' Memorial at Augusta, ringed with wreaths and flowers. Below is an enlargement of the inscription.

Memories crowd in on Mrs Statham (nee Vivienne Bullwinkle) as she looks at the Nurses' Memorial.
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22 - JUNE 1978 - LISTENING POST
STATE EXECUTIVE 1978-1979 CONGRESS YEAR

The following candidates were elected at the annual State Congress on Saturday, May 20, 1978.

State President: L. Phenna, MBE, JP (unopposed)
Senior vice-president: L.J. Turner
Junior vice-president: R.R. Bell

The above have been elected for a two-year term under the new constitutional rule. They will stand for re-election in 1980.


The above will stand for re-election in 1979.

At the State Executive meeting held on Wednesday, June 7, the following were appointed to the committee to fill the three vacancies and will serve for one year and stand for re-election in 1979: J.P. Hall, BEM, C. Briggs, MBE, A. Richardson.

COUNTRY OFFICIALS
Country vice-president: M. Williams BEM.
Regional country vice-presidents:
S. Crook (Great Southern), W.F. Brown (South-west Coast), O. Stuart (Eastern Goldfields), J. Marchesi (Southern Wheatbelt), K. McIver, MLA (Central Wheatbelt), A.J. Spedlove (North-west).

TRUSTEES
W.S. Lonnie, CVO, CBE, MC; R.J. Ewing, ISO, K. Broadhurst.

*NAMES WANTED, PLEASE*

Amongst the many items lost in the devastating bushfire at Dwellingup in the early 1960s were the records and District Roll of Honour which recorded the names of all those who enlisted in World War II from Dwellingup, Holyoke and Banksia.

Mr and Mrs G. Douglas, of Dwellingup (phone 095-361 024), have taken upon themselves the mammoth task of trying to gather all the information necessary so that the Roll may be reconstructed — CAN YOU HELP?

Mrs Douglas has written to every sub-branch in the State asking for anyone who can assist with information. This is not an appeal for funds but for information — please help if you can.

KATANNING:

The Roll of Honour has vanished from the Shire chambers and members of the sub-branch are seeking the names of those who enlisted from the town and district and of those who were killed in action.

Any information available would be greatly appreciated and should be directed to sub-branch secretary A.T. Hillman, 2 Forrest Street, Katanning, 6317.

BUSSELTON: The Busselton Sub-Branch is anxious to obtain the names of all ex-servicemen and women who enlisted from the Busselton area between 1945 and 1975 and of those who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Any information would be greatly appreciated and should be directed to F.S. Arndt, Box 264, PO, Busselton. 6280.

“THE RIDGE AND THE RIVER”

No doubt you’ve read or heard about “The Ridge and the River”. Perhaps you read the book by WA author Tom Hungerford.

It’s a prize-winning story about Australian commandos in the Bougainville campaign, written a few years after the author had fought in that great campaign.

Or you might have heard about recent attempts to film this exciting story?

Two West Australians, John Beaton and Bill Warnock, have written a screenplay from Hungerford’s book that has attracted the attention of first-class film people throughout Australia.

Mr Warnock and Mr Beaton are the executive producers of the film, and they plan to start shooting in August with some of the country’s top film talent.

They have director Ken Hannah, who made the famous “Sunday Too Far Away” and the more recent film about Australia’s greatest swimmer, called “Dawn”.

Producer Tony Buckley, of “Caddie” and “The Irishman” fame, is a member of their team, and so is photographer Geoff Burton who filmed the beautiful “Storm Boy”.

Actor Jack Thompson, whose most recent success is “The Chant of Jimmy Blacksmith,” has agreed to play a major role in their film.

The film has been budgeted at a little more than $900,000. The Australian Film Commission has invested money in the production, and the newly-formed Queensland Film Corporation has invested $200,000 in this, their first film.

To ensure authenticity, the executive producers have gone to great lengths. The actors are going to be trained by the Army at Canungra, to make sure that they look and move and talk, like soldiers, not like amateurs from a television play.

The film will be shot in the steamy jungles of north Queensland and in Papua-New Guinea, and the author, Tom Hungerford, will be along as their historical advisor, so that the cast hold their weapons, build their camps and stalk through the jungle just as he and his mates did in 1945.

GREAT SIGNIFICANCE

Because this film is of such importance and significance to RSL members, even more so to West Australians, as it is such a West Australian initiative, the producers would like to offer individual members the opportunity to invest in this worthwhile project.

They believe there are four main reasons that make investment in this film a sound idea.

Firstly it is likely to be profitable. Opinion in the film industry seems to be that the “The Ridge and the River” has a better prospect than usual of making money for its investors.

Secondly, because the Australian Film Commission stands last in line to recoup their investment, it means that the private investors get their money back first.

Thirdly, the new Federal tax incentive for film investment plus a company-linked proposal that the producers have, provides a very useful and exciting tax incentive.

Fourthly, while a film is a high-risk venture, they believe that you will enjoy film investment more than most other kinds of investment; you will not only enjoy some tax concessions and make some money, but you will be helping to re-create, not just another film, but a very important piece of Australian history to be seen for all time.

If you would like to know more about this important project, you might like to call executive producers John Beaton and Bill Warnock on 321 9152. They will be pleased to talk with you.
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DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

After studying the official Amendment 9 of this subject and having discussions with serving officers, including Capt. Poynton, Staff Officer, Operations; 5 Military District, the following is agreed:

1a: Medals or miniatures (including decorations) will be worn with civilian dress or for uniform.

1B: Medals etc may be worn on any authorised occasion such as Anzac Day, any wreath-laying ceremony, any military function when these are ordered.

1c: Medals etc will be worn at all functions where the invitation intimates that "decorations etc" should be worn.

ORDER OF DRESS: Civilian guests should, as far as possible, conform to the dress of their Service hosts, thus — SERVICE — Mess dress, decorations (CIVILIAN, evening, dress, decorations); SERVICE — Mess dress (CIVILIAN, dinner suit, decorations); SERVICE Mess undress (CIVILIAN, dinner suit).

A dinner suit may be worn in lieu of evening dress, and a lounge suit is usually acceptable in lieu of either otherwise ordered. — ROLFE NYMAN

Army Museum Needs Support

The official opening of the Army museum was featured in the March issue of "Listening Post." The museum has been set up to:

- establish and maintain a permanent museum for the display and conservation of historical Army items in WA.
- foster public interest in the history of the Army and Armed Forces in WA.
- collect and accept items of military historical interest from all available sources and ensure their preservation, cataloguing and display to the public.

The museum is administered by a board of management elected from a committee consisting of nominated representatives from numerous organisations and several interested individuals.

The Army Commander in WA is patron, and a senior Regular Army officer from HQ 5FF Gp and 5MD, together with a representative from the Museum of WA, are co-opted Board members.

A Ladies' Auxiliary has been formed, primarily with a view to fund-raising. The sole financial support received so far consists of a donation from the Army Wives Group of WA, which assisted greatly in getting the project under way.

The Committee is faced with a fairly heavy financial outlay in obtaining suitable display cases, cabinets, printing, framing and restoration and refurbishing.

But when open to the public, the museum will receive some income by way of donations from visitors, and together with money from fund-raising activities should make it self-sufficient.

In the meantime, voluntary donations to assist in the endeavour to establish the museum, of which we can all be proud, would be gratefully received and acknowledged with thanks:

THIS IS COMMENDED TO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, AND DONATIONS MAY BE FORWARDED TO: ARMY MUSEUM OF WA, DILHORN, 2 BULWER ST, PERTH WA 6000.

The RSL representative on the Museum Committee is Lt-Col R.J., Nyman, 42 Kingsall Rd, Attadale, WA. Ph. 330 3598.
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26 - JUNE 1978 - LISTENING POST
PLEASANT LUNCHEON

On Saturday, May 20, the 3rd Annual Luncheon for wives of delegates to the State Congress of the RSL was held at the Gateway Inn, Irwin St, Perth.

This year an invitation to attend the function was extended to other women who are interested in the work of the RSL, which resulted in 70 guests partaking of a beautiful luncheon.

Mrs Pat Phenna, wife of the State President, welcomed Sir William Hall, the National President of the RSL, who later addressed the assembly.

As in past year, Mrs Phenna conducted "Roll Call," and Sir William was most impressed by the number of country areas represented, mention of which must be made of the recently re-activated Ravensthorpe Sub-Branch and the newly formed Yanchep-Two Rocks Branch.

During the luncheon, Mrs Phenna presented a small gift for Lady Hall to Sir William, with a request that he convey the best wishes for a happy retirement from all the ladies in WA. — NORMA TURNER

NEW SUB-BRANCH IN THE NORTH

It is most pleasing to announce that another sub-branch has been formed in WA.

The ex-servicemen of Paraburdoo met on February 12 and formed a sub-branch which was confirmed by the State Executive.

R. Cotton, of 294 Samson Ave, Paraburdoo, is the president and J. Boys is vice-president.

Anyone calling at Paraburdoo will be most welcome to join with the members for a "friendly hour."

SUB-BRANCH TROPHIES 1978 WINNERS

NEWDEGATE CUP: Bayswater-Meltham 1; Claremont 2.
COL COLLETT CUP: Geraldton 1; Albany 2.
MARY CORNELL TROPHY: Bassendean-Guildford 1; Highgate 2.
GERALDTON SHIELD: Harvey 1; Northampton 2.
MARY WILLIAMS TROPHY: Geraldton 1; Northampton 2.

Congratulations to the above sub-branches. We trust more will compete in 1979.

RSL BALL OF THE YEAR
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WHY Employers SHOULD Support the Defence Force Reserves

1. What are the Reserve Forces?
   Part-time citizen forces, mainly organised on a territorial basis, have been in existence in Australia for over 120 years and have played a significant part in many of the events that have shaped our history, not least of course in two world wars.
   Each of the three Services, the Navy, Army and the Air Force maintain Reserve Forces. Their purpose is to participate in the defence of Australia and its interests in times of war and defence emergency and with the Regular components provide the basis for expansion of the Defence Force.
   All members of the Reserve Forces are volunteers. They are either former members of the Regular forces or citizens who undertake to serve part-time in the Defence Force.

2. Why do we need Reserve Forces?
   Recent history clearly demonstrates how quickly the international situation can change; threats to our security and our interests may arise at any time and at short notice. These threats, the considerable time needed to train servicemen to handle the complex equipment used in modern warfare and the knowledge that it may not be realistic to always expect powerful allies to come to our aid, emphasize the vital need to maintain a defence force in being.

3. But what sort of Defence Force does Australia need?
   To maintain Regular Forces only, sufficient for the purpose, is very expensive. It could only be achieved by significantly increasing the budgetary allocation to Defence and that in turn can only be achieved at the expense of other national needs or by higher taxes.
   Alternatively to rely entirely on part-time servicemen does not allow for the immediate response that may be required.
   A third alternative is to maintain a Regular component augmented by Reserve Forces made up of citizens who are prepared to serve part-time. This solution is the one supported by successive Australian Governments since the end of the Second World War.
   It recognises that all citizens should be given the opportunity to involve themselves in their country’s defence. It also recognises that Reserve Forces comprising part-time soldiers, sailors and airmen can make a significant contribution to national defence and are the cost-effective way of achieving a readily available Defence Force.

4. When can the Reserves be called out for full-time duty?
   The Governor General can call out the Reserves in time of war or defence emergency. The Governor General can also call out the Reserves in certain circumstances in response to a request by a State Government.

5. What is the annual training obligation for a member of the Reserve?
   It varies a little depending on the Service and the type of Reserve, but in general terms, reservists have an obligation to serve a minimum of twenty-six days each year of which two weeks will be spent at a camp or exercise. The remaining training is done at night and week-ends, in their own time.

6. What is the Committee for Employer Support of Reserve Forces and what is its purpose?
   The Committee for Employer Support of Reserve Forces comprises a National Executive and State Committees made up of representatives of employers, trade unions, servicemen and other community groups. Its main purpose is to stimulate active support for the Reserve Forces throughout the community, and in particular, to encourage employers to adopt policies that will allow their employees to participate in the Reserve Forces, without detriment. The Committee’s role is to encourage employers to support service in the Reserves of the three arms of the Defence Force.

7. As an employer, how will I benefit from my employees’ participation in the Reserve Forces?
   As previously explained, Reserves are a cost-effective way of increasing the size of the Defence Force. If the Reserves did not exist, additional Regular Forces would be required and they would cost more. And a bigger Defence budget would probably mean higher taxes. Put another way, Reserves are a means of getting more Defence capacity for the tax dollar.
   Secondly, Reserve training improves the individual. He or she learns new skills and develops self-reliance, self-discipline, initiative, a sense of responsibility and a sense of service. Many become fine leaders and good organisers. The skills and character traits acquired or developed through Reserve training can be of benefit to the employer.
   The employer, by supporting the Reserves is making a positive contribution to Australia’s defence.

8. Am I required to pay my employee when he or she is away on continuous training?
   No, but many employers do; and others pay the difference between the military earnings and the civilian salary. Exemption from payroll tax can be claimed on civilian salaries paid to Reserve members whilst undergoing training.

9. As an employer, how else can I support the Reserve Forces?
   We ask you to support the Reserve forces by adopting and promulgating policies throughout your organisation that enable employees to do their annual training without sacrificing their job security, promotion opportunities, or even their holidays. We ask you to declare your support by signing our Employer Policy Statement.
   Public acknowledgement will be given to those organisations that pledge their support for the Reserves.

10. How do I get an Employer Policy Statement?
   Just fill out and mail the attached pledge card or write to your particular State Committee or the Chairman, Committee for Employer Support of Reserve Forces, c/- Reserve Branch, Department of Defence (Army Office), Russell Offices, A.C.T. 2600. Phone: (062) 654 2449
   State Chairman may be contacted care of - Western Australia Committee for Employer Support of Reserve Forces, Headquarters Fifth Field Force Group, Swan Barracks, Francis Street, Perth, Western Australia 6000. Phone: (09) 328 5022.
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By Captain B.G.D. Tonge, M.M.
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Evelyn Ernest OWEN, the inventor of the famous Owen Sub-Machine gun, died prematurely at the age of 33. He had earlier enlisted in the 2/17 Bn but was recalled to Melbourne and attached to the Army Inventions Board to continue his activities in connection with the Owen gun.

The gun was not available to Australian forces until September 1941, but after that time, some 46,000 were made and issued up to time the war ended.

One of the sad things about Owen's history is the fact his efforts were never recognised in any tangible way, and many of his friends and associates are rather incensed about this. One such man, Captain B. Tonge, M.M. has composed a poem about Owen, which is interesting and appropriate.

O.S.M.G. (EVELYN OWEN)

In memory of an Australian Son-
Evelyn Owen is his name,
Inventor of the famous gun
That Servicemen acclaim.
Firepower — not men's bodies
Was an axiom of the Second World War,
A light sub-machine gun was needed
And needed fast —
To help keep free our Nation's shores.
The Lee Enfield, 303, Bren L.M.G. and the Vickers, M.M.G.
All played their part and did it well,
Also the Thompson S.M.G.
Undaunted by some Expert's spiel
Of no place for a new gun.
Thanks to the spirit of this Australian son
Evelyn Owen carried on
Until he and his invention won.
The Australian fighting man
Now had another weapon true
Fire power right, calibre light
A match for the ruthless foe.
In Jungle slush and Desert dust
In the hands of gallant men
Firing single shot
Short bursts or devastating blasts
Until victory at last was won.
Keep Evelyn Owen's name foremost
Amongst Australia's famous sons.
We owe this to the inventor
Of Australia's own Owen Gun.

Women to Nominate Members of Repatriation Authorities

Legislation is to be introduced to enable national organisations representing ex-service women and dependants of deceased veterans to nominate new members of the Repatriation Commission and other Repatriation determining authorities.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr R.V. Garland, said today that at present only organisations representing ex-servicemen could nominate members of the authorities, which also include the Repatriation Boards, the Entitlement Appeal Tribunals and the Assessment Appeal Tribunals.

The new provision would allow war widows, as dependants of deceased veterans, to put up names to the Government for consideration.

Mr Garland said the Repatriation Commission and the other authorities make decisions which affect ex-service women, war widows and other dependants. The Government now felt that their national organisations should be entitled to nominate members of such bodies.

Campaign on P.N.G. Veterans' Disability Pensions

A new effort is to be made next month to make Papua New Guineans more aware of disability pensions which may be available to them as former members of the Australian Armed Forces.

This follows talks between the Australian Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr R.V. Garland, and the Papua New Guinea Minister for Defence, Mr L.S. Mona, in Canberra earlier this year.

The Ministers agreed that a team of Veterans' Affairs personnel would go to Papua New Guinea to help veterans, who served with the Australian forces during World War II, to understand fully their rights to disability pensions.

The team, which will include a doctor, will visit most major centres in an attempt to contact former veterans and their dependants wishing to make a claim. It will also be available to talk to those already receiving pensions from the Australian Government and to Australian veterans living in Papua New Guinea.

A Veterans' Affairs officer has been in Port Moresby recently, arranging details of the visit, which will be publicised through the local media and the R.S.L.

Mr Garland said that since the Department of Veterans' Affairs had assumed responsibility for administering the appropriate legislation late in 1974, 166 claims had been received from Papua New Guineans for disability pensions. A number of these had been accepted and were in force, while others were still being processed. In a similar exercise in September 1978, a departmental officer had toured the country and interviewed 158.

Mr Garland said the Australian Government was well aware of the part which Papua New Guinea veterans had played in defending Australia and their own country, and it wanted to ensure that every entitled veteran was aware of his rights.
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THE SERVICE PENSION
RETIRE AT 60? WHY NOT?

BY JIM GIBLETT
WAR COMPENSATION OFFICER

An excited and highly agitated member telephoned recently to enquire whether it was fact or fiction, that, as he had served in a theatre of war and was now 62, he would be eligible for the "burnt out pension".

There was an audible gasp when I told him that he didn't sound "burnt out" and furthermore that there was no such benefit as a "burnt out pension". Obviously relieved his anxiety by suggesting that he was possibly enquiring about the Service Pension. He was. What was bugging him was that he was 82 years of age and nobody had told him that he was eligible at 60. It could well be that there are many veterans who would like to retire at 60 and are also unaware of the benefits available under the Repatriation Act.

Incidentally, both the League and the department of veterans' affairs prefer not to use the term "burnt out pension". Indeed, because of its insinuative overtones, we deliberately avoid it, and suggest that you do likewise.

WHAT IS IT?
The service pension is simply the old age pension, available five years earlier to eligible veterans. When it was introduced in the 1930's, the government felt that the service of veterans should be recognised in a permanent manner. Conceivably, life could have been fore-shortened by five years, due to the hardships of battle.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?
A male veteran who suffers from T.B., who served in a theatre of war and has attained the age of sixty years or is permanently unemployable.

A female veteran who fulfills the above requirements except that the age limit if fifty five years.

WHAT IS A THEATRE OF WAR?
The better known areas are indelibly etched on the minds of those who served overseas in World War I, World War II, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam. There is confusion however, in the minds of some veterans with regard to areas of Australia which were designated as areas of conflict.

The Northern Territory was a theatre of war between February 19, 1942 and November 13, 1943 if one served above parallel 14.5 latitude for three consecutive months. Rottnest Island was also thus designated, if service there was also for three months consecutive between 3 Sept. 1939 to 5 May 1944.

One krate member telephoned to advise that his application for service pension was rejected because he travelled to Darwin by aeroplane, whereas somebody he knew was granted it because he went by sea. It matters not whether the veteran travelled by camel or donkey to the Northern Territory. The criteria is that which is set out in the preceding paragraph.

IS SERVICE PENSION TAXABLE?
If the service pension is the only means of income It is not taxable. Should the veteran be in receipt of additional income it is taxable.

A leaflet containing a ready reckoner is available from the Dept of Veterans' Affairs.

INCOME TEST
The income test is a test applied to a person's income to determine whether he is eligible to receive a Service Pension and, if so, for what amount.

If income exceeds an upper limit set by the income test, service pensions is not payable, but if a lower limit is exceeded, pension may be payable at a reduced rate.

A person who has attained seventy years of age may receive the maximum rate of pension free of the income test.

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES, CONTACT THE DEPT OF VETERANS' AFFAIRS, 11-13 WILLIAM ST, PERTH.
PHONE: 321 0131

LET US SUPPORT THOSE WHO SUPPORT US

THE Rats of Tobruk Association is sponsoring Miss Kathy FITZGERALD in the Miss Australia Quest. This may not sound unusual to you but it is. Kathy herself is a paraplegic and works at Goodwill Industries, which is operated by the Spastic Welfare Assn of W.A. Among other functions being conducted by the ROTA, a family concert by the SMD Band, W.A. Choral Society and Top class artists will be held at the Perth Concert Hall.

Tickets $4 each. Children half price.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR and get your friends to support Kathy. She could win Miss Charity Queen.

For further information of functions contact Doug Le Fevre, Hon. Sec. on 330 2420.
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President, D. MacLean, 75 Riverview Terrace, Mt. Pleasant 6153 (364 1153). Secretary, S.G. Power, 113b "Wandana", Subiaco, 6008 (381 6208). Asst. and Sec. Secretary, T.H. Eason, 5 Lanark Street, Mt. Lawley 6050 (271 2929). Meetings held Imperial Hotel, Wellington Street, Perth, when called.

28TH BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION
Meets Anzac Club (Visitors’ Room) 2.30 pm second Tuesday.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC. STATE COUNCIL
State President, F. Metcalf, J.P., 2402 Albany Hwy, Gosnells (398 2340). State Secretary, W.W. Skinner, 28 Wilberforce St, North Beach (447 3148 or 444 5611).

WRAAC ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)
President, Mrs Nancy Carlson, 24 Iveston Rd, Lynwood, 6155 (457 3984). Secretary, Miss C. Brody (342 5482).

"Z" SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA
Meetings as arranged. Secretary B. Wakeford, 875 Beaufort Place, West Perth, 6005 (271 8302). Liaison Officer, W.E. Dubberlin, 17 McDougall St, Nedlands, 6005. Phone 271 1406.

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WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH
Meets first Friday each month at Anzac House 7.30 p.m. President C.D. Brown, (458 9644), Secretary E.R. Bench, 9 Raleigh St, Bayswater (271 7307), 6053.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA - WA BRANCH INC
General meetings held in Railway Institute Retired Officers Room, Wellington Street, Perth, at 6 pm on first Thursday each month except January. President, W.H. Carter, 99 Thompson Rd, Nth Fremantle, 6159.

3/232ND BATTALION ASSOCIATION (WA)

FEDERATED TB SAILORS, SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN’S ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
2nd Floor, Wellington Building, 158 William Street, Perth, last Monday. President, Ian Fraser (444 7469). Secretary, B. Beresford (321 5086 or 364 1820).

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION OF WA

51ST BATTALION A.I.F. ASSOCIATION
President, H. Bowra, 7 Highland Rd, Nth Perth, (444 2585). Secretary, N. More, 31 Minora Rd, Dalkeith (386 2702). Committee meetings held Quarterly at 4 Sherwood Court, (S.L. H.O.), 2 p.m. on Tuesday 6th Sept. & Tuesday 6th Dec. ’77.

BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION
President, Mr. W.E. (Bill) Fussey (447 7738). General Secretary Mary Woolcock, 121 Peel Rd., Roleystone, 6111 (397 5871).

Council meets first Tuesday each month at Anzac House. Annual General Meeting second Tuesday August (Anzac House). Annual Re-Union nearest Saturday to 11th November (Remembrance Day) Subiaco Civic Centre.
KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (W.A. BRANCH)

Meets second Monday in February, April and July at T/Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth. Members notified by mail of October A.G.M. State President, Mr Jack Gerke, 1 Gerald St. Como, 6152. State Secretary Mr Max Fillet, 5 Valentine Ave, Dianella, 6062 (bus. 458 0548 - Priv. 276 8513). Executive Committee meets when required.

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ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION (BRANCH 1210 WA)


ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION

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HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION OF WA

Meets in Visitors Room, Anzac House, on third Friday every month at 8.00 p.m. President, Mr Don Cross (446 3211). Secretary, Mr T.W. (Bill) Scott (457 4902).

Z SPECIAL FORCE


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State President, Mr J.T. Bartow, 120 Lawrence St. Bedford. Tel: 271 8509. State Secretary, Mr T.P. Ingram, 100A Petra St, Bicton, Tel: 339 1470. Details of Sub-Branch Meetings, please ring 339 1470.

RETURNED SISTERS' SUB-BRANCH R.S.L.

Meetings are now held on the first Thursday of each month (except January) at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court in the meeting room at 1.30 p.m.

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President C.D. Brown, 387 Canning Hwy. Como, 6152 (458 9644). Secretary, C.J. Costeur, 167 Gilderscliffe St, Scarborough (341 4541). Meets in Anzac House, fourth Wednesday of every month, 8 p.m. (December excepted).

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Surname

Christian Names

Address

Service No.

Rank

Unit

Post Code

Total period of service in Armed Forces

years

days

I CERTIFY that an inspection of relevant documents reveals eligibility for membership.

Date

Introduction by

Sub-Branch Secretary

I HEREBY DECLARE that I am NOT A COMMUNIST and I AGREE to be bound by the Memorandum and Articles of Association of the Returned Services League of Australia.

Signature of Applicant

Date

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