The State President,
State Executive and Staff
Extends Best Wishes for
A Merry Christmas and a
Prosperous and Peaceful New Year

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE"
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

WE MUST SHOW CONCERN FOR THE FUTURE

As 1978 comes to a close I would like to take the opportunity to extend to all members and their families, to the staff of Anzac House, and to our many friends who have assisted us in so many ways throughout the year, sincere wishes for a very merry Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Looking back on 1978 I feel we must endeavour, more than ever before, to ensure that our membership is as strong as ever. Unity is strength and without that strength, without that "life-blood," we are doomed as a vigorous and virile organisation.

One of our deepest concerns, surely must be, the obvious trend by Government towards 'an across-the-board' reduction in benefits for veterans.

The present Government was elected on a faithful promise to maintain the standards of those who have served their country in a time of need and those who will serve in the armed forces in the future.

The Government cannot now repudiate those undertakings, and the situation will have to be policed very closely indeed from now on, and if necessary, action must be taken through our sub-branches, to ensure that this erosion of benefits does not continue.

The future of the League is a matter of some concern to all of us and I feel I should remind you that it rests primarily in the hands of members; and all members should be encouraged to speak on our future and offer their opinions.

ANZAC PEACE PRIZE

Closely associated with the future of the league, is the future of Anzac Day, and to this end, the League is proud to announce the introduction of a series of Anzac Awards and an Anzac Peace Prize.

For some time now, the League has been working on this particular project, and all State Branches have agreed to fully support the proposals. A more comprehensive coverage of these Awards are detailed in an additional article in this issue.

Please examine the conditions of the Awards so that in the very near future you are in a situation whereby you can accept nominations from a wide cross-section of the community, including other Service organisations and from individuals who have a particular interest in certain activities.

We want this to be a form of recognition which is demonstrably available to all those Australian citizens who have made a worthy contribution to the community and the nation.

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

We are pleased to announce that the Prime Minister and his Government support the initiative of the League in establishing these Awards.

Finally, I commend to you our "Code of Citizenship," adopted by our own State Congress and in turn endorsed by the National Congress of the League, held in Queensland in September.

If we, as an organisation, are to combat the widespread decline in moral standards in this country, we must make every endeavour, through our sub-branches, women's auxiliaries and our members, to promote those principles of citizenship outlined in the Code and which the League believes is urgently needed in the Australian community today.
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NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

A youthful, dynamic 55 year-old Bill Keys is the newly elected National President of the RSL. Bill has been National Secretary of the League since 1961 and his burning ambition is to stop the RSL disappearing. He believes a revamped League could be one of the most potent community forces in Australia.

No-one knows the RSL better than Bill, for he has borne the brunt of unrealistic assertions by members, and weathered embarrassing headlines one after another.

He became National Secretary at the time the RSL was regarded as a mob of old boozers, and, through the National Executive, he quietly worked to change this image.

Welfare programmes have developed to the point where the League now spends some $5 million a year on them; scholarship schemes for South-East Asian and New Guinean students were introduced; the Defence Services Homes and Repatriation Acts were altered by lobbying to include serving members of the Forces.

One of his dearest wishes is to widen the membership of the RSL. For many years he has been advising the League “to get its head out of the sand” on the issue. Only one State this year voted against it. He has also considered a change of name.

He served for five years in the Infantry in World War II and 12 months in Korea, where he won the Military Cross. In 1970 he was honoured by the Queen with the OBE.

He is a Life Member of the Korea and South East Asia Forces’ Association and a Life Member of the RSL, having been a member since 1944.

R.S.L. STANDING POLICY ON IMMIGRATION

Everyone has the right to his opinion and are free to express it in so many ways, but quite often it appears obvious that the media must connect the person with an organisation.

In The West Australian on Friday, September 22, an article appeared under the heading “Send them home, says Mr. Clark,” but in the article it mentioned the meeting was held in an RSL hall, and Mr. Clark is wearing an RSL badge.

This is good, but it could give the impression that he was speaking for the RSL on immigration.

The League disassociates itself from the views expressed by Mr. Clark. The standing policy of the League on immigration is entirely in favour of the United Nations charter on refugees, whether from Asia or elsewhere in the world.

At the National Congress held in Queensland recently, the League adopted an immigration policy which is lengthy, but the policy incorporates the following provisions:

1. Because of our small population in relation to the size of our country and because of our declining birth rate, there must be a continued, vigorous and selective immigration policy.
2. Selection must be based on the migrant’s ability to integrate and on the other benefits to Australia — in skills, experience and personal qualities. It must not be based on racial or cultural backgrounds.
3. Stringent screening procedures, including health tests, must be maintained in selecting intending migrants to eliminate those who have extremist or disruptive tendencies and those unlikely to fit into our social structure or who are liable to become an undue financial burden on our society.
4. Further stringent screening procedures must be maintained for the same purposes at all ports of entry.
5. The family reunion programme should be implemented with understanding and humanity, subject to appropriate screening procedures and should be expanded to include approved organisations as sponsors.
6. The numbers of migrants being admitted should be related to the ability to absorb them into our society and to our birth rate. In order to ensure a progressive increase of our population we should aim at an annual migrant intake of a maximum of one percent of our population.
7. There should be an adequate and attractive educational programme for all migrants who need it. Arrangements should be made so that those migrants, including families, who attend are not prejudiced financially. There must also be an education programme for the older Australians to assist in assimilation and acceptance of new arrivals.
8. The Government should ensure that sponsors of migrants carry out in full their responsibilities.
9. A change of status from temporary visitor to permanent resident should be approved only in exceptional circumstances.
10. The RSL should assist in any way possible the settlement of migrants into the Australian community.

Amongst other offices, he is National President of the Korea and South-East Forces’ Association; member National Committee of the RAR Association; member Board of Trustees, Australian War Memorial; member Administrative Review Council; Chairman Capital Permanent Building Society; president ACT Churchill Fellows’ Association; chairman ACT Austcare for four years; Nuffield Scholar 1965 (six months overseas study), Churchill Fellow 1969 (six months overseas study).

His hobbies are weekend farming, painting and writing.
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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE
from
C.J. WILLIAMS, AM, ED
Deputy Commissioner, Department of Veterans' Affairs.

All members of the Department of Veterans' Affairs join with me in wishing all veterans and their families a very happy Christmas and a bright, healthy and prosperous New Year.

We assure you that it is a pleasure and privilege to continue to serve those who know what service means.

I personally wish to thank the State President, the Executive and the State Secretary and staff of the League, for their continued co-operation with the Department, and for bringing to notice instances where ex-service people or dependents have been troubled.

VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA BY AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL R.S.L. BOWLS SECTION

A 28 day tour of the Republic of South Africa has just been completed by 34 members of the Australian National R.S.L. Bowls Section, which consisted of 14 members from Canberra, 12 from Perth, 3 from Queensland, 2 from Tasmania, 2 from South Australia and 1 from N.S.W.

The tour began in J'burg and travelled by motor coach, with many stops on the way, to Cape Town. After time there it was the plane back to J'burg for a couple more days, then in the air again for home. We played bowls against most of the Ex-Service groups of South Africa, S.A. Legion, M.O.T.H.S., Airforce, Jewish and others, in all, 12 games.

We were welcomed by leaders of the S.A. Legion and the Memorial Order of Tin Hats. Were given 2 Civic Receptions, one in J'burg and 8 in Benoni. We were greeted by the Mayor of Pretoria and Deputy Mayor of Brakpan. We laid wreaths at M.O.T.H. centres in Pretoria and Durban and attended a Ceremony at Sappers Rust. We visited Kruger National Park and another Game Reserve, an ostrich farm, a safari ranch, the Voortrekker monument and the Settlers Memorial in Grahamstown. We were also taken on an inspection of the black townships of Daveytown and Soweto.

We were overwhelmed with hospitality and generosity wherever we stopped. We were very impressed with the Ex-Service group known as M.O.T.H.S., who were our hosts and organised the bowls. We visited many of their shell-holes (sub-branches) and were given many of their badges, plaques, ties and other items.

When we first arrived we were advised that a donor had made available a trophy for the winning country, to be competed for on a regular basis. The Australians won the cup by a very narrow margin and we were very proud to bring it back with us. The donor was an Australian business-man of over 30 year's residence in South Africa - Mr Edgar Rowston, who is a member of both the South African Legion and the M.O.T H.S.

Incidentally, if anyone would like to inspect the trophy it is on display in the R.S.L. Section of Kitchener Park Bowling Club. There are plans afoot for a return visit to South African Ex-Service members to Australia in 1980. We hope these come to fruition so that we can repay some of the goodwill shown to us.

The people of South Africa show a strong desire to show their friends how they can form their own opinion of what is taking place in their land, particularly with regard to the various races of people in their area.

The country we travelled through was very beautiful, very productive with high-class accommodation at very reasonable prices.

During our travels we distributed over 600 small kangaroo badges, 15 R.S.L. plaques, 15 sets of Australian coins in Mint packs, bannetettes from all States and many club badges. Some of these articles were made available by National R.S.L. headquarters, others came out of private pockets. Letters were delivered from our State President and the National President. All members of the touring party agreed that the cost of the trip was money well spent and we are much better informed on South Africa and its problems.

From an R.S.L. point of view, this trip was a great public relations boost to us, and to a country who were so close to us in many ways during the last war.

L.A. PREDDY,
President,
National RSL Bowls Council.

DISABILITY PENSIONERS

If married, does your wife receive a Service Pension from the Department of Veterans' Affairs or an Age Pension from the Social Security Department?

If the answer is Service Pension, then you need read no further.

Should your wife be receiving the Age Pension through Social Security it could be costing you money.

The Reason? When assessing "other income" for calculating the amount of Service Pension payable, Veterans' Affairs treat only one half of any Disability Pension as income.

Social Security treat the whole Disability Pension as income when calculating Age Pensions.

The transfer is not difficult. Please contact the Department of Veterans' Affairs (321 0131) and ask for Pension Inquiries.

The Army Museum of WA Family Band Concert

Sunday, December 17 at 2 p.m.

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The Queensland Branch are pleased to advise that as from 20th December, 1978, the accommodation section of Anzac House will reopen as the Astor Motel, Anzac House, Brisbane.

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Zellers Licensed Restaurant on the ground floor is already acknowledged as one of the finest in Brisbane. On the Berry Street corner of Anzac House the RSL Memorial Club occupies the lower ground floor.
The accommodation and restaurant areas are available for ex-servicemen, ex-servicewomen and the General Public alike and Honorary membership of the RSL Memorial Club may be extended on application to the Manager, Mr. Barry Johnson.
WHEREABOUTS IS A.W. WARNER

MR R.J. HAYES OF 13 LONGLI EAF ST., NORTH FRANKSTON, VICTORIA, IS LOOKING FOR WX 14061. ANYONE KNOWING THE WHEREABOUTS OF A W PLEASE ASK HIM TO CONTACT MR HAYES.

Raymond Alexander Ball.

The man whose photograph appears above is known to his sponsors, friends and investigator as Raymond Alexander Ball. He possibly served with the 21st Brigade 2nd AIF and again possibly with the 2/14th Bn of the same Brigade.

He received severe head wounds in one of the later campaigns covering either Nadzab, Ramu Valley generally or at Shaggy Ridge. He has been a victim of amnesia (complete loss of memory) from early 1944 to 1968.

His investigator has made an exhaustive and thorough search through Repatriation files, but cannot locate any medical or other record of service of his name. Therefore the soldier cannot receive treatment which he badly needs. It is believed that the soldier enlisted under the prescribed age of 18 years and he may possibly have furnished the army authorities with a false name for this reason.

The investigator believes implicitly in the bona fides of the soldier he represents. It would be greatly appreciated if any ex-serviceman could provide information regarding the soldier so that suitable benefits for him could be applied for.

This appeal is a matter of urgency, so if you have any definite details no matter how trivial please contact Mr D.F. McColl, 2/21 Sir Thomas Mitchell Road, Bondi. 2026 – telephone: 30 7474.

ABORIGINAL HONOUR ED: A portrait of Capt Reg Saunders, the first Aboriginal officer commissioned in the Australian Armed Forces was hung at the Australian War Memorial recently.

Mr Saunders, now an officer with the Department of Aboriginal Affairs in Canberra, made history when he was commissioned as Lieutenant in the Australian Army in November, 1944. He previously had been involved in fighting in Libya, Greece and Crete, and later in New Guinea.

He was promoted to Captain in Korea in 1950 and led a platoon in the critical Battle of Kapyong in 1951.

The portrait, which was commissioned by the Memorial’s Board of Trustees, was painted by Pamela Thalben-Ball.

Mr Saunders was awarded the MBE in 1971 for his work in the Aboriginal community.

ATTENTION EX - PRISONERS OF WAR

The State Executive of the RSL has granted permission to march under our own banner on Anzac Day. All POW are invited to join us in the sesquicentenary year and add numbers to the parade.

Please contact Bill Hood on 271 5245. For further information.

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The article which appeared in our last issue about the making of a feature film based on World War II novel "The Ridge and the River" by WA author Tom Hungerford, generated great interest among readers.

Producers John Beaton and Bill Warnock reported that they received calls from several members wanting to know how they might invest in the $750,000 film.

"This may have been partly because of the attractive new tax incentives that now makes investment in Australian films particularly worthwhile," said Mr Beaton, "but in the case of Listening Post readers the inquiries seemed based less on profit and more on the keen desire to see the film made."

"The book tells a great and, as yet, untold, story about the remarkable New Guinea campaign and will be of great interest to all Australians and especially ex-service people."

RSL clubs in NSW have begun to invest in the project in a significant way. Investment has already been received from the Kingsgrove and Berowa Clubs, and the producers have been invited to go to that State to talk to other clubs.

RSL National President, Bill Keys has indicated the League's interest in the project and has made offers of assistance when it comes to marketing the film to League members. In return, the producers have offered the League the right to nominate charities to benefit from the premises of the films which will be held in each State.

The film, which has the backing of the Australian Film Commission and the Queensland Film Corporation, is due to go into production later this year. It will be shot in Papua New Guinea and Queensland early in 1979.

The producers have decided to form an investment syndicate especially for members of the League in WA. If you would like more details, please ring them direct: John Beaton, or Bill Warnock; Ridgeriver Films Pty. Ltd., 40 Mount Street, Perth. 6000. Telephone: 321 9152

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

On behalf of the Polish Ex-Servicemen's Association in WA, I extend best wishes for a Merry Christmas and prosperous and peaceful New Year.

Our Association has always enjoyed good relations with the RSL and I am sure, this coming year, 1979 – the 150th Anniversary of Western Australia – will cement our friendship.

Yours sincerely –

S. ZALEWSKI, Hon. Secretary.

NEW ADDRESS

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SOLDIER'S CHILDREN'S EDUCATION BOARD

REPORT BY MR TOM STEN OBE, MA, FORMER STATE PRESIDENT

As representative of the State, Executive of the R.S.L. on the Soldiers' Children's Education Board, I take pleasure in submitting the following brief report; brief it is mainly because the Board functions so smoothly and effectively.

1. The Education Board does indeed continue to function as smoothly and effectively as ever, and it continues to be most fortunate in its personnel. It might not be generally understood that there are two distinct sections on the Board: one a professional, and academic group, the other a group of representatives of the various ex-service associations who would be expected to be specially interested in education. It might be wondered how such groups mix and function. Readers will be interested to know, that the groups do mix with the utmost harmony, interest and understanding.

2. We continue to enjoy the full support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and also the personal interest of the Minister and Senior Officers. In fact it is rare for a senior departmental officer not to drop in to a Board meeting, and to address members on matters relating to board function. We have complete liberty in offering recommendations for the improvement of the service, and almost invariably such are adopted after full inquiry. One of the problems discussed at length over the years was the inadequacy of the coaching fee for tertiary education. As a result the tertiary student now receives a much more realistic grant towards special coaching.

3. The general policy remains firm that in evaluating student results and reports, the Board is expected to always give the failing student the benefit of the doubt, particularly when home study conditions appear unsatisfactory. This is a very important situation of course, especially for the student passing from secondary education to the much more difficult tertiary field. As an aid we have developed within the Board, a very strong counselling section, in secondary, technical and tertiary levels. The Board too continues to lay great emphasis on such counselling reports and on the personal interview. In the last couple of decades there have been radical changes at all educational levels, so that a strong academic section has been of great value.

4. In my very long experience with the Board, it has been a most happy situation to have worked with a progression of Deputy Commissioners, every one of whom has met the Board with the utmost of sympathetic understanding. The general line of policy has been for the D.C. to attend regularly, keep himself informed on current topics, but in discussion to keep very much to the background, avoid involvement in discussion, and most certainly not, to attempt to influence the findings of the Board. When advice is needed, he prefers to act positively rather than negatively. Now all this applies most faithfully to the present Deputy Mr Colin Williams. He attends very regularly, follows the business with real personal interest, and keeps his senior officers also interested.

Tom Sten.
The order of Virtuti Militari was established by the Polish King Stanislaw August in 1972 when Poland was defending its freedom against attacking Russian forces. This Order was the highest decoration and the most precious prize the Motherland could bestow on its defenders and, as such, was the object of particular hatred to the Russian occupants.

The history of Virtuti Militari is very closely related to the Polish fight for freedom, especially against Russia.

The first two soldiers decorated with this Cross were the Commander-in-Chief Prince Jozef Poniatowski and Major-General Tadeusz Kosciusko. (If the last name sounds familiar — well, Mt Kosciusko in the Australian Alps is named after the Polish Major-General).

Immediately after victory, Czarina Catherine issued an Act prohibiting wearing that decoration. However, since not one of those decorated obeyed the prohibition, they were threatened with a reduction to ranks; prosecution deprivation of civil rights, and so on.

In times of Warsaw Duchy, (a puppet State in hands of Russia), the decoration was re-established. Normally, the obverse of the decoration carried the coat-of-arms of the Polish Commonwealth — the Eagle of the Polish Kingdom and Pogon of Grand Duchy of Lithuania.

However, on the order of Czar Alexander I, the coat-of-arms of Lithuania was removed from the obverse of the Cross, since Lithuania was removed from the obverse of the Cross, since Lithuania was by now "incorporated" into the Russian Empire.

Of course, Polish officers and soldiers serving in the army of the Emperor Napoleon Bonaparte did not adhere to this demand and still wore the Cross with the obverse showing the Eagle and the Pogon.

Czar Nicholas I, knowing how sacred this decoration was to the Poles and realising that simple prohibition would just not work; decided to defame the decoration.

After suppressing the Polish insurrection against Russia, the General-in-Command of the suppressing forces and all Russian soldiers that took part in the fight were issued with the Order and, a few years later, all and sundry who in any, no matter how remote, manner were connected with the fight against Polish insurgence, were issued with the decoration.

The true Virtuti Militari was resurrected after Poland regained independence in 1918 and the first soldier to receive that Cross was the Commandant, later the first Marshal of Poland, Jozef Pilsudski. Subsequently, in the war against bolshevist aggression in 1919-1921, soldiers and the city of Lvov were decorated with the Cross.

After World War II the Government of the Polish Peoples’ Republic originally took the old Russian line of approach that is, forbade the wearing of the decoration. However, the results were the same as some century and a half before — that is, people did not follow that prohibition.

So, in the manner of Czar Nicholas I, the Virtuti Militari was issued to a great number of Polish soldiers in the Army under the command of the Polish Peoples’ Republic and to Soviet Generals and officers of all ranks and finally to Soviet regiments which passed through Poland on the way to Germany.

This massive issuing of that decoration was designated to devalue the status of Virtuti Militari in the eyes of the Polish population and the ties of that decoration with its old and noble tradition.

Since its inception, the Cross was bestowed upon:

* defenders of Poland in the war against Russia in 1792;
* soldiers of Polish insurrection against Russia in 1831;
* soldiers of Polish insurrection against Russia in 1863;
* soldiers of reborn Poland in the years 1918–1939 for action in the Polish bolshevik war 1919–1921;
* in World War II to service personnel in the September campaign 1939, to soldiers of the Polish Land Army (Resistance forces under the command of the Polish Government-in-exile, in London), Polish service personnel fighting in France, Norway, Tobruk and African desert, Italy, (specifically in the capturing of Monte Cassino, Ancona, and Bologna); First Polish Armed Division fighting in France, Belgium, Holland and Germany; Polish independent Parachute Brigade fighting at Arnhem; Polish Air Force in England, taking part in the Battle of Britain and in the raids on Germany and Occupied Territory; Polish Navy and Merchant Marine in all oceans of the world.

The Knights of the Order of Virtuti Militari, still fighting in many ways and many places for the Independent Polish Republic, served their country well, and those who did not return to Poland after 1945 now, at the appropriate occasions, wear the Cross with pride and honour, by that they affirm the right of Poland to a true national independence.

Translated and adopted from Iacznik (means "liaison"), Bulletin of Polish Ex-Servicemen’s Association in WA by Z.T. Kwiecinski. It may be of interest that Mr J. Redziejowski, VM, KW, MC, KZ(3) was awarded the Virtuti Militari for outstanding bravery at Monte Cassino.)
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SCHOOL HONOUR BOARDS

The Geraldton Sub-branch of the RSL decided at its September meeting to donate $50 towards the restoration of the four Great War Honour Boards of the Geraldton Primary School.

The Honour Boards are on display at the R and I Bank, where donations are being received towards their restoration, particularly the faded gold lettering of the names of the 169 ex-students who served in the Armed Forces, including 21 who paid the supreme sacrifice.

One of the wooden boards, which is in the form of a shield, is called an “Anzac Roll of Honour” because it contains the names of 20 men who were original ANZACS in 1914.

The Bank set the ball rolling by donating $35, as 10 percent of the estimated restoration cost of $350. Donations have included $20 from an Old Boy, the Commissioner of Railways, Jim Pascoe.

In an accompanying letter, Mr Pascoe said he first attended the Geraldton School in 1926, accompanied by Barry Hough, who unfortunately was killed during World War II when serving with the RAAF. They had both come from Mount Magnet on scholarships worth $60 a year.

He added that when he arrived at Geraldton to begin what he called “this adventure at the age of 12½ years”, it had given him his first glimpse of the ocean.

A plaque to mark the Centenary of the Geraldton Primary School was unveiled on October 4 by D.C.B. Ord, of Mill Point Road, South Perth. Mr Ord’s grandmother, Lady Ord, laid the foundation stone on October 4, 1878, during the administration of the Government by her husband, Major-General Sir Harry St George Ord.

Improvements being carried out to this century-old school at a cost of more than $274,000 were officially opened in association with the centenary celebrations from October 1 to 8. Minister for Education, Peter Jones, performed the ceremony on October 4.

BJB.

GUEST SPEAKERS - SANDWICH LUNCHEONS

Early in the year the Membership Sub-Committee, at the suggestion of one of its members, Mrs Joan Dowson, decided to put on a series of six “Sandwich Luncheons” with Guest Speakers, for members of the RSL and their friends. These were held on the last Friday of each month at the Anzac Club, commencing with Fellowship at 1200 hours in the Club where one could meet old and new friends and obtain drinks, a light and enjoyable lunch of sandwiches and tea was served at about 1250 hours. After lunch the gathering went upstairs to the assembly room and a very interesting talk was given, from 1320 hours to 1350 hours, including questions, if so desired.

The mixed line-up of speakers gave a rare combination of experience, erudition and humour and the subjects were as varied. The opener on April 28, 1978 was Air Commodore S.W. Dallywater, O.B.E. (the new incoming State Warden for the State War Memorial), who was then the Director of the 150th Anniversary Celebrations and he told us all about “way ’79”. One month later, Mrs Jess Duncan, Executive Director, WA Division of the Australian Red Cross Society spoke on “Red Cross in a Changing World.” She explained among many other things both humorous and pathetic, that spike heels and discarded back-less evening gowns were not the kind of clothing needed by victims of Cyclone Tracy.

Air Marshal, Sir Valston Hancock, KBE., CB., AFC., gave us a most interesting and informative cameo on “Australia’s Defence” which confirmed to all just how utterly unprepared we are in all areas of this vital requirement.

In lighter vein, The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor of Perth, (City of Light) The Hon. F.C. Chaney, CBE., AFC., “Looked Back” at his career as a teacher, politician, administrator, State President of the RSL, Airman and blogger.

Mrs Frank Statham, better known as Matron Vivienne Bulwinkel, MBE., ARRC., ED., FNM, Dip. NA., FCNA., talked of her experiences as a Prisoner-of-war. As the sole survivor of the Banka Island massacre, she glossed lightly over the hardships and suffering, but spoke feelingly of the gift of a one-twelfth share in a worn toothbrush and the ultimate joy of a hot bath.

At the last of the series for this year, on Friday, September 29, Air Commodore J.W. Hubble, CBE., DSO., AFC., Officer Commanding RAAF, Western Australia and O.C. RAAF Pearce, using a projector, explained just how our next replacement fighter is being selected.

These were so successful that a second series of six is to commence on Tuesday, April 3, 1979 and thereafter on the first Tuesday of each month.

We are very grateful to Mrs Joan Dowson whose brain-child it was and who worked hard to make the series “go.” Our State Secretary’s wife, Mrs Cec Bruce and Mrs Ronnie Wagland, as well as many others, gave her considerable assistance.

The timing is to enable the working man or woman to take a lunch-hour break at the club. If they have only the one hour, from 1300 hours to 1400 hours, they will still have time for a snack, a cuppa and to hear the guest speaker. Those of us who toil not, nor spin, can enjoy the full get-together and even extend it in the club later.

The charge has been a mere one dollar and Sub-Committee is hoping to keep it at this low figure for the next series. One pleasing aspect of the lunches has been the number of people who, as a result, have become members of the RSL and been persuaded to renew their membership.

So make a note, now, of next year’s “luncheons and lectures” — Tuesday, April 3, 1979 and every first Tuesday. Come along and bring a friend and ring us on 325 9799, Miss Debbie Piper — 325 9799, Mr Bill Melvin — 384 6712, Mrs Joan Dowson to help the caterer.
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HE WILL MAKE YOU MOST WELCOME
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Major Brian Heenan, who died in Wagga (NSW) recently, was a member of a family well-known in Western Australia in both legal and military circles.

Born in Northam, he was educated at Aquinas College and enlisted in the 2nd AIF in 1944 at the age of 18, immediately after leaving school. He re-enlisted in 1950 and saw service in Korea and was awarded the American Presidential Citation for his part as a section leader in the famous battle of Kapyong.

Commissioned in 1952, the year in which he went to Wagga, he held many posts in the permanent Army. His Army service also included a tour of duty in Vietnam. His wounding in Korea and service to his country was the cause of his early death, at the age of 51.

Since his discharge on medical grounds in 1974, Mr Heenan had been Administrator of The Haven. He held office in the Wagga Sub-branch of the RSL and also in Wagga Legacy.

Son of the late Capt Neville Heenan, Mr Heenan is survived by his wife Jean, one son and one daughter.

We offer our sympathy to his relations and friends, among them his uncle, Eric Heenan, who lives in Mt Lawley.

Old soldier Freddie Hillier travelled 13,000 miles across the world to meet up with some pals with whom he served in the Great War. But little more than a month after arriving in Portsmouth from Australia, the 83-year-old Somme veteran died in hospital at Milton after a short illness.

During his short stay in Portsmouth, Freddie was given a special welcome by members of the Portsmouth South Royal British Legion Branch. He spent most of his life in Portsmouth before immigrating to Australia 18 years ago.

His first contact at Portsmouth was with Major Teddie Hunt, with whom he joined the 2nd Hampshire Regiment on the same day in 1915. During his stay, Freddie attended the Anzac Day service at Milton Cemetery.

The Branch gave him Legion honours at his funeral.

Freddie was a member of the Harvey District Sub-branch of the RSL, and was very highly regarded by all. He will be remembered for his dedication as a hospital visitor and a constant collector on Poppy Day each year.

He will be sadly missed by all members of Harvey Sub-Branch.

Dick O'Grady,
(Hon. Secretary).

RSL Bowls Carnival
Thursday, February 1, 1979
SAM CROOK RSL SHIELD
and
A host of other trophies
Kojonup Bowling Club
Play starts at 9 a.m. prompt
Entries close January 13, 1979
Please contact Secretary of Kojonup Bowling Club
or
Country Vice-President, S. Crook,
18 Elverd Street, Kojonup. W.A. 6335

The 9th RSL Bowls
Great Southern Fours Championship
Wednesday, March 7, 1979
FRANK GOHM TROPHY
Albany Bowling Club
Lunch at Club. Play starts at 9 a.m.
Entries Close March 3, 1979
Please let secretary, Albany Bowling Club,
know the skipper's name
Box, 455, P.O. Albany, W.A. 6330

Canadian Author Seeks Help

The following inquiry has been received from Frank Eimer,
PO BOX 150, La Ronge, Saskatchewan, Canada. If you can help, please write to him direct.

"I am planning a book about first war veterans (1914–1918) and I seek your help," he writes.

"This book was going to be about Canadians in the Great War, but after talking to a few of these veterans, they suggested I should expand my scope to include veterans of other nations, as they also would have stories to relate.

"Are there any veterans organisations in WA primarily concerned for veterans of the 1914–1918 War?

"I have had a request published in our own legion magazine and the NZ Returned Services' Association is planning a short request in their magazine review.

"I am not a professional writer, but just a young aircraft maintenance engineer and feel for the men of this war.

"All proceeds from the book will be returned to the veterans, and my only reason for writing this book is to expand one's knowledge into actual conditions."
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On October 2, past and present members of the Executive met together at 4 Sherwood Court for a chat and a laugh about old times and to celebrate 50 years of service to the Auxiliaries and the League.

Among those welcomed by State President Mrs Ford were: Mrs Stockmin, and Mrs Ames (our Patronesses), Mr Phenna (State President of the League) and Mrs Phenna, Miss Hawtin, Mrs Hallet and Mrs Cottrill.

Displayed on a table were old photos of Executive and Conferences, and data of the Executive; these caused much merriment, especially the fashions of the 1920–30s, but sometimes there was a quiet thought of ones who are no longer with us.

Apologies were received from those unable to attend through distance and sickness, and a special greeting was received from Mrs Halley in England.

The afternoon was on an informal note, with the ladies moving round, catching up on the news and recalling events of the past, some amusing, others not so funny.

Mrs Stockmin and Mrs Ames both spoke of the work done in the past and offered congratulations and best wishes to the present Executive, and Mr Phenna conveyed the thanks of the League work for many years to come.

All enjoyed the lovely afternoon tea provided and served by members of Executive, and Mrs Windsor, the newest member on Executive, cut the birthday cake.

CHRISTMAS PARCELS

Only two months to the end of the year! How time has flown, here we are organising the packing and delivery of our Christmas Cheer parcels once again. Thanks to the donations coming in from our Auxiliaries, we are able to bring a token of cheer to our ex-servicemen and women in the hospitals and homes.

Since my last report, Mrs Baker and I attended the Laurel Club dinner on September 7, a most enjoyable evening.

While I was away for a few days enjoying the wildflowers and scenery at Kalbarri, Mrs Rolfe attended the Bowlis Trophy night at the War Veterans Home to present a token to the winners and runners-up of the Executive Trophy.

On September 20, my husband and I were among the many guests the Belmont Auxiliary Birthday Party, and I presented a Certificate of Service to Mrs Boulton. Representatives of Auxiliaries from as far away as Fremantle and Armadale helped to make it a happy party.

Mrs Sullivan, Mrs Lowe and I drove to Pinjarra with Mr and Mrs Phenna on September 22 to help Murray Districts Auxiliary celebrate their 50th birthday.

This, however, turned out to be their 54th birthday instead, as after all the arrangements had been, a Certificate of Service was found that had been given to a foundation member attending the party and dated from 1924.

Mr Phenna, after congratulating and thanking the Auxiliary, presented it with a framed Letter of Appreciation from the League.

I had much pleasure in giving Mrs Gardner her Life Mem-

bership Badge and Certificate, and to present a Certificate of Service to Mrs Amm and Mrs Dilley.

Items from the Mandurah girls were enjoyed, as also the wonderful lunch served on groaning tables.

We were pleased to see Mrs Symington there, still with her cheery smile. Congratulations, Murray Districts, on your years of service to the League.

Mrs Baker and Mrs Betteridge attended the Salvation Army “At Home” on September 28.

CONFERENCE AT BUNBURY

On September 30, Mrs Sullivan and I, with representatives of the League, attended the Group Conference held in Bunbury by that Sub-branch. Despite the rain which was continuous all day, the attendance was good, and I spoke on the Auxiliaries' role in League affairs.

The Bunbury girls said that there was a welcome cup of tea on arrival and their catering for the lunch and afternoon tea was the wonderful spread one finds at RSL functions.

Sully and I were pleased to have a chat with the girls from Boyup Brook, Waroona, Murray Districts and Busselton. Thank you, Bunbury, for your hospitality.

I believe, from reports received from Mrs Rolfe and Mrs Sullivan, that those attending the Cockburn Sub-branch and Auxiliary Dinner on October 21 had a most enjoyable evening.

Arrangements for the Tasmanian trip are coming along nicely, and by the current itinerary it looks as if we will be well looked after by the Tasmanian Auxiliaries. We shall need a holiday when we come back.

Mrs Rolfe, who is on the “Adopt a Ward” Committee for Torchbearers for Legacy, reports that the Auxiliaries are continuing their support with adoptions. Don’t forget $50.00 adopts a ward for a year.

CROWNING GLORY QUEST

The Miss crowning Glory Quest will be run again next year and Auxiliaries and sub-branches are asked to help by sponsoring an entrant.

With Conference 1979 just round the corner, don’t forget to forward your agenda items, cup competition forms and nominations early in the year.

We have received several cards from Mrs Taylor telling us that she and her husband are enjoying the holiday in England. I’m sure Margaret will have lots to tell us, as will Joy Preedy, who has gone with her husband to South Africa with the RSL bowlers.

Madge is on the sick list, following a foot operation. We wish her a speedy recovery; at least this will keep her from rushing around as she usually does.

May I wish you and yours a very happy Christmas and New Year and a fruitful and prosperous 1979 to all Auxiliaries.

Joy Ford,
(State President).

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HONOUR AVENUE - KINGS PARK

Report by A. Maxwell Brice, Hon. Secretary of the Honour Avenue Committee

A very pleasing feature of activities over recent months has been the absence of acts of vandalism of plaques and the posts to which they are attached. Only two posts have been broken and this was no doubt done by motor vehicles as they were alongside parking areas. Only five plaques have been broken in the last 6 months and 4 of these have been welded and reinstated. The 5th plaque could not be repaired as all broken pieces were not recovered. Plaques are usually broken by either motor cars or during mowing of the Avenues by Board staff but these latter breakages are minimal and the Foreman has plans to prevent this even further.

It should be recorded here that in the work in the Honour Avenue, the utmost co-operation from the staff of the Kings Park Board is received, several of whom have commented on the lack of vandalism in the Avenues over recent months.

In placing the posts in the ground there has been maintained a regular height of the plaques above ground level and eventually the plaques will all be at the same level. At present efforts are being concentrated in having the plaques in the mown lawn areas near the John Forrest Memorial end of May and Lovekin Drives placed at uniform level and the posts are being repainted as many are stained by bore watering. The May Drive section has been completed and this area looks very nice indeed.

Because of the absence of vandalism the plaques have been removed from trees and after repainting they are placed on posts at the base of the respective trees. All posts are painted with creosote below ground level.

In areas prone to motor accidents such as on the Western side of the bend near the Childrens' Playground and the parking area in Lovekin Drive, the plaques are attached to the trees approximately 6' high.

The present position regarding the transfer of plaques from the trees to posts is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lovekin Drive</td>
<td>192</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Drive</td>
<td>529</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Lovekin</td>
<td>721</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total May Drive</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>739</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Attached high on trees:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lovekin Drive</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Drive</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Number of plaques in the Memorial Avenues:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lovekin Drive</td>
<td>418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May Drive</td>
<td>686</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1,104</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 27 new plaques on order.

ENROL A MATE!!

LEAGUE NEEDS YOUR MEMBERSHIP. IF YOU DON'T EXACTLY NEED THE LEAGUE AT THE MOMENT YOURSELF, ONE OF YOUR SERVICE MATES MIGHT

THE LEAGUE IS ONLY AS STRONG AS ITS MEMBERSHIP

YOUR APATHY IS LOSING YOU YOUR BENEFITS

WHAT IS LOYALTY?

What is loyalty? It is a creed, a duty and a sentiment. LOYALTY IS A CREED because the loyal person says: "I believe in my organisation; what it is, what it stands for and what it does." The implication is that he will do his best to keep it keeping on.

LOYALTY IS A DUTY because it implies allegiance.

LOYALTY IS A SENTIMENT: It implies affection, love and enthusiasm. These are not fully expressed in shouting or barracking.

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QUAIRADING LADIES CELEBRATE

Quairading RSL Women’s Auxiliary who celebrated their 50th Anniversary on December 3 join a very select few auxiliaries who have attained this distinction.

To celebrate this very memorable occasion, the ladies of Quairading hosted a monster birthday party, inviting guests from throughout the State. This amounted to some 110 people.

Three foundation members were present — Mrs M. Hart, Mrs D. Fraser and Mrs A. Keast. One foundation and Life Member who was sadly missed was Mrs D. Hadlow, who is also the oldest serving member of the auxiliary in Quairading. She was ill.

The evening’s proceedings were very capably taken care of under the chairmanship of Buck Shenton, who made sure all present joined in and made it a night to remember.

Even though two certificates for meritorious endeavour were presented to the auxiliary during the evening, the cutting of the birthday cake by Mrs Hart was the highlight.

Roy Bell, junior vice-president State Executive, presented the 50-year certificate to Mrs E. Hadlow, Quairading’s Women’s Auxiliary President, who graciously handed the honour of responding to the presentation to Mrs L. Fullarton, who retraced the past history of the auxiliary especially the work they did during the second world war.

Mrs Rofte, senior vice-president of the Women’s Auxiliary State Executive, had the honour of responding to Mrs Fullarton’s address, and in her eloquent manner thanked them all for their magnificent support to the cause of which they are all so dedicated and hoped that in the years ahead this support would never wane and that Quairading would continue to be an active and energetic Auxiliary.

FITTING INNOVATION

An innovation which all felt was most fitting to the occasion was a framed certificate presented to the auxiliary by the Quairading RSL Sub-branch president, Mr M. McLennan.

Mrs A. Harrison of Quairading designed and printed the certificate which read:

“To Quairading RSL Ladies’ Auxiliary in recognition and appreciation of 50 years of devoted service for the welfare of ex-service personnel, with sincere thanks from the Quairading Sub-branch RSL 1977. A. McLennan (president).”

Two visiting Auxiliaries, Pingelly and Cunderdin, were present and Mrs Lacey, of Pingelly, spoke on their behalf.

Mrs M. Minchin, a former member of Quairading but now residing at Albany, thanked them for inviting old members who came from Albany, Franklin River, Perth and Rockingham to join in the celebrations.

Other visitors were Mrs Holder, junior vice-president State Women’s Auxiliary and her husband Harry, who is also a member of the State Executive, M. Gayfer, R. McPharlin, M. Bungey, members of Parliament, and Quairading’s Shire President A. Kelly, were also present.

Thank you, Elaine Hadlow and the wonderful women at your auxiliary, for carrying on the work that was bought into being 50 years ago. Rest assured that by your efforts you are in no small way bringing relief to happiness to countless numbers of ex-servicemen and women throughout WA. — ROY BELL.

PATRONISE THE ANZAC CLUB

THE ANZAC CLUB IS SITUATED AT THE TEMPORARY HEADQUARTERS OF THE STATE BRANCH OF THE RSL AT 4 SHERWOOD COURT, PERTH.

The Club provides a homely atmosphere, overlooking the Esplanade and Perth Waters, where you can enjoy all the comforts provided. A variety of light lunches are available at the most reasonable prices in town, and refreshments at the lowest prices in Perth.

The Club is open from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Saturday, and on Sunday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Financial members of the League are automatically members of the Club and you may enroll your friends as Provisional and Associate members and make full use of the Club and amenities.

MAKE YOUR MEETING PLACE IN TOWN ‘THE ANZAC CLUB’.

Unit Associations may arrange to hold meetings at the Club. All information obtainable from the Manager, Ted Steele — phone 325 9789.

VACANCIES AT WAR VETERANS HOME

Applications are invited from returned sisters, returned ex-servicewomen, war widows and widows of ex-servicemen for single accommodation at the war veterans home.

All enquiries to be made to the superintendent, Lt-Col G.G. Woodhouse on 272 1811.

FRANCIS HOWARD PAULL’S CLAIM

In his opinion he is the oldest active, long serving, continuous financial member of the RSL. He has the records to prove this statement.

F.H. Paull, 5248, 16th Bn, 4th BDE, AIF, discharged, Perth, September 7, 1917. Joined Soldiers’ Institute, February 15, 1917, currently member Murray Sub-branch RSL.

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WHITE CROSSES

They are only a plain piece of timber,
But their meaning is stately and grand,
For there's many a gallant man sleeping
Neath the little white cross in the sand.

I often have wandered among them
And read, from inscriptions they bear,
The rank, the name and the number
Of one of my pals resting there.

These diggers have died for their country,
They gave all they had in the fight
For the safety and peace of their loved ones,
A cause that must surely be right.

And when the last battle is ended
And peace has come over the land,
Let us never forget these white crosses
In rows in the hot desert sand.

NOTE:
The author is unknown, if anyone knows his name please advise Headquarters.

31st ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate the 150th Anniversary of Western Australia
THE RETURNED EX-SERVICEWOMEN'S
SUB-BRANCH RSL
has pleasure in inviting you and your friends to a

SPECIAL 1979 LUNCHEON FOR MEN AND WOMEN
in the Golden Ballroom
SHERATON-PERTH HOTEL

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 1979 AT 12.15 p.m.

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24 - LISTENING POST - DECEMBER 1978
CONTROL PANELS: The recently fitted control of the Avro-Lancaster bomber “G for George” were formally handed over to the Australian War Memorial in August. The hand-over was made by a former Commanding Officer of 460 Squadron, Sir Hughie Edwards, VC, DSO, DFC, and was attended by a large group of 460 Squadron members. Sir Hughie also laid a wreath on behalf of the 460 Squadron (RAAF) Association.

CEMETERY SIGNPOSTING: The Board of Trustees is concerned at the lack of suitable signposting on Australian cemeteries and other important sites in France and Belgium. The chairman of the Gallery Committee, John Dixon, reported on his return from a recent trip to the World War I battlefields that Australian sites paled in comparison with those of Canada. He found little indication of the significance of these historic sites and difficulty in their location because of poor signposting and identification.

HISTORIC CROSS: The 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Museum has donated an historic wooden cross to the Australian War Memorial. The two-metre cross was erected at Pozieres in memory of the men of the 22nd Battalion who had lost their lives.

LOAN TO MUSEUM: The Memorial has lent a number of items to the recently opened 4th/19th Prince of Wales Light Horse Museum, Melbourne. These include a lance, a pattern 1888 bayonet, a Boer War leather bandolier, and a Queen Victoria’s gift chocolate tin.

RARE BADGE: A rare original first pattern Rising Sun hat badge has been purchased. This completes the collection of badges which shows the evolution of the Rising Sun badge since 1902.

POW RELIC: A biscuit tin which was used to conceal the diary of an Australian prisoner-of-war at Changi has been donated by A.E. (Bert) Field, DCM, MM, of Baxland, NSW. Mr Field hid the diary in a false bottom in the tin, in which he kept his possessions.

OVERSEAS VISITORS: Recent visitors to the Memorial include Milud Areibi, Libyan Minister for Foreign Affairs; Moshe Landau, Deputy President High Court of Israel; Air Vice-Marshal W.E. Townsend, CB, CBE, Federal President of the Air Force Association (who also laid a wreath); and Charles Kingsford-Smith (son of Sir Charles Kingsford-Smith) and family.

WAR GRAVES IN PAPUA - NEW GUINEA

The Director of the Australian War Memorial, during a private visit to Papua-New Guinea in July, inspected war graves cemeteries at Port Moresby and Lae, and greatly impressed the quality of maintenance at both. At Lae he spent some time with Norm Osborn, RSL President in Papua-New Guinea and met a number of Papua-New Guinea ex-servicemen on visits to service clubs.

In Port Moresby, discussions were held with the Director of the recently opened national museum, which is a credit to the designers and builders. It is a living museum with first-class facilities for school children and special areas for displays of national dance and song.

Cairns marking the start of the Kokoda on the Port Moresby side are very overgrown, and the Director considers that representations may need to be made to the Papua-New Guinea Government to maintain the memorials established throughout the country in recognition of the significant events of World War II.

KANJJI WAR CEMETERY — SINGAPORE

Bill Douglas, c/- Canning Sub-branch, Box 7, PO, Cannington, WA, 6107, has photos of four headstones, should any relative desire a copy please contact Bill.

The inscriptions on the headstones are:-
W/513046 Nurse Ruby Margaret Brooks, VAD;
WX 10937 Spr. D.C. Marshall, 2/6 Fl Field Pte. RAE;
WX 10370 Pte. D.C.J. Hall, 2/6 MG Bn; and
WX 1474 Pte. H.M. Rubery, 2/4 MG Bn.

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 much 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 at Hollywood – a member of the State Executive, Bob Charlès, will be available to patients at the hospital between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. every Thursday. He can be located in the Red Cross hall.

POOR RESPONSE

Twelve months ago the League, in conjunction with the Commercial Union Assurance, a reputable British company, introduced “Personalpak” insurance for RSL members. Premiums are the cheapest available in WA, yet we have only written 36 policies in 12 months.

Poor response? Well with 10,000 members one would think that more than 36 would be interested in saving money.
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R.S.L. MEMBERSHIP ALTERNATIVES IN THE YEARS AHEAD


By: Bill Keys, National President, R.S.L.

Membership is not only the heart and soul but the very life blood of an organisation. Especially does this apply to an organisation like The Returned Services League that has two principal objectives; the first a political objective to persuade Governments of the Day to take certain measures by way of legislation, to safeguard the interests of those who have served in the armed forces, and the second to undertake its own specialised form of welfare work within the community.

To carry out both of these tasks successfully, numbers are essential.

In the first case as we are dealing with politicians, to give practical proof of political strength, and in the second, the self evident fact that to successfully carry out a wide range of welfare work we must have many willing hands.

Given this situation, the choice for the R.S.L. is simple: to continue on its present course, largely on the basis of membership derived from overseas or active service during war time, or to set about an open-minded and objective analysis of its membership needs in the future, and embark on a programme of progressive introduction of appropriate measures.

The results of the alternative courses of action are clear, and unarguable. If we pursue the first, then we can expect to see a progressive and increasingly rapid decline in ordinary membership, to the point where in 15 years time we will have ceased to be a great national organisation and will have become a regimental type association with limited influence and limited capacity. If we follow the second course and are honestly open-minded about it, we have the prospect of designing an organisation that can be just as effective in a hundred years, in promoting the principles in which it believes, as it is today.

In discussions on this subject I must admit there is one attitude that disturbs me and that is the tendency on the part of quite a sizeable number of people to believe that we can “die out with dignity.” This is a phrase that is used frequently. We must ask ourselves; is it possible to “die out with dignity?”

What is the situation. Our fundamental work is to care for those who have served in the armed forces and have suffered through that service. That work load is increasing dramatically. A variety of statistics can be used to illustrate this point, but the fact is one of simple commonsense. Our greatest numbers of members at present, are derived from the Second World War. Their age now on average, is somewhere around the late 50’s. In ten year’s time, it will be approaching 70. Then we will have our greatest pressure for space in our War Veterans’ Homes. There will be the greatest need for hospital visitation, there will be a tremendously increased demand on our welfare funds, and at that time, if the drift in our membership continues at its present rate, we will have lost anything up to 30% of our present numbers. The task will have increased dramatically, the task force will have been correspondingly reduced.

Ladies and gentlemen, we cannot die out with dignity. We can merely abandon our responsibilities by the sheer lack of the necessary work force to successfully carry out the work involved.

So with the deepest sincerity, I urge all our members to look at the question of the League’s future, and especially to examine this matter of membership, with a completely open mind, without preconceived prejudices, without fixed attitudes.

You know when I was allotted this subject in the early days of planning for this Convention, a very close friend of mine who has been an excellent R.S.L. member ever since his discharge following the Second World War, said to me — “Bill Keys, you are a brave man.” The inference here was of course that you can’t even talk about membership alternatives without drawing “fack” from a sizeable section of the organisation.

We must not accept that as a valid reflection on the good sense of our organisation or our members. I believe that when confronted with the facts, they will, as they always have in the past, make the right decisions.

What then are the facts?

In spite of an active approach to recruiting ordinary members, membership is falling, and falling with increasing speed. From a recent high point of 271,000 in 1969 ordinary membership at the present time, has fallen to 250,000. In other words, from 1969 to 1978 there has been a drop of 8% in ordinary membership. In 1974, we had the first year of service membership, and in that year, some 2,633 service members were admitted, mostly in Victoria and South Australia. In 1976 this figure became 8,726 and in 1977 11,147. Anticipated service membership in 1978 is 13,000 so that our total anticipated membership of ordinary members and service members for 1978 is 263,000.

In other words, we have kept the drift in total membership down to something that is bearable only by the introduction of service membership in five of the eight State Branches. It is interesting to note in a purely material sense, that for the Victorian Branch, the additional income from their 10,164
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service members, was an impressive $66,066 a figure that is significant; a fact that we cannot ignore because it is very relevant to the extent to which we can continue to do our work as it should be done.

Let us look now at the types of membership we have in the R.S.L. at the present time. We have Ordinary Membership; within that, I also include our Life Members, our Life Subscribers and our Honorary Members who are all eligible for Ordinary League Membership in any case. In other words, these are people who have gained their eligibility by overseas or active service in time of war. They are by far, the bulk of our members.

We then have Service Membership, eligibility for which is service for any period of time in the Armed Forces. This includes those who served during war time but did not serve overseas or on active service, those who served in peace time, in the Armed Forces; and most importantly, it includes the young men and women who are currently serving in both the Regular Forces and very importantly in the Reserve Forces because of often those Reserve Units are scattered throughout the countryside, frequently in close proximity to our Sub-Branches.

Both Ordinary Members and Service Members pay the same affiliation fee at the present time—a basic $6.50 increasing in some State Branches to a higher amount on the decision of the State Branch concerned. Service Members have the same rights as Ordinary Members but are ineligible to be elected to certain offices in the League. Current Ordinary membership stands at 250,000 with 13,000 Service Members making a total of 263,000 paying financial members of the League. We have Women's Auxiliaries, the present Australia-wide membership is 30,000. The members pay a membership fee to the auxiliary, and in most cases, the auxiliaries are affiliated with a Central Council of Women's Auxiliaries; and let us publicly recognise the fact; the Auxiliaries carry out the major part of our fund raising work. Without them, we would have very great problems indeed in finding our various projects. Let us keep them very much in mind, because they provide a form of membership and are a vital part of the total work force of the R.S.L.; they are working with us in a common cause.

Then we have Associate Members of the R.S.L. Clubs. While it is difficult to obtain an exact figure, the estimate is something of the order of 300,000. These are people who pay a membership fee to a particular Club and enjoy the social privileges of that Club. Again, by their contributions to the Club and by their personal support of the Clubs, they indirectly assist in R.S.L. work; they are part of the R.S.L. family.

We have Youth Club members. Again here the figure is somewhat difficult to pinpoint, but is of the order of 80,000. They pay a smaller membership subscription to their own Clubs, they participate in programmes ranging from art of speech to gymnastics and in many cases, they assist in R.S.L. activities in conjunction with the Sub-Branch or Club concerned.

Then we have two other forms of membership that are being experimented with at the moment by the Victorian and South Australian State Branches. The one in Victoria is the very interesting activity of R.S.L. "Younger Sets" or R.S.L. "Youth Auxiliaries." Already six of these have been formed in Victoria, with a total membership of 420. Membership is open to all young people over the age of 18 who wish to assist the R.S.L. Again they pay a subscription to their own small organisation. They are available to assist the parent Sub-Branch or the parent Club in pursuit of R.S.L. objectives. In South Australia, there are what they have designated as "Associate Members" of R.S.L. Sub-Branches. Membership which is currently 1325 is open to the wives, widows, sons and daughters of Ordinary and Service Members. It is an interesting initiative but still in its infancy.

No examination of our own membership situation and requirements would be complete without looking at what comparable organisations to our own, have done in other countries.

In general terms, on a world wide basis it can be said that most veterans' organisations are "ex-service" organisations. In other words, they accept for membership, people who have served in the Armed Forces and in some cases are still serving, but in the main have since been discharged. In most countries in our region, for example, South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand, there are sizeable numbers coming out each year from the Armed Forces. They are immediately eligible for membership of their particular veterans' organisation. The same applies in Europe in the main. In the United States, there is a slightly different situation, but, again, for the most part, the American Legion admits those who have served in the Armed Forces without the requirement that they have actually served overseas in a war.

Having made that general comment, it would be useful to look rather more closely at three organisations that are comparable for our purposes because they are fellow members of the British Commonwealth. I refer to The Royal British Legion, The Royal Canadian Legion and The Returned Services Association of New Zealand.

The Royal British Legion has for many years now, accepted all those who served in the Armed Forces. Their circumstances especially in World War II were somewhat different to Australia's because those who served in the British Isles not only in the Armed Forces, but civilians also, were virtually in the front line of battle, so probably they anguish less over this particular decision than we have. For a great many years they have been an "ex-service" organisation. Recently, however, they too were faced with a membership crisis, a shortage of people to carry out the necessary tasks. Consequently, they introduced Associate Membership. Associate members are those persons, both male or female, who are over the age of 18 years and who support the aims and principles of the Legion as laid down in the Royal Charter. At present total numbers stand at approximately 110,000 or 11% of total Legion membership of approximately one million. There is no limit to the number of Associate Members that may join the Branch, but The Royal British Legion Club, which has the same association to the Branch as our Clubs have to our Sub-Branches, may only have up to 40% of their membership as Associates. All Associates of the Clubs must be Associates of a Branch, but of course, many Branch Associates are not necessarily members of a Club. Associates pay the same annual subscription as ordinary members, they may not hold office but they may attend and take part in debate at Branch Meetings. Some Branches get around
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the problem of Associates not being allowed to hold office by having un-official appointments such as Assistant Treasurer or Assistant Secretary, where the Associate has special qualifications.

The Legion Officers make the point that many of the best workers and organisers for the Poppy Appeal are Associates. The Poppy Appeal in Britain raises millions of dollars each year and is the Legion's main fund raising activity for welfare. Associates have a special Badge and there is a Gold Badge for long and devoted service.

In recent years, the total membership of The Royal British Legion has increased steadily and consistently, as has the total Associate Membership.

The Royal Canadian Legion is again, an "ex-service" organisation. In the main, members are people who volunteered and served in the Armed Forces in any war in which Canada was engaged or those who have served subsequently in Her Majesty's Regular Forces. These people become eligible the day they join the services. There are certain other categories which are not relevant to our discussion.

The Royal Canadian Legion's approach to membership is interesting and is worthy of study. By 1970 the Legion had passed the figure of 300,000 in 1,900 Branches, but had become aware of two developing problems. The first was the number of social or club members who were being admitted to the Branches, and the second was the natural ageing process of veteran members. To overcome the first problem, a new category called "Fraternal Affiliates" was introduced. This is not so much a category of membership but a means of legitimising what was actually taking place in the Branches, and to ensure that these individuals accepted their responsibilities by paying provincial and dominion per capita affiliation fee and assisting in Legion activity. At the present time, there are over 90,000 Fraternal Affiliates. They enjoy the social amenities of the Legion and are helping in Legion work programmes and paying their membership contribution. In our terms, these would be Associate Members of our R.S.L. Clubs.

The second problem was tackled at the 1972 Convention, when the Legion voted to adopt a policy of progressive change. The Legion recognised that with a tremendous investment in resources, property and organisation, it owed it to the veterans and to the country to lay the ground work for successive generations. It was felt then, that the natural successors to take up the torch were the sons and daughters of ordinary members. In 1972, the Legion voted to bring them in as "Associate Members" without the right to vote or to hold office.

In the assessment of the Legion, this had to be a slow and carefully worked out programme, but they equally believed that the future of the organisation depended on the successful acceptance and integration of their Associate Members. So far, over 80,000 sons and daughters have joined the ranks of The Royal Canadian Legion. Today, the Legion's total membership including Associates has increased to 419,000 with 92,000 fraternal affiliates, all paying membership fees and all working in support of the Legion's objectives. This, they point out is a figure beyond their wildest dreams of ten years ago.

The Returned Services Association of New Zealand is in much the same position as the R.S.L. In 1976 the Dominion Council accepted in principle, the category of Service Membership, but left its implementation to the individual Associations. Total Service Membership at the present time in the R.S.A. is approximately 2,000. The Association is also looking at the possibility of introducing a form of membership to cover the sons and daughters.

It is interesting that there has always been a very close parallel between the attitudes, activities and policies of both the R.S.L. and the R.S.A., and I would suggest that very close consultation between the two organisations on this matter of membership would be mutually profitable.

So then, having said all that, what does it add up to? Some conclusions that can be drawn are:

1. Unquestionably, the fundamental work of the R.S.L. is increasing and will continue to increase over the next 15 years.

2. Ordinary Membership is falling and will continue to fall at an increasing rate. A definitive examination has not been done of this trend, but from the figures worked out in a study done in Canada, there will be a loss by death of World War II members of something like 30% between 1978 and 1988. A similar figure would undoubtedly apply here, and this would mean a reduction to 175,000 ordinary members.

3. Important initiatives are already taken in R.S.L.

   The first is Service Membership, something that not only increases membership and income for the R.S.L., but also allows us to demonstrate our interest in, our sympathy with and our support for those young men and women currently serving in our Regular and Reserve Forces. There are our Youth Clubs principally in New South Wales which are an active, vital and important part of the R.S.L. family. There are the Associate Members of R.S.L. Clubs throughout Australia. There are the initiatives being taken in both Victoria and South Australia, with Youth Auxiliaries and Associate Members.

4. The Royal British Legion and The Royal Canadian Legion have both encountered a similar problem to that, which the R.S.L. is now facing, a growing work load and reducing numbers to do the work. They have each taken initiatives especially in the Associate Membership field, to bring in as an Auxiliary type member, the young people in the community who have not served in the Armed Forces. They have both moved to embrace within their Ordinary Membership all those who have served at any time in the Armed Forces. They have accepted the philosophy that what is important is not what they have done in the past, but what they can do in the future. They have planned to ensure a line of succession for organisations that have become an integral part of their respective communities.

Having regard for these relevant facts then, what are the courses open to the R.S.L.?

Assuming that we decide that we do desire to have a future, these I suggest are the things we should be looking at:

1. The obvious course of a far more active and vigorous campaign to recruit ordinary members. This should be an on-going and continuing activity, and we must pursue it with more imagination and vigour.
Best wishes to all Members, from

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32 – LISTENING POST – DECEMBER 1978
2. The extension of Service Membership into all States and then, an active campaign, to bring into the organisation, all those who are eligible for Service Membership, so that throughout the various regions of Australia, where we have Regular Force or Reserve Units, we have them in the ranks of the R.S.L.

3. Progressive extension of Ordinary Membership along the same lines as the vast majority of other veterans' organisations around the world to include all those who served at any time in the Armed Forces for any period.

4. A deliberate, carefully worked out, plan to assist our Women's Auxiliaries to increase their membership, to look at ways in which it might be made more attractive for younger women to come in to assist. Inevitably, like our own Ordinary Membership, the ranks of our Women's Auxiliaries are feeling the pressure of years, there should be an imaginative appeal to younger women to come in and help.

5. A close study of a form of Associate Membership of the R.S.L. and specifically the experiments being conducted in Victoria and South Australia. Their results should be closely observed. We should examine the pitfalls and problems together with the likely benefits and how this form of membership might be extended. I make the point that The Royal Canadian Legion and The Royal British Legion have found Associate Membership to be absolutely vital in coping with their increasing work load.

6. Finally, the whole question of membership and membership alternatives should be under constant study. We all recognise the importance of change being progressive and gradual and implemented as it becomes acceptable to the majority of our members. It is not something that can be hastened. Sub-Branches and District Councils should therefore be encouraged to conduct seminars on the question of Membership, to examine the alternatives based on local needs and to come forward to State Branches and finally to National Congress with proposals resulting from such a study. Most importantly then, there should be this continuing examination of membership options; a deliberate attempt by Sub-Branches and District Councils, to come to grips with the problem, to examine the alternatives and to make recommendations for change that they believe will allow them to work more efficiently.

I go back to the point I made at the outset of this Paper. Membership is the heart, the soul, the life blood of an organisation like ours. Think about it. The R.S.L. is an integral part of the fabric of Australia's social and community order. In the great majority of country centres and city suburbs and towns and villages across Australia, there is an R.S.L. Club, and in so many of these places, the R.S.L. Club is the focal point of community activity.

The League has been born out of service at a time when the country stood in peril; service of the highest order. It is the repository of noble principles and noble ideals, it encompasses our finest traditions. It is to some extent, the guardian of the Australian ethos. In material things, it has vast assets, hundreds of millions of dollars worth of building, of real estate. It has a respected place in the community and has access and entree to those who make decisions for the nation.

In simple terms, it is ideally structured to be the all embracing service organisation for the Australian community and the Australian nation.

Lord Ian Fraser, a former President of The Royal British Legion, a great Englishman, had this to say in talking about the Legion's future:

"Our founders taught us that the power of the Legion to help the ex-service community by its direct benevolence, as well as by its advocacy, is proportional to its concern for the nation as a whole."

He was saying that you cannot work in isolation. He was saying that our ability to accept your great fundamental responsibilities is directly proportional to our acceptance and our standing within the community as a whole.

The League has come a long way, since it was founded as a National Organisation on June 6, 1916. Now 62 years later, it has built on the great traditions of Australia's men-at-arms. It has established its own traditions as a great community organisation.

If I may perhaps inject a personal philosophy on that point, I would express the hope that we can progressively introduce the changes that will allow this League of ours to be as effective in a hundred years as it is today, an organisation with its roots in war time service, based on a primary responsibility for those who served, but also concerned for the community as a whole; accepting old responsibilities but looking at new horizons and new issues as they affect our people from time to time.

In this context surely we must aim to build up a great organizational family, consisting of a number of parts, but like a family, all working for a common cause all moving in the same general direction.

Undeniably, this will be a challenging task. It will require a combination of idealism on the one hand, and pragmatism on the other; vision on the one hand and experience on the other, and above all, a clear recognition that it matters little what we have done in the past; the thing that is of overwhelming importance is what we can do in the future.

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REMEMBRANCE NATURE PARK

Item 4 (i) on Page 19 of the September 1978 National Executive Minutes resolved:

"That the RSL welcomes the establishment of a Nature Park in the vicinity of the Australian War Memorial to commemorate the 60th Anniversary of Remembrance Day and recommends that the Park be called 'Remembrance Park'."

The Minister for the Capital Territory has responded to our submission, and his reply is attached hereto.

Yours faithfully,

KEN G. SCHULTZ,
Acting National Secretary.

. . . . . "I refer to your letter of September 26, 1978 regarding the proposed nature park behind the Australian War Memorial.

Thank you for your suggestion about the use of the name 'Remembrance Nature Park.' Mrs Thwaites has also written to me supporting the name which will now be formally adopted.

An announcement regarding the project will be made to ensure publication on November 11, 1978 and gazettal of the formal notices declaring and naming the park is being arranged for Tuesday November 14.

Your suggestion about an appropriate sign board has been noted and consideration is being given to suitable materials. A sign using working along the lines you have proposed will be erected as soon as possible."

SIGNED: R.J. ELICOTT,
Minister for the Capital Territory.

THEY REMEMBERED

His Excellency the Governor, Air Chief Marshal Sir Wallace Kyle attended the 60th Anniversary of the signing of the Armistice wreath laying ceremony at the State War Memorial on Saturday November 11. Representatives of the State and Australian Governments together with Service Chiefs, Unit and Kindred Associations and private wreath layers. The keys of the Crypt were handed over to the incoming Wagden Air Commodore S. Dallywater, OBE, by the Acting State President Mr Len Turner.
NEW PATRON WELcomed

HONOUR FOR DUNKIRK VETERANS' ASSOCIATION

A social evening was held at Anzac House on Friday, October 6, 1978 to welcome the new Patron of the State Branch of the 1940 Dunkirk Veterans' Association, Sir Paul Hasluck, GGMG, GCVO, K St J., accompanied by Dame Alexandra AD, D St J.

On arrival they were received by Federal vice-president, Alex Gillies and Mrs Gillies, then introduced to State President C.D. Brown, vice-president J. Niven, secretary-treasurer E.R. Bench and their Ladies.

Assembled in the main room were DVA members and their wives, also representatives of other kindred Associations, including RSL junior vice-president R.R. Bell and Mrs Bell – a total of over 70 being present. It was delightful so see all rise and applaud the official party and distinguished guests.

Following the Loyal Toast, Mr Brown expressed regret, that, because of other duties, our two vice-patrons, Sir Charles Court and Sir David Brand, were unable to be present.

In officially conveying a warm welcome to Sir Paul and Dame Alexander, the President gave a brief but comprehensive outline, of Sir Paul's career, stating how deeply honoured we were to have as our Patron so famous an Australian who had served his Country so well in many capacities, culminating in his appointment as Governor-General of Australia.

The President also congratulated Lady Alexandra on becoming the first Australian Dame under the new Australian Honour's List.

In reply, Sir Paul thanked the President on his own behalf and also for Dame Alexander, expressing his pleasure at having been invited to be Patron of the Association. In recalling his friendship with the foundation Patron, the late Air Chief Marshal, Sir Basil Embry, he said he hoped he would prove a worthy successor and he looked forward to a long and happy association with the Dunkirk Veterans.

The President then announced that there was another “first” for the evening, and he hoped it would be a surprise. He had great pleasure in stating the award of the first WA Honorary Life Membership to be conferred on their Foundation Secretary, and now federal vice-president, Alex Gillies, in recognition of his untiring efforts to establish a branch in WA and his zeal and enthusiasm which still continued up to the present.

Having conveyed the congratulations of all present, the president then requested the honorary secretary-treasurer to make the presentation of a Badge and Diploma. In doing so, Mr Bench also extended his congratulations.

OLD CLUB IN NEW ROLE

Kitchener Park Bowling Club, besides being one of the oldest established lawn bowling clubs in the metropolitan area, is also now the headquarters of the RSL bowls section. The current president of K.P.B.C., in the person of popular Len Preedy, is also president of the RSL bowls segment. Members of K.P.B.C. thoughtfully consented to the use of entire wall of the new extensions to their clubrooms for the purpose of displaying RSL. Bowls section pennants etc. This memorabilia consists of team photographs, honour boards, interstate pennants, badges and the like.

The setting out and mounting of this display was undertaken by life member and longtime stalwart of K.P.B.C., Bill Snelling. During the forthcoming RSL Christmas bowling Carnival, Kitchener Park have been appointed to act as the host club to the Tasmanian contingent. No doubt with their reputation of being an hospitable club the Tasmanians will enjoy some of the traditional WA hospitality. Hard working and able club secretary, Milton Hogg, has been appointed liaison officer for the Tasmanian invasion: Not to be outdone, a band of willing and charming lady members of the club have for some months past been organizing quiz nights etc. in order to raise funds to enable them in conjunction with other clubs, to entertain the visiting ladies from other states. The annual RSL bowls carnival is one of the most popular events in the lawn bowls calendar and I am sure the bowling fraternity of WA will lend their moral support and best wishes to all host clubs in their endeavours during this period.

22 SQUADRON RAAF PRESENT AND PAST MEMBERS

Would current and past members/personnel of 22 Sqn RAAF, who could perhaps attend a reunion to be arranged in Perth, WA, please send their name, address and phone number to either of the following ex-members and please also advise service details.

T.D. (Don) Norris,
177 Broome Street,
Cottesloe, 6001. (phone 384 5650) or

A. (Lex) Smith,
10 Leopold Road,
 Nedlands. 6019. (phone 386 2642)

If you reside in, or do or could visit WA, please send your personal particulars, regardless of the possible reunion, and also help us to contact other current and past 22 Sqn members who might not read this notice.

We want to communicate with them all and we are hopeful of having the same notice published in other Associations journals.
Best Wishes to all RSL Members from –

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A LONELY SOLDIER’S GRAVE
By Pte. A. RICHARDS

I stood while the sun was setting
By a lonely soldier’s grave.
His bed was the sands of Egypt
And a cross with his number and name.

I thought of the fight to save Egypt,
His life was not given in vain,
For his comrades had gained their objective
In the fight where the soldier was slain.

I pictured his comrades there digging,
So tired and weary and grave,
With the cross that they made for that soldier
With his number, unit and name.

I thought of the strife and upheaval
As I stood by that lovely grave,
For I knew that all wars were in evil,
Sponsored by money and hate.

I saw the youth of all nations
In a struggle so violent and great,
For the world was gripped with a madness
And hell had opened its gates.

Oh! Why can’t all nations remember
That hatred brings war, death and shame,
And give us a peace everlasting
Instead of a cross with a lance.

Halt comrade, halt
It’s in heroes graves you tread
As you are now
So once was I
As I am now
So will you be
So comrade be prepared
To follow me.

To the memory of “Lofty” Hines and “Spud” Taylor, who were killed by shell fire while holding our objective in the battle for Egypt on Sunday, October 25, 1942, in the Western Desert.

KENTUCKY FRIED

To celebrate the fifth year of Kentucky Fried Chicken in Geraldton, a birthday cake was presented to the War Veterans’ Home at Geraldton.

Pictured at the presentation of the cake are the manager of the Geraldton branch of Kentucky Fried Chicken, Bill Baxter, veteran Robbie Crothers and Matron Mrs Win Walker.

In addition, for the past three years the Home has received the Sunday lunch, and earlier this year, was given the privilege of being the 1,000th complimentary meal with a champagne luncheon supplied to the men of the Home.

GERALDTON GIRL RAISES $1,126

The Geraldton entrant in the Miss Crowning Glory Quest, Christine Gleed, has raised $1,126 for the War Veterans’ Home Fund and Legacy in slightly more than two months.

Christine, a honey blonde aged 17, is the daughter of the Geraldton Sub-branch president Ernie Gleed and Mrs Stella Gleed, who is also a member of the Sub-branch.

Presiding at the September meeting the senior vice-president John Troode congratulated Christine and her parents on what he described as their marvellous efforts. Bill Cunningham moved a vote of thanks.

The Miss Crowning Glory Quest is for the personality girl with the best head of hair. There’s also a Miss Charity Princess Section, for the top fund-raiser.

Another highlight of the September RSL meeting at Geraldton was the presentation of cheque for $300 by Women’s Auxiliary president Mrs Trythena Ashplant. It will go towards the cost of the eight fans installed in Birdwood House.

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If you are one of those who are disturbed by apprehensions or misgivings about living in a retirement village, these jottings do have a purpose — which is to suggest to the reader that there are many advantages to living in a mutually beneficial, yet completely independent, environment.

No apology is offered for any departure from the usual style of recording impressions of life in retirement. What I have written, whether wisely or not, is but my assessment of the merits of contentment and dignity, which permeate the very life style of Pearson RSL Village; and this viewpoint is not only mine — it predominates at Pearson.

It could, I suppose, be considered presumptuous of me to assume that other people will be at all interested in reading of matters which are far from sensational.

It is most difficult for a layman such as I to evaluate our village life-style in terms of narrative interest, literary taste being at all times a wayward thing. One can but try to link events as they occur in our daily assignments.

It is true that we do, to some extent, dwell on past events, and it appears to me that this aspect of life can be rewarding in every respect, since it keeps alive the pleasanties of events and activities we laughed or dreamed about in bygone days — thus, hope is revived.

“GOOD OLD DAYS”

Hope is something natural to mankind; we hope again as naturally as the sun rises each morning or seed sprouts. Hope is so worthwhile; it enables us to procure enjoyment from whatever time is left to us. Hence, half the fun of remembering the “good old days” is that of hopefully re-arranging them.

We who were young in the 1920s and 1930s feel no great surge towards the new freedoms prevalent among today’s youth. It is, I suppose, inevitable within our age group that, in comparing differences, we are concerned that many young people regard today’s affluence and permissiveness as an inalienable right, guaranteed for all time.

To be in love, they say, is much nicer to be in than debt, a tight girdle, or a higher tax bracket. Brevity may be the soul of wit, but not when someone says “I love you.”

The title of a popular song, “Love is a Many Splendoured Thing,” has many connotations — love of country, of memories, of environment, of fair play, of gardening or of sport and the endless et ceteras which ought, but cannot, be enumerated.

Love in these terms contributes very much to the pleasure and restfulness of our retreat at Pearson Village.

Humour, too, deserves a mention as a contributory factor to our placid co-existence; like the resident who, when asked “What would you like to be remembered for?” answered, “Ever!”

Or one who, having received a gift of two new “wash and wear” shirts, enquired of Mum: “What does this mean?” to receive Mum’s rather staggering answer: “That means the one that wears them washes them.”

NIMBLE-WITTED DIGGER

The daddy of them all, however, is the nimble-witted old digger who, having attended a particularly enjoyable reunion, realised too late that dawn was about to break and desperately wracked his brains, seeking some way of alleviating the wrath of Mum, assuredly awaiting his return.

Finally, he hit the jackpot. He rang home and, when wifey lifted the receiver shouted: “Don’t pay the ransom, dear, I’ve escaped.”

What is remarkable and contrary to many erroneous opinions is that the deprivations and unhappy memories of war service are seldom discussed in our social fraternity.

It is as though the spirit of quietude and contentment in our small community forms a barrier to the afflictions of real and imagined grievances arising out of past enmities.

Compliance in this respect, however, does not signify submissiveness. After six burglaries, one motor-car stolen completely and many milkings of fuel tanks, we are expectant — confident even — that our very own Pearson Village-style programme to frustrate nocturnal visits will more than suffice to offset the low cunning of marauding male factors. To put it as Mark Twain did: “We grow wise apace.”

DINGO SCALPS

How much are they paying for dingo scalps nowadays? Chances are we may recoup our losses in the scalp market. It’s a thought, anyway. As we see it, a thief is a thief and an outcast, whether he steals a thousand dollars from a safe or a pot-plant from a front patio — there are no exceptions to this absolute rule.

Party-wise, we are not over-active. We do, from time to time, enjoy a sedate little get-together, and then we wonder whether young people still have house-parties, or have they, too, been banished forever by television?

If parties are held at all nowadays, they are surely far more sophisticated than those we remember, with a strident pop group or a record player tuned up full blast — and carrying on that would provide Kinsey with some interesting data.

We oldies are somewhat conservative, for which we offer neither argument nor apology. We are what we are — traditional, but by no means adverse to change.

We remember and respect the shackles of parental discipline of our youth and our shedding of them from time to time. But, we remember too that as and when they were discarded, link by link... not by the chain or mile as nowadays.

The generation gap, about which copious nonsense has been written, is a reality, and it is my firm belief that parents must be held primarily responsible, through the abrogation of their responsibilities of good example and of discipline.
Best wishes to all Members from ........................

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You will be made at Home by ROSE & ALAN O'GARR.
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40 - LISTENING POST - DECEMBER 1978
SENSE OF PROPORTION

At Pearson Village we remember and retain strong personal loyalties, which help us to maintain a sense of proportion — and a sense of purpose too, even if it is parochial.

I have tried deliberately to avoid sentimentality in what I have written. As Oscar Wilde said long ago — and I heartily concur: "Sentimentality is but a respite of cynicism." I have endeavoured, too, to eschew presenting this as a list of lamentations. If it were so, it would make painful reading, and I would have been wrong to have written it.

I hope there are some who will be interested and, perhaps, encouraged by what I have written. If there are parts in it which appear light-hearted, it is because it is most important and refreshing to foster and retain a sense of humour. Even on the scrap-heap, the sun still shines.

With bardic bonhomie and felicitations, farewell, folks.

Our way of life, I'm bound to say, is evident in every way. We live by forthright, simple, rules. Imbued, no doubt, in hard-knock schools. Contentment reigns, goodwill prevails. From many lands, including Wales, A league of nations. We are not A winsome group — no motley lot. We're not housebound, there is no fuss, We've always got the zoo bus. With all respect, I'm proud to say, We like it thus, the Pearson way.

EX-POW ASSOCIATION

A Re-union Dinner Dance will be held at Wembley Lodge, on Friday, February 9, 1979.
Drinks 7 p.m., Dinner at 7.30.
$12 Single (all-inclusive)
Members and friends welcome. Inquiries, Bill Hood, 271 5245.

From left to right — The State President Mr Bob Lawson, Mr Eric Harrison, Mr Don Ferguson.

SERVICE REWARDED: State president Len Phenna (left) with three members of the Upper Swan Sub-branch, Bob Lawson, Eric Harrison and Don Ferguson, each holding the Service Award honouring 50 years of service to the League and the community in general.

CAN YOU HELP?

Mrs E.J. Amoore, of 30 Orrel Avenue, Floreat Park, 6014, hopes someone can fill in the missing lines in the following poem.

The first two lines are:
On the 25th April, far across the sea,
Our brave Australian soldiers stormed Gallipolee.

What comes next, before the last lines?
That glory will ever shine
On those who fell in battle
Dying for me and mine.

TWO PERTINENT QUESTIONS

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DECEASED MEMBERS

JANUARY 1977 (advised August, 1978)
EIFFLER R.J. WX40344 2/3 Comdo, Kalgoorlie

MARCH 1978 (advised August, 1978)
MORRIS W. WX21993 28th Bn. Subisco

MAY 1978 (advised August, 1978)
NOTTLE W.H. WX9181 2/4th M.G. Bn. Wannan

JULY 1978 (advised September, 1978)
EVANS J.H. PJX146521 R.N. Wembley—Floreat
ALEXANDER J.D. A/119053 RAAF. Perth

AUGUST 1978 (advised September, 1978)
CONROY L.F. WX38178 2/11 Bn. Applecross
STEVENVON D.A. F3903 RAN. Scarborough

AUGUST 1978
ANDERSON F.M. WX3996 2/3 M.G. Bassendean-Guildford
BARLETT J.J. 1871 68th Bn. Kenwick
BARRAGT G.H. 6544 16th Bn. Mt Hawthorn
BAUDAINS J.A. 16701 RAAF. Spearwood
BENNETT G.K. 415004 RAAF. Kooindah
BLOOM G. 5344 16th Bn. Maylands
BOND T.B. 127 1 M.G. Sqn. Glen Forrest
BOOTH F.O. WX6546 2/28th Bn. Belmont
BOWLES R.K. WX22073 2/27th Batt. Merriadi
BAWNER C. QX8606 6th Div. H.Q. Mt Lawley-Iinglewood
BRIGGS D.O. Nth. Fus. Dunsborough-Yellowing
BROWN R.E. 8th Art. Fld. Mt Lawley-Iinglewood
CARTWRIGHT G.F. 12 10th Light Horse, Geraldton
CASSELLER C. WX3023 18 OP S. North Perth
CAUDLE S.J. 4119 7/11 Bn. Big Bell
CAVANAGH G.J. 938 10th Light Horse. Subiaco
CHEESEMAN P. 50209 28th Bn. Menning Park
COLLEY J.T. WX14406 2/32nd Bn. Train
DRAKE J.W. WX10568 2/28th Bn. Highgate
EDGE T.R. T/457323 Rasc. Cranbrook
ELLARD A. WX10434. Maylands
EVERT T.W. WX22335 120 Bde W/S. Cottesloe
FREDDICKS C.J. 27085 5 APC. Nannup
FREEMAN R.F.J. 2446 43rd Bn. Fremantle

SEPTEMBER 1978
AINSWORTH A.R. 10th L.H. North Beech
ANDERSON G.S. 3260 11th Bn. Bunbury
ANDERSON W. WX39028 B. Aust. Sigs. Mt Lawley
BAINES W. 3002 51st Bn. Public Service
BAIRD R.M. 2714 7th Re Scots. Goomalling
BOARD H.W. 145 Aust Seige Bty. Esperance
BROOKER R.N. WX42854 2/3rd Bn. Bicton-Palmyra
BUCKLEY A.T. WX8459 B Div. CL & DY. Bicton-Palmyra
BYATT A.G. WX20761 18 Fld. Amb. Belmont
CAMPBELL E.A. 259 11th Bn. Gerenbushes
COLLINS T.J. 65184 SAS Regt. Bedford-Morley
CORK G.A. W28932 A.A.C.C. N.E. Fremantle
CROTTY J.P. WX28876 7 AT Coy. Midland Junction
DAVIS E.J. 17809 RAAF. Subiaco
DUNHAM W.A. WX7374 2/1 ACD. Perth
EASTLANDS H.W. WX3620 2/7 Fld. Amb. Albany
EWART T. WX22335 120 Brig. Wk. Kooroo
FITZGERALD P.B. WX7032 2/28th Bn. Mt Helena
CORRINGE S. WX9335 2/4 M/GS. Mt Lawley
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McKINNON R. SX332 2/3rd A.G.P. Albany
NIXON S.W. 4318 16th Bn, N.E. Fremantle
O'DONNELL M.G. WX24962 2/31st Bn, Mandurah
OVENS E.M. WX11913 2/16th Koorda
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PARKINSON J. 83863 R.A.A.F. Midland
PEATE W.D. W95760 17 FLD. CO. Central
PIKE A.L. SX489 2/10th Bn. Rivervale
PRICE C.A. 406874 R.A.A.F. Marvel Loch
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ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

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Meets in the Visitors Room, Anzac House, on the third Tuesday of the month, February, May, August and December, at 11 a.m. Secretary, G.D. Shaw, 98 Epson Avenue, Belmont, 6104 (277 2342). Treasurer, J. Anderson, P.O. Box 164, Claremont, 6010. President, A.M. Wilson, 77 Scarborough Beach Rd., Mt. Hawthorn, W.A. 6016. Tel.: 444 2180.

16TH BATTALION AND 4TH BRIGADE ASSOCIATION

Committee meets third Monday at 2.00 p.m. Railway Institute, Wellington-St., President, C. Stadden, 59A Henry St., East Cannington (468 5573). Secretary, H. Gaison, 11 Fethergill St., Fremantle (335 2458). Women’s Auxiliary meets same time same place.

2/16TH BATTALION AIF ASSOC.

President, H. Sullivan, 12 McKay Street, St. Bentley. 6102. Tel.: 458 2878. Secretary, F.H. Sublet 39 Pitt Street, Dianella, 6062. Treasurer, P. Tomkins, 2 Deulin Place, Morley, 6062. Meetings Anzac House, 2nd Tuesday each month at Anzac House.

EX-POW ASSOCIATION OF WA


2/4TH M.G. BATTALION AIR ASSOCIATION

President, E.W. Wellin, 69 Constance St., Northcote, 6061. (349 1409). Secretary, C.J. McPherson, 34 Harold St., Dianella. 6062. Treasurer, P. Tomkins, 2 Deulin Place, Morley, 6062. Meetings Anzac House, 2nd Tuesday e/m, 8 p.m.

THIRTY-NINERS’ ASSOCIATION


11TH & 2/11TH A.I.F. BNS. ASSOCIATION

President, W.T. Scott, 250 Corinthian Rd., Riverton (457 4902 or 335 4311). Secretary, Ken Wood, 54 Sussex St., East Vic. Park, 6101. Phone: 361 7204. Committee meets 3rd Wednesday 5th Anzac Club (4 Sherwood Crt.) Annual Reunion to be advised.

MIDDLE EAST VAD ASSOCIATION WA

Contact Officer, Mrs R. Kneebone, 100 Reynolds Road, Applecross, 6153 (364 3311). Meetings as called. Annual Reunion nearest Saturday to November 23.

RAE ASSOCIATION

Meets 2nd Sunday March, June, September and November at WACA ground. Secretary, T.R. Beard (450 3951).

10TH LIGHT HORSE ASSOCIATION AIF

Meets Fourth Friday in March, August and November at 1.30 p.m. at Anzac House, Committee when called: President, Foy Capoon, RSL Flat, 51 Alexander Dr Mt Lawley. Tel.: 271 7048. Secretary, J. Syme, D.C.M., C.D.E., 28 Marquis Street, Bentley. (458 2946).

2/28TH BATTALION – 24TH ANTI-TANK COY ASSOC.

President, H. Vincent, 99 Alderbury Street, Floreat Park, 6014. (387 1810). Annual Reunion Show Week. Secretary, W.A. Carlton 190 Coode Street, Como. 6152. 367 4015.

LIMBLESS SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION

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President, E.P. (Pat) Odgers, Secretary, C.C. Brown, Room 36, 1095 Hay Street, West Perth, (321 5888). Meetings first Thursday each month except January.

48TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION

President, D. MacLean, 75 Riverview Terrace, Mt Pleasant, 6153. (364 1163). Secretary, S.G. Power, 113b “Wandana”, Subiaco, 6008 (381 6208). Asst. and Sec. Secretary, T.H. Eisen, 5 Lanark Street, Mt Lawley 6050 (271 2929). Meetings held Imperial Hotel, Wellington St., Perth, when called.

28TH BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION

Meets Anzac Club (Visitors Room) 2.30 p.m. Second Tuesday. President, J. Brown, 33 Paddington St., Nth. Perth, 6006. Secretary, H.K. Kahan, 2/42 Rutland Ave., Victoria Park (381 8230). Annual re-union Tuesday of Show Week at 2.30 p.m.

NAVAL ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA (WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SECTION) INC; STATE COUNCIL


WRAA ASSOCIATION (W.A. BRANCH)

President, T. McPherson, 24 Ivo Street, Mount Lawley, 6050. Secretary, Miss C. Brody (342 5482).

“Z” SPECIAL FORCE ASSOCIATION OF WA

Meetings as arranged. Secretary B. Wakeford, 875 Beaufort Street, Inglewood, 6052. Phone: 271 3802. Liaison Officer, E.W. Dubberlin, 17 Hotham Street, Meltham, 6053. Phone: 271 1406.

1940 DUNKIRK VETERANS ASSOCIATION 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 Releigh St., Bayswater (271 7307), 6053.

PARTIALLY BLINDED SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA – WA BRANCH INC

President, W.H. Grant BEM, CD, 70 Hobbs Ave., Como 6152. Secretary, L.J. Carter; 99. Thompson Road, Nth Fremantle 6159: 335 4773. General meetings held in Railway Institute Retired Officers Room, Wellington Street, Perth, at 8 p.m. on first Thursday each month except January.

2/32ND 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 7468). Secretary, B. Beresford (321 5086 or 364 1620).

ROYAL ARTILLERY ASSOCIATION

Meetings third Monday at Anzac House at 8 p.m. President, Mr Peter Kemmis, 57 Stanley Street, N.lands. 6009. Tel.: 388 1161. Secretary, John Quinn, 23 Douglas Ave., Mt Yorke, 6060. (348 1374).

51ST BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION

President, H. Brown, 7 Highland Road, Nth Perth. (444 2885). Secretary, N. Moore, 31 Miners Rd., Dalkeith (363 2702). Committee meetings held Quarterly at 4 Sherwood Court, RSL 2 p.m. on Tuesday 6th September & Tuesday 6th December, 77.

LISTENING POST – DECEMBER 1978 – 47
BRITISH EX-SERVICES ASSOCIATION
President, Mr W.E. (Bill) Fussell (447 7738). General Secretary
Mrs Woollacott, 121 Peat Road, Roleystone, 6111 (397 5871).
Council meets first Tuesday each month at Anzac House, Annual
General Meeting second Tuesday August (Anzac House). Annual Re-
Subsico Civic Centre.
Union nearest Saturday to 11th November (Remembrance Day) Subsico
Civic Centre.

KOREA & SOUTH EAST ASIA FORCES ASSOCIATION
Meet second Monday in February, April and July at T/Anzac
House, 4 Sherwood Court, Perth. Members notified by mail of October
AGM. State President, Mr Jack Gerk DSO, AM, JP, 1 Gerald Street,
Como. 6152. State Secretary, Mr Max Filer, 5 Valentine Ave., Dianella,
6062. (468 0648 – Priv. 276 8513). Executive Committee meets when
required.

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SOLDIERS’ ASSOCIATION
TPI Memorial House, 88 Volin Street, West Perth, 6005 (321 5457).
President, H.M. Noonan (386 4870). Secretary, D.W. Penny, General
Meetings, Monthly, Second Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.

REGULAR DEFENCE FORCES WELFARE ASSOCIATION
(WA BRANCH)
For all inquiries contact President, Col. W.G. Clements, O.B.E.,
108 Daglish Street, Wembley, 6014 (381 1875), or Secretary, Lieut.
C.E. Lunn-Garner, R.G. Davies Crescent, Kalamunda (293 1409).
Union nearest Saturday to 11th November (Remembrance Day)

RATS OF TOBRUK ASSOCIATION (WA BRANCH)
President, Mr R. Goldspink, 31 Cooper Road, Morley, 6062.
276 8786. Secretary, Mr D. Le Fevre, 16 Kennedy Street, Melville,
Tuesday each month.

SUBMARINE OLD COMRADES ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
President C.D. Brown, 387 Canning Hwy., Como, 6152. (458 9644).
Secretary, C.J. Costeir, 107 Gidercliffe Street, Scarborough
(341 4541). Meets in Anzac House, fourth Wednesday of each month,
8 p.m. (December excepted). Meetings, 4th Wed. each month 8 p.m.
R.S.L, Anzac House.

ROYAL AIR FORCES ASSOCIATION
(BRANCH 1210 WA)
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Secretary, Mrs A. Oldham, Flat 6/4 Pearson Street, Floreat Park, 6014.
387 6241. Premises at 131 James Street, Guildford-W.A. Dances held
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Monday nights at Garne Hall, 131 James Street, Guildford.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN REGIMENT ASSOCIATION
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Victoria Park. President, W. Smith (387 5092). Secretary, K. Trent
(458 5928). All correspondence to Cameron Barracks.

HOUSEHOLD BRIGADE OF GUARDS ASSOCIATION
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
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
Z/Special Force Australia Inc. Chairman Jack Sue, (321 4979
321 4771). Managing Secretary, K. Scarff, (095 1357).

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Tel.: 271 8509. State Secretary, Mr T.P. Ingram, 100A Petra Street,
Balcatta. Tel.: 339 1470. Details of Sub-Branch Meetings; please ring
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RETURNED SISTERS’ SUB-BRANCH R.S.L.
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January) at Anzac House, 4 Sherwood Court in the meeting room at
1.30 p.m.

NETHERLANDS EX-SERVICEMEN’S ASSN. OF AUST.
Secretary, A. Van Dyke, 17 Ramsdale Street, Scarborough, Tel.: Priv
341 2456. Bus.: 381 3882. Public Relations Officer, Mr V.K. Venn,
Meets 4th Wednesday each month. Druids Hall, 8 p.m.

GUILD OF SIGNALS UNITS ASSOCIATION IN W.A.
Meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 8.00 p.m in the
Officers Mess, Signal Squadrions Drill Hall, 321 Lord Street, East Perth.
President, R.T. (Dick) Koch 364 4228. Correspondence to 42 Parkside
Ave., Mt Pleasant, 6153.

NAVAL ASSOC. OF AUSTRALIA (W.A.)
CITY OF FREMANTLE SUB-SECTION
Meets at Navy Club, Fremantle at 8.00 p.m. on the last Monday of
the month, unless it falls on a holiday, in which case the meeting is
advanced a week. President, R.A. (Ray) Edwards (339 3885). Secretary
W.A. (Buzzer) Bee (341 2222), Treasurer, E.G. (George) Westman
(272 1448).

WRANS
President, Mrs D. Needham, 330 3411. Secretary, Mrs A. Stevenson,
272 1446.

44TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION
Committee meets when called. President, Roy Collins, 134 Rose-
berry Street, Bedford (271 4446).

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Setting the Pace (and stronger than ever).