Celebrating Australia Day at Sao Miguel Primary School, Dili

Australian servicemen and women serving on Operation Astute, this 26th of January, took a moment to reflect on the spirit of our great nation and celebrated in their own way.

Some members of Joint Task Force 631 celebrated Australia Day with the children of Sao Miguel Primary School and presented them with sports clothing donated by Australian companies.

Operation Astute is the Australian Government’s response to a request from the Government of Timor-Leste to assist in restoring peace to their country.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has deployed to Timor-Leste with a mission to assist the Government and the United Nations to bring stability, security and confidence to the Timorese to allow them to resolve their differences democratically and peacefully.

Following a general improvement in the security situation and the establishment of a comprehensive commercial logistic support contract, logistic elements of the ADF no longer required for these duties have returned to Australia, leaving about 800 ADF personnel in Timor-Leste. This force will remain in Timor-Leste continuing to provide a robust response capability to support the United Nations Police force.

Police from Australia and 24 other countries throughout the world provide security in Dili. The ADF provides support to these police operations as required.

The New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) is working alongside the ADF to assist with this mission.
The LiSTening Po ST
February 2007

ALL NISSAN VEHICLES COME WITH 3 YEAR/100,000KMS WARRANTY
AND 3 YEAR 24 HOUR ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE

for contributions to next edition

If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.

Address to:
The Managing Editor, The Listening Post
RSL, PO Box 3023, Perth Adelaide Terrace, WA 6832
Email: rslwahq@iinet.net.au

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Please direct all advertising enquiries to RSL Advertising 9381 7999.
Welcome to 2007. Trust you all had a Merry Christmas and will now be looking forward to a happy and prosperous New Year. From an RSL perspective it appears as though we are in for a challenging year as we attempt to realise the many objectives we have set for ourselves.

Being an election year we can anticipate some intense lobbying for entitlements and benefits that will result in a quality of lifestyle that is well and truly deserved. The recently issued list of RSL priorities, included elsewhere in this edition of The Listening Post, for inclusion in the forthcoming Federal Budget will become the focal point for the League to drive home to our political representatives that there are many shortcomings in dealing with the special needs of veterans. In this lobbying process I strongly urge RSL members to take a strong interest.

Prosperous new year. From an RSL President's perspective it appears as though we will have unprecedented expertise right on our doorstep.

Members are reminded that the first point of contact on RSL matters should be the branch office. Routine matters sent to headquarters will, in future, be redirected to the sub-branch for action. Please also be advised that under no circumstances will members receive a response to e-mail traffic. We are not able to source e-mail systems that encourage people to jump the queue and be in front of people or Sub-Branches that submit written requests for information. Sub-Branches and members who have supported this procedure are offered our appreciation.

The LiSTening Po ST

From the President’s Pen

President’s Golf Trophy

Sharpen up your golfing skills!! The President’s Trophy will be contested at Bunbury Golf Complex on Wednesday 13 June 2007. More on this date in your diary now! Full details in later issues of Sub-Branch Signal and The Listening Post.

Communication with State Headquarters

Members are reminded that the first point of contact on RSL matters should be the branch office. Routine matters sent to headquarters will, in future, be redirected to the sub-branch for action.

Appointment of Development Officer

Following the identification of a need to have a volunteer officer to assist the State Secretary in dealing with developmental matters at sub-branch level, former State senior vice-president Doug Rasmussen has offered to work in that area. We are currently in a growth phase with requests to form two new sub-branches currently being considered. It is envisaged that Doug will have a key role in supporting them in their formative years.

Appointment of Assistant State Secretary

For health reasons Blaui Dunne has decided to relinquish the Assistant State Secretary position he has held at state branch since 1999. His support of the office staff and State Secretary has been valued as has been the many other tasks he has performed. His support of the RSL and of the veteran community will long be remembered. We wish Blaui well and a speedy return to good health. Denis Connelly has kindly agreed to take up the reins from Blaui.

groups who renew through their sub-branch. Currently it is about 28 working days to process renewals but we do hope to reduce that time frame as we pass the peak renewal time. We have received favourable comment on the new Membership Cards and remind members that significant discounts can be obtained through WestClub. Our supporter who has generously sponsored our Card System.

Associations Incorporation Act – 1987

The State Government has released a draft document on a re-write of the above Act. The new Bill, if adopted, will have some impact on how the RSL operates with its sub-branch network. The main impact will be on sub-branch relationships with their Incorporated Clubs. I would strongly advise sub-branches to obtain a copy of the proposed Bill – available from DOCEP Website – and become familiar with the direction the government is taking incorporated entities.

Hitchhikers Goes South

State Branch will present all segments of the Sub-Branch Administration Training Modules at the Albany Sub-Branch on Saturday/Sunday 26 & 27 May, 2007. Full details, including Registration Forms, will be sent to Sub-Branches in the Great Southern shortly.

ANZAC Small Grants

Application Forms are available for the ANZAC Small Grants Scheme. Money will be available for a range of projects that can be undertaken by Sub-Branches and community organisations. An Information Sheet is available to detail the application process and it should be carefully considered as it clearly explains the funding available and the cut off dates for each round. The use of grant money has been widened and many more initiatives can be covered. Details are available from each Sub-Branch and Shire Council.
Jewel in the Crown as Former Swamp is Transformed on Menora Site

Following on from the construction presently underway for the new Ageing In Place Facility on the RSL Care WA site on Alexander Drive in Menora, this latest work sees the ‘jewel in the crown’ for the Menora Gardens site.

The area now being worked on lies between the on-site restaurant and the Ageing in Place Facility and was formally a swamp, which has slowly been drained for the past 3 years. The area that has been reserved on the oval site was set aside and will be transformed into a beautiful landscaped garden area for residents and their families to enjoy.

The area will incorporate a barbeque area, playground and an amphitheatre which will host a number of outdoor concerts in the future.

A raised garden bed will be included in which residents will be able to enjoy spending some time gardening themselves. The area also will include graded walkways, a striking water feature, seating and a bocci court for those that have some extra energy to share with the grandkids.

The first stage of the redevelopment will begin early in the new year, in which the level of the soil will have to be raised and the reticulation altered. This stage is scheduled to be completed later in the year which is also the scheduled completion time of the new Ageing in Place Facility.

The Ageing in Place Facility, currently being developed is a $16 million, unique three storey establishment, which will boast underground parking and an attractive view of the landscaped gardens.

The completion of the lovely new landscaped garden area will compliment and add to the community facilities already featured on site which include a restaurant, gymnasium, spa and Chapel.

Extensive plans were drawn up by design firm Gary Batt and Associates and the gardens will be constructed by Landscape Development.

Project Manager for RSL Care WA, Ken Hamilton said, “This really is the jewel in the crown for the Alexander Drive site.

“With the completion of the Menora Gardens location now in sight, it means RSL Care WA has a very unique and modern residence to offer those in the community needing care or a beautiful unit in which to live. Menora Gardens has everything that our residents could need right at their doorstep.”

Menora Gardens is conveniently located close to bus routes and both local shopping centres and the city, residents can choose to be independent or make the most of the convenience of the local public transport system to meet their individual needs.

Sally Hamilton.

Final Stage to Completion of Menora Gardens Site

Completion of the Menora Gardens location is now in sight as a further 24 Independent Living Units are being proposed and are due to begin construction early in 2009.

The five cluster houses that were originally built in the late 1980s and currently house a number of residents, will be demolished, making way for a 24 unit apartment block in the North East corner of the Menora Gardens site.

On completion of the Residential Aged Care Facility, residents of the old cluster houses will be transferred into the new facility and the cluster houses will be demolished to make way for the new apartment block.

A Master Site Plan is presently being developed by architect firm Gary Batt and Associates and no builder has been chosen at this stage.

The units will be very similar to those recently completed on the Menora Gardens site and will feature six apartments to a floor, underground parking, 2 and 3 bedroom units, with generous balconies and will enjoy a North East aspect.

New resident of the apartment block will be able to enjoy beautiful new and contemporary accommodation in a unique setting with fabulous facilities right at their fingertips.

The new Independent Living Units are scheduled to be completed by March 2009.

Sally Hamilton.

Does the word ‘Finance’ make you want to turn the page?

In today’s ever changing world of financial needs, wants, and capacities, the knowledge to put together all the information and its monetary ramifications is daunting.

No one could blame you for turning the page even at this stage.

The integration of many new financial products and services together with the explosion in communications and technical competencies leaves most of us feeling exposed and vulnerable.

In order to address some of these we have decided to give an thumbnail sketch of the more pressing issues in this and forthcoming issues.

Today we look at reverse mortgages. These are not to be feared as those who do their homework can benefit substantially from the right product is applied.

A reverse mortgage unlocks the capital (equity) you have in your home. It does this by providing you with a loan which is paid back to the financial institution upon you selling your property or your death. The interest on the loan is added to the amount you borrowed and paid back at the above time. Limits apply to how much you can borrow at different rates and each product from each provider is slightly different. Here you will need guidance and professional advice. Don’t be afraid to take it.

One of the options will be to have the money paid into your account. On a frequency chosen by you, or have it all in one lump sum. Again careful judgment needs to be applied here as Asset and Income tests can be applied in some situations.

The Australian Securities and Investment Commission has an excellent website covering this subject. It is almost obligatory that you visit this well prepared information if you are considering augmenting your income. Look at www.asic.gov.au/fido under the heading Retirement Income.

Another interesting aspect of reverse mortgages is that they can sometimes outrun the interest you are paying on them. Say you live in a location where the annual increase in property cost is running at compound rate of 12% P/A for the last 15 years. You can immediately see if your reverse mortgage loan is costing you % (example only) then your property is still ahead by 3% each year and you are enjoying the money you have worked so long to create.

But talk to a qualified financial professional before you make any assumptions or put your signatures on anything. You will need to deal with banks and solicitors but perhaps the greatest decision is letting your immediate family know of your plans. Enough said in that direction.

If you would like more information on this matter or other financial decisions you are contemplating please phone me on 08 9386 8803.


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“Word of mouth” Recommendation. It's the highest form of compliment a customer can pay to any business ...

“I nearly had my real medals stolen one Anzac Day a few years back and got a set of replicas that I wear for most occasions. I decided that, while I could afford it, I would get another two sets made up, making three sets, one for each grandchild for when I fall out of the tree. I received the two sets by mail from WA, you see I thought I would get Heritage Medals to make up the set. I had to buy the lot of course – mounting and purchase of all medals and the finished product was the best I have seen. It is because of this, the quality of the workmanship to the finished product I have no hesitation in recommending anyone to contact them.”

— Bob Buick, JP MM.

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REPRODUCTION AND COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS ■ RIBBON BARS ■ FRAMED MEMORABILIA ■ FRAMED MILITARY WEAPONS ■ MILITARY ART ■ CUSTOM MEDAL AND PICTURE FRAMING
On behalf of the RSL WA Branch and Westclub we welcome all ‘service’ members of the branch to Westclub for 2007. The RSL has worked with Westclub for approximately five years in providing benefits to members of the RSL in WA.

This year Westclub has supported the RSL in providing every ‘service’ member an RSL / Westclub membership card that will allow members to access over 400 businesses that offer various discounts, two for one offers and many more benefits for those who use the card.

There is a book that accompanies the card however due to production and mailing costs we are not able to provide all 10,500 members with the book we have therefore printed the names and contact details of every business that offers a value added deal for you. We encourage members to make use of the membership card and the important offers in the Listening Post.

Simply present your RSL/Westclub membership card and/or quote Westclub at time of booking at any of the venues listed in this section to save starting immediately!

**ACCOMMODATION**

**AARDON ALL SUITES**
Tourist class, 1 1/2 - 4 story property located in Perth. CBD. Choose from a Studio, 1 bedroom or 2 bedroom units.
T: (08) 9300 0675

**AARDON HOTEL, PERTH**
Tourist class hotel, ideally located in the heart of city, just 30 metres from the Railway Station. Walking distance to Military street. Tel: 1800 916 135

**ASSURED ASCOT QUAYS**
Offering self contained accommodation with a 15% discount. Tel: (08) 9347 0070

**ASSURED WATERSIDE APARTMENTS**
Self contained units for short or long stays. Tel: (08) 9300 0675

**ASSURED WATERSIDE APARTMENTS**
Offering 4 star quality self contained accommodation to ends, school & public holidays.
T: (08) 9300 0675

**BEDROOM APARTMENT**
in Perth’s CBD. Choose from a Studio, 1 Bedroom or 2 Bedroom units.

**NOVOTEL LANGLEY PERTH**
Receive 45% off the rack rate and one complimentary HOLIDAY INN BURSWOOD
Receive 20% discount off the admission fee for the card holder only.
T: (08) 9245 1222 M: 0400 748 585

**PERTH**
T: (08) 9228 0077

**RENDEZVOUS OBSERVATION CITY HOTEL**
T: (08) 9368 6688 F: (08) 9368 6689

**RENDEZVOUS OBSERVATION CITY HOTEL**
10% off all advertised rates. Subject to Availability. Not available Sat 1st June in Skyline.
T: (08) 9205 2026 F: (08) 9205 2236

**BROADWATER HOTELS & RESORTS**
10% off peak day rates. Minimum 2 nights stay. Subject to availability.
Contact: 1800 991 992

**W: www.broadwater.com.au**

**CHIFFON ON THE TERRACE**
Open 7 days a week for events in Joondalup, for up to 50 seated guests. Tel: (08) 9240 1039 M: (08) 8290 7022

**MILANS HARBOUR RESORT APARTMENTS**
10% off room rates. Tel: (08) 9290 1850

**HOLIDAY INN BURSWOOD**
10% off best available rate. Please quote Westclub membership card only. Tel: (08) 9341 6644

**T: (08) 9240 8869**

**MELBOURNE HOTEL, THE**
The Spy 20% off the total bill in all of our outlets. Accommodation, Breakfast, Bar & Function. Subject to availability. Tel: (08) 9205 4671

**MELBOURNE HOTEL, THE**
Receive 45% off the rack rate and one complimentary dinner for two to any available Food Menu. Tel: (08) 9221 3344

**METRO HOTEL SOUTH PERTH**
25% off total bill. Rates valid for Sunday to Thursday nights only. Tel: (08) 9221 3490

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20% off advertised rates. Exclusive Public Holidays, Saturday to Sunday nights.
T: (08) 9335 9025 F: (08) 9335 1678

**NOVOTEL LANGLEY PERTH**
Special Long Stay offers. All members to stay at an exclusive offer of $135.00 per room per night. Subject to availability.
T: (08) 9221 1200 (Dutie Westclub special)

**PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL**
10% off standard rate. Minimum 2 nights stay. Subject to availability. Tel: (08) 9605 2350

**PLANTATION FURNITURE**
50% off any room. Usually $132 - $180. Subject to availability. Excludes Dec 23 – Jan 01.

**WEST BEACH LAGOON**
Receive 10% discount on full rates on presentation of your Westclub card.
T: (08) 9356 1030 F: (08) 9356 1033

**WESTERN VILLAGE**
3 games for the price of 2.
T: (08) 9245 1222 M: 0400 748 585

**WEST END INN**
14% off all goods in-stor e. Excluding sale items.
T: (08) 9307 3333

**WILLIAM STREET APARTMENTS**
Free entry for Accepted Students only.
T: (08) 9300 3599

**WILD THINGS OUTDOORS**
Free entry for up to 4 people, minimum of 2 people per booking.
T: (08) 9290 4317

**WINES RESORT & COUNTRY CLUB, THE**
Receive up to 30% discount on the standard settlement fee. Excludes accessories, industrial & sign writing specials.
T: (08) 9307 1430

**WRENNE COUNTRY CLUB**
Receive 20% off dolphin watch tour . Bookings essential. Valid for up to 4 people.
T: (08) 9205 1410 F: (08) 9205 6334

**WITNESS HOUSE**
Save 15% off all Botox treatments each time you see us!
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50% off non-exclusive functions & 25% off exclusive functions. Your own wedges of paradise in the centre of Northbridge.
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**YACHT CLUB OF SOUTHERN WA**
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For more details visit www.westclub.com.au
State Secretary Resigns

Mr Shane Seers, OAM, J.P. has resigned from the position of Secretary, which he has held since 1998, to pursue career opportunities, effective 25/01/2007.

This move was prompted by the opportunity to take up a position as Chief Operations Officer for a Perth based company. Seers, who joined RSL services in 1975 as a youth, has spent most of his 23 year Army career in catering in various capacities.

Shane grew up in the Melbourne suburb of Broadmeadows, attending Broadmeadows Technical School before joining his father, working for Luxaflex and Ainsworths.

It was while he was working for Luxaflex that he met his wife Vivienne. Shane and Vivienne married in 1976 and have three children and two grandchildren.

This change of career direction takes Shane back to his roots, where he spent most of his 23 year Army career in catering the corps. Shane joined the Australian Army and to his local community, junior football, Legacysand Scout movement, in the Puckapunyal Seymour area of Victoria in 1975.

Whilst Shane was State Secretary of the RSL (WA) he said his greatest challenge was to still have ANZAC Day services and marches with its great tradition, during the construction of Perth to Mandurah Railway and facilities. Shane said “this was undoubtedly my greatest challenge, in the year as secretary, as Perth has a great rapport with the veteran community for ANZAC Day, both with the dawn service at Kings Park and the march through Perth later on ANZAC Day.” Mr Seers said “its recognised throughout the veteran community, both here in the eastern states, that Perth is proud of ANZAC Day and what it means to the veterans, and their families who have paid the ultimate price for our freedom, as Perth has the largest Dawn Service in Australia.”

Mr Seers also said “that another great challenge was the refurbishment of ANZAC House and club, while maintaining operations and services to veterans and sub-branches.”

Mr W Gaynor OAM, RFD, President of RSL (WA) said “Shane has assumed control of the RSL WA during a time of turmoil and financial instability and with this organisational and administrative he has set in place initiatives to address the problems and achieve acceptable outcomes for the RSL and the leadership team, focusing on financial management, War Veterans Homes, War Veterans’ Welfare, Housing and ANZAC Club Management. His uncanny ability to source financial grants saw many of the financial burdens of the past taken from the RSL, in particular funding sourced for ANZAC House renovations and maintenance, ANZAC Day parades, sub-branch developments and member amenities. Working in an cooperative manner he has created a stable environment from which the League can continue to progress.”

Mr Gaynor said Mr Seers “As a person has been able to win the confidence of the members, has quick wit and humour that lives up any meeting, and his sincere and genuine approach to issues resulted in a favourable outcome to the veteran community.”

Shane and Vivienne moved to Busselton in February 2007. Shane and Vivienne will be moving to a Sculpture Park, overseas garden touring along with the development of a funeral company and Memorial Garden. The latter, you will be pleased to learn, began after he had ceased full time medicine in 1999.

In 1997 Rod joined his local RSL sub-branch as the Pension Officer and one of their Welfare officers. While continuing this work when possible, he has steadily moved towards his current chairmanship through the NSW RSL and executive ranks to be a State Councilor and regular RSLWOServer at the last three RSL National Conferences. He has maintained his medical registration in order to remain current with medical thinking and an ex-service representative on a wide number of Australian Veteran Committees. He feels obligated to know what other service groups are thinking and doing, believing as he does, that the RSL cannot function in isolation and must, through its own leadership, regularly demonstrate compassion, understanding and inclusive approach to all those who service the needs of ADF members present and past.

He is determined that this Veterans Health Committee will develop a much higher RSL profile than is currently the case and encourages any of our readers to write in and discuss unresolved difficulties they may be experiencing. This is not designed to circumvent current procedures but to make this committee work to its maximum potential. To advise, warn and direct is what they do best. Material can be directed to this RSL National Office address GPO Box 303, Canberra, ACT 2601 or alternately E-mailing to rodbain@sydneyfineart.com. We wish him well with these future endeavours.

New Chairmanship for the RSL National Advisory Committee on Veterans’ Health

The resignation of this committee’s former chairman, Air Vice Marshal MD Miller AO, was reluctantly accepted at the end of 2006. His replacement is Dr Roderick Bain, a Former Naval Medical Officer with three years wartime service during the Vietnam War. He served at 1st Aust Field Hospital Vung Tau in 1969, during the difficult period of the Long Hai-Hills campaign, particularly noting the demands on the medical services sustained by our troops. To add to the drama of that year he was winched, at night, aboard HMAS Melbourne from the accompanying plane guard ship, HMMS Vampire, to provide medical assistance after Melbourne collided with USS Evans that evening, with the loss of so many lives. The following year Dr Bain was back with our gun line vessels aboard HMMS Hobart.

Now working with the USN seventh fleet it was the ship’s duty to supply fire power in support of Australian and allied troops ashore and to provide other services for the fleet commander as required. In 1972 he was back again with HMMS Sydney as the Senior Medical Officer in what was to be the ship’s last few runs, as now notorious “Vung-Tau Ferry”. This was the ship to become enshrined in so many servicemen’s memories, as their first and last experience of that infamous war.

Leaving the RAN in 1973 Rod went on to specialise in Anesthesiology and Intensive Care, commencing his training at teaching hospitals in London and continuing them at Royal Prince Alfred and The Children’s Hospital in Sydney. He then gained specialist examination recognition in Australia and the UK. First working in a number of the larger Sydney teaching hospitals he then went on to practice for twenty eight years on the NSW Central Coast between Newcastle and Sydney.

In addition to a full-time medical practice, Rod and his partner commenced a number of privately owned businesses ranging in interest from two Fine Art Galleries and a Sculpture Park, overseas garden touring along with the development of a funeral company and Memorial Garden. The latter, you will be pleased to learn, began after he had ceased full time medicine in 1999.

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

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

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:
• You obtain peace of mind, knowing your family will not have to make burdensome decisions at an already difficult time.
• You have the opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish, and not as others would like it.
• You receive a price inflation guarantee. By taking out a PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively “freeze the price” of your funeral costs in the future.
• Your PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and it is not subject to any administration.
• You lessen the anguish that those left behind may feel regarding whether they ‘did the right thing’
• We will arrange an obligation-free appointment to discuss your personal needs. The PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special Extras for RSL Members:
• Free extra luminaire
• No administration fee for immediate payment in full
• 5% discount on selected coffins
• Free standard Will prepared by Corser & Corser to the value of $100
• Savings of up to $600 for RSL Members.

For more information, call John Ranger at Bowra & O’Dea on (08) 9231 5100.

Bowra & O’Dea
Funeral Directors
4th Floor, 6003 Telephone: 9231 5100 Facsimile: 9232 4614

IN THE CONFUSION AND EMOTIONAL NUMBNESS THAT FOLLOWS WHEN A PERSON DIES, IT IS SOMETIMES DIFFICULT FOR GRIEVING RELATIVES TO MAKE DECISIONS ABOUT FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS.
As part of the 26 January security arrangements signed between the UN and Australia, ANZAC Battle Group troops have taken over protective duties of UNMIT’s Obrigado headquarters from the Bangladeshi police. Australian troops and East Timorese security officers are working side-by-side to ensure that UNMIT staff are able to carry out their functions in a secure environment.

Operation Astute is the Australian Government’s response to a request from the Government of Timor-Leste to assist in restoring peace to their country. The Australian Defence Force (ADF) has deployed to Timor-Leste with a mission to assist the Government and the United Nations to bring stability, security and confidence to the Timorese so they can resolve their differences democratically and peacefully.

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Operation Catalyst
Southern Iraq

ANZAC
Battle Group provide security to
UNMIT’s Obrigado headquarters, Dili

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www.scootersaus.com.au
An Australia Day address was presented by the RSL State President, Mr William Gaynor, O.A.M., R.F.D. at a function held in the ANZAC Club, situated within ANZAC House, Perth, on Thursday evening the 25th of January.

Mr Gaynor commenced his address by expounding upon the many activities in which, both individuals and communities within Australia, would be engaging, on the imminent Australia Day, in order to acknowledge their pride in our great and wonderful country. He stated that many of the celebrations would involve the granting of Australian Citizenship to “new Australians”, which would have a personal significance for them, as they start a new life, as part of our society.

Mr Gaynor promoted reflective thought, as he questioned the current meaning of Australia Day and who it acknowledges, in light of the changes in the profile in our population, which has undergone dynamic changes since the first fleet landed at Sydney Cove on the 26th of January, 1988, 219 years ago. Australia Day, Mr Gaynor said, has different meanings for the various groups of people within our nation. Our indigenous population perceive Australia Day as the day “white man” set foot upon their land, whereas people representing our growing, diverse, multicultural society, who immigrated to Australia to seek a new life, have differing perceptions of what Australia Day means to them.

Mr Gaynor reflected that, since the 1950’s the transformation of our society, to one with a strong multicultural base, has brought with it a new dimension to the Australian way of life, and that as time progresses and this trend continues, our nation will become one that reflects a unique profile in its population, which he said, “can only reflect a better Australia”.

The challenge for future generations of Australian’s, according to Mr Gaynor, is to discover a common thread to serve as a unification medium, within a society of diverse population, with varying outlooks and expectations.

National pride in our country and unity, Mr Gaynor considers, can be engendered through the use of National Icons, including our Flag and National Anthem. He stated that recent events had revealed that denigration, or the inhibiting of our flag’s display, results in public outrage. The RSL State President expressed the opinion that, if we are to build a better future, it is up to all Australian’s to look at our traditional values and not set them aside in the name of “political correctness”. He considers that the integrity of Australia’s icons should be zealously guarded and preserved without exploitation.

The social fabric of our society must, according to Mr Gaynor, also be preserved, as the strength of our society lies with families. He communicated that it is the “traditional Australian’s all let us rejoice for we are young and free”.

The RSL is pleased to acknowledge the recipients of Australia Day 2007 Awards

Mr Michael Annett CSC
CEO Victoria State Branch
Mr John Spencer OAM
State Secretary South Australian State Branch
Mr Doug Arrowsmith DFC OAM
Mr Keith Hayes OAM
Mr Jin Richardson OAM

The above recipients have given outstanding service to the Veteran Community.
family values that hold people together, influence their way of life, their attitudes towards others and their ability to become useful members of our society. It is the traditions and lessons handed down by family members, through generations, within the family environment that help to build character and set challenges and achievable goals for individuals, Mr Gaynor said.

Therefore, according to Mr Gaynor, it is the family and its influence on family members that should look to, if we are to build a strong nation, a better Australia, an Australia, in which the younger generation puts its faith in the younger generation, to ensure future improvement, capitalising on the good foundations that have been built up over the last 219 years.

The State President considers that society should be focusing upon recognising and rewarding the exemplary achievements of young Australians, to promote good practice and set examples to others, rather than despairing at the sensationalised reports of inappropriate behaviour displayed by a minority within our society.

Mr Gaynor also stated that there is a need to have concern for all members of our emerging multicultural nation. He considered it a priority that all members of our society work in harmony, together, within our multi-cultural society and avoid all forms of human conflict, based on ethnic issues, if we are to create a better future for all Australians.

The role that volunteers play, in the development of our way of life, was applauded by Mr Gaynor. “Community support”, he said, “has improved the quality of life for many and this must be seen as a way of building a better Australia.” Mr Gaynor recognised the contribution of volunteers, stating that, “The unique thing is, those people do it because they want to do it. There is no suggestion of personal gain or reward for their contribution to their community.”

Mr Gaynor announced that, “The Australia of the future is in our hands. The challenge is there for everyone to work in harmony to build a better Australia.”

The State President asked those assembled to reflect upon the meaning of the opening line of our National Anthem. “Australian’s all let us rejoice for we are young and free”.

He stated that, “There is a lot in that opening line for us to reflect upon. We are a young country; we enjoy a freedom that is not really evident in many other parts of the world.” Mr Gaynor then concluded the address by referring those assembled, to the final line of our National Anthem, “Advance Australia Fair”, saying, “I think that says it all!”

The only other thing that we need to do is rejoice in, and on, Australia Day in a responsible manner.

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2007 is being promoted as “Visit Malaysia Year”, as it is their Golden Jubilee, celebrating 50 years of nationhood.

As an independent nation, Malaysia is younger than Australia, with the Portuguese, Dutch and English all having occupied Malaysia in the past. Since acquiring independence from the British, in 1957, Malaysia has matured as a nation and it has acquired a reputation, which is supported statistically, as being the Asian nation that most Australians prefer to visit.

Malaysia offers a myriad of choices for tourists visiting her shores. I have heard many people say, they are almost overwhelmed by the diverse opportunities available when engaging in their first visit to Malaysia.

There is so much on offer in Malaysia. It is not uncommon to hear excited exclamations as visitors share their adventures with members of their group. You could easily end up with a headache, whilst listening to them and trying to deliberate upon which exciting attraction, or place to visit first.

There is so much on offer in Malaysia. It is like being at a banquet where the questions you ask yourself are, what should I eat first and how much should I pile on my plate, will I have room for more, or should I just immerse myself in the euphoric occasion, of the moment? In the case of Malaysia it’s where should I go first? What opportunities should I indulge in? How long can I stay? If I stay too long here will it mean that I miss out on other wonderful experiences? How soon can I come back so I can enjoy those experiences I didn’t have time for and revisit those that I did?

It is like being a little kid all over again, selecting from the lollies on offer in the shop. Choices and more choices! It does make it exhilarating. Often it is difficult to maintain calm and not get too carried away with your day’s activities.

Whilst on a recent visit to Malaysia I attended the official launch to celebrate 50 years of Nationhood. The event took place on the 6th of January, 2007, at the Taman Tasik Titiwangsa, in Kuala Lumpur. The English translation of the venue’s name simply means, by a lake in a garden, similar to Queens Gardens in Perth.

**Giant Ferris Wheel**

The theme for the day was, “The Eye on Malaysia” The theme was based on the largest portable ferris wheel in the world. The ferris wheel has a height of 60 metres and affords those that ride on it, a spectacular view, of Kuala Lumpur and up to 20 kilometre view of the suburbs surrounding the capital city.

The ride on “The Eye of Malaysia’s Ferris” wheel takes about twelve minutes. Riding on the Ferris wheel is an experience that will last a lifetime.

The giant Ferris wheel was constructed using Swiss Technology and was produced in Malaysia, by a Malaysian Company, in a strategic partnership with an Australian company.

An impressive display of jet ski-ing and water ski-ing on the lake was breathtaking. The skill of the individual performers was outstanding, as the lake is not a large one, being about quarter of the size of Lake Monger, in Perth. The relatively small size of the lake, together with the close proximity of the crowd, watching the proceedings on the lake, added to the thrill of the occasion.

Entertainment was provided by traditional Malaysian dancers, whose efforts were supported by quality, local Malaysian vocalists. The entertainers performed on stage, as a spectacular display of fireworks, burst high in the sky above them, adding to the atmosphere of the night’s official opening of the “Golden Jubilee Year of Nationhood”.

On the day following the opening celebrations I visited some of the historic buildings in Kuala Lumpur, including the Old Kuala Lumpur Railway Station, with its pulchritudinous Moorish architecture. The building dates back to the turn of the last century, around 1910, when it was Malaysia’s main railway system. During this period express trains travelled North to Thailand and South to Singapore.
Just across the street from the Old Railway Station, stands the Majestic Sultan Abdul Samad building, which is situated next to Dataran Merdeka (Independence Square). The awe-inspiring edifice is of an Indian type Moorish design. The building was originally the central administration site for the British during the colonial period.

The Sultan Abdul Samad Building, with its copper domes, is one of Malaysia's best-known landmarks. In 1978, as a gift from Australia to Malaysia, the Australian people, via the Australian Government, donated $200,000.00 Malaysian Ringgit to have the copper domes placed on the building.

As you stand under the magnificent archways of this impressive building and gaze across the road, you will see the Royal Selangor Club. It is set back from the road and has a large green grassed area, which in bygone days was used by the wealthy public servants, as a cricket ground. It is rumoured that if you could play cricket, there was a very good chance that you would get a job in the Colonial Offices.

The Royal Selangor Club soon became known by the locals as the "Spotted Dog", as a member of one of the British families used to take her Dalmatian dogs to the club and tie them up at the club's front gate.

The Royal Selangor club was founded in 1884, as a prestigious social club. It boasted reading rooms, restaurants and billiard halls.

In bygone days a police station was constructed on the hill overlooking old Kuala Lumpur. The police could see over most of the old city and they were therefore, very quickly, able to react to any disturbance. This police station, with its strategic positioning, is still in use by the Royal Malaysian Police Force.

The Old Wet Markets

When visiting Kuala Lumpur, a trip to the old Wet Markets is a great way to see some of the different cultures, that now blend to make a multi-cultural nation, incorporating many types of ethnic races and religions.

The "Old Wet Markets" date back to 1888, and were, for many years, Kuala Lumpur's largest fresh food market. Now days the "Old Wet Markets" have been established as a popular tourist destination.

Visitorstheymarketscanpickupsagars, as there are many stalls selling local crafts and a vast array of the different foods for which Malaysia is renowned. The food and beverage in the "Old Wet Markets" is of a very high quality. A huge selection of Asian cuisine or Western style foods, are available, at prices that will please everyone.

If you would like something a little more upmarket I suggest that you visit the Oldtown Kopitiom, which is a restaurant, of Baba Nyonya origin, within the Old Wet Markets, where coffee and local foods are served.

Baba Nyonya is a term used to identify the descendents of Chinese men who married the local Malaysian women of Malacca. You probably have heard of these people before, but they may have been referred to as the "Straits Chinese". They were very loyal to the British during the Second World War.

2007 will be one of the best years to visit Malaysia as there are activities planned throughout the year on an almost continuous basis.

Shopping in the Golden Triangle

On visiting Malaysia it is almost obligatory that you shop in the Golden Triangle. The Golden Triangle comprises of eight large shopping complexes, all within walking distance of each other, which means that you may have to purchase another suitcase to take home the bargains.

I hear you say yeah-right, Len! I will recount a true story. I do know of a Western Australian girl living in Geraldton, and working as an employee at a local travel agent, who had to purchase an extra case, so she took home all the bargains that she had purchased in Kuala Lumpur. In her defence, most of the shopping was for her children. I saw some of the bargains that she purchased. "Mmm," I'm of the opinion that perhaps they may have had a dual purpose.

The purpose of above story? To explain that you do not need to panic when caught by the shopping bug, when visiting the Golden Triangle. Extra suitcases are extremely cheap in Malaysia. Happy Shopping!
Macular Degeneration Awareness Week

Campaign Overview

Macular Degeneration Awareness Week (MDAW) is an annual campaign that aims to increase public knowledge of Macular Degeneration (MD), Australia’s leading cause of blindness. The disease causes progressive central vision loss, affecting the ability to read, recognize faces, see colours clearly and drive. Macular Degeneration is primarily age-related with one in seven people over the age of 50, having some form of MD. Those with a family history of the disease and smokers are also at risk.

Normally held in the first week of June, MDAW aims to create awareness of the Macular Degeneration through:

- Direct Mail to healthcare professionals – this includes ophthalmologists (eye specialists), optometrists, pharmacists and health food stores and other selected professionals. The direct mail kit includes a number of brochures as well as a poster which is to be displayed inside the relevant health care professional’s practice.
- National Public Relations campaign -targeting all national, state and regional media including print, television and radio. Senior’s and industry publications are also targeted as well as selected television programmes. The PR campaign culminates in a launch event which is held during MDAW to which media, sponsors and partners are invited.
- Community Service Announcements – To complement the direct mail and public relations campaigns, the MDAW Foundation places television and radio Community Service Announcements (CSAs) with the majority of broadcasters across Australia. These are to be aired during and around MDAW.
- Each year the MDAW Foundation selects a theme, which is integrated into all components of MDAW. The 2006 campaign featured a scene with an Australian Flag which was darkened in the middle to indicate vision loss through MD.
- To expand the reach of Macular Degeneration Awareness Week, the Foundation has established close partnerships with other organisations whose membership may consist of people in the high risk categories.

MDAW 2007 – Partnering the Returned Services League (RSL)

The MD Foundation is seeking to establish a partnership with all State Branches of the Returned Services League (RSL) to expand the reach of the 2007 MD Awareness Week campaign. The Foundation has already liaised with the President of the National RSL, Major Bill Crews AO (Ret’d), regarding this project who has given us full support.

The MD Foundation wishes to include all Australian RSL submarine branches in the Direct Mail component of this campaign. This would involve sending an MD Information Kit to all submarine branches across the country for the purpose of promoting the Foundation’s key messages to RSL members. More so, this project would promote the services of the MD Foundation, which could be utilised by members across Australia.

The MD Information Kit would contain:

- A collection of humorous Macular Degeneration articles, the MD Foundation and its services as well as an explanation of Macular Degeneration.
- A number of information brochures that explain the disease, its symptoms and where to go for help.
- A Macular Awareness Week poster for use in promoting the campaign within the sub-branch.
- A copy of Low Vision – A Guide – a comprehensive resource for the vision impaired, and a resource order form should the sub-branch wish to receive more information on Macular Degeneration.

To co-ordinate this mail out, the MD Foundation would need to provide its mailing house with an address list containing the details of all submarine branches in each state. This would be done on the proviso that the mailing house signs a confidentiality agreement with each State Branch to ensure that these details are not used in any other way.

The MD Foundation will be in contact with each State Branch in the week commencing Monday 4 December, to further discuss this project.

Attached with this briefing paper are some information brochures, which give a more detailed explanation of Macular Degeneration.

For further information please contact:

Julie Heraghy, Chief Executive Officer 02 9261 8900 / 0411 104 457 cco@mdfoundation.com.au

Sean Harnett, Marketing and Public Relations Officer 02 9261 8900 / 0421 151 867 sean@mdfoundation.com.au

Notices

RAE Sergeants Mess

The PMC and Members of the RAE Sergeants Mess wish to extend their invitation to all past and present RAE and DSO1’s of both RAE and RASV to the “BACK TO”

J Mac GM Peterson

The chairman of the Malaga branch of The Royal British Legion WA helps to locate any remaining family of all RAAF airmen remembered in a war graves of the English cemetery of St. George’s church Malaga Spain. The headstone bears the inscription J Mac GM Peterson, Flying Officer, RAAF aged 23 years.

We have since learnt that his service number is 400603. The local branch cares for the grave and others and lays poppy wreaths at remembrance tide.

Would you be kind enough to circulate this to the RSL’s in the area. Contact Heather at ANZAC House for my E-mail address.

Many thanks for your co-operation.

Peter Gipson.

Tales of Service Life

I’m a 73 year old ex-service man compiling my third modest book ‘Boots & Bullsh*t’. A compilation of funny stories, amusing experiences, jokes, tales, poems, anecdotes and precious moments of life and associated with all branches of HM Armed Forces.

Mayble someone would like to make an appeal for articles from you members? Examples stories of my first two publications ‘Rank Humour’ and ‘Stand Easy’ can be seen on my website detailed below.

All articles published will be credited with the person’s name, rank, number and unit if relevant. All proceeds are shared by The Royal, Leicestershire Regiment ‘Royal Tigers’ Association and the Leicester & Rutland Royal British Legion County Pipe Band.

The kind pleasure of your approval to my request would be appreciated as, indeed, the favour of your reply.

Yours sincerely,

Clifford Newton, The Bishop Tozers Chapel, Middlemarsh Rd, Marsh, Skegness, Lincolnshire, England, PE24 5AD. www.oldsweat.co.uk

A compilation of amusing experiences, funny stories, jokes, tales, poems, lyrics, anecdotes and precious moments of Service life in, and associated with, all branches of HM Armed Forces.

Autumn Ball

Training Ship Penthesilea’s Autumn Ball will be held on Saturday 30th November 2007, 19.00pm till late, in the Queen Elizabeth II Hall, Wace Barracks, Leigh-on-sea, Essex.

Tickets available from the H.M.S. Penthesila. £40.00 includes buffet style dinner.

CACLIGHTS PLEASE GET ONTO YOUR PARENTS

Please ring: Andy Carlson Mobile: 0449539470 andy.carlson@logtek.com

Borrowed Fishing Boat!

Looking for a 80 plus year old local Fisherman who knows about a borrowed fishing boat in December 1941. It may have come from Geraldton, and was used to pick up ‘debris’ from the HMAS Sydney off Dirk Hartog.

Kind Regards,

David Angwin. c/- Geraldton City RSL
geraldtoncityrsl@bigpond.com 02 9261 8900 / 0421 151 867 sean@mdfoundation.com.au

The Words to the Last Post

The Last Post is one of a number of bugle calls in military tradition, which mark the phases of the day. Where “Reveille” signaled the start of a soldier’s day, the “Last Post” signaled its end.

It’s believed originally to have been part of a more elaborate routine, known in the British Army as “tattoo”, that had its origins in the 17th century. Where “Reveille” was given one last warning to any soldiers still at large, that it was time to retire for the night, “Last Post” was given to soldiers it was time to rest - if the soldiers were billeted in a town, the beats told them where the posts were manned and rounding up the off-duty soldiers and packing them off to bed.

“Last Post” was associated with the Royal Leicestershire Regiment ‘Royal Tigers’ and the other states. Contact Heather at ANZAC House for my email address.

Taking place in the Guildhall on Tuesday 27th November 2007 at 19.00pm, the concert will pay tribute to all those who served during World War II and give recognition to the local community. The event will be followed by a social function at the Wace Barracks in the evening.

The event is sponsored by the Royal Leicestershire Regiment Silver Scroll Association and the Leicester & Rutland Royal British Legion County Pipe Band.

The MD Foundation has already liaised with the President of the National RSL, Major Bill Crews AO (Ret’d), regarding this project who has given us full support.

MACULAR DEGENERATION

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The LiSTening PoST

February 2007

16

THE LISTENING POST

February 2007

Our focus is your vision.
**Can you help?**

**W.G. Lawrence**

Dear Sir I am trying to locate a W.G. Lawrence who has apparently moved to Sydney in apex 1990. The reason for this is to return a silver cup on a wooden base that was given away as present from the Sergeant's Mess at the Chipewy R.A.F. Base, England 1952. This cup apparently got mixed up by the mover in Sydney and have been charged with the job of its return. Its owner is Wing Commander W.G. Lawrence Chipewy 1952.

Thank you for your help in this matter.

Lee Wakelin, denleejay@westnet.com.au

**Kokoda Trail**

I am trying to find a book believed to be called the Kokodatrail which was published 50 to 60 years ago, or author unknown. The book has a photo of the 29th ak-ak battalion north Fremantle marching down St George's Terrace on ANZAC day. My father Leslie George Arnott served in this battalion and is very keen to locate this book. Perhaps something about this may jog someone's memory. If anyone has any information would be most grateful. I can be contacted on 97718849 in Manjimup.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Peggy Rubich

**3RAR Members**

I am looking for members of 3RAR that served at the battle of Kapyong, especially men from 6 Platoon “B” Company and particularly anyone who remembers Private Leo Harry Whidbourn and Private Eric James Hebert, looking for an artwork for the A.W.M. in Canberra depicting the battle of Kapyong and am particularly in need of photographs of 6 Platoon “B” Company. Any assistance will be gratefully received. Please call me, Dean Collins on 0399611425 or email me via dean@aludi.com.

Regards,

Dean Collins

**Did you know Mal?**

My name is Gina Smith and my brother - 3793978 Pte Malcolm Robertson was tragically killed by friendly fire at the battle of Kapyong, South Korea on 24th December, 1950.

I have been trying to find anyone that knew Mal or that was there the night that it happened. I have got in contact with a couple of guys but I was still chassing up - 3794435 Pte Christopher James McCrmick 5716183 Pte Kevin Michael Musson & 216129 Corp Christopher William Wallace believe he has passed away - but I would appreciate any family contacts that have the possibility, and any body detail that new Mal.

Thankyou for your assistance.

Regards: Gina ginasniffs@iinet.net.au

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**RSL Badge Found**

On a recent inspection of the old mining town of Ukulandu in central Old I came across on old RSL badge from WW1 as depicted on your web site. As I left the badge with the property owner I am not in a position to ask them if they can help but it would be interesting to know of further avenues to help track the owner down.

Thanking you,

John Heelan “Pasha” Clermont 4721 Phone (07) 4983 5207

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**WWII medals and Sword**

Revne Milbank, looking for grandfather’s medals from WWII plus samurai sword

Byron Stewart Milbank

9796 0163

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**Old Uniforms**

Looking for old uniforms for display purposes for week leading up to ANZAC Day – Please contact Michelle or Nela 9114 1977 John Mercer Lodge, Hilton.

John Berry

Jnr Vice President of East Vic RSL Sub-Branch 0419 935 506

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**Original Bayswater RSL Honour Board**

Looking for the original Committee honour board for Bayswater RSL Sub Branch, showing the name of Leslie K Berry.

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**Sub-Branch Credits**

Due to the increase in full members paying subscriptions directly to Headquarters, and subsequent increase in workflow, Sub-Branch credits will now be processed quarterly, i.e. 1st week in April, July and October, with final payment prior to Christmas each year. State Accountant

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**ALIGHT FOUND**

An RSL badge was recovered from the property owner, the badge had been a going away present from the Army Medical Corps and thus was kept in that family for many years. Unfortunately the owner has apparently moved to Sydney in aprox 1990. I have spoken to QLD RSL and they cannot help so am wondering if there are any further avenues to help track the owner down.

Thanking you,

Ian McCormick 5716183 Pte Kevin Michael Musson & 216129 Corp Christopher William Wallace believe he has passed away – but I would appreciate any family contacts that have the possibility, and any body detail that new Mal.

Thankyou for your assistance.

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**From the Bunker**

with Denis Connelly

**Portrait of an Australian Veteran**

Leonard Clifford William King Sadlier VC

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**Lieutenant Clifford William King Sadlier V.C.**

Clifford Sadlier was born in Camberwell Victoria on 11th June 1892 and attended the University High School, Melbourne. As a youth he moved to Western Australia with his parents settling in Subiaco. Clifford Sadlier became a commercial traveller existing in the Australian Army 1915 May

Sadlier was posted to the Australian Army Medical Corps and allotted as reinforcement to 1st Australian General Hospital, with which he served at Hellespont. In February 1916 he returned to Australia on nursing duty, and on 9th November he re-embarked, this time a reinforcement to 3rd Battalion. He joined the unit in France on 13th May 1917, was promoted to corporal a few days later and on 14th July 1917 was gazetted for first promotions, 2nd Lieutenant. Promotion to Lieutenant came on 26th May 1917.

His attack was extraordinarily bold (recorded the Official Historian), and the German gunners were obviously not expecting it. Before they recovered from their surprise, the Western Australians were in among the trees, fighting wildly in the dark, advancing through the fringe of the wood, firing and being fired at round bushes and trees, stumbling on unsuspected posts. Sadlier and Stokes, who had secured a bag of bombs were the leaders. To suppress the first German machine gun they fired rifle grenades over the trees, lacing up-con, they had to rest the handles against their bayonets. They stopped firing and they rushed it.

Both Sadlier and Stokes were recommended for the Victoria Cross, but higher authority awarded them medals for the action, presumably in recognition of the whole party’s gallant work. Stokes was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal.

Lt Sadlier was wounded in the thigh as a result of this wound, it meant the end of active service for Lt Sadlier V.C where he returned to Western Australia becoming the State Secretary of the Returned Soldiers, Sailors, Army Imperial League of Australia, later operating and rendering private business (Sadlier Transport) and later working for the Repatriation Department a foreman of Department of Veterans Affairs. Lieutenant Clifford William King Sadlier V.C died on 28th April 1964; there is a commemorative plaque at Karrakatta Cemetery and in recognising this veteran’s contribution and dedication to the Western Australian Community.

REF: “The Dared Mightily” Author Lionel Wigmobe in collaboration with Bruce Harding, published by Western Australian Community.

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**Looking for Members of 3RAR**

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**Crossword Solutions**

**EGGS FAS ESP PTU AGAR LARCH ASPGEL EON BASAL TRATE USA ICE GNP ELIDE CNS ATLASES AICAIL DIV ESPN STNY ENACT SEXY AWAY EGYPT KEPT RESTIR ASSAILANT MAYHEM RESLIN ASPEL ANDRAT SMAR AERVE STAY ARE A TITAN ORPH NED SH STYLE ARTLES LAMP MA CARLA SARS SUNS CORMY NUN LOR RSL ARH CLENNING AFR TREAT YAK BAS JAG MINGCA TWEAK FIREBOW ENDE LIZOB OBES EARTH HUGE CABIN NANE OTTER BASH LITE ONSEF CARIBOU DOE SPEED ACS BIC EAR NADIR PADRE KIT END ERE IDOLS SYNC SIS DNA SAW TONS**
Section 1

Returned & Services League of Australia Background

During the early years of WW1 there was a single Government body for repatriation and wounded returning from the horrors of trench war. This was the Returned & Services League of Australia (RSL) formed in 1927. Name changes followed in later years. At the time Returning diggers were alarmed at the lack of accommodation and conditions for the retired and serving men and women of the ADF whose Government had allowed pre-SoP accepted conditions to be viewed unilaterally and conditions for the retired and serving men and women of the ADF were established. Like our predecessors, the work of the League continues through peace and war.

In the words of Professor Ernest Scott, a well known Australian author, "the League is foremost in taking up these... This reflects the need to ensure that special provision is made for veterans resident in remote areas or where access to physiotherapy and other health service providers is limited.

• Declare that service with BCDF be deemed warlike from 21 February 1946 to 30 June 1949

• Notwithstanding the Government's decision to grant non-liability health care treatment for all veterans and Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel whose service has been deemed as warlike, this decision should ensure that the declaration has effect in extended AEA

• Implement legislative changes whereby veterans with qualifying service and war widows are given priority in waiting lists for nursing homes with the understanding that the disability pension payments made by their parent Government counted for Centralklin and the RSL.

• Provide the Gold Cards in an act of Government generosity for

Australian War World I veterans without qualifying service; and

British and Allied World War II veterans who have qualifying service, and/or meet Australian residential and Service Pension criteria.

The enclosed document sets out the proposals in which the League is concerned as a critical shortfalls in the care and support of Australia’s veterans: particularly people who have been wounded, disabled, or sickened in service to defend our national interests and who have suffered as a consequence. This document contains four sections:

Section 2

Priority Proposals for the 2007-2008 Budget

In order of priority:

1. Mental Health Disorders and Rehabilitation

Rationale:

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The enclosed document sets out the proposals in which the League is concerned as a critical shortfalls in the care and support of Australia’s veterans: particularly people who have been wounded, disabled, or sickened in service to defend our national interests and who have suffered as a consequence. This document contains four sections:

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HMAS Melbourne Remembering on Departure for the Arabian Gulf

Meet the Commander

Commander Tony Raeside, RAN

Commander Tony Raeside assumed command of HMAS Melbourne on 11 January 2005.

Raised and schooled in Queensland, he joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Seaman Officer from Southport in January 1983. After graduating from the University of New South Wales with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) in December 1985 he served as a Gunnery Officer in the Monochord class, including commissions as Gunnery Officer in HMAS Toowoomba. Following completion of the Royal Australian Navy Staff Course in the first half of 1998. Until mid-2000, Raeside fulfilled the duties of Chief of Staff, Office of the Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, as well as contributing to the global war on terror in late 2001. Sydney was the first RAN unit to work-up and deploy to the Persian Gulf post September 2001. Before joining Melbourne Commander Raeside worked in Maritime Headquarters for three years, the first as Staff Officer Coordination and the next as seconded to the Maritime Commander.

HMAS Melbourne is one of the Royal Australian Navy’s six guided missile frigates. The ship is a long range, escort capable of air defence, surface warfare, surveillance and reconnaissance. The ships can counter simultaneous threats from aircraft, surface vessels and submarines. Melbourne and her five sister ships were the first RAN guided missile frigates. Melbourne was commissioned on 15 February 1992.

Main Machinery: Two General Electric LM2500 gas turbines driving a single controllable pitch propeller

Speed: More than 30 knots

AirCraft: Up to two Seahawk helicopters.

Bearing in mind the nature of military service, the Government has made the present policy of ensuring that veterans’ benefits are more generous than those granted to civilians.

c. Recognition of Warlike and Non-Warlike Service

The RSL firmly believes that all veterans should receive like benefits for like disabilities. It also believes that warlike and non-warlike service should attract additional benefits as follows:

• Warlike service should be rewarded by eligibility for the Service Pension, by the right to have determination of causation of disability, and on the reasonable hypothesis degree of proof, and the provision of a gold health card on reaching the age of 70.
• Non-warlike service should attract the reasonable hypothesis degree of proof.

d. Compensation

It is the RSL view that compensation should be a combination of two elements. The first is to compensate for the loss of lifestyle caused by medical impairment which does not necessarily lead to an inability to work. This is sometimes referred to as compensation for pain and suffering. The other is compensation for pain or loss of ability to work. In modern compensation schemes, the first element is usually paid as a lump sum and the RSL is of the view that recipients age 65 and have the option of a lump sum or fortnightly payments. The first element of compensation should not incur income tax, no matter how it is paid.

e. Appeals

An appeal system must exist whereby all decisions made under legislation can be appealed. The RSL holds the strong view that the Veterans Review Board (VRB) should be retained at least for those cases where warlike and non-warlike services involved. In addition, all appeals to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) should be supported by Legal Aid.

f.Counting Disability Pensions as Income

The RSL agrees that income support payments, either by DVA or Centrelink, should be means tested. The RSL is strongly of the view that no disability pensions should be counted as income when the means test is applied.

g. Veterans with Special Needs

i. World War II Veterans

World War II Veterans are now well into old age and have the option of a pension for a disability to which they contributed as a result of war. The existing Home Care program is most helpful and should be managed universally. Other programs for aged veterans would have full RSL support.

ii. Vietnam Veterans

Vet-Nam Veterans have special needs because of the unique nature of the Vet-Nam War. There are a number of existing programs designed largely to assist Vet-Nam veterans. These should be maintained and others devised to address needs as they arise. Particular recognition is required of the children and other descendants of these veterans.

iii. Other Conflicts / Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Veterans

The special needs of these veterans should be maintained and addressed as further needs arise. As a minimum, special programs available to Vet-Nam Veterans should be also available for veterans, including Peacemakers and Peacekeepers. The RSL is committed to ensuring that service in hazardous deployments, such as those to Rwanda, are classified as ‘warlike service’ and attract the appropriate level of reparation benefits for that service. Particular recognition is required for the children and other descendants of these veterans.

h. Peacetime Service

Serving Personnel who incur injury or disability as a consequence of their service need to have their special needs recognised and addressed. In some cases these special needs will not emerge until later in the veteran’s life.

1.2 COPING WITH FAULTS IN THE SYSTEM

a. Detecting Faults

In a system as complicated as the present veterans affairs process, faults and inequities are bound to occur from time to time and it is important that the RSL identifies these as quickly as possible and sees that corrections are made. With the introduction of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA), despite all the care that has been taken to achieve an acceptable result, teething problems will appear and corrective action must be implemented as early as possible.

b. Correcting the Faults

DVA has established a joint DVA/DVA Working Party (called the Operational Working Party). The sole task of this working party is to investigate faults in the system and recommend corrections. The RSL is strongly represented on this body. In the first instance detected faults should be referred to the Working Party for correction. National Congress has the ultimate duty to seek corrective changes to the system, including amendments to the legislation if necessary. To this end National Congress must, on an annual basis, identify existing faults to be taken up with the Government in the ensuing year. In the process, National Congress should list the faults it has identified and promulgate the list widely to RSL members.
The New Guinea jungle is fine in the night time.
If you're not at war, then you're here at the right time.
So lay back and listen – it's turn out the light time.
Reflection will help you to crash.

Doze off in your tent – take a whiff of your armpits.
Forget snakes and mozzies, and leaches, and sore bits,
and drift as you marvel, at our bunch of misfits,
then morning will dawn in a flash.

Now Trekkers up here are becoming prolific,
from west of Australia, to west of Pacific.
We plod to Kokoda (a sight quite horrific)
at quite a pace less than a dash.

We Trekkies are experts at slipping and sliding
and going arse-up in a show that's providing
our mates with some joy, so it’s hard when deciding,
just who, on each day, wins the cash?

From the moment our first bloke fell flat on his back,
in the sucking black mud of the Kokoda Track,
we all yelled our approval, and “Get up – you hack.”
(A Trekky had had his first crash.)

As our local guides watch the ungainly parade,
of overweight oafs, using poles they have made
to save us from skiing, o'er the lip down the glade,
they'll reach out and help in a flash”.

Our wonderful native mates string out the bush ropes,
at rivers and crossings for our bunch of fat dopes,
and offer support, for we must seem like 'no-hopes'.
Yet few of us went the ‘big splash’.

With our average age about seventy six,
(and that's tussling in your blokes, and counting the chicks)
we all hobble and slither on our walking sticks,
but on through the jungle we bash.
Peaceful Bay

We at Peaceful Bay have been up and running for a little over two years now, and although our first year was a little slow to start, we are now forging ahead. We have a membership of 16 and 10 affiliates. Naturally our primary objective is the Welfare of the Service and Ex-Service community. We have several projects in the pipeline. One of them has almost come to fruition, that being a RSL and Community Club, which has been made possible by a very generous bequest to us and through grants from DVA and Lotterywest. The bus will be used to convey Veterans to their carers and other members of the local community to medical appointments, shopping and other excursions.

Other projects that are in the pipeline are a suitable memorial in Peaceful Bay and we are in the process of discussing with Walpole Primary School for year seven students with their year seven education.

We meet every second Wednesday in February, April, June, August, October, and December at 1500. For further information contact the Secretary Graham Boyce on 9480 8228.

East Victoria Park

Each year, the East Victoria Park Sub-Branch awards three Honour Certificates to three year seven students.

The Stan Gurney VC Award is presented to a male student who displays the same qualities as Private Stan Gurney VC. The Stan Gurney VC Award is presented to a male student with a $100 cheque. The Stan Gurney VC Award is presented to a female student with a $100 cheque.

The Army Cadets were strongly represented and also on her time as a WAAF, including her experience in the London blitz. Students from St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls provided the entertainment. Among the guests were Sir Charles Court, a SAS Officer, Mayor of Nedlands, Deputy Commissioner for Veteran Affairs and Lady Court.

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RSL Bowls News

Strong turnout for 'Diggers Day'

The first half of the bowls season came to an end with the Dudley Park bus trip, Diggers’ Day and the championship triples, in that order.

The RSL had a full bus but Dudley Park was a blank slate, resulting in four RSL players playing pairs against each other. It is getting harder and harder to find a happy medium with the bus trips and at least one country visit is in doubt.

Ray Bourne, Ron Mitchell, Les Webb and KFC (Kevin Fahey Champion), all from Osborne Park, were the best RSL team against what was the locals.

Twenty eight teams played at Manning Memorial in the annual Diggers’ Day tournament. A bush trip skipped by D.Reardon, with B. Mullumby, G.Blake and P.Wideman had two big wins, plus 27 shots up to take the trophy.

Runner up was Echo Widemanski’s team of Lindsay Jones, John Weir and Bob Anderson, two wins and 20 shots up, third was T. Cocodis, T.Priest, M.Kinnaird and S.Jones, two wins and 19 shots up.

First round prize went to Tup Sarre, who streaked away to a 28 shot lead but lost his second game by three!.Round two went to the Wooldridge team skippered by D.Reardon, with B. Mullumby, G.Blake and P.Wideman who had two big wins, plus 27 shots up to take the trophy.

The Wooldridge team got their act together in the champ triples. They were short of a run (in racing parlance) at Manning the week before as they cleaned up with three wins and 29 points. Men Hughes and Archie Owens made up the team.

The Army Cadets were strongly represented and the four local Primary Schools took part. A mockup memorial, consisting of a 303 rifle with bayonet and a 303 rifle and its Mayor invited the public to the local Bowling Club for light refreshments afterwards.

The members then had their monthly meeting on the following day and on the next Wednesday the President’s luncheon was held. Once again the Hollywood Private Hospital was generous in its support. Over 70 people attended to hear Mrs Ruth Reid give an address.

She spoke on her experience as a child after World War 1 with the trauma of returned men and others and also on her time as a WAAF, including her experience in the London blitz. Students from St Hilda’s Anglican School for Girls provided the entertainment. Among the guests were Sir Charles and Lady Court, a SAS Officer, Mayor of Nedlands, Deputy Commissioner for Veteran Affairs and members of Shenton Park Sub-Branch.

Doug Arrowsmith, Secretary of Nedlands 56 Oceanmic Drive, Floreat, 6014

STOPPRESS

The State RSL team did not fare too well in the Jack Hamilton VC round in Melbourne, but were beaten only by Victoria (two shots) in the second Sydney Krantz Trophy Test series.

Check your program for moves to Harvey and Dudley Park. Get your entries in for the Cranberry Mixes and the Bishop Riley Mixed 4s at Osborne Park. Don’t forget prizegiving on Sunday May 6, 2007.

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Australian and British soldiers based in southern Iraq have completed a training programme for 750 Iraqi soldiers who are being sent to Baghdad in support of the Baghdad Security Plan.

The Iraqi soldiers from the Iraqi Army’s 2nd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, based in the Dhi Qar province, have been told they will be sent to Baghdad in the coming weeks to support counter insurgency operations.

The one-week of training conducted by the Australian and British elements was concentrated at the Iraqi Army Barracks on the outskirts of Al Gharraf and focused on further refining the light infantry skills of the Iraqi soldiers.

The training elements included contact drills, vehicle patrols, vehicle checkpoints, house clearance tactics, public order drills and first aid.

100 soldiers from Australia’s Overwatch Battle Group (West) were involved in the training.

A soldier never dies; he just fades away
AMAZING HERO
In memory of
George Ramsay
1921-2007