Corporal Jason Wicks is a member of the Australian Regular Army, and is currently posted to The Pilbara Regiment, Karratha. Prior to his posting to Karratha in January 2007, Corporal Wicks was located in Brisbane, from which he deployed for a six-month period to Baghdad, Iraq.

Whilst deployed, Jason worked on the Joint Task Force Counter Improvised Explosive Device (JIEDD) initiative, and was part of a small team of explosive experts that travelled outside the security of the base on a regular basis to conduct post blast investigations on explosive devices that had been used against coalition personnel and equipment. This work was an extremely dangerous undertaking and on occasion almost resulted in serious injury. These investigations were integral to the identification and location of bomb-makers and subsequent apprehension and incarceration of these individuals.

Corporal Wicks was awarded the US Commendation Medal (ARCOM) which is normally awarded to a member of the US Armed Forces who distinguishes himself by heroism, meritorious achievement or meritorious service.

In exceptional circumstances, this award may be made to a member of the armed forces of a friendly foreign nation who distinguishes himself by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious service which has been of mutual benefit to a friendly nation and the United States.

Through hard work and dedication whilst on deployment to Iraq, Corporal Wicks displayed these qualities as shown in the citation accompanying the award as follows.

Corporal Wicks has been awarded the US Commendation Medal “for his meritorious service in support of Operation Iraq Freedom. His outstanding dedication to duty during combat operations in Iraq contributed to the overwhelming success of the Command’s mission. His actions are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, multi-national corps-IRAQ and the Australian Army.” The citation was ratified by Lieutenant General Peter W. Chiarelli, Commander Multi-National Corps Iraq.

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Corporal Wicks was honoured to receive the award close to ANZAC Day, a day in which all Australians recognise those service personnel past and present who have deployed on operations. Corporal Wicks is grateful for the recognition he has received from the US Army and feels that the award reflects the US appreciation toward the continued contribution and service that all Australian troops are currently making overseas.

HMCS ARUNTA will now undergo a maintenance period alongside at HMAS Stirling visit to a lot of places many of us would not normally get to see. We’ve achieved a lot in a hard to improve our mariner and war fighting skills, whilst also allowing us the chance to participate in Fleet Concentration Period off Jervis Bay in New South Wales and the Long Navigation Course in New Zealand. Ports visited included Sydney, Melbourne, Auckland, Tauranga and Wellington, culminating in a visit to Hobart over the Easter weekend.

HMCS ARUNTA will now undergo a maintenance period alongside at HMAS Stirling after a busy 11-week deployment and is due to berth at Garden Island at 9am on Saturday, 14 April.
## NISSAN Challenge

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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.

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The Listening Post
VOL. 30 no.2 APRIL 2007
From reports received at State Branch the lead up to ANZAC Day at sub branch level has been quite busy but well within our available resources. There has been a good response to requests by local schools for RSL and veteran involvement in their services and also from communities where we do not have a sub branch presence. I am therefore confident that schools and communities throughout Western Australia will be well placed to honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the defence of their country.

Welfare Review

State Executive recently endorsed the committee recommendations from the recently conducted independent review into RSL Welfare Services. This decision was made following consultation with stakeholders and an invitation to sub branches to make comment. Of prime concern was the closing of the RSL Emergency accommodation facility – Cypress Cottage. The closure was approved after State Executive was satisfied that alternative arrangements could be made to service veterans in need of such a facility. For your information RSL 'inherited' Cypress Cottage from the now defunct Services Assistance Branch, Perth. The premises were well placed to honour those who paid the supreme sacrifice in the defence of their country.

Honorary Members of Sub Branches

State Executive has approved the issue of Honorary Membership to community members such as sponsors, patrons, civil dignitaries etc. This honour is not conferred by National but is a State issued honour made on the recommendation of a suitable such person by a sub branch. Conditions of appointment are as follows.

• The recipient must not be eligible for a Service membership of the League.
• The appointment is for 12 months and is renewable.
• Appointment is for the duration of the service offered to the sub branch.
• Honorary Members will be issued with a Certificate, RSL Badges and an Annual Membership Card.
• Initial Appointment will be $25 paid by the Sub Branch.
• Renewals will be $10.

Marketing/Membership Survey

As a follow-up to last years Curtin University Research Project a selected sample of the membership will be asked to complete a new survey to enable researchers to make comparisons of material gained from last years contact. I urge members who receive a request for comment to participate by providing appropriate responses. The information gathered from these surveys is vital in planning the future direction of the League.

Hitchikers Go Bush

With this issue of The Sub Branch Signal is an application form for sub branches in the Great Southern Region to attend a two day training course in Sub Branch Administration. The presentations are based on the highly successful courses conducted in Perth in 2006. The presentations will be held at the Albany Sub Branch on Saturday 27th May, and Sunday 28th May, 2007 from 9.00am to 3.00pm each day. The days will be so planned to allow sub branch members to discuss local issues with representatives from State Branch on matters of particular concern to them. Please support this initiative of ‘our outreach programme’ as we wish to enhance the service we offer our country membership.

ANZAC Small Grants - 2007

The first round of grants for the above scheme closed on 2nd March, 2007 and successful applicants will be announced by media release on ANZAC Day. The first round will account for around $200k of the $1m allocation from the government. Applications for the second round will be accepted by media release on Remembrance Day. Funds available in this round will be $500k. Applicants who were not successful in the first round are welcome to resubmit their submission in the second round.

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As a follow-up to last years Curtin University Research Project a selected sample of the membership will be asked to complete a new survey to enable researchers to make comparisons of material gained from last years contact. I urge members who receive a request for comment to participate by providing appropriate responses. The information gathered from these surveys is vital in planning the future direction of the League.

Kokoda Track Memorial

The much anticipated unveiling and dedication of the AWM Port Kokoda Track Memorial will take place at K2050 on Sunday 16th July, 2007 at 2.00pm. The Governor-General Maj Gen Michael Jeffrey M CVO MC (Retd) will officiate and has expressed a desire to meet as many people as possible on this very important occasion. Veterans, RSL Members and the wider community are invited to attend and honour a great Australian Soldier.

The word ANZAC

This letter was received recently from the RSL Headquarters in Perth:

Just a query regarding the spelling of ANZAC. I had always assumed this was with capitals as it isn’t a word but an acronym.

I was very surprised to see it spelt as a word in the card I received with my ‘Australian Defence Medal’ – ‘Anzac’ from the Dept of Defence, Honours and Awards. So I emailed them to highlight this error (presumed error by me).

Then in my local paper on the front page as a header is ‘Anzac’, so I spoke with the editor only to be advised that this is acceptable and in the language now, and it’s therefore acceptable to spell it ‘Anzac’.

So, maybe I am in error and ANZAC is now ‘Anzac’, just thought the RSL may be able to clarify this for me.

For my part, I see Anzac as an error, but maybe I am behind the times these days? Be that as it may, I would still like (if possible) some clarity on what it is, is not acceptable, as even my spell checker is confused.

Look forward to your reply.

Cheers, Wayne Gibbens

Reply to Mr Gibbens from the RSL State Branch Perth

The word ANZAC is an acronym for Australian and New Zealand Army Corps and it is considered an insult to the country of New Zealand to have their country represented by lower case letters. It was passed as a motion at the RSL National Congress in 2006 that every effort is to be made to have the wider community educated in this matter.

Congress Dinner

The Congress Package is at sub branches in the Great Southern Region.

Pension Officers

Pension Officers are adequately protected of competency, RSL needs to be sure our insurance provisions, and in the interests of our Pension Officers are adequately protected from challenge should questions of procedure be raised during an appeal process.

State Congress

Plans are now well advanced for the remaking of State Congress on 30 June – 1 July, 2007. We are looking for a strong representation from sub branches and hope for well researched and prepared Congress Motions.

The Congress Package is at sub branches and we ask that every opportunity is made to have representation at the Congress Dinner.

From the President’s Pen

April 2007
Re-opening of Kokoda Steps and Lower Lovers Walk in Kings Park

The Hon David Templeman, MLA, Minister for the Environment, Climate Change: Peel, announced the re-opening of the Kokoda Track and Lovers Walk pedestrian paths on the Mount Eliza Escarpment in Kings Park.

These pathways, which provide a popular link between Kings Park and the Swan River, have been closed as a precautionary public safety measure since a significant rock fall onto one of the paths in June 2005. Mr Templeman said that “following extensive geotechnical investigation and risk assessment of the limestone slopes, significant risk treatment measures have not been implemented to further improve public safety in the area”.

The works have included upgrading some sections of paths, installation of rock-catch fencing, risk warning signs and barrier gates, and revegetation works on those sections of path that have been permanently closed for public safety. All of these works have been completed well before the winter season, when periods of intense rainfall can increase the risk of slope failure.

“All members of the public are now welcome to walk these paths and gain an appreciation of the historical events that occurred in the Kokoda Track Campaign during World War II, which are interpreted along the path,” Mr Templeman said. Members of the 2/16th Australian Infantry Battalion AIF Association are delighted that the path has been re-opened in time for the Kokoda Track Day ceremony on 15 April 2007, which is held annually to commemorate the Australian troops who fought this campaign in Papua New Guinea.

Other elements of historical and cultural heritage significance in this area include the Gromo area with associated stone retaining walls and exotic paintings. These will be preserved into the future and will be highlighted for visitors in interpretive signage to be installed at the site.

Further works are progressing in the vicinity of the Kokoda Track Memorial Walk, which is held annually to commemorate the troops who fought through atrocious conditions and against vastly superior numbers in the Papua-New Guinea campaign of July 1942-January 1943. The Kokoda Walk begins at Kennedy Fountain on Mounts Bay Road and you will climb 180 steep steps (with a vertical rise of 62m). Follow the plaques along the steps and path to the State War Memorial. (This Walk does not have wheelchair access).

By Mark Webb,
CEO Botanic Gardens and Park Authority

The WA Aged Sailor’s, Soldier’s and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund

“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 the future. I have never looked back. Today I received the two sets by mail from WA, you see I thought I would get Heritage Medals to make up the sets, 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.
Before he left Gallipoli, Murray was warned not sufficiently to dampen his spirit or weaken him physically.

Lawrence Dominic McCarthy was born on 4th March 1919, in York, Western Australia, and educated at the Launceston Artillery. He was to later reflect on the early military training with the South-West. After enlistment, he travelled widely mostly by himself, on lonely tracks, or on trains, the Aorongtines were none too friendly and the few white men were rough and tough.

On the 13th October 1914 when he enlisted he was a timber-getter in the South-West. After enlistments, he was sent to Blackboy Hill Camp where the 16th Battalion was being formed.

While at Blackboy Hill, he formed a lifelong friendship with another, Perry Black. Perry was posted to the Machine Gun Section of the Battalion and landed and Gallipoli, on the 25th April 1915. Through his action on Gallipoli, he was rapidly promoted through the ranks.

Col. E. T. Tilney, commanding the 13th Battalion, who was formerly a 16th Battalion Officer, went to Brigade Commander Monash asking if Murray could be commissioned to appointed to 13th Battalion as Machine Gun Officer.

Commander Monash agreed it in one day. – 16th August Murray went from Laurel Camp to Sergeant and was appointed 2nd Lieutenant and joined 16th Battalion as Machine Gun Officer.

Promotions followed rapidly – on the 20th January 1915 Murray was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, on the 1st March to Captain.

Before he left Gallipoli, Murray was warned not sufficiently to dampen his spirit or weaken him physically.

Late in March 1916 his Battalion moved to France, where he saw service at Stony Trench, Moquet Farm, Pasileens and Bullecourt.

It was at Stony Trench, north east of Consarsson, France on the 4th and 5th February 1917 that Captain Henry William Murray won his Victoria Cross. Citation reads:

For most conspicuous bravery when in command of the right flank company in action. He led his company to the assault with great skill and courage, and the position was quickly regained. Fighting with a very severe nature followed, and three heavy counter-attacks were beaten back, these successes being due to Captain Murray’s wonderful work. Throughout the night his company suffered heavy casualties through concentrated enemy shell fire; and on one occasion gave ground for a short way. This gallant officer rallied his command and saved the situation by sheer valor. He made his presence felt throughout the line, encouraging his men, his leading bombing parties, leading the counter-attacks, and carrying wounded to places of safety.

His magnificent example inspired his men throughout. (London Gazette: 10 March 1917)

Murray continued to lead his troops collecting promotions – Major 12th July, temporary command of the 13th and on the 8th March 1918 same promotion to Lieutenant Colonel and command of the 4th Machine Gun Battalion. In May 1919 Lieut Colonel H. W. Murray, VC, DSO & Bar, died 6th January 1956 aged 85. In 2006 a bronze statue of Murray by Peter Godden unveiled the statue at Warramunga, in northern Tasmania. Murray’s son and daughter werepresent.

His portrait hangs in ANZAC House, Perth WA, also a plaque is to be placed in the Court of Commemoration, Kings Park, Perth WA.

References:
1. They Dared Mightily – Lionel Wigmore
2. The Great War, Les Carlon
3. Victoria Cross, Australia’s Finest and the Battle They Fought, Anthony Bullen
4. Australia’s War Memorial, Canberra. ACT.

With assistance from Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Perth.
From the Bunker

The Vickers Machine Gun

ANZAC House has been the recipient of several well made models of military hardware. Shown here are the Vickers Machine Gun which can be seen in the reception area on Level 1, and the Spitfire which can be seen in the display cabinet on the ground floor in the dining room.

This weapon model was made and donated by a friend of the RSL. He has also made and donated other models, information of which we will publish in future editions.

A brief history of the Vickers

In 1884, Hiram Stevens Maxim, an American, invented a single-barrelled machine gun that could load and fire itself by recoil. The barrel was water cooled. The United States government was not interested so Maxim took his invention to London where it was accepted by the Vickers Company. It was eventually known as the Vickers medium machine gun and became the Army’s basic infantry support weapon.

It is reported that Maxim guns were used with terrible effect by the British forces against the Boer War in 1899. Eleven thousand Zulu’s was charged chasing the massed Maxim guns.

In World War I in 1916 a separate Machine Gun Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment commanded by Captain Andrew and Tracey Anderson cut their wedding cake in the boardroom at ANZAC House, using Andrew’s Scottish Celtic Ceremonial sword.

The Wedding breakfast was held at ANZAC House on Saturday 6th January, 2007. Andrew & Tracey Anderson celebrated their wedding with over 110 relatives and friends. Andrew was “very pleased with the facilities, as the central location made it easy for his guests to enjoy the function ‘without parking hassles’.

Andrew and Tracey Anderson are both from the Northern Territory and recently arrived from Delphi in India. Andrew is the grandson of the past member of Broome, Rod Lane (dec’d), VX 83965, while Tracey’s family are recent arrivals from Delhi in India.

John Holland (Civil Engineers) are now using Galapoli Rooms for in-service seminars for workshop safety for their employees, with an average 20 participants for each 2-day workshop twice a month. Mr Ron Kemp, co-ordinator for John Holland, said “the location was essential as his participants came from all points in the metropolitan area, and with public transport made organising these seminars very easy”.

The LiSTening Po ST

April 2007

Supermarine Spitfire Model

This model, made by the late Mr Edgar Taylor, ex-FIJ 1435 Squadron R.A.F., represents the MkV version of the Supermarine Spitfire. Although it is not show all squadron letters, I believe it represented the aircraft which Mr Taylor actually flew in England and Malta.

The Spitfire first flew on 5 March 1936. Over 20,000 Spitfires were to be produced in over 40 variants, and it was used as a fighter, in ground-attack and photo-reconnaissance roles and even, as the Seafire, as an aircraft carrier.

By the early 1940s, just a handful of Spitfires remained in flying condition, and it was the making of the film “The Battle of Britain” which was to turn the tide on the extinction of airworthy Spitfires. Today, nearly 50 can be seen flying including those of the RAF’s “Battle of Britain Memorial Flight” which serves as a tribute to those men and women who sacrificed their lives during World War II for our freedoms.

Initial models were fitted with machine guns but these were superseded by the Mk V which could take a combination of cannon and machine guns.

The power plants were mainly Rolls Royce Merlin, but later models were equipped with Rolls Royce Griffins and Packard Merlins 261.

The squadrons equipped with Spitfires in Australia were Nos 4, 5, 6, 82 and 84. The latter three squadrons were equipped with Mk VIII Spitfires armed with four .303 Browning machine guns and two .20mm cannons.

Some versions were constructed with clipped wings as against the elliptical wing, but this spoils the aesthetics of the aircraft.

The Mk VII was an unpressurised version of the Mk VII, with a variety of engines depending on its role. The Merlin 61, 63 or 82 were standard but the Merlin 66 was fitted for the LF model and ‘F’ for the HF. The Mk VIII’s were fitted with the C’ wing developed for the Mk VII and could carry up to 1,000lbs of bombs. The ear-production Mk VIII’s were fitted with almost pointed extended wingtips to give the extra lift required for high-altitude intercepts.
You may now have heard about the Australian Government’s proposed health benefits, veterans’ and social security reforms. This card would hold all the service, benefit, concession and welfare entitlements for our Australian Government to modern, more secure, smart card technology.

The introduction of the Access Card is potentially a big change for the veteran community as it will replace all veterans’ cards issued by my Department and other agencies. A new feature is that it will be issued to community members, not just veterans. This is welcomed by many in the veteran community and its value gained support from an independent review of the Access Card legislation. Can Canberra.

The LiSTening Po ST

Your Poppy Day money helping when you need it most.

“The Aged Fund”

“Push for Modern Access Card”

Conduct of the RSL National Congress

The National Executive will conduct other meetings and briefings, to keep you informed of progress and, as always, I am willing to listen to your opinions and concerns.

First and foremost is to reassure you that the Gold card will remain unique to the veteran community and its value retained. There will be a gold Access Card for current DVA Gold card holders. Current Gold card holders will get a gold Access Card, unless they tell us otherwise. This choice is to be for those, for example, who prefer the old-fashioned, bed appearance or preference, but who do not want to identify as a veteran but maintain the Gold card benefits. This is possible because the computer chip on the card will be programmed by the Government with the Gold card entitlement. No-one who is not entitled will receive a gold Access Card.

Another issue I would like to clarify is that current DVA card holders with markers on the face of their card such as Gold, Welfare, IDA or TPI will have these transferred to their Access Card. These markers help veterans and war widows/ widowers to identify access discounts and concessions.

The new gold Access Card will function as a Gold card and also as a Medicare card, or a pension concession card or any of the cards planned for inclusion, depending on the individual’s eligibility. It will combine the functions of these cards into a single piece of plastic. This means that many veterans who have had multiple DVA cards or who are going to be getting the Access Card will no longer have to carry all these cards around.

Another feature of the Access Card will not affect entitlements. It will have no impact on any pension, health service, compensation, income support or other service or payment from my Department or other agencies. This includes private health treatment under existing DVA arrangements.

Card technology has changed significantly since embossed cards and magnetic strip cards were first introduced several decades ago. The health benefits, veterans’ and social services access cards provide the Australian Government with the opportunity to take advantage of modern smart card technology.

A benefit of this technology for veterans is the ability to choose to add information to the chip on the card. This might include emergency contact details, allergies or organ donor status.

A fundamental principle of the Access Card is that information about an individual will stay with the department or agency concerned. For veterans this means their Veterans’ Affairs file stays with my Department and that information is not shared with other agencies, nor is it accessible via the Access Card.

While veterans will continue to deal with my Department about their veterans’ benefits and entitlements, the introduction of modern Access Card technology will make it easier to update the personal details of an individual. The updating of change of address and family information will be easier, faster and more convenient.

Conduct and Focus of National Executive

The National Executive continues to convene quarterly, and include State Presidents, the National President and National Secretary, and appropriate State members. Chief Executive officers and State Secretaries may attend as appropriate. The National Executive will continue to convene other meetings and briefings, to keep you informed of progress and, as always, I am willing to listen to your opinions and concerns.

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National Executive meetings will normally be held in Canberra, however, there may be a need for sponsorship by State Branches on certain occasions.

Other Committees

To avoid the conduct of meetings on weekends, Congress occasions, with the Congress dinner on the Tuesday evening.

Conduct and Focus of National Executive

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Review of National Tribal

The requirement to review the National Tribal guidelines has been endorsed, and States have been invited to provide their views on revision of the guidelines. An independent reviewer will be engaged to consider all submissions and the revised draft guidelines will be brought back to Congress for resolution and acceptance.

Managing the Election Year

As 2007 will see a Federal election, it is proposed to make formal submission to all major parties of the Federal Parliament, seeking their response to issues affecting the welfare of veterans. This submission will, in due course, be on the website and the National President will make reference to it at all opportunities.

The RSL will also work with other ex-service organisations on any combined submission that the collective ESOs may wish to make. However, this will not replace the need for a stand-alone ESO submission.

The National Executive will conduct other events to support its representations during this election year.

Bill Crews, National President

Are you the RSL or eligible to join as a member and find yourself in emergency welfare circumstances?

Help is at hand – call the RSL Welfare Officer on 2987 3799 and ask for an application for assistance. Each application is private and confidential.

Your Poppy Day money helping when you need it most.

The Wah Gaged Sailor, Soldier and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund

“The Aged Fund”

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Key Issues Facing the League

Your National Directors, including all State Presidents, met in Sydney on 22-23 January 2007 to consider a number of issues affecting the operation of the League and our future. I should like to report now on the broad outcomes of that meeting, which was regarded as highly productive.

Need for an RSL Strategic Plan

It was noted that the RSL’s National Corporate Plan, produced some years ago, could be revised to make it a more enduring plan, and it would be placed on our website. States would remain at liberty to subsequently develop strategic and business plans appropriate to their needs.

General agreement was reached that the National Executive and National President will continue to focus on national issues and avoid direct engagement in the prerogative of individual states.

Communication

A need is certainly identified to revamp the national website. This is now being undertaken with a target date of mid 2007. The website will be able to better accommodate important news and updates for members.

The national publication Stand To Ti will no longer be published beyond mid 2007. The National President’s normal contributions to Stand To Ti will be passed directly to States, as well as being placed on the national website. States will be encouraged to publish these in their periodicals.

In addition to the National President’s periodic reports to members covering broad League issues, such as this one, further material will be made available on the website covering action being taken on topical and contemporary matters. States are at liberty to reproduce any of these items in reports to members through their own publications.

It is essential that office bearers throughout the League remain proactive in explaining to our members the basis of decisions and passing on advice in response to representations made by the League.

Public Affairs

It is proposed to retain the present approach by League office bearers working with selected focused and targeted media releases, and following up all media enquiries. Office bearers will continue to engage and cooperate with media outlets to maximise opportunities for the League’s message to receive widest coverage.

National committee meeting minutes should, in future, reflect advice offered to the National President on matters of likely media interest within the scope of that national committee.

In engaging with the media, Directors should, if practicable, exchange views on topical issues to enhance consistency.

Relationships with Other ESOs

The RSL will continue its practice of cooperating with other ESOs and not engaging in public criticism of them. However, the RSL will continue to present itself as a leading ESO and be seen by veterans as the ESO of choice.

The RSL will make its own views known and its own representations on behalf of its members while appreciating and possibly reinforcing the views of others. Where a partnership approach is appropriate, the RSL will clearly indicate this to other membership and in the course of any approaches made to Government.

The RSL is positioned to accept other ESOs which may wish to discontinue their stand alone operations. Scope exists to establish specialist sub-branches within the structure of the League.

State and National KOC

The RSL should continue to take the lead in hosting State-based ESO forums or kindred organisations committees. However, there remains a need to ensure that the rules of operation and authority are clearly understood.

Where such forums or committees are hosted or owned by the RSL, it generally implies that the committee is an advisory committee. The RSL will not represent issues arising at a KOC if they directly contravene established League positions.

Advocacy – Our Approach to Government

We will maintain our approach of presenting forceful, cogent and well researched proposals to Government. The comprehensive Annual Budget Submission format will continue to be the principal vehicle for advancing Government and other parties of our major veteran’s affairs proposals underpinning our priority issues with a clear philosophy of need.

It is important that resolutions brought forward by sub-branches through State to National Congress be grammatically sound, clear in intent, and supported by a comprehensive rationale. Delute at each Congress should draw out any divergence of views to enhance the quality of the resolution.

There is a clear need at the National Headquarters for a research capacity to better progress a range of issues in meeting member expectations. Already, it is noted some assistance has been offered by States to support the staff to provide this capacity.

Our National Veterans’ Affairs Standing Policy should be regularly reviewed to ensure that it provides the contemporary underpinning of specific proposals contained in the Annual Budget Submission.

Integrity of the RSL-Brand

We need to recognise the limits of our influence in respect of some RSL-branded licensed clubs. However, we do have a very cooperative relationship with respective State RSL & Service Clubs Associations, and they retain a sense of shared purpose with the League. Opportunities will continue to be taken, both within the League and beyond, to enhance community understanding of the relationship between the League and the Clubs.

Authority to Act for the RSL

National By-Law 32 covers authorities adequately and continues to be supported. States may determine their own framework of delegations appropriate to their needs.

Membership

The National Membership Committee has been invited to revise the 2003 National Membership Plan, particularly focusing on further discussion about the role of Affiliates within our membership.

The revision is to make reference to use of Citizens Auxiliaries, to reflect the increasing desire of families to be involved, and to focus on securing the League’s future.

Financial Plan

The financial circumstances facing the National Headquarters have been clearly understood and there will be a requirement for recurring grants so that the National Headquarters may properly fulfill and meet the expectations of our members.

Bill Crews
National President
Rededication of Jewish War Memorial

This War Memorial was the first to be constructed after the Great War and the only one to be located in Kings Park at that time.

The Great War, and the names of forty-three who lost their lives in combat, are inscribed on this Memorial. The impetus for the original construction had come from Rabbi David Freedman of the Perth Hebrew Congregation. He had been a Chaplain-Major during the war and saw much service in the theatres of battle. He later became President of the RSL in WA.

Rabbi Freedman conducted the service at the unveiling of the completed Memorial which was performed by the Governor, Sir Francis Newdegate-Newdegate, on Sunday June 6th 1920, in the presence of a large crowd including many of the leading figures of Western Australia. This War Memorial was the first to be constructed after the Great War and only the second to be located in Kings Park at that time.

After World War II a plaque having the words, “To the memory of soldiers of the Jewish faith who were killed in action or who died on active service in World War II 1939-1945” was unveiled in 1953 enclosing the Shield of David and the Star of David. The impetus for the original construction has been past this Jewish War Memorial for nearly 87 years. It was erected, as the original inscription reads, “To the memory of soldiers of the Jewish faith who were killed in action or who died of wounds on the battlefields of Gallipoli, France, Belgium and Palestine in the Great War 1914-1918.”

It has been of great significance not only to the Jewish community but it is of considerable importance to the State of Western Australia as a whole. The great Australian General, Sir John Monash, in laying the foundation stone at this very site on Friday the 19th of March 1918, made the following comment: “I am happy to say that again we have come in on budget. Much as I would like to claim credit for prudent management of the finances, that is not so. Let me just say that after all expenses are accounted for we will be able to return some of the Government’s generous contribution towards this project. I imagine the Government would like that to happen more often than some of the other projects it supports. This iconic Memorial proudly stands once again as a monument to our great State’s spirit of commitment to our fair, democratic and tolerant Australian way of life and to the young Jewish Western Australians who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of those values.

I want to make special mention of Mr Martin Colgan of Colgan Industries, specialist heritage builders, for the excellent job he and his team have done.

I also thank the people at the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority with whom I liaised on a regular basis. They were extremely helpful in ensuring all aspects of the project could proceed smoothly.

It is interesting to note that in 1919 and 1920 our community raised the sum of £609.18.9, exactly the amount to the very last penny spent on the construction contract and associated expenses at the time of the building of the Memorial, originally.

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Dr Keith Stilken, President of the Jewish Community Council of WA, addresses the gathering in front of the recently rededicated Jewish War Memorial in Kings Park.
Tom was a Sydney boy and had joined up in 1939 with the 406 Beaufort Regiment. During 1942 Darwin was attacked on 64 separate occasions with raids continuing in 1943. The artillery positions were constantly under threat and were manned 24 hours a day. Over three hundred lives were lost during these air raids and many areas of Darwin were severely damaged.

Tom had married his wife Doris in 1942 and she had remained in Sydney during Tom's active service. He returned home in 1945 and together they raised a family of two boys, Tom and Jim and one girl Janice. They are blessed with nine grandchildren, three boys and six girls. One of these girls, Michelle met and married Clinton McKinnon. Clinton was a truck driver intent on building up a fleet of vehicles to operate in heavy earthmoving industry. He and Michelle now have eight truck and trailer combinations as part of their bulk earthmoving business.

Clinton often enjoyed reminiscing with Michelle's grandfather Tom, about his experiences in Darwin during the war. Clinton came to feel that this part of the war, and its effect on the service men and women in Darwin, did not receive the recognition it deserved. He was determined to do something about it.

When he saw some examples of the artwork created by Transart in Bendigo, Victoria, he decided that the sides of his new Kenworth tipper would make a fitting canvas to commemorate the deeds of Tom Flynn and the other men and women who served in defence of Darwin during WWII. Clinton's original concept was to feature a portrait of Tom on both doors with the Australian flag across the bonnet and small scenes from Darwin on each side of the truck bin.

However, in discussions with Transart, a larger theme developed and the artwork just grew and grew, to the point where now both truck and trailer are completely covered with the amazing commemorative scenes.

They are a fantastic visual tribute to all the Australian men and women involved in armed conflicts, in the service of their country. The sepia tones reflect the colouring of many of the old photographs proudly kept by the ‘diggers’ and their families. It is hoped that this truck, aptly named ‘Remembrance’ will serve to remind those of us who now enjoy the freedoms we have in Australia, that we owe a huge debt of gratitude to all the men and women who fought and died to secure our future.

Tom had a natural energetic and competitive nature. He could have had a successful business career, but he never really considered it. He was a truck driver intent on building up a fleet of combination as part of their bulk earthmoving industry. He and Michelle now have eight truck and trailer combinations as part of their bulk earthmoving business.

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Story & Picture: Michelle & Clint McKinnon, through RSL National HQ, Canberra.
Dawn Service (6.00am)
Kings Park & Botanic Gardens
The annual Dawn Service will be conducted in the State War Memorial Precinct of Fraser Avenue, commencing at 6.00am.

Leading up to the Service, a programme of historical material from the archives of the National War Memorial will tell the story of Australians in war. A number of large screens have been erected around the Memorial Precinct to show this film and also relay visions of the Service itself.

The conduct of the Dawn Service comprises:
- The sounding of the 6pm - 6.00am
- Last Post
- Silence
- Reveille

At the conclusion of the silent Dawn Service an address will be delivered by Wing Commander Anthony Thynne (Royal Australian Air Force).

Special Access - Seating
For the comfort and assistance of elderly and disabled veterans, seats will be placed on the upper level of the Court of Contemplation. Entry to this area is through the main entrance to the State War Memorial.

Special Access - Parking
The Fraser’s Resturant car park off May Drive is reserved for the aged, frail and disabled.

Dawn Service Bus Shuttle
A free shuttle will operate from near the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion in the Western Power Parkland on May Drive. The shuttle will run from 4.45am to 5.45am, returning at the conclusion of the Dawn Service.

ANZAC Club
THE HOME OF THE EX-SERVICES COMMUNITY
ANZAC Club is the home base for the Western Australian Ex-Services Community. The Club venue now has an appealing ambiance—having benefited from a major refurbishment. If you haven’t been in to the ANZAC Club recently, you are missing the best value in town for an enjoyable meal in pleasant surroundings – with unbeatable bar prices.

- ANZAC CLUB HAPPENINGS -

- LET’S DO LUNCH
ANZAC Club features a fantastic value menu that changes each season, plus a selection of favourites from the blackboard each day. Where else in the city could you enjoy a chef’s roast of the day with roast potato and seasonal vegetables for only $12.50?

- ANZAC DAY
With ANZAC Day fast approaching we highlight some of the activities at the Club on this special day.
- Gunfire Breakfast – get ready for the day with a hearty cooked breakfast served with toast and tea or coffee for just $10.00 per person
- Gallipoli Room – table reservations are being accepted for your unit or association post march gathering. Please phone the Club for information and bookings.

- OPEN FROM 10AM TO 4PM MONDAY TO FRIDAY • LUNCHEON FROM 12.00PM TO 2.00PM • PHONE: 9287 3714 •
Service.

from 4.45am to 5.45am, returning at the conclusion of the Dawn Service Bus Shuttle.

A free shuttle will operate from near the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion. Seats for aged, frail and disabled are also available at the front of the Memorial Precinct of Fraser Avenue, commencing at 6.00am.

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast (7.00am)

Following the Dawn Service in Kings Park and preceding the ANZAC Day March through the City a traditional gunfire breakfast will be held in Sidling Garden in St Georges Ter (next door to Council House) commencing at 7.00am.

Veterans and members of the community are invited to attend and share the spirit of ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day March (9.20am)

The March will commence with the Australian Defence Forces stepping off from St Georges Terrace at 9.20am. Hospital vehicles and mosp carrying vehicles will follow the ADF!

Veteran Commissions step off at 9.40am from the intersection of Barrack St and St Georges Terrace. The Parade marches east along St Georges Terrace to Victoria Avenue and then south to Langley Park. The salute (to the Right) will be taken on St Georges Terrace at the saluting-dais in front of the Perth Concert Hall. The Reviewing Officer is the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC.

ANZAC Day Service (11.00am)

The Parade will enter Langley Park off Victoria Avenue. The Parade will form up on the Esplanade facing east. The ANZAC Day Service will commence at approximately 11.00am when all Units and Associations are assembled.

Public Facilities

Seating for aged, frail and disabled is also available at the front of the Parade. In addition, there are large areas of open grass available for the public on the Reserve. Toilet facilities will be available on both sides of Langley Park.

Seating

• The Ode
• Reveille
• Silence
• Laying of Official Wreaths
• The sounding of the Still - 6.00am

The conduct of the Dawn Service comprises:

The Kiosk, Tea Rooms and Frasers Restaurant all open at 6.30am.

Kings Park
Kings Park Kiosk Open: 5.00am - 5.40am (closing for the service) The Kiosk, Tea Rooms and Frasers Restaurant all open at 6.30am.

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The Music Lingers on

Passing away this year was a lady of great talent, Eleanor May Brew generally known as Nell, she was the youngest of nine children who grew up in Northam, where she became an accomplished pianist.

Music was to become the major love in her life and she attained a high degree in piano. Nell was always in demand to entertain the troops at the Northam Army Base during the World War II.

She composed a piece of music called "Farewell To You My ANZAC" and had the copyright registered on the 18 August 1941. Nell taught music at home and at one time she had up to thirty two students.

At the end of each year she would always put on a recital which was well attended and enjoyed by students and parents.
Drug Prevention – a chance to move forward in Australia

Drug Free Australia (DFA) is a non-for-profit peak body that aims to work with individuals and community organisations to create a greater awareness of how we can prevent illicit drug problems in Australia.

“We are honoured to accept an invitation to be at the WA State Congress in June this year”, said Jo Baxter, DFA’s Executive Officer, at a recent meeting with Bill Graynor and Ian Griffiths.

“At the Congress, we will have information available for parents, grandparents and anyone who is wanting to do more about drugs in our community. You can also check us out online at www.drugfree.org.au.”

On the website you will also find details about our schools’ competition.

The ‘Let’s Keep Drug Free’ competition is supported by our Patron and tennis legend, Dr Margaret Court. Winners will receive huge packs of sporting equipment for their schools, and lots more. The idea is to get new and creative ideas from our young people, so that we really do have a chance to move forward and beat the drug problem in Australia.

Drug Free Australia also extends a special invitation to all RSL members in WA, to DFA’s International Conference in Adelaide in April.

"Exposing the Reality – a National and International Perspective on Illicit Drug Use", will be held from 27-29 April at the Stamford Plaza, Adelaide. This is a conference towards greater public awareness of the devastation caused by Illicit drugs in this country and internationally. It will offer some constructive, workable prevention strategies to address key issues and will listen to public opinion on matters of urgent local concern.

DFA Patron, and Australian Tennis Champion, Dr Margaret Court MBE, DFA’s Executive Officer, at a recent meeting with Bill Graynor and Ian Griffiths.

Dr Margaret Court MBE AO was here with enthusiastic participants of the schools’ competition.

The Royal Australian Regiment Association (WA Branch)

Long Tan Dental Clinic Fund Raising Project

– Project Report

I am happy to report that the problems associated with castings of the 300 component toilets which form part of the Long Tan Community Health Aid Project (LTCHAP) have been successfully overcome by the AVVRG Director of Operations – Vietnam, Paul Murphy and the completed toilets were handed over in a ceremony conducted by the Australian Consul General in Ho Chi Minh City, Mal Shelly on the 17th of December, 2006.

This has meant that Stage 2 of the LTCHAP should commence very soon and in the last week of February this year, the funds which were raised by our committee for the provision of equipment to the Long Tan Dental Clinic were handed over to the Department of Health-Vung Tau. It is my understanding that the equipment is now being ordered and a time frame for supply and installation means that the clinic should be operational by mid June.

Valma and I will arrive in Vietnam on 28th of May and intend to be in Vung Tau in mid June for the official hand over of the equipment towards the end of June.

BY R.J. (BOB) WOOD
PROJECT COORDINATOR

WHO DARES WINS

Order now by calling
1800 098 817

The Special Air Service, the crack regiment revered as the eyes and ears of the Australian Defence Force, celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2007.

Fully supported by the Australian SAS itself, this pure silver release offers collectors of Australian military commemoratives a magnificent token with which to celebrate the Regiment’s many vital contributions throughout the world.

The spectacular coloured coin depicts SAS soldiers in action in a variety of operations. It also portrays the famous insignia of the SAS incorporating the words WHO DARES WINS.

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Subject to a strict limited mintage of just 7,500, each coin is housed in a stylish presentation case and attractively illustrated shipper, and is accompanied by a numbered Certificate of Authenticity.

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Should you not be satisfied with your purchase, simply return it to us in a saleable condition for a full refund (excluding postage).

$69.95

PROTECTING YOUR HONOURS & AWARDS

Quality leather bound, Australian made medal boxes, available in various sizes.

$69.95

THE LISTENING POST April 2007 15
Are you taking the right steps this year to protect yourself against serious winter respiratory infections?

If you cannot afford to stay in bed for days, be hospitalised, take time off work, or you are simply too busy to be sick, then you really cannot afford to catch either influenza or pneumococcal disease this winter.

Winter is the time when the rate of serious respiratory illness mounts. However, most people assume that the worst that can happen to them is catching a cold, which means putting up with a runny nose, a sore throat or a headache for a little while. What many people, especially those with underlying medical conditions, do not realise is that there are far more serious conditions they can contract than a cold.

While recovery from the common cold is generally without incident, influenza (commonly known as the “flu”) and pneumococcal disease can result in serious illness and even death. In fact, in Australia it is estimated that approximately 2,500 Australians die from either influenza or pneumococca, each year.

Influenza is a viral illness, characterised by severe symptoms including fever, headaches, muscle aches and pains, which can be debilitating, and can cause people to be bed-ridden for days and not return back to full health for weeks. Influenza is contagious, breathing in droplets of the virus that have been released into the air by infected people through coughing and sneezing. People can also catch influenza by touching objects where the virus particles have settled, such as door handles.

Pneumococcal disease is a type of bacteria, commonly known as pneumococcus, which can cause a range of illnesses that affect various parts of the body. In adults, pneumococcal disease most commonly presents as pneumonia, an infection of the lungs which can be very serious. Pneumococcal disease can also present as:

- Meningitis (inflammation around the brain)
- Septicaemia (blood poisoning)
- Endocarditis (infection of the heart)

Influenza and pneumococcal disease can affect anyone; however people who are older or who have particular medical conditions are generally more prone to complications such as a result of contracting either of these illnesses. These include people:

- Aged 65 or over,
- Those with underlying medical conditions, such as diabetes, respiratory disease, heart disease, kidney disease and those with a weakened immune system.

Other people recommended to have an annual influenza vaccination are:

- Healthcare providers,
- Anyone else who wants to decrease the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza.

While it is possible to develop a respiratory infection at any time of the year, in Australia respiratory infections are more common in the winter months, and this is also when people are more likely to die from other infections.

Therefore, it is important that people are aware of some simple measures that they can take to minimise the risk of catching influenza or pneumococcal disease and reduce the spread of illness. These include:

- Wash your hands regularly and thoroughly
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing
- Keep your hands away from your mouth and face
- See your doctor for an influenza and pneumococcal vaccination

Vaccination is the most effective and practical way for people to protect themselves against influenza and pneumococcal disease. The Federal Government provides free vaccinations against influenza and pneumococcal disease to everyone aged 65 or over, and the vaccines are available on the PBS for those under 65 with specific medical conditions.

“As many people are not entirely aware of how influenza and pneumococcal disease can affect them, they do not realise the benefits of vaccination. Similarly, many young people assume that being fit and healthy will safeguard them against respiratory infections such as influenza. This is not necessarily true,” said Dr Alan Hampson, Chair of the Influenza Specialist Group (ISG), an independent committee consisting of medical and scientific specialists and patient support group representatives.

“Australians need to understand that respiratory infections such as influenza and pneumococcal disease are potentially life-threatening, particularly for people who have serious underlying medical conditions,” added Dr Hampson.

“It is important that people take adequate steps to safeguard themselves against developing a respiratory infection, which includes seeing their doctor for an influenza and pneumococcal vaccination.”

Dr Hampson concludes.

If you would like more information on influenza or pneumococcal disease, speak with your doctor or visit www.flu.com.au

References


More details on each disease can be found on Page 18.
The Governor General will officiate and has expressed a wish to meet many people. We will be mailing approximately 500 invitations to our donors and supporters next week as well as a general invitation to the public at large via press and radio. It is our specific wish to contact all RSL branches in the State and feel that this may be best done via your network. We wish to invite all members to attend this unique occasion.

Terry Taylor (Treasurer)

In partnership with the official organisers of the London event www.foalshock.com they have created a free online tool where any current or ex-service personnel can arrange to meet.

Dominic Hayhoe, Managing Director of Forces Reunited said “As we are the first choose online destination for ex-service men and women, we felt that creating somewhere for former colleagues and friends to arrange a meeting was essential. It is a privilege to be working with the organisers of the National Commemorative Event, and we are pleased to feature the meeting’s organisation service to anyone wishing to meet at the event in London.”

Forces Reunited was set up in 2001 and caters for veterans of any age, offering many services far beyond meeting ex-service men and women.

For more information, or to use the service, go to: www.forcesreunited.co.uk, or www.foalshock.com.


Poetry

The Final Inspection

The soldier stood and faced his God, Which must always come to pass. He hoped his shoes were shining, Just as highly as his brass.

Step forward now, you Soldier, How shall I deal with you? Have you always numbered the other check? To My Church have you been true?

The soldier squared his shoulders and said, “No, my Lord, I ain’t. Because those of us who carry guns, Can’t always be a saint.

I’ve had to work most Sundays, And at times my mood was rough. And sometimes I’ve been violent, Because the world is awfully rough.

But, I never took a dollar, That wasn’t mine to keep, Though I worked a lot of overtime, When the bills got just too steep.

And I never passed a cry for help, Though at times I shook with fear. And sometimes, God, forgive me, I’ve wept unmanly tears.

I know I don’t deserve a place, Among the people here. They never worried me around, Except to calm their fears.

If you’ve a place for me here, Lord, It mightn’t look so grand. I never expected or had too much. But if you don’t, I’ll understand.

There was a silence all around the throne, Where the saints had often trod. As the Soldier waited quietly, For the judgment of his God.

“Step forward now, you Soldier, You’ve borne your burdens well. Walk peacefully on Heaven’s streets, You’ve done your time in Hell.”


Reunion

HMAS Quiboron

A reunion is planned for all ex-crew members of HMAS Quiboron 16-18 October 2007 in Caloundra.

Tony Daniel - 07 3400 0890

HMAS Voyager

Arrangements are being made to hold a HMAS Voyager all ex-crew reunion in Queenscliff September 2007. Expressions of interest to Bernard (Dunny) Venner PO Box 6119 Mooroolbark Qld 4155

Tel:07-54947850 Email: matross@bigpond.net.au

Ever Serve on HMS Hobart?

All ex crew members of HMS Hobart from WW11 thru to 2001 are invited to the “Hobart REUNION” to be held in Mildura Vic from 8th - 12th November 2007.

Mr Graham Bermingham Secretary PO Box 6119

HMAS Anzac

HMAS Anzac / Tobruk Association will be holding a reunion at Caloundra RSL Sunshine Coast Branch from 18th-21st October 2007 For all details regarding applications and new member's forms and programme of events contact:

Mr Graham Bermingham Secretary 6/90 Mt Pleasant Rd Narangarook Vic 3930 Phone 098776715 Email: bermingham1@bigpond.com

Army Posties (Vietnam)

I am hoping to get a reunion of Australian Army Posties in Melbourne by the end of this year. If so I will be a Posty in Vietnam, or from 1970-1976 please contact me. Names I have to date are Miffling, Yf, Terrell, Jones, Shoeminger, Righ, Audlin, Kelevich, Lehmann, Latimer and many more.

Interested? Contact Peter Terrell 08-89333172 or pudke@kap.asn.au

Can you help

I'm a 73 year old ex-serviceman compiling my third modest book “Boots & Bullsh*t!”. A compilation of funny stories, amusing experiences, jokes, tales, poignant thoughts and precious moments of life in, and associated with, all branches of HM Armed Forces.

May I please be permitted to make an appeal for articles from your members? Example 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 persons name, rank, number and unit or伤病免费提供. All proceeds are shared by The Royal Leicestershire Regiment “Rangers’ Association” and the Leicestershire & Rutland British Legion County Pipe Band.

Clive Stewart cws007@hotmail.com

ARPAPEL FOR AMUSING ARTICLES FROM MEMBERS

This is a big ask! I'm trying to find where my mother's uncle is buried. His name was Harold Gill and he was born in Manchester England around the turn of the century. After enlisting for WW1 at the age of 15 and surviving the trenches he came to Oz at the age of 17ys and only ever returned to the UK once when his mother was dying.

He never married and as far as I know has no family in Australia. All I know is that in his later years lived in RSL accommodation in the Perth area and when he died in the 80's was buried in an RSL cemetery.

I live in NZ and my mother now lives close by. My father and her are planning a trip to Oz in the near future and I know she would very much like to visit his grave. The info is this bit can you help.

Best regards, Steve Lobb selobb007@hotmail.com

Sgt ALAN BERRY

Sgt Alan Berry (decd) WX 2074 2/32 Btn 9th Division. I am trying to contacting relatives of Alan particularly his daughter Marilyn who posted a message on the internet in 2002 seeking information. His badge no is D2057. His badge appears to be from Quiberon 16-18 October 2007 in Caloundra.

Ken Robison Ph 03 5248 2349 Email: wemon@g130.aone.net.au

7 Lynnington Cr, ST ALBANS PARK 3219 Vic

You never know who it might help

Bring new hope to those with cancer by making a gift in your will.

Bequests to The Cancer Council WA help fund life saving research that ultimately help us defeat cancer.

For confidential information about making a bequest to The Cancer Council WA please call Suzanne Cavanagh on (08) 9122 4333

The Cancer Council WA

46 Ventnor Avenue, West Perth WA 6005 Tel (08) 9212 4310 Fax (08) 9212 4334 e-mail: susanne@cancerwa.asn.au www.cancerwa.asn.au

Stories based on exploits of the 2/43rd Battalion

I thought I’d let you know that a series of short stories of mine are being published in a free online magazine at www.thechief.org based on the exploits of the 2/43rd Battalion. They are a fictional account based on where the battalion served and some of the battles.

I thought some of your members might be interested.

Regards, Reece Pocock rpo16584@bigpond.net.au

AW POTTS Kokoda track Memorial Inc

The much anticipated unveling and dedication of the AW Potts Kokoda Track Memorial will take place at Kojonup on May 6th 2007 (Sunday) at 2pm.

Australian Living History Society of WA POTTS Kokoda track Memorial Inc
People often confuse the common cold with influenza. However, “colds” are usually less severe and rarely cause serious illness.1

On the other hand, influenza is a potentially lethal viral illness which affects the whole body, with symptoms including fever, headaches, muscle aches and pains. People can take several weeks to fully recover from influenza2 while for a small percentage of the population it can lead to hospitalisation, or even death. Influenza is caused by a virus which is spread when infected people cough or sneeze into the air, transmitting droplets which are breathed in by other people. It can also be transmitted via objects (e.g. door handles) on which virus particles have settled. A new vaccine is made every year to ensure the best possible protection. The vaccine protects people against three strains of influenza which the World Health Organization identifies as the most likely to cause outbreaks for that season.

The impact on Australia

In Australia, significant levels of influenza occur most years with more severe outbreaks every 2-3 years. An Australian study from the early 1990s estimated that influenza was annually responsible for:1

- 1.5 million days off work
- A total economic cost of about $600 million – a cost which could be expected to have increased since

Who’s at risk

Influenza isn’t just a problem for the elderly – up to 18 per cent of all excess deaths related to pneumonia occur in patients aged 65 years or over. It also potentially has serious consequences for people with underlying medical conditions. The National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) recommends influenza vaccination for a number of groups, including:5

- People aged 65 or over (although this group receives influenza vaccination as part of the Commonwealth’s Influenza for Older Australians Program);
- People with underlying chronic medical conditions, such as diabetes, respiratory disease, heart disease, kidney disease and those with a weakened immune system;
- Healthcare providers;
- Anyone else who wants to decrease the likelihood of becoming ill with influenza.

Many healthy Australians can’t afford to get influenza, such as those who are self-employed, single parents, carers or people who can’t afford to take any time off work.

Avoiding influenza

Vaccination is the single most effective6,7 and practical way for people to protect themselves against influenza. While no vaccine is 100% effective, the influenza vaccine protects the majority of those vaccinated against developing the infection and hence the serious consequences of infection. Studies have shown it significantly reduces the cases of influenza-like illness, hospitalisation and deaths due to pneumonia and influenza, and the total deaths occurring during an influenza season.6

Australia has been very successful in vaccinating people 65 years and over against influenza, with 79.1%6 of this age group becoming vaccinated in 2004. However, there is room for improvement among those aged under 65 with underlying medical conditions as they are at increased risk of serious disease as well as complications from influenza – only 42% of this group received their influenza vaccine in 2004.7

Unfortunately, many people who should be vaccinated avoid doing so, because they believe being fit and healthy will protect them against influenza – this is not necessarily the case.

When to get vaccinated

For most regions of Australia influenza vaccination is best carried out before May, when serious outbreaks begin to occur. While it is possible to contract influenza at any time of the year, the majority of people will become infected between July-September.

In the far north of Australia influenza outbreaks can occur early in the year and vaccination should be practiced as early as possible.

References:

"Consider what values and characteristics differentiate the ANZACs at Gallipoli and later reinforced at the Western Front, continue to influence Australians today"

NEARLY 90 years after those gallant Australian and New Zealand men forged what was to become the ANZAC legend with their blood and their lives, that bravery and sacrifice is still revered as a standard we hold high.

Today, the Australian Army still views those brave deeds by our diggers as a benchmark of excellence and what it means to be an Australian soldier.

The ethos of the Army is that of the soldier serving the nation: mentally and physically tough, and with the courage to win. We fight as part of a team and are inspired by the ANZAC tradition of fairness and loyalty to our mates. We are respected for our professionalism, integrity, esprit de corps and initiative.

Not limited to WW1 and the trenches of Gallipoli, Australians consistently earn the respect of their allies and contributions through deeds and actions that typify our Australian fighting spirit - bold and ferocious in battle but unwilling to bow to military discipline. To be an ANZAC is to hold firm in battle, to die with a smile, yet never to succumb to adversity.

Chiselled into the memorial at the village of Isurava where Australians were recognised for their participation in defensive action fought on the Kokoda Trail are four words: Courage Endurance Mateship Sacrifice

These four words exemplify the legend and ethos that became the ANZACs and still continues to exist in the generations of Australians that followed.

COURAGE

Throughout Australia’s history our men and women have earned themselves a rightful place in halls of the brave and valiant. Unlike many of our allies, Australia did not conscript their soldiers to fight in World War 1 – there was no legal obligation to risk their lives - all Australian diggers were willingly as volunteers.

Men as young as 16 and 4 months (such as Alec Campbell; the last Anzac) earned themselves the right to hold firm in battle, to die with a smile, yet never to succumb to adversity.

At Gallipoli, the ANZACs and the Turks dug many miles of trenches along the beaches. With the Turks so far forward and the sea trapping them at the rear, the Australians dug in and defended their trenches without rest. Given rise to the term “Digger” (so named for their tenacity in “digging in”, both literally and emotionally).

If sniper fire didn’t kill or injure you, then gaspo, napalm and no fresh food or water probably would Gallipoli gave new meaning to the term endurance. This hellish situation dragged on for eight long months and cost 7,734 Australian lives alone before the decision was finally made at the end of 1915 to abandon the beachheads.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy” 4

Stuart Diver is another example of an Australian who simply refused to give in and let death take him, choosing instead to endure and survive. In 1997, after being buried alive for 65 hours in freezing rubble and debris when a landslide hit two alpine lodges in Thredoil and killed 18 people, Stuart Diver was rescued by emergency workers. He was the only survivor.

MATESHIP

Definition: mateship: Australian. A mode of conduct among Australian men that stresses equality, friendship, and solidarity. 5

The military historian B. H. Liddell Hart wrote in 1933 that the war on the Western Front was in 1933 that the war on the Western Front was

The ANZAC spirit lives on in all of us, undiminished by the passing years. It seems that every true Australian is still an ambassador for the spirit of the ANZACs.

ENDURANCE

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The ANZAC spirit lives on in all of us, undiminished by the passing years. It seems that every true Australian is still an ambassador for the spirit of the ANZACs.
In this issue, I'd like to address our "Younger Veterans" and currently serving Defence Force personnel, to reassure them all that the RSL is mindful about many of the compensation issues concern to them. This column is directed solely to our "Younger Veterans".

The RSL realizes that it isn't easy to be a soldier, sailor or airman in today's ADF. All services have recently cut back their numbers over the past 10+ years; jobs and postings (in such fields as housing, catering, stores etc) have been cut and "out-sourced" instead to private contractors. At the same time, Australia's commitments to a variety of small, but demanding overseas deployments in troubled spots (Iraq, Afghanistan, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Bougainville etc) has led to personnel at the "sharp/operational end", running through multiple postings. Those in the RSL, involved in the welfare and compensation issues that usually go hand-in-hand with these operational deployments, are increasingly dispirited by some of the feedback that we are getting from current serving members and/or younger veterans who have returned from overseas areas of conflict.

We can well understand the fatigue and emotional toll that successive deployments in conflicted areas place on an individual. We realize that today's world is one of mobile (and terrorism) volatility and unpredictability that demands high levels of commitment from a highly-trained professional ADF "at-the-coal-face" – and it must be pretty stressful. Professional ADF "at-the-coal-face" – and it must be pretty stressful.

It is not enough however, for us to merely articulate your concerns for us. The RSL does care. But we need you to tell us what you want and what your hopes and expectations are.

**BRIEF BACKGROUND**

Until 1 July, 2004, any serviceman or woman who had been deemed to be fit for operational duty in a designated "war-zone" was covered by the Veterans' Entitlements Act (1986) (the VEA), if he/she acquired a disability or injury during that deployment.


From the time this latter Act was mooted, the Veterans' Affairs Committee of the WA State Branch of the RSL expressed misgivings. A handful of dedicated volunteers advocates thoroughly drafted the new legislation, and challenged numerous sections of it (through the National RSL body).

Some of these objections were heeded, resulting in a number of more favourable amendments. In And yet, however, the RSL workers involved were dismayed and disappointed that the new Act was and is, generally less beneficial than its predecessor. [NOTE: I say "generally" – because in a few cases, where a service-person is accidentally killed whilst on duty, for instance – the benefits for widows are more generous than under the VEA. On the other hand, in instances where a person is deemed to be significantly disabled and unable to work – final decisions on the permanency of that service-person's serious disability (ie: key major Financial Decisions) are taking well over a year to be decided: delays which are unacceptable and sometimes inexcusable in our view).

**EXAMPLE – Regarding "Permanent Incapacity for Employment" to "Wartime" issues**

Decisions to grant a Totally and Permanently Disabled rate (paid as a forrestently pension for the rest of that veteran's life), under the VEA, were usually provided and decided within 3 - 5 months – quite often quicker; and determined here in WA. Under the new Act, forrestently pension may be payable, at a rate the same as under the present system – but will be "off-set" against any other Commonwealth monies the person is receiving (eg ComSuper and ADF pensions). The RSL realizes that it isn't easy to be a soldier, sailor or airman in today's ADF.

At the same time, Australia's commitments to a variety of small, but demanding overseas deployments in troubled spots (Iraq, Afghanistan, Solomon Islands, East Timor, Bougainville etc) has led to personnel at the "sharp/operational end", running through multiple postings. Those in the RSL, involved in the welfare and compensation issues that usually go hand-in-hand with these operational deployments, are increasingly dispirited by some of the feedback that we are getting from current serving members and/or younger veterans who have returned from overseas areas of conflict.

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**Role of Vietnam veterans honoured as counselling service changes its name**

Western Australia's Flagship Theatre Company continues bringing you exciting and diverse theatre from Australia and around the world.

**COMING SOON**

The Crucible—Arthur Miller's masterpiece; an all-striat WA cast can perform this classic tale of witchcraft and intrigue at the Playhouse from May 19.

The Mess—Max Gillis stars in this tongue-in-cheek rendition of the Greatest Story Ever Told. The Great American Panto, this rollicking comedy will brighten up your winter nights in July. Presented as part of the 2007 City of Perth Winter Arts Festival.

Life X 3 — Fresh from her success with the WA Opera production The Love Of The Nightingale, Lindy Hume directs Yeoman Bay's clever and wry Life X 3... three times the drama, three times the laughs, three times the fun.

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A tribute to Vietnam veterans for the role they played in establishing a counselling service for veterans and their families was held recently at the Adelaide office of the recently renamed VVCS – Vietnam and Veterans Families Counselling Service.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Bruce Billson, said Vietnam veterans’ compensation for looking out for each other saw them successfully lobby the Australian Government for counselling and support services, leading to the formation of the Vietnam veterans Counselling Service. The first VVCS office opened in Adelaide in 1982.

"Now, some 25 years after that service was established, the Vietnam veteran community has supported moves to change the name to VVCS – Vietnam and Veterans Families Counselling Service to hence reflect the breadth of clients the Service now supports," Mr Billson said.

"Today, VVCS provides Australia-wide support and services to veterans of all conflicts and peace operations, wives, widows, partners, sons and daughters, as well as eligible ADF personnel.

"However, there was evidence that many ADF members and veterans of more recent conflicts considered that the VVCS was available only to Vietnam veterans due to its name.

"The said it was for ‘Vietnam veterans’, but it didn’t say it was for other veterans,” Mr Billson said. “The new name builds on the credibility and recognition of the VVCS while making it more inclusive of the broader veteran community.”

Mr Billson unveiled a plaque at the Adelaide VVCS office that acknowledges the role of the Vietnam veterans in establishing the service. Similar plaques will be displayed at all VVCS offices throughout Australia to ensure that the VVCS serves as a means to the memories, traditions and support demonstrated by the Vietnam veteran community.

The Minister opened the VVCS National Conference and announced a new focus to commemorate the contribution of Vietnam veterans in establishing the VVCS and their support of the name change in this, the 25th year of operations of the VVCS.
New Members

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

ALBANY
BULLARD Leslie RAN
LEIGHTON Gibson MN
TRENSAYE Peter Rnzaf

ARMADALE
BALZLEY George Army
BISHOP Geoffrey RN
CURRY Robert Army
HEAZLE Ian RAAf
PAINTER Michael Army
BOSN Lyndon Army
SANSOM Daniel Army
SANSOM Malcolm Army

BALLAJURA
AITON Gary Army

BELMONT
OSHEA John Army

BENTLEY
BOWLSHAW Peter Army
JOHNSON Ivan Army
MCNELL Peter Army

BROOKTON
COX Antony Army

BROOME
HALL Norman RAN
STEWART Kenneth Army
WATLING Paul Army

BULLSONGROOK
CHILD Heather Army
DE GRASSA Robert Army
GWARE Kenneth RAAf

BUSNBURY
BOON Mark Army
CLAYDEN Robert Army
RUBY Kenneth RAAf

BUSSELTON
BIRRS Kevin RAN
DYER Clement Army
STEWART Douglas MN

CAMBRIDGE
ANDRWEES Douglas Army

CANNING DISTRICTS - VICTORIA PARK
CAHILL Ronald Army

CAPEL
GRIEVE James Army

CENTRAL
BARRITT Anthony Army
CURTICE Richard RN
GOODWIN Barrie Army
KING Alex Army
MARTIN Alan RAAf

CITY OF COCKBURN
COUCH Anthony RAN
RIEMER Tomislav Army
SHERIFF James RAAf
SILLS Christopher Army
UDO Rudolf RAN

YOUNG Richard Army

CITY OF MANDURAH
DOODIE Vicente RAN
FIELD Keith Army
GRAY Walter RAAf
MCHEEN Michael RAN
OSWELL David Army
WRIGHT Max RAN

CITY OF PERTH
SMITH Darren RAN

CITY OF ROCKINGHAM
BRITTIN Phillip RAN
MINERS Clarence RAAF
ROSE Kevin Army
STEPHENSON Christia Army

COLLIE-CARDIFF
FLEAY Michael Army

CUNDERDIN
COOPER Ryan RAAf

DARLING RANGE
PAGE Anne Marie Army

DONGARA
HALCH Dana WRAF
FISCHER Leigh Army
HARTNEY John Army

EASTERN HILLS
MARIS Frederick RAAf

GASCOYNE
DWYER Peter RAN

GERALDTON CITY
HILLS Leslie RAN
MAY Ronald Army
ROSE Lionel RAAf
STINTON Barry Army

HIGHGATE
COPI Leslie RAN
MORGAN Keith RAN
KARRATHA & DISTRICTS
MASSEY Geoffrey Army

KIRWANA
COLLINS Paul Army
POLARID Peter Army

LEONORA
SELLEY Grant Army
SULLIVAN Daniel Army

MOSMAN PARK
GABRIELSON Robert Army

MT LAWLEY - INGLEWOOD
GOREY Kevin Army
KING Robert RAAf
PIETERS Johan Army

NANNUP
PORTER Arthur Army

NARRIGAN
DARVALL Jerry RAN

NEWLANDS
GRIFFITHS Erynn RAAF

NOLLAMA
FLARSH Antonio Army
HARRIS Walter Army
MATTHEWS Francis Army
MCQUADE Sean Army

NORTH BEACH
DAVIES Noel Army
HENDERSON William Army
LUNDBERG MigrantArmy
PERCOCR Ugo Army
SNAKE Murray Army

NORTHAM
BERNARD Denise Army

OCEAN REEF
BAOCN Robert Army
BUCHANAN Douglas Army
CHRISTIANSEN Gregory RAN
SELLS Gregory RAN

OSBORNE PARK
CASELLA Harry Army
VULKMAN George RAN

PINARRA
COOKING Rodmery Army

PORT HEDLAND
BOON Michael Army
BOWEN Lisa Army
RUDY Chris Army
SMITH Mark Army

QUINNS ROCK
CALVERT Michael RAAF
RADDIS Peter Army

RIVERTON
WESTPAL Graham Army
WYSS Malcolm RAAf

SERPENTINE-JARRADALE
BLAND Raymond RAAf
HIBBLE Regional RAAf
MARSH Adam Army
THOMAS Benjamin Army

SHARK BAY
WILSON Geoffrey RAAF

WANNEROO-JOONDALUP
DONAHAY Robert RAN
EVANS David RAAf
GREGGIG Charlotte Army
LE GRAS Jack RAN
MULLUMBUM Barry Army
TUFFIN Brian ALLIED
TUFFIN Wendy RAAf

YANCHEP-TWO ROCKS
HOWARD Peter MN
HYSEN Robert Army

YOKINE-JOONDANNA
ROSTOWSKY Hillard RN

Their names are listed by sub-branch.

NAVY
LOWELL Glenn Gl0575
PERCY Robert 9516
SIZ JF  F481
SMITHSRYTH JF0749

ARMY
ALLEN Allen NX10308
ASHMAN Howard WX3702
BANKS John 2706123
BANKS Robin 85336
BICKELL John 15644
BLYTHE Rowland WX2982
BOOTINGDON Alfred WX3614
BROTH Daniel 1426776
BROOKC-RUTHER Geoffrey WX27574
BRUS Arthur WX24062
BRYAN Alan May 53
BRYANT Clarence WX30807
BRYANT Alan FEB 45
BUCHEIMGHAM William NX20013
CHURCH WC WX26604
CLARK John WX28194
COPEMAN George NX17893
CROPPS SB 6000
CROWE James WX25208
CURSNO E F WX28554
ELLISOTT Allan WX5761
EVANS Leonard WX26846
FALKENB R ESSEX 1616180
FOSUN Frederick WX38084
FRONT Walter 29574
GAMBLIN E G 288998
GEMI William WX7815
GOLDING William WX1 692
GRAY Edward F1/372
GRIEVE Charles WX37779
GUPTHER Nicholas WD4041
HASSETT G C WX33591
HESS Stanley WX12970
HILL Eric WX99988
HILL SMITH Ian 45459
HORSLEY D 32079
HOCHG JF WX28218
HUNT HLE WX6387
KANEI Richard 22676097
KNOPTOR WERN 715484
KRAKGER Norman WX43558
LAMBERT Donald AS177
LAMONT James May 13
LAMOTTI Louis 10542

LE MIZH SUX10820
LUFFHOUSE RJ WX4501
LUCAS George WX2200
LUZGA Rodney 867386
MASOTTI AR W4294
MOFFETT CRJ WX16202
MORGAN Frederick WX2798
MORRIS Edward 80433
MULLEN Berenad 2581962
PYLE SM WX27116
READ RJ WX3546
ROSE C C WX2595
SISONS James WX1354
SIZER DJ WX21605
SPEREA Lindsay WX38751
STEWARD NA WX8518
STIWE Walter FER 78
TAYLOR Eric WX28928
TOHOLKA Faberwinter WX10070
VORONI Frons WX17211

AIRFORCE
CARR James 81086
CANNING Joseph S721245
CLEESE Helen WX2835
GUEST A C 15683
HARRIES Arthur 11777
HASSETT WC 69806
KOUNS Jean NW31779
PACOW William 66448
RIPPER Edmon 81828
ROSENER CR 2914
SHURMER John 72286
SIMMS AC 81177
SLATTON J 69696
WILLFORD JS 17969

WOMEN
ANSELL Mary WX39363
CUTBREAS Margaret WX37972
ELLIFTTI Meriett WL9206
FARMER (NEE KIDD) Barry 94435
FURISALLY R WY70120
MILLARD Yorina NF45515
SULLY Elyce WX45890
TONKIN (NEE MCKENZIE) Beldon WF15265

ALLOED
MULRENICK Peter 2726387
TAYLOR Andrew PSO 156074

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Sub-Branch News

Quairading
Quairading’s last link to, (through marriage) World War I.

Mrs Lil Fallon turned 100 on January 31st 2007. Her birthday coincides with the Shire of Quairading’s Centenary. Mrs Fallon married Corporal Veron Fallon of the 16th Battalion AIF in 1925.

Mrs Fallon is affectionately known throughout the Shire as simply Aunty Lil.

By Gene Stone

Mrs Lil Fallon celebrated her 100th Birthday. Happy Birthday Aunty Lil.

Subiaco
Women’s Auxiliary
Afternoon Tea, March 9th 2007, Subiaco Council Chambers Hosted by the Mayor, Heather Henderson, Co-Patron of the Sub-Branch

Present
Sub-Branch President, Dennis Williams, Members and Wives, WA RSL State President Mr Bill Gagno and Mrs Gaynor, Member for Nedlands and Co-Patron of the Sub-Branch, Sue Walker MLA, Women’s Auxiliary members, Mrs Joy Preedy, Mrs Eleanor Mensell, Mrs Joan Hogg, Mrs Joy Orchard and Mrs Vera Chumny.

The City of Subiaco Sub-Branch was formed in 1921, the first in Western Australia, followed by Geraldton.

Their 84 years of service to the RSL and the community has been recognised by the awarding of a Certificate of Appreciation, presented by the State President, Mr Bill Gagno, OAM RFD

ANZAC Day Service: 6:45am at Cottesloe Civic Centre, Beorne Street, Cottesloe.

Light refreshments in Memorial Hall after Service. All invited.

Scarborough
Early planning seems to be the secret of success and so our committee has been very busy planning for our annual ANZAC Day service at our Memorial Garden. Numbers of attendances have been steadily increasing over recent years which have brought problems of more seating, better acoustics and extra catering for refreshments.

Thanks to assistance from the City of Stirling, a recent grant for a P.A. system and help from the lovely ladies of the Doubleview Bowling Club, all is in hand. It is gratifying to know that support from organizations and individuals is so forthcoming.

Which reminds me, on behalf of our Sub-Branch I would like to congratulate CPL David Scott, our regular bugler who has received an Australia Day Individual Award – a worthy choice.

At our AGM the following members of the executive were re-elected
President – John Neep V.P
Secretary – Ken Barrington
Treasurer – Dudley Docking
Welfare – Mal Tall
Membership – Doug Piggott
Publicity Officer – Bill Richards
Committee members: L.P.P Tony Snelling, Keith Ireland, Alan White, Binnie Secker and new members Neil Pegrum and Dean Bradshaw.

Recently a number of members attended a ceremony at HQ to witness the presentation of a fine set of medals. The family of late Richard Pearce, 2/16th Infantry Battalion who died on 17th August bequeathed us the branch but we have no satisfactory repository it was decided to give them to HQ for perpetual loan for display. Thanks to President, Bill Gagno and staff for making this such a memorable occasion especially for the family – some travelling from Bunbury and Rocklands for the event. The family was taken for a tour of ANZAC House and were amazed at all the memorabilia on display.

While there, it was a pleasure to meet the new State Secretary, Mrs Gaynor and staff.

ANZAC Day Service
Members of the public are invited to join current serving and ex-service personnel at our service which will be followed by refreshments.

The ceremony takes place at 10.00am at the north-east corner Memorial Garden above the Doubleview Bowling Club on Wednesday 25th April. Members of our Sub-Branch will be attending ANZAC Day services at our local schools. As soon as dates are fixed we will notify you through the “Can We Help” per favour of the “West” This came from Charles, aged 7, doing a project on the sea…. If you are surrounded by sea you are an island. If you don’t have sea all around you, you are a continent. You don’t have to be an ex-soldier to have this condition.

As either a guest or a member we would welcome you to our meetings on the 16th April because the 9th is Easter Monday. Our activities include guest speakers, day tours, local school visits, inter-branch lawn bowls competitions, information and support for our members and families and Sunday service at our own beautiful Memorial Gardens. Our meetings are followed by refreshments and good fellowship.

Contact Doug Piggott 9446 1331

RSL Bowls

The first local event to kick off 2007 was the Cliff Sadlier VC Mixed

Forums at Osborne Park. Eighteen teams entered, this was pretty good considering it clashed with a ladies’ gala day and club mixed championships.

Bill Jackson’s team was the best of the day, Ray Stapleton’s team second and third place went to Keith Ireland and co. The results weren’t without drama, the first and second teams had the same overall scores, as did third and fourth.

The result of the countback was Bill Jackson’s team was the best of the day, Ray Stapleton’s team second and third place went to Keith Ireland and co. The results were finalised by sea as well as land.

Griffiths and Roy Fordham.

Both teams had 4 points & 20 shots up, the Andrews’ team won with 24 shots against. Good to see some of the hardworking committee got to keep the money.

Round prizes went to the Hills team, first game and the Smith team, second round. Twenty teams played at Innaloo, a good turnout.

Thanks to Simplicity Funerals and the Innaloo Bowling Club for their continued sponsorship, and a generous raffle prize donation, the committee in the money.

A Nollamara team helped by Northam’s Ashley Salmon, skipped by John Andrews with Colin Heslop and Ian Gardener won on countback from Osborne Park’s John Cooper, Colin McNeil, Jim Griffiths and Roy Fordham.

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Thanks to Sponsor, Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch and bowling club, and their staff.

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Countbacks Contagious

The Simplicity Funerals Forum was another close contest, needing a countback to find the winner. Three teams finished the day with 4 points and 20 shots up.

A Nollamara team helped by Northam’s Ashley Salmon, skipped by John Andrews with Colin Heslop and Ian Gardener won on countback from Osborne Park’s John Cooper, Colin McNeil, Jim Griffiths and Roy Fordham.

Both teams had 4 points & 20 shots up, the Andrews’ team won with 18 shots against, the Cooper team 22 shots against. At least this time John Cooper got to keep the money.

Third place went to Keith Ireland. Bob Funphy, Murat Nippress and Bobbie Waycott with 4 points 7 shots up (19 ends).

Bill and Maureen Conant and Bob and Ronnie Anderson finished fourth, 4 points 7 shots up (18 ends).

“KFC” Faire’s team won the first round and the Hon President Graham Stevens’ team, the second. After the organizer, me, nearly robbed them by giving the prizemoney to someone else. (Sorry…. John Cooper?)

Thanks to the sponsors, Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch and bowling club, and their staff.

Contact Doug Piggott 9446 1331

Wind Up Date

The City of Perth RSL Mixed 4s (Sunday May 5) and the Bishop Ricky Tipple (Sunday May 12) is the final date for our bowling season. Entries to Max Plester 9405 8991. All season winners will be presented with their prizes on Sunday 6, winners who are not playing in the mixed 4s are asked to phone Ted Symes (swan c/te chairman) 9370 1252 re numbers attending for catering purposes.
The Honour Avenues Group is a sub-committee of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch and some 16 volunteers form a working group responsible for raising funds and carrying out the work required to maintain over 1,200 remembrance plaques in the three Honour Avenues of Kings Park.

In the majority, the servicemen, whose names appear on these plaques, have no known grave and represent the three services over all of the conflicts from the Great War of 1914-18 to Korea.

The main criteria for admitting a plaque to the Avenues is that the person had to have enlisted in Western Australia, another is that they had to be killed in action, died of wounds, or illness, overseas.

Today some 50 plaques are added annually as relatives, hearing of the service, research the death of a family member and make the necessary application. Most requests received are for men who died in the Great War, on Gallipoli, or on the Western Front.

This appears to be the result of a greater awareness of ANZAC Day and a need to know what their distant relative did before and during his service.

His death, on the battlefields of the Great War or on the land, sea or air in World War II, becomes a sudden reality and they feel both pride and sadness with a compulsion to erect a perpetual marker to his service for his country.

New plaques receive a full dedication service with a Padre and bugler and the relatives are asked to receive the plaque and position it on a post that has been placed in the correct position in front of the tree.

The men of the Honour Avenues Group work two days a week at Kings Park in a workshop provided by the Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority and under their mantle of close cooperation, work at rejuvenating old plaques by blasting and repainting them.

Ant eaten posts are replaced with new ones following three coats of white paint.

Precise records are kept and friends and relatives from interstate or overseas, who may be planning a visit, can source the Botanic Gardens website to find a name, the tree number and the name of the avenue.

It was on Australia Day 2007 that the Town of Vincent announced, during their Australia Day ceremonies, that The Highgate RSL Honour Avenues Group had won the Premier’s Australia Day Active Citizenship Award.

This was for fostering Australian pride and spirit through active citizenship and an outstanding contribution to the community.

Awarded by the Mayor of Vincent, Mr. Nick Catania JP, Mr. John Hyde, the member for Perth, representing the Premier and Stephen Smith, the Federal Member of Parliament, the award was received by Highgate President and Honour Avenues Group Chairman Norman Manners.

The first avenue was opened on the 3rd August 1919 and today those who are remembered are but a cross section of the 7,000 who died and whose names appear on the State War Memorial in Kings Park.

Nonetheless, the detail on the 1,200 plaques of the Honour Avenues, bear witness to their youth and to the circumstances of their deaths in lands far from Australia.

It records those who were wounded in action and subsequently died from those wounds, of Prisoners-of-War who wasted away under the cruelty of their captors and of those who are, to this day, missing and have no known grave.

These plaques and white posts are their crosses, wherever they rest and now, together, they continue to share an undying comradeship in our park of peace

LEST WE FORGET

The Honour Avenues Group would like to acknowledge the financial support of The Committee of Management of the Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority.
AMAZING HEROES

Our Veterans secured our future
Hollywood looks after theirs