The President’s Annual Report to State Congress (Full Report inside)

The State President, Mr Bill Gaynor, said today that he was “pleased with the way the 92nd Annual Congress proceeded with all delegates participating in a full discussion on all topics, including Veterans pensions and entitlements, resulting in delegates happy with the outcomes. Again the Congress Dinner proved to be a success as was the service at the War Memorial in Kings Park.”

Mr Gaynor also noted that “the Annual Congress is an essential item on the RSL WA calendar as it allows representatives from all parts of such a geographically large state to come together and discuss common issues so our opinions can be heard.”

Denis Connelly
After numerous enquiries, we have decided to publish Mollie Holst’s address. Her article appeared on page 23 of the June Edition of The Listening Post.

Mollie Holst, Toorvei 41A, N-3040 Drammen, Norway.

As a result of a member complaining that we don’t publish many activities of country Sub-Branches, it is very difficult when the Sub-Branches don’t forward articles and photos to the Listening Post. We need your input! However, some Sub-Branches (6) did forward articles and photos for publication.

Denis Connelly, Assistant Editor
the organisational aspects of logistics

Emergency Department of a public
to welcome the following members to
hospital clearly shows a breakdown
Mr Damien Dixon (Donnybrook)
Representative - Great Southern:
Representative - Pilbara/Kimberley:

In accordance with Constitutional
State Executive
Congress in recent years.
have received from delegates and
acknowledge the feedback we
With the 2008 Annual Congress
and congratulations. We appear to
at DVA - Perth was well

The Minister also indicated he
would be conducting a review of all Consultative and Advisory
Committees currently in operation with respect to their role, function and membership.

With the resignation of Ian
Griffiths from the Position of CEO/
State Secretary we have taken the opportunity to redefine the position and review the remuneration package.
It is an opportunity to ensure we offer the best possible package in an endeavour to attract a field of quality applicants who can best serve the League and the veteran community.
Advertising has commenced and an agency will conduct the selection process on our behalf. We expect to have an appointment made sometime in September.

In the meantime I pay tribute to the great work our Acting CEO/State Secretary Mr Gary Sutherland OAM has done – in a voluntary capacity for the past 12 months.

Scholarships

Long Tan Bursaries of up to $9000 were recently awarded to six young West Australians to assist them in furthering their education and achieve long term study goals. The awards were

We have just been advised that funding has been made available for RSL to continue that service over the next 12 months. Currently planning for area visits is being undertaken and our Office would be pleased to hear from the members of the veteran community in regional Western Australia whether they would like a visit from the team. Members seeking this service would naturally determine the viability of a visit.

Record Management

In a few short years we will be celebrating our centenary. In 1916 veteran’s records were the battlefield of the First World War

Raffle

It’s that time of the year again. RSL’s Welfare Raffle. Shorty members with no index books will be able to buy Raffle tickets will receive in the post a book of Raffle Tickets to sell. With attractive cash prizes they should not be too difficult to sell. If you would like additional books, please do not hesitate to contact Kathy at ANZAC House. We do, however, make one request: Please return all books, money and unsold tickets to ANZAC House by the requested due date.

We are subject to government Audit and failure to comply with their requirements could jeopardise future charitable fundraising activities.

Membership Renewals 2009

Due to production and distribution problems associated with the proposed three year membership plan, State Executive has reviewed the whole matter of membership cards and their distribution. We are negotiating with sponsors to ensure the provision of the card, its added on value (by way of member benefits across all members) and its distribution is at no cost to the League, its sub branches or members. Our aim will be to have an annual card distributed from State Headquarters following advice from the members sub branch that Annual Subscription has been paid. This will be done, as usual, on the Capitation Return. As for the discounts available to members, we are endeavouring to expand the number of outlets offering member discounts to country and regional areas. The system we have is still in its formative stages so, please be aware member support of a business offering discounts will greatly enhance expansion to country locations. We expect to also be able to offer specific membership cards to life members, and annual cards to Service Members, Affiliates and at a cost recovery; to sub branches for issue to their Social Members. Unit & Kindred Organised ‘Members’ will also receive a dedicated annual card. When details are finalised we will advise 2009 renewal procedures through the Sub Branch Signal and The Listening Post

HMAS SYDNEY

A special Commemorative Service is to be held in Geraldton on Wednesday 19th November, 2008. Persons wishing to attend this Service will be required to register their intention as soon as possible. As it will be a significant occasion. If you intend to be present you should take immediate action to register and book your accommodation.

The Minister for Veteran Affairs, The Hon Alan Griffin MP recently held a consultative meeting with representatives of the veteran community to discuss matters associated with the implementation of the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council. The meeting, held at the Sub Branch Signal and well attended with RSL being represented by State Executive member, Ray Warr who heads up our Veteran Affairs portfolio. The Minister made several observations relative to the proposed body and these included the fact that the body would not be large – possibly
Rosemary and Poppies: Plants with Special Meaning

A number of key election commitments will take effect from today, delivering improved entitlements to around 310,000 of Australia’s veterans and their dependants.

Mr Griffin, said the legislative changes will deliver a number of increased payments to veterans, war widows, widowers and their dependants.

As a result of legislation that has recently passed the Parliament, the Government will now:

• Automatically grant war widows pension to those surviving partners of temporary special rate or intermediate rate pensioners;

• Provide the income support supplement of up to $163.20 a fortnight to eligible war widows and widowers who are under 58 years old; and

• Make bereavement payments to single recipients of the special rate and extreme disablement adjustment disability pensions who die in indigent circumstances.

Two-hundred-and-seventy-thousand veterans are also about to receive the second quarterly instalment of increased Utilities Allowance, worth $125 per family. In addition 41,000 (mainly war widows) are about to be paid the second instalment of Senior Concession Allowance of $125.

Seventy-six thousand eligible veterans and carers will also benefit from an increase in the telephone allowance from $88 to $132 annually to help meet the cost of an internet connection.

Other initiatives that were part of the 2008-09 budget, and were paid in the last week, include a $500 bonus to 310,000 eligible veterans and bonuses of between $600 and $10,000 to 17,000 carers.

These amounts are in addition to the fairer indexation system and the 5 per cent increase to the base of all pensions at the General Rate that was implemented in March 2008.

"These changes are a result of the Government taking action to meet veterans’ concerns and delivering on our commitments,” Mr Griffin said.

Mr Griffin said the Government would continue to consult with the ex-service community to deliver fair outcomes that improved the lives of veterans and their dependants.

Media inquiries:
Laura Ryan 0437 863 109

The Returned & Services League of Australia
WA Branch Incorporated
The President and Members of the State Executive
Welcome you to the
Remembrance - Poppy Day Lunch
at the
RAAF Estate Hall Creek
Hall Creek Drive, Hall Creek
Tuesday, 13th November 2007 at 12:00 pm
Tickets $45.00
Master of Ceremony: Mr Max May AM CVO AM
Beverages should be purchased from the RAAF Mess
P.O. Box 1326, North Perth WA 6009

Purslowes Funerals

Things have changed, but our commitment to the Perth community hasn’t.

Purslowes Funerals are proud to announce their 100 year anniversary.

Since 1907, Purslowe has been a trusted provider of funeral services for West Australian families. Today we are a modern, Australian owned company that can provide you and your family the exact funeral service you desire.

Whether you are looking for a traditional service or something distinctly individual, Purslowe can call on 100 years of experience to get it right. We give you time to plan, to reflect, to remember the special moments.

Pre-arranged funerals available. Locations throughout Perth.
North Perth 15 Scarborough Beach Road, 9444 4835 South Fremantle 254 Hampton Road, 9335 4111 Victoria Park 289 Albany Highway, 9361 1185
Wangara Cnr Buckingham Drive and Warneroo Road, 9409 9119 Midland Cnr Brockman Road & Great Eastern Highway, 9274 3866

To embrace a lifetime, we give you time.
Portraits of Australian Heroes

Leslie Starcevich VC

Continuing with our series of Australian Heroes we look at Leslie Thomas Starcevich.

Leslie was born in Subiaco, Western Australia on the 5th of September 1918. He then moved to Grass Patch, approximately 100kms North of Esperance, where he attended Grass Patch School. After school he worked on his fathers, Joseph, farm until he was nineteen. He then moved to Norseman WA to try his hand at Gold Mining.

On the 9th of April 1941 Leslie (Starcey) Starcevich, 2/43rd Australian Infantry Battalion, received the MBE for his actions on the night of the 10th of July 1941. This action occurred in the 11/4th Battalion of the Citizen Forces.

Private Starcevich was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry.

Private Leslie Thomas Starcevich was awarded the Victoria Cross for his gallantry.

This action occurred in the 9th Divisional Campaign in British North Borneo with landings on Labuan Island and in the Brunei Bay area.

The action on Beaufort, British North Borneo (Malaysia) by the 2/43rd began on the afternoon of the 10th of July 1941 and by dusk, Company had advanced into the town itself, a Japanese counter night attack resulted in the Battalion being heavily committed which resulted in the company being isolated. “B” Company was ordered forward to its aid. It was during this action the “Starcey” was decorated the VC.

Private Leslie Thomas Starcevich VC read:

Citation: Private L. Starcevich was a member of 2/43rd Australian Infantry Battalion during the capture of Beaufort, North Borneo. During the approach along a thickly wooded spur, the enemy was encountered at a position where movement off the single track leading into the enemy defence was difficult and hazardous. When the leading section came under fire from two enemy machine-guns and suffered casualties, Private Starcevich, who was a Bren Gunner, moved forward and assaulted the gun position.

He then leaped from the hip and ignoring the hostile fire captured both posts single-handedly, disposing of seven enemy. These daring efforts allowed the company to continue the momentum of its attack and relieve pressure on another Company which was attacking from another direction. The outstanding gallantry of Private Starcevich in carrying out these attacks single-handed with complete disregard of his own personal safety resulted in the decisive success of the action. (London Gazette: 6th November 1945).

Private Starcevich again advanced fearlessly firing his Bren gun from the hip and ignoring the hostile fire captured both posts single-handedly, disposing of seven enemy. These daring efforts allowed the company to continue the momentum of its attack and relieve pressure on another Company which was attacking from another direction. The outstanding gallantry of Private Starcevich in carrying out these attacks single-handed with complete disregard of his own personal safety resulted in the decisive success of the action. (London Gazette: 6th November 1945).

Private Starcevich was a popular member of the 2/43rd with a liking for “good music” and a strong dislike for anything coarseness in any form.

After the War the Beaufort civilian population erected a tablet near the spot where Private Starcevich had claimed his Victoria Cross named VC Road.

Private Starcevich VC received his decoration by the Lieutenant Governor of Western Australia, Sir James Mitchell on the 26th of March 1947 in Perth, Western Australia.

In the following December he married Kathleen D Hardy. They had two sons and one daughter. In 1956 Starcevich went to London for the Victoria Cross Centenary.

In 1962 Starcevich took up farming sheep and wheat.

“Starcey” served for a time in the 11/4th Battalion of the Citizen Forces.

His brother Joseph served in the Australian Army but was taken prisoner by the Japanese and interned in, Japan.

Private Leslie Starcevich VC, passed away on the 17th of November 1989 and was buried at Esperance Public Lawn Cemetery, Western Australia.

Starcevich’s Medals are on display at the Army Museum of Western Australia in Fremantle.

There is a photograph of Private Starcevich hanging at ANZAC House in Perth.

References:
1. Wikipedia
2. Australian War Memorial Canberra
3. They Dared Mightily - edited by Lionel

James Gordon VC

Another Australian Victoria Cross winner is Private James Gordon, VC, who we will be looking at now.

James (Jimmy) Heather Gordon was born in Rockingham, Western Australia on the 7th of March 1905, the son of Mr William Beattie Gordon, Member for the State Seat of Canning in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly. The Gordon family was relocated to a rural property in Gippsland near Morwell in Victoria in 1945 and the Gordon family farmed in the area. Gordon holds a number of medals and died at the age of 76.

Gordon’s VC was awarded on 23rd December 1941 at the age of 31. In 1940 Gordon enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF), and was posted as a reinforcement to the 2/11th Battalion in Palestine where he arrived on the 13th of October. On the 27th of February 1941, Private Gordon was reposted to the 2/31st Battalion in Palestine, and the following day, Private Gordon earned his Victoria Cross in Syria. On the 9th of July 1941, Private Gordon was promoted to Corporal, and on the 28th of January 1944, in Australia, he was further promoted to Sergeant.

In 1942 the Gordon family moved to the town of Mundaring, Western Australia.

From the 2/31st Battalion, Private Gordon was posted to the 2/31st Battalion, where he took up farming sheep and wheat.

Gordon’s VC was awarded on 23rd December 1941 at the age of 31. In 1940 Gordon enlisted in the Australian Imperial Forces (AIF), and was posted as a reinforcement to the 2/11th Battalion in Palestine where he arrived on the 13th of October. On the 27th of February 1941, Private Gordon was reposted to the 2/31st Battalion in Palestine, and the following day, Private Gordon earned his Victoria Cross in Syria. On the 9th of July 1941, Private Gordon was promoted to Corporal, and on the 28th of January 1944, in Australia, he was further promoted to Sergeant.

While on Pre-Embrakation leave in 1943, Private Gordon married Myrtle, daughter of Lionel T. They had a son.

After the War, James returned to farming, but in December 1947 he re- enlisted in the newly formed Australian Regular Army (ARA), was appointed to the 30th Cadet Battalion, at Karrakatta (Western Australia) and later the 5th Cadet Brigade Training Depot, rising to his 1962 rank of Warrant Officer Class II. “I always liked the Army life”, said, “and thought I’d go it another go.” He is the only VC recipient member of the ARA.

After the War, James returned to farming, but in December 1947 he re- enlisted in the newly formed Australian Regular Army (ARA), was appointed to the 30th Cadet Battalion, at Karrakatta (Western Australia) and later the 5th Cadet Brigade Training Depot, rising to his 1962 rank of Warrant Officer Class II. “I always liked the Army life”, said, “and thought I’d go it another go.” He is the only VC recipient member of the ARA.

5p James (Jimmy) Heather Gordon VC had two brothers who served in the AIF during the 1939-1940 War.

James Gordon VC passed away on the 26th June 1986. There is a plaque at the Karrakatta Crematorium, Perth, and on the 12th of July a plaque in his honour was unveiled in front of the Gingin Post Office. Later that year a painting of James by artist William Dargie won the Archibald Prize, Australia’s most famous portrait prize. His medals are privately held.

There is a photo of James Heather Gordon, VC, at ANZAC House, St Georges Terrace Perth.

References:
1. Wikipedia Encyclopedia
2. The Australian War Memorial
3. They Dared Mightily - edited by Lionel

Published by the Australian War Memorial Canberra, ACT 1964
History of the RAN

The Australian Navy had a humble beginning defending on ships from the Royal Navy (RN) that was based in Sydney Harbour. From early settlement 1788 to 1859 the RN provided Naval Defence. In 1859, Australia was established as a separate British Naval Station with a Squadron of Naval units in Australian waters.

These units were to be paid for and under the control of the Australian Commonwealth, later Government, and eventually Australian Personal. At an Imperial Conference in London on the 9th of August 1909 a decision was made to deploy a Naval Unit of one Battle Cruiser, three Second Class Destroyers, 6 Destroyers, 5 Submarines and a number of auxiliaries. These vessels were to become the basis of the Australian Fleet Unit.

The first units reached Australian waters in November 1910...and in the following year, on July the 10th, His Majesty King George V granted the Title of Royal Australian Navy to the Commonwealth Naval Forces.

In June 1912, a third destroyer, HMAS WARREGO was commissioned at Sydney. 1913 saw the Battle Cruiser HMAS AUSTRALIA and Light Cruisers MELBOURNE and SYDNEY in Australian Waters.

On the 4th of October 1913 the newly commissioned AUSTRALIA that entered Sydney Harbour and later that same month control of these vessels passed to the Commonwealth Naval Board, hence ending Imperial Control of Australian Naval Ships.

During this same period The Royal Australian Naval College for training of Navy Personal was established in Geelong, Victoria. This facility was relocated to Jervis Bay, NSW in 1915.

At the outbreak of World War I (1914-1918) the Australian Navy Fleet consisted of a Battle Cruiser, 6 Light Cruisers, 6 Destroyers, 2 Submarines, and numerous support and ancillary craft. Those vessels of the RAN operated as an integral part of the RN in all operational areas.

The AUSTRALIA was involved in the capture of German New Guinea Colonies during 1914 was Australia only joint warfare operation with Military Expedition Forces.

At the outbreak of hostilities the RAN consisted of 3,800 personnel of all ranks, and at the cessation of conflict the Navy had 5,263 personal serving, reserves provided 36 officers and 2,380 for "Home service" and 51 officers and 1,775 rating for overseas service.

During this time the first task of the RAN was to keep the shipping lanes open, protect Australian Sea ports and trade routes, after the capture of German Colonies the RAN was directed to protect Australian Sea Ports.

The RAN had also played a supporting role in the Gallipoli Campaign with HMAS AE2 (Submarine) becoming the first Allied Ship to penetrate the Dardanelles. It was eventually sunk by the Turkish Navy on the 30th of April 1915 in the Sea of Marmara and until recently its location was unknown. The RAN also provided essential support and services to the evacuation of Gallipoli.

After the cessation of hostilities in 1918 a world wide scaling down of Military Equipment began with disarmament conferences and culminating in the Washington Treaty of 1922. Under the terms of the Treaty the Battle Cruiser AUSTRALIA was scuttled off Sydney Heads in 1924, however the Australian Government did add additional Naval Vessels to the Australian Fleet.

It was during the 1930s that economic conditions forced the Australian Government to take drastic action to cut spending. One of these conditions was to relocate the Naval College from Jervis Bay to Flinders Naval Depot in Victoria. The strength of the RAN fell to 3,117 personnel plus 131 Naval Auxiliary Services with the Submarines ÖXLEY and OTWAY being reverted to the Royal Navy.

At the onset of World War II in 1939, the RAN numbered 2 Heavy Cruisers, 4 Light Cruisers, 5 Destroyers, 3 Sloops and a variety of support vessels, with 5,010 personal. By July 1945, this number had increased to 37,000 in all ranks.

The RAN distinguished itself during WWII with considerable loss of vessels, and 2,170 personal in all theatres.

Since the end of World War II the Royal Australian Navy has served in Korea, Malayan Emergency, Indonesian Confrontation, Vietnam, the Middle East, East Timor, and the Solomon Islands. The RAN has also provided assistance and support in natural disasters in the Pacific and Indian Ocean Regions.

The current strength of the Royal Australian Navy is approximately 12,000 in all ranks.

References:
1. The Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT
2. Wikipedia-R.A.N History

Long Forgotten Mementos

One of our readers, Mrs Ilma Read from Salter Point, brought to The Listening Post the attached letter and “Mothers Badge” that she recently re-discovered while in the process of clearing out before moving.

The letter is addressed to a relative of Mrs Read.

Mrs Read thought that because of the letter’s date and heading that it might be of interest to our readers. As a result of the poor copy of the original letter, we have re-written it below.

Dear Miss Robins,

On going through some paper the other day, I happened to come across your letter of April 28th last year in which you wrote good enough to notify the finding of a Mother’s Badge at The Honour Avenue, King’s Park.

Although I referred in a press paragraph once or twice, there has been no claim made by the owner, and I thought perhaps you might like to keep the badge yourself as a souvenir.

With best wishes for Christmas.
Yours faithfully,
D. N. Benson
State Secretary

THE LISTENING POST August 2008 7
The Battle for Australia will now be marked on the first Wednesday in September each year, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, announced today.

Mr Griffin said “the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (Retd), had signed the proclamation for the Battle for Australia Day.”

The proclamation delivers on a Labor Party election promise to declare a day of national observance, in memory of the Battle for Australia.

“Battle for Australia Day will commemorate the service and sacrifice of all those who served in the field of battle, and those who served in the hospitals, where we faced the gravest threats to our nation,” Mr Griffin said.

“This national day of observance will provide tangible recognition of the greater community awareness of the contribution to Australia’s freedom and democracy of those who fought in the Battle for Australia.”

“There were direct attacks on the Australian mainland, particularly in Darwin, and battles in the Coral Sea and Papua and New Guinea, including Milne Bay and the Battle of Milne Bay.

“The Day will also be an opportunity to remember the sacrifices of those on the home front, in war time and at a time when the entire Australian economy was directed towards the war effort,” Mr Griffin said.

“Battle for Australia Day would not be a public holiday. This proclamation will not detract from the importance of Australia’s two most significant days of commemoration, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, on which we remember all Australians who served and died in wars, conflicts and peace operations,” Mr Griffin said.

Details of commemorative ceremonies to be held to mark Battle for Australia Day will be published on the Department of Veterans’ Affairs website www.dva.gov.au when events are confirmed.

**Background**

In February 1942, the arc of the Japanese advance had embraced the Western Pacific, the Australian Territory of New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies.

In the following three months Darwin and other Australian cities were bombed and midget submarines were sent for Australia Day would not be a public holiday. This proclamation will not detract from the importance of Australia’s two most significant days of commemoration, Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, on which we remember all Australians who served and died in wars, conflicts and peace operations,” Mr Griffin said.

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**Background**

In February 1942, the arc of the Japanese advance had embraced the Western Pacific, the Australian Territory of New Guinea and the Netherlands East Indies.
The official opening of RSL Care WA’s Menora Gardens new Aged Care Facility was launched earlier this month with a celebration led by the Honourable Allan Griffin MP Minister for Veterans Affairs of Australia.

The wet and rainy day saw the contingency plan come to fruition, when it was decided to hold the gathering inside the new facility. This turned out to be a positive decision, as it gave guests an opportunity to have a look around the beautiful new interior, following months of watching the building being put together.

The ceremony was opened by Ray Ward who welcomed guests and embarked on a large thank you list of those involved in making this dream finally become a reality.

Next, RSL Care WA’s Chairman, Graeme Sherriff, delivered a welcome to guests and explained that the completion of the new facility completes stage three of the Menora Gardens project.

Mr Sherriff went on to declare that RSL Care WA is now “breaking new ground in the delivery of aged care.”

RSL State President of the WA Branch, Bill Gaynor OAM RFD, was the next speaker and the changes that the Menora site has seen over the last fifty years, with the site almost totally “transformed from the 1960s.”

Mr Gaynor explained how the RSL acquired 4.6 hectares of land in Mount Lawley in 1960, and built dormitory and institutional type accommodation which remained in use until 1990.

He continued to talk about the new concepts and standards that RSL Care WA are following and how exciting it is for him to watch the changes over the years and the next stage of plans and updates that are in store.

A heckler in the crowd from Pearson Village said that she is happy with things as they are and they could make changes there once she is gone – she got a laugh from the crowd and a chuckle from RSL Care WA management who assured her that everyone will always be well looked after, no matter what.

Mr Griffin spoke next, explaining some statistics regarding demographics and how important it is to have a flexible approach to aged care.

He went on to say that “the vision, commitment and hard work” in what RSL Care WA continue to do was “held in very high esteem” by him and that “Menora Gardens is a great place to live with a wonderful sense of community and home.”

He also made reference to the weather, commenting that the long opening day he went to in Adelaide was held outdoors in “hurricane type weather”, so he was very happy with RSL Care WA’s contingency plan – he finished his speech and was in dry and warm environment.

The interior of the facility is light, bright, contemporary and follows a seascape type theme, with sand coloured walls and beautiful pale coloured furnishings.

The $16 million, unique, three storey establishment, boasts underground parking and a lovely view of the newly finished landscaped gardens.

The 118 bed facility will cater for both low and high care residents in a state of the art complex, which includes a high tech communication system used for “nurse call”, “emergency” call and telephone, a lounge and dining facility on each floor, extra lounge space and a large balcony overlooking historic landscaped area with a birds eye view of the bowling green.

The 38 top floor units are “extra service rooms”, meaning that they are finished to a higher quality, have panoramic views of the parklands area and come equipped with a plasma television, personal fridge and extra cupboard space.

In the next stage of construction, extra services will also be added to the complex and will include a doctor’s surgery, podiatrist, dentist and a treatment room – this is scheduled for the next six months.

The completion of the Aged Care Facility follows RSL Care WA’s construction redevelopment project which began in 2002 on the site and today the Menora Gardens Village includes the Menora Community Centre, Chapel, 42 villas and 56 apartments.

Finally the Honourable Allan Griffin unveiled a plaque commemorating the official opening of the Menora Gardens Aged Care Facility site at 4.00pm on Friday 27th June to a huge round of applause and good cheer.

A delightful afternoon tea followed the ceremony in the Menora Care Dining area, whereby guests mingled and enjoyed some light snacks and refreshments.

Here is some information which we briefly discussed – thank you for agreeing to disseminate it far and wide and we are hoping the recipients of this email can take part at the Luncheon and the display at TWIN TOWNS and if they don’t live close to the Gold Coast then can participate via the website www.mivactrust.org.

I am fortunate to be involved, as Patron, to an organisation MIVAC. MIVAC was started by engineers and is now open to all and its work is to give back to society in the specific area of land mine survivors.

I have been to the local Dorset Evening Echo - who kindly consented to give me a precise account of the actions and thoughts that led to the memorial which I commissioned. He has also given me some photographs which you may find useful. He also stated that the costs escalated and the final figure for completion was nearly £10,000.

I also enclose the photographs which may be of interest to your membership as evidence that after all the years the Aussies still are not forgotten and are still appreciated even in a small part of Dorset.

As discussed with you my interest was personal and in connection with my aunt who met an Aussie called Pantal who she met in Weymouth and emigrated to the Mundingur area of WA to be married back in 1920. Unfortunately all my enquiries drew a complete blank.

You will see that there is a war grave cemetery also maintained in the town.

I hope that this is useful to you.

Yours truly,
A.P. Taylor

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**Memorial in Dorset**

Date 9th June 2008

Mr. Denis Connelly,

Dear Sir,

Further to my visit to your office whilst on holiday in Australia and in response to your request for fuller information regarding the photographs I offered you of the Weymouth, Dorset ANZAC memorial.

I regret the delay in replying but family commitments and the ill health of Mr. Ames has precluded earlier reply.

I have been to the local Dorset Evening Echo who kindly provided me with photocopies of their articles. I have highlighted what I regard as salient points. If you use these items please respect their publishing rights.

Mr. Les Ames MBE one of our long serving councillors

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**New Facility at RSL Care Menora – Photo by Caitlin Harnwell**

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**Mivac Trust**

Here is some information which we briefly discussed – thank you for agreeing to disseminate it far and wide and we are hoping the recipients of this email can take part at the Luncheon and the display at TWIN TOWNS and if they don’t live close to the Gold Coast then can participate via the website www.mivactrust.org.

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I hope that this is useful to you.

Yours truly,
A.P. Taylor

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**September 3, each year to be known as Merchant Navy Day**

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, today announced that the merchant seamen who served Australia in wartime would be officially commemorated with the proclamation of Merchant Navy Day.

The Minister made the announcement during a visit to Port Adelaide, where he met with a group of Merchant Navy veterans, Deputy Premier Kevin Foley and local MP Mark Butler.

Mr Griffin said the proclamation by the Governor-General, Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO (Retd), delivered an election commitment to declare 3 September each year as a day of national observance to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia’s merchant mariners.

“The role of Australia’s merchant mariners was vital and often dangerous,” Mr Griffin said.

“During the Second World War they evacuated civilians from threatened areas, and transported supplies and personnel to and between areas of conflict.”

Mr Griffin said the date for Merchant Navy Day was chosen to mark the loss of the first Allied merchant ship in the Second World War, which occurred on that day in 1939.

The United Kingdom and Canada also commemorate Merchant Navy Day on 3 September.

Thousands of Australian merchant mariners served during the two World Wars on Australian, Commonwealth and Allied ships, as well as merchant ships from other nations. Australian and Commonwealth memorials commemorate 435 Australians known to have lost their lives serving in the Merchant Navy.

Mr Griffin said that from this year, Merchant Navy Day would be an occasion to give merchant mariners the prominence in Australia’s wartime history that they deserved.

As with the recently announced Battle for Australia Day, a national day of observance would not detract from the importance of Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and would not be a public holiday.

The local member for Port Adelaide, Mark Butler, and the Port Adelaide Seafarers Memorial Community Committee is already planning a march and commemorative service to mark Australia’s first national Merchant Navy Day.

Details of other commemorative ceremonies will be published on the Department of Veterans’ Affairs website www.dva.gov.au as events are confirmed.

**Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 0437 863 109**
Aboriginal Veteran Speaks at Mercedes College

Anzac Day falls during the school holidays, but local schools still remember and honour the men and women of our armed forces who have fought for Australia. This year a special emphasis was placed on the sacrifices of Aboriginal servicemen and women, whose dedication and patriotism has lacked proper recognition. Mercedes College followed this when it celebrated Anzac Day on Tuesday 29th April, the first day back from holidays. In a day of moving services a few classes gathered at a time to hear Mr Len Ogilvie, a Yamaji man and Korean War veteran, talk of his time in the 50th Infantry Battalion. Len spoke of his war service and being injured and the death of his mate. He described his terror during the Battle of Pakchon when all night long he lay wounded, shot in the leg, arm and knee and feeling his blood draining away, he feared enemy napalm and friendly fire as wounded.

Len was many weeks recovering in a hospital in Japan, and returned to Australia where he continued his army service. Len has a special family connection to Mercedes College as his daughter, Cheryl (Lennon-Bradley class of ’75) is an ex student who works as an Aboriginal liaison officer in Catholic education. Military service is a strong family tradition in Len’s family and he was proud to tell the girls that his grandfather, John Ogilvie, served in the Australian Army in WW2 and fought on the Western Front in France. Len had six uncles in WW2, five in the army, one of whom was killed, and one in the Air Force. His brother, Wally, also served in WW2 and the Korean War.

Len was fittingly born on Anzac Day in 1928. He joined the army in 1948 to have a better life after suffering from racial discrimination where Aboriginals were not allowed on the streets after 6 pm and were unable to eat in cafes, barred from associating with whites and suffered from many other barriers such as those in work and accommodation. He told the girls how he went to Mt Magnet to take up a job as a miner, and the policeman wanted him out of town and eventually allowed him to work on the proviso he was out of town before 6 every evening. He was forced to sleep in the bush. It was this indignity that gave him the idea of a better life in the army where he said there was no discrimination. “We were all Australians, we fought for our country, we were proud to do it.”

Len remembers his army days as if they were yesterday. The girls asked him many questions about his life and his answers reflected his honesty and ability to relate well to others. It was a tribute to Len that he felt no bitterness, even after fighting for his country, he came back to be faced once again with discrimination. Areas of inequality that Aboriginal returned servicemen faced included not qualifying for the war service farms others could get, and that they could not drink in the pubs with their army mates. Len said “I am not bitter, I’ve gotten over it, and while it was rough for a time you have to take it in your stride. He is happy to talk about his experiences and likes to catch up with his army mates and join in the reminiscing and war stories. He finds the Anzac Day parades difficult due his war injuries the standing around for 4 hours. On the 24th April a few days before speaking to the students, Len had attended a reunion with his Korean War mates at a ceremony for Kapyong Day, when veterans remember the decisive battle of Kapyong. Len gave Anzac Day a human face for the girls. His dignity, pride and gentle humour said more to the girls than any documentary. It was a lesson in real life.

Comments from Mercedes students about Len Ogilvie’s talk on his life as a soldier and as an Aboriginal man in the 40’s onwards:

Cheryl Pittman Yr 10 Len’s talk was eye opening as I didn’t know that Aboriginal servicemen and women were treated poorly when they returned from war.

Genevieve Weng Yr 10 It was interesting hearing about the war and what it was like first hand.

Rebecca Doyle Yr 10 It was surprising to know about the injustices Aboriginal people suffered back then.

Even though Len served in the army he still had to be off the streets by 6pm.

Lyn Banker Community Relations Officer Mercedes College P: (09) 9323 1367
Wings of Destiny

Wings of Destiny takes us beyond Kokoda and into the skies over New Guinea, and fills a significant gap in Australian World War II history.

From the idyllic “Carraram,” we follow Charles Learmonth through Geelong Grammar, pilot training at Point Cook, and posting to No. 14 Squadron, Pearce, Western Australia. We view life in wartime Australia, the air search for HMAS Sydney, and the air war in the Pacific.

According to Wings magazine, Charles was lucky to survive his first action: “They still speak of Squadron Leader Charles Learmonth’s blitz on Buna camp, Flak shot away his starboard aileron wires, punctured his port tyre, damaged his elevator, broke his rear gunner’s arm. The ground crew counted 73 bullet holes in that Boston after it returned.”

From his tent in New Guinea, Charles wrote frequently to his brother John, who had fought in Greece and Crete before his capture. Charles was also an incurable romantic and wrote to his wife Marjorie almost every day. These letters, combined with his diaries and log books, take us back to those years to be forgotten war years. Yet, although a thread of romance runs through his romanticised or glossed over history.

Over the cloud-wreathed mountains of New Guinea, we fly with Charles Learmonth in his Boston attack bomber, Ski Apple. We observe the brave deeds of No. 22 Squadron and the ‘Boston Boys’ as they light in the skies over Lae, Salamaua, the Bismarck Sea, and New Britain. We come to know these airmen well, and mourn their loss when they are shot down, die brutality in captivity, or are killed in aircraft accidents.

Charles Learmonth completed 159 missions in his Boston attack bomber and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar for his service in New Guinea. His Citation stated: “He has displayed tactical ability amounting to genius.”

After his return from New Guinea, Charles Learmonth was appointed Commanding Officer of No. 14 Squadron, Pearce. He was killed on 6 January 1944 when his Beaufort bomber crashed into the Indian Ocean near Perth. Before diving to his death, he radioed Ted Westall information that helped solve the mystery of the Beaufort accidents. In recognition of his bravery, and airmanship, he was named to Western Australia was named in his honour. Today, Learmonth Airport is the alternate for Perth, and is the gateway to Euromast, Ningaloo Reef, and Coral Bay.

This is a story that needed to be told, writes Page. “The deeds of Charles Learmonth and the ‘Boston Boys’ deserve more than a shoebox full of aerogammes held together with rubber bands.”

Charles Page is a retired Boeing 747 captain with 15,000 flying hours. He is the author of an earlier volume of aviation history, Vengeance of the Outback.

Wing Commander Charles Learmonth published by Rosenberg
Now Available, or order from all good bookshops, or from www.rosebergpub.com.au or www.amazon.com/books.

Charles Learmonth was one of the most decorated airmen of World War II, and his story is a testament to the courage and skill of the Australians who fought in the Pacific War.

The RSL WA State Congress Report

The RSL WA State Congress opened on Saturday the 28th of July at 9:00. Sub-Branch representatives from across the State attended, ready to debate issues ranging from compensation, to the use of the ANZAC acronym.

The Congress was officially opened by His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC Governor of Western Australia., who commented on the attendance of so many members, saying it was, “…a reflection of the strength of The Returned & Services League throughout Western Australia.”

He also commented on the ability of the RSL to help veterans and their families in more and more ways.

The Hon Alan Griffin MP also addressed Congress about the Rudd Government’s plans regarding the Budget and Veteran Affairs. This included reviews to and increases in compensation payments.

National RSL President, Major General Bill Crews AO (Rtd) also congratulated RSL WA on the kickstarting of the welfare system which allows the “…more effective use of pension officers, welfare officers, and advocates”, the youth programs currently in use, the “…effective relationship with the State Government…” which results in considerable support to veterans’ issues, as well as the RSL Care facilities available throughout the State.

The Congress was also addressed by The Hon John Ford, MLC as the Representative of the Premier, Opposition Leader Troy Buswell MLA, Shadow Minister for Veterans Affairs, Hon, Bronwyn Bishop, and Kel Ryan, Vice President of the Queensland RSL.

Congress also provides the opportunity to congratulate members and Sub-Branches alike on various achievements. Both Messer’s Philip Loffman and Robert Elliott were awarded Meritorious Medals. Life Membership was awarded to; Donald Blair, Damien Dixon, Leslie Stewart, John Edwards, Francis Badger, Douglas Christmass, and Nancy Peacock. Many Sub-Branches were also acknowledged for various achievements, which are as follows:

Newsedge Cup - City of Rockingham Sub-Branch
Colonel Collett Cup - Donnybrook Sub-Branch
Geraldton Sub-Branch Shield - Geraldton Sub-Branch
Mary Cornell Trophy - City of Subiaco Sub-Branch
Ken Bladen Trophy - Bakers Hill Sub-Branch

Wings of Destiny

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, today announced six students studying in Western Australia, all children of Vietnam veterans, will receive up to $9000 each to help them complete their tertiary education.

Mr Griffin said the Government recognised the challenges children face due to their parents’ Vietnam War service.

“The Long Tan Bursary scheme aims to help hard working students from Vietnam veteran families to take up the challenge of tertiary education and achieve their long-term study goals,” he said.

“The bursary is awarded to students, including mature age students, who have achieved good academic results and who have overcome personal challenges to successfully complete their secondary education.

These students have proven their ability and determination to pursue their careers and I am pleased the Australian Government has been able to support them in their studies.”

Long Tan Bursaries will be presented to 53 students across the country this year.

This year, six* students in Western Australia have received bursaries including:

• Jarrod Carlson of Nollamara, Bachelor of Engineering and Computer Science, University of Western Australia;
• Katrina House of North Beach, Bachelor of Arts, University of Western Australia; and
• Antony Lockley of Midway Point Tasmania, Bachelor of Commerce, Curtin University of Technology.

Mr Griffin said 250 sons and daughters of Australia’s Vietnam veteran had benefited from the bursary scheme since it was introduced in 2000. The scheme was introduced in response to the findings of the Vietnam Veterans’ Health Study to provide financial support to children of Vietnam veterans with their tertiary education.

The bursary is named after the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, in which Australian soldiers of D Company 6RAR encountered and fought off an enemy force of up to 2,500 troops in a rubber plantation north of the village of Long Tan. Eighteen Australians lost their lives in the battle.

Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 0437 863 109 Editors note: *Three of the Long Tan Bursary recipients have asked to remain anonymous.

Vietnam Veterans’ Day

Saturday 16th August 2008

On August 16, 2008 the Pemberton Sub-Branch is hosting the annual Vietnam Veterans’ Day.

The March steps off at approximately 11am on Saturday and progresses along the main street of Pemberton to the War Memorial for a Service. After the Service everyone will move to the Pemberton Sports Club for lunch and fellowship.

For more information contact the coordinator Warren South on 9776 0647 or warven@westnet.com.au.
The Little Known Kapooka Tragedy

Buried beyond history

The Veterans’ Children’s Education Scheme (VCES) and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act Education and Training Scheme.

VCES not only helped me to pursue my future goals of a higher education (with the ease of its financial grants every fortnight) but also allowed me to take advantage of its trust and grants in order to be involved in a study tour to Vietnam, as part of my Interior Architecture course. This not only allowed me to study the architectural culture of Vietnam but also gave me a deeper understanding of the context of my father who had been through. I now understand, a fraction more of what he endured, along with other servicemen and women.

Shane is working as an Interior Architect / Designer and he has both a Bachelor of Interior Architecture with Honours degree and also a Diploma of Building Design and Drafting. He said he still hopes to one day find a link between the Kapooka tragedy and his family, with a possible connection to the Kapooka tragedy since has passed away.

“Although there were Extracts, it was a very difficult thing for him to do. He recalled he was being ‘dragged out of the hole’.

The army was stunned by the recognised size of the task. Kang Le Thin, Vietnam, DVA.

The VCES is a voluntary, community-based student assistance programme for the children of Australian veterans. It provides financial assistance for children in Year 11 and 12 who meet specific eligibility criteria. It is available to children of Australian veterans who have served in Vietnam, Korea, and other areas of conflict. The VCES helps to ensure that these children have the opportunity to continue their education, regardless of their financial circumstances.

The VCES helps to ensure that these children have the opportunity to continue their education, regardless of their financial circumstances. The scheme provides financial support to eligible students in the form of scholarships, bursaries, and grants.

The VCES eligibility criteria include:

* A child of an Australian veteran
* The child must be enrolled in Year 11 or Year 12
* They must be attending a government or private school, or a home tuition program

Eligible students are assessed on the basis of their academic performance, financial need, and other relevant criteria.

The VCES is funded by the Australian Government and is administered by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA). It is supported by a range of supporting organisations, including the Department of Defence, the Australian Meat Industry Council, and the Australian National University.

The VCES is open to applications from eligible students throughout the year. Applications can be submitted online or by post. More information can be found on the VCES website or by contacting the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) on 1800 555 080.

The Kapooka tragedy occurred on the afternoon of May 21, 1967. It was a military training accident near the town of Kapooka in New South Wales. The accident resulted in the death of 26 military personnel, including 12 Australians and 14 Vietnamese.

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In presenting the 92nd Annual Report of the State Branch I am pleased to announce that the advances that have been made in our operations to ensure we remain relevant and effective in dealing with veteran and social issues in the political, social, economic and political environment.

In reviewing our operations in the past year, I am confident that the advances we have made will enable our operations to remain strong and of high esteem for many years to come. The years of planning have resulted in the establishment of an ethos that remains focused on service and a commitment to excellence.

This year marks the conclusion of a triennium that has seen unprecedented stability in the governance of the Branch. This has enabled us to facilitate the restructure and advances we have made to achieve across all areas of our operations.

Our organisational structure has proved to be sound and has contributed positively to our interaction with the community and the public in which we operate. We enjoy the benefits of support of the business community that recognise the long-term, ethical, traditional role, that of serving the veteran community.

The blueprint for our operation is the RSL WA Corporate Plan. It is a living document and subject to regular internal and external review. The Plan has provided direction and guidance on the way by which we measure performance against our vision.

With reference to our Governance Statement, the Branch is administered on behalf of members, by an elected Executive and Board of Directors. They are elected for a three-year term and, without exception the elected and appointed members are committed to the operation of the League for the benefit of members and the veteran community. They are assisted by a network of volunteers who in turn, are supported by the Branch to achieve positive results in their areas of expertise. All officers work in a voluntary capacity and give freely of their time and knowledge to achieve outcomes that are consistent with our Charter.

At a strategic level, our commitment is a strict conformity to the values of the League and compliance with the State Branch’s Code of Conduct. This has resulted in the formation of a clearly focused team with a professional approach to the governance of the League in Western Australia.

Being the peak ex-service organisation in Western Australia, RSL demonstrates strong leadership in the veteran community and contributes responsibly with comment to many social and community issues. Without hesitation, RSL regularly challenges decisions that have or could impact on veterans and at all times have stood steadfastly for those traditional values that are essential in our society.

In that context we continue to maintain a strong political position and as such, have ensured the ongoing support from both sides of parliament at Commonwealth and State level. Through our Sub Branch structure we have been an excellent and key conduit for the relationship with the many local authorities throughout Western Australia.

Our responsible comments, coupled with a willingness to assist fellow veterans places us high in esteem with the local media and the general public. This has led to our office bearers being regularly consulted on topical issues with the invitation to make public comment on social, commemorative, society and veterans’ affairs matters. It is pleasing to note that, without exception, all comments and representations are made with a high degree of professionalism.

We are determined, at all levels of our operations, to present a good public image by ensuring our Sub Branches and members present RSL as a caring organisation that takes the welfare of veterans and the future security and development of our country seriously. I am convinced we do this well.

Our commitment, under the leadership of Ray Ward, with representation across all services and key ESOS is an effective group that undertakes a monitoring and initiative developing role. The committee continues to contribute a strong perspective of the needs of various groups within the veteran community. It is well placed to take action to preserve the best interests of the veteran. Positive relationships have been developed with officers of the Department of Veteran’s Affairs and that has provided a valuable communications link that has facilitated the prompt resolution of problems. Our participation on consultative committees has permitted input to programs and processes that have been of benefit to both administration and to the veteran.

There has been careful monitoring of the quality of health services offered to veterans and of the service delivery by the Department of Veteran Affairs consequent upon its restructure. Problems that have been encountered have been notified and currently being addressed.

Through the State Veteran Affairs Committee, we have input into the establishment of League priorities for budget consideration by government. For years, RSL has been actively lobbying for the government to redress the many inequities evident in veterans’ welfare.

At long last, through logically presented evidence at the Federal election we were pleased to see that the Budget and election promises significantly enhanced support to Australia’s veteran community.

At least five of our highest priority items were addressed and to our absolute delight allocation has been made to redress the Special Rate Pension indexation.

While being mindful of many achievements realised through the collective endeavours of many ESOS, there are other issues that need to be dealt with and again, our input to the National Veteran’s Affairs Committee will be considered as we re-order our priorities for future budgets.

In recent times there has been a demand for RSL to become involved in ADF Transitional programs, particularly the Integrated Transition Programs. We are fully supportive of this initiative and will ensure that those exiting the services will be adequately integrated into the wider community.

Our Advocates provide a first class service to veterans who seek their assistance. A highly trained small group of volunteers are rostered to provide a daily service that is used by capacity. This has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of Advocacy work being undertaken by the Senior Advocate and also the assistance provided by ANZAC House.

It appears this increase is occurring because a number of Advocates either in the RSL WA or through the Veterans Affairs organisation are not available for consultation at the local level. Furthermore, active referrals from the State Branch have had a positive outcome as has the triennial training programme.

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In the Peel Region planning is under way for the acquisition of land adjacent to our Meadow Springs Nursing Home. If successful...
it will allow us to embark on a building program that will extend the nursing home by 30 beds to an 85 bed facility.

Our focus for development however is in the Mid-West Region of the State with a presence in Jurien Bay, Dongara and Geraldton.

Land has been purchased at Jurien Bay and a three year construction program of 98 Independent Living Units on the site next to the town’s medical facility should commence by the end of this year.

Negotiations are continuing with the Shrine of Irwin at Dongara relative to the construction of a 55 bed Aged Care complex alongside the town’s hospital, but site design problems and cost escalation are issues that have to be resolved before any firm commitment from RSL can be made.

The Aged Care industry is not just about residential, and Australian Veterans’ Affairs and RSL Care WA is proactive in servicing veterans and the community through Home Care Packages in both country and metropolitan locations. The Geraldton Home Care packages operate from the Geraldton Village and the newly established Eastern Hills Operations is centred on League owned premises in Kalamunda.

With government Aged Care policy moving in that direction we are keen to see we are looking after our aged veterans in their homes wherever we can.

The Aged Care Industry is in exciting and challenging times with growth in Retirement Villages and Aged Care Facilities at unprecedented levels. Your State Executive and National Executive are ensuring that our Audit and Insurance requirements are being met. The Aged Care Industry is in demand and remains committed to ensure that RSL Care WA is managed in a strong financial and viable manner so that veterans and residents in our care receive quality care at the highest possible standard.

After all, there is no greater cause than the care of our Veterans.

ANZAC Club

Since the refurbishment of the ANZAC Club there has been marked increase in patronage. The enhanced environment has attracted not only league members to the facility but also good support from the corporate world and the general public. We have been able to promote the use of the Gallop Room as a conference venue and this is proving popular with local business as a training course venue.

The commissioning of the library facility is well under way and we anticipate it will be operational within a few months with reading, research, internet and newspaper sections available to members. In the interests of preserving our collection it will be a Reference Library - not a lending library.

Staffing ANZAC Club has proved a challenge in these times of economic climate that are currently faced. Managerial staff in the hospitality industry are in constant demand but I am confident that our select management, chef, permit clerk and casual staff will form a cohesive team that will serve you for quite some time to come.

It has been a hard task but ANZAC Club’s financial position has shown a marked improvement with operational percentages moving closer to industry standards. It still has some way to go but we are getting there.

Membership

Our membership numbers are stable at around 12 000 members including affiliates. The growth in new members is in line with our Audit and Insurance requirements. We have contained operational losses at ANZAC Club but not compromised servicing the membership in this area.

Strict adherence to the budget and constant reviews of income and expense profiles has limited any losses and additional income has been sourced through grants and sponsorship to maintain the services required by the membership.

The Branch is in receipt of financial grants that assist State and Sub Branches. Through the generosity of Lotterywest, Department of Veterans’ Affairs and ANZAC Working Committee we are able to support our many veteran and community activities. All these bodies value the sacrifices and contribution veterans have made for their country and are always willing to support needy causes.

The role of Affiliates in our organization continues to be hotly debated at National level. Several Eastern States have not supported the concept. Western Australia has welcomed Affiliates, and incorporated them in their structure and placed them under State Branch control. Other States, like we accept Affiliates at the Sub Branch level.

For a national organization it’s a bit of a mess! Unfortunately, the concept was poorly implemented as their status and involvement was not clearly articulated. However, the number of Affiliates in Sub Branches continues to grow and we need to give them due recognition for their contribution to our organization. They play a major role in the operation of small sub branches and this need to be encouraged.

Unfortunately, Sub Branches with licensed Clubs have engaged Affiliates into the Sub Branch environment when they should be Social Members of the Club. This has added to confusion with respect to Sub Branch governance. Affiliates are part of the Sub Branch and are there to support the Sub Branch. If they wish to be part of the licensed Club – that is a separate issue.

It is essential that we strike a realistic position for Affiliates. They should be part of the veteran family and enjoy the benefits of Sub Branch life within the stated rules. I would like all Affiliates to be issued with the Listening Post, receive the same membership value added benefits but this is not possible within the present capitation structure.

The membership will need to be responsive to this challenge if we are to show this group of supporters their true value in promoting and progressing the League.

Finance

Due to the changed financial reporting period we are again not in a position to present the Annual Financial Report. The Branch has, for the year to 30 June 2008, held a Special General Meeting to consider, and if appropriate pass the Audited Statements in mid October 2008.

The League’s financial position is sound and considering the current economic climate that is a great achievement. We have adjusted to the challenges of cost increases attributed to salaries, cost of service delivery and generally operating a small business by staff rationalization and reviewing our Audit and Insurance requirements. We have contained operational losses at ANZAC Club but not compromised servicing the membership in this area.

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Unfortunately our Defence Committee has not been active throughout the year under review. They have, however, met when requested to consider urgent issues and have made appropriate responses to Defence position papers.

In the next triennium the Defence Committee will be restructured to give it a more diverse role that will encompass deliberations on Defence issues, homeland security and other related topics. It will also cover recruiting, retention and conditions of service will some direction towards personnel support programs offered to members taking discharge from the ADF.
The RSL, at all levels, continues to support our defence force personnel, both those on deployment and in reserve. Sub Branches in close proximity to Defence Force Bases have established supportive relationships with personnel and their families and honour that commitment when troops are on deployment. The WA State Branch financially supports the Australian Forces Overseas Fund that regularly sends gift parcels to our troops on deployment. From all reports received, that gesture is very much appreciated.

Communications

Our communication strategy with the membership is centred on print media. The bi-monthly publication ‘The Listening Post’ is our main link with the membership with a distribution of over 12,600 copies. This is supplemented with the issue to Sub Branches and Unit & Kindred Associations of the monthly newsletter ‘The Sub Branch Signal’. This keeps those who attend Sub Branch meetings informed on the activities of State Executive and the Board of Directors with respect to policy and other matters affecting the day to day running of the Branch.

Following a membership survey it was decided to act on suggestions to enhance ‘The Listening Post’ by including articles that were relevant to our diverse membership – namely – all services – all conflicts. With the expertise of a skilled editorial board and production team we were able to meet that challenge and from recent survey results from the membership it appears as though there is great satisfaction with the new direction we are taking. We have even had to order twice the size of the publication to cater for increased content and new advertisers.

The magazine is still costly to produce and distribute but it is well worth the price we pay to keep the membership fully informed of League activities.

We are steadily progressing with the planned upgrade to their website. The Sub Branch Signal is now on the web and we plan to have our site as a major reference point for information on to work with sub branches requiring assistance in administration and operational issues. As a former country sub branch president he has a great deal of expertise in sub branch management and should be a valuable resource in this area.

Our challenge is to see that our organization continues to be represented in rural communities and that the values we support are not lost.

Corporate Alliances

We have been fortunate in progressing the close link we have with Curtin University. The research project ‘Remembering the War’ is now in its final year and the information collated from books, records, minutes and many other sources is forming an interesting pattern that will provide local communities with an historic link to the families whose relatives appear on town war memorials.

In the course of this project it became evident that the records of the RSL at both State and Sub Branch level are a story of the development of our State from the perspective of one of the largest community organizations in the country. Realising that unless some action is taken to research and preserve that documented history a vital link with the past will be lost.

With a significant grant from the ANZAC Day Small Grants Scheme we have been fortunate in funding a project that will facilitate the research and preservation of RSL History. The project will involve sub branches and local communities where there were sub branches.

It is an exciting project and I urge full support from all members.

In the past year we have enjoyed wonderful support from the business community. We value their support as they value the sacrifices made by our veterans. We regularly invite their contribution and in return we ask that you support them. Our supporters are here today and the logo on the page displays on show for your inspection.

Our Membership Card initiative has produced a value-add bonus for the membership. A range of discounts is available upon the production of a valid RSL Membership Card and this is set to expand in future years.

Commemorative Services

The State War Memorial continues to be the principal place for RSL Commemorative Services. Apart from the RSL conducted ANZAC Day Dawn Service and Remembrance Day Service the War Memorial and its precinct are used by Ex-Service Organizations and community groups to honour their fallen. On Remembrance Day 2007, The Hon Prof David K. Malcolm AC CIT WA QC assumed duties as State War Memorial Manager with the assistance of Phillip Skelton AM, Deputy Warden and sub-wardens from the Highgate Sub Branch they have assisted all user groups in the conduct of services in keeping with established protocols.

ANZAC Day Services continue to be well supported with reported increases in attendances throughout Australia. Those over 40,000 were in attendance at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service and up to 50,000 attended the March through the City of Sydney twice on the Perth Eplanchade. The pleasing feature is the family participation that is emerging. If this trend continues the future of ANZAC Day as a time when we can honour our fallen is assured.

The generous local community support and the financial assistance from Lotterywest in funding ANZAC Day Services, not only in Perth but also in regional areas are acknowledged. In particular, Lotterywest’s commitment to further enhance services by funding Gunflint Breakfasts in Perth and regional areas is a most welcome gesture that is certain to be taken up.

The support given to Schools and community groups by Sub Branches is also acknowledged. That support is valued by the younger generation as though there is great satisfaction with the the sacrifices made by their parents and grandparents in the defence of their country.

Sub Branches

Our organisational structure is based on a sub branch network. Currently we have 131 active sub branches on the State Register and they all do a magnificent job in servicing the needs of the veteran. In addition to sub branches we have established interest groups that have undertaken RSL’s commemoration role in small rural areas where there were once sub branches. While we regret the loss of a sub branch we are delighted that the local community is taking up the important role of remembering the sacrifices made by veterans in the defence of our country. Interestingly enough is the fact that while we may lose a sub branch we appear not to be losing members.

We regularly receive contacts from members about establishing new sub branches and re-forming one that has closed or in recess. Currently we are working with veterans in Wyndham, Waijole, Halls Creek and Jurien Bay to assist them in their endeavours.

RSL cares for all veterans of all conflicts and our charter requires us to service veterans whether they are members or not. On that basis our work is truly humanitarian. Our Sub Branches are the public face of the RSL and I am proud of the manner in which our organisation presents itself in the community.

Our Training Modules for Sub Branch Administration and induction of new office bearers is proving popular and courses are in demand in both the metropolitan and regional areas. The result of such courses is evident in the confidence participants are showing in processing documents and dealing with issues at the local level. As demand grows new courses will be available to assist Sub Branches and Office bearers in their duties.

Working in association with Sub Branches are the ladies of the Women’s Auxiliary. This dedicated group have for years supported the RSL in social activities, fund raising and caring for and visiting our elderly and sick veterans. Although diminishing in numbers they still fulfil a vital role and their work is very much appreciated.

The next twelve months will be challenging for the League in Western Australia as we continue to implement our Corporate Plan. Priority initiatives will be:

• Support RSL Care WA in consolidating in position in the Aged Care industry
• Continuation of strong alliances with Corporate entities
• Support Sub Branch operations through regular visits and training modules; and
• An enhancement of our leadership role in the Veteran Community

National WA

Our parent body, The Returned & Services League of Australia Limited is based in Canberra. Its National Executive meets quarterly and is the policy making group of the organization. Through its various sub committees it is active in attending to veteran affairs matters with government. Its professional approach to issues and matters in this manner it invariably produces good outcomes. The leadership shown by our National President Maj-Gen Bill Cross AO is strong and through his endeavours good outcomes have been achieved for veterans.

National Executive has recently reviewed its structure, both at National and State levels. This resulted in the establishment of existing facilities, built in the 1960’s with ‘add ons’ as growth dictated have, in the modern environment proved inadequate for our level of operations. Realising the need for change developers were approached and a plan to build National Headquarters was prepared and endorsed. Building should commence before the end of this year with National Headquarters moving into a purpose built modern facility, free of debt, sometime in 2010.

State Branch

This year marks the beginning of a new Corporate strategy. The elections process for State Executive has been completed and the Returning Officer will later announce the appointments for the next three-year period. We will build on the strong foundations set in place and chart a course that will see the League prosper.

The recently conducted staff review has made several recommendations concerning our Staffing Profile and these will be implemented as soon as funding arrangements can be resolved. Our ultimate aim is to improve the quality of service we provide to members. We constantly seek strategies that will reduce the response time to member queries and improve the quality of advice given on specific matters.

The Way Ahead
Acknowledgments

To the State Executive and League Trustees, thanks are expressed for the commitment made to the League and loyalty to the State Branch. The task of serving on committees and representing the membership is demanding but also rewarding. In particular the country representatives do a magnificent job in keeping our country Sub Branches in touch. The reports that are furnished provide the State Executive with a good overview of happenings at our many country outposts.

In May 2008 we lost the services of State Secretary Ian Griffiths, Following a period of release from RSL for deployment in an Area of Operations with RAAF Ian decided to seek a return to RAAF for employment. We thank Ian for his commitment to the RSL and look forward to him remaining active in the Bullbrook Sub Branch.

The work of assistant State Secretary’s Gary Sutherland OAM must be acknowledged. Gary willingly assumed the role of State Secretary during Ian’s deployment in a voluntary capacity – a position he still holds, His loyalty, professionalism and willingness to undertake such a role at short notice is very much appreciated. He also brings a new level of expertise to the position and I am certain that those who have had contact with him at State Headquarters know what I mean.

Well done, and our sincere thanks.

Without specifically mentioning any particular staff member I can acknowledge them as ‘The Team’. The volunteer’s value is well-administered and enjoys the commitment of a dedicated group of willing workers. We still have challenges ahead but with the determination of elected representatives and the support of the Sub Branches there is a bright future for the League.

Finally, the Branch acknowledges the support given to the League by our Patron, Dr Ken Michael AC Governor of Western Australia. His Excellency is a willing participant in League activities and we value his patronage. We take this opportunity to wish His Excellency & Mrs Michael well for the future.

Conclusion

Your State Branch is in a healthy state. It is well administered and enjoys the commitment of a dedicated group of willing workers. We still have challenges ahead but with the determination of elected representatives and the support of the Sub Branches there is a bright future for the League.

WILLIAM E. GAYNOR OAM RFD
STATE PRESIDENT
July, 2008

EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY'S LOSS
WITH A PRE-PAID FUNERAL FROM BOWRA & O’DEA.

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

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

There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

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

Special extras for RSL members:

• Free extra limousine
• No administration fee for immediate payment in full
• 5% discount on selected coffins

FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL JOHN RANGER AT BOWRA & O’DEA
ON (08) 9231 5100
Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.

The Australian War Memorial is not only one of the world’s great museums but also the focus for national commemorative services. Almost a million visitors experience the Memorial each year, but many may be unfamiliar with the story of how this unique institution came to be founded.

Charles Bean was the official Australian war correspondent during the First World War. He covered the disastrous Gallipoli campaign before accompanying the Australians to France in 1916. There he witnessed the terrible battles at Fromelles and Pozieres in July and August; soon he was confiding to his friend Arthur Bazley his intention to establish a “future Australian war memorial museum” that would tell the whole story of the Australian experience of the war.

Bean advocated that a Australian War Records Section (AWRS) be established so that Australia could collect its own records and relics independent of the efforts of Britain or any of the other Empire nations. This was achieved in May 1917 with the appointment of John Treloar as the AWRS’s first officer-in-charge. (Treloar later became the longest serving Memorial director.) The AWRS was the seed from which today’s Australian War Memorial – simultaneously a museum, a commemorative site, and an archive – first grew.

Almost immediately after the Memorial opened it was too small. It had been designed to commemorate only those who had served and died in the First World War, but the new world war then raging would clearly have to be accommodated. And so in 1952 the Memorial’s charter was expanded to include all wars in which Australians have been involved.

Collecting records and relics for the Second World War proved more difficult because of that war’s more extensive and “mobile” nature. Space at the Memorial also continued to be an issue and so plans were drawn up to add the eastern and western wing extensions to the Main Building; these were opened in 1971.

During the 1980s the Memorial became an independent statutory Authority, with an increase in funding and staffing, allowing the institution to begin new initiatives and to increase its scholarly profile.

In 1993 an Unknown Australian Soldier was interred in a tomb in the Hall of Memory. Then in 2001 ANZAC Hall was constructed at the rear of the Memorial’s Main Building. It was designed to house large-technology displays. In 2007 a bomber “G for George” as its centerpiece, and Sydney under attack, which is built around the Japanese midget submarine.

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Today the Memorial is using new internet technologies so that people around the world can learn about Australia’s military involvement from their computer, including Facebook, YouTube and Flickr. The future of the Memorial is yet to unfold, but one thing is certain: it will continue to live up to Bean’s vision for “the finest monument ever raised to any army.”

Charles Bean working on files during the writing of the official history of the First World War, c. 1935

AWM A05389

An Avro Lancaster Mk I bomber “G for George” RELAWM31788

Today, the Australian War Memorial continues to grow and develop as an institution. The Roll of Honour commemorates the 102,000 servicemen and women who have lost their lives during conflict, some as recently as Iraq and Afghanistan. New multi-million-dollar galleries, to open in 2015, will be the most recent, educate visitors by using the latest museum technology and display techniques. Important collection items such as the bridge of HMAS Brisbane have been installed in the grounds. And plans are also underway to renovate the Hall of Valour, which houses the largest collection of Australian Victoria Crosses in the world.

Inside the bridge of HMAS Brisbane

The signpost near the intersection of ANZAC Parade and Limestone Avenue, with the Australian War Memorial at the background, January 1945 AWM 085710

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Most of you will have seen the recent media interest about an elderly Veteran who was kept waiting in a public hospital emergency department for many hours.

One of Hollywood's staff members heard about it on talkback radio, contacted the public hospital and we were able to transfer him immediately. This man's discomfort and distress could have been alleviated much more quickly if his GP or one of his family members had contacted us earlier to let us know of his plight.

Hollywood has been proud and privileged to have been the only private tier 1 hospital in the Perth metro region for DVA beneficiaries between 1994 and 2006. Since the changes in 2006 we continue to be the principal provider of inpatient hospital services to Veterans and War Widows in Western Australia. We have a broad range of specialties including an emergency cardiac service. We are able and willing to cater for complex elderly patients. With many years of experience in catering for your needs when you are ill, we pride ourselves in knowing what you need and delivering care and compassion in modern and well equipped facilities.

I urge you that if you find you are in a situation where you require either an emergency or elective admission to Hollywood that you insist on coming here.

For elective conditions your GP will need to refer you to one of our regularly admitting specialists. These can be found on our website, and we regularly send GPs our updates.

If you find yourself in the unfortunate position of needing urgent admission to hospital, we are often able to accommodate you immediately – especially if you are a Hollywood 'regular'.

All you need to do is have your GP determine whether you do need to come to hospital, and have the GP ring us directly. We will contact your specialist and arrange to have you accommodated directly into a bed. If you have not been here before, your GP can still contact us, and we will find the most appropriate specialist to care for you. If you do have to go to an emergency department for clinical reasons, let them know at the outset that you are a Veteran and would like to go to Hollywood as soon as you are medically stable.

If, for whatever reason, you are admitted to another hospital, and you wish to be transferred to Hollywood, it is simply a matter of discussing this with your treating specialist, and if it is medically appropriate, we should be able to facilitate your transfer very promptly.

We have a comprehensive cardiac emergency service and if you are experiencing chest pain you can call an ambulance and request that they bring you directly to us. We always have a doctor on duty to attend to emergencies and if needed the on-call cardiologist will be called into the hospital.

It was my great pleasure recently to address the RSL State congress. Those of you who were there will remember me tripping over my words a little! However the sentiment was genuine and I do hope that you will keep Hollywood foremost in your mind if you need to go to hospital.

At the RSL Congress I presented a cheque to Mr Garyon for our sponsorship of the RSL Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year. Benjamin Watson, the recipient of the 2008 award, is a fine young Western Australian. I feel assured that the future of our country is safe in the hands of young men and women of the calibre of those who participated in the Cadet of the Year program. (Ben, by the way, works at Hollywood as an evening ward secretary in James Woods Ward.)

It has also been my pleasure to have had a close association with the War Widows Guild with regard to their recent pilgrimage to Gallipoli for the ANZAC Day dawn service. Hollywood provided a generous donation to ensure the War Widows could be accompanied by a nurse and to assist with the costs of providing 2 chaperones. The ladies and 2 gentlemen who participated in the pilgrimage described it as an experience of a lifetime. These sponsorships are a practical part of the way in which we acknowledge our long-term relationships with the ex-service community.

Hollywood's building programme is going very well. We opened up 2 additional operating rooms in February, and opened our new GI unit in June. The ward block is ‘growing’ out of the ground, the additional theatre extension is taking shape and the car park should be opened in about a month. When we get the car park open we will start on the additional specialist consulting suites.

The take home message from today’s column from Hollywood is – please call us when you need us. We are open 24 hours a day. We will do our utmost to accommodate you, but we can only act when someone tells us that you are in need.

I am happy for you to call me any time on 9346 8249 to discuss any Hollywood related matters, or to discuss any health issues.

APPEAL TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF WEARY DUNLOP
New book tells life story of Australian hero

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Alan Griffin, today launched a new book on the life of a great Australian and appealed to the nation to support the work of the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation.

The Foundation was established in 1985 to carry on the work of Australian war surgeon Sir Edward Dunlop. Affectionately known as ‘Weary’, he is renowned and admired for his leadership while a prisoner of war of the Japanese during World War II. His name and deeds are held in the highest regard by Australians,” he said.

The book, Weary, An Australian Hero by Foundation chairman Dino De Marchi and Melbourne author Robert Hillman, is a brief biography of Sir Edward and is written for young students.

Representing the Prime Minister at the launch of the 2008 Weary Dunlop Appeal, Mr Griffin said the not-for-profit organisation had supported the health and wellbeing of veterans for more than a quarter of a century, but volunteers and public donations were essential to its continuation.

“The Foundation seeks to improve quality of life for veterans and their dependants through medical research and the promotion of the personal qualities and standards of excellence that Weary Dunlop came to represent.

“The vital work of the Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation exists purely through the goodwill of volunteers and donations. I urge Australians to contribute to the Appeal by assisting in fund-raising, buying a lapel pin or by making a donation,” Mr Griffin said.

Mr De Marchi said the Foundation granted funds to worthy medical projects Australia-wide each year. “Most recently we have funded research into prostate cancer, heart disease, diabetes, obesity and mental health. This research assists not only the veteran community, but all Australians,” he said.

The Foundation also hosted the granting of a scholarship by Swinburne University and the City of Stonnington to Emily Peters for outstanding academic merit.

Anyone able to assist with the two-week appeal from 12-25 July should contact the Foundation on 03 9387 7833 or info@siredwarddunlop.com.au

Media inquiries: Laura Ryan 0437 863 109

Barry Lehmann’s Western Front Trip

“In April 2008 myself, my two brothers, David and Morris (both ex servicemen) and a friend Leigh Eldredge, travelled to the Western Front for a number of reasons:

These were
1. Attend the ANZAC Day Ceremony at Villers-Bretonneux, France.
2. Locate any record of my wife’s great uncle, Pte Ian John Wood of the 51st Battalion who was killed at Passendale in Belgium.
3. Locate any record of my friends grandfather, Pte G Taylor of the 51st Battalion who was killed at Passendale in Belgium.
4. Attend the village of Hamel in France where Leigh Eldredge’s father T aylor at Menin Gate.
5. Locate a small museum run by an aging Frenchman, (whose name escapes me) in Bullecourt France and give him a photograph of Private Wood and he will put it on display in the museum.
6. I have attached a photograph of myself, Morris Lehmann, David Lehmann and Leigh Eldredge at the ANZAC Day Ceremony

Cheers
Barry Lehmann

Sir Edward Dunlop Medical Research Foundation

Hollywood Private Hospital

Is Still Here For You

By Dr Margaret Sturdy

Director of Medical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital

Weary Dunlop came to represent medical research and the promotion of the personal qualities and standards of excellence that are held in the highest regard by Australians. Weary Dunlop came to represent medical research and the promotion of the personal qualities and standards of excellence that are held in the highest regard by Australians.

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During April the 3rd RAR took Hill ‘Sardine’ and sent in reserve at Kapyong on the Pukhan and Hill ‘Salmon’. They were then relieved and broke formation, disintegrated and fell back down the Kapyong River. Two battalions of the 64th Division, the 6th ROK Division which was deployed across a front of 7 kilometres, and the 6th Division were deployed on both hands and knees up the invasion route for three days. The American Presidential Unit Citation was awarded after the battle, including the immediate award of the Distinguished Service Cross. After capture prisoners were subjected to torture and beatings and starvation. The American command had ordered three such raids but no prisoners had been captured. Ambushes, bombardments, mine explosions and parachute attacks accounted for 3 RAR losing 22 men killed and 100 wounded and 2 RAR losing 10 killed and 57 wounded during May and June 1953. Just before the armistice the Australians’ last battles took place when both 2 RAR and 3 RAR were sent into the heavily defended Hook Hill, a kilometer west of the river, the most threatened area on the Commonwealth division front. On the 28th of July 1953 Brigadier Wilson told his battalion commanders that an armistice agreement was near and to order only essential patrols. He ordered all Australian troops to be withdrawn back to 2 RAR on 24 July and to the UN forces on the next three months. Millions of casualties and untold civilian suffering and death had been caused by the war in Korea. As was recorded in Part 1, the Australian Army casualties were 1,526 of whom 293 had been killed or died, the Americans had lost 23,000 killed and the South Koreans 47,000.

General J. van Fleet, General Officer, 8th US Army inspects members of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment. The American command had ordered three such raids but no prisoners had been captured. Ambushes, bombardments, mine explosions and parachute attacks accounted for 3 RAR losing 22 men killed and 100 wounded and 2 RAR losing 10 killed and 57 wounded during May and June 1953. Just before the armistice the Australians’ last battles took place when both 2 RAR and 3 RAR were sent into the heavily defended Hook Hill, a kilometer west of the river, the most threatened area on the Commonwealth division front. On the 28th of July 1953 Brigadier Wilson told his battalion commanders that an armistice agreement was near and to order only essential patrols. He ordered all Australian troops to be withdrawn back to 2 RAR on 24 July and to the UN forces on the next three months. Millions of casualties and untold civilian suffering and death had been caused by the war in Korea. As was recorded in Part 1, the Australian Army casualties were 1,526 of whom 293 had been killed or died, the Americans had lost 23,000 killed and the South Koreans 47,000.

My grateful thanks to the volume- Australians: An Illustrated History by George Odgers, The Australian War Memorial Canberra, and a former Army mate who wishes to remain anonymous.
Cottlesloe Surf Life Saving Club Inc., Centenary
Cottlesloe Surf Life Saving Club will celebrate its centenary in 2008. As part of this project, information on the military service (RAN, Army or RAAF) since WW2, of present, past and deceased members should be included. Information should include: full name, date of birth, club membership period, dates of service, unit, overseas and operational service, and rank on discharge or retirement.
Contact: Owen Ashby 93849484 or E: admin@cottsurf.com.au.

Vietnam Concert and Workshop
Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre, Boyup Brook is proud to announce a very special VIETNAM VETERANS CONCERT AND WORKSHOP TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY THE 16TH JANUARY 2009 FROM 7:30 PM UNTIL LATER.

From 7:30 PM until late.

The Vietnam Veterans Very Special Concert and workshop of a lifetime goes to air at 7:30 PM in the hall with warm, soothing, cool, & cosfty atmosphere. The show will feature John Schumann along with other guest yet to be announced.
It is a chance for veterans to mix with old mates and new mates along with the artists appearing on the bill. Camp is available at one of our 5-7 star campsites full information on our web site. Further information about this event will be listed on our web site in November 2008.
Thursday gets you with a nice mug of tea with fresh country air, birds singing, and Kangaroos grazing. the day starts with a meet and greet, concluding with music and veteran related workshops, plus entertainment.
Experience the warm cozy undercover venue, fantastic food and drinks also, enjoy Licence Bar Hot Food & Drinks along with Bush Camping.

You can book online November 2008.
Log on to www.harveydickson.com.au and click bookings or alternatively 08-97651125 for bookings and enquiries via telephone.

Ticket prices are due to be announced on our website in November 08. Adults or 15 years and over $15.00.

2007 was an extremely successful year for Harvey Dickson's, we had sensational year for concerts, rodos, tours and other events. We had great shows drop in from all around Australia and around the world. Harvey, Rose, and I would like to thank all those people and hope to see them again.
Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre in Boyup Brook, Western Australia is also working foreign tours and into Australia in 2008, it seems now is the home of Harvey and Rose Dickson.
Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre is now into its 65th year and 2008 has generated huge interest.
Thank You. Harvey Dickson's Country Music Centre
95a out of Boyup Brook on the
Brook - Arthur River Rd, P.O.Box 17 Boyup Brook WA 6244
Photo/Box 08-97651125.
E: harveydickson@westnet.com.au
W: www.harveydickson.com.au

WANTED
Royal Australian Engineers' Association WA Inc.
Whether you are a serving member or retired WE NEED YOU! The association has a great fellowship and some could be your mates that you haven't seen for a number of years. Each state in Australia has a branch that you can join and are in contact with each other so that you can find missing mates.
The annual membership fee is minimal and will create no burden on your pocket. Why not make an enquiry today to find where your nearest branch is and where you can catch up with those missing mates of yours.
For more information contact the association mail-out, the Purple Circle offers fantastic information. Catch up on all the latest military stuff you love. See what's happening in your area, read about the latest engineering equipment used in today's forces and plenty more.
For more information contact:
President: Mick Ryan 9307 2385
Secretary: Neville Clark 9342 5808

15th Intake of Army Apprentices
We are trying to organise a 50th Reunion for the 15th Intake of Army Apprentices - Whilst we have found the majority, we are having difficulty in finding the following Musicians who graduated with us:
Archer D J, Carnes R W, Robbins P & Sargent D J.
Try to go through the Website but it appears that it is being redesigned.
Any help would be appreciated.
Contact may be made by
jandrewreiss@bigpond.com
Regards John Jones

REUNIONS
NASHO's Reunion
Any NASHOs that were in 13 Platoon C Company Puckapunyal intake September 1971 we are trying to organise a reunion and those that are interested.
Thank you.
Contact: Bob McGarva 9497 8979 or email boma51@optusnet.com.au

Naval Engineering Reunion 2008 Canberra
All serving, retired and civilian members of the Naval Engineering branches are cordially invited to attend.
Naval Engineering Reunion 2008 Which will be held on FRIDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2008. Venue: Tuggeranong Valley Rugby Union & Amateur Sports Club, Ricardo Street, Wanniassa, ACT, 2903 Time: 1730 (5.30pm) to 0100 (late)
Cost: $50.00 per head (Includes-drinks & finger food). Bookings can be made by contacting one of the committee members listed below.
The preferred method of payment is EFT, cheque or cash.
EFT Details - BSB 802 397 - Account 681137
Account Name – Naval Engineering Reunion Important - Please Enter Your Name in the comment section, which can be made payable to “Naval Engineering Reunion” and forwarded to Glenn Murch 25 Alison Ashby Cr Banks ACT 2006.
Payment is requested no later than Friday 7 November 2008
Contact: Glenn Murch (02) 62651675 wk
Email: glenn.murch@dfat.gov.au

JOKES
You have ever been guilty of looking at others on your own plate, thinking, surely I can’t look that old! Well… You’ll love this one.
My name is Alice Smith and I was sitting in the sitting room for my first appointment with a new dentist. I noticed his DDS diploma, which bore his full name. Suddenly, I remembered a tall, handsome, dark-haired boy with the same name had been in my high school class some 30-odd years ago.
Could he be the same guy I had a secret crush on, way back then? Upon seeing him, however, I quickly discarded any such thought. This balding grey-haired man with the deeply lined face was way too old to have been my classmate. After he examined my teeth, I asked him if he had attended Morgan Park High School.
“Yes, I did. I’m a Mustang,” he gleamed with pride.
“When did you graduate?” I asked.
He answered, “In 1975. Why do you ask?”
“You were in my class!” I exclaimed.
He looked at me closely. Then, that ugly, old, weird, dirt face, gray-haired, decrepit son-of-a-bitch asked, “What did you do?”
Even at the age of 88, my mother was extremely vain about her appearance. At a party an old friend exclaimed, “Edith, you haven’t changed a bit in 20 years.”
“Oh,” said Mum, horrified. “I hope I didn’t look like this 20 years ago.”
Contact: Jim Brading Reproduced with permission from Readers Digest July 2008

Lost
Miss Valerie Bell has had the medals of her late father stolen. They are mounted, and from the battles of the Middle East, including Tobruk. All the Army papers are gone as well. Reward offered.

Found
I have posted the below onto our News Letter without luck. Can You help with a wider distribution?
An Australian “Anniversary of national Services 1951-1972” medal was found in the grounds of the “Guns” club on Campbell Barracks on ANZAC DAY. It is inscribed with 5714509 B J GUZDER. Please contact the Australian Army Benevolent Fund, Secretary, Kevan Logan by phone on Mob 0402 035 128 or 9451 8557
Thank you.
Contact: Kevan Logan email: kevan@inet.net.au

A woman called our hospital switchboard requesting an ambulance. “You need to dial 008,” I said.
“OK,” she answered, “And they’ll have the phone number for the ambulance!”

Sonia Squirell
Reproduced with permission from Readers Digest July 2008

With all the new technology regarding fertility, a 40 year old woman was able to give birth to a baby recently. When she was discharged from the hospital and went home her relatives came to visit.
“May we see the new baby?” one asked.
“No, not yet,” replied the mother. “I’ll make coffee and we can chat for a while first.”
Thirty minutes had passed, and another relative asked, “May we see the new baby now?”
“No, not yet,” the mother answered.
Growing impatient they asked, “Well, when can we see the baby?”
“When she cries,” she told them.
“When she cries?” they demanded. “Why do we have to wait until she cries?”
“Because…” I’ve forgotten where I put her.”

Received from Hightown Sub-Branch

After I asked for a 200 gram brown sugar mufi at my local supermarkets seafood counter, the assistant picked one out of a pile and set it on the scales. It weighed precisely that.
Impressed, I asked, “How did you know?”
Looking pleased with himself, he declared, “I’m psychic.”

Gladys Hocott
Reproduced with permission from Readers Digest July 2008
Written in Blood

Winds blow gently over hills once green
Sun shines brightly on the ground’s red sheen
Bodies lie broken in the place they fell

What once was a haven now is a hell

Men carry comrades broken and bound
With moaning and weeping the occasional sound
All wish that the carnage would come to an end
So that the lives ripped apart could finally mend

Years pass quietly as the grass over-grows
Red poppies dance from the new wind that blows

People remember, don’t try to forget
That the darkness of war brings a dark silhouette

So here we are, so many years from then
With the hope that the tragedy won’t happen again
With the wish that the children will be taught
That the price of your life should not be so high

That for you to live another man should die

Bella Barnaby

This was reproduced from Have a Go Newspaper, Volume 17, No 12, Issue No 195 June 2008, with the permission of Bella Barnaby.
Shrapnel Valley Cemetery - One of the most beautiful on Gallipoli. It has an irregular oval layout indicating original wartime burials.

Hazel Donald and Norma Harmsworth laying a wreath on behalf of war members of the touring party met together for the first time after seventeen hours flying time (from Perth) we arrived in Istanbul on 17 April 2008 the first tour of Gallipoli organised by and spent the following three glorious days touring historical museums, palaces and mosques before heading to the Gallipoli Peninsula.

Blessed with beautiful weather, a very informative Turkish guide and an Australian war historian the party visited many war cemeteries and significant battle sites, including a boat cruise on the Aegean Sea to view the landing area of the troops. The tour of the peninsula was often emotional with many members locating family members in the war cemeteries.

The tour culminated with our attendance at the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day followed by the Australian Service at Lone Pine and the opportunity to lay a wreath on behalf of the war widows in Australia. The tour was an overwhelming success and the camaraderie between our members was amazing. The chaplains worked extremely hard and it was gratifying to receive the many compliments from tour members about the way the tour was organised and how well they were looked after.

For information on either of these chaperoned tours please contact Jenny Knight (War Widows’ Guild WA) on (08) 9371 7670 or 0402 051 592.

Bluey’s War

I am a sub-branch member of Caloundra RSL in Queensland, and I have just had my novel, Bluey’s War published by Penguin Australia. Above everything else, Bluey’s War is a moving and engrossing love story, set near Goondiwindi in South West Queensland. It encompasses the lives of its two main characters from around 1935 to 1957. How they meet and fall in love; Ellen’s nightmare life of domestic drudgery and Bluey going off to war so young; his capture and his misery and degradation at the hands of the Japanese. Although the story is fictional; it nevertheless examines the realities of wartime uncertainty and sacrifice, mateship and survival. Bluey returns home mentally scarred over the death of his best friend who was executed by the Japanese. The story also describes his descent into alcoholism and the breakdown of his relationship with Ellen, his subsequent fight back from oblivion and his return home in an attempt to win back the woman he loves. This is a story of unyielding love and profound courage. I think it is a book that will appeal to sub-branch member’s right around Australia. It is best summed up by one of the media reviews.

The Sunshine Coast Sunday, “This sincere and engaging book will appeal to a wide range of readers. It is simply a damn good, fair dinkum yarn.”

The Walcha News, “A story simply told but nonetheless poignant and graphic.”

Victoria Weekly, “The book may well revive accounts of similarly disposed couples who, post war, tried to adjust to what passed for normality.”

Brisbane’s Sunday Mail, “Hamlet pulls the reader gently through a moving – and classically Australian – story.”

Gold Coast Bulletin, “Hamlet creates a stirring saga of love, war and a family wrenched apart.”

Townsville Bulletin, “It’s a sad book but goes a long way towards explaining the full tragedy of war and its effects.”

DoubleBay Books, “Beautifully told with a harrowing undercurrent of sadness.”

For further information please contact Herb Hamlet at hlham@bigpond.com or Angela Sassone at Penguin Publishing.

Still Waiting Ages for Medals to be Mounted?

Precision, acid-free, NO superglue, sewn-on clasps, no-cardboard medal mounting and dress ribbon bars.

Australian and British Commonwealth issue reproduction and replacement medal replicas and ribbons. Creative framing of all your family service memorabilia for future generations to appreciate. Plus full-sized fully-framed defence and police replica weapons; Owen’s, SLRs, M60s, M16s, M16/M203s, F89s, Browning 9mm, Glock, and Ruger .38 pistols, these framed weapons look great on your walls!

Card-carrying ADF and ESO members receive special discounts on all medal mounting services and get priority level service. Personalised attention and lots of easy on-site parking... come on over!

Heritage Medals dealers in Western Australia:
Heritage Medals/Military Framers: Shop 9, 7 Delage Street Joondalup Phone 9300 3318
Medals Mounting & Framing: 298a Railway Parade Cannington; Phone 9358 5058
Email service@heritagemedals.com.au or shop online! 24 x 7 x 365 @ http://www.heritagemedals.com.au

We’re open 10:00am to 5:00pm weekdays, and Saturdays 10:00am to 2:00pm and other times by appointment.
Every night they came past our camp. A group of Ausies with their large felt hats, clearly visible in the bright moonlight. Their work was apparently further away than ours because they always passed well after we had retired to our sleeping mats, after our wash in the river and our meagre meal of rice with watery vegetable soup.

We could see their camp on a small hill on the other side of the railway embankment. Once the Ausies arrived on the top of the hill they did a roll call to make sure no one had been left en route. Dark silhouettes against the moon-lit sky, commands sounded clear and crisp in the quiet Burman night. It was as if they were no exhausted POWs but a first draft of young conscripts. It was a prelude to a ritual they performed nearly every night.

The Dutch POWs were full of astonishment and admiration for this level of discipline. They had respect for this close-knit and mentally undefeated group of men, who acted as if they still had to defend the honour of the British Empire. After the roll call nothing happened for half an hour. The moon had climbed higher into the sky and was bathing the landscape in a light as if a strange sun had started a new day. The two hats on the hill appeared to have swallowed up all life and stood out unrealistically clear against the sky above the dark green jungle. You felt as if you were on another planet.

In the Dutch huts the men were patiently waiting for the rest of the ritual, which they already knew through and through but still wanted to witness again every time.

Then the bugler would play the Last Post.

In such a way that it sent shivers up your spine. As if he wanted to tell the Jap: Listen.....we are not broken.....because we know for certain that eventually victory will be ours. In the camp you would hear a needle fall on the ground.

Everybody felt the same moral support of the bugler’s unspoken message.

Otto Kreeft
**10LH’s Old Boys Not Forgotten**

SEVERAL generations of soldiers from A Sqn, 10 Light Horse, gathered in Kings Park before Anzac Day for the annual Old Boys Parade.

Troopers from 10 Light Horse formed a catafalque party around the Light Horse memorial in Kings Park while wreaths were laid in honour of the fallen.

The parade was originally held by 10 Light Horse Regt veterans to remember those who fell during the Great War.

Long after the last of the old boys passed away, the soldiers of A Sqn continue to honour the courage of the light horsemen.

OC A Sqn Maj Kim O’Grady said the parade recognised those who made the ultimate sacrifice, as well as those who gave their time and energy to carry on the traditions of the unit.

During World War I, the regiment took part in the ill-fated Battle of the Nek and the renowned charge at Beersheba.

By Tpr Matt Whitby

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**Crossword**

Across

1. Zeal
5. Express disgust
10. Cabbage cosain
14. N.A. Indian
15. Dued
16. Margarine
17. Indicate before hand
19. Tall tales
20. Flirtatious
21. American state
23. Type of peace prize
26. Unblinking
28. BB association
31. National police
32. Girl’s name that rhymes with Annie
33. Fat
34. Party to a lawsuit
37. Grass
39. Hard, crisp bread
40. Despot
42. Absurd
45. Newscaster Walter ___
49. Tree
50. Repented
53. Neither’s partner
54. Slide on snow
55. North Germanic
56. Long boat
59. Vice (tv show)
60. Box
61. Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
63. Coworkers
69. Card game
70. Slinging parts
71. Metal fastener
72. Spanish desert
73. Try to seduce
74. Right-winger

Down

1. Extremely high frequency (abbr.)
2. Lavatory
3. Rainy mo.
4. Sibling’s daughter
5. Win
6. Expression of surprise
7. Free of
8. Sundial pointer
9. Vacation island
10. German city
11. Person who gives up property
12. Downwind
13. Aurora
18. Sun’s name
19. Sun’s name
22. Ice deliverer
23. Football assoc.
24. Kimomo sash
25. Stable gear
26. Went into the water
27. Explosive
29. Ode
30. Brer Muhammad
32. Foreign Agricultural Service
35. Gall
36. South American nation
38. Raiders of the Lost ___ (Harrison Ford movie)
40. Very tall plant
41. Sword
42. Used to be
43. Inquire
44. Fire-breathing monster
45. Nervous system
46. Lodge
47. Also
48. Hard’s before
51. House cat
52. American songbird
56. Central Intelligence Agency
57. Anxiety
59. Computer picture button
60. Greatest
61. Spoiled
62. Crony
64. Long-term memory
65. Cut
66. Spanish “one”
67. Serving of corn
68. Eppy

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By Tpr Matt Whitby
Most Australians know where Gallipoli is— but how many could point on a map to Montbrehain, i.e. Hamel, Paschendaele, Fromelles or Pozieres?

Well, six times the number of ANZACs, 72,000 in all, died in these places rather than the 8,700 who gave their lives at Gallipoli. The ANZAC’s losses and great victories on the Western Front have been completely overshadowed by the disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

The ANZAC successes of 1918 that “ended the war to end all wars” took place in Belgium and northern France. 2008 is the 90th celebration of these stunning victories.

This is all about to change when the form of a three hour documentary. Western Front have been completely overshadowed by the disastrous Gallipoli campaign.

The original plan was for three half hour segments, but the vastness of the subject became a nine-part miniseries, which begins with the reasons for war and concludes with the return home of the ANZAC troops — and life after war. They fought in the Great War and came home to the Great Depression!

All the WWI veterans have gone. “Soon there won’t be anybody left in Australia whose father fought in WWI, and in 10 years most of the survivors of WWII will have passed away, too.”

Successive governments have given load lip service to Australian history but public comments received by the producer indicate that talk is cheap. Here’s two comments from the focus group:

What do Australians think of LEST WE FORGET?

"It sickens me to see our politicians, and others, display their "respect" each ANZAC Day solemnly mumbling Lest We Forget" - to promptly put it all behind them for the next 364 days.”

(These are not my words.)

"Lest We Forget. I’m afraid in many cases this is merely a hollow platitude, behind them for the next 364 days.”

"We forget? Soon there won’t be anybody left to remember.”

In his other life, film maker Alan Young is a wine author who has published 20 books worldwide. In 2008 he will release two films in Australia and wine books in both the USA and China!

His successor Allan Griffin on national TV news from France “It is a pity we know so little about this battle in Australia.”

Julia Gillard on ABC ANZAC Day program, “I hope we capture and record that history before it’s going to be lost to us.”

In his other life, film maker Alan Young is a wine author who has published 20 books worldwide. In 2008 he will release two films in Australia and wine books in both the USA and China!

www.forgingtheanzacs.com/index.html

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The Gallipoli Research Foundation

The Gallipoli Research Foundation’s True Blue Appeal was officially launched in the Greenslopes Private Hospital Foyer with a celebration of bush poets, and “billy tea, damper and cocky’s joy (golden syrup) on Friday 30th Mar. It was great fun and much appreciated by patients, staff and visitors. The Foundation, established in 2005 as a tribute to the Veteran and War Widow community, raises funds for medical research carried out on the Hospital campus. For more information, please go to www.gallipoliresearch.com.au.

The True Blue Appeal will run until Tuesday September 30th. The Foundation is very keen to encourage community support for the appeal which is only in its third year.

Individuals or groups (clubs etc) are invited to conduct a True Blue activity at a time and day that suits them between now and the 30th of September.

The Foundation can help with promotional materials including posters and brochures, receipt books (if required), media releases etc. Please contact the Foundation on 3994 7284 if you would like to be involved or if you require additional information.

At any event you think the work will be small (just a few friends), the Foundation would love to hear from you. Every True Blue activity will make a difference and you’ll be part of that great Aussie tradition – helping your mates.

Regards

Robynne Milne
Executive Officer
Gallipoli Research Foundation
Greenslopes Private Hospital
Newdegate Street

Death of Tom Ward

Ladies and Gentlemen, It is my sad duty to pass on the following from John Chesterfield:

For those who knew Sqn Ldr Tom Ward, I regret to advise that Tom died last night at Coolangatta after a long and gallant battle with cancer.

Tom flew with 9 Sqn in Vietnam and commanded the Squadron on its return to Amberley for six months in 1973 until I assumed command. Tom continued as my Executive Officer.

After Tom left the Service he was involved in Search and Rescue ops in South East Queensland as a helicopter pilot. Tom was a great pal, a wonderful friend and a regular golf partner – a game he loved with a passion.

Please pass on this advice. Funeral/ family details will be advised when known.

Vale Tommy. Best regards

John Chesterfield AM MID
Air Cdre RAAF (Ret)

The deaths of the following RSL Members (WA Branch) were recorded at ANZAC House.

Navy

Binks, Gordon, P6 80037- City of Mandurah
Johnson, Brian, PA4455- Cambridge
Patel, Raymond, C60006- City of Perth
 Steele, Graig, RW4045- Lance/Capt
White, Alexandre, 30701- Bunbury
Williams, Geoffrey, 2732- City of Mandurah

Green Members

Adams, Stanley- York
Anderson, David- Karathia and Districts
Aitken, David- Karathia and Districts
Baggage, Douglas- Rockingham
Barnd, Wayne- Karathia and Districts
Bartini, David- City of Perth
Bouch, Craig, Karathia and Distincts
Breeds, Sydney- Scarborough
Briter, David- Karathia and Districts
Bruns, Jeffrey- Baldinbrook
Browne, Gary- City of Mandurah
Burnby, Rodley- Karathia and Districts
Burket, Philip- Beverley
Coleman, Stephen- Karathia and Districts
Collins, Benjamin- Karathia and Districts
Cramer, David- Karathia and Districts
Cross, David- City of Rockingham
Daniel, Peter- Quinns Rocks
Dodd, David- City of Mandurah
Edwards, David- Quinns Rocks
Evans, Raymond- Karathia and Districts
Gallo, Katharine- Karathia and Districts
Garcy, David- Port Kennedy
Gilchrist, Bryce- Yanchep-Two Rocks
Goodacre, Alan- City of Rockingham
Greep, George- City of Mandurah
Guerni, Ronald- City of Rockingham
Hammond, Rodney- Nollamara
Harris, Edward- Nollamara
Harrison, Robert- Karathia and Districts
Hart, Kevin- Nollamara
Higgs, Shane- Port Kennedy
Hustead, Raymond- Bicton-Palmyra
Howard, Gary- Karathia and Districts
Humphreys, Terry- Port Kennedy
Hay, David- Vietnamese Services
Jackson, Lloyd- Karathia and Districts
Jorg, Philip- Karathia and Districts
Johnson, Audrey- Returned Ex-Servicewomen
Josh, Ravi- Nollamara
Kalam, Jack- Karathia and Districts
Keating, John- Karathia and Districts
Kinnear, David- City of Perth
Kirkland, Mark- City of Rockingham
Lapsley, Robert- Ocean Reef
Lamers, Charles- City of Rockingham
Lea, Jason- Bunbury
Leh, Jacob- Karathia and Districts
Leigh, Norman- Nollamara
Linnington, Peter- City of Rockingham
Ludlow, Robert- City of Rockingham
Macander, Peter- Ocean Reef
MacPherson, Garth- Manjimup
Mason, Peter- Rockingham
Matheson, Rodney- Riverine
Mangham, Malcolm- Port Kennedy
McCarthy, Guy- Bunbury
McCreary, Hugh- Pinjarra
McHale, Johnathan- Amadale
McQueen, Campbell- City of Rockingham
Moffett, Kevin- Gosnells
Mohsen, Michael- Riverine
Nash, Gwenn- Esperance
Nicholls, David- Port Kennedy
Norris, Thomas- Bunbury
Paton, Shane- Port Kennedy
Pedersen, Glenn- Bunbury
Piper, Donald- City of Rockingham
Rhys, Graeme- Port Kennedy
Riley, William- Bullbrook
Roper, Trevor- Peaceful Bay
Rundle, Dean- Port Kennedy
Ryan, Les- Bunbury
Sappelli, Cornell- Ocean Reef
Scally, Darren- Pinjarra
Smith, Simon- Esperance
Skidmore, Gerald- City of Perth
Shadbolt, Debby- Albany
Soare, Dennis- Belvoir
Stallard, Cary- City of Rockingham
Stanley, Drew- Karathia and Districts
Stevens, Stuart- Geraldton
Thomas, Ian- Dunsborough
Thomas, Sarah- Karathia and Districts
Thompson, Shane- Karathia and Districts
Tomlinson, Colin- City of Rockingham
Train, Team- Vietnamese Services
Valeriari, Steven- Bicton-Palmyra
Vicary, James- Bunbury
Vickers, Eric- Bullbrook
Vincenzoni, Mars- Karratha and Districts
Vicary, James- Bunbury
Viner, Lynne- Vietnamese Services
Wallace, Lorraine- East Victoria Park
Weir, Robyn- Toodyay
Ward, I regret to advise that Tom died last night at Coolangatta after a long and gallant battle with cancer.

The LiSTeNiNg POST August 2008
Australian Women's War Service finally recognised

91 years after the first military bravery awards were awarded to Australian women, the story of Australian women's service from the Boer War to now has been told in a book launched today by the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Alan Griffin.

Mr Griffin said Australian Women and War explained the history of women in the service in the women and on the home front in wars, conflicts and peace operations.

"Women have always played a strong part in our history," Mr Griffin said.

"It is now known as one of the most important contributions to victory and to the war effort, and their service has been widely recognised in recent years.

"But the story of Australian women's service in the Boer War is often overlooked, and their contribution has been largely untold.

"This book explores the rich, but often untold, story of wars, conflicts and peace operations.

"It tells the story of women who served in the Boer War, the First World War, and the Second World War, and the role they played in supporting the men who fought.

"The book highlights the contributions of women in the war effort, including their work in hospitals, their role in financing the war effort, and their contributions to the war effort.

"It also features the stories of women who served in the armed forces, including nurses, soldiers, and officers.

"The book is a valuable resource for understanding the role of women in the war effort and their contributions to the war effort.

"I urge all Australians to read this book and learn about the important role women played in our nation's history."
AMAZING STORIES

Our Veterans secured our future
Hollywood looks after theirs

COMMEMORATING THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN - AUGUST 18TH 1966