Toodyay Remembered

RSL gratefully acknowledges the financial support from the Veteran Community and the Aged Fund.

Australia Day Awards Page 15
Legal Loopholes Page 21
How I Lost Weight Page 22

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*Prices applicable until March 31, 2010. Pictures for illustration purposes only. Prices not valid with any other offer. Above prices are exclusive to T.P.I. card holders only.*
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ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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 Departments at ANZAC House

Membership: Kathy Clark 8.00am to 3.30pm Mon-Thurs
9287 3705

Welfare: Rosalind Howat 8.30am 4.30pm Mon-Fri
9287 3707 0412 009 191

Snr Advocate: Jim Boland 8.00am to 4.00pm Mon-Fri
9287 3708

ANZAC House Manager: Matthew Holyday 9287 3714

Financial Services: Ken van Lit 8.30am-4.30pm Tues-Fri
9287 3718
Helen Beech 8.30am to 4.30pm Mon-Thurs
9287 3703

Records Officer: Naomi Jones 9287 3713

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and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
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express approval from the Newspaper Editor as we can infringe on
Copyright Laws. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Denis Connelly, Editor

To all Sub Branch Presidents and Secretaries. Can you provide “The
Listening Post” with a short article and some good size photographs
of how you commemorated Australia Day.

We are proud of our long association with the RSL and are
pleased to provide members with the following services

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On this day in History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 January</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Proclamation of the Commonwealth of Australia</td>
<td>The union of the six former colonies came into being with a proclamation by the Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun at Centennial Park Sydney.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 January</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>HMAS Tobruk bombards Chomi Do, Korea</td>
<td>The bombardment of Chomi Do, on the Haegu Gulf north-west of Seoul, forestalled a North Korean invasion of Yongmae Do, an island about 20 kilometres from Incheon.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 January</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Germany signs armistice</td>
<td>Following the capture of Magdhaba a fortnight earlier the Allies need to take Rafa, a former Egyptian police post on the Mediterranean border with Palestine, to enable their advance into Palestine.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 January</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney [II] sunk</td>
<td>Mustangs of No. 77 Squadron attacked a suspected Chinese headquarters with rockets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 January</td>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Air battle over Sunchon, North Korea</td>
<td>The Port city of Tobruk was a well fortified Italian held strong point held by about 25,000 men.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 January</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>HMAS Perth under fire</td>
<td>Fighting at Bien Hoa involved a series of contacts between units of the 1st Australian Task Force and communist forces in the area of the Bien Hoa - Long Binh complex near Saigon. Australian and American units sought to dominate the area and prevent enemy rocket attacks on nearby military bases and installations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 February</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>HMAS Perth under fire</td>
<td>22 members of the Australian Army Nursing Service and other survivors of the sinking of the SS Vyner Brooke massacred on Banka Island. The only survivor from this party of Australian nurses was Sister Vivian Bullwinkel.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>HMAS Perth under fire</td>
<td>This was the first allied attempt to force a passage through the Dardanelles and attack the heart of the Ottoman Empire. Its failure ultimately led to the ill-fated Gallipoli campaign.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 February</td>
<td>1972</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney arrives at Vung Tau</td>
<td>On this voyage Sydney embarked 457 soldiers. HMAS Sydney made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amy Hunt joins ANZAC House Staff

Amy Hunt has recently joined the RSL as a receptionist. She graduated from Ballajura Community College (BCC) last year, whilst at BCC she completed her TEE and was a member of numerous extra curricular activities including Band, Police Rangers and Amnesty.

Over the years she has accrued a variety of interests which range from music and reading to history and politics. She is one of three children, her younger brother Josh is 15 and older sister Courtney is 19. Her family extends to include a maltese shitzu dog Lady, a miniature maltese shitzu Pippa, two cats by the names of Holly and Soxy as well as a lori keet by the name of Lori, a budgie and goldfish. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Vale: Mr Ken Colbung

Mr Ken Colbung (Reg No. 51371) passed away on 13 January 2010 at Joondalup Hospital. Mr Colbung was a leader of his community, ready to add his support to projects that assisted the indigenous community.

Vale: John Terrance Lynch

It is with regret that we record the passing of our Life Member Jack Lynch on January 3, 2010.

Jack has been a member of Cambridge Sub-Branch for a period of 59 years and during that time has served as our Welfare Officer for a period of 10 years. He served with the 2/16 Battalion in New Guinea and was a Kokoda Track veteran. For his distinguished service to the RSL and the local community Jack was recognised and awarded the Meritorious Medal at the 2009 Congress. His unselfish support of our Widowers and Widows will be sadly felt through the Sub-Branch and leave a void that will be very difficult to fill. Farewell to a fine Soldier and Gentleman. Lest We Forget.
From the President’s Pen

**Poppy Day Appeal**

Thanks to all Sub Branches and their supporters for participation in the Annual Poppy Day Appeal. It was a great result and the proceeds will boost the Relief Trust Fund considerably.

Again, it is pointed out that the RSL conducts the Poppy Day Appeal on behalf of the Aged Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund which is administered by three Trustees. RSL State Branch holds no Amelioration account and has no responsibility in the operation of the Trust Fund other than Administration.

The new Affiliate Cards is also gaining overwhelming and is a safe and secure way of making payments. The new Affiliate Cards is also gaining popularity as they will attract additional people and enhance the membership.

The popularity of on-line and credit card payment is increasing, with an increase in the usage of the new Affiliate Cards. The new Affiliate Cards are also being used by overseas members.

**Membership Statistics**

We are pleased to present our Annual Membership Statistics for 2009:

- Life Members .............. 150
- Life Subscribers ............ 86
- Service Members .......... 9,080
- TOTAL ...................... 9,316
- Affiliates ................... 1,780
- GRAND TOTAL ............. 11,096

**Kings Park Improvements**

Work is in progress on the new road system and parking facilities at Kings Park. Fraser Avenue will be closed at the floral clock near the entrance to Fraser’s Restaurant down to the John Forrest Statue/roundabout. There will be no traffic past the entrance to the State War Memorial or the Jewish War Memorial. The present ceremonial path will also be upgraded. This will make a significant difference to the possibility of pedestrian-vehicle conflict and will eliminate the noise disturbance factor during the conduct of services. There will also be a drop off point near the floral clock and some parking for the disabled.

The improvements will allow easier access from other park entry points.

In April 2010 Kings Park Board together with RSL will participate in an open day to celebrate the official opening of the new infrastructure. More details will be available as they come to hand and it is expected that this will be an important event.

**ANZAC Club**

Mr Jan Burridge, Chef at ANZAC Club has decided to retire after some six years of service to the League. In his time with us he has built up the business and provided an excellent, quality service to our clients. We have enjoyed his good humour and food and wish him well in his retirement.

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The Finding of Centaur

Chief of the Australian Army Lieutenant General Ken Gillespie announced on Tuesday 22 December 2009 that the remains of Australian Hospital Ship (AHS) Centaur had been found. This announcement finally lay to rest the unanswered questions of families and friends of those that perished in this tragedy.

“I am relieved that the families of the Australians on board the AHS Centaur will finally know the resting place of their loved ones, 66 years after it was sunk north east of Brisbane,” said Lieutenant General Gillespie.

The Centaur was a merchant vessel built in Scotland on the Clyde River, and was launched in 1924. She could carry a mixed cargo of passengers and freight and was employed on a run between Fremantle Western Australia and Singapore. When the war began in September 1939, she was placed under the Government’s control.

In November 1941 the Centaur was one of the ships used in the search for HMAS Sydney, and found a lifeboat with survivors from the German raider Kormoran. Among the Germans rescued was the Kormoran’s Captain, Fregattenkapitän Theodor Detmers.

Following Japan’s entry into the war and subsequent bloody fighting in Papua New Guinea during 1942, Centaur was converted into a hospital ship with the aim of ferrying patients between Port Moresby and Townsville. Her conversion began in January 1943 and was completed two months later.

Now the AHS Centaur had a fully equipped operating theatre and a dental surgery with the capacity to treat 252 patients. ‘Centaur’ had sunk in the Indian Ocean. Of the 332 persons on board, only 64 survived. These survivors spent 35 hours on rafts before being rescued. Sister Eileen Savage, the only one of the twelve nursing sisters on board to survive, though injured herself, gave great help to the other survivors and was awarded the George Medal for her work.

Sister Eileen Savage’s story is but one of the numerous stories from that terrible attack.

FOOTNOTE: Centaurs originate from ancient Greek mythology and are a race of part human, part horse. The most common theory holds that the idea of centaurs came from the first reaction of a non-riding culture, as in the Minoan Aegean world, to nomads who were mounted on horses. The theory suggests that such riders would appear as half man, half animal.
From the Bunker


Operation Woodbine. Hill 410 “The Slippery Slide”

My Uncle was KIA in Korea in 1951 and I am trying to find out which unit he served with and hopefully trace any service men he served with during this time.

Jack Gallaway’s ‘The Last Call of the Bugle’ Appendix A HILL 410, THE SLIPPERY SLIDE, 7 March 1951 lists Uncle Vic death under “Not identified by sub unit”. In other texts he is listed as “Seconded to D company”

I have obtained a copy of Uncle Vic’s Service records through the Australian War Memorial and National Archives. There is reference to Uncle Vic being TOS 2RAR & Special Forces and his final placement with 3RAR.


I have also found the Korean War Unit Diaries and I have a picture of his headstone at the United Nations Cemetery Korea. Eight months ago I was able to locate a photo of Uncle Vic which I have attached.

Private Ellis appears centre with a (x) blue cross above his head, in full uniform. The inscription on the reverse read simply “At camp.”

Uncle Vic never married and had no children. His medals which have been issued are currently lost. I have some unanswered questions in relation to my Uncle Vic’s service.

Is there any way to find out which company he usually served with and why he was seconded?

This is important as I want to try to locate men that he may have served with. If I could find out which company he regularly served with this job may be easier.

I have in my safe keeping what I’ve been told was his hat badge and it bears the insignia of the Medical corps. There was a family rumour that he was a stretcher bearer but there was no indication of this in his service record. I would like to confirm this.

Uncle Vic was killed by shrapnel wound to the neck. Eerily if you look at his service book the photo of his front view is obliterated by what appears to be a tear that rips through the whole book. Could there be any other source of photo’s of him. I have conducted a name search in the AWM photographic records with no success.

Your members may also recognise some of the soldiers in the photo I have supplied or may recognise where it was taken. I would appreciate any information that was forthcoming.

I have had the pleasure of speaking with the amazing Len Opie on a visit to Keswick prior to his death and have written to Dr Donald Beard who seemed to remember my Uncle. He has referred his details to the Military Medical History section at Keswick SA to seek further information.

Victor William Ellis’ father was a WW1 veteran, serving in Gallipoli and Belgium. On his return from service William John Ellis 183 24th AIF was constantly ill and finally diagnosed with Tuberculosis. He died in 1937 but not before infecting 4 other family members including his wife. In 1937 the youngest 4 children Verna, Doris, Victor and Thelma were placed in Orphanages. War has left a deep and enduring scar on our family and the service of our Grandfather and Uncle has come at a great price.

I have undertaken this research in order to heal the wounds and create a legacy for our family rooted in the sacrifice of our Grandfather William John Ellis and the ultimate sacrifice of our Uncle Private Victor William Ellis.

Thank you for your kind assistance in this matter. I am more than happy for you to reproduce and publish any information contained in this correspondence. Any information from your members would be greatly appreciated.

Trudy Jane
trudyjcjane@internode.on.net

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From the Bunker with Denis Connelly
Audrey Mantle’s Feature on Arctic Convoys:

Victory over the AZIS Forces could not have been possible without the combined fighting ability of the Home Fleet, Canadian, Australian and New Zealand Navies.

A Destroyer of the Royal Australian Navy, HMAS NORMAN sailed in the Arctic Ocean and was ordered to Iceland to embark a Trade Delegation to Russia. The Ship’s company was not ‘kitted up’ for Arctic weather so they must have endured much discomfort. She carried for Arctic weather so they must have enduring much discomfort. She carried food was an impossibility. The convoys was prohibited because of its light. Hot rigid and the signalling lamp froze but over the focsle froze, the bunting froze was ice and snow bound, even the spray sweepng but Captain Chesterfield and Geoff Taylor describes the terrible conditions, mountainous seas, freezing Arctic gales, to where touching metal without gloves meant severe burning. The ship pitched and rolled, the Bridge was ice and snow bound, even the spray over the focsle froze, the bunting froze rigid and the signalling lamp froze but was prohibited because of its light. Hot food was an impossibility. The convoys carried badly needed supplies to Russia. HMS WRESTLER sank when mine-sweeping but Captain Chesterfield and Geoff Taylor, President of the Arctic Convoys Assn WA, survived.

Poppy Day Appeal

Amelioration Accounts

Sub Branches of the Returned and Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated conducted the Annual Poppy Day Appeal in the metropolitan and regional areas of Western Australia on behalf of the Trustees of the Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund Act 1932.

The Street Appeal was conducted on Friday, 6 November 2009 in accordance with the Charitable Collections Act 1946 and the Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund Act 1932 and all net proceeds were distributed in accordance with “The Act”.

On 30 November 2009 the following return was submitted to the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection:

Gross Collection: $375,298

Net Collection: $343,012

In compliance with “The Act” the amount of $167,006 was remitted to the Trustees with the remainder retained by Sub Branches for lodgment in their Amelioration Accounts for welfare purposes.

The Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund Act 1932 is independent of the Returned and Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated and operated under the supervision of Trustees.

1. Mr B Cooper OAM JP
2. Mr T O’Neill
3. Mr D Warren AM RFD

The Fund is audited annually by Grant Thornton. Access to the Fund is available to veterans and their dependents. Applicants to the Fund do not have to be members of the Returned and Services League of Australia.

City of South Perth to Amalgamate

The Returned and Services League Sub-Branches within the City of South Perth have agreed to amalgamate.

The new Sub-Branch will take the name of the City of South Perth Sub-Branch and meet in the RSL Hall on the corner of Como Boulevard and Anstey Streets in South Perth on the fourth Monday of each month, December excepted, at 11.30am. Kevin Trent, President of the Sub-Branch said approval to add the words “City of” to the name of the South Perth Sub-Branch was obtained in March 1996 when it was recognised that the dwindling numbers of members in the four Sub-Branches established in the City of South Perth after the Second World War made them unviable.

Defence Force Congratulates Young Australian of the Year

Acting Chief of the Defence Force, Lieutenant General David Hurley congratulated Trooper Mark Donaldson, VC on being named Young Australian of the Year.

“Trooper Donaldson is a wonderful role model to all young Australians and all members of the Australian Defence Force.

“He epitomises what young people can achieve through dedication and commitment to their chosen field.

“On behalf of all the men and women of the Australian Defence Force, can I say how proud we are of Trooper Donaldson and his dedication to the Australian Defence Force,” said LTGEN Hurley.

Trooper Donaldson was awarded the Victoria Cross for Australia for his actions in the contact that was briefly described by Major General McOwan during his Operational Update Brief in December 2008. This was the incident in which nine members of the SAS were wounded.

Trooper Donaldson was granted an audience with the Queen in November 2009 where he described the experience as an honour and a privilege.

Media contact: Defence Media Liaison: (02) 6127 1999 or 0408 498 664

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RSL Care WA has recently been advised by the Department of Health and Ageing that it has been awarded a grant for 15 Extended Aged Care at Home (EACH) packages along with a grant of $74500 to help set up and establish the packages.

These packages will be made available to the Eastern Hills Region from the shop front which operates from Canning Road in Kalamunda.

With 20 community care packages already available to the area, the new program will operate in tandem with the existing services which will result in effective and quality resources, economies of scale and will enable a rapid start up for veterans in the region.

In the past few years RSL Care WA has confirmed an organizational commitment to broaden their services to a wider area of the community throughout WA, including Mandurah and Geraldton in an effort to meet the needs of an ageing population and other special needs groups.

RSL Care WA's Special Project Manager, Ken Hamilton explained, “Our aim is to continue to grow as a community aged care provider in order to address unmet needs now and into the future to those that need our help as far as we can reach.

“We will continue to form an integral part of the day to day lives of both veterans and special needs groups in the towns and suburbs that we operate from.”

The new coordinator of these packages, Kim Heine, will conduct community liaison visits and forums in an effort to educate the Eastern Hills community of RSL Care WA’s full range of services and to reiterate that their commitment to care is extended to the whole community – not just for Veterans and Widows.

Mrs Heine has worked in Aged Care for the last decade and has been with RSL Care WA since 2005. She has been in her current position of Clinical Nurse Lead since early in 2008.

Mrs Heine has accreditation in training and assessment (2008) and Graduate certificate in Infection control (2009). Other areas of training include wound care, palliative care, falls prevention, enteral feeding, catheter care, infection control, training staff and dental hygiene.

Mrs Heine is married, with five children and has lived in the local area for the past 27 years.

The allocation of the grant combined with Mrs Heines’ experience will enable the new services to be operational within three months of the allocation of the monies.

The services will include an integrated model of CACP/EACH Care Coordination, case management, nursing allied health and direct care will be provided in house with 16–24 house of care per week per client.

The 15 packages will be broken into three areas, targeting veterans and widows, those in the local area and general access to aid those deemed most in need.

Each new client will receive a comprehensive needs assessment which will help to identify care needs and will form the basis of a Care Plan between the coordinator and the client. On going monitoring will be an important part of each package in an effort to identify changing needs of clients.

Clients will also be connected to a number of interest suitable activities where appropriate, including a men’s club, ladies auxiliary, exercise groups, fall prevention groups and other day centre activities.

As with all RSL Care WA clients, families will be encouraged to be actively involved with case monitoring and some aspects of client care and well being.

It has been found that they provide valuable information on medical issues as well as historic and lifestyle information to ensure clients’ needs are better met.

The in house care staff will provide domestic care and will be a single point of contact for both referrals and advice.

They will also provide domestic assistance, personal care, assisted transportation, leisure activities support and hydration and nutrition support.

The EACH packages will provide an extension of the Community and Aged Care Program (CACP) as an added component of the care continuum – as it has been found that the CACP has left some needs unmet.

This collaboration will ensure continuity of care and will guarantee security of place when and if CACP client needs increase.

Office hours of Eastern Hills Community Care are 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday with after hours 24/7 emergency support available from the Menora Village.

For further information regarding these packages, please contact Kim Heine at Eastern Hills Community Care 9293 4994 or RSL Care WA Menora on 9370 0200.
The Bush Wireless

The Bush Wireless.

It was a tragic start to the New Year for six Veterans caught up in the Toodyay bushfire. All six Veterans lost their homes and most of their possessions with one Veteran also having lost the means to earn his livelihood when his tools of trade went up in smoke. The Veterans all received assistance through the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Trust, the Toodyay sub-branch and the wider Veteran community.

This may be a timely opportunity to remind all veterans of the importance of Fire Safety in the home. You are twice as likely to die in a home fire if you do not have a working fire alarm fitted. If you have any difficulties hearing, seeing or moving about, you need to take extra care to deal with the risk of fire. Electrical appliances, plugs and cables that are old or poorly wired can be a real danger. Many local Councils have an electrical safety van that visits local Shopping centres and checks small electrical appliances free of charge, check with your local Council. There are danger signs to look out for on electrical items around your home. hot plugs or sockets, fuses that often blow, or flickering lights – they are signs of electrical problems. Plugging too many electrical appliances into one socket can also lead to overheating.

If there's a fire, you need to act quickly. Make sure you are prepared and that everyone in your house knows exactly what to do. Do not look to find valuable items or investigate the fire. If there is smoke stay low to the floor, crawl to the exit if necessary. Remember smoke is poisonous and can kill you. Once you're out and safe, use a neighbour's phone to call emergency services. If you need assistance in purchasing or fitting Smoke Alarms or you require further information please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House. Assistance may be available through the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Trust.

ANZAC House News

STAFF TRAINING:
Staff at ANZAC House recently attended a Personal Development/Staff training day. With most Staff and volunteers at ANZAC House now qualified in basic first aid. The need for this training was identified with a few visitors to ANZAC House/Club becoming unwell and requiring medical attention. Most Staff are now equipped to assist the person until professional help arrives.

PENSION & WELFARE OFFICERS SEMINAR:
A Pension & Welfare Seminar will be held at ANZAC House on Thursday 18 February 2010 9.30am to 12.30pm. Advocates, Pension & Welfare Officers especially newly appointed Officers are encouraged to attend. The program will include induction material relevant to their field of operations. Please register your interest by Telephone, 9287 3799 or e-mail: rswahq@inet.net.au . To allow for catering arrangements please respond by Monday 8 February 2010.

HOSPITAL VISITOR HOTEL:
RSL, have a team of hardworking dedicated volunteers who visit Veterans who are sick or lonely in Hospital or Nursing Homes. If you know of a Veteran who is sick or lonely or has any other welfare requirements, give the Welfare Officer a ring on 9287 3707 or mobile 0412 009 191

Take Care, till next time.
ANZAC Day
Commemorative March Protocols

The Dawn Service, Gunfire Breakfast, ANZAC Day Parade, and ANZAC Day Commemorative Service are the prime opportunities to remember those who gave so much for our country – especially those who are no longer with us.

In respect of participating in the ANZAC Day Commemorative March, participants should be aware that the consensus of the returned servicemen and women, who form the body of this March, is that they be allowed to retain the integrity of their individual units for as long as possible. While they recognise the importance of, and respect the participation of next of kin (NOK), they request the following guidelines be observed by all participants:

- All marches should conform to forming up and marching 4 abreast.
- Veterans should march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by one carer if needed. That carer should be of an age where they directly assist the veteran.
- Veterans having difficulty completing the March are encouraged to use the transport provided, but must remain in the vehicle until the March is complete.
- If a veteran must fall out of the March, he/she should be directed to a Marshall for assistance. Unit Associations should continue so as not to disrupt the movement of the March.
- NOK should march behind the veterans and be old enough to march the full distance without assistance. Please note baby prams are not permitted.
- NOK representation should be restricted to 1 per veteran. Attire should be neat and tidy out of respect to the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers etc are not appreciated).
- Carrying pictures of relatives is not supported. NOK are to wear medals on the right breast (left breast is reserved for the original owners).
- Media services have been advised not to conduct interviews ‘on the move’ during the march.
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the march other than at the Assembly or Dispersal points.

We would be grateful if you adopted these guidelines and by doing so you will be allowing to the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers etc are not appreciated).

Ross O'Connor receives Medal of the Order of Australia

Ross was born in Perth, lived and was educated in East Victoria Park. He left school with a Junior Certificate and joined the Post Office as a Telegram Boy. Later he became a Postal Clerk and then worked in the Great Southern area from Pingelly to Cranbrook.

In 1970 Ross was called up for National Service and went into the Army in April 1971. He was discharged in late November 1972.

On leaving the Army, Ross rejoined the Post Office went to Geraldton on relieving staff and worked from Moora to Fitzroy Crossing relieving people on holidays. In 1973, he joined the Commonwealth Police Force and began work in Canberra. In 1977 he applied for a posting with the United Nations Police Association WA Branch since approx 1985 and is currently their Junior Vice President.

Ross has been on the Committee of the United Nations Police Association WA Branch since approx 1985 and is currently their Junior Vice President.

In 2004 he was made a Justice of the Peace and is still active as a JP. We at the RSL would like to congratulate Ross O’Connor in receiving the award of Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) which he so richly deserves.

ANZAC Day Commemorative March Protocols

THINGS HAVE CHANGED, BUT OUR COMMITMENT TO THE PERTH COMMUNITY HASN’T.

Purslowe Funerals are proud to announce their 100 year anniversary.

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7838
Medals

It is thought that medals have an occult derivation and that their present significance is of comparatively recent origin. It is for instance known that prehistoric warriors decked themselves with slivers of wood and pieces of metal to ward off the evil spirits of death. Many inscribed magic symbols on these adornments for extra protection. Eventually these articles became uniformly square, round or diamond shaped and as such are older in origin than coins.

The art of specially engraving dies for medals is also very ancient and was possibly a by-product of the early Greek mints. The medals of the Hellenic Synracc, Acragas and Athens are the oldest known examples. The medals issued in the days of the Roman Empire are examples of great skill and beauty and attained great significance in those days because of the gods and imperial portraiture depicted upon them. For his achievements Roman General and later dictator Sulla was awarded the highest Roman military honor, a famous Grass Crown. This award was given for personal bravery to a commanding general that saves a Roman legion or army in the field. Unlike all other Roman military honors, it was awarded only by acclamation of the soldiers of the rescued army. By tradition, the Grass Crown was woven from grasses and other plants taken from the actual battlefield.

Sulla’s military skills were required again during the war against powerful Mithridates VI, king of Pontus. Sulla’s generalship successfully and masterfully defeated the king and his allies, despite all odds. For example, in 86BC, in the Battle of Chaeronea, Sulla had defeated a vastly superior force in terms of numbers. It was also the first recorded time that battlefield entrenchments were used.

Charles I ordered medals for gallantry to be distributed to soldiers in 1645, these were first issued medals as decorations for British military service.黄金 were also issued to officers and men who were victorious against the Dutch fleet in 1653. After Lord Howe’s victory in 1794 a naval medal was instituted. Medals were also given for the Victory of Waterloo and since then medals have been issued to British and Commonwealth forces in all wars.

The first recorded award of a medal for conspicuous conduct was to Robert King of England at the Battle of Edgheill where Welch recovered the Royal Standard.

Jobson, 1997 records in 1650 Oliver Cromwell issued the first campaign medal which was awarded to both officers and men. It was known as the Dunbar Medal and commemorated the defeat of the Scots Royalists at Dunbar.

The practice of awarding individual medals to the ‘common soldier’ started about the same time as the colonies that became Australia started. Originally they were campaign medals only. Later awards for bravery or superior non-combat service became part of the arrangements.

Later still long service and good conduct medals were “invented.” Returned from Active Service Badge. ‘Returned men’ as they were known were entitled to wear this badge on their civilian clothing.

Of course, for hundreds of years before that, it was common for the nobility to award ever-increasing numbers of fancy trinkets to themselves and the chosen few for military men that were at the top of the pile. Often these were specially struck coins. People started to exhibit these coins publicly and then started to hang them from coloured ribbons and to wear them on clothing. Thus started the habit of the wearing of medals.

The Peninsular War (for control of the Iberian Peninsula during the 1808-1814 Napoleonic Wars) saw the first use of ‘devices’, or clasp bars, on medals. The Peninsular Medal was issued to soldiers in Wellington’s army, with a clasp for each major battle in which they participated. When four were issued, a Peninsular Cross was given, with each arm inscribed with the battle’s name.

Subsequent clasps were then added to the ribbon. Wellington’s Peninsular Cross, featuring a unique nine clasps.

It can be said that today recognise medals principally as means of recognising service and those of the wars in this Century are prime examples. It is interesting to note however, that a hint of the occult persisted into last Century as recognising service and those of the wars in this Century are prime examples. It is interesting to note however, that a hint of the occult persisted into last Century as recognising service and those of the wars in this Century are prime examples. It is interesting to note however, that a hint of the occult persisted into last Century as

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wield a weapon. To protect the badge of honour, this was placed behind the shield, on the left side of the shoulder. Chivalry awards date back to the time of the Crusades and before but the recognised Orders of Chivalry started much later.

The Order of the Garter is the most senior and the oldest British Order of Chivalry and was founded by Edward III in 1348. The garter is still used to this day on some Australian hat badges. The current Royal Australian Engineers’ badge. On many earlier badges in Australia and elsewhere the garter itself was often in blue enamel, especially on Officer’s versions of the badges.

‘The Blue Max’ officially the Order of Merit (from Prussia) was established in 1667 by Margrave Frederick (King Frederick I.)

Most Honourable Order of the Bath (British) started in 1725.

Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George (British) started in 1818.

Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (British) started 1917.

Napoleon I followed the practice of much Royalty, despot and religious leaders when medals would have been insufficient they conferred high rank as rewards for service.

The British rewarded Wellington with massive land grants and wealth. Napoleon created medals of France one to Michal Ney§, 1st Duc d’Elchingen, 1st Prince de la Moskova (10th January 1769; d. 7th December 1815.)

Horricks, (2005) notes he was known as Le Rougeaud (‘red faced’ or ‘ruddy’) by his men and le Brave des Braves (‘the bravest of the brave’) was an extraordinary French soldier and military commander during the French Revolutionary Wars and the Napoleonic Wars. (pictured above: Nye ordering his own execution.)

During the Ode, march past or wreath laying ceremony Australians place their right hand over the left side of the chest to honour the fallen, by covering your medals.

In a gesture which owes its origin to the ceremony in London’s Westminster Abbey, on Armistice Day, 1920, to unveil the Cenotaph. A funeral procession accompanying the remains of the Unknown Soldier, which had arrived from France the previous day, was to march past the Cenotaph, then proceed to Westminster Abbey.

The Regimental Sergeant-major of the Guards regiment conducting the ceremony decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hands over their medals.

“No matter what honours we may have been awarded, they are as nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice.”

The Australian Returned Service League maintains that tradition to honour the dead by placing the right hand over the medals.

The Military Medal, established on 25th March 1916 for other ranks for bravery in battle on land, was phased out in 1993 to be replaced by the military Cross. Adelaide born Dr Phoebe Chappell was the first woman to be awarded a Military Medal for bravery in 1918 rescuing Diggers in a trench under fire.

TONY THATCHER
RIVERTON SUB BRANCH
Sub-Branch News

Greenbushes RSL
At the Greenbushes RSL Sub Branch meeting on Friday 18 December Cedric “Whistle” Jones was presented with his 50 years Membership Certificate by the President, Ron Adair. Whistle served in the Australian Army from December 1941 enlisting on the day before his 20th birthday and was discharged in February 1947.

He joined the RSL in September 1947 and has been an active member since then; so his Certificate was well overdue. Whistle was unaware that the presentation was to take place and with the help of his wife and daughter, who were present at the meeting, it came as a complete surprise to him. The Meeting was followed by a BBQ for the Members and their guests.

Peter R Hall
Secretary/Treasurer
Greenbushes RSL Sub Branch

Three Springs
On Tuesday 8th of December the Coorow Primary School held their Year 7 Graduation Dinner. Our Branch also held their annual Christmas Luncheon at the Three Springs Hotel on Sunday 13th December with 32 persons attending.

The guest speaker was Mr Anthony Thomas, former Shire President, who gave an interesting talk on his visit to Anzac Cove and Turkey in April.

The attached photo shows the RSL Achievement Awards being presented to Michaela Dunham and Olly Kelly by Mr Jim Ovens of the Three Springs - Arrino Sub Branch.

Riverton RSL Christmas Party

It was a lovely day with face painting for young and old, a clown and even a visit from Santa. The selection of food on offer was amazing and at the end of the day all kids left full and happy.

A special thank you to all who assisted in coordinating the day.

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RSL members that order before Christmas receive up to $500 OFF
From the Archives with Naomi Jones

The archive repository within ANZAC House has now been set up. The room was set up with assistance from Lotterywest and included the purchase of new shelving and archival materials with which to package the collection. Over the last month, the records, non-records and archives have been removed from their location in the mezzanine for identification and for either destruction, further storage or removal to the archive repository.

On average, around 5 to 10 percent of all records are archival. The identification of archival records is done through the application of an Archive Policy and through a Retention and Disposal Schedule. Within the mezzanine there were 120 boxes containing non-records, records and archival records. Going through all the boxes was a large task which was aided by the help of volunteers who busily worked on creating a list of contents for each of the boxes.

With the archival records being identified the task moved to identifying series and then packing the archives in archival quality materials. The collection contains records relating to land holdings by the RSL, land settlement records, the construction of the first ANZAC House, RSL Trading Company, State War Memorial and ANZAC Cottage. The collection also contains a number of minute books, a complete set of State Executive Minutes and minutes of various committees through the life of the RSL.

Sub Branch records are also contained within the collection. With the closure of sub branches minute books, correspondence books and financials were sent to the State Office. We have a collection of records from sub branches such as Arthur River, Wooroloo, Rottnest Island, Rocky Gully and the recently re-opened Walpole Sub Branch.

There have been some significant items identified within the collection, the first rule book of ANZAC Club 1934. A photograph and names of the original members of the Roso Brook Sub Branch and photographs of the opening of the original ANZAC House. The donation list for the State War Memorial and applications for Honour Avenue. The task of going through the collection is continuing and we will be looking to provide some detail as to the contents of the collection via our webpage.

Volunteers are always needed so if you have some spare times please contact me at archivist@rslwa.qh.org.au

Curtin University in Perth, Western Australia, was recently the venue for a particularly special graduation.

Singaporean nurse, Joyce Ong, and Malaysian nurse, Jamilah Binte Salleh, both graduated from their respective nursing courses at the University, and so ended their current terms as the latest recipients of the AIF Malayana Nursing Scholarship. As well as performing very well in their studies both played an active part in campus and community activities and were wonderful ambassadors for their countries.

The AIF Malayana Nursing Scholarship is the official War Memorial of the 8th Australian Division and the Australian Imperial Force (AIF) Malaya. This unique ‘living’ Memorial pays ongoing and fitting tribute to the men of the AIF who served and perished in Malaya and Singapore and, in a tangible and permanent form, it shows how greatly the men of the AIF Malayana appreciated the help and friendship of the people of Malaya and Singapore who, at great risk to themselves, performed so many acts of kindness for the benefit of the Australian prisoners of war.

The fund was set up in 1946 with soldiers from the 8th Division and AIF Malaya subscribing directly to the fund. The Australian Red Cross also provided a significant initial contribution and has provided Trustee and administrative support since its inception.

Since its inception the Scholarship has provided training to 59 nurses from both Singapore and Malaysia. The nursing training provided by the Scholarship has changed over the years in line with the changes in the profession. Over recent years Curtin University in West Australia has contributed to the Scholarship a two semester course of post-graduate studies.

Further information on the Scholarship is available from Ms Vivienne Gorman, at Australian Red Cross, on (03) 9345 1830. Media Contact - Further information and this release available from Mr Kevin Poynton, Board Member - Australian Red Cross (WA Division) mob 0421 380 451

Graduation Commemorates ‘The Living Memorial’

The John Fawcett Foundation

The John Fawcett Foundation has been set up to assist disadvantaged children from Indonesia. It is funded from donations and supported by professional medical volunteers from Australia who donate their times and skills to making the lives of Indonesian children a little easier.

Donations to The John Fawcett Foundation are tax deductible in Australia, and can be made online at www.balieye.org or by sending a cheque made out to The John Fawcett Foundation to Mr Pat Emery, Treasurer, The John Fawcett Foundation, PO Box 71, Darlington WA 6070.

Prosthetic Legs

Orthotics specialist from Perth, Alan Crumlin, brought newly made prosthetic legs for three patients, fitting them for patients to take their first steps. Alan also took measurements for two previous young patients who had grown out of their leg sockets and needed new ones, an ongoing challenge with this program.

Children’s Cataract Surgery

Dr Bill Ward, volunteer ophthalmologist from Perth, conducted a training session with Dr Dharyata in the special techniques of children’s cataract and other eye operations. During the training session 11 children were operated in the Puri Raharja Hospital in Denpasar. This was Dr Bill’s second training visit to Bali this year.

AIF Scholarship graduates Joyce Ong and Jamilah Binte Salleh with Mrs Marjorie Strath AM (National Vice President, Australian Red Cross), and Brigadier Ronald Ernst (Chairman, AIF Malayana Nursing Scholarship).

Bali Students Return from school in Western Australia

Iluh Ariningsih and Gede Yasa, the two Balinese students selected for the Helena College program this year, returned to Bali in late December after spending three months learning English, computing and a little about Australia. This program with Helena College has benefited 21 Balinese students, many of whom now work with YKI.

Patient to Perth

Three-year-old Komang came to our Foundation with his parents early in the year. He was born with his bladder on the outside of his body and his parents were at a loss to know what to do, being unable to afford the cost of sending him out of Bali for an operation. St John of God Hospital in Perth and a specialist medical team led by Australian paediatric urologist, Dr Andrew Barker, came to the rescue with an offer to operate Komang free of charge. We also received a very generous donation from an Adelaide businessman to cover the travel and accommodation costs for Komang, his mother, Rapini, and Artini from our Bali office to accompany them to Perth. The operation was performed on 11 November and was a great success. Komang spent three weeks recuperating in St John of God following the operation, and returned to Bali on 10 December. What a difference this will make to Komang – he can now look forward to a normal, healthy life.
Australia Day has emerged as a day to celebrate and reflect on the achievements of people, events and places that have moulded our short history.

Short in terms of time with respect to European settlement but timeless for the indigenous population who roamed the land well before that day, 26th January, 1788 when at Sydney Cove Capt Phillip performed a simple flag raising ceremony that signified the foundation of our great country – Australia.

In terms of European settlement, at just 222 years old we are still a young nation. In that time we have graduated from a penal colony to a united federated Commonwealth of Australia. We are a people, and from that independence we have, through the vision of statesmen and civic leaders formed a community that now commands world respect.

The people who have built that respect now come from all walks of life. The immigration policies of the post war era and the respect shown to the indigenous population have brought a new dimension to what was previously an Anglo-Saxon population profile. This has seen Australia evolve with a multicultural profile that has enhanced our cultural, social and economic environment.

It has however, been the people and events that have made their mark in history.

Our military history is one example that has given us identity. From the shores of Gallipoli, were the ‘Spirit of ANZAC’ was born, to the battlefields of the Western Front, to the Deserts of Libya, to the jungles of South East Asia, to the battlefields of Vietnam and in more recent time the deployment of Australians as peace keepers and peace makers have carried on the traditions that were founded on the beaches at the Gallipoli landing in 1915.

Here the attributes of mateship, Determination, courage, a fair go to all, loyalty and a willingness to face adversity were cast into the Australians psyche.

These attributes have, over time, endured and are regularly reaffirmed by, dare I use the term, ‘old’ Australians and affirmed by our ‘new’ Australians citizens at the many Citizenship Ceremonies that take place on Australia Day. When I refer to people I refer to all Australians.

Many have distinguished themselves at a national and international level. There are far too many to name but I expect we can all single out some person who has made an outstanding contribution to The Arts, science, technology, medicine, sport, social welfare or community development.

These people, together with the ordinary citizen have worked hand in hand to build Australia to the great country it is today.

Yes, we are the lucky country.

We owe that title to our pioneers and founding fathers that have left us an enduring legacy.

The challenge is for us to hand that legacy to future generations.

I believe that legacy is more than evident today. For example, the devastation caused by the recent Toodyay bushfire saw the whole community unite to support those who suffered personal and financial loss. From individuals to community organisations, near and far, aid was promptly offered, but the defining moment was when the Toodyay community itself came together to offer mutual support to their neighbours in time of affliction. You might say, mates helping mates, an Australian characteristic born on the battlefields at Gallipoli.

I can not refrain from making comment on our treasured symbol – the Australian National Flag. It unifies Australia and its people. It must be respected.

Those who do otherwise must be held accountable for their actions. Honouring our Flag is a way Australians express pride in our nation.

To engage in disrespect through inappropriate behaviour is un-Australian.

Certainly, respect is earned, but those transgressing the rules of our society must be held accountable for their actions.

So in looking back at our achievements, let us certainly acknowledge them but in doing so be ever mindful of the responsibility we have to continue to build a better Australia – one that will continue to reflect our unique way of life.

I hope you all have a happy Australia Day.

Bill Gaynor OAM RFD
State President
Australia Day Awards 2010
**Percy’s Place**

RSL state president Bill Gaynor has urged the Serpentine Jarrahdale RSL to fight to keep Percy’s Place in Byford because of its significance to military history. The Serpentine Jarrahdale shire council granted a demolition permit on December 21 but Mr Gaynor urged local RSL members to pressure the council to reverse its decision.

Mr Gaynor, who visited the site this week, said the RSL should seek grants from the Lottery Commission, Royalties for Regions and the Federal Government to ensure the house was not demolished. The council saved Percy’s Place from demolition in 2005 and offered the site to the RSL, which was granted a $275,000 grant from the Federal Government to turn the building into a community facility with a hall.

The RSL had plans for the project drawn up by a builder, who said the homestead was structurally sound and not difficult to renovate. But shire councillors made a last-minute decision not to give the money to Percy’s Place. Instead the funds were used to upgrade the Byford hall.

“You have to go down there (to see the shire) with your guns loaded,” Mr Gaynor advised Serpentine Jarrahdale RSL president Ric Giblett on Monday.

“In Albany you don’t see them pushing buildings over.” Mr Gaynor said the RSL had been instrumental in preserving military significant sites across the state including at Blackboy Hill near Midland and sites in Northam, Mandurah and Helena Valley. He said the Percy’s Place issue was similar to project in Kojonup where a statue, memorial hall, car park and interpretive centre had been established near a stream.

“Clearly it is a community asset,” he said. “Between January and June the government will make announcements about funding for the centenary of Gallipoli so they will be looking for projects. “One of the RSL claims is that our military heritage has to be preserved and that is why I am confident in that line because this is the site of a military establishment.”

The Aspen Group developed Byford on the Scarps. Aspen development manager Nathan Butson said he did not know council had approved demolition of the building and did not have plans for the site.

He said it had been left up to the estate’s residents association to organise the future of the site because some residents believed the building was an eyesore. “We gave them our support, that if we got support from the council, we would be interested in seeing it to be demolished,” he said. President of the Byford on the Scarps Residents Association Sandra Hawkins said Percy’s Place did not have military significance and plans for a landscaped park would soon be submitted to council.

“Yes Percy Nairn lived there, yes he went to war but he was just like everyone else who went to war and lived in the area,” she said. “The house is beyond repair.” Ms Hawkins said the group had no objections to having the house restored to its original state. But she said the RSL wanted to turn Percy’s Place into a licensed venue with a hall and hire it out for parties. She said the proposed parking lot would take up a bush forever site. “The RSL are quite happy where they are, on the highway,” she said.

Ms Hawkins said the residents of Culterhall Circle paid more for their properties because they were told when they bought into the estate that the building would be demolished and replaced with parkland.

At that time, the land was owned by LWP and a licence for demolition had not been issued.

• next week for the RSL’s plans for Percy’s Place, more about Percy Nairn and the council’s response.

*Article Extracted from Examiner Newspaper*

**Editor, Rick Lee**

Journalist/Sub editor, Robyn Turner

**Dear Editor,**

I was asked to return to my home town, Kalgoorlie, to be the 2009 ANZAC Day Principal Speaker. My brief was to cover growing up in Kalgoorlie, going to School(s), Work, Joining up in July 1944 and Naval Life until my retirement in 1983. As I had a summary of my Naval life to the local newspaper, and they printed two articles, I decided I needed to include some elements to be relevant to the usual speeches I had listened to over many ANZAC days.

In preparing for my speech I looked back on my own collection, borrowed a fellow RSL member’s comprehensive copies of speeches made for presentation on ANZAC Day and to Schools. In all this material I came to realize that what I was looking for was not so much about the usual speech, not so much about the usual speech, not so much about the usual speech. So I now had something to pursue in my speech. More specifically what it is not about...

**As children we taught the three “r’s” and “t”,….. Responsibility,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. The killings,….. 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and with strong local leadership the priority. In traditional country manner rebuilding the community became the task of the fire fanned by high winds on a day of extreme fire danger swept through farm areas and apart from destroying farmland and shelter was quickly sourced for the victims of the disaster. Within a few days those in necessitous circumstances were quickly identified and a wide range of support offered. This support included financial support, counseling, medical and assessment of requirements to clean up and re-establish essential services such as power, water and feed for stock. RSL was quickly on call and on site to assist veterans in urgent need. State President Bill Gaynor, Avon District Representative, Donna Prytulak, and Director “Digger” Clerk met with Toodyay Sub Branch Secretary Jim Adams and were quick to identify those in need. A visit to a farm that had been severely affected quickly disclosed the extent of the damage. This particular farm, as shown in the photographs, was lucky to have the house saved by the timely arrival of the helitack but, was unfortunate to have his shed and business destroyed. Using RSL administrative support, applications were quickly prepared and submitted to the Trustees of the Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund for assessment. Chairman of the Trustees, Mr Brian Cooper on 6 January, 2010 announced that all application for assistance had been approved and cheques totaling $27,000 would be immediately distributed to the veterans concerned. The Trust Fund sources its funding from the Annual Poppy Day Appeal and is available to all veterans – not just RSL members.

A lasting impression of the event was the manner in which a local community came together in adverse circumstances to create a system of mutual support aimed at providing not only the physical and material needs of the time but also the social and mental support that is required in such circumstances. We are also delighted to announce a major contribution from the NSW State Branch RSL of $10,000 and $250 from the Returned Ex-Service Woman’s Sub Branch will be distributed to those in need through the WA State Branch in association with the Toodyay Sub Branch.

The disastrous bushfire that swept through the rural areas of Toodyay over the Christmas-New year period devastated the local community and caused millions of dollars worth of damage. Believed to have been started in the electrical power distribution infrastructure the fire fanned by high winds on a day of extreme fire danger swept through farm areas and farm infrastructure. The blaze was battled for several days by local and neighboring volunteer fire brigades assisted by aerial support from helitacks and fixed wing water bombers.

With the fire contained the task of rebuilding the community became the priority. In traditional country manner and with strong local leadership the recovery process was set in place. Daily meeting of residents were convened and distribution of essentials of food clothing and shelter was quickly sourced for the victims of the disaster. Within a few days those in necessitous circumstances were quickly identified and a wide range of support offered. This support included financial support, counseling, medical and assessment of requirements to clean up and re-establish essential services such as power, water and feed for stock. RSL was quickly on call and on site to assist veterans in urgent need. State President Bill Gaynor, Avon District Representative, Donna Prytulak, and Director “Digger” Clerk met with Toodyay Sub Branch Secretary Jim Adams and were quick to identify those in need. A visit to a farm that had been severely affected quickly disclosed the extent of the damage. This particular farm, as shown in the photographs, was lucky to have the house saved by the timely arrival of the helitack but, was unfortunate to have his shed and business destroyed. Using RSL administrative support, applications were quickly prepared and submitted to the Trustees of the Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund for assessment. Chairman of the Trustees, Mr Brian Cooper on 6 January, 2010 announced that all application for assistance had been approved and cheques totaling $27,000 would be immediately distributed to the veterans concerned. The Trust Fund sources its funding from the Annual Poppy Day Appeal and is available to all veterans – not just RSL members.

Bunnings to Assist Sub Branches

Bunnings stores have been encouraged to contact their local RSL in the lead up to ANZAC Day to help with a renovation or garden makeover activity etc. A similar activity was trialled last year and had some great feedback. As an example, Bunnings Baldivis visited Nollamara RSL to assist in fixing their dance floor as the group had run out of money to complete their renovations. Our stores have also been encouraged to assist with fundraising around ANZAC Day, with stores possibly able to offer a sausage sizzle at the front of the store or provide space in the foyer for volunteers to sell merchandise. We have 30 locations across WA and our stores will be contacting their local RSL’s over the coming month to see where they are able to assist.

Dear Editor,

On Saturday the 5 December National Servicemen from around WA met at the Gosnells Hotel for their Christmas get together. This group is called Nashos WA and started last year at the Gosnells Hotel, and now have 70 members. The group have chosen the Gosnells Hotel and Ogdens as their place for all their functions. Nashos from the thirteenth intake joined in as part of the group and will be boosting up the membership.

Nashos from Corrigin, Wongan Hills, Mt Barker, Geraldton, York, Burringup, and Margaret River travelled to Gosnells to attend the function. Approximately sixty Nashos and their partners attended. The group is steadily growing and enjoy the mateship and harmony they all had a wonderful time.

The group will be having their get-togethers in June and December each year at Gosnells Hotel, and any ex Nasho can join by contacting 08 94979879 or email bomac51@optusnet.com.au

The group is also looking for platoon photos for their web site so that the photos will be there for history. The site is www.wanashos.wikidot.com

Kind regards

Bob McGuire

Veterans of Toodyay Bushfire Disaster Supported

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Kind regards

Bob McGuire
Love, romance, passion – they help shape our lives, even in times of hardship or sorrow, even in time of war.

Of Love and War, a new exhibition now showing at the Australian War Memorial, details the relationships forged during times of conflict, the passionate affairs and whirlwind weddings of lovers caught up in war, and the loneliness of those serving away from home — or those they left behind.

Featuring the mementoes those they left behind.

Exhibition curator Rebecca Britt said the intensity of love amid conflict, the pain of separation and the great joy of blossoming romance, the pain of meeting.

Visitors to the exhibition will see wedding dresses worn by war brides, postcards of men serving away from home, mementos and the letters that they sent home.

"There are also the stories of the survivors and their new beginnings when peace returned: the joy of reunion, the challenges of relationships built on wartime experiences, and the new discoveries by war brides resettling in foreign lands," Ms Britt said.

The Australian War Memorial is open every day from 10am to 5pm. Entry is free.

VETERAN’S HELPING VETERAN’S

by Sandy Worsfold – Welfare Officer
Quinns Rocks RSL Sub-Branch

Fire ravaged the small country town of Toodyay on New Year’s Day devastating the lives of 38 families who lived in an around the town. Seven of those families were Veteran’s and Members of the Toodyay Returned and Services League. Three of these families lost everything that they owned and were left with nothing but the clothes that they wore. The others suffered unimaginable distress at losing their livelihoods, buildings and some stock.

On receiving this devastating news, the Quinns Rocks RSL rallied to the cause to help those that were deeply affected, our own kind. At our January Meeting it was unanimously agreed that this Sub-Branch donate $3,000.00 to the Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch to assist in supporting it Members who were affected by the fire. The Executive Committee and any Members that wanted to would travel to Toodyay on Saturday 23rd January and meet with the President of the Toodyay RSL Mr Gary Holland and other Members to let them know that they were not alone at this trying time.

Both Sub-Branches met at the Freemasons Hotel in Toodyay and after brief introductions were shown around the affected area and it was heart wrenching to say the least. Not in your wildest dreams could you feel and understand how the residents of Toodyay felt at the destruction of so many of their townfolk.

After the tour the group returned to the Freemasons Hotel and enjoyed a country style pub lunch and to discuss how our Sub-Branch could assist in the future. During Lunch the President of Quinns Rocks RSL Mr Frank Baldry (centre) presented a cheque for $1500 to the President of the Toodyay Sub-Branch (right) Mr Gary Holland and the Secretary / Treasurer (left) Mr John Adamson.

The donation will be used to purchase items not covered by insurance and to alleviate the financial hardship experienced by those Veteran’s who were not able to work as a result of the fire. The extra $500.00 donated to the Toodyay RSL was as a result of an Executive Committee Meeting held on the day. The cost of hiring a bus to take the Committee and Members to Toodyay was quoted as being between $500 and $1500 however, the City of Wanneroo gracefully provided the bus at no cost to the Sub-Branch and as such it was felt that the money that would have been allocated to the cost of the bus would be more beneficial to the members of the Toodyay RSL Sub Branch. The Executive Committee and all of the Members of the Quinns Rocks RSL Sub-Branch wish all of the residents of Toodyay a speedy recovery from this tragic event and hopefully never to experience this type of disaster again.

Many thanks must go to the City of Wanneroo as they provided the bus free of charge to enable the Sub-Branch to undertake this very worthwhile and needy undertaking. Unfortunately the Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Wanneroo Mrs Tracey Roberts was unable to travel with the Committee as hoped but stated that she was extremely proud of what the Sub-Branch does for the Veteran Community. She went on to say that she is very proud to be a Member of the Quinns Rocks Sub-Branch and hopes that it continues to help those in need whether they be from the Veteran Community or the general community.

Those that attended from the Quinns Rocks Sub-Branch included:

President Mr Frank Baldry
Senior Vice President Mr Ian Wragg
Junior Vice President Ms Venetta Donnellan
Secretary / Treasurer Mr Arthur Ventham

EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY’S LOSS

WITH A PRE-PAID FUNERAL FROM BOWRA & O’DEA.

IN THE CONFUSION AND EMOTIONAL NUMBNESS THAT COMES 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

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Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.

Living Wills

There is a lot of speculation in the media regarding the legal right to refuse treatment which will hasten death.

The Acts Amendment (Consent to Medical Treatment) Bill was passed by Parliament and provides that a person who is 18 years or over and has full legal capacity may make an advance health directive regarding their future treatment. How? An advance health directive must be in writing in accordance with a statutory form which is prescribed and must be witnessed by two persons aged 18 years or over. There will be no requirement for the witnesses to be anything special - which clearly envisages the document can be signed in circumstances where a JP may not be available at short notice.

In those circumstances my view is that you would almost certainly want a Doctor to witness the document! The legislation provides that a treatment decision in an Advance Health Directive operates as if the treatment decision had been made by the person who made it with full legal capacity at the time the treatment is required. That means even if you have lost capacity after making an Advanced Health Directive or you are in some type of coma, your decision will still be effective.

If you are afraid that your decision now to refuse treatment may preclude you from getting treatment which may cure you in the future, this has been dealt with too! Who wants to stop the treatment which could save your life? Never fear! - as legally your Advance Health Directive to refuse treatment will be deemed to have been revoked if, at the time your treatment is required, circumstances exist or have arisen which you did not anticipate when the directive was signed - and which would have caused you to change your mind about that decision.

Remember to seek legal advice before you start drafting something you may regret or you fail to draft something until it is too late. Consider making an Advance Health Directive after 15 February 2010 when the legislation becomes effective – but in the meantime, why not attend a free seminar at the RSL Community Hall in Mandurah at 10:00 am on Friday, 26 February 2010, or visit the website at www.havilahlegal.com.au.

Legal Loopholes

with Bruce Havilah
Principal Havilah Legal

Hollywood Private Hospital

A new minimally invasive treatment option
By Dr Margaret Sturdy
Director of Medical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital.

The Monarch Royale 3 & 4 wheel footpath scooters are now available in Australia. Experience the latest in innovation and technology coupled with sleek, newly styled body shapes. Test drive today.
Call 1300 622 633
www.scootersaus.com.au
These are the recollections of Doug Coates (Reg No. WX30576) who served with the 7th Heavy Brigade on Rottnest Island from June 1940 to November 1944.

The 7th Heavy Brigade manned the Fremantle Fortress area which comprised the following forts and emplacements:

- Fremantle – Arthur’s Head had 2 6” MK 7 guns initially until 1942 when these were replaced by twin 6 Pounder guns at the end of the month which formed the harbour entrance.
- Swanbourne – had 2 MK 7 guns.
- Rottnest Island – had 2.9” guns at Oliver’s Hill Battery and 2 6” MK 11 guns at Bickley Battery.
- Leighton Battery – had 2 general purpose guns installed in 1942.
- Point Person – “G” Battery had 2 155mm Howitzers installed in 1942.

**20 Mile Range**

A further 9.2 Battery was under construction on Garden Island as the war drew to a close but was not commissioned. The 9.2 guns had a range of approximately 20 miles and the 6” about 11 miles. Each fort had on site visual range finders. These were Depression Range Finders. Rottnest Forts had a range of approximately 20 miles.

Each fort had on site visual range finders. These were Depression Range Finders. The Depression Range Finders had a range of approximately 20 miles.

We returned to the Fort at what our Major described as a split arse gallop. I took up my station as operator of the Depression Range Finder. The two gunners who laid the line on the guns and I had the advantage of continuous observation of the target through the telescopes. The target was indicated as a vessel to our north. I have a recollection that it was on a bearing of 040 degrees and it’s range was something over 11,000 yards and well within range of the 6” guns. It was a cargo ship of a type common to pre-war date. It was hardly moving and broadside to our view, heading toward Fremantle.

Search lights at Phillip Rock on Rottnest illuminated the vessel and at various times main land searchlights were brought to bear. The lights were used with deliberate changes to confuse the ‘enemy’.

The situation at the Battery command post was tense. We were told that the identity was unknown. It had been repeatedly challenged to identify itself by the Post War Signal Station on Rottnest (Navy). We could see the PWSS signal lamp from Bickley. The vessel made no response. The communications in the command post kept us abreast of events. The fire command (Rottnest) and LHW Belmont (mainland) were inter communicating. LHH seemed cautious and gave the impression that it believed the vessel would turn out to be friendly. Navy communications contributed and were obviously working hard to identify or other wise account for our target.

The target was illuminated by searchlight and followed by range-finders and gun layers for a considerable time; perhaps approaching an hour. A standing instruction demanded that friendly shipping not be illuminated for longer than necessary in order to protect it from lurking enemy elements. Seemingly following this principle and in the belief that the vessel must be friendly the order was given to douse all searchlights.

**Establish Identity**

The troops continued to stand at their posts. But of course without illumination it was impossible to follow the target’s movements by telescope. It should be kept in mind that RADAR was not available at the time of this event. In the time that followed the dousing of the lights, signals kept us informed of LHQ and navy activity which continued to try to establish the target’s identity but without success.

After about an hour of dark ness it seemed that LHQ accepted the possibility that an enemy vessel was involved. Searchlights were exposed and swept the sea to locate the target. It had gone. The feeling of the troops was that an enemy had penetrated our defences, had been challenged and allowed to escape. Morale was low as the troops talked of having been let down and prevented from serving the purpose for which we were trained and posted. There was a wave of feeling against our own Fire Commander.

**HMAS Sydney**

In truth it was likely that he acted according to the directions of LHQ. In the following weeks news was released that HMAS Sydney had been sunk with all hands when off the Murchison Coast. It was stated that she had fallen vic tim to the German Raider Kormoran. It seems that the Kormoran sunk as a group of survivors were later taken prisoner on the coast near to the point of the encounter. They had landed in lifeboats from the Kormoran. I, along with many other troops on Rottnest and I imagine Swanbourne, believe that the intruder on that night was the Kormoran. We believe we could and should have prevented the events of 19 Nov ember 1941.

I still feel upset and ashamed that our coastal defences were prevented from doing our duty when the opportunity presented. I believe that history could have been changed and hundred of Australian sailors saved from a premature death.

How do I know it was the Kormoran? Well, of course I don’t. But I have since been shown a picture of the Kormoran and it is of the same type as I observed through the range finder telescope and the gun layers saw, well within range.

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**WAR WIDOWS’ GUILD**

Wreath Laying Service 2009

Each year the War Widows’ Guild of Australia (WA) Inc. commemorates their Anniversary of the forming of the Guild in 1946. Unlike Ex-Service Organisations the War Widows’ Guild do not celebrate battles but come together to remember loved ones and those men who fought alongside their husbands.

The Guild was started in 1946 by Mrs Jesse Vasey. Mrs Vasey saw the need for widows to be given better benefits (the pension was then only two pounds ten shillings per week). Since then the Guild has worked tirelessly to ensure that War Widows receive appropriate financial and health care benefits.
From the shores of Gallipoli to the deserts of Iraq, Australia’s armed forces have honoured us with courage and valour. In their fight for our freedom, these sons and daughters are never far from our thoughts or our hearts. Now you can remember the bravery of a loved one who served in a very personal and touching way – a quality timepiece which pays tribute to your gallant hero.

AN INSPIRING TRIBUTE…
CLASSIC STYLE…
SUPERIOR CRAFTSMANSHIP…

Available in a men’s style, the “Lest We Forget Remembrance Watch” is finely hand-crafted in stainless steel and offers abundant features. The 24K gold-plated bezel embraces a tasteful black face featuring the iconic rising sun and slouch hat reproduced in shimmering 24K gold-plate. The stirring words ‘Lest We Forget’ adorns the face as a shining testament to the courage of your digger. The reverse of the case features a verse from the immortal ‘Ode’ and ‘Lest We Forget’ appears once more. The watch is water resistant to a depth of 30 metres (99ft) and is protected by our unconditional 120-day guarantee as well a full one-year limited warranty on the watch movement.

A REMARKABLE VALUE…
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The “Lest We Forget Remembrance Watch” comes with a Certificate of Authenticity in a custom-designed presentation case. An exceptional value at $179.97, you can pay for it in 3 monthly instalments of $59.99, plus $14.95 postage and handling. To reserve your watch, send no money now; just fill out and mail the coupon. But hurry, this is a limited time offer!

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YES! Please reserve the “Lest We Forget Remembrance Watch” as described in this advertisement. This watch is available for three instalments of $59.99, a total of $179.97 plus $14.95 postage and handling.

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25th REUNION
The Victorian Branch of the HMAS Sydney & Vietnam Logistic Support Veterans Association are celebrating their 25th Anniversary with a National Reunion in Melbourne of all former Vietnam Logistic Support Sailors over the Anzac Day Long Weekend, 23rd to 26th April 2010
For further details please contact:
David (Speed) Dwyer at email address: davidgdwyer@hotmail.com or phone 03 9720 8183

NEW DVA MAILING ADDRESS:
DVA is moving to a new standard mailing address across the nation. All mail sent to DVA can now be addressed to GPO Box 9908, IN YOUR CAPITAL CITY.
This change will ensure a more efficient and effective mailing system for all. Mail sent to old post office addresses will still arrive safely.
DVA News December 2009

NEW RIGHT MIX WEBSITE
Alcohol has been a major contributor to both mental and physical health problems in the veteran community. A new range of products is now available online to help members of the veteran community manage their alcohol consumption.
The Right Mix — Your Health and Alcohol package has various information resources such as a Handy Hints for Functions fact sheet and display materials such as posters to help get the message out there.
A feature of The Right Mix website is interactive tools to help assess your drinking behaviour. To access the resources and learn more about how to better manage your alcohol intake, visit www.therightmix.gov.au.

NEW REPROVISION HEALTH CARDS IN 2010
DVA will be rolling out new and improved Repatriation Health Cards to all existing cardholders commencing in March 2010.
The new cards will have enhanced security features including magnetic strip data, micro printing and a DVA registered hologram making unauthorised reproduction more difficult.
Importantly, DVA clients who reside overseas will have their card eligibility reinstated and Gold and White cards will now be issued to all eligible clients living overseas.
For more information visit the DVA treatment cards website: http://www.dva.gov.au/BENEFITSANDSERVICES/HEALTH/HEALTH_CARDS/Pages/changes_march_2010.aspx

DID YOU HAVE MEMBERS KILLED OR WHO DIED DURING SERVICE IN MALAYSIA DURING THE EMERGENCY 1948-1960?
“The National Malaya & Borneo Veteran Association State Branch (Whitfords) seeks to make contact with any relatives of Australian or Commonwealth service men and women or Planters, Miners and Civil Service personnel killed during the Emergency conflict (1948-1960) and the Indonesian Confrontation (1964-1966) within Malaya, Borneo, Singapore and Malaysia, and now reside within Western Australia.
The association, in collaboration with the NMBVA Malaysia and the Malaysian Palm Oil Association attend a number of commemorations within the State of Perak (Malaysia) during June annually. This June marks the 50th anniversary of the Emergency conflicts successful cessation.
During past years members of NMBVA WA State Branch have been researching the final resting place of those killed in action, along with details of family members previously resident and who passed away during a family members’ service tour of duty.
The Emergency in Malaysia was the only ‘conflict’ fought against the Communist that was successfully ‘won’, with the Commonwealth, Malayan and Malaysian forces the victors. In 2010 the Commemoration Services will be in the position to properly commemorate all those with Western Australian connections.
Any family member who lost family, killed in action or who died during their Military tour of duty in the regions mentioned and resident within Western Australian are asked to contact either Bill Adamson, President (9295 5354) or Terry Deece, Treasurer (9206 4424) to identify themselves and obtain further information.

WRAAC ANNIVERSARY
WRAAC Association (NSW) has begun planning for the Corps 60th Anniversary celebrations back at the WRAAC School site at Georges Heights in Sydney.
Details are to be finalised but we envisage gathering on Saturday 12 February 2011 at the Guard House (the Kathleen Best Memorial Gates are now in Canberra at the entry to the Comman dant’s house at RMC Dun tron), a brief formal ceremony, lunch, then the opportunity to wander down Memory Lane with family and friends through the WRAAC School area, to the Officers Mess (now an upmarket Tea Room), magnificent newly created Lookout across the harbour and revealed gun emplace ments where the Officers quarters were, and down to Chowder Bay.
There will be a Formal Dinner on Saturday evening then, on Sunday 13 February, a service at the Garrison Church in The Rocks followed by further fellowship and a luncheon Harbour Cruise with family and friends if there is sufficient support.
The 2011 Committee’s current focus is on building up a database ideally e-mail of former WRAAC members, ARA, CMF and Ares who we can then contact with full details and expressions of interest. So, we are relying on YOU to track down old friends so we can make this a weekend to remember Please respond to Gai, as she is the Coordinator.
Gai Hutchison wraac@live.com.au
Thank you for taking the time to read and please contact any other members you know, who aren’t online.
Patty Bartrim Web Manager http://wraacmemories.free-homepage.com

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RAN BATTLE CLASS SOCIAL CLUB
ANNUAL NATIONAL REUNION ‘Canberra 2010’
Open Invitations to all ex naval personnel & family
WHEN: October 21 – 24, 2010
VENUE: Rydges LakeSide Hotel, London Circuit, Canberra City
$140.00 per double including full buffet breakfast for two
ADDITIONAL COSTS FOR EVENTS OTHER THAN SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

PROGRAM
Thursday 21st October: Meet and Greet with buffet meal at night
Friday 22nd October: Day Bus Trip
Saturday 23rd October: Free day – Dinner Dance at night
Sunday 24th October: Short Tour & Lunch
For Further Information on Membership or Reunion:
Geoff (Wiggy) Bennett
7a Viola Cres, Highett Vic 3190
Tel: (03) 9532 3672 Fax: (03) 9532 3672
Email: bshum@bigpond.net.au

Sponsored by RAN Battle Class Social Club

I SEE THAT THE ARMY JUST LEFT A CLERK...NOT A HANDYMAN
HANDYMAN WANTED
YOU HAVE NO SKILLS AS A PLUMBER OR CARPENTER...AS A GARDENER YOU HAVE SKILLS...WHAT MAKES YOU SO HANDY?
I JUST LIVE AROUND THE CORNER!
Northern Command HQ to remain in Darwin

Defence Minister, Senator John Faulkner, announced that the Australian Defence Force’s Northern Command (NORCOM) Headquarters would remain in Darwin.

Senator Faulkner made the announcement at the opening of the Pacific 2010 International Maritime Congress in Sydney. The Government has considered the roles and functions of NORCOM Headquarters within the context of previous border protection reviews and has directed that NORCOM is to be retained in Darwin.

Defence Minister Senator John Faulkner, announced that the Australian Defence Force’s Northern Command (NORCOM) Headquarters would remain in Darwin.

Senator Faulkner said in considering the range of Defence, border protection and whole of government priorities the Government had formed the view that the retention of NORCOM in Darwin was in Australia’s best interests.

"Given the strategic importance of the north of Australia and its approaches and the important role that NORCOM plays across a number of Defence tasks, I have decided that NORCOM should be retained in Darwin.

"NORCOM has served the ADF and the people across the north of Australia for over 21 years, making a very significant contribution during that time."

NORCOM commands and coordinates Australian Defence Force (ADF) activities across the north of Australia. This includes ADF operations in the north, controlling Defence’s contribution to border protection operations on behalf of Commander Border Protection Command, ADF disaster and emergency management response, major Defence operations on behalf of NORCOM representing Defence’s interests and engaging with the communities of the Northern Territory and the Kimberley.

Senator Faulkner said with retaining NORCOM in Darwin he has asked Defence to examine any opportunities to make savings in support of Defence’s Strategic Reform Program.

Northern Command (NORCOM) Headquarters to remain in Darwin.

The 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War. The Recognition Committee.

The 38th annual awards presentation dinner on Saturday 29 May 2010.

Citizen of the Year Awards are presented in the following categories: Arts, Culture & Entertainment; Community Service; Industry & Commerce; The Professions; Sport; Youth; Youth Arts; the Governor’s Award for Regional Development; Indigenous Leadership; and the Gold Swan Award for an outstanding service organisation. Two additional awards have been included in 2010 and are The Sir Ronald Wilson Leadership Award and the Children and Young People Lifetime Achievement Award.

With the exception of the Indigenous Leadership Award, the Sir Ronald Wilson Leadership Award and the Children and Young People Lifetime Achievement Award, where the recipients are selected from nominations put forward by respected community leaders, Citizen of the Year Award recipients are selected from public nominations.

Nominees must be Australian citizens residing in WA, who have made a significant and enduring contribution to the wider community. Youth and Youth Arts Award nominees must be aged 18-25 years and service organisations nominated for the Gold Swan Award must be based in WA and the service they provide must make a positive impact on the lives and opportunities of the broader community.

The 38th annual awards presentation dinner will be held in the Grand Ballroom at Burswood Entertainment Complex on Saturday 29 May 2010. The Governor will announce the Citizen of the Year Awards and also the Bendat Family Foundation Perpetual Youth Scholarship and Wesfarmers Indigenous Youth Scholarship.

Historical Society and returned to the spot where it has stood since 1962.

For further information contact Kevin Trent on 9367 7794 or 0417 175 004.

NOTICES

Korea War Veterans Association Of NSW Inc.
Recognition Committee.

The 60th Anniversary of the start of the Korean War.

In response to a request by the Minister Of Veterans Affairs leaders of representative groups of Korea War Veterans Associations have been brought together as an Advisory Group.

We are currently setting up a communications network throughout Australia to ensure that all locations can have access to the information as it becomes available.

Mr Alex Scott is our communications contact In Western Australia. Should any Korea War Veteran War Widow, or Family member have any question please contact Alex on his home phone number 08 95377374 I am sure he will assist you with your enquires.

Bob Morris President Korea War Veteran Recognition Committee, KAVA NSW.
9 Abelia Place, Wooragee NSW 2540. PH 02 44223333.
Fax 02 4420861 email crme@tadaust.org.au 29/1/2010.

We Want Your Stories

The editorial team encourages all Veterans to contribute stories to The Listening Post for publication. Keep articles short and to the point (no more than 300 words).

Send all articles and photos (high resolution) to the Editor at listeningpost@rslwhq.org.au.
Commemorative activities in local communities play a major role in encouraging Australians – especially younger Australians – to learn about our wartime experiences and provide an opportunity for veterans to share their stories. “Australia has a proud wartime history that has been part of the lives of so many Australian families. The Government remains committed to honouring those who have served and continue to serve, ensuring their legacy is remembered for generations to come.” Mr Griffin encouraged local community and ex-service organisations interested in applying for funding to visit www.dva.gov.au/grants or contact their nearest DVA office on 133 254 (for metropolitan callers) or 1800 555 254 (for non-metropolitan callers).

Media inquiries: Belinda Cole 0437 863 109 Saluting Their Service grants West Australian recipients The City of Fremantle will receive two grants: $4000 to help install a plaque at the Fallen Sailors and Soldiers Memorial at Monument Hill detailing the reasons for constructing the memorial; and $3000 towards an inaugural Hills proudly dedicated to servicemen from the district who lost their lives during the First World War. Wagin District High School will receive $3000 to help students conduct a research project on 112 soldiers from the district who were killed during the First World War. Wagin RSL Sub-branch will receive $3850 to help install a plaque on the Remembrance Wall at the local high school dedicated to 112 soldiers from the district who served during the Second World War. Geraldton War Memorial with a vandalism resistant flagpole Toodyay RSL Sub-branch will receive $4000 to help replace 26 commemorative plaques missing from the Toodyay War Memorial dedicated to servicemen from the district who lost their lives during the First World War.

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Memorial listing the names of local veterans who served during the Second World War.

Bencubbin RSL Sub-branch will receive $1650 to help construct a memorial in Beacon dedicated to the five servicemen from the district who lost their lives during the Second World War.

Canning Districts/Victoria Park RSL Sub-branch will receive $4000 to help install fencing around the Shirley Neil Memorial Garden and flag station to improve security.

Geraldton City RSL Sub-branch will receive $1780 to help replace the flagpole at the Geraldton War Memorial with a vandalism resistant flagpole.

Toodyay RSL Sub-branch will receive $4000 to help replace 26 commemorative plaques missing from the Toodyay War Memorial dedicated to servicemen from the district who lost their lives during the First World War.

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Dear Matthew  
(Our ANZAC Club Manager)  

2009 Christmas Cards have been issued by Clubs WA. As I reflect on the level of regulation and political correctness placed on our clubs businesses over recent times it may be appropriate to consider a new approach for 2010 and I offer the following Christmas greeting for consideration. 

From us ("the wisher") to you ("hereinafter called the wishee") 

Please accept without obligation, implied or implicit, our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, politically correct, low stress, non-addictive, gender neutral, celebration of the winter solstice holiday, practiced within the most enjoyable traditions of the religious persuasion of your choice, or secular practices of your choice, with respect for the religious/secular persuasions and/or traditions of others, or their choice not to practice religious or secular traditions at all... and a financially successful, personally fulfilling and medically uncomplicated recognition of the onset of the generally accepted calendar year 2010, but with due respect for the calendars of choice of other cultures or sects, and having regard to the race, creed, colour, age, physical ability, religious faith, choice of computer platform or dietary preference of the wisher. 

By accepting this greeting you are bound by these terms that-  
* This greeting is subject to further clarification or withdrawal  
* This greeting is freely transferable provided that no alteration shall be made to the original greeting and that the proprietary rights of the wisher are acknowledged.  
* This greeting implies no promise by the wisher to actually implement any of the wishes.  
* This greeting may not be enforceable in certain jurisdictions and/or the restrictions herein may not be binding upon certain wishers in certain jurisdictions and revocable at the sole discretion of the wisher.  
* This greeting is warranted to perform as reasonably may be expected within the usual application of good faith, for a period of one year or until the issuance of a subsequent holiday greeting, whichever comes first.  
* The wisher warrants this greeting only for the limited replacement of this wish or issuance of a new wish at the sole discretion of the wisher.  
* Any references in this greeting to "the Lord", "Father Christmas", "Our Saviour", or any other figural figures, whether actual or fictitious, dead or alive, shall not imply any endorsement by or from them in respect of this greeting, and all proprietary rights in any referenced third party names and images are hereby acknowledged. 

Anyway for now, let me simply thank you for your contribution to my 2009 and may I express a wish that we all get to spend the festive season and its positive spirit with our best wishes for an environmentally conscious, socially responsible, religious faith, choice of computer platform or dietary preference of the wisher.  

For her 40th Birthday, my wife said, “I’d love to be ten again.” So that Saturday, we presented her with a stack of chocolate-chip pancakes, her favourite childhood breakfast. Then we hit the playground and went on a merry-go-round. We finished the day with a banana split. “So how did you enjoy being a kid for a day?” I asked. “Great,” she said. “But when I said I wanted to be ten again, I meant my dress size.” 

Four surgeons were taking a lunch break and were talking about their work. The first surgeon said, “I think accountants are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is colour-coded.” The second surgeon said, “I think librarians are the easiest to operate on. You open them up and everything inside is alphabetical order.” The third surgeon said, “I like to operate on electricians. You open them up and everything inside is colour-coded.” The fourth surgeon said, “I like to operate on lawyers. They’re spineless, gutless and their heart isn’t there.”

Jokes

Crossword

The LiSTeNiNg POST February 2010

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Readers Digest January 2010

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Readers Digest January 2010
READERS SATISFACTION SURVEY
So as to continue to provide our readers on what they would like in The Listening Post it would be appreciated if the following questionnaire could be completed and forwarded to:

The Editor
The Listening Post
PO Box 3023
Perth Adelaide Terrace WA 6832

QUESTION 1
Are you happy with the type of articles? What would you like to see more of?

QUESTION 2
Are you happy with the Papers Layout?

QUESTION 3
Is the information provided satisfactory?

Would you like to see more of:

CARTOONS
MORE 1 2 3 4 5 LESS

INFORMATION ON PENSIONS AND WELFARE
MORE 1 2 3 4 5 LESS

ARTICLES ON HEROES
MORE 1 2 3 4 5 LESS

SOCIAL EVENTS
MORE 1 2 3 4 5 LESS

SERVICE NEWS
MORE 1 2 3 4 5 LESS

Scotch College, Swanbourne, Western Australia, was the location of a significant event at the school on Wednesday 29 April 2009. On this day, two old boys of the school were finally recognised in the Memorial Hall.


Their names have now been recorded on a brass plaque mounted on a decorative timber board which is fixed in the foyer area along with honour boards from WW1 and WW II listing other old boys and staff killed in action.

John was also a student at the original Swanbourne Primary School in Derby Street which has since been demolished and a new school built nearby. The site of the old school is located between Derby Street and Devon Road, Swanbourne, W.A. and is now a housing subdivision. John’s memory has been perpetuated with the naming of one of the streets as “Needs Lane”.

Two other ex primary school students killed in South Vietnam, 5411605, 2Lt Brian Geoffrey Walker 5RAR, has “Brian Walker Lane” and 5714739, Pte Geoffrey Francis Matthews 3RAR has a bench seat, named in their honour in the subdivision.

The presentation at Scotch College took place at the school’s Dickinson Centre during a school assembly to commemorate Anzac Day with school chaplain the Reverend Chas Lewis officiating.


Graeme Johnson, a former Scotch parent became aware of the lack of recognition at the college from a fellow Scotch family who knew the Needs family.

The Old Scotch Collegians (WA) Inc, President, Committee and administration staff were thanked for their research, support and conduct of this project.

5715859 Owen Ashby
A Coy 6RAR

Sudoku

The editors have included a new puzzle to test both our younger and young at heart readers. Sudoku is included in this and future editions of ‘The Listening Post’.

Look upon this quiz as stopping the onward march of Alzheimers Disease!

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only once each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Provided by Sudoko.com.au
Finding the ‘Emden’

Viewed from the sea, North Keeling Island gives the classical appearance of a tropical paradise – lush, green coconut trees jutting up from a reef-fringed white shoreline.

But there the similarity ends, for unlike most other tropical islands North Keeling, part of the Cocos Islands in the Indian Ocean, has a history of death, albeit brave, valiant, heroic death: the graveyard of the World War 1 German light cruiser, the Emden.

Scuttled on the weather side of North Keeling in 1914, the Emden was ingloriously salvaged, then seemingly seeking an end to her suffering she slipped off the reef that had held her for more than 30 years and disappeared under the surf.

Until February 1977 there she remained. A Perth TV documentary film team was determined to film the Emden in her final resting place and place on record her naval record.

In barely three months in 1914 during the early part of World War 1, the Emden, commanded by Captain Karl von Mueller, a seamanship from the old school of the Imperial German Navy, destroyed 74,000 tonnes of Allied shipping when she reigned supreme as the lone wolf raider of the China Sea.

During those three months when more than 20 ships were destroyed not one civilian life was lost.

Then within the space of 100 minutes on November 9, 1914, the Emden took a merciless battering from the 6 inch guns of the Royal Australian Navy’s first HMAS Sydney. The Sydney was involved in taking troops for the landing at Gallipoli in 1915.

In that first battle for the RAN the legend of the Emden ended. The RAN obtained its baptism of fire and the world heaved a sigh, while admiring the fighting spirit of the Emden’s crew, battling against overwhelming odds.

At the end of World War 1 the story might have ended if not for the Emden being declared a prize of war and awarded to the present John Clunies-Ross’ father for salvage.

TV Journalist Peter Fin (r) discusses the Emden with John Clunies-Ross-far at camp.

For years all the available brass, copper and stainless steel was ripped from the Emden.

Then about 1923 salvage operations ceased and it was not until the late 1930s that the Japanese came and cut open, had disappeared from the surf line.

The re-discovery of the Emden started in April 1976 when film and photographs were taken by a TVW film team was determined to film the Emden and tell her amazing story.

Negotiations started to film the Emden and tell her amazing story. For the television production team North Keeling did not prove to be a paradise. Uninhabited, it has no birds.

The island abounds with more than 10,000 birds. All kinds of petrels, terns and up to six types of frigate birds.

The jungle floor is deep with bird dung. There are millions of herrim crabs and the larger coconut crabs. And there are millions of bird ticks, some as big as a little finger nail.

The TV crew found the living conditions in this primeval jungle far from pleasant, despite help from the Clunies-Ross islanders.

The divers found the wreck of the Emden on their first dive. This was made from the shore, and they vowed never to repeat it because of the rugged surf.

In subsequent dives many brass fittings and shell casings were found in rock holes.

The wreck still has its engines intact, main drive shaft and twin propellers visible as well as several 4.1 inch guns. She lies in water up to 15m deep.

On the Emden beach the crew found metal littered over the sand. Every wave seemed to bring in more metal.

In all, North Keeling is an inhospitable place of sun, pounding surf and the raucous cries of birds. It is no longer do those inhuman conditions hide the mystery of the Emden.

The 1977 documentary was not shown until 1979 by Channel 7 though it was partly financed by Film Australia. It has never been shown since. One can only ask why.

Peter Finn RSL member 052588

Normandy Veterans Association

Mr Jim Mayers was the founding President of the Normandy Veterans Association. He knew men who had served in Normandy, namely Frank Lamb, Norman Bruce, Eric Buckley, Harold Saxon and Major Hunter.

They needed more members, so Jim inserted an advert in the newspaper inviting ex-serving men to join.

This brought great interest, with enough members to form what was to become The Normandy Veterans Association Branch 66 Perth, WA. The first inaugural meeting was held in ANZAC House on 15 April 1988.

By 1990 membership had reached 40 with 10 female associates and they now had a Padre, the Reverend Ron Hill. They had also acquired a standard and a Union Jack Flag, which were carried proudly by Bluey Arthurs, John Goldsmith, Andrew Napier, with a strong contingent marching behind.

Present carriers are now Gordon Mason and Bob Tweed, who is also the current President.

Sadly, through loss of members and ill health, our Standard has been handed over to the Royal Marines Association, who will carry it in special ceremonies and parades, so it will never be forgotten, nor the conflict that lies in its history.

Ms Eva Cathie
Hon. Secretary
Normandy Veterans Association

Dear Denis,

Thank you once more for your efforts regarding the Boer War Memorial Committee publicity. The exercise will get up a real head of steam once the design submission has been OK’d by the Canberra Design Committee in the mean time we can only try to map out what Memorials are already in the country and where the descendants are located to assist with fund raising once we have an official design and can commence the marketing.

So, obviously there will be more to come but not much before March 2010 I suspect. Thank you in the meantime.

Regards,

Dr Rod Bain.
OLDIERS who have experienced severe injuries and psychological medical problems will soon benefit from a new integrated framework.

The initiatives, aimed at nursing our soldiers back to the workplace, are being implemented progressively. Army is pushing alongside other organisations in a co-operative effort to get the new program off the ground. Under the proposed system soldiers will have access to the following initiatives:

**Amenities Support**

- **Army casualties will be regulated to a Destination Medical Facility (DMF) by HQJOC after consultation with Joint Health Command and, where feasible, with the Director of Army Health. The principal multi-disciplinary is emergency and psychological clinical treatment. When determining the location of the DMF, factors such as individual, unit and family requirements are also considered.**

- **A DVA-accredited Regional Casualty Assistance Specialist (RCAS) will assist the injured soldier to return to a course of rehabilitation. Army RCASOS will be established in regional locations and will also advise local commanders and personnel on casualty management and compensation matters.**

- **Army will allow the individual up to two years to undergo the Joint Health Command managed rehabilitation process. The Army will also support the individual through a vocational retraining program for up to a further three years.**

**Casualty Management**

- **The rehabilitation process will include consistent support from a unit welfare officer.**
- **Welfare boards**
  - For members with complex health conditions, a Welfare Board will be initiated. Severely wounded battle casualty will be automatically managed in this way. A unit commander can elect to establish an IWB for any soldier at any time.
  - The IWB process provides the forum for the management of a unit’s most serious cases, on an individual basis, with significant health and welfare issues. It is similar to, but distinct from, the personnel review board process in common use. It provides a transparent process by which unit commanders can understand an individual’s health problem and positively influence the proposed remedial action.

**Resilience Training**

- **BattleSMART program**
  - The BattleSMART (Self Care and Resilience Training) program is being implemented at the Army to improve the psychological resilience of Army members and their ability to function competently under stress and recover from the impacts of exposure to trauma and adversity.
  - The BattleSMART program teaches a range of cognitive and behavioural coping strategies, as well as arousal reduction techniques (such as controlled breathing and grounding) so that soldiers can remain calm and alert. This allows soldiers to better assess a situation and manage their reactions, enabling them to deliver an optimal outcome. This strategy is in line with the “test and adjust” principles used in marksmanship. The BattleSMART techniques can be successfully applied in an individual’s personal as well as professional life. BattleSMART has been implemented at ARTC and RMC and is currently being introduced and evaluated at selected IET schools and units.

**Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)**

- **A PTSD DVD is being developed as an educational tool for commanders and soldiers dealing with PTSD or with symptoms of the disorder. Evidence from research indicates that early treatment for mental health conditions achieves better outcomes. The aim of the DVD is to inform and encourage unit commanders to access support. It will address emotional reactions to traumatic events, from what is considered normal to development of PTSD symptoms and where they can access help. The DVD will also be suitable for families so they can be informed and better understand the nature of PTSD.**

**Support Groups**

- **Rehabilitation program**
  - Members’ reha-

**Support Groups**

- **Rehabilitation program**
  - Members’ rehabilitation is managed through the ADF Rehabilitation Program. This program is a multi-disciplinary program aimed at maximising a member’s potential for restoration to their pre-injury physical, occupational, social, psychological and educational status.
  - The key stakeholders involved in any ADF Rehabilitation Program (ADFRP) are the member, command, medical officer, program case manager and rehabilitation coordinator.
  - Under this program, an ADFRP Case manager is assigned to:
    - Undertake member’s rehabilitation assessment and rehabilitation management.

**Adf Transition Support Services**

- **This service provides individualised tailored transition assistance to all transitioning members, regardless of the reasons behind their transition. This service includes providing information on Defence related administrative, financial, government services such as DVA, Commbank and Centrepunkt and the transition process to ex-service community organisations.**

- **Army Personnel Co-ordination Detachments**
  - **Army is establishing a number of Army Personnel Coordination Detachments (APCD) inside selected ADF Transition Centres to better facilitate the transition of Army personnel and to provide a direct and immediate Army POC to soldiers and support the Directorate of Transition Support Services (DTSS). Transition Professionals at the APCD will provide direct support to assist in the preparation and application processes, as well as the process of obtaining a DSMO.**

- **Resilience Training**
  - **BattleSMART program**
  - **Stepping Out Program**
    - **Stepping Out program** is run by the VVCS psychologists and social workers. The Stepping Out Program is a free service to all Army personnel and their families who are in the process of returning from transition in the previous 12 months. Members seeking access to this program should contact VVCS on 1800 011 046 or see the Veterans’ Advisory Network (VAN) directory at http://www.dva.gov.au.

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**CA Reference Group on Mental Health**

- **CA has emphasised to Army the important relationship between mental health and command, leadership and management. Army has a duty of care to provide appropriate and timely evidence-based mental health services, including prevention and treatment strategies. Mental health providers and professionals remain the prime source of mental health expertise, but commanders are pivotal in achieving successful mental health outcomes.**

- **Members cannot be treated independently from their work, social and personal circumstances and the engagement of families is critical to the effective treatment of psychological conditions.**

**AMENITIES SUPPORT**

- **Armed Forces Relief Trust (AFT)**
  - **Following a review of the Army_Amenities Fund (AAF) a new business model has been developed in order for the company to deliver itself of unprofitable, uncompetitive, non-core, non-essential activities.**
  - **The ARTF trustees will oversee multi-disciplinary communication among all stakeholders including members, health professionals, command and other support services.**
  - **Facilitate the provision of specific national and non-national medical equipment and appliances and special-needs housing based on assessed needs.**
  - **Facilitate the provision of DVA-funded services to ADF members who may be eligible for compensation.**

**Website for wounded**

- **The wounded digger website is in the process of being developed. It is an information tool that seeks to provide information, education, interaction and social networking for injured or ill members, their families and other key stakeholders.**
One of Australia’s most distinguished soldiers, Keith Howard’s Military career spanned 39 years from private soldier with 16th Battalion, Cameron Highlanders of WA in 1938 to his retirement as Colonel and acting Head of the Mission for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization between Israeli and Egyptian Armies in 1977.

A veteran of WW11 with the 2/16th in Palestine after his commission in 1940, transferred to the 2/43rd for service in the Western Desert in El Alamein and later in the S/West Pacific/ South East Asia theatres, including invasions of Labuan and British North Borneo.

After the defeat of the Japanese in Borneo he volunteered for service with the post war Army and was on the staff of the new force to disarm and repatriate the 60,000 Japanese Naval personnel for eight months before taking his release from the Regular Army to assist with the family business. He rejoined the CMF in 1948 as a Company Commander with 10th Cameron’s in Perth. Promotions and postings followed to his appointment as Commanding Officer of 10th Light Horse Regiment in 1954 for four years. Changes to Army policy to Pentropic Warfare establishment in 1960 saw Keith promoted to Deputy Commander of the 1 RWAR Battle Group in 1961 and to Promotion to Colonel and Commander in 1964.

On the sweeping changes to the army in 1966 Keith returned to command the Western Command Training Group where his involvement with civilian organizations such as: Rotary, Chamber of Commerce, Institutes of Business and Personnel Management and the RSL would hugely increase his effectiveness in the conduct and management of training.

In 1967 Keith Howard took the unprecedented step of requesting an appointment as a United Nations Personnel and Logistics Officer of the UN Emergency Force raised in 1967. He was recalled and appointed Deputy Commander of the UN Truce Supervision Organization, directly responsible for the deployment of over 300 Military Observers of all nationalities from 17 nations. He returned to Perth and retirement in 1977. Colonel Keith Howard’s appetite for involvement and further improvement now saw him become heavily committed to the State War Memorial as a Sub Warden for over 20 years and was awarded the Memorial Sub Warded Medallion, the 2/43 Battalion Association, the Cameron Highlanders of Western Australia Association, Appointment as Honorary Colonel of 10th Light Horse Regiment and member of their Association and Patron of the Military History Society of WA. As a long serving and very active member of the Highgate RSL Sub Branch allowed his enjoyment of the comradeship and camaraderie gained during his long service to continue. His further studies saw him gain a Master of Arts degree on a thesis of the Australian National Service Scheme 1951 - 80 at UWA.

In 2004 Keith was awarded the Prime Minister’s Centenary Medal for Service to the Veteran Community.

Colonel Keith Desmond Howard RFD. ED. (Retd) Citizen, Soldier, WW11 Veteran, UN Peacekeeper, Scholar, and the epitome of an Officer and Gentleman will long be remembered for service to Australia and where intelligence, service and courage are appreciated.

BY Lieutenant Colonel James Richardson.

OAM. RFD. ED. (Retd)
AMAZING HEROES

Serving our Veterans for over 60 years and still number one in veteran care.