Remembrance Day

The State War Memorial
Kings Park

December 2010 VOL. 33 No.6

The official journal of THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA Branch Incorporated • PO Box 3023 Adelaide Tce, Perth 6832 • Est. 1920

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For Valour

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4. In what action did Capt. John Hurst Edmondson win his VC?
________________________________________________

Name: _____________________________________________
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________________________________________________
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In order to win a copy of For Valour by Umbrella Entertainment answer the following questions.
Return the cut out slip to The Listening Post Editor at PO Box 3023 Adelaide Tce Perth 6832 by 20 December 2010.

For information on ‘For Valour’ please contact Matthew King at Umbrella Entertainment. matthew@umbrellaent.com.au. 61 3 9015 0412

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Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year

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The State War Memorial
Kings Park

RICK HART
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PERTH WA 6000
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Website: www.rslwahq.org.au
Telephone: (08) 9287 3799
Facsimile: (08) 9287 3732
WA Country Callers: 1800 259 799
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Contact Directory
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
Sr Advocate: Jim Boland 8.00am to 4.00pm Mon-Fri 9287 3708
ANZAC House Manager: Matthew Holyday 9287 3714
Financial Services: Robyn Parry 8.30am-4.30pm Tues-Fri 9287 3718
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For contributions to next edition.
If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
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To all Presidents and Sub Branch Secretaries, send photographs and a short article on special activities at your Sub Branch to The Listening Post. Denis Connelly, Editor

Resolution for photos are extremely important. If a low quality picture is printed it will come out pixelated or blurry. The Editors at The Listening Post are dedicated to publishing the highest quality newspaper and therefore will ONLY accept Hi resolution digital photos emailed to listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au.
### 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>07 November</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Third battle of Gaza</td>
<td>After the outflanking advance at Beersheba, British Empire Forces, including the Australian Light Horse, rapidly advanced northwards toward Jerusalem.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 November</td>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Selective conscription introduced</td>
<td>Australian government introduces selective conscription of 20 year old males by ballot under the National Service Act. The National Service Scheme saw 15,381 young men serve in Vietnam.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 November</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Germany signs armistice</td>
<td>Germany signs and armistice ending the fighting on the Western Front. The First World War ended at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 November</td>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Last Japanese air raid on Darwin</td>
<td>This, the 64th raid since February 1942, was the last air raid made on Australia during the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06 December</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney begins its second patrol off Korea</td>
<td>Sydney’s aircraft were used to protect South Korean held islands on Korea’s north-west coast.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 December</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>HMAS Perth under Fire</td>
<td>HMAS Perth comes under fire off Dong Hoi, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 December</td>
<td>1967</td>
<td>3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment arrives in South Vietnam</td>
<td>The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, sailed to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These events are only a selected number of significant dates when Australians were involved in activities of importance. For the complete list go to: <www.awm.gov.au>

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**Pemberton RSL Sub Branch & Pemberton Cemetery**

In 2004 the Pemberton RSL Sub Branch undertook the voluntary task of repairing, upgrading and maintaining the Pemberton Cemetery. This is a huge task with some 700 graves in an area of 8 acres, much of which is still unused.

The RSL members were originally allocated one day a month for the task but soon found that much more time was required.

Details of those interred within the cemetery grounds were sourced from the Pemberton Cemetery register of burials and then matched to all graves. All information was then placed on computer and handed to the Shire for future reference. Details were also placed in the Pemberton RSL Library and a copy is held by the RSL for daily use.

The graves are now numbered. 268 crosses were manufactured from donated local timber, painted and placed on graves that had no markings or headstones; these graves were also mounded. In March of 2010 the RSL had a busy bee over two days at the cemetery when, with the assistance of many other Pemberton volunteers, each grave with no surround was remounded with gravel as the previous mounding material was showing signs of wear.

The total area was cleared, walkways faked (some covered with woodchips) and weeds poisoned (this continues to be done each month). The main entrance walkway was paved with second hand pavers supplied by the Manjimup Shire. During the recent economic downturn some funds were gained from the Federal Government’s allocation to the Manjimup Shire and a shelter was erected in the new area of the cemetery for use in inclement or hot weather. Approximately 50 bottlebrush trees were donated and have been planted. Shrubs and flowers have been purchased and existing shrubs rejuvenated, fertilized and mulched.

The ‘old’ rotunda at the entrance has been re-roofed with Colorbond sheeting. Materials were supplied by the Shire and all labour was carried out by RSL volunteers.

Watering is necessary twice per week during the summer months. This is done by hand from the four water tanks on the site, three of which are erected on rock tank stands built by the RSL. There is no water reticulation to the cemetery.

The Sub Branch has in place a scheme whereby a relative or friend may donate $15 and a plaque will be made containing details of the deceased and then placed on the cross. Some people may donate more dollars and this money is used to place plaques on the older graves that appear to have been forgotten. Many such graves are now named, particularly those of the many babies and children located there.

Another task that is proudly taken on each year is the placing of an Australian Flag at the foot of the graves of the 89 known service personnel buried in the cemetery. This is done on 24 April and then they are removed on the 26th. On ANZAC Day a flag is flown at half mast on the flagpole at the entrance to the cemetery, this flagpole was also supplied and erected by the RSL Sub Branch.

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Bob Hammond - President

Pemberton RSL Sub Branch.
It is my pleasure to present a summary of the 94th Annual Report of the Returned & Services League of Australia.

The League continues to flourish throughout Australia, with some 12,000 members of the 132 Sub Branches work with their local communities to ensure the support of veterans and their families and their future security and development of our country seriously.

The ANZAC Day Small Grants Program has been a valuable contribution to the League's activities and as volunteers that time is valued by the League and the service and ex-service community.

Some features of Directors' Reports are:

- **Pension, Advocacy and Welfare Committee**
- **Defence & Conditions of Service**
- **Membership and Youth Affairs**
- **Marketing**
- **National RSL**
- **Sub Branch Liaison**
- **Commemorative Services**
- **The Listening Post**
- **The Way Ahead**
- **Conclusion**

I believe we do this well.

Directors have also provided comprehensive information on the administration of their portfolio. The reports highlight to the members that activities are demanding and as volunteers that time is valued by the League and the service and ex-service community.

The League continues to flourish throughout Australia, with some 12,000 members of the 132 Sub Branches working with their local communities to ensure the support of veterans and their families and the values of the League are steadfastly upheld.

Having established a foundation of the League in 1916 the prime cause for our growth and development has, and always will be, the looking after and care of our mates and their families who are in need or necessitous circumstances.

In an ever-changing world where social change, economic uncertainty and community impact on our daily lives there is a strong need for a community organisation to provide that social cohesion and support to veterans as well as the wider community. To remain relevant it is essential such groups are proactive in delivering the services needed.

RLS, with its Sub Branch network and its committed leadership is well placed to deliver such services.

In a few short years the League will celebrate its Centenary – we must look to the younger generation to carry on those ideals that were founded in 1916 and support the League and its members and to ensure we maintain the vision we see the value in upholding the commitment expressed in the original Charter of 1916 and see that those ideals are continued.

Members of the State Executive together with Sub Branch Office Bearer maintain strong links with community and contribute responsibly to public debate on many social and community issues. The League successfully maintains a strong political agenda and political level and Sub Branches throughout our country work in the interests of the League.

We zealously guard our public image by encouraging all our members to present RSL as a caring organisation that takes the welfare of veterans and the future security and development of our country seriously.

We now must be prepared to do the same.

It is my pleasure to present a summary of the 94th Annual Report of the Returned & Services League of Australia.
The concept of a peaceful, respectful world was first put forward as far back as 1795 when Immanuel Kant (1724 - 1804) published Perpetual Peace: a Philosophical Sketch, which outlined an idea of a League of Nations that would resolve disputes between nations, control conflicts and, more importantly, promote peace.

Kant suggested the establishment of a peaceful World Community but not a World Government, in the hope that each state would declare itself a ‘free state’ that respects its citizens as fellow human beings and that each state would promote a peaceful society world wide and, ultimately, there would be perpetual peace bound by an international community. International cooperation to promote peace of originator in the concert of Europe. It was developed after the Napoleonic Wars in an attempt to maintain status between states and therefore avoid future conflict. This era also saw the development of International Law with the first Geneva Convention establishing laws for humanitarian relief during war with the Hague Convention during 1899 and 1907 which governed rules of war and peaceful settlement of disputes.

Before the League of Nations, there was the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). The IPU was formed in 1899 by William Cremer and Frederick Passy. Its aim was to encourage governments to resolve disputes by peaceful means and arbitration.

United States President Woodrow Wilson (1856 - 1924) mooted the formation of The League of Nations during the late stage of the War. Wilson developed his 14 points to become the principal of the League but, due to health problems and the pressure of Office, these 14 principals were never ratified.

The League oversaw the operations of several organisations including the permanent court of International Justice, Disarmament Commission, the Health Organisation, the Commission for Refugees and Slavery Commission with several of these organisations now a part of the United Nations (UN).

The League located to Geneva in November 1920 and the General Assembly had 41 nations in attendance. At this time the League had neither a flag nor logo. Although proposals for adopting a flag and logo were made during 1920 an agreement was never reached.

The League therefore used a variety of flags. After considerable effort, an international competition was held in 1929 to find a suitable compromise but still failed to produce an acceptable outcome.

At the start of the twentieth century there were two great European power blocks. The alliances came into effect at the start of World War I. While the First World War was still underway a number of governments were developing plans to change the way nations communicated with each other to prevent future conflicts.

On 25 January 1919, the Covenant of League of Nations was drafted. The Covenant was established in June of the same year. The first meeting was held in Paris on 16 January 1920.

One of the concerns of some members was that the organisation would super impose its authority over its own members. The League of Nations had to maintain certain elements. One such element being the Assembly, the second the Council and the third was the Permanent Secretariat who was based in Geneva and headed by the General Secretary with the League having various agencies and commissions.

The relations between the Assembly and Council were not explicitly defined. Each body was within its sphere of competition but particular questions may have been referred to Council or Assembly.

However there was trouble brewing; a World Disarmament Conference was convened by the League of Nations in 1932 with representation from 60 States with agreement for one year on Armaments Expansion was proposed. France, Italy, Japan and Britain agreed to limit the size of their Navies but failed to halt the military build up of Germany, Italy and Japan and their allies during the 1930’s which was forbidden under the Treaty of Versailles.

Of the Leagues 42 founding members, 24 remained members until it was dissolved in 1946. Some countries chose to withdraw due to perceived conflicts. Germany withdrew in September 1933 citing deformation disadvantage to the German people. The Soviet Union joined in September 1934 only to antagonise Germany and was expelled in December 1939 for aggressions toward Finland.

The onset of the Second World War (WWII) demonstrated clearly that the League of Nations had failed in its mandate to avoid war. Contributing to this failure was the absence of the USA which then limited the organisations power.

On 25 April 1945 the UN Conference on International Organisation began in San Francisco and was attended by 50 governments and a number of non-governmental organisations involved in drafting the Charter of the United Nations.

The UN officially came into being on 24 October 1945 upon ratification of the Charter by the five permanent members of the Security Council - France, Soviet Union, The Republic of China the United Kingdom and the United States - and by a majority of the other 46 signatories.

There are currently 192 member states around the world with specialised agencies. The organisation has six principal organs; General Assembly, Security Council, Economical & Social Council, Secretariat, International Court of Justice and United Nations Trusteeship Council (currently inactive).

The UN in its long history has not been without controversy. French President Charles de Gaulle called the UN ‘le machin’, which translates to ‘the thingie’ as he was not convinced that a global security alliance would assist in maintaining world peace.
Self Managed Super Funds (SMSFs) are now the largest segment of the Superannuation industry with over $570 Billion in assets. In this article, we give you information which will help you work out whether this type of Superannuation fund is right for you.

Many small business owners are driven to their own self managed superannuation fund because they are frustrated by the traditional fees charged and unimpressed by the investment returns of traditional funds. One of the big drawcards to establishing a SMSF is the control you can get over the investment decisions your fund makes.

The key questions to establish whether SMSF’s suit your circumstances are:
- Do you have the investment knowledge to produce superior returns to your fund and its members?
- Do you have the time to administer your own SMSF?
- Are there sufficient funds in the fund to justify switching to a SMSF? Generally, any less than $200,000.00 makes establishing a SMSF a poor decision by the time you pay the $1,700.00 average annual fees;
- Are you familiar with the investment rules for SMSF’s? The ATO audits the funds to ensure that the investments meet the sole purpose test of growing retirement benefits so beware of the temptation to use the funds to benefit yourself personally or to rescue a cash-strapped business.
- If the temptation to establish a SMSF relates to the acquisition of property you intend to use for a part-time or holiday residence, then think again. You should always obtain appropriate legal advice before you set up a SMSF!

Despite the aches and pains that occur in old age, many older adults maintain a positive outlook, remembering the positive experiences from their past.

A new study in an issue of Elsevier’s Cortex, reveals that older adults’ ability to remember the past through a positive lens is linked to the way in which the brain processes emotional content.

In the older adult brain, there are strong connections between those regions that process emotions and those known to be important for successful formation of memories, particularly when processing positive information.

Dr Donna Rose Addis from the University of Auckland, together with a team of researchers supervised by Dr Elizabeth Kensinger of Boston College asked young adults (ages 19-31) and older adults (ages 61-80) to view a series of photographs with positive and negative themes, such as a victorious skier or a wounded soldier.

While participants viewed these images, a functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) scan recorded the brain activity across a number of different regions. When participants had completed the fMRI scan, they were asked to remember as many of the photographs as they could.

The findings suggest that older adults remember the good times well, because the brain regions that control the processing of emotions act in concert with those that control the processing of memory, when older adults experience positive events. Young adults lack these strong connections, making it harder for them to remember positive experiences over the long term.


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Many people find Christmas a very difficult time of year. This may be due to having unresolved expectations about the holiday season. Christmas may have previously been a time spent with loved ones who are no longer in your life. Additionally, many people have more expenses at this time of year and so spending time together even though they may feel that they have little in common with each other. So, how can you enjoy Christmas given all these difficulties?

**Family**

Christmas is traditionally a time of family spending time together. However, these days many people have little contact with their extended family during the rest of the year and so spending time together can result in old quarrels and differences of opinion being repeated. The friction that results can lead to further family disruptions. In order to cope with these difficulties, plan ahead to lay aside differences and difficult subjects that invariably lead to arguments.

**Losses**

Christmas can also be a difficult time for people who have suffered major losses since the previous Christmas. Perhaps someone close to you has passed away since last year and memories of last Christmas when you were together are distressing for you. It may be helpful to acknowledge among the family that this was a time normally spent with that person and allow everyone to remember them in a special way. However, if the loss is still too recent or if memories are still very strong, it may be too painful to do this. It may be better to focus on challenges you are looking forward to in the New Year.

**Loneliness**

Perhaps this Christmas you are far away from your family and/or without resources to spend time with them. Perhaps you don’t have any family and you are not looking forward to spending another Christmas alone. Whilst this can be reason to dread the festive season, there are alternatives. Check out what’s happening at your Sub Branch and participate.

Many community organisations and Churches have special activities for the festive season. Mission Australia has an annual “Christmas Lunch in the Park” This event is attended by around 1500 locals and offers free of charge a traditional Christmas lunch, companionship and a fun filled day. The event is held at Wellington Park, East Perth on Saturday 25 December 11.30am to 2.30pm

**A general strategy**

Whilst the above information mentions specific difficulties, there are general strategies you can put in place to ensure that Christmas is not a time of misery for you. Plan ahead to ensure that there are some enjoyable aspects of Christmas that you can look forward to.

Do not overextend yourself financially. There is no need to give the most expensive presents.

Plan your time so that you do not over commit yourself to attending too many events.

Decide ahead of time how much alcohol and heavy food you are going to consume without negatively affecting your health.

Be aware that your self talk can become a self fulfilling prophecy. If you tell yourself that Christmas will be miserable chances are that it will.

**Sources of assistance**

ANZAC House will be closed from 23 December 2010 until 10 January 2011. During this period the Welfare Officer will be contactable on mobile number 0412 009 191 should you need assistance. Other useful sources of assistance include:

Veterans & Veterans Families Counselling Service (08) 001 046
Carers Association Counselling Line (1800 007 332)
Lifeline131 114

However you choose to spend the festive season I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Until next issue take care.

**Media Release:** Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Liberal Senator for Victoria

Widespread reports that Remembrance Day was largely ignored this year by universities, government agencies and many in the corporate sector requires national leadership from the Gillard Labor Government.

Shadow Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, has called for the Gillard Labor Government to join with him to re-commit Australia to Remembrance Day.

“As we approach the centenary of the Great War Australia should re-commit to the observance of just one minute’s silence at 11am on 11 November to commemorate those who made the ultimate sacrifice in all wars. It will be interesting to go to the vice chancellor of Australia’s universities, leaders of business and industry and the state premiers calling on them to mark 11am on 11 November as a time for silent reflection at university campuses, places of business, schools, hospitals and other institutions”, Senator Ronaldson said.

“We must start the ball rolling in re-committing to the commemoration of Remembrance Day.

“I am quite dismayed to read that many Australians did not observe the customary and traditional Remembrance Day one minute’s silence last month.

“The CSIRO, Centrelink, Commonwealth Bank, RMIT University and McDonalds all reportedly ‘carried on’ their affairs on Remembrance Day this year rather than observe one minute’s silence at 11am.

“Until last week, VicRoads regarded the observance of one minute’s silence as potentially culturally offensive. Only after public pressure did they relent and ask staff to pause and reflect on the sacrifice of others in our nation’s name. Senator Ronaldson called on the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs to join with him in re-committing all Australians, and particularly corporate Australia, to Remembrance Day.

“Just as former Labor veterans’ minister, Jon S翘aca, worked together with the Opposition during the ‘Australia Remembers’ campaign of 1995, I hope Minister Snowdon will see a real opportunity for a bipartisan approach to this important issue.

“I ask Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Warren Snowdon to join with me and call on all Australians to re-commit to Remembrance Day.

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Robert Hardie (02 6277 3582 / 0418 432 909)
In addition to the plethora of services that RSL Care at Menora Gardens offers to its clients, they have recently been awarded 10 further Community Aged Care Packages (CACP).

CACP are individually planned and coordinated packages of care tailored to help older Australians with low-level care needs to remain living in their own homes. They are funded by the Australian Government to provide for the complex care needs of older people. The new packages were applied for last July and provide personal hygiene services, domestic support, transport and social support to the recipients of the packages.

These 10 packages are in addition to the 20 Aged Care Packages that were applied for and successfully awarded by the Commonwealth in 2008. Executive Officer of RSL Care WA, Linda Jackson explained, “After extensive surveys and consultation with our clients it was found that a need for further Community Aged Care Packages was required in the North Metropolitan area.

“Following our ongoing support of veterans in this area, RSL Care WA has applied for and received 10 new packages which we will endeavour to build on in the future and as a priority we will continue to monitor the needs of our valued clients and assess their changing situations.”

These 10 packages have already been filled, highlighting the great and urgent need for this type of service in the community and 10 more are awaiting Commonwealth approval. The clients are looked after by two carers who are overseen by the Community Care Coordinator, Pearl Portlock. Mrs Portlock possesses demonstrated experience in community care and coordination, cultural sensitivity and an awareness of special needs groups which helps to contribute towards providing assistance to her clients located in the local area.

The CACP Manager’s role is to plan and manage the care package, tailoring it to individual needs. For example, a package may provide help with personal care such as bathing and dressing, domestic assistance such as housework and shopping, or possibly help in participating in social activities. These packages mean that the recipients are now able to remain in their own homes, close to family and in an area that they feel safe and comfortable in. Every new client receives a comprehensive needs assessment which helps to identify care needs and forms the basis of a Care Plan between the coordinator and the client. On going monitoring also takes place in an effort to identify changing needs.

Clients are also linked to a variety of interest appropriate activities on a daily basis, 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 are 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 be eligible to receive a care package, a person must be assessed by an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) to determine the level of assistance required. In addition to this, RSL Care WA has applied for and been granted five Extended Aged Care Packages (EACP) to compliment the thirty CACP already in full use in Geraldton. A four bed Carer Respite Program has also been funded by the National Carer Respite Program in the area which provides rest and respite for carers in the local area while patients are looked after by another.

This program aims to help when carers need to take a break from caring by arranging respite. The Care Coordinator on site in Geraldton does this by acting as a single contact for information needed by carers and by organising, purchasing, or managing respite care assistance packages for carers. Examples of respite care assistance may include, in home respite care, support workers to assist you when you are taking a break away from home and residential respite care.

And finally, in the Kalamunda/Eastern Hills region the twenty CACP and fifteen EACP packages have been filled – the program is well used and much needed in this local area.

For any queries or further information regarding this type of care in the North Metropolitan area, please contact Pearl Portlock, Community Care Coordinator, RSL Care WA Menora on 9370 0200.

Key to State Memorial has a new home

The original box containing the key to the Kings Park Memorial Gates has been laid to rest.

The box is traditionally handed over to the incoming Warden on Remembrance Day each year at the Annual Service. As Mr Phillip Skelton, Deputy Warden, explained the new box has held the key and been in use since the 1930’s.

The new Key Box made by expert woodworking craftsman Mr Allan Williams reflects Western Australia’s heritage, being constructed from WA Jarrah, She-oak and Blackbutt timbers. The key is held in place with a wooden frame set into a leather base inside the box.

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For any queries or further information regarding this type of care in the North Metropolitan area, please contact Pearl Portlock, Community Care Coordinator, RSL Care WA Menora on 9370 0200.
Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard in the United Kingdom is maintained by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

Within this cemetery there are 120 First World War graves, mostly those of Australians who died in No. 1 Australian Auxiliary Hospital at Harefield Park. During the two world wars, the United Kingdom became an island fortress used for training troops and launching land, sea and air operations around the globe.

There are more than 170,000 Commonwealth war graves in the United Kingdom, many being those of servicemen and women killed on active service, or who later succumbed to wounds. Others died in training accidents, or because of sickness or disease.

The graves, many of them privately owned and marked by private memorials, will be found in more than 12,000 cemeteries and churchyards. Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard contains war graves from both world wars. Uniquely, their graves are marked by scroll shaped headstones, chosen by the staff and patients at the hospital.

In the centre of the Australian plot stands a memorial obelisk which was erected by Sir Francis Newdegate, late Governor of Tasmania and of Western Australia, and Mr C.A.M. Billyard-Leake, of Harefield Park.

Please visit http://www.cwgc.org/search/cemetery_reports.aspx?cemetery=42433&mode=1 for a list of servicemen that are buried in the cemetery.

Melanie Shroja - Information Officer
Office of Australian War Graves

Harefield (St. Mary) Churchyard

On 18 August 2010, we had a special day service to celebrate Vietnam Veterans Day. We had a commemorative service with the blessing of a new Memorial, which has been built at Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park, located 360km south of Broome.

The Memorial was built by a number of dedicated veterans as well as many volunteers who are travelling around Australia. Park owners Colin and Jo Lewis along with their families were also a great help.

Over the past two years there has been ANZAC Day Services and Vietnam Veterans Services held at this site. This year Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Service was conducted by the Reverend Judy Knowling from Frontier Services and was attended by 20 veterans along with 260 members of the greater community, the equivalent amount of people in attendance for this years ANZAC Service.

The Memorial has been built for all veterans to have a place to attend on special occasions when they are away from home.

ANZAC and Vietnam Veterans Day services will be held in 2011 at the Memorial. We hope to see as many veterans travelling the area attend and assist us with the commemorations.

If anyone wishes to receive any further information please contact Vietnam Veteran Ray Miles. raycormiles@gmail.com – 0427 073 397

Rob Sweet

Eighty Mile Beach Caravan Park – New Memorial

The President and Members of North Beach Sub Branch conducted a service to commemorate Remembrance Day on Thursday 11th November.

Mr. Tony Krsticevic, MLA. Member for Carine and representatives of two local schools laid wreaths on the Memorial. Following the service the schoolchildren were invited to chat with the veterans, asking questions about medals, different campaigns and peacekeeping operations.

Rob Sweet

North Beach RSL – Remembrance Day

In Australia “Poppy Day” was the day BEFORE Armistice Day to allow the badges to be sold without having commercial activities on Remembrance Day itself. Over the years some people came to believe that “Poppy Day” was Remembrance Day itself. Also, over the years the desire to “protect” Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day from commercial activity has diminished.

The Returned Soldiers and Sailors Imperial League of Australia (the forerunner to the RSL) first sold poppies for (not on) Armistice Day 1921. For this drive, the League imported one million silk poppies, made in French orphanages. Each poppy was sold for a shilling: five pence was donated to a charity for French children, six pence went to the league’s own welfare work and one penny went to the league’s national coffers.

Today, the RSL sells poppies for Remembrance Day to raise funds for welfare work, although they have long since ceased to import them from France.

http://www.diggerhistory.info/pages-tributes/poppies.htm

Ray Miles

FUNERAL EXPENSE FUNDING

It pays to know the different types of funding

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One easy not meet the full cost of the funeral. The other, like the Ezicover Funeral Plan issued by Zurich Australia Limited, helps provide certainty and the peace of mind of knowing the full insured amount will be paid.

For more information on the Ezicover Funeral Plan or to receive a copy of the Product Disclosure Statement (PDS) call Zurich on 1300 623 015. Alternatively visit the RSL website link at www.rwahq.org.au for easy access to funeral cost insurance and other types of Ezicover life insurance products.

Remember, the greatest legacy you can leave your loved ones is peace of mind.

RSL Sponsors

Ray Miles
Riverton RSL Remembrance Day

Riverton RSL Sub Branch took 2010 Remembrance Day to two Hospitals in the area; under very different circumstances. At the construction site of the new Fiona Stanley Hospital three of our members; Trevor McLean, Keith Cousins and Paul Thiesen attended a Remembrance Day Service arranged by the CFMEU and Brookfield Multiplex. The members were presented to the 500 strong workforce who were assembled on the hard standing of what will become a quadrangle between two of the main Hospital buildings. Trevor McLean recited the Ode which was followed by Jarred Marshall, the bugler, delivering the Last Post from the semi completed third floor concrete parapet of the western building. The Silence was followed by the Rouse and the Australian and New Zealand flags were raised on the crane.

At the same time, inside the St John of God Murdoch Hospital, our member Ron Bennett, who is also a volunteer at the Hospital; Tony Meehan, our Senior Vice President and Colin Keogh, the St John of God Chief of Mission conducted a Ceremony which was broadcast live from the chapel over the Hospital’s Internal Television Channel.

Both services were well received and we were honoured to have been asked to assist on the day.

Paul Thiesen

Bankers and ex-servicemen help the needy

Bendigo Bank’s Byford and Districts Community Bank Branch has formed a partnership with the Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL to enhance services provided to the people living in the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire.

A monetary contribution given to the RSL by the Bendigo Bank’s Byford Branch has gone towards the cost of a vehicle that the RSL can use to pick-up and deliver items for its fundraising Opportunity Shop on South Western Highway, Byford.

The vehicle will make life easier for people who have no means of getting their op-shop bargain home.

“This partnership was another way that both organisations are serving the community of the shire,” RSL vice president Barry O’Neil said.

“It is very pleasing to have people like the Byford and Districts Community Bank Branch in the local community and willing to stand up and help the RSL, who in turn help the people of the Serpentine- Jarrahdale Shire by offering low cost, affordable items in these times of continued rising costs to those suffering financial hardship.”

Drop in to the RSL Op-Shop from Tuesday to Saturday at 840 South Western Highway, Byford.

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<td>9274 3866</td>
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<td>NORTH PERTH</td>
<td>15 Scarborough Beach Rd</td>
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<td>WANGARA</td>
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A Place For Old Mates - But New Friends Too

Many of us associate the ANZAC Club with catching up with old mates and former comrades. Some Sub Branches and unit reunions and associations gravitate to this central ‘base’ - to enjoy the easy-going, comfortable ambience and camaraderie that reminds us of our going, comfortable ambience and central ‘base’ - to enjoy the easy-and associations gravitate to this Sub Branches and unit reunions mates and former comrades. Some Club with catching up with old Many of us associate the ANZAC of ex-Army ladies - who gathered at the ANZAC House foyer, and shyly asked: “the old Matelot’s (sailors’) table!’ Such a visitor recently came into the ANZAC House foyer, and shyly asked: “is this a Veterans’ Club?” It was the day of State Congress - and normally the Club wouldn’t have even been open; but the fellow was in luck. The American accent was a bit of a giveaway - and he followed up by saying: “Years ago, some old Navy buddies told me: ‘if you ever get the chance to go to Australia, forget about Sydney - Perth is the place for a good time: the locals are fantastically friendly and welcoming’.

Well - with that build-up - what could one do but invite ‘Bert’ into the Club to have a beer, and introduce him around? It soon emerged that “Bert” had not only been in the US Navy for four years; he had then joined the US Army: had served in Bosnia, Kosovo, three tours of Iraq and was currently on two weeks ‘R&R’ from Afghanistan. One thing led to another, and a family invited him to their home for an evening meal. A group of ex-Army ladies - who gathered at the Club for its Melbourne Cup Luncheon, invited Bert to join their party - and he was introduced to the phenomenon of the horse-race that ‘stops a Nation!’ He even won the Raffle!! This occasion sparked an invitation to go sailing on the Swan, which he loved and which in turn led to several other invitations and outings. In between times, Staff Sergeant Bert Bartlett, of the 101st Airborne, made a number of return visits to the ANZAC Club - interspersed with visiting other Perth attractions, making a number of new friends amongst ‘the regulars’ in the process - especially, as the days wore on: ‘the old Matelot’s (sailors’) table!’

One would hope that if our son/brother/grandson found himself in a foreign land, on his own - that some hospitality from the locals would be similarly forthcoming. Bert is now back in Afghanistan, and looking forward to returning to his “home base” at Fort Campbell on the Kentucky-Tennessee border early next year. But he is most appreciative of the friendliness extended to him in Perth, and by Matthew, Rhonda, Chrissie, Claire and all the gang on the Club staff. He has very warm memories indeed of his two weeks leave, mainly spent ‘hanging around the ANZAC Club’!

Margot Harness

3 MEMORIAL TOURS for 2011

ANZAC Day Ceremony @ Thai-Burma Railway
Departs every capital city on 21st April 2011 for 12 days
From $3,460 per person / twin share basis (incl. $363 in taxes)
Includes a week long tour of Northern Thailand, staying in deluxe 5 star hotels, with daily tours exclusive for our group. Fully escorted by our experienced Tour Escort.

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Departs your capital city on 7th August 2011 for 12 days
From $3,540 per person / twin share basis (incl. $382 in taxes)
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Includes a tour of Central & Northern Vietnam, staying in deluxe hotels, with daily tours and an overnight cruise on Halong Bay. Exclusive for our group. Fully escorted.

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12 THE LISTENING POST December 2010

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A delighted Bert - with his raffle prize

Many of us associate the ANZAC Club with catching up with old mates and former comrades. Some Sub Branches and unit reunions and associations gravitate to this central ‘base’ - to enjoy the easy-going, comfortable ambience and camaraderie that reminds us of our days in ‘the Services’ - but rarely does someone tackle such a place on his/her own.

Just occasionally though - a stranger appears in our midst ... totally alone, but hoping to make a "connection".

Such a visitor recently came into the ANZAC House foyer, and shyly asked: "is this a Veterans’ Club?” It was the day of State Congress - and normally the Club wouldn’t have even been open; but the fellow was in luck. The American accent was a bit of a giveaway - and he followed up by saying: “Years ago, some old Navy buddies told me: “if you ever get the chance to go to Australia, forget about Sydney - Perth is the place for a good time: the locals are fantastically friendly and welcoming”.

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Margot Harness
Gosnells Remembrance Day
We had a small gathering at the Gosnells War Memorial with several veterans and their spouses. We also had about 30 students from the Maddington Trade TAFE and staff also in attendance.

Harry Rosielle - Secretary

Remembrance Day at Applecross Sub Branch
About 100 people attended the Remembrance Day Service at the City of Melville Memorial, Melville Civic Square. The attending included the Mayor of City of Melville, representatives from Bicton-Palmyra Sub Branch, various ex Service Organizations, Kardinya Red Cross, students from Ardross Primary School, Applecross Senior High School and Winthrop Baptist College and members of the public. It was particularly pleasing to see the number of young people participating.

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On Saturday the 13th of November we launched the RSL Living History Project at the Heritage Days event. Speaking at the Launch was our President Mr Bill Gaynor, Mr Colin Campbell Fraser from Lotterywest and the Chairman of the Living History Project Committee Professor John Stephens.

The project will run over the next three years in the lead up to the 100 year anniversary of the League in Western Australia and will celebrate the history of the League through its sub-branches.

Heritage Days was the setting for the launch and ran from the 13th of November to the 14th of November. The event was organised through Heritage Perth and is the second year the event has been run. This is the first year the RSL was involved so we weren’t too sure what to expect. Although a little quiet on the Saturday, things picked up on the Sunday and the feedback from the event was positive.

Throughout the both days we had a display of military vehicles on loan from the Army Museum in Fremantle and the RSL Trailer in the forecourt. Exhibitions were set up by the Aviation Museum in Bullcreek and the Navy as well as Defence Force Recruitment. A banner documenting the history of the League in Western Australia was also set up in the club as was a badge station for kids. The club was open for morning tea and Lunch on the both days.

Thank you to the Army Museum, the Navy, RAAF, Defence Force Recruitment, the Aviation Museum, Australian Army Cadets, and the Westalian Great War Living History Association for your support and assistance during the event. Thank you also to Mr Ian Petkoff, Commander Royce Spencer and Mr Robert Mitchell in delivering what were an interesting series of talks scheduled throughout the both days.

Pensions, Advocacy & Welfare

Please be advised that all Pensions, Advocacy & Welfare Services have now moved to 8 Irwin Street, Perth. For all enquiries please contact the following:

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9287 3707or 0412 009 191
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Wreath laying ceremony

Friday 29 November
Remembrance Day • 2010

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Winners

Congress Pictures 2010
Saturday 30th November 2010
The new Hall of Valour at Australian War Memorial

The Australian War Memorial’s new Hall of Valour is only weeks away from opening. It replaces the 30 year old Victoria Cross gallery which was due for refurbishment. A new outstanding design was produced by the leading Australian architectural firm of JPW (Johnson Pilton Walker). The gallery is modern while retaining traditional elements. Throughout it utilizes “noble” materials of bronze, sandstone and granite.

The Hall of Valour houses the national collection of Victoria Crosses and George Crosses. Here, in an appropriate setting, visitors will learn more of our modern and past heroes and be inspired by their stories. Each Australian recipient of the awards is represented. Among the 97 Victoria Cross biographies, 63 are accompanied by the individual’s medals. There are also objects associated with heroic actions as well as art, uniforms, photographs and maps.

While the building work was underway, the Memorial had the rare opportunity to send some of the Victoria Crosses to selected cities. Throughout 2010 a special touring exhibition of the nine Gallipoli awards was sent to Perth, Adelaide, Darwin, Melbourne, Brisbane and Hobart. Thousands took the opportunity to see this unique collection before it was returned to Canberra.

The newly designed Hall of Valour will be one of the most important and impressive features of the Memorial. It will stand for future decades as a worthy tribute to those Australians who have received the highest awards for their outstanding bravery while in the service of their nation, often at the cost of their lives.

Peter Burness

Australia’s most loved poems read by Australia’s most loved actor, Jack Thompson

The Bush Poems of A.B. (Banjo) Paterson
The Campfire Yarns of Henry Lawson
The Sentimental Bloke, The Poems of C.J. Dennis
The Battlefield Poems of A.B. (Banjo) Paterson
Favourite Australian Poems

ONLY $21.50 includes postage
Sub Branch News

The Gnowangerup Military Exhibition

For the second consecutive year, Merilyn Todhunter and Lorraine Symington have conducted the Military Exhibition as a fundraiser on behalf of the Gnowangerup RSL Sub Branch.

This year we combined it with a display on local Pioneer Women. Whilst the attendance was down on last year, the outcome was very pleasing, with memorabilia, artefacts, photographs, information and donations coming our way along with many comments of appreciation. Stan Eastwood once again travelled from Toodyay and remained available throughout the exhibition to provide his valuable knowledge of local history, people and places. We have been able to add many more names, photos and information to our records of those from the district who served their country in times of international conflict. We have cast the net wide to include all of the areas that were part of the once very large shire of Gnowangerup. Brien Bush has provided valuable and conscientious support with the recording of the history of service during the Vietnam War by the residents of the Gnowangerup District. We are confident that our efforts will result in a concise Roll in the near future.

Many visitors travelled some distance to attend; Perth, Bridgetown, Albany as well as local people from the surrounding districts of Jerramungup, Broomeihill, Katanning, Borden, Ongerup and Tambellup. The senior students from the local school attended and thoroughly enjoyed the display, including the pioneer memorabilia, posing in service uniforms and the playing of the old gramophone attracted particular interest. The organisers were very grateful for the assistance over the five days by the Gnowangerup SES unit. This enthusiastic and well organised group of volunteers aided in the setting up and dismantling of the displays, and also provided a sausage sizzle on two days. Assistance by members of the local Rotary Club was appreciated. The funds raised from these two exhibitions, along with generous donations by individuals and funding from the shire, will allow the local RSL to repair and conserve items in the RSL Room. Monies will also go towards our two main projects for 2011 – upgrading the local honour boards and placing plaques in Gnowangerup Memorial Avenue in honour of those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Merilyn Todhunter

Nedlands Remembrance Day

Over 100 people attended the Nedlands Sub Branch Rememberance Day Ceremony which was held at the War Graves Cemetery.

Students from the four local Primary Schools read poems and laid wreaths at the mock memorial together with our President Ms Judy McIvoy representing Ms Julie Bishop, Federal Member for Curtin; Mr Bill Marmon, Member for Nedlands; Ms Sheryl Froese, Mayor of Nedlands and Ms Robyn Follington from Veteran Affairs as well as a Representative from the Victoria League.

Robyn gave a short address to the crowd. The Aero Club was once again spot on with their flyover. Marc Dale rendered the Last Post on his Gallipoli bugle. Many of the public enjoyed light refreshments provided by the Nedlands Council at the Bowling Club.

Doug Arrowsmith
Sub Branch News

Northam RSL Vietnam Veterans Day Service

On Sunday 15 August 2010, the Northam Sub Branch hosted a Vietnam Veterans’ Day commemoration service.

The beautiful warm sunny morning was perfect for the small, but dedicated, crowd assembled at the Northam War memorial for the 11am service. The service is held to remember the 521 Australians listed on the Roll of Honour for the Vietnam War from 1962 to 1975. Also remembered are all those 60,000 Australian men and women who served and the over 3,000 who were wounded. President Donna Prytulak welcomed those attending and Treasurer Geoff Scarterfield, formerly of 2 Battalion RAR, gave a very moving address remembering his time in Vietnam and, in particular, his platoon Sergeant Thomas Birnie, who was killed by “friendly fire” within a few weeks of Geoff returning from Vietnam. “Not a day goes by where I don’t think of it” Geoff said. Such is the mateship and camaraderie, the reliance on each other for survival and the effect of war on people that, 40 years later, it is still in their thoughts on a daily basis.

Neil Owers of the Northam Church of Christ read a prayer of Remembrance. Wreaths were laid at the Vietnam Memorial by the Northam RSL, Shire of Northam; represented by Shire Vice President, Councillor Kathy Saunders and The Hon Max Trenorden MLC, whose wreath was laid by Julie Best of the Tasmanian RSL. Red poppies were placed by veterans and members of the public. Refreshments were supplied after the service with some great food being prepared by members of the Women’s Auxiliary.

The Northam Sub Branch was again very proud to have offered this service for the Veterans to remember their friends and colleagues and for members of the public to also remember and honour those who fought in Australia’s name.

Reg Stevens

Year 9 Students Visit Northam RSL

Recently several groups of year 9 Society and Environment students from St Josephs School in Northam toured the Northam RSL Sub Branch’s rooms to view the collection of militaria and memorabilia.

The students were studying a topic within their history component in Society and Environment that was focusing on the two World Wars, along with the inter war years and the first few years immediately following WWII.

The students were able to view a range of photographs and artwork depicting images of various conflicts. Of particular interest was the Vietnam Veterans’ Memorial Mural painted by local Northam artist Mrs Anne Ashman. The painting reflects all services that served in Vietnam. The painting is unique and has a different affect on the viewer as the light changes at different parts of the day altering the colour and tone.

The students were required to complete a series of questions about their visit to the display and also answered questions about the RSL, what it stands for and what work and functions it performs.

To complete their work the students were asked to formulate an argument on the topic “Are we recognising war or the sacrifices of individuals in war”.

This is the fourth year that students have toured the rooms under the guidance of Mr Mark Gargano, Society and Environment Coordinator who has stated that the students get enormous enjoyment from viewing the memorabilia and that having such a collection close by provides a huge bonus to the students who can have a hands on experience as well as link those items to a place and a time.

The Northam RSL is pleased to be able to have the students come along and enhance their learning experience.

Reg Stevens

President’s Luncheon – Nedlands RSL

Over 70 people attended the Sub Branches “President’s Luncheon” in September. Music was provided by students from Shenton College and an address by Wayne Tarr, a Trustee of the RSL. Wayne spoke about his time as a Magistrate and his thoughts on penalties for crime.

The luncheon is held each year to not only make a few dollars, but to thank people who help and support the Sub Branch.

Special guests were Ms Julie Bishop, Federal Member for Curtin; Russell McLaughlan, Deputy Commissioner for Veteran Affairs; Ms Sheryl Froese, Mayor for Nedlands and a representative of the SAS. Others who attended included Deputy Principals from the 4 local primary schools, war widows, CWA members and Bowling Club members.

Hollywood Private Hospital again were generous in their support.

Doug Arrowsmith, Secretary of Nedlands

Left to right, Russell McLaughlan, Wayne Tarr, Julie Bishop, Doug Arrowsmith and Sheryl Froese
Photocopier donation shows generosity abounds

Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL and the Byford Scouts Group are both proud owners of new photocopiers thanks to a donation from Print Solutions Group in Belmont.

The RSL received a standard photocopy from Print Solutions a few years ago and were offered another one with more functions earlier last month.

As their old photocopy still did a good job, the RSL decided to donate it to the scouts who did not have a working photocopy.

Print Solutions service manager Roger Bernardo said the company did lots of donations to not-for-profit organisations who needed machines they may not be able to afford.

RSL president Rick Giblett said the whole community would benefit from the photocopier donation.

“We have lots of people that come here to do their photocopying and even the fact that we can now pass our old machine onto Michelle (at the Scouts) to use is great,” he said.

“By giving us a new photocopier – and our old one – you’re helping the RSL and the greater community as well.”

Byford Scouts group leader Michelle McGlasham said it was difficult running the Scouts without a working photocopier.

“We had one but it died a while ago,” she said.

“I’ve been relying on the generosity of small businesses and parents photocopying our schedules and membership booklets.

“Having a working photocopier now will be amazing.”

The RSL’s new multi-function photocopier comes with a printer, scanner, fax and photocopier all in one, and is worth about $20,000.

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World War One Memorial Plaques

Plaques commemorating members of the Toodyay community who gave their lives during the First World War have been found in various places around the Shire. We tried to match the plaques with the names on the Toodyay War Memorial but discovered there is not a complete set and also a plaque for a soldier who is not on the memorial.

After researching where these plaques had come from we discovered that the families of these fallen heroes had paid to have these memorial plaques cast at their own expense and had also planted a tree or bush at the same time they installed the plaques. We don’t know if there was ever a full set of plaques, maybe some families were not in a position to afford one or they had moved away from the district.

We then researched the names on The Toodyay War Memorial and discovered there were a lot of men who lost their lives who had a link to Toodyay e.g. born here, joined up here etc, but were not on the War Memorial. It was decided that it would be great to have a full set for these Heroes, so the Sub Branch decided to raise funds to this end.

We also installed our new Park Benches which represent all three services. This task was commenced when John Adams was President and Lou Kidd was Secretary Treasurer and continued when Alan Stubbs was President & Lou Kidd was Secretary. This project was completed when Gary Holland was the President and John Adams Secretary/ Treasurer. Lou Kidd has done all the research and arranged the manufacture of these plaques. Bob “Daisy” Day and Rick “Padre” Turner have made the mould for the plinths, casting and placement of the plaques in the rose garden at the War Memorial.

We wish to thank the following businesses; for their support; Vernice Pty Ltd for the sand, Mobile Concrete Services for the gravel, Paul Harrington for delivery of gravel and sand as well Toodyay Hardware & Farm for the supply of Creme cement. We would also like to thank the Toodyay Shire who assisted in many ways including the positioning of the new benches and fixing of the dedication plaques to the boulders they had positioned for us.

The completion of this project took place with a dedication service on 7 Oct 2009.

I first became aware of this ritual when a member of the MOTH (Member of the Old Tin Hat) visited Applecross RSL Sub Branch some years ago. The MOTH is a South African league with ideals similar to our RSL.

I was impressed with the description and thought it would be great if we adopted something similar – and then I promptly forgot about it. Some years later I decided if we were to adopt the ritual before I died, I should propose to our members that we adopt a similar observance. The members approved the motion and, as proposer, I sprung into action. Basically the action is two-fold.

1. At monthly meetings a chair is placed within the entrance of the meeting place and the Australian Ensign is placed behind the chair. On the chair a copy of the ode and a velvet cushion as well as a red poppy are placed. The chair and flag are illuminated by a spotlight. On entering the meeting place, member’s pause, turn to face the chair and bow their heads as a mark of respect.

2. If a member, or affiliate, has passed away since the last monthly meeting the following additions are made;

a) The Flag is flown at half mast

b) A plaque bearing the deceased name is displayed

c) A hat/cap of the service in which the deceased served is placed behind the chair. On the chair a copy of the ode and a velvet cushion as well as a red poppy replace the hat.

d) On recitation of the Ode by the President at the opening of the meeting, a similar observance. The members visited Applecross RSL Sub Branch some years ago. The

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d) On recitation of the Ode by the President at the opening of the meeting, a tape recording of ‘The Last Post’ is played.

The chair remains illuminated until the meeting is closed.

Warren Green – Applecross RSL.

A note from the Editor:
Do other Sub Branches have a similar protocol for deceased members? Let us know with a short article and, where applicable, a photograph.

Denis Connelly

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**Sub Branch News**

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The Vacant Chair

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Denis Connelly
Karratha RSL Remembrance Day

Our 2010 Rememberance Day Service was conducted by Padre Ivan Grant of Pilbara Regiment. Councillor Nicole Lockwood, President of the Shire of Roebourne gave the Remembrance Day address. Approximately 200 people attended. The National Anthem was sung by students from Pegs Creek Primary School, Karratha.

Mark Sita

Remembrance Day at Bunbury

To students from Cathedral Grammar School being directed where to place their wreath by Parade Marshall Ron (Curly) Tomak.

Lancelin and Coastal Districts Remembrance Day

The Lancelin and Coastal Districts Sub Branch have moved to our new home at the Lancelin Angling and Aquatic Club where we have our own room in which we can display our memorabilia safely.

This move has proved very popular with our members and we thank the committee and members of the Angling Club for their welcome.

We have in excess of 40 members who come from all three arms of the services and from the Second World War to Vietnam and Malaya. Unfortunately we have lost a few to age and sickness and some now reside in the metro area so anyone who is, or knows of someone, who is a former service person please advise them they will be more than welcome to join us.

Our memorial in Harold Park is looking great and we received numerous compliments on how good it looked on ANZAC Day when a crowd of about 400 people attended the Dawn Service and March. Over 200 breakfasts were served at the Gunfire Breakfast held at the Endeavour Tavern, it was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Glen and the staff.

Our affiliation with the local primary school, Lancelin, continues to flourish with three of our members attending the schools Commemorative Service, while two members, including myself attended, Gingin Senior High School’s Service on the same day. We also continue to present a book prize for the end of school year to a deserving student who displays those attributes special to the ANZAC tradition.

This association with the Lancelin Primary School has been on going since 1986 when the branch was formed. The branch is currently working on again modifying our memorial utilising the existing base and attaching the three services emblems onto the memorial.

Our branch meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month at Lancelin Angling Club starting at 4.30pm any visitors from other branches are more than welcome as are prospective members.

David Morton - President

SAS Sniper by Robert Maylor with Robert Macklin

In order to win a copy of SAS Sniper by Robert Maylor answer the following questions. Return the cut out slip to The Listening Post Editor at PO Box 3023 Adelaide Tce Perth 6832 by 20 December 2010. For the book review see page 30.

What is the name of the Australian solider who fought alongside Rob Maylor in Afghanistan and won a VC? ____________________________________________

What is the name of the battle in Afghanistan which Australian forces took part – including Donaldson and Rob Maylor – which Rob shielded an American radio operator? ____________________________________________

What sort of helicopter was it that Rob managed to escape from when it sunk off Fiji? ____________________________________________

With which British regiment did Rob Maylor train? ____________________________________________

What does SOP stand for? ____________________________________________

Name: ____________________________________________

Address: ____________________________________________

Contact Number: ____________________________________________

Two veterans who have just laid a wreath at the Bunbury War Memorial.
The Returned & Services League of Australia WA
Branch 500 Incorporated
2010 Raffle

1st Prize 10959
2nd Prize 11377
3rd Prize 25711
4th Prize 15562

All winners notified

November 9

PLEASE ENTER DRAWING TO BUILD
A DEDICATED MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN MILTON ENGLAND

RAASigs Vietnam War Plaque installed at Australian War Memorial Canberra at last

Andrew Smith of the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, advised me today by mail, as the AWMs RA Sigs representative, that the dedicated bronze plaque to commemorate the service of the Royal Australian Corps of Signals in Vietnam has now been installed in the Memorial’s grounds.

It is located in position number 157 on the southern side of the pathway linking the main car park to the Western Courtyard. In this important location it will be viewed by many visitors and become a focus for pilgrimage for all Vietnam Veterans of our Corps.

Peter Murray - pmurray@netspeed.com.au

Ray Simpson, VC, DCM, Book Project

Ray Simpson, VC, DCM, was one of Australia’s most highly decorated soldiers since Harry Murray (VC, DSO & BAR, DCM) and Albert Jacka (VC, MC & BAR) in WWI. He was better known as “Simmo” or “Chudda” Simpson. He was a member of the initial training team (Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATT)) known as the “Team” that was sent to South Vietnam in ‘62-’63. Prior to Vietnam he served in late WWI and on the Islands, Korea (3RAR), Malaya (2RAR) and the SAS Company in Swabourne.

On return to Australia he served another year in the SAS Company from mid ’63 to mid ’64 then deployed for yet another year with the Team in Vietnam. He was awarded a DCM with the Team in September ’64 in an action in which he was severely wounded. He was awarded the VC for gallant deeds whilst again serving with the AATT in May 1969. A long-overdue book on his life story is being compiled by Mick Malone and Peter Lutley (both ex SAs Regt & Peter also ex 7 RAR). They wish to interview, chat or correspond with anyone who served or associated with “Simmo” who can add something to his story. This covers his service in WWI, Korea, Malaya, the SAS Company, 1 Commando Company, the AATT or elsewhere.

Even your opinion of the bloke can help. He was a unique individual and they are keen to put on paper the life of “Simmo” with anecdotes and all, including his views on manhood towards the art of soldiering.

Stories like the times he visited the “SAS Hill” in Vietnam and went on SAS Patrols when he should have been taking “Rest in Country”. His unarmad combat lessons. Routine orders stating it was okay for WO2 Simpson to use profane language as that’s the only way he can converse. These stories need confirmation, how, when and where. Were you there, let him know.

Also they are after insights into his private family life including his Japanese wife whom he met and married in Tokyo whilst on leave from Korea, especially when she was living in Malaya or in Swabourne with him. Obviously any documentation and especially PHOTO’s are much sought after. (All photos will be copied and returned).

He was one of Australia’s most decorated soldiers; his story is long overdue to be told

Please contact Mick and Pete by email or phone and they can take it from here.

Mick Malone: 08 92953911
Mobile: 0417964530
E: querrrabin@hotmail.com

Peter Lutley: 08 93858037
Mobile: 0416307734
E: info@imprimiturbooks.com.au

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“I saw your advertisement in “The Listening Post”

Volunteers Required
If you have spare time, a current WA Car Drivers License and are interested in helping others we need you!

For further information please contact Susan McCamish – Volunteer Coordinator – Mon-Fri 7.30am-5.00pm, (08) 9379 1944, 0404 083 451, pwc,volunteer@inet.net.au, www. peoplewhohelp.org.au

William Charles Arthur Wyatt

I am looking for any one that can help me with finding info on my father as he was in the RAAF in Vietnam. I am told he served for a good 20 years, and sadly died when my mother was 8 months pregnant with me. He was a mechanic while in the RAATF, and was then classed as an invalid pensioner.

His name was William Charles Arthur Wyatt, born Melbourne, Victoria. He was 53 yrs old in 1978 the year of my birth. My birth certificate does not say he was deceased when I was born. I am trying everything I can think of to research him, not only for myself but also my older brother William. It would be nice if one day we may be able to locate a photo of our father, who is a mystery to us. I am also told we have two half sisters out there somewhere. Any direction and help would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any info please contact Ken O’Brien – CEO Families of Peter Travers
0410 452 836
k3.obrien@quat.edu.au

Lee “Bickies” Webster – Webmaster –
www.hmscanberra.com -
041547527 -

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Notice
**Bedside Manners**

Susie's husband had been slipping in and out of a coma for several months. Things looked grim, but she was by his bedside every single day. One day as he slipped back into consciousness, he motioned for her to come close to him. She pulled the chair close to the bed and leaned her ear close to be able to hear him.

“Hey,” he whispered, his eyes filling with tears, “you have been with me through all the bad times. When I got fired, you stuck right beside me. When my business went under, there you were. When we lost the house, you were there. When I got shot, you stuck with me. When my health started failing, you were still by my side. “And you know what?”

**Driving Skills**

A woman in her 50s was driving with a friend. She went through a red light. The friend said, "Do you realize you just went through two red lights?"

“Oh,” she said, “was I driving?”

From http://www.jokesclean.com/Age/
Lemons
Get rid of tough stains on marble. You probably think of marble as stone, but it is really petrified calcium (also known as old seashells). That explains why it is so porous and easily stained and damaged. Those stains can be hard to remove, but here is a simple method that should do the trick.
Cut a lemon in half, dip the exposed flesh into some table salt and rub it vigorously on the stain. Clean tarnished brass. Say goodbye to tarnish on brass, copper or stainless steel. Make a paste of lemon juice and salt (or substitute bicarbonate of soda or cream of tartar for the salt) and coat the affected area. Leave it on for about 5 minutes. Then wash in warm water, rinse and polish dry.

Remove water marks from wood. Water marks left from glasses on a wood table really stand out. Just mix up 1 part salt to 4 parts methylated spirits and rub it hard on the grease stain, being careful to rub in the direction of the carpet's natural nap. Remove water marks from wood. Water marks

Make fireplace clean-ups easy. When you're ready to turn in for the night but the fire is still glowing in the hearth, douse the flames with salt. The smoke will turn out with less soot than if you let it smoulder.

Cut a lemon in half, dip the exposed flesh into some table salt and rub it vigorously on the stain. Clean tarnished brass. Say goodbye to tarnish on brass, copper or stainless steel. Make a paste of lemon juice and salt (or substitute bicarbonate of soda or cream of tartar for the salt) and coat the affected area. Leave it on for about 5 minutes. Then wash in warm water, rinse and polish dry.

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Homebush-Strathfield
RSL Sub Branch
The mention in the “President’s Pen” in the Listening Post of October 2010 of the contribution made by this Sub Branch to the AFOF brought back memories.
The Sub Branch is in the inner western suburbs of Sydney and still exists, although membership is minimal and diminishing. I was once a member, being the first non-returned from active duty member accepted, somewhat begrudgingly although having served 2 years National Service and also at that time an active ARES officer.
I mention this to put it in perspective. When the Sub Branch, which owned its property outright, was forced to close as its main source of income, the “Club”, lost its liquor license (due to some salacious events hosted unbeknown to the Sub Branch committee) it was faced with a difficult decision. What to do with the property?
Through the wise counsel of the then Treasurer – my late father, Max Carpenter, who held that position for 31 years, the proceeds of the sale of the property were put into various interest bearing and long term accounts to generate income to be put back into the community.
This assisted with support of many projects and awards, ranging from local schools, community organisations, relief assistance and funds such as the AFOF. It is a testament that this foresight bore fruit. The legacy remains.
My point is that each Sub Branch should consider investing such funds as they can reasonably afford back into the local community for worthwhile projects/activities. I know many Sub Branches do, as does our Sub Branch, Darling Range, which has made significant contributions (as financial circumstances dictate) to our community, in particular local schools and their projects.

Did You Know!!
Night Flag Flying
Historically it was correct protocol to lower flags before sunset believing that it was a bad omen for the sun to set on a Country's flag.
If the sun was to set on a Country's (or Empire's) flag it was seen to be a sign of loss of face or even that defeat or retreat was imminent. It would also signal a lax treatment of the National Symbol and a slurr on proper etiquette and protocol, not to mention disrespect. Many points of early flag protocol and etiquette are still in place today. It was an Australian initiative to illuminate a National flag at night and thus become an acceptable way of recognizing and honouring the colours by day and by night. This Australian initiative is now accepted and practiced all over the world. People should be aware that this flag will deteriorate as quickly as they do by day therefore, by lowering flags at night, will provide greater longevity for these expensive items.

Submitted by
Bert Lane (President) Australian National Flag Association (WA).
bertlane@bigpond.com

New Veterans’ Affairs Minister
Meets WA Veterans
The new Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon, was in Western Australia to meet with Veterans to discuss ways to better work together in the future.
Addressing the Returned and Services League (RSL) WA State Congress in Perth, Mr Snowdon said it was an honour to represent the Government on Veterans’ issues and he looked forward to strengthening the bonds between the Department and the RSL.
“It’s a great opportunity for me to hear issues and suggestions first hand,” Mr Snowdon said.
“Working together with ex-service organisations, this government will deliver better services and support to the veteran community.”
Mr Snowdon spoke of the impact of war on the Western Australian community from Federation.
“There is no doubt Western Australia has played a significant role in past and current conflicts.
“Some of the first at Gallipoli were from Western Australian battalions, Fremantle was a hive of activity for allied ships in the Second World War and generations of servicemen and women have served our country proud in the years since.”
Mr Snowdon brings defence experience to the Veterans’ Affairs portfolio, previously serving as Minister for Defence Science and Personnel in 2007.

Media inquiries:   Minister Snowdon: Alice Plate 0400 045 999
Dept of Veterans’ Affairs Media: 02 6289 6203

Remembrance Day - Booragoon
A one minute silence was held at Garden City Shopping Centre at 11 am on Thursday the 11th of November. The sounds of the bugler playing the last post rendered the centre silent and in the morning. We will remember them. Lest we forget.

Giselle Cameron - Marketing Assistant - Garden City Booragoon

Garden City Booragoon
A Trip to Timor Leste

In July this year I decided to take a trip to East Timor where my father, Stan, had served with the 2nd/2nd Independent Commando Company; part of Sparrow Force in 1941 - 1942.

Along with my two eldest children, Jennifer and Andrew, we took the flight from Darwin and landed in Dili. Somewhat surprised, it only took an hour, it is that close! Timor must have come as quite a shock to the mostly West Australians of the 2nd/2nd. Timor rises straight out of the sea and is a very rugged and mountainous country and it must have been a very difficult place to operate in during 1941 – 1942. It is only when you see it you gain an appreciation of what that must have been like.

Surprisingly, few Australians know about the Australian Army’s involvement in what was then Portuguese Timor during WW2, and even fewer would know about the sacrifices of the Timorese who helped Australians. Sparrow Force and the 2nd/2nd Independent Company were sent to Timor in December 1941 to prevent a probable invasion, but could only wonder what the government of the day thought such a small force could achieve and perhaps they would have been better deployed elsewhere. However, Timor had two airfields and being so close to Darwin they were certainly important. The Japanese army duly did invade Timor in strength and drove the hopelessly outnumbered Australians into the mountainous interior where they fought a guerrilla campaign against a much larger Japanese force for twelve months. It was during this twelve months that the 2nd/2nd were helped tirelessly by some loyal Timorese people known as their “Creado” (helper). These Timorese worked with them constantly, carrying their gear, being their eyes and ears; sheltering them and finding and sharing their food with the Australian soldiers. The Creado’s often had very few food themselves and they paid a very high price in helping the Australians.

During the Japanese invasion of Timor the Australians lost all their radio communications and were cut off from the outside world, the members of Sparrow Force were listed as “missing believed killed”. It must have come as quite a surprise to the army back in Australia when they eventually received a Morse code message “force intact – still fighting”. It took quite some time for the signalers to get Darwin to believe them. The radio they got working (dubbed ‘Winne the War Winner’) was a piece of Australian ingenuity and is now on display as in the very rugged country. It is now in Canberra, the complete lack of communication suffered by the 2nd/2nd is a bit hard for this generation to get their heads around!

In May 1942, the 500 or so Australians (about 200 of the 450) were ordered to be held to keep harassing the Japanese. The soldiers had little choice as there were no means for them to be evacuated. During this time Sparrow Force were harried by small columns by the north side of Timor and by some small bands created by very brave soldiers form Darwin, some of whom were never seen again. You really have to take your hat off to them.

During this time Sparrow Force kept the large experienced Japanese force occupied in Timor that might otherwise have been used in Papua New Guinea, who knows now how those things would have panned out had those Japanese troops been able to be deployed in Papua New Guinea.

During our visit, we were able to drive over Timor Leste in an air conditioned 4-wheel drive. It must have been very difficult in 1942 in the very rugged country. It is now peaceful, green, mountainous and beautiful.

The evacuation of the 2nd/2nd took place in the night in December 1942 on the beach located not far from Betano on the south side of Timor. Along with Portuguese civilians, including children and nuns, they were taken by the Dutch destroyer ‘Tyek Hides’. Although it was a great relief to the now exhausted members of the 2nd/2nd (they had been in action for twelve months), it was also a time of shame and great sorrow for them. They had to leave the Timorese Creado’s behind, knowing full well what would happen to them under the Japanese army. The soldiers begged the authorities to let the Creado’s be evacuated with them, but they were told they could not be taken as “they’re not white and the white Australia policy will prevail”. Many a bitter tear was shed by the men of the 2nd/2nd that night on the beach.

There is a memorial to the Timorese Creados at a place called Dare, up in the hills above Dili. To see this memorial was the main purpose of our visit and was well worth the effort. The memorial is a very good one, it explains the history of Timor Leste and the Australian involvement during World War II together with the role and sacrifices made by the Timorese in helping the Australians. Our hope is that all Aussies who visit Timor Leste will take the time to see the memorial and understand and consider the debt Australia owes the Timorese people.

While visiting the memorial we ran into some fellow Aussies who had attended the ANZAC Day commemoration this year, they told us it was an excellent service conducted by the 2nd Commando Regiment from Sydney. They said “they were a fantastic bunch and we were very proud that they were our blokes and we thought they were wonderful ambassadors for Australia”. The memorial at Dare is an important one to Australians and, if you go to Timor Leste, please take the time to see it. All Australians know about the role of the ‘Fuzzy-Wuzzy Angels’ in Papua New Guinea but few know anything about the role played by the very loyal Timorese in World War II. They deserve far more recognition than they have received.

I am embarrassed to think Australia let down so many loyal Timorese in 1942 (and I wouldn’t be here had they not helped my father and his mates). And, again, when Indonesia invaded Timor in 1975 some 200 000 or more Timorese lost their lives in a brutal invasion that took place on Australia’s door step. Shamefully, Australia did nothing until John Howard sent in our troops in under Internet in 1999.

Strangely, the people of Timor Leste seem to harbour little bitterness towards us. I’m not sure I could feel that way - the Timorese continue to go about building their country in their own way. You just have to admire them building their country from scratch, it is a massive task.

We also visited the town of Balibo where five Australians, including my father and his mates, were murdered by the invading Indonesians in 1975. All they were trying to do was get their stories to the world, the house in Balibo they died in has been left much as it was then as a memorial for them and some of the Timorese who were murdered at the same time. The house to be a simple place but quite a moving experience. May the people who died there rest in peace.

Balibo is one of those places that every Australian who values freedom should visit. The Timorese are a very positive, resilient and happy people who are building their country up after a brutal occupation which is no simple task. Timor is certainly not Bali and probably never will be, but consider a visit. Some Aussie tourist dollars help the people but please remember, it is not Bali!

Geoff Payne (ex 2 RAR)
Willingly into the Fray

One Hundred Years of Australian Army Nursing

Willingly into the Fray comprises the personal stories of sixty-five individual nurses, their voices preserved and their words, often fraught with emotion and mired in distress at what they have seen, endured and railed against, carefully retained. Many of these stories are told for the first time, particularly those of the recent campaigns, peacekeeping operations, disaster relief and humanitarian missions. These are men and women who, like those before them, often worked in the most primitive conditions, as one nurse remarked tellingly, ‘with TLC and little more’. It is typical of Australian Army nurses to proceed ‘willingly into the fray’, often with little warning, but always with courage, determination and a strong sense of humour.

In the hundred or so years since the first intrepid Boer War nurses set out, Australian Army nurses have forged a proud and enviable reputation. They are justifiably renowned for their determination to provide quality medical care despite extreme privation, perilous circumstances, and a lack of the most rudimentary medical equipment. If this is the reputation they can forge in the face of such adversity, then we have much to look forward to over the next one hundred years.

Willingly into the Fray provides a rare opportunity for the reader, to take a personal journey through the lives of Army nurses from the early days of 1899 to modern times, and to experience the vast changes in society that accompanied those hundred or so years. Willingly into the Fray – Book competition

1. In which war did the first contingents of Australian nurses serve?

2. True or false: Australian Army nurses did not serve in Vietnam because there were too many mosquitoes.

3. What do modern Australian Army nurses wear in military hospitals deployed overseas?

Name: ________________________________
Address: ________________________________
Contact Number: ________________________________

For Valour Documentary Review

The recipients of the Victoria Cross, theirs are the legacy worthy of the highest honour. FOR VALOUR details their remarkable true stories –

The most coveted and honoured decoration available to members of the Australian Defence Force - the Victoria Cross is a topic of great national significance. Celebrating the achievements of some of our most highly decorated heroes For Valour was the highest rating program on The History Channel in 2009. A captivating journey along the Remembrance Highway; from Sydney to Canberra's Australian War Memorial, 22 ordinary Australians are remembered for their extraordinary deeds of courage and sacrifice. Winners of the Victoria Cross, their stories are inspiring, their legacy indubitable. Featuring dramatic re-enactments and insightful interviews with war historians FOR VALOUR represents an outstanding triumph of will, exploring the mateship, camaraderie and personal courage of the defenders of our great nation.

For further publicity information please contact: Matthew King
Umbrella Entertainment
E: matthew@umbrellaent.com.au D: 61 3 9015 0412
For the first time in its short but event-filled history one of the world’s most secretive fighting forces, the Australian Special Air Service Regiment (SASR), has allowed its history to be documented in a DVD series.

Titled The Australian SAS – The Untold History, the 10-part documentary traces the development of this small but highly effective Special Forces unit from its beginnings as a deep penetration reconnaissance company into a highly sophisticated reconnaissance, strike, recovery and counter-terrorist force.

Covered in word and picture are the regiment’s major campaigns from Konfrontasi in Borneo through South Vietnam to Cambodia, East Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan (2001-2003). Included are the SAS’s Winning Hearts and Minds strategy and the key role SAS members played in the MV Tampa affair.

Professor Bruce Horsfield aims to have the full 10-part series completed early next year.

For more information visit www.forwardscout.com
Media information – Bill Gray; MG Media Communications; 0419 306 535

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Name: ________________________________

RRP: $29.95
To order Doorway in the Storm, e-mail: errolpentony@smartchat.net.au

The theme of “The Australian SAS – the Untold History” is like the story of… (circle one)?

1. TheProdigal Son
   a) The Prodigal Son
   b) Ali Baba and the 40 Thieves
   c) The Ugly Duckling

2. In Part 4 the SAS spawns the 3 northern surveillance units. What are the names of these units?

3. In Part 8 who are ‘The Travelling Wilburies’ and what was their mission?

4. In Part 9 what was the name of the illegal fishing vessel captured off South Africa and in which year was it captured?

5. What are the names of these units?

6. Name:

7. Postal Address:

8. Contact Number:

For any further information or to arrange an interview with Rob Maylor or extract please contact Jaki Arthur at Little, Brown publicity on jaki.arthur@hachette.com.au or 02-8248 0864
Remembrance Day - Highgate Sub Branch

There was a very special significance to Remembrance Day for Highgate this year - especially for those Members who reliably carry out the duties of Deputy Warden and Sub-Wardens at the State War Memorial.

In an innovative departure from normal Sub Branch activities, Senior Vice President: Leon Griffiths organised a Memorial Luncheon at Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park just four days before Remembrance Day itself. This was a prime opportunity for the Sub Branch, not only to gather as a body for a Memorial service at the Flame of Remembrance; but also to officially acknowledge and thank Kevin Cass-Ryall for his sterling service as Warden of the State War Memorial, as well as to formally welcome Group Captain Ian Petkoff who will serve as Warden throughout 2011. It also presented the chance to acknowledge the great support Highgate Sub Branch receives from senior staff of the Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority at Kings Park; and senior executive, Mark Webb, joined Sub Branch President: Martyn Thompson, who laid a wreath during the short ceremony.

During the course of the Luncheon, Kevin Cass-Ryall was delighted to be presented with a miniature RAAF Officers' sword. Another important focal point for the Luncheon that followed was for three long-serving and now retired Sub-Wardens: Ken Birks, Robert Campbell, and Mick Michael to be presented with Medallions, in recognition of their long, loyal service. (A fourth member: the late Bob Davison - unfortunately died before he could be presented with his). Thank you to Phillip Skelton AM, now in his seventh year as Deputy Warden, continues to organise his team of Sub-Wardens with superb efficiency.

The Luncheon provided a rare opportunity for Sub Branch members to be joined by their spouses and partners in a wonderfully convivial atmosphere. It was a special day too, for members of the Honour Avenue Group (HAG), ably led by Norm Manners, to be acknowledged. These members devote many voluntary hours to installing and maintaining the plaques and trees that comprise the Kings Park avenues, dedicated to the fallen in WA. On Remembrance Days, and every ANZAC Day - the HAG members attach an Australian flag to each of the 1,400 plaques.

MARGOT HARNES
SECRETARY


ALTERNATIVELY, CONTACT US AT LISTENINGPOST@RSLWAQ.org.au

RSL Bowls Presentation

A group of volunteer workers are building an Amphitheatre in Hyden, "Wave Rock", in memory of Brigadier D O Magee.

Denis Owen Anthony Magee was born on 26 March 1925 at Wickepin, Western Australian. He was educated at Aquinas College and, after completing his leaving certificate in 1942, he enrolled at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. In 1944, he graduated as a lieutenant into the Royal Australian Engineers (RAE) and served with 2/2nd Field Company RAE in New Guinea during World War Two. Brigadier Owen Magee died in Sydney on 14 May 2007.

The Amphitheatre project started in October 2009 when Brian Parrish, Dave Skinner and myself did the original survey. We started on 10 August 2010 with my next door neighbour, Joe Mack (American) and Alan Pearce (Percy Ex SAS). On 6 Sept 2010 I took a bus load of 11 guys to Hyden to continue the work and one other turned up in his caravan. On 26 October 2010 the team returned to Hyden to finish the block laying and the project is now nearing completion.

We will return to complete the stage area and early in the New Year there will be an Opening Ceremony.  

FRANK MALLARD

Amphitheatre – Hyden
"Wave Rock"

RSL Bowls Presentation

Pictured above presenting Dr Margaret Sturdy, Director of Medical Services at Hollywood Private Hospital, with a framed shirt autographed by the WA RSL State bowls team, are Veterans John Wirie and Ian Marshall, President, with Lee Fysonere.

The presentation was made in appreciation of the hospital’s sponsorship of the WARS Bowls Section, courtesy of Dr Sturdy.
AMAZING
Friendships

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