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Proudly supporting the reduce the risk initiative
Deadline for next edition: 26 May, 2011

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

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

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The Listening Post

'The Listening Post' is published 6 times a year, and has a readership of over 25,000.

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This Month in Australian Military History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5 April</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, involved in Operation Rugged, Korea</td>
<td>Operation Rugged involved United Nations forces crossing the 38th Parallel and occupying strong defensive positions formed by a line of hills codenamed the Kansas Line and including Hills Salmon, Cod and Sardine, 45 kilometres north of Seoul.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 April</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney arrived at Vung Tau</td>
<td>The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, disembarked and the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked. Sydney made 24 voyages to Vietnam during the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 April</td>
<td>1917</td>
<td>Lieutenant C. Pope, VC</td>
<td>Lieutenant C. Pope, 11th Battalion, AIF, originally from London, wins the Victoria Cross at Louverval, France. It was a posthumous award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 April</td>
<td>1915</td>
<td>Landings at Gallipoli</td>
<td>British, French, Australian and New Zealand troops were involved in a series of coordinated landings. Although the Gallipoli campaign was a military failure, the anniversary of the landing has become a national day of commemoration in Australia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 May</td>
<td>1968</td>
<td>Fire Support Base Coral attacked</td>
<td>The partly-constructed base, north of Saigon, was defended by Australian infantry, artillery, and air support when it was attacked by North Vietnamese troops. Eleven Australians were killed and 28 wounded before the attackers were driven back. Fifty-two enemy soldiers were killed and one was taken prisoner.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 May</td>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Boer War ends</td>
<td>Boers surrender, ending the Boer War. Over 16,000 Australians served in South Africa, nearly 600 died.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 May</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Monash Commands the Australian Corps</td>
<td>Lieutenant General Sir John Monash succeeds Birdwood as General Officer Commanding the Australian Corps.</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](http://www.awm.gov.au)

---

New Staff: Pat Scammell & Geoff Garside

**Pat Scammell**

Mr Patrick (Pat) Scammell joined the ‘ANZAC House’ staff as the Chief Operations Officer (COO) on 8 February 2011.

Pat came to RSL WA from a business and sports administration background. He is married to Leanne and has 3 sons: Liam, Ben and Jack and a daughter, Katie.

Pat represented Australia in the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games and the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988 as well as at several Commonwealth Games competing as a 1500m runner. His interests include AFL, where he supports Collingwood, cricket, golf, politics and wine tasting.

Pat’s role as COO at RSL WA is to oversee all RSL business operations.

**Geoff Garside**

Geoff started as Chief Financial Officer at the beginning of February. He is a Certified Practicing Accountant, and has a Bachelor of Commerce and Master of Business Administration from Curtin University. His professional career of more than 25 years has included working at Universities, in Local Government, manufacturing and resources industries. In his most recent role he was Finance Manager and Company Secretary of a national environmental charity.

One of Geoff’s passions is the performing arts. He started singing at school and sang in a variety of choirs at University, and until recently was regularly singing in WA Symphony Orchestra Chorus. He met his wife through singing. His daughter is studying dance at WAAPA, and his son plays cello with WA Youth Music’s Philharmonic orchestra.

Geoff’s other interests include reading, science and technology, family holidays and enjoying good wine with friends.

---

**Chum's Tiger Moth**

Bob McGuire with the “Tiger Moth”
AnZAC Day 2011

Finalised and will be released. Arrangements are still being
Form Up Locations and other
CBD. Full details relating to
road changes in the Perth
different route this year due
Easter period.

The 2011 ANZAC Day
and ceremonial arrangements
Full details of public transport
arrangements are well in hand
of around 45 000 and
Scouts maintaining the
will be conducted under
In Perth, the Dawn Service
remember those who serve
together and all Australians
year when communities come
together and all Australians
make by our Service Men and
Women. It’s that one-day in the
year which communities come
together and all Australians
remember those who serve and
have served their country.

In Perth, the Dawn Service
will be conducted under the
same arrangements as previous years with Rover Scouts maintaining the
night vigil leading into the
traditional Dawn Service. We
anticipate a public attendance
of around 45 000 and
arrangements are well in hand
to accommodate that number.
Full details of public transport and ceremonial arrangements will be published in The West
Australian newspaper over the
Easter period.

Following the Dawn Service there will be a Gunfire Breakfast in Stirling Gardens
to which the general public are invited.

The 2011 ANZAC Day March will follow a slightly different route this year due
to road changes in the Perth
CBD. Full details relating to
Form Up Locations and other
arrangements are still being
finalised and will be released in
newspapers and on RSL
Website at a later date.

Centenary of ANZAC

The announcement by
government of funding
allocation to WA submissions
for the commemoration of the
Centenary of ANZAC was
recently announced. The
derosion of the Albany
initiative should ensure the
centenary commemorative
activities continue to get
community support. We are
hopeful that WA will receive
additional financial support
from other funding sources
to present activities that will
acknowledge the contribution
that was, and still is being,
made, to the defence of our
country by our defence force
personnel.

The Albany Project was recently reported in “The West Australian” by Malcolm
Quekett and he wrote:
“A re-enactment of the
departure from Albany of ships
carrying soldiers to World
War I and an interpretive
centre could play a major
role in the commemoration of
the ANZAC centenary.

The projects have been
endorsed in a report to the
Federal Government by the
National Commission on
the commemoration of the
ANZAC Centenary…

The report said Albany had a
rich ANZAC heritage and in
1914 had been the gathering
point for ships carrying forces
that became known as the
ANZACs.

It recommended a
commemorative event be
held at Albany and broadcast
nationally, which could
include assembling ships in
King George Sound on
November 1, 2014 to represent
the first convoy. Ships from
allied countries that were
former enemies could also be
invited.

The commission also
recommended the
development of an
interpretative centre on
Mount Adelaide in Albany
with panoramic views of King
George Sound.”

The planning committee is
to be congratulated on a
successful outcome to their
well prepared and presented
submission to government.

New Constitution

A writing team has
commenced revising the State
Constitution and expects to
circulate the Revised
Constitution (first draft) to
Sub Branches for comment
by mid-April. Our Legal
Advisors believe the rewrite
is necessary as we progress
our application to have RSL
classified as an Association
at a higher Taxation Status
than that which currently
exists. Following an extensive
consultation process, if our
proposed structure is accepted
by members and endorsed
by Corporate Affairs there
will be significant benefits to
members and sub branches.

Consideration of the new
governance model is a move
RSL must take. The rewrite
will ensure a more equitable
and inclusive structure for
decision making within the
organisation. In the meantime,
members and sub branches are
assured that the current Rules
and By Laws are the ones
under which we will operate.

There will be no change until
the membership has had an
opportunity to debate and
vote on the proposals at a
forthcoming Special General
Meeting to be held in early
July.

Membership Renewals

Members are reminded that
renewals of membership
should be processed no later
than 30 April, 2011. If you
have not yet renewed your
membership we ask that you
do so before the expiry date.

Renewals may be made using
a variety of way outlined on
the renewal notice sent to
you late last year. If you have
lost the notice please contact
RSL Membership Office for a
replacement to be sent to you.

RSL Library Relocation

The VC Library has been
relocated to the First Floor at
ANZAC House. This move
was necessary to allow
expansion of facilities at
ANZAC Club and to place the
collection in a more suitable
and secure environment
with respect to display and
accessibility. The Library is
staffed by volunteers and is
open each Thursday from
9.30am to 3.00pm. It is a
reference Library and
books are not available for
loan. Telephone contact can
be made with Library Staff
through the main office.

The collection is focussed on
our military heritage and contains
many rare books – most of
which are out-of-print.

Natural Disasters

Over recent months
Australians have suffered at
the hands of natural disasters.
Floods and fires throughout
the continent have had a
devastating effect on the lives
of families. In discussions
with other State Branches
the offers of assistance and
financial support offered
to members and others in
distressed circumstances has
been very much appreciated.
WA, with its limited resources
was able to offer assistance
but our main focus was
assisting those in the
deserted areas to the north and
the bush fire victims in the
south of our own State. The
generous offers from local
Sub Branches were a feature of
the assistance in our own
State.

Government To Replace

Medals Lost In Natural

Disasters

Parliamentary Secretary for
Defence, the Hon David
Feeney, has announced
that the Government will relax
the policy on replacement
of Australian Defence Force
(ADF) medals so that medals
lost during the Queensland
and Victorian floods, the impact
of Cyclone Yasi and the fires
in Western Australia can be
replaced. “Government policy
for many years has been
that medals can only be issued
to the ADF member who earned
them,” Senator Feeney said.

“This usually means that
medals cannot be replaced
if they are lost or destroyed
after the ADF member has
died.” Where medals are lost
in natural disasters, however,
this policy may be relaxed.

This was done following the
Victorian bushfires in 2009.

“While the Government is
committed to maintaining the
integrity of our system of
military honours and awards,
there are circumstances in
which the Australian
community rightly expects
us to show greater flexibility
in implementing the
existing policy. I believe
this unprecedented series of
natural disasters is one of
those circumstances,” Senator
Feeney said. “I have therefore
decided that ADF medals may
be reissued to the next of kin
or other appropriate relative of
deceased ADF members,
if the medals have been lost
or destroyed in the current
natural disasters.

Family members who have,
in the course of these natural
disasters, lost the medals of
loved ones, may now make
application for replacements.

“Unfortunately, however,
only medals dating back to
the First World War can be
replaced. Medals for
conflicts prior to this war are
no longer in production.”

Applicants should use the
application form and statutory
declaration located on the
Defence Honours and Awards
applications should be
submitted to: Directorate of Honours and Awards
Department of Defence PO
Box 7952, CANBERRA BC
ACT 2601. Enquiries may also
be directed to Defence
Honours and Awards toll free
on 1800 111 321.
AE1 & AE2: Australia's First Submarines

Although not widely reported when discussing Australia’s history in World War I (1914 – 1918), the fledgling Royal Australian Navy (RAN), which was formed on 10 July 1911, with its first new ships arriving on 4 October 1913. Amongst the new vessels to be acquired by the RAN were two submarines AE1 and AE2.

The AE1 and AE2 which were launched in 1913 were built by shipbuilders Vickers Armstrong at Barrow-in-Furness, England.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General characteristics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class and type:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Displacement:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Length:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beam:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Draught:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propulsion:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speed:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Range:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complement:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Armament:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These vessels were named by a composite crew of Australian and English personnel, as military historian Ian Hodges observes in his address to the Australian War Memorial on 30 April 2003, giving the submarines identifying AE.

After launching in May 1913 and being commissioned into the RAN in February 1914 set sail for Australia under the command of LCDR HHGD Stoker DSO.

LCDR Harry Stoker was born in Dublin, Ireland in February 1876. He was a graduate of the Royal Naval College. Joining the Royal Navy at the age of 15, Stoker was appointed to the Royal Navy’s first submarine, command A10. In 1913 after receiving a posting to the RAN he was given command of AE2.

On 25 April 1915 the AE2 entered the Dardanelles at 2.30am, after attacking and damaging the Turkish gunboat Sultan Hissar; technical problems contributed to the sinking. AE1 joined the British Fleet at the Dardanelles, Turkey, on 1915-04-25 and was sunk in the Sea of Marmora by the Turkish torpedo boat Sultan Hissar; technical problems contributed to the sinking. AE1 operated in the New Guinea area and was lost without trace on 1914-09-14. (Donor Sydney Mail)

The AE2 was hit by surface vessels. She ran aground twice beneath the guns of Turkish forts, however the guns were unable to take advantage of the situation as they were unable to lower their guns to take the decisive action needed to destroy the AE2.

Shaking off the pursuers, the AE2 entered the Sea of Marmara on 26 April. During the next four days the AE2 attacked the Turkish with torpedoes with little success; however, the AE2 presence so near to the Turkish heartland came as a nasty shock to the Turkish Authorities.

This action by the AE2 allowed others to enter the straits on 29 April and the AE2 was joined by the British submarine E14, and with another two vessels arranged to rendezvous the next day and effectively closed the straits to the Turkish bound for the battlefields in the Gallipoli peninsula.

On the 30th the AE2 surfaced to rendezvous with the British vessels, the Turkish torpedo boat Sultanhisar approached, the AE2 dived immediately, but lost trim and went out of control, breaching the surface twice presenting a target for the Sultanhisar. The AE2 was hit in the engine room leaving the crew with no choice but to abandon ship, although no crew died in this action, four died later in captivity.

The AE2 was being based at Sava, Fiji returned to Sydney in November 1914.

In the following month the AE2 joined the second AIF convoy at King George Sound Albany WA leaving Australian waters on 31 December 1914 with approximately 15,000 troops and 3,000 in 20 transports bound for the Middle East.

The only naval escort was the AE2 being towed by the Berima after two days rest at Colombo the convoy set sail for the Suez Canal arriving on 27 January 1915. On 28 January AE2 preceded the troop ship through the Suez Canal being cheered on by the First Expeditionary Force corps alongside of the Canal.

The AE2 being based at Savo, Fiji returned to Sydney in November 1914.

After World War I, some sources claimed that Stoker and others actions in penetrating the Dardanelles convinced the Commander in Chief not to order the re-embarkation of troops that had gone ashore on 25 April, but there is no real evidence to support this claim.

References:
1. The Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra, ACT
2. Royal Historical Society of Queensland
Vietnam War Family Study Proceeding
More Support Needed

Have you received a Vietnam Veterans’ Family Study questionnaire? If so, then you have been selected to test this questionnaire as part of the Pilot Study.

It’s not too late to make a difference. Your participation in the Pilot Study of this world first program investigating the effect of war service on the health and welfare of families of military personnel is vital. To make this study a success, the researchers need to know how the war affected you and yours. After all, every story is different. Or is it?

They also need to know why some families deal better than others with the impacts of military service.

The Pilot Study of the questionnaires and the study’s administrative processes involves 320 randomly selected participants. If you have been selected for the Pilot Study, your participation will greatly assist in testing both the questionnaires and administrative process to identify any changes which need to be made to improve the study.

You can make a difference, so if you have received a questionnaire, please complete and return it as soon as possible. If you need any additional information, or if you need a new survey sent to you, please do not hesitate to contact the Family Study Program via the DVA Health Study Line on the toll free number 1800 502 302.

Please note that participation in this study is voluntary and you can withdraw at any time. Your participation will not affect any pension, benefits or health services you or your family are entitled to from the Department.

HMAS VOYAGER - Quo Fata Vocabant
(We Go Where Destiny Calls)

10th February 2011 is the 47th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS VOYAGER, with the loss of 82 crew. This was, and still is, the greatest peacetime disaster the RAN has ever suffered.

On the night of 10 February 1964 HMAS VOYAGER was in company with the Carrier HMAS MELBOURNE preparing to carry out night flying exercises approximately 20 miles off the coast from Jervis Bay NSW. VOYAGER’s task was to act as plane guard, in case an aircraft failed to make a landing on or take off from the carrier and had to ditch into the ocean. She had practised this manoeuvre with the Carrier many times in the past including that day, so what happened and why it happened can never be fully explained.

At 2052 VOYAGER was tasked by MELBOURNE to change to a new course in an attempt to “find the wind” to allow flying operations to commence. As part of the manoeuvre she had to take up a new position on the port aft quarter of the Carrier. During the maneuver at 2055 something went terribly wrong and she came into collision with the MELBOURNE. The collision cut the ship in two just astern of the bridge. The bow section began to sink immediately due to the weight of the forward 4.5” gun mounts and went down in minutes. The stern section remained afloat and did not sink until after midnight. Of the 413 crew on board that night 14 Officers and 67 sailors and a civilian dockyard worker died. Most of those who died were in the forward section and could not manage to escape through the ship’s escape hatches.

Many acts of courage were displayed that night, in particular that of CPO Jonathon “Buck” Rogers who, knowing that he could not escape because of his size, assisted other sailors out of the escape hatches and then toward the end, led the others with him who also could not escape in hussams as the bow section went down. Survivors, swimming away from the ship reported sounds of singing from inside the bow section as it slipped below that waves). CPO Rogers was awarded the George Cross, posthumously for his action and courage. There were many other acts of selfless courage displayed that night by members of the VOYAGER crew.

Denis Sefton – ex RAN

The Australian Vietnam Volunteers’ Resource Group was originally founded in Queensland in 1990 and registered as an incorporated community organisation in 1994.

A group of Vietnam Veterans were concerned about Vietnam’s twenty year isolation from the west and the devastation caused by what is now known as “the American war”.

Since then, AVVRG members have undertaken a number of projects including a dental clinic at Long Tan; Nui Dat kindergarden; a blind and a mental health institute in Ba Ria; an orphanage in Vung Tau and the care of the Long Tan Cross.

Projects are managed by teams from each state. West Australians have the opportunity to form their own team. Project details and a membership form (it’s only $20.00) can be found at www.avvrg.org.au.

WA Team Leader Ian Menzies is in Vietnam assessing current and potential projects that could be supported by the WA Team.

Though projects are supported by funds raised locally or through Federal Government grants, the organisations Code of Ethics require that members meet their travel, accommodation and meal costs.

Ian Menzies can be contacted via trees@westnet.com.au or post at PO Box 18, Wagin, WA, 6315.

Legal Loopholes
Objecting against Tax Assessments and Claiming Legal Professional Privilege

A taxpayer dissatisfied with an assessment or other taxation decision of the Commissioner of Taxation may challenge that decision in accordance with the objection, review, and appeal procedures in Tax Administration Act 1953 Part IVC (s 14L to s 14ZS).

Where a taxpayer wants to challenge an assessment or other taxation decision:

1. The taxpayer may lodge an objection against the notice of assessment or decision with the Commissioner within 2 years of service of the notice of assessment or decision for most individuals and small business taxpayers, or within 4 years of service of the notice of assessment or decision for taxpayers with more complex affairs.

2. An application may be made to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) for review of the objection decision within 60 days of service of the notice of objection decision. Alternatively, an appeal may be made to the Federal Court against the objection decision within 60 days of service of the notice of objection decision.

3. A further appeal may be made to the Federal Court against an AAT decision on a question of law only, within 28 days.

4. Further, an appeal may be made to the Full Federal Court against a decision of a single judge of the Federal Court within 21 days.

A taxpayer in responding to formal (and other) requests to challenge an assessment or other taxation decision: (it’s only $20.00) can be found at www.avvrg.org.au.

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A taxpayer in responding to formal (and other) requests to challenge an assessment or other taxation decision:
PENSION, ADVOCACY & WELFARE

April 2011

With Rosalind Howat Welfare Officer

PENSION News

More than 330,000 veterans, partners and war widows/widowers will receive increased pensions and income support payments from 20 March 2011. The payment on the pension payday on 24 March 2011 will be a combination of the old rates and the new rates. Therefore, the first full payment at the new rates will be on the pension payday 7 April 2011.

The table below highlights the changes to some of the key rates per fortnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pension</th>
<th>Old Rate</th>
<th>New Rate 20 March</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Pension - single</td>
<td>$716.10</td>
<td>$729.30</td>
<td>$13.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Pension - couples</td>
<td>$1,079.60 couple</td>
<td>$1,099.40 couple</td>
<td>$19.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War Widow Pension</td>
<td>$725.10</td>
<td>$738.70</td>
<td>$13.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Income Support Supplement</td>
<td>$216.60</td>
<td>$220.80</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rate (TPI) Pension</td>
<td>$1,092.90</td>
<td>$1,113.70</td>
<td>$20.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Rate Disablity Pension</td>
<td>$741.60</td>
<td>$755.80</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extreme Disablement Adjustment</td>
<td>$603.30</td>
<td>$614.80</td>
<td>$11.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100 per cent General Rate of Disability</td>
<td>$388.30</td>
<td>$395.70</td>
<td>$7.40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The first full payment at the new rates will be on 20 March 2011. The payments from 20 March 2011. The increased pensions and income support payments from 20 March 2011. The payment on the pension payday on 24 March 2011 will be a combination of the old rates and the new rates. Therefore, the first full payment at the new rates will be on the pension payday 7 April 2011.

The table below highlights the changes to some of the key rates per fortnight.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pension</th>
<th>Old Rate</th>
<th>New Rate 20 March</th>
<th>Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Service Pension - single</td>
<td>$716.10</td>
<td>$729.30</td>
<td>$13.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Service Pension - couples</td>
<td>$1,079.60 couple</td>
<td>$1,099.40 couple</td>
<td>$19.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War Widow Pension</td>
<td>$725.10</td>
<td>$738.70</td>
<td>$13.60</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income Support Supplement</td>
<td>$216.60</td>
<td>$220.80</td>
<td>$4.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Rate (TPI) Pension</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intermediate Rate Disablity Pension</td>
<td>$741.60</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You can’t remember the last time you went to the gym, you choose the comfort of your car to pop down to the corner shop for the paper, and you just can’t seem to shed those pesky extra kilos. Many people in middle age don’t change their habits - but any positive changes can lead to a healthier, longer life.

Pension News

More than 330,000 veterans, partners and war widows/widowers will receive increased pensions and income support payments from 20 March 2011.

Pension Services

For further information please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House.

HOSPITAL VISITORS LIST

Bankstown Hospital, St John of God, St Charles Garnier College, Shenton Park Rehabilitation.

Mr John Duff
4001 3515
Joondalup Hospital, Glengarry Hospital, Osborne Park Hospital.

Mr Mike Hawkins
9295 1576
Kalumburu Hospital, Armadale Hospital, Bunbury Hospital.

Mr Jim Ferguson
9341 5303
Hollywood Private Hospital.

Mr Bill Adams
9295 5554
Mercy Hospital, Swan Districts Hospital, Swan Surrounds Mental Health Facility.

RSL welfare Officer
9287 7507
Royal Perth Hospital, Officers as required.

Ms Nourse & Mr John Nagle
9883 3842
Peel Hospital RSL Care, Mandurah.

Mr John Rankin
0438 264 371
Priester Hospital Alma Street Hospital.

The Trusts meet on the first Tuesday of each month to consider applications for assistance. The Trusts will evaluate all reasonable requests for assistance. Financial grants are restricted to those that are genuinely in need and unable to pay for some item or purpose required to preserve quality of life. For further information please contact the Fund Administrator on 9287 3707 or mobile 0412 009 191.

Take Care till next time

Rosalind Howat
State Welfare Officer

ANZAC Club Breakfast

The new service has started off well with group bookings from some of the surrounding offices, starting their weekend with a Breakfast get together on the last day of work in the week. Many members may choose to take advantage of this new service before Friday shopping in the city - or before going on to other meetings in town.

The club is easily accessed by public transport links and, the fantastic price of just $12.50 is great value for a full cooked breakfast - where you choose the items you like form the servery including two types of eggs, giant bacon rashers, chipolatas, mushrooms, tomatoes and hash browns - all with plenty of toast and preserves and a selection of fresh sliced fruits. This is even better value when considering the deal includes a glass of orange juice and bottomless tea or freshly percolated ground coffee.

Group bookings are welcome - and as ever, the friendly staff at ANZAC Club look forward to welcoming you to YOUR CLUB soon.

MEDALS...MEDAL MOUNTING...MEDALS

The Regiment - Wally Dennison

MEDAL MOUNTING SERVICE

• All mounting traditionally hand stitched (no glue used at all)
• Full size, miniature medals, ribbon bars
• All replica full size & miniature medals supplied
• All medal mounting items supplied
• Ribbons, mounting bars, clasps of various types

Medal Mounting since 1987
Ex-regular Army, Member RSL

PHONE: (08) 9444 9553
YOKINE, PERTH

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Turning Back the Clock... It's Never too Late

During a four year follow up of the study participants, the researchers found that individuals who had adopted the four healthy habits were 40 per cent less likely to die and 35 per cent less likely to suffer from heart problems than those who did not adopt the beneficial habits.

Within these few short years, their level of risk was the same as for those people who had been conscious about their healthy habits all along. The improvement was also despite pre-existing health conditions including high blood pressure or cholesterol. And those studied experienced benefits even with modest changes to their health habits – but naturally, the more healthy habits you can adopt, the more you will benefit.

Many people in middle age don’t change because they think the damage is done but any positive changes can lead to a healthier, longer life… and surely that is worth giving a go?

Update on Care with RSL Care WA

The latest acquisition for RSL Care WA in Geraldton and its residents is a new upgraded Coaster bus to keep the residents and local community happy, mobile and social. A need arose for a new vehicle as the previous one was beginning to run up lots of downtime due to maintenance requirements following its busy 14 years of service to retirees and the aged and disabled members of the Geraldton community.

A substantial funding grant was applied for and approved by Lotterywest late last year which enabled the purchase to become a reality. The remainder of the money came from a contribution by RSL Care WA.

The bus will serve approximately 400 plus people in the Geraldton area, including members of the RSL Geraldton Sub Branch. RSL Care WA is continually committed to provide its residents with first class and up to date facilities, ensuring that premises and equipment at all locations is of the highest quality and well maintained.

Another source of great value for RSL Care WA is to provide efficient resources for staff members, so it was important to ensure that the bus drivers are able to operate a vehicle without concerns about it breaking down.

The bus was purchased and immediately modified with the installation of recessed tracking for secure wheelchair transport as well as the installation of rails for those users who need assistance with mobility. This ensures that all individuals can continue to have access to services that meet their choice and need and that they have reliable, safe and cost effective transportation.

The bus also provides some security for local veterans, the aged and those living with a disability to continue living independently, knowing the support is there for them to access transport when needed for essential activities such as banking and shopping.

Having safe and reliable access to transport will encourage involvement in community activities, therefore reducing social isolation, the associated health risks of social isolation and encouraging interaction for clients. Those that use the bus will continue to be involved in positive experiences and social interactions which will result in a higher quality of life due to the mental and physical activities that they will be involved in.

These experiences also mean that carers can have some respite whilst those that they care for are safe and enjoying some social time. The usage of the vehicle can change from week to week but is generally used for trips to parks, visiting local tourist attractions, visits to schools, morning and afternoon tea drives, shopping and banking trips and it is also used by the Village Social Committee.

For queries or further information regarding Village Living in Geraldton contact, Debbie Matthews on (08) 9964 1863.

Vietnam Cycling Challenge

Thank you so much for taking a moment to chat with me today. Here is a bit more information about the cycling challenge and I’ve attached a photo of myself with some of the gorgeous children who will be supported by the challenge.

In May of 2010, I had the opportunity to spend some time in Vietnam where I had the “difficult” job of visiting several orphans and schools where I got to play and spend time with beautiful children.

One of my tasks while I was there was also to prepare for the first-ever GVN Cycling Challenge, cycling over 500 km (310 miles!) to raise funds for these gorgeous children.

We ask all participants to raise USD$2,000 (excluding cycling trip costs) that goes directly to the non-profit GVN Foundation to support the projects in Vietnam.

Participants will challenge themselves to complete the journey in the April heat going from Ho Chi Minh City to Hoi An. Stops will be made to visit the orphans and schools where we are fundraising to assist and include a lunch with the kids and staff at the projects.

The purpose of the trip is to tackle and accomplish a difficult physical challenge but most importantly, make a huge impact on the lives of the community GVN works with. The money raised by participants will go towards:

- Education and meal programs for several orphanages
- Vietnamese teacher salaries to reduce class sizes and allow for better English lessons
- An emergency medical fund so when children have an accident or fall sick, they do not have to wait for treatment
- New medical equipment for children with disabilities, including wheelchairs and physiotherapy supplies to help those who need daily treatment

It would be wonderful to have the support of the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia and I was wondering if you would be willing to post information regarding the trip? We currently have a few more spots left to fill and I would love to have some Veteran family members involved! Our goal is to raise at least $20,000 for the children we work with in Vietnam and any support the Vietnam Veterans of Australia were able to provide would be appreciated.

If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact me! I will actually be out of the office for a few weeks but my coworker, Eliza Raymond will pass along any information to me. Thank you again for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

Caitie Goddard - Programs Development Coordinator - GVN Foundation
About 40 friends and family members attended the Fall of Singapore Remembrance Service held Monday 14 February at the POW Memorial, Kings Park. Five veterans, the youngest 88 years and remaining in their 90’s, attended this 69th anniversary which has been held annually, on a Monday closest to the 15 February since the men returned to Australia following the end of WWII.

The 2/4th was raised in Western Australia in 1941, primarily to support the ill-fated 8th Division. With Commanding Officer, Lt-Col. Michael Joseph Ankette, they were despatched from Darwin where they had completed 14 months training prior to being in Northam and Adelaide. The men were informed they would be granted leave in Fremantle before reaching Singapore. They sailed via Sydney on the ‘Aquitania’ where they picked up reinforcements (mostly with minimal training; some known to have a few weeks and others with no more than a few months) arriving in Fremantle on 15 January 1942 where they were to pick up further reinforcements and supplies.

With the worsening situation in Malaysia, their leave was rescinded. They were advised that during the Fremantle stopover no leave would be granted. Guards and sentries were posted to ensure instructions were carried out, but with rumours circulating and news stories high, there was a break-out as the tugs came alongside with reinforcements, water and supplies. Approximately 1,300 troops, including about half of the 2/4th who had been away from Western Australia and home for 6 months who had wives and children, broke ship and went ashore. It was a frightening experience for reinforcements who wondered whether they would embark or drown in the mayhem.

There are many stories of adventure now passed on to their families and shared between the few surviving veterans. The ‘Aquitania’ was due to sail at 1100 hours on 16 January. Shore patrols located and returned troops from Fremantle, Perth city and suburbs. Many were shepherded back from Fremantle harbour to transport returning to Gage Roads, some were restrained by MPs and imprisoned. About 650 returned during the early morning of the 16th.

Some 88 trained machine-gunners and support personnel of the 2/4th were kept behind bars as the ‘Aquitania’ sailed. It is not known who issued the orders that weakened the Battalion of its fighting strength. Amongst the reinforcements who embarked at Fremantle were 145 men for the 2/4th who had travelled overnight from Northam Army Camp (many troops with no more than two months training).

When the 2/4th arrived in Singapore on 24 January 1942 they numbered 932 and soon despatched to defend Singapore Island’s coastline. The 2/4th’s companies were deployed to different units mainly in the North West to prepare for the invasion. After days of air raids, the Japanese attacked on the night of 8th February, this battle was to last until the 15 February. With their close proximity to the coast the 2/4th suffered heavy losses during the seven days leading up to capitulation.

With 137 men killed or missing, 106 wounded and a further 24 suffering with shell-shock this accounted for almost 1/3 of the Battalion. Those who survived the battle were included in 15,000 Australians who became prisoners of war of Japan. In total, 130,000 men of this British led military campaign were taken prisoners of war.

This was the beginning of a further 3 ½ years of incarceration, with most of the 2/4th leaving Changi to work as slave labour in various parts of south-east Asia and Japan. By the end of the war, the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion had lost a further 263 men as prisoners of war.

Cheryl Mellor – Secretary – 2/4 MG Bn AssoC

WRAAC Association (WA) members, friends and sister services gathered at the Flame of Remembrance at the State War Memorial, King’s Park on Sunday 13 February 2011 for the service of remembrance on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of the formation of the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps.

The parade was under the direction of group captain Ian Petkoff, State Warden, Mr Phillip Skelton, Deputy State Warden and the Sub Wardens from the Highgate Sub Branch.

Ms Tess Leedham, association member, conducted the service. Mrs May Tomlich, President WRAAC Assn (WA), Mr Bill Gaynor, State President RSL WA and LTCOL David Jones, 13 Brigade, all laid wreaths. LCPL David Scott sounded the Last Post and Reveille; Mrs Hazel Donald, Vice President WRAAC Assn (WA) recited the ode.

All adjourned to AFME Bullerreek to partake in a tasty luncheon. Grace was said by MAJ Laurel Pearce. Miss Jean Pearce was our MC and kept the day flowing. Toasts were given by Mrs Dot Balcombe, Ms Tess Leedham, Mrs Hazel Donald and Mrs Edith McCAllister.

Entertainment was provided by Laurel Pearce, and Jean Pearce. Friendship and fellowship were enjoyed by all members and their partners and friends.

John Tomlich

WRAAC 60th Corps Day at State War Memorial

The Applecross RSL Sub Branch conducted a Memorial Service for the Australian Army Nursing Sisters aboard the SS Vyner Brooke on Monday 14 February at the Memorial situated at Point Walter Reserve, Bicton.

The “Vyner Brooke” had left Singapore on 12 Feb 1942 in the wake of the advancing Japanese Army, with 65 Australian Army Nursing Sisters and many civilians aboard. Two days later the ship was discovered by Japanese aircraft and bombed. Twelve nurses drowned after the attack. Twenty Two nurses, many of them wounded, landed on Bangka Island.

The group was found by Japanese soldiers and forced to walk into the sea and were shot. One nurse although shot fainted death, and later made her way ashore. She and the remaining thirty one nurses became prisoners of war for three and a half years. A further eight nurses died during this period of captivity.

A Memorial of trees around a small lake was dedicated in 1999. There is a large central plaque at the head of the lake and each tree has a plaque at its base which refers to one of the nurses aboard the ship. About 40 people attended the ceremony which paid tribute to all aboard the ship but in particular the nurses and their ordeal.

A tribute was also made to the nurses, who at the conclusion of WW1, volunteered to care for returning servicemen suffering from the Spanish Flu. Stationed at Woodman’s Point Quarantine Station, these nurses eventually succumbed to the disease.

Another tribute was made to the nurses aboard the hospital ship “Centaur” which was sunk by a Japanese submarine in 1943.

Many of those attending took the opportunity to lay a floral tribute.

Helen Pickering - Secretary
Sgt Michael Lydiard enters the Rottnest Island Swim

Sgt Lydiard was severely wounded in Afghanistan in 2008 by a Taliban Improvised Explosive Device (IED.) As a result of this action Sgt Lydiard lost an arm, fingers off the other hand, an eye, damaged the other eye and had some other significant blast and fragment injuries. He has been through a rehabilitation programme, resulting in him being able to obtain a level of fitness and mobility that astounds his carers and colleagues. He can still do 70 push ups on his one good arm!

This is a man who was back on the job teaching Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) 3 months after his IED wounded in action in Afghanistan.

Sgt Lydiard has competed in numerous charity events across Queensland, having recently taken part in the 8 mile Townsville to Magnetic Island swim raising funds for Legacy. His is an inspiring story and his determination and courage should inspire us all to live life to its fullest.

Legacy is to so many people a WW2 type organisation but of course it is still relevant to Australians today as our troops are in conflict across the globe. Legacy provides assistance and support to deceased personnel’s families.

On the weekend of 26 February 2011 Sgt Lydiard completed the Rottnest Island Swim with all sponsorship going toward Legacy.

Denis Connelly - Editor

Why We Cover Our Medals

In London on Armistice Day 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall, a funeral procession accompanying the remains of The Unknown Soldier, which had arrived from France the previous day, was to halt at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for interment.

The official party included the Empire's senior soldiers, sailors and politicians and as many Victoria Cross winners as could be assembled. The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guards Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including the Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that “No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are as nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice”.

From RSL National Website

Perth I Honoured at AWM

The muted bugle calls of the Last Post and Navy’s Reveille seemed strangely fitting as they sounded across the Hall of Memory at the Australian War Memorial on February 28.

They were sounded towards the end of the service commemorating the 69th anniversary of the loss of HMAS Perth I and seemed to reach across the oceans and distance of time and space.

More than 200 members of the HMAS Perth Association and family and friends joined four survivors of the ship – John Woods, Frank Chatterway, Frank McGovern and Gavin Campbell – Chief of Navy VADM Russ Crane and other distinguished guests at the service.

The service included a keynote address by journalist and author Mike Carlton who wrote the book Cruiser: The Life and Loss of HMAS Perth and her Crew, followed by the laying of wreaths and poppies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Hall of Memory, the bugle calls and the naval ode.

Veterans’ Voices, the ACT Vietnam Veterans’ Federation Choir, led the singing of the naval hymn, national anthem and the timeless hymn Abide with Me. CHAP Andrew Lewis, the Navy chaplain at the Australian Defence Force Academy, led the prayers.

Perth and the American cruiser USS Houston were lost in a short, gallant fight against overwhelming Japanese forces as they tried to break into the Sunda Strait (Indonesia) shortly before midnight on February 28, 1942.

Of Perth’s ship’s company of 681, 353 died with the ship. The survivors were sent to the infamous Thai-Burma railway and only 218 finally returned to Australia.

In his address, Mr Carlton said many of the crew were young men, still in their teens. They had sailed into an adult war “and performed magnificently”. “People say that they followed Navy tradition,” Mr Carlton said.

“I disagree. They didn’t follow traditions – they made them.”

Survivors and former prisoners of war Frank Chatterway and Frank McGovern summed up that view.

“We definitely would not want to go through a night like that or become prisoners of war again,” they said.

“But, that is what we did and we are proud we did.”

Andrew Stackpool – Navy News 17 March Edition
The Listening Post was recently privileged to receive some E-Mails that landed at ANZAC House and we thought that they should be shared with our readers.

The first E-Mail was sent to Mick Ryan (RAE Vietnam Veteran) from Alison Merchant.

Hello Mr Ryan,

Jamie and I sent off 24 care parcels this afternoon donations from our family, friends and work mates and 20 Christmas cakes donated by the South Perth-Burswood Rotary Club.

It was a wonderful feeling and it left me with grateful memories of all you and the RAEA members have done for my beautiful boy.

Thank you for sending me the email I will do it again next year.

Kind regards to you and all the RAEA members

Alison

As a result, Mick Ryan responds to Alison Merchant's E-Mail.

Alison,

That is an amazing gesture from you and your friends. Fine Australians all! It will be appreciated as much by our boys and girls over there.

That is an amazing amount of parcels. Please pass to your friends and the South Perth Burswood Rotary Club our admiration for this fine patriotic gesture. There will be some happy sappers this Christmas in TK.

Alison, it gives me great pride I can tell you to know that your son has turned out so well and is so proud of his heritage. In my mind's eye I can still see you and your then little fella as you came up to see me on ANZAC Day all those years ago. You were a bit shy and held back when you saw the crowd, the ceremony was over but when you and Jamie came forward, I felt we had to make this work, so the veterans reformer when I explained (no a grumble) and we went together, hand in hand, with a 6 pr 7 yr old boy and his Mum, and laid the wreath for grandpa. Not to many dry eyes there that day Alison as I remember! And then every year since. Great heart warming stuff. You can take a bow Alison, you did your family and all of us proud. We were only too happy to help out as Jamie went thru cadets etc. And now he can put us on the head! Don't they grow up so quickly. I hope that you carry this thru next year, you and your group will gain great pride in your actions and in the knowledge that your have made some of Australia's finest proud to call themselves sappers and Aussie diggers. The ANZAC tradition lives.

Please give my best to all concerned and I will give you and your children a big hug next year at the latest when we meet again at the RAE Memorial.

Follow The Sapper.

Mick Ryan OAM

RAEA WA

Mick Ryan then forwarded this E-Mail to some of his ex-colleagues in the RAE community. WO S Goodbody responds on behalf of the RAEA members.

Dear Alison,

I was in Afghanistan last Christmas as the Squadron Sergeant Major of the Engineer boys. I can't tell you enough what a difference these parcels make to all concerned over there. We managed enough care packages at Christmas time so that every one of my soldiers got one each, although I pinched all the Tim Tams and snakes. If it weren't for people like you and your organisation then it would be less of an experience to the fine young men and women we have over there at the moment.

I know how hard Christmas day will be for many of them overseas. I was Santa last year in Tarin Kowt and know how much I missed my family. Barring that, we still managed to have a good time with a great lunch.

Some of the boys on the out stations got a rocket attack which they are still talking about. And it was in the middle of a cricket game. I would imagine it will be one they will remember forever and thankfully no one got hurt.

Could you pass on my thanks to your organisation for the great work done.

I am posted to Perth next year so will look forward to thanking you in person.

Regards

Shawn Goodbody

The following letter was what started it all:

Hello Australian Soldier,

My son James is an Associate Member of the Royal Australian Engineers Association in Western Australia. James became a member as his Great Grandfather was a Sapper in WW2. We got in touch with these guys when James was just 6 years old and they not only taught us all we wanted to know about Grandad but they took us under their wing every ANZAC Day, as James

On Friday 4 March, the 24th Rotation of 13th Brigade farewell was held at Irwin Barracks at Karrakatta.

70 Army Reservists were farewelled to the Solomon Islands as part of Australia’s commitment to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

The reviewing officer was Major General Rick Burr DSC MVO with the Commander of the 13th Brigade, Brigadier Stephen Caim. Approximately 200 of the public were in attendance.

Denis Connelly - Editor

13th Brigade Farewelled

12 THE LISTENING POST April 2011

Care Parcels for Afghanistan

James and Alison Merchant wanted to march with them in memory of Grandad.

Well a few years down the track James wanted to join the Army Cadets and as I was a single parent at this stage and had both the children in private schools I was concerned that I could not afford it. Well to my surprise the RAEA sponsored James for his time in Cadets. Not only did he love this hobby he became one of WA’s top ranking Cadets. James is now 20 and is applying to be an Engineer in the ADF.

As James is a member of the RAEA we get numerous emails. Some are just for interest but the latest was a request for some packages to you beautiful people. James and I put the word around to a small handful of friends and to our surprise we were overwhelmed with the generous donations. We had no idea what to send to whom, so if you receive something you can’t use, please pass it on to someone that can.

Some of the wonderful people that have

Some of the people that have

could pass on their thanks to your organisation for the great work done.

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Denis Connelly - Editor
You meet people in the strangest places

You meet people in the strangest places. Geoff Trevor-Hunt OAM and Les Crowe members of the Port Kennedy branch along with their wives Philomena & Moira were at the small country show in Killarney Queensland recently and met the chief of the army Lt. General Ken Gillespie who was there to officially open this small town show. He does come from the area.

We had a great chat and a coffee with him and his ADC Captain Kane Wright. We congratulated him on his recent award and he commented that he has 4 to put around his neck and he is afraid to go on parade when it is wet as he might go rusty. He has a good sense of humour.

Philomena Trevor-Hunt

Congratulations all round to the RSL State bowls team which won the Dr Sydney Krantz Trophy at the Australian RSL Bowls Carnival in Adelaide for the second time in three years. They were runner-up in the other one.

The winning team was skipped by President Ian Marshall with Ray Bourne and Les Webb. Ron Prosser and Charlie Della Bosca alternated as leads for the series.

Congratulations also to WA RSL bowls veteran Les Webb on being awarded the Australian RSL Bowls Meritorious Service Award. Les has served on just about every position on the Australian RSL Bowls Council and the WA Bowls section.

A just reward for a long-serving tireless RSL bowls member.

You too can be part of a winning team. If you have a service number phone Max Plester on 9405 8991 or email: mplester@bigpond.net.au $20 will get you life membership. Cheap bowls, scintillating company and great prize money.

Philomena says she had found the Hyundai BIDET toilet seat years ago. “It’s marvellous” she says. “I’ve always wanted a BIDET in my bathroom. I had heard that a BIDET would assist me, as my arthritis and bad back had made going to the loo an onerous task. I had been held back by the cost and space required by a stand-alone unit”.

Mabel says her luck changed when she saw an ad in a paper a few months ago placed by The BIDET SHOP for the Hyundai BIDET toilet seat. It read, ‘This BIDET simply replaces your existing toilet seat and will automatically clean you without toilet paper’, and also it said you can install it yourself in minutes.”

After reading that, Mabel said she was so excited that she decided to call The BIDET SHOP to find out more about this BIDET supplied by Hyundai. She spoke to a gentleman called Stephen who explained that apart from the comfort factors of a heated seat and other great ideas incorporated into the BIDET, the Hyundai BIDET has many health benefits. He then said how the seat worked and pointed out that once you had finished doing your business, “You simply pressed the bottom wash or feminine wash button and the BIDET provides a stream of warm water to clean you thoroughly. The in-built fan then dries you off with warm air, without the need for toilet paper”.

Mabel said that although The BIDET SHOP offered to send out a brochure pack, she decided to order a Hyundai BIDET seat straight away. Well it arrived a few days later at no extra charge... She installed the seat herself easily and as she had been told, it fitted perfectly on her original toilet bowl.

Mabel said the Hyundai BIDET is the best investment she had made in her personal health and hygiene in years and no longer finds going to the loo an issue.

“Give it a go”, she says, “I did and I couldn’t be happier”.

For a full brochure and a price list, please call The BIDET SHOP on 1800 BIDETSHOP, that’s 1800 243 387 (freecall).
Nashos to gather to remember, commemorate, celebrate

Townsville will host what is shaping as Australia’s biggest reunion of National Servicemen in four days of celebrations and commemorations in September this year.

In a first for the organisation, Townsville City Council, with the support of the National Servicemen’s Association of Australia - Townsville and Districts branch as well as serving and ex-defence members, will host the reunion to mark the 60th anniversary of National Service.

The celebrations from September 8-11 will be recognised as the official commemoration of the anniversary and have similar national recognition to the celebrations of VP 50 and VP 60. Already, the event has attracted registrations are open!

Townsville will host Australia’s biggest reunion of National Servicemen with four days of celebrations.

The RSL Living History Project was in the Great Southern region from 14 to 18 February. Fleur and I visited the Gnawangerup, Albany, Denmark and Mt Barker Sub Branches to gather information on the history of the sub branches.

As well as visiting the Sub Branches we met with members of local history groups to piece together the activities the RSL was involved within the community.

The Great Southern Region contains some of the oldest Sub Branches in the League, space prohibits me from writing about all of the Sub Branches we visited so I will just mention two of the visits.

The contribution and sacrifice of National Servicemen right around Australia.

“We all have fond memories of the wonderful events of VP 50 and VP 60 in the city and with that sort of tradition there is no better host city for the Nashos’ national anniversary commemorations than Townsville,” Cr Tyrell said.

“There’s a lot of Nashos here in Townsville so it’s an opportunity for them to remember what they went through and it’s an opportunity for them to get together with old mates from right around Australia,” he said.

“We have a long and proud history as a garrison city so it’s fitting that the reunion should be held here.” The reunion will be held over four days from September 8 to 11 and will involve several events including a meet and greet, public concert featuring 1RAR band, a gala dinner dance, commemorative service, a march through the city centre and more. National Servicemen’s Association of Australia Townsville and Districts branch president Warren Hegarty said the Townsville event would most likely be the last reunion of its kind.

He said many viewed it as an opportunity to reflect and remember. “In Townsville alone our chapter has some 300 members,” he said. “An invitation is extended to all ex-National Servicemen, whether or not they are members of any service organisation, to attend one or all of the scheduled events.” Retired Brigadier Neil Weeke, the patron of the association’s Townsville branch and himself a Nasho, said all Nashos, partners, relatives and friends were invited to register and attend Australia’s largest event to mark the Nasho’s 60th Anniversary.

Those interested in attending or seeking further information should see council’s website at www.townsville.qld.gov.au or phone 4727 9000 and ask for the events and protocol team. For all accommodation and tour information is available through Barrier Reef Dive Cruise and Travel on (07) 4772 5800 or email bookdirect@divetcruisetravel.com.

Media information: 4727 9565.

Townsville City Council

REGRISTRATIONS ARE OPEN!

Townsville will host Australia’s biggest reunion of National Servicemen with four days of celebrations.

EVENTS INCLUDE:
» Meet and Greet
» Public Concert
» Dinner Dance
» Commemorative Service
» Parade
» Farewell BBQ

COSTS:
» National Service 60th Anniversary registration $50
» Dinner Dance $62

FOR MORE INFORMATION: www.townsville.qld.gov.au
07 4727 9000

Townsville City Council
IMPORTANT NOTICE:
The club will welcome all members and guests - Please remember that the Club does have a responsibility to comply with various licences and codes - and this means that at times, the capacity of persons in the club will reach the maximum number allowed. Please be aware that if the staff at the door do not permit you to enter the club at the time you would like, it is not a personal denial of entry - but represents the Club complying with its operating licences and safety regulations - and the cooperation and understanding of members and guests is appreciated.

ANZAC Day at the ANZAC Club

GUNFIRE BREAKFAST
After the Dawn Service - the traditional ANZAC Club Gunfire breakfast will be on as usual.
Starting at 0700 and served in the Club, members can enjoy a full “Cook Up” of Scrambled Eggs • Bacon • Sausages • Tomato • Hash Browns • Toast and Preserves • Tea or Coffee - for just $13.00.

ANZAC Club is now open for Morning Tea from 9.00am
Or Lunch from 11.30am 2.00pm
Come in and taste our new Chef Michael’s delicacies
Make sure you leave your Business Card at the bar to win a lunch for Four!
Drawn monthly by your favourite ANZAC Club Staff

ANZAC Day 2011
Gunfire Breakfast
Monday, April 25th

Post March
To cope with the increased demand on the club, we will have a very large capacity Marquee, licensed to sell Alcoholic beverages for the occasion. Unlike last year - this year the club will only sell and supply packaged products at the Marquee - this will speed up service at the dispense points. We will have three service points in the Marquee that will be adequately staffed for the day. This will mean that the delays and queue that were apparent at last years event will be avoided, as we will not be using Draught Beer equipment to dispense drinks - cutting down dramatically any delays experienced in obtaining service in the marquee.

Snacks like Fish and chips, and sausage rolls will also be available throughout the day in the Club - and these can be obtained from the kitchen Servery.

Any enquiries to be directed to
Matthew Holyday, ANZAC House Manager on 9287 3714
or anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au

They shall grow not old,
as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun...
and in the morning...
We will remember them.
“LEST WE FORGET”
ANZAC Day (11.00am)
The Parade will enter Esplanade Reserve off William St and form up on the Esplanade Reserve facing north. The service will commence at 11.00am.

Public Facilities
Seating for aged and disabled is available at the front of the stage and in the large covered areas on the reserve.
Toilet facilities will be available on both sides of the reserve.

CBD Parking
Some City of Perth open air carparks will be open on ANZAC Day. Fees will not apply at the following carparks between 6.00am -1.00pm: Terrace Rd, Point Fraser, Plain St. Thereafter standard carpark fees will apply.

Public Transport on ANZAC Day
Serving and ex-service personnel wearing service uniforms, campaign ribbons or medals can travel FREE on ANZAC Day.

Transperth InfoLine
(bus, train & ferry) 13 62 13 or
www.transperth.wa.gov.au
TTY (for hearing impaired) 9428 1999

City Road Closures

Kings Park Road Closures

ANZAC Day Service (6.00am)
Kings Park & Botanic Gardens
Conducted at the State War Memorial in Fraser Avenue.
Large screens have been erected to show archival footage and the Dawn Service.

The Dawn Service:
• Stand Fast - 6.00am
• Laying of Official Wreaths
• The Last Post
• Silence
• Reveille
• The Ode
At the conclusion of the Dawn Service an address will be delivered by Captain Brett Wolski, Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling.

Special Access
Parking passes are available for aged and disabled ex-service personnel. Passes can be obtained by phoning the RSL on 9287 3799.

Seating
Seats will be placed on the upper level of the Court of Contemplation for aged & disabled ex-service personnel. Entry is through the main entrance to the Flame of Remembrance.

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

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast
(7.00am – 9.00am)
Following the Dawn Service and preceding the ANZAC Day March, a Gunfire Breakfast will be held in Stirling Gardens in St Georges Tce (next door to Council House).
Ex-service personnel and the community are invited to attend and share the spirit of ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day March (9.30am)
Australian Defence Forces will step off from Langley Reserve followed by hospital and troop carrying vehicles.
Ex-service Contingents step off at 9.50am from the intersection of Barrack St and St Georges Tce, wheeling left at Barrack St, right onto The Esplanade road, left at William St and left onto The Esplanade Reserve.
The ‘Eyes-Right’ will be given at the saluting dais adjacent to the Esplanade Hotel. The Reviewing Officer is the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Dr Ken Michael AC.
**FORMING UP AREAS** - Please note change of parade route due to roadworks.

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<thead>
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<th>ANZAC DAY Provisional Order of March - Monday, 25 April 2011</th>
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<td>2. Defence RSVP (RAAF, Army, RAR)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>DEFENCE FORCES CONTINGENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3. RAN Band - WA Division</td>
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<td>4. Royal Australian Navy</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Australian Army Band Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Australian Army Pipes &amp; Drums Perth</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Australian Army</td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Churchlands Senior High School Marching Band</td>
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<td>9. Royal Australian Air Force</td>
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<td>10. WA Police Pipe Band</td>
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<td>11. WA Police</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Fire &amp; Emergency Services Authority</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. 7 Wing Air Force Cadet Drum Corps</td>
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<td>14. Australian Army Cadets</td>
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<tr>
<td>15. 7 Wing Australia Air Force Cadet</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>A</strong>. Town of Victoria Park Brass Band</td>
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<td>16. State Presidents of RSL, Naval Assoc &amp; RAAF Assoc of WA</td>
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<td>17. Returned Corps</td>
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<td>18. Returned Corps</td>
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<td>19. WWI Banners &amp; Victory Cross Recipient Banners</td>
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<td>20. Legacy Words</td>
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<td>21. Jaaps</td>
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<td>22. Hospital Car</td>
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<td><strong>B</strong>. Capital L. CONTINGENT</td>
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<tr>
<td>23. Perth Fortress Salvation Army Band</td>
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<td>24. Naval Assoc of Aus (NVA Section Executive)</td>
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<td>25. Naval Assoc (City of Perth Sub-Section)</td>
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<td>26. Fleet Air Arm Assoc of Aus-WA Division</td>
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<td>27. HMAS Perth National Assoc</td>
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<td>28. HMAS Brisbane Assoc</td>
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<td>29. HMAS Hobart Assoc</td>
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<td>30. HMAS Sydney Assoc</td>
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<td>31. RAN WMM Heavy Cruisers (HMAS Canberra,</td>
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<td>HMAS Australia, HMAS Sydney Shropshire)</td>
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<td>32. HMAS Wulrrak Assoc</td>
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<td>33. RAN Communications Branch Assoc</td>
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<td>34. &quot;M&quot; Class Destroyers</td>
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<td><strong>C</strong>. City of Perth Brass Band</td>
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<td>35. Tribal Glass Destroyers Assoc</td>
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<td>36. RAN Clearance Divers Assoc</td>
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<td>37. Far East Strategic Reserve (Naval) Assoc</td>
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<td>38. Victoria Logistics Support Veteran Assoc</td>
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<td>(ex-HMAS Sydney)</td>
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<td>39. Royal Australian Army Physical Trainers Branch</td>
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<td>41. Ex-WRANs Assoc</td>
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<td><strong>ARMY CONTINGENT</strong></td>
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<td>42. The Royal Agricultural Society of WA Brass Band</td>
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<td>43. RAN Band - WA Department</td>
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<td>44. 6th Aust Division Cavalry Regiment Assoc (WA)</td>
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<td>45. Royal Australian Armoured Corps Assoc (WA Branch)</td>
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<td>46. Royal Australian Armoured Corps Vietnam Veterans</td>
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<td>47. Royal Australian Artillery Assoc of WA</td>
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<td>48. 101 Field Battery</td>
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<td>49. 102 Field Battery</td>
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<td>50. 2/2nd Field Regiment Artillery Assoc</td>
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<td>55. Royal Australian Survey Corps Assoc</td>
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<td>56. Royal Australian Signals Assoc</td>
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<td>57. City of Perth Regiment Assoc (11th &amp; 2/11th AIF)</td>
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<td>58. 2/16th AIF Battalion</td>
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<td>59. 2/56th AIF Battalion</td>
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<td>63. 2/24th Battalion</td>
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<td>65. Perth Concert Band</td>
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<td>66. 2/3rd Machine Gunners Battalion Assoc</td>
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<td>67. 2/40th Machine Gun Battalion Assoc</td>
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<td>79. 8 RAR</td>
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<td><strong>G</strong>. Australian Army Band Perth</td>
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<td>82. 8/9 RAR</td>
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<td>84. Combined Commandos Squadron Assoc</td>
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<td><strong>H</strong>. City of Cockburn Pipes &amp; Drums</td>
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<td>96. Coastal Scottish Pipes &amp; Drums</td>
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<td><strong>K</strong>. The Returned Services League of Australia WA Branch</td>
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<td>97. Royal Australian Electrical &amp; Mechanical Engineers Assoc</td>
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<td>98. Military Police Association</td>
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<td>99. Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps Assoc</td>
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<td><strong>L</strong>. Churchlands Senior High School Marching Band</td>
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<td>101. Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps</td>
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<td>102. Australian Red Cross</td>
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<td><strong>AIR FORCE CONTINGENT</strong></td>
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<td>103. WA Police Pipe Band</td>
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<td>111. RAAF Police Assoc</td>
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<td>112. No. 3 Telecommunications Association</td>
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<td>116. No. 5 Squadron Ass</td>
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<td>117. Australian Air Force Cadets Branch RAAF Assoc</td>
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<td>118. Women’s Auxiliary Air Force Branch (WRAAF)</td>
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<td>119. WRAAF Branch</td>
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<td><strong>TRI-SERVICE CONTINGENT</strong></td>
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<td>121. BOCF Assoc</td>
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<td>122. Korea &amp; South East Asia Veterans Assoc</td>
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<td>123. National Malayas &amp; Borneos Veterans Assoc</td>
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<td><strong>J</strong>. Australian Army Pipes &amp; Drums</td>
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<td>124. Victorian Veterans Assoc</td>
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<td>125. Honouring Indigenous War Graves</td>
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<td>126. Australian Peacekeeper &amp; Peacekeepers’ Assoc</td>
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<td>127. Gulf War/Peacekeepers</td>
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<td>128. Defence Reserve Assoc</td>
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<td>130. University Navy R A Branch</td>
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<td><strong>ALLIED CONTINGENT</strong></td>
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<td>131. The Royal Agricultural Society of WA Brass Band</td>
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<td>132. New Zealand Returned Forces Assoc</td>
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<td>133. British Ex-Services Assoc &amp; Royal Military Police</td>
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<td>134. Royal Naval Assoc</td>
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<td>135. Royal Marines Assoc</td>
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<td>136. Guards Assoc</td>
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<td>137. Royal Green Jackets Assoc</td>
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<td>138. Airborne Forces Assoc of WA</td>
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<td>139. Australian-Korean Ex-Service men’s Assoc</td>
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<td>140. North American Veterans Unit</td>
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<td><strong>K</strong>. Churchlands Senior High School Marching Band</td>
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<td>141. Rhodesian Assoc</td>
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<td><strong>M</strong>. The Returned Services League of Australia WA Branch</td>
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<td>149. Sri Lankan Ex-Servicemen</td>
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<td>151. Relatives of Decased Veterans</td>
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<td>152. Police Rangers</td>
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<td>154. St John Ambulance Cadets</td>
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<td>155. Scouts</td>
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<td>156. Girl Guides</td>
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Donation to ANZAC House

ANZAC House received copies of the front pages of two of The West Australian that are quite significant to West Australia.

Mr Andrew Hogan from Purslowes and Chippers Funerals donated a framed copy of the front page of The West Australian first printed in April 1915 informing Western Australians that the naval bombardment of the Dardanelles had commenced. This print commemorates the 90th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing.

The other page that Andrew donated is headlined “The War Ends in Europe” and was first published in May 1945. This copy commemorates the 60th Anniversary of VE Day.

Written By • Denis Connelly
Andrew Hogan and Denis Connelly

National Servicemen’s Day 2011

On Monday 14 February National Servicemen in Western Australia commemorated the 60th Anniversary of the First Intake marching into camp in 1951. 287,000 were to follow them until National Service was closed down in 1972.

212 National Servicemen paid the ultimate sacrifice, 2 in Borneo and 210 in Vietnam. They were remembered in two Wreath Laying Ceremonies which were conducted in Perth. The first was at the State War Memorial with His Excellency the Governor Dr. Ken Michael AC in attendance. The Guest Speaker was Mr. Ben Wyatt MLA, Shadow Minister for Education. The second was at the State National Service Memorial at East Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch where the Guest Speaker was the RSL State President, Mr. W.E. Gaynor OAM RFD

Brian Pragnell – Secretary – National Servicemen’s Association

EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY’S LOSS

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

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

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

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

Special extras for RSL members:
• Free extra limousine
• No administration fee for immediate payment in full
• 5% discount on selected coffins

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

**ANZAC Day Commoditative March Protocols**

The Royal Artillery Association of WA invites all Gunners past and present to join them at the annual Dawn Service at Hobbs Artillery Park Karakatta at approximately 5.45 am. Please arrive no later than 5.30am. Photo ID will be required at the gate. This will be followed by a gunfire breakfast at 6.10am in the drill hall. Form up of the march in Perth will be at 9am at stand no.49 on ST Georges Tce between ANZAC House and Barrack St. Please remember to wear your beret.

All are invited to attend the ANZAC Day function at Hobbs Artillery Park after the parade.

Please contact John Blylevens on 0438 695 711 or Peter Mahoney on 0400 408 285.

Wendy Mahoney, RAA Assoc WA

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**ANZAC Day Services**

**Wanneroo – Joondalup**

The Dawn Service will commence at the Joondalup War memorial at 6 am at the Memorial off Grand Boulevard Joondalup. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. Parade beginning at 7 am at the Wanneroo War Memorial followed by Service starting at about 7-15 am at the Memorial off Civic Drive Wanneroo. A “gunfire breakfast” (morning tea) will follow immediately after the service. (Around 8-20 am.)

**Applecross**

The Applecross RSL Sub Branch will conduct an ANZAC Commemoration Service at the City Memorial, Melville Civic Centre, adjacent to the library, at 11am on Sunday 17 April. Those wishing to march should assemble at 10.30am at the Council car park off Almondbury Rd, for a short march to the saluting base. Members of Ex – Service, Unit and Kindred Associations and also members of the General Public are invited to attend, and to lay a wreath or flowers if they wish.

Enquiries may be made on 93303586 or 93648564.

**Belleview**

Sunset Service at Blackboy Hill on 24 April at 5.15pm. On April 25 a Dawn Service will be held at Blackboy Hill at 6.15am followed by a Memorial Service at Midland Railway Peace Memorial. At 12.15 there will be a parade leading to the Belleview Memorial Service that will commence at 12.30 at the Belleview RSL Memorial Garden.

**Fremantle**

Parade steps off at 10.15am from the Esplanade reserve. The parade will travel through the main streets of Fremantle and along the cappuccino strip where the salute will be taken. There will then be a short closing ceremony once the parade has returned to the Esplanade.

**Cockburn**

The Dawn Service which will be held at the Memorial Hall Cenotaph situated at the corners of Rockingham Road and Carrington Streets Hamilton Hill, commences with the Catafalque Party mounting the Cenotaph at 5:55am. The entire Service usually takes approximately 45 minutes and is followed by a community sausage sizzle and Gunfire Breakfast. The mid morning Parade and Service commences at 9:45am in the RSL car park situated at 73 Frederick Road Hamilton Hill. At 10:10am the parade commences. 10:30am is the commencement of the ANZAC Service for an expected 11:00am finish.

**Rockingham**

There will be a 6:00am Dawn Service held at The Village Green, corner Flinders Lane and Kent St, Rockingham. On completion of the Dawn Service, a Gunfire Breakfast will be served at the PCYC on Smythe Street, hosted by the Palm Beach Rotary Club. The parade will commence at 10:30am and will proceed along Rockingham Beach Road. At 11.00am the main Service starts.

For information on other services please visit www.rslwaq.org.au and follow the link for ANZAC Day Event.
The RAAF celebrated its 90th Birthday on Saturday 26 March at the State War Memorial in Kings Park.

The commemoration service was organised by the Royal Australian Air Force Association (WA Division) with approximately 150 ex-service personnel and people from the general public in attendance.

The keynote address was given by Wing Commander Russell Page (Senior ADF Officer, RAAF Base Pearce). Wing Commander Page gave a brief history of the fledging Australian Flying Corp from 1914 through major conflicts in which Australia has been involved up to the present day.

Wing Commander Page said that the RAAF continues to keep pace with today’s technology in aeronautical services.

Denis Connelly
Entries are now being sought for the biennial RAAF Heritage Awards for 2012. Since 1987, the Air Force has awarded prizes for works in the fields of art and literature through the Heritage Awards. They were established to encourage individuals to undertake original artistic and literary works that record and represent the range of Air Force activities since the formation of the service in 1921. The competition is designed to enhance the existing records of RAAF activities and to encourage interest in its heritage. In addition to the Art and Literature categories, the awards also include a Fellowship component, which encourages serious and sustained research in the field of RAAF history. The winner is required to produce a publishable manuscript within two years of the Fellowship being announced. Through the RAAF Heritage Awards, a substantial body of artworks has been added to the Air Force collection, which is displayed both publicly and throughout Defence facilities. A selection of these artworks, titled Our art, your heritage, will be showcased in an exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne from March 25 to May 28, 2011. For a number of weeks during the dark days of 1942, explosive charges were in place to carry out this task. Claude as a ‘living national treasure’. Speaking on behalf of her father, daughter Anne said: ‘Dad was always proud of his Navy service and considered it his other family. We are grateful for the Navy’s continued association with our father and family.’

**Claude Choules Navy Background**

A former Royal Navy World War I and Royal Australian Navy World War II veteran, Claude’s life has spanned the existence of the Australian Navy, which came into being on 1 March 1901, only two days before his birth.

Born in Pershore, England on 3 March 1901, Mr Choules joined the Royal Navy as a Boy in 1916, and served in the Naval Training Ship HMS Impregnable situated at Devonport dockyard. The Impregnable had been a 140 gun square-rigged wooden battleship prior to becoming a training ship.

In 1917, Claude joined the battleship HMS Revenge, Flagship of the First Battle Squadron. While serving in Revenge, Claude witnessed the surrender of the German Fleet at Firth of Forth in 1918, ten days after the Armistice and later the scuttling of the German Fleet, by the Germans, at Scapa Flow.

In 1918, Claude joined the battleship Valiant with the Mediterranean Fleet between 1920 and 1923. A subsequent posting saw him stand by the construction of the RN’s first purpose-built aircraft carrier HMS Eagle, which was followed by a two year posting as a Petty Officer onboard Eagle, again in the Mediterranean Fleet.

In 1926 along with eleven other
Australia Day Activities

It may have been a bit cold and wet but that didn’t stop soldiers from enjoying Australia Day in Afghanistan.

The celebrations included a traditional barbeque lunch and a cricket match which saw the officers and senior non commissioned officers take on the junior soldiers. The older, more experienced team won on the day. Aussie Rules handball and rugby passing competitions were held and an AFL marking contest proved to be a hit in the afternoon. A volleyball tournament was also organised with teams from Australia, America, The Netherlands, Slovakia and Afghanistan. The Afghan team won this year’s title.

Defence News
**NATO Medal Notice**

Defence Support Group has provided clarification about the awarding and wearing of foreign decorations presented to ADF personnel deployed on Operation Slipper. They are the NATO Medal with Clasp ‘ISAF’ (International Security Assistance Force) and the Dutch Medal of Peace Operations.

In 2007, CDF accepted the offer for award of the NATO Medal with Clasp ‘ISAF’ to ADF members who served in Afghanistan from June 1, 2003, in support of the ISAF. Since then, there have been a number of issues in the interpretation of the eligibility criteria, particularly regarding whether qualifying service is over a single tour or multiple tours.

NATO has advised that the qualifying period for the medal is 30 days continuous service or accumulated within the Afghanistan Area of Operations (AAO) within a single tour. Aircrew will accumulate one day’s service for the first sortie flown on any day within the AAO. Additional sorties on the same day will receive no further credit.

The Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A) acknowledges that this is an issue affecting ADF members who cannot accumulate 30 days over a single tour. However, as the medal is a foreign award, DH&A & does not have any authority to determine eligibility outside of these criteria.

NATO’s Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe is responsible for assessment and issue of the medal. There have also been some issues regarding the issue of the Dutch Medal of Peace Operations that is being awarded by the Netherlands to selected ADF personnel who served under Dutch Command in Afghanistan.

Under Australian policy, only one foreign award may be accepted and worn for a single operation. As the NATO medal has been accepted as the official foreign award, members who have received the Dutch medal may not formally wear it. Members may retain the medal but it will not be listed in PMekeys. The Netherlands government is aware of the policy.

For more details on eligibility, contact DH&A on 1800 111 321.

Army News – 3 March 2011

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**Hall of VCs a Must See**

Cpl Roberts-Smith is still coming to terms with his new-found fame and being recognised on the scene. When asked about his future, he said rumours he planned to undertake officer training were untrue.

“That floated recently in the papers, I don’t even know where that came from,” Cpl Roberts-Smith said. “I’m going to keep being a patrol commander – it’s the best job in the Army.”

The Hall of Valour honours the 98 Australians who have received the highest award for bravery in the time of war. The AWM holds 63 of the 98 VCs awarded to Australians, including the two most recently awarded to SASR members Cpl Donaldson and Roberts-Smith. It also holds three British medals in its collection.

Two platoons from Kapooka in the middle of their basic training were surprised when they arrived for their scheduled historic tour and met the VC trio at the Hall of Valour.

Ree Joe Dooley said it was great to read about the soldiers who had served before him and what they did to earn their medals.

“It was inspirational meeting [the recipients] in person and knowing what they have done,” Ree Dooley said. Governor-General of Australia Quentin Bryce officially opened the Hall of Valour at an evening function.

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**Ready for WA Works**

Soldiers from 19 CE Wks will lead this year’s Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program (AACAP) at Fitzroy Valley in Western Australia, 400km inland from Broome. Troops from 6 Bde, 5 Bde and 17 Bde will join them in Rotation 18 of AACAP to provide health support and training local communities in safe food preparation and small engine maintenance.

Project engineer Capt John Thur good said construction would take place from May to October while the health and training components would be delivered from the start of June to the end of July. Capt Thurgood said the program would help close some of the gaps in the standard of infrastructure in the remote communities. “In the Bayalu community, the current health clinic is in disrepair so we’re building a new clinic that saves residents from going to town to go to a hospital,” he said.

“In Joy Springs there are currently 12 houses and we’re building another four, increasing their housing by 25 per cent so that is a significant increase.” He said Norforce soldiers would be joining the project to overcome any language barriers and to help mentor indigenous trainees.

Engagement with the applicable regional force surveillance unit has proven highly successful in the past. Capt Thurgood said members of 6 Engineer Spt Regt were being granted a respite from AACAP this year and 19 CE Wks would take command, with contractors undertaking the construction.

“This is really good training for the work we do overseas in Afghanistan and Timor – working in a remote area where it is hard to get stores in, it’s a similar environment.” The task allows 6 Bde units, and others, to practise and develop population support and indigenous capacity building. AACAP is a cooperative initiative between Army and the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs to improve environmental health conditions within remote Aboriginal communities.

Spr Nick Wiseman – Army News – 3 March 2011

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**Third Battalion RAR**

2011 marks the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong. Significantly, this year also marks the last year that the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment will commemorate the battle at Kapyong Lines, Holsworthy Barracks, before moving to Townsville in December 2011.

To commemorate this event, the 3rd Battalion of the Royal Australian Regiment will hold a ceremonial parade and luncheon on Sunday 24 April 2011 at Kapyong Lines, commencing at 10:30 am for 11:00 am and concluding at approximately 3.00 pm.

I wish to extend an invitation to you, the members of your organisation, and their families, on behalf of ‘Old Faithful’, to attend the parade. It is intended for the Governor-General, Minister for Defence, Chief of the Defence Force and the Chief of the Army to attend the Parade.

There is also a standing invitation for all past Soldiers, Senior Non Commissioned Officers and Officers to attend functions at their respective messes on the evening of the parade.

Inquiries regarding the parade or mess functions should be directed to my Adjutant, Captain Alexander Rubin on email: alexander.rubin@defence.gov.au or ring (02) 8782 2200.

It should be noted that individual invitations are not required for attendance. The parade is open to all members of the public and an RSVP is not required. It would be useful, however, for those planning to attend their respective mess functions to inform the Adjutant for catering purposes.

Lieutenant Colonel - Commanding Officer – 3rd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment

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**Valour Hall a Must See**

Benjamin Roberts-Smith has loaned his medal to the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra for future display. Cpl Roberts-Smith visited the AWM on February 21 to help unveil the redesigned Hall of Valour alongside fellow VC holders Cpl Mark Donaldson and Keith Payne.

He said the Hall of Valour was inspirational and should be seen by all Australians. “You look up to these people and see what they’ve done,” he said. “There is a piece of every major conflict here and to go through the Hall of Valour and sequentially read from the first VC through to Afghanistan, this allows people to pay respects to all soldiers and what they’ve done for Australia.”

As for loaning his VC to the AWM, Cpl Roberts-Smith said he believed it belonged to the Australian public. “As a child I used to love roaming the AWM and looking at the displays, especially the VCs, and I think it’s important that the youth of today get to see them.”

Army News – 3 March 2011

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**Honoured: VC recipients Keith Payne, left, Cpl Mark Donaldson and Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith at the opening of the redesigned Hall of Valour at the Australian War Memorial. Photo by Cpl Mark Donald**
In January this year WO1 Trudy Casey was appointed as 1RTB’s first female RSM. With a proud history as ‘Home of the Soldier’, 1RTB has had females in most of the command positions, but not as the RSM. Previously posted as RSM ICSR, WO1 Casey said it was an honour to be Kapooka’s RSM and it was certainly the highlight of her career.

“It was just an absolutely amazing opportunity, and I would not be here today if I hadn’t started my career to become an RSM at the corporal level by coming here as an instructor,” WO1 Casey said.

“I’m proud to represent female soldiers, even though gender doesn’t play a big part in the position.” WO1 Casey was born in Gosford, grew-up in Woy Woy on the NSW Central Coast and enlisted as a movements operator in September 1990 when she was 17. Since then, two deployments to East Timor and two to the Middle East have given her a wealth of knowledge and experience.

WO1 Casey said she had gained inspiration from many of her mentors throughout her military career and said her first CO, Col Rose Vivian, was someone she looked up to.

“I believe a good leader is someone who is firm and fair,” she said.

“They are approachable, will listen and at all times have the soldiers’ best interests at heart.” WO1 Casey said the younger generation of soldiers were very motivated and keen to join the Army and serve their country.

“A good soldier is someone who is self-motivated, shows a lot of honesty and integrity and can work as part of a team,” WO1 Casey said.

“I would urge anyone who wants to enhance their own abilities or have an influence on Army’s future-soldiers to become an RSM at the corporal level and it was certainly the highlight of my career.”

From Army News 17 March Edition

Setting the Pace

Australia Day 2011 was a special day for the Quinns Rocks RSL Sub Branch as one of our members, Mr Brian Pragnell, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal.

Our Sub Branch is extremely proud that someone in our midst was recognized for his efforts in the community. Mr Pragnell has varied interests in our community and his hard work and dedication has been recognised for many years of volunteer work.

Twenty six members of the Sub Branch were there to help him celebrate his moment to shine. Among the members were John Quigley JP LLB MLA, member for Mindarie, and Tracey Roberts, Deputy Mayor of the City of Wanneroo.

Sandy Worsfold – Welfare Officer Quinns Rocks

Premier’s ANZAC Student Tour Group Visit ANZAC House

On Tuesday 8 March, the 2011 Premiers ANZAC Tour finalists, along with their supervisors Martin King and Sarah Bolland and tour coordinator Rob Cleaver, attended ANZAC House for lunch and a tour. The students were met by Mr Bill Gaynor, RSL WA President and several other RSL representatives. The purpose of the visit was to familiarise the students with the RSL and its relevance to their upcoming tour to Greece and Crete. The students were shown photographs and other memorabilia that are part of the RSL WA archives at ANZAC House. To find out more about the tour please visit www.det.wa.edu.au

Australian War Memorial

The Battle of Kapyong was a major battle fought over the three days and nights of 23–25 April 1951. Following the collapse of a South Korean division to their north, the 3rd Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR), and the 2nd Battalion, Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry (2PPCLI), supported by American tanks, and a New Zealand artillery regiment, bore the brunt of a large Chinese offensive that was directed towards seizing the South Korean capital Seoul.

On the night of 23 April the Chinese 354th Regiment attacked the Australian battalion on Hill 504. The Chinese had used the retreating South Korean troops to cover their advance and infiltrate into the defensive area established by the Commonwealth brigade. The battle started at about 21.30 that night, under a bright full moon, when an attack was made against an American tank platoon. Within several hours the first of many Chinese assaults were made on the forward companies of 3RAR. The attackers bravely came forward and showered the Australians with grenades as a prelude to closing onto the defender’s positions. The Chinese assaults kept coming and both A and B Companies dealt with successive massed attacks; no sooner had one been beaten off with Bren Gun, rifle and sub-machine gun fire than another would materialise. The battalion headquarters also spent a desperate night dealing with numerous enemy attacks.

With dawn came more Chinese attacks on the battalion headquarters and throughout the day fighting continued as the Australian sought to regain ground lost or abandoned earlier in the battle. Towards the end of the day, however, it was clear that the hard pressed Australian battalion, having surved numerous casualties, and running low on supplies, would have to conduct a fighting night time withdrawal on the night of 24 April. That night the Chinese attacks continued and fell mostly on 2PPCLI, which was holding ground to the west of 3RAR’s original position. The fighting petered out on 25 April as British and American reinforcements bolstered the Canadian defence.

For their remarkable actions at Kapyong 3RAR, 2PPCLI and the supporting American tank company were all awarded the US Presidential Unit Citation. It has become one of the famous actions of Australians in Korea and Kapyong Day is marked as 3RAR’s regimental day. An aspect of the battle is the subject of a diorama in the Memorial’s ‘Conflicts 1945 to today’ gallery and the Korean War will be the subject of major international conference being held at the Memorial on 6 October 2011.

Everyone’s a Hero

seventy years of an amazing hospital

To purchase a copy of the book email enquiry.hph@ramsayhealth.com.au or visit the main reception at Hollywood Private Hospital

All profits from the sale of the book will go to the Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation.

Hollywood PRIVATE HOSPITAL

Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation
Seeking Relatives of David John Simcoок

We are seeking relatives of David John “Pink Top” Simcoок regimental no. 951 who served in the 11th Battalion. Some documents have been delivered to ANZAC House, we believe that they should be with his relatives.

If you are a member of the Simcoок family of Derby St West Leederville (Circa 1907) please drop into ANZAC House with suitable identification to collect your family documents.

Denis Connolly

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86 Transport Platoon Reunion – 2012

This unit being one of the biggest to have served in Vietnam outside of the battalions is holding a reunion in April 2012 at Port Stephens (NSW). The Reunion is to commemorate 40 years end of deployment

Contact: Raymond Davis (Chairman) 02 94761038 or email: academy077@yahoo.com.au
Visit our website: www.86transportreunion2012.com

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Golden Re-Union: 3rd Intake RAN Junior Recruits (50th Anniversary)

We are calling all of the young men of the 3rd Intake of the HMAS LEEUWIN Junior Recruit Scheme to assemble with their wives and partners and join together again to relive those momentous times back in 1961. We are asking that you bring with you the memories and mementos of your time in that first year of the remainder of your life. We wish for you to share these with your fellow JRs and renew old friendships at the 50th Golden Reunion planned for the 8th – 10th July 2011 at the RSL Club Marooychydore, Sunshine Coast in Queensland. See http://3rdleeuwinn reunion2011.org/

Contact: Ross Wiseman

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RAN Battle Class Social Club Annual National Reunion – Hobart 2011

Open Invitation to all ex naval personnel & family.

Reunion will be from September 29th until October 2nd 2011 at the Hobart Macquarie Hotel, Macquarie Street, Hobart. $135.00 per couple including full buffet breakfast plus $ 55.00 per head for Registration & Saturday Dinner which includes pre dinner drinks

For Further Information on Membership or Reunion please contact Geoff (Wiggy) Bennett on (03) 9532 3672 or Fax: (03) 9532 3672 Email: benhun@bigpond.net.au or chjoemon@southcom.com.au
Sponsored by RAN Battle Class Social Club

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Len Martin

I am trying to locate a Vietnam Veteran by the name of Len Martin who I think now resides in Western Australia. Len is a past teacher of Bairnsdale Technical School and we are planning a reunion to be held on the 16th April. My association with Len goes back to our childhood when we lived in Dandening so it would be great to catch up with him. I can be contacted by phone on 0351 568394, mobile 0417753883 or wsmyth@sky mesh.com.au

Wally Smyth

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VENDETTA (1958-79)

A Dedication Ceremony for the HMAS VENDETTA (1958-79) Commemorative Plaque will be conducted at the Australian War Memorial (AWM) on the afternoon of Friday 14th October 2011.

The plaque will be cast in bronze to the pre-determined standards of the AWM. The plaque will be placed alongside those of other Navy, Army and RAAF Service Units in the Western Courtyard of the AWM. This new plaque will join the Scrap Iron Flotilla plaque featuring the same named ship HMAS Vendetta (1933-45).

The Plaque will commemorate the Service of the Destroyer and her crews in Malaya, Singapore, Borneo, FESR and Vietnam between 1958 and 1979. The Chief of Navy has been invited to unveil the HMAS VENDETTA Plaque in the presence of the Destroyer’s surviving crew members along with their families and the group will join together again to relive those momentous times back in 1961.

For further information please contact Ross Pearson – (02) 9416 1445

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Medal Found

I am in possession of a “The Great War for Civilisation 1914-1919” medal. Stamped on the outside edge is “4856 Pe J. McIntrye 48 BN AIF”. I wish this medal to go to a living descendant of this soldier.

Please contact Ernie Rayner on (08) 9898 559

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National Malaya & Borneo Veteran Assoc
Australian, New Zealand, Malayan and Allied Commonwealth Forces or Malayan Auxiliary Units reunion. For further information please contact either Bill Adamson on 9295 5354, Terry Decke on 9026 4424 or Jan Huscha on 9409 9483

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All Ranks Naval Reunion

The first All Ranks National Reunion will be held in 2011 and bi-annually thereafter in different cities across Australia. I have volunteered to be the custodian of all future records so anytime a state wishes to have a reunion I will follow the data. As your personal details change for example leaving the Navy changing emails, moving home etc I ask you to keep me informed.

So please send the following information to me. Full name, nickname, full address, phone number, Email, how long you were in the navy, a brief story and your rank.

Mr John Hogg - 10/6-12 Hindmarsh Ave North Wollongong, NSW 2500 Phone: 02 42280915 - johnhogg@nsm.com

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Help a Student

Do you know of any RAAF families - your own or others – who might be eligible for student financial assistance from RAAFWA Educational Patriotic Fund?

Eligibility as a ‘RAAF family’ requires only that the student has a parent, grandparent, or other close family member (living or dead) who is serving, or has served, in the RAAF.

There is no specific income limit but, of course, grants are decided on actual circumstances and are limited to those families most in need.

If you think that such a student might be eligible for financial assistance contact:

The Secretary - RAAFWA Educational Patriotic Fund Inc - PO Box 117 JAMISON ACT 2614 – (02) 6251 1994

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Men’s Shed Conference Coming To Brisbane

The Queensland Men’s Shed Association Inc (QMSA) is hosting the Australian Men’s Shed Association (AMSA) National Conference on 21 to 23 August 2011 at the Brisbane Convention Centre. The theme of the conference is “Men in Sheds – Building Communities”. There will be three main themes of the conference;

- Innovations for running a successful Shed in your community
- Men’s Health Issues – Are you managing your own health risks
- Exploring the potential for Men’s sheds in Indigenous communities


The conference is aimed at community organisations who are interested in starting a men’s shed in their area. The health and social benefits are well documented and complements the DVA men’s health initiative.

Bruce Turnbull Secretary - QMSA

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The Wounded Digger Website

The Wounded Digger website has now been launched on the Internet

The website aims to provide serious casualties and their families with a wide range of information on support organisations and the rehabilitation process.

The site is a directory of information that seeks to provide education, interaction and networking for injured or ill members, their families and other key stakeholders.

The Wounded Digger Website was a request made by wounded Army personnel. It became clear at the Wounded Diggers Forum in Canberra on 29 March 2010, that a website was required to assist members and their families to better access support services.

For further information please go to: http://www.army.gov.au/woundeddigger/

Ted Hawkins
VETERANS CHILDREN EDUCATION SCHEME ELIGIBILITY - DID YOU KNOW?

A Vietnam Veteran’s dependant may be eligible for the Veterans Children Education Scheme (VCES), even if the Veteran is not receiving a disability pension at the Special Rate (TP). A dependant is a student aged under 25 who is in the Veterans care - this includes grandchildren, step-children and foster children.

If you would like more information, please call the VA National Line on 133 254 and ask for the VCES State Secretary or contact your local DVA. VCES Direct or email vces@dva.gov.au

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**Can you help locate this Old Sailor?**

I’m trying to locate a naval personnel named KEITH REGINALD JOHNSON who according to the Australian Army Payroll Index was in the navy and his number is R106741. He joined in 1969 for 12 years as a Clearance Diver. He travelled to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.

We went to school in Warwick, UK. He left for Australia on an assisted passage in 1966 with his family and lived at 180 High St, East Glenelg, Adelaide. I am sorry if this appears an imposition, but I would dearly like to be re-united with his family.

If you are able to help please contact

Pat Amos direct at email address: pat_r41@yahoo.co.uk

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**Hellfire Pass Podcast**

For the first time, the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum are bringing the Podcast over to the DVA website. The guide was previously only available at the museum itself in Thailand.

The museum site incorporates part of the Burma-Thailand Railway and is dedicated to the Allied Prisoners of War (POW’s) and Asian workers who suffered and died in the Asia-Pacific region during the Second World War.

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**Calling F-111 Fuel Tank Maintenance Workers**

If you are a former F-111 fuel tank maintenance worker and haven’t contacted DVA in the last few months, please check to see if you are eligible for compensation and health care. For more information visit the F-111 website.

If you were involved in F-111 fuel tank maintenance and associated tasks, between 1973 and 2000 we want to hear from you on 1800 555 323.

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**Information for Australians Attending Overseas ANZAC Day Services**

Australians planning to travel to Gallipoli, Turkey, or Villers-Bretonneux, France, for ANZAC Day commemorations in 2011 should register online to receive important updates.

The Gallipoli registration service provides tips on what to bring and what to expect. The France registration service provides updates to arrangements including changes to commemorations or in the event of an emergency.

To register for Gallipoli visit www.gallipoliregistration.org or for France visit www.franceregistration.gov.au

For more information on ANZAC Day services in Gallipoli or France visit www.dva.gov.au/ANZAC.

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**104th San Jon National Reunion**

4-6 Nov 2011 at Twin Towns Services Club on the Gold Coast.

Full details and committee contact info on the special reunion web site at http://2011.104sanjon.org

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**Readers Survey**

To all those readers that took the time and effort to return your ‘Readers Satisfaction Survey’ - Thank you

Denis Connelly, Editor

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**Memorials Built in Caravan Parks**

I am a Vietnam Veteran and I have been involved in the building of a Memorial inside the Caravan Park at 80 Mile Beach which is located 360km south of Broome, and 280km north of Port Hedland. I am interested in any information anyone can give me of any other Memorials which have been built in any caravan parks around Australia.

Any feedback can be directed to Dennis Connolly at Raycormiles@gmail.com.

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**Bowel Cancer Month**

June is Bowel Cancer Month and you can receive $150 to help raise awareness.

Cancer Council Western Australia would like to invite RSL Clubs to apply for a 2011 Bowel Cancer Education Community Grant. The grant can be used to host an event within your community in June to raise awareness and share important information about bowel cancer, Australia’s second most common cancer.

Successful grant recipients will receive Cancer Council resources, a speaker and $150 to go towards an event, catering, venue hire or fun activities for the bowel cancer event (and the bowel cancer event only).

We encourage people to be informative and come up with new activities to get people involved. A group last year went dragon boating to encourage an active lifestyle before a speaker arrived to educate them about the latest bowel cancer information.

The grant allows people to get accurate information about bowel cancer prevention, risk factors, screening and treatment, within a relaxed environment and with people from their community.

We are encouraging everyone to apply for the grant, and applications need to be in by April 29. If you would like to apply for the grant please email Alzya at ahodhalden@ cancerwa.asn.au to receive your application package.

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**Natural Disaster Assistance**

If your circumstances have recently changed, please don’t hesitate to contact DVA to discuss your personal situation or seek help.

Property insurance – Veterans who have their property insured with Defence Service Homes Insurance and have property affected by a natural disaster are encouraged to contact their local customer service officer on 1300 552 662.

Natural disaster assistance payments – call Centrelink on 180 2266 seven days a week, 8am to 8pm local time.

DVA payments (including lump sum advance and crisis payments) – call DVA to discuss your circumstances.

Veterans’ Affairs Network (VAN) offices – to contact your local office about any queries or concerns you may be having regarding DVA payments and support, or if you need help connecting with local support networks in your area call 1300 555 254.

The VVCS Veterans and Families Counselling Service – provides supportive, confidential counselling to veterans and their families. The VVCS can be contacted on 1800 011 046, 24 hours a day.

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**HMAS Bataan Veterans Association of New South Wales**

The Reunion will be held at Frankston Victoria on Thursday 8th until Sunday 11th September 2011. Our National President Joe Flaherty invites all our Bataan Veterans. Further details on the itinerary & accommodation are available. Tribal Class Veterans from Australia, Canada and New Zealand are invited to join us. Contact: the National Secretary - John E. Flaherty JP, 36 Tamarama Rd, Maroubra NSW 2035 Ph. 0419 334 535 Email: johnnfl@aapt.net.au

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**Do You Suffer From Tinnitus?**

Have you experienced any prolonged ringing, buzzing, or other sounds in your ear(s) or head more than once a week lasting for 5 minutes or longer in the past year?

If you answer YES to this question, are 18 years of age or older and in good general health, UWA and the Ear Science Institute Australia are interested in your participation in a study on tinnitus.

The total time commitment for the study is approximately 45 minutes. If you would like to take part in this study the study (online or by paper survey). Please contact Natalie Carmody at natalie.carmody@earscience.org.au or 6580 4926.

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**Hear Fibre**

Ladies vintage sewing patterns. I am interested in patterns from the 1950’s era, but am also interested in any from the 1930-1970’s. Please contact Caitlin – 0416 322 366.

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**WANTED!**

WANTED!!!

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**National Seniors Australia (NSA)**

The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated (RSL) Superannuated Commonwealth Officers Association WA Inc. (SCOA) Western Australia Self-Funded Retirees Inc. (WASFI) Ron de Gruchy

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**New Group to Represent Seniors**

An organisation has been born in WA with the main objective being to represent Seniors in their desire for improved conditions from Government.

Several years ago, the WA Seniors Consultative Forum (WASCF) was formed from representatives from 7 different national organisations all meeting on a regular basis. Since the early formation of this group, 3 organisations have chosen to go their separate ways, but 2 other groups have joined up.

It is recognised that some organisations have a stronger focus on certain areas than others, however, it is also recognised that there are many common elements (eg Aged Care, transport, pensions etc.) that are common to all. The WASCF focuses on the issues that are of equal interest to all the member organisations in the group.

It is worthy of note that similar ‘umbrella’ organisations also exist in other States/Territories. There is unquestioned benefit in the various organisations joining forces when an approach is being made to Government. The Forum meets quarterly and has already made submissions to the State Government, both in writing and by member visitations. Any comments/questions may be addressed to any of the organisations at 9447 1519 or email liegruchy@bigpond.com.

The organisations currently in this group are: Australian Pensioners & Superannuants League WA Inc. (APSL) Australian Veterans’ Association (VAN) offices – to contact your local office about any queries or concerns you may be having regarding DVA payments and support, or if you need help connecting with local support networks in your area call 1300 555 254.

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**Properties Insurance**

Veterans who have their property insured with Defence Service Homes Insurance and have property affected by natural disaster are encouraged to contact their local customer service officer on 1300 552 662.

Natural disaster assistance payments – call Centrelink on 180 2266 seven days a week, 8am to 8pm local time.

DVA payments (including lump sum advance and crisis payments) – call DVA to discuss your circumstances.

Veterans’ Affairs Network (VAN) offices – to contact your local office about any queries or concerns you may be having regarding DVA payments and support, or if you need help connecting with local support networks in your area call 1300 555 254.

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**Can you help locate this Old Sailor?**

I’m trying to locate a naval personnel named KEITH REGINALD JOHNSON who according to the Australian Army Payroll Index was in the navy and his number is R106741. He joined in 1969 for 12 years as a Clearance Diver. He travelled to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.

We went to school in Warwick, UK. He left for Australia on an assisted passage in 1966 with his family and lived at 180 High St, East Glenelg, Adelaide. I am sorry if this appears an imposition, but I would dearly like to be re-united with his family.

If you are able to help please contact

Pat Amos direct at email address: pat_r41@yahoo.co.uk

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**Hellfire Pass Podcast**

For the first time, the Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum are bringing the Podcast over to the DVA website. The guide was previously only available at the museum itself in Thailand.

The museum site incorporates part of the Burma-Thailand Railway and is dedicated to the Allied Prisoners of War (POW’s) and Asian workers who suffered and died in the Asia-Pacific region during the Second World War.

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**Calling F-111 Fuel Tank Maintenance Workers**

If you are a former F-111 fuel tank maintenance worker and haven’t contacted DVA in the last few months, please check to see if you are eligible for compensation and health care. For more information visit the F-111 website.

If you were involved in F-111 fuel tank maintenance and associated tasks, between 1973 and 2000 we want to hear from you on 1800 555 323.
The nicotine therapy business has flourished with patch smoking-caused disease. Indigenous patients in 2007 because of their high incidence of the habit to 10% of the population. The smoking rate in Australia is 16%. Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, said the $50 million subsidy, a full course. Now those on pensions will pay about $20 and others about $100 for a 12-week course of patches.

Reporting in The Age, Mark Metherell says that while drug companies normally fight to secure Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) subsidies for their prescription products, the breakthrough for nicotine therapy has come only after a campaign by health groups.

Health Minister, Nicola Roxon, said the $50 million subsidy, the patches would help coax many Australians to quit, cutting costs to smokers trying to quit.

Nicotine patches now cheaper for pensioners
Nicotine patches will now qualify for full pharmaceutical benefits subsidy status, reducing their cost by hundreds of dollars to smokers trying to quit.

Looking upon this quiz as stopping the onward march of Alzheimer's Disease!

Sudoku

Hard Sudoku

Anti smoking patches now cheaper for pensioners
Nicotine patches will now qualify for full pharmaceutical benefits subsidy status, reducing their cost by hundreds of dollars to smokers trying to quit.

Crossword

Across
1 Swain (abbr.)
5 Saloon
8 Snop
11 Baseball player Ty
15 Entertain
17 Before (prefix)
18 Garden tool
19 Hand lotion
20 Most recent
22 Fertilizers
24 Article of furniture
25 Caesar's three
26 Pod vegetable
28 Cap
29 Except
30 Anger
31 Acid
33 Fire remains
35 Compass point
36 Groof
37 Attention-Deficit Disorder (abbr.)
38 Bad (prefix)
40 Droops
42 Colors
44 Time period
45 Fertilizer
47 Commuter train company
49 Welkin
52 Lower in rank
54 Mettle
55 Start to grow
58 Opaque gem
60 Sashes
61 "The Jungle" author Sinclair
62 Move carefully
63 Made a pot
65 Tiny mark
66 Leer
67 Citizen of Kenya
69 Give a nickname to
70 Hubub
71 Spots
74 Teaspoon
77 Madagascar franc (abbr.)
83 Rovers needs
84 Clangs
86 4-(spelled out)
88 Wail
89 Not brightly lit
91 Hangnail
93 Trinitrotoluene
94 Allowance
95 Use Drano
97 Sticky black substance
98 girl
100 Fan
101 Be nosey
102 Finely
103 Large stringed instrument
104 That (possessive)
105 Be nosey
106 Cheat
107 Arid
109 detergent brand
110 Desert
112 Southwestern Indian
113 Those who inherit
114 Strip
115 Melancholy
116 Dit's partner
117 Chief executive officer
118 Strain
119 Adheres
121 Cincinnati sports team
122 National capital
123 Muslim's God
124 Cause of sickness
126 Sputum
127 Spigot
128 Angels' head wear
129 Inquisitive
130 Attempt
131 Estimated time of arrival
132 Sacleike structures filled with fluid or diseased matter

Down
1 Indonesian island
2 Electronic communication
3 Absorption
5 Metronome marking
6 Arabian
7 Regenerates
8 Clever
9 Poem creator
10 Aye
11 Mutt
12 Potato brand
13 Facial hair
14 Melancholy
16 Sixth sense
19 Lop
21 Drink
23 Vase
24 Roll
27 Take upon oneself
29 Small restaurant
32 Decameter
33 Fire remains
34 1040 A.D. King of England
35 Shem
36 Descendant
37 of the covenant
39 Chop
41 Nettie (2 wds.)
43 Talky
44 Dine
46 Compass point
48 Skating area
49 Drunk
50 Rate
51 Either end of a yard of a square sail
53 Eastern Time
54 Take to court
55 Gun addition
56 North American country
57 Cozy room
59 France's "Sun King"
62 Present

West by north
65 West by south
67 West by east
68 West
69 West by north
70 Day-time tv's
71 Turf
72 Thai
73 Ad
74 No-no's
75 Jargon
76 Pacific Standard Time
77 Future Farmers of America (abbr.)
78 Important person
79 Shot, with down
80 Day-time tv's
81 Mr. Donahue
82 Decade
83 Rowers needs
84 Quikly!
85 Ciphers
86 East
87 Speed
88 Wail
89 Not brightly lit
90 Struggle
91 Hangnail
92 Tons
93 Stinging fish
94 Seed
95 Use Drano
96 Gossip
97 Lags behind
98 Sub
99 Publicly
100 Reel
101 Finely
102 Finely
103 Large stringed instrument
104 That (possessive)
105 Be nosey
106 Cheat
107 Arid
108 Root vegetable
109 Desert
110 Desert
111 Skim
112 Expression
113 One who inherits
114 Strip
115 Dit's partner
116 Dit's partner
117 Chief executive officer
118 Strain
119 Adheres
120 Negative
121 Baseball stick
122 Hotel
123 National capital

Crossword Provided by Sudoko.com.au

Easy Sudoku

Sudoku Provided by Sudoko.com.au

From The Readers Digest

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.
Commemorating The Bombing of Darwin 69 Years On

On the 69th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin, Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon, and Senator for the Northern Territory, Trish Crossin, encouraged Australians to take time to reflect on the moment in history when war came to Australian soil. Mr Snowdon said the events of 19 February 1942 and the months that followed are an important part of Australia’s history which should not be forgotten.

“The morning attacks by 242 Japanese aircraft on Darwin during the Christmas season of 1941 resulted in the destruction of many lives and property, and this anniversary pays tribute to those whose lives were taken in the air raids on Darwin city.”

On 25th April 1919, five months after the war’s end, many ex-service men and women were absent from work to share their memories and with their families and with their comrades. It was not an official public holiday and those absent from work were not paid. In October the same year the Minister for Education, Hal Colbatch, introduced into the Western Australian Parliament a bill to secure ANZAC Day, commemorating the Gallipoli landing on 25th April 1915, as a public holiday and while Members agreed with the principle of setting aside one day of the year to commiserate with the war dead, not all accepted the 25th April.

The Leader of the Labor opposition, Phil Collier, wanted the Bill deferred until there was agreement between all State and Federal Governments in case Western Australia made a different choice. Underwood reminded the House that only 20,000 Australians were at Gallipoli while more than 200,000 served in France and Belgium and surely, a National holiday and those absent from work for the workers, “What will happen when the 25th day of April falls on a Sunday?”

Colbatch replied that ANZAC Day should then be held on the following Monday.

The theme of Australia’s baptism of fire carried the vote and Western Australia chose 25 April. The other States of Australia followed suit and this one day has become, not a celebration of a victory in one war, but a day when we acknowledge the sacrifice of Australian men and women in all wars and police actions in foreign lands.

The ex-service community did not accept the notion of ANZAC Day being held on a Monday if the 25th was a Sunday; it would be like having Christmas on Boxing Day and the Western Australian parliament legislated for a public holiday in lieu of a Sunday ANZAC Day.

Dr Neville Green Cottesloe Sub Branch

There was a final question from Dr Alistiel Heaton, with a thought for the workers, “What will happen when the 25th day of April falls on a Sunday?”
The Last Knight

Former Labor Leader Kim Beazley

Within the pages of The Last Knight author Robert Lowry exposes what made General Sir Phillip Bennett a great leader.

Viewed by many as a juxtaposition of qualities, determined, open minded, reserved but affable, insightful and decisive his story characterised by dedication, tragedy, and great achievements.

Last Knight explores the career of the first post-Second War officer to reach the highest rank of the Australian Defence Force as well as the last knight to command the Australian Defence Force.

Sir Phillip Bennett retired at the age of fifty-eight and, five months later, accepted the post of Governor of Tasmania where he served the people of Tasmania for eight years. A man who by all accounts was unable to rest on his laurels.

His career spans a time of great change, from commando training to the gruelling Korean War, Vietnam at the height of the war and the evolution of the post-Second World War Army.

His life in the Defence Force culminates in a gripping yarn of his command of the ADF and the bureaucratic tensions and battles over the centralisation of defence policymaking within the Department of Defence, to forge Australian Defence Force we see today.

A powerful biography that highlights how application, dedication and luck can combine to advance a career to the highest levels.

This is his story, the story of The Last Knight.

For more information please contact

Sharon@bigskypublishing.com.au

The Listening Post

How old was Phillip Bennett when he retired from the ADFA?

What was his last posting with the ADFA?

Which Battle of the Korean War did he serve in?

Which of Australia's states did he govern?

What years did he serve in Vietnam?

In order to win a copy of The Last Knight answer the following questions and return the slip to The Listening Post Editor at PO Box 3023 Adelaide Tce Perth 6832 by 15 May 2011.

Dicto Cartoons

John Williamson

-Supported by the Australian Army Band Perth-

From his musical family beginnings in the Victorian Mallee, to defining the Australian character through song, John Williamson has achieved musical success and respect internationally and nationally, writing some 400 songs and selling in excess of 5.5 million albums in Australia alone.

In 1970 John emerged from his wheat farm at Croppa Creek, south of the Australian music charts with his No.1 smash hit Old Man Emu, off the back of a winning performance on Australian TV talent show New Faces.

But it was in 1986 with the release of his triple-platinum-selling album Mallee Boy that his place in Australian music history was assured. John Williamson has symbolised the spirit of Australia, touched the nation in times of despair and always remained connected to the land, the community and the everyday Aussie. Call him what you want Mallee Boy, True Blue or just plain Fair Dinkum there is no denying that John Williamson is an Australian Icon.

The Australian Army Band P/B follows the proud traditions of Army Bands in Western Australia. Today it has evolved into a 40 piece entertainment ensemble that performs everything from Jazz to Tchaikovsky, Lloyd Webber to Rock.

It prides itself on performing concerts that appeal to all age groups and tastes and it’s versatility sets the Band apart from other musical ensembles.

John Williamson and the Australian Army Band Perth will deliver some of John’s most recognised classics and unofficial anthems.

In order to win tickets to the concert answer the following questions from the above information and return the slip to The Listening Post Editor at PO Box 3023 Adelaide Tce Perth 6832 by 15 May 2011.

1. Name the song John Williamson has become synonymous with.

2. What was the Name of John Williamson’s No 1 smash hit song in 1970.

3. In 2010 how many years did John Williamson celebrate in the recording industry.

The Australain Challenging the Melbourne Cup、“真蓝海第一”、“真蓝海第二”、“真蓝海第三”及“真蓝海第四”的票数都难以企及。
**GIVE BLOOD TODAY!**

**Help save lives this Easter**

The need for blood never takes a holiday, and with many regular donors away over the Easter period, donations of blood, plasma and platelets are more vital than ever at this time of year. Your donation can help unborn babies, burns and trauma victims, people with cancer, leukaemia and other serious illnesses. Our regular platelet donors are especially needed to book in for an appointment. Platelet supplies are of particular concern this year as ANZAC Day and Easter fall over the same period, which means a five-day holiday. Platelets only have a five-day shelf life, meaning supplies can quickly drop to critical levels if we don’t get enough donations during this time. If you are able to donate between 21 – 27 April, please give blood and save lives this Easter. Call the Australian Red Cross Blood Service on 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au to find out more or make an appointment. If you only donate once a year, this is the time to make an appointment, one hour of your time could mean a lifetime to the person who receives it.

**Number 44 Wing celebrated the reformation of wartime units 452 and 453SQNs with a parade at RAAF Base Williamtown on February 16.**

The new squadrons, which will be responsible for air traffic control services at bases from Darwin to Edinburgh, stood up on December 1. OC 44WG GPCAPT Forster Breckenridge said the parade was the culmination of a lot of hard work by many people involved in the reformation of the squadrons.

He said the squadrons were a vital component of the national air traffic management system.

“They will provide airspace management and air base air traffic control for both civil and military aircraft operating in and around ADF airbases, including Darwin and Townsville airports,” he said.

“We also look forward to the enhancement of career opportunities across a number of categories and masterstings through the establishment of a new commanding officer, senior engineering officer, administrative officer and technical and administrative positions in the new headquarters.”

The restructure will improve the efficiency of 44WG.

452 and 453SQNs will separate the tactical command and control of the subordinate flights at each base, allowing HQ 44WG to focus on operational matters and the overall management of the Battlefield Airspace Control capability.

452SQN is headquartered at RAAF Base Darwin with flights at Darwin, Tindal, Townsville, Amberley and Oakey. 453SQN is headquartered at RAAF Base Williamtown, with flights at Williamtown, Richmond, Nowra, East Sale, Edinburgh and Pearce.

In November 2000, 44WG was reformed as a dedicated Air Traffic Control Wing. It is responsible for delivering aerodrome and radar control services to Navy, Army and Air Force and also for providing tactical control of forward airfields, battlefield aviation and other airspace activity, both within Australia and on operational deployments.

By FLTLT Skye Smith – from Airforce News 3 March edition

**Squadrons Reformed**

For the second year in a row, Air Force has led the way in the Defence Force Blood Donation Challenge. Seven hundred and seventy-nine Air Force personnel presented their arms during a 13-week period last year. Next was Navy with 491 donations, Army with 428 and the Australian Public Service with 405.

Overall, Defence made 2103 donations, smashing 2009’s total by 383. The 2010 Defence Force Blood Donation Challenge was launched in September by the Australian Red Cross Blood Service (ARCBS).

Defence Blood Drive Coordinator Gary Schulz said most of the donations were tallied in ARCBS centres or via the Club Red website. He said this year there would be further emphasis on participants registering their donations online to enable the ARCBS to track the number of donations from each service.

“Unfortunately, not everybody registered their donation, so there could’ve been many more donations that we were unable to track,” Mr Schulz said. “I think Defence personnel are driven to donate because they see it as another way to serve their country on a local level. They also understand the importance of blood products when it comes to saving lives during operations.”

The ARCBS shares an important relationship with Defence, supplying almost 400 units of blood annually to Australian personnel on operations in East Timor and the Solomon Islands. ADF Surgeon General and Commander Joint Health MAJGEN Paul Alexander said the resuscitation, damage control and surgery undertaken in the field relied heavily on blood products.

“We use a range of blood products including pack-cells, fresh frozen plasma and whole blood platelets,” MAJGEN Alexander said. “Not only do we use these products during operations overseas but also here in Australia to aid Defence members in recovering from severe illnesses, infections, injuries and chemotherapy.” He said Defence had partnered with the ARCBS to conduct further research on the use of frozen blood products.

“Defence is looking at increasing the range of ARCBS products it uses, particularly frozen products to increase flexibility during exercises and operations. “I’d like to encourage everyone to get on board for the challenge again this year.”

Only 3 per cent of Australians regularly donate blood. The ARCBS needs about 27,000 donations a week.

To make an appointment, call 13 14 95 or visit donateblood.com.au

AB Melanie Schinkel – from Airforce News 3 March edition

**Still the Bloody Best**
Army Birthday

The Australian Army celebrated its 110th birthday on March 1 with a commemorative service and breakfast at the Australian War Memorial. The ceremony, led by Lt-Gen Ken Gillespie, began at 7am with the marching-in of the Army Banner by members of Australia’s Federation Guard and music by the RMC band. As members of the Army and other Defence personnel stood around the Pool of Reflection, Lt-Gen Gillespie delivered his birthday address honouring the long history of the Service. He spoke of the strong affinity between the Australian community and the Army, one of the first Commonwealth institutions founded after Federation in 1901.

“The need for the unified defence of our island continent had been one of the major impetuses behind the Federation movement,” Lt-Gen Gillespie said.

“The Australian Army has always been a truly national institution and a pervasive one in the national psyche.” He said the apolitical nature of the Service and the involvement of nearly two million personnel in conflicts throughout history had strengthened the Army’s position as defender of all in the community. “We rejoice in the fact that, as it has been forecast over a century, Australia continues to have an Army for and of the whole of the Australian nation,” he said.

“Before we celebrate today, just pause to reflect on the work our people are doing for our nation, even now in Afghanistan and in many other parts of a troubled world.”

Lt-Gen Gillespie said the 110th anniversary was a chance to remember both the Army’s achievements and its losses, with 12 soldiers killed in Afghanistan in the past 12 months. “The year that has passed since we last stood here has certainly not been an easy one,” he said. While the price of the Afghan commitment had been high for the Army and the community, Lt-Gen Gillespie said the war in Afghanistan remained the Army’s focus. “Our task of assisting the Afghan Army’s 4th Brigade to secure Uruzgan province is progressing well, but the 4th Brigade is unlikely to be ready to assume full responsibility of the province by our 111th birthday,” he said.

“We will continue to face a hard war in Afghanistan for some time to come,” however, he said the Army also remained committed to its other tasks both planned and unpredictable, such as its recent operations in disaster-affected communities. Lt-Gen Gillespie also highlighted his belief in the young generation of personnel now leading the Service in operations at home and abroad. “To those who fear that the soldiers of today might be somehow of lesser quality or lack the commitment and professionalism of the soldiers of yesterday, let me reassure them this is certainly not the case,” he said.

“The nation remains well served by its Army, by the young men and women who have volunteered to constitute it.” His address was followed by the laying of wreaths in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by Lt-Gen Gillespie, one of the Army’s youngest soldiers Pte Shaine Fitzpatrick and the clearest surviving female veteran from World War II, Lorna Ward. The service concluded with a breakfast, the cutting of the Army’s birthday cake and the release of the 110th Anniversary Coin designed by reservist Pte Joel Shaddock.

The celebrations marked the beginning of a week of Army birthday activities, including the launch of two historical books and a concert at the Australian War Memorial by the RMC Band featuring country singer Lee Kernaghan.

By Natalie Alexander – March 17 Edition of Army News

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Z Special Unit Association of WA Inc.
Sec 9350 9553
Sec 9565 9575
Sec 932 4999
Sec 9228 1530
Sec 9310 1011
Sec 9332 7799
Sec 9465 8991
Sec 9371 7470
Sec 9276 4616
Sec 9296 0245
Sec 9297 348

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By Natalie Alexander – March 17 Edition of Army News
AMAZING HEROES

Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 60 years.