RSL Australia Day award winner

Karratha's family friendly ways build healthy bottom line

Award-winning Sub-Branches of the RSL are becoming more and more a part of their local community and contributing toward it.

This year’s RSL Australia Day Award to the Karratha and Districts Sub-Branch has been more than 30 years in the making.

“We’re really a club that has been built by the community; Gordon Blair established it 30 years ago in the back of the shire chambers and then set about getting the land and building the club the community inherited in 2000,” says Karratha Sub-Branch President Angus “Gus” Armstrong.

Today, meetings are held on premises 100 per cent owned by the Sub-Branch. The building is housed on a fully fenced quarter acre block, has a bitumen car park for 20 vehicles, an outdoor area covered with shade sails and a children’s playground to rival McDonalds. Internally, the building holds a bar, kitchen, large carpeted area and dance floor. The building is often described as a huge bingo hall, which is just as well, as bingo is held every Monday night, eyes down and looking at 8pm.

“We bought the playground from Bunnings in Geraldton and Darrin built it,” says Angus proudly of his mate Darrin McKenney. “In fact, Darrin has built most of the new improvements. Without him, none of this would have got off the ground.” Darrin McKenney, who served for four years in Army Reserves, is Secretary of the club and 2IC to Angus at Mermaid Marine Australia, providing marine support for the oil and gas industry.

Darrin, who has two sons, say the family-friendly facilities – including the recent addition of $40,000 worth of sail shades, paving and memorial wall – has been a key to their success.

As a member of the 2/16th Battalion which fought on the Kokoda Track in New Guinea, Jim MacKenzie knew the importance of the famous “fuzzy wuzzy” support team and he didn’t lose contact with them. Jim MacKenzie (104) was revered for his unassuming nature. Perth and the RSL lost one of its icons when he died peacefully at his Cottesloe home. Mr MacKenzie was the oldest RSL member in WA.

More on p6
Deadline for next edition: 17th March 2014

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 East Perth, WA 6892
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

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Former Sapper Scott Rogers is one of the younger post-Vietnam military veterans who will be brought toward the front of this year’s ANZAC Day Parade.

Scott (39) served with the Australian Regular Army’s 1st Combat Engineer Regiment in East Timor, Solomon Islands, Banda Aceh and Iraq.

He is hoping many more former and current service men and women, who served after the Vietnam War ended in 1975, will join him in the ANZAC Parade on 26 April.

This will be a one-off opportunity for those who served in the post-Vietnam era in numerous international peacekeeping and warlike operations including Namibia (early 1989), Cambodia (1992-93), Somalia (1993), Rwanda (1994-95), Bougainville (in 1994 and from 1997 onwards), Persian Gulf (from 1990), East Timor (from 1999), the Solomon Islands (from 2003), while more recently they have also fought as part of multi-national forces in Iraq (from 2003) and Afghanistan (from 2001).

Many of them missed out on welcome home parades because their units were not based in WA.

“Many who served overseas since Vietnam went on multiple deployments with different people each time,” says Scott, who now runs his own building company and is President of Bellevue RSL. “They don’t have the same sense of unity as individuals who served in WW2 and other single conflicts up to Vietnam.”

As part of a national RSL initiative, I am encouraging these former and current service men and women to step forward and enjoy a one-off opportunity to march near the front of the ANZAC Day Parade.

Younger veterans are being offered the privileged position of leading all ex-service groups in the march. If you are interested, the RSL in WA invites you to register your interest in marching toward the front of the 2014 ANZAC Day Parade. Just email your details to rslwaqh@iinet.net.au or phone RSL headquarters on (08) 9287 3799. More info is on the RSL’s WA website www.rslwaq.org.au

2014 is the beginning of our ANZAC Centenary years, marking the Great War 1914-18. For Australia, as for many nations, this war remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of which over 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

November will see the national commemoration of the ships departing from Albany for Egypt and Gallipoli and the official opening of the new National ANZAC Centre; 2014 is also the 50th anniversary of the SASR and is the Submariners’ centenary.

Vale - Jim MacKenzie

We mourn the death of our oldest RSL veteran in WA, James (Jim) Ross MacKenzie. Jim, born in 1909, is sorely missed by his former colleagues in the 2/16 Battalion in which he served as a Lieutenant. Jim saw service during World War II in the Middle East, Kokoda and Borneo. In the Northham Sub-Branch he was renowned for generously sending a cheque when he was invited, but couldn’t attend, functions. Jim farmed for many years in Northam before retiring and moving to Cottesloe in 1970. Rest in peace Jim.

Welcome - new RSL faces

I am pleased to welcome two appointments to the RSL’s headquarters – Sharon Harford as Centenary Program Manager and John Arthur as Media and Marketing Manager.

They are employed primarily for the Centenary of ANZAC program, which covers the years 2014-2018, and to assist in co-operation with other organisations in the coordination of the Centenary in WA.

Sharon comes from Edith Cowan University and is responsible for delivering Centenary of ANZAC events and activities to Western Australian metropolitan and regional areas.

She will deliver the program in partnership with local governments, communities and ex-service organisations as well as with State and territory governments and international partners.

John Arthur is an experienced communications professional, who has recently been based in Canberra. He founded the weekly Voice News (now called Perth Voice) newspaper in 1997 and has worked as Director of External Communications for the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, as Director of Communications in the ACT Directorate of Economic Development, and in the Federal Government.

The appointments have been made possible through a generous Centenary grant from Lotterywest.

Saturday, 23 August. The forum will give service and ex-service women a much-needed voice and an opportunity to express their views on how the RSL can grow and prosper. Hopefully, it will help us make the RSL more relevant and attractive to women.

Commemoration of ANZAC

The Commemoration of ANZAC Committee has been initiated by the RSLWA to assist, in co-operation with other organisations, in the coordination of the ANZAC Centenary in Western Australia (2014-2018).

The committee comprises Graham Edwards AM (State President RSLWA); Duncan Warren (Chair of ANZAC Day Organising Committee RSLWA); Richard Muirhead (State Director, National Commemorative Events Strategic Projects, DPC); Phil Orchard (Chief Executive Officer RSLWA); Sharon Harford (RSL Centenary Program Manager) and John Arthur (RSL Media & Marketing Manager); Marija Jelavic (RSL Events Manager, ANZAC Day) and Jan Stewart (Lotterywest).

The RSL has also met with Fremantle City Council, government representatives and other partners to discuss plans to commemorate the departure from Fremantle of West Australian-based troops on November 2, 1914.

Trained at Blackboy Hill, Greenmount, the WA troops boarded two transport ships, Ascanius and Medic (which included other units from South Australia), and met up with the Albany convoy at sea on the following day. A total of 32,000 men were trained at Blackboy Hill and I noted these words on the plaque at the Commemoration Site a few days ago:

“In Commemoration of all troops that initially trained at the historic camp site 1914-18 thereby making Blackboy Hill the birthplace of the A.I.F. in West Australia.”

2015 is of course likely to see record crowds at ceremonies for the 2015 ANZAC Centenary.

As an initial step, the RSL has agreed that research should be carried out by the government to understand how many people are likely to turn out for dawn services in 2015 and where they will go. Decisions will then be made on how best to cater for them.

Membership Update

Sadly, 253 members passed away in Western Australia last year. Thiers is individually and collectively a huge loss to our community and to the RSL.

At the same time our overall membership last year fell by a total of only six to 9,567 which is an outstanding result and a credit to the Sub-Branch work being done around the State.

Our Membership Officer, Kathy Clark says she has noticed more younger people being attracted to the RSL.

“The number of new members aged between 41 and 60 and between 25 and 40 has increased,” she says. “It means we are getting people from the post-Vietnam era.

There are a range of reasons why younger people, including more women, are joining. Some of these are because of advocacy and welfare services and because of the ongoing social reasons and friendship which many people miss once leaving the services.”

It is encouraging that more women are also showing interest.

“The younger ones are starting to come in and join – not in dramatic numbers – because the majority of our membership is still men.”

But these numbers are encouraging for RSLWA.
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>1 March</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Naval and military forces of the States transferred to Commonwealth control</td>
<td>With Federation state and federal authorities began planning for the establishment of federal military forces.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Broome and Wyndham bombed</td>
<td>The Japanese air raid on Broome came when the port was crowded with refugees fleeing the Netherlands East Indies. About 70 people, including many civilians are thought to have been killed in the raid. Japanese Attacks on Wyndham focused on the town's aerodrome.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>HMAS Sydney arrives at Fremantle, en route to Sydney</td>
<td>On board was 5th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, which had completed a tour in Vietnam. HMAS Sydney made 21 voyages to Vietnam during the war.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 March</td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Australians arrive at Bloemfontein, South Africa</td>
<td>Members of the New South Wales Mounted Rifles, under Lord Roberts, reached Bloemfontein, the capital of the Orange Free State, under Roberts' strategy of taking the war into the Boer Republics.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Final German offensive of the First World War begins</td>
<td>The Germans hoped to split the Allied forces around Amiens and drive towards the English channel. After initial success their advance slowed and was turned into the retreat that eventually led to the end of the First World War.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 March</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>Last engagement between Meteors and MIGS in the Korean War</td>
<td>Meteors had been found to be inferior to MIGS in air to air combat in Korea and were transferred to ground attack duties.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 April</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>First action at Villers-Bretonnoux</td>
<td>Villers-Bretonnoux, overlooking the Somme and within artillery range of Amiens, was a principal objective when the German Spring Offensive was in its dying stages in early April. They were repulsed by the 9th Brigade from the 3rd Australian Division and some British units.</td>
</tr>
<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>11 April</td>
<td>1970</td>
<td>HMAS Vendetta returns to Sydney</td>
<td>HMAS Vendetta was the only one of three Australian Daring class destroyers to serve on the gunline in Vietnamese waters. The ship served one tour.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Vale:
Mrs Julie Diane Michael

Mrs Julie Diane Michael, wife of Dr Ken Michael AC, former Governor of Western Australia and Patron of RSL WA from 2006 – 2011, who passed away on Saturday 18 January was fondly remembered at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral in Northbridge on Thursday 23 January 2014.

Throughout Dr Michael's tenure as patron he was always accompanied by Mrs Michael at all RSL events. Be it at ANZAC Day, Remembrance Day, Community events at ANZAC House or Government House, Mrs Michael always enjoyed her association with the veteran and service community. A truly inspirational and courageous lady who always showed a warm and genuine interest towards RSL events and its membership. Mrs Michael will be sorely missed by the staff of ANZAC House and the RSL membership.

The respect was clearly shown for Mrs Michael from the community with standing room only at the Cathedral and attendees flowing over to nearby streets.

The RSL State President who was absent on leave in South America was represented by the RSL State Vice President, Mr Denis Connelly. The RSL WA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Philip Orchard was also in attendance.

On behalf of our entire membership we express heartfelt condolences to Dr Michael and family.

ANZAC House Concierge

ANZAC House has introduced the services of a volunteer Concierge to attend our lobby.

A very worthy enhancement of our services the Concierge will have Members, Guests and Visitors recognised and greeted upon arrival and, directed to their appointments and meetings. The Concierge will be responsible for maintaining the good order and general conduct of our lobby – this extends to calling Taxi Services and ensuring passengers safely access their cabs. Another step forward to serving our members. The Concierge service will be operated on a volunteer basis and, will report to the ANZAC House Manager. Mr ‘Banjo’ Patterson has volunteered to undertake the ‘watch’ and we are most grateful to have his services.
From the CEO

National Anzac Centre Under Construction

Located within the Princess Royal Fortress Military Museum Precinct, the National Anzac Centre will be a show piece for the ANZAC Centenary. The Centre will provide a unique opportunity for people to experience an emotional connection with the men and women who were involved in the First World War, understanding the sacrifice that they, their friends and families, made on behalf of their nation and its allied nations. The Centre will be accessible not only physically, but also virtually via the internet and will highlight the significant role Albany played in the creation of the ANZAC Spirit.

We published the artist impression in our August 2013 edition of The Listening Post and have recently received the updated picture below. Ground works have commenced and the structure is starting to show shape. Further pictures ‘before & after’ will be published in future editions.

Peter Hillbrick

Born: 9 April 1949  
Passed Away: 20 January 2014  
Aged: 64 years

Peter was born, raised and lived in Armadale all his life. Peter’s number was drawn for National Service, he did not wait, joined the Regular Army, saw service in Vietnam from 11th June 1970 to 9th June 1971. He served as an engineer in the 17th Construction Squadron. He discharged from the Army as a Lance Corporal.

After leaving the Army, Peter worked in the asphalt industry, laying roads and airport runways, all across Australia for nearly 30 years. Peter retired in 2003 and joined the Armadale RSL, where he volunteered his time as memorabilia member, plus printing of the RSL newsletter the “Furphy”. Peter was elected President of the Armadale RSL in 2010 and held the position until he passed away.

In his time as President, Peter upgraded the inside of the club, by purchasing new tables and chairs, carpet and air-conditioning.

Peter leaves behind his partner, of over 30 years Vicki Kostin.

May he Rest in Peace.

Ken Hepburn  
Hon Secretary  
Armadale RSL Sub-Branch

Lamb & Rosemary Pie

Limited Edition

Tender pieces of lamb, vegetables and rosemary wrapped in crisp, golden pastry.

Available from:  
10th February to 20th May 2014, while stocks last.

10c from every pie sold goes to the RSL, supporting our brave soldiers and their families since WWI.

www.mrsmacs.com.au

If it’s not a Mrs Mac’s, take it back.
Jim MacKenzie: WA’s oldest RSL veteran an ‘original’ gentleman

Jim MacKenzie lives on in the memory of his colleagues as a man of exemplary character and fitness who died peacefully at the age of 104 just weeks ago.

On the morning he died, his colleague and 2/16th Battalion Association Vice President, Mary Goldthorpe, had been around to share a cuppa in his Cottesloe home.

“Mary remembers him mentioning that he was tired. I tried to ring him at 7 o’clock that evening and couldn’t get him,” recalls his son, Ross.

“He never rode in a jeep,” says Ross. “If he went, he marched. That year, he couldn’t do any practising but when he came to step off and saw the crowds he lifted his stick under his arm and left me pushing the walker.

“At the completion of the march, he proudly raised his stick in the air and said ‘It never touched the ground once’.

“It reminded me of stories of when he was young and a very good athlete.”

Jim MacKenzie’s spirit never diminished – he lost his driver’s licence when he hurt his back while gardening and could not sit his practical driving test. He recovered and reset the test - at the age of 102.

He rose to the rank of Lieutenant in the 2/16th. He was one of the “originals” who signed up when the West Australian battalion was formed in 1940. Jim saw service during World War II in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo.

Former MP Bill Grayden – an officer who served with Jim MacKenzie throughout the war – says Jim was an outstanding member of the battalion, liked and respected by everyone.

Jim MacKenzie passed away peacefully and was later farewelled by his 2/16th Battalion colleagues, family and friends at Hale School, where he had studied and returned annually for old boys’ day. The Hale School service was attended by RSLWA Vice President, Denis Connelly.

Ross recalls his father’s last ANZAC Day Parade in 2012, when he took along a walking frame and stick to assist him.

“He never rode in a jeep,” says Ross. “If he went, he marched. That year, he couldn’t do any practising but when he came to step off and saw the crowds he lifted his stick under his arm and left me pushing the walker.

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Jim MacKenzie was farming between Northam and Toodyay, when the 2/16th was on route from the Middle East to New Guinea. He returned to the farm, which is still in the family, and retired in 1970 to Cottesloe. Nancy died in 2001.

He proposed by phone from Melbourne in 1942, when the 2/16th was on route from the Middle East to New Guinea. He returned to the farm, which is still in the family, and retired in 1970 to Cottesloe. Nancy died in 2001.

“Jim MacKenzie was a top footballer, cricketer and athlete. This photo was taken at Leederville Oval in 1929 and shows Jim winning the 220 yard race at the State Athletic Championships.
Henry Chauvel, more commonly known as Harry Chauvel, was a senior officer of the Australian Imperial Force who fought at Gallipoli and during the Sinai and Palestine Campaign in WWI. He was the first Australian to reach the rank of Lieutenant General and the first to lead a corps.

He was educated at Mr Belcher's School near Goulburn, before going to Sydney Grammar School from 1874 to 1880, and Toowoomba Grammar School from 1881 to 1882. At Sydney Grammar, Harry served in the School Cadet Unit and rose to the rank of Lance Corporal. In 1886 Chauvel was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Queensland Mounted Infantry, seeing service during the 1891 Australian Shearers’ Strike. He became a regular officer in 1896 and went to the United Kingdom as part of the Queensland contingent for the 1897 Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In 1899, as a Major in the 1st Queensland Mounted Cavalry, Henry took part in the relief of Kimberley, the advance to Pretoria, the battle of Diamond Hill and Eastern Transvaal. After returning to Australia in 1901 the newly promoted Lieutenant Colonel Chauvel was given the command of the 7th Australian Commonwealth Light Horse Squadron. The Boer War ended before the unit saw action.

Chauvel became the Australian representative on the Imperial General Staff when he was promoted to Colonel in 1913, but the First World War broke out while he was on his way to the UK. In December Chauvel was given command of the 1st Light Horse Brigade. Chauvel arrived at Gallipoli on 12 May 1915 and took over the critical sector, which included Pope's Hill and Quim's, Courtney's and Steele's Posts, from Colonel John Monash. On 9 July 1915 Chauvel was promoted to Brigadier General, back-dated to when he assumed command of the 1st Light Horse Brigade on 10 December 1914.

On 6 November 1915 he became commander of the 1st Division and was promoted to Major General. He commanded this division through the final phase of the Gallipoli Campaign, the evacuation and the reorganisation in Egypt in February and March 1916. His role in the campaign was recognised by his appointment as a Companion of the Order of the Bath.

In March 1916 Chauvel became commander of the ANZAC Mounted Division, gaining victories in the Battle of Romani in August and the Battle of Megdhaba in December, and nearly winning the First Battle of Gaza in March 1917. In April he took over the Desert Column, later known as the Desert Mounted Corps, becoming the first Australian to command a corps and the first to reach the rank of Lieutenant General.

At Beersheba in October 1917 his light horse division captured the town and its vital water supply in one of history's last great cavalry charges. Few battles have been won in such spectacular fashion. For this decisive victory, and the subsequent capture of Jerusalem, Chauvel was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in the 1918 New Year Honours List.

By September 1918 Chauvel was able to effect a secret redeployment of three of his mounted divisions and launch a surprise attack on the enemy this winning the Battle of Megiddo. He then followed up this victory with one of the fastest pursuits in military history – 167 km in only three days. The Desert Mounted Corps then moved across the Golan Heights and captured Damascus on 1 October. Between 19 September and 2 October, the Australian Mounted Division lost 21, 71 were wounded and 31,335 Turkish prisoners were captured.

In 1919 Chauvel was appointed Inspector General, the Army's most senior post. He was forced to maintain an increasingly hollow structure by politicians intent on cutting expenditure. At the same time he was also Chief of the General Staff from 1923 until his retirement in 1930. In November 1929, he became Army's most senior post. He was forced to maintain an increasingly hollow structure by politicians intent on cutting expenditure. At the same time he was also Chief of the General Staff from 1923 until his retirement in 1930. In November 1929, he became the first Australian to be promoted to the rank of General. During WWII he was recalled to duty as Inspector in Chief of the Volunteer Defence Corps. He held this post until he died on 4 March 1945.

Denis Connelly

References:
1. AWM: Australian War Memorial
2. Wikipedia
Dear Editor,

In 2012, while researching my family tree, I discovered my great uncle “Leslie John Wilkes” unmarked grave in the Old Mandurah Cemetery.

His grave was unmarked for 33 years until I made enquiries about the possibility of him being eligible for a Commonwealth War Grave due to his service during World War II with the 2/16th Battalion.

Below is a photo of my uncle’s unmarked grave as I found it.

My initial enquiry was made in April 2012 to Perth War Graves who put me in touch with Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

DVA contacted me requesting a death certificate to determine if his war service was a contributing factor to his death.

Several months later, I received a letter from DVA saying a war grave had been approved and that further paper work would be received in due course.

When the application for a war grave arrived I found that I needed the signature of the burial grant holder who had since passed away.

I then had to contact the City of Mandurah to have the grant transferred into my name which took a few weeks.

In August 2012 the completed paper work was then sent back to DVA.

In December 2012 I received a letter from DVA informing me that the monumental works had been completed, I then replied to them, sincerely thanking them on behalf of our family for all their assistance.

Below are photos of the completed monumental works.

While there is a lot of paperwork and waiting, I would encourage anyone who finds a relative lying in an unmarked grave who has served their country to take the first step and contact DVA as I did.

To see the final result was an extremely proud and moving experience for me.

Kind regards,

Allan Wilkes
5104943
Riverton Sub-Branch.

Dear Editor,

Well Done Esperance

I refer to your article on page 25 submitted by Mr Keith Smith of the Esperance RSL Sub-Branch. Well Done Esperance!

The Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902 fell from the radar some decades ago and it is most pleasing to see that Esperance, Three Springs and Bridgetown Sub-Branches (as well as a few others) are making the effort to put it back on their commemorative calendar, as well as making donations to the National Boer War Memorial Project.

The National Boer War Memorial Committee (WA Br) is encouraging all Sub-Branches to conduct their own memorial service on Sunday, 1 June 2014.

If you have a Boer War Veteran buried locally then a simple grave side service could be considered. Bridgetown did this to good effect in 2013.

The State Treasurer at the time, Eric Ripper, kindly donated a very modest $30,000 on behalf of WA. Not unexpectedly, our invitation to the current government to top this up to a respectable amount that reflects WA’s significant contribution to the conflict and the traditional generosity of our state when supporting national projects of this nature, has fallen upon deaf ears.

I would thus ask Sub-Branch presidents to place before their membership some options for further fundraising that fits best with their local situations and consider making direct representations to their local members and our Minister for Veterans for an increase in WA’s contribution.

Again, thank you everybody at the Esperance RSL for their splendid effort.

Kevin Bovill, State Secretary
National Boer War Memorial Committee (WA Br)

Dear Editor,

Our Diggers Are Not Forgotten

In 2012, while researching my family tree, I discovered my great uncle “Leslie John Wilkes” unmarked grave in the Old Mandurah Cemetery.

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5104943
Riverton Sub-Branch.
### Tinnitus Treatment for Australian Veterans

Many Veterans experience ringing, buzzing or whistling sounds in their ears and head. This condition is known as tinnitus. One of the common causes of tinnitus can be from unprotected noise exposure and is therefore prevalent amongst Veterans. Tinnitus is most noticeable in quiet situations which is why it often affects people’s ability to fall asleep, stay asleep or is instantly present on waking in the morning. The annoyance of tinnitus can prevent concentration and the ability to relax. Traditionally, hearing aids have been used to help ease the annoyance of tinnitus by amplifying environmental sounds to help mask it. However, many Veterans find that they may not have enough hearing loss to warrant wearing a hearing aid or that their tinnitus is just so high pitched, that the hearing aid can not give any relief. Tinnitus sufferers also often only mention that their sound sensitivity which accompanies their enders the hearing aid of little use as all sounds are uncomfortably loud.

A treatment, fully funded by DVA is now available to all Australian Veterans. The treatment does not restore hearing loss, however, it does significantly reduce how disturbing the tinnitus is and how aware the person is of their tinnitus and it can significantly improve sound sensitivity. The treatment has been proven in clinical trials to improve sleep quality and an overall feeling of being relaxed and therefore improve quality of life. This treatment has already been scientifically investigated in conjunction with the DVA here in Australia. Australian Veterans participated in a long term study to examine how the treatment improved quality of life measures over time. A summary of the excellent results are as follows:

- 100% of Veterans stated the treatment was easy to use
- 94% felt the treatment was pleasant to listen to
- 81% said it was easy to incorporate into their daily life/schedule

96% said they would recommend the treatment to others.

88% of Veterans reported an improvement in their tinnitus disturbance

And almost half of the Veterans rated their tinnitus disturbance as no longer clinically significant following this treatment. This improvement was maintained for the duration of the study (2 years).

The study also reported a significant improvements in Veterans’ levels of anxiety, depression and self rated stress. The treatment requires the person to use a small ipod shaped device for 2-4 hours each day during the times the tinnitus is most bothersome. The device produces a customized, music like stimulus which helps to give immediate relief and desensitize the person to their tinnitus.

The goal of the treatment is to reach a point where the tinnitus is no longer bothersome and is in the background of their consciousness -meaning the person can still hear their tinnitus if asked, but it no longer troubles them. The treatment can be worn whilst awake and asleep, during computer work, reading and can be used even when carrying on a conversation. The high fidelity Bose earphones ensure that the user does not feel blocked up which can make tinnitus appear worse.

To be considered a candidate for an assessment, Veterans must have tinnitus listed as an accepted disability (AD) under DVA arrangements. Eligible Veterans must also be assessed by an Ear Nose and Throat Doctor to exclude any other possible issues or the need for a medical procedure.

For further information about the treatment, or to enquire about arranging an assessment for this treatment, please call Audiologist, Sandra Bellekom on 0431 771 252. Sandra can help connect you to a local ENT Doctor and a Clinic that is accredited to provide the treatment.

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**HOSPITAL VISITORS LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Contact Number</th>
<th>Hospital Visited</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ms Remah Glencorse &amp; Ms Bernadine De Beaux</td>
<td>0447 007 522</td>
<td>Hollywood Private Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Duffy</td>
<td>9401 5815</td>
<td>Joondalup Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Mike Harness</td>
<td>9293 0176</td>
<td>Kalamunda Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Bill Adamson</td>
<td>9295 5354</td>
<td>Mercy Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RSL Welfare Officer</td>
<td>9287 3707</td>
<td>Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev Canon Ken Barrett</td>
<td>9581 2519</td>
<td>Swan Districts Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr John Rankin</td>
<td>0438 264 371</td>
<td>Peel Hospital</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RSL volunteers regularly visit Veterans in Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Prisons in the metropolitan area. If you would like to arrange a visitor for yourself or a loved one please refer to the Hospital Visitors List or for Prison visits please contact Mr Terry O’Neill of RSL Legal Support Group on 9440 6233. To arrange a Nursing Home visit please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House on 9287 3707 or 0417 905 742.

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**Take care till next time**

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**FEBRUARY 2014**

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**Home Visits**

There has been an increase in the number of referrals the Welfare Officer has received from outside agencies regarding veterans or widows living in social isolation. A number of these elderly people are housebound and have no family or friends visiting.

Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) and Home and Community Care (HACC) provide essential services to allow people to remain independent in their own homes but provide very little in way of social support. If you have time on your hands and are interested in improving the quality of life for lonely veterans in your area by visiting please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House.

RSL volunteers regularly visit Veterans in Hospitals, Nursing Homes and Prisons in the metropolitan area. If you would like to arrange a visitor for yourself or a loved one please refer to the Hospital Visitors List or for Prison visits please contact Mr Terry O’Neill of RSL Legal Support Group on 9440 6233. To arrange a Nursing Home visit please contact the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House on 9287 3707 or 0417 905 742.
Rottnest’s Big Guns Silently Celebrate 75 Years

They were among two of the largest military coastal heavy artillery guns mounted in Australia and today remain as the only two still in situ in the world today.

Named Oliver Hill Battery and located on the popular holiday resort Rottnest Island some 19 kilometres off the major port of Fremantle, the two single mount heavy artillery 9.2-inch former British MK.10 breech loader coastal guns are of British origin.

A third Royal Artillery mount of this type emplaced at Gibraltar was removed when Britain vacated ‘The Rock’ in 1992 and returned to England via the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Bacchus. Today, after restoration, it is on display at the British Imperial War Museum at the Druxford aerodrome.

Oliver Hill Battery celebrated its 75th anniversary with a ceremony and a number of activities on 19 October 2013 on an uncharacteristic cold and wet day, perhaps an omen to remind us all of the gloomy dark days of WWII and the purpose these guns were installed.

Located on the higher section of the picturesque island, these 150 tonne guns (including their 28 tonne barrels) in service could rotate a full 360 degrees covering the Indian Ocean to the west and the Port of Fremantle and the mainland to the east. They could fire an armour-piercing shell 35.5 kilometres with an effective range of 28.5 kilometres at an effective range of 390 degrees. They were manned by 11 men.

It had been way back on 20 June 1934 that the importance of these heavy coastal guns was first acknowledged when the Australian Minister for Defence Sir George Pearce indicated to the Australian Government Loan Council how it was proposed to strengthen the seriously run-down defences of Australia. This included pairs of 9.2-inch single mount gun batteries at North Head, Sydney, Newcastle and a third at the strategically important Fremantle.

The guns were power operated by six-cylinder Ruston Hornsby diesel engines located in the powerhouse in the underground tunnels, which also contained casualty stations, cordite and shell magazines, battery and fortress plotting room, air compressors and hydraulic pump chambers.

They were constructed more than a century ago with the breech of the guns stamped ‘EOC (Elswick Ordnance Co.) 1901’ and ‘EOC 1902’. Both guns, the restored H1 and H2, received new liner tubes in 1935-36 and the guns were converted from manual to power operation with other modifications before their shipping to Fremantle from where they were immediately loaded on lighters and taken across to Rottnest for installation. It has been claimed there were plans for a third 9.2-inch gun in the battery, but the proposal lapsed due to the shortage of barrels in the UK.

Among much excitement the 9.2-inch ‘proofing’ rounds for the Oliver Hill Battery were fired on Monday, 21 November 1938 between 1100 and 1500, the largest shells ever fired in Western Australia.

Recoil was two metres and residents on the mainland had been forewarned that if the westerly sea breeze was blowing, vibrations would be felt.

The Rottnest Hostel (peaceetime hotel) and all persons on the island had been notified of the exercise and orders had been posted up at various places warning people to ensure all windows and doors were open and to remove all ornaments off mantel pieces.

Fortunately these guns were never called upon to fire in anger. Although they proved their accuracy in practice shoots.

The 1930s saw increased Japanese whale chaser and fishing vessel visits to West Australian ports, cameras aplenty and anxious to step ashore. One example was the Kyokuyo Whaling Company’s largest and newest Kyo Maru II break-down a week before the trials 120 miles off Geraldton. The ship had to be towed to Fremantle for boiler repairs, spending time as it sat along Victoria Quay with excellent views towards Rottnest during the trials.

Wartime classified information reveals that the Oliver Hill Battery had readings of virtually every mainland building, supply depot, bridge and transport route in Perth and the suburban area in case of Japanese invasion which at that time, was a distinct possibility.

Part of the 11th Heavy Battery of the 3rd Heavy Brigade, Royal Australian Artillery, their functions were to:

1. Protect the port and shipping therefrom by bombardment and interference by enemy naval vessels.
2. In co-operation with other Arms and Services including troops deployed by the Field Army, defend the port against enemy invasion.
3. In co-operation with the Port War Signal Station manned by the Navy, control the movement of shipping entering the port.

Oliver Hill Battery and the smaller two 6-inch guns of Bickley Battery were both immediately placed on a war footing when war was declared on 3 September, 1939.

In June, 1940 Rottnest Island was further fortified and declared a prohibited area with all recreational activity ending, initially for three months, and later extended until June, 1945.

When Japan entered the war in December, 1941, the threat of a Japanese invasion saw some 2600 military personnel on Rottnest Island, predominantly living in six-man tents and some huts.

The RAAF No. 32 Radar unit was established at Stark Bay and plotting room personnel were replaced by skilled young women of the Australian Women’s Auxiliary Forces and the Navy’s Port War Signal Station was manned by female naval personnel.

Some anti-aircraft guns were mounted on the island and fortunately were never fired in anger, other than the time some US aircraft came in on the wrong bearing.

Post war all coastal artillery was placed in long term combat storage and in 1963, with the exception of the Oliver Hill battery which had endured a degree of theft and vandalism, was disbanded.

100 tonnes of shells had been removed previously for dumping at sea and around Australia and with the exception of Oliver Hill Battery, coast gun batteries were sold and cut-up for scrap.

The two 9.2-inch guns of Oliver Hill Battery were no doubt saved by their isolation and the cost in removing the guns themselves. Finally in 1963 they were sold to the Rottnest Island Board for the princely sum of one shilling (10 tens) each by the Commonwealth Government.

Over a period of time a great deal of effort and monies has been devoted to restoring this unique tourist attraction and important link in Australia’s military history for future generations which has fought a long battle with nature and vandalism.

Vic Jeffery OAM
The Sumatra Memorial Plaque

On Sunday 9 February at Guildford Uniting Church, Wesley Chapel a special ‘Dedication Service’ was conducted for the ‘Sumatra Memorial Plaque’. The dedication was preparatory to the plaque’s approaching placement in the Changi War Museum in Singapore, beside many other Regimental and commemorative plaques, on Saturday 22nd February.

Honoured guests included the Director Veteran Access Network WA, David Watson and his wife, Kevin Trent representing the President of RSL WA and the RAR Association and Rev John Marshall RAN Chaplain, and his wife.

A couple of years ago Nola Elizabeth Hudson, who will turn 101 in April, made contact with family members to enquire how she could commemorate both family and friends who were lost and/or incarcerated during the Malayan campaign of 1942. Nola’s granddaughter took up her cause and after extensive consultation with the Australian Branch of the Malay Volunteers Group and the Changi War Museum, a plaque was developed to commemorate the British, Australian, Dutch, New Zealand, Chinese and Eurasian men, women and children, and the Allied servicemen and women who suffered severe deprivation during three and a half years captivity at Muntok on Banka Island, and in Palembang and Loebok Lingau camps on Sumatra from 1942 to 1945, as well as the many people who were killed in the evacuation of Singapore.

The worship service attended by about 70 people was conducted for the ‘Sumatra Memorial Plaque’. The dedication was preparatory to the plaque’s approaching placement in the Changi War Museum.

Two of the four hymns – ‘I vow to thee my country’ and ‘O God, our help in ages past’, were chosen for their special significance as they were regularly sung by the inmates during their long period of incarceration.

Both speakers reflected on the suffering endured by the internees and POWs at the hands of the Japanese, and of their inspiration to continue engendered by the formation of the ‘Vocal Orchestra’, A Capella singing and of their inspiration to continue engendered by the formation of the ‘Vocal Orchestra’, A Capella singing by the women of the Women’s camp at Muntok and later at Palembang. All in all, very moving and important issues were raised, points not commonly known by the general public.

An overall feeling of the fortitude and bravery shown by those held captive in the many camps within Sumatra was apparent to the congregation.

Internees lived in oppressive conditions, heat and dust during the dry and hot season, followed by rain and leaky thatched roofs during the monsoon, which created a mud-based existence. The conditions became totally unhygienic, food was minimal, malaria, beriberi and dysentery without medication were rife. Tropical ulcers had little chance of healing in the damp climate. Death was often a reprieve from this miserable state of affairs. The loss of children was especially heart-rending for all. All camp chores such as firewood collection and storage, chopping wood, hauling water, digging graves and emptying latrines added to a dreadful existence. The attrition rate of prisoners exceeded 50%.

A strong Christian message, that of ‘forgiveness’ was evident in Robert Gray’s address, whose grandparents are being honoured. A number of people who suffered severely at the hands of the enemy or lost loved ones had since expressed their willingness to forgive. Under such extenuating circumstances this is to be greatly admired.

Attendees enjoyed fellowship and a great morning tea provided by the Wesley Chapel Ladies’ Guild after the service.

The extended family of Robert Gray and his cousins, numbering 21, along with Bill and Elizabeth Adamson from Western Australia, Dr Judy and David Balcombe, from Victoria and Neal Hobbs a former internee, from Queensland will be travelling to Singapore to witness the unveiling of the plaque in the Changi War Museum.

The limished brass Sumatra Plaque, mounted on West Australian jarrah timber, having been dedicated here in the Wesley Chapel, Guildford now awaits transport to Singapore for its final resting place. The fulfillment of Nola Elizabeth Hudson’s original wish for the Memorial is about to be realised.

Prepared by Bill Adamson, Elizabeth Adamson and Arthur Cook

WRAAC Association WA members, sister services and friends met at the Flame of Remembrance, State War Memorial, Kings Park, on Sunday 9th Feb 2014 for the Service of Remembrance on the occasion of the 63rd anniversary of the formation of the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps.

The parade was under the direction of the Deputy State Warden Mr Geoff Simpson and the Sub Wardens from Highgate Sub Branch RSL.

The Service was conducted by Major Laurel Pearce, Salvation Army. Mrs Hazel Donald, Vice President WRAAC Association WA, Mrs Judy Bland WRAAF – representing the State President, RSL and WOI Leanne Ieppe – representing the Brigadier, 13 Brigade laid wreaths.

Army Band (Perth) MUSN Sarah Johnson sounded The Last Post and Reveille. Mrs Judy Welch, Committee Member WRAAC Association WA, recited The Ode.

All adjourned to AFME Bullcreek for a tasty luncheon. Ladies from as far away as Dunsborough, Bunbury, Boyup Brook, and all around the metropolitan area attended. Several ladies who haven’t been for many years were in attendance.

Friendship and fellowship were enjoyed by members, partners and friends.

May H Tomich
President
WRAAC Association WA


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How many West Australians died at Gallipoli? Archivist, curator and research historian Shannon Lovelady took up the challenge issued in June 2013 by author and broadcaster Dr Susan Maushart, who was at the time researching the history of the Presbyterian Ladies’ College.

“The figure was not known but thought to be somewhere between 900-2500,” says Ms Lovelady. “With a background in historic research and database administration, and a key area of interest being WW1 (Western Front though), I decided to do something about it.”

“I gathered a team of 28 volunteers (including members of the WA Genealogical Society WA Group) and embarked on this collaborative project.”

The “Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia” project has so far confirmed WA war dead at Gallipoli is 1021, although the final number is expected to move a little as the last couple of soldiers are more closely examined to determine their links to WA, or whether their cause of death was directly attributable to their Gallipoli service. The final count is not expected to be higher than 1030 or lower than 1010.

Ms Lovelady and her team have reviewed more than 3000 war service dossiers. It is well known that West Australian troops left on two ships out of Fremantle in November, 1914. Interestingly, about 45 West Australians killed (or died from wounds sustained or illness contracted) at Gallipoli enlisted in other states and were on board the major convey of ships that departed from Albany in November 1914.

“I called for submissions of other peoples’ lists to start. Within days I was sent the King Park Avenue of Honour list, the 10th Light Horse Regiment extraction, Fremantle Dead, Carnamah men, Timber Men (down south), Albany Boys and 1915 Western Mail obituaries. I then asked the authors of several Battalion books for their Honour Rolls from the 11th, 16th and 28th Battalions and years of research from historians working on other projects, all of which was generously given.

“I supplemented that with the same (plus the 12th) battalion extractions from both front and back end of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC). I determined the eligibility criteria and what data to collect. To be eligible, the soldier must have died in action, or as a result of wounds received or illness contracted, at Gallipoli. He must also have been born in WA, enlisted from WA, or spent a significant period of his life in WA.” She then tasked her volunteers to examine dossiers and extract information of 10 men at a time by using the online services at the National Archives of Australia.

“All WA lists have now been checked. I am currently editing the data and I am writing a database to hold it.”


“The entire project has been conducted online,” Ms Lovelady said. “All CWGC extractions were through website database interfaces (front end) or email (from the back end) and all volunteer lists were sent and received via email. The Facebook group (Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia) is very popular and has become the forum where researchers meet to exchange news and views, and individual cases are more closely examined.

“Many historians, military historians and research experts have contributed to the Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project. There is also an informal panel of medics who forensically assess whether a Gallipoli injury or illness may have led to a man’s death after his return to Australia.”

John Schumann

John Schumann, who wrote and performed the song that became Vietnam Veterans’ anthem, I Was Only 19, has been honoured on Australia Day. The song, which ran at No.1 for a record time in 1983, alerted millions of Australians to the unsatisfactory plight of so many Vietnam Veterans.

His contribution did not stop with the song. He donated the Artist’s Royalties and the proceeds of a concert to help us with our fight to have exposure to Agent Orange recognised as harmful. He has performed free for countless veterans’ gatherings and has always been on hand to give us help and advice.

More recently ‘Shooey’ has been involved in a programme to educate our troops about PTSD.

In short, ‘Shooey’ has been, and continues to be, a valuable supporter of Vietnam Veterans as well as veterans of more recent conflicts. His service to the veteran community has been invaluable.

For this and his contribution to Australian music, ‘Shooey’ has been appointed to the Order of Australia (OAM).

This was ‘Shooey’s’ response: “If you, know, I can use this award and the profile that it brings, to just continue to raise the care and support for the men and women we send away to fight our wars, then it’ll be worthwhile.”

We congratulate him.

Tim McCombe, National President Vietnam Veterans Federation
Ex-service organisations have banded together to support the treatment in Bali of the daughter of former regular soldier and Vietnam veteran Alan Bennett.

Erica Ward (30), married with two sons, started eight weeks’ treatment at the Neogen Clinic in Kuta on 23 January. She earlier wrote to the Vietnam Veterans Association to spell out her extraordinary chronic illness and extensive treatment and said last year, despite private health insurance, was $37,000 out of pocket.

“In Bali, Erica is being treated for toxins and on the first dialysis they extracted 200mls of toxins,” says Erica’s mother, Mary Bennett. “They have done numerous tests and believe it is genetic, caused by Alan’s exposure to chemicals in Vietnam.

“I have no doubt, seeing how sick Alan is, that Erica’s illness is caused by toxins she inherited in her DNA. I lost six babies and no-one can tell me why. These babies weren’t viable. Erica’s own twin died.”

Mary acknowledges that no Australian doctor has confirmed the link between Alan’s experience during his seven months tour in Nui Dat and the problems subsequently experienced by her immediate family. All she knows is that she and all four daughters have suffered severe medical problems.

Alan (62) was declared totally and permanently incapacitated at the age of 48. He spends up to 20 hours a day in bed and suffers a number of conditions including fibromyalgia, PTSS, and chronic pain.

Mrs Bennett says she has only survived through her faith in God, saying “If it wasn’t for my Christian faith I think I’d be loopy.”

The RSL in Victoria, Western Australia and NSW and Vietnam Veterans banded together to pledge support for Erica’s treatment.

The day before her departure, State Vice President Denis Connelly and State Secretary Phil Orchard visited Mrs Ward’s Parkerville home to personally hand-over a $14,000 cheque to the family from the Victorian and WA RSLs.

State President Graham Edwards said Erica Ward had suffered to an extraordinary degree.

“The RSL will always do its best to support veterans and their families,” Mr Edwards said. “Richard Williams from the Vietnam Veterans Association in WA has been of fantastic support to the family. The support given to Erica reflects the benefits of ex-service organisations working together to support veterans’ families.”

Erica is expected to return home from Bali on 24 March.

John Arthur
Women given their voice

Part of my role is to encourage new membership and to explore ways of reaching out to encourage greater participation in the veteran community.

We would like to carry on the principles of the many groups that have undertaken great work on behalf of the RSL. We would like to continue with their legacy by encouraging new and younger members who can carry on this good work for years to come.

One of the projects I am working on is the development of a Women’s Forum to be held at ANZAC House on Saturday 23 August 2014. We hope this forum helps us develop a relevant and attractive ongoing program of activities that supports our women members at present and in the future. Our Working Party meets every month and other members include currently serving women and members of sub branches and two staff from head office.

The forum will give service and ex-service women a voice and an opportunity to express their views on how the RSL can grow and prosper.

The program will include a number of exciting key note speakers, stalls, prizes and we hope to have a child minding facility available on the day. As part of the forum we will be holding a workshop where groups of women will have an opportunity to voice their opinions about what they would like to see from the RSL in the future. We want to be seen as a vibrant, active and sustainable organisation and we really hope you will join us as we work together in building the RSL.

We are also appealing to all sub branches to nominate a woman who can write a story about what military unit they served in and about their time with the RSL. We want to find out what the RSL means to them, and what it has done for them so that we can publish their stories in a special booklet for the forum.

There are many outstanding women in our Sub-Branches and we want them to inspire others.

Donna Prytulak

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2014 ‘ANZAC Shirt’

Further to our previous announcement, we are now in a position to release further details and images of the 2014 ‘ANZAC Shirt’.

As many of you may be aware Westcoats Embroidery produced the 2013 ‘ANZAC Shirt’ which was a run away success. The limited number available sold out in 30 hours. These shirts were ordered and sent Australia wide.

The 2014 shirts are again of impressive quality. The standard of the embroidery and final packaging and presentation is unique. Westcoats are so confident in their product that they offer a ‘no questions asked’ replacement warranty on the quality of the garment and embroidery.

The shirts are produced in WA by this WA owned businesses. Each shirt will again be serial numbered and issued with its unique, matching Certificate of Authenticity.

Proceeds from the sale of these shirts will be donated to the WA Branch.

Members are invited to place their orders for this limited edition shirt via the Westcoats Embroidery website www.westcoatsembroidery.com.au. Order forms are also available from RSL WA Headquarters and Westcoats Embroidery in Gosnells.

The 2014 ANZAC shirt is proudly West Australian inspired. There are four embroidery sites on each garment. The feature design being a depiction of our own Kings Park Memorial and Reflection pool. All images have been approved by the Australian Army.

As in 2013, garments are available in three styles – Men’s Polo or Rugby style shirts ( Sizes S – 5XL), Ladies polo shirts ( Sizes 8 – 24), and Children’s polo shirts ( Sizes 4 – 14).

Although the garment has been produced for wearing on ANZAC Day, it is stylish enough to be worn at any time, showing the wearer’s support for our military personnel past and present.
friendly environment that allows guests to relax and their goal of providing a community based, family The Karratha Sub-Branch has certainly achieved the Karratha T-Ball Association.

They have also been able to donate money to Legacy, and more comfortable furniture.

The revenue created by this has allowed the Club to update many of their facilities, including a children’s playground, flat screen televisions, a Memorial Wall, and more comfortable furniture.

They have also been able to donate money to Legacy, as well as the Karratha Water Polo Association and the Karratha T-Ball Association.

The Karratha Sub-Branch has certainly achieved their goal of providing a community based, family friendly environment that allows guests to relax and enjoy the company of friends.

The Sub-Branch has been entrepreneurial in catering to the FIFO market, opening for dinner on Friday nights which can attract crowds of up to 120. This in itself is an impressive feat for a Club run entirely by volunteers.

The Sub-Branch is also responsible for the construction of the Sub-Branch room at the Port Bouvard Recreation and Sporting Club, assisted greatly in the Sub-Branches’ dealings with the various authorities involved.

Paddi Creevey OAM collecting her award.

Ms Paddy Creevey OAM from the City of Mandurah

Paddi has consistently supported the City of Mandurah and Dawesville RSL Sub-Branches and general veteran community in her area both physically and morally.

It is very probable that Paddi’s background of 10 years supervising social work at Royal Perth Hospital’s psychiatric unit has provided her with a genuine understanding of some of the issues facing Ex-Service men and women. This understanding is best evidenced in the approachable way Paddi communicates with Veterans on both an individual and community level.

The advice and encouragement Paddi gave to the Dawesville Sub-Branch during the planning process prior to the construction of the Sub-Branch room at the Port Bouvard Recreation and Sporting Club, assisted greatly in the Sub-Branches’ dealings with the various authorities involved.

Paddi’s example of a person committed to the grateful appreciation of the efforts of Ex-Service Men and Women was instrumental in establishing the excellent relationship the Dawesville Sub-Branch continues to enjoy with the Officers of the City of Mandurah.

Individual Award

Mt Lawley Senior High School

Mt Lawley Senior High School works closely with the Ex-POW Association on various matters, including various awards to students, a Cadet of the Year Award for the school cadet unit, and also work together to sponsor 2 students to go on a tour of the Thai-Burma Railway each year.

Mt Lawley Senior High School also adopted the Ex-POW Association Memorial in Kings Park in 1997 and have since conducted the Annual Memorial Service on behalf of the Association, including the school choir and band, speakers and cadets.

Community Award
Cadet Efficiency Shields

Australian Defence Credit Union is a major sponsor of the Cadet Efficiency Shield. Mia Sibum from ADCU assisted with the presentation of Awards, and for the presentation of the Sponsorship Cheque.

The Cadet Efficiency Shield is judged internally by the respective headquarters of the Cadet Services. They are judged across a variety of categories including drill, leadership, administration, participation in activities and commemorations, and teamwork.

This year’s winners were TS ANZAC, TS CANNING, Christ Church Grammar School Army Cadet Unit and 703 Squadron (City of Fremantle). Congratulations to all units, and thank you to ADCU for their generous donation that makes this presentation possible.

TS ANZAC

Lieutenant Commander Ray Cron collecting the award on behalf of TS Anzac.

TS Canning

Lieutenant Dave Bromberg from TS Canning accepting the Award.

703 Squadron

Commanding Officer FLTLT James Cash collecting the award.

RSL "Spirit of ANZAC" Awards

Hollywood Private Hospital has been a long standing sponsor of the Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year Awards. Mr Peter Mott, the CEO of Hollywood Private Hospital presented the Awards with the State President.

Cadets that nominated to participate in the Spirit of ANZAC program attended a testing day in November which includes a written test on Australian General Knowledge, a speech, dress and bearing and first aid. All of the cadets that participated received a Certificate of Participation, shirt and cap.

This year’s participants are as follows:

**Navy**

CDTPO Teisha Benedetti (TS PERTH), CDTLS Kolbe Burgoyne (TS CANNING), CDT Campbell Christie (TS MARMION), CDTPO Christian Gallagher (TS CANNING), CDTLS Olivia Ohnemus (TS MARMION), CDTLS Gareth Parr (TS CANNING) and CDT David Peacock (TS MARMION).

**Army**

CDSGT William Coggin (501 ADU), CDWO2 John Foster (507 ACU), CUO Gregory Hekkens (52 ACU ARMADALE), CUO Luke Jones (509 ACU) and CUO Amanda Ward (509 ACU).

**Air Force**

CFGT Kenneth Ang (703 SQN), CFGT Owen Bertucci (703 SQN), CCPL Joshua Laborde (704 SQN) and CUO Steven Morganti (704 SQN).

Of these participants, the three that did the best from each service won a trip to Darwin and a commemorative ANZAC Coin, donated by the Perth Mint.

The three winners were:

CDTLS Kolbe Burgoyne, CUO Luke Jones and CUO Steven Morganti.
Australia Day Awards, Cadet of the Year & Cadet Efficiency Shields

ANZAC House – Monday, 20 January 2014
The Digger’s View: WWI In Colour

Edited by Juan Mahony
Published by The Digger’s View Pty Ltd
www.thediggersview.com.au

“The Digger’s View”, WWI in colour provides an unprecedented view of Australia at war on a scale that’s difficult to comprehend even now one hundred years later.

This is a book that takes a new approach to the war. The collaboration between Juan Mahony and Kent Rowe Digital Print, has resulted in a unique and fresh look at our participation in The Great War. Five years in planning and production, the book is now set to be released to coincide with the centenary of this important part of Australian history. All the images in the book have been painstakingly colourised to accurately portray what the digger’s world was like and how they saw themselves. The narrative text of the participants, further enhances the personal perspective we quickly obtain as we make our way through the pages.

To fully appreciate what Australian First World War soldiers experienced during the period of 1914-1918 and why it is so important to our society, demands that we need to know what they observed and reflected upon. ‘Digger’s View. WWI in Colour’ provides just this link.

Although colour photography was around prior to 1903, the Lumière brothers, Auguste and Louis, patented the process in 1903 and developed the first colour film in 1907. The French army was the primary source of colour photos during the course of World War I, however, the famous Australian official photographer, Frank Hurley also experimented with colour photography.

The gallery contained within these covers is part of our ever growing collection of Australian and international World War I photography, painstakingly hand coloured and restored. Each high resolution image takes between 1 day to 1 month to complete, and the attention to detail in the colouring process has achieved results far superior to automated recolouring techniques.

This book must form a part of any library in our country that’s claiming to cover the history of our Nation’s involvement in major conflicts. The cost will be $49.95 per edition and postage is five dollars to anywhere in the country. From this sum five dollars per book will be donated to RSL State Branch Welfare.

Dr Rod Bain

Historic Collaboration Sees Veterans Take to The Stage

The Long Way Home is a powerful theatre event reflecting Australian soldiers’ stories from the front line.

This historic collaboration between Sydney Theatre Company and the Australian Defence Force kicked off in 2013 with a group comprising Australian servicemen and women who sustained physical and psychological wounds, injuries or illness in the line of duty, in Afghanistan in particular.

After undertaking a five-week creative development period alongside director Stephen Rayne, playwright Daniel Keene and professional actors, the group started rehearsal at Sydney Theatre Company to present the play in a national tour.

These army personnel perform alongside professional actors as part of a broader rehabilitation program that assists their recovery. We open a door on their lives while deployed on operations and illuminate the central concerns and challenges of their return to everyday life after their intense experiences abroad.

The Long Way Home will be performed at His Majesty’s Theatre on Friday 11 April at 8:00pm, and Saturday 12 April at 2:00pm and 8:00pm. Tickets are available through Ticketek, www.ticketek.com.au.

Ticket Giveaway

Win a double pass to The Long Way Home at His Majesty’s Theatre Perth from 11-12 April. Simply email Amy Hunt by 7 March 2014 with your full name, email address, phone number and preferred performance date to go in the draw.

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Expertly hand-painted Avro Lancaster Bomber sculpture with bronze-tone finish

Showing the 617 Squadron motto 'Après Moi, Le Déluge'

Clock and thermometer inspired by the Lancaster's authentic cockpit instruments

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THE LISTENING POST October 2009

THE BRADFORD EXCHANGE

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February 2014

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Hand-crafted Avro Lancaster Bomber sculpture with bronze-tone finish

Showcasing the 617 Squadron motto 'Après Moi, Le Déluge'

Clock and thermometer inspired by the Lancaster's authentic cockpit instruments

MEASURES
25cm WIDE
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Expertly hand-painted for precision detail

Includes a fascinating FREE FACT CARD!

THE LISTENING POST October 2009
Sub-Branch News

Shade Sails and Playground Promote a Healthy Bottom Line

FROM PAGE 1

“A hall is a hall, but this particular hall plays an integral role within the community,” says Darrin. “Although licensed for six days a week operations, Friday night is the only members’ night. The playground ensures a family-based culture attends and makes for a relaxed Friday night atmosphere.”

Like all resource communities within WA, Fly In Fly Out has its effect within Karratha. Turnover of personnel is quite high and all clubs struggle to maintain strong leadership, culture and supporter base. The Karratha RSL is no different and there have been numerous highs and lows over the past 30 years in membership, finances and committee achievements.

In 2007 the RSL Club did not open for ANZAC Day, as membership and volunteer participation had fallen to such low levels.

“When I arrived in town in 2009 the Club was being run by a number of ex-service men, now Police Officers,” says Angus. “They had answered the call and set about building the membership base. The President, Secretary, Vice President and Treasurer were all police officers.

“I had moved up here for Woodside, working at their supply base. I found they were a really welcoming club but it was known locally as a police club. Jack Lee (Snr Sgt) was adamant he and his team should step aside and allow non-police personnel to take more control of the day to day activities. This they did and I must say, they left the club in a very strong position both with membership numbers and financial stability.”

It was these police officers who encouraged Angus Armstrong, who has 25 years’ Navy service behind him, to take over the club in 2009.

Things have changed since then. The club runs highly successful Monday bingo nights and family-friendly Friday nights. It’s open most days because it is shared as a community asset. Week nights are utilised by local volunteer organisations such as:

- Bingo (RLS charity fund raising)
- APEX (local fund raising organisation of gentlemen under 45 who provide assistance and financial aid to numerous charities)
- Soroptimists (local fund raising organisation of selfless ladies who provide assistance and financial aid to numerous charities)
- Red Dog 4WD Club (local club of 4WD enthusiasts which assists the Shire in running local events)

“Volunteers cook meals on Friday nights and we serve up to 70 while kids can entertain themselves in the playground. We open at 6.30 and by 9.30pm we are down to 20 or so. You can’t scratch yourself for two and a half hours and then the kids get tired and they all go home.

“We still have strict rules. We say the Ode at 9 o’clock and kids are not allowed in the licensed area.”

Karratha is essentially a Woodside / Rio Tinto town, so the Sub-Branch has only 30 service members and 10 affiliates. But it has 230 social members and because it regularly leases out the premises it has a healthy bank balance.

The current committee of Rob Tribi, Karen McCormack, Darrin McKenny, Angus Armstrong, Wayne Cooke, Sean Clery and Gary Vincent have been a mainstay of stability for more than four years.

“We don’t have many ex-service veterans in the town. If you’re not working you tend not to live in Karratha because rents can be $2,000 a week.

“We do look after the Autumn Club (a group of very capable retired people in the ‘autumn of their life’). They have the run of the club any time they want it. They only have to say the word and we’ll rustle up whatever they require. They run our legacy collection activities throughout the year for which we’re very grateful.”

As we all know, the point to having a Sub-Branch is to contribute to both the Karratha community and the greater defence community. This Sub-Branch has been a significant contributor to Legacy over the years and, in particular the past five years where it has donated more than $80,000 including approximately $30,000 in 2013. Locally the club supports and sponsors the Karratha Water Polo association and the Baseball, Softball and T-Ball association.

John Arthur

Legacy Support

Busselton RSL Sub-Branch President, Bob Wood, presented a cheque for $500 to Legacy’s John Burridge at the annual Legacy Wards’ camp in Busselton on 4 January this year.

Busselton RSL had previously donated another $500 sum to Legacy. The total of $1,000 was raised at the Busselton RSL’s ANZAC Day function in 2013 to be used for the betterment of the wards of Legacy.

83 children between the age of five and 17 years are attending the 14-day camp this year with 21 coming from interstate and 11 being Police Legacy wards. The wards are all the children of defence force or police personnel who have lost their lives. The Busselton RSL Sub-Branch is proud to support such a worthy cause and looks forward to an ongoing close relationship with Legacy in the Busselton region.

Bob Wood, President Busselton RSL Sub Branch

Presentation of cheque for the Wards of Legacy to Legatee John Burridge by Legatee Bob Wood, President of Busselton RSL Sub Branch at the Legacy Wards’ Camp 2014
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch

The City of Perth Point Peron Camp has been a hive of activity over the Christmas period and into January. In addition to the usual Christmas and New Year festivities a busy bee was held to complete the camp’s recitations program.

Over the last two years camp members and volunteers have progressively laid over 1 km of rural reticulation pipe, installed over 18 solenoids and approximately 70 sprinklers. These are all driven by three pumps and four control boxes using bore water. City of Perth members felt the financial outlay was necessary due to water restrictions imposed by Watercorp which made hand and moveable sprinkler watering impossible within the times allocated. Provision has been made for improving the water pressure to the park’s caravan rental bays and boat trailer parking areas as funds become available. The entire exercise was a wonderful display of teamwork and a credit to those involved.

There has been quite a few sites changing hands in the past twelve months and it has been great to see a variety of new faces in the park, enjoying the wonderful lifestyle the camp affords us all. A whole new generation is starting to appear as some of the original owners and long standing members now have children, grandchildren, and in some cases great grandchildren coming to enjoy the wonderful beach area in front of our camp.

I feel sure our original members who worked so hard all those years ago at the beginning of our camp’s existence would be very proud to know that subsequent generations are enjoying the camp as much as they are. We all hope and pray that Government bureaucrats don’t go mad and allow this Government gift of land to the returned servicemen to be taken over by private enterprise with the view to develop Point Peron into a housing estate and Marina.

On 26 January 2014 it was party time and members, both new and old, along with their family and friends celebrated Australia Day with a sausage sizzle, and a variety of gastronomic delights in the form of tasters, and nibbles supplied by members. A fabulous day was had by all on the shores of Mangles Bay finishing on the shores of Mangles Bay finishing with views of the Fireworks displays in Fremantle, Perth and Rockingham.

RSL members who have campers or caravans and wish to visit our rental sites can do so by contacting our Caretaker Glenis Walford on 95278551.

Graham Boyd

City of Belmont RSL

The Sub-Branch was one of many venues that celebrated Australia Day throughout the country for this special occasion.

Members and friends gathered to enjoy the day’s festivities with our special guests Mr Steve Irons MP, Mrs Glenys Godfrey, member for Belmont, the Mayor of the City of Belmont, Mr Phil Marks and many councillors.

The crowd was entertained by the "Numguts" who played some very lively music throughout the day and also some very young highland dancers who were an absolute delight to watch and never missed a beat.

Our special annual "Citizen of Belmont Australian of the Year" Award for 2014 was presented to Mr Fred Rae. Fred served as a councillor for many years and also as Mayor of the City of Belmont. He is a past Patron of the Sub-Branch and took a keen interest in the welfare of the members during his term of office. Fred has extensive business interests in many areas but still lives in Belmont and has always given wonderful support to the community. Fred was accompanied by his wife, Norma, and both thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Lunch was provided by the boys from the Skullbone and Pig Society who started cooking the lamb on the spit about 4.30am. This was served with sausages and salads with lamingtons to follow. Volunteers also manned the bar to keep the drinks flowing.

Raffle prizes were drawn throughout the day and some quiz questions from the citizenship test were put to the crowd and I am pleased to say they did very well.

Many thanks to the committee and the volunteers who once again made the day a huge success for the people who like to come along to enjoy our hospitality on Australia Day.

Olga Greig OAM

Visitors and members participating in social evenings at ANZAC House in Port Hedland will be pleasantly surprised to see that new chairs are in place.

BHP Billiton Iron Ore responded positively to the request by the RSL in Port Hedland for new chairs to replace aged and mismatched furniture.

The new chairs were carefully selected for their slides which make it easier to push out and arm rests for firm support when rising and sitting down. These chairs are well suited to the needs of members, veterans, their families and guests.

The purchase of the chairs would not have been possible without the generous support of BHP Billiton.

Social evenings are held on the second and fourth Friday of each month at ANZAC House. For enquiries please telephone the RSL Community Shop on 9173 3311.

Robyn Middleton
Secretary
Port Hedland Sub-Branch
Camp Hart is a camp for all Veterans and Defence Force personnel and their families who would like to get away from it all for a while or who are just passing through the area.

It is dedicated to the memory of Pte Peter R. Hart who died of wounds in South Vietnam on 19 March 1967 at the age of 22. Pte Hart was the son of the local Postmaster.

Kulin is approximately 3 ½ hours from Perth. The camp is situated 14kms east of Kulin beside Jilakin Lake and alongside Jilakin Rock.

The camp was started by nine Veterans from the City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch. Over the last 10 years they have made various improvements to the camp and we now have an enclosed patio area that has two pot belly stoves to keep you warm in the winter months. We also have three toilets and shower areas with one combined access toilet and shower.

We have purchased our own generator which we use for lighting and to run our showers.

Even though the camp is open all year round, some months are better than others in regard to the hot and cold weather.

On the first weekend of October every year Kulin holds its Annual Bush Races. It’s a very good time and people come from all over to attend. More than 4,000 have attended.

Veterans and their families usually start arriving on the Wednesday before the races as we have our own activities before the actual day. On the Wednesday night we have a sausage sizzle and a meet, greet and catch-up night. Then on Thursday night everyone goes into town to play lawn bowls with the locals and Friday we have our own Bocce Tournament.

We hold our own Memorial Service on Saturday morning and this is well attended by Veterans, the locals from town and also other people that have come for the Races.

If you would like any further information please feel free to contact;

Barry Todd, President: 0427 471 541
Gary Williams, Vice President: (08) 9581 2681 / pecky82@bigpond.com

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Lou Kidd
Secretary/Treasurer
Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch
Three Springs-Arino

The President of the RSL Sub-Branch, Three Springs, Arino, Carnamah and Coorow, Mr Ray Morgan JP, organised a public ceremony on Remembrance Day which was held at the War Memorial in the centre of Three Springs.

Mr Morgan persuaded the headmaster of the Primary School to allow the students to take part in the ceremony. One of the teachers read a story of the true meaning of courage. Many residents attended the ceremony and wreaths were laid by the club and the children. In all it was a very successful and impressive ceremony which we will hopefully repeat.

Sean Boonstra
Publicity Officer
RSL Three Springs

Canning Districts/Victoria Park RSL

The Canning Districts/Victoria Park RSL Club Inc. decided on a new approach for their Christmas lunch on 7 December 2013. Instead of the usual sit down, table service lunch they held an Aussie Christmas Barbecue.

Sausages, kebabs and rissoles along with cold serves of ham and chicken and plenty of salads were available for all to enjoy. Desserts followed with the usual Christmas pudding and custard, fruit salads, cheesecake and cream, rum balls and ice cream.

About 60 people attended along with two VIPs and their wives. Everyone agreed that it was a huge success and that it will be carried on in future years. A raffle was held with all persons donating a prize and some businesses also donated a prize.

Terry Reynolds
Secretary
Canning Districts Sub-Branch

Community Award for Capel RSL

The Capel RSL Sub Branch has been announced as the Community Group of the Year by the Shire of Capel.

The award, made at the shire’s Citizenship and Community Awards night on 23 January, is for “fostering Australian pride and spirit through active citizenship and outstanding contribution to the community”.

MLCs Barry House and Colin Holt (for the South West Region) and Mick Murray, MLA for Collie-Preston, were present. All have sent written congratulations since the event.

The Sub Branch were awarded a special and given a cheque for $200, which we can use.

Bob Dening

Reg Louden

Mr Reg Louden celebrated his 100th birthday on 22 December 2013 at the Bunbury RSL Sub Branch. President John Gelmi presented Reg with a plaque to recognise his birthday and 61 years being a member of the RSL.

Reg Louden was born in Trafalgar on 22 December 1913. He started work in 1927 as an apprentice linotype operator at the Kalgoorlie Miner. Reg stayed with the Miner until he joined 2/28 Battalion in 1941.

In 1940 Reg was sent to the Middle East and in July 1942 his battalion was involved in heavy fighting south of the famed El Alamein. Reg was missing for two years behind German lines. Nobody knew if he was dead or alive.

Reg was captured by the Germans and hid with the Italians and about six months later joined the Italian partisans. For three months Reg was held captive in Benghazi. After three months of horrible conditions where prisoners had no water or food, used their boots as a pillow and dug holes for their hip when they laid down, Reg was transferred to Camp 57 in northern Italy.

He remained a prisoner for another nine months. When Italy joined the Allied cause in 1943 Reg and other prisoners escaped and headed for the Alps. Reg ended up at Vercelli where he lived and hid with the Italians and about six months later joined the Italian partisans. Reg was missing for two years behind German lines. Nobody knew if he was dead or alive.

After the war Reg returned to Kalgoorlie. In 1949 with his wife Dulcie, Reg moved to Bunbury. 1952 saw Reg open his own business, Express Print, which still remains in the family today. Reg has a son and daughter, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Tony Zajer
Secretary
Bunbury Sub-Branch

Local Girls Help the RSL

Pinjarra RSL hold their first social function for 2014, a Candlelight Dinner on Saturday 18 January. Four young ladies from Pinjarra Senior High School volunteered their time to provide table service for the members.

The back patio was set up for fine dining. These young ladies have never waited tables before and did an excellent job serving us the five course dinner. Everyone enjoyed themselves and commented on how well the girls presented themselves and provided an excellent service.

Thank you Zoe, Koralee, Tehani and Caitlin.

Sue O’Donnell
Secretary
Pinjarra RSL

Reg with Gay and Kerry

Zoe, Koralee, Tehani and Caitlin
The two students who were successful in winning places on the 2014 Tour are Olivia Ferguson & Sam Chitty. This was a very competitive competition, with a total of six students all from the Toodyay District High School taking part.

The judging panel were hard pressed to make their decision. As you are all aware the reason the RSL run this competition, is to endeavour to keep the story of the Sandakan Death Marches alive. To remember those individuals who lost their lives in the defence of our country. These individuals are the three Dorizzi Brothers, Gordon, Herbert & Thomas.

The other Member from our district was Reginald Ferguson. We found out after the awards were made last year, that both of our students are related to Reg Ferguson. Reg lost his life in Ranau Camp no.1 on the 23 March 1945 this was only a couple of months before the Japanese surrendered in Borneo in September 1945.

The winning students will be representing themselves and the Toodyay community. They will be joining a delegation of approx 30 individuals, organized by the Borneo Exhibition Group Inc (BEG) which will include eight other students, four of them from Borneo, who came through the partnership with Australia, Sarawak and Sabah school program (PASS).

The tour consists of a fourteen day program to visit many of the sites where these WW11 events occurred. The students and their guardians will depart Perth on Saturday 9 April 2014 they will fly to Kuching which is the capital of Sarawak via Kuala Lumpur. They will spend a number of days in Kuching visiting various places before departing by air for Labuan via Miri. Labuan is an island and it is where the War cemetery for Borneo is located. ANZAC Day Services will be held in the War Cemetery on Labuan. The students then fly to Sandakan via Kota Kinabalu. In Sandakan they will attend a service close to the site of the Sandakan Prisoner of War camp.

They then journey to Ranau taking part in a Rice carrying exercise to demonstrate a small part of the hardships the allied prisoners were subjected to. They then visit the Kundasung Memorial Gardens which is an amazing memorial. It is then onto Kota Kinabalu and a visit to the SANZAC School. Then they fly home again via KL. This is only a brief outline of the itinerary.

On their return to Australia our students will be called upon to deliver a few presentations to our sponsors and the school to relate what they have seen and learnt. We again need to thank our sponsors, who have enabled us to send two students to Sandakan this year.

Our major sponsors are, The Toodyay Shire Council, Toodyay District Community Bendigo Bank, The Toodyay Lions Club, The Toodyay Op Shop, The Toodyay Dental Clinic and You the Toodyay Community for supporting all our fundraising events, raffles and other fundraising activities.

Mr Charlie Ferguson donates wood every year for our street raffle. We have also had the support of both our Federal and State Members of Parliament The Hon Christian Porter MP & Mr Shane Love MLA.

This year we will giving our students a T Shirt which spell out where they are from and their association to the Sandakan Death March. We must thank Vickie Wesley for her support in obtaining these shirts. (pictured right)

We hope that Olivia and Sam have a memorable trip to Borneo. I don’t know how many people know but Australia was responsible for the defeat of the Japanese in Borneo, the Australian 9th Division had this honour. When Sabah was called British North Borneo the 9th Divisions T Patch appeared on their coat of arms. That is how much the people of Sabah recognised Australia’s support.

Lou Kidd
Secretary/Treasurer
Toodyay RSL Sub-Branch

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The 23rd annual reunion of the HMAS Bataan Veterans will be held at Adelaide South Australia on Thursday, 11 September to Sunday, 14 September. It will be held at the Grand Chifley Adelaide in South Terrace.

New members are welcome.

John F. Laughton JP
(03) 9704 7799
0417 336 423

End of an Era Steamships Reunion
The “End of an Era” steamships reunion will be held from 7 – 9 November 2014 in Mandurah.

For details email mandurah2014reunion@navystokers.org

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Naval Association of Australia – 2015 Reunion Plan
The 2011 tri-ennial conference of the Naval Association of Australia (NAA), has decided to hold a national reunion held every three years to embrace the membership in a sense of camaraderie and togetherness.

This reunion will replace the tri-ennial conference as the Constitution has been amended to focus on the annual general meeting (AGM) as the primary decision making vehicle for the NAA to amend or introduce new elements of the Constitution.

The first National reunion will be in Brisbane in September 2015. It is important that the reunion align with a significant event in the history of the RAN, its operations, vessels and people. 2015 is the Centenary of the formation of the ANZAC forces through military operations at Gallipoli and has wide Australia and New Zealand focus. Brisbane is uniquely placed to connect the NAA, a former RAN vessel and significant historic events relating to World War II in one city.

The reunion is proposed to be held on the weekend 25 – 27 September 2015. The location for the reunion will be – Brisbane City Area and the Maritime Museum Southbank.

The accommodation search site is: www.booking.com as advertised on the NAA website www.navalassoc.org.au

Russell Pettis National President
Barry McGlone and Mark Jaman

Geoffrey Turgeon, a former 4 RAR member, is looking for his old mates: Barry McGlone and Mark Jaman. On 26 January, my father's residence in Swanview was robbed and amongst all the things that we lost, my father’s residence in

John and Spider

My name is Philip Naylor and 46 years ago (December 1968) I was 12 years old and spending Christmas in Kuala Lumpur, along with my 14 year old sister, our uncle and aunt who were seconded to the Malaysian Air Force.

Contact Deborah on 0447822739 if you can assist.

Stuart Morton

My name is Rob and I am writing to you for some help in finding out information on my father-in-law Stuart Morton. Stu passed away in 2000 from cancer which was obviously devastating for his family. ‘Stu’ was married to Barb, had two sons and a daughter, who is now my wife. I never got the opportunity to meet Stu but have heard a lot about him. He now has three grandchildren with a fourth on the way. It is unfortunate that he never had the opportunity to meet them. Stu served for 20 odd years in the army, with different RAR’s and other training establishments.

He also served a 12 month tour to SVN in 70-71 as a young man. Unfortunately Stu, from what I can gather, wasn’t the most open about his time in army and especially his tour to SVN. I think it is an important piece of the family history and something that his children and grandchildren should know about. Stu and his family have a proud history of service in both Australia and Britain from WWII right through to Afghanistan and this continues to this day.

His children have all proudly served the country at some point. Barb was also a 15+ year SGT who marched out of the WRAAC in the mid 70’s. Stu’s father Ken served with the Yanks and Lancers in North Africa and Italy during WWII so there is a deep military history in the family I am trying to put together. Below is from the AWM site stating Stu's service dates in SVN and the units he served with.

What I am looking for is anyone who knows anything about Stu’s time in the army, who may have served with him in 1RAR, 3RAR or anywhere in Australia and in particular anyone who served with him in SVN with any of the units listed below. Stu reached the rank of W02 before his discharge.


Thank you for your help. Any information would be greatly appreciated. I can be initially reached on this email.

Rob Mugridge fonc82@hotmail.com

Can you help?

Barry McGlone and Mark Jaman

If you know of these two gentleman could you please reply to Geoffrey at 0412 040 398 koooralbynglass@bigpond.com

Daniel Smits

My name is Danielle Smits and I have been trying to find men who served with my Dad, 54497 Daniel Smits. He died when I was six years old and I would love to talk to people who knew him and can tell me a little about him. He was in 3RAR company support in Vietnam between 20/12/67 to 28/11/68 he stayed in the army until his death on 21/12/76. I live in Queensland now. Any photos would be appreciated as well.

Danielle Smits becareof.live.com.au

Lawrence John Knight

I am searching for an uncle of mine known by the name of John Knight. His real name is Lawrence John Knight. He spent time in the Vietnam with 9RAR 68-69 both overseas and at home. His family has not seen him for some 30 years or more and he was last believed to be living in Brisbane.

John's mother (my grandmother) is 97 years of age, and nearing the end of her life. I would dearly love to be able to re-unite them.

John grew up in Bowen QN, if it helps.

Gary Erickson

email gary.erickson@bigpond.com

Phone 0418 481 469

Missing Medals

My name is LCPL Andrew John Main and I am a current serving member of the Australian Army.

On 26 January, my father’s residence in Swanview was robbed and amongst all the things that we lost, my Afghan Campaign Medal was stolen with the original medal and miniature still in the box. This is very close to my heart as it was awarded for my tours of service to Afghanistan.

I would like help in getting any word out to people, so that it can either be found or returned, as you know duplicates are not the same as originals. I do not care who has taken it I would just like to get it back.

My details engraved around the medal are “8514286 A.J.MAIN”

Andrew Main

0424 370 234

Ex-Chief Pte Allan Jorgenson

I would like to make contact with Ex-Chief Pte Allan Jorgenson. His last known whereabouts were either Yamba or Iluka NSW, previously at Wagga Wagga. An ex PTI Ray Briggs would like to talk to him.

If anyone can assist, I can be contacted on 07 5575 3340, or ground@bigpond.net.au

Frank Round

(Ex-CPOPTI)

Garry Norris Perrin

Ex -WOSTD Terry Daff from Seaford, Victoria (also ex Waller Division of January 1964) is trying to locate his Best Man, then ABSTD Garry Norris Perrin (Nickname Pippy?) who originally came from the ACT.

Can anyone help please?

Terry is not on email so any replies can be directed to me at my work email address.

martin.grogan1@defence.gov.au or grevillthedev@gmail.com

Marty Grogan

Manager

Museum of IMAS CEREBRUS WESTERNPORT 3920 VIC

Stuart Morton

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Rob Mugridge fonc82@hotmail.com

Found: Bracelet

Deborah Thompson is looking for the owner (or the owners family) of a bracelet (pictured) found by her mother in Mandurah.

The inscriptions read: RA Basley WA PO4 33722.

Contact Deborah on 0447822739 if you can assist.
St George’s Cathedral: Sunday 2 March: 5pm Evensong of St David: commemorating the Welsh Troops of WWI

On the Sunday nearest to St David’s Day St George’s Cathedral and the Welsh Free Church of WA combine to celebrate Wales and its Patron Saint, St David.

As this year is the centenary of WWI, we take this opportunity to commemorate those men of Wales who fought for King and Country on the battlefields of Europe; those who died and those who returned to Wales. The Cathedral Consort sings all-Welsh music, and great Welsh hymns are enjoyed by the congregation.

Sunday 27 April: 5pm Commemoration of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, Book-launch, and Reception of French Wines and Cheeses

Australian troops ‘saved France’ by taking the small village of Villers-Bretonneux from enemy possession in WWI. The Villers-Bretonneux Cross, constructed in the aftermath of battle, is now housed in St George’s Cathedral, and the Battle is commemorated annually in April.

As this year is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WWI, there is also a book-launch and a reception following the Service. ‘The Promise: N’oublions pas l’Australie’ is an ideal introduction to Villers-Bretonneux for children. As it is written both in English and in French it is also a good French reader for children or adults learning the language. It explains the events of the Battle and the on-going connections between Australia and the town of Villers-Bretonneux. Peruse this charming publication, and meet Perth’s French community on the Parvis outside the Cathedral as you enjoy the varied wines and cheeses from the regions of France and maintain the links forged in WWI between Australia and France.

DVA Indigenous Support

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RASig’s Assn (Vic)

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All replies direct to: President - RA Sig’s Assn (VICT) - Gavin Lee, (03) 9390 4171 - 0425 722 347 - gavin.lee18@hotmail.com

Return to Sandakan Visit 50 years Remembrance Confrontation Group

A tour will be held from 7 to 19 August 2014 to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the deployment of RAE units on Operation Granite to Sabah in 1964 to repel Indonesian forces.

For more information contact Dennis Ansipch on deemallaraba@bigpond.com

Royal Military Police Association WA Branch

The Royal Military Police Association of Western Australia Branch confirms it is interested in hearing from former members of the Royal Military Police (RMP), other UK service police groups, other UK services that have been attached to the RMP and the Australian Military Police that have been attached to the RMP.

For further information please contact Eric Heath: (08) 9291 8962 / eric.heath@bigpond.com

Mirrabooka Market

Nollamara RSL Club Inc Swap Market at Mirrabooka Library
Every Sunday 6.30 am – 12 pm
0419 901 843
(08) 9306 5995

Bankwest Fun Run

It’s time to get into training for the Bankwest Gallipoli Run, a family orientated competitive fun run held in Kings Park for runners and walkers.

This year Bankwest will again match registration fees and provide a free event t-shirt for the first 1,000 people to register. All funds go towards RSL, Athletics WA and Legacy. The event is on Sunday 21 April 2013 and starts at the Outdoor Cinema site, Kings Park.

St George’s Cathedral

Bankwest Fun Run

The Promise: N’oublions pas annually in April.

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Villers-Bretonneux from enemy reception following the Service.

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of the outbreak of WWI, there

It includes a 4km run and walk starting at 8.30am and an 8km run starting at 9am.

Entries fees are $15 (adult) $10 (concession includes under 18, 65+, concession card holders) and kids under six are free. There is a family concession of $40 for two adults and two children.

Entries close online on Wednesday 17 April at 5pm - there will be no on the day entries.

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St George’s Cathedral: Sunday 2 March: 5pm Evensong of St David: commemorating the Welsh Troops of WWI

On the Sunday nearest to St David’s Day St George’s Cathedral and the Welsh Free Church of WA combine to celebrate Wales and its Patron Saint, St David.

As this year is the centenary of WWI, we take this opportunity to commemorate those men of Wales who fought for King and Country on the battlefields of Europe; those who died and those who returned to Wales. The Cathedral Consort sings all-Welsh music, and great Welsh hymns are enjoyed by the congregation.

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

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 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.

Easy Sudoku

Hard Sudoku

Upcoming Events at the State War Memorial

Consulate of Greece
Sunday, 23 March 2014 at 12.30 pm

RAAFA Service
Saturday, 29 March 2014 at 9.25 am

ANZAC Day Dawn Service
Friday, 25 April 2014 at 5.50 am
They shall grow not old, as we that 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.

Navy
F4411; Cheris, J.E. – Bridgetown RSL Sub-Branch
F622; Baby, Arthur – City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
F4604; Darn, Desmond – Applecross RSL Sub-Branch
29113; Davies, Roy – Fremantle City RSL Sub-Branch
R38461; Dressler, Leonard – Bullbrook RSL Sub-Branch
R91380; Hutchings, Norman – City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch
54911; Johnson, Frederick – Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
R03573; Marsh, Allen – WarnersJoondalup RSL Sub-Branch
PM8614; McCumber, Roger – Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch
W10329; Peine, William – Amadale RSL Sub-Branch
LM9669145; Roer, Norman – City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
R52196; Sweeney, Michael – Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch
F4578; Whitfield, Mervyn – Ht Lasley-Iinglewood RSL Sub-Branch
F3894; Yule, John – City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

Army
17556; Atkinson, A – Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch
53485; Arnold, Peter – Mermaid RSL Sub-Branch
51697; Butow, Charles – Port Kennedy RSL Sub-Branch
NX65761; Brennan, Milton – Applecross RSL Sub-Branch
1425419; Brigg, John – Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch
571468; Bolland, James – Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
52774; Carroll, Norman – Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch
WX27287; Chadlow, William – Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch
WX20860; Cole, Herbert – City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch
57786; Connolly, Michael – Ellenbrook RSL Sub-Branch
WX17395; Dunne, Norman – City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
WX28069; Ellery, Robert Collie-Carrif RSL Sub-Branch
Y318293; Francis, Ronald – City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
WX35992; Graaff, Walter – Scarborough RSL Sub-Branch
W540015; Grose, Norman – Canning Dist – Vic Park RSL Sub-Branch
WX37649; Hay, Betty – Bassettton RSL Sub-Branch
WX0681; Heron, Roy – Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
571799; Hillbrick, Peter – Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
WX17614; Holdig, Wally – City of Mandurah
WX8745; Huggins, Roy – Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
22201231; Hunt, Ian – Yanchep-Two Rocks RSL Sub-Branch
D8203; Hutchinson, Irvine – Scarborough RSL Sub-Branch
Q551891; Jeffcoat, Norman – Yorke-Joondalup RSL Sub-Branch
5718271; Jimenez-Lopez, Manuel – Canning Dist – Vic Park RSL Sub-Branch

Air Force
433896; Allan, John – Scarborough RSL Sub-Branch
45752; Cocking, John – Gosnayse RSL Sub-Branch
83104; Cooper, Colin – Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch
98829; Davies, Margaret – Returning Ex-Servicewomen RSL Sub-Branch
50056; Edwards, Pauline – City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
A91120; Franklin, Trevor – Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch
2530007; Goodman, Albert – Waroona Hamel RSL Sub-Branch
E1952865; Hamilton, George – Riverton RSL Sub-Branch
A55918; High, Arthur – Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch
441886; Holmes, John – Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
442007; Ironwood, William – Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
29905; Joie, Theodore – Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch
43641; Kippin, Ben – Bedford-Notley RSL Sub-Branch
58260; Miles, Thomas – Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch
84966; O’Sullivan, Edward – Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch
183559; Priner, Verna – Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
82771; Purdy, Raymond – Denmark RSL Sub-Branch
441587; Rea, Arthur – Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch
441886; Symons, James – City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch
81043; Torich, Matt – Applecross RSL Sub-Branch
8175; Williams, Walter – Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch

ANSWERS

SUDOKU SOLUTION

Easy Sudoku

Hard Sudoku

CROSSWORD SOLUTION
32 WA students to visit Gallipoli in 2015

The Western Australian Government has been allocated 40 of the 400 individual passes that will be allocated to secondary school children and their chaperone across Australia for the 2015 visit to Gallipoli.

It is expected that this will comprise 32 secondary student places and eight accompanying chaperone places.

Western Australian secondary school students will be invited to apply to attend as part of the existing Premier’s Anzac Student Tour program, which will be extended to accommodate additional participants.

This successful program has been running for more than a decade and encourages a diverse range of students to be involved, including those from regional and remote schools.

In December, Premier Colin Barnett announced the 10 West Australian secondary students chosen to travel to the battlefields of Malaysia in April this year to commemorate the State’s involvement in one of World War II’s lesser-known chapters. The students will study the liberation of Borneo in 1945 - a military intervention in which at least 76 West Australians lost their lives.

“Students will visit key historical and commemorative sites in Labuan and Sabah, before attending ANZAC Day commemorations at Sandakan, where a notorious prisoner of war camp was established in 1942,” Mr Barnett said.

Applicants for the 2014 Premier’s Anzac Student Tour were asked to write an essay on a conflict or single military action involving Australians, which they thought deserved greater public awareness.

The 10 students were chosen from 445 applications which covered conflicts including World War I actions at Messines Ridge on the Western Front, Australia’s role in the North Russian Relief Force and more recent conflicts in Korea, Vietnam and the Middle East.

The tour will be particularly poignant for two students whose family members served in the region.

Bunbury Senior High School’s Shakira Moulton wrote about the Indonesian Confrontation for her winning essay, a lesser known conflict which eventually involved Australian troops fighting in North Borneo. Her grandfather, Private Edmund John Moulton, was one of many military police officers stationed in the region at the time.

Mount Lawley Senior High School student Izaak Wesson’s great-grandfather Len Phenna served in the region during the Malayan Emergency.

Some 120 students from 81 schools have been involved in the Premier’s ANZAC Student Tour since it started in 2004.

Students on past tours have travelled to the Western Front, Turkey, Greece and Malaysia.

Miss Humanity Australia

Krista McMeeken, 2013 Listed in the Australian Financial Review and Westpac’s 100 Women of Influence – Young Leader category and Pride of Australia -Young Leader (WA) medal recipient, 2012 Winner of the Human Rights Awards Young People's Medal and Young Australian of the Year finalist, is competing in the Miss Humanity Australia 2014 pageant to raise funds and awareness for Legacy and the RSL after returning from the Kokoda Trek.

The Miss Humanity Australia is a holistic pageant that advocates for humanitarian cause by raising awareness and funds for charitable causes. As a delegate I will participate in ‘Beauty On A Mission’ initiatives which seek to motivate and inspire others to support charitable causes and become role models in their community. Preparation for the pageant includes physical training, media interviews and charity events, with state finals held on 12 April.

I am competing in Miss Humanity Australia 2014 to raise awareness and funds for my chosen charity: Legacy Australia. Legacy provides services to Australian families suffering financially and socially after the incapacitation or death of a spouse or parent, during or after their defence force service. Legacy currently care for 100,000 widows and 1,900 children and disabled dependants throughout Australia.

As someone whose family has benefited from this support, having travelled to the sites of various Australian theatres of war and having experienced the Kokoda Trek first hand, I chose to support Legacy’s invaluable contribution to our society. I have just kicked off my fundraising campaign and donations can be made at http://www.legacyfundraising.com.au/krista_mcmeeeken.

When there is nowhere else to turn, turn to current and former ADF personnel and their dependants can rely on the RSL to provide support, advocacy, guidance and comfort. There are 130 sub branches throughout the State and many are already adapting to the need to cater for younger families. The RSL is taking on greater responsibilities as ANZAC dawn services attract record numbers, especially as we enter the Centenary years.

The spirit of ANZAC, with its human qualities of courage, mateship, and sacrifice, continues to have meaning and relevance for our sense of national identity, become involved with your local RSL and help to support Australian families and our national identity.
**Plaque Completes Mission**

The unveiling of an Honour Plaque for my great uncle, Richard St John Kennedy, in Kings Park on February 15 marked the completion of a mission which began in France on ANZAC Day 2008. That’s when my wife Chris and I visited Richard’s grave at the Villers-Bretonneux Military Cemetery on a fine but very chilly morning, after the first dawn service there which marked the Australian troops liberating the town, exactly 90 years earlier. Finding his grave on the other side of the world was an emotional moment. Here was one of my forebears who had enlisted in the 32nd Battalion, Australian Infantry in Perth, and was killed in action on June 24 1918, less than five months before Armistice Day. A Company Quarter Master Sergeant, he had been wounded in earlier action, recuperated in a Manchester hospital, and returned to the front. Richard had enlisted along with his brothers. Frank served at Gallipoli and returned to Australia, Lorenzo served with Richard in 32 Battalion and he also returned. Richard had been a champion footballer with Perth, playing 136 league games and was vice captain of the club’s 1907 premiership side.

There were many proud Kennedys at the plaque unveiling to honour Richard’s actions. Ten other servicemen were also honoured with the unveiling of plaques on February 15. They were: Sergeant D W Parkin of 2/3 Machine Gun Battalion; Private M R Parkin of 2/11 Battalion; Private L N Savage of 44 Battalion; Flight Sergeant E C Fitzgerald of 40 Squadron; Lance Corporal T Brooks of 48 Battalion; Trooper J L Bodkin of 9 Light Horse; Private A L Devensh of 11 Battalion; Warrant Officer J F Moran of 466 Squadron; Flying Officer T H Allanson of 100 Squadron and Private W F Ward of 16 Battalion. Plaques are stuck for servicemen and women who meet strict criteria, including being listed on the State War Memorial, have died overseas on active service and buried overseas or has no known grave and enlisted in Western Australia.

A fee of $200 is charged to cover the cost of the plaque, post and a distinguishing unit colour patch and no further payment is required. Further details are available on the Honour Avenues Group’s website at: honouravenues@bgpa.wa.gov.au

**Centenary News**

Members of the RSL team have been attending various new working parties and committees in preparation for the Centenary programs. These include:

- **Albany**
  - The Anzac Centre Implementation Committee comprises representatives of the State and Federal Governments, City of Albany and the RSL. The Committee has overseen construction in and around the ANZAC interpretative centre and officially named it as the “National Anzac Centre”.
  - The State is represented by the Department of Premier and Cabinet, the Department of Finance’s Building Management Works (BMW) and the Department of Culture and the Arts – including its statutory agency and the WA Museum. Federal agencies include the Department of Veterans Affairs.
  - The Centre will be officially opened during the Centenary commemorations of the Anzacs’ departure from Albany in nearly 40 ships in November 1914. The commemorations will be significant with national leaders and NZ representatives expected to attend.

- **Fremantle**
  - To commemorate the departure of Western Australian troops who boarded two ships and left Fremantle Port on 31 October 1914, a team of stakeholders is planning for a Fremantle Commemorative event.
  - At this stage the planning is in the very early stages but a number of activities are being considered involving local schools and businesses, arts groups, the Maritime Museum and the Army Museum and the Australian Defence Force.
  - The activities may include a breakfast at Blackboy Hill, where the first battalion recruited in WA undertook two weeks of preliminary training before being deployed, a replica march to the Midland railway station and then a train ride to Fremantle. This would be followed by a formal commemorative service at Fremantle.

- **Kings Park**
  - We have been meeting with several members of the Botanic Gardens Park Authority (Kings Park) to explore some exciting new marketing opportunities for the Centenary Program.
  - We will be upgrading two of the Roll of Honour boards to include the names of those servicemen and women who have given their lives whilst deployed on peacekeeping or humanitarian roles.
  - There will also be a replacement of the current Vietnam Memorial Plaque with inscription of the names in the same format as currently used throughout the Crypt in the State War Memorial.

**Commemoration of ANZAC Committee**

A new Commemoration of ANZAC Committee has been formed. This Committee will provide support and advice relating to Commemoration activities at Centennial events; and interacting with key stakeholders including ex-service organisations, community groups, cultural institutions, the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Kings Park), Federal and State governments, and representatives of local government and foreign governments as required.

- The Committee will consider and provide advice on options for how best to acknowledge and commemorate a century of service and sacrifice by Western Australians who have served Australia and its allies in war, defence and peacekeeping; and recognise and acknowledge the military service of Aboriginal people from Western Australia.
- The RSL commemorative program will take into account the following themes: century of service, the requirements of RSL Sub Branches, community engagement, education, public awareness and community access, commemorative services and the role of government agencies.

Sharon Harford

**Afghanistan Gallery at the AWM**

On a recent trip to Canberra, having not visited the Australian War Memorial (AWM) for some time, I was determined to visit the dedicated display for the Afghanistan conflict. I was pleasantly surprised with the way the AWM has recognised the effort of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and the Australian ethos of support and encouragement to the people of Afghanistan during this conflict.

For more information on the exhibition please visit www. awm.org.au

Denis Connelly
The Silver Box

The decorative silver box sits in the palm of my hand and I admire the scroll work and count the number of small dents on the sides. I have googled ‘silver trinket boxes’ and discovered that our box was made in 1900 by William Neale of Chester. It is oval in shape, resting on a flat base with a hinged lid. The highly embossed silver has attractive swirls and plain cartouches and the lid is finished off with a gadroon edge.

How did this English silver trinket box come to be in the possession of my family? Well, it’s an interesting story. My grandfather William left his hometown of Nîmes, Victoria, to join the AIF. He travelled to Egypt then on to France and Belgium where he fought in the trenches, being wounded three times and gassed twice. He was repatriated to England twice to recuperate from gunshot wounds.

On 1 May 1918 William’s Company had the gruesome task of burying some Allied soldiers. He says in his diary, “Today being a little foggy I along with two mates put in the morning burying English Tommies who have been lying dead in front of our trench for several days.”

He removed a watch from one of the soldiers. He confesses in his diary that he intended to keep the watch as a souvenir however he must have had second thoughts as, in a later diary, he describes how he returned the watch to a member of the family.

On 1 July 1918 William was sent to England to work as an instructor to new recruits arriving at the Australian Army base on Salisbury Plains. We suspect that this was partly due to him suffering from shell shock, having just witnessed the death of two of his best friends in consecutive nights and also the rather dreadful death of Sergeant Anderson who lost both his hands.

In between escorting these new recruits across the English Channel to France and giving bombing demonstrations at the Lyndhurst Bombing School, William had enough free time to visit wounded comrades in hospital and catch up with his brother who was on leave at the time.

Then on 13th September he writes: “I went to see a woman by the name of Lady Kennedy (sic) who’s son I buried at Villers Bretonneux.”

Years later William described a grand mansion – complete with butler! – that he visited in order to return the watch to the dead soldier’s mother.

The Kennedy family lived at Holmhurst House in Sussex. A Grade II listed building, the house is on The Ridge, St Leonards on Sea, near Hastings, East Sussex.

The website http://augustus-hare.tripod.com/holmhurst.html describes Holmhurst as follows.

The original part of the building would appear to be late 18th or early 19th century, of two storeys, rectangular in plan and with a hipped slate roof. It has three ground floor French windows and three 1st floor casements. A larger wing on the north side is circa 1840 with alterations and additions of 1898. The 1898 additions include a large 1st floor window with five Tudor-headed lights and panel above with initials AJCH and date 1897. In front – the east side - is a stone terrace with a flight of shaped steps at centre with pair of obelisks at top. To the right of the terrace is a stone archway.

The pictures displayed above are from the same website which also includes memoirs from Joanna Lumley of the time she was at school there (the building had been converted into St Mary’s School some time in the 20th century). Joanna Lumley noted that “the house was a grey stone, rather gothic-looking building with a grey stone terrace, sweeping lawns and a view across fields and woods to the sea three miles away. Augustus Hare had sold it to the Community of the Holy Family on the proviso that they kept his treasures intact - stuffed owls and eagles, drawers full of bird’s eggs and the original sandstone statue of Queen Anne. The school had built-on wings and corridors, and the first impression was of a rabbit Warren. Wooden corridors wound on forever, lit by gas lamps…”

No wonder William was so impressed that many years later he remember and commented on the grand mansion he had visited!

Of Lady Kennedy he wrote: “She was very kind to me and presented me with a silver casket for the service I rendered her son in his last hours.”

Lady Kennedy to William has the following words engraved on it: “To W JPF Kennedy RB” (Rifle Brigade). A further inscription on the side reads: “Villers Bretonneux April 1918.”

The silver trinket box given by Lady Kennedy to William has the following words engraved on it: “To W J Devereaux in grateful remembrance from the mother of JPF Kennedy RB” (Rifle Brigade). A further inscription on the side reads: “Villers Bretonneux April 1918.”

The family are in possession of a letter written by Lady Kennedy addressed to “Dear Devereaux” (a telling indication of the class distinction of those times!) However, Lady Kennedy does go on to talk about having the engraving done on the silver box and ends with a PS: “I have 3 little grandchildren now who are a great happiness to me”. It seems Lady Kennedy and my grandfather corresponded for some years following the end of WWI.

My grandfather died in 1973, aged 78. The family have donated his war diaries to the Bendigo War Museum but the silver box remains in the possession of my father.

Ann Devereaux
Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.