The Official Journal of The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated

The CENTENNIAL EDITIONS 2014-18

DEC 2014 Vol 37 - No 5

THE LISTENING POST

ANZAC Centenary photos p24-25
Home-made poppies for Governor General p3
Cover:
The Returned & Services League of WA proudly supports the outstanding servicemen and women of the Australian Defence Force. We work hard to support them, whether through an official farewell of HMAS Toowoomba or our community support services.

Our support is backed by the general community, which has strongly embraced poppy production as just one way of demonstrating their goodwill to our men and women in the field.

This edition of The Listening Post features the Albany Centenary, but it also tries to cover the numerous activities of our very active sub-branches. There are 131 of them throughout this State and, if you are in the services, you are very welcome at any of them.

As always, we say this is your magazine and we welcome comments and criticisms.

Deadline for next edition: 3 March 2015
If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs should be 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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Humble poppy connects us with our ANZAC heritage

For just a moment, Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove and his wife Lynne were connected with the phenomenon of home-made poppies when Denmark’s Locke Rowland (10) stepped forward to present them with two of them made in the Great Southern.

It happened shortly after the special service at the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial at Mt Clarence on 31 October.

“Sir Peter asked his name, shook his hand and said ‘thanks very much I shall wear it’,” Locke’s mum, Belinda, said afterwards. “I had worded up his minders that my son was going to do it.”

Belinda Rowland is secretary of the Albany RSL and as a member of the SASR Auxiliary co-authored ‘Those who care for those who dare’ in 2007 when the SASR – in which her husband rose to the rank of major – had its 50th anniversary of becoming a company.

The centenary at Albany drew great praise for the Albany Sub-Branch with National RSL President Ken Doolan describing the events as ‘an absolute triumph’.

Poppies – tens of thousands of them – have been produced in RSL and other workshops as the people’s way of interacting with the ANZAC first convoy centenary, attended by 40,000 in Albany and thousands more in Fremantle and at Blackboy Hill.

Poppies were displayed throughout the impressive Albany centenary weekend. There were 30,000 planted at Middleton Beach and thousands more on display at the Albany Entertainment Centre, along Stirling Terrace and in numerous locations. There were about 50,000 plastic, knitted, crocheted and sewn poppies in all sizes.

Currently Albany and other RSL members are also producing red, yellow and black poppies to honour indigenous soldiers.

The connection with the poppy project continues to reach far and wide. Recently Prince Edward attended a service at the State War Memorial and the RSL presented him with a poppy made by Judy Carroll, whose grandfather, Jim Holland, appears on the front cover of Ross Coulthard’s book ‘The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt’.

Judy recently attended a function at ANZAC House with her family to meet teenagers from Vignacourt. Afterwards she walked to St George’s Cathedral where she saw the poppies of the 5000 Poppies Project for the first time, inspiring her to start knitting and crocheting.

If you would like to join in the 5000 Poppy Project please contact Sharon Harford on 9287 3706 or sharonh@rslwhq.org.au
ANZACs return

National RSL President Ken Doolan described the Albany ANZAC first convoy centenary as “an absolute triumph”.

His Kiwi counterpart BJ (Barry) Clark said, “It has just been a real emotional roller-coaster”.

Albany resident and Second World War bomber pilot Murray Maxton said, “Albany really turned on a very special show. The new Anzac centre up on Mt Clarence has to be seen to be believed… it’s unreal.”

State President Graham Edwards praised the vision of the Albany RSL, backed by the State RSL headquarters, for playing a pivotal role in building the new $10 million-plus National Anzac Centre.

State Secretary and CEO Phil Orchard: “My compliments go to Peter Aspinall, Laurie Fraser and Geoff Hand for some first class organising of a huge event over a number of years. These members of the original ANZAC Alliance were instrumental in pressing the idea of the National Anzac Centre and the refurbishment of the Forts precinct.”

Continued on page 17

• The RSL National Executive leads veterans through a crammed York Street.

PRIDE, RESPECT, GRATITUDE...

The Perth Mint has released a fitting tribute to all Australian and New Zealand servicemen and women with The ANZAC Spirit 100th Anniversary Coin Series.

This poignant and beautifully crafted series of pure gold and pure silver Australian legal tender collectables tells the story of the ANZACs contribution to the First World War and honours the sacrifices made by all.

Also available through Australia Post and leading coin distributors.
FROM THE **PRESIDENT’S PEN**

By State President

**Graham Edwards, AM**

We have recently been heavily engaged in a series of ANZAC centenary events and many hard-working RSL volunteers are deservedly looking forward to their Christmas break. This will give us all a chance to recharge our batteries and to have a break before the next wave comes along to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landing of ANZACs at Gallipoli.

I would like to reiterate what many have already said – that the centenary weekend in Albany and at Blackboy Hill and Fremantle brought great credit to all involved. Wherever I turned, I saw thousands of people engaged in commemorating and honouring our ANZACs.

The National President of the RSL, Ken Doolan, described it as a triumph – and it was.

I saw some of the 15,000 crocheted poppies on the headstones in the Albany Entertainment Centre and 30,000 on Middleton Beach. I saw 40,000 people pack Albany, including 8,000 people at the ceremonial sunset and 20,000 at the Albany Peace Park commemorative service.

And of course the world-class National Anzac Centre on Mt Adelaide, plus many other improvements provided through the kind support of Wesfarmers, Lotterywest and other authorities have given Albany the kind of long-term benefits that Fremantle enjoyed after the America’s Cup. These facilities would not have happened without the vision and drive of the Albany Sub-Branch.

About 600 people also attended Blackboy Hill on the evening of Thursday, 30 October and on the following day hundreds of students and others turned out to wave off a heritage train which recreated the journey taken 100 years ago by Western Australian troops from their training camp at Blackboy Hill to Fremantle Port.

In Fremantle, we went with 2,000 others to lay wreaths and honour the extraordinary contribution made by this State to the Gallipoli campaign and indeed the entire war.

Amongst all that we’ve elected a new Board of Directors, who will meet monthly and ensure better representation from the regions, held our State Congress, hosted the National Congress, appointed a new Patron and organised for Remembrance Day.

Our State Congress unanimously carried motions to try to protect veterans’ pensions and entitlements and honoured a number of members for their outstanding contribution to the RSL.

I will not try to individually list them (they are named later in this magazine) because in recent times there have been so many people making an outstanding contribution.

Let me just say: Thank you to you all. 2015 will be a big year and we are ready for it. In mid-February, two giant marionettes will stride through Perth spreading the ANZAC message; we will market nationally a specially-developed hybrid grevillea plant called the ‘RSL Spirit of ANZAC’; we will promote a range of centenary events and look for every opportunity to grow the RSL in this State.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to the support of Jan Stewart, who this month is retiring as CEO of Lotterywest. Her personal and professional support for veterans has simply been without peer. We are very grateful for all her passion and commitment.

I wish you and your families a safe, restful and peaceful Christmas.

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**RSM Leanne Iseppi does the ADF proud**

By State President

**Graham Edwards, AM**

We are big supporters of our men and women in the Australian Defence Force and it was a genuine pleasure to recently acknowledge WO1 Leanne (Pip) Iseppi, RSM 13 Brigade, Perth, for all that she has done for us.

During her two years with 13 Brigade her passionate and grounded approach made her a popular figure. Having recognised Pip for her efforts a photo of the presentation was placed on Facebook and within 24 hours she had received in excess of 4000 hits. Proof indeed of her popularity.

Waroona-born Leanne is heading off to a new posting at Defence Command Support Training Centre at Simpson Barracks, Melbourne, in the New Year. We held a small function at ANZAC House to also acknowledge Brigadier Stephen Coggin, CSC, Commander 13th Brigade, Wing Commander David Turner Commanding Officer 25 Squadron and Senior ADF Officer Pearce and Learmonth; Lt Col Greg Daley, Commanding Officer SASR; and Lt Adam Mitchin, Gunnery and Ceremonial Officer for HMAS Stirling.
Dear Editor,

I would appreciate your publishing this tribute to my mother Olga Loftus (nee Jamieson) who, as I understand it, was the oldest surviving nurse from the 2/4th Australian General Hospital (AGH) that served in the Middle East and Borneo during World War II.

Olga, as a member of the Western Australian contingent, joined the rest of the 2/4th AGH aboard the Mauretania which departed from Fremantle on 4 January 1941.

The record of service rendered by the 2/4th AGH shows that some 14,000 casualties passed through the hospital at Tobruk, 19,000 at Redbank and a further 10,000 at Jerusalem, Colombo and Labuan.

The 2/4th AGH found itself in the front line at Tobruk, as part of the initial invasion force at Labuan and then wrecked off the North African coast.

Returning from overseas Olga nursed at the Repatriation General Hospital, now Hollywood Hospital.

She married and cared for her husband Henry, a TPI veteran of the 2/7th Field Regiment until 1988.

Olga turned 104 on 17 September 2014 and passed away on 19 November.

Thanking you,

Elizabeth Horne
Mt Pleasant

Tribute to Olga

Dear Editor,

I have recently been granted a favourable resolution to my problem by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA).

For many years I have been taking Prozac 20mg for relief from stress and anxiety, as I suffer from PTSD. When I present my prescription to the chemist, I am asked if I will take the cheaper substitute, Lovan 20mg.

Over the years I have discovered that I suffer side effects from Lovan 20mg, so I declined the substitute, and requested the prescribed medication Prozac 20mg. As a result, I am forced to pay the extra $3.53 per packet to get the correct medication for my condition and my metabolism.

Following a bowel cancer operation two years ago, I started taking Lomotil 2.5mg to slow down the diarrhoea. For a while all was going well, until a substitute medication was issued. It did not work for me. Hence I started paying the extra to get the brand name medication that worked for me.

I then embarked on a campaign to get the reimbursement from the DVA for the extra costs over and above the script price of $5.90. I believed that the correct medication for my condition, prescribed by my health professionals, should be paid for by the DVA.

During most of 2013, I wrote and e-mailed various pharmacists and doctors in the DVA who have now agreed to reimburse me for the added costs of purchasing the correct medication for my condition and my metabolism.

Are there many veterans in similar circumstances that I found myself in?

My psychiatrist wrote a letter on my behalf to the DVA and told me that there were other people who could not use substituted medications. The DVA has told me that it is extremely rare to be intolerant of the substituted medications.

I would be interested in hearing from other veterans so that this issue could be raised with the RSL to act on our behalf.

Theo Linden
Armadale
ctlinden@bigpond.net.au

Poppies connect us

Dear Editor,

I have been privileged to be among the many people who have been in Albany this weekend for the celebrations associated with the departure of the ships for Gallipoli.

I got involved with the Poppy Project and you kindly interviewed me and put my story in The Listening Post.

I want to thank you, as this has given me a special connection to many wonderful people and made this weekend so much more meaningful.

I was able to tell other RSL members that I met at the Middleton Beach Poppies in the Sand display that my story was in your magazine and that gave us a special connection.

We attended the Nurses Memorial Service and I want to commend the RSL, especially the Albany Sub-Branch for its wonderful organisation of this event.

We were privileged to be sitting very close to your dedicated president, Graham Edwards and wife, under her lovely blue umbrella.

My husband spoke briefly to Graham and thanked him for his inspirational work.

Roslyn Walker
Thornlie

In the last edition, Roslyn revealed how making poppies had helped her deal with the loss of her own son, Glenn, who died 11 years ago in a quad bike accident.

substitute medicine

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In the last edition, Roslyn revealed how making poppies had helped her deal with the loss of her own son, Glenn, who died 11 years ago in a quad bike accident.
Busy year comes to a close

We have had one of our busiest ever periods at State Branch level.

October and November has seen the successful execution of several events. The State President’s annual breakfast, with Peter FitzSimons AM as the guest speaker, proved again to be an extremely successful event with more than 100 guests helping us to subsidise the cost of the State Congress.

This was followed by the State Congress which again, from your feedback, appears to have been extremely successful. We did a number of things differently this year including the presentation of trophies at the congress reception instead of at congress itself; encouraging political speakers to keep their speeches short and changing rooms to allow better visibility of the stage and speaker area.

There were a number of smaller administration differences but all of these will allow us to compare notes between our congress gatherings of 2013 and 2014 to provide even better outcomes in 2015.

I am grateful to Ken Bladen and Highgate Sub-branch who formally raised the issue regarding the words ‘neg medals’ in their post-Congress feedback. I fully support their comments that, quote ‘on all appropriate occasions RSL Members should not be discouraged, restricted or prevented from wearing the medals to which they are entitled, should they wish to do so’ unquote. Furthermore, future documentation will include the words ‘medals optional’ which is far more appropriate than the term neg (negative) medals.

Running concurrently with the organisation of these two events, has been the election for the official office bearers following the constitutional changes approved in the Extraordinary Special Meeting back in July.

I wish to publicly acknowledge the support of the WA Electoral Commission in the running of this election. Furthermore, I congratulate all members who have been re-elected to the board positions and thank Judy Bland, Gavin Briggs, Bob Allen and Tony Fletcher, for their participation and excellent support during their time on the Executive. They did not nominate this time around.

No sooner had this completed than we went to the National Congress. Again, I wish to acknowledge and thank the team at ANZAC House who were responsible for the organisation of both congress gatherings and all delegates and members who attended either or both congress sessions. This was a huge ‘double whammy’ for our small team but achieved with success and your support is much appreciated.

While the small team from ANZAC House assisted and participated down in Albany, back at the coalface others were orchestrating the final preparations for Remembrance Day and the Poppy Day picnic. Again, feedback has been positive. If, on top of these events, we throw in the organising of a surprise visit by HRH the Earl of Wessex, day to day admin, and the announcement that Miss Wendy Quinn was to become Mrs Wendy Moss on the same day as State Congress you will no doubt understand why I say this has been a busy period. On behalf of all the staff our congratulations to Wendy and Ryan and best wishes for their future together.

My congratulations to our Trustees: Mr Don Blair OAM RFD, Mr Wayne Tarr RFD ED, and Mr Kevin Trent OAM RFD who were all confirmed as Trustees for the next 12 months and to Brigadier Duncan Robert Warren AM RFD on his appointment as Warden of the State War Memorial 2014-2015. Duncan succeeds Mrs Jan Stewart whom it has been a privilege and honour to work alongside. I wish Jan the very best for the future.

Finally, I wish to thank all the team at ANZAC House for their tremendous efforts over a busy 12 months and to thank you, the members, for your support, ideas, hospitality and friendship through 2014. We wish you a happy and safe Christmas period and best wishes for 2015.

RSLWA elections

Your new Board of Directors is: State President: Graham Edwards AM; Vice President: Denis Connelly; State Treasurer: Phillip Draber; Greater Metropolitan Region: Bill Collidge and Scott Rogers; Great Southern Region: Peter Aspinall; Eastern Region: Donna Prytulak; Mid West Region: Ross Davies; and Pilbara/Kimberley Region: John McCourt. There are two vacancies remaining on the Board and these positions will be filled in due course.

The membership provides for 194 voting delegates. The bigger the sub-branch membership the more delegates you are entitled to, to a maximum of six. One delegate is provided for every 75 or part of 75 members. The number of delegates registered with WA Electoral Commission was 121 of which 107 returned their voting slips.

As members are aware, new regions were established for these elections. A full list of where sub-branches fall can be found online at www.rslwahq.org.au

Phil Orchard
CEO
Horsemen have a rich history

Albany RSL President Peter Aspinall presided over the commemoration of the rededication of the historically-rich Desert Mounted Corps Memorial near the summit of Mt Clarence during the Albany ANZAC centenary weekend.

The memorial, which still carries bullet holes in its base, is a nine-metre bronze statue of an Australian mounted soldier assisting a New Zealand soldier whose horse has been wounded. (The Kiwis preferred the idea of horses reacting to an artillery shell, but that’s another story).

On 31 October, a host of dignitaries, including the Governor General Sir Peter Cosgrove, attended Albany RSL’s commemoration of the formation of the Desert Mounted Corps, the historic Charge at Beersheba and the 50th anniversary of the rededication of the Desert Mounted Corps Memorial.

“On behalf of the members of the Albany RSL Sub-Branch welcome to this service commemorating the formation of the Desert Mounted Corps, its actions in the Sinai and Palestine Campaign and, in particular, its capture of Beersheba on this day 97 years ago,” Mr Aspinall said. “Today we also commemorate the rededication of this memorial by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies, 50 years and 20 days ago.”

Mr Aspinall said that while the Palestine Campaign is filled with famous and evocative names including Jerusalem, Damascus and Beersheba, the campaign has never touched the public consciousness as has Gallipoli and the battles of the Western Front.

3,000 nurses gave their all

A magnificent tribute to Australian and New Zealand nurses who served in the First World War was made by Mrs Annette Knight, a freeman of the City of Albany, at a special Nurses Memorial Service at the RSL Nurses Memorial Garden.

She detailed the extraordinary sacrifices and deprivations of more than 3,000 nurses from both countries who served overseas and were awarded 66 Military Medals as well as dozens of the highly-prized Royal Red Cross and Associate Royal Red Cross.

“Surprisingly little has ever been mentioned about the fact that Australian nurses – 26 in all, including four matrons – were aboard the troop ships when the first convoy of 29,000 Australian and New Zealand servicemen left Australia,” she said.

“A second, larger contingent of nurses left a month later.”

These nurses left Australia with little idea of their destination. They were diverted to Egypt, from where they were to experience, on land and sea, the horrors of Gallipoli. Thousands of wounded soldiers were treated in appalling conditions on ships, on the island of Lemnos and in Egypt.

“In 1914, when they left Albany with the first convoy for the Middle East and ultimately the Western Front in WWI, they earned the right to be counted amongst those who would so proudly bear the name ANZACs,” said Mrs Knight, “for their contribution to our defence was no less significant than that of any soldier.

“Today and always, we salute these magnificent women.”

FOOTNOTE: Peter FitzSimons’ book ‘Gallipoli’ says that on 31 December 1914, 123 nurses left Albany with more than 11,000 Australian soldiers, nearly 2,000 New Zealand soldiers and over 6,500 horses. The first convoy, he reports, which left on 1 November comprised 20,758 Australians, 8,427 New Zealanders and 11,294 horses.

• Olga Greig (Major Rtd.), Judy Gobson, Jan Lucas, Lyn Pearton (Major. Rtd.) and Denise Pruim – all ex-nurses and members of the Royal Australian Nursing Corps.
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Queensland Theatre Company’s tour of Black Diggers is supported by the Australian Government’s Anzac Centenary Arts and Culture Fund and Sibelco Australia. This production has been assisted by the Australian Government’s Major Festivals Initiative, managed by the Australia Council, its arts funding and advisory body, in association with the Confederation of Australian International Arts Festivals — Adelaide Festival, Brisbane Festival, Sydney Festival and Perth International Arts Festival. This production has been commissioned with support from the Balnaves Foundation.

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War forges powerful ties

High achiever Dr Brendan Nelson’s ‘epiphany’ – the moment when he suddenly realised why commemorating war is so important – came with an event that forged powerful ties with a WA family.

In 2010, as Australia’s new Ambassador to Belgium, Brendan Nelson discovered a Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery near Ploegsteert in the French speaking part of Flanders.

The Toronto Avenue Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery was located in the midst of a beautiful, lightly wooded forest - a small cemetery with shards of spring light breaking through the tree cover.

It was one of only two on the entire Western Front containing only Australian graves. Seventy eight Australians are buried, all having died over three days in June 1917 in the Battle of Messines.

Brendan Nelson resolved to conduct an ANZAC Day ceremony there in 2011 and to make it a permanent feature.

With the help of the Families and Friends of the First Australian Imperial Force (FFFAIF) John Stannan Luff was chosen as a ‘typical’ casualty: Born in 1887 in Fremantle, attended Beaconsfield Primary School, appointed caretaker of Fremantle Oval in 1908, married the love of his life, Ruby McLaughlin, in 1911.

They lived under the grandstand at the Fremantle Oval (Victoria Pavilion), with three children – Eric, Ron and May.

To the distressed opposition of Ruby, John Luff enlisted in the AIF in March 1916. He would fight in France and Belgium; writing 13 letters home to Ruby signed by ‘your true & ever-loving husband Jack’.

His last letter written on 25 May, three weeks before his death, said in part:

‘Don’t worry Dear, I will come back some day to you… I do get down hearted when I think of you and my dear little children. It nearly breaks my heart, especially when I am in danger, and that is pretty often lately… I do feel sorry for some of the poor boys when there is strafe on. They do get frightened; especially the new men… they hang on to us old boys. I like my chances. I think I’ll come through all right and I don’t want you to worry…’

Luff was killed on 7 June 1917 tending to a wounded man on open ground. He was 30.

On ANZAC Day 2011 Brendan Nelson conducted the first service at Toronto Avenue and told John Luff’s story. He had a photograph sent by the FFFAIF – John Luff in his uniform and Ruby in her ‘Sunday best’ with Eric, Ron and May in front of them.

He enlarged and laminated the photo and inscribed on the rear:

To Jack and Ruby.
In immense admiration and appreciation.
Brendan Nelson
Australian Ambassador ANZAC Day 2011

The photograph was placed on the grave and everyone left.

I think I’ll come through all right and I don’t want you to worry...

• Australian War Memorial director Brendan Nelson holds pictures of John Luff and his family, as well as of grandson Roley Rayfield (74) of Bicton and his wife Sandra.
War forges powerful ties

From previous page

Weeks later Brendan Nelson received a letter from Mr Roland Rayfield, of Bicton, Western Australia. He wrote in part,

‘Dear Dr Nelson,

My wife and I were in Belgium recently. We went to the Toronto Avenue Cemetery on Sunday the 8th of May. For the first time I visited the gravesite of my grandfather, John Stannan Luff. It was an extremely emotional moment. What we saw on the grave completely blew us away. It was a laminated photograph of my grandfather, grandmother and their three children, one of whom is my mother.

On the reverse is a hand written note from yourself. To find something like that placed on the gravesite was totally unexpected and enormously enhanced the emotion of our experience.

Of course we left the grave as we found it.’

Roley Rayfield (74) of Bicton told The Listening Post that his family did not know much about John Luff – until an aunty died 12 years ago and 13 letters were discovered in a shoebox. These letters, written from the Western front, sparked a whole new interest and led to his visit to the graveside.

“It was an enormously emotional moment to not just find the grave but to find that someone else had been there and had recognised my grandfather,” Mr Rayfield said. “It just blew us away.”

John Luff’s mates called him Johnny. One of them was a Harvey lad, Pte Frank Morris, who on July 20, 1917 wrote to Mrs Luff about her husband’s death:

“I am sure you would like to hear particulars of how your good husband met his death,” he writes.

• Fellow digger Frank Morris writes to John Luff’s widow: “Johnny as we always called him was bandaging up a wounded soldier in an exposed position and although his cobbers begged of him to come away to a more sheltered spot he persisted in stopping to finish his work of mercy when another shell fell close by and killed the two of them together...”

• John Luff

“Although I was not near at the time I heard from one of his comrades. Johnny as we always called him was bandaging up a wounded soldier in an exposed position & although his cobbers begged of him to come away to a more sheltered spot he persisted in stopping to finish his work of mercy when another shell fell close by & killed the two of them together. I am sorry to lose such a good friend. I am sorry for you too dear Mrs. Luff & the children.”

Pte Morris says Johnny talked often about his family “He was so proud of you all, I thought it only fair to write and tell the circumstances under which he died so that the children should understand that their Daddy was a brave and good man. He gave his life for his friend.”

• For Roley Rayfield and his wife Sandra, of Bicton, a long journey came to an end when they stood beside John Luff’s gravesite in Belgium in 2011. Mr Rayfield also discovered that his grandfather had been recognised in an ANZAC service by Dr Brendan Nelson.
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Arrives in a custom-crafted box, with Korean War emblem.

In the aftermath of World War II, an iron curtain descended upon the world, separating those who loved freedom and those who would oppress it. Korea became a battleground of beliefs and the Anzacs legend would face its toughest challenge yet. Today, you can honour the diggers of Korea with a fine men’s chronograph, exclusively from The Bradford Exchange.

Crafted in durable stainless steel, the bezel is engraved with the heartfelt message “For those who served our country, a nation’s gratitude,” a salute to the blokes who gave so much to ensure our freedom. The watch face features a golden raised-relief map of Korea along with three chronographic sub dials. The side is engraved with Honour Loyalty Pride, while the back of the case shows an etched map of Korea along with the dates of the conflict.

Available for a limited time only.

Respond now.

Specially created for Korean War veterans and their families, the “Korean War Veterans Watch” is exceptional value at just 5 instalments of $49.99 or $249.95, plus $19.99 postage and handling. Your purchase is backed by our 120-day guarantee. Send no money now. Just return the coupon of go online today at www.bradford.com.au/lwf

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Giants will stride for ANZAC

In February, the world’s leading large-scale storytellers, Royal de Luxe, will open the 2015 Perth International Arts Festival with The Incredible and Phenomenal Journey of The Giants to the Streets of Perth – a spectacular free event to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary.

From February 13 to 15, two giant marionettes will walk our streets, become part of the city and include us all in what will be the biggest free arts event in Australia to mark the centenary of ANZAC and, with an anticipated one million attendances, the biggest free public arts event Western Australia has ever seen.

The Incredible and Phenomenal Journey of The Giants to the Streets of Perth takes its inspiration from uniquely Western Australian stories – of ancient lands, Gallipoli-bound troops and a little girl in a lighthouse who buoyed their spirits. In the lead up to this extraordinary opening event, the Perth International Arts Festival will also be delivering its biggest education project, Postcards from Home.

The WA community is invited to share their ANZAC stories; of grandparents, parents, family or friends by completing a profile via the Perth Festival website. These profiles will then be made available for participating schools to use in their explorations of our ANZAC stories.

For more detailed information on The Incredible and Phenomenal Journey of the Giants to the Streets of Perth and getting involved with the Postcards from Home project, visit www.perthfestival.com.au

• From 13 February, giant marionettes will stride through the streets of Perth bringing into the city hundreds of thousands of people to learn about the ANZAC legacy. Picture courtesy of Pascal Victor – Artcomart – Royal de Luxe. Memorial image: Toni Wilkinson.

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Capel Veterans’ healthy success

Nutrition was the theme of Capel’s Veterans’ Health Week (VHW) from 13 to 19 October.

On Sunday 19 October we held a 9km walk in wet conditions along the Collie River Walk Trail, with a nutritious picnic lunch at the halfway point.

As the venue was on their territory, we talked to the Collie-Cardiff RSL Sub-Branch, and a number of Collie members volunteered to accompany us.

At about the 5km mark, we arrived at the dry, warm, comfortable Collie-Cardiff RSL Hall. Here, we received presentations on nutrition and on hearing services available in the region.

We then ate our healthy ‘picnic’ lunch, with hot and cold drinks provided by our hosts. Much conversation ensued, with obvious camaraderie between members of the two sub-branches.

This was a great day out. The DVA VHW aims of physical exercise, healthy eating, social inclusion and mental wellness were all met. In addition, two sub-branches cooperated to very good effect.

We thank Collie-Cardiff for saving the day by providing a great lunch venue out of the rain.

The event was part-funded by DVA. We urge other sub-branches to plan their own event and apply for funding next year, when the theme will be mental wellness.

Ellenbrook dedicates memorial

In a moving dedication service, the new Ellenbrook Commemorative memorial was officially revealed to the public. Located on the water’s edge in the Woodlake village, this beautiful polished granite memorial was the result of three year’s work between the Ellenbrook Sub-Branch (especially Alan Rodgers) and the Swan City Council.

The City of Swan also recognised the importance of the site to the Ellenbrook community by officially renaming it, ‘The Ellenbrook Memorial Amphitheatre’.

Among the dignitaries who attended, with a full house of Ellenbrook RSL members, were Alyssa Hayden MLC, Rita Saffioti MLA, State President Graham Edwards, RSLWA CEO Phil Orchard, Mayor Charlie Zannino, Deputy Mayor Mick Wainwright (and sub-branch member), the Swan City councillors, Noongar elder Mort Hanson, Reverend Thom Bull, Father Bonaventure and Lieutenant Stefan Cop. The Swan City Youth Choir and the Ellenbrook Secondary College Concert Band provided strong musical support that added to the dignity of the occasion. Mort Hanson conducted the Noongar smoking ceremony.

There was a feeling of pride and humility among the membership of our sub-branch as we made an important contribution to the Ellenbrook community and recognised the sacrifice of all Australians.

Lest We Forget.

Dr Neil MacNeill
Secretary

Bikers raise $3,000 for mental health

A total 165 bikes took part in a charity ride from the Ocean Reef Sub-Branch to Pinjarra.

The charity ride was an initiative of Rick Green, President of the Ocean Reef Sub-Branch, in support of the ‘Soldier On’ program with the primary objective to raise awareness and funds for the mental health of our veterans.

The ride was supported by riders from the Ocean Reef Sub-Branch, Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club (MBMMC), Patriots, Ulysses, Retired and serving members of the military, plus many from the motorcycling fraternity across Perth. In excess of $3,000 was raised for the ‘Soldier On Program’ exceeding organiser’s expectations and warranting this ride to become an annual event.

Supporting our wounded is not limited to physical injuries but also psychological. In WA alone there have been 14 deaths this year attributed to mental illness of veterans.

In Australia around 148,000 veterans with service related disabilities were being supported by Department of Veterans Affairs and of these up to 46,000 had an accepted mental health disorder.

Mick O’Donnell
President Pinjarra Sub-Branch
Open membership in NZ

The New Zealand Returned and Services Association has no restrictions on its membership and new National President Barry (BJ) Clark says it works well.

He says there are only two categories of membership – returned & service and associate.

However, unlike Australia, associate members do not need to demonstrate any connection with military service or through their family. “All you need to do is adhere to our rules,” Mr Clark said during the centenary commemorations in Albany.

“I have to say that we’ve found this form of membership very successful.”

One of the hardest-working members on his local executive is an associate and at New Zealand’s last national conference two female associates were elected to the executive. “To the best of my knowledge, they are the first females elected to national executive. They are very talented and I’m looking forward to the input they will have and the connection they will make to our current female soldiers.

“In NZ we already have associate members as presidents of local RSAs and in fact female presidents of local RSAs. However, I think even it is going to be some time before an associate member comes to the office of national president of the RSA.”

The NZ RSA has 105,000 members. The RSL in Australia has 170,625 at last count.

Mr Barry served 21 years in the NZ Army, retiring as a Warrant Officer Class 1. He lives in Christchurch.

ANZACs return

Continued from page 4

About 40,000 people crammed Albany from Thursday, 30 October to Sunday, 2 November. On Saturday they packed York Street to see the march of servicemen and women and veterans, led by the RSL National Executive.

People hung from first-floor balconies to see the action and flocked to the subsequent commemorative service at Albany Peace Park on Saturday morning.

Albany RSL had a hands-on role of organising the march by Australian and New Zealand veterans and in running the service on Friday of the historically-rich Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, near the summit of Mt Clarence, and on Sunday conducting a special Nurses Memorial Service at the RSL Nurses Memorial Garden. (See stories, page 8)

Although, like the ANZACs, the crowds have departed from Albany the long-term gains for the town are considerable with upgraded roads and facilities enhancing the town much as the America’s Cup boosted Fremantle.

The Listening Post

Ralph recently

Do you have difficulty going to the toilet?

WHEN returned serviceman Ralph recently came across an advertisement for a Bidet toilet seat, he honestly felt, from the things he was reading, that this could quite possibly be the answer to his prayers.

From the time he had spent in Japan and Korea on rest and recuperation from active service in Vietnam, and on subsequent visits with his wife Caroline, he knew that there were some great toilet seats available that provided so many more features than those generally found in Australia.

He felt that with some of his long experience medical conditions including hemorrhoids and some personal issues for Caroline, the fact that the Bidet could wash and dry them both without the need for toilet paper, would prove very beneficial and provide much needed relief and peace of mind.

Making some initial inquiries, Ralph and Caroline were amazed to see the features that were now available. Apart from comfort and health factors, the warm seat, warm water wash, and a warm air dryer could all be operated and adjusted via a simple-to-use remote control unit.

It was also explained to Ralph that the Bidet seat simply replaced his existing toilet seat and it was so simple to install. As he had been told, it only took a few minutes by a trained technician to drop by for a very reasonable rate.

After some discussion together, Ralph and Caroline purchased a Bidet toilet seat and it arrived in just a few days. The instal was organised by The BIDET SHOP® and a couple of beers later, Ralph had it up and running and took it to a new Bidet a test drive straight away. Ralph feels the Bidet is the best investment he and his wife have made for their personal health and hygiene. Now after years of toileting problems, neither of them finds going to the loo an issue. Their only regret was that they hadn’t seen the Bidet toilet seat sooner!

The BIDET SHOP® on: 08 6102 5610 (local) or 1300 243 387 (freecall)

The Best Christmas Gift Ever

Usually every Christmas I get beer, chocolates or tickets for the cricket, but this year my son surprised me completely! After a picnic in the park and a fish by the creek with my children and grandchildren, I came home and found that they had changed my toilet seat—well, I must say it was a pleasant surprise.

I was gobsmacked; it had a remote and everything! My son told me that this new seat would wash and dry me with just the push of a button, he said that he had purchased one for his family just last week and they loved it so much that he just had to get one for me too! Well, two weeks later I don’t know how I ever survived without it…

All I have to do is sit down on my nice warm seat and go to the loo, once I am finished I simply press a button and get a warm water wash and warm air dry! How my toileting is a time of luxury, it is the best Christmas present I have ever bloody got!

Marvin Ross

RW12

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Sleeping under the stars with your family & friends.
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www.campgallipoli.com.au
WA’s first convoy honoured

Fremantle and Blackboy Hill came alive as West Australians honoured the first troops who left 100 years ago on two transport ships.

About 600 attended Blackboy Hill on the evening of Thursday, 30 October, which included an overnight cadet bivouac, and on the following day 2,000 people went to a commemorative service at Fremantle Port.

Hundreds of school students and community members turned out along the rail line and at stations to wave off a heritage train specially recommissioned to recreate the journey taken by WA troops from their training camp at Blackboy Hill to Fremantle Port.

At the Maritime Museum Service on Victoria Quay, State RSL President Graham Edwards told the crowd that WA had a higher per capita casualty rate than any other state.

“One quarter of those who made up the first waves at Gallipoli were West Australian,” he said. More than 32,000 troops went through Blackboy Hill training camp in Greenmount during WWI, of which 17,000 were killed, maimed or wounded and 6,000 did not return.

The ‘1914: WA Diggers Depart’ event commemorated the departure on 31 October 1914 of HMAT Ascanius, which carried Western Australia’s 11th Infantry Battalion with South Australia’s 10th Infantry Battalion and HMAT Medic, which carried Western Australia’s 12th Infantry Battalion and 3rd Field Company Engineers.

Also on the Medic were Western Australian and South Australian men from the 8th Battery 3rd Field Artillery Brigade, Divisional Train (1 to 4 Companies Army Service Corps), 1st Division 3rd Australian Field Ambulance and the Divisional Ammunition Column.

News of the troop send-off at Fremantle wharf was censored for days. Details of the departure were not published in the West Mail until 20 November 1914, after the military embargo was lifted on reporting such events. Photographs by E.L. Mitchell on the embarkation on the morning of 31 October were not published until 11 December.
Marko officially recognised

Much to his delight Mr Marko Pavlovic (83), a member of the City of Cockburn Sub-Branch, has been officially recognised by the State Executive of RSLWA, as having been a serving member of the Yugoslavian Armed Forces between the period 1949-1953.

Marko saw active service on the Yugoslavian/Russian Front as a member of the KNOJ. Vic Boreham spent four years trying to obtain Marko’s service history to no avail because records of that time were not available. State Executive unanimously approved granting Marko full RSL membership and Marko’s badge was presented at a specially arranged morning tea at RSLHQ on 1 October by Mr Edwards.

Marko wishes to express his appreciation to all who have supported him during this emotional journey. Today his self-esteem has been restored.

Vic Boreham
Lest we Forget the sacrifice

At 11am on the 11th day of the 11th month, the surrounds of the State War Memorial went silent as hundreds of people paid tribute to Australia’s 102,000 fallen and all those who suffered through war.

The Vice President of the RSL in WA, Denis Connelly, said there was hardly a family not touched by the First World War - the ‘war to end all wars’. But wars have continued - Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Iraq, East Timor, the Solomon Islands...

“So it is Remembrance Day that is now a day on which Australia and Australians pause and remember the sacrifice of all those who have died or suffered in Australia’s cause in any war or conflict in which Australia, as we as a nation, have been engaged,” Mr Connelly said. “And it is a day on which, in their memory and in their honour, we, as individuals and as a nation, renew our commitment to peace.”

The WA Governor, the Hon. Kerry Sanderson AO, said Australia was poised for the most significant period of commemoration in 100 years.

Referring to Australia’s military sacrifices over the years, Mrs Sanderson said, “To me, part of keeping faith is living our lives in a way which would make them proud of what we have become, and a reflection of how we live is how we help our fellow men and women, just as they helped us by suffering that we may live.”

During the service, Duncan Warren was presented with the keys to the crypt, to signify his appointment as Warden of the State War Memorial for 2015. Duncan enlisted in the Australian Army in 1968 as a National Serviceman. As a Second Lieutenant he commanded 4 Platoon of B Company with 8 RAR in South Vietnam.

Mr Warren replaced Mrs Jan Stewart.

More than a decade standing duty

Barry Telfer manned one of six Perth intersections on Remembrance Day. He is a South Perth optician who has been standing duty at Perth intersections for more than a decade. Why does he do it? He, like many West Australians, has strong links to old battlefields, going back to his paternal grandfather Thomas Telfer, who served and survived in the 12th Battalion in the Middle East in WWI. A paternal great uncle Harry Dixon was an ANZAC in the 16th Battalion, serving in Gallipoli and the Western Front and killed in the battle of Hamel Wood near Villers-Brettonneux in July 1918. Maternal great uncle Ernest Brennen was also an ANZAC in the 16th Battalion. He was killed in the Battle of Lone Pine August 1915. His body was lost and only his name remains on the memorial at Lone Pine. Another paternal great uncle Gerry Dixon was in the 2/32nd Battalion. He served and survived after theatres of war in Tobruk, El Alamein, New Guinea and Borneo.

Barry, who has bugled in their memory at Gallipoli and Albany, says: “With my family history, how could I not be involved and show my respects to all who served as well as their families?”

Picture courtesy of Michael Wilson of The West Australian.
North Beach switches venues

North Beach Sub-Branch held their annual Remembrance Day Service (right) at the North Beach Bowling Club on Tuesday 11 November.

The service was held at the Bowling Club as our Memorial is undergoing extensive refurbishment after being moved within the Charles Riley Reserve.

This year’s service was well attended by children from local schools and by the North Beach community.

Rob Sweet
Secretary
The magnificent National Anzac Centre in Albany has attracted international interest and attention.

During the Albany centenary weekend, James Dexter, Director for Creative and Regional Development at the WA Museum, played host to visiting prime ministers and VIPs.

James was a driving force in the development of many stories told in the centre about the first convoy that left Albany for Egypt 100 years ago.

The centre was an initiative of the Albany Sub-Branch and it will be one of the many multi-million dollar improvements to Albany because of the centenary of the first convoy’s departure from King George Sound.

One member of the first convoy was coincidentally James’ own extraordinary grandfather Chaplain Walter Dexter - the most decorated chaplain in the AIF. Chaplain Walter Dexter was a master mariner, a mounted trooper in the Boer War (receiving the Distinguished Conduct Medal), an Anglican Minister and a Military Cross winner.

During the Gallipoli landing on 25 April 1915, he tended the wounded aboard hospital ships, providing both medical and emotional support. He landed on the peninsula on 17 May, sharing the hardships and holding services, often with bullets whistling overhead. On being hit for the sixth time, he wrote: ‘I got a shrapnel bullet on my left elbow. I sat … to get over the pain and then went to my own camp and dressed it there. I don’t want my name to go down as wounded.’ He chose to remain with the troops on the peninsula for the entire campaign, and on 14 January 1916 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Order.

On the Western Front he supported ANZAC troops through terrible battles including Pozières and Ypres. He organised entertainments such as cinema and music, and his way of acquiring and distributing items earned him the affectionate nickname, ‘the Pinching Parson’.

He died at home on his 77th birthday, suffering a pulmonary oedema as a result of gas exposure during the war.

• The Governor General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, was an enthusiastic participant in all things including Saturday’s parade along York Street.

• The WA Museum’s James Dexter explains the workings of the National Anzac Centre to Prime Ministers Tony Abbott (Australia) and John Key (NZ) during the Albany ANZAC centenary weekend.

• Poppies were everywhere in Albany – spelling out the numbers 30,000 on Middleton Beach as well as these hand-knitted specimens on display for all to enjoy.
These images are courtesy of the Department of Defence, City of Albany and RSLWA.
Greenbushes pays tribute

Showers led the Greenbushes Sub-Branch to switch the venue of this year’s Remembrance Day Ceremony from the Cenotaph to the nearby District Hall.

RSL members, community and school students were present at the ceremony which marked the 96th year since the end of WW1.

The Greenbushes Remembrance Day service featured information on the origins of what was originally known as Armistice Day and is now more commonly referred to as Poppy Day or Remembrance Day. Students placed flowers and candles in front of the Australian and RSL Flags during the ceremony. They also presented handmade bookmarks to people attending the service.

After the rain cleared the flowers were relocated to the Greenbushes Cenotaph on Blackwood Road.

Debbie Walsh

President on watch

State President Graham Edwards wants to hear from any sub-branches that run into problems with their local authorities.

He says this year he’s heard complaints about councils suggesting veterans should parade on footpaths, rather than on roads and of unfair cost-shifting.

“These issues have been resolved – although I did meet recently with the president of the WA Local Government Association, Troy Pickard, and made him aware of our concerns,” Mr Edwards said. “I am interested in hearing of any ongoing concerns.”

Boddington bagpipes

A Remembrance Day Service was held at the Boddington Memorial Park on 11 November 2014. Paul Cannel (Hippy) played the bagpipes during the raising and lowering of the flags – Earl Schreiber, President.
Wyalkatchem remembers them

The weather provided a pleasant morning after the storms of the previous day with more than 40 people plus the Wyalkatchem District High School attending the service held at the War Memorial, Pioneer Park.

The service commenced at 10.45am with an address from sub-branch President Eddie Garner. School Students Annaliese Hutchison and Brody Metcalfe each read a poem with Lachlan Anderson saying a Prayer for Remembrance.

The school principal then read a poem by Maria Cassee titled ‘Remembrance Sunday’ which concluded with the line “We owe a debt of gratitude that we can never pay and this country will remember them on each Remembrance Day.”

CEO of the Shire of Wyalkatchem, Mr. Ian McCabe, then read Bill Milton’s poem titled ‘Young Sons’. This poem tells of the feelings of a mother from the child her son was and the fear and dread she felt when he went off to war, concluding with the line, “So young sons often come home fulfilling all their mothers fears; not with happy smiles and laughter but draped in flags and mother’s tears.”

A wreath of red poppies was laid by Eddie Garner on behalf of Wyalkatchem Sub-Branch and student Calvin Davis laid a wreath on behalf of his school, Wyalkatchem DHS. Soundscape students Anneliese Hutchison, Taliesha Knight, Zara Metcalfe, Lachlan Anderson and Matthew Haggerty then placed a small wooden cross alongside the wreaths; these five wooden crosses were inscribed with a personal message from each of the students.

This part of the service was carried out to the background music of O’Valiant Hearts.

Eddie Garner then read The Ode. The sounding of The Last Post was followed by a minute’s silence and with the sounding of The Rouse school student Jack Hourigan raised the flag. The service concluded with everyone singing the national anthem. Everyone in attendance was then invited to a buffet luncheon at the Community Resource Centre, provided by the Centre.

Tom Cleverly
Secretary

Percy Larratt - a quiet hero

Quietly-spoken West Australian Percy Wilfred Larratt served in two wars, won the Military Medal and spawned a family that has served the nation.

His son, Clem, who lives at Meadow Springs, served in New Guinea during the Second World War and Clem’s son, Kevin, served in Vietnam.

Percy Larratt, a clerk in civilian life, was just one of the 32,000 West Australians who enlisted for the First World War.

During very heavy fighting in the trenches of France, Percy volunteered to run messages from the Hindenburg Line near Reincourt on the morning of 17 April 1917.

The recommendation for the Military Medal, later awarded, stated: “He knew that he volunteered for this service with very little chance of getting through the heavy barrage of artillery and machinegun fire which then swept ‘no man’s land’.”

Nearly all the previous runners had been shot. The recommendation also said Percy displayed great courage and devotion to duty during earlier fighting in the trenches. Later in the year, back near Messines, Percy was shot through the jaw and recuperated in Rouen and England.

During the Second World War (October 1939-January 1944), he served in the Citizen Military Forces in Australia before being discharged as a staff sergeant.

Percy never spoke about his war activities to his son and his grandson, Kevin remembers him as a ‘fairly quiet sort of a bloke’.

Lest we Forget.

• Percy Larratt, a quiet bloke and war hero.

• Proud family: Rona and Clem Larratt and Clem’s son Kevin.
Youthful Scarborough

Assisting at our solemn ceremony for Remembrance Day at our Scarborough RSL Memorial Garden were the senior choir from Doubleview Primary School and trumpeter Joe Shore from Churchlands Senior High School who rendered the national anthem and the bugle calls respectively.

Wreaths were laid by Ms Jane Simpson, Member for Scarborough Liza Harvey and a Sub-Branch Past President, Mr Des Cummings, who also recited the Ode of Remembrance and delivered a brief but appropriate address.

At the conclusion of proceedings all present were invited to enjoy a delightful morning tea, sponsored by Bunnings Innaloo, at the adjacent bowling club premises.

Malcolm Till
Secretary

Kalamunda loses legends

Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch held its Remembrance Day Service at our local Memorial, which was attended by community members and, more importantly, by a number of local school students representing their respective schools such as Kalamunda Senior High School, Lesmurdie Senior High School, Kalamunda Christian School, Kalamunda Primary School and St. Brigid's College.

They were most welcome and proudly laid wreaths on behalf of the students of their schools in remembrance.

Wreaths were also laid by our local Federal member, Ken Wyatt – Member for Hasluck and Kalamunda Shire President, Sue Bilich. The address was given by Brian Emmott, one of our members and a proud ex-member of the ‘wavy navy’. Light refreshments were held afterwards in our Hall. Speaking of which, we are most grateful to Lotterywest for their recent approval of a grant towards the refurbishment of our kitchen and the support of State Headquarters in our application for the grant.

After many years as our inscrutable and assiduous Treasurer, Christine Esschert has called it a day, as has Doug Carpenter, our longstanding Secretary, who hopes to improve his retirement funds by mysterious means.

Doug Carpenter
Secretary

Cadets support Armadale

Armadale Sub-Branch President Ken Hepburn (right) and Vice President Hans van de Velde with local Army Cadets, some of whom formed the Catafalque Party for the Remembrance Day ceremony.
Special guests for Mazenod

Mazenod College staff and students commemorated Remembrance Day together with special guests. Former Royal Marine Mr William Snashall, WWII and D-Day veteran representing the Kalamunda RSL, recited the Ode of Remembrance; Mazenod Old Boy, Petty Officer Adam Bamford RAN read the Prayer of Remembrance; College Rector Father Peter Daly OMI and PO Bamford laid a wreath with the colours of the United Nations, blue for democracy and white for peace, and Mr Snashall and Year 9 student Archie Williams laid a wreath together.

Archie Williams is the great grandson of Stanley Maudner Williams who was in the 11th Battalion that landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. Their wreath was coloured red for blood and sacrifice and white for peace. The ceremony was led by college captain-elect Matthew Alexander with vice captains-elect Matthew van Eck and Thomas Amos. The college band, conducted by Mr Sam Graham, played the national anthem and buglers played the Last Post and Reveille. The national anthem was led by Jordan Bonomi.

The Remembrance Day ceremony is an important event where students learn that the peace and freedom Australians enjoy today was hard won and must be defended. It must not be taken for granted. Students understand that they owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those who have served and now serve their country in war, conflicts, peacekeeping and community service organisations. Staff and students raised over $900 for the RSL’s poppy appeal. Thank you to all the staff, students and the Kalamunda RSL for their support and assistance with this event.

Mr Richard Kostecki
Head of Society and Environment

ESCORTED TOUR - APRIL 2015

ANZAC TOUR TO SABAH
NORTH BORNEO

| 6 nights/7 days - Departs Perth 23 April 2015 |
| $2,340 per person share twin |
| Single supplement ( Sole use of room) $570 |

Tour Escort: Bob Coventry

To coincide with the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing we have designed a tour to visit Sandakan for the 25th April 2015 ANZAC Day memorial service. The tour will allow for leisure time plus a glance at the history of Australian Army involvement in North Borneo during World War II through the service and memorial visits.

Inclusions: • Economy class flights with Malaysia Airlines • Airline taxes & charges • Airport transfers to hotel and return in Kota Kinabalu & Sandakan • 3 Nights’ accommodation at Pacific Sutera Hotel Kota Kinabalu & 3 Nights’ accommodation at Four Points Sheraton Sandakan • Full buffet breakfast daily • ANZAC Service, Sandakan 25/4/15 • President’s Memorial Dinner 24/4/15 • Sandakan tour, proboscis monkey tour & Sepilok Orang Utan Sanctuary tour • Dinner at English Tea House • Mt. Kinabalu National Park including Kudawang War Memorial.

For further details, contact Ms Maxiena Lager on:
p: 9382 5044
e: maxiena@traveltree.com.au

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One in six people will have a stroke in their lifetime. But stroke can be prevented.

The National Stroke Foundation has passionate StrokeSafe Ambassadors in your area who can:

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• Educate people about what stroke is.

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This project is supported by funding from the Australian Government under the Chronic Diseases Prevention and Service Improvement Fund.

www.strokefoundation.com.au
Strong effort by Brookton students

About 100 people took part in a very special Remembrance Day at the Brookton Memorial Park.

The service started with a greeting from the Brookton Sub-Branch President, Kim Stedman, who acknowledged the 96th anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, and the significance of the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. School Councillor Sarah Walters delivered a heartfelt reading of ‘In Flanders Fields’, written by Canadian military doctor and artillery commander Major John McRae.

The President’s address was written for the youngest to understand the significance to the troops of the Armistice, and what peace would mean to them. Not just going home, but also what and who they were leaving behind.

Following the laying of a wreath by RSL Secretary Carina Whittington, five students laid poppies in a fitting tribute. School captain Jamie Phillips delivered a moving rendition of The Ode. At precisely 11am a minute’s silence followed the Last Post. Then the flag was raised by Vice President Anne Stedman as the Rouse (Reveille) sounded across the park.

Gosnells secures collections

The Remembrance Day service at Gosnells this year was so well attended we had to change our format from a small gathering around the War Memorial to a solemn service at the base of the pathway leading to the Memorial.

About 70 to 80 gathered, including the Mayor, Cr Dave Griffiths and state MPs, Mr Chris Tallentire, Mr Peter Abetz, Mr Bill Johnstone and Mr Nathan Morton. An absentee was Mr Alby Passmore who unfortunately passed away earlier this year after a short illness.

Poppy selling

After the theft incident last year, the Sub-Branch asked the Gosnells Men’s Shed to design and manufacture a suitable device to discourage anyone from repeating the incident.

Harry Rosielle Secretary

Three Springs reaches out

Eighty school children and 50 adults attended the Remembrance Day service held in the Jack Thorpe Gardens in Three Springs. It was wonderful to see that every school child wore a poppy, this fact was pointed out to me by several people.

Mr Robert Hunt told the gathering about the history of four of the names that appear on our memorial, including half-brothers, who died in France.

Ray Morgan President
On Remembrance Day the Ellenbrook Sub-Branch completed a week of distributing poppies, culminating in a moving service in front of an audience of 600 students, sub-branch members, and members of the public.

Sub-branch President, Stephen O’Neil, spoke of the history of the Armistice in 1918.

The Last Post and Rouse made a huge impact on the crowd, and the audience left knowing of the contribution that those who served have had on our cultural history.

Wreaths were laid by representatives of state politicians and many schools.

Lest we forget.

Dr Neil MacNeill
Secretary
York respects its history

York Sub-Branch member Keith Kermode, who served in Vietnam with 3 Field Troop, Royal Australian Engineers, meets Daniel Faulkner, head boy of York High School, who made a well researched speech on the significance of the red poppy on Remembrance Day at York Memorial Park.

It’s an amazing coincidence Keith said, that last ANZAC Day Daniel read his winning RSL sponsored essay about his grandfather Stewart Law of Bundaberg, Queensland who served with 3 Field Troop and quoted a poem written by him.

3 Field Troop was made up of only 69 regular army Sappers who went to Vietnam with 1st Battalion Group attached to US Airborne Brigade at Bien Hoa.

It was 3 Field Troop who discovered and searched the now famous Cu Chi Tunnels and are regarded as the original Tunnel Rats. The first battalion group were subsequently awarded the US Army meritorious unit commendation for service in Vietnam.

Val Menezes
Secretary

South Perth names its fallen soldiers

The South Perth Community gathered at the War Memorial to pay their respects to the men of the district who fell during the Great War and subsequent campaigns. During the service the President of the City of South Perth Sub-Branch, Kevin Trent, read the names of the 20 men who are recorded on the memorial on the corner of Angelo Street and Labouchere Road.

The Member for Swan, Mr Steve Irons read a message from the Prime Minister. Wreathes were laid by Greg Negus of 5RAR Vietnam, the Mayor Mrs Sue Doherty, Mr Irons, Mrs Kate Doust MLC, Mr John McGrath MLA and Major Elgayar of the Pilbara Regiment.

At the conclusion of the service students from the South Perth Primary School sang ‘The Green Hills of Albany’ followed by the national anthem before attending a late morning tea provided by the City of South Perth.

Kevin Trent
President

Kept Kermode (left) and Daniel Faulkner.

• Dignitaries at the City of South Perth Service.
Woolies gets behind local RSLs

RSL Australia has exclusive in-store fundraising at all Woolworths stores, commencing with Poppy Appeal 2014 and continuing through the ANZAC centenary period.

The Woolworths partnership is an opportunity to expand our fundraising coverage with the RSL’s largest ever national fundraising campaign and we were thrilled to commence this relationship in time for the 2014 Poppy Appeal. A frequently made statement is: ‘all the money goes East’. WRONG - the money raised in Woolworths stores will stay in the State of purchase, to support a range of veteran welfare activities.

This is a great opportunity for the RSL to work with their local Woolworths operations and build stronger relationships within the local community. Sub-branches are encouraged to approach their local Woolworths to complement in-store fundraising by having volunteers onsite during the annual campaigns. So, for those who did this, thank you and for those who didn’t, in future years if you are able to have volunteers adjacent to your Woolworths store, please contact your local Woolworths manager. Shopping centre selling will continue to require approval from centre management. As of 9 November Woolworth’s WA had collected $110,000.

Phil Orchard
CEO

ANZAC Club

Great value dining in the ANZAC Club bistro and discounted beverage ticket options when buying a meal.

FREE members’ self-serve tea or coffee facility all day.

10 Lucky Winners!

The Perth Mint and RSLWA are pleased to announce the 10 lucky readers who have won a beautiful 1oz The ANZAC Spirit – Declaration of War 2014 1oz Silver Proof Coin valued at $99.

The winners were drawn on 24 November 2014 by the State President Graham Edwards AM, assisted by the Warden of the State War Memorial, Mr Duncan Warren and witnessed by Sub-Wardens Phil Skelton, Bill Wilson and Allan Downs.

The following winners should contact ANZAC House, 28 St George’s Terrace, Perth to arrange delivery.

• GRAHAM DAWSON Narrogin WA 6312
• ROBERT COLIN MILLS Port Kennedy WA 6172
• ARIE GOLDSWORD Port Kennedy WA 6149
• BRUCE CLAMPETT Three Springs, WA 6519
• GARRY BUTCHER Collie 6225
• E.H.STEVENS Churchlands, WA 6801
• ROBERT GAUSTEN Rockingham 6168
• KEVIN MENAGH Innaloo WA 6018
• IAN NASH Leeming WA 6149
• LINDSAY BENNETT Marmion WA 6020

Community Support

Can We Help?

RSL WA Branch provides a full range of welfare services to the veteran community including allied, currently serving members and their dependents. Assistance is available with but not limited to the following areas:

• Emergency relief
• Advocacy
• Overseas Pension applications
• Crisis counselling to point of referral
• Financial assistance
• Referral to other services
• Home and Hospital visits
• General crisis assistance
• Prison visits/ Legal Support Group
  – Mr. Terry O’Neill 9440 6233

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Where possible it is best to arrange a face to face appointment with the Welfare Officer at

ANZAC House 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

For regional members assistance may be sought through the local sub-branches.

Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm. Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.
RSLWA honours and awards

Congratulations to Stan Panting for his Meritorious Medal Award and to Laurie Fraser OAM MBE, Geoff Scarterfield; Greg Young; Murray Polkinghorne and Mark Stevens for their Life Membership awards.

This year’s trophies were awarded as follows: the Newdegate Cup donated by the late Sir Francis Newdegate, former Governor of WA, awarded to the most efficient metropolitan sub-branch was tied and went to the City of South Perth and North Beach Sub-Branches.

The Colonel Collett Cup donated by the late Colonel HB Collett, awarded to the most efficient country sub-branch went to Three Springs - Arrino Sub-Branch as did the Geraldton Shield awarded to the most meritorious country sub-branch with less than 100 members.

The Mary Cornell Trophy donated by the late Hon. J. Cornell MLC for the sub-branch that sold the most poppies in proportion to membership went to the City of Subiaco. Finally Lt Col Ken Bladen’s recruiting shield, awarded to the most outstanding sub-branch for the recruitment of new members in proportion to membership, went to the Brookton Sub-Branch. Congratulations to all winners.

One of the many tasks facing us is to revisit the scoring system used in the award of these trophies. It is outdated and requires a new weighting system. Watch this space.

Phil Orchard
CEO

Share your RSLWA news and views on facebook!
www.facebook.com/rslwahq
A large contingent of RSL members from throughout Australia and from New Zealand visited the extensive collection located on John and Kathryn Shapland’s Limousin cattle stud farm.

While a working farm, the property is also the home of an outstanding collection of military memorabilia orientated towards, but not exclusively, World War II air force activity. The latest addition to the display is a substantial collection of Red Cross artifacts and uniforms requiring John Shapland to build another large room to house it.

DefenceCare in NSW has been ‘run off its feet’ in meeting the needs of current and ex-serving members of Australia’s Defence Force and their families in times of injury, illness and crisis.

General Manager Robyn Collins, a keynote speaker at the State Congress, said in the 12 months to June 2014, DefenceCare responded to 4,838 calls for help from veterans and their families.

Many involved complex circumstances and requests for help. In 2013 the total calls were 2,651.

“There is so much more we can do and the more we work together, the better our chance of success.”

“The challenge for DefenceCare and all ex-service organisations is to change and grow – to remain relevant and in tune with the needs of our veterans, whatever their age and circumstances.

“It is my fervent hope that never again do we read about a recently returned veteran who travelled alone to another country he had never been to before, to walk off into the wilderness to die alone. There is so much more we can do and the more we work together, the better our chance of success.”

DefenceCare was established approximately two years ago and comprises a general manager and 11 staff and is based at ANZAC House in the Sydney CBD. DefenceCare operates independently of RSL NSW but its trustees are key position holders of the RSL NSW – the president, state secretary and treasurer.

RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution (affectionately known as RSL WBI) is a charity and public benevolent institution and remains the legal entity behind DefenceCare, which is a trading name, not the legal name. The organisation started using the name DefenceCare in August 2012, following a review that recommended sweeping changes to RSL operations.

It has three core service areas – entitlements (or claims), advocacy at the Veterans Review Board and community support (previously known as welfare).
RSLWA supports veterans’ pensions

State Congress took a stand on the RSL's position on legislation relating to veterans' benefits.

It passed three motions which are supported by all states and have been accepted nationally by the RSL - which will pursue the matter.

A brief summary of the administrative motions follow.

DVA 2014-2015 Budget Measures-Disability Pension

That the Government revoke the decision contained in the DVA Federal Budget 2014-2015 Budget Papers which backdates the disability pension paid under the Veterans’ Entitlement Act (VEA) will be from the date of claim and not the three months prior to the date of effect (Section 20).

Supporting Statement:
This Budget measure is an erosion of Veteran’s entitlements under the VEA. The Explanatory Memorandum of the Veterans’ Entitlement Bill 1985 Clause 20: Date of operation of grant of claim for pension states: “This clause will maintain the provisions of sub—sections 214(3) and (11) of the Repatriation Act 1920. Sub—clause 20(1) will provide that a grant of pension may be made from a date up to three months prior to the date of lodgement of the claim, on the approved form, at an office of the Department.” To enact this amendment to the VEA would defy 94 years of Veterans’ entitlements.

DVA 2014-2015 Budget Measures-Seniors Supplement

That the Government revoke the decision contained in the DVA Federal Budget 2014-2015 Budget Papers which ceases the Seniors Supplement to Gold Card and Commonwealth Seniors Health Card holders on 26th June 2014.

Supporting Statement:
The Seniors Supplement is a payment made under the VEA to assist with payment of energy, telephone, internet, rates, water and sewerage expenses. To cease this payment will place eligible Veterans under financial stress as their household budget would have been based on receiving this supplement. This measure will impact the most vulnerable in the Veteran community.

Note: The State President advised that the three motions were initiated out of opposition to the move that the Government has introduced that we send a unanimous message to the Senate to say that every State Branch of the RSL in Australia endorses the three motions.

The State President acknowledged that it is not usual for motions to come to our State Congress in this way but due to the circumstances and in the spirit of support, that RSLWA join the other states to support these motions.

The State President requested that the above three motions be taken as one and these were moved, seconded and carried unanimously.

Compensation for Atomic Survivors

That all servicemen who have been exposed to atomic radiation have their service classed as warlike and hazardous.

Supporting statement was made and an amendment to add the word ‘extremely’; and delete the word ‘warlike’ was moved, seconded and unanimously carried.

Indexation of Disability Pensions

This Congress of the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated deprecates the Australian Government’s intention to wind back the indexing of Veterans’ Disability Pensions to the pre 2007
The Listening Post
DEC 2014
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The RSLWA’s new Patron, the Hon Kerry Sanderson AO, attended the traditional Remembrance Day service at Kings Park and later met with members of the Churchlands Senior High School band, proudly showing off their new marching jackets sponsored by the RSL.

• The RSLWA’s new Patron, the Hon Kerry Sanderson AO, attended the traditional Remembrance Day service at Kings Park and later met with members of the Churchlands Senior High School band, proudly showing off their new marching jackets sponsored by the RSL.

Formula of CPI only and calls on the government to quarantine the Veterans’ Disability Pensions from the proposed changes to indexation. The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated advises the Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia at its earliest convenience of this decision of the Congress. Furthermore, The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated advises the Returned and Services League of Australia of this decision and calls on the Returned and Services League of Australia to publicly support this decision.

Supporting Statement:
The 2014 Budget presented to the Australian Parliament by the Treasurer Mr Joe Hockey included, amongst other things, an initiative to wind back the method of indexing the Veterans’ Disability Pension to the pre 2007 formula of CPI only. Since 2007, the Australian Parliament, with cross party support, has made changes to the formula to include the Public Beneficiary Living Cost index with reference to the Male Total Average Weekly Earnings as there was general acceptance that reference to the CPI alone did not reflect actual changes to community income standards of our disabled veterans. This was widely seen as a fair and equitable move by the parliament, which benefited our disabled veterans. The Government’s objective to bring public spending under control in order to achieve a balanced budget is understandable, however, this particular provision is considered to be deplorable as it imposes an unfair burden on our disabled veterans many of whom are struggling to adequately provide for themselves and their families and who have a right to expect fair treatment and compensation from the Parliament and the people of Australia for, in many cases, debilitating injuries and conditions which they have suffered as a result of their service to the nation. Including the Veterans’ Disability Pension in this cost cutting measure is manifestly wrong. The Veterans’ Disability Pension is and always has been a compensation payment which is awarded to those veterans with proven entitlement to compensation for injuries and conditions directly attributable to their Defence Force Service. It is NOT and NEVER HAS BEEN a pension in the true sense of the word and should be quarantined from any changes to indexation to all those other types of pensions.

Resolved:
“That this Congress of the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated deprecates the Australian Government’s intention to wind back the indexing of Veterans’ Disability Pensions to the pre 2007 formula of CPI only and calls on the government to quarantine the Veterans’ Disability Pensions from the proposed changes to indexation. The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated advises the Prime Minister and Treasurer of Australia at its earliest convenience of this decision of the Congress. Furthermore, The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated advises the Returned and Services League of Australia of this decision and calls on The Returned and Services League of Australia to publicly support this decision.” Moved, seconded and unanimously carried.

Funeral Benefits
That the RSL both State and Federal with some urgency make representations to the respective Ministers of Government responsible for this abnormality and at least bring the benefit under the VEA in line with the other Acts and end this perceived discrimination.

Continued over page
Supporting Statement:
The current benefits under the Compensation Act that are in operation at the moment and the Acts Ex Service members go to claim compensation are the Veterans Entitlement Act, (VEA) The Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (SRCA) and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA). Under these Acts the compensation outcome varies, but a glaring difference under the Acts mentioned is the funeral benefit paid to the family of an eligible ex-service member. As can be seen, the difference is a vast one from the Veterans Entitlement Act and the more recent SRCA and MRCA. This difference must be addressed with urgency. Under VEA a funeral benefit is a one-off payment towards funeral expenses of certain veterans including recipients of special rate pension or EDA, former prisoners of war, recipients of additional disability pension for specific disabilities, those whose death is accepted as being war or service caused and those who died in needy circumstances. Where eligibility for a funeral benefit arises due to a posthumous grant or increase to the rate of disability pension, the amount payable as a funeral benefit is the rate applicable at the date of death. Funeral benefit up to $2,000. MRCA: The fact sheets provides the current rates of compensation benefits that may be payable under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA). Maximum $10,971.47. SRCA: The fact sheet provides the current rates of compensation benefits that may be payable under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) and the Defence Act 1903. Maximum $10,971.47. The above information was extracted from the relevant Fact Sheets on the DVA website.

Resolved:
“That the RSL both State and Federal with some urgency make representations to the respective Ministers of Government responsible for this abnormality and at least bring the benefit under the VEA in line with the other Acts and end this perceived discrimination.” Moved seconded and unanimously carried.

Commemoration – Recognition of the Horses
That the Returned & Services League included the horses sent overseas in the ANZAC Day service to commemorate their service to Australia and the men who worked with them.

Supporting Statement:
The horse played a vital part in the success of the Australian servicemen, especially the Light Horse. Unfortunately, only one horse returned to Australia. Resolved: “That the above motion be forwarded to the ANZAC Day Committee to be addressed and also to sub-branches for their consideration.” Moved seconded and unanimously carried.

Perth Esplanade
That the RSL (WA) President appeal to the Premier, Hon. Colin Barnett to reserve a small area of Queen Elizabeth Quay for the construction of a permanent Perth Esplanade history centre with provision for the display of the military history of the area and in particular its importance in the history of the six Western Australian Boer War Contingents and the 95 Anzac Day parades held on the Perth Esplanade between 1916 and 2011.

Supporting Statement:
All six Western Australian contingents to the South African Boer War were farewelled on the Perth Esplanade. In 1916 Perth’s first Anzac Day march through the City of Perth terminated on the Perth Esplanade where the Governor, Major General Sir Harry Barron ended his address with a quotation from a recent book about Gallipoli: “Some of us will not come back. But all we ask, if that befall is this: within your heart be written this single line memorial ‘He did his duty he did his best.’” With the years the numbers on the Esplanade increased reaching 45,000 in 1936. Uniformed men and women have served Australia in peace time and in wars that begin with South Africa and continue to Afghanistan. Count the numbers who for 95 years since 1916, marched onto the Perth Esplanade. Add to that tally the families and friends, the children and the elderly who followed them and there is certainly sufficient justification for the RSL to lay claim to a small piece of the Esplanade for a memorial centre bearing the words, ANZAC – They did their duty they did their best.

Resolved:
“That the State President agreed to write to the Western Australian Premier supporting the motion.” Moved seconded and unanimously carried.

EDA Tax Exemption
That the RSL both State and National pursue this Tax exemption issue for EDA recipients to receive Tax Exemptions on Vehicles they purchase to bring them into line with the Special Rate recipients.

Supporting Statement:
At the moment those members who are in receipt of the Special Rate of Pension (T&PI) enjoy the benefit of tax exemptions of vehicles that they may happen to purchase. This exemption extends to parts and tyres that may be required by that vehicle. These exemptions have been in place for some time. Those members who are in receipt of the Extreme Disablement Allowance (EDA) only enjoy a part of this benefit that is extended to the T &PI members. That is they receive a tax exemption for parts and tyres of the vehicle they own. This is a ‘them and us’ attitude and should not continue to prevail. The tax exemptions on vehicles for EDA recipients should be revisited and corrected to allow them to enjoy the same tax benefit as those who are T&PI.

Resolved:
“That the RSL both State and National pursue this Tax exemption issue for EDA recipients to receive Tax Exemptions on Vehicles they purchase to bring them into line with the Special Rate recipients.” Moved seconded and unanimously carried.

Phil Orchard
CEO
Members (pictured above) of the very active Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group celebrated their 15th anniversary and unveiled an honours board.

The group dispatched more than 30 members to march during the Albany ANZAC centenary weekend. The honour board lists all executive committee and life members since inception and was unveiled by Mr Brien Bush, the group's inaugural President. This was followed by the cutting of a birthday cake by life member Sue O'Donnell. Over 110 members attended the night and enjoyed the usual delicious sundowner fare and camaraderie on the clubhouse verandah by the Murray River.

Teresa McPhee and RT Golding
Media/Public Relations Officer - MMVVG

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To see just how much you could save, and help you make the right financial decision, use the simple funeral cost calculator at bowraodea.com.au or call 9231 5100.

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

WA FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED
PREPAID DIVISION: 406 BEAUFORT STREET, HIGHGATE 6033. TELEPHONE: 9231 5100
This year’s West Australian Army Cadets (AAC) Brigade’s annual field exercise kicked off when 543 cadets and 142 staff stepped off busses into the rain and red, gravelly mud that is the Bindoon Military Training Area.

Upon arrival, the cadets were placed into different tiers depending on their experience and age.

Tier 1A was led by 2nd Lieutenant (AAC) Adam Winter, while Major (AAC) Bill Collidge took charge of 1B. Cadets were quick to impress with their willingness to learn.

Tier 2A, led by Captain (AAC) Paul Rauchwald and his team camped near the airstrip and were treated to abseiling, archery, and the blow up confidence course as well as training in navigation, first aid and survival skills.

Under the command of Captain (AAC) Marc Hall, Tier2B were kept busy at the Northam campsite with canoeing on the Avon River and mountain bike riding as well as navigation training.

The Junior Leaders course was led by CAPT (AAC) Conrad Scott and they spent their week learning how to apply their skills and get the most out of those under their command. To break up the lessons and keep them entertained, the young leaders were able to shoot both the F88 and F89 Minimi on the range, under the instruction of Captain Neil Bailey. The dux of the course went to Cadet Josh Morecombe (501 ACU Como) who takes home a Bronze AAC Commendation for his superb efforts.

On Saturday, October 4, everybody came together for the annual Competition Day and ‘Cadet Challenge,’ with the cadets being placed into sections to complete tasks. The competitions included rogaining, first aid, drill and military skills.

For the last few years, Christchurch Grammar School has been the unit to beat – but this year, Rockingham-based rivals 59 Army Cadet Unit, skilfully led by Cadet Warrant Officer Joshua Gomes, finally took out the trophy – having come so close over the past two years.

The parade was reviewed by His Excellency the Honourable Wayne Martin AC, QC (the State Administrator) and official guests included Brigadier Wayne Budd CSC (Commander Australian Army Cadets) and Brigadier Steve Coggin CSC, (Commander 13 Brigade). Both His Excellency and the two Brigadiers were clearly impressed with the cadets as they inspected the lines.

As ever, musical support was provided in spades by the Brigade’s finest – 51 Army Cadet Unit Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes, who under the command of their Director, Captain (AAC) Peter Jones, OAM – blew and drummed up a storm!

Louisa Panetta
LCPL (AAC)
Pharmacist Luke Wale is a passionate member of the Army Reserve who joined the RSL to get to know the local veterans in the Busselton area and to support the work that they do for veterans and serving members.

“I am one of four brothers who are all active serving members in the Australian Army,” Luke says. “I am very passionate about my service with the Army Reserves. My previous home unit was 41st RNSWR and I currently parade with 11/28 RWAR at Bunbury.”

Luke (27) works at West Busselton Pharmacy as the managing pharmacist. He has a Bachelor of Pharmaceutical Science and a Master of Pharmacy which he completed at Griffith University on the Gold Coast.

“I enlisted into the Army on 16 September 2006 and joined the defence force in the role of rifleman in the infantry core. I’ve been an active member since then.

In 2013, I completed a six-month deployment in the Solomon Islands and while with Operation Anode I was awarded with the Soldiers Medallion for exemplary service.”
# UNITED AND KINDRED LISTING

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<td>President</td>
<td>1 Harvey St</td>
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<td>2/11th Bn AIF</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>70 Hawkstone Street</td>
<td>GOTTESLODE</td>
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<td>2/16th Battalion A.I.F. Association Inc</td>
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<td>2/3rd Machine Gunners A. B. A.</td>
<td>2/3rd MC Bn</td>
<td>President</td>
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<td>Airborne Forces Assoc of WA (Inc)</td>
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<td>1 Cromer Rd</td>
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<td>American Returned Military Services</td>
<td>WMBSVA</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>12 Binburra Way</td>
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Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Can We Help?

RSL WA provides welfare services to the Veteran community including Allied, currently serving members and their dependents.

Contact us for Emergency relief; Advocacy; Overseas Pension applications; Crisis counselling to point of referral; Financial assistance; Referral to other services; Home and Hospital visits; General crisis assistance; and Prison visits/ Legal Support Group – Mr. Terry O’Neill 9440 6233.

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence.

Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9am to 3.30pm.

Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.
Notices

■ WA RSL Bowls
The 48th National RSL Bowls Carnival is being conducted in Perth from 29 December 2014 to 5 January 2015. The WA RSL Bowls Section wishes to congratulate the following West Australians chosen to represent WA at this prestigious annual event: P. Hutton, K. Manton, M. Piggot, K. Cannon, P. Griffiths, G. Murray, M. Ong, M. Sear, E. Widemanski, R. Knapp, R. Monger, P. Johnston, T. Alden, B. Collins, W. Tan, R. Beazley, D. Adams, N. Conduit, L. Mola, M. Hughes, G. Woolridge, I. White, B. Cowan, J. Weir, R. Prosser and N. O’Halloran. The members represent both current and ex serving members from within the three major forces.

The interstate Test series takes place at YOKine and Osborne Park Bowling Clubs from 2 to 5 January 2015. We extend a very warm welcome and invitation to all members from the WA bowling fraternity and in particular the services community to come along and witness the comradery, friendship and the true spirit in which this competition is played. And who knows, you may even bump into one of your ‘old’ service buddies from years gone by.

For further information regarding the carnival, or for future participation in RSL Bowls, (next year the carnival is in Launceston Tasmania) please contact Carnival Director, Phil Griffiths 0412 224 570.

■ Meals For Your Members
If there are any RSL Sub-Branches out there who find it a struggle to provide a quality meal service to their members on a regular basis I think we can help.

We have a team of very experienced people who are more than qualified to provide this service. A lease situation of the kitchen facilities would be the ideal with the aim of bringing low cost varied meals to all your members and their guests.

For any further details regards the team please contact Ric Giblett of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Sub-Branch on 0400 522 651.

■ Free Career Service
Soldier On is pleased to introduce their new free career service in partnership with Konekt. Konekt have partnered with Soldier On to provide free career services to former ADF Members and their families that are looking to secure new employment and successfully transition to the next phase of their lives. This service is offered nationwide as Konekt have 34 offices across Australia, including in all capital cities and most major regional centres. The services provided by Konekt will be:

1. Vocational Assessment.

If you are interested in finding out more about this service or know anyone who would be interested in this service, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Danielle Clout (danielle.clout@soldieron.org.au) and she will pass your details onto Konekt.

CAN YOU HELP?

Janet McDonald
For some years I have tried to trace the career of my grandfather’s sister Janet McDonald when I am in Perth. Janet McDonald or Macdonald was I believe the matron of the repat hospital near Fremantle. She was a nursing sister in WWI and family history says she was on Lemnos. Janet received an MBE and marched in uniform at King G’s coronation, but seems to have left no spoors in Perth. Where should look? I think the Repat Hospital is no more.

Anthony Griffiths
arggriffiths@icloud.com

Reunions

■ Tingira Boys Unite JR Reunion 2015
The Tingira Australia Association will stage the JR Reunion 2015 in Sydney from Monday 9 November to Friday 13 November 2015.

“This will be the biggest navy reunion to be held in Sydney for many years. The Tingira team is excited and are now prepared to deliver a great week for our Tingira Members, former Junior Recruit (JR) shipmates and all associated with the Tingira Boys of past and present in Sydney” said Tingira President Lance Ker.

“We have a few surprise’s in store, it’s all about tradition and commemoration combined with renewing and making new friendships. HMAS Vampire in Darling Harbour at the Australian National Maritime Museum, the Tingira Memorial at Rose Bay and the RAN Naval Heritage Museum at Garden Island will be playing a major role in the week long activities for these dedicated past and present ‘JR’ sailors of the RAN”.

www.jrreunion.org.au
tingirasec@gmail.com

■ 1RAR PHOTO
This photo is allegedly of a 1 RAR soldier on day four of his tour in Vietnam which was given to the Public Affairs Officer at HQ 7 Bde.

Can you identify the person so that the photo can be passed on to him or his family?

A point of contact would also be appreciated.

Please contact the 7 Bde PAO at william.heck@defence.gov.au or stephan.colman@defence.gov.au

■ OCS 1966 Graduation Class 50th Reunion
The 50th reunion of Officer Cadet School (OCS) 1966 graduation class is fast approaching.

At this stage the plan is to hold the event at the Royal Military College (RMC) around 17 June 2016. Chris Hunter and Dave Morton are our Canberra planning team. I am the class monitor charged with putting together an up to date class list. From a possible attendance of 68 so far I have 33 confirmed details, 10 deceased and another 26 or so of whom we have no data. I have listed the ‘missing’ below; if you can help with any contact details it would be greatly appreciated.

Geoff Adler, Norm Bell, Alan Blackman, John Bray, Brian Coolahan, Frank Doerr, Clive Dutton, Merv Fair, Peter Ford, Norm Fry, Daryl Haber, Jim Knox, Dick Lawler, Ron Lenard, Graham Locke, Peter Lynch, Ross Milne, Garry Montgomery, John Pronk, Ron Randell, John Rhoden, Neil Spence, Mick Steel, Graeme Stevens, Terry Verall and Ian Yerbury.

Chris Hunter will contact you all in due course to discuss what activities you would prefer for our reunion.

Paul Coleman
newsbreak@bigpond.com

July 10-12, 2015, Maroochydore RSL

All members of the 3rd Intake of HMAS LEEUWIN Junior Recruits, their family / friends, and particularly those of you who missed our first (and 50th year) Anniversary Reunion in 2011, are urged to attend our second reunion to be dubbed the “now turning 70 Reunion” at the Maroochy RSL.

Contact Colleen Platten on 0439 737 564, email cplatten1@bigpond.org.au for information / applications - or Bouncer Wiseman (07) 38484349, email rwiseman@internode.on.net
Horsemen have a rich history

Continued from page 8

“Yet it can be argued that the success of the Sinai and Palestine Campaign, in which the actions of the Desert Mounted Corps were critical, has led directly to the present day situation in the Middle East,” Mr Aspinall said.

On 2 November 1917, only two days after the capture of Beersheba and well before the Campaign was over, a letter signed by Lord Balfour to the Jewish financier Lord Rothschild stated that Britain would commit to the establishment of a Jewish state.

This letter, known as the Balfour Declaration, was not made public until 1920. Britain eventually honoured this commitment with David Ben-Gurion delivering the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948.

Mr Aspinall paid tribute to the initiative of the Apex Club of Albany, led by Mr John Moyle, for constructing the road to the summit, replacing a ‘proverbial goat track’ and to First World War veteran Ross Steele, who conceived and vigorously pursued the idea of having the remains of the memorial brought to Albany in 1960.

FOOTNOTE: The memorial has an incredible history and is in fact different from the original unveiled in 1932 at Port Said. That memorial, partly funded by troops, was damaged beyond repair during the Suez Crisis, on the night of December 26, 1956. United Arab Republic later agreed to a request by the Australian and NZ governments to release the damaged memorial and shipped it complete with a polished Gabo Island granite plinth to Albany where the first ANZAC convoy assembled before departure to Egypt. The new memorial on the original’s base was unveiled at Mt Clarence on 11 October, 1964, by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies.

Not all were honoured in Canberra

Doug Groome (93) sat at home in Albany while other Bomber Command survivors were honoured by the Prime Ministers of Britain and Australia.

“To be honest,” he admits modestly about being overlooked for the gathering, “I was a little put out.”

Doug Groome is a self-effacing man with an impressive history of completing two tours of duty as a pilot with the UK-based Bomber Command in the Second World War – the first tour of 23 sortees flying Lancasters from 1943 and he recalls one particularly well.

On 13 May 1943 one of the starboard engines was on fire over Bochum in Germany’s Ruhr Valley, and a German night-fighter had the Lancaster and its seven crew in its sights.

They were sitting ducks – “we were burning very brightly from the right wing” – when the German decided to abide by an unofficial gentlemen’s decree of not shooting down an aircraft in trouble. The fighter left, and the Lancaster limped back to England.

“After that I joined 192 squadron and flew Halifaxes. We did nine trips; then the war finished.”

A full tour of the Halifaxes was just nine trips so Warrant Officer Groome proved to be a true survivor.

“I put it down to a bit of concentration and an awful lot of luck,” he says. “Given some of the situations I was in, I was lucky to get away with it.”

Mr Groome emigrated to Perth from England in 1957 and moved to Albany in 1959.

He said that although he missed out on the trip to Canberra, he was grateful for the subsequent support he had received from the RSL.
ANZAC – a teenage perspective

Mary-Therese Shanks (17), from Mandurah St John Ambulance Cadets, greatly impressed the judging panel when she offered this poem during recent testing for the RSLWA Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year Competition for 2014 at the Belmont Sub-Branch.

Mary-Therese moved from Queensland to Mandurah five months ago and she has been a cadet for nearly three years. Mary-Therese has home schooled all her life and loves writing poetry.

Bill Collidge
Chairman of the RSLWA Youth Committee

The Spirit of ANZAC

There’s a drumming, a pulsing,
In every Aussie’s heart,
An undeniable spirit,
That sets us all apart.

It’s the flame that drove the diggers,
Through all the hell of war,
An unexplainable force that exudes,
From our inner most core.

You see it in the forces;
Officer, soldier and cadet,
Who bravely gave their lives;
Lest we forget.

You see it in the volunteers;
Fires, First Aiders, S.E.S,
All those who serve the people;
Doing more not less.

So what is this mark?
That makes us all stand out
Is it the way we say things,
Like ‘Mate it’s your shout’.

Is it the fact that when,
Fire, flood, or cyclone,
Fill a town with debris,
The people who are there to help;
Come from all over our great country.

Is it that we live?
By the unspoken Aussie creed,
That whether in war or peace;
We’ll always help a mate in need.

It’s the link that unites,
The ANZAC’s with the soldiers of today,
An inner strength of comradery;
That’s just the Aussie way.

It’s what flows through volunteers
Like you, and me;
It’s the spirit,
Of the A-N-Z-A-C!

We are the ANZACs of today,
Serving our country;
In every single way.

A culture where all the work we do,
Is as seen as fun;
Always pushing the limits,
Taking life at the run.

As I glance around this room,
I see my friends and fellow volunteers;
And realise you’re the heroes,
Whose impressions will last with me
for years.

To all my fellow Aussies,
Those striving to honour the ANZACs of the past,
My hat goes off to you,
And I pray, that the spirit of our forefathers,
May last.

Princely salute to fallen

• Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, visited the State War Memorial in Kings Park on 7 November to lay a wreath on behalf of the Royal Family. He was accompanied by State President Graham Edwards.

The Listening Post DEC 2014

Centenary for Army Pay

The Royal Australian Army Pay Corps (RAAPC) celebrated its centenary by having a formal dinner on Saturday 20 September in the Australian War Memorial.

At that dinner some 190 current serving and retired RAAPC members and partners celebrated the proud history of one of the Army’s smallest and least understood but essential Corps that has contributed to the effective management of soldiers pay and allowances since the beginning of WWI.

The Australian Army Pay Corps (AAPC) was originally formed on 21 September 1914 with Major Albert G. Farr being appointed as the Commanding Officer of the 1st Australian Army Pay Details Unit. It consisted of three officers and 22 Other Ranks who deployed to the Middle East on 21 October 1914. The first Chief Paymaster was LtCol Thomas W. Jolliffe, CMG.

LtCol John Eddington
AM RFD (Retd)

Note: LtCol John Eddington AM RFD (Retd) commenced his military service in 1968, commissioned in 1975 as a RAAPC Officer, was a Platoon Commander at the parade in Bandiana when the ARA RAAPC component was raised and became the first RAAPC Officer to become HOC RAAPC in 1999. During his service he deployed to Cambodia, Papua New Guinea, Iraq and Afghanistan as either a Financial Adviser or Pay and Financial Inspector. He retired from the ARA in 2005 and completed 44 years’ service in the Australian Army when he retired from the ARES in 2013.
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
R48386; Bomford, Graham
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
F4339; Flanagan, Edwards
Shenton Park RSL Sub-Branch
F5098; Johnston, John
Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
27227; Winner, Edgar
 Esperance RSL Sub-Branch

Army
WX14639; Benson, John
Albany RSL Sub-Branch
165116; Berg, Jan
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
WX36268; Bown, Reginald
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
5/700448; Brabazon, Robert
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
53930; Braithwaite, Robert
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
5715056; Bristow-Stagg, Phillip
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
WX500450; Christison, Robert
Tammin RSL Sub-Branch
35363; Clark; Alister
Central Branch
5/19174343; Cooper, Alfred
Denmark RSL Sub-Branch
WX23304; Cordwell, David
City of Boulder RSL Sub-Branch
39640; Daniel, Sydney
Collie-Cardiff RSL Sub-Branch
WX22571; Della-Bosca, Robert
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
WX25416; Delle Donne, David
Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch
685392; Edwards, Frank
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
5/1581; Forkin, John
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
23338363; Gardner, Wilfred
Quinns Rocks RSL Sub-Branch
43730; Harris, Peter
Merredin RSL Sub-Branch
WX37647; Hartley, Albert
Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch
14859616; Hill, Eric
Port Kennedy RSL Sub-Branch
37688; Herbert, Ernest
Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch
WX27904; Hogan, John
Harvey RSL Sub-Branch
5717018; Hoskins, Peter
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
WX35301; Hunter, David
Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
42428; James, Anthony
Albany RSL Sub-Branch

Air Force
83741; Brogden, Maurice
Busselton RSL Sub-Branch
45248; Clements, John
Broome RSL Sub-Branch
83610; Cox, Lewis
City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch
113463; Donaldson, Shirley
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
415009; Foreman, Eric
Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch
177463; Harrison, Doreen
Busselton RSL Sub-Branch
436914; Hesford, R.J.
Narrogin RSL Sub-Branch
A5777; Mapson, Anthony
Busselton RSL Sub-Branch

Sudoku Solution from last edition - Sept 2014

Crossword Solution from last edition - Sept 2014

Merchant Navy
RS84075; Harber, Roy
Wagin RSL Sub-Branch
MN2629; Taylor, James
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch

54102; Mars, Alexander
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
53590; McLaren, Barry
Quinns Rocks RSL Sub-Branch
5714951; Miller, Michael
Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch
WX35012; Murray, Malcolm
Beverley RSL Sub-Branch
WX28664; Osborn, E.K.
Eastern Regional RSL Sub-Branch
78870; Rosenthal, Kenneth
Scarborough RSL Sub-Branch
WX31070; Seaman, Samuel
Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch
5718215; Smith, Rudy
Nannup RSL Sub-Branch
54830; Trawinski, Joseph
Broome RSL Sub-Branch
WX39838; Whiteside, R.A.
Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch
270910226; Willemsen, Antonius
Riverton RSL Sub-Branch
WX7433; Wood, Kenneth
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
WX12790; Woodhouse, B.
Margaret River RSL Sub-Branch
WX39821; Wriggersworth, M.
City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch

45575; Martin, Jeffrey
Busselton RSL Sub-Branch
80436; Moses, Stanley
Eastern Regional RSL Sub-Branch
406115; Overheu, R.F.
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
578724V; Parkin, Roydon
Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch
100613; Quinn, Audrey
Denmark RSL Sub-Branch
A5612; Ridge, Vernon
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
N400010; Davidson, Cyril
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
AMAZING SPIRIT

Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.