Congress To Open On July 18

This year's State Congress of the League will be held at Anzac House from July 18 to 21 inclusive, and the attention of sub-branches is drawn to the following relevant information.

The closing date for agenda items and for nominations for office must be made by a sub-branch as at least one month before the opening of Congress, and all sub-branches shall receive notification of all nominations not less than two months before the opening of Congress.

The following are suggested as appropriate headings:
(a) Immigration.
(b) Defence.
(c) Health.
(d) War Graves.
(e) Repatriation.
(f) War Service Loans.
(g) Re-establishment and Employment.
(h) Listening Post.
(i) War Service Homes.
(j) State War Memorial.
(k) Anzac Day.
(l) Faversham House.
(m) War Veterans' Homes.
(n) Poppy Day.
(o) Membership.
(p) Anzac House.
(q) Anzac Club.

Delegations

Delegate entitlement is one per 100 members or part thereof, and will be based on membership figures at the 30th June, 1960, with a limit of six delegats per sub-branch. The constitution permits the appointment of proxy delegates who may be nominated by any member of the League and will be notified by the State Secretary.

The nominations must be in full accord with the principles of the League.

Office-bearers

The nominations for office-bearers should state specifically that nominees have signed their willingness to accept office, and should also include details of their service and other relevant information. Nominations may include any financial member of the League, but not necessarily members of their own sub-branch.

It is most important that Sub-Branches carefully discuss any proposed agenda items to ensure that they conform to the principles of the League.

A Legend That Has Outlived Its Creator

Captain Bruce Bairnsfather, world-famous British wartime cartoonist, died recently in London, but his famous character "Old Bill" lives on.

"Old Bill," smiling and philosophic amid the hardships and buffets of front line service in World War I, was the most vibrant character created by Capt. Bairnsfather in mirroring the "will to win" spirit of the British Tommy.

"Old Bill" had nobly finished his job as a soldier, and was back in civilian garb, when Capt. Bairnsfather cast him in a new role, "Revelle" proudly displaying the Badge of the R.S.L. in his coat lapel.

How brilliantly he succeeded was emphasized by the popularity and widespread circulation of his cartoons.

The daily figure of "Old Bill," was conjured up by him in a middle front-line trench of a Flanders battlefield in 1914.

The steel-helmeted, mud-splattered character with a wiry moustache and番茄 nose, became a national hero in posing hum- our and casualness while facing the trials and dangers common to the life of a frontline soldier.

A corated a famous plane, a U.S. Flying Fortress, on which his nose was shot away as the plane limped home, not with the Germans in 1943.

From 1942 to 1944, Capt. Bairnsfather was officials war cartoonist attached to the U.S. Army, in the European theatre.

His energies and abilities found full play as lecturer, author, playwright and film producer.

IN CIVILIAN GUISE: This membership-boosting Bairnsfather design appeared on the cover of Revelle (the N.S.W. League journal) in 1944, and is reproduced here.

Surplus Equipment

Due to reconstruction and refurnishing of Anzac House there is a quantity of surplus equipment (seats, chairs, tables, etc.) available which should interest sub-branches.

Please address inquiries to the R.S.L. State Secretary.

Make '60 much bigger. Enrol a new Digger.
SNIPPETS — from the State Sec.

It is noted with interest that the Manjimup branch has plans for the formation of a youth club. The new hall was dedicated and officially declared open. Congratulations, Mr. and Mrs. H. and all classes of Artificial Monures and Bonsai are well stocked. Give us a trial.

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£3 Subsidy
On Visits To C.M.H.

Sub-branches conducting authorised visits toIn.
patients of the Claremont Mental Hospital can in future claim a refund from the Welfare Committee. This was decided at the last meeting of the State Executive.

Rothlining the subsidy Mr. J. B. White said that the institution was being well visited and that the visits due upon four metropolitan sub-branches.

He said that so far only about 60 of the sub-branches throughout the State had made the £5 contribution to hospital-visiting work as decided on at the last State Congress.

The Hospital Visiting Corps was functioning very well, Mr. White said. A visiting team had been appointed to each of the metropolitan hospitals, each team operating under a sub-branch and responsible for rostering the visits and for seeing that the requests of patients were attended to.

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MEMBERSHIP BUILD-UP

THE GOOD resolution is invariably synonomous of each new year. It is too often merely plous, so here is an idea for R.S.L. members to make it both plous and practical.

WE ALL know that a buoyant membership is the life-blood of any organisation and that buoyant membership calls for active solicitation.

That is, each individual financial member should resolve to enrol at least one new member.

It is a simple task. Your ex-serviceman friend or neighbour (perhaps he lives next door) should be your first mark. Tell him something about the work, record and achievements of the R.S.L. For these, In themselves, offer the best invitation, the real incentive to any man to join up.

BUT NO man’ is welcome in the League who joins only from motives of self interest. The good sold member does not come from the type who expects material gain for himself, merely from the payment of his membership subscription. His true urge to membership is in the good that he can do, as a unit of the League, for comrades who are sick and in distress.

THE LATE General Sir John Monash, the Illustrious Commander of the Australian Divisions in France in World War I, laid down the true principles of League membership in the following slogan:

“No one should join the league to get something out of it but rather should join to put something into it.”

That is the spirit which has made the League the big force it is today. League members are just one big family, with those in favoured positions in life, such as in health and employment, doing their utmost, for the welfare of less-favoured members, but for all ex-servicemen in need of a helping hand for themselves and their dependents. In the help and bounty it extends, the League does not discriminate between a member and non-member—all that matters is the deserving case irrespective of its source.

TO THIS end, the League maintains many departments catering for ex-servicemen and their dependents, in all their various fields of need, staffed by efficient and expert officers. On each and every ex-serviceman there rests a moral obligation to join the League, for it is from strength of membership that the League can make its voice best heard by legislative and other bodies.

YEARS ago, a former official of the R.S.L penned these sagacious words, and they are just as applicable today.

“The backbone of the League is its sub-branches, and the very life-blood of the sub-branches is the keen, enthusiastic ex-serviceman member.

“The question is often asked, ‘what has the League done?’ and is answered by ‘what has it not done?’

“Every benefit ex-servicemen and their dependents enjoy was brought about by the representations and influence of the League.”

MR. LONNIE IN EAST
BAND CONCERT: The Western Command Band will hold a concert in the Supreme Court Gardens on Canberra early this month, to attend a meeting of the National Executive. The concert will help finance the purchase of a new band equipment.

While in Canberra Mr. Lonnie represented the League at the Immigration How about supporting and Citizenship Convention, and them.

START THE YEAR RIGHT!

BY PAYING YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TO YOUR SUB-BRANCH SECRETARY OR DIRECT TO ANZAC HOUSE, PERTH

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Thanks For The Parcels

(Letters received at Anzac House recently)

From Major I. D. Stock, CRE, Malacca: I wish to acknowledge receipt of a Christmas Hamper donated by your Branch. Please accept my thanks, both for the gift and the thoughts that prompted it, as well as for the effort and work involved in organizing same.

From HMAS Quicksilver: Thank you and your branch for the parcels on Xmas Day. We were so pleased and although we have not sent any gifts to Australia, it was pleasant to think that we have been given a thought and even a little something. It was more pleasant to think that we were not so far from home and that people have gone to the trouble to send us something. Thoughts are cheap but action goes far, and I thank you for it.

From Lt. D. K. Nicholls, Butterworth P.W., Malaya: A few lines to thank you and the Western Australian branch of the R.S.L. for the gift that I received from you this Christmas. I appreciated it very much. I am sure that all Australian servicemen share the same thoughts as I do. I would also like to wish all members of the branch a Merry Christmas and a very prosperous New Year.

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In Peace and War!

A Man's Drink!

Civil Defence Requests Answered By Minister

The following statement of National Congress resolutions dealing with civil defence, and of replies in regard to them received from the Minister for the Interior (Mr. Freeth), has been supplied by the R.S.L. National Secretary (Mr. K. V. Newman).

Item No. 7:

"That Congress views with the greatest concern the fact that no national policy or plan exists for civil defence and requests the Commonwealth Government to implement a comprehensive policy and plan as a matter of urgency to ensure the safety of Australia, and that a civil defence training programme on a national-wide basis be given immediate implementation by the Commonwealth Government. Further, that the Commonwealth Government be urged to adopt a national plan on civil defence, to control and accept full responsibility on any matters connected therewith instead of individual State plans. Finally, that the League throughout Australia offers to promulgate to its members all matters related to civil defence that will be made officially available."

REPLY: "The Government view was announced in a statement which I made in the House of Representatives on 29th September (previously circularised). The League's offer to promulgate to its members matters made officially available is appreciated and has been noted."

Item No. 15:

"That appropriate authorities be requested to produce condensed circular on their Civil Defence programme and State Branches circulate all members through their district and sub-branches on number of membership basis."

REPLY: "In my statement on 28th September, I announced the Government's view that it is a basic principle that the States are responsible for the development of their own civil defences programmes, and that the Commonwealth will give certain limited assistance in these programmes and would coordinate, as necessary, the plans of the several States."

Fair Attendance At Mandurah Meeting

The annual meeting of the Mandurah sub-branch, on January 4 was reasonably well attended, with 23 members and four visitors present, the visitors being Country Vice-President R. Hardisty and three Pinjarra members.

New Plan For Expanding Membership

The League's Membership Committee has drafted a proposal for the appointment of membership liaison officers for country areas. Proposing the system Mr. E. Townshend said that it was in no way regarded as reflecting upon the efficiencies of Regional Vice-Presidents, but rather as a means of helping him to achieve his membership objective.

"We have been hammering membership for a long time," he said. "We must do everything we can to get it!"

Mr. Lonnie: Mr. H. J. Sykes, the Kondinin president, has brought 37 members in his own district and has six more lined up. He said that if every branch did this, every eligible man in the district would be a member."

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enroll a new Digger.

"It would thus be premature, at this stage, to produce the circular suggested."

Item No. 16:

"That the appropriate authorities be requested to publish a periodical designed to keep civil defence organisations and persons who have attended civil defence schools up to date with recent developments in the field and that the organisation has not justified it. The matter will be kept in mind."

Item No. 19:

"That Congress continues to support the principle of National Service and the need to train personnel who, on completion of their duties, will be available for military requirements in all aspects of civil defence."

REPLY: "As recently announced by the Minister for Defence, the Government has decided to discontinue National Service Training."
The League has agreed to play a part in the production of a West Australian edition of "The Gap," a South Australian publication designed to bridge the dangers associated with adolescence.

It will undertake 1,000 copies of the W.A. edition at a cost of 4/6 a copy with the intention of disposing of them through sub-branches at the same price. This is as a first measure. It hopes to bring into effect a disposal of even more copies, in the arranging for a discussion at the matter at the meeting of metropolitan presidents and secretaries on February 19.

The decision was made at the State Executive meeting on January 13, at the Motion of Mr. J. A. Rolfe, a State Vice-President. Mr. Rolfe said that in recent times the League had made youth welfare its responsibility, and that in the State and South Australian editions and had been particularly keen to have news and articles referred to in which the parents had been quite obvious. He understood that the incidence of delinquency in this State was less than 73 per cent, and that was compared with that in some other parts of Australia. Under its amended Objects the League was bound to support actively any well-conceived attempts to prevent parents of possible dangers they might not recognize. Mr. G. Gordon said he doubted very much whether the written word meant anything to delinquents.

Another speaker said that the sub-branches had been here and maintained that it would interfere with the South in the local edition. At a previous meeting of the executive of the editor of the book, Mr. Dick Wordley, had initiated League support for the W.A. venture.

Mr. Wordley said that the book was being published on a non-profit basis, and to enable it to be sold as cheaply as possible there had been approached to banks for the organization with a request that they should underwrite so many copies.

In South Australia, he said, a first edition of 600 copies had been printed, and a re-printing had been undertaken. There were contributions to the book by many remarkable names of many contributors to the book. Mr. Wordley said there were new contributors to the book. In offering its support the executive of the South will be offered for sale in this State.

League Underwrites 1,000 copies of Book On Delinquency

South Perth Bid For Still More Members

The president and members of the City of South Perth sub-branch are very keen to make this year an even bigger success in membership than last year.

"Don't Blame The Children"

A visitor at the State Executive meeting on January 13—the Rev. S. A. Murrell of Wonthaggi, Victoria—told members that-after a great many years of child welfare work covering London's East End and the Children's Court of Victoria—he was convinced that the question of delinquency concerned the parents far more than the children.

A lot of young people had no chance because their parents were not interested, he said.

Inquiries on instances of delinquency should be made by the parents, should carry on to where the trouble started, the parents.

Mr. Murrell said he thought it would be a good idea for any sub-branch to have a discussion with the police for members to inquire into instances of delinquency in their district.

The sub-branch had been formed at Wonthaggi, a town with over 1,000 coal miners and 5,000 homes. There was also an extremely active Police Boys' Club in the town.

The club had the use of an old army drill hall, but the hall was not big enough and bad to be extended. There was indeed a tremendous gap for the adolescents. Both the boys and girls were all right but there were living in a different stage. Would-be mentors must always try to be.

"I can still put on the voices," Mr. Murrell said. And that is something for a new member with the 2nd Light Horse field ambulance in World War I.
The Pioneering Spirit

—It’s NOT Dead!

(From State Vice-President E. C. Townshend)

On the evening of Friday, January 18, the League car turned off the bitumen into a bush track towards a hurricane lantern. To facilitate a quick getaway in case of trouble (we were unarmed, and one unlegged) the Chief Umpire (one W.S.L.) led the way through the bush towards the light and a lone watcher—obviously a sentry posted to repel intruders, or maybe to welcome newcomers.

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The balance sheet for the previous year was well received by members. For its sound state “many thanks must go to the ladies, whose efforts, and those of the members, were worthy of the highest praise.”

The response to invitations to the dinner was excellent. Mr. Townshend represented the R.S.L. at the meeting. Parliament was represented by Messrs. Ray Owen and Jim Panels, Government by Mr. Marnie (chairman of the Mundaring Road Board), and sub-branches had representatives from nine other sub-branches.

During the evening a Certificates of Merit were presented to Messrs. Frank a very willing font of information and was excellent.

The music excellently handled by Messrs. Jim Aitken and Dick Fieldshaw, was enhanced by a bracket of vocal numbers from Mrs. Townshend.

Annual Dinner
At Mundaring
Was Big Draw

At the annual meeting and dinner of the Mundaring and Districts sub-branch on January 30 Mr. Ted Townshend, a State Vice-President, installed the officers and Mr. Bob Halls was reappointed president, and Mr. Henry Morgan secretary.

Reparation Review
To Wait

A League request to the Prime Minister for a further review of reparation matters has received the following reply:

“...The resolution has been noted and will be examined when the Government next reviews the question of war pensions.”

The request was based on a resolution of the National Congress reading:

“...The Congress deprecates the failure of the Commonwealth Government to substantially meet requests submitted by the League in its Pension Plan and urges that the Prime Minister be asked to arrange a further review of the reparation matters after consultation with the Cabinet Sub-Committee.”

Start Made At Anzac House

Work on the Anzac House alterations, which have been under consideration for a number of years, commenced on Monday, January 11.

At the following State Executive meeting the President requested members to show the utmost tolerance to the office staff for the next few months.

It was hoped that the alterations would be completed some time in May, he said. Meanwhile there would be some problems of space, it might be necessary for the executive to meet elsewhere. The modernisation of the building and of the Anzac House were matters of the League’s policy, he added.

Space in the basement and on the mezzanine floor will be available for letting.

Windfall For New Home

Money subscribed by the Newdegate, Lake Grace, Koombana, Dambiyung and Perth sub-branches to the tune of £8 was received by Mrs. Townshend.

It will serve a useful purpose, having been forwarded by Mr. Ivan Ball, of Kendenup, to enable the sub-branch to purchase a donation on behalf of those sub-branches to the tune of £20. The sub-branch now has a net deficit of £8.

Each of the five sub-branches had subscribed £2 to the committee. The total amount of interest, as invested, was £10.

Make '60 much bigger; enrol a new digger.
No Concession To League On Housing

The League has received detailed replies from the Minister for National Development (Senator Spooner) to 14 War Service Homes resolutions from last year’s National Congress.

In no case has the League request been granted, but in several the Minister has stated that compliance in regard to certain classes of applicant must react adversely on other classes.

In correspondence with the B.S.L. National Secretary the Minister said:

"I refer again to your letter of 1st December, 1949, conveying the text of a number of resolutions passed at the 44th Annual National Congress of the League concerning funds for War Service Homes, and a number of other matters affecting the funds position.

"The general background to the proposals embraced by these resolutions is that War Service Homes finance is made available on such favourable terms that demand for it is not decreasing in the way which might have been expected remembering that a period of some 14 years has now elapsed since the termination of the second world war.

"Indeed, on account of the general reduction in the percentage of applicants who do not proceed with their applications, effective applications being received has actually increased over recent years.

"There is no need for me to detail the many steps which have been taken by the Government to ensure that a home is provided for an ex-serviceman at a minimum of delay. It is sufficient to say that since the Government took office in December, 1949, over 32,000,000 homes have been provided for. When compared with approximately £50,000,000 provided by all other nations the inception of the scheme.

I think these figures provide ample proof that funds for War Service Homes have been allocated on a most reasonable basis.

"The Government is very concerned, however, that in spite of all that has been done there is still a lengthy waiting period for some classes of assistance, particularly the increased allocation of 1986 to 80,000,000,000 for the first time in a number of years in the Treasurer’s Budget Speech. The scope of any immediate improvement was limited. Nevertheless, the very substantial allocation of £25,000,000 over recent years was maintained.

"Our government will continue to make its efforts to overcome the accumulation of applications and to complete as many as possible in order to make no commitment with respect to funds to be provided in 1980-81 without the most careful consideration of what will be the terms under which the funds will be advanced.

"The fee for the provision of technical services had been increased in September 1949 from 3 to 4 per cent and wage increases since then have not been covered.

"Applicants desiring to buy a home with temporary finance were therefore in a position to obtain an interim occupation of their homes before any application to apply under the Act.

"It was not practicable to make any reduction at present in the fees charged to applicants desiring to buy a home with temporary finance.

"The request for increasing the maximum loan for war service homes (from £2,750 to £5,000) was not considered but it was felt that an increase at this stage would not be in the best interests of the majority of applicants.

"Any increase at present would in the number of applicants who could be assisted within the amount available. That would not be a reasonable course to adopt while there were plenty of loans available under the existing conditions.

"Second Loans

"To the request for, amending the legislation to the granting of second loans in certain circumstances the Minister replied that the existing provisions of the Act allowed second loans under certain circumstances, but that ministerial approval was required.

"As a matter of Government policy second assistance was at present accorded only in very restricted circumstances. The Government view was that where the ex-serviceman had been granted a loan for the purchase of land he was not entitled to any assistance under the Act for the building of a home.

"Waiting Period

"The purpose of the period of waiting, is for the building of war service homes outside superintendence. The very same as under War Service Homes Supervision was not altogether new, as a waiting period had been applied in both cases, the Minister said.

"Possibly the resolution referred to the case of an applicant proceeding under the supervision of business and building his home with the approval of the Division.

"In those cases there was a waiting period of 12 months, and if completion of the home before finance was made available or with otherwise in that their applications were rejected without being admitted to the scheme and their cases not covered by the full technical costs.

"The charged was considerably less than that charged by private architects for a full architectural service and in any event applicants had an opportunity to purchase the Division do plans at considerably rates, so reducing the overall cost to a sum substantially less than 5 per cent of the capital cost of the home.

"With the exception of the cost of technical services, the whole of the administrative costs of the scheme—about £1,000,000 a year—were being borne by the Commonwealth Government out of Customs revenue.

"Buying Land

"On the question of buying more land for war service homes the Minister said that as long as the War Service Homes Act was not to make land available at concessional rates to enable applicants to provide homes, and that action to obtain land was within the jurisdiction of the applicant for a home.

"The Division would continue to assist applicants as far as possible, but it could not undertake to provide them with land under any circumstances.

"It was estimated that the land held at present was insufficient to provide for the next two or three years and at the same time permit of a limited number of allotments being made available to eligible ex-servicemen awaiting initial loans.

"The land was being made available at a cost price, wherever possible.

"The Division was maintaining its efforts to acquire further areas of land, but difficulty was being experienced in obtaining land in suitable areas at satisfactory prices.

"It was necessary to regularisation of eligibility under the Act the Minister replied, "As you know, consideration has been given by successive Governments over the years to an extension of the eligibility provisions along the lines suggested in the resolution. However, because of the large number of ex-servicemen eligible under the existing provisions, it has not been possible to extend the categories of eligible persons."

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AIR FORCE CADET TRAINING
(History and organisation of the Air Training Corps, R.A.A.F.)

The Air Training Corps of the Royal Australian Air Force was formed in 1941, taking as its model the existing corps of the British Air Force, to assist in the preparation of boys under the age of 18 for future air-cadet training.

At the height of its existence it was a fairly extensive organisation, involving a number of squadrons in each State of the Commonwealth.

It was a part-time organisation, aiming youths to continue their school employment, but to train for Air Force at night and at weekends.

The staff was drawn from volunteers, many of them serving as air cadets and ascertained honorary commissions within the service. The organisation was, in another direction in that, often unnoted paid for their work.

This work consisted of lecturing 3 nights a week, every weekend and usually weeks at an annual camp.

Very few of the people of Australia know just how many brilliant and capable boys are trained in the ranks of the young men who made such a name for themselves and their country in the skies over Europe, the Middle East and the Islands.

Many former A.T.C. members received high decorations for bravery, and it was not unusual to find an A.T.C. man in the 1920's of age in command of a heavy bomber or fighter squadrons in action, considerably older than himself. The A.T.C. cadets served their country at all hours of the day and night.

Function Today
1. Today the A.T.C. still exists, carrying on the tradition both of the White and of the Blue Air Force. The A.T.C. now has the same objectives as ever: to prepare boys for a life in the Air Force, and to provide them with a knowledge of the service.

The A.T.C. in Australia today consists of a large number of units throughout the country. In this State it is known as the Western Australian Air Training Corps. The A.T.C. is organised into several sections, each with its own particular task. The most important of these sections is the Cadet Training Section, which is responsible for the training of the cadets.

With the cessation of National Service Training in Australia, the A.T.C. has become the only form of air cadet training in the country. The corps consists of two main sections: the Cadet Training Section and the Commandant's Office. The Commandant is appointed by the Governor-General in Council and is responsible for the administration of the corps. The Cadet Training Section is commanded by the Commandant and is responsible for the training of the cadets.

The corps is divided into several groups, each of which is responsible for the training of a particular category of cadets. There are four main groups: the Cadet Training Group, the Commandant's Office, the Cadet Instructor Group, and the Cadet Equipment Group.

The Cadet Training Group is responsible for the training of the cadets, who are divided into several squadrons, each of which is responsible for the training of a particular category of cadets. The Cadet Training Group is commanded by the Commandant and is responsible for the training of the cadets.

In addition to the Cadet Training Group, the corps also has a Commandant's Office, which is responsible for the administration of the corps. The Commandant's Office is commanded by the Commandant and is responsible for the administration of the corps.

The corps also has a Cadet Instructor Group, which is responsible for the instruction of the cadets. The Cadet Instructor Group is commanded by the Commandant and is responsible for the instruction of the cadets.

The corps also has a Cadet Equipment Group, which is responsible for the provision of equipment for the training of the cadets. The Cadet Equipment Group is commanded by the Commandant and is responsible for the provision of equipment for the training of the cadets.

Other Information
1. The A.T.C. is open to boys of all ages and backgrounds, and there is no charge for membership. The corps is supported by voluntary donations from the public.

2. The A.T.C. is a registered charity and is exempt from income tax.

3. The A.T.C. is affiliated with the Royal Australian Air Force and is bound to observe the regulations of the Australian Government Department of Defence.

4. The A.T.C. is governed by a Board of Directors, which is elected by the members of the corps.

5. The A.T.C. is committed to the principles of democracy and free enterprise.
W.A. Farewells Sir William Slim On His Departure For England

Thousands of West Australians gathered at Victoria Quay, Fremantle, on January 31 as a gesture of farewell to Field Marshall Sir William and Lady Slim on their departure for the United Kingdom on the liner Arcadia.

During his six years as Governor-General Sir William had endeared himself to Australians in all States and territories.

* Pictured here is Sir William receiving a handshake of farewell at the ship's side from the State Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner.

As the liner left the wharf the crowd cheered and cooed, while other ships in the harbour sounded their sirens.

Among the farewell messages received by Sir William was the following from the State branch of the League:

The West Australian State branch of the R.S.L. sends greetings. Your magnificent contribution to the wellbeing of the Commonwealth, together with the keen interest displayed in ex-servicemen during your notable term of office, is recognised and applauded. Warmest wishes and thanks to Lady Slim and yourself.

(Signed) Webb, State Secretary.

In due course the State branch received a message from Government House, Canberra, on behalf of Sir William, offering his sincere thanks to members for their good wishes.

COMING EVENTS

Friday, February 19—an annual reunion dinner of the Mundijong-Jarrahdale sub-branch at the Mundijong Hotel (8 p.m.).

Friday, February 26—an annual reunion of the Ex-Naval Men's Association of Australia at the Navy Club, Fremantle (8 p.m.).

Saturday, February 27—an annual reunion of Geraldton sub-branch at Birdwood House, Geraldton (8 p.m.).

Sunday, February 28—service for H.M.A.S. Perth survivors at St. John's Anglican Church, Fremantle (11 a.m.).

Saturday, March 5—an annual reunion of Brunswick Junction sub-branch at the R.S.L. Memorial Hall, Brunswick Junction (8 p.m.).
Good Groundwork
For Mandurah
Group Conference

Mandurah sub-branch president (and staunch R.S.L. worker) Fred Archer, with the assistance of sub-branch secretary Bert Miles and members, had everything organised for a rousing reception to State President Bill Lonnie, six members of his executive and delegates from 14 neighbouring sub-branches attended the group conference at Mandurah on January 30.

Proceedings commenced with a splendid civic reception extended by Boodi Gumsinger cardleton on behalf of district residents.

It was unfortunate that while the visiting V.I.P.'s had sat at the executive meeting advised of this preliminary function, delegates from metropolitan sub-branches arrived after the event—had not.

However the formal—perhaps one should say informal, because this is the keynote of these group conferences—course of the programme for the afternoon went smoothly.

All phases of R.S.L. activities were covered, in the usual question-and-answer method, with the addition of informative explanations from executive members.

The atmosphere at the conference was one of encouraging buoyancy, to quote the State President. The Board and a newsletter campaign for 1960 has obviously made an impression, and all sub-branches represented appeared to have the right enthusiasm and there was evidence of a good increase in membership numbers this year.

Facilities of Club for Members Only

Members of the Anzac Club whose subscriptions are overdue may receive a polite reminder of the fact shortly.

The Executive has agreed to the use of a doorkeeper from time to time.

The services of a full-time doorman were dispensed with some time ago on the grounds of economy. Constitutionally only a month's grace is allowed before the payment of membership subscriptions to the League, which automatically entitle members to club membership.

To enter the club premises members are required to wear their membership badges, and the year-clip on the badge has a vital bearing on the entitlement.

Note From Captain
Of Centaur

The State President has received from the captain of the Centaur (R.N.) the following letter of thanks for the hospitality extended to the ship's company at Fremantle recently:

"I have heard how much you and your members of many branches in both Perth and Fremantle contributed to the generous welcome we received during our recent visit.

"It is a pleasure for me to come to know what tremendous hospitality is offered by the R.S.L. clubs and wherever we have been in all our tours short visit to Australia the same has been true.

"I have heard particularly of the party arranged by the Ex-Servicewomen's sub-branch and how much it was enjoyed.

"I know that many of the private invitations received were extended by members of the R.S.L. and we greatly appreciate all you have done.

"The best of good fortune to the R.S.L. in the future."

Sound Barrier Pierced At
Women's Party

Members of the Returned 
Service Women's sub-branch of the League held their Christmas party at the Victoria League rooms, which were gay with flowers. As always it was a happy occasion, and our president (Mrs. McGee) welcomed members and their friends and official guests with the best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

This time it was decided to cut down the numbers and focus on the enjoyment of those present, and the executive had much to do in the way of organisation. Mr. Tom Waterman covered the sound problem by means of a barrier through the sound barrier and attend as a fully paid-up social member of the sub-branch.

Also present were Sister S. McLean, (of the Returned Sisters' sub-branch) who is also a member of the R.S.L. State Executive.

A successful sale of work cakes and preserves held off theRepatriation General Hospital late in November raised over $100 for the women's wing of the new War Veterans' Home.
Executive Member Dies Suddenly

The League lost a staunch member and the State a fine citizen when Mr. G. G. D. Ferrier died suddenly at his Claremont residence on January 25.

Elected to the State Executive at the last Congress Mr. Ferrier had been serving on the Training and Land Committee, and was also active as a member of the Hospital Visiting Corps. He served during World War 1 with the 8th Field Battery, attained the rank of captain, and was awarded the Military Cross.

He had been a member of the League since 1919 and was a former president of the Yandooooka sub-branch.

While farming in the Mingenew district Mr. Ferrier was for 19 years a member of the local road board and for 12 years a chairman, and was active in the establishment of a new branch of the Farmers Union and the golf and tennis clubs.

Since his retirement he had been a member of the Nedlands sub-branch.

A large funeral was held at the funeral service—conducted by the Rev. A. T. Pidd—at St. Paul's Church and was attended by many Executive members W. S. Lonnie, J. A. Rolfe, E. C. Trenchard, E. O. Davies, E. A. Dodd, J. E. White, J. Mendrick, J. R. Carpenter, E. Monk and J. R. Duncun and 23 members of the Nedlands sub-branch.

The State President (Mr. Lonnie) and the Land Committee chairman (Mr. E. O. Davies) acted as pall-bearers.

The City of Nedlands sub-branch president (Mr. E. A. Dodd) led the R.S.L. ritual service.

At the Executive meeting on January 27 an appeal was made to the former colleague and then a resolution of sympathy for his family.

Mr. Lonnie served the League well and faithfully over a long period and endeared himself to his loyalty, quiet efficiency and dignity at all times, according to the State President. Mr. Lonnie named Mr. B. Flanagan as the late Mr. Ronne's successor on the Executive.

Battling On

A League member who had five years' service with the R.A.N. in World War II and who lost his leg three years ago after three years of sickness is endeavouring to stage a comeback.

He is Mr. J. Werdlly. He has managed to open a small Lotteries kiosk named The Bluebird, at 889 Albany Highway, East Victoria Park (next to John Allan's) and would welcome the patronage of fellow League members.

He says his ill health stems from a fall which resulted in spinal injury. He was a National Fitness instructor and a professional cyclist, holding the record for fastest time over ten miles.

Mr. Werdlly's wife was formerly a member of W.A.S.

A $100 Legacy For League

The League has received a legacy of $100 from the estate of the late Mrs. Mericia Roberts, of Toodyba.

Mrs. Roberts, who died at the age of 54, made requests to a number of charitable organisations, and to the League was unconditional.

This was reported to the State Executive by Mr. H. A. Leslie.

On the recommendation of its trustees the executive decided to allocate the money to the Relief Fund, from which—unlike the League—money can be given "over the counter" in numerous branches.

Care Of Memorials—An Idea That Works

The adequate maintenance and care of many war memorials throughout the State—and of the area surrounding the memorials—is a matter of constant concern to the State Executive.

Sub-branch officers also got worried about this.

At Bedford-Morley Park the sub-branch has introduced a practice which overcomes this problem, and it is a practice which might well be adopted by other sub-branches, and by local-governmental authorities or local associations.

At Bedford-Morley Park the sub-branch has a group of local Boy Scouts as official wardens of their memorial.

The group is presented with a printed certificate—suitably framing them as official wardens.

The boys carry out all the responsibilities associated with the wardenship, including the care of the memorial and the surroundings.

This practice not only overcomes the problem of the care of the memorial, but has the added advantage that it inspires in the young people a proper devotion and respect for the war dead with an understanding of its traditional significance.

There is the further advantage in this practice that, even if the maintenance of the memorial falls outside the scope of the sub-branch, it can be seen as a genuine welcome aye to the public. Bedford-Morley Park members are to be highly commended on their idea. In districts where there are no Boy Scout groups it may be possible to organise bands of young people to act in a similar way.

Sub-branch Wants Unit Retained

Reports that the strength of the sub-branch in Western Australia is to be reduced to a regiment of volunteers, that eventually country depots will be closed, have prompted the Geraldton sub-branch to write to the State Command and the R.S.L. State Executive.

The sub-branch is seeking an assurance that consideration will be given to retention of a company at Geraldton. It says local citizens are proud of the loyalty and the will-to-serve of the young men who comprise the all-volunteer D Company of the 25th Infantry Battalion, and the sub-branch is pleaded to cooperate with the company in many ways.

It points out that since the formation of D Company, recruitment—youthful and attendance at parades—have been high, proving that Geraldton can maintain its company at strength.

Bright Report From Derby President

A recent visitor at Anzac House was Mr. Ron Markham, president of the Derby sub-branch.

In Perth on a business trip Ron reports an extremely healthy atmosphere in the sub-branch, and this is very happy with the small, friendly spirit shown by all, particularly the foundation members.

Among those he mentioned were Messrs. Jack Woolley, Bill Harrie-Walker and Mike McCuskey. The enthusiasm of these and other members was the main reason given for the sound and enjoyable meeting.

Work on the new sub-branch is receiving completion, and all of it done by means of busy bees.

The amenities are being provided by the kitchen, door bowls, dart and cricket facilities.

He says on the occasion the cricket team finished up in the finals for the second year in succession.

Ron says that the sub-branch has the strongest membership since its formation, and he hopes to report further progress in the near future.

New Sporting Combination

Late in January representatives of the Rivervale, Belmont, Millen, Victoria Park and Bullswood sub-branches met to discuss the formation of an inter-sub-branch sporting link along the lines of that operating in the South Perth area.

This was duly reported to the Executive by Mr. N. Davidson, who said he considered that a good idea would flow from the arrangement.

The prevailing influence of inter-sub-branch arrangements at Applecross and South Perth Beach were insti- 

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League To Conduct A Street Appeal

There is to be a League street appeal in Perth on Friday, April 1, when the League will have the day to itself.

Addressing the State Executive at its meeting on January 13 Mr. E. A. Dodd said that the fund-raising committee had been successful in an approach to the Chief Secretary's Department for a street appeal, and had been offered either April 1 or June 24. The committee's recommendation was for April 1.

Mr. A. A. Townshend said he thought that with the disruptions caused by the Anzac House alternations it was too much to ask the staff to add to their other duties the extra work involved by a street appeal and suggested that a monster League fete be held instead.

The State President considered that with the present commitments in hand it would be as well to consider a fete and a street appeal. All States had their specific appeal days, he said.

Mr. Dodd said that Mrs. Stockman was prepared to put the State Auxiliary on the street collection, and there were also, soldiers' wives and war widows who could be depended upon to assist. Then, with three or four volunteers from each of the 83 metropolitan sub-branches it should be possible to put about 400 people on the streets, and it was proposed to work them in relays with about two hours on duty.

The committee's proposal to hold the appeal on April 1 was agreed to.

At the following executive meeting Mr. Dodd said that one sub-branch he had approached personally had put up four volunteers straight away, and that the 2/4 Machine Gun Association had promised another. Any person prepared to act as a collector for the occasion is invited to notify the State Secretary, Anzac House, Perth.

League members who would like to volunteer may do so either through their sub-branch or direct to League headquarters.

SITUATION VACANT
CARETAKER required for Darling Range sub-branch hall, Kalamunda. Free quarters, plus 15/- per week. No children. Particulars from A. J. Lyons, president (phone 21-2756). Suit pen-
UNIT ASSOCIATION NOTES

16th Battalion Association

Yale, Jack Cranston. Some weeks before his death Jack proudly carried a flag similar to the one held by the association here to the Adelaide branch, presented by local boys in appreciation of the hospitality given to them west in Adelaide last Anzac Day. Jack accomplished his assignment, but took ill on the journey home and died in Kalgoorlie. He was cremated at Karrakatta, members attending the service. The association extends its sympathy to his bereaved ones.

At the January committee meeting Mr. W. Newick (secretary) reported that the meeting rooms in the Railway Institute have been altered to accommodate both the association and women’s auxiliary monthly meetings. The new premises have been booked for Thursday, October 6, for the annual reunion.

Messrs. R. Peace, W. Lillie, C. W. Parker, and several others threw their strength behind the annual function held at Claremont last month. Captained by R. Peace, and spurred on by the other members of the association who attended as spectators, they won the event.

‘They hope to enter as a team again next year.’

The association has had its membership certificates printed, and they will in due course be presented to deserving members.

Members were pleased to see Mrs. Kettener at the last committee meeting. Messrs. A. J. Watts, G. Young and J. Sadleir are to be out of hospital.

28th Battalion

The January meeting of the 28th Battalion Association had one of the best attendances for some considerable time. The retiring president, Tom Jackson, who held the position for 58 and ’59, gave a helpful service during his term and members present spoke well for the interest he took in helping many old 28th boys on pensions and other matters affecting their wellbeing.

Next issue will have a report on our picture and barbeque night.

R.A.N. Trade Training For Ten W.A. Boys

Ten West Australian boys were among 45 selected from all States to enter the Apprenticeship Training Establishment at Quaker’s Hill (near Parramatta, N.S.W.) on January 3 this year.

The boys were selected by the Australian Naval Board on the recommendation of a committee presided over by the Apprentice- ship Establishment (Captain B. W. Musgrave). The West Australians chosen were: Gordon J. Armstrong, of Fremantle, Robert J. Crofton, of Mt. Helena, Peter R. Duesell, of Manning, Clive R. Godden, of Mandurah, Willy Lozow, of Collie, Neville McNiel, of Dongara, Robert Brown, of Floreat Park, Robert G. Pendell, of East Victoria Park, Tom J. Robins, of Medina, and Francis Steen- son, of Maddington.

Applications will be accepted later from boys wishing to enter the establishment in June.

After expert instruction for five years apprentices become the Navy’s skilled artisans and shipwrights, has been highly commended by leading trade union officials and the New South Wales Union of Engineers.

The establishment is due to provide the best engineering training of its kind in the Commonwealth.

Radio Session Praised

On his return from a four-month stay in Carnarvon a local man (Mr. N. C. Catt) praised the League’s Sunday night broad- cast feature.

Sunday night reception at Carnarvon was particularly good, he said, and all sub- branch members listened in regularly.

He wondered whether the broadcast knew of the broadcasts.

Make ‘60 much bigger, enrol a new Digger.

Demand For Caravan Sites Not Easing

There had been no easing in the demand for caravan sites at the League’s seaside holiday camp at Palm Beach, Mr. R. B. Marrs said at the last meeting of the State Executive. Moreover, applications looked like doubling next year, and if that happened it would be necessary to curtail bookings, he said.

The committee was looking ahead and giving thought to a programme of expansion involving bigger finances.

Comeback At Dumbleyung

The revived sub-branch at Dumbleyung held its first meeting early in January with an initial enrolment of ten members.

This was reported by sub-branch secretary Chris Kealey at the last meeting of the State Executive.

Surrounding sub-branches were for the most part having a hard time at present, he said.

The State President said it seemed that in prosperous times there was less incentive for men to join the League, but the overall picture could be worse; at the moment the membership figure was 100 up on that for last year.

They put their heads together and naturally chose the only permanent roof with permanent colour—Bristle! Send a plan of your home to H. L. Brisbane & Wunderlich Limited, Lord Street, Perth, and they’ll send you a free roofing estimate by return post.

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PERTH

SPORTS DEPARTMENT

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- HOME TOTE
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- DARTS
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- INDOOR BOWLS
- HOME BILLIARDS
- CARPET BOWLS
- BOBS SETS
- TABLE TENNIS
- PLAYING CARDS
- ROULETTE WHEELS
- "MONOPOLY"

Sports Department: Ground Floor
Progress Made At Geraldton
(Sub-branch President's Annual Report)

During 1959 we had quite a satisfactory year. In March we organised a fete which yielded £104/19/4 for the Elenora Occupational Centre for Slow Learning Children, and in April we held our annual reunion.

This was not so well patronised as in previous years, and the committee have decided that this year the date of the reunion will be early in May. We believe that candidates from the leagues of the crayfishing industry can be with us. Then came Anzaz Day, and I am pleased to say that our parade is growing each year.

In May this sub-branch was represented at a group conference in Sydney, and in July, we sponsored Miss Julie McCurdy as our candidate for the Miss Australasia Competition to a good response. Miss McCurdy did most of the work herself and is to be congratulated on a superb effort.

In July, we were represented in a sub-branch meeting in the metropolitan area. These gentlemen, on behalf of this sub-branch were very proud and jubilant to receive the Collet trophy, awarded to them for the most outstanding sub-branch. This has, as everyone knows, been the second year in succession that this honour has been bestowed on the Geraldton sub-branch.

In August we played our part in the Fishing Festival by conducting a parade of floats. This was a well-organised parade although I was disappointed in the street collection, as I feel sure that there was £100 potential and we raised only £31/10/4.

In September the R.S.L. in conjunction with the Torch Bearers for Legacy, sponsored a Miss Crowning Glory contest. The sub-branch contributed £5/6/4.

In October we conducted a sweep on the Caulfield Cup, and although it was not fully subscribed we cleared approximately £85.

Anzac Day was held in November, proved to be a very satisfactory, the gross takings being £101/19/9. Then in December we held our annual Christmas Tree. There were 250 children present, and all were handed gifts from Father Christmas after being fed the usual party fare and treated to a picture show. This function cost the sub-branch £15, which we consider well spent.

To get together we held several socials throughout the year. These were well patronised, and I extend my sincere thanks to Messrs. H. O'Malley, W. Highy, B. Kember and Ted Murray for their lively and entertaining music.

We also had our annual competition against the Police and the Army for the H. V. Mountin Memorial Trophy. This was won by the army. The A-team from the sub-branch played the Walkaway Cricket Club, who were defeated by seven runs.

On the subject of entertainment it is recommended by the committee that a special sub-committee be formed to arrange such matters.

During the year 11 general meetings were held with an average attendance of 29 members, and 12 committee meetings with an average attendance of 11 members. The membership figure stands at 222, with 11 new members.

There were four deaths—Messrs. S. McLean, R. Lumley, A. Brand and J. Hackett. It is to be regretted that the flagpole was out of commission for a short period and that we were unable to have at least one of our comrades. However, membership has now grown considerably, and everything is in order again.

Resignations from the committee have been received from Messrs. P. Barden and A. Smith, and the vacancies were filled by Messrs. W. Lilley and F. Shields.

In March we had our annual conference in conjunction with the proposal for a new sub-branch and a new sub-committee.

In April we spent £10/1/6 on the Anzac Day parade.

I hope that public reaction to the closure would warrant similar arrangements in the future.

Anzac Day Issue Seen As Boost To Membership

At the last State Executive meeting, Vice-President A. A. Rolfes said he thought there were possibilities in the recent decision by the Victorian State branch on the Anzac Day issue as a stimulant to membership in some sub-branches.

In the case of one sub-branch at least ten members who had joined recently had told me about their feelings on that issue in this State.

They had realised that by staying out of the League they were powerless to exercise any influence on the question. Within it, though, their sub-branch, they had an equal voice with all other members throughout the State.

Post Offices To Close On Anzac Day

Post Offices throughout Australia will not open on the morning of Anzac Day, but the emergency services, including the communication of telegrams—such as are given on Sundays—will be maintained.

The League has received notification to this effect from the Postmaster-General. In response to a request for the change stemming from the National Congress, Mr. Davidson said it had been decided to accede to the request in respect of Anzac Day, 1960.

We hope that public reaction to the closure would warrant similar arrangements in the future.

Anzaz Day Issue Seen As Boost To Membership

At the last State Executive meeting, Vice-President J. A. Rolfes said he thought there were possibilities in the recent decision by the Victorian State branch on the Anzac Day issue as a stimulant to membership in some sub-branches.

In the case of one sub-branch at least ten members who had joined recently had told me about their feelings on that issue in this State.

They had realised that by staying out of the League they were powerless to exercise any influence on the question. Within it, though, their sub-branch, they had an equal voice with all other members throughout the State.

Fine Gesture From Kondinin Man

Mr. H. J. Sykes, of Kondinin, has undertaken to make an annual donation of £520 to the War Veterans' Club fund at the Scaddan Pine Plantation.

The State President (Mr. G. W. Scott) announced this at the executive meeting on January 27.

Another fine gesture from a very staunch member of this League," he commented.

Mr. Sykes, who saw service in the Navy during World War I, has been a League member from the very early days. He is president of the Kondinin sub-branch.

Make '60 much bigger; enrol a new Digger.
**£5,000 Grant Towards Memorial For Death March Victims**

The Federal Government will give £5,000 towards the establishment of a national park on Mt. Kinabalu, in North Borneo, as a memorial to prisoners-of-war who died in the Sandakan death march.

Announcing the grant the Minister for External Affairs said it would help to commemorate 3,000 Australian and 600 British prisoners-of-war who had died there during the last months of World War II.

Welcoming the Government's decision the R.S.L. National Secretary (Mr. K. V. Newman) said the league fully supported the project, which would provide an enduring memorial to the heroism of those who perished in their fight for freedom.

The Australians who died there were members of the 8th Division who, with their British comrades, were captured by the Japanese in Sandakan and then endured the frightful forced march from Sandakan 150 miles west to the foothills of Mt. Kinabalu.

At the end of the war only a few Australians and none of the British prisoners of war were found alive by Allied forces.

**GERALDTON REUNION**

Formerly the Geraldtion sub-branch annual reunion was held on the Saturday nearest Anzac Day. However, this date meant that members had to Halt all their activities on the day nearest Anzac Day. Therefore, it has been decided to hold the 1960 reunion on Saturday, February 26. The sub-branch section opens on March 1.

**New President For The Geraldton Sub-branch**

Mr. A. T. (Andy) MacDonald was elevated from the senior vice-presidency to the presidency at the annual general meeting of the Geraldton sub-branch on January 11.

Andy, who was recently elevated to the presidency of the "Geraldton Guardian," has had previous experience of the R.S.L. presidency, having been chairman of the Manjimup sub-branch.

Glowing tributes were paid to the excellent work performed by Mr. J. (Bill) Cunningham, who did not seek re-election after three years as the commander of the sub-branch office should be vacated. Bill was recently elected a Ward Ward representative on the Municipal Council, and left on January 15 to spend the rest of his leave service on an Eastern States tour with his wife, in the interests of the Geraldton auxiliary.

Ballots were necessary to elect the two vice-presidents. The former junior vice-president, Mr. W. A. Heath, was also elected junior vice-president, and Mr. E. Young was the senior vice-president. Committee vacancies were filled by the appointments of Mr. J. Spendlove, Mr. W. D. Heath, and Mr. F. Heath.
Youth Club Revived
By Sub-Branch

A youth club at the point of extinction a few months ago has been taken over by the local R.S.L. sub-branch and put on its feet in a big way.

It is now known as the Hilton Park Boys' Club R.S.L. and it has 25 members on its register.

Although the R.S.L. sub-branch has only 12 members they eagerly seized this opportunity of doing something for the youth of the district, who had formed the club on their own initiative originally.

Details of the progress made by the club were given to the State Executive at its meeting on January 13 by Mr. George Gordon.

Gymnastics are an important part of the training, and the club has grown so fast that the question of providing sufficient instructors has become quite a problem. The committee is always glad to hear from qualified gymnasts instructors.

As well as gymnastics classes the club provides facilities for table tennis and badminton and other indoor sports.

New members are always welcome, the fees being 5/-

entrance fee and 1/ for each meeting.

The club meets on Wednesday nights (7:30 p.m.) at the Paget-street Hall.

Mr. Gordon said that the committee had designed an appropriate badge for the club, and that at the final meeting for the last year the members-Harry Miller, Laurie Ferris (see picture) and Able Harry—were presented with instructors' badges.

SUB-BRANCH LIAISON
MEETING ON FEB. 17

At a recent meeting of the State Executive it was agreed to hold the next meeting of sub-branch residents and secretaries on Wednesday, February 17. Among matters to be discussed are items on membership and fund-raising.

Make '60 much bigger enrol a new Digger.

£6,500 Required For Campsite Memorial

The following communication from the chairman of the Blackboy Hill Camp Memorial Committee (Mr. Reg. A. Nicholas) is directed to League members throughout the State.

As you no doubt are aware a State-wide effort is being made to establish on the site of the old Blackboy Hill Camp a fitting commemoration to mark the birthplace of the A.I.F. in Western Australia.

This is estimated to cost £6,500.

The W.A. Government has made a substantial contribution towards the fund and the Premier has publicly stated that every section of the community should support the appeal to commemorate this historic spot whence originated traditions which attracted world-wide fame for the fighting forces of this State.

If you have not already made your contribution, the committee solicits your financial assistance and will gratefully accept your donation.

The Taxation Department has agreed to consider all donations of one pound and over as an allowable deduction on income tax returns.

The enclosed pro-forma will indicate the method of remitting.

Blackboy Hill Camp Commemoration

to Honour the Birthplace of the A.I.F.

State Secretary, R.S.L.
Anzac House, Perth

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