FEBRUARY, 1974

New Governor welcomed at Anzac House

An enthusiastic League reception was accorded His Excellency the Governor, Air Commodore Hughie Edwards, and Mrs Edwards at Anzac House on January 19.

Welcoming the Viceregal couple to the gathering of representatives of sub-branches throughout the State, and League friends and supporters, the State President said there was no doubt whatever about the League’s position regarding the Crown.

One indication of this was the presence of the crown surmounting the League badge.

Among other things, Mr Pearson said, the League stood for perpetuating close and friendly relationships among those who had served their country in war and were continuing to do so in peace.

His Excellency had graciously consented to be present at the Western Australian branch of the League and it was most pleasing to welcome him in person.

The British Commonwealth of Nations was not unimportant at this time. It was a community of 865 million people - a quarter of the world’s total population.

British Commonwealth countries extended into all continents and embraced communities at every stage of economic development.

Mr Pearson said the guest-of-honour was one of Western Australia’s most outstanding sons and one of the most highly decorated men of the World War.

Awards received by him included the Victoria Cross, the C.B., the D.S.O., the O.B.E., and D.F.C.

He was the second Australian to win the VC in the World War and the first to win the D.S.O.

The VC was awarded for gallantry in one of his low-level air attacks over Germany.

"We want you to feel assured of a very warm welcome from the men and women we represent who are proud to have served Crown and country," Mr Pearson concluded.

The Governor said he was going to return to Western Australia for a few years before the intended time.

He looked forward to a close association with the League in W.A.

War had been a life-member in Canberra some years ago.

Mr Pearson presented His Excellency with a League tie as a memento of his visit to Anzac House.

MEMBERSHIP FIGURE IS DOWN

The State branch enrolment figure at December 31 last was 11,564 – 146 down on the figure for the previous year.

This was reported at the January executive meeting by Mr C. Briggs. During the year the death of some 80 members was recorded.

At the October meeting it was reported that the deficit then on the corresponding figure for the preceding year was 198 members.

At the December meeting Mr Briggs had reported a considerable improvement in the figure over the preceding three months.

As part of the League’s membership drive during that period the committee had arranged for an advertisement in The West Australian urging eligible non-members to join up.

It was resolved to advertise again in January, February and March of this year.

Mr Briggs reported the holding of a very successful inter-sub-branch meeting at Bannister Union of 49 people in attendance. Eight sub-branches were represented, taking into account observers from Busselton and Collie.

A main purpose of the meeting was the sharing of ideas as to the merging of some smaller sub-branches. Three of the sub-branches represented had less than ten members, and it was anticipated that some amalgamation could occur in the areas concerned.

The State President and Secretary and Mr A. Johnson represented the executive at the meeting.

Mr Pearson reported the merging of the City Beach-Floreat sub-branch with West Leederville-Wembley-Piccadilly. Mr Pearson said that at the second meeting held to bring about this merger there had been a unanimous vote for amalgamation, with some 32 members in attendance.

The newly formed sub-branch would be known as Wembley-Floreat and would hold its annual general meeting on February 11. The sub-branch would receive its charter at the meeting.

Mr Pearson thanked executive member Z. T. Wielenski for his help in bringing about the merger.

At the January meeting the State President said it was disappointing to have finished the year with a deficit although there had been some relative improvement over the last few months.

A difficult period had been experienced about midway through the year and it was hoped to forestall a recurrence this year.

Actually, with 1,423 members enrolled for January – 17 less than for January 1973 – membership drive was off to a fairly good start. (For a better recruitment performance this year the Membership Committee appeals to all existing members to make it their business to recruit at least one member for the year.

This would bring about a dramatic change in the situation. - Ed.)

Subscriptions pay your sub-branch

Anzac House sends out annual subscription accounts in December so that all members will receive them together.

THIS REDUCES UNFINANCIAL MEMBERSHIP.

However, members may make payment direct to their sub-branches. Subscription payments are life血loped to the League and it is suggested that members pay into their sub-branches so that these may receive cash without delay.

The sub-branches will then send on to head-quarters the State branch capital fee contained in the subscription amount.

By paying subscriptions to sub-branches, the member, sub-branch and State branch all gain quickest and best advantage, and you receive your financial clip immediately.

State President Pearson (right) is shown presenting His Excellency with a memento of his visit to Anzac House.

Gallipoli plaque unveiling

A plaque commemorating Australian and New Zealand casualties on Gallipoli 59 years ago is to be unveiled and dedicated in Kings Park on Sunday April 21 at 11 a.m.

This was announced by State President Pearson at the January executive meeting.

The plaque will be attached to the fence on the eastern side of the State War Memorial on Mt. Eliza and will be unveiled by the State President.

The ceremony is being arranged by the Gallipoli Legion of Anzacs with the co-operation of the League.

Mr Pearson said it was hoped the State Governor, Air Commodore H. I. Edwards, would be present and would perform the dedication of the plaque.

The chairman for the function would be Sir Thomas, and the Easter Sunday at the War Memorial is being held.

This year has been chairman of the Kings Park Board.

Geraldton annexes progresses

The War Veterans’ Home annex at Geraldton is progressing according to plan.

This was reported at the W.V.A. meeting on January 21.

President Ron Guy said more than $11,000 had been raised and the first stage was likely to be implemented this year.

State Country Vice-President John Speed said the architect and three members of the War Veterans’ Home Board from Perth would shortly be inspecting the site in the Beachlands area between Francis and Geelong Streets.

The first stage, to cost about $150,000, would include eight single and two double units.

A cheque for $100 for the home was received from the Morawa-Guthalungra sub-branch which made an earlier donation of $250.
GIFT PICTURES
RECALL GRIM
WAR STRUGGLES

Reproductions of two Ivor Hove war paintings are now to be seen hanging in the club premises at Anzac House.

They depict signallers in action in the two world wars.

The framed pictures which now adorn the walls of the club were presented by President Pearson by Major K. V. Benwell, a former President of the Club and commanding officer of the Royal Australian Artillery in France during 1914.

The other depicted a view from the Anzac trenches during the 1915 battle of Gallipoli.

Mr Pearson said he and Major Benwell had served in the R.A.F. and had served at the Battle of the Somme.

He said that following the termination of hostilities in 1919 the two paintings were presented on behalf of the State branch.

The original reproduced paintings hang in the foyer of the School of Signallers at Baldivis, South Australia.

One of a very large number of items of interest which are now on show at the club are the original reproductions of the two paintings.

Five-year exemption for Service pensioners

As a result of changes stemming from the last Federal budget Service pensioners have gained a five-year tax exemption.

This is stated in an explanatory booklet now available at the Commonwealth Taxation Office, St George's Terrace, Perth.

The postal address is Box A15, G.P.O., Perth 6000.

On Page 2 reference is made to the "Pensionable Age" i.e. men aged 65 or over, or a woman aged 60 or over.

There will be no tax on Service Pensions at the eligible ages of 60 for ex-servicemen and 55 for ex-service women.

The basic rebate allowable is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxable Income</th>
<th>rebateNil to $1,921</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gross tax</td>
<td>$1,922 to $2,324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less rebate</td>
<td>$2,325 to $3,847</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net tax payable</td>
<td>nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example 1: Taxable income (including pension subject to tax)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Example</th>
<th>Taxable income</th>
<th>Net tax payable</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>$1,920</td>
<td>$1,920</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>$4,320</td>
<td>$390</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Finance available for distress

The following communication from the Distressed Persons Relief Trust is published for general information:

On November 6, 1973, the Distressed Persons Relief Trust Act 1973 was proclaimed.

The trust consists of four trustees, the chairman of which is the Public Trustee or his nominee. The other trustees are members of the trust as follows:

Chairman: Mr A. Marshall
Members: Sir Thomas Wardle, Mr J. Coleman, Miss Ethel Scott.

The funds of the Trust consist of:

(a) any moneys at any time
(b) gifts, devises, donations made to the trust;
(c) investments in authorised trust funds.

This money may be used for the relief of persons whom in the opinion of the Trust, are
(a) unable to obtain relief from personal hardship or distress;
(b) unable to obtain, or unlikely to be able to obtain relief from any other source.

The trustees are of the opinion that from time to time, individual situations may come to notice where persons are faced with a special need beyond the scope of an ordinary gift.

The trustees may be induced, at their discretion, to extend the limits of the Trust in the near future. Meanwhile, letters requesting assistance will be accepted.

The executive officer of the Trust is Miss P. F. Thomas. The address of the trust is 78 Murray Street, Perth, 6000 (corner Murray and Pier Streets), or Box H151, G.P.O., Perth, 6001 (Telephone 25999).

Invitation to... RSL
Family Participation

Invitation to families and friends to support the R.S.L. Shop, whose operation is solely for the benefit of the War Veterans of South Australia.

"Dress up" the family at the R.S.L. Shop and you support a worthwhile cause.

The R.S.L. Shop
570 HAY ST., PERTH
Phone 234882

Whatever your walk in life...

And whatever financial service you need, whether it is large or small, you are welcome to call on any of our numerous brokers. The manager and staff will always be pleased to assist you.

THE NATIONAL BANK OF AUSTRALASIA LIMITED
And its wholly owned subsidiary

THE NATIONAL BANK SAVINGS BANK LIMITED
K. N. MacDougall, State Manager

Page 2 — THE LISTENING POST, February, 1974
Aircraft wins Queen's Award for achievement

The Harrier, the world's first fixed-wing vertical/short takeoff and landing close-support aircraft, has won a Queen's Award to industry for export achievement.

Substantial orders for these jump-jet fighters have been placed by the U.S. Marine Corps with the Kingston (England) division of Hawker Siddeley Aviation Ltd.

The aircraft, available in single-seat and two-seat versions, can operate from small natural runways in both speed and low-level operations. Of 83 Queen's Awards distributed last year, 66 were for export achievement, 15 for technological innovation and two for outstanding success in both spheres.

The recipients include firms engaged in a wide range of engineering as well as concerns involved in such activities as hotel-keeping, pop-music and the processing of foodstuffs. They represent a broad spectrum of industrial and commercial achievements throughout Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland and all regions of England.

Although many large companies are included in the award list, several firms employ fewer than 200 people and one has only 19 employees.

What is loyalty?

What is loyalty? It is a creed, a duty and a sentiment.

LOYALTY IS A CREED because the loyal person says: "I believe in my organisation; what it is, what it stands for and what it does." The implication is that he will do his best to keep it keeping on.

LOYALTY IS A DUTY because it implies allegiance.

LOYALTY IS A SENTIMENT: it implies affection, love and enmity. Although these are not fully expressed in shouting or barracking.

LOYALTY TO YOUR ORGANISATION MUST BE LIVED!
1974 CROWNING GLORY QUEST IS OFF TO A GOOD START

Several intending candidates were present at the launching of this year's Miss Crowning Glory competition in the Perth Concert Hall foyer on December 13.

Lady Wardle declared the 1974 quest under way in the presence of an enthusiastic gathering.

The competition has now entered its 16th year and high hopes are held for the outcome once again.

Since its inception it has brought in a total of $214,000 shared equally by the League and Legacy.

The Miss Crowning Glory quest seeks the personality girl with the finest head of hair and carries prizes valued at $3,250. Prizes include:
- A return trip for two by Boeing Strato Jet 707 to London via Johannesburg, with a stopover up to 12 months.
- A Gold Coast International hotel.
- A half-day tour in Cape Town.
- A $2,160 Surfers Jet Holiday for two.
- A Memorial Watch valued at $600.
- A free crash course for the Golden Seeing.
- A Golden See-Through Medal with a stopover up to 12 months.
- A $2,160 Surfers Jet Holiday for two.
- A Memorial Watch valued at $600.
- A free crash course for the Golden Seeing.
- A Golden See-Through Medal.

The competition is open to any female between the ages of 17 and 25 years of age.

A candidate may enter on her own account or be sponsored by a person or organisation.

The day for substitution of the nomination forms is Friday, August 30, but it is requested that the forms be submitted as soon as possible to The Secretary, Crowning Glory Quest Committee, G.P.O. Box N1807, Perth 6001.

To qualify for final judging a candidate (or sponsor) must select a minimum of $150 to be submitted to the Secretary by September 16.

Judging will be held on Thursday September 19 and the Crowning Ceremony and presentation of prizes will be televised from STW Channel 9 on Friday September 20.

Governor accepts patroship

The State Governor, Air Commodore Hughie Edwards, has accepted patroship of the State branch of the League.

Commenting on the Governor's acceptance, Mr. M. Pearson said the R.S.L. was honoured that His Excellency had seen fit to occupy the position, as had his predecessors.

Mr. Pearson said the League regarded the Governor's acceptance of the position as of great importance.

Their combined population of some 650 million persons represented nearly a quarter of the population of the world.

The combined area of the countries concerned was over 10 million square miles or nearly one-fifth of the world's land masses.

Those countries extended over six continents and five oceans, and were populated by people of many different races, languages and religions and at every stage of economic development.

In the changing pattern of world affairs the potential of the British Commonwealth was a great many houses had been built in the Armadale-Mundijong area and to thought the move was a bit premature.

State President Pearson said he was far from being convinced that there was no further need for the sub-branch in question.

If the members were having current difficulties their neighbours at Armadale and Murray might have the answers. These were both vigorous sub-branches, he said.

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Mrs John Lloyd, Mrs P. Enough, Miss Helen Doyle, Mrs Percy Pearson and Miss F. Welch.

Fremantle R.S.L. president Les Bartley with Mr Jim Buckle, Geraldton’s former secretary.

Mrs S. Crook with her husband, the senior Country Vice-President.

Ex-POW Association president Fred Airey, the Premier (Mr John Tonkin), State President Pearson and the regional director of the Commonwealth Department of Labour, Mr M. D. Robertson.

Executive members Harry Holder and Chris Briggs and junior State Vice-President L. Turner.

Executive member Fred Birnie, Salvation Army Brigadier V. Richards and executive member Walter Cloutman.
Two conferences are planned

Two R.S.L. group conferences are planned for the near future.

A conference for Hills District and neighbouring members will be held at the Bellevue R.I.L. Club on Saturday, February 5th.

Mr. Briggs said the membership committee had also felt there was an opening for recruitment in the Medina area and had arranged for the calling of a meeting for Monday March 5th (1 p.m.).

Arrangements were being handled by the

Attention, veteran airman!

Would any former R.P.O. or R.A.F. (1914-1918) member, particularly of 48th Sqn, who may be served in a Capetown area during the period, please contact Mr. (Mr) Joe Forbing, 14th A.H.G., Ballarat, who is responsible for supply of brief service details.

Frank was to visit New Zealand and was expecting to extend his visit to Australia and would like to see as many of his old mates as possible.

Signed: (Mr) Joe Court

Shenton Park Elections

The December meeting of the Shenton Park sub-branch elected the following officers for 1974:

Elected to office were: Mr. Parker, president; Messrs. Glew and T. Williams, vice-president; Mr. John Wiggans, secretary/treasurer and Mrs. J. J. Fringe and Mrs. L. Brookes, treasurer.

The meeting adjourned with several social events during the year, and the first will be held on March 9 in the R.A.O.B. Hall, Scott Park, where members are asked to get together and to keep the social time and aids for this evening.

For further information contact the social secretary (S190).

Celebration

A recent diamond wedding celebration of particular interest to Leeton members was that of Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Edmondson, who were married on June 28, 1949.

Mr. Edmondson, a former Director of Education in New South Wales, was R.S.L. President from 1948-49 and his 40th anniversary was celebrated on December 20.

The Edmondsons now live in Melbourne.
The Honour Avenues of Kings Park

(Reserved by a member of the Honour Avenues committee)

Strolling or driving through the May and Lovekin Drives one sees at each tree a rather sombre-looking plaque. On closer inspection it proves itself to be a plaque in memory of a fallen serviceman.

Naturally, this brings to mind the Returned Service Men’s League, whose object is bound to be somehow connected with the war conceived. However, how many visitors really know how the Honour Avenues came into existence and who maintains them, and the appearance and how.

The original decision was by members of the Territorial War who sacrificed their lives for “King and Country” in the years 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. The plaque lists members of the Territorial Army of the period

Anna Kvetinsky and Meredith Peacock, members of the 2nd Western Suburbs Girl Guide Company, are here seen earning their Service Flashes. (Plaques. (Plaques. (Plaques. (Plaques. (Plaques.)

Working-bee details were quite efficient and well attended in the past, but lately the increasing number of members makes the working parties more and more difficult.

Bending down, or kneeling, when doing the required job is just one of the difficulties. The branches of the sub-branch have been able to secure the co-operation of the town’s Dianna Girl Guide Company.

The Guides have already carried out their autumn task this year, some 400 plaques and now busy all weekend, continuing their task. Some all the plaques are completely cleaned—hopefully before Christmas.

For service

The girls are thus earning their Service Flashes and a good name in the community and our members are left only with the knowledge that all the missing and damaged plaques and re-placing the fallen trees on the trees where ants or wood-rot has been the cause of their downfall. This job, though possibly more degrading, is easier on the bones!

We must realise that the Returned Service Men’s League is really a self-perpetuating society. It is provided there are no more wars. (The old men remember how best the horrors of war and they dearly wish we’d forget our mistakes.)

Faded away

The time is approaching when the managership of the League will no longer be in a position to cope with the maintenance of the Avenues and some thought should be given now to providing for the preservation of the Honour Avenues when the men have faded away. The League has now ceased to be the New Year period, was a great success.

This was reported at the January executive meeting by Mr. M. Crewe.

An interdict committee is being formed, including wives, who have arrived in Perth towards the end of December from all over Australia, and the Avenues have been purchased by the members of the League. The successful sale has won the first prize by Queensland Two teams from that State had contested the finals, including the Brisbane Lions. Both teams had contributed a fine performance.

The W.A. teams had established the following successes:

The R.S.I. interstate carnival, held in Perth for the first time over the Christmas-New Year period, was a great success.

Bert Lock presides

It is a good look back at Anzac. It is better to look forward and recollections of the coming year for service to the community and our members are left only with the knowledge that all the missing and damaged plaques and re-placing the fallen trees on the trees where ants or wood-rot has been the cause of their downfall. This job, though possibly more degrading, is easier on the bones!

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Bert Lock presides

Geraldton sub-branch stalwart Bert Lock (64) presided over the elections of officers for both his sub-branch and its women’s auxiliary last month.

The meetings were held one after the other. Mr Lock, now a life member, joined the League in July 1919 (45 years ago) on the wharf at Fremantle. A day before his return from active service in the Great War, he was appointed to the R.S.I. Bowls. He joined the Geraldton sub-branch in 1935. Before that he was president in turn of the Mt Barker and Kendenup sub-branches.
The silent power of the badge

It is time for the 1974 subscription to be paid and members are dealing with the situation at a rate which shows how high-old-timers still rate the League.

Even 40 years on, growing older can be as difficult as the Harrow School songs go.

This comment from a Great War veteran - sent in with his cheque - speaks volumes: "If I know my father he will, 'Call the cat out of the bag now. I will not have you do this.'"

The way to proceed is to look at the materials and make a decision. This requires a great deal of work and is not an easy task.

The benefits of the badge are many and varied. They include:

- Access to a variety of events and meetings
- Discounts on goods and services
- Opportunities for networking and socializing
- Recognition for military service

The badge is a symbol of honor and respect. It is a way to honor those who have served and to show gratitude for their sacrifices.

The benefits are not just for the wearer, but also for the families and communities of those who served.

The silent power of the badge is its ability to speak volumes. It is a reminder of the sacrifices made and the debt owed to those who served.

Marble Bar Bar

Marble Bar sub-branch reports a quiet year during 1973. It has been decided that further activities will take place in 1974 to an all-out drive for new members and re-enrollment of many who had been lost for some time.

The 1972 RSL, Citizenship Award was won by Mr. John Rodgers, who duly received his well-earned badge, personal trophy and heartiest congratulations from the sub-branch president, Wally Nichols. In his annual report, Wally praised the work of Mrs. B. Smith, sub-branch secretary, who seems never to tire in her efforts for the ex-servicemen and women in the Marble Bar area.