CONGRESS AUTHORISES FRAIL-AGED CENTRE FOR VETERANS' HOME

Congress this year authorised the establishment at the War Veterans' Home of a $300,000 Frail-Aged Centre. This, to a considerable extent, will play the role of a C-class hospital. Funds amounting to $120,000 will be sought — a total representing $10 a member throughout WA.

The basis of the proposal was that, which was circulated to all sub-branches by the State President prior to the visit by Mr H. G. Bruce, was that the project should be based on the full backing of sub-branches and that a public appeal for funds, with a target of $120,000, be launched.

Mr Pearson told Congress that the total amount to be raised and represented $10 per member throughout the State, and that he hoped that the sub-branch targets would be set at levels approximately that amount per head.

He said that, subject to Congress support for the project, amounts totalling $37,800 had already been promised. The promises included an underwriting by the War Widows Guild to raise $10,000, and a Guildford sub-branch to contribute $14,000.

As well as the promises to hand, the State Executive, was prepared to sell some land it held.

Mr H. G. Holder (City of Perth) said his sub-branch was undertaking the subleasing of two beds for five years.

Practical alternative

Mr Pearson said the frail-aged centre proposal had been submitted as a practical alternative to a C-class hospital suggestion made at the previous Congress. The executive had decided that the cost of such an undertaking would be prohibitive.

At the Mt. Lawley home there were nearly 200 residents with an average age of 83 years. And, of those aged 86, 30 residents would qualify for frail-aged care.

The League architect, Mr K. Brodhurst, said that, with the money in hand, it would be possible to start building in December.

Dr Alan King, until recently chairman of the home board, said he would like to have been present at the start of building.

Geraldton delegate J. Spendlove said his sub-branch had raised $6,000.

The Governor stresses a need

The League in Western Australia could be congratulated on achieving a membership increase of 290 on the corresponding figure for 1971, the Governor Sir Douglas Kendrew, said at the opening of the 56th State Congress at Ascot House on July 17.

But, he went on, it could not rest content with the present position in which only one in four of the 60,000 eligible persons were financial members. Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam campaigns to fill the gap were made.

Sir Douglas said it was a long time since the end of World War 11 and with increasing age and its steady fall it was only prudent to look to the young men of the world for help.

Memorandum of agreement were made at the League's executive meeting following discussion of a proposal made by Mr J. T. Irwin and Sir Douglas Kendrew.

The Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, was said to be a patron of the appeal, and Sir Thomas Wardle chairman of the committee.

HIS EXCELLENCY the Governor Sir DOUGLAS KENDREW (left), seen with the State President Mr. PEARSON, entering Ascot House for the opening of Congress. Mr. Pearson has remained unopposed for the office of President since the resignation of Mr. Lonnie in 1965.

MEMBERSHIP GAPS SHOULD BE FILLED

Membership gaps should be filled

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But, he went on, it could not rest content with the present position in which only one in four of the 60,000 eligible persons were financial members. Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam campaigns to fill the gap were made.

These younger men must be encouraged to join and, in due course, become office-bearers, he said.

The League was a very special organisation with very high ideals. Members had served their country in war and had since striven to serve the interests of ex-service men and women in need of help.

In their deliberations delegates would have many important issues to deal with. The League had become a power in the land and the attitudes and decisions of Congress would continue to have considerable influence on government.

The League had set a fine record in looking after its fellows and was to be continued in that work and also to create new projects.

Sir Douglas said he had noted with interest that legacies would be asked to present to the establishment at the R.S.L. Veterans Home of a cheque for the frail-aged.

Members could take great satisfaction, after many overtures over the years, to see the current developments.

Sir Douglas said he had listened with pleasure to the message of loyalty to the Queen read by the State President and would have it conveyed to Her Majesty.

The reference in the message to the forthcoming visit to the State by Princess Margaret and Lord Snowden would give pleasure to all.

A vote of thanks to His Excellency was moved by the Premier, Mr. Toner, and the Leader of the Opposition, Sir Charles Court.

THE LISTENING POST

THE OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE RETURNED SERVICES LEAGUE (W.A. BRANCH) INCORPORATED

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CONTENTS

Men at the helm

PRESIDENT ENTERS HIS EIGHTH TERM

Sir Percy Pearson has entered his eighth full term of office in succession as State President of the League, having again been declared unopposed.

He has remained unopposed since his appointment to office in March 1960, following the resignation of Mr. Lonnie. Mr. Pearson was elected senior vice-president and Mr. Turner junior vice-president.

The withdrawal of Mr. R. B. Marris from the vice-presidential contest because of illness left five candidates in the field.

The three trustees — Mr. J. T. Toner, Mr. D. E. Broadhurst and Mr. G. N. Binney — were reappointed.

With positions on the executive committee filled, the returning officer (Mr. R. R. Hobbs, of the Commonwealth Electoral Department) declared the 18 candidates named on the ballot paper duly elected.

Office-bearers for 1972, therefore are:

PRESIDENT Mr. P. Pearson

VICE-PRESIDENTS Messrs. L. G. Phenna and J. J. Turner

TRUSTEES Messrs. W. S. Lonnie, J. R. Ewing and K. Broadhurst.


REGIONAL POSTS

The returned Country Vice-Presidents are:

State and North-West: J. Smithfield.

Northern: N. Williams

Central: K. Melver, V. M. L.A.

Great Southern: C.

Goldfields: F. Meyers.

West Coastal: S. Crook.

South-West: P. Gomm.
WIDE SURVEY OF THE LEAGUE'S ACTIVITIES

"KEEP OPTIONS OPEN, BUT WITH FIRM FRIENDSHIPS."

Anzac Day

The 57th annual commemoration of the Gallipoli landing was fittingly observed in near perfect weather.

Threats to intrude upon the accepted form of remembrance by conducting a demonstration concurrently with and alongside the parade at the service on the Esplanade aroused public indignation and was regarded as an affront to the remembrance of departed comrades by most ex-service men and women.

As a result of publicity given and a favourable reaction generally more people attended the Dawn Service and more wreaths were laid.

Marching troops and ex-service men turned out in greater numbers for the parade, some of them marching for the first time for many years, while the public response clearly registered that Anzac Day is still a significant day in the Australian calendar.

A memorable service was conducted in King's Park by the Education Department on Monday afternoon, April 26, with schoolchildren participating and the service being broadcast throughout the State.

The address given by the Hon. T. D. Evans was very fitting to the occasion.

Reports from metropolitan sub-branches and country committees indicated better attendances at their services than usual.

Anzac Day Tour

The W.A. Surf Club and the W.A. Trout Club and the W.A. Trout Association conducted special meetings, the proceedings being paid into the Anzac Day Trust.

Credit is due also to Toastbearers for Legacy for assisting the League to publicise these sporting events.

As a result of grants from the Anzac Day Trust in 1971 the League benefited to the extent of $123, while the Aged Soldiers' Fund received $1,670.

Remembrance Day

This day was commemorated in the traditional manner with a service at the War Memorial and buglers posted at card intersections.

Although more poppies were sold than in the previous year previous year, and wreath sales produced only $6,639 against $10,063 last year.

The State Executive has given consideration to providing a special emblem for issue to donors, and has paid into to retain the present poppy. More publicity is required and more activity necessary at sub-branch level.

State War Memorial

We are grateful to the officers of the Warden, Air Commodore F. E. Courtney, for his services and the great interest he has in affairs to do with the Memorial, and for carrying out his duties with great dignity.

He handed over on 11th November last year to Mr. Donald King, President of the State War Memorial Foundation, at the time of the latter's retirement, was State Manager of the Commonwealth Bank in Western Australia.

A tribute is due to the continuing work of Mr. Doug Dargie as Assistant Manager, and to Mr. Ian Fithardinge and his sub-wardens of the Highgate sub-branch whose presence at wreath-laying ceremonies always adds a warmth and friendliness so important to the occasion. Seventeen such ceremonies were held during the year.

The new cottages opened at last Congress are all occupied, and the enlarged cottage and shed, brought into operation at the same time, are greatly appreciated.

The average age of home residences is 77.7 years. The oldest is 96 (male) and the youngest (female) 62 years of age.

To the Superintendent, Major A. O. Hawes, who sets a magnificent standard of Leadership, and to his faithful staff, we owe a great debt of gratitude.

The last State Congress instructed the home board through the State Executive, to conduct a feasibility study on the prospect of establishing a Frail-Aged Centre at the Memorial.

Much work was done in this respect by the board during the chairmanship of Dr. King. After his retirement the board nominated one of its members and a League trustee - both of whom are qualified accountants - to examine in depth the present running-costs of the home, the estimates for the proposed new venture and the subsequent running-costs of the total operation.

Sub-branches have been considerably increased in number during the current year, and as a result of the more important findings of this investigation important details will be available for discussion at next year's Congress.

Sufficient to say here that after serious consideration by the board and subsequent deliberation by the State Executive, the recommendation is brought to Congress that the establishment of a 39-bed Frail-Aged Centre (costing almost $300,000) be proceeded with and that an appeal be launched for the sum of $120,000 to make the project possible.

It has been claimed in some sub-branches in recent years that members are losing interest as they get older and that there is not sufficient challenge to members in the life of the sub-branch.

The charge that we are all getting older can not escape, but to say there is no challenge is not acceptable.

I would endorse this comment made by the State branch and believe that the League is capable of rising to the occasion. If we take on the task we will need to work vigorously and quickly to produce a worthwhile service for the purpose.

This will be a profit in 1972, but how much profit will largely depend on you delegates and the members you represent.

Up to last year $24,175 had been paid over to home funds. The shop board is watching this position closely and a half-yearly stocktake was done at the end of June to allow a reassessment of the situation in consultation with our auditors.

Let us not go back to the past. These are difficult times, but in spite of the privations and the sacrifices we shall get through.

While we have spent considerable time on our Mr. Lawley project, let us not lose sight of the plan for a Veterans Home at Geraldton. This pilot operation in a major provincial town could well be the forerunner of others if it can be made a success.

Already an appeal throughout the Geraldton and surrounding districts is under way.

Representatives of the Veterans' Home Board are anxious to discuss in some detail with Geraldton legislators at Congress their budgets for the erection and subsequent operation of their home.

Our congratulations to Geraldton for its initiative.

R.S.I. Shop

Remember, this is your shop and it needs your support. Its profits go to the War Veterans Home.

For the year ended 31st December 1971 - for the first time since its inception this year many of our State Executive members - Mr. John Balfe.

The R.S.I. Shop is now in its 14th year and has raised in excess of $36,000 in the last two years. Last year we sold the best and most highly priced items of over $2,500,000, more than doubling the total sales of the previous two years.

The competition is a joint effort and it is my privilege to chair the joint committee. I would like to extend my thanks to the members of our Board of Directors, Mr. Ted Martin and Mr. Martin is also secretary of Torchbearers for Legacy.

We also thank Qantas for giving us a half-yearly stocktake is done at the end of June to allow a reassessment of the situation in consultation with our auditors. Let us not go back to the past. These are difficult times, but in spite of the privations and the sacrifices we shall get through.

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Already an appeal R.S.I. Shop throughout the Geraldton and surrounding districts is under way. Visit the shop and note the quality and range of goods on display. It is equal to anything of its kind in the city.

We extend our thanks to the shop manager, Mr. Walsh, and his staff for the courteous attention given to our clientele.

Legacy and Miss Crownling Award

We welcome tonight the new President of Legacy, Mr. Robert (Bob) Davis, and the new President of Torchbearers for Legacy - who happens to be one of our State Executive members - Mr. John Balfe.

Legacy and Miss Crownling Award is now in its 15th year and has raised in excess of $35,000 in the last two years. Last year we sold the best and most highly priced items of over $2,500,000, more than doubling the total sales of the previous two years.

The competition is a joint effort and it is my privilege to chair the joint committee. I would like to extend my thanks to the members of our Board of Directors, Mr. Ted Martin and Mr. Martin is also secretary of Torchbearers for Legacy.

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Youth
Throughout the year, the planned programme of events includes the canteen at the Veterans Home and a range of other activities. Those of us who were fortunate enough to attend the canteen recordings. The newly appointed Canteen Manager, Mr. L. Phenna, has joined the State Housing Commission in the interest of men and women. In addition to his canteen work, Mr. Phenna has joined the State Housing Commission's executive committee in succession to Mr. E. McFarlane. We congratulate him on his appointment.

Amlertions
This committee, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. Crewe, has been fortunate in having a group of dedicated men who consider their membership or the organization as integral to the fabric of their community. They have provided a roster of men who consider every aspect of their work in supporting the W.A. Veterans Relief Trust.

Relief Fund
This fund is currently making grants to 100 veterans. The Anzac Day Trust allocated $1,870 to the fund compared with $7,000 in the previous year. In 1971 Anzac Day was on a Sunday, which affected the conduct of sports events.

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STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (cont.)

required for such a day. A little more encouragement please, at sub-

branch level - phone numbers and addresses ear.

Our thanks to Ted Vick-

and Mick Hall for a

splendid job done last year.

Repatriation

During the year ended 30th June, 1972, War Pensions Appeal tribu-

onals were convened in Perth and 274 appeals were

presented by the League. Of these, 271 appeals were considered.

In addition to the many

weeks necessary to attend these Tribunals the League's War Compro-

miser Officer conducted 371 interviews with members, widows and virtue-

non-members of the League seeking assistance.

Mr. McGrady resigned as War Pension Officer in March 1972 and has been succeeded by Mr. Peter Ellis, who

has settled in very well.

The representation of appallants at tribunals is an arduous, time-consum-

ming and difficult job. In submitting a file to a doctor for a medical opinion, serious delays can occur and often the ex-

pense incurred is borne by the League.

We record our apprecia-

tion to Mr. Jack Robinson, Deputy Director of Repatria-

tion in W.A. and his very large staff for their

great forbearance and the interest of ex-service men and women.

Mr. Robinson has given freely of his time in accom-

panying us on group conferences in the coun-

try.

Operation New Life

With the withdrawal of American forces from Vietnam the need for a

new activity on the behalf of League members became urgent.

The committee, under the enthusiastic leadership of Mr. Pat Ferne, 
did a magnificent job until ceasing operations at the turn of the

year.

Our thanks to sub-

branches, the Education Department, Rotary, and other organisations in

a worthwhile civil-

aid programme in South Vietnam.

Staff

The staff is hard-work-

ing. The position of Sec-

etary is a most

worthwhile poste.

The staff have

worked very well.

There is work to be done on

leaving the Emergency Ex-

emption System, and

many others who are

in the staff have

contributed to the welfare of the League in many ways.

Bows Competition

The R.S.L. Bows Sec-

tion in W.A. has complet-

ed another very successful year and is a credit to the League.

The Maurie Crewe Per-

petual Trophy competition was conducted in February

January, and greatly enjoyed by the competitors.

The total of entries

was down due to the

Interstate Bows Compe-

titions being held in Adelaide at the same time.

It is pleasing to see

country members becoming more and more interested and it is hoped

this trend will continue.

The second annual Frank Gomm trophy

event was held on the Albany Bowling Club's green during February

with 14 teams from as far afield as Katanning and Ongerup competing.

The event was won by

an Albany team skippered by Reg Angove.

Morrie Crewe, Em

Crawford, and Albert

Fairclough of the general committee

championed the Albany for the event. A very sincere

"thank you" to the

Interstate Committee for their hospitality and excel-

lent catering.

The year was sparked off with W.A.'s

representation in the Jack

Hamilton V.C. inter-state

trophies and the event, conducted annually by the National

R.S.L. Bowls Council. 

Albany won the event.

The W.A. team's

20 bowlers played a

very fine game and the

members of the W.A. branch

and were all appreciative of the

receipt of trophies by fello-

bowlers in N.S.W.

The year over the

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The R.S.L. Bows Sec-

...
cover most aspects of Repatriation matters.

We are pressuring for increases in the General Rate pension that has remained unchanged for many years, and we want all forms of war pension excluded from the means test. We are also pressing the Government to further consider the establishment of an Army Task Force Base in Australia.

War Service Homes

The League still persists with its call for the upgrading of the $28,000 loan to $32,000 and for the easing of ministerial restraint on the provision of War Service Homes Act to allow for the discharge of mortgages on War Service homes privately financed.

Defence

Having in mind that never before has Australia been required at the outset of a war to field a reduced force, and that ANZUS help may well be limited and perhaps not timely, the League has recommended to the Government that:

1. National service should be reinstated, setting a liability for service overseas (including Papua-New Guinea).
2. The period of full time duty be reduced to one year so as not to intrude on two academic years.
3. The size of the intake be increased to 15,000 per year.
4. The teaching of selected Asian languages to national service personnel should be greatly expanded.
5. The organisation and role of the C.M.F. should be reviewed, enabling it to be a meaningful element of the defence structure and to be ready and prepared to provide a reserve of one or more task forces for the quick expansion of the Army field force.
6. Intelligence and research facilities with the Joint Intelligence Organisation management should be adequate to provide our defence forces with maximum information on changing conditions of defence significance.
7. Foreign affairs intelligence should contain a research capacity to detect long-range trends which affect defence.

of interest to Australians is that the League has asked the Government for further consideration to the establishment of an Army Task Force Base in this State.

Jubilee Fund

A further $30,000 has been allocated for scholarships this year. This will make total grants since the inauguration of the Jubilee Commemoration Fund (in 1965) to almost $170,000.

From last year’s grants, four of our final-year medical students from the University of Western Australia spent a substantial portion of the Christmas-New Year vacation working at the Austafe Rehabilitation Centre in Indonesia.

These young people have come back, I believe, with a greater understanding of the Indonesian people, of their problems, of their way of life and education, and it is fair to say that the task which they have worked will have a similarly clearer concept of Australia and Australians.

Overseas Fund

With the withdrawal of all but a small number of Australian service personnel overseas Fund has been restricted in its expenditure and is being administered by a steering committee in each State. Concert parties will be reduced in number and will take in the R.A.A.F. installations at Butterworth and Army personnel in the Malaysia-Singapore area. This month A.D.F. has installed 16 television channels in the services hospital at Changi.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

The withdrawal of Australia’s combat forces from operations in Vietnam, and the absence of any foreseeable specific threat, provide a breathing space in which to determine long-range policies.

The major powers in our strategic area are justifying their position in the power balance struggle. Britain has taken the lead. It is moving into the Common Market, which of necessity makes one or more power centres prime interest.

She has retained forces, small though they be, east of Suez which involves us with the United Kingdom in the Five Power arrangement.

China and Russia are uneasy along China’s borders. The Russo-Polish war is also at the centre of the Middle East struggle, supporting Egypt against American-backed Israel, and is also strengthening her position in the Red Sea and Mediterranean.

Japan has one of the three strongest economies in the world, and reliable forecasts are that she will be the number three economy of the 21st century.

The country toward these ends, determined to serve our country in peace as in war, that by God’s grace we may maintain a stable democracy for future generations that will enable Australia to take a worthy place in the world community of the future.

F. PEARSON, O.B.E.

J. J. State President.
A peep into the future
Call for rebuilding of Anzac House

An M.T.T. sub-branch motion at Congress this year asked for the rebuilding of Anzac House.

Presenting it, Mr. P. Fuller said the sub-branch idea was to sell the present building, retain an office in the city and establish a club similar to the one in one of the suburbs.

This would bring in a lot of the 35,000 missing members, he argued. Mr. Fuller said the existing quarters were not good enough for the government of a new and wide-ranging club.

The grant of land had been specifically sought for the location of the new premises.

Along with the approach to the government, the executive had invited interested developers to discuss rebuilding possibilities with it.

None of them was prepared to commit funds, he said, within the grant of a ground lease of up to 50 years duration and had backed down because the restrictive clause was out of place. The executive had envisaged developing a club and block of parking facilities. Possibly two or three sub-branches could combine to form a club with bowling and other facilities.

With a seven-floor building, the league could retain two floors for itself. The question would need a lot of thrashing out, Mr. Pearson said.

The motion was referred to a special committee of the executive for consideration.

AN NEW IDEA FOR CONGRESS

The next State Congress - the 57th - will be held over a weekend in July for the first time. The official opening will take place on the Friday evening.

This was decided at Congress last month on the narrowest of majority - the voting was 56 to 55.

Mr. N. Healy (Richmond) said the idea was to encourage wider sub-branch participation.

With the mid-week format it was difficult to get 50 per cent representation, he said.

Supporters said the suggestion was worth a trial. It was agreed that the timing of subsequent congresses would be a question for the future.

HOSPITAL DEVICE POPULAR

One of the notice boards at the Hollywood Repatriation Hospital is much appreciated by unit associations.

It enables them to post the names and wants of their members in hospital and is thus very serviceable to hospital visitors.

The Ist Battalion Association is so pleased with this notice that it has asked for an expression of its appreciation through these columns to the Repatriation Com-
The joint committee at the opening of the Roehampton branch was the new president of Legacy, Mr R. M. (Bob) Davis. Mr Davis (58), who succeeded Mr C. P. F. Wall, is married with three children.

Mr Davis enrolled at St Patrick’s Brothers School, is a cartoonist by profession and is Chief Administrator of the State Department of Forests.

Mr Davis enlisted in the A.I.F. in November 1939 and served with the 2/3 Field Regiment R.A.A. in the Middle East, Greece, and the Algerian campaigns.

He continued his army service in the post-war years with the Citizen Military Forces, commanding in turn the 3rd Field Regiment R.A.A. and the 2/3 Battalion (Cameron Highlanders). His service as a commander of Headquarters Group, Cameron Highlanders, included the rank of brigadier.

The last motion (No. 29) was a motion of Thanks for the work of the 1972 committee, that was carried.
Congress deals with problems of settlers

Several ex-service settlers in the Northampton district are in danger of being forced off their properties. This was said of Congress by Mr. J. E. Buckley of Geraldton.

He was supporting a Northampton sub-branch motion seeking ministerial intervention in the affairs of the State Department of Rural reconstruction authority.

The motion was referred to the State committee for investigation.

Two other motions referred to the committee were:

1. The need for further support of ex-service settlers and the need for proper representation on the State Department of Rural Reconstruction.

2. The need for a number of consultations with the Commonwealth Government of a rural reconstruction scheme for the “5 Armed Forces” and the need to make some progress. Selling the committee on the need for a proper scheme to include protection of settlers from legal action.

Women, too, need recruits

“Every time you recruit a new member you think of two; tell him that his wife would be most welcome.”

Auxiliary State President Mrs. A. Ewing said in her report on the women’s section that Mrs. Carr was active and Mrs. Cowdell of Subiaco was being considered for a position.

Mrs. Rowe wrote the auxiliary consisted of 73 branches comprising 1,056 members but the total was 255 lower than a year earlier. Recruitment was continued and the branches were advised to be more active in their efforts.

Auxiliary secretaries were directed to include their members when and where their auxiliaries would suit in the Auxiliary’s annual meeting.

Calling veteran A. Ewing

Mr. J. E. Watson of Subiaco would like to contact with Mr. A. Ewing, who fought at Morecourt in the Great War, to arrange a visit.

Mr. Ewing wrote a set of verses, entitled “Fritz,” about a Persian machine gunner and they were printed in the W.A. Bigger Book and dated Morecourt, August 1918. The motion sought the support of Morecourt. On August 8 that year his platoon suffered heavy casualties from a German machine gun and he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

Charles is a good samaritan to many people

Banker Charles (Chas) Dunn in his profession is always willing to help those in need. Moreover, he has the means of doing so, having inherited money from one of his brothers several years ago.

Chas has been a good samaritan to a lot of people and says he never is doing right by a man in need and a byford family who lost all their belongings fire some months ago.

A former navy man, Mr. Dunn gave $50 to an H.A.M.S. Leeuw for an orthopaedic chair for the Lowey Creek home for crippled children.

He likes to make donations in person – to the needy in the community.

This is his way of keeping fit. Early last year he was in hospital. Wisconsin man, Mr. Dunn, 60, a former soldier, was in hospital for all the hospital near the heart, but now he is feeling fine.