The Governor urges sub-branches to keep membership up

"League membership is 1,000 down on last year and this is not good enough," the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, said when officially opening the 67th State Congress of the R.S.L. at Annec House on July 20. "I put it to you sub-branch delegates, be careful that you impress on your members that if the League's work is to go on the membership simply must be kept up.

"The work cannot be done without adequate financial backing. This is one of my main points.

"There is a place in the League for widening the structure. It is essential to do this, but remember: membership will never really known Vietnam.

"1tay structure.

"doing services and see that the

"The Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, is shown here at Congress holding the plaque presented to him by State President Pearson.

"A friend to the last"

State President Pearson's first action at the opening of Congress was to present the Governor, Sir Douglas Kendrew, with a message of loyalty for the Queen. He then, on behalf of the League, presented Sir Douglas with a plaque bearing the R.S.L. emblem mounted on a curly jarrah. Sir Douglas retires this month after ten years in office.

"This small gift scarcely represents our full thoughts for one who has been in the field among us for so long," Mr Pearson said, "but it is easy to collect and we hope it will serve as a reminder of happy times spent with ex-service people in Western Australia."

The Governor presented Lady Kendrew with an arrangement of wildflowers.

"Chances mooted at Memorial"

The State Executive is considering changes at the State War Memorial that could involve the placing of an 'eternal flame' or a fountain at the central point along the concourse. This was announced at Congress by the State President. Mr Pearson said the executive had been considering for some time the inclusion at the memorial of names hitherto unrecorded — war dead of the Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam campaigns. There was little space available in the memorial undercroft for additional names but a new structure on the concourse could be designed to carry them in lettering comparable with that in the undercroft.

"When you go up there this morning for the wreath-laying try to visualise the sort of thing we have in mind," Mr Pearson requested delegates.

President re-elected

Through his re-election on June 12 the State President Mr Percy Pearson has entered his 9th full year of office in succession. He first took office in March 1965 on the resignation of Mr W. S. Lonnie.

"The Governor urges sub-branches to keep membership up"

"You have your work among young people as well as your very commendable work for war veterans."

"I have tremendous faith in Australia, Sir Douglas said, "because you of the League are a hard-core who can influence the younger generation. It is essential to have a strong Australia which everyone respects. This is a duty never to be shirked by any member."

"The 200-year-old link with Great Britain was to be regarded as sacred and never to be broken, Sir Doug said.

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

"You must try to bring in young chaps from Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam."

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Concern on foreign policy: North Vietnam recognition

Some of the Commonwealth Government's actions in the field of foreign policy were to be viewed with concern, State President Pearson said in his annual report to Congress this year.

Such actions included the "totally premature" recognition of North Vietnam, precipitate recognition of the People's Republic of China and statements having an adverse effect on relations with the United States. He spoke as follows:

The 5th annual commemoration of the Gallipoli landing was again fittingly observed in perfect weather. Unfortunately, the six-day break over the Easter long weekend preceding Anzac Day did affect attendances at both the Dawn Service and main Parade, fewer wreaths being laid, fewer being in attendance.

However, the turnout of marching personnel was larger than expected, and public support was very gratifying. The two national associations marched for the first time.

The Schoolchildren's Service, previously conducted in conjunction with the Town Hall Domain at the Anzac Day Memorial, this year was conducted at the War Memorial, with a School Parade conducted by Channel 2 on television, and the proceedings were relayed to all schools.

The W.A. R. T. Club and the W.A. and A. association conducted special meetings, and their financial support, as a result of the six-day holiday period, was gratefully accepted.

Mr. Bill Lonnie, has been very busy indeed. An Appeal Committee under the chairmanship of Sir Thomas Wardle was formed and an appeal for $120,000 launched on October 1.

On March 11 this year - the homestead’s 12th anniversary - Mr. W. J. Hunt, M.B.E., a former State President, set a capsule containing documents of historic interest in the foundations of the Centre.

Home residents showed their appreciation by contributing $3,500 towards the project.

Most sub-branches and many unit associations have undertaken themselves with the appeal and one association has undertaken to install machinery for operational therapy work.

Significant among the larger donations was a very busy indeed. Two new sub-branches and the community of $14,000, being the proceeds of the sale of a property, while the War Widows Guild donated $10,000.

We still need $6,000 to reach our target.

To all who have given so generously, to the War Widows Guild, to the Red Cross Society, to the State Executive and to the Clergy, who give spiritual guidance and support, our heartfelt thanks.

During the year many sub-branches and unit associations have entertained residents of the Home. Mt. Lawley sub-branch took them to

STATE PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Concern on foreign policy: North Vietnam recognition

radio and television stations for use by announcers on duty if the station had not prepared anything considered more suitable.

We must continue to seek the co-operation of the media, otherwise young people will have no knowledge of what the commemoration is all about.

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Superintendent O. Hayes signs the Veterans Home's new Visitor's Book during the visit by Congress delegation Sunday, July 29. With him are delegates R. Hatch (Southern Cross) and R. Turner (Northam).

early next year your candidate will already have started working with your support.

Our income is also affected by falling membership.

Our operating costs have not stood still and, if we are going to maintain our effectiveness, sub-branches and individual members must look to and find a remedy for this situation.

The financial statements have been published in the "Listening Post", and a supplementary statement has been sent out to sub-branches to enable

Invitation to R.S.L.

Family Participation

An invitation to members and families to support the R.S.L. Shop, whose operations are wholly for the benefit of the War Veterans Home.

"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 2344883

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And whatever financial service you need, whether your account is large or small, a genuine welcome awaits you at any of our numerous branches. The manager and staff will always be pleased to assist you.

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THE NATIONAL BANK SAVINGS BANK LIMITED

K. N. McDougall, State Manager
STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Aged Fund

The Fund is currently making grants to 96 veterans at an average of $1,000 a month.

We received $6,000 from the Anzac Day Trust for this fund, for which we are very grateful. A grant of $3,000 has been made to the Aged Frail Centre.

Welfare

This year we have seen a considerable increase in the assistance given to families "less fortunate than ourselves" and the committe, under the chairmanship of Mr. Crewe, has been very active. Unfortunately, Mr. Crewe suffered a heart attack a few months ago and one of our Vice-Presidents, Mr. Len Turner, has been carrying out his duties.

Over 300 food parcels have been made available to meet cases of urgent family need.

Many families have been evicted from their homes and alternate accommodation has been arranged, and in this area we are thankful to the senior Vice-President, Len Phenna, who is executive women's representative with the State Housing Commission.

The League works in very close harmony with the social workers of the department at public hospitals and other institutions.

Many British ex-servicemen who have only been in the country a short while have run into trouble and some have died. The League has stood in with relief on its own account, and in many cases has made advances on behalf of the British Commonwealth Ex-Services League, the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust Fund, the Royal Air Force Benevolent Trust Fund, the Army Benevolent Trust Fund and the Far East Prisoner of War Fund.

Much time is spent investigating these cases for the organisations concerned.

Great assistance is given by the Services Canteens Trust Fund, our representatives on the board being Mr. Roy Bell.

The Community Welfare Department, the Churches and various Night Shelters co-operate fully, as does the Good Neighbour Council and the Citizens Aid Bureau. The League’s work, by the League in terms of the number of grants made was $38,420.

Housing

The Housing sub-committee (chairman Mr. Len Phenna) continues its liaison with the War Memorial Housing Division of the State Housing Commission. Availability of homes has generally been better than for some time. We thank Mr. McKenzie, general manager of the State Housing Commission and particularly his representative Mr. Claude Shackelton (who took over from Mr. Phil Hurdley during the year), and also Mr. Court.

A departmental change currently taking place will transfer War Service Homes activities from the State Housing Commission to the Commonwealth Housing Department and the division will be known as the Defence Service Homes Department.

Many extensions in eligibility for entitlement have been made in recent months.

Hospital-visiting

This task is continued by a devoted band of elderly ex-service people to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude.

During the 12 months ending June, 1978, 7,922 visits were made by members of our Corps of Hospital Visitors to sick ex-service men and women.

Members of the Corps are Miss H. G. Doyle and Messrs L. R. Alderman, J. H. Boys, R. E. Campbell, W. T. Pittammons, D. W. Kirk, E. C. Logan and E. J. Okely. We deeply regret the death of Mr. L. H. Hettickington last November.

Add to these visits the work of the Women’s Auxiliary in this activity and we have an imposing record.

We urgently need volunteers from those having just reached retiring age to take up this rewarding work.

Women’s auxiliary

Those privileged to attend the opening of the Women’s Auxiliary conference on Monday, 9 July, were astounded at their magnificent achievement.

Noteworthy items of expenditure were: Hospitals $3,352, Christmas Cheer $1,744, War Veterans’ Home maintenance $1,256, War Memorial $346, Frail Aged Appeal $234.

At the opening of their congress I was presented with three further cheques $250 for W.V.V. maintenance, $207 for State War Memorial and $215 for the Frail Aged Appeal.

The ladies visited 20 metropolitan C-class hospitals as well as Royal Perth, Hollywood, Lenin and Claremont. Other auxiliaries provide the same service in country areas.

Auxiliaries have been main supporters in the Miss Gowing Glory quest and are represented on the joint R.S.L. Legacy committee.

State executive members of the Auxiliary provide a daily roster for running the canteen at the Veterans’ Home.

On behalf of the League I extend a big “thank-you” for all the wonderful work done by all our women do for us!

Membership

The Membership committee under the active chairmanship of Mr Jack Waugh report a State membership figure drop in 1972 to 11,710 from the 1971 figure of 12,352 — a decline of 642.

The committee meets fortnightly. Its members have travelled throughout the State organising Group Conferences and assisting to re-organise sub-branches calling for assistance.

The State Executive endeavours to create interest by giving its Liaison Officers and Country Vice-Presidents up-to-date administrative details and information on matters of State branch and national policy.

We are losing many Great War veterans, by death, but fortunately there is too much apathy on the part of World War men and women, and those of the later wars. We need the support of all ex-service men and women, and I take this opportunity to seek the co-operation of kindred and unit associations to invite all eligible members to also become members of the League.

Unity is strength. The unit association can never be bigger than its unit strength; the service association can never be bigger than that service, but all together in the R.S.L. — the short title for the organisation that in earlier years was known as the Returned Sailors, Soldiers and Airmens Imperial League of Australia — we can represent a very sizeable body of people and bring greater emphasis in our representation to governments.

Let us put our shoulder to the wheel! Go back to your sub-branches and challenge your membership to bring in at least one other member apiece before the end of the year.

From this year we will be introducing a system of pennant awards for sub-branches increasing their previous year’s membership by 15%.

We have a club which under present existing laws allows us to cater for Associate Members. Here is your opportunity to extend the influence of the League.

Let me thank all who have worked so hard in this respect of our work. Let us all be sensitive to people with whom we come into contact so that we do not miss an opportunity to welcome...
another into the fellowship of the family, by so doing will we keep before the public mind the true motto: "The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance."

Youth Welfare

The year 1972 proved most progressive in the assistance rendered to youth in the Perth area.

The Girls Rhythm League (Perth branch) has been sponsored by the State Government, and has been instrumental in the reconciliation of youth who have run away from home.

The State government has also provided grants to support the Keswick House for girls who have been neglected by their parents.

A new youth center has been inaugurated in the city of Perth, which provides a safe haven for young people who are in need of guidance and support.

The Perth Youth Council has also been established, with the aim of providing a platform for young people to voice their concerns and participate in decision-making processes.

The National Youth Parliaments have been introduced in Western Australia, with the aim of fostering democratic values and promoting participation among young people.

The State government has also allocated funds to support the establishment of youth clubs and centers, providing a space for young people to engage in recreational activities and socialize with their peers.

The Youth Workers Association (YWA) has been established, providing training and support for youth workers to enhance their skills and service delivery.

The Department of Youth Affairs has also been established, with the aim of providing a comprehensive range of services to support the needs of young people in Western Australia.

The Western Australian Youth Mental Health Program has been launched, providing a range of mental health services to support young people with mental health issues.

DEFENCE

On the subject of the League had to say that the self-sufficiency that Australian defence forces and national policies should be guided by: 1) The encouragement of a spirit of community involvement and concern for Australia’s progress and well-being, as the basis of national and global philosophy.

2) Preparedness, flexibility and rapid response

3) Sound and vigorous national policies on development, immigration, decentralisation and education, with the aim of ensuring that Australia and its neighbours are self-sufficient in the face of national security threats.

4) The capacity increasingly able to meet the equipment needs of the three Services, and Australia’s civil requirements.

At Congress Mr. N. Mosby (Rivervale) moved a motion of thanks to the League auditors, Messrs. Fell and Starkey.

A.R.M.S. General Election:

Three major parties - City of Perth, Mt. Hawthorn and Floreat - were contending for seats in the electorate of Gloucester Park - contested by the three major parties, Gloucester Park - contested by the three major parties, Gloucester Park - contested by the three major parties.

The competition was fierce, with each party vying for the support of the electorate.

The Stirling Labor Party has been re-elected with a narrow majority of 1,000 votes, with the Liberal Party in second place and the National Party in third place.

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by mutual service in the wars of the British Commonwealth. The establishment of the Jubilee Fund is a recognition that this object can best be helped by providing some help where its assistance is most needed among those 'no men have served in the armed forces of the Commonwealth and now seek the assistance of their former comrades-in-arms to give a further $20,000 has been allocated, 1972-73 year for assistance and activity. This brings the totals into the country, the League's concern in Trinidad and Tobago, which has from neighbours to obtain others. In all, the world veterans' organisation in North Vietnam; public statements adversely affect their good name, and the confidence of Australian troops abroad, which have close connections with the Five Power arrangements and agreements with such countries as Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines.

The League is pleased for 1976 when it is to hold a World Veterans Conference. Invitations have been extended to all veterans' organisation in the world whose addresses are known. Efforts are being made to obtain the co-operation of these bodies so that the following organisations have been sent to 44 organisations.

The establishment of Foreign Affairs Department has been advised of this action and asked to follow up through Australian Embassies and High Commissions in the countries concerned.
The 28th Battalion Association regrets the recent death of its honorary secretary, Jim Farrel. His genial nature will be sadly missed. He was succeeded by Harry Kaban, a battalion original and a former association secretary.

The association's annual reunion will be held at the Anzac Club on Tuesday, September 25, commencing at 2 p.m.

The Naval Association's annual ball will be held at the Embassy Ballroom, Perth, on October 5 (starting 8.30 p.m.). Orchestra: P. Josephson and his Silver Cascades. Lucky spots and door prizes. Supper and refreshments. Admission $12 double. Inquiries and bookings through Mrs V. Wagland (715296).
More will benefit from bigger housing loans

During Congress this year delegates visited the Veterans Home at Mt Lawley to inspect progress with the Frail Aged Centre. At the home State President Mr J. F. Turner (left) and Mr L. Phenna.

"Vicious distortion", doctor claims

There was no truth whatever in any allegation that general practitioners were unwilling to provide medical services to their wartime comrades, an Australian Medical Association representative told Congress.

This was a vicious distortion of fact, he said. He urged any League member having difficulty in obtaining GP services after repatriation to complain at once to the A.M.A.'s Perth office where the matter would be fully investigated.

"In the event that you say there has in fact been a remarkable improvement in the range of services permitted by GPs under the scheme. Whatever happened between the Minister and the profession, he said, returned service people entitled to treatment need have no fear of being overlooked by medical practitioners.

R.S.L. ANNUAL BALL

The 15th annual R.S.L. Ball will be held at the Subiaco Civic Centre on the night of Friday, August 17.

INTERSTATE BOWLING CARNIVAL PLANNED

Arrangements for the R.S.L. Interstate Bowling Carnival to be held in Perth during the Christmas-New Year period were well ahead of schedule, Mr. R. C. Brown, the June executive meeting.

Mr Hall said he was looking forward to the event being held on behalf of the Bowls Section of the R.S.L. Inter-State Carnival, and expected Mr. Hall said the West Australian representatives in these events would be selected after the Morris Crewe trophy event to be played locally on Sunday 7th and Monday 8th October.

Mr J. Wagstaff reported that tickets for the carnival would be made available at the Ascot Club.

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The LISTENING POST, August, 1973 — Page 7
ASSOCIATIONS OF EX-SERVICEMEN

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ARMED FORCES ASSOCIATION - Thursday to Sunday New South Wales branch. President, R. J. Sampson, 23 Eastwood St, Fairfield, General Secretary, E. R. Lingard, 108 Seaview Rd, St. Pauls (682431).

GALLIPOLI LEGION OF ANZACS - Meets every Saturday at 11 a.m. at Australian Embassy, 212 Pitt St, Sydney. President, A. L. O'Brien (235956). Secretary, A. H. May, 22 Seaview Rd, St. Pauls (680574).

24TH BATTALION 4TH BURMAH DIVISION - (AIF) - 1943. President, W. H. Taylor, 65 Burwood Rd, Eastern Suburbs. Secretary, R. E. McDonald, 17 Chatswood Crescent, Ryde (642350).


216TH BATTALION ASSOCIATION - (AIF) - 1945. President, J. W. Jackson, 315 New South Head Rd, Randwick. Secretary, J. F. Ryan, 2142 Randwick Rd, Randwick.

80TH SUB-BRANCH ANZAC ASSOCIATION - (AIF) - 1943. President, J. W. Jackson, 315 New South Head Rd, Randwick. Secretary, J. F. Ryan, 2142 Randwick Rd, Randwick.

ASSOCIATION OF EX-SERVICEMEN

Geraldton again wins Collett Cup

Financial situation better than previous year

The accounts told the story. The R.S.L. Veterans Home was going excellently. When the appeal for the Prall Aged Centre was launched it was explained that the home finances would look after themselves given care. That was still quite valid. The R.S.L. Shop had come out with a small profit, and so had the Anzac Club.

The trust funds were circumscribed. "We caught up in the cost of a spiral like everyone else," Mr Turner said.

It was most important to keep up communications with members and the cost of doing that was the biggest training problem at present.

The report was adopted. The branch agreed to a new sub-branch proposal for the annual subscription amount to go to headquarter and $1 to the sub-branch - an additional 35 cents for headquarters.

Plebicute needed to change rules

There will be no change to the League's eligibility - for membership rules with the number of financial members of the League being decided by National Executive, if the State branch has its own sub-branch motion to this effect was agreed to at Congress last month.

The motion called for any such plebiscite to provide for a vote in the negative as well as in the positive.

Submitting it State President, L. Plen- na, said the League had been requested with inquests to admit ineligible people. Last year one of the State branches had pressed for plebiscites on sub-branch basis.

"We believe any plebiscite should be on a national level with each branch contributing to the cost," Mr Plenina said. However, the Branch President, J. R. O. Dobbs, said the League had to bear the cost.

The League could must charge about $3,000 members in W.A. with its 50,000 ex-servicemen, so that there were already 35,000 more eligible people available here.

"Let us concentrate on the people who should be welcomed by us and are not," Mr Plenina said. "If you do nothing else make yourself eligible."

MEETING - HEADQUARTERS

Methil and Heathcote to offer new members to the branch.

The cost of the League has included economy-class return airfares, accommodation, meals, tours and transfers, airport taxes and portage. Some warm ex-service welcomes are anticipated. Those interested are asked to contact the National Travel Office, P.O. Box 303, Canberra City, Act. 2601.

Travel Office gives details of new tour

The R.S.L. National Travel Office, after booking an additional East Asia tour, is now booking on the same basis as the previous year. American troops were present between 1941 and 1945, and supplies the following information:

- A 20-day tour of Singapore, Brunei, Labuan, Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Kanchanaburi and Kula Lumpur would cost $1,230 ex Sydney.
- A 15-day tour to Singapore, Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, Kuala Lumpur, Changi and Kranji would cost $707.

So far no dates have been fixed, but it is suggested that the tour be at a significant price on a significant date. The office suggests Singapore on February 15.

The cost of the tour includes economy-class return airfares, accommodation, meals, tours and transfers, airport taxes and portage.

Some warm ex-service welcomes are anticipated. Those interested are asked to contact the National Travel Office, P.O. Box 303, Canberra City, Act. 2601.

Charge on Journal

It was decided at Congress this year to charge members $40 a year to cover the cost of producing "LISTENING POST." The charge will take effect as from next January and will be added along with the annual subscriptions on the amount sent out then.

It was agreed that the Journal would continue to be published quarterly and in its present form.

SUB-Branch

R.S.L. MEMBERS: Your 1973 subscription ($4) became due on January 1. Payment may be made through a sub-branch secretary or at the R.S.L. Headquartes, Perth.

DON'T... Wear a badge with no financial clip. Wear a badge with a clip old years.

DO... Wear your badge with pride. Your badge deserves a financial clip.

Membership - If you yourself don't need the League at the moment, one of your old service mates does.

The League is only as strong as its membership.

I enclose $4, my subscription to 31/12/73.

NAME

ADDRESS

SUB-BRANCH

UNIT

No.