State Minister for Veterans

Former serving navy officer and submariner Joe Francis has been appointed to become the first ever State Minister for Veterans. Joe will hold this important portfolio along with other responsibilities of Emergency Services and Corrected Services.

Joe accepts his Veterans portfolio charters new waters and he is keen to make headway working with the RSL and other ESO’s to develop the way ahead.

He is excited about the future and as an existing RSL member recognises the important time in our history with the Centenary of ANZAC and the important role WA will play in Commemorative events.

Joe is also keen to look at other state’s veterans portfolios and use their successes to help develop his own approach and ideas here in the West.

RSL State President Graham Edwards caught up with Joe at the recent RAAF memorial Service at the State War Memorial where Graham warmly welcomed him to the portfolio.

ANZAC Day 2013

All you need to know

2013

COMMEMORATING
70 YEARS SINCE
CONSTRUCTION OF
THE HELLFIRE PASS
COMMENCED
LISTENING POST MESSAGE BOARD

Deadline for next edition: 24 May 2013
For contributions to next edition.
If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. Preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs can be black and white or colour. This is your journal and contributions are welcome.
Address to: The Editor, The Listening Post
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Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
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ATTENTION!!!
ANZAC HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 26 APRIL 2013.

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Attention Sub-Branch Secretaries:
Please send in your ANZAC Day photos and stories for inclusion in the next edition of The Listening Post by 24 May 2013.
Preferred method is via email to reception1@rslwahq.org.au

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CMR Philip Orchard AFNI RAN (Rtd)

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‘The Listening Post’ is published 6 times a year, and has a readership of over 25,000.

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We cannot accept Newspaper Clippings for publication without express approval from the Newspaper Editor as we can infringe on Copyright Laws. Denis Connelly, Editor

To all Sub Branch Presidents’ and Secretaries
send photographs and a short article on special activities at your Sub Branch to The Listening Post. Denis Connelly, Editor

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Attention!!!
ANZAC HOUSE WILL BE CLOSED ON FRIDAY, 26 APRIL 2013.

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John Cox OAM JP

CEO / STATE Secretary
CMR Philip Orchard AFNI RAN (Rtd)
All former service personnel and visitors will be Lancelin Beach Hotel for our Gunfire Breakfast. Then there will be a march along Gingin Road to the complete with plaques dedicated to passed members. Following our Dawn Service a Dedication Ceremony 0600 - Lancelin Memorial is in Gingin Road (north of A Dawn Service will commence at the Memorial at 0555. members of ex-service, Unit & Kindred Associations and also members of the general public are invited to attend and lay a floral tribute if they wish.

Enquiries may be made on 9330 3586 or 9364 8564.

Bunbury

Dawn Service: Form up adjacent to the Bunbury RSL Hall at 0540 The service will commence at 0600 in front of the memorial at the top end of Victoria St. The parade will be dismissed on return to the RSL Hall.

Main Service: The parade will form up in front of the RSL Sub-Branch Hall at 1030 and march to the Bricknell Music Shell for the service. On completion the RSL will host an ANZAC function. Guest of Honour for the Bunbury RSL will be Major Don Robertson Ret.

RSL City of Cockburn Sub-Branch 73 Frederick Road, Hamilton Hill WA 6163 ANZAC Day Services will be conducted at the Memorial Hall Monument, Cnr Carrington Street & Rockingham Road Hamilton Hill. Dawn Service 0545 Followed with the "Gunfire" Breakfast ANZAC Day Parade 0945 Assemble at the RSL Car park ANZAC Service 1020 There is an open invitation for all to join us.

Further information contact – Secretary - Lawrie Scott 9337 8879

City of Rockingham RSL

Sub-Branch

ANZAC Day Arrangements 0600 Dawn Service at War Memorial followed by Gunfire Breakfast. 1045 Step Off for March, followed by Main Service at War Memorial. Afterwards at RSL Point Peron.

Phone 9592 4222 for further information.

Lancelin & Coastal Districts

Sub - Branch

Dawn Service A Dawn Service will commence at the Memorial at 0600 - Lancelin Memorial is in Gingin Road (north of the school in Harold Park).

Following our Dawn Service a Dedication Ceremony will be held for our newly erected Memorial Wall now complete with plaques dedicated to passed members. Then there will be a march along Gingin Road to the Lancelin Beach Hotel for our Gunfire Breakfast. All former service personnel and visitors will be warmly welcomed.

For more details contact Norm Pearce - 9655 1161

Manjimup

0600 Outdoor Service at Memorial in Giblett Street, Manjimup followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the RSL Hall in Brockman Street (within walking distance) 1045 Parade forms up at Memorial Gates in Brockman Street and marches to the service. 1100 Service at Memorial followed by snacks & refreshments at the RSL Hall.

Other Events:

1230 ANZAC Day Golf event at Manjimup Golf Club 1400 Two Up at Manjimup Hotel in Giblett Street, Manjimup.

Further details: Rex Brown 0427771875

Mundaring

The Mundaring branch of the RSL, will be having a service on ANZAC Day, 25 April 2013. The march will be from Mann Street, Mundaring, across from the Bendigo bank. Terminating at the Memorial Rose Gardens, Great Eastern Highway. The march will be led by the Kalamunda pipe Band. Master at 1430. March off at the discretion of the Parade Marshall. Parade will disperse at the Memorial Gardens at the conclusion of the march to be seated for the service. Service will be conducted by The Reverend Rod Williams RAN (Rtd). Afternoon tea will be provided by the ladies of the CWA/Red Cross. If there is light rain the March will still proceed.

Contact numbers: Eric Smith: 9572 1088 / 0419 925 637
Peter Lamprey: 9572 1141

Nedlands

Nedlands will hold its ANZAC Day Service at its Memorial, cnr Birdwood Pde and Waratah Ave at 0900. Light refreshments will be provided after the Service. This is provided by the Nedlands Council who are strong supporters of the Sub-Branch. There will be a Guest Speaker and support will be given by a choir.

Doug Arrowsmith, Secretary, 56 Oceanic Drive, Floreat 6014 - 9387 4317.

Northern ANZAC DAY

Dawn Service

Short march from Post Office to War Memorial commences at 0555

Dawn Services commences at 0600 sharp at the Northam War Memorial. Gunfire breakfast at conclusion in the Memorial Hall. The Dawn Service will be broadcast around the Northam District including Merredin though our local radio station Radio West in Northam.

Parade

Parade commences at 1040 and proceeds from the Northam Hardware car park, along Fitzgerald St to the War memorial at 265 Fitzgerald St arriving there at approx 1055. Music will be provided by the Combined Districts Concert Band.

Main service

Commences at 1100 and runs for approx 35 - 40 minutes

There will be jeeps available for anyone unable to march and seated shade areas available for veterans and the elderly. Morning tea will be supplied in the Memorial Hall after the service.

Port Hedland

ANZAC Day Service 25 April 2013

There will be a change of format with this years ANZAC service. Unlike preceding years we will conduct one service only, which will combine the Dawn Service, ANZAC Day address and laying of wreaths, there will not be a separate march as has happened in previous years.

Timings for the service are as follows;

0530 Muster at the War Memorial opposite the Esplanade Hotel
0540 Service commences Catafalque Party mount, Introduction by RSL Bible reading and Prayer for the ADF Prayer For Peace, ANZAC Day address. Guest speaker, Captain Andrew Fysh, OAM, RAN Sounding of "The Last Post" One Minutes Silence Ode of Remembrance and Sound Reveille 0605 Laying of wreaths led by Guest speaker National Anthem (NZ) National Anthem (Aus) Catafalque Party dismounts 0615 ANZAC Day Parade Dismissed 0700 Gunfire Breakfast, sponsored by Pilbara Regiment, Wilson Street 0900 ANZAC house, Sutherland Street - Open

Ravensthorpe

The Ravensthorpe Branch of the RSL will hold an ANZAC Day Service at 1000 at the War Memorial in Ravensthorpe (opposite District High School). Anyone wishing to march should assemble at the Ravy Country Kitchen at 0945. After the service morning tea will be served in the Canteen Area of the High School.

For further information please contact Peggy Cox (Secretary) 9838 1300 or Ian Murdock (President) 9838 1065.

Shenton Park

ANZAC Day Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony Thursday 25 April 2013

The service will commence at 0700 outside the Shenton Park Community Centre on Onslow Road, Shenton Park.

A short march will take place prior to the service. Marchers are requested to fall in outside the POST newspaper office in King Street, Shenton Park at 0645. The 10th Light Horse Regiment will post a catafalque party at the service.

Morning tea will be provided in the Hall at the conclusion of the service. Members of the public are invited to lay wreaths.

Wyalkatchem

As usual ANZAC Day commemoration services will be on Thursday, 25 April 2013. Services will be held at Pioneer Park, Wyalkatchem.

Dawn Service 0555 Followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at 0700 at the RSL Hall on Wilson St, Wyalkatchem.

General Parade 1100 at Pioneer Park, Wyalkatchem. Parade fall in will be in Honour Ave, north east corner of the Town Hall at 1030. Any ex-service personnel affiliate or person wishing to march please attend at the above mentioned area.
## This Month in Australian Military History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 June</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>RAN aircraft first used in combat</td>
<td>First use of aircraft in combat by ships of the Royal Australian Navy in the Heligoland Bight. Aircraft were launched from HMAS Sydney and Melbourne to intercept two German aircraft.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 June</td>
<td>1966</td>
<td>6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in South Vietnam</td>
<td>The deployment of the 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, to Vietnam formed part of Australia’s build up of forces in Phouc Tuy province in the mid-1960s. D Company from this battalion became involved in the battle of Long Tan in August 1966.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June</td>
<td>1950</td>
<td>No. 77 Squadron, RAAF, committed to Korea</td>
<td>Prime Minister Menzies announced that No. 77 Squadron, RAAF, was to be committed to combat duties in Korea. This was the first Australian unit sent to the war in Korea; they were equipped with Mustangs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 July</td>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Battle of Hamel, France</td>
<td>The Battle of Hamel was the first set-piece operation planned and conducted under Lieutenant General Sir John Monash. It came to be regarded as a model for later Western Front battles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 July</td>
<td>1911</td>
<td>Formation of the RAN</td>
<td>In its original form, the Royal Australian Navy consisted of the battlecruiser Australia and several cruisers, destroyers and submarines. When the new fleet arrived in Australia on 4 October 1913 the day was declared a public holiday and was described in the press as the greatest day in Australia’s history.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 July</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Beginning of the battle of the Kokoda Trail, New Guinea</td>
<td>Having been stopped in their attempt to reach Port Moresby by sea at the battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese were forced to try and take the town by land. The only route open to them was over the Owen Stanley Range via the Kokoda Trail which became the scene of heavy fighting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 July</td>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Formation of the Royal Australian Air Force Nursing Service (RAAFNS)</td>
<td>The RAAFNS was established in response to the need for a greater number of nursing personnel as the RAAF underwent a rapid expansion early in the war. Membership of the RAAFNS expanded from 45 in December 1940 to 616 in December 1945. The service was disbanded at the end of the war, but in 1948 a peace-time service was formed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td>1942</td>
<td>Port Headland, Darwin and Horn Island bombed by Japanese aircraft</td>
<td>Many towns and airfields in northern Australia came under Japanese aerial attack during 1942–43. Darwin was the most heavily bombed Australian city in the war.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Agelink Theatre Inc’s 20th anniversary event!**

Everyone is at risk of falling, but for older people the risk can be higher, and an injury from having a fall could be more serious. Most people mistakenly believe that falls are caused by tripping, slipping or “not being careful”. But the fact is that more falls are caused by health or lifestyle factors. Falls are not just a ‘sign’ of getting older. Preventing falls is about realising that you can influence your own mobility and independence. Ask yourself the following questions;

- How active are you? Is it easy to get up out of chairs?
- Regular physical activity can reduce the risk of falling as it helps to maintain and increase muscle strength, improve balance, flexibility, and maintain bone density. Focus on getting at least 30 minutes of physical activity on most, if not all days. The best types to reduce your risk of having a fall include those that increase strength and improve balance, posture, and stamina.

**Do you take any medicines?**

Some side effects and combinations of medicines can increase your risk of a fall. Keep an up-to-date list of the medicines you take and ask your doctor to review them regularly.

**Does your home have hazards that could make you fall?**

Removing some common slipping and tripping hazards from around your home can reduce your risk of falling including:

- slippery floors
- clutter or obstacles such as unsecured electrical cords or garden hoses
- loose mats or scatter rugs

There are Nine Steps To Stay On Your Feet® – simple steps that can assist you to reduce your risk of having a fall. Contact the Stay On Your Feet WA® Falls Resource Information Centre to receive a free preventing falls information kit.

---

**Dear Heart**  

by Jenny Davis based on her aunt’s letters and diaries from WWII  
Starring Rebecca Davis and Stuart Halusz  
With musical director Craig Skelton and vocals by Alinta Carroll  
Fri 19, Sat 20, Tues 23* April 2013 at 11am  
Wed April 24 2013 at 10.30am  
*Special guest, Tuesday April 23, Opera Australia star, the radiant Lisa Harper-Brown  
Venue: State Library of WA, Perth Cultural Centre  
Ticket Prices: $20 full, $15 concession  
Bookings: Online at trybooking.com or ph: 9384 8158 or 0411 318 974

Four performances only! Don’t miss out!  
PLUS Two Free Oral History Workshops  
in association with the Battye Library. Enquiries: Ph 9384 8158
Letters to the Editor

The discovery of these portraits of large part of the collection comprised forgotten, but for the recent discovery these images might well have been using a signature painted backdrop in of the soldiers and locals in relaxed and Antoinette Thuillier, were keen extended hospitality and friendship. One local couple, farmers Louis and Antonette Thuillier, were keen on modern technology and set up and medical treatment. All were made most welcome by the villagers who extended hospitality and friendship. Local committee, farmers Louis and Antonette Thuillier, were keen on modern technology and set up a business taking pastel portraits of the soldiers and locals in relaxed poses. The photos were largely taken using a signature painted backdrop in their barn or in their cobbled courtyard. These images might well have been forgotten, but for the recent discovery of the nearly 4,000 glass negatives. A large part of the collection comprised photos of Australians. The discovery of these portraits of “The Lost Diggers” so moved a group of local teenagers that they determined the ANZACs would not be forgotten. In 2011, they took responsibility for an important project to present the Thuillier Collection to the public. Nearly 100 years after the portraits were made, the Vignacourt youth were inspired to dedicate an exhibition space in their Youth Centre to showcase the portraits. They researched and learnt the history of the war and the personal stories of those soldiers who have been identified and now conduct guided tours of the photographic exhibition in Vignacourt. They have set up an Association named “Maison des Australiens” as a non-profit organisation to administer their project. Their other major achievement is initiating successful annual ANZAC commemorations in Vignacourt. In April this year they have a full week of events. After spending a year studying Australian history and culture, the young people from Picardy will embark on the next phase of their long term “Living History” project. During 25 October to 16 November 2013 they will travel to Australia. Their journey has three goals:
1. to keep alive the memory of the soldiers who fought for liberty in the Great War;
2. to act as modern ambassadors for their village and the Somme region and
3. to maintain and develop ongoing friendship between France and Australia.

The group of eight teens, accompanied by two adults, aim to travel to Perth, Albany, Sydney, and Canberra to meet some of the families of the soldiers who played a part in winning for France the freedom they now so much enjoy. In particular they will visit descendants of Diggers identified in the Thuillier portraits. They will also visit the Australian War Memorial (AWM) to meet key people like Peter Burns who helped locate the Thuillier plates. They will join the AWM’s “Remember Me: The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt” team and see the preparations underway to prepare 74 of the Thuillier photographs for a national travelling exhibition in 2014. They also hope to meet Kerry Stokes, through whose generosity the glass plate negatives were brought to Australia to be cleaned, digitised and catalogued by the AWM.

Would you like to help? They are raising funds for their trip in inventive ways, including producing Vignacourt Youth Embassy badges for sale. This will assist to cover the cost of airfare and other expenses. They would, however, appreciate a helping hand with homestay accommodation. Would you like to host one of these inspiring young people?

At this stage we are seeking initial expressions of interest in offering a homestay. They will be in Australia for the period 25 October to 16 November 2013. The proposed route is:
• Perth
• Albany
• Canberra (in time for Remembrance Day Monday 11 November 2013)
• Sydney

Once their itinerary is finalised we will post another item in The Listening Post with specific dates for each location.

Graham Edwards

Dear Editor,

We have come to the conclusion that, like many members of the general public, little is known about the plaques at Kings Park by serving members of the RSL.

From time to time we have been approached by country Sub-Branches to advise them as to the design and manufacture of plaques for their own Honour Avenues, which we have been more than happy to assist in. However, many members of Sub-Branches throughout the state are not aware that they, or a member of their family, can have a plaque for a relative as long as they meet the criteria.

We administer, manufacture, conduct the dedication service and take care of all the plaques.

Tree availability is the problem facing us as we are accepting applications at the rate of some 50 plaques per year.

A phone call to our secretary, Ken Jones, on 9448 2415 will answer all of the questions one may have.

Norm Manners

Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor should be emailed to a listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

Government Delivers More Support to Veteran and ADF Communities

Current and former serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, and their families, will benefit from improved military rehabilitation and compensation arrangements through new legislation introduced to Parliament today.

Introducing the Veterans’ Affairs Legislation Amendment (Military Compensation Review and Other Measures) Bill 2013, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Warren Snowdon, said the improvements stemmed from recommendations announced in the 2012-13 Federal Budget as part of the Government’s response to the Review of Military Compensation Arrangements.

“These amendments continue to deliver on the Government’s commitment to evolve our support for the veteran and defence communities, and their families, to better meet their needs,” Mr Snowdon said.

The key amendments made by the Bill include:
• streamlined access for certain former ADF members with health conditions accepted under the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988, who have ongoing treatment needs for that condition, will now be able to access that treatment using a Repatriation Health Card (White Card). This will commence from 10 December 2013; an increase to the rate under the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004 (MRCA) of periodic compensation payable for dependent children of deceased members, from 1 July 2013; greater flexibility for future wholly dependent partners of deceased members, from 1 July 2013. They will be able to choose to convert either 25%, 50%, 75% or 100% of the MRCA periodic compensation amount to an age-based lump sum payment rather than a single choice of periodic or 100% lump sum payments; compensation payable for financial and legal advice under MRCA for persons required to choose payment methods will be increased from $1,592 to $2,400 from 1 July 2013; from 1 July 2013, enable earlier payment of MRCA compensation for permanent impairment for claimants with more than one accepted condition. Additionally, DVA will make greater use of the payment of interim permanent impairment compensation; and improved consistency and flexibility of access to rehabilitation and transition services for current and former members, including reservists.

The report of the Review of Military Rehabilitation Compensation Arrangements is available at the DVA website.
In this edition we look at one of the most important components required for any Army – medical corps.

The Australian Army Medical Corps (AAMC) and the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) involved with Australia’s commitment to WWI (1914-1918) were faced with previously unheard of new weapons with a greater capacity to kill, injure and maim soldiers in greater numbers. These included larger and more deadly gas bombs, highly efficient machine guns that could spray deadly fire at hundreds of rounds per minute, taking a huge toll on Australian personnel. Even in the early stages of this conflict, it was clear to medical personnel that this war would create diseases, injuries and illness unfamiliar and of unimaginable proportions to Australian trained medical personnel.

Medical personnel worked in a variety of settings such as stretcher stations, general hospitals and rehabilitation facilities in France and England, treating many nationalities - both allies and enemy. The wounded were ferried to Lemnos Island for initial treatment, then to Egypt and, if war services personnel and the high standard of care for wounded personnel had been recognised throughout the world for the benchmark for wounded care of wounds per minute in trying climatic environments.

One of the most recognised stretcher bearers recorded in Australian folklore is 202 Private John Kirkpatrick Simpson AKA Simpson and his Donkey. Private Simpson had his initial training at Blackboy Hill Greenmount with the 3rd Field Ambulance in September 1914. Stretcher bearers were usually the first to assess the wounded and gave the initial treatment. Their assessment was followed by Field Ambulance Officers to prioritise the wounded and decide who should receive immediate attention. The role of stretcher bearer was one of the most hazardous and dangerous tasks with those on the Western Front the movement of the wounded was complex with time delays often resulting in fatalities where those with stomach or abdominal wounds succumbed within a few hours due to loss of blood if not treated promptly. The location and environment of battle meant care of wounds was often second in the thoughts of stretcher bearers as moving the wounded to a safer environment was their priority. Modern wound management such as penicillin and antibiotics were not yet available at this time and lack of attention to basic first aid lead to high rates of infection, amputation and ultimately the death of the wounded.

On the French battlefields the wounded were involved in long and dangerous journeys on foot through mud, dangerous gun fire and shell explosions. Many stretcher bearers and medical personnel recalled that the worst part of the work was collecting the wounded and hearing them cry out for their family, especially for their mothers, which brought home to them how young most of the soldiers were.

Private John Harding wrote to his mother, “I would never have got across here if it hadn't been for one of the nurses in our ward, who was an Australian. She used to do her best to get all the Aussies across. There seems to be a great difference between our nurses and the British nurses. Of course they are all very kind, but I would rather be in an Australian hospital at any time.”

Before the First World War, Australian military nurses had been seen mostly as glorified first aid workers but by the wars end it was clear that their contribution had been not only competent but crucial to the war effort. Four years had seen an evolution of increasingly complex roles, and nurses’ positions as medical workers had diversified and strengthened. Nurses became an integral part of split-second treatment decisions. They were indispensable team members in the ever busy operating theatres, as well as keeping entire hospital operations running smoothly. By 1917, some were even transferred to casualty clearing stations - the first point of entry for wounded from the front, this was a real measure of how much attitudes towards nurses had changed.

Nurses had a unique role in the war. On the one hand, they were busy cleaning wounds, sometimes even performing minor surgery, administering treatments and frequently doing heavy physical labour, often living in squalid conditions and in trying climatic environments. They were usually understaffed and lacking supplies, sometimes under threat of attack and constantly fighting off exhaustion and sickness themselves. On the other hand, they were also expected to be feminine, cheerful, and a sweetheart and mother to every patient - the physical substitute for all the women back home.

One of the most recognised stretcher bearers recorded in Australian folklore is 202 Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick (who enlisted as John Simpson), ‘The Man with the Donkey’. Both of the wars end it was clear that their contribution had been not only competent but crucial to the war effort. Four years had seen an evolution of increasingly complex roles, and nurses’ positions as medical workers had diversified and strengthened. Nurses became an integral part of split-second treatment decisions. They were indispensable team members in the ever busy operating theatres, as well as keeping entire hospital operations running smoothly. By 1917, some were even transferred to casualty clearing stations - the first point of entry for wounded from the front, this was a real measure of how much attitudes towards nurses had changed.

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One of the most recognised stretcher bearers recorded in Australian folklore is 202 Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick (who enlisted as John Simpson), ‘The Man with the Donkey’. Both of the
Vera Deakin was amongst these dedicated Medical Corp personnel. Vera was the daughter of former Australian Prime Minister Alfred Deakin (1903 – 1910) who headed the Australian Branch of the Wounded and Missing Enquiry Bureau. She said, “what we tried to accomplish as a bureau was to relieve as quickly as possible the anxiety of the relatives in Australia, to make the men realise that we were there to help and assist them in every way in our power, and to shield the authorities from unnecessary and duplicated enquiries.” After 9 months in Cairo from 1914, Vera Deakin and her staff worked tirelessly in London, organising the thousands of enquiries (27,000 in 1917 alone) from concerned families in Australia.

References:
1. Australian War Memorial (AWM) Canberra - Australian Nurses in France.
2. AWM Canberra – Unsung heroes.

Another that should receive some recognition is Staff Sister Pearl Corkhill MM. During the week commencing 27 July 1918, Number 38 Casualty Clearing Station came under a series of concentrated German shell attacks. Staff Sister Corkhill was serving here at the time and wrote to her mother after the attack on the 29 July.

“Today word came that I had been awarded the Military Medal. Well the CO sent over a bottle of champagne and they all drank to my health and now the medical officers are giving me a dinner in honour of the event. I can't see what I've done to deserve it but the part I don't like is having to face old George and Mary to get the medal. It will cost me a new mess dress, but I suppose I should not grumble at that- I'm still wearing the one I left Australia in.”

All fruit is good for us, be it fresh, frozen, dried or canned, so you can enjoy it whatever the season.

Antioxidants vitamins C, E and beta-carotene and the minerals zinc, selenium, manganese and copper have the ability to delay or prevent oxidation, the process that produces highly reactive and damaging free radicals. Free radical damage ages us and causes oxidative changes that increase the risk of heart disease and cells that can initiate cancers. Vitamin E also protects against cancer and heart disease, premature ageing, cataracts and other diseases. It strengthens blood capillary walls and helps to generate new skin.

Antioxidants also maintain normal cell function. Bioflavonoids are another type of antioxidant. They work with vitamin C to boost immunity and to strengthen blood capillaries, and act as anti-inflammatory agents. B vitamins are vital for healthy nerves and releasing energy from food during digestion.
A 20th Anniversary Special Event!

Agelink Theatre Inc is celebrating 20 years of creating theatre from oral histories, entertaining the public and affirming the value of our seniors.

Back by popular demand and proudly supported by The City of Perth as part of ANZAC week, Agelink presents the critically acclaimed play DEAR HEART for three only concert style performances from Friday 19 April to Tuesday 23 April 2013 at the State Library of WA in the Perth Cultural Centre.

DEAR HEART, by Jenny Davis, is a beautiful, true love story, is dedicated to the heart. Jones and Stuart Halusz mix a kind of noble optimism that verges on the heart-breaking... a play that at once tests and reaffirms your faith in the human spirit and comes warmly endorsed...”

The Scotsmans

“Agelink Theatre is theatre of the heart.” Tim Minchin

DEAR HEART by Jenny Davis

Starring Rebecca Davis and Stuart Halusz.

Musical Director Craig Skelton, Featuring vocals by Alinta Carroll.

Venue: State Library of WA, Perth Cultural Centre

Dates: Three Performances Only – Friday 19 April, Saturday 20 April, Tuesday 23 April at 11am

Duration: Approx 70 minutes

*Special guest appearance Tuesday 23 April by Opera Australia star, Lisa Harper-Brown

Bookings: www.trybooking.com

Ticket prices: $20 full, $15 concession

Two FREE Oral History Workshops in association with the Battye Library.

Come and share your stories and listen to the stories of others, or simply become inspired to record your own or your family’s recollections for posterity. Each workshop will feature members of the AIF and RAAF from WWII, as well as members of the home front. All reminiscences are welcome.

Why not attend a workshop followed by a performance of Dear Heart?

Sat April 20 and Tues 23 April at 9.30-10.45am - Great Southern Room, 4th Floor - State Library of WA, Perth Cultural Centre

Registrations essential Ph 9384 8158

FROM THE WRITER AND DIRECTOR OF “DEAR HEART”, JENNY DAVIS

Wynne Brooks was my merry aunt. Born in North London, her father ran a fairground at one time, and Wynne herself took part in amateur dramatics. She loved to laugh, a characteristic which helped through a tragic episode in her life. During World War II she wrote dozens of letters to her husband, Harold Brooks, most of which were returned marked NO TRACE RAF INDIA COMMAND. Fifty years later I and my sisters recovered these letters in an old suitcase in her attic while we were sorting through her effects.

This is a true story based on those letters. Dear Heart, the play was written in 1995 for my daughter, Rebecca, and her husband, Stuart Halus, so it is a real family affair. We have performed all around Western Australia, in Sydney, Melbourne, London (for VJ Day 1995) and to critical acclaim at Edinburgh Fringe Festival in 2007. In 1998 I wrote Dear Heart as a novel published by Allen & Unwin which was released in Australia and London. I am delighted that the outpouring of hope and love in the letters which Wynne must have thought went nowhere, has subsequently moved many thousands of people.

Dear Heart is dedicated to the many families around the world, of any nationality, who wait anxiously for the return of their loved ones.

Irene Jarzabek, Publicist

Remembering Them...

Last edition we introduced Remembering Them, our World War One Centenary Project. Western Australian Museum staff are still keen to hear stories from your community.

One regional community will tell the story of a soldier who went to war and after returning to Western Australia, made a new start far away from those he knew. He worked hard as a farm hand and was a valued worker. He never spoke of his war-time experiences.

This man worked the land with a family, not his own, for many years and younger family members gradually got him to accept improvements to his wooden shed on their land. When he was too old to work, he lived in his shed until his death.

His few possessions were passed to the local historical society as he left no details about his family. His diaries, written over many years, do mention the war and refer to some of his experiences. While the references are not always direct, the impact the conflict had upon him was clearly marked in his writing.

This man’s story will be told in that community’s contribution to the Remembering Them project.

There are so many stories to be told and many people all over the State willing to be involved.

Please contact either Amy or Claire – Francis Craig to have a chat about your project and how you can be involved.

Call (08) 9212 3708.

2013 Western Australian Heritage Festival

Get out learn more about your local community with 140 events on offer during the 2013 Western Australian Heritage Festival. Celebrating Australia’s historic, natural and Aboriginal heritage, the Festival runs from 18 April to 18 May. Only in its second year, this Festival offers event goers a chance to explore and celebrate their heritage across the state. Grab a friend and visit a market or fair, see demonstrations, take a tour, hear a talk or participate in a workshop. There are lots of fun events and activities for the whole family.

Visit www.nationaltrust.org.au/wa to download a program for WA, or click on the link on the website to visit the App Store and download the free Festival iPhone app to access events across Australia (available from 13 April).

The Festival, part of a national project, aims to get people to think a little more about the things that are important to them in the community and celebrate their heritage. Not in WA during the Festival? Go online (www.nationaltrust.org.au) and check out events in other states and territories.

While the Festival officially runs from 18 April (International Day for Monuments and Sites) to 18 May (International Museums Day), there are a few extras on either end of the Festival, so be sure to check dates in the program. The Festival links with and compliments Australian Heritage Week 13 – 21 April, and celebrates ANZAC Day (25 April) and National Archaeology Week (19 – 25 May).

The Festival is supported by the Australian Governments Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities and the National Trusts across Australia.

Julie Hutchens - National Trust of Australia (WA)
Transport on ANZAC Day

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Train Station</th>
<th>Departing at</th>
<th>Arriving at Perth</th>
<th>Connecting Shuttles</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clarkson</td>
<td>4.18am</td>
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<td>4.38am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandurah</td>
<td>4.10am</td>
<td>5.00am</td>
<td>Depart between 4.50am and 5.30am from Stand W2 on William Street, between Murray Street and Hay Street.</td>
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<td>4.30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Armadale</td>
<td>4.24am</td>
<td>5.03am</td>
<td>Depart between 5.05am and 5.30am from Rot CAT stop 24 outside Wellington Street Bus Station.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fremantle</td>
<td>4.50am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Midland</td>
<td>4.40am</td>
<td>5.05am</td>
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Regarding the Vietnam Service:
Route 621 runs between the Vietnam Memorial and the State War Memorial every five minutes from 4.45am until 7.30am, except during the Dawn Service and Vietnam Memorial Service. A return shuttle service will operate to Perth until 8.30am.

Lunch In the Gallipoli Room
ANZAC Day

ANZAC Club will be running a traditional Roast Luncheon, including Dessert and Tea or Coffee in the Gallipoli Room on ANZAC DAY. This is a special event in the ANZAC Club and is reserved for ESO’s and Ex Service or Unit Associations. A limited Bar service will also be available with Beer, Wines and Soft drinks available for additional purchase.

*When you can’t maintain your home*
*When security is a worry*
*When you want to reduce outgoings*

You should consider a brand new spacious apartment at the Royal Australian Air Force Association’s Estate in Bull Creek.

Those who have already made the move say it is a wonderful way to live – especially in retirement. They have found that apartment living is hassle-free with significant benefits in terms of both lifestyle and finances.

5 available now or choose an apartment in our second development and move in when it’s completed in the latter half of 2014.

$475,000 to $749,000
Only $5000 deposit
Balance at settlement

Phone Maureen Winton 9311 4488 for information then come and see our display apartment.

ANOTHER QUALITY DEVELOPMENT BY THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE ASSOCIATION – WHERE ALL RETIREES ARE WELCOME.
## PINJARRA RSL SUB BRANCH

**Address:** PO BOX 421 PINJARRA WA 6208  
**Email:** pinjarrarsl@westnet.com.au

### ANZAC DAY 2013 PROGRAM

- **0600 hours:** Dawn Service – Civic Hall Pinjarra Road  
- **1030 hours:** Parade form up in Henry Street  
- **1045 hours:** Parade march off and proceed to Memorial  
- **1100 hours:** ANZAC Day Service at Memorial

Fellowship at the RSL Hall on completion of ANZAC Day Service.  
Sausage Sizzle – Raffles – Two Up – Entertainment by the Perth Highland Pipe Band

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## RSL EAST VICTORIA PARK SUB BRANCH

**2013 ANZAC DAY EVE SERVICE**

The RSL East Victoria Park Sub-Branch will once again be conducting their Annual ANZAC Eve Service & Wreath Laying Ceremony followed by a light supper on Wednesday 24 April 2013 and as in past years, we would like to extend an invitation for RSL Members and the community to attend the service.

The format for the ceremony will be similar to previous years and the details are:

- **Date:** Wednesday 24 April 2013  
- **Time:** 6.00pm (Arrival no later than 5.45pm, thank you)  
- **Location:** East Victoria Park RSL Sub Branch  
  1 Fred Bell Parade, St James

We look forward to you attending this service.

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## ANZAC COMMEMORATION SERVICE

**Conducted by the Narrogin Sub-Branch of the RSL**

**THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2013**

**10:00am at the Narrogin Memorial park**

**DAWN SERVICE**

5:45 AM IN THE MEMORIAL PARK

Let us remember with thanksgiving and honour before God and man all ranks of the services who have died giving their lives for their country.

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## Let Us Serve You on ANZAC Day

**Heads or tails? Join us in keeping the traditions alive this ANZAC Day at Burswood Entertainment Complex.**

Every year, we pause to reflect on the courage and sacrifices made by all past and present servicemen and women, and as a mark of respect the Casino will be closed from 3am and reopening at 12 noon on Thursday, 25 April.

Get into the spirit with a traditional game of Two-up where part proceeds will be donated to the RSL WA branch, and take in all the other great entertainment options while you’re here.

Crown Perth is a proud, longstanding supporter of RSL WA.

To find out more about ANZAC Day at Crown Perth, call 9362 7777 or visit crownperth.com.au
ANZAC Day
Local March & Ceremony
Saturday 20 April 2013
11:00am

Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch
INVITE
ALL COMMUNITY MEMBERS JOIN ITS
SERVICE AT
Kalamunda Memorial Garden
Canning Road Kalamunda
(NEXT TO THE AGRICULTURAL HALL)

Muster at 10:30am in carpark behind “Thai on the Hill”
“Lest We Forget”

ANZAC DAY STREET PARADE &
COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
SUNDAY 21 April 2013
Street Parade step off at 10:30am from corner of Sylvia & Carcoola Streets around the whole shopping centre and back to Sylvia Street RSL Sub Branch forecourt for our service.
Service at 11.00am to 11.45am
$2.00 donation per person for light refreshments
Drinks are available at RSL prices
Parking at rear of RSL Sub Branch building

ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE
THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2013
The DAWN SERVICE is held at 6.00am at the Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch parade ground in the forecourt of the RSL.

Purslowe Funerals
To embrace a lifetime, we give you time.

Time to plan.
Time to reflect.
Time to celebrate.
We give you time.

Proudly supporting the RSL in Western Australia
Discounts for RSL members and their spouses

Midland
239 Great Eastern Hwy
(Cnr Brockman Rd)
9274 3866

North Perth
15 Scarborough Beach Rd
9444 4835

South Fremantle
254 Hampton Rd
9335 4111

Victoria Park
289 Albany Hwy
9361 1185

Wangara
Cnr Buckingham Drive and Wanneroo Rd
9409 9119

Greenbushes Sub - Branch of
The Returned & Services League

ANZAC DAY SERVICE
Stand To at RSL HALL
Blackwood Road Greenbushes
5:50am

Parade March to Memorial
5:55am

Dawn Service at Memorial
6:00am

Parade Retires
6:45am

Gunfire Breakfast
7:00am
at RSL Hall

This year’s service will feature three representatives from the Bunbury Lighthorse Troop with their mounts.
The Gosnells ANZAC Day Service commences with a march from the Coles car park, opposite the Gosnells Hotel, commencing at 0630.

The Service at the War Memorial, adjacent to the Gosnells Council Chambers, commences at 0700. At the conclusion of the service there will be a free “Gunfire Breakfast” for all by Gosnells Rotary.

KALAMUNDA Sub-Branch R&SL
Invites all Service Members &
The Kalamunda & Districts Community to attend the
25 April at 5:45am
ANZAC Day
Dawn Service &
Gunfire Breakfast
At the Memorial Garden. (Next to the Agricultural Hall)

A Gunfire Breakfast will follow the Dawn Service

For further information contact Secretary: Doug Carpenter - Phone 92573713

“Lest we forget”

RSL City of Cockburn Sub-Branch
73 Frederick Road Hamilton Hill WA 6163

The RSL with assistance from the City of Cockburn is conducting the annual RSL City of Cockburn ANZAC Youth Parade and Service, Thursday 18 April 2013. The school students assemble at 9.30 at the City of Cockburn car park Coleville Crescent, Spearwood. The parade of students march into Spearwood Avenue to the RSL Memorial Park. The service will commence at 10.10am

We invite all RSL Members and visitors to join us on this special day
After service refreshments and light lunch at the Sub-Branch. For further information contact Secretary Lawrie Scott - 9337 8879

ANZAC DAY 2013
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch will be conducting their annual Dawn Service on ANZAC Day, Thursday 25 April 2013 on the Charles Riley Reserve, Corner of North Beach and Kilcower Road North Beach commencing at 0600.

We cordially invite all veterans, ex-servicemen and women and especially younger veterans, families and friends in the North Beach and surrounding areas to attend. There will be limited seating available and toilet facilities are provided. This year for the first time the service will be displayed on a “big screen monitor”. 
Following the formal service, everyone will be invited back to the North Beach Bowling Club for a “Gunfire Breakfast”.

Off street parking will be available as directed by parking attendants.
Any disabled veterans requiring transport to the Dawn Service should contact the Secretary, Rob Sweet 0417 654 533
Scarborough Sub-Branch RSL
ANZAC Day Ceremony 2013

Location: Scarborough RSL,
Memorial Garden;
Cr Shearn Crescent &
Millcrest Street,
Doubleview.

There will be a dusk to dawn vigil (6:00pm
24/4 to 6:00 am 25/4) of the memorial by a
squad of scouts from 1st Wembley Downs
scout group led by group leader Mrs Donna
Farrell.

The master of ceremonies is IPP - Mr WJ
(Bill) Hedge

At 1500 hours on ANZAC Day a catafalque
party from Australian Defence Force will slow
march (with drum or music) from entry of
memorial garden to memorial where they will
station themselves on 4 sides of memorial
with arms reversed.

The guest clergyman will be Rev. Dougall
Ethell, Chaplain of Hale School who will
attend to prayers and lead hymn singing
which will include the National Anthems of
New Zealand and Australia.

We have the Challenge Brass Band present
to attend to the musical requirements of the
service.

The 'Last Post' and ‘Revello’ will be sounded
by LCPL David Scott from Australian Army
Music Section and the “Ode of Remembrance”
will be recited by President Mr Allan White.

Wreaths will be laid by representatives from
federal, state and local government bodies
plus representatives of the three services,
Scarborough RSL, Doubleview Bowling &
Recreation Club and private citizens.

A patriotic poem will be recited by Miss
Michelle Hedge.

After the singing of the Australian National
Anthem the service will conclude and those
interested will proceed to the adjacent
Doubleview Bowling & Recreation Club for
refreshments.

Malcolm Till - Secretary

Do You Have
Difficulty Going
to the Toilet

The BIDET SHOP® is in the
enviable position of having 100% of customers delighted by their
products. Stephen from The
BIDET SHOP® knows this first-
hand because he hears client’s
success stories daily. He says
people are constantly calling him
to let him know how happy they
are.

“People can’t wait to tell me what
difference the ‘paperless’ bidet
seat has made in their lives”,
says. “They are just so excited
about all aspects of the bidet and
are keen to share all the positives”.

One Occupational Therapist,
Renée Kelly says... “The bidet has
revolutionised my approach to
toilet hygiene for clients and carers
of various ages, with physical
and intellectual needs. The bidet
facilitates independence instilling
the client and carer with a sense
of empowerment, dignity and
confidence to attend to their own
self care.”

Another lady, who installed a
bidet in her home, described it as
a ‘life-changing’ event and couldn’t
believe a toilet seat would make
such a difference to her life. She
had always wanted a bidet in her
bathroom but had neither the
room nor the money to install one.

After she had read The
BIDET SHOP® ad in the local
newspaper...

- Replaces your existing toilet seat
- Installs minutes
- Warm water wash
- Warm air dryer
- Heated seat
- Filtered water
- Twin nozzles

...she felt it was ‘one of the
things in life that was meant to
be’. Her husband also suffers with
incontinence and arthritis, and
they found that the bidet had
made it a lot easier for him to use
the bathroom.

Stephen says that the full range of
bidets can be viewed and trialled at
outlets throughout Australia. He
also says, “We are the only
company in Australia to supply
the Hyundai and Coway range of
bidets and, they are backed by one
of the world’s largest companies
and offer seven-day service if the
customer has any problems”.

For more info or to purchase,
call The BIDET SHOP® on 6102 5610 (Local) or
1800 243 387 (Free Call),
View online at
www.thebidetshop.com.au
The exhibition at the State Library will be open to the public from Saturday 20 April. The exhibition focuses on the RSL in Western Australia and explores the themes of commemoration, defence and repatriation.

The online exhibition will be available at the State Library and online, just log in to our website at www.rslcentenary.org.au and click on the interactive map. The online exhibition maps the many Sub-Branches that have been formed in the League’s history and the Women’s auxiliaries that have supported them.

A series of public programmes are also being organised during the exhibition. These include a film screening of the Rats of Tobruk on 30 April at 5.45 in the State Library Theatre. A public lecture on 30 May on the State War Memorial and on Joan Dowson, bookings are required for this. A Family Day is organised for the 16 June in the State Library with activities including making a paper poppy and constructing a memorial out of Lego. This is open to all members of the public and no bookings are required. To read more about the public programmes, see the full page listing in this edition of The Listening Post or access our website at www.rslcentenary.org.au.

The exhibition also includes two art installations, the first being a field of poppy’s in the foyer of the State Library. The second being a model of the State War Memorial constructed from Lego. Both of these installations will be on display for the duration of the exhibition.

A travelling exhibition will commence at the conclusion of the State Library exhibition. If your Sub-Branch is interested in the travelling exhibition contact the RSL Living History project team at ANZAC House.
In 1916, a group of returned servicemen from the 11th Battalion met to form an association that would look after the interests of returned servicemen in Western Australia. It became known as the Returned Soldiers Association and later as the Returned & Services League (RSL) in Western Australia.

This exhibition focuses on the history of the RSL in Western Australia and its role in the community, with emphasis on the themes of commemoration, defence, and repatriation.

When: Saturday 20 April to Sunday 30 June 2013
Where: The Gallery, Ground Floor

Entry is FREE.
Open during State Library of Western Australia opening hours.


Film Screening – The Rats of Tobruk
(1944, 93 minutes, black and white, PG)
Australia’s only war-time feature film, it follows three drover friends who enlist in the Australian Army during World War II. This sober tribute to the Australian soldier attempts to depict the grim, dusty, desperate siege of Tobruk in Libya in 1941. Starring Grant Taylor, Peter Finch and Chips Rafferty.

When: Tuesday 30 April 2013, 5.45pm
Where: State Library Theatre
Free admission, no bookings required.

Public Lectures
The RSL, the public and the State War Memorial
Professor John Stephens traces the tumultuous history of the State War Memorial, and what it meant to the RSL and the War Memorial Committee in the face of public and government rejection.

Through the Eyes of a Lady - Joan Dowson and the RSL
Joan Dowson MBE OAM was one of the first women on the WA RSL State Executive, and her involvement spanned more than 60 years. Her son John gives a personal perspective of the post-World War II RSL in Western Australia from his mother’s point of view.

When: Thursday 30 May 2013, 11.30pm to 12.30pm
Where: Meet at the Welcome Desk on the Ground Floor

Bookings required. Call 9427 3111 to book your place.

Family Day
Build a memorial out of LEGO® or make a Paper Poppy
Parents can enjoy a leisurely look at the exhibition while their children build memorials out of LEGO® and poppies from paper. A $100 LEGO® gift voucher will be awarded to the most popular LEGO® memorial photograph submitted to the RSL Facebook page.

When: Sunday 16 June 2013, 10.00am to 3.30pm
Where: The Gallery, Ground Floor
No bookings required.
Public Transport on ANZAC Day
Serving and returned service personnel wearing service uniforms, campaign ribbons or medals can travel FREE on ANZAC Day.

Dawn Service Bus Shuttle
A free shuttle will operate from the Vietnam Memorial Pavilion at Western Power Parkland on May Drive every 5 minutes from 4.45 am to 7.30 am (except during the Dawn Service and Vietnam Service). Special train services will operate in the metro areas into the CBD commencing at 4.10 am (times depending on train lines), and shuttle buses from Perth City to the State War Memorial will run from 4.50 am.

For further information
Call the Transperth InfoLine 13 62 13 or visit www.transperth.wa.gov.au
TTY: 9428 1999, TIS: 13 14 50

The Dawn Service (6.00 am)
Kings Park & Botanic Gardens
Conducted at the State War Memorial in Fraser Avenue. Large screens have been erected to show historic footage and the Dawn Service and commences at 4.15 am. Please note no vehicle entry via Fraser Avenue and only limited parking is available. Please allow for delayed entry to and exit from Kings Park.

Special Access
Parking passes are available for aged and disabled veterans. Passes can be obtained by contacting the RSL on 9287 3799 or rslwhq@iinet.net.au

Seating
Seats will be placed on the upper level of the Court of Contemplation for aged & disabled veterans. Entry is through the main entrance to the Flame of Remembrance.

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast (7.00 am – 9.00 am)
Following the Dawn Service and preceding the ANZAC Day March, a FREE Gunfire Breakfast will be held in Stirling Gardens in St Georges Terrace (next door to Council House). Veterans and the community are invited to attend and share the spirit of ANZAC Day.

ANZAC Day March (9.30 am)
Australian Defence Forces will step off from the corner of William Street and St Georges Terrace at 9.30 am, followed by veteran carrying vehicles, and the Ex-Service Unit, Corps, Regimental Associations. Parade will march east along St Georges Terrace, turn right onto Barrack Street, left onto Riverside Drive, and left onto the Supreme Court Gardens.

The salute (to the right) will be taken at the saluting dais opposite Trinity Church. The Reviewing Officer is the Governor of Western Australia, His Excellency Mr Malcolm McCusker AC CVO QC. ANZAC Day Service (11.00 am)
The Parade will enter Supreme Court Gardens off Riverside Drive and form up facing west. The service will commence at 11.00 am.

Public Facilities
Seating for aged and disabled is available at the front of the stage and in the large covered areas on the reserve. Toilet facilities will be available on both sides of the reserve.

CBD Parking
All City of Perth open air carparks will be open on ANZAC Day. Fees will not apply at the following carparks between 6 am-1 pm: Terrace Road, Point Fraser, Plain Street. Thereafter standard carpark fees will apply.

ANZAC Club
The ANZAC Club will be open from 7.00 am onward for breakfast, lunch and bar facilities. If your Association would like to book a table please contact the ANZAC Club on 9287 3714 to make your booking and catering arrangements.

Kings Park Road Closures

City Road Closures

Parade Route
Starts 9:30am

ROAD CLOSURES:

4:00am to 5:00pm
7:00am to 12:30pm
8:00am to 12:30pm

Kings Park Road Closures
The Junior Sailors Mess at HMAS Stirling has undergone some major improvements after relocating to a larger function centre on the base.

The revamped Tamar Tavern reopened its doors at the end of January, offering a relaxed space that is sure to be the envy of Defence mess members everywhere. The move was mostly self-funded, with the Stirling Welfare Committee contributing some additional funds to upgrade amenities, allowing the mess to acquire a new entertainment system featuring a 160-inch projector screen, new furniture and modernised bar equipment.

Determined to ensure the venue takes a responsible approach to alcohol, the mess committee joined forces with the Western Australia Alcohol and Drug Program Coordinator to implement some positive initiatives, including a skipper program and an alcohol-free zone.

The skipper program entitles designated drivers, identified by brightly coloured wristbands, to unlimited free soft drink on Friday and Saturday nights. The alcohol-free room was established to give members and their families a space to enjoy the benefits of the mess in an alcohol-free environment.

Like the main section of the Tamar Tavern, the space features a pool table, an entertainment system, a lounge area and gaming equipment.

CO Stirling CAPT Angela Bond opened the revamped facility and praised the efforts of the junior sailors.

“They have managed to create a nicer environment, which is more inviting and conducive to the sense of community which should be present at all of our messes. This venue should have no trouble enticing people to stay on board and drink responsibly, rather than going ashore,” CAPT Bond said.

“We wanted to create an atmosphere that was good enough to entice junior sailors here on their days off. I definitely think we have achieved what we set out to do.”

LS James Tew from the Junior Sailors Mess Committee said moving the mess to its new location was a massive undertaking, but the result would benefit members for years to come.

“There’s so much more room here now, and all the hard work has definitely been worth it,” he said.

The new and improved mess is sure to please the growing number of junior sailors living on board at Stirling, who have chosen to live in the base’s new state-of-the-art service accommodation, built as part of Project Single Leap.

LEUT Sarah West
Reproduced with permission from Navy News

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EASE THE PAIN OF YOUR FAMILY’S LOSS WITH A PRE-PAID FUNERAL FROM BOWRA & O’DEA.

In the confusion and emotional numbness that follows when a person dies, it can be difficult for grieving relatives to make decisions about funeral arrangements.

Bowra & O’Dea, Funeral Directors, wholly owned and operated in Western Australia for more than 110 years, are now offering a special service to RSL members interested in PrePaid Funeral Plans. There are many benefits to a PrePaid Funeral Plan:

• The peace of mind of knowing your family will not have to make burdensome decisions at difficult time.

• The opportunity to design the funeral service as you wish and not as others would like it.

• Our price inflation guarantee. By taking out a PrePaid Funeral Plan you effectively freeze the price of your funeral costs in the future.

• A PrePaid Funeral Plan does not become a part of your estate and is not subject to any administration.

• You will lessen the anguish that family may feel regarding whether they did the right thing.

• We will arrange an obligation free appointment to discuss your personal needs.

• Your PrePaid Funeral Plan can be paid in instalments.

Special extras for RSL members:

• Free extra limousine

• No administration fee for immediate payment in full

• 5% discount on selected coffins

For more information call John Ranger at Bowra & O’Dea on (08) 9231 5100

Bowra & O’Dea. Simply a matter of trust.
Honouring those who were only 19

They were the forgotten diggers. A generation of young men who fought for Australia like their fathers before them. But they returned as outcasts, casualties of a war nobody understood. Yet time heals the injustices of the past. Now they are heroes, as revered as the warriors of Gallipoli, Tobruk, Kokoda and Korea. The Bradford Exchange is proud to honour the servicemen of South East Asia with the “Veterans Remembered Ring.”

A Moving Achievement in Craftsmanship and Design

As a bold salute to our heroes, this handsome ring has been precision-crafted by the Master Jewellers of The Bradford Exchange and plated in sterling silver for an elegantly gleaming finish. The famous Iroquois ‘Huey’ chopper looms large and proud in a rich silver-tone from a bed of genuine black onyx. The defining symbol of a generation, the ‘Huey’ is surrounded by the words ‘Veterans Remembered’ and a laurel wreath, the eternal symbol of the hero. Each side is flanked by military stars in dramatic raised-relief, while the inner band is engraved with the words every veteran lives by: Sacrifice • Mateship • Pride. More than fifty years after the first troop deployment, this message resonates stronger and more meaningful than ever before.

Exceptional Value with a Money-Back Guarantee

If you served in South East Asia, the “Veterans Remembered Ring” will stand as a proud tribute to your service. It also makes a meaningful keepsake for the family and friends of a veteran. This ring can be yours for just $147, payable three in easy, interest-free instalments of $49, plus $14.99 postage and handling. I understand I need pay nothing now.

PAY NOTHING NOW

Please respond promptly

YES! Please reserve the “Veterans Remembered Men’s Ring” for me as described in this advertisement. This ring is available for three instalments of $49, a total of $147 plus $14.99 postage and handling. I understand I need pay nothing now.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms               First Name:
Surname:
Address:
Postcode:
Phone: (optional)
Email: (optional)
My ring size is:

Arrange with a Certificate of Authenticity and a custom-crafted presentation box – ideal for gift giving

For quickest delivery, order online:
www.bradford.com.au

Quoting promotion code: 66348

A Fine Jewellery Exclusive

Only from The Bradford Exchange

Please select your preferred reservation option:
1. [ ] MAIL no stamp required, to: The Bradford Exchange, Reply Paid 86369 Parramatta NSW 2124
2. [ ] FAX (02) 9841 3399 – 24hrs

Please allow up to 28 days for delivery. All sales subject to product availability and acceptance. Credit criteria may apply. From time to time, we may allow carefully screened companies to contact you. If you would prefer not to receive such offers, please tick this box.
ANZAC Day 2013
Gunfire Breakfast
Thursday, April 25th

To cope with the increased demand on the club, we will have a very large capacity Marquee, licensed to sell Alcoholic beverages for the occasion.

This year the club will only sell and supply packaged products at the Marquee - this will speed up service at the dispense points. We will have three service points in the Marquee that will be adequately staffed for the day. This will mean that the delays and queue that were apparent at last years event will be avoided, as we will not be using Draught Beer equipment to dispense drinks - cutting down dramatically any delays experienced in obtaining service in the marquee.

Snacks like fish and chips, and sausage rolls will also be available throughout the day in the Club - and these can be obtained from the kitchen Servery.

Any enquiries to be directed to
Matthew Holyday, ANZAC
House Manager on 9287 3714
or anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au

They shall grow not old,
as we who are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun... and in the morning...
We will remember them.
“LEST WE FORGET”

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
The club will welcome all members and guests - Please remember that the Club does have a responsibility to comply with various licences and codes - and this means that at times, the capacity of persons in the club will reach the maximum number allowed. Please be aware that if the staff at the door do not permit you to enter the club at the time you would like, it is not a personal denial of entry - but represents the Club complying with its operating licences and safety regulations - and the cooperation and understanding of members and guests is appreciated.

ANZAC Day 2013
GUNFIRE BREAKFAST
After the Dawn Service - the traditional ANZAC Club
Gunfire breakfast will be on as usual.
Starting at 0700 and served in the Club, members can enjoy a full “Cook Up” of Scrambled Eggs • Bacon • Sausages • Tomato • Hash Browns • Toast and Preserves • Tea or Coffee - for just $13.00.

ANZAC Club is now open for Morning Tea from 9.00am
– Or –
Lunch from 11.30am 2.00pm
Come in and taste Chef Michael’s delicacies
Make sure you leave your Business Card at the bar to win a lunch for Four!
Drawn monthly by your favourite ANZAC Club Staff

Thursday, April 25th
Sub-Branch News

Bombing of Darwin Service

The RSL City of Cockburn Sub-Branch conducted the inaugural Bombing of Darwin Commemorative Service at the RSL Memorial Park and Field of Poppies in Spearwood on Tuesday 19 February 2013. The service was well attended with 100 members and visitors attending, the Catafalque Party was from HMAS Stirling supported by RSL Member Grant O’Neill in period uniform.

The address was presented by Captain Angela Bond, Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling. In part of her address she commented “It was a moment Australia realised the importance of a strong and strategically located defence force - such was the sense of security, it was only when allied aircraft were being shot down that people understood what was happening. It was a precise and damaging attack targeting the RAAF Bases, government offices, police stations and the Darwin Hospital”.

The wreath laying ceremony was led by RSL WA State President, Mr Graham Edwards AM, followed by sixteen invited VIP’s. After the service, all in attendance were then invited to the RSL Sub-Branch for refreshments and a light lunch. It was seen as a very successful day and now has a permanent place in our commemoration calendar.

Arthur J Stanton - RSL Vice President (Ceremonial)

Army Nurses Honoured

A Commemoration Ceremony to honour the Australian Army Nursing Sisters aboard the SS Vyner Brooke who drowned, were massacred at Bangka Island or died as Prisoners of War was held on 14 February, the anniversary of the sinking, at the Memorial at Point Walter Reserve, Bicton. Mention was also made of the nurses who perished at Woodman Point Quarantine Station after WWI whilst caring for troops suffering from the Spanish Flu and those aboard the Hospital Ship Centaur when sunk by a Japanese submarine in WWII.

Those present listened to a tribute made by the President, Greg Hunter, and also had the opportunity to listen to the a cappella “Largo” performed by the Sing from the Heart Choir. “Largo” was one of the a cappella songs sung by the captives in camp.

Helen Pickering - Hon Sec Applecross

End of an era

The Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch Women’s Auxiliary, formed in 1948, closed their books after 65 years. The inaugural President, Glad Rolfe, was present when the last President, Kath Jones, presented a substantial cheque to Sub Branch President Scott Rogers at our February meeting.

Well done Ladies.

Roy Jewell - Honorary Secretary

Katanning Visit

Early March witnessed our State President Graham Edwards and our CEO Phil Orchard visit the great south area of Katanning. The Sub-branch had handed in its charter but Graham’s maxim ‘we won’t give up until the whistle blows’ we travelled to visit the survivors. That is what they were. They shall grow old and age shall not condemn us is a great adage, however the truism of aging is physical immobility.

The trusty few arrived still with the same valiant heart, but no replacement numbers. Service members from Wagin, Kulin, and Gnawangerup arrived. Some with ten or less in their Sub-branches and still determined to parade at their dawn service. However, the vigorous administration and management required for eleven o’clock marches was not forthcoming.

The Katanning Lions have stepped in and with all the assistance from the few the dawn service will continue. The Shire President also threw his support and Graham ensured him that correct protocols would be forthcoming and reiterated that support would also be there for Remembrance Day. Albany RSL President Peter Aspinal and Laurie ‘Young Warrior’ Fraser have both offered to assist with protocols.

The afternoon saw the various Sub-branch representatives inform Graham and Phil of some difficulties faced by remote Sub-branch locations and how environmental and economic rationalisation impacted on all service organisations with the absence of workforce. Graham informed them all that he was proud of them with their courage to continue in service of the RSL. He emphasised that under his recent management the RSL headquarters was not there to dictate but to offer advice and that all the troops who had arrived today were a credit, not only to their various Sub-branches, but the towns they lived in.

Tony Thatcher

Pinjarra RSL Sunday Twilight Dinner

24 March 2013

Peter & Ruth Hedrick along with guests from Rockingham, Dawesville RSL and Kwinana Veteran’s Health Group joined Pinjarra Sub Branch for an afternoon of listening and dance.

Sue O’Donnell - Secretary

inviting the music of Entertainer Peter Della Costa.

Graham Edwards, RSLWA State President and his wife Noelene were made very welcome by everyone.

The Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch Women’s Auxiliary

Well done Ladies.

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Tony Thatcher
FROM THE CEO

In our efforts to improve our service we sought membership opinion on 10 important issues into how we conduct our business within State Branch. Response has been far better than previous surveys with 55 Sub-Branches responding of which 16 wished to remain anonymous. Regrettably six returns were received too late for this issue. The State Executive was appraised of the response seen below in traffic light grid format. Green is favourable response, Amber is nil response, unsure or not applicable and Red is a critical response.

Below is a summary of how responses were divide and a random selection of both positive and negative comments.

1. Is your Sub-Branch satisfied with the level of service received from State Office including: Consultation over major issues; Level of communication and value of information sent and access to advice, services and promptness of response on queries?

Comments included:
- HQ, referred to as the “Black Hole” where everything gets sucked in and disappears never to be seen or heard about again.
- The admin team at State Branch have consistently responded to our requests in a timely and professional manner at all times.
- The accepted modus operandi was to treat major issues at State Congress which is not the forum to debate effectively. Matters raised at State Executive and/ or Board level that were of interest to sub-branches were never communicated to them. The level/value of communication to Sub-Branches is inconsistent - at times acceptable but instances of short notice communications where there is insufficient time available for Sub-Branch committees to advise members particularly those not on email.

What are we doing:
Our policy is to provide a friendly, open and transparent service in all that we do. Emails & telephones messages will be answered within 24hrs subject to availability. Our contact database is only as good as the contact details provided so please ensure your office bearers details are correct. More information will be available through our website, Listening Post & SBS. We appreciate that not all information forwarded on from other agencies gives SBs time to consider their response. This shortfall has been relayed to these agencies.

2. Do members of your Sub-Branch access the ANZAC House dining room (mainly for metropolitan Sub-Branches)?

Comments included:
- Cost of parking and distance from railway is a factor that influences any dining out in the city.
- Trying to get there is the problem - eg no parking, long way from the train station.
- Relocating to an outer Perth area would be a good move.
- A menu too far.
- Good food, ambience is fine. Branch members who have visited are satisfied.
- The service and quality of meals has improved out of sight since the appointment of Matthew and Michael. The only negative is the shabby and unprofessional appearance of the club facilities.

What are we doing:
The lease scenario with ANZAC House is a complicated issue that has caused much discussion and now awaits ministerial action. All safety items remain within maintenance schedules, however there are pieces of equipment that are fast approaching the use by date. The state of the House desperately needs brightening up and a full refurbishment, if we remain at St George’s Terrace, undertaken. Now that the State Election is completed your Building & Facilities Management committee will take this forward.

3. What services at ANZAC House would your Sub-Branch members change?

Comments included:
- Response was mixed with the main topic being membership renewals etc. It was also suggested that the President and CEO/State Secretary visit Sub- Branches to be seen by all members.
- Bar opening hours
- Services are well set out and members know where everything is located.
- More regional activities eg visit by President and surrounding clubs invited.
- If the ANZAC Club is to attract younger members, it requires modification to provide the services they want e.g. internet station, WIFI for Internet access on personal devices, access to live sport on FOXTEL, games area [electronic], etc. Many of the younger folk do NOT drink during working hours due to employer policy but would be prepared to enter the Club for a meal if they had access to Internet/sporting broadcasts/games. Many of the older folk are wearing hearing aids and, when listening to presentations that involve microphone or AV presentations, they miss the gist of the presentation due to background noise - RSL should install assistive devices and accessories that use digital technology to enhance speech and to filter out disturbing background noise before it reaches the hearing aid. This aid could be funded by DVA or Lotteries.

What are we doing:
The suggestions regarding the facilities are all part of modernising ANZAC House and will very much part of the refurbishment schedule. Since January 2013 the State President and CEO have visited Bunbury RSL (65 attendees from surrounding SB), Margaret River (12 attendees from surrounding SBs), Albany (14 attendees from surrounding SBs), Beverly (12 attendees). Future schedule: Avon Region 12 April – Hosted by Northam; National Presidents visit 13 May at Bellevue & East Victoria Park for office bearers of all SBs; Esperance & Goldfields Region 4/5 May; Midwest & Kimberley to be programmed.

4. Does your Sub-Branch believe The Listening Post is relevant?

Comments included:
- It has all the relevant information for members, great articles, memorials, special dates and commemorations. Sub-Branch news from the branches is very interesting as are the many photographs.
- Relevancy for younger veterans needs online info eg Facebook etc

5. Do the members of your Sub-Branch like the current format of The Listening Post?

Comments included:
- Like all newspapers and periodicals The Listening Post should have changes in its style and content over time.
- The newspaper format could be improved by adopting a glossy magazine format especially to improve the quality of photographs. The content needs to include, as its first priority, information on current activities [internal or external]. Filler items can then be used on any relevant subject. Members miss the opportunity to initiate discussion/debate through a ‘Letters to the Editor’ section - a great medium to generate feed back from the grass-roots membership as to what THEY want of the RSL not what a dysfunctional/misaligned State Executive want. Younger members/potential members don’t read paper preferring instead to learn/read through social media such as Facebook/Twitter. RSL Highgate has set up a Facebook connection [visit our website for the link] that is work in progress.

What are we doing:
Despite mostly positive feedback the LP needs modernising. The new format, content and period of issue is under review.
6. Does your Sub-Branch think The Sub-Branch Signal is relevant?

Comments included:
- It is often published too late for it to be presented at Sub-Branch meetings because the information is out of date.
- No idea - what is it?
- Has important dates, updates, clerical deadlines, statements from the President & Executive and financial information. All important info to help run the Sub-Branch.

What are we doing:
As with the LP the Signal needs modernising. A new format & content are under review.

7. Did your Sub-Branch vote in the recent election (December 2012) and if so are your members satisfied with the process?

Comments included:
- We had no input in the election as we could not make the meeting in Perth.
- One has to be satisfied if the Electoral Commission runs an election. Postal voting seems to be a good idea.
- Nomination forms to be sent to Sub-Branches earlier, to allow discussion at meetings in order that delegates vote in accordance with members wishes.
- The Sub-Branch did vote but had concerns regarding the overall process and the cost associated with conducting the elections. It was also felt that not enough information regarding the candidates was made available to the Sub-Branches before the election so that the views of the members could be sought.
- This is a matter that affects all clubs. Younger people work, join their own section of an organisation or are not interested. Adobe local papers, events held but still no incentive to join from those attending ensure from all the work put into promoting the RSL or any other club. We get promises but no final action from the interested party.
- You find the answer to this and we will all gladly conform! More interaction between RSL and current serving personnel.
- As with the LP the Signal needs modernising. A new format & content are under review.
- No idea - what is it?
- Comments included:
- Definitely no. The three or four big Sub-Branches could control the RSL. Many of our members are elderly and would not vote.
- Great idea and fits in with State, Local and Federal type election processes.
- We believe this would be a more democratic approach and gives members a fairer chance to decide who they want to support.
- This style of voting, although more expensive and time consuming, allows for individual members to look at the profile of each candidate and make up their own mind as to who they want to represent them.
- The current style of voting is subject to fraud and/or mismanagement in that the members do not have a say as to who is to represent them because they may not be at that particular meeting in which a decision was made as to who to vote for and, in many cases, no knowledge of the respective candidates is known due to lack of information being provided by the candidates.”

What are we doing:
In response to Q 7, 8 & 9, further consideration is being given to these responses by the Constitution Committee & State Executive.

8. If your Sub-Branch did not vote in the elections was there a particular reason which prevented or dissuaded your members for doing so?

Comments included:
- No voting papers received.
- Distance was a difficulty.
- Not enough information.
- Virtually no one to go to congress so branch can not vote.

9. Would your members support the election of State President, and members of the State Executive by direct postal vote in which all members participate, rather than just Sub-Branch delegates?

Comments included:
- The cost of such an exercise would be extremely expensive and the results poor (lack of returns). The current constitutional provisions are satisfactory.
- We believe this would be a more democratic approach and gives members a fairer chance to decide who they want to support.
- This style of voting, although more expensive and time consuming, allows for individual members to look at the profile of each candidate and make up their own mind as to who they want to represent them.
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What are we doing:
In response to Q 7, 8 & 9, further consideration is being given to these responses by the Constitution Committee & State Executive.

10. What do members of your Sub-Branch suggest to increase membership state wide?

Comments included:
- Involve younger vets and those who have served in allied forces and reserve members. Perhaps publicity in local newspapers - but is expensive. Make it a “want to be in” situation.
- This is a matter that affects all clubs. Younger people work, join their own section of an organisation or are just not interested. Adobe local papers, events held but still no incentive to join from those attending ensure from all the work put into promoting the RSL or any other club. We get promises but no final action from the interested party.
- You find the answer to this and we will all gladly conform! More interaction between RSL and current serving personnel.
- As this moment we have 8 full members and 19 affiliate members, still seeking more.
- The RSL needs to re-establish itself as the leading ESO provider for all veterans and serving members. “Get the WA Government to allow poker machines.
- In many country areas there is little scope for increasing service membership greatly. Younger ex-servicemen and women are just not there. The only way in these areas is to seek more affiliates with a family history of military involvement and allow affiliates a fuller role in the Sub-Branch affairs.
- RSL needs to be projected nationally and locally as modern interest for veterans, ex-service persons and their families and friends. Not a secret handshake club.
- The RSL is supposedly the peak ESO with responsibility to look after its members but over the past decade or so it seems to have lost direction and this hasn’t been helped by the creation of Allied and Kindred organisations which have further weakened membership. One has to bear in mind that as the members get older and retire the cost of belonging to groups like the RSL becomes an issue and if a member choose between the RSL and his own organisation then 10 to 1 it is going to be his/her own organisation because that person has an attachment with it, friends in it and probably the same views.
- Members are also complaining that the RSL federally is too soft when it comes to issues that are affecting members (such as current DFRDB/DFRDB issues and the TPI pension). Members are leaving the RSL because they feel that it isn’t being seen to step up and fight for those issues which are relevant to veterans. It is seen as being apolitical and not wanting to rock the boat whereas many members feel that it should stand up to Government issues relating to veteran and service needs.
- The RSL needs to change its image by encouraging the youth of this country to become part of the RSL thus ensuring that we are still supporting veterans whereas now they come up as a junior membership of the RSL, a Dawn Service and getting a hot sausage in a bun. This may take the form of a junior membership of the RSL supporting Military Cadet units, sponsoring education grants/scholarships and taking more interest in talking to schools and community groups.
It is of concern that following recent queries/comments from some Sub-Branches, there still appears to be a misconception that Poppy Day Collections received by RSLWA HQ are retained by RSLWA HQ in part or in full.

No Poppy Day Appeal Collections are retained by RSLWA HQ.

In accordance with the Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund Act 1932 which governs the annual Poppy Day Appeal, net proceeds are paid to the WAASSARF.

Under the WAASSARF Act, the RSLWA is entitled to recoup direct expenses incurred in conducting the annual Poppy Day Appeal.

In regard to Poppy Day Appeal 2012, collections received by RSLWA HQ were as follows:

Funds Received:

- Late payment by Sub-Branches (for Poppy Day 2011) $ 15,018.90
- Sub-Branch collections 2012 $ 197,401.04
- ESO/Other collections $ 21,467.76
- Total received $ 233,886.70

Less:

- Recoup of direct expenses pursuant to WAASSARF Act
  - Purchase of Poppies $ 30,160.00
  - Containers/Lids $ 3,680.00
  - Postage - Poppies $ 297.84
  - Couriers - Poppies $ 205.61
  - ADF & Volunteers lunch $ 2,210.89
  - Paraquad Industries – distribution Poppies $ 1,000.00
  - Advertising – West Australian $ 1,346.73
  - Staff/Admin Wages * $ 4,080.00
  - Total expenses $ 42,981.07

Balance of Funds Paid to WAASSARF $ 190,905.63

(* Although time is spent by RSLWA HQ staff throughout the year in regard to the Poppy Day Appeal, a recharge of only 1 week wages of applicable staff has been claimed to assist recover part of total wages expense incurred in relation to Poppy Day Appeal.)

The funds of $190,905.63 have been paid to the WAASSARF and no Poppy Day funds are held by RSLWA HQ.

It is hoped the above clarifies the process of Poppy Day Appeal collections received by RSLWA HQ and payment of such to the WAASSARF.

Peter McGlade – State Accountant

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**Poppy Day Appeal Collections**

**Australian Nurses at War and Men of the Kokoda**

**Join Today!**

**Exclusive RSL Member Offer of $259**

[Offer details and additional information provided.]
Reunions & Services

2nd Intake Junior Recruit Training, HMS Leeuwin 1961
First Ever Reunion
To be held in the Shellharbour area NSW about 110 km south of Sydney.
Approximate date is yet to be confirmed, assume Feb/March 2014.
To register your interest and for further details.
Contact Dave Turner davtki@bigpond.net.au or (02) 9520 2810

Australian Defence Force - Cambodia / UNTAC 1992-93
Proposed 20 Year Reunion - Saturday 25 May 2013, Canberra ACT
RMC Duntroon dinner and other events and venues to be decided.
All replies direct to either of these:
BRIG Peter Daniel - (formerly of UNTAC still serving in the Army!)
peter.daniel@defence.gov.au
Lia Studdert
(formerly of Australian Mission)
isastuddert@gmail.com
Bill Mason
(formerly of NGO Catholic Relief Services Australia)
wfmason@homemail.com.au

Royal Australian Navy Gunnery Branch - All Ranks Reunion
Hobart – 24, 25 and 26 April 2013
Contacts for further details:
Grah Halton: forestthi1@bigpond.com
Geoff Marshall:
wiggles.48@hotmail.com
Moss Lowe:
lowecharmaine81@yahoo.com.au

HMAS Ballan Veterans’ Association of Australia
Annual Reunion at Ulverstone Tasmania
Thursday 12 to Sunday 15 September 2013
New Members Welcome
John F Laughton JP – 36 Tamarrick Rd NARRE WARREN VIC 3805
(03) 9704 7799 - 0417 336 423

HMS Ganges Association
The WA Division would like to extend a welcome to ex Ganges boys and ships company to join the Division.
We meet regularly on the 4th Thursday of the odd month at the Swan Yacht Club
in East Fremantle. The HMS Ganges Association exists simply to encourage links, maintain comradeship between shipmates and keep the “Ganges Spirit” alive.
If you wish to know more about membership please contact the secretary Ian Critchley on 9419 3437.
Ian Critchley, Secretary

RAN - HMAS Leeuwin 8th Reunion (January 1964) Reunion
23 to 26 April 2014, Wollongong NSW
All replies direct to either of the following:
Bob Green – (02) 4283 5201 E: robertgreen@optusnet.com.au
or Rick Watkins (02) 4256 2650 E: rick.w2@bigpond.com

Nashos WA
The Nashos WA Group will be having their half yearly reunion at the Gosnells hotel on 1 June 2013 starting at 11 am, meeting together in the dining area. This is open for other Nashos to join in with the day’s events, drinks and meals are at hotel prices.
Partners and friends are welcome.
Bob McCauley

National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association
50th Anniversary Commemoration Service & Formal Dinner
Secretary John Kearns:

Naval Association - Geraldton
The Naval Association of Australia wishes to form a sub-section in Geraldton and welcome expressions of interest from serving and ex-serving members of the Navy who would like to join the Association. Telephone (08) 9409 1014 or email jack.lecras@ozemail.com.au

RAAF Rookies course 671 April 1964
To all members of RAAF Rookies course 671 April 1964:
A re-union for the 50th Anniversary will be held in Perth WA on or about the 26/27 April 2014. Please contact
John Kenny on 08 9291 9159 or email jandmkenny@net.net.au
Jim Muscat on 08 9402 1750 or justcallonite@gmail.com for further information.

RAAF MTR/GERM/GEMF/GSE Reunion
My name is Greg Lye, an ex RAAF MBB, I’m currently assisting a few others in putting a reunion together for anyone who served in a RAAF MTR/GSMS/GEMF/GSE unit or section anywhere in Australia or overseas.
The reunion is on 29 June in Ipswich.
More exciting is the construction of a website for the Masterbeders and we have been given some shots of 2SQN GSE section which are in one of the Photo Galleries.
Feel free to check out the page and then the website to see what we are doing - https://sites.google.com/site/raafgemmaffmasterbeds/home/gallery

Royal Australian Corps of Signals Association (SA)
RASigs National Reunion – Barossa Valley SA – 25-28 October 2013
The President and Members of the RASigs Association (SA) request the pleasure of your company for the 2013 RASigs National Reunion.
Register your interest at http://www.rasigs.com/
Contact President – RASigs Assn SA – Bruce Long 0417 227 533 – President.sa@rasigs.com

RAN - Proposed WRANS-RAN Servicewomen Reunion
28-30 March 2014
Hobart, Tasmania
Expressions of Interest accepted until the end of May 2013.
All replies and queries direct to: Cindy Gallahar - 1 Vernon Ave, MONTROSE, TASMANIA 7010 – (03) 6272 2944 - wrans.reunion2014@yahoo.com.au

The health benefits of dried fruit
What are the health benefits of dried fruit? Fruits lack in size, they make up for in the concentration of their nutrients. And being small they make wonderful snacks, especially for children.

Drying food is a traditional method of preservation. Reducing the moisture content and concentrating sugars means bacteria cannot thrive. The result of drying fruit, whether in the sun or by industrial processes, is higher levels of carbohydrates weight-for-weight than fresh fruit.
This makes dried fruit a great source of energy and an excellent snack food, particularly popular with small children. However, the high calorie content also means that dried fruit is best not eaten frequently between meals as this could increase the risk of tooth decay.
Many dried fruits are a significant source of potassium, and they contain useful amounts of minerals such as iron, as well as fibre. Drying reduces the water-soluble vitamin C content, but some B vitamins (also water-soluble) remain.
Apples contain lots of fibre (40% RNI in just 100 g/3 oz), plus a small amount of iron.
Apricots are a useful source of vitamin A (13% RNI in 100 g/3 oz), plus fibre. They are one of the richest fruit sources of iron, a mineral lacking in many women’s diets and essential to prevent anaemia. Bannanas when dried have five times the calories of fresh.
Blueberries provide a useful amount of fibre in 30 g (1 oz).

Notes

2 RAR/NZ (ANZAC) Battalions Vietnam Material gathered for a book recording all Frenchmen and Belgians who left from Australia to serve in the Great War 1914-18. Service may have been in the Australian, French, Belgian or UK forces.
Seeking: names, photos, information, anecdotes etc. All contacts answered.
Paul de Pierres - pcepeliers@bigpond.com - (08) 9368 1048 - paul.depierres@bigpond.com
- PO Box 76, Wyalkatchem, WA 6485

Request for Participants
Often during the day we make plans that we have to remember to carry out later on. For example, you want to remember to pick up a litre of milk on the way home. First, you would need to store this in your memory, then, on the way home you would need to notice when you go past the shops and remember that you had to pick up the milk. This process is called "remembering to remember" or prospective memory.
Researchers at The University of Western Australia, School of Psychology are very interested in this type of remembering and are seeking volunteers to help in a new and exciting project. We need volunteers over the age of 50. The study involves completing some questionnaires at home and participating in a single three hour session at the University of Western Australia in which you complete tasks measuring remembering to remember and other thinking skills. Be assured, no prior experience is required!
Remembering to remember may change in dementia. We need healthy older adults to help us learn what is 'normal' in this kind of memory, before we can know if it is a good diagnostic measure in dementia.
We provide parking and $5 to cover travel expenses. To volunteer, or for any questions relating to this study please contact Kevin Mo via email: 10316556@student.uwa.edu.au or Alice Gummery via email: 20386682@student.uwa.edu.au or leave a message on 0459 465 983.
Kevin Mo - Clinical Psychology Trainee
Justice: Ubon Veterans Finally Recognised

Members of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) who were posted to Thailand's Ubon Air Base between 25 June 1965 and 31 August 1968 are now finally eligible for the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal.

Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Senator David Feeney, said it was an honour to right such a wrong.

“These are veterans who have served their nation with pride, who put themselves into harm’s way for the good of Australia. I am proud to have implemented this change and to see that these veterans are finally recognised for their efforts toward the Vietnam War.”

The matter as to whether to award the VLSM to RAAF members at Ubon was referred to the Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal. The Tribunal found that RAAF personnel who served at Ubon should be awarded the VLSM.

Senator Feeney has accepted this finding on behalf of the Australian Government.

Head of the RAAF Ubon Recognition Group, Mr Mal Barnes, said it was a decision they have waited over 45 years for.

Ubon is a Royal Thai Air Force base in South Eastern Thailand. From 1965, the United States Air Force (USAF) started using Ubon in support of Thailand, and later as a base to attack North Vietnam. RAAF No 79 Squadron remained at Ubon to provide a joint presence to confront the spread of communism in South East Asia.

From March 1965, USAF increased its bombing of North Vietnamese targets, with Ubon being one of the bases used. As a result, Ubon became a significant target for retaliatory raids.

On 25 June 1965, RAAF No 79 Squadron commenced the highest sustainable armed air defence alert. This applied down to dusk, seven days per week. Two Sabre jets remained armed and ready for takeoff with five minutes notice. Gunners were also sent to protect the base from ground attack. They patrolled 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

“There is no doubt in my mind that these were warlike conditions. There was a very real risk, as demonstrated by the protection measures undertaken. This is a squadron that made a very significant difference to the campaign directed against North Vietnam and the protection of a base on behalf of the USAF.

“Awarding the VLSM will show for once and for all that these veterans gave essential and direct logistic support to Australia’s forces in Vietnam,” Senator Feeney said.

Royal Australian Air Force members who believe they may now be entitled to the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal, are invited to make application to the Directorate of Honours and Awards. Eligible next of kin may apply on behalf of deceased former members. Application forms can be obtained from www.defence.gov.au/medals/ or by calling the Defence Honours and Awards, toll free, on 1800 111 321.

The medal may not be awarded to a member who is eligible for the Vietnam Medal.

Members who have already submitted an application are not required to re-apply. The Tribunal's full report is available at http://defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au/inquiries/completed-inquiries/raaf-ubon/.

The Way We Were

August 22, 1932

Boy Scouts thrilled to meet Gallipoli commander

The gentleman talking with some of Perth’s awe-struck Boy Scouts is British Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood. He was known as the “soul of ANZAC” and commanded Australian and New Zealand forces on Gallipoli. He arrived in Fremantle on 6 August aboard the vessel Themistocles.

The West Australian reported on his hectic round of engagements. Sir William first addressed a packed Perth Town Hall audience. He also spoke at the Legacy Club and the 16th Battalion Association (they’d fought at Gallipoli), as well as visiting veterans at the Maimed and Limbless Men’s Hostel in West Perth, among other activities. He then visited the South West.

“For the purpose of declaring open an avenue of trees planted in honour of men from the Balingup district who lost their lives during the war, Field Marshal Sir William Birdwood visited Balingup on Saturday,” The West reported.

“He spent the night at Dardanup and yesterday morning motored to Perth, being received on the way by a party of Light Horsemen and 25th Battalion veterans at Waroona. He arrived in Perth shortly after midday and was the guest for the weekend of Lieutenant General Sir Talbot and Lady Hobbs.” Sir Talbot is on the left in the photo.

“When 1.25pm he laid a wreath on the State War Memorial and then he attended the Mons Memorial service at St George’s Cathedral. After the service he took a salute from a parade of war veterans in St Georges Terrace and attended a reception tendered to him by ex-service men and women at the Prince of Wales Theatre. Today he will leave for Borming to revisit his son-in-law and daughter, Mr and Mrs Colin Craig. Sir William leaves to join a ship for England on 6 September.”

Rod Moran
© THE WEST AUSTRALIAN

The Listening Post

April 2013

One of WA’s most respected and hardworking advocates for veteran issues has retired from public duties.

John ‘Bluey’ Ryan joined the Australian Army as a National Serviceman from Sydney as a Private. Upon completing his basic training he was posted to 4th Battalion RAR.

Private Ryan was posted to Vietnam, arriving 21 May 1968 and returning to Australia 366 days later with his battalion. After his National Service, Bluey opted to join the ARA (Australian Regular Army) rising to the rank of WO2, serving for 20 years.

After his Military career Bluey became a staunch advocate for ex-servicemen and women, who he saw as being disadvantaged as a result of their war service. To this end Bluey was elected as President of the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Servicemen and Servicewomen Association of Australia, more commonly known as the TPI Association.

His dedication to the TPI Association is legendary as he had access to the Prime Minister, the Minister for Veterans’ Affairs and the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) over many years.

Bluey served as National President of the TPI Association from 2000 to 2011. Amongst his many achievements in 2004, he was instrumental in convincing the Federal Government to implement legislation to alleviating financial hardship for 1,100 veterans without qualifying service. In 2004 he called on the Federal Government to introduce legislation to stop Centrelink counting Disability Pensions as income, also in the same year the Federal Government granted full indexation for the General Rate component of the Disability Pensions.

He was also active with the removal of Hollywood Private Hospital (HPH) formally the Repatriation Hospital, as the only hospital that was approved to treat ex-service personnel, with other hospitals in metropolitan and regional areas gaining approval to treat and admit ex-service personnel. During 2006 Bluey was also instrumental in convincing the Federal Government to allocate an additional $500m into health to allow specialists to honour Gold Card entitlements.

In the 2007 Federal Budget an additional $50.00 per fortnight was approved as a catch-up to Service Pensions and in September of the same year the Federal Government increased the General Rate to 5% for all TPI pensions to make-up for erosion as well as approving full indexation of the General Rate that resulted in all Disability Pensions being benchmarked to Service Pensions.

Amongst Bluey’s many achievements he has been a driving force into implementing an enquiry into veteran suicides and associated issues. The inquiry was chaired by Professor Dunt, resulting in changes to treatment of service veterans with emotional problems and their families.

“I have known Blue for many years. In my view he stands tall in the forest of ex-service men and women and ex-service organisations.”

As a Federal MP, I was always pleased to support Blue in a number of his challenges because I knew he was genuine and while we did not always agree on some issues, you always knew where you stood with Blue.

When he took on the job of National President of the TPI he walked into a wall of resentment from many who saw him simply as an un-welcome up-start from the West.

He challenged authority without fear or favour and pursued government and opposition with vigour on behalf of his members. He upset many of the Canberra Cocktail Circuit but he held true to his mission to work to improve the income and quality of life for TPI members. And he succeeded.

I am proud to call Bluey a friend.” – RSL WA President, Mr Graham Edwards AM

Bluey Ryan continues to enjoy his retirement with more time to spend with his long suffering family and respecting mates.

Denis Connelly

References: - The Totally and Permanently Incapacitated Servicemen and Women’s Association of Western Australia Branch Inc.
The editors have included new puzzles to test both our younger and young at heart readers. Sudoku is included in this and future editions of ‘The Listening Post’.

Look upon this quiz as stopping the onward march of Alzheimer’s Disease!

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9×9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3×3 boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each. The puzzle setter provides a partially completed grid.

Provided by Sudoko.com.au

Easy Sudoku

Sudoku

Across
1 Appeal
5 Baboon
8 Wing
11 Telegraphic signal
14 Green legumes
15 Ascent
19 Combine
20 Monosodium glutamate
21 Vane direction
22 Cliff debris
24 Netherland’s capital
25 Alternative (abbr.)
26 Poem
27 April (abbr.)
28 Oder
29 Less than two
30 Christ’s resurrected friend
35 Dashes
36 Foreign Agricultural Service
37 South American country
39 Couches
40 Computer characters
41 ___-a-sketch (child’s toy)
42 Genthus ___
44 Make better
46 ___ Keller, blind & deaf
48 A fox’s hole (2 wds.)
50 Prediction
51 Doubts
53 Engraved
56 Heat giver
58 Tub
61 Male sheep
66 Short poem
68 ___ Keller, blind & deaf
69 Shad
70 Restaurant listing
71 Sugar-free brand
72 Dalal ___
74 Bullfights cheer
76 Mold
77 Harp
79 Be mad
82 Choose
84 Capital of Afghanistan
86 Heat unit
87 Duke
91 Business abbr.
92 Beverage
93 Container

Down
1 Place
5 Atmosphere
96 Artist Van ___
99 Poached food
99 Therefore
101 Revolutions per minute
102 Asian country
103 Capital of Norway
105 Sound
106 Billion years
108 Wildcat
110 Unbridged
113 Car rental agency
114 Fill
116 In progress
122 Bind
123 Environmental protection agency (abbr)
124 Half a dozen
127 Guarantee
128 New York Island
130 Capital of Holland
132 Trug
134 Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries
136 Flat
137 Hawked
138 Planned seeds
141 Bog
143 Desert plants
147 Neglect
150 Street abbr.
151 Street abbr.
152 Rude
154 Love songs
158 Neil’s partner
159 Read
164 Snap-___ (child’s toy)
166 ___ Keller, blind & deaf
168 Start to develop
169 Review
170 Misprint
171 That girl
172 Carve
173 That (possessive)
174 Pen fillers

Crossword

Hard Sudoku

Sudoku

Easy Sudoku

Len Hall Commemorative Football Game

Friday 26 April 2013 Fremantle V Richmond

The 2013 Len Hall Game will commemorate the service and sacrifice of our Vietnam Veterans in a pre game commemorative ceremony.

The Fremantle Football Club would like to invite Vietnam Veterans to express their interest in participating in the pre game ceremony at the Len Hall Commemorative game on Friday 26 April 2013. Although we appreciate that family members would like to participate and represent Veterans who are unable to participate themselves, on this occasion our invitation is limited to Vietnam Veterans only.

If you are interested in participating in the pre game ceremony by marching onto Subiaco Oval in support of Vietnam Veterans and veterans from all conflicts please contact Kathryn Lloyd on 9368 8462 or Kathryn.Lloyd2@dvwa.gov.au.

Bouncedown is at 6.40pm and you will need to be at Subiaco Oval at 5.30pm in preparation for the pre-game ceremony.

Tickets are limited but the Fremantle Football Club is hoping to accommodate all of those who wish to participate.
The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc

The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc. (P.V.A. Australia Inc.) is very proud to be celebrating ten (10) years of Incorporation as the nationwide, not-for-profit, volunteer peak body supporting and representing partners/carers of veterans.

May 2013 will see the National Board of the Association gathering in Western Australia for our mid-year Conference and we are looking forward to sharing this visit with our wonderful members in W.A. who continue to amaze us with their dedication and loyalty to our mission:

“As the national body, voice and focus for all partners and present members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), their allies, and their families, we are committed to providing every support and assistance practicable for their welfare, health and special needs. This is achieved by our key role of providing leadership and advocacy for health and welfare promoting strategies, policy and program development that assists partners and their dependants and descendants.”

The National Board Conference is scheduled to be held from May 14-21, with the 14th and 21st as dedicated travel days to enable Directors from all State Branches to assemble.

P.V.A. Australia Inc.’s member State Branches are located in N.S.W./A.C.T., Queensland, Victoria, South Australia/Northern Territory, and Western Australia and through our nationwide 1300 553 835 help-line we offer support, friendship, information and understanding.

The Western Australia Branch of The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc. is located at Legacy House, 1130 Hay Street Perth; Postal Address is P.O Box 2435 Warwick W.A 6024 and at Legacy House, 1130 Hay Street Perth; Postal Address is P.O Box 2435 Warwick W.A 6024.

Further information regarding the W.A Branch of P.V.A. is available via Lesley Westlake, President, who can advise details of W.A’s support group meeting venues and times. You can contact Lesley on 1300 553 835 for the cost of a local call (from land lines).

Narelle Bronhead – President - The Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

New Pension Rates For Veteran Community

New pension and income support payments rates for veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia came into effect from 20 March 2013.

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Warren Snowdon, said the increase is part of the bi-annual indexation process. Veterans, partners, war widows and widowers will also receive a boost to their payments through the Clean Energy Supplement, a regular payment under the Household Assistance Package to help meet household costs associated with the carbon price.

A full list of the new pension indexation rates is available at www.dva.gov.au or by calling 133 254 or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia.
Unique Recovery Centre Opens For Australia’s War Wounded And Families Of Battle Casualties

A who’s who of Defence have launched Australia’s first off-base Family Recovery Centre for wounded Navy, Army and Air Force personnel and the families of battle casualties.

Former Defence Chief Rtd Gen. Peter Cosgrove and VC winner CPL Ben Roberts-Smith joined current and ex-servicemen in Brisbane to open the unique rehabilitation centre, catering to wounded ADF personnel who have served post-1990 and their loved ones.

“I thoroughly applaud this initiative to assist in the recovery of our military personnel, they have served their country and now Mates4Mates is helping to repay this debt,” Gen. Cosgrove said.

Mates4Mates works closely with the White Cloud Foundation whose Patron CPL Roberts-Smith added: “During my time in the military I have seen some of the tragic outcomes of active service.

“This centre will play a vital role in helping wounded soldiers make a productive and fulfilling transition out of Defence service, back into the general community.”

The Family Recovery Centre is operated by Mates4Mates, a non-profit initiative of RSL Queensland, and provides practical support to wounded, injured and ill serving and former servicemen and women.

It includes a gym, medical and psychological support services, drop-in centre and training programs for adventure challenges such as the RSL Soldiers Kokoda trek.

Mates4Mates Chairman Peter Davies said the facility was Australia’s first off-base recovery centre.

“Mates 4 Mates has been supporting on-base Soldier Recovery Centres at Enoggera and Townsville for some time,” Mr Davies said.

“Having the Family Recovery Centre in a civilian ‘demilitarised’ context makes it very accessible.

“We complement Defence services by supporting the families of ADF personnel who are also touched by traumatic experiences.

“Mates4Mates takes a contemporary approach to providing good old-fashioned mateship to a new generation and meeting the modern challenges facing servicemen and women wounded in more recent conflicts and missions.”

The project has won the heart of Australian actor Hugh Jackman who has urged all Australians to “back a mate” and donate to Mates4Mates.

“Mates4Mates is doing great things in helping people get their lives back together and also to support those families who have lost loved ones – it’s an incredible initiative,” Jackman said.

The Brisbane centre is a model for Mates4Mates centres planned around the country, focussing on the needs of a younger generation of servicemen and women and their families.

**Mates4Mates Background**

- **Mates4Mates** is a non-profit initiative of RSL Queensland.
- **Mates4Mates** provides practical support to physically and mentally wounded, injured and ill former and current ADF servicemen and women who have served post-1990, and their families.
- **Mates4Mates’** welfare, treatment and recovery programs include funding on-base Soldier Recovery Centres at Enoggera and Townsville, mental health support and research, back to work rehabilitation and adventure challenges.
- **Mates4Mates** works with the ADF and other defence service charities.
- Mates4Mates supporters include Pat Rafter, John Eales, Natalie Cook.

**Mates4Mates Facts**

- Since the commencement of the East Timor conflict in 1999, it is estimated in excess of 65,000 young Australians have contributed to the protection, welfare and prosperity of our nation by entering conflicts or peacekeeping missions abroad. (Source: DVA Service Rolls)
- After a decade of fighting, the war in Afghanistan has seen the Australian military suffer 249 battle casualties (above and beyond the lives lost), many of whom are facing life-changing challenges including loss of limbs, gunshot wound injuries, stress and mental illness. (Source: http://www.defence.gov.au)
- The most recent Defence data estimates that eight per cent or 2,491 of those deployed between 2002 and 2009 suffer from PTSD. (Source: http://www.defence.gov.au)

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**Support the RSL**

MY Community is a loyalty program where the customer at Cash and Carry in WA can determine where much needed funds are able to be directed in the community.

For every $100 (excluding tobacco and liquor products) spent the customer will receive one MY Community token. This token is then placed by the customer in one of our charity bins. Each month those bins will be emptied and the tokens tallied, ready for payment to the charity group. Payments to the charity will be quarterly.

Each one of our three Cash and Carry branches (Canning Vale, Baldivis and Bunbury) will have 20 Community groups participating in the program. The way the program works is for every $100 a customer spends in the store, they will receive one token to donate to the local community group of their choice. For example, if a customer spends $300 they will receive 3 coins to donate. Customers will deposit the coins they have received into a Community group’s deposit box.

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**Rats of Tobruk Service**

The Army Cadets from Christ Church Grammar School continued in there custo
dian support to the Rats of Tobruk by pro
viding a Guard of Honour and Flag raising tribute to the old Veterans on Sunday 24 Mar 13 at the Memorial Statue in Kings Park.

With only four Veterans in attendance this year it was a moving ceremony well supported by approx 80 family members and others who attended to pay their respect and lay wreaths.

The Cadet Unit Adjudant CUO Ashwin Ramanathan gave an inspiring talk on the achievements and hardships endured by the affectionately named "RATS OF TOBRUK" in the 1941 Battle of WWII. As indicated in his talk, Ashwin highlighted that the heroic stand of the Australians was an extremely important moment in the history of WWII.

The Army was represented by LTCOL Chris Adams, CO 11/28th RAWAR and the Navy by LTCDM Pete Radburn, HMAS Stirling. Dr Marg Sturdy attended as the representative of the sponsor of the event, Hollywood Private Hospital.

Michael O’Sullivan OAM MM - Coordinator
Army Cadets
I am sure that all those who served in Vietnam would be aware of the Ho Chi Minh trail and the various paths it took from the North to the South.

I remember clearly hearing about it, all those years ago during our regular intelligence briefings. There were various articles also about the trail, covered in the armed forces newspaper "Stars and Stripes". It had involved many and varied paths during the war and was constantly changing according to the strategic situation at the time.

In recent years, the trail that traversed Laos had been retracted and expedition rides had been implemented using Honda XR 250 trail bikes. This is a technical ride and not for the inexperienced.

The same company however, (Exploreindochina.com) has developed various other rides throughout Vietnam which can be completed by any person with average riding ability. This also includes veterans from the Vietnam war years, bearing in mind their ages now being at least mid-sixties and over.

One such ride I would recommend to former servicemen is a group ride from Hanoi to Saigon. This ride does not follow the main highway but meanders from one side of the country to the other on basic roads and mountain passes.

In April last year, I participated in this ride with a group of ten others, most of whom were from England with some from Scotland, Spain and Bulgaria. The oldest being sixty five with several others being in their mid-fifties. It was a most enjoyable experience with a good group of people.

The ride commenced in Hanoi with the first morning being spent on familiarization with the motor cycles we were to use. These bikes were Russian Urals with a 600 cc engine, military green in colour and resembling an early model Harley Davidson.

I think that the most daunting part on this first day for many of the riders was getting used to the traffic situation. Generally speaking, in Vietnam they travel on the right side of the carriageway and bigger vehicles have the right of way. It does not take very long to get used to it and is surprisingly easy. The interesting aspect is that one does not see any "Road Rage". There are a lot of roundabouts in Vietnam and if you became stationary, waiting for a gap to enter the roundabout, you would be waiting forever. The methodology is basically to keep moving slowly and the other traffic will let you in. It took a couple of hours to get out of the city of Hanoi and we did not have to stop once because of other traffic. The motoring public are very courteous.

We traveled about 150 kilometres on the first day, with the lead rider/guide and a tail end rider followed by a service vehicle with a couple of mechanics on board. We were heading generally west toward the border of Laos, stopping regularly for a drink of water and to get the "backside" off the bike for a moment. We traveled through Hoa Binh and on towards Mai Chau.

Our first night was spent in a wooden hotel which was raised on stilts and comfortable bedding was provided. The service vehicle following also carried food and drink supplies for the day and local Vietnamese food was provided for the evening meal.

During the entire ride, hotel accommodation was the norm apart from two nights spent in farm stays. These have been built to provide for groups of either school children or tourists. Very comfortable and clean and excellent food was always provided.

The ride generally involved a distance of around 300 kilometres each day but sometimes, only 150 kms were traveled. The mountain passes were slow and winding and on some days, fog was so thick that visibility was down to about twenty metres on some occasions.

After about the third day, the journey was taking us almost due south through Ngoc Lac and onto Thai Hoa where it then proceeded south east to the Provincial centre of Vinh, on the east coast. This was a great place to stay, an excellent hotel near the waters edge and a Phillipino band singing some good old 60's songs and doing a great job of it. We all enjoyed it and the beer was cold.

The following days involved some riding on narrow pathways and major highways. We traveled some distance on the Ho Chi Minh highway, staying a night in Dong Hoi and then on to Khe Sanh. Various staging area's were pointed out to us where troops and supplies were assembled prior to their long march south on the Ho Chi Minh trail. It was explained to us that whilst they assembled in Vietnam, the initial march was in a westerly direction, over the border into Laos and then south from there, re-entering Vietnam near the border of Cambodia.

We arrived at the town of Khe Sanh and of course, visited the area which was once the US Marine base. It was a good time to visit that particular site as it was nearing the end of April which is their "Liberation" day. There were numerous "old" soldiers, already preparing for their annual celebration. It was interesting in that the veterans from that time, dress in their military attire, jungle greens with medals. Due to rain on the ride that day, all of us in the riding group were wearing mustard coloured plastic jackets.

It was unfortunate that none of them could speak a word of english however, when the tour leader introduced me to them as a former Australian soldier, all they wanted to do was shake hands and have their photo's taken with me. It was a memorable day. We were told they were former members of 304 Regiment.

The base area now has a museum which displays numerous photo's and weapons used during the war and outside, adjacent to the air strip there is a Chinook on display as well as a C130 .

We stayed in a comfortable hotel in the town of Khe Sanh that night before heading off the following day to the east coast and once we reached the beach, we traveled south to Hue. The city of Hue is an interesting place and we had the opportunity to see the citadel there which was the site of a long battle during the 68 Tet offensive. Much of the damage done then is clearly displayed there now.

The ride took us from Hue, down the coast through Da Nang, Hoi An and then back across the country to near the Laos border and then south east to Kon Tum.

We continued on through Pleiku before heading back to the coast again and on to Nha Trang. A beautiful city and obviously a very popular tourist attraction. From there it was on to Da Lat and then to Phan Thiet where once again, the hotel accommodation was outstanding.

The final day was the ride from Phan Thiet through Long Khanh, Bien Hoa and on to Ho Chi Minh city. The ride into HCM city was enjoyable despite the shoulder to shoulder motorcycle traffic, incessant beeping of horns and high humidity.

This particular ride costs around the three grand mark and everything is included in that figure apart from alcohol and the air fare to and from Vietnam. Strongly recommended to any Vietnam veteran who enjoys riding.

Noel de Grussa

Note: This is from a mate of mine, Noel De Grussa, who served in Vietnam with 3 SAS Sqn, first tour, was WIA in August 1967 and evacuated home as a casualty. He was awarded a MID for his actions under fire on the day he was wounded and did a second tour with 3 SAS Sqn in 1969. Noel later left the Army and joined the WA Police and became the Sg t i/c of the Police Driving Wing which was at Maylands at the time and was responsible for pursuit driving instruction and for the Police car and motor cycle mobile displays at the Royal Show. He was awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) for his service to the WA Police Force from which he was subsequently retired on medical grounds as a result of his war wounds.

Barry Gratwick
“..Things will not go to plan…”

Shadows of Anzac
An intimate history of Gallipoli
David W. Cameron

“...you have read in the papers by now all about our landing, but perhaps an account of it from what I saw I will start right from the beginning…”

Tentatively the thirty-year-old graduate Private Arthur Blackburn, Gallipoli
Author and Historian David W. Cameron is an expert on the ANZAC campaign, Shadows of Anzac is his sixth book specifically focused on Gallipoli.

Shadows of Anzac: An intimate history of Gallipoli presents an international perspective of the Anzac experience. Viewed from both sides of the trenches the combination of stories and accounts from Turkish and Anzac alike provide depth to our understanding of this bloody campaign.

This is the story of the ‘ordinary’ men and women who personally experienced the Gallipoli campaign from April to December 1915. Soldiers of varied nationalities fought on both sides; the fighting at Gallipoli was not restricted to the Anzacs and Turkish alone. Non-combatants, men and women, also faced their own battles and fears supporting the soldiers. Cameron ensures their stories are told.

Drawing on letters, diaries and other primary and secondary sources, Cameron creates a vision of what these men and women – from all walks of life – experienced during the bloody 9 months of the campaign.

Shadows of Anzac provides an intimate and personal perspective of Anzac, a richly varied portrayal that describes the absurdity, monotony and often humour that set alongside the horrors of the bitter fight to claim the peninsula.

Additional Information:
The fighting at Anzac was not restricted to the ANZACs. The Turkish forces also fought from Anzac from the earliest days of the invasion and large numbers of Dutch and Indian troops were committed to the Anzac sector during the Dardanelles offensive designed to break the blockade. The invasion was also supported by large numbers of men – often non-combatants – who performed vital roles, including French laundry women who kept logistics operating in some form of ‘mending’ fashion, Indian mule handlers who moved supplies to the front line, and medical staff and army chaplains who worked on the battle, caring for the wounded and the dead.

About the Author:
David W. Cameron is a Contemporary historian with a passion for recording the overlooked history of Gallipoli. He has published a number of books on Australian military history and science and over forty research papers is internationally reviewed journals. David is an expert on the ANZAC campaign with this being his sixth book specifically focused on Gallipoli.

David completed his PhD in 1996 and was subsequently awarded an Australian Research Council (ARC) Post Doctoral Fellowship at the Australian National University, followed by an ARC QEII Fellowship at the University of Sydney. He is internationally known as an expert on private and human sacrifice.

Distributed throughout a number of different universities and educational organizations as well as conducting different universities and educational organizations as well as conducting numerous different international and professional conferences in Europe, Middle East and the UK.

I Author available for interviews, for more information, contact Cameron Publishing

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About the Book

In 1914 Jim and Charlie abandon the Australian outback for the excitement and adventure of the war to end all wars. But in the Light Horse they quietly discover the brutal realities of life on the frontlines. And nothing will ever be the same again.

Featurting stunning charcoal sketches by Brian Simmonds alongside primary source documents and historical photos, Light Horse Boy goes behind the scenes of the Light Horse legend for an intimate look at their experience of World War I.

About the Creators

Dianne Weller is the author of thirteen books for teenagers and younger readers. She enjoys combining her love of history with writing fiction. Dianne is the Western Australian Coordinator for the Society of Children’s Book Writers and Illustrators (SCBWI).

She lives on the south coast of WA, loves travelling and has spent much of her life overseas.

Brian Simmonds is a full-time artist who has exhibited in and won numerous prizes and awards for oil painting and mixed media works. His work can be found in many private and public collections throughout Australia. He is the illustrator of three books including The River (Fremantle Press, 2011).

Key Points

Weller’s last title, Lighthorse Girl, is on the Australian Curriculum’s reading list for history. It was a bestseller upon release and is in its third print run.

The book won the West Australian Young Readers’ Award and was shortlisted for the 2009 NSW Premier’s History Awards.

Simmonds was shortlisted for the CBCA Crichton Award for his book Light Horse.

Weller will be appearing at national, regional and international writers’ festivals in 2013.

Released for Anzac Day 2013.

Praise for Lighthorse Girl

‘Full of evocative illustrations, sepia photographs and news clippings, Weller’s book transports. A great read for early and older readers alike.’

— Francois Abelson, The Sunday Age

‘Highly recommended for middle years.’

— Reading Time
AMAZING SPIRIT

Hollywood has been serving our Veterans for over 70 years.