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Cover:
Our cover photo is an historical image of unidentified men of Australia’s 5th Division taken near Marmetz, south of Pozières. It was colourised by Benjamin Thomas of ‘Colours of Yesterday’. More of his stunning images can be seen on his Facebook site at www.facebook.com/coloursofyesterday. We thank him for his co-operation and assistance.

This edition of The Listening Post is abnormally big to accommodate many of the contributions we gratefully receive from sub-branches and members.

It is also big because we are on the cusp of celebrating the RSL’s 100th birthday as well as commemorating the 100th anniversary of some of the deadliest battles in military history – on the Western Front. The 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan is rapidly approaching and we have reports by men living in WA who fought in and around Long Tan.

We hope you enjoy the magazine and remind you that the deadline for the next June edition is Friday April 29.

Previous Editions
Copies of The Listening Post published since February 2014 are available on our website:


Publishing
Publishing of The Listening Post: Published 4 times a year and has a readership of over 25,000.

To all sub-branch Presidents and Secretaries: Send photographs and a short article on special activities at your sub-branch to The Listening Post.


If possible, submissions should be typed and double-spaced. The preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs should be attached separately and a minimum of 1Mb. This is your magazine and contributions are welcome.

Address to: The Editor, The Listening Post RSL, PO Box 3023 East Perth, WA 6892
Email: listeningpost@rslwhaq.org.au

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We cannot accept Newspaper clippings for publication without express approval from the Newspaper Editor as we may infringe on Copyright Laws.
As Graham Edwards says in his President’s Pen column, we have had an extraordinary response from serving men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan to the more than 2,000 beanies and scarves gifted with love by the RSLWA ‘poppy ladies’.

Letters, cards and emails of thanks have been received from privates and admirals thrilled at receiving them during the bitterly cold northern winters.

Diggers thrilled over RSLWA beanies
Firstly many thanks for the kind regards and well wishes I have received following my recent stay in hospital. It was greatly appreciated. It is also good to be back on my feet so to speak.

The early months of the New Year have been unseasonably busy. The devastating fires which caused such ferocious destruction on Yarloop are an example. What was a great example too was the incredible offers of support springing from a range of sub-branches and members who wanted to assist and offer help.

These efforts were led by Waroona-Hamel, Pinjarra, Harvey and Cockburn sub-branches and our thanks go to all involved.

This surely is what the RSL is about and a great example of why we as an organisation exist today. Not only do we have a reputation of pulling together and offering mutual support in times of need but we have so many members who are prepared to put themselves out to assist others.

If only we could eradicate those annoying little personality and often ego driven clashes that from time to time mar other sub-branch activities.

It is true, however, that the issues that unite us in times of adversity are much more important and stronger than the issues that will ever divide us.

This the year in which we celebrate our Centenary is surely a year for us to strive to indeed be strongly united and in so doing build on the future as we reflect on our one hundred year-old heritage.

We have had, and continue to receive, incredible letters of thanks and appreciation from all levels of rank from members of the ADF who received the beanies and scarves knitted by the wonderful women of ANZAC House and sub-branches and sent overseas just before Christmas.

It was not just about the woollen articles in the cold climates but the thoughts and wishes and goodwill behind the gesture which really warmed the hearts and minds of our troops.

“Apart from the practical benefit, especially for personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan where conditions are quite cold, the scarves and beanies were an important reminder of the support our mission enjoys amongst the broader Australian community.” – Rear Admiral TN Jones AM CJC RAN Deputy Commander Joint Task Force 633.

“It is always nice to receive packages from people who are relative strangers, but ultimately shows us we are in their thoughts and we are supported back home” – LT COL Sean P. Commander Special Operations Task Group.

The challenge now will be to emulate that gesture and see what we can do for our troops at Christmas 2016. Ladies, over to you!

Constitutional matters are still being worked on and my thanks to Trustee Wayne Tarr and Board Member Peter Aspinall for their continued volunteer work on this long awaited document. The main aim of the review of the Constitution has been to simplify it and have it written in plain English and shortened considerably. Importantly the new Constitution and by-laws need to be relevant today.

As soon as we can the constitution and by-laws will be circulated as part of the consultation process. It is your Constitution and we value your feedback.

Considerable work continues on the business plan for the future of ANZAC House which needs to go back to government by the end of June.

Many options are being examined and the long term financial viability of the RSL is our main focus. That, coupled with the need to improve and enhance member benefits, is our main goal.

You may have seen the recent media attention given to the costs associated with the running of ANZAC Day. It is not just the financial cost I initially referred to but also the cost and burden to many of our older veterans or those working without much help who do so much to ensure that our communities have an ANZAC Service.

I am ever mindful of the tremendous amount of work carried out by our sub-branch volunteers. Whether it be as an office bearer, an advocate, a welfare officer or simply a person who gets in and lends a hand where and when needed.

This is what mateship is all about.

This is the spirit which makes the RSL a great organisation and this is the spirit which will ensure we remain as such.

Many thanks to you all.

• Graham Edwards
A Century of Achievement

The Returned & Services League this year celebrates its 100th birthday with a Centenary Ball on Saturday June 18 at Crown Perth.

Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial, is the keynote speaker.

The ball will be preceded by a Centenary Congress on June 17 and 18.

If you can help, the RSLWA is seeking sponsors for the ball, with high-value packages ranging from $2,000 to $10,000.

The centenary of the RSL nationally is being celebrated with the issue of The Perth Mint's gold and a silver commemorative coin, an Australia Post centenary stamp and a centenary book distributed late in the year by Harper Collins.

No more than 1,000 gold coin tributes and 5,000 silver centenary coins, will be released.

Priced at $699 and $99 respectively, both collectables can be purchased from The Perth Mint by calling toll free 1800 098 817; email orders@perthmint.com.au or visit perthmint.com.au/RSL100 310 Hay Street, East Perth, WA.

The Perth Mint is offering a 15 per cent discount for RSL members.

Australia Post will also issue a centenary stamp to mark 100 years of service by the Returned & Services League of Australia.

The RSL Centenary stamp will be issued in May 2016. In addition to being able to purchase a single $1 stamp, collectors will be offered a range of first day cover and stamp presentation packs.

The presentation pack features the Caulfield RSL Sub-Branch that is located in Victoria.

One of the most visible physical manifestations of the RSL is the RSL club. After World War I, RSL clubs were established in memorial halls in country towns and cities throughout Australia.

These clubs were originally created in communities to provide a venue for current and ex-service personnel and their families to gather and share a meal and a drink or two, as well as to commemorate the contribution and sacrifice of all Australian Defence personnel. Today membership of RSL clubs is open to both veterans and the broader Australian community.

Other limited edition packs will be available at Australia Post stores and include The Perth Mint’s RSL Centenary bronze coin or the RSL Centenary medallion. Visit your local Post Office in May to see the collection.
Carnage on the Western Front

ANZAC Day services will this year shift their attention from Gallipoli to the Western Front as the deadliest battles in history of 100 years ago are commemorated.

Fromelles, July 1916 – In a battle of at times unspeakable horror Australia experiences its worst day in history with 5,533 casualties (including around 2,000 dead) in just 24 hours.

Pozières – Just days later Australia suffers 23,000 battle casualties (7,000 killed) and the ‘father’ of the Australian War Memorial Charles Bean reports that Pozières ridge “is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth”.

Mouquet Farm – 1st Anzac Corps fails to capture its objective. Bean writes, “The reader must take for granted many of the conditions – the flayed land, shell-hole bordering shell-hole, corpses of young men lying against the trench walls or in shell-holes; some – except for the dust settling on them – seeming to sleep; others torn in half; others rotting, swollen and discoloured.”

The Western Front is the killing field of the First World War.

From a population of 4.9 million, 416,809 Australians volunteered and more than 60,000 died and 156,000 were wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner in the so-called ‘war to end all wars’.

On the Western Front, there is heroism and hideousness: sheer anger at the British high command and the callousness of decision making. It is the stuff of history.

We don’t know how many West Australians died on the front – but a team of researchers led by Perth archivist and researcher Shannon Lovelady is on the case (see page 18).

More than 100 ANZAC Day services will be conducted this year throughout WA. Our comprehensive guide to services is on page 21.

We have also incorporated stories of men who fought at the Battle of Long Tan 50 years ago on page 42. 2016 is the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, referred to as Vietnam Veterans’ Day, on August 18.

Lest We Forget
Living plan developed by Board

by Philip Orchard

In the last edition I mentioned a requirement of the RSLWA Board to conduct a strategic planning facilitation workshop on February 4. This was duly done with an excellent session conducted by Trish Ridsdale, the managing director of Board Business.

This plan was further developed through February and ratified by your Board at their meeting of March 3. Our plan is on this page. This is a living plan that gives the basis to move forward with our future projects and more.

State President

As you have been previously advised the State President Mr Graham Edwards AM has announced that he will be retiring at the end of June 2016. As a result, his resignation creates a casual vacancy which will be filled as provided for in Rule 34 of our Constitution.

The State Trustees have been requested to oversee and conduct the election to fill the casual vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term of office of the State President.

Should there be a member of your sub-branch who is interested and suitable you are invited to nominate him or her for consideration by the Board of Directors.

Any nominations should be made in writing to State HQ signed by two authorised officers of the sub-branch and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee.

You should include in the nominee’s CV:

• Their service number and name,
• That they are a financial member of the sub-branch,
• Length of service in the RSL and your sub-branch,
• Positions held in the sub-branch and for how long,
• The reasons why they consider they should be the successful candidate and what qualities they would bring to the position of State President,
• Applications must be received at ANZAC House no later than the close of business on Monday April 4, 2016. It is expected that the Board will decide the successful candidate at the Board Meeting on the May 12, 2016.
Can someone slow the year down please! Here we are in mid-March heavily into the organisation of ANZAC Day and in the background simmering we have State Congress and our Centenary Ball, Easter eggs are in the shops and there are only eight months to Christmas.

While I will leave comment on ANZAC Day to the Chair of the ANZAC Day Committee, Duncan Warren, I would like to thank all sub-branches on two counts: Firstly for your patience. It takes time for Lotterywest to process applications of all types but when faced with one requesting over $1.05 million and covering the entire State’s sub-branches, grant managers and Board members need to ensure good governance, firm and balanced decision making.

I appreciate that you all now know your allocations and while you may be disappointed that your grant is significantly less, we cannot expect Lotterywest to continue increasing our grants beyond the allocation of 2015. All of us need to adapt, improvise and overcome the issue whilst still meeting the aims and objectives of ANZAC Day. My thanks again to all for your understanding and realisation that there is nothing we in ANZAC House can do. Secondly, those who answered our request for information on their local ANZAC Day arrangements. This information is important and your speedy returns allowed timely production of The Listening Post and The West Australian’s RSL ANZAC souvenir guide that incorporate this detail.

Finally, on the matter of Lotterywest, Ms Jo Wilkie has for many years been responsible for the processing of RSLWA’s grant applications. Jo has resigned from Lotterywest and I take this opportunity to publicly acknowledge her contribution to RSLWA. She has been a wonderful supporter who has worked extremely hard for the members’ benefit. Good luck for the future Jo and please do not hesitate to pop into ANZAC House if passing by.

I would also like to congratulate Mark Webb, CEO of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (Kings Park), on his selection as the new Acting Director-General at the Department of Agriculture and Food. We very much enjoyed working with Mark over the years and receiving his great support and advice regarding our Kings Park based commemorative events. I also congratulate Ms Marcelle Broderick on her appointment as the Acting Chief Executive Officer of Kings Park for the remainder of 2016.

ANZAC House
In January we had our air conditioning refurbished to meet the building code requirements. This was completed on time and under budget and to date is working well. It has certainly been tested through February and on some days of 40-plus the first floor did struggle; however it is much improved overall. The proposed ‘new’ ANZAC House is in the hands of APP consultants who continue their work on our business feasibility study and who have recently released their Expressions of Interest document.

To date, there are weekly meetings on the progress of the study, and meetings are taking place between engineering groups, architects, those with knowledge of the accommodation requirements around the CBD, be it commercial space or inner city living, quality surveyors and of course possible joint-venture partners.

The aim of course is to have this document ready for Congress on June 18. However, we will not make this a priority if information is incomplete. There are many meetings to go and many bridges to cross but we intend to keep you in the picture via The Listening Post.

In preparing for the cost of such a venture we have asked Jan Stewart PSM, previously the CEO of Lotterywest, to chair a subcommittee responsible for the application to obtain tax exemption status for donations called deductible gift recipient status (DGR).

Advocacy
As many of you are aware from both my and the State President’s correspondence we placed an Expression of Interest in the West Australian and beyond for a Manager of Claims and Advocacy. We have updated you on the situation with our Pensions, Advocacy and Welfare (PAWs) services within ANZAC House and the need to change the way in which we conduct our advocacy and training services.

As a result of responses to our recent Expression of Interest advertisement I am pleased to advise that the Board of Directors has accepted the recommendation of the interview panel and have appointed Mr Fergus Beer to the position of RSLWA Manager Claims and Advocacy Officer. Mr Beer is very experienced across all three acts of VEA, SRCA and MRCA and has a strong background in handling claims, training and other related positions within the DVA. He has a strong empathy with serving and former serving men and women of the Defence forces.

The first task Mr Beer will undertake is a thorough audit of the advocacy workload, services and procedures at ANZAC House.

This will be extended across the State in due course. He will seek to develop a business plan and agreement with RSL DefenceCare which is currently based in NSW with a view to them extending their services to WA working initially out of ANZAC House.

RSL DefenceCare offers an excellent ‘across the board’ advocacy and training service and at the same time has a major focus on support for advocates and welfare officers at the sub-branch level.
**Kokoda Lieutenant**

**THE TRIUMPH OF THE 21ST BRIGADE**

By W (Bill) Grayden

A first hand account by a 2/16th Bn officer that throws new light on the epic role and singular achievement of the 21st Brigade in the Kokoda Track Campaign.

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**COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

**CAN WE HELP?**

RSLWA provides a full range of welfare services to the veteran community including allied, currently serving members and their dependents. Assistance is available with but not limited to the following areas:

- Emergency relief
- Advocacy
- Overseas Pension applications
- Crisis counselling to point of referral
- Financial assistance
- Referral to other services
- Home and Hospital visits
- General crisis assistance
- Legal Support Group – 9440 6233 or email rslwalegal@gmail.com
  After hours: 0433 847 155.

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Where possible it is best to arrange a face to face appointment with the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth.

For regional members assistance may be sought through the local sub-branches.

Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm. Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.

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nationalanzaccentre.com.au
Sunset Services for 2016

The RSL’s popular Sunset Services get underway on Wednesday, April 20 around the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park.

All services start at 5pm and finish at approximately 5.30pm. The services will be held over five evenings with different themes and an inclusive wreath laying ceremony.

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Other Significant Commemorative Dates in 2016:

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<td>June 6</td>
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Don’t forget that in Perth, there are some changes to this year’s ANZAC Day service:

- The ANZAC Day Parade along St Georges Tce will start at 9am not 9.30am and at the Barrack Street intersection (not William Street) and culminates at Langley Park (not the Supreme Court Gardens) for the Commemorative Service.
- You can get all the latest information on all of the 100-plus services being conducted throughout WA on the RSL’s website www.rslwa.org.au

Len Hall Tribute Game

The theme for the 2016 Len Hall Tribute Game on Sunday April 24 will be commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in a pre-game commemorative ceremony. The Fremantle Dockers extends an invitation to Australian Defence Force members and ex-members from the Vietnam War to express their interest in participating in the pre-game ceremony at the Len Hall Tribute game.

“Although we appreciate that family members may also wish to participate and represent veterans who are unable to participate themselves, on this occasion the invitation is limited to Australian veterans only,” a spokesman for the organisers said. If you are interested in participating in the pre-game ceremony by marching onto Domain Stadium (formerly Patersons Stadium) contact Kathryn Lloyd on 9366 8261 or Kathryn.Lloyd2@dva.gov.au

Bounce-down is at 2.10pm and you will need to be at Domain Stadium at 12.00pm 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.
Dear Editor,

While leaving the committee in a great and positive time it is with regret that I have resigned as Chair of the Women’s Alliance.

The Alliance was formed to bring more women to RSLWA and to focus on four main subjects that have come out of the two forums that have been held over the past two years – we need to communicate; engage with currently serving ADF; continue to develop the Women’s Alliance both socially and more formally and educate our youth.

In the past two and a bit years the Alliance has achieved quite a lot with its small committee of great women both from the ADF as well as women from RSL sub-branches.

There has been a great response from both older and new female members of RSLWA.

With more than 2,000 beanies and scarves sent to our Diggers in Iraq and Afghanistan last year and quite a few thousand knitted poppies made in WA and a few high teas held over the metropolitan area, we have certainly started to cover the social part of the Alliance.

Educating our youth has always been a big priority to RSLWA as they are the future of our sub-branches.

This has been achieved also with a few activities.

I believe that the Women’s Alliance will forge ahead and bring women and families into the RSLWA.

I wish them good luck for the future.

Donna Prytlulak

Dear Editor,

I would like to let you know of the wonderful co-operation that has been occurring between the Partners of Veterans Association Western Australia and the various RSL sub-branches in country areas.

We have organised a series of seminars in the South-West during April and are currently working on six others over the next couple of months.

The co-operation and enthusiasm that has been shown to us during these negotiations is very much appreciated. We have always had a great rapport with the RSL and would like to acknowledge that to you at this time.

Col Gibson
Co-ordinator VV Day 2016

A range of Vietnam Veterans Day services are being held in WA and internationally - for more information see Page 46.

Dear Editor,

The 2016 Vietnam Veterans Day will be observed on Thursday August 18 to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan.

The Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group (MMVVG), combined with the Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch has conducted a formal parade and dedication service, annually, since 1998, commencing with a march through Mandurah City streets, across the Old Mandurah Bridge to the War Memorial.

At the memorial a full dedication service is conducted with Federal and State delegates in attendance along with the local community.

The event is supported by a Navy Guard, Catafalque Party, Band and the flag party of Cadets (Tri Service) with a choir and static band (local colleges).

Students from local primary and secondary schools lay wreaths along with all attending ESO and service organisations – ie, 6RAR, 5RAR, AATTV, Vietnam Associations and RSL etc. The MMVVG particularly invites RAR Associations to again support this significant commemorative event.

The format for the day is as follows:

• Form up on the Eastern Foreshore in Mandurah City at 10:15 – 10:30am;
• March over the Old Mandurah Bridge to the Memorial (approximately 700 metres) led by a Naval Honour Guard and Band;
• The march will be led by RAR Associations;
• Following the Commemorative Service, which will include special recognition of Western Australians Killed in Action, there will be fellowship and refreshments at the City of Mandurah RSL; 3rd Avenue Mandurah. Lunches will be available.

The organising sub-committee is endeavouring to contact the relatives of the 61 Western Australians killed in Vietnam, to take part in the Commemorative Service, and would appreciate any contact information.

Please contact Fred Abbott at fab89010@bigpond.net.au or 95811390.

At a date closer to the event an attendance advice notice will be forwarded to all associations. All veterans are invited.

For further information, please contact me on coldens1953@bigpond.com or 9586 8845.

Yours in service to our nation.

Yours in service to our nation.

Col Gibson
Co-ordinator VV Day 2016

A range of Vietnam Veterans Day services are being held in WA and internationally - for more information see Page 46.
Fabulous year ahead for RSLWA

by Centenary Program Manager
Sharon Harford

2016 is shaping up to be another big year for RSLWA. The highlight for the year will be celebrating 100 years since the formation of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia and then subsequently the Returned & Services League of Australia.

To mark the occasion there will be an RSLWA Centenary Ball and our Congress on June 18 at Crown Perth.

The take up for tickets for the Ball has been fantastic and we only have a few left, so please call us if you would like to attend.

One of the projects that has been gathering momentum is the development of an electronic database of the names on the State War Memorial as there is currently no electronic record.

The Honour Avenues Group will be compiling the list of WW2 names. Following the successful compilation of the ‘Gallipoli Dead From Western Australia’, Shannon Lovelady and her team will be researching the Western Front Dead from WA and she will be providing us with her research. This project will take up to three years and it is our intention that for the Centenary of Armistice Day in 2018, the names that are not currently listed on the State War Memorial are included. This will be a fitting end to the Centenary and provide a lasting legacy for RSLWA.

The Bankwest Gallipoli Run is happening on Sunday April 17 and we really want to have a strong RSL presence this year.

To register online for the run the link is: https://2016pbgr.eventdesq.com.

2016 Major Events

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<td>Bankwest Gallipoli Run</td>
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<td>20-24 April 2016</td>
<td>Sunset Services commemorating the Western Front and the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan</td>
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<td>25 April 2016</td>
<td>ANZAC Day</td>
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<td>18 June 2016</td>
<td>RSLWA Centenary Congress and Ball</td>
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<td>18 August 2016</td>
<td>50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans Day</td>
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<td>16 October 2016</td>
<td>Antiques Military Roadshow</td>
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<td>24-30 October 2016</td>
<td>Perth Royal Show Exhibition</td>
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Centurion star of Tobruk Sunday Service

One of the most poignant moments of the annual Rats of Tobruk service was wreath laying by Colin Thomas, who is 101 on April 1.

As a Rat, Mr Thomas was involved in trucking (by night only) ammo, rations and supplies to the front lines.

He was joined at the service by Fred Rose and JJ Wade who served with the 2/28th Battalion.

Tobruk Sunday is usually held on the last Sunday of March, but was held a week earlier this year because of Easter.

Originally conducted by the Rats of Tobruk Association, the service is now run by a Christ Church Grammar School Cadets (CCGC ) who have taken up the mantle of custodians of the Kings Park Memorial.

The 51ACU (The Swan Regiment) Drums and Pipes provided the music for the marching and MC was Captain Conrad Scott – a member of CCGC staff and an Officer of Cadets. The address was given by the cadet unit Adjutant, Cadet Under Officer (CUO) Adam Butler. Two Polish veterans attended, including Wojciech Gorski OAM. Wreaths were laid by Denis Connelly, Vice President of the RSLWA; Craig Boyd of the DVA and a Polish family as well as the three Aussie ‘Rats’ and Mr Gorski.

![The three Aussie ‘Rats’ - L to R – Fred Rose, Colin Thomas, who turns 101 on April 1 and JJ Wade. Fred and JJ were with the 2/28th Battalion, while Colin was involved in trucking (by night only) ammo, rations and supplies to the front lines.](image-url)
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Conditions were primitive on the Western Front, with Australians avoiding drowning by building duckboard tracks to traverse giant shell holes, mud and bodies.

Gore and anger as Diggers perish

It was supposed to be the ‘war to end all wars’ but of course the First World War was simply one of the worst conflicts in human history, leaving more than 17 million dead. The Western Front was the most significant battleground.

The front stretched 750km from the Belgian coast through France to the Swiss Border. It was where opposing armies stalemated for four years in trenches and mud and death. More than 295,000 Australians served on the front and 46,000 lost their lives and 132,000 were wounded. Battlegrounds on the Western Front were once household words in Australia — indeed in Queensland returning WWI soldiers were determined not to forget them and named locations after them: Pozières, Bapaume, Amiens, Passchendaele State Forest to name a few.

Barry Gracey, of Coffs Harbour, is so angry about the lack of recognition for Pozières that he is planning to sell his home to help buy four acres of land surrounding the Windmill site at Pozières and create a memorial. He has raised $150,000 so far.

State Opposition leader and former Navy Officer Mark McGowan has chimed in with a long speech in Parliament calling for July 23 to be declared a new national day to commemorate “our most tragic military battle” – Pozières. Such is the passion that these battles evoke.

In mid-July 1916 the three Australian divisions of 1st Anzac Corps were involved in incredibly deadly battles - Fromelles, where in July 1916, the Australian 5th Division suffered a disastrous defeat in the first major operation on the Western Front. This was a war of at times unspeakable horror and Australia experienced its worst day in history with 5,533 casualties (including around 2,000 dead) in just 24 hours. The attack on Fromelles was the brainchild of Britain’s Boer War veteran, Sir Richard Haking, who commanded the XI British Corps. The attack was designed to distract the Germans and prevent them sending reinforcements south where the Battle of the Somme had commenced on July 1.
Aussie patriot was a Scot

James ‘Jim’ Craig was born in Perth, Scotland on December 19, 1868. At age 27 Jim qualified in mechanical engineering after an apprenticeship at Hawthorn & Co, Leith, Scotland.

After travelling through Europe and the United States, he came to Kalgoorlie in 1907 and was manager of the Golden Zone gold mine.

At the Presbyterian Manse, Kalgoorlie, on May 29, 1909 he married South Australian born Hilda Dagmar Thornton (21). Two children were born over the next two years - Mabel Beatrice in July 1910 and James Frederick in December 1911.

Jim enlisted on December 7, 1915 and was assigned to the 16th Battalion. He embarked at Fremantle and arrived in Alexandria on April 26, 1916. They then went to Mena Camp outside Cairo for intensive training. The camp was in the shadow of the Great Pyramid of Cheops and the pyramid itself was used extensively in field exercises.

The following month he was reassigned to the newly formed 48th Battalion. Commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Ray Leane, and with several Leane family members in its ranks, it quickly became known as Leane’s Battalion.

On June 7, 1916 he embarked at Alexandria for Marseilles, arriving on July 18, 1916. Back in Kalgoorlie, Hilda wrote to tell him his third child, their second son Neville Claude Burnett, was safely born.

The 48th marched in as reinforcements for the already several months old Battle of the Somme. They entered the fighting at Pozières and later, the nightmare continued as they moved to defend ground captured at Mouquet Farm.

The Battle of the Somme saw more allied losses than at any other time in any other war, and no battalion suffered heavier casualties than the 48th. Under the heaviest bombardment experienced by Australian troops, the 48th dug the trenches that formed the front line, often only feet away from those of the retreating enemy. Distressingly, the bodies of enemy soldiers often slid from the sides of the newly dug trenches. Towards winter it rained for weeks on end. The trenches filled with mud and caused enormous suffering with trench foot.

Somewhere in France
7.11.16

Dear Hilda

Just a line or two to let you know that I’m all right. I haven’t had a letter from you for a long time now. I often wonder how you are getting on. I was glad to hear that you were getting back to your old form and that the kiddies were in good health. I’m addressing this to the old address so you ought to send word to the PO Kalgoorlie to send your letter on in case you’re not there.

It’s miserable weather here now, nothing but rain and mud. We are camped in an old broken down barn and the rain is coming down through the roof. I’m writing this in bed with my watersheet over me. It’s the worst billet we’ve had yet.

We will be going in the trenches again in a few days. I’ve not been touched so far and perhaps I will have the same luck again and come through all right, but if I don’t, you must try and do the best you can for yourself and the kiddies, like thousands of wives have to do both in France and Australia. I’m not sorry I came. I would never have been happy if I had stayed at home and I’m sure I would have got impossible to live with, so it’s all for the best and the little I have done will perhaps make up for all my faults and Jim will be able to say that his Daddy fought and died for his country and you will try and forget all my shortcomings and remember only that I loved you and tried to do my best. There’s no use to tell you to take care of the kiddies, I know you will do that so I’m quite easy in my mind about that, but I’ve as much chance as any one else to get through, so I won’t write any more about that but hope for the best.

I’m kept pretty busy since I’ve been platoon commander – drawing rations and seeing that the men are all in at night and up in the morning to eat. I sent you some cards last week – I hope [they] got thru and don’t forget about the photo. I would like to have that.

8.11.16

I’ve just received your nice long letter with the photo of the baby. He is a bonzer. I would like to see him and you again. But I’ll hope for the best. I’m glad to hear that you like the place where you are staying. Perhaps it would be best to put in the summer there but I think Kalgoorlie would be the best for the winter. It won’t be so cold there and you want to take care of yourself more so [now] than ever.

I’m sending you and the kiddies some cards, they are not much but the best you can get here. I haven’t got the parcel yet but it will come along. I often envy the chaps when they get their parcels. The three corporals in my platoon are all good fellows and we stick together and share everything we get and they get some good parcels.

I’m glad to hear the kiddies are going to Sunday School - it won’t do them any harm. Don’t send Mabel to school too soon, you could teach her to read herself. I must finish this so it will catch the mail. I’m writing this while I’m waiting for my boots to get mended, I’ve still got the pair I was issued with at Blackboy [Hill], they have lasted well. The rain has stopped for the present, I hope it will keep fine as the mud will be something awful. It will be worse than Mouquet Farm and that was bad enough. My words have come true about conscription in Australia, every man will be needed to finish this war. I will now finish with fondest love to you and the kiddies.

Your loving husband

Jim

The Listening Post APRIL 2016
Jim Craig was a true Aussie patriot who left his beautiful wife and children in Kalgoorlie to enlist and serve and die on the Western Front exactly 100 years ago.

His heartbreaking letters demonstrate how he uncompromisingly put his country first and consequently never met his third child, Neville.

Jim Craig was not an exception in the most costly war in Australia’s history. He didn’t win awards or accolades. He is just typical of the country-based men from WA who raced to volunteer and were over-represented in the Australian Imperial Force (AIF).

During the First World War, more than 62,000 Australians were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner. Australia’s first major engagement was the failed eight-month campaign at Gallipoli in 1915, resulting in 8,709 deaths, including 1,023 from WA.

After Gallipoli the AIF was reorganised and expanded from two to five infantry divisions, all of which were progressively transferred to France, beginning in March 1916. The AIF mounted division that had served as additional infantry during the campaign remained in the Middle East.

In July 1916 Australian infantry were introduced to Western Front combat at Fromelles, where they suffered 5,533 casualties (including around 2,000 dead) in 24 hours. By the end of the year about 40,000 Australians had been killed or wounded on the Western Front.

Jim Craig lied about his age to enlist on December 7, 1915. He claimed to be 42 rather than his actual age of 47 because he would have been rejected.

Why was he so keen to enlist?

In a letter home to Hilda from the unspeakable horrors of trench warfare, dated November 7, 1916, he writes: “I’m not sorry I came. I would never have been happy if I had stayed at home and I’m sure I would have got impossible to live with, so it’s all for the best and the little I have done will perhaps make up for all my faults and Jim will be able to say that his Daddy fought and died for his country and you will try and forget all my shortcomings and remember only that I loved you and tried to do my best.”

On November 8, Jim Craig writes: “I’ve just received your nice long letter with the photo of the baby. He is a bonzer. I would like to see him and you again. But I’ll hope for the best. I’m sending you and the kiddies some cards, they are not much but the best you can get here.

“I’m writing this while I’m waiting for my boots to get mended. I’ve still got the pair I was issued with at Blackboy [Hill], they have lasted well. The rain has stopped for the present, I hope it will keep fine as the mud will be something awful. It will be worse than Mouquet Farm and that was bad enough.”

At Flers, on November 16, 1916, the 48th Battalion war diary records the “enemy shelled our position again today, using both gas and high explosive. Four men wounded, one man evacuated suffering from gas.”

That day, nine days after writing the letter and seeing the photograph of his newborn son Neville, Jim was shot in his right leg.

He was transferred to the Heilly Railway Station, commandeered as the 38th Casualty Clearing Station, but there were so many casualties only a small percentage were able to receive medical attention. He died the following day. Too soon for infection to have set in, it is possible he simply bled to death.

He was buried in the cemetery next to the hospital.

Two days later, the Allies won the Battle of the Somme.

FOOTNOTE: All three children were educated by Legacy. Mabel was sent to PLC and Jim was sent to Scotch (and later became Minister for Police in the Brand Government 1962-65).
How many West Australians died?

by Shannon Lovelady

Having completed the Gallipoli Dead from Western Australia project and determined the number of West Australians killed at Gallipoli (1,023), I have turned my attention to the Western Front. Aside from being the area of my own personal interest, it was the greater tragedy, with many more casualties; I could not leave it undone.

With a launch date of February 1, 2016, I began gathering data in October 2015, extracting from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (graves with any mention of WA, buried anywhere), WA battalions’ Rolls of Honour, Karrakatta War Graves and various other smaller lists.

My estimation is just shy of 4,500

Then, using project volunteer Claire Greer’s high resolution images, we transcribed the entire list of names on the WWI section of the State War Memorial in Kings Park. This will be gifted to the RSL and the Kings Park wardens of the War Memorial, as no digitised list of the names currently exists.

I spent the next few months quietly sifting the names, de-duplicating, filling in first names and service numbers for those missing, collating and amalgamating the list.

At the end of that, we had 6,240 names of men whose records need examination, and on Facebook we were taking guesses as to what our final number would be. (My estimation is just shy of 4,500.)

In the weeks leading up to February 1 I secured ten members onto the Medical Forensic Assessment Team to assess the borderline medical cases, and 28 research volunteers who would research 10 men at a time. As word of the impending launch spread, I gained another half dozen and on February 1 I sent out 350 soldiers to the research volunteers.

Their job is to examine the records and extract the information I need, and more, to determine whether their man’s service on the Western Front directly contributed to their death before August 31 1921 (the cut-off date for official consideration as ‘War Dead’, established by the CWGC many years ago).

Other data I’m extracting include marital status and religion, so we can break these down into statistics when the examination phase is over.

I’m also extracting description, building a strong research base for anyone wanting to examine or challenge the belief that our soldiers were tall, blonde and bronzed. I have already noticed our Western Front Dead seem to be shorter, darker and, often, more slightly built than their Gallipoli counterparts.

While I don’t subscribe to the theory that our Aboriginal soldiers can be identified purely by a description including dark eyes, dark hair and dark complexions, it may be of use to some for that purpose, as well.

Some volunteers are still on their first lists. Others have done more than a dozen. Unlike with the Gallipoli project, which started with a gentle roll, this was WHAM! Full speed, from Day 1.

The Facebook group, Western Front Dead from Western Australia, was also an immediate hive of activity, with volunteers posting queries about various soldiers in their lists, and observers offering their opinions.

It very quickly became obvious many, many more people across Australia, were now watching our progress.

With one soldier, Thomas Birrell, particularly robust debate ensued, each person presenting their reasoning as to why he should, or should not, be eligible. Birrell was not the most conscientious soldier, but my criteria are simple, and make no moral judgement.

But as intense discussion continued, I decided to form a Higher Assessment Panel for Birrell and other cases like him.

I invited six men, all well-qualified and deeply respected in their fields: Rob O’Connor QC, Professor Peter Stanley, Dr Mike Galvin, Andrew Pittaway, Tim Lycett and Brenton Brooks. All six said yes, and Birrell was the first case presented. After deliberation and submission of considered opinions, he was deemed eligible by majority.

Only the next day, the next man was presented – Alexander Bethune. The jury is still out on him!

So far, 444 men have been found eligible; 63 ineligible (some of whom were 10th Light Horsemen who were not deployed to the Western Front); 361 are currently with the research volunteers, their records under close examination.

This means 14 per cent of our list has been completed in just three weeks. If this truly frantic pace continues, this data-examination phase of the project will be completed well before the deadline at the end of 2017.
Lost – ‘Somewhere in France’

Like so many others before him, York farm boy and shearer James (Jim) Ross Duperouzel thought heading off to the Great War would be a bit of an adventure. He joined up on December 30, 1915, ready and willing for whatever exciting exploits might come.

Leaving Fremantle on April 1, 1916 on the troopship HMTS Ulysses A38, he landed in Alexandria, Egypt before heading to the Western Front in France. He even wrote a letter home to his family outlining his thoughts that more of his York mates should come over to fight:

“...I can’t see how they stop out of it. If they only knew the time they’d have everybody would be in. Look at this trip as the time of a man’s life, doesn’t matter what happens after...”

But just three weeks after arriving in France, as part of the 51st Battalion, 13th Brigade, 4th Division of the Australian Imperial Force, 19 year-old Jim found himself in the middle of a maelstrom. In the Battle for Mouquet Farm near Pozières, he endured horrendous artillery bombardments, withering machine gun fire and faced first-hand the carnage and futility of trench warfare. Somewhere between August 14-16, 1916, he was listed as being Killed in Action.

His body was never found and he has no known grave

In the Battle for Mouquet Farm near Pozières, he endured horrendous artillery bombardments, withering machine gun fire and faced first-hand the carnage and futility of trench warfare. Somewhere between August 14-16, 1916, he was listed as being Killed in Action.

His body was never found and he has no known grave. His name, among so many others on the Villers-Bretonneux War Memorial in France, is all that marks his service in France.

In an ironic twist, Jim’s grandfather, Amiable Duperouzel, was a Frenchman, who was sent to WA in 1858 as a convict. Jim died defending French soil not all that far from where his own grandfather grew up.

Now, 100 years after Jim’s death, his nephew William Duperouzel, now living in the United Kingdom, has written a full-colour tribute book called, ‘Somewhere in France’, outlining Jim’s war history and William’s endeavours to find where his body may lie in France.

William has also organised a Duperouzel family pilgrimage to the Somme, France in April 2016, where around 30 family members from Australia, the UK and France will visit the battlefields of Mouquet Farm and Pozières, attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Villers-Bretonneux and give thanks for Jim’s life.

It promises to be a moving and emotional tribute to honour young Jim and all those who died on the Western Front.

The 224 page book, ‘Somewhere In France’, is available from Liz Hearnden at malandliz@outlook.com for $45.

Phone (08) 9383 2331.

by Lyn Mitchell

• The RSL’s Sunset Service on Thursday April 21 will pay tribute to those who fought at Mouquet Farm. The service starts at 5pm at the State War Memorial in Kings Park. If you would like to lay a wreath please call RSLWA on 9287 3799.
Rededication of Australian headstones

by Andrew Pittaway

On September 20 2015 Dennis Frank and I (of Fallen Diggers Inc) attended the rededication ceremony at Birr Cross Roads Cemetery in Belgium of three Australian soldiers from the Great War.

Twelve months previously we had discovered information that pointed to Private Harry Huntsman and Private Charlie Eacott of the 7th Battalion AIF being buried with Private Grace of the same unit. Only Private Grace had a known grave in Birr Cross Roads Cemetery and the grave stated that he was buried with two unknown 7th Battalion soldiers.

We found enough evidence that pointed to these two graves belonging to Private Huntsman and Eacott. The first step was to write up the case for the Office of Australian War Graves.

They accepted our findings and forwarded the case to the head office of the Commonwealth War Graves Commission in London. They soon replied that they agreed with our findings and the process was started to find relatives of these two soldiers.

While this was proceeding we found another unknown Australian soldier grave in Birr Cross Roads Cemetery. It stated that it was an unknown 8th Battalion soldier who died on the October 10, 1917.

There was only one soldier that fitted this date of death and the map reference from where he was retrieved from by the War Graves parties and that was Private John ‘Jock’ Neilson.

We therefore put another case together to show that this soldier’s grave in Birr Cross Roads Cemetery was indeed that of Jock Neilson.

Once again our findings were quickly accepted by the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and we also then began to look for any descendants of Jock.

We soon found the families of all three soldiers and put them in contact with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission.

A ceremony was then organised to take place at Birr Cross Roads Cemetery near Ypres in Belgium on September 20, 2015. All three soldiers’ families were in attendance at the rededication ceremony when the new headstones were unveiled, 98 years after their deaths.

It meant so much to the families to know at last where their boys were buried as it had caused much grief after the Great War when these three soldiers were listed among the Missing.

In the past year Fallen Diggers Inc. has named the graves of 10 other Australian soldiers of the Great War who had laid under unknown Australian headstones.

Who served on the front in 1916?

The main West Australian units that served on the Western Front were:

- **11th Battalion** - Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916
- **12th Battalion** (¼ WA Unit) Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916;
- **16th Battalion** (¼ WA ¼ SA unit) Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916;
- **28th Battalion** - Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916;
- **32nd Battalion** - (half WA & half SA) Served from Fromelles and Flers in 1916;
- **44th Battalion** - 3rd Division only arrived at the front December 1916;
- **48th Battalion** - (half WA & half SA) Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916;
- **51st Battalion** - Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916
- **52nd Battalion** (¼ WA ¼ SA ¼ Tas ¼ Qld) - Served at Pozières, Mouquet Farm, Flers in 1916

In 1917 WA also supplied reinforcements groups to the 27th (SA) Battalion, 43rd (SA) Battalion and 46th (Victorian) Battalion.

Plus there were WA men that helped form the various field ambulances, machine gun companies, engineering units, tunnelling companies, and artillery units.
Message from Richard Goyder AO

Managing Director
Wesfarmers

When Australians rise early on Monday, April 25, to pay tribute to soldiers who have given their lives in service of their country, we will be reminded of the devastating aftermath of trench warfare a century ago.

At Fromelles 5,533 Australians were killed or wounded in 24 hours, the worst day in our history.

Fromelles was just one of the locations on the Western Front, which stretched 750km from the Belgian coast through France to the Swiss Border.

More than 295,000 Australians served on the Front and 46,000 lost their lives and 132,000 were wounded.

It is a toll that ripped the heart out of many country towns and yet is still not the complete story of the 1914-18 war. The so-called ‘war to end all wars’ saw a total of 420,000 Australians enlist out of a population of only 4.9 million.

These volunteers represented 38.7 per cent of the male population aged between 18 and 44. More than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed or taken prisoner.

Wesfarmers has been honoured to support a number of projects which encourage our enduring reflection on the ANZAC spirit and legacy. This includes the ANZAC Convoy Walk and Lookout at Albany, part of the National ANZAC Centre which opened in November 2014 on the Centenary of the departure of the troops destined for Gallipoli. Wesfarmers also supported the Australian War Memorial’s exhibition Remember Me: The Lost Diggers of Vignacourt as it toured through regional Western Australia.

On the eve of the centenary of battles of the Western Front, Wesfarmers is pleased to again partner with the State Branch of the RSL to support the publication of more than 100 ANZAC Day services being held throughout Western Australia.

Many WA battalions fought at Fromelles, Pozieres, Mouquet Farm and Flers and we are proud to acknowledge them for their selfless bravery.

ANZAC Day provides the opportunity to honour all men and women who have served their country. They all laid the foundation for the values we cherish of freedom, equality and mateship.

APPRECIATION

The Returned & Services League of WA greatly appreciates the support of Wesfarmers for publication of these ANZAC Day Services.

The company also sponsored last year’s edition of The Listening Post which included the 1,023 names of Western Australians who were killed at Gallipoli.
Perth’s ANZAC Day Parade will start at the intersection of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace this year, rather than at the William Street intersection. The parade will start earlier - at 9am rather than 9.30am - and travel east along the terrace and turn right into Victoria Avenue.

The parade will end at Langley Park, where the 11am Commemorative Service will take place. The usual venue at Supreme Court Gardens is not available. The service will again feature a magnificent combined choir comprising Chorus Angelicus, Schola Cantori, Phoenix and Calliope from Perth Modern School and Aaralyn children’s choir. The Gunfire breakfast will take place, as usual, at Stirling Gardens from 7am.

For more information, go to the RSL website www.rslwahq.org.au
After the Dawn Service – the traditional ANZAC Club ‘Gunfire Breakfast’ will be on as usual.

Starting at 7am 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 $12.

To cope with the increased demand on the Club, we will have a large capacity marquee, licensed to sell alcoholic beverages for the occasion.

ESO’s and other ex-service units are welcome to reserve a table in the Gallipoli room for lunch. The Gallipoli room will be set aside for the exclusive use of these ex-service groups for the day, providing a friendly and pleasant atmosphere in which to catch up with old colleagues.

Club prices will apply and members may enjoy a two course meal inclusive of tea and coffee for only $25 per person. A service bar will be available in the Gallipoli room with drinks at Club prices.

These tables must be pre-booked with the Club, as those attending receive a special pass to by-pass the anticipated queues at the door on the day.

The ANZAC Club dining room will be available to Members and their guests throughout the day. A limited menu will be available.

Enquiries to be directed to Matthew Holyday, ANZAC House Manager on 9287 3714 or email: anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au

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 all 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 conditions - and the cooperation and understanding of members and guests is appreciated.

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’
CITY OF PERTH — PARADE AND SERVICES

SUNSET SERVICES
Kings Park and Botanic Garden — each evening on Wednesday, 20 April, Thursday, 21 April, Friday 22 April, Saturday 23 April and Sunday 24 April.

Sunset Services conducted around the Flame of Remembrance start at 5.00pm and finish at approximately 5.30pm. The Services will be held over five evenings and will focus on a different theme each evening with the program including a wreath laying ceremony.

DAWN SERVICE
KINGS PARK & BOTANIC GARDEN FROM 5.50AM – 7.00AM
The Dawn Service will be conducted at the State War Memorial on Fraser Avenue commencing at 6.00am. Viewing screens, food/refreshments, information, lost persons, and first aid will be available at the Park. PLEASE NOTE: No vehicle entry via Kings Park Road, Fraser Avenue or Saw Avenue and only limited parking is available. Please allow for delayed entry to and exit from Kings Park.

SPECIAL ACCESS — PARKING AND SEATING
Parking passes and reserved seating accreditation are available for aged, infirm and disabled veterans. Accreditation and parking passes can be obtained by contacting the RSL on 9287 3799 or rslwahq@iinet.net.au.

GUNFIRE BREAKFAST
STIRLING GARDENS FROM 7.00AM – 9.00AM
The community is invited to attend a Gunfire Breakfast for a gold coin donation, to share the spirit of ANZAC Day. The breakfast will be held in Stirling Gardens on St Georges Terrace (adjacent to Council House).

PARADE
PERTH CITY STREETS FROM 9.00AM
The Australian Defence Force will step off from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace at 9.00am, followed by veteran-carrying vehicles and military jeeps, and the Ex-Services Unit, Corps, Regimental Associations. The Parade will march along St Georges Terrace, turn right onto Victoria Avenue then left into Langley Park.

COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE
LANGLEY PARK FROM 11.00AM
The Parade will enter Langley Park off Victoria Avenue. The service will start at 11.00am. The Commemorative Service program will feature the Salvation Army Perth Fortress Band and a 80 strong choir brought together from Schola Cantori, Chorus Angelicus, Phoenix, The Alumni Singers and Aaralyn Children’s Choir.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT
It is recommended that you take public transport to ANZAC Day events. Transperth will be running additional trains with extra capacity, with trains arriving in the city from 4.20am. In addition, there will be a free shuttle bus to the ANZAC Dawn Service in Kings Park, operating between Elizabeth Quay Bus Station and Kings Park Road (near Havelock Street) from 4.25am.

Please note that all other bus and ferry services will operate on a public holiday timetable and there will be no additional services.

There will also be a Kings Park internal shuttle service operating between the Vietnam War Memorial and the coach terminus near Wadjuk Way. This service will operate between 4.30am until approximately 9.30am.

Transperth recommends taking the train to ANZAC Day events. There is plenty of parking at train stations and parking on ANZAC Day is free.

Large crowds are expected and so some delays may be experienced. Please plan your journey and allow extra time to get to your event, especially the Dawn Service.

In recognition of the great sacrifice made by the men and women of our armed forces, all veterans, serving and returned service personnel wearing service uniforms, campaign ribbons or medals can travel free on ANZAC Day.

For further information on routes and public transport schedules, please visit www.transperth.wa.gov.au or call 13 62 13. Hearing or speech impaired? Call via NRS 133 677 and ask for 13 62 13.
ANZAC DAY PROVISIONAL ORDER OF MARCH

MONDAY, 25 APRIL 2016

For more information on ANZAC Day please visit www.rslwahq.org.au or follow us on Facebook (rslwahq), Twitter (rslwa) or Instagram (rslwa).
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

2/32nd Battalion Assoc
2/3rd Battalion Assoc
48th & 2/48th Battalion Assoc
2/3rd Machine Gunners Battalion Assoc
2/4th Machine Gun Battalion Assoc
13th Brigade AIF Group (16th AIF Battalion Assoc, 11th AIF Battalion, 28th, 44th Battalion Assoc’s)

F Trinity College Pipes and Drums and Coastal Scottish Pipe Band
Royal Australia Regiment Association
1 RAR
2 RAR
2/4 RAR
3 RAR
4 RAR
5 RAR
5/7 RAR
6 RAR

Australian Army Band Perth
7 RAR
8 RAR
8/9 RAR
9 RAR

G RAN Band
Combined Commandos Squadron Assoc (incl 2/2 Commando Squadron)
Royal Western Australian Regiment Assoc (incl 16th Bn Cameron Highlanders)
Australian SAS Assoc
City Of Cockburn Pipe Band
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Assoc (AATTV)
HQ 1 Australian Task Force Assoc
161 (Indep) Recce Flight Assoc
Australian Intelligence Corps Assoc (WA)
Royal Australian Corps of Transport & Royal Australian Army Service Corps Assoc
1 Australian Field Hospital Assoc
Field Ambulance Assoc (incl 2/13th)

H City of Perth Brass Band
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Assoc
Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Assoc
Royal Australian Army Pay Corps Assoc
Scotch College Pipe Band
Military Police Assoc
Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps Assoc
Australian Women’s Army Service (AWAS) Assoc
Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps Assoc
Officer Training Unit Scheyville
Australian Red Cross Assoc

AIR FORCE SECTION

I WA Police Pipe Band
Royal Australian Air Force Assoc
Fighter Squadron Association & 3 Squadron Assoc
Pathfinders Assoc
Bomber Command Veterans
25 City of Perth Squadron Branch Assoc
RAAF Police Assoc
WA Fire & Emergency Services Concert Band
No. 3 Telecommunications Assoc
RAAF Ubon Assoc
RAAF Vietnam Veterans Assoc
No 9 Squadron Assoc
Australian Air Force Cadets Branch RAFA Assoc
Women’s Auxiliary Aust Air Force Branch (WAAAF) Assoc
WRAF Branch Assoc

TRI-SERVICE CONTINGENTS

J Town of Victoria Park Brass Band
BCOF Assoc
Australian Ex-Services Atomic Survivors Assoc
National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Assoc
(including KSEAWA)

The Royal Agricultural Society Of WA Brass Band
Vietnam Veterans Assoc

K Perth Metro Pipe Band
Honouring Indigenous War Graves Assoc
Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans’ Assoc
Gulf War/Peacekeepers Assoc
Defence Reserves Assoc
National Servicemen’s Assoc

COMMONWEALTH & ALLIED FORCES SECTION

L Churchlands Senior High School Band 1
New Zealand Ex-Service Men and Women
Ex-Royal New Zealand Navy
British Ex-Services Assoc and Royal Military Police Assoc
Royal Marines Assoc
Royal Green Jackets Assoc
Airborne Forces Assoc of WA
RAF Apprentices Assoc
Indian Ex-Servicemen’s Assoc
Churchlands Senior High School Band 2
North American Veterans’ Unit
Rhodesian Assoc
South African Military Veterans Organisation of Aust

M WA Sikh Band
Sikh Ex-Servicemen
Greek Australian Ex-Servicemen’s Assoc
Korean Ex-Servicemen Assoc
Polish Ex-Servicemen
Turkish Ex-Servicemen
7 Wing Air Force Cadets Drum Corps
Vietnamese Ex-Servicemen
Relatives of Deceased Veterans
St John Ambulance Cadets
Scouts
Girl Guides
Band TBA

ANZAC Day Commemorative MARCH PROTOCOLS

The Dawn Service, Gunfire Breakfast, ANZAC Day Parade, and ANZAC Day Commemorative Service are the prime opportunities to remember those who gave so much for our country – especially those who are no longer with us.

In respect of participating in the ANZAC Day Commemorative March, participants should be aware that the consensus of the returned servicemen and women, who form the body of this March, is that they be allowed to retain the integrity of their individual units for as long as possible.

While they recognise the importance of, and respect the participation of next of kin (NOK), they request the following guidelines be observed by all participants:

- All marchers should conform to forming up and marching 4 abreast.
- Veterans should march directly behind their unit banner, accompanied by one carer if needed. That carer should be of an age where they directly assist the veteran.
- Veterans having difficulty completing the March are encouraged to use the transport provided, but must remain in the vehicle until the March is complete.
- If a veteran must fall out of the March, he/she should be directed to a Marshall for assistance. Unit Associations should continue so as not to disrupt the movement of the March.
- NOK should march behind the veterans and be old enough to march the full distance without assistance. Please note baby prams are not permitted.
- NOK representation should be restricted to 1 per veteran. Attire should be neat and tidy out of respect to the fallen (torn denim, sporting attire, dirty joggers etc are not acceptable standards).
- Carrying pictures of relatives is not supported.
- NOK are to wear medals on the right breast (left breast is reserved for the original owners).
- Media services have been advised not to conduct interviews ‘on the move’ during the March.
- Veterans are requested not to join or leave the March other than at the Assembly or Dispersal points.
- Only recognised National Flags are to be carried in the Parade
- Please note that this is not a cultural parade but a March for ADF, and Ex-Service personnel, and National Dress and NOK not wearing medals is not supported.

We would be grateful if you adopted these guidelines and by doing so you will not only honour your fallen comrades and forebears, but you will also help maintain the ANZAC tradition we are all so proud of.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

METRO EVENTS

APPLECROSS
APRIL 24
10.30am Fall in, City of Melville Memorial, Wireless Hill Park, corner Almondbury Rd and McCallum Crescent, Ardross; 10.45am March off for short distance; 11am Dedication of new memorial followed by Commemorative Service; City of Melville will provide light refreshments afterwards.
Parking: City of Melville car park off Davy Street, Applecross Senior High School surrounds – shuttle bus to Memorial
Contact: Helen Pickering 9364 8564 / 0408 934 573.

ARMADALE
APRIL 22
10-11.30am Armadale Districts combined schools ANZAC Centenary Choral Service, Armadale Memorial Park, Jull Street.

APRIL 25
5.20am Veterans and Community Groups form up for march to Armadale Memorial Park; 5.45am Dawn service, Armadale Memorial Park;
6.30am Gunfire Breakfast, Armadale RSL Club, 1 Commerce Avenue, Armadale; 12.30pm Two-up commences; 12.30-2pm Lunch available;
10.30pm RSL closes.
Parking: Local areas and train station car park
Contact: Ken Hepburn armadalersl@bigpond.com 9497 1972.

BALLAJURA
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, Ballajura War Memorial Peace Park, Illawarra Crescent South, Ballajura; Gunfire breakfast (gold coin donation) will be served afterwards.

BEDFORD-MORLEY
APRIL 24
2pm Service and wreath laying at Remembrance Park, corner Beaufort and Salisbury Streets, Inglewood; 2.30pm Entertainment and light refreshments at the Bedford-Morley RSL Hall after the Service
Parking: Street parking
Contact: Colin Robb collrobb@hotmail.com 9276 2683.

BELLEVUE
APRIL 24
2pm Sunset service, Blackboy Hill Memorial site with a bugler and piper.
Other Info: A number of Scout groups will mount a vigil and camp overnight.

APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, Blackboy Hill Memorial, tea, coffee and scones by donation to follow; 8.30am Commemorative service, Midland Railway Workshops, followed by morning tea (donation); 12pm Street parade from the Helen Street Scout Hall to the Bellevue War Memorial, followed by lunch, entertainment and two up at the RSL club.
Other Info: Road closures and traffic management will be provided due to the large numbers of attendees. The Sub-Branch will organise the Catafalque party from Guildford Grammar School, and also provide the Bugler and Piper and lay a Wreath. Midland Police will control the traffic for the duration of the march. The Catafalque Party is provided by Australian Army Cadets from 513 Army Cadet Unit.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

APRIL 28
Greenmount Primary School in conjunction with Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch will conduct a School Students Service at the Blackboy Hill Memorial site. A student guest speaker, who has been on a Premiers ANZAC Tour to Gallipoli or Malaysia the previous year, is requested by the Sub-Branch in conjunction with the Education Department. On completion of the student’s speech a plaque is presented to them in appreciation by the Sub-Branch. Most of the Service is conducted by the students.

Parking: Blackboy Hill - St Anthony’s School, Greenmount School; Midland Railway workshops – opposite memorial: Bellevue RSL – adjacent to club.

Contact: Bonnie Atkinson southperthrsl@gmail.com 9450 2362.

APRIL 29
City of South Perth ANZAC Day Service. Cornwall Park Oval. Council Offices
Contact: Bonnie Atkinson southperthrsl@gmail.com 9450 2362.

CITY OF BELMONT
APRIL 5
10.30am Belmont area school ANZAC remembrance service.

APRIL 17
2pm ANZAC service, City of Belmont War Memorial, Faulkner Park, corner Abernethy Road and Wright Street, Cloverdale; 3pm Afternoon tea, City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch, 22 Leake Street, Ascot.

APRIL 18
12-3pm Curtin Radio Station outside broadcast and lunch, City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch.

APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, City of Belmont War Memorial; 7.30am Gunfire breakfast; 10.30am Light lunch, live entertainment, unmeasurable fun and laughter, City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch.

Contact: City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch belmontrsl@highway1.com.au 9478 8232 www.facebook.com/groups/1559738261008508

CITY OF COCKBURN
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service; 6.15am Gunfire breakfast; 9.15am Parade will form up at Cockburn RSL premises, 73 Frederick Road, Hamilton Hill; March to Cockburn Memorial Hall, Rockingham and Carrington Street corner, Hamilton Hill; 10.15am Main parade and service, sausage sizzle at Sub-Branch after service.

APRIL 28
9.30am Youth parade, Field of Poppies Memorial, Spearwood Avenue, Spearwood, Commences with schools marching from City of Cockburn Council.

Contact: Kay Cleak clouds@comswest.net.au / 0439 833 501
Parking: Limited parking at Memorial Hall and RSL for dawn service.
Parking at shops across road from Hall. Plenty of parking for youth parade.

CITY OF MANDURAH
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service commences, Mandurah War Memorial, Western Foreshore; 7am Gunfire breakfast at City of Mandurah RSL Hall, 22 Third Avenue, Mandurah; 9.30am Form up for march; 10.30am Step off – Pinjarra Road – Old Traffic Bridge – Leighton Place – War Memorial; 10.50am Main service commences at the War Memorial; everyone is invited back to the RSL Hall for fellowship on completion of the service.

Parking: Plenty of parking on the adjacent oval of Leighton Place

Contact Details: Teresa Williams secmanrsl@westnet.com.au 9581 4781.

CITY OF ROCKINGHAM
APRIL 25
5.55am Dawn service, cenotaph, corner Flinders Lane and Kent Street, Rockingham, followed by a gunfire breakfast at the PCYC; 10.30am Main service will commence with street march; 11am Form up at cenotaph, falling parachutists will open main service followed by a double flyover, with refreshments and meals at Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch following the service.

Contact: Mark Weldon rstrock@westnet.com.au 9592 4222

Other Info: Airforce cadets will have an overnight cenotaph vigil in place, dawn service will be broadcast on two large screens and involve some audio and visual effects, piper and bugler. Main service will commemorate the centenary of the Western Front with a feature presentation of ‘letters from the front’. Piper, bugler, wreath laying and Choir will complement the Service.

CITY OF SOUTH PERTH
APRIL 25
7am Members from the 3rd Squadron, Pilbara Regiment, RSL members and Scouts march from South Terrace to the Memorial, South Perth Council Offices, corner South Terrace and Sandgate Street, South Perth. The service will include wreaths being laid by various groups, government representative and individuals. Morning tea will be available after the Service in the council hall.

Parking: Parking is available on the oval in Sandgate Street, next to Council Offices

Contact: Bonnie Atkinson southperthrsl@gmail.com 9450 2362.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

CITY OF SUBIACO
APRIL 25
7.45am Assemble outside Subiaco Post Office; 8am March up Rokeby Road to the Fallen Soldiers Memorial, corner Rokeby and Hamersley Roads, Subiaco, followed by a service. The march is led by City of Perth Band.

Parking: Street parking available
Contact: Richard Diggins rwdiggzius@gmail.com 9381 1529 or 0415 433 752.

CLAREMONT
APRIL 25
7.30am Service at Claremont War Memorial, corner Stirling Highway and Bay View Terrace. Lions Club breakfast to follow in Claremont Park.
Contact: Owen (Geoff) McClements 9387 6663.

DAVESVILLE
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, Davewyse War Memorial, Estuary Drive, Davewyse; 7am Gunfire breakfast, Port Bouvard Recreation and Sporting Club, 1 Thistle Drive, Davewyse.

Parking: Limited parking at the War Memorial
Contact: Stan Davies davewyse.rsl@bigpond.com 0418 903 722 or 0439 429 447.

EASTERN REGIONAL
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, Halliday Park, Bayswater; 9am Service, Stirling Square, Guildford; 10.45am March off from Wilson Street and Old Perth Road; 11am Service, Bassendean Memorial, corner Wilson Road and Guildford Road, BIC Reserve.

Parking: Street parking mainly at all locations
Contact: Ashley Vince advince@bigpond.com 0438 301 892.

ELLENBROOK
APRIL 25
5.45am Assemble, Ellenbrook District Open Space, corner Bordeaux Lane and Maffina Parade, Ellenbrook (300 metres north of Valley Bowls Club); 6am March on; 6.10am Dawn service; 7.15am Gunfire breakfast.

Parking: Ample parking spaces
Contact: Dr Neil MacNeill nmacn@bigpond.net.au 0427 908 806.

FREMANTLE CITY
APRIL 25
5.50am Dawn service, Fremantle War Memorial, Monument Hill, High Street; 7-9am Gunfire breakfast, Princess May Park, 92 Adelaide Street; 9am North Fremantle Service, Fallen Soldier’s Memorial, corner Victoria Street and Harvest Road, North Fremantle; 9.45am Assembly for parade, Esplanade Reserve, Marine Terrace; 10.15am Parade commences along Esplanade, Marine Terrace, Collie Street, Pakenham Street, High Street, Market Street, South Terrace, Essex Street, Marine Terrace, Esplanade; 10.45am Closing ceremony, Esplanade Reserve; 11.30am-4.30pm ANZAC Commemorations in the Park – 100th Year of RSLWA; Princess May Park, 92 Adelaide Street.

Parking: Public transport is recommended. Shuttle bus will be available between train station and Monument Hill. Limited parking will be available at Fremantle Park. Paid parking at the Point Street car park.
Contact Details: Tony Mitchell RSLfremantle@gmail.com 0427 306 333
Other Info: Gunfire breakfast will have egg and bacon muffins, ANZAC biscuits, tea/coffee and a shot of rum (over 18), music and two up. ANZAC Commemorations in the Park (in conjunction with Clancy’s Fish Pub) will have music, sausage sizzle, drinks, fun and games for the kids, and two up. Visit www.anzacfremantle.com.au for more info.

GOSNELLS
APRIL 25
6.15am Veterans and those marching form up at Coles Gosnells car park; 6.30am March commences; 7am ANZAC service commences at the War Memorial; 7.45-8am Service concludes with the singing of the New Zealand and Australian national anthems, sausage sizzle to follow service.
Contact: Fred Batt 9398 1661 / 0419 040 820.

KALAMUNDA
APRIL 7
New charter to be presented by President RSLWA Mr Graham Edwards AM and CEO RSLWA Mr Philip Orchard.

APRIL 16
10.30am Local march, Haynes Street, Canning Road, Kostera Oval (Memorial); Service followed by light refreshments, RSL Hall.

APRIL 25
6am Dawn service followed by gunfire breakfast.
Parking: Kalamunda RSL, Kalamunda Senior High School and local side streets
Contact: Warren Irvine wail60@iinet.net.au 6143 8674 / 0431 968 896 or Wayne Loughrey ozag24@hotmail.com 0488 661 991.

KELMSCOTT
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, Rushton Park Cenotaph, River Road, Kelmscott; 3pm Afternoon service, Kelmscott Hall, River Road, Kelmscott.
Contact: Henry Zelones hzelones@bigpond.net.au

KWINANA
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service, Kwinana War Memorial, Pace Road Medina; 6.30am Gunfire breakfast, Medina Town Hall, Marley Way, Medina, the community, members, veterans and their families are all invited; 10.30am Musical entertainment; 11am Main service commences with community participation to provide intergenerational understanding and education means; Sausage sizzle to follow.

Parking: The Medina shopping area car park and street parking. Official guests and disabled parking will be situated at the rear of the War Memorial.
Contact: Robert Brown kwinanral@bigpond.com 0498 473 848
Other Info: Vigil - Provided by the Kwinana Scout Group. TS ANZAC Naval Cadets from Rockingham will provide the guard at the cenotaph. Before the dawn service commences the community will be entertained by singer / guitarist Mr John Logan.

The gunfire breakfast will be cooked and presented to the community through our community partners – The City of Kwinana, Kwinana Rotary and supporters, Kwinana Scouts, Lotterywest and local businesses. Community participation is expected to increase for the main service to an estimated 900 onlookers and participants.

There will also be a chance to participate or support a procession including servicemen and women, veterans and family members, RSL Members, community groups, local schools and the general public. The service will be officiated by the President of the Kwinana RSL Sub-Branch and the parade will be reviewed by the senior military member in attendance and supported by the City of Kwinana Mayor. It is anticipated the service will be highlighted by the flyover of the RAAF fighter planes. The main parade this year will involve two members of Lighthorse Troop Armadale / Byford. The parade will also feature the City of Perth Band as well as a piper and drummer.
**ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016**

**MOSMAN PARK**

APRIL 25

7.30am Gunfire breakfast, Alf Adams Pavilion, Solomon Street; 10am Service at Memorial Park, Bayview Terrace, with fellowship afterwards.

Contact: Kevin Poynton 0421 380 451.

**MT HAWTHORN**

APRIL 25

10.30am March from corner Scarborough Beach Road and Oxford Street to Axford Park; 10.40am Catafalque Party Mounts (TBC); 11am Fly-past (TBC); 11.05 Service, Axford Park, including Last Post and laying of floral tributes; 12pm Light refreshments for community;

12.30pm Sub-Branch luncheon.

Parking: Limited at Axford Park, local street parking available. Road closures will be communicated Mt Hawthorn Sub-Branch Facebook page and City of Vincent website.

Contact: CMD Royce Spencer 0419 937 783 or Marcia Monger 0419 192 183

**MT LAWLEY-INGLEWOOD**

APRIL 25

6.15am Assembly; 6.30am Dawn Service at Mt Lawley Masonic Village, 55 Alexander Drive, Menora. A cup of tea follows the ceremony. 8.00am Service, at Mount Lawley War Memorial on the corner of Clifton Crescent and Queens Crescent. The service marks the centenary of the RSL Australia. Perth College Choir will participate. Ex-servicemen and women and all members of the community are welcome to attend this anniversary service. Should you wish to lay a wreath please email mlanzac@iinet.net.au

Following the ceremony an ANZAC Breakfast will be available at the Mount Lawley Bowling Club. Please note the Mt Lawley Breakfast is seated at $10 each. Tickets are limited and must be pre-purchased online for $10.00 via www.trybooking.com/HBBQ or by calling 9471 2100. The Stirling Lions Club will be running a Gunfire Breakfast.

Contact: Oliver Lavelle 0409 898 806.

Other Info: Local Scouts will camp out around the memorial overnight.

**MUNDARING**

APRIL 25

3pm ANZAC Day march and service, Mundaring Memorial Gardens, Great Eastern Highway, Mundaring.

Parking: Shopping centre car park

Contact: Kellie Ruxton kellieruxton@bigpond.com 0410 326 401.

**NEDLANDS**

APRIL 25

8.30am Service commences, Memorial at corner Birdwood Parade and Waratah Avenue, Dalkeith; Light refreshments served at conclusion.

Parking: Roads closed in area to allow the public to park near the Memorial

Contact: Barry Nunn barrynunn@optus.com.au

**NOLLAMARA**

APRIL 17

10.30am-1pm March and service. Nollamara RSL, 68 Sylvia Street. New Zealand and Rhodesian veterans attending.

Contact: Bob Wise 9425 4356.

**NORTH BEACH**

APRIL 25

6am Dawn service, Charles Riley Memorial Reserve, corner North Beach Road and Kitchener Street; Fly-past at approximately 6.13am; Gunfire breakfast to follow at the North Beach Bowling Club, 7 Kitchener Street, North Beach.

Parking: Limited parking available, follow parking attendants directions

Contact: Rob Sweet rob@arach.net.au 0417 654 533.

**OCEAN REEF**

APRIL 25

5.45am ANZAC Day dawn service; 6am Service commences;

6.05am Fly-past; On completion of the service, all participants and the public are invited to a gunfire breakfast, Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, Boat Harbour Quays, Ocean Reef.

Parking: Ocean Reef Marina car park. Members of the public requiring assistance can be dropped off at Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, parking attendants will direct traffic and ushers will assist to seat these members of the public as required.

Contact: Ken Bevan kpbevan@bigpond.com 0415 443 138.

**OSBORNE PARK**

APRIL 25

6.40am Step off from Hamilton Street to the Sub-Branch Memorial;

6.45-7.30am Service and vintage flyover, Slouch Hat Memorial, corner Cape Street and Main Street, Osborne Park.

Parking: Ample nearby street and service road parking

Contact: Norm Wells ntwell@iinet.net.au 9443 3985 / 0417 945 157

Other Info: Service supported by bugler and choir, followed by a donation gunfire breakfast (sausage sizzle) with refreshments available. Public wreaths may be laid.

**PORT KENNEDY**

APRIL 25

6am Dawn service, Rockingham village green, hosted by the City of Rockingham Sub-Branch; 7am Gunfire breakfast, Port Kennedy Sub-Branch; 10am March through Rockingham followed by a service at the Memorial; 12.30pm ANZAC Day fellowship, band, two up, refreshments.

Parking: Street parking at Sub-Branch

Contact: Steve Elliot / Colin Ching admin@rslpk.com.au 9524 5855 or 0447 447 493

Other Info: Activities continue until approximately 10pm at the Sub-Branch. Music and entertainment all day.

**QUINNS ROCKS**

APRIL 25

6am Commemorative ceremony with fly-past, Quinns Rocks Sports and Social Club; Tapping Way, Quinns Rocks; 7am Gunfire breakfast; 1-4pm Two up

Parking: Available at the Sports Club

Contact: Lisa Wallis lisa.wallis@mp.wa.gov.au 0403 827 689

Other Info: Additional large screens placed around for greater spectator viewing.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

RIVERTON
APRIL 25
5.45am Stand to; 6am Dawn service, 153 High Road, Willetton, followed by gunfire breakfast, all welcome.
Contact: Bill Collidge bcoolidge@optusnet.com.au

ROTTNEST ISLAND
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service on grassed area in front of Dome, presided over by officers from the Royal Australian Navy and followed by a gunfire breakfast and kids’ activities. Early morning ferries will be available from Hillarys and Fremantle.
Contact: For information please visit www.rottenstisland.com

SCARBOROUGH
APRIL 24-25
6pm-6am Dusk to dawn vigil by 1 Wembley Downs Scout Group, Scarborugh RSL Memorial Garden, corner Shearn Crescent and Millcrest Street; 3pm Main ceremony, Scout Catafalque Party will slow march to drum beat and proceed to Memorial followed by the singing of a patriotic hymn; all will be invited for afternoon tea at adjoining Bowling Club Premises.
Parking: Extensive right angle parking available in Shearn Cres and Millcrest St plus additional on and off road outside adjacent Bennett Park
Contact: Malcolm Till scarbsrsl@gmail.com 9341 5416 / 9446 3910
Other Info: Extensive upgrades including refurbishment of plaques have recently been carried out and additional seating has been added. Whilst seating had been provided for about 300 people, there will be extensive standing room available behind and near the low cut perimeter hedge. Music for the entire program will be provided by the 12 piece brass band, ably assisted by a top class bugler. Hymns will be sung and the bugle calls sounded. Wreaths will be laid by Service & Civic officials. The New Zealand and Australian national anthems will conclude the Service.

SERPENTINE-JARRAHDALE
APRIL 25
5.30am Assemble; 6am Dawn service, ANZAC Memorial Park, ANZAC Crescent, Byford; 7am Gunfire breakfast.
Parking: On vacant lot adjacent to Memorial Park
Contact: Shana McKay sijsrl@westnet.com.au 0417 499 516.

SHENTON PARK
APRIL 25
6.50am March from corner of King Street and Onslow Road; 7am Service at Shenton Park Community Centre, 240 Onslow Road, Shenton Park, followed by morning tea.
Parking: Street parking available around Shenton Park Community Centre
Contact: Peter Hopper dhop9386@bigpond.net.au 9381 9558.

SIR JOHN MONASH
APRIL 25
Dawn service to begin immediately following the State service, Jewish War Memorial, Kings Park; All are welcome.
Parking: Limited
Contact: Warren Austin wbbaustin@wn.com.au 9375 3181.

VIETNAMESE SERVICES
APRIL 25
12pm Gunfire breakfast at U&I Café, Shop 4-5/45 Francis Street Northbridge.
Contact: Than Nguyen tvn52@hotmail.com 0413 354 031.

VICTORIA PARK
APRIL 24
5.45pm ANZAC Eve service, including guest speaker, 1 Fred Bell Parade (corner Playfield Street), East Victoria Park, followed by a light supper and refreshments.
Parking: Ample parking in Playfield Park Reserve, access via Devenish Street
Contact: Kelvin Liddiard info@victoriaparkrl.org.au 9361 8802 or 0432 201 440
Other Info: Victoria Park Sub-Branch commemorates the memory of those citizens who volunteered for service for all conflicts.

WANNEROO-JOONDALUP
APRIL 25
5.50am Dawn service in Central Park, Grand Boulevard; 7am Form up for march, Aquamotion car park, Civic Drive; 7.30am March off, Memorial Park, corner Civic Drive and Sinagra Street, followed by morning tea.
Parking: Wanneroo Shopping Centre car park
Contact: Wendy Tuffin 0412 467 445.

YANCHEP - TWO ROCKS
APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, followed by gunfire breakfast, Yanchep Sports & Social Club; 11.30am Main service, Yanchep National Park.
Parking: Available at the Club and outside. Plenty of parking at the National Park.
Contact: Malcolm Gowgowms@aol.com 9561 2217
Other Info: Main service includes Sub-Branch President’s address, wreath laying and parade. Two up will be played after the service.

YOKINE - JOONDANNA
APRIL 25
12.30pm Guests arrive, met by Sub-Branch President of Yokine-Joondanna Sub-Branch, Yokine Districts Bowling Club, 10 Wordsworth Avenue, Yokine;
12.45pm Service commences with welcome by Secretary, Mick Tuttle;
1.15pm Service concludes with national anthem.
Parking: Ample parking is available in front of the Bowling Club and on the Yokine reserve
Contact: Graham Stevens gstimmons@inet.net.au 9370 2814 / 0419 934 219 or Mick Tuttle mikutttul@bigpond.com 9275 3132 / 0417 936 007
Other Info: Service includes wreath laying and various addresses.
The commemoration service will be followed by a sausage sizzle for all participants and the traditional game of Lawn Bowls for Bowling Club and Sub-Branch members.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

REGIONAL EVENTS

ALBANY
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service, Desert Mounted Corps Memorial, Mt Clarence, Albany (Apex Drive will be closed to all private vehicles and pedestrians. Buses will run a shuttle service from the Albany Entertainment Centre and the bus stop at Middleton Beach from 3.15am); 6am Gunfire breakfast, Albany Entertainment Centre, corner Princess Royal Drive and Toll Place, Albany; 10am Parade, corner York Street and Gray Street West;
10.30am Memorial Service, ANZAC Peace Park, Princess Royal Drive.
Contact: Geoff McNeil gbmcneill@swiftdsl.com.au or Laurie Fraser clanfraser09@bigpond.com

BAKERS HILL
APRIL 25
10.30am Arrival, Hooper Park, Bakers Hill; service will be conducted followed by a function at the Gold Club, St George Street, Bakers Hill; Displays, food, entertainment and raffles will be held at the Golf Club.
Parking: Next to Hooper Park
Contact: Mr Lin Booth lin.booth@bigpond.com 0428 612 480.

BENCUBBIN
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service at Mukiwinbuddin War Memorial, Maddock Street. Gunfire breakfast provided by Shire; 9.30am Bencubbin morning service at Bencubbin War Memorial and Bencubbin Recreation Centre. Morning tea afterwards; 11am Beacon morning service at Beacon War Memorial, Lucas Street, Beacon. Morning tea afterwards.
Parking: Ample
Contact: Len Cargeeg len.cargeeg@bigpond.com 9685 1274 or 0428 851 274.

BEVERLEY
APRIL 25
5.40am March form up at Post Office; 5.45-6.15am Dawn service at Cenotaph in Vincent Street; 6.30am Gunfire breakfast at RSL Hall in Forrest Street; 10.30am March form up at RSL Hall; 10.45am Morning service at Cenotaph; 12pm Light lunch at RSL Hall.
Parking: Street parking in Forrest Street
Contact: Irene Oram ireneoram@wn.com.au 0439 923 501 / 9646 0470.

BODDINGTON
APRIL 25
6am ANZAC service, Memorial Park, Bannister Road, Boddington; Gunfire breakfast at completion of the ANZAC Service, RSL Hall, Hotham Rd, Boddington.
Parking: Street parking is available
Contact: Cathy Schreiber earlandcathy@gmail.com 0428 590 186.

BOULDER
APRIL 25
6am Dawn Service at Boulder Loopline Park; 6.30am Gunfire breakfast at RSL Club, Plesse Street; 9am March from Club down Burt Street; 9.30am Ceremony at Loopline Park; 10am Drinks at Club; 12pm Lunch at Club.
Parking: Boulder RSL Club, Plesse St. Contact: Jan Le Brun 9021 9635.

BOYUP BROOK
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service, War Memorial outside Shire offices, followed by gunfire breakfast; 10.15am Main service form up outside Commonwealth Bank; 10.40am March to War Memorial; 10.45am Main service followed by a late morning tea; Late lunch at Boyup Brook Club, Railway Parade.
Parking: Council car park
Contact: Colin Hales cahales@bigpond.com 0417 180 720.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

BROOKTON
APRIL 25
5.45am Assemble at Memorial Park, Brookton Highway. 6am Dawn service. 7am Gunfire breakfast at RSL rooms, Robinson Road. 10.15am Marchers assemble at fire station. 10.27am March off. 10.30am Commemoration service. Morning tea follows Commemoration service at the fire station.
Contact: Kim Stedman brooktonrsl@gmail.com

BROOME
APRIL 24
5.15am Prelude to ANZAC Day; piper plays at Moll Town Beach Parade and dawn service. APRIL 25
5.40am Parade into Bedford Memorial Park; 5.55am Dawn service; 7am Gunfire breakfast, Broome RSL Club, corner Robinzon and Barker Streets; 12-3.30pm Two up. Parking: Street parking available around park. Weld Street closed between Haas St and Hammersley St from 5.30-7am.
Contact: Robert Kuehne 9192 1003
Other Info: Please check the local newspaper for further details.

BUNBURY
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service, form up at RSL Hall, Spencer Street; march along Stirling Street to ANZAC Street and RSL Park Memorial; 6.30am Parade marches back to RSL Hall; 10.45am Main service, form up at RSL Hall; Parade marches down Spencer Street via Stirling Street to Blair Street for memorial service; 11am Bricknell Sound Shell then parade marches back to RSL Hall.
Contact: John Gelmi president@bunrsl.org.au  9721 3277 / 0478 120 848
Parking: Coles car park, Target car park, Blair Street and Cornwall Street
Other Info: Dawn service – Live coverage onto screens of wreath laying and service. Extra seating for elderly will be provided at both services.

BUSSELTON
APRIL 25
5.45-6.15am Dawn service at Busselton foreshore followed by gunfire breakfast $5 per person; 8.45-9.15am Parade from Signal Park down Queen Street; 9.15-10.15am Memorial service at Victoria Square followed by morning tea, lunch and two up.
Parking: Public parking available
Contact: Glenn Woodward 9752 2488 / 0490 081 452.

CAPEL
APRIL 25
5am Dawn service, Peppermint Grove Beach foreshore followed by a gunfire breakfast at the Peppermint Grove Beach Community Centre; 10.15am Form up at the Post Office, march down Forrest Road, Capel; 11am Service, Capel RSL Hall, 7 Forrest Road, followed by lunch and refreshments.
Contact: Mike McMahon michael1950mcmahon@gmail.com 0427 777 701.

COLLIE
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, hosted by Collie-Cardiff RSL. Soldiers Park, Steere Street. With gunfire breakfast and morning fellowship at the sub-branch to follow; 9am Club closes for service preparations; 10.40am Fall-in for parade, step-off at Coles car park. March to Cenotaph; 11am Commemorative service, Soldiers Park; 2-5.30pm Two-Up and refreshments, RSL Hall. Contact: Gary Benton 0438 820 703.

CUNDERDIN
APRIL 25
11am ANZAC parade and service, Cunderdin War Memorial, Main Street, Cunderdin.
Parking: Opposite CWA building in Main Street, Cunderdin
Contact: Christine Fulwood / Graham Cooper codac@bigpond.com 9635 1240 / 0417 175 266
Other Info: Guest speakers including servicemen.

DARKAN
APRIL 25
10.45am March from the Shire Hall; 11am Service at Darkan Memorial, followed by lunch at the Men’s Shed.
Contact: Gerry Harnett 0427 272 635.

DENMARK
APRIL 25
5.40am Dawn service at the Denmark Memorial, Corner South Coast Highway and Horsley Road, Denmark, followed by a gunfire breakfast at Norm Thornton Park; 10.30am Form up at Denmark RSL, Strickland Street, Denmark; 10.40am March to the Denmark Memorial; 11am Fly-past and traditional service followed by a light lunch at Norm Thornton Park.
Parking: within CBD and car parks
Contact: Ian (Mo) Mulholland mojen@bigpond.net.au 9848 1263.

DERBY
APRIL 25
4.45am Muster at Old Fire Station, Clarendon Street; 5am Parade commences, arriving at Lions Park War Memorial, Loch Street in front of Civic Centre; ANZAC service commences followed by a breakfast in the Civic Centre.
Contact: Chris Christmas derbysl@outlook.com.au 0400 502 506
Other Info: Please check the Shire and community notice board for further details.

DONGARA
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service at Memorial Park, Moreton Terrace and Point Leander Drive followed by gunfire breakfast; 10.45am Form up for march; 11am Service at Memorial Park; 12pm BBQ luncheon and two up at RSL Club, Waldeck Street, Dongara.
Parking: Shire compound off Point Leander Drive
Contact: Jim Gumley anne_mareebaker@yahoo.com.au 0417 673 458.

DONNYBROOK
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, War Memorial, Apex Park, South West Highway, Donnybrook, followed by gunfire breakfast, Soldiers Memorial Hall, Bentley Street, Donnybrook; 9am Main service, form up at Ayers Gardens, South West Highway, Donnybrook; 9.30am Parade march to RSL Memorial Park; 10am Service commences followed by a sausage sizzle.
Contact: Ric Evans carolricevans@bigpond.com 0427 319 788.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

DWELLINGUP
APRIL 25
11.30am-12pm Service, RSL Hall, McLarty Street, Dwellingup, followed by refreshments in the Hall; sandwiches, cakes and BBQ sausage sizzle; Bar service from 12pm; Two up game later in the afternoon - everyone welcome!
Parking: Plenty of parking nearby and short walk across the road on the Oval
Contact: Leigh Whitley dwellinguprsl@iinet.net.au 0427 797 694.

ESPERANCE
APRIL 25
5.50am Parade form up at Post Office corner; 5.55am Step off;
6am Dawn service, Memorial, Dempster Street, followed by Rotary gunfire breakfast; 10.30am Parade assemblies at beach end of Andrew Street;
10.40am Vehicles move off; 10:45am Marchers form up, parade step off, main service followed by Lions Club BBQ lunch.
Parking: RSL car park
Contact Details: George Starcevich 9071 5362 / 0402 817 543 or Brian Pearce 9071 1430 / 0428 948 556.

GASCOYNE
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service at the Carnarvon Cenotaph, corner Francis and Stuart Streets. Followed by gunfire breakfast at the RSL, Stuart Street; 10.30am March and service. Followed by lunch at RSL.
Parking: Francis and Stuart Streets
Contact: Ed Garrett 0428 411 271.

GERALDTON CITY
APRIL 25
5.30am Assembly at McDonalds car park, Chapman Road; 5.55am Step off;
6am March to Birdwood House for Service, gunfire breakfast will follow at completion of the service; 10am Assembly on Maitland Street;
10.45am Step off; 11.20am March to Birdwood House for service.
Contact: lan Heberle bones@westnet.com.au 0419 214 379
Other Info: Bar will be open after the Service. Two up will again be on during the afternoon.

GREENBUSHES
APRIL 25
5.45am Parade, RSL Hall; 6am Dawn service, Greenbushes Memorial;
7am Gunfire breakfast, Town Hall (adjacent to Memorial).
Parking: Ample
Contact: Pat Scallan gwala1@iinet.net.au 0427 643 508
Other Info: Parade to be led by the Light Horse Troop.

HARVEY
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, War Memorial, corner Uduc Road and Young Street, followed by sausage sizzle breakfast at the Town Hall, opposite Memorial;
10am Assembly for march outside Partons IGA, Uduc Road, proceed to War Memorial for service, followed by refreshments in the Town Hall.
Parking: Behind Town Hall, Young Street, Uduc Road, Gibbs Street
Contact: Trish Rumball 9729 2943 or 0448 792 943.

HYDEN
APRIL 25
6.15 Dawn service (arrivals start at 5:30 am), followed by a community breakfast at the memorial gardens. Local performers will be entertaining.
Parking: Available in town
Contact: John Read ceo@kondinin.wa.gov.au 9889 1006.

JURIEN BAY
APRIL 25
10am Memorial service, Jurien Bay War Memorial; Refreshments and morning tea at the Jurien Bay Bowling Club immediately after the service.
Parking: Limited parking only available at the War Memorial, street parking adjacent to the Memorial on Hastings Street
Contact: Barry Wilson jurienrsl@bigpond.com 9652 1027
Other info: Jurien Bay High School student to give ANZAC Day address.

KALGOORLIE
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, War Memorial, Kalgoorlie Railway Station, followed by gunfire breakfast, Kalgoorlie Ex Servicemen Club; 11.30am Fall in for march; 11.45am ANZAC service, Kalgoorlie Boulder Race Course, races and entertainment following the service.
Parking: Available at the Race Course
Contact: Robyn Steenbach jrsteenbach@bigpond.com 0410 549 946.

KAMBALDA
APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, War Memorial, next to Kambalda RSL Club, followed by gunfire breakfast; 10.30am Form up for march, old fire station;
11am Parade to War Memorial; 11.45am refreshments at the Kambalda RSL Club.
Parking: Kambalda RSL Club car park. Public car park adjacent to War Memorial
Contact: Allan Lindup allanlindup1@bigpond.com 0402 812 222.

KARRATHA
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, Karratha Golf Club, Karratha.
Other info: This year the annual Karratha ANZAC Day service will be held on the greens of the Karratha Golf Club overlooking Nickol Bay. A Gunfire breakfast held by the Karratha Scouts will conclude the morning’s program. All are welcome to attend.
Contact: Crystal Shanahan crystal.shanahan@karratha.wa.gov.au 9185 8666.

KARRIDALE-AUGUSTA
APRIL 25
6.20am Dawn service, RSL Memorial Park, corner York Street and Osnaburg Street, Augusta; 7am Gunfire breakfast; 10.45am Main service; 11.15am Lunch.
Parking: Street parking available
Contact: Bob Stiles steph-bob@bigpond.com 9758 4172 / 0417 936 211.

KOJONUP
APRIL 25
8am Service at the RSL Hall, Kojonup, followed by a gunfire breakfast;
10am Muradup service at the Memorial followed by morning tea at Muradup Hall.
Contact: G Pember ghpember@westnet.com.au 9831 1136.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

KONDININ
APRIL 25
6.15am Dawn service, Yeerakine Rock, followed by march and ceremony, ANZAC Memorial Garden next to Town Hall, Kondinin; Gunfire breakfast afterwards, all welcome.
Parking: Bottom of Yeerakine Rock located 8kms on left along Sloan Road (2kms east of town) from its intersection with Brookton Highway.
Contact: John Read ceo@kondinin.wa.gov.au 9889 1006.
Other Info: ANZAC dawn service at Yeerakine Rock will include the iconic laser cut 3.2m high steel silhouette statue of a horse mounted Light Horseman against the sunrise, representing the WWI Light Horseman from the Kondinin area.

KUNUNURRA
APRIL 25
4.45-6.30am Dawn service, ANZAC Hill, 10 km west of Kununurra, adjacent to Victoria Highway; Memorial service and flag raising ceremony at the breaking of dawn over the Ord Valley Followed by a gunfire breakfast and rum coffee; 8.30-9am Town march and service, town cenotaph, Coolabah Drive; Short march to the cenotaph by service and community groups; A simple memorial and flag raising ceremony follows the march; 10am-6pm Post service social functions including two up at Gullivers Tavern and Ord River Sports Club after the town service.
Parking: ANZAC Hill (controlled by traffic warden). Town service parking is available on side streets in close proximity to the cenotaph
Contact: Sue Offszanka paul.offszanka@bigpond.com 9655 1161 or 0427 482 414
Other Info: NORFORCE Depot will be open to the public from 9.30am-1.30pm for a social function at the Boab Bar with the unit members. There will also be two up and Crown and Anchor games, gold coin entry donation with proceeds to Legacy.

LANCELIN
APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, Lancelin Memorial, Harold Park, Gingin Road, Lancelin; Short march to the Endeavour Tavern at conclusion for gunfire breakfast and refreshments followed by two up.
Parking: Plenty of parking available
Contact: Norm Pearce navypearce1@bigpond.com 9655 1161 or 0438 320 564.

LEONORA
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service, Leonora Memorial Park, followed by a gunfire breakfast at the White House Hotel; 11am Main street march, Leonora Memorial Park. Parking: Ample parking
Contact: Dave Hudson dheasant@hotmail.com 0427 191 047.

MANJIMUP
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service, Memorial, Giblett Street, Manjimup; 7am Gunfire breakfast, RSL Hall, 10 Brockman Street, Manjimup; 10.45am Parade to assemble at Memorial Gates, junction of Brockman and Brockman Streets; 11am Service at Memorial; 11.30am Refreshments at RSL Hall; 1pm Two up at Manjimup Hotel and Golf at Manjimup Country Club.
Contact: Rex Brown john.and.dee@westnet.com.au 0427 771 875 or 0408 931 849.

MARGARET RIVER
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service, Memorial Park, corner of Willmott Avenue and Town View Terrace, followed by a gunfire breakfast at Margaret River District Social Club, Tunbridge Street; 11.15am Parade/march from Reuther Park, corner of Busell Highway and Wallcliffe Road, to Memorial Park; Main service followed by fellowship at Social Club, including two up.
Contact: Keith Simmonds keithandvicki@bigpond.com.au

MERREDIN
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service and gunfire breakfast, form up at cnr Bates and Barrack Streets to service at War Memorial and cenotaph on Barrack Street; 10.30am form up at cnr Bates and Barrack Streets; 10.45am Parade to Cummins Theatre, main service in Cummins Theatre. Morning tea to follow.
Contact: Marilyn Sayers 9041 1611.

MOORA
APRIL 25
5.55am Dawn service at War Memorial; 6.30am Gunfire breakfast at Moora Town Hall (Performing Arts Centre); 8.30am Memorial service to Mortar Soldiers killed in Moora (3km east of Moora Miling Rd); 9.30am Morning tea at Moora Town Hall (gold coin donation); 10.15am Memorial service at Moora Town Hall; 11am March past and wreath laying service (RAAF fly-past).
Contact: Arthur Tonkin 9651 8010.
Other Info: Wreath laying by families, organisations and individuals is welcomed and encouraged. All ex-service personnel invited to march with medals.

MORAWA – GUTHA
APRIL 25
10.45am Parade, march from corner of Winfield Street and Prater Street to the War Memorial; 11am Service at War Memorial; with guest speaker and wreath laying ceremony – open to locals, groups and RSL. A light lunch will be served in the Town Hall after the service.
Parking: Prater Street and Town Hall car park.
Other Info: School brass band plays during service, including Last Post and Reveille.
Contact: Sue Offszanka paul.offszanka@bigpond.com 9972 2022 / 0427 986 943.

MT BARKER
APRIL 25
10.30am Marchers assemble at Library car park, Lowood Road; 10.45am Service and wreath laying, War Memorial, followed by main service in the District Hall; Community morning tea, Mt Barker Bowling Club; Late light lunch for veterans and families and RSL rooms, Booth Street. Parking: Ample parking available
Contact: Judy Lill judelli@bigpond.com 9851 4401 / 0409 086 603.

NANNUP
APRIL 24
6pm ANZAC commemoration dinner (TBC)
APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, Nannup War Memorial; 7am Gunfire breakfast, Bowling Club; 11am Main march, War Memorial; 12pm Refreshments Nannup RSL Hall.
Parking: Grange Road for dawn service, Cross Street opposite RSL Hall for main service
Contact: Charlie Ferguson charles.ferguson7@bigpond.com 0498 007 828.
ANZAC DAY SERVICES 2016

NARROGIN
APRIL 25
5.40am Assembly at Memorial Park, Williams Road, Narrogin;
5.55am Service commences; 6am Last Post; 9.30am Assembly at Town Hall, Federal Street, 9.45am March to Memorial Park, Federal Street, Egerton Street, Williams Road; 10am Service at Memorial Park.
Parking: Available on site
Contact: Lorraine Larment narroginral@gmail.com 9881 2553.

NEWMAN
APRIL 25
5.45am ANZAC march step off from BHP Housing Office, Newman Drive; March to Newman Cenotaph, Shire of East Pilbara Office, corner Kalgan Drive and Newman Drive; 6am Dawn commemorative service at the cenotaph; 8am Community gunfire breakfast at Newman RSL, including raffle.
Parking: Boomerang Oval
Contact: Ian Thompson newmanrsl@gmail.com 0409 876 942.

NORSEMAN
APRIL 25
5.55am Assembly at cenotaph; 6am Dawn service, followed by gunfire breakfast at the RSL Town Hall.
Contact: Shire of Dundas-Norseman shire@dundas.wa.gov.au 9039 1205

NORTHAM
APRIL 25
5.45am Dawn service, Northam Memorial Hall, Fitzgerald Street, Northam;
6.30am Gunfire breakfast; 10.40am Parade; 11am Main service.
Contact: Reg Stevens regstevens@westnet.com.au 0427 303 762 or Donna Prytulak prytulak@bigpond.com 0409 290 972
Other Info: Display in Memorial Hall in week leading up to ANZAC Day, open 10am-3pm. April 25, 5-7am Radio Broadcast (Radio West);
3pm-9am Grass Valley Service.

NORTHAMPTON
APRIL 25
5.55am Dawn service march; 6am Dawn service; 7am Breakfast available (no charge); 10.55am ANZAC Day march; 11am Main commemorative service; 12pm Light lunch, Northampton RSL Hall, 235 NW Coastal Highway, Northampton, soft drinks, tea/coffee available (no charge), bar operating in Hall.
Parking: In the main street and IGA supermarket car park
Contact: Kevin Gill gill.kc@bigpond.com 0428 108 296
Other Info: April 24 at 5pm Camp out (sleeping bags only) on lawn at the RSL Hall. Music entertainment by ‘Moresby Rangers’. Local Service group conducting a barbeque. No alcohol.

PEACEFUL BAY
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service at War Memorial, followed by a gunfire breakfast at the RSL Shed, Peaceful Bay.
Contact: Joe Urquhart joeurquhart@westnet.com.au

PEMBERTON
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service followed by refreshments; 10:30am March/Parade assembly at the Pemberton Post Office; 11am Main service. A gunfire breakfast will be held behind the RSL Memorial Library.
Contact: Noeleen Collings 0428 922 184.

PERENJORI
APRIL 25
8.15am Line up for marching, outside Café, Fowler Street;
8.30am ANZAC Day service, Memorial Park, followed by a gunfire breakfast at the village green park, Fowler Street.
Parking: Fowler Street and Hesford Street
Contact: Geoff Pridham maygeoff@live.com.au 9973 1109 or 0488 187 892.

PINGELLY
APRIL 24
6pm Service at Pingeny Football Oval then dinner at Community Centre.

PINJARRA
APRIL 24
5pm ANZAC eve service at Coolup War Memorial, followed by light refreshments. Contact: Bev Alexander 0407 381 281
APRIL 25
6am Dawn service; 7am Gunfire breakfast; 9am Service at Beddingfield Nursing Home; 10:30am Parade form up, Henry Street; 10.45am Step off; 11am Service at Memorial, Pinjarra.
Contact: Sue O’Donnell pinjarras@westnet.com.au
Other Info: Sausage sizzle, lunch, raffles, money wheels, two up and entertainment during the day. The museum will also be open.

PORT HEDLAND
APRIL 25
5.30am Dawn service at War Memorial, Anderson Street, Port Hedland;
6.15am March to Marapikurrinya Park; 6.30am Gunfire breakfast;
9.30am Opening of RSL ANZAC House, Hedditch Street, South Hedland.
Contact: Robyn Middleton rslport hedland@gmail.com
Other Info: Venue and time for the gunfire breakfast will be advertised locally.

RAVENSTORPE
APRIL 25
9.45am Assembly for march, McCulloch Park; 10am Service at Hopetown War Memorial; 11am Morning tea at Senior Citizens Hall;
12pm Drinks and BBQ at Hopetown Bowling Club.
Contact: Peggy Cox larryandpeggy@westnet.com.au 9838 1300 or 0488 527 749.

ROEBOURNE
APRIL 25
5.45am Marchers Muster, Roe Street; 6am March; 6.10am Dawn Service, Gunfire breakfast after the service at the Roebourne Fire Station, $5 adults and $3 children. All are welcome to attend.
Contact: Fiona 0409 324 630 or Ruth 0417 180 786.
### SHARK BAY
**APRIL 25**
- **5.30am** Dawn service at Pioneer Park followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the Town Hall; **10.30am** Main service form-up at the Sydney Memorial, parade to the War Memorial; **11am** Commemorative Service at Pioneer Park, followed by a light lunch at Shark Bay Bowling Club, then two-up.

**Contact:** Barry Beales 0417 179 834.

### TAMMIN
**APRIL 25**
- **11am** ANZAC Day service, Memorial Park (adjacent to the Town Hall), Tammin, followed by a gunfire picnic brunch.

**Contact:** Lorraine Packham 9637 1141

**Other Info:** Affiliates will hold their AGM and renew memberships.

### THREE SPRINGS - ARRINO
**APRIL 25**
- **6am** Dawn service by Mingenew Shire, Mingenew Sports Ground, followed by a gunfire breakfast; **7.15am** Assembly for march past at Shire Hall; **7.30am** Service by Carnamah Lions Club at Carnamah War Memorial, next to Road House, followed by a gunfire breakfast; **10.15am** Assembly at Shire offices; **10.30am** Main march, Three Springs, refreshments to follow in the Shire Hall.

**Parking:** Street parking available

**Contact:** Con Kikeros 0487 822 105 / Ray Morgan 9954 1014

**Other Info:** School children to recite poems and guest speaker will be NAIDOC Male Elder of the Year, Mr Graham Taylor.

### TOODYAY
**APRIL 25**
- **6am** Dawn service, Toodyay War Memorial, ANZAC Avenue, Toodyay; **6.30am** Gunfire breakfast, Clinton Street, Toodyay; **10.30am** Parade form up, War Memorial; **10.45am** Main parade and service; **12pm** Refreshments at Toodyay Club.

**Parking:** Available near War Memorial and just over railway line in townsite

**Contact:** Max Howard avon.hill@bigpond.com 9574 2102.

### WAGIN
**APRIL 25**
- **6.30am** Dawn service, Wagin War Memorial; **7am** Gunfire breakfast; **10.45am** Assembly; **11am** Service followed by light lunch.

**Parking:** Ample

**Contact:** Ros Brooks rsb30@bigpond.com.au 0411 168 793.

### WALPOLE
**APRIL 25**
- **10.50am** March participants gather at the Walpole Recreation Centre car park; **11am** Service commences, Walpole Memorial, corner Pier Street and Latham Avenue, followed by light refreshments at the Community Hall.

**Parking:** Readily available nearby

**Contact:** Kevin Pierce kpierce@comswest.net.au 9840 8227

**Other Info:** Service will include wreath laying, musical items and a reading, RAAF fly-past TBC.

### WAROONA - HAMEL
**APRIL 25**
- **6am** Dawn service, Waroona War Memorial; **10.45am** March from Memorial Hall to War Memorial; **11am** Service at War Memorial.

**Parking:** Town oval

**Contact:** Tracey Fickling waroonahamelrsl@gmail.com 0408 937 577.

### WHIM CREEK
**APRIL 9**
- **9.30am – 11.30am** Service, Whim Creek Hotel car park, Whim Creek.

**Other Info:** The Whim Creek Memorial service will be held in front of the Lockyer Brother’s memorial, honouring our many Indigenous Australian soldiers who have served in conflict. The service will pay special tribute to the five Lockyer brothers who left the Pilbara and enlisted into service at the height of WW2 when Australia faced the threat of invasion in 1942. Three of the brothers enlisted in the Army and two into Air Force; sadly one in each service paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving their country. All are welcome to attend.

**Contact:** Crystal Shanahan crystal.shanahan@karratha.wa.gov.au 9185 8666.

### WONGAN HILLS
**APRIL 25**
- **5.30am** Assembly, War Memorial, Civic precinct, Wongan Hills; **5.45am** Service commences, followed by a gunfire breakfast.

**Parking:** Ample parking on site

**Contact:** Brian Donnellan briandon@wn.com.au 9671 1206.

### WYALKATCHEM
**APRIL 25**
- **5.55am** Dawn parade, War Memorial, Pioneer Park; **7am** Gunfire breakfast; **10.30am** Fall in for march, Honour Avenue; **11am** General parade, wreath laying; **12pm** Refreshments at RSL Hall; **2pm** Two up.

**Contact:** WE Garner / KW Cleverly tomcleverly@bigpond.com 9681 1109 / 0430 648 585 / 9681 4052

**Other Info:** 11am fly-past TBC; 1pm AGM.

### YARLOOP
**APRIL 25**
- **5.55am** Marchers assemble 300 metres south of the War Memorial.
- **5.45am** Dawn service, followed by breakfast in temporary marquees and two-up.

**Contact:** Stephen Cook,Secretary/Treasurer Yarloop Bushfire Brigade 0427 988 790

**Other info:** Entry to Yarloop via Clifton Road.

### YORK
**APRIL 25**
- Dawn service at Mt Brown, followed by a gunfire breakfast at RSL Hall, 164 Avon Terrace, York; **10.30am** Form up for memorial service street parade; **10.45am** Parade commences to War Memorial; **11am-12pm** Main service; At conclusion of service everyone is invited back to RSL Hall to enjoy camaraderie and a casual lunch.

**Parking:** Street parking

**Contact:** Val Menezes valerie.menezes@bigpond.com 0427 086 571 or Dave Jones evad354@bigpond.com 0427 869 977.
Well known and respected businessman George Jones AM has been confirmed as the official speaker at the Commemorative Service at Langley Park on ANZAC Day.

Mr Jones, who served with Royal Corps of Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers in Vietnam 1968-69, is an outstanding speaker and passionate student of First World War battles on the Western Front – and 2016 is the 100th anniversary of major battles.

Mr Jones was made WA’s Senior Australian of the Year in 2012 for his unstinting work with charities and the not-for-profit sector.

He returned as chairman of mining company Sundance Resources in 2009, when a tragic plane crash in West Africa killed the entire board.

The MC will be Geoff Hutchison, the presenter on ABC morning radio, who officiated at the RSL Commemorative Service last year.

Last year’s speaker, North Beach Vice President David Singer, received a standing ovation for his outstanding speech.

The Commemorative Service starts at 11am. The program will also feature the Salvation Army Perth Fortress Band and an 80-strong choir comprising Chorus Angelicus, Schola Cantori, Phoenix and Calliope from Perth Modern School and Aaralyn children’s choir.

The Commemorative Service will conclude at noon.

Other participants include the Perth Fortress Salvation Army Band, TS Canning Navy Cadets, Scouts WA, and, for the first time, volunteers from Curtin University.

As usual, the ANZAC Day Dawn Service at Kings Park will be televised live by Channel 9 and the Parade and Commemorative Service will be televised live by the ABC.
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* Powered by a reliable Seiko VD55 movement
* Chronograph sub dials with stopwatch function
* Genuine leather band
* Water resistant to 3 ATM

Includes Free Giftbox

Their spirits walk in eternity. Never to grow old. Never to be diminished by the passage of time. These are lives not wasted, but forever illuminated by our nation's gratitude. Now they shine ever brighter in the glow of the “Lest We Forget Chronograph Watch,” a fine gentleman's timepiece, available only from The Bradford Exchange.

Technical Specifications:
* Rugged Stainless steel case
* Titanium Nitride ion-plated for endurance
* Powered by a reliable Seiko VD55 movement
* Chronograph sub dials with stopwatch function
* Genuine leather band
* Water resistant to 3 ATM

Includes Free Giftbox
‘On the Homefront’

The Centenary of the First World War has brought about a resurgence of interest in ancestors, particularly those who lived, fought and in some cases died in this major conflict.

Whilst information about those who served has been documented, it is difficult for us to appreciate how the lives of those who were left behind ‘keeping the home fires burning’ were impacted by the war.

Newspapers and personal documents are a great source of information, as in days gone by the population was so small that a broken arm was faithfully reported in the local broadsheet.

These papers provide a rich source of material that reflects the daily lives of those who lived through the war, both at the front and at home.

Recognising this, the State Library of Western Australia has gathered a collection of newspapers from metropolitan and country Western Australia published during the war years, including diaries and letters.

The State Library of Western Australia Foundation is raising money to send these to be digitised and consequently loaded onto the Trove website, where they will be available for searching online.

The fundraising appeal, appropriately entitled ‘On the Homefront’, has enjoyed an enthusiastic response which has already enabled the Library to send through a number of newspapers to be digitised.

A number of these documents have yet to be digitised and we encourage you to assist in this endeavour by donating a financial gift to the project.

Every donation, large or small will contribute to more and more of these early newspapers coming online. Donations over $2 are tax deductible. Donations can be made online at www.givenow.com.au/statelibrarywaonthehomefront or please call the Foundation on 9427 3175.

RAAF survey ends April 30

Serving personnel, veterans and the Australian public have until April 30 to contribute their ideas for the Royal Australian Air Force centenary in 2021.

Late last year, Chief of Air Force, Air Marshal Leo Davies launched the first stage of planning for the centenary – the consultation phase.

“This is your chance to shape how we mark the centenary,” Warrant Officer of the Air Force (WOFF-AF) Rob Swanwick said.

“As a member of the Air Force 2021 Steering Group, I am keen to see great ideas from across RAAF and from our veterans.”

“The centenary will be a time to look back and reflect on the sacrifices of the last 100 years. Since 1921, almost 10,000 Air Force members have lost their lives while serving Australia – 9,870 during WWII. We must recognise their legacy of commitment to service and remember that every one of them left behind a family and friends.”

The consultation period runs until April 30, 2016. Contributions can be made through: www.airforce.gov.au/RAAF2021

ANZAC Day Amendment Bill

The ANZAC Day Amendment Bill 2015 and ANZAC Day Amendment Bill (No.2) 2015 has made its way through the Legislative Assembly with cross-party support.

The Bill shifts the formal responsibility for the Act from the Treasurer to the Minister for Veterans, and proposes amendments to ensure that the Act remains relevant to the current veteran community.

The ANZAC Day Amendment Bill 2015 proposes the following amendments:

- formal responsibility for the Act is transferred from the Treasurer to the Minister for Veterans,
- contributions to the ANZAC Day Trust will only apply to professional sporting and racing events with a minimum attendance of 5,000 people,
- the current requirement for 60-100 per cent of net proceeds to be contributed to the trust fund is unrealistic - instead five per cent of a prescribed adult general admission ticket price multiplied by the number of people in attendance would apply to all professional sporting and racing events, regardless of location (metro versus country),
- provision would exist for the Minister to approve an alternative contribution to the trust by the organisers of an event – the proposal must be submitted in writing 30 days in advance of the event,
- when ANZAC Day falls on a Sunday, no exemption is made regarding contributions to the trust fund,
- Trustees are no longer drawn from ex-service organisations which are potential recipients of trust funds – only persons identified as independent of associations which may benefit from the appropriation of trust funds are appointed,
- purpose of trust funds no longer to just improve homes for ex-servicemen and families but is widened to include any proposal that benefits veterans and their families (only military veterans),
- the time to provide a statutory declaration of proceeds raised on ANZAC Day is increased from 30 to 90 days, and
- penalty for contraventions to the legislation is increased from $400 to $5000 and contraventions of regulations from $100 to $1000 to be credible deterrents.
THE BATTLE OF LONG TAN
50TH ANNIVERSARY

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August 18 is the 50th anniversary of The Battle of Long Tan which has also become known as Vietnam Veterans Day. At a rubber plantation near Long Tan, a vastly outnumbered group of Australian soldiers were attacked by a Viet Cong (North Vietnamese) force estimated between 1,500 and 2,500. Australia won a decisive victory in the battle that killed 245 enemy and 18 Australians. The Listening Post sought out two Western Australian members of D Company 6RAR to share their experiences. It’s believed Western Australia had only three members in D Company when the main contact was made in the conflict. They were PTE Richard Aldersea, PTE Harley Webb and L/CPL Neil Bextrum. PTE Aldersea was killed in action during the battle. Another West Australian, who was with 1 Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron, CPL Peter Edward Clements, died of wounds from the battle.

by PTE Harley Webb

Today I’m 71 but my age when heading to Vietnam was 21. I was conscripted in 1965 from Albany and I was in the second intake.

After nine months training at Puckapunyal and Ingleburn I was sent to Vietnam as a reinforcement in 1ARU, based at Vung Tau. On August 16, 1966, after 10 weeks, I was finally posted to D Company, 6RAR at Nui Dat, along with PVTE Whiston and Topp.

The base camp was mortared that night and not knowing where the gun pits were we spent the night in our tent. On the morning of August 17 we were allocated our platoons.

We drew straws for platoons and I lost. I went to 12 Platoon and Whiston and Topp went to 11 Platoon, they were both killed on August 18.

I did not know any of the soldiers in 12 Platoon. The platoon was told we were going out on operations the morning of the August 18, a debate started as to who was to be forward scout – I was delegated the job.

When I went to the Q store to get my ammunition and light machine gun I asked the guy alongside me how many rounds do we take.

He said only the basic as D Company (D Coy) had not fired a shot in anger.

We went out on patrol and after walking through rice fields and banana plantations we met B Company on their way back to base.

We had lunch with them. After lunch we pushed forward to the sounds of Little Patti and Col Joy singing at the 6RAR concert back at the main base.

Our patrol was looking for the location from where the Vietcong had mortared us. As we entered the rubber plantation perimeter gun shots rang out.

We went to ground and were told 11 Platoon had been surrounded and we were in big trouble. 12 Platoon pushed forward and met up with 11 Platoon or those who were still alive.

The enemy regrouped and surrounded us and 11 Platoon. For some reason there was an opening in the perimeter of the circle.

We retreated with great haste and reformed a circle around company headquarters.

We were told afterwards we were outnumbered 128 Australian and New Zealanders to about 2,500 Vietcong. I was in an exposed position behind a

As we entered the rubber plantation perimeter gun shots rang out

PTE Harley Webb was wounded in the Battle of Long Tan.
rubber tree with my backpack for cover and the armalite. Bullets were clacking past and the noise was horrendous.

Our artillery was dropping artillery shells between us and the Vietcong.

Later I found out that it was NZ artillery officer Morrie Stanley who directed the shelling from our company headquarters, an amazing effort.

Then it started to rain. It was ridiculous, a monsoon, it absolutely bucketed down. We were down to almost no ammunition.

The Australian chopper pilots arrived. After receiving our call for assistance they disobeyed orders from the main base camp and flew underneath artillery fire and dropped medical supplies and ammunition in the pouring rain.

Next time I saw WO Kirby was when ammunition was being dropped from above the rubber trees.

He had broken open a box of ammunition. He came over with ammunition for my armalite.

He said “there you go mate, fill her up and enjoy”. Then he left.

I was wounded shortly after being resupplied with ammunition. WO Kirby came back and picked me up, chucked me over his shoulder and ran back to the medivac area.

He said “here’s another one for you guys” and left. I never saw Jack again.

For a man to move around under heavy fire without showing any sign of fear was inspirational. He saved my life.

After darkness set in, the reinforcements arrived with the armoured personnel carriers. They saved the day.

After the battle I was sent by helicopter to the American base hospital and remained there in intensive care for three weeks until I was sent back to Australia.

The bullet was removed from my chest six weeks later in Hollywood Hospital, Perth.

Over the past 45 years D Coy as a unit has been recognised with Presidential Unit Citation from the USA, The South Vietnamese Star and lastly the Australian Unit Gallantry citation.
I survived, but 17 of my mates died

by L/CPL Neil Bextrum

I'm 70 years old but in Vietnam I was 20. My 21st birthday took place over there.

I was a regular soldier, I had joined the Army a little bit before conscription came in. This would have been in 1963/64. I did my recruit training with national servicemen in Ingleburn, NSW and then Canungra, QLD for a couple of months.

After heading back to Ingleburn to a reinforcement wing I was then sent to 1 Battalion in Vietnam at Bien Hoa. I served with them and then transferred to 6th Battalion at Nui Dat.

I did patrols and everything battalions had to do, mainly patrols. This meant going away from the battalion and checking on sightings of Viet Cong. We were doing the clearing and destroying the villages that weren't friendly.

We used to get the odd contact from the Viet Cong, a few injuries, a skirmish but nothing major until the Battle of Long Tan.

We got mortared the night before so we were out there looking at where the fire came from. On the day of Long Tan I was with ‘D’ company six battalion 12 platoon. Luckily I did not get killed or wounded, that was really the best part of it.

I lost colleagues and friends. Seventeen of the 119 members were killed all up in ‘D’ company. After the battle I stayed on for another five months in Nui Dat. Everyone had to do a 12 month tour right to the day, 12 months on the dot.

Looking back it seems so long now. Fifty years it has been. My memory is starting to fog up a little bit, but I still go to the reunions. I went to the American Presidential Citation Presentation in Queensland. I enjoyed it.

I was from the bush, around the Gascoyne area before I joined the Army so when I came back from the war I just went back to my old ways.

Three quarters of the people I knew didn’t even know I left to fight in Vietnam.

I didn’t tell anyone really, it just happened that way. The war never really worried me. I didn’t come back with bad dreams. I think this had something to do with what I had done before I went to Vietnam.
Peter Aspinall served nearly 30 years in the Australian military in a variety of postings in Australia and overseas after he was commissioned in June 1961 as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery.

He served in South Vietnam in 1966/67 as an artillery forward observer with the 6th then 5th Battalions, Royal Australian Regiment, including support for 6RAR after the Battle of Long Tan. Peter is the immediate past president of the Albany RSL Sub-Branch.

Hundreds dead in major battle

50TH ANNIVERSARY

BATTLE
LONG TAN

by Peter Aspinall

In August 1966 I was an artillery forward observer attached to A Company of the 6th Battalion, RAR. On the night of August 16-17 we were harboured for the night just southeast of Nui Dat 2, to the north of the Long Tan rubber plantation.

Shortly after midnight I was awoken by the sound of mortar primaries and mortar bomb detonations from the direction of the Australian Task Force base.

In the following period of time I listened to the artillery radio net as grid square after grid square was engaged with regimental counter mortar fire.

One of the grid squares indicated was the one in which A Company was harboured; there was little we could do but keep our heads down and hope that the artillery fire would not hit us.

Early the next morning Alpha was recalled by the Commanding Officer of 6RAR and returned to our Nui Dat base around midday on the 18th.

It was a fortuitous recall as if we had kept on our planned route we would have patrolled right through the Long Tan rubber plantation in which Delta company were caught later that day.

On arrival back in base we expected to be able to relax and eat, instead Alpha was put onto 15 minutes notice to move.

The Company Commander and I were aware of the tightening situation Delta Company was experiencing further to the east. Our rising concern for

of the Commanding Officer of 6RAR, a wait that lost us too much valuable time. By now we were fully understanding of the perilous plight of Delta Company and we were getting frantic to press on into the Long Tan rubber.

We knew that Delta Company was desperately low in ammunition, had suffered casualties and, notwithstanding the fierce concentration of artillery fire encircling their position, in danger of being overrun if we could not get there in time.

I needed to create a corridor through our artillery fire encircling Delta in order to allow the APCs we were mounted in to get through without serious damage.

In this I was unsuccessful; my radios were experiencing problems, seemingly being jammed. As a consequence, we drove through our full artillery concentration miraculously with only superficial damage and no casualties although one of the APC commanders was fatally wounded while we were approaching the Delta Company position.

Continued page 69
A range of services are being planned this year to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan – also known as Vietnam Veterans Day.

Locations include Kings Park, North Beach, Mandurah and City of Stirling. There will be services throughout the country and in Long Tan on various dates. However, the official Long Tan day is Thursday August 18.

During the 1962-75 war, 521 Australians – including 61 West Australians – died in Vietnam. Some 200 were ‘Nashos’ – National Service conscripts. Almost 60,000 Australians served during the war.

**Sunday August 14:**

- **Kings Park:** The Vietnam Veterans Association will hold its traditional annual march and 11am Commemorative Service at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Kings Park. Several hundred veterans are expected with a sausage sizzle planned and entertainment by the Perth Army Band.

**Thursday August 18:**

- **North Beach Charles Riley Memorial Reserve:** This RSL service will comprise a Commemorative Service with a march, starting at 10.45am, from the North Beach Bowling Club to the Memorial Precinct and wreath laying. It will focus on commemorating the service and sacrifice of all Vietnam Veterans and acknowledge the support of wives, partners and families. The service starts at 11.00am and provides the opportunity for the Northern Suburbs Vietnam Veteran community, Vietnamese Veterans and the Vietnamese community, the wider ex-service community and schools students to come together to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Vietnam Veterans.

  At the service a new commemorative plaque created for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans’ Day will be unveiled by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO.

  Following the service there will be a morning tea for approximately 300 Vietnam Veteran guests and their families at the local Community Centre adjacent to the Memorial Reserve.

- **Mandurah:** 11am service after march to the War Memorial. The Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group combined with the Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch conducts a formal parade and service. (See letter page 12 for details)

**Saturday August 20:**

- **City of Stirling:** A service run by the WA branch of the Naval Association is planned at 11am at the site of the first memorial erected in WA to commemorate the Vietnam War.

  “We are also hoping to have a special commemorative service at Perth Cathedral on August 19,” said the President of the WA Vietnam Veterans Association Richard Williams.

  “This is a very significant occasion, not only because it’s the 50th anniversary of Long Tan but it is also recognised as commemorating the whole Vietnam War.”

An estimated 1.3 million people on both sides were killed during the war.
Dick was not the perfect student

by Jim Aldersea

Richard Alfred Aldersea, known to his family as Dick, was born in Perth on July 29, 1946. He later moved to Treesville, a small country town, then to Quinninup and Northcliffe where he started his schooling.

I remember asking him how he liked his first day, the reply was ‘I didn’t’ and right up to the day he walked out of the school gate in Manjimup High School, he always hated school.

One of his last school reports that Mum kept, read ‘If Richard concentrated on his school studies as much as he does entertaining the class, he would have been the perfect student’.

Later the family moved back to the city and Richard started work at the Keystone Service Station near Karrakatta Cemetery.

Mothers Day, Christmas and Mum’s birthdays were special as Richard always gave his Mum a large bunch of flowers, which were acquired from Karrakatta Crematorium, a short cut through Karrakatta Cemetery.

Luckily I was at Mum’s house on one of her birthdays and when Richard strolled in all innocent like Mum smothered him in kisses. I looked at the large bunch of flowers and lucky I did, because I could see the black-edged card from the funeral directors.

On the day of Dick’s funeral we left Chippers Funeral House driving down Rokeby Road Subiaco. All the shops had closed and the owners and staff stood in a guard of honour, heads bowed as the hearse went by.

Later I went to the hotel and thanked them on behalf of my parents and asked them to pass the message on to all the other shopkeepers.

The reply to me was ‘We buried a Subi soldier today and that’s just a little for the family’.

Life was one big adventure, says nephew

by Trevor Aldersea

Richard was killed by a single shot from a sniper who had taken out the machine gunner.

Dick was No2 on the gun and moved to another spot and opened fire on the area that the gunner was shot from. As he got up on one knee he was yelled at by someone to get down, then a second shot from the sniper hit Dick in the chest and that made him the first and the only WA KIA on that day at Long Tan.

Dad tells us so many stories of Dick and himself getting into trouble, well more Dick... Like most of the people his age (21) life was one big adventure, Vietnam must have been the in-thing at the time as he enlisted knowing he would go to Vietnam.

Boys become men very fast in combat. When he was KIA at the age of 21 life was only starting. For me I still remember the day my mother picked us up early from school crying and we made one of the longest trips to Perth from Northcliffe I have ever made.

My brothers and I (all five at this stage) are heading up to the service in Vietnam this year. Hopefully we can take our father to the service over there, but I believe he would not be able to walk to the cross without falling apart or having a heart attack.
CPL Peter Clements was serving in the 1st Armoured Personnel Carrier Squadron, on the night of August 18, 1966 and while relieving troops was fatally wounded. He died at the 36th Evacuation Hospital, Vung Tau, nine days later on August 27, 1966. Peter was recommended for the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and was awarded the RVN CG with Gold Star. He was aged 21 when he died and is buried at the cemetery in Moora. His brother Phil Martin recalls those days...

My parents prayed for a miracle

I remember my brother Peter Clements only in fragments because I was just 10 years old when I learnt he was involved in the Battle of Long Tan and had received serious wounds.

I can recall the dark days my parents endured waiting for any news and the hoped-for miracle that he might recover. However, my mother received the news she had been dreading, that he had succumbed to his wounds and passed away, on August 27, 1966.

As you can imagine my parents and brother Brian were distraught at this news and I can recall extreme sadness around the home with messages of sympathy coming from the Clements family and townspeople.

Peter and Brian were the sons of Albert Clements and Molly. Albert passed away when the boys were young and Mum remarried to my father Peter Martin. The family moved to Moora in the early 1960's. Peter was educated at the Christian Brothers College in Perth where he was an excellent student. When he finished his schooling he was at a loss as to decide his career so decided a few years in the Army would be beneficial.

He was posted to the Armoured Corp where he served with I APC Squadron that utilised armoured personnel carriers to provide transport and protection of ground troops. Due to their versatility they served our forces in Vietnam with great success as a light armoured vehicle.

Peter was sent into battle delivering reinforcements to the beleaguered infantry who were grossly outnumbered by a determined enemy and his life was taken trying to save the lives of the troops involved in the battle.

In a letter to Mum from Peter’s Commanding Officer at the time, he stated that although seriously wounded he continued to command his carrier and engage the enemy. The assault was successful.

His medical condition was very serious and while he made slow progress toward recovery, he unfortunately suffered a relapse and did not recover.

Though I was very young at the time of his death, I can still remember Peter as a kind and caring brother to me, even though we had different surnames. His humour and intelligence would always stand out and it drew the respect of his peers and friends.

The funeral for Peter was conducted at the Moora Cemetery on September 6, 1966 with full military honours.

Clements fatally wounded while on APC duty

Lowes, whose complexion Roberts describes as almost Asian in appearance, was almost shot by one of the infantrymen on Clements’ carrier as he raced over the ground. On reaching the APC, Noel Lowes reported that Peter Clements’ wounds were very serious. Roberts immediately ordered Lowes to withdraw the carrier with Clements and two other wounded infantrymen, so he swung back to the west. Despite Lowes’ incredible act of bravery his feat was never recognised, regardless of a recommendation by Roberts and Savage. Unbeknown to Roberts, Clements’ carrier contained part of A Company’s HQ which was carried back with the wounded Clements. Roberts’ compassionate stance in ordering Noel Lowes to withdraw the carrier was criticised by the acting commander of A Company, Captain Mollison, a criticism Roberts later acknowledged.

However, it was noted that not one of the troops in the Company HQ on board the vehicle made any attempt to disembark from the carrier before it withdrew. It might also be noted that Peter Clements’ carrier was one of the two Troop carriers ‘on loan’ to Roberts that evening, and that Roberts may thus have felt some added responsibility to evacuate him.
Tracey Fickling, President of Waroona-Hamel RSL Sub-Branch, worked long hours after fires blitzed Yarloop on January 7, setting 70,000 hectares of bushland ablaze, leaving two dead, at least 162 homes destroyed and RSL members in four sub-branches scrambling to assist victims. The single mum lives in Waroona and worked long hours as a traffic controller for Peak Traffic Management and as a volunteer trying to help fire victims. Les Liddington, an RSL member and fire victim, says “Within days of the fire Tracey turned up with food, blankets, fuel and all sorts of things for the four or five veterans involved. I can’t thank her enough.” RSL Sub-branches at Pinjarra, Harvey, Cockburn and Waroona-Hamel worked to support fire victims. This is her story.

Yarloop fires: RSL responds

My first visit to Yarloop was gut wrenching. The quaint wooden cottages were gone. Significant buildings like the fire station, the pub, the old hospital, the steamworks, all gone.

I met veterans Les Liddington and Matt Colebrook on that day – Wednesday, January 13. Two strong men with such optimism despite losing their homes. They briefly spoke of their losses but their focus was on rebuilding. I walked through the rubble and ashes and admired the strength of the chimneys that remained standing.

Everything was grey on the ground, burnt twisted sheet metal from the tin roofs and the remnants of cars seemed to be everywhere. The War Memorial had flags flying high, burnt ground surrounding it and melted fences but the memorial remained untouched.

The smell, the light, the dust, the danger tape, the fallen power poles, the silence made the experience overwhelming. The one image I took away that day was the green blade of grass that had broken through the ash. Within days nature was rebuilding and I know this is an indication of the future of Yarloop and surrounds.

My encounter began on January 6. I received a phone call from a friend about a fire at Lane Poole Reserve in the Shire of Waroona. I could see smoke and reassured my friend it was miles away and would be no threat. By the time I got home the fire had created its own weather and was travelling down the scarp toward Waroona.

We had a howling easterly and it was very reminiscent of January 2015 when fires forced us to evacuate. Surely this wasn’t happening again!

It moved so quickly, faster than anyone could have imagined. I evacuated my children and on Friday woke to the tragic news that many Yarloop properties had been lost. I was able to go home to Waroona briefly on Friday night.
All I had to deal with was the rotting food in my fridge as the power had been off for more than 24 hours and the house was rancid. I was working 12 hour days on the road blocks so needed to get some rest.

Saturday. I had read on Facebook that V360 required goods for Yarloop. I knew I was going to be able to help so got in touch. There was a need for toiletries, clothing, boots, solar showers, toilets, food, linen, pet food, first aid supplies and a washing machine.

I made a call to HALO in Mandurah and in no time my boys were on the road to pick up goods for the veterans in Yarloop. Unfortunately V360 were not able to pick up from me that day so my patio became a supply point for the weeks to come. I was able to call up some friends and get everything we needed.

Thanks to St John Ambulance Waroona, Port Bouvard Surf Life Saving Club, Waroona Vet, Murray Hull, Harry Carna, Peraldini Family, Simone Fiebig, my kids and my Mum and Dad for the donations and help with transport.

Monday was a big day at work – 17 hours. It was that night that I saw first-hand some of the devastation. I was tasked to put diversion signs out from Waroona to Yarloop via the ‘back roads’. Trees across the roads, power lines down, bridge footings gone…

Tuesday would be a trip to Pinjarra to meet with Brian Cooper, the chair of the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund, Rosalind Howat and John Arthur from RSLWA headquarters.

I soon realised that I would be able to do a lot more than I had with the support of the Trust behind me.

I was given a run-down on the role of the Trust and encouraged to pass on the message to anyone who was eligible to claim to do so. I received goods from Pinjarra Sub-Branch for the Yarloop veterans.

On January 13 I was able to get into Yarloop and had spoken to those who had lost everything. It was on January 14 that the rules for entry into Yarloop had been changed and I was no longer allowed in.

I kept in touch with veterans by phone and was able to make deliveries as requested to the road block.

I liaised with the Ops Centre in Waroona to gain permission to get essential items through including a fuel trailer which consisted of a donated trailer and 300 litre fuel tank - all donated. Thanks to Green Spark Auto Electrics for coming to Waroona to make the trailer roadworthy at no cost.

We sourced sea containers for the security of possessions and a couple of other ‘special’ items which I can’t disclose at this stage.

Many calls have been received with offers of help and I know that over time when the needs are realised then we will call on those offers.

New friendships have been made and the relationship between Harvey, Pinjarra and Waroona-Hamel Sub-Branches have flourished.

There is a long road ahead but with all the help I have had so far to assist those who need it most, I know that none of us are travelling alone.
Brian Cooper has spent most of his life helping others so when the Yarloop fires struck he was soon in the thick of the aftermath.

Brian (77) is chairman of the independent WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund which provides relief to anyone who qualifies to be a member of the RSL – in other words a veteran or serving member of the ADF and their dependents.

He was visiting Pinjarra and Waroona within five days of the fires devastating Yarloop on January 7 and returned soon after with fellow trustee Duncan Warren to visit Yarloop and inspect property damage.

Grants were quickly approved for four families in Yarloop to a total value exceeding $25,000.

“Financial assistance from the Trust is not restricted to RSL members – it is available to anyone who is eligible to join the RSL and finds themselves in financial trouble or necessitous circumstances,” Brian told The Listening Post during one of his visits.

“Claims vary from requests to pay utility bills, provide wheelchairs and gophers, schoolchildren’s school fees and assistance with funeral expenses. Most applicants are successful.” Mr Cooper says he finds one of the most frustrating things the reluctance of veterans to reach out for help.

“Unfortunately pride is a big barrier and people will not approach us for help in any circumstance,” he said.

“They need to know that applications to the Trust are treated confidentially and considerations never go outside the room.”

Mr Cooper was first appointed to the Trust in 1994 by the State Government and has been chairman for eight years.

He has been a practising advocate for 35 years and served in the ADF for a total 40 years – including 23 in the regular army. He has been a member of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch since 1984.

“I find this work very rewarding personally – I can help somebody of the same ilk as myself who has served their country and finds themselves in a situation which is most likely no fault of their own.”

The Trust operates out of ANZAC House and its administrator is Rosalind Howat. Her phone number is 9287 3799.
The seven-minute fire that devastated Yarloop also incinerated Vietnam veteran Les ‘Squizzy’ Taylor, a TPI pensioner who his family believes was extremely affected by the herbicide Agent Orange.

“Les was extremely affected by Agent Orange and went deep into the bush after his service in Vietnam,” recalls his sister, Ena Mays, who lives on the Sunshine Coast.

“He was living in a caravan in the outback near Widgiemooltha (an abandoned town 631 kilometres east of Perth) and he was there for years.”

Leslie Owen Taylor (77) had shifted to Yarloop to try to normalise his life but he continued to struggle, sometimes with suicidal thoughts. He rarely told his family about his tours of Malaya and Vietnam as a regular in the Australian Army. He joined around the age of 18 and served in Vietnam with Australia’s 1st Field Regiment (May 4, 1966 to March 3, 1967) and 4th Field Regiment (January 28, 1970 to May 3, 1971). His service number was 53252 and he reached the rank of acting staff sergeant.

“Les told me he was in his camp a couple of times when the Americans sprayed the area with Agent Orange, soaking his camp on the ground with no warning,” Ms Mays told The Listening Post. “With limited access to water a few times, he said it burnt your skin and eyes. The photographs were evidence and supported the claims that the Australians were in the area and were harmed by the stuff.”

Ms Mays at one stage was the custodian of Les’s slides which she said showed Agent Orange pouring out of aircraft. Agent Orange was used by the US military to destroy crops, bushes and trees hiding insurgents.

Leslie Owen Taylor died with his dog in his rented home, not being able to escape the huge firestorm which engulfed Yarloop.

“Throughout the years after Vietnam my brother had very little contact with his family, choosing to be more isolated. In the last ten years though he changed and spent a lot of time speaking to me and a few cousins on the phone. We have almost no photographs of Les anywhere. What photographs he had and including a book he had been writing about his service in Vietnam have been destroyed by fire. That includes his medals also which usually were in a safe.

“It was a very sudden but awful event and when I went in January to visit Yarloop and the place where Les had lived there was nothing left but his burnt car and a few sheets of roofing iron. ‘One thing about Les was special. He had a very forgiving and non-judgemental attitude to people. He didn’t hold a grudge and he was very much an Australian man, proud of his country.

“He didn’t get to the RSL or ANZAC Days as he usually bowed out at the last moment. He couldn’t find the right tie, lost his jacket, medals were in a safe and so on.”
Car engines melted like butter and brass bells twisted as fire raged through Yarloop killing two men, destroying at least 162 homes and leaving RSL members scrambling to help.

Vietnam veteran Leslie Owen Taylor was one of those who lost their lives as the fires torched the historic little town 132km south of Perth. At least five other veterans are fire victims.

One is the welfare officer for Harvey RSL Sub-Branch, Les Liddington, who once had the biggest house in town. Not now.

Les, a former SAS and Vietnam veteran, knows a little about fires having worked for the WA Fire Brigade for 18 years.

His home was converted into dust and rubble as flames 100 metres high melted the aluminium head of his car (660 degrees C melting point) and a brass bell (900-1000 degrees).

Les has difficulty accepting help from anyone – after a lifetime of serving everyone else – but says the support he received from the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund has been pivotal in helping him survive.

“I would have had difficulty without the Trust,” Les says. “I didn’t realise the depth of support available. The Trust has been brilliant – it’s been pivotal in my still being here.”

Mr Liddington and former combat engineer Matt Colebrook lost their homes.

Matt, a former sergeant, put his own life on the line after returning to Yarloop from a 17-hour shift as a volunteer fire fighter.

Matt saw his neighbour, Don Dingwall (73) out front with embers swirling around him and uncertain what to do. Don’s wife Judy requires oxygen for emphysema and she was inside with three grandchildren, Gabriel (2), Trinity (5) and Elijah (10). Matt bundled the family into their car and ordered Don to follow the red and blue flashing lights of his fire truck. They drove for 15 minutes through raging fires to safety.

Matt’s heroism is only matched by his determination to rebuild. He also met with trustees of the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund, Brian Cooper (chairman) and Duncan Warren, who visited Yarloop, Harvey and other towns and spoke with fire victims.

Initially, the fund provided sea containers, power generators, household needs such as refrigerators and chairs and cash grants for necessities. Waroona-Hamel, Pinjarra and Harvey RSL Sub-Branches provided various types of help, including trailers and loads of donated goods.

It’s hard not to be angry when visiting Yarloop and seeing the wasteland and the lockable sea containers needed to prevent looting – especially when they are on the property of former soldiers.

And that anger grows as more fires break out – such as the one at Harvey-Quindanning on February 8 – which authorities say have been deliberately lit. The mercury hit 42.5 degrees in Perth on that day.
New building by RSL members

At 5.45am on Monday April 25 the devastated town of Yarloop will stop and pay tribute to those who served and fell for their country.

The Dawn Service, organised for the seventh year by the Yarloop Bushfire Brigade, will start with a march to the Yarloop War Memorial – which has miraculously survived the fires.

The service will include schoolchildren, catafalque party, bugler, a speaker from HMAS Stirling and traditional breakfast.

The secretary/treasurer of the fire brigade, Stephen Cook, who fought the fires, said “I’ve never been so scared in all my life. It was a horrendous night.”

Out of the horror has come an outpouring of community support and the RSL members of Harvey, Pinjarra, Waroona-Hamel and Cockburn sub-branches were at the fore in donating much needed household items and materials.

Pinjarra RSL President Mick O’Donnell also identified a need for winter accommodation for Afghanistan veteran Matt Colebrook by rebuilding on old hay shed to provide cover for his caravan and outdoor kitchen and living space.

Cockburn RSL donated $2,000 for the raw materials.

Pinjarra RSL built the shed from patio tubing and sheet metal. A team of RSL members led by Brian Flatman and including Kevin and Ken Jones and Brian Elwood erected a new roof and sides.
The travelling show ‘War to Remembrance’ opened at the Serpentine-Jarrahdale Community Resource Centre last month and was immediately well received by the local community.

Schoolchildren asked many questions of the President of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch Ric Giblett and Vice President Commander Cass Ryan regarding the various conflicts displayed. They were also curious about the RSL in general.

What was well received was the fact that the RSL was considering a Junior Membership category and schoolchildren and others were keen to know what was envisaged.

A morning tea was served to all present provided by the sub-branch and the resource centre. It should be noted that the staff and volunteers of the resource centre did a wonderful job in the setup of the display.

Ric Giblett
President - Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch

Attending the launch of ‘War to Remembrance’ were Dave Atwell (Serpentine-Jarrahdale Shire Councillor), Ric Giblett (Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch President) Tony Simpson (Minister for Local Government), Sandra Hawkins (Serpentine-Jarrahdale Councillor), Commander Cass Ryan (Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch Vice President) and Tom Hoyer (Serpentine-Jarrahdale Resource Centre).
Former Navy investigator takes helm

Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch has elected its first female president – former Navy Investigator Robyn Steenbach.

“I am very proud to be elected as the President of the Kalgoorlie RSL and will certainly do my very best for our club and the ex-servicemen and their families in the Kalgoorlie area,” she told The Listening Post.

“If there are ex-servicemen needing assistance please do not hesitate to call as we are here to assist in whatever way we can.”

Ms Steenbach joined the WRANS in 1981 and commenced recruit school training at HMAS Cerberus. She did her Radio Operator Teletype Category training at the communications School at Cerberus and in January 1982 was posted to HMAS Harman, then HMAS Morton, HMAS Kuttabul, and HMAS Albatross.

“In January 1986 my son Matthew was born and towards the end of that year, I left full-time service and transferred to the reserve,” she said.

“I continued to do reserve service until late 1993 when I took a contiguous full-time service position at HMAS Watson, and while doing that I applied to transfer to NPC and rejoined the full-time navy service. On completion of my course I was posted in HMAS Penguin, then HMAS Cerberus, then as the Petty Officer Naval Police Coxswain to RAAF Wagga Wagga, where I had the wonderful opportunity of going to the 87th anniversary of Gallipoli on the Army History Unit Battlefield Study tour.

“I then got a posting to newly formed Inspector General of the ADF’s office as the first Naval Investigator. It was great learning experience and wonderful opportunity to work with Inspector General Geoff Earley AM and Commodore Vicki McConachie.

“On promotion to Chief Petty Officer I was posted to HMAS Stirling, then HMAS Creswell where I discharged in 2007.

“My husband Jens and our son shifted to Kalgoorlie in 2007 and we have been here since. We do find it a little hard not being near the water - that is the one thing I think we miss the most.

“I thoroughly enjoyed my time in the RAN and the places I got to see and the people I meet along the way, I am still in contact with some of the girls I joined the Navy with in 1981 and lot of the people I meet along the way.”

ANZAC House is planning a special seminar on Saturday May 14 to assist sub-branches with their administration. The seminar will be held in the Gallipoli Room at ANZAC House from 10am-noon (for secretaries) and from 12.30pm to 2.30pm (for sub-branch treasurers).

A panel of sub-branch secretaries will conduct the first session, comprising Rob Sweet (North Beach), Sue O’Donnell (Pinjarra), Tom Rynn (Armadale) and Jenny Sciortino (City of Rockingham).

The panel of treasurers will comprise Alan Stubbs (Gosnells), Jean Harris (City of Perth), Kay Cleak (City of Cockburn) and Peter McGlade (RSLWA’s State Accountant).

If you would like to book, contact ANZAC House on 9287 3799.

RSL Embraces Facebook

RSLWA sub-branches are having an increasingly strong presence online, using Facebook to reach current and potential members and their families and promote local initiatives.

There are currently 36 WA sub-branches on Facebook and the most active include Port Kennedy, Geraldton, Fremantle, Ocean Reef, Port Hedland, Belmont and Victoria Park.

The sub-branches with the most people liking their pages are Port Kennedy, Geraldton City, Serpentine-Jarrahdale and Kalgoorlie.

Approximately 10 new WA sub-branches have set up Facebook pages in the past year and several that have had Facebook pages for more than 12 months have had more than a 100 percent increase in page likes numbers, showing there is definitely interest and traction.

The audience of Facebook is gradually getting older with recent US figures showing 63 per cent of adults aged 50-64 use Facebook and 56 per cent of adults 65+ use Facebook. (source: Sproutsocial)
Sub-Branch News

Busselton game funds Legacy camp

A game of two-up helped the Busselton RSL Sub-Branch raise funds for children attending the Legacy Camp along Caves Road.

Legacy is an organisation that supports the children of servicemen and women who have lost a parent in combat or otherwise.

The Busselton RSL which held two-up on ANZAC Day dedicated all the proceeds from the game to the children at the camp.

Busselton RSL President, Bob Wood said 70 children were at the camp on Caves Road and the $1,300 raised was for them.

With Bob to present the cheque was Greg Evans, Busselton RSL Member and Legatee. The cheque was presented to Camp Coordinator John Burridge, MG, to spend on the children at the camp.

For the first time this year the Legacy camp also had children from New Zealand and children of police officers.

Glenn Woodward
Secretary
Busselton RSL Sub Branch

Esperance plans musical theatre work

Esperance RSL Sub-Branch is forging ahead with plans for its Entrenchment Project.

The sub-branch aims to build awareness of its military history, while raising funds that will encourage a continued knowledge of our nation’s history.

There are three components to the project:

• **A performance** – The sub-branch plans to create and achieve an original musical theatre work late this year which investigates themes related to ANZAC military history and its future, to commemorate and leave a legacy for the 100 year anniversary. The production is based on the story of a family exposed to World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War. The experiences of that family are discovered through the eyes of a teenage girl who, in the present time, reads letters and memoirs of various family members.

• **Murals** – The development of murals centred around and within the Esperance RSL building, to be opened in honour of ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day 2016.

• **Fundraising** – In addition this project aims to raise funds that will be donated to the Army Museum of Western Australia and to further assist sufferers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Currently the sub-branch is seeking funding for the project driven by a desire to commemorate and honour the ANZAC centenary.

The ‘Entrenchment team’ behind the project believe there is a real need to highlight and address current issues of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

They aim to raise awareness and funds for PTSD organisations to benefit the aid of Australian Defence Force PTSD sufferers.
Jack Davies ‘father’ of South Perth

Midland-born Jack Davies left school at 13, became a butcher, went gold prospecting, served overseas in the Second World War and turned 100 the other day.

And he still regularly attends meetings of the City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch.

According to Kevin Trent, the current president, Mr Davies has earned the title of ‘father’ of the South Perth RSL Sub-Branch.

“He is entitled to look back with pride and satisfaction on the progress of the sub-branch,” says Kevin. “We have celebrated not just his 100th birthday but also his length of service to the Como and Manning sub-branches.”

J.R. (Jack) Davies, service number WX16787, achieved his 100th birthday on December 6 last year.

He recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from the State President of the RSLWA, Graham Edwards AM.

Mr Davies started work at age 13, worked for five years in a country butcher shop and then spent some time prospecting for gold. Finally, he worked for two years as a PMG linesman.

He married Elsie in 1940 and they had a son Keith prior to Jack enlisting with the Australian Army in 1940.

He served with the 1st Corps Armoured Division, in Australia and Morotai in the Pacific area - the stepping stone to the Philippines.

He worked as a linesman while in the army and on one occasion had to climb a pole to find out what was wrong with the phone connection. Someone had boosted power enough to knock Jack unconscious off the pole and he spent three days back in camp before resuming duties.

He lost weight in the army and never regained it, dropping from 11st 10lbs in Australia to 9st 7lbs in Morotai.

Promoted to Corporal in 1944, Jack Davies remained in Morotai after the war for six months disbanding equipment.

When he returned to Australia Jack was re-employed by the PMG and remained with them until retirement. As a Line Inspector he travelled all over the South-West.

In 1945 Jack joined the South Perth RSL Sub-Branch and in 1952 Jack and his family moved to the Manning Park area which had allocated War Service homes.

In 1954 Jack Davies and Wilf Ferrier who were active members of the South Perth RSL Sub-Branch came to the conclusion that the time had arrived when Manning Park should have its own sub-branch.

Unofficial meetings were held in 1954 and early 1955 and Jack was installed as President.

The main task of the inaugural committee was to recruit further members and to seek approval for the formation of a Manning Park sub-branch.

On May 7, 1955 the State Secretary of the RSL John Chappel advised the President, Jack Davies, that the State Executive on this date had given approval for the formation of the sub-branch to be known as Manning Park.

The official opening took place in St. Peter’s Hall, Welwyn Avenue, on Wednesday June 15, 1955.

In February 1956 several sub-branch members accepted an invitation to participate in an evening of lawn bowls arranged by the South Perth Bowling Club. President Jack Davies thanked the hosts and then made it known that Manning planned to have its own bowling club in the not too distant future. Twelve months later his dream materialised.

Since then, the Kensington, Como and Manning sub-branches have amalgamated to form the City of South Perth Sub-Branch.

Jack Davies was made a Life Member of the RSL in 1986 and held the senior officeholder positions for many years from 1955 onward.
Celebrating 100: Jean and Jack O’Sullivan.

Cambridge Life Member cracks 100

John Edward O’Sullivan (Jack) was born in Dwellingup on April 7, 1916. He is the oldest and last surviving member of his family, outliving his six siblings.

On November 26, 1997 he was awarded Life Membership of the RSL as a long serving member of the Floreat Park RSL Sub-Branch, now Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch.

In May 1940 he was enlisted WX2778 in Northam into the 2nd/2nd Forestry Company and sailed from Fremantle on May 31, 1940 bound for France, with the aim of supplying timber to the French. While at sea France collapsed and his ship was diverted to UK. His company was tasked with timber supply in Northumberland then to Thornhill in Scotland where he met his wife Jean.

As the Japanese invasion was imminent the Company was recalled to Australia at the end of 1943. Jack was discharged in Wagga Wagga on September 21, 1945 as a Physical Training Instructor, Warrant Officer Class Two.

After his discharge Jack entered the Police Force as a mature aged member and served for 30 years. During that time he established the Missing Persons Bureau. He retired in April 1976.

He married Jean in Dumfries Scotland and they had four children: Glenda (Hollingsworth), Barbara (Wilmot), Evan (deceased) and Grant. Jack and Jean have ten grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. Jean lives at St Ives, Northshore and Jack lives at Amana Living Lady McCusker Home, Duncraig. Jack will celebrate his 100th birthday quietly on April 7 and a large celebration will take place on Saturday April 9 at Manners Hill Park, Peppermint Grove.

Jack’s service medals are: Defence Medal (1939 – 45), War Medal (1939 – 45), Australian Service Medal (1939 – 45), Imperial Police Long Service Medal and WA Police Long Service Medal (30 Year Leaf).

Dr Tony Thatcher heads RSLWA Legal Support

The RSLWA Legal Support Group office at the Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch is now being manned by Dr Tony Thatcher JP who is chair of the RSLWA State Tribunal.

He is assisted by two of his colleagues who will now provide over 60 years of experience as Justices of the Peace to members.

Their role is to provide assistance to all allied service personnel who require direction in resolving issues rather than be caught in the net of litigation. Additionally, their role is to visit service personnel in prisons, not with a hankie but with reality, mainly dealing with the families left behind in society.

The office operates from 10.30am to 2.30pm on Tuesdays. So far numerous RSLWA members have sought advice. Should it be necessary the office may be opened for two days a week. This service is administered by Ms Ros Howat, the RSL Welfare Officer at ANZAC House. This transmission of voluntary staff acknowledges the past efforts of Mr Colin Smith and Mr Terry O’Neil (deceased) whose dedication in providing support deserves mention.

Nollamara RSL Sub-Branch is located at 16 Sylvia Street Nollamara 6061 (off Nollamara Avenue next to shopping centre/servo).

The contact number for the RSL Legal Support Group is 9440 6233 or email rslwalegal@gmail.com After hours: 0433 847 155.
Swiss-born Fred Gfeller of the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch has made a strong impression on the Swan Bells Foundation after donating $5,000 toward the cost of the giant ANZAC Bell.

Mr Gfeller (89) served with the Western COMD Band. He matched the contribution by RSLWA to the project which was presented by RSLWA Centenary Program Manager Sharon Harford.

Mr Gfeller was personally thanked by the chair of the foundation, Ian Macleod, and the State Vice President of the RSL, Denis Connelly, at a special ceremony last month.

The 6.5 tonne bell is expected to be installed late this year – possibly before Remembrance Day. “We are hoping to have it up and ready by Remembrance Day, but this is a complex project and our concern is to get it correct rather than to get it on time,” the project manager for the bell project, Paul Grootveld, told The Listening Post.

“It could drift into next year.”

The delay is in ensuring that the design and frieze is appropriate. Once finalised, the bell can be cast locally in 12 weeks for a total cost of about $600,000.
Judy Bland is appealing to ex-servicewomen to join her in reinvigorating a 67 year-old sub-branch.

"Age is no barrier and we welcome serving or ex-serving ladies over the age of 18 to join us and reinvigorate the Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s Sub-Branch," said Judy, who is its President.

The next meeting will be an ANZAC House on Thursday April 21 and Judy can be contacted on 9311 4401 or gib41@bigpond.com

The sub-branch was formed in 1948 and while our newsletter is posted to 105 members we may get only 15 women turning up for meetings as many are getting older.

Judy, who joined the WRAAF in 1959 and served for three years and 49 days, says she would like to see the sub-branch more involved in centennial projects and with its own Facebook page.

The Kings Park Honour Avenues Group is usually far too immersed in honouring war veterans to worry about themselves. They have been carrying on an RSLWA tradition week after week, year after year, of installing and maintaining plaques in memory of those who have given their lives for Australia. So far, more than 1700 memorial plaques have been installed. Recently, seven certificates were presented to members of the group who were unable to attend the 99th State Congress.

They were Richard Albury, Barry Campbell, Norman Coleman, Barry Eather, Doug Farmer, Arthur Hutchison and Robin Slater. An eighth award has been made to Chris Chapple, who could not attend. RSLWA CEO Philip Orchard, who represented an indisposed President Graham Edwards, congratulated and presented each member with a special State President’s award initiated by RSLWA Board member Rick Green and implemented last year.

Thank-you to Honour Avenues Group

The Honour Avenues volunteers care for more than 1,700 plaques in Kings Park.

The Honour Avenues volunteers care for more than 1,700 plaques in Kings Park.

This little girl enjoyed the pretty poppies during the Three Springs-Arrino RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day service last year. President Ray Morgan, Reverend Gill Gleeson and Robert Hunt spoke while Jamie Sadler from The Three Springs Primary School did a reading. Wreaths were laid by The Three Springs Shire, Three Springs Police, Three Springs Primary School the RSL and Three Springs Lions Club.
Busselton does well

Busselton RSL Sub-Branch, the current holder of the Colonel Collett Cup for being the most efficient country sub-branch, raised more than $6,600 from its recent Poppy Day collections.

Throughout 2015 a group of people were involved in a ‘Poppy Project’ in which RSL members, schools and organisations in the city made poppies for display around the memorial at Busselton and Dunsborough.

Ms Jacquie Happ was the coordinator of the project and had many helpers. Approximately 2000 poppies were made for the display. Many people commented after the Remembrance Day service on the wonderful display. Towards the end of the minute silence a Tiger Moth flew over the Memorial.

One large group attending was ‘A’ Coy 3 RAR, 1st Tour who were attending a reunion within the city.

If you visiting Busselton in the near future, why not drop into the sub-branch for nice cool drink and a meal? We open each Friday night for fellowship from 4.30pm. Bar prices are very good and a meal is available for $5 around 7.00pm. Raffles and a jackpot joker are held throughout the night.

Volunteers sought for WW1 Project

Volunteer researchers are being sought to help compile an authoritative database of soldiers and nurses from Western Australia who served in the First World War.

The research is underway and is led by Sandra Playle, a skilled military, family history and social researcher.

A spreadsheet model of 65,000 names has been compiled and will be trimmed to about 33,000 before final data is extracted.

There are more than 40 columns in the spreadsheet detailing terms of employment, religion, impact post war, location, burial locations, honours and illness.

The initial list of names was compiled from other research projects and honour boards held at the WA Army Museum. The project has been viewed and discussed with several well-known military researchers and historians, people at the WA Army Museum and the Army History Unit in Canberra. They have all agreed that it is a very important social research resource to this state and to the military history of Australia.

“On completion of the project I would like to see a copy of the database given to the State Records Office of WA, Battye Library, WA Army Museum, WAGS, Army History Unit Canberra and the Church of Latter Day Saints,” Sandra said.

“This will no doubt mean copyright discussions at some point closer to completion. “It is hoped that the research will be completed before the close of the Centenary of ANZAC.”

If you think this WA WW1 AIF is something you would like to be involved with please feel free to contact me to discuss the project further.

Sandra Playle 0422 922 132 fedelmar@westnet.com.au

NIZAM tragedy remembered

RSLWA CEO Philip Orchard represented the State President at the 71st anniversary of the HMAS Nizam tragedy in Augusta.

Alongside the members of the N Destroyer Association were members of the Cockburn and Karridale/Augusta Sub-Branches.

The Hon. Robyn McSweeney represented the Premier and Craig Boyd represented the Department of Veterans’ Affairs.

The RAN was represented by the new Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling, Captain Brian Delamont.

The event was held in Augusta where attendees enjoyed a dinner on Saturday evening with numerous pages about the history of the N class destroyer, together with comical interviews by the CEO, Captain Delamont and Ms McSweeney.

The service itself took place on Sunday morning at the Cape Leeuwin lighthouse. Approximately 100 people attended each event. HMAS Nizam was steaming to Fremantle from Melbourne during World War II when she tragically lost 10 men overboard just 11 nautical miles off Cape Leeuwin Lighthouse. It was 2215 hours on a moonless night on February 11, 1945. A freak wave caused the ship to roll almost eighty degrees to port, and washed ten sailors overboard, none of whom were ever seen again.
Free PTSD seminars in SW

Partners of Veterans Association Western Australia Inc is holding a series of free seminars in the South-West beginning on Monday April 11.

The seminars are on Invisible Wounds Service PTSD Awareness. They are open to all veterans, military, partners, families, police, fire and emergency services, ambulance, health professionals and anyone who has an interest in PTSD or who knows someone with PTSD and would like to learn more about it.

There will be guest speakers and a variety of topics will be discussed.

- **Monday April 11** - Pinjarra RSL – from 6pm until 9pm. Supper will be provided
- **Wednesday April 13** - Busselton RSL – from 10am until 1pm. Refreshments will be provided
- **Friday April 15** - Albany RSL - from 10am until 1pm. Refreshments will be provided

If you would like to attend one of these seminars please advise Kerryn on 0488 878 292 (0888PVAWA) or by email at serviceptsd@yahoo.com.au

Numbers are required for catering purposes.

Indigenous men served in WWI

As a follow up to the highly acclaimed book ‘They Served with Honour: Untold Stories of Western Australian Aboriginal Servicemen at Gallipoli’ the Department of Aboriginal Affairs is undertaking a much larger piece of work that will feature short biographies of those of Aboriginal descent from WA who enlisted to serve in World War I.

The second publication will ensure that the contribution of the men who followed in the footsteps of those who participated in the Gallipoli campaign are not forgotten.

Whilst their involvement in our nation’s more recent conflicts is featured in many contemporary publications, little is known about Aboriginal service in World War I (1914-1918).

Over the past 16 months a small team of researchers at DAA have positively identified 125 Aboriginal men with prima facie links to this state as well as another five with a parent who was removed and taken interstate a generation earlier. The figure doubles the number previously known.

In almost every case these stories remained untold or known only to the immediate families.

The task of compiling the biographies has and is proving most difficult with records spread across multiple agencies. In some cases they are almost non-existent.

Every effort is being made to identify the descendants by obtaining photographs and personal anecdotes for inclusion. The draft snapshots will be forwarded to the families for comment prior to publication.

Throughout the duration of the hostilities a number of these servicemen participated in historic battles including Gallipoli, The Sinai Peninsula and major battles throughout the Western Front. Those who served were represented in most Western Australian battalions including the 10th, 11th Light Horse

Indigenous officials

The City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch is ensuring Aboriginal involvement in its ANZAC Day service this year.

President Kevin Trent has invited Pastor Albert Knapp to officiate at the service and an Aboriginal Police Liaison Officer at Cannington, Woody Humes, to be an official speaker and lay a wreath. Pastor Knapp has previously laid a wreath at South Perth ANZAC Day Services, but not officiated.

Woody Humes is an ex-serviceman. As a Vietnam veteran, Kevin Trent says Aboriginal servicemen were part of that war, “It’s an interest I have in recognising their contribution.”
Members of the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club are fundraising for an ex-veteran who lost his wife in a traffic accident last year and now needs support for an infant son.

Peter McNeill, a member of the club and an Armadale RSL Sub-Branch member, says a BBQ is being held at Bunnings Armadale on Saturday April 2.

“Our club is doing a BBQ sausage sizzle to assist a veteran in hard times,” Peter McNeill said. “The money raised will go to a Trust fund to assist a 15-month-old boy, Kobi John, who is being raised by his grandmother and grandfather (an Army veteran) following the child’s mother’s death in a car crash.

“The child also has a rare limb deficiency, fibula hemimelia. This requires an operation in the US at a cost of $250,000. More information can be found at facebook.com/kobisjourney.”

Kobi John survived the horrific car accident that killed his young mother Chloe Louise Rumble, who was travelling on the North West Coastal Highway in Geraldton when her car collided with a truck.

Little Kobi, who was restrained in the child’s seat of his mother’s black Kia Cerato Sedan, was taken to Geraldton Regional Hospital with minor injuries.

Mr McNeill said Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch was also assisting the fundraising. He can be contacted at luckypete@hotmail.com

A gofundme fundraiser by grieving friends and family of Chloe Rumble has already raised more than $31,000.

Vietnam veterans roll out for Yarloop

Yarloop bushfires fundraising got a major boost when 650 motorcyclists, including numerous Vietnam veterans, rode from Perth Harley Davidson’s shop at Cannington through the Hills to Pickering Brook, Mundaring and finally the Veterans MC WA Clubhouse at Nollamara.

The ride on Sunday January 24 raised $22,700 and organiser Mark Cunnington says the total is still growing with Oliver Dunkel from the shop continuing to put in donations based on sales.
Mt Lawley-Inglewood RSL Sub-Branch has formed useful partnerships with local schools for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day collections.

It has been recognised by Mt. Lawley-Inglewood RSL Sub-Branch that forward thinking is required to assist our ageing membership.

On ANZAC Day, we will again partner with Perth College and Mt Lawley Bowling Club to run our 8am service on the corner of Queens and Clifton Crescent. Last year, numbers doubled to 2,000.

On Remembrance Day, Mt. Lawley Senior High School joined us in our endeavours, being represented by a Chinese National Anja Zhao and James Thorn. Both these young people are involved in a special school-Rotary scheme to have young people recognise and become involved in community projects. This has brought an added enthusiasm that did not go unnoticed by the general public and a great satisfaction and understanding to both students.

Oliver Lovelle JP
President – Mt. Lawley-Inglewood RSL

FOOTNOTE: Mr Lovelle says he has also been helped greatly by Marija Jelavic, who rang and offered help, “and I chained her to the nearest pole and said ‘sure’.”

Three Springs welcomes young sailors home

Con Kikeros, the President of Three Springs-Arrino RSL Sub-Branch, travelled to Fremantle to be part of the RSL welcoming party for Australia’s training flagship Young Endeavour when she nosed into Fremantle.

More than 200 young Australians sailed the ship around the globe in a 12-month voyage that started in Sydney.

The ship was donated by the UK Government as a bicentenary gift.

On board was Bec Stirk (22), proudly born and bred in Alice Springs.

She said the ship encountered huge ocean swells that at times made standing impossible. But she loved the voyage and would leap at another opportunity.

The ship was greeted by a group of RSLWA members including Vice President Denis Connelly, CEO Philip Orchard, Mr Kikeros, Tony Mitchell (Fremantle RSL President) and Rob Cashman (Fremantle RSL Vice President).

Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, Commander Australian Fleet; Marshall Baillieu, chair of the Young Endeavour Advisory Board; Darren Chester and other VIPs attended.
Applecross RSL Sub-Branch has conducted the annual Commemoration Service for nurses and others who were aboard the SS Vyner Brooke when it was sunk by Japanese bombers 74 years ago.

About 150 attended the service in Honour Ave on Point Walter Reserve, including RSL members, service personnel, local government representatives and relatives and friends of those who perished.

On February 14 1945 the small vessel was attacked by bombers and sunk near the Indonesian island of Bangka.

A dozen nurses, including WA Army Nurse Sister Louvinia Bates, were killed in the air raid and another 21 were slain by a squad of Japanese soldiers after swimming to shore at Radji Beach.

Four of those were from Western Australia: Sisters Alma Beard, Peggy Farmaner, Minnie Hodgson and Bessie Wilmott.

The remaining 32 nurses, who came ashore elsewhere, were taken prisoner and spent the next three and a half years in squalid Japanese prison camps. A further eight died of ill treatment, malnutrition or tropical disease.

Many wreaths were laid in memory of the Australian Army Nurses, wounded servicemen, civilian men, women, children and crew who died when the vessel was sunk by Japanese aircraft or later in a massacre or POW camps on Bangka Island.

Applecross RSL President Denis Connelly said, “We need to have these commemorative events so that we and those who follow, never forget that these servicemen and women who gave up their tomorrows for our todays.”

Attadale resident Martin Meader has a special affinity with the SS Vyner Brooke Memorial, having directed Born to Sing choirs at the annual service since 2013 and written Paradise Road, a Hollywood feature film starring Glenn Close based on the surviving nurses’ accounts of their time in Japanese camps.

The best therapy for a Vietnam veteran is climbing on a postie bike and scooting a few thousand kilometres for charity, says Broome RSL member and Vietnam veteran Ross Gogan (69).

He rode 1,800km from Broome to Darwin in September and has set off on a 30-day 5,500km solo ride to Adelaide, hoping to get there by April 23 to march with his son Ross on ANZAC Day in Whyalla.

“The ride to Darwin were the best seven days of my life – it’s about the freedom and joy of being on the open road,” Ross told The Listening Post.

“I am keen to hear from other Vets who may be interested in doing the run to Adelaide in August or September, to raise money for a charity.

“The scenery, tranquillity and peace of mind on the open road are fantastic. I recommend it for anyone wanting a time-out experience and ride of a life time.

“If you’re interested, please call me on 0418 925 664 or email me: rossgogan1947@gmail.com.”

Ross, who served in Vietnam in 1969-70 said he favoured raising money for Legacy, but he was open to suggestions.

The ride could happen in August or September and take into account the 50th anniversary of Long Tan.

Ross owns eight postie bikes, two fully kitted, and says he believes a trip could generate business sponsorship.
Sub-Branch News

Belmont RSL is loving Facebook

Firstly, and very importantly, we need to acknowledge the help and support received from our State RSL HQ and Janine Pittaway of Bright Communications.

Setting up a Branch Facebook group page has been a controversial topic within our branch for many years with no real answer having been reached (As we now know due to lack of understanding and knowledge).

With all the injurious media reports seen, heard and read over the years, members of our branch have their worries and strong concerns about their privacy – who can see, who can do what, with our articles and photos.

So many myths were blown away and the real simplicity of setting up and maintaining a Facebook group was explained and demonstrated when we attended the Facebook training workshop held on Saturday February 13, organised by and held at RSLWA HQ.

The training was simple to follow and importantly, understandable.

Firstly, we needed to decide the aim and rules of our Facebook group.

A simple and cost effective media outlet to keep our members and friends up-to-date on our club activities/events and local articles of interest from: the City of Belmont, RSLWA HQ, local politicians at council, state and federal levels (with no political biases) to gain new members. Plus, the occasional over sixties joke.

Some simple rules. We are non-political and we respect the privacy of our members and friends.

All membership requests to our Facebook group page have to be approved by our administrator and all articles/photos posted on our Facebook group page have to be approved by our administrator. (We don’t post selfie nude photos! or political attacks.)

It’s been just over four weeks now, we have been up and running. Our membership and followers of our Facebook group page, is growing steadily week by week.

Importantly for me I didn’t need the help of my grandkids, it is that simple to setup and run. www.facebook.com/groups/1559738261008508/

Steve Toon
Vice President & Membership Officer
City of Belmont Sub-Branch

Belmont RSL has taken a pro-active approach to Facebook – the free social media available to all sub-branches. There’s assistance available for all members online at www.rslwahq.org.au/membership

Esperance pushes for more members

Members of the Esperance RSL took full advantage of the cruise ship Astor bringing 14 members of the Pinjarra sub-branch to their shores and in doing so earned themselves some valuable publicity.

The Esperance Express gave great publicity to discussions between the two branches aimed at recruiting more members.

Esperance RSL President George Starcevick said he welcomed the visit, adding RSL members needed to support each other wherever they could.

He strongly encouraged veterans and their relatives to sign up saying, “We also welcome those involved within the police force, fire brigade and emergency services, both full time and part time.

The only way to keep the RSL and its traditions and support services alive is for the younger generations to join the committee and revive the club.”

Pinjarra members cruised on the same boat as the President of Cockburn RSL, Digger Cleak, did in January, when he saw from Australind the blazing bushfires in Yarloop-Waroona and embers as big as leaves falling around him.

Later, Cockburn raised $2,000 to finance winter accommodation for one of the Yarloop fire victims, former combat sergeant Matt Colebrook.

The building was erected by four Pinjarra members in February.

Membership of the RSL in WA has cracked the 10,000 barrier for the first time in years.

By the end of December, total membership for calendar year 2015 was 10,035 (7,883 service; 2,152 affiliates).

That was the highest number since 2010. Total membership over recent calendar years is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Members</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>10,035</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
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<td>11,238</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>11,861</td>
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INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPLICANTS

KEY DETAILS

EVENT: The 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Landings, honouring all who took part in the Allied invasion of Normandy.

LIMITED RELEASE WORLDWIDE: The edition limit of this coin is 19,999. Only 1 in every 405 Australian households will be able to own one.

AUTHENTICATION: Each coin is uniquely numbered and comes with a Certificate of Authenticity.

HIGH SPECIFICATION: Intended as a collectors’ item, this crown is fully layered with pure 24-carat gold and the flags of each Allied nation are accented in full colour. Shows an historic image of troops approaching the Normandy beaches and the engraved coastline bearing names of all five beaches.

YOURS FOR ONLY $29.99 (PLUS $9.99 P&H): an informative complimentary Certificate of Authenticity is included. Successful applicants will qualify to view the next coin in ‘The 70th Anniversary D-Day Commemorative Coin Collection’, a series of gold layered crowns honouring each branch of the military that took part in the Normandy Invasion of 1944. These further crowns, which may be yours for only $79.99 (plus $9.99 P&H) each and will be sent at monthly intervals after your ‘D-Day Landing Golden Crown’. Each will be yours to view on approval for 14 days. You may cancel at any time.

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Hundreds dead in major battle

By this time it was getting very close to last light, the monsoon downpour was limiting our vision down to only a few metres and uncertainty as to the exact location of the remnants of Delta Company. All contributed to a real sense of impending doom that we would not get there in time.

By last light driving in blinding rain through and over North Vietnamese army and Viet Cong soldiers in the throes of a last assault on Delta we suddenly burst onto Delta’s position.

On dismounting from the APCs Alpha Company formed a defensive perimeter around Delta to allow the remaining Delta personnel to regroup and mount the APCs for a recovery back out through the rubber to the Sui Da Bang River where they harboured for the night.

As the APCs departed the battle was effectively over as Alpha Company experienced only sporadic enemy fire as they retreated.

Around 1am on August 19 Alpha Company formed a ‘daisy chain’ and walked back out to join Delta Company by the river.

At first light that morning the depleted Delta Company, followed by Alpha, walked back into the battle area to witness the utter destruction of the rubber trees, the remains of some 245 dead Vietnamese soldiers and eventually to reach the location of 11 Platoon with its 17 dead mates.

From here Delta returned to the main base at Nui Dat while Alpha Company, now rejoined with the main body of 6RAR, continued for another week on Operation Smithfield, following on the tracks of the routed Vietnamese units.

While numerous bodies were encountered and evidence of very hasty withdrawals by the enemy was investigated no further significant encounters occurred.

With the conclusion of ‘Smithfield’ the Battle of Long Tan was over and Delta Company had entered the annals of Australian military history.

It was a stifling 42.5 degrees this day and yet Bill Wilson and Alan Downes were looking as sharp as ever doing their duty as sub wardens of the State War Memorial.

Bill, 25 years a sub warden, and Alan, who has been raising the flag for nearly three years, were in many ways the stars of a special service for visiting teenage students from Belgium, who live near Menin Gate.

“It’s part of the deal – you get some nice days…” said Bill, adding, “The blokes we honour suffered much more.”

The Athenium Pottelberg students, who will feature in pre-ANZAC Day advertising, came from Kortrijk, near Ypres, to learn something about the names of West Australians on the war memorials in their country.

They visited Kings Park, where Rod Halcombe and Norm Coleman from the Honour Avenues Group explained the honour plaques.
Child sexual abuse in the Australian Defence Force Cadets

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse would like anyone who has information regarding child sexual abuse within the Australian Defence Force Cadets to contact the Royal Commission. Royal Commission CEO Philip Reed said the Royal Commission is tasked with investigating how sexual abuse occurred.

Defence Force Cadets to contact Royal Commission

Sexual Abuse would like anyone who has information regarding child sexual abuse to contact the Royal Commission.

Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

You can contact the Royal Commission via phone: 1800 099 340 or email: solicitor@childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au or Mail: GPO Box 5283, Sydney NSW 2001.

For more information on the Royal Commission please visit: www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au

- ABC ANZAC broadcasts

The ABC will be broadcasting ANZAC Day marches and overseas memorial services. Copies of these broadcasts can be ordered by calling our toll-free number on 1300 650 587 or by emailing progsales@your.abc.net.au

The marches and services will not be available in ABC Centres or online from the ABC Shop. With the commemoration of World War I, the double DVD set The Centenary of ANZAC: 2014 - 2018 may also interest RSL members. Created in partnership with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, sales of these DVDs will benefit the ANZAC Centenary Public Fund. We have a wide range of ANZAC related programming available on the ABC Library Sales website: www.abccommercial.com/librarysales/searching?search_api_views_fulltext=anzac

- Perth Zoo offers free entry

Perth Zoo offers free entry on ANZAC Day for all service men and women, including allied service men and women. They just need to present their service ID, veterans card or wear their uniform on the day.

- 75th anniversary of the Battle of Greece and Crete

DVA says this year, commemorative services will be held during the week beginning April 11. A national service of commemoration will be held at the Hellenic Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra on April 14 at 12.30pm.

Details of the services to be held in other capital cities will be made available to you as soon as they are finalised by the Hellenic Association and the Greek Embassy. At this point is expected that commemorative services will be held in Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne and Hobart.

Any veterans of the Battle are welcome to contact the Commissions team on (02) 6289 6061 if they wish to attend a service and would like our assistance.

Avril Kent
Director Domestic Commissions and Grants Department of Veterans’ Affairs

- RAAF firemen’s reunion

Seeking members and staff of RAAF - Class of ‘74 No 33 Firemans Course of which my husband Trevor Slaughter was a member.

If anyone can help, please contact Lin Slaughter on 0439 750 797 or tni.slaughter@bigpond.com

- ATCO Gas cauldron available

The ATCO Gas Australia cauldron – which featured during The West Coast Giants visit to Perth last February – is available for use by RSL sub-branches. The cauldron is a magnificent item and is at the moment booked for use during the Len Hall Tribute AFL Match on Sunday, April 24 and on ANZAC Day.

ATCO Gas Australia has offered the cauldron for use by any sub-branch as part of the ANZAC commemorations. If your sub-branch is interested in using it, please contact RSLWA’s Centenary Program Manager Sharon Harford on 9287 3706.

- The Western Australia Branch of the Partners of Veterans Association of Australia Inc.

General and AGM meetings to be held at ANZAC House include May 16, September 19 (This meeting to follow AGM). – Cheryl Cococis/ Secretary WAPVA

- ‘And tell Mum…”

Scoplipt Theatre in association with the Shire of Kulin present ‘And tell Mum…”, a production about the reflections of a small town and a Great War. The evening shows are on at Kulin from Friday April 22 until Sunday April 24. Tickets are $10. www.trybooking.com/KMUJ

- War at Sea exhibition

War at Sea – the Navy in WWI tells the story of Australia’s first submarine AE1 which disappeared while patrolling the seas near present day New Guinea on September 14, 1914. No trace of the vessel or its 35 hands has been found to this day. The exhibition, from the Australian National Maritime Museum, explores the mystery of what happened to AE1; as well as the story of Australia’s second submarine AE2 which became the first Allied vessel to breach the Dardanelles in Turkey, disrupting the Turkish forces moving to defend the Gallipoli peninsula in April 1915; and the story of the Royal Australian Navy Bridging Trains at the Gallipoli campaign.

Visitors will see rare archival footage of the Navy during the First World War which gives a window into life on battleships as well as the troop transport ships which ferried soldiers around the globe. War at Sea – the Navy in WWI is a free exhibition on display at the Western Australian Maritime Museum until May 29.

- World’s biggest plane in WA

The world’s biggest plane - the giant Antonov AN225 Mriya – is scheduled to be piercing our skies in April, according to The West Australian. The plane is a monster with six engines, twice the wing area of a Boeing 747 and carries 250 tonnes of cargo.
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LONG TAN 50TH ANNIVERSARY

VIETNAM
14 AUGUST 2016

HIGHLIGHTS: SAIGON - VUNG TAU - BA RIA - NUI DAT - HOI AN - HUE - HANOI - HALONG BAY

Join us for an unforgettable journey through Vietnam, as we Commemorate the 50th Anniversary of Long Tan. Along our journey we will visit sites especially significant to the Vietnam War for Australians. Together we will travel from South to North, discovering beautiful historic cities, cruising down tranquil rivers and across glittering bays, sampling the delightful cuisine and exploring the history and traditional life of this fascinating country.

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From its establishment in 1898, many thousands of Perth families had their photos taken at The Dease Studio at 117 Barrack Street, Perth.

Dease amalgamated with Lafayette Studios in 1932 and by the time they closed in the 1970s they had accumulated hundreds of thousands of glass plate negatives dating back more than 70 years. The problem of what to do with them was solved when it was realised the glass negatives were the same size as the ‘break glass’ in fire alarms, then in common use, and they were distributed around Perth’s fire stations.

It doesn’t bear thinking about those images wiped from the glass before being installed in the fire alarms, or the many more that ended up on the tip. But luckily, around 6,500 glass negatives were salvaged and given to the State Library of Western Australia in 1988. The collection was so immense, it sat unexamined for 10 years. In 1998 State Library staff assessed the collection and found around 600 were of our West Australian soldiers, taken before embarking to fight at Gallipoli, Palestine and on the Western Front. Many, of course, never returned. Later, around 100 more soldiers’ negatives were salvaged and added to this collection.

In 1999 the State Library’s Adopt-a-Soldier was launched, whereby members of the public could ‘adopt’ a soldier of their choosing, with payment of $100 going towards the cost of printing an archival negative of each glass plate. With their preservation for future generations assured, they have remained within the State Library’s physical and online Collection.

Until now.

In April, Reece Harley, Chair of Museum of Perth, will launch The Soldiers of Barrack Street; the first exhibition of these salvaged images of our WA soldiers. The name is a reference to Perth’s first ANZAC Day march in 1916, which newspaper coverage of the soldiers’ marching down Barrack Street deemed “a magnificent and inspired spectacle”.

The exhibition will be at the Museum of Perth which is located in the basement of 117 Barrack Street… just two floors down from where these photos were taken in the old Dease Studio 100 years ago. You can reach it off Grand Lane.

Reece Harley has embarked on an ambitious project to name the many soldiers who remained unidentified. Most had a surname and perhaps some initials written on the original. Some had nothing to identify them at all. Reece brought WWI researcher Shannon Lovelady on board and she led the hard-working team of Museum of Perth researchers in identifying as many as possible.
Barrack Street

Some are straight forward, like one identified as ‘Bignell’, no initials. A broad search of illustrated articles in century-old newspapers, available online through Trove, quickly found a matching newspaper photo of 12th Battalion Private Clarence Bignell (18), from when he was wounded in action in France. He survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919.

Another, identified as J McCallum, was quickly identified as the only J McCallum to enlist from WA - 11th Battalion Private James McCallum, who survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919. A search of marriages then identified his wife, Minero nee Priest. To confirm, Shannon tracked down one of their grandsons and emailed the photo. He immediately confirmed it was his grandparents, saying delightedly “I can see my own daughter’s features in there!”

Identifying others was a little more complicated...

One, of a slightly built, dark-haired young boy described simply as Beckett, no initials, was a challenging research task. After discounting eight of the 10 Becketts to enlist from WA on age, or by finding comparative photos on Trove, she identified the lad as 11th Battalion Private Robert Beckett (21), a Fremantle State School student who enlisted in October 1915. In service overseas he caught influenza before being sent into action where he was soon shot in the shoulder. In hospital recovering from that, he caught mumps, prolonging his absence from the front lines. He returned to the field on October 16, 1917 and was killed in action just 15 days later.

Another young soldier, identified only by his surname, Ashman, proved very satisfying. After discounting those too old to be the subject of this photo, there was just one possibility, 11th Battalion Private James Ashman, who returned to Australia in 1919. On checking his description, Shannon saw it included an ‘injured forefinger of right hand which however, has perfect movement.’

Closely examining Ashman’s photo, his misshapen forefinger was evident, and thus confirmed his identity.

One poignant one was a wedding photo of ‘Private Booth’. Checking the WA Booth marriages, it was eventually narrowed to 36th Heavy Artillery Group Gunner Frederick Booth (26) and his adored bride, Lillian Kent, who married in 1916. Frederick was killed in action at Ypres, Belgium in October the following year. Lillian remarried in 1921 and lived to the ripe age of 79. To confirm the identity, Shannon tracked down Lillian’s grandson who had not known of his grandmother’s first love lost, and is keen to see the exhibition. Among the images are also some intriguing ones, including what appears to be a serviceman’s jaunty wedding, with a separate shot of the happy couple, identified as J Cotton (likely J Colton). Closer inspection reveals all the members of the wedding party are female! A little research showed it was a ‘mock wedding’, staged in aid of the Plain and Fancy Dress Ball and Mock Wedding held at Perth’s Town Hall on July 13, 1918, in aid of Miners, Tunnellers, Engineers, and Pioneers’ TCF.

The Soldiers of Barrack Street is scheduled to open to the public on April 11 at Museum of Perth, Grand Lane, Perth. The exhibition will continue to May 6 – www.museumofperth.com.au
The Listening Post
APRIL 2016

Grevillea flowers for the ANZACs

As ANZAC Day looms, the lush red flowers of the ‘RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea’ are blooming around many homes and the State War Memorial.

The special hybrid plant, marketed nationally, has enjoyed spectacular support since its launch at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show early last year. Bunnings stores and native plant nurseries quickly sold out. New supplies are available through leading retailers of quality plants throughout the country.

The ‘RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea’ is not a renamed plant; it is a hybrid specially developed by plant breeders at Kings Park and Botanic Gardens to commemorate the first major military action fought by Australian and New Zealand forces at Gallipoli a century ago.

It was primarily selected for its lush red flowers, its trans-Australia heritage and the tough geographical conditions in which it grows and thrives.

It is a hardy, bird-attracting shrub which flowers from autumn to summer. It is suitable for most Australian climates and thrives in well drained soils and is drought tolerant.

The red flowers remind us of the blood shed by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps – at Gallipoli and the more than 62,000 who died in the First World War.

It reminds us that ANZACs landed and fought in incredibly hostile conditions – the parents of this hybrid are from Mt Finke, surrounded by hundreds of square kilometres of inhospitable sand dunes more than 500 km NNW of Port Lincoln, as well as Western Australia, between Perenjori and Wongan Hills, and Southern Queensland.

The idea for the plant came from the President of The Returned & Services League in WA, Mr Graham Edwards AM, who says, “This plant is truly, intrinsically, Australian.

“It provides an opportunity for ordinary Australians to acquire the plant and to demonstrate their support of men and women who gave their lives for this country.”

Last year, dozens of young grevilleas were planted around the Kings Park cenotaph in Perth and they have flourished.

The initial market response was spectacular with more than 12,000 plants selling through Bunnings and leading garden centre retailers.

Ninety cents from every plant sold is being returned to RSLWA to benefit veterans and their families.

For the gardener:

The grevillea grows in full sun or partial shade, reaching about two metres high by 1.5 metres wide when mature. It can be pruned in late spring to keep compact and promote massed flowering.

Once established ‘RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea’ will grow and flower with twice weekly summer watering and just on rainfall in the wetter months. Apply a slow release fertiliser suitable for Proteaceous plants every six to 12 months as required.
Outstanding community and service efforts were recognised at RSLWA’s annual Australia Day awards presented on January 28 at ANZAC House.

Awards for Cadet of the Year and The RSL Cadet Efficiency Shield were presented as well as individual awards to Geoff McClements, President of Claremont RSL Sub-Branch for 33 years, Claire Hunt, defence transition mentor at Comet Bay College, ABC broadcaster David de Vos and The West Australian’s Malcolm Quekett.

Each year, RSLWA presents the RSL Cadet Efficiency Award to each service. The award is made to the unit that best demonstrates the core elements of a successful, competent and efficient unit within their respective Cadet organisation.

The presentation was made by Mr David Simmelmann from Hollywood Private Hospital and the Senior Cadet Service representatives to TS Marmion, 57 ACU Morley and 703 Squadron AAFC.

The RSLWA Cadet of the Year program is run through the Youth Development & Cadet Support Committee and the major sponsor Hollywood Private Hospital.

Cadets that nominated to participate in The Spirit of ANZAC Program attended a testing day in November which included a written test on Australian general knowledge, a five minute speech, dress and bearing and first aid.

The following Cadets were presented with a Certificate of Participation:


The four overall winners for 2015 receive a trip to Canberra for the 2016 ANZAC Day Commemorations, Certificate of Participation and a presentation shield.

The winners were –
- CDT AB Bronwyn Crawcour – TS Marmion
- CDT PO Richard Thomas – TS Cockburn
- CDT Benjamin Tinley – 12 ACU
- CDT WO2 Bodhi Power – 508 ACU

Cadet Efficiency Awards –
- Navy – TS Marmion – SBLT ANC Clare McCaskie
- Army – 57 ACU Morley – Captain Sue Knight
- Air Force – 703 Sqn AAFC – Sqn Leader (AAFC) Cash

Award Winners: pictured from left with the new Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling, Captain Brian Delamont, are CDT AB Bronwyn Crawcour, CDT LS Charlie Ward, CDT LS Toby Young, SBLT ANC Clare McAskie and CDT PO Matthew Penhorwood.

Army cadets with State President Graham Edwards and the CO of 13 Brigade Brigadier David Thompson.

RSLWA president Graham Edwards called on recent OAM winners Bob Wood (Busselton RSL) and Basil Best (North Beach) to help make presentations during the evening. A third OAM winner was Milton Fairclough (Victoria Park) a POW on the infamous Thai-Burma railway.
These World War II veterans received the Legion d’Honneur, France’s highest military honour, from French Honorary Consul to Western Australia, Patrick Kedemos. Most were part of RAF Bomber Command.

Some were also involved with the Royal Navy and British Coast Guard. Two of 12 awardees were unable to personally receive their awards.

The recipients in alphabetical order were Douglas ARROWSMITH, who flew with the 460 Squadron, and participated in many bombing missions; Colin CHAPMAN, who was engaged by the 463 Lancaster Bomber Squadron and participated in regular nightly bombing over Europe and Germany; Frederick COX, who flew with the 98 squadron over Europe and participated in bombing missions over France before D-Day; John DURBIN, who was a member of the SS Combe Hill during D-Day and participated in transferring Canadian troops to Sword Beachhead and was wounded helping a soldier; Maurice JACKSON, whose division, the 49th Division, was part of the Canadian 1st Army; Robert MACE (not present), who served in the Royal Merchant Navy and on June 5, 1945 was on Omaha Beach supplying US Troops; Kenneth MAY, who served with No 461 Squadron and participated in over 30 battle missions over Europe; Francis MOURITZ, who in 1942 was a pilot attached to Bomber Command and was a Captain of a Lancaster Bomber, completing 33 operations over Europe; John RICHARDS, who served as pilot with No 467 Squadron and participated in 13 missions over Europe before being captured after been shot down and imprisoned in Stalag Luft I; Frederick THORN (not present), who served as Wireless Operator with No 10 Squadron, Bomber Command, participating in many operations over Europe; William UTTING, who served as aircrew/pilot with No 460 Squadron and completed 36 operational flights over France and Germany; Stanley WILLIS, who served as wireless operator with No 550 Squadron based in North Killinghome and flew many operations over Europe.

Make Pozières special

Former Navy Officer and Opposition leader Mark McGowan has strongly advocated in State Parliament for July 23 to be declared a new national day to commemorate Australia’s ‘most tragic military battle’ – Pozières. He says the first Pozières Day should be marked this July 23, 2016 – the 100th anniversary of the start of the First World War battle.

“There were 23,000 Australian casualties at Pozières including almost 7,000 killed. It stands as Australia’s greatest loss of life in a single military battle,” Mr McGowan said.

“On this 100th anniversary of the battle it is appropriate we finally have a national day to acknowledge the overwhelming sacrifice of thousands of young Australians.

“The losses included many hundreds of Western Australians.

“In two weeks in a single battle at Pozières, we lost almost 7,000 young men, compared to 8,700 during the entire eight-month long Gallipoli campaign.

“Yet this most tragic battle in our history has disappeared from public consciousness.”

Mark McGowan: July 23 should be declared a new national day to honour those who died at Pozières.
Warriors’ V8 roars for Veterans

An aptly named Warrior Racing 450hp Ford V8 improved production car is taking on the best locally and nationally under the guidance of dynamo Kevin Otway.

The car is a travelling billboard for six veterans’ organisations and the core group of ex-SAS soldiers and veterans supporting the venture hope it attracts heavy donations.

Kevin (65) served with the SASR from 1971-77 and then for 20 years as a CIB detective-sergeant in the WA Police Force. In the 90s he moved into the transport industry and ran Ontraq Haulage. At the same time, Kevin Otway developed his passion for racing and set up and managed the V8 Supercar Cat Racing team in Perth. He lured John Bowe from Dick Johnson Racing to be the lead driver in their Falcon EL for the 1999 season.

“I have spent months putting this together,” Kevin told *The Listening Post*. “The whole concept is about doing something for veterans’ wellbeing.”

The team driver is Grant Johnson (41), the WA Saloon Car champion who told *The Listening Post* at the official launch on March 7 that he was excited to be getting behind the wheel.

The team will compete in the National Improved Production Car series which will be raced mainly at Barbagello Raceway, Wanneroo.

However the car will also be raced in the Northern Territory, South Australia, Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria during the season for exposure, profile and awareness for Australian Veterans and their families.

The Ford Falcon FG XR8 is powered by a dry sump 5.4-litre Boss V8 engine married up to a Haltech engine management ECU.

Initially the car will stick with its six-speed manual gearbox, and then it will be replaced with a Hollinger six-speed box. Stopping it will be Brembo brakes – 8-spot on the front and 4-spot on the rears.

Improved Production cars do not need a big crew because they race over relatively short distances – for 10-15 minutes.

Warrior Racing plans to raise funds and awareness for the Special Air Service Historic Foundation, the Wandering Warriors, Defence Care, Soldier On, The Long Ride Home and Commando Welfare Trust. RSL stickers are on the wing mirrors.

Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG has accepted the role of Patron and a board of directors, comprising Peter Bodycoat, accountant from Acute Business Services, John Pikora, a retired accountant and business developer based in Albany and Peter Heeney, former Australian military army officer and director of Legacy nationally.
Bridge will be a tribute

An SAS soldier who lost his life in Afghanistan will have a bridge he worked on in NSW renamed after him.

His widow, Dr Kylie Russell, who is a post graduate coordinator at Notre Dame University in Fremantle, said she and her 14 year-old daughter Leisa will fly to the official opening and unveiling of a plaque on Saturday April 23.

McKeatons Bridge over the Macdonald River will be renamed in honour of Sergeant Andrew Russell who helped build the bridge 25 years ago.

“For us it is about connecting with a part of Drew’s life before we knew him,” Kylie told The Listening Post. “I think it is important for both of us.”

SGT Russell was one of about 30 members of the 2nd Troop (Para) of 1 Field Squadron with the Royal Australian Engineers who re-built the condemned bridge in 1991. He was the first Australian to die in combat in Afghanistan in 2002.

Things have definitely changed for the better in terms of the support widows now receive

The proposal to rename the bridge was brought before Walcha Council last year and the official ceremony will be in time for the troop’s planned reunion in Walcha for ANZAC Day this year.

Although Dr Russell has carved out an independent academic career for herself she retains her passionate support of women who lose their husbands at war.

After she lost her husband in 2002, Dr Russell campaigned for a better deal for other military widows – and with some success.

“Things have definitely changed for the better in terms of the support widows now receive,” she says. “Certainly widows on the east coast have a lot more intense support; they’ve formed groups and connect via the internet.

“The thing is that when someone dies often no-one knows – because people are living away as FIFOs or something
to fallen SAS soldier

else. There isn’t that constant sense of community that occurred during World War One and Two when so many people were serving overseas.”

Dr Russell will catch up in Walcha with Judy Ireland’s son Peter, who also worked on the bridge 25 years ago. Mrs Ireland, who with her husband Denis, moved back to the Walcha district a few years ago, recalled the difficulties graziers had transporting stock when the bridge was out of action.

At the time the bridge, at Boxley, was in such a state of disrepair according to Mrs Ireland, that the council removed the deck and the locals were forced to go the long way round to get to town.

After speaking to his son on the phone about it, the bridge became a project for the Royal Australian Engineers.

Except for some repair work, the bridge today is largely as it was when re-built by the 2nd Troop (Para) of 1 Field Squadron.
from page 15

Fromelles was the worst Australian single day toll of either world war, including the 1941 sinking of HMAS Sydney with the loss of all 645 crew.

When informed of the casualties (1,547 British and 5,533 Australian), Haking reportedly stated: “I thought it did both the British and Australian divisions a lot of good.” Australia’s official war historian Charles Bean was so disgusted at the outcome, he wrote, “The scene in the Australian trenches, packed with wounded and dying, was unexampled in the history of the AIF.”

Pozières, a small village in the Somme Valley in France, is where in a little over six weeks in July and August, 1916 1st Anzac Corps captured Pozières village and the heights beyond and suffered 23,000 battle casualties; Charles Bean reported that Pozières ridge “is more densely sown with Australian sacrifice than any other place on earth”. Though British divisions were involved, Pozières is primarily remembered as an Australian battle. The village was captured initially by the 1st Division of 1st Anzac Corps on July 23, 1916. By the time it was relieved on July 27 it had suffered 5,285 casualties. The 2nd Division took over. It was relieved on August 6, having suffered 6,848 casualties. The 4th Division was next into the line at Pozières. It too endured a massive artillery bombardment, and defeated a German counter-attack on August 7 – the last attempt by the Germans to retake Pozières.

Mouquet Farm, where in August-September 1916, the 1st Anzac Corps failed to capture its objective. Bean wrote, “The reader must take for granted many of the conditions – the flayed land, shell-hole bordering shell-hole, corpses of young men lying against the trench walls or in shell-holes; some – except for the dust settling on them – seeming to sleep; others torn in half; others rotting, swollen and discoloured.”

One unit which saw the beginning and the end of the action at Mouquet Farm was the 16th Battalion from Western Australia. They had two periods in the line, the first between August 8 and 12 and the second between August 29 and 31. For the Western Australians, August 8 was the first time the battalion had been in action since it had been evacuated from Gallipoli in December 1915. They had been one of the original Gallipoli battalions, landing on the evening of April 25, and during their eight months on the peninsula they had suffered 834 casualties, killed and wounded. Now, in as many days at Mouquet Farm, they were to lose 76 per cent of that Gallipoli total – 637 killed, wounded or missing (most likely killed), virtually two thirds of the battalion as estimated by the battalion historian.

At midnight on August 9 the 16th made its first attack on the Western Front out in the countryside below Mouquet Farm. Across no-man’s-land they were guided by flash lights. All battalion objectives were successfully seized including a number of German machine-guns and their crews. Next day, German retaliation was swift, a bombardment such as the 16th had never experienced on Gallipoli descending on the captured positions and on the afternoon of August 11, a German counter attack began. The 16th beat this off but the ensuing enemy bombardment fell heavily on battalion positions. Through this inferno the behaviour of one man, Private Martin O’Meara, later awarded the VC, stood out. Lieutenant William Lynam wrote:

“Private O’Meara is the most fearless and gallant soldier I have ever seen; besides doing the very arduous duties imposed on him, by reason of his being in the Scouting Section, efficiently and cheerfully, this man used to fill in his time bringing in the wounded under all conditions.”

The 16th Battalion returned to Mouquet Farm on August 29, 1916. In the intervening period many battalions had been used up and thousands of casualties suffered in edging the front ever closer to the farm. On the night of August 29, led by Major Percy Black, one of the legendary leaders of the AIF, the 16th assaulted the ruins of Mouquet Farm and did battle with the Germans in the dugouts and cellars of this fortress:

The 16th was unable to hold Mouquet Farm, or other nearby positions they had taken in their first rush. Determined enemy counter-attacks threw them back virtually to their start lines. Heavy rain had also turned the shell-torn earth of Mouquet Farm into a quagmire in which the mud penetrated rifle and machine-gun mechanisms, rendering them useless, and even clogged the firing pins of grenades.

The battalion historian described it all as a ‘disastrous fight’ in which losses were ‘considerable’.

The Western Front left millions of soldiers dead and tens of thousands of missing. City of Fremantle archivist and researcher Andrew Pittaway has embarked on a mission to identify some of the previously unidentified graves. (see story page 20).

The front left a generation of maimed soldiers and war widows. The unprecedented loss of life had a lasting effect on popular attitudes toward war, resulting later in an Allied reluctance to pursue an aggressive policy toward Adolf Hitler - who was in the trenches at the Western Front.

For Australia, as for many nations, the First World War remains the most costly conflict in terms of deaths and casualties. From a population of 4.9 million, 416,809 men enlisted, of which more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner. Throughout 1916 and 1917 losses on the Western Front were heavy and gains were small. In 1918 the Australians reached the peak of their fighting performance in the battle of Hamel on July 4. From August 8 they then took part in a series of decisive advances until Germany surrendered on November 11 1918. The Middle East campaign began in 1916 with Australian troops participating in the defence of the Sinai Peninsula. They fought in the battles of Romani in Egypt and Magdhaba in the Sinai Desert.

In 1917 Australian and other allied troops advanced into Palestine and captured Gaza and Jerusalem; by 1918 they had occupied Lebanon and Syria. On October 30, 1918 Turkey sued for peace.

FOOTNOTE: The Western Front rightly earns its mantle as one of the deadliest theatres of war. By comparison, 8,709 Australians were killed at Gallipoli over eight months in 1915; the more recent Vietnam War (1962-75) saw more than 500 Australians killed or listed as missing presumed dead, and 3,131 wounded. The RSLWA’s Sunset Services, starting on April 20, will commemorate these battles.
Entitled Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA) clients may be referred for clinically necessary Exercise Physiology treatment by their General Practitioner on a valid D904 referral form.

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RSL Centenary collector coins

More than 416,000 Australians enlisted in World War I. Some 300,000 troops served overseas, and one in five never made it home.

The impact of the war and its role in dividing Australian society was significant.

For those who did eventually make it back home to be reunited with their families, they returned to a more serious, sober, and divided nation than that which they had left, but which stood tall in the knowledge that it had made a significant contribution to the Allied victory.

In 1916, the Returned and Services League was founded in Australia by returning soldiers from World War I with the aim of continuing to provide the camaraderie, concern, and mateship shown amongst the Australian diggers while they were at war.

Today, the RSL continues to ensure that adequate care, compensation, and commemoration is provided to returning servicemen and women, as well as those currently serving in the Australian Defence Force.

The historic Perth Mint is renowned as a world leader in the manufacture and marketing of some of the most significant coin programs ever seen. Many of these have honoured the spirit, courage, mateship and sacrifice of Australia’s military personnel and supporting services.

This year, as the RSL celebrates 100 years of service, The Perth Mint is proud to release the first of the RSL’s official 100th anniversary coin commemoratives. These limited editions include a 1oz silver and a 1/4oz gold coin, issued as legal tender under the Australian Currency Act 1965.

Both coins depict a representation of the RSL badge and include the inscription RSL CENTENARY LEST WE FORGET.

The Perth Mint is honoured to offer RSL members a special discount on the limited edition RSL Centenary collector coin program.

Both coins are available to members at a discount of 15 per cent.

Since its foundation, the RSL has grown to 1,200 sub-branches Australia wide with more than 170,000 members, making it the largest ex-service organisation in the country.

The Perth Mint is honoured to be a part of centenary celebrations for this inspiring Australian organisation.

Learn more about The Perth Mint and its commemorative product range at www.perthmint.com.au/RSL100

ANZAC Day heavy burden for RSL volunteers

Graham Edwards has expressed concern about the costs and pressures on RSLWA members of maintaining ANZAC Day services at their current level.

While expressing gratitude for the continued and generous financial support by Lotterywest of the services – which at last count were 114 in WA – the State RSL President said the public needed to understand the increasing burden on volunteers.

The RSL was dependant on funding by Lotterywest, which this year provided a grant of $1.05 million.

That was a reduction from the $1.5 million provided last year for the hugely successful Centenary of Gallipoli services.

“Without the incredible support we get from Lotterywest, the quality of the services and perhaps the number of them across our State could dwindle,” Mr Edwards said.

The RSL will still be $100,000 out of pocket for running ANZAC Day in the city, including the sunset services, gunfire breakfast, dawn service at Kings Park, city parade and commemorative service at Langley Park. Costs include road closures, security, infrastructure and equipment needed to keep people safe.

At a ceremony in Kings Park, Veterans Minister Joe Francis said the $1.05 million grant was important because ANZAC Day events were increasing every year, particularly among young people.

Since 2002, Lotterywest has made 185 grants to RSLWA and RSL sub-branches totalling $14.5 million.

At Kings Park, the President of RSLWA Graham Edwards gratefully acknowledges funding from the chair of Lotterywest, Ms Heather Zampatti and Veterans Minister Joe Francis.

• The West Australian is producing an RSL Centenary Souvenir Guide – which will be included in the edition on Friday April 15 or Saturday April 16. Fifty thousand copies of this guide will also be distributed into WA’s 1,000 primary and secondary schools early in April. Production of the guide is underwritten by RSLWA and includes all RSLWA ANZAC Day services.
Jennifer values her RSL friends

New member Jennifer Watts says RSL members have been great value in helping her adjust to civilian life.

“I have recently moved down to Margaret River for the simple life,” she told The Listening Post. Jennifer served with the Army for four years and deployed to Baghdad, Kuwait and Timor-Leste.

She joined the Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch about a year ago and said members were very supportive and helped guide younger veterans.

“They helped me get onto the right people including VVCS and DVA for a couple of things which I needed help with. After the Army I needed to redesign my life and decided to go to university.

I was finishing off a degree to be a teacher but at the end I realised I couldn’t cope with the pressure in the classroom. It was then I sought the help of the friendly members of the Cockburn RSL.”

After an ankle injury from wakeboarding, she shifted south and found a job managing the Margaret River District Club which is also home to the Margaret River RSL.

She quickly met the friendly local RSL members and transferred over to the Margaret River Sub-Branch where she did a short stint as secretary-treasurer. She has now found her niche working in local vineyards and getting back into her fishing.

“I saved up and bought a house down here so I can go fishing, have some chickens and work on the land. I feel more connected to nature and myself.

The best advice I was given was to pick up old hobbies and passions before joining the army which help to recreate your identity and self-confidence.

“I like to tell people I’ve semi-retired in wine country where the fishing is good.”

Jennifer packed a fair bit into her time in the army. She served for the RACT for four years full-time including being an Operator Movements at JMCO Darwin and a Postal Operator in Townsville.

At 20 years of age, she was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq in 2004 where the base was attacked regularly by rockets and mortars.

“Suicide bombers were driving into road blocks several times a day near the base and some of our guys got blown up on ‘Route Irish’ which is one of the most deadly roads in the world.

Within my first week a rocket landed a few metres from my vehicle. The explosion left dust and rocks all over my car and I thought that was a pretty close call.

“I also deployed to Kuwait to help Australian Quarantine Officers inspect equipment and was the Postal Officer in Dili, Timor-Leste.

“I left 39 Support Btn in 2007 and found a civilian role at Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne. For the next three years I worked as a defence civilian at SASR at the RAEME workshop and joined them to do reserves.”

Jennifer said she felt it was important to remain connected to the RSL because it provided a unique support for service people.

“When I arrived in town, a friendly RSL member gave me a place to stay. It’s important to recognise there’s still a unique camaraderie binding veterans of different eras.

“I’ll be pouring beers this ANZAC day at the club to help out. It’s a small town but in Margaret River nearly everyone goes to the RSL.”

Jennifer Watts took part in the welcome home parade last year for Operation Slipper participants. She had broken an ankle wakeboarding.
Melbourne-based 5000 Poppies is led by Lynn Berry and last ANZAC Day installed 250,000 poppies on the plaza steps of Federation Square. Next month, about 25,000 stemmed poppies, many generated from WA, will be installed in 2000 square metres of nets featuring another 300,000 poppies at the Chelsea Flower Show in London. Lynn picks up the story.

**Poppy fervour hits Chelsea**

by **Lynn Berry**

It’s been a particularly exciting year for all of us at 5000 Poppies. Hot on the heels of our unbelievably emotional tribute in Melbourne on ANZAC Day last year for the Centenary, we were asked to create a similar installation for the Royal Horticultural Society Chelsea Flower Show in London in May this year.

The installation will be partially in the grounds of the flower show but the majority will radiate out into the grounds of the Royal Chelsea Hospital.

Now with less than eight weeks to Chelsea the whole team is working at a fever pitch to ensure that all panels and stems are completed and ready to visit Her Majesty in London.

We are incredibly grateful to the Victorian Government, our major sponsor/partner in this undertaking for providing the funds for our Chelsea journey.

As with the original installation, this part of the project has been many, many thousands of woman (and man) hours in the making.

From rehabilitating all 80 nets after their soaking on ANZAC Day in Melbourne to creating 20,000 additional stemmed poppies, and I am thrilled to report that we are almost to the ready stage.

Again our wider community has responded with great fervour to our call out for an additional 20,000 poppies for the new stems being created for Chelsea and I am excited to report that our Western Australian cousins who were huge contributors to the original installation, have again responded in droves … with thousands of poppies delivered in the last couple of months.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of our wonderful project and I know you will all be as excited as we are to see your work on the world stage at Chelsea.

In all there will be about 2000 square metres of nets and stems. It is the biggest installation Chelsea has ever hosted and they expect it to be a major highlight!

Last year, Lynn Berry was on hand to help launch the RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea and while at the Melbourne International Flower and Garden Show she showed RSLWA President Graham Edwards and the then Veterans’ Affairs Minister Michael Ronaldson some of her stemmed poppies.
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RSLWA provides a full range of welfare services to the veteran community including allied, currently serving members and their dependents. Assistance is available with but not limited to the following areas:

- Emergency relief
- Advocacy
- Overseas Pension applications
- Crisis counselling to point of referral
- Financial assistance
- Referral to other services
- Home and Hospital visits
- General crisis assistance
- Legal Support Group – 9440 6233 or email rslwalegal@gmail.com
After hours: 0433 847 155.

All applications are treated in the strictest confidence. Where possible it is best to arrange a face to face appointment with the Welfare Officer at ANZAC House 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth.
For regional members assistances may be sought through the local sub-branches.
Appointments are available Monday to Friday 9.00am to 3.30pm. Contact the Welfare Officer on 9287 3707 for further information.

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There is no doubt that RSL Defence Care have much to offer WA. Their recent assessment in WA, in which they visited many organisations and individuals within the community, has resulted in a positive outcome and the potential in the future for our ‘one-stop’ shop in the new ANZAC House.

They will also provide state-wide coverage and support through our volunteer network of advocates and welfare officers coordinated and supported through ANZAC House. They have also identified much need in WA within the ADF as younger men and women seek advocacy support and advice. We look forward to continuing to develop a mutually beneficial agreement with Defence Care and to provide extended advocacy and welfare support and services across the entire State.

**Congress**

Our Congress this year on June 17/18 culminates in the Centenary Ball. Usually, there are five months between ANZAC Day and Congress however in moving Congress to mid-year we have just 52 days between events. You have hopefully received your pre-Congress documentation that details events and timelines for response. Please ensure you meet our deadlines.

**Constitution**

The National Constitution and by-laws remain in draft form with the hope of being ratified at the National AGM in June. Once ratified we will then progress our State Constitution and as necessary call an ESG meeting for ratification. Again, I emphasise there will be membership involvement in the drafting. We at ANZAC House share your frustration with this matter.

**Some future diary dates for planning purposes:**

**Social Media Training:**

9.30am-12.30pm, Saturday April 9
-Advanced Facebook training to include Instagram & Twitter familiarisation.

Facilitator Ms Janine Pittaway Director Bright Communications.

At long last we have planned an **Office Bearer Information Session:**

Part 1, 10am-noon Saturday, May 14 for sub-branch secretaries and,
Part 2, 12.30pm-2.30pm sub-branch treasurers.

Part 1 – The intention is to have a panel of four experienced secretaries available to answer questions of those less experienced in the role.

Part 2 - A panel of four experienced treasurers and the State Accountant will be available to answer questions of those less experienced in the role.

More detail will be published in due course so keep an eye on our website and social media pages. The reason for having the sessions on the same day is to accommodate the many sub-branches and committees that have had to combine the duties.

There is much going on and your Board members and team at ANZAC House are flat out. Can I wish all members best wishes for an enjoyable Easter break and a successful ANZAC Day.
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<td>HZ 1ATF Assoc</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysia &amp; Borno Veterans Association WA Inc</td>
<td>PO Box 559</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6024</td>
<td>9247 3374</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kumawest@perthgroup.org">kumawest@perthgroup.org</a></td>
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<td>Malay Scouts Group AUST.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group</td>
<td>PO Box 2203</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6210</td>
<td>9419 122 421</td>
<td><a href="mailto:bootath@bigpond.com">bootath@bigpond.com</a></td>
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<td>PO Box 492</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6030</td>
<td>9305 9015</td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@nsvsc.org.au">admin@nsvsc.org.au</a></td>
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<td>6000</td>
<td>9228 3550</td>
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<td>PO Box 2121</td>
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<td>6024</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:rafrahvva@gmail.com">rafrahvva@gmail.com</a></td>
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<td>6104</td>
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<td>The Royal Green Jackets Association</td>
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<td>Western Australian Branch of the Partners of Veterans' Association of Australia Inc</td>
<td>PO Box 2435</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6148</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:westake@hotmail.com">westake@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>WRAAF Branch - RAFAA Assoc</td>
<td>c/- RAFAA Bull Creek Drive</td>
<td>BULLCREEK</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6149</td>
<td>9311 4401</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gbland@bigpond.com">gbland@bigpond.com</a></td>
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<td>WRAIS-RAN Women's Association WA</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>6008</td>
<td>9380 4414</td>
<td><a href="mailto:perth.vets@perthvets.com">perth.vets@perthvets.com</a></td>
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The Australians’ Mena Camp, 16km from Cairo. Australians were deeply involved in the battles of Romani and Magdhaba 100 years ago. The battle of Romani, fought between August 3 and 5 1916, finally put a stop to the Turkish threat to the Suez Canal. The battle of Magdhaba, a village located in the northern Sinai desert, was the scene of an action fought on December 23, 1916 when Turkish forces blocking the route to Palestine were attacked by Major General Harry Chauvel’s ANZAC Mounted Division, which had the Imperial Camel Corps attached. Success in this hard fought action was secured through a resolute assault with the bayonet by the 1st Light Horse Brigade, commanded by Brigadier Charles Cox, just as Chauvel ordered his force to withdraw. A mounted charge by the 10th Light Horse to secure vital water supplies nearby was also a vital contributory factor in the victory. AWM

Egypt – scene of famous battles

By day, Dr Benjamin Thomas is a curator of the art and archival collections of Trinity College, The University of Melbourne, the oldest of Victoria’s residential colleges. In his spare time, however, he finds a creative outlet in bringing historic black and white photography to life through digital colourisation, including some of Australia’s most iconic military images. His passion for this form of image restoration began almost two years ago, after seeing similar work being done by colourists in the US and Europe. With a background using Photoshop, and a curatorial approach to finding new and interesting ways for people to engage with history, Benjamin turned his attention to colourising local images. “One of the first things I noticed”, he told The Listening Post, “was that most of the historic images being colourised were of American subjects. There were very few people working with Australian photographs.” There were good reasons for this, with institutions such as the Library of Congress providing high quality images available online. But increasingly Australian museums and libraries have expanded their access to photographic collections on the web, with many national collecting institutions now having a presence on Flickr.

“It has been really fantastic to be able to offer another way for people to view the past,” said Benjamin. “The black and white images will always be there, and are wonderful in their own right, but there is something quite fresh and immediate viewing a photograph from decades past in full colour.”

“I often hear that people feel they can connect more, that the colour diminishes time and make it seems like it was only taken yesterday.”

• RSLWA will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Romani, Egypt and the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Magdhaba, Sinai Desert with a Sunset Service starting at 5pm on April 23.

RSLWA Centenary Congress 2016

Program of Events

WREATH LAYING:
Flame of Remembrance - Kings Park – Friday, June 17, 2016 at 4pm. Dress Smart Casual – medals optional.

CONGRESS RECEPTION:
ANZAC House – Friday, June 17, 2016 at 5pm to 7pm – Dress Smart Casual.

OFFICIAL OPENING:
Crown Perth - Gt Eastern Hwy, Burswood – Saturday, June 18, 2016 at 9am Seated by 8.50am - Dress Smart Casual. Medals optional.
Sudoku

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.

Across
1  Hertz
4  Boy like
10 Track
11 Lark
12 Before, poetically
13 Scolder
14 Prickly herb
16 Flurry
17 Snaky fish
18 Vancouver’s providence
20 Washington (abbr.)
22 Baths
26 Hand tool
29 Recent
31 Restrained
33 Whiz
34 Fair
35 Caviar
36 Lack of emotion
37 Limited (abbr.)

Down
1 Greek island
2 Mush up
3 Take illegally
4 Dullard
5 Toothbrush brand
6 Yang’s partner
7 Small particle
8 Luge
9 Champion
15 South southwest
19 Central Standard Time
21 Muslim’s God
23 Ocean jewel
24 Scarf
25 Trusty horse
26 Father
27 Cover a present
28 Ms. Minelli
30 Airy
32 Digital audio tape

Sudoku Solution from last edition - Dec 2015

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Crossword Solution in next edition

Suduko.com.au

The Listening Post  APRIL 2016  89

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They shall grow not old, as we that 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.

Navy
C/JX308864; Bowie, Cyril
Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
R47487; Britten-Jones, Phillip
Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
R62341; Byrne, Allen
Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
F5478; Campbell, John
Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch
R55911; Clarke, Andrew
Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
CO/3408; Cook, George
Gosnells RSL Sub-Branch
F5247; Driscoll; Brian
Mt Lawley-Inglewood RSL Sub-Branch
R52179; Duncan, Kenneth
City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch
R37027; Graham, Donald
Riverton RSL Sub-Branch
44923; Kleinhanss, John
Kalumanda RSL Sub-Branch
F4862; Lane, Cornelius
Eastern Regional RSL Sub-Branch
F3652; Lewis, Gordon
Central Branch
30555; Livesey, James
Albany RSL Sub-Branch
8096; Nicholson, Ivor
Central Branch
MX737695; Owens, Joseph
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R96585; Ridley, Graeme
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M982402C; Sargeant, Graham
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