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Staff at ANZAC House have moved to temporary offices in Perth. Next year, ANZAC House will be demolished and replaced by a new seven-storey office offering excellent facilities to members.

Other ex-service organisations will be encouraged to co-locate and work beside the RSL in delivering broader and more comprehensive services. As our State President Peter Aspinall says in his regular column, the RSL wants as many ESOs as possible to share with us the vision of ‘doing things better, together’.

Pictured on our cover making the move into our new offices at 66 St Georges Terrace is Events Coordinator Wendy Moss, Claims Advisor Morgana Ramsey and CEO John McCourt.

In our last edition phone calls rolled in after we said LTCol Eric Gruber and his wife Melonie were on the cover, instead of his immediate predecessor LTCol Rhogan Aikten and his wife, Tania. Our apologies to all.

Finally, may we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Drive safe and we will all get to do it again in 2017.

RSL Statement of Purpose

The RSL was founded in 1916 to provide comradeship and support to Australia’s veterans and their families. That core mission has never changed but has continued to evolve to meet the needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

We have a branch network that covers Australia and any veteran who needs help will get it – every serving ADF member and veteran will be warmly welcomed at their local RSL sub-branch or club.

We advocate for the best possible conditions for our serving men and women and for those who have served the nation in the past.

We foster respect and thanks from the nation for all those who have made sacrifices in Australia’s name and we will provide a strong voice on issues of national unity and security.

Previous Editions

Copies of The Listening Post published since June 2014 are available on our website: www.rslwa.org.au


Publishing

Publishing of The Listening Post: Published four times a year with a readership of over 25,000.

To all sub-branch Presidents and Secretaries: Send photographs (1Mb plus) and a short article on special activities at your sub-branch to The Listening Post.
RSLWA members can now enjoy the spanking new offices beside London Court.

The spacious offices, on the third floor at 66 St Georges Terrace will be occupied by RSL staff until the new seven-storey ANZAC House is built on the existing site in about three years’ time.

“At 66 St Georges we have splendid facilities for members including two committee rooms, two meeting rooms and an event room suitable for up to 40 people – ideal for sub-branch meetings and ESO gatherings,” said ANZAC House manager Matthew Holyday.

“Members are most welcome to use the facilities and have a cuppa and a biscuit on us.”

The new offices were previously occupied by ASIC.

“Hospitality lives on after 100 RSLWA members can now enjoy the spanking new offices beside London Court.

The ANZAC Club closes on December 21 – a day for reflection – however the bright note is the new chapter that will unfold in the redeveloped building will mark the start of the next 100 years of RSL activity – and give life to a continuing tradition of hospitality on this customary site – the home of RSLWA.

The Soldiers Welcome Institute commenced its activity in 1916 – providing basic hospitality to Australian Soldiers, both departing and arriving from Perth to and from the Great War. This took place in a now demolished building, housed in the gardens of Government House – opposite the site of today’s ANZAC House. By 1927 the Soldiers Institute was handed over to the RSL and, the old building held little comfort for the returned men and women.

Across the road, the first ANZAC House was opened in 1934 to replace the old Soldiers Welcome Institute. Within this, the ANZAC Club carried on the tradition of hospitality established by the 1916 Soldiers Welcome Institute. The third incarnation is the ANZAC House and Club we know today, which replaced the 1934 version when it opened in 1981. So for 100 years – in one form or another, hospitality has been practised on or near this site – a proud tradition carried forward by a team of loyal staff that have attended to the needs of the members and ex-service groups over the years.

Many of the staff are well known with four permanent staff having served a collective 37.5 years.

The closure is indeed a moment of reflection for those of us who serve those who have served. It has been remarkable experience for us to observe that each and every
The Listening Post

DECEMBER 2016

5

The new offices are in a commercial building and consequently there is no liquor licence.

However, Mr Holyday said a number of venues have indicated that they will welcome RSL members for a drink before the new ANZAC House opens. These include:

**RAAFA Club at Bull Creek:** This is a kindred organisation with a similar set-up to ANZAC club.

It offers the benefit of car parking and ease of public transport to Bull Creek Station. Able to cater to group lunches etc. Matthew recommends this venue before any other.

**43 Below:** This tavern is downstairs at 43 Barrack St. It will be displaying an RSL logo and welcome sign and is happy to display Unit & Association plaques and memorabilia – some already are on display. Similar prices to ANZAC Club – some members are already using this facility.

**Criterion Café:** (at the Criterion Hotel in Hay Street). This café will be displaying an RSL Logo and welcome and will offer similar prices to the ANZAC Club.

Matthew Holyday

ANZAC House & ANZAC Club Manager

■ Wendy Moss tries out her new work station at 66 St Georges Terrace. The shift to new offices was required because ANZAC House had reached its use-by date and needed major improvements just to meet building standards.

Future

gathering of veterans is infused with and surrounded by an esprit de corps and camaraderie that is unique to the ANZAC Club. So when we close the doors on December 21, we will be thinking of the next phase in the story of friendship, camaraderie and good will that has nurtured the spirit of hospitality here at ANZAC Club – it has been our special privilege to be a part of that proud tradition. We wish all our members and guests every success in the new ANZAC House that will arise on this very special site; the traditional home of RSLWA.

Matthew Holyday

ANZAC House & ANZAC Club Manager

■ Long and loyal service: These permanent members of the ANZAC Club staff have accumulated 37.5 years' service between them. From left, Ashleigh Courtney, Matthew Holyday, Chef Michael Hatcher and assistant club manager Rhonda Heath.
Thousands of people were drawn to the 75th anniversary of Australia's worst naval disaster in which 645 HMAS Sydney crew died after a battle off Shark Bay with the German raider HSK Kormoran.

The anniversary services were held on November 19 in Sydney, Fremantle, Geraldton, Carnarvon and an hour’s drive north of Carnarvon near Quobba Station.

For RSLWA State President Peter Aspinall, an informal ceremony near Quobba on November 20 was particularly meaningful as it was close to where the surviving members of the German raider HSK Kormoran struggled ashore in lifeboats.

“Whilst the area is not very high, you can see the jagged nature of the coastline,” Mr Aspinall said. “It is remarkable how they got ashore.

“They rowed for days and then had to negotiate a desolate ridge. The area is beautiful but utterly desolate.”

Some 319 members of the 399 crew of Kormoran reached land after their controversial ambush of the Sydney at sea. The Kormoran’s disguise as a freighter had enticed Sydney into close range and she was then able to overwhelm the proud warship with gunfire and torpedoes. Bridget Colless, the daughter of Sydney’s captain Joseph Burnett, delivered the keynote address at the memorial service in Geraldton.

She was five years old when she lost her father. After years of searching, the wrecks of the Sydney and Kormoran were found in 2008, 20km apart, about 200km off Shark Bay. The memorial service at Carnarvon attracted about 300 people and served as the official unveiling of new memorials to the Sydney and Kormoran crews, and a walk of remembrance featuring plaques for each member of the Sydney.

The memorials were the result of work by many volunteers and local businesses.
New home to be a ‘veterans centre’

On November 9 Premier Colin Barnett visited ANZAC House with his Veterans’ Minister Joe Francis to publicly sign a Heads of Agreement for transferring back to RSLWA the freehold title to the land on which ANZAC House sits.

As many of you may remember, in 1974 the then board of RSLWA surrendered the title of the land on which the old ANZAC House stood, as well as the area on which the Law Courts now stand, to the State Government – resulting in the demolition of the lovely 1930s ANZAC House. In return the government constructed the current ANZAC House and leased it to RSLWA for a 21/21/21 year term for a peppercorn rent.

For quite some time ANZAC House has been too small for the needs of RSLWA and is also now too expensive to renovate and bring up to contemporary standards. Without the security of title over the site any thoughts of redevelopment were out of the question.

My predecessor, Graham Edwards, recognised the great opportunity offered by both the centenary of ANZAC in 2015 and the centenary of RSLWA this year and approached Premier Barnett to suggest that the government might consider the return of ownership of the site to RSLWA.

The Premier’s signing of the Heads of Agreement saw the realisation of this initiative and all members of RSLWA should be appreciative and proud of this expression of the goodwill towards the RSL by the Government of Western Australia.

With the title, RSLWA can now proceed with its redevelopment plans for the site.

While the new seven-storey ANZAC House will be the new home of RSLWA it will be much more.

We intend it to be the veterans’ centre; a place where veterans, their families and other dependants can find access to all the services and support agencies they seek. To do this we intend ANZAC House to not only possess the physical necessities but also the presence of those other ESOs to offer their valuable advocacy and welfare services. These ESOs can do so by either co-locating with RSLWA or by creating a ‘shopfront’ within ANZAC House.

The way we want to move forward is to be an enabler to have as many ESOs as possible share with us the vision of ‘doing things better, together’.

It’s the way to the future and will ensure RSLWA is what it always has been. Way back when the organisation was born the Diggers who conceived the RSL concept were looking at ways of helping their mates while remembering those who never returned. As such, RSLWA needs to continue to lead the way and that means working closely with our valued colleagues in other ESOs.

RACA litigation

I am sure most of you are aware that RSLWA has been in litigation with WA Retirement & Aged Care Association Inc (RACA), and others, over what we perceived to be the sale of RACA at a significantly reduced value. Our action had progressed to being listed in the WA Supreme Court with a hearing in late November/early December this year. Earlier this year a round of mediation was conducted which produced the...
defendants, an offer for settlement which was unacceptable to us. However, our preference was for settlement rather than to take it to court.

A second mediation round was ordered by the Supreme Court, it being conducted on Wednesday November 2. The drawn-out day seemed to be getting nowhere until, right at the end of the day, the defendants made an offer that appeared acceptable to our negotiators. The offer was to be kept open until 1200 hrs the next day to allow me to take the offer to the RSLWA Board on the morning of November 3. The Board ultimately gave its approval for the offer to be formally accepted.

Unfortunately, the Supreme Court Registrar has imposed a high level of confidentiality on the terms of settlement. However, I can inform you that the Board was very comfortable with the amount of the financial element of the offer.

The Board did thoroughly canvass the risk associated with rejecting the offer and taking our chances in court, coming to the conclusion that the risk of possibly losing or being successful but not getting a judgement better than the settlement offer was too great.

The Senior Counsels representing RSLWA in the mediation round concurred with our decision to accept.

A downside is that we have to absorb our own costs which stand at the moment around $2.6 million. I must point out that to have gone to trial we faced an additional $1 million-plus in legal fees and, should we have lost the case, we would have had to bear the cost of up to 60 per cent of the legal costs of all four defendants! With settlement the pain of legal fees is all but over; some minor fees will be incurred in the tidying up of the settlement documentation.

**Financial governance issues in RSLNSW**

It has been of great concern that the negative media reporting of alleged inappropriate payment of director’s fees that has occurred in RSLNSW, or more accurately RSL LifeCare, RSLNSW’s aged care organisation. This could have a significant impact on the generosity of donors in the fundraising and Remembrance Day Poppy Appeals conducted by sub-branches around the state. Unfortunately the public generally do not differentiate between the various state branches and perceive the RSL as one homogenous organisation.

Another effect of these alleged lapses in financial management is the suspicion that such practices may be prevalent or exist in other state branches.

I wish to assure you that in RSLWA we are very confident that our financial management is extremely robust and the opportunities for inappropriate payments to any director or any other RSLWA member who might perform any duties or activities on behalf of RSLWA are non-existent. We do not engage in any payment of fees, gratuities or honorariums.

Any member who incurs an expense for an approved RSLWA activity, and is formally acting on behalf of RSLWA, will be reimbursed that expense on the production of a legitimate tax invoice/receipt.

Over recent years RSLWA has been very prudent in its financial management.

While we certainly are not impoverished we do not have the luxury of entertaining extravagant expenditures on ‘nice to have’ items or activities.

Notwithstanding my above comment about financial management, RSLWA has moved into a far more comfortable financial situation. In light of this, I believe it appropriate that early in 2017 I provide you with a report on the direction your Board of Directors see RSLWA travelling over the next few years.

Being that time of the year, on behalf of all the Directors, Trustees and the staff I wish each and every one of you the very best wishes for the Christmas/New Year period and hope that 2017 brings each one of you all that you wish for.

Take care through the festive season.

Peter Aspinall
Bits & Pieces...

It’s a new era for RSLWA

by CEO of RSLWA
John McCourt

To say we’re living in interesting times is an understatement for RSL in Western Australia. There’s movement within the CBD and throughout the State with our newest RSL sub-branch chartered in Chidlow.

As you read this article, the staff at ANZAC House will have moved to new temporary premises at Level 3, 66 St George’s Terrace – leaving behind a now empty 2nd floor at ANZAC House which will soon face the wrecker’s hammer when our beloved ANZAC Club finally closes its doors before Christmas.

Amid the move, the RSLWA team here has been working closely with the ANZAC House Redevelopment Committee – formed by the Board – to plan ahead for construction of the new office development within which will be a new ANZAC Club for members to gather as they have in the past.

Of course the new facility will provide us with facilities to take advocacy and welfare services to new level in close collaboration with other ESOs in a more client-focused model of operation.

Also on the move is our electronic address. The HQ has been removed from our email and web addresses as you would have read in this edition. The feeling was that it did not accurately reflect what we do here at ANZAC House – old or new.

We have a dedicated and wonderful staff that exist to serve sub-branches and represent your best interests when doing business with a wide range of stakeholders and other RSL branches throughout the country.

It’s going to be a busy few years ahead as we transition to a new era for us all, including the establishment of a new initiative called the RSLWA 2020 Foundation – an entity that will help build new streams of revenue which will build on the fantastic support we have had in the past from the community, government and the corporate sector.

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Korean medal makes Eileen’s day

For Eileen Hanmer, the personal presentation of a medal by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea His Excellency Mr Kyoung-ha Woo was particularly special.

That’s because it was awarded for the service her father, Brian Charles Waller, gave in the Korean War as a regular Australian Army soldier. She never met him.

“Dad was only 21 when he left for Korea in 1953 – my mother was pregnant with me when he left and I was only 14 months old when he died.”


“I have all his medals at home. He was transferring to the medical corp and staying on in Japan as a peacemaker. To me this was a very proud moment to receive this medal on behalf of my Dad and our family.”

It was also a special day for 10 other veterans or relatives of soldiers who received the Ambassador’s Peace Medal. They gathered in the Gallipoli Room in ANZAC House for the last major function in the building.

Amongst the recipients were cousins Marianne Otway and Shane Otway. They also received the medals on behalf of their fathers – twins Brian and Norm Otway who managed to survive the war.

The ceremony was held at ANZAC House – one of the last major events before the closure of the historic building.

Air Force 25 SQN WOD Ian Griffiths attended with his two nephews, Flynn Griffiths and his brother LCPL Tasman Griffiths of 16 RWAR. Flynn wore the medals of Brian William John Griffiths, who had a distinguished career in the RAAF over more than 33 years.

Mr Woo addressed the veterans and their families by saying the Peace Medals were very special to him, as the son of the Korean War veteran, as well as to the Korean Government. He expressed profound gratitude to the veterans for their service.
Helping to get jobs for our Veterans

Each year some 5,500 ADF members leave the military and around 70 per cent do so to pursue an alternative career.

The Australian Government has launched the Prime Minister’s Veterans’ Employment Program with a call to action for businesses across the country to better harness the talents of our veterans.

The Government will ensure our ADF personnel are ready for their post-service careers by ensuring no-one leaves the armed forces without all the necessary documentation, such as health and training records, and providing more support and employment coaching. Any business interested in learning about the benefits of employing veterans should email veteransemployment@dva.gov.au.

We can all play a part in raising awareness of the enormous potential and talent of our veterans.

Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Veterans’ Affairs

Your Letters

Why no beds in planned ANZAC House?

As a member of a rural sub-branch I would like to understand who, how, what and why the decision was made to not continue with the accommodation being included with the rebuild of ANZAC House?

It is very mystifying how we as a sub-branch made the effort to complete and return the questionnaire flyer sent from RSL HQ dated September 3, 2015 requesting support for this accommodation and parking.

The sub-branch had to be ‘convinced’ to participate in what the experienced members thought to be a pointless exercise.

Personally, I hightailed as far away from the city and red tape as many before me have done upon finishing their service - perhaps in hindsight putting ourselves at a disadvantage with not having access to all the support that can be found there. One the hardest things about attending appointments in the city is the distance, cost of travel, accommodation and parking.

It is yet another pill to swallow and as a result it is making me question my membership with RSLWA?

I wonder does anyone else out there, particularly in the rural sub-branches feel the same? And could RSL HQ please explain?

A. Baker

State President Peter Aspinall comments: Thanks for your letter Anne-Marie. As an Albany-based member, who frequently visits Perth, I empathise with your comments about the proposed building. Already the process has taken several years and will take several more. We were required by the State Government to conduct a comprehensive business study into possible site uses before obtaining the freehold title on November 9. The outcome was reported in the September 2016 edition of The Listening Post, when former CEO Philip Orchard said on page 9, “We have previously explored 12 options for development of the site in four major groupings which ranged from local and government offices to commercial offices and apartments and various combinations of each. The hotel option appeared likely to succeed at one point. However, for various reasons – cost and risk to name but two – RSLWA decided on the smaller office option as the preferred direction.”

I would emphasise that the excessive cost and the financial risk would have been unacceptable to the general membership and were the main reasons for the decision to opt for the smaller building.

I am confident that members will be proud of the new seven-storey ANZAC House, which will provide excellent member facilities. I believe they will appreciate the need to spend funds wisely in an era of economic uncertainty and significant hotel development in Perth.
A prominent and well-respected Vietnam veteran recently visited ANZAC House to deliver a warning about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Most of his life he buried the problem but he encourages returning servicemen and younger veterans, particularly, to look out for symptoms and take action. As he explains, he doesn’t want to reveal his identity.

His comments come as the Herald Sun claims its unofficial inquiries amongst serving military and veterans suggest as many as 50 ADF personnel have killed themselves this year, more than the 41 who died over 13 years in the Afghanistan conflict. If you need help, the VVCS operates a 24-hour service on 1800 011 046.

Don’t bury PTSD – as I did

Young veterans need to look out for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Mine was diagnosed in 2007; 42 years after a ‘scare charge’ exploded beside me in Vung Tau Harbour and triggered the illness.

I was a 20 year-old marine engineer on board a converted aircraft carrier, down in the bowels of the ship checking our fire pumps and right beside the hull. There were no loudspeakers. The scare charge – or hand grenade – had been dropped the other side of the hull to deter any underwater swimmers from attaching mines.

It was an almighty explosion with shock waves right through the machinery space. I raced up ladders to a safer place. Once there I remember just sitting down and shaking.

It gave me big trauma. I became fearful and neglected some of my duties to inspect engines and auxiliaries in confined spaces. I had to fudge readings during the next few days of the visit and had guilt feelings for the neglect. I could tell no-one. Later, I began drinking heavily.

Two years later, in 1967, I had my next major problem on my next vessel. One evening I got pretty drunk and came back to ship in Sydney Harbour and I jumped over the side. I don’t know whether it was a cry for help but we did. I came home to Perth.

I next had a problem when I was based in Sydney on another ship in 1972. I was still single. One night I got so drunk I rang my mother and told her to get Dad to ring the ship and say my mother was very ill and they needed me home… so that’s what happened.

After I left the Navy I had some issues when working

I guess the Navy looked after me – although I don’t think they ever knew what state I was in. There was nothing at all on my medical records about any stress-induced mental problems. Nothing. And that’s over the whole of my 12 years in the Navy – from 1961 to 1973.

After I left the Navy I had some issues when working, particularly when my father was very sick and in 1992 I got in-house counselling. I had further issues in 1996 when my Public Service employment became too stressful to continue. As a result I started my own company which did very well for the next 10 years.

After I finished with the business in 2006, my wife and I travelled Australia in a caravan for nine months. During this time I was left with making all decisions on travel arrangements, this became a major issue as I became very angry and aggressive a lot of the time. I was told then by a very insistent wife to do something about it.

PTSD was diagnosed in 2007.

Why did it take so long to diagnose?

Was I in denial? Yes, yes, of course. You don’t want to look like you’re a wimp to your peers. I didn’t tell anyone I had issues, because you’re a bloke. Most of us are the same.

Were you worried about what friends would think?

Yes, and I still am; that’s why I’m reluctant to say who I am. I take medication and that’s what keeps me level now. I know people who have been exposed to much more than me, PTSD affects some and not others, it does not discriminate.

But my important message for veterans – particularly those returning from recent conflicts – is to try to recognise they may have a problem and to get help.

You may be losing your sex drive; you can’t handle crowds; drink too much or you become angry at very minor things. You may not want to socialise.

I suffered very strong nightmares – not related to explosions – just difficulty in sleeping and waking up in the middle of the night shouting.

My advice is: Get help. It’s readily available. Speak to your peers. Counselling is great for PTSD sufferers, as you are able to go right back to the source of the problems and discuss with a person who is non-judgmental.

For help with PTSD or other issues call VVCS on 1800 011 046.
Remembrance Day WA

The silence at the Western Front 98 years ago reminds us that while war officially came to an end, the suffering didn’t, the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, said in her Remembrance Day address at the State War Memorial.

“In this sense, I refer to the physical injuries and the often silent suffering of mental illness, as well as the pain of those whose loved ones died or were affected by illness,” she told a crowd of more than 2,000.

Kings Park was one of more than 50 services held in WA on a day when the entire nation paused to remember all those who have died or suffered for Australia’s cause in wars and armed conflicts.

Nine buglers played the Last Post on Perth CBD intersections.

The main service at the State War Memorial featured the traditional RAAF fly past, the Last Post and Ode.

The service included the Churchlands Senior High School Band and the official handover of keys to the State War Memorial crypt to the new Warden, WGCDDR Christine Pittman. The Ode was recited by State President Peter Aspinall.

Mrs Sanderson paid tribute to all those who had suffered. She said it was estimated that World War I left between 9 and 13 million dead - perhaps as many as one-third of them with no known grave.

“In more recent conflicts, the pressures of modern warfare have meant that our troops are confronted by apparently ordinary citizens, including children, armed with explosives. The enemy is not always easily identified.

“The recent Senate report into the mental health of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans states that (since 2000) more than 100 ADF personnel are suspected or confirmed to have taken their own lives. Forty seven of these had previously deployed.

“And the National Mental Health Commission (NHMC) has noted that ‘data released this year indicates that death by suicide (in Australia) has continued an upward trend and is at the highest rate in 10 years’.

“When a person takes their own life it is particularly devastating for the family, friends, and colleagues of the deceased member who worry how they could have helped more.”

Mrs Sanderson welcomed RSLWA’s recent launch of DefenceCare in Western Australia to complement the many volunteer welfare and advocacy services throughout the State. She also welcomed RSLWA’s plans to build new head offices in Perth and offer space to other ex-service organisations to co-locate so that veterans can access all the services they need in the one building.

“Our veterans need to be able to access the best support possible to overcome these silent challenges.”

Tribute to those remarkable sub-wardens

The outgoing Warden of the State War Memorial, Peter King, has paid tribute to the remarkable dedication of the memorial’s sub-wardens.

“Through rain, hail and very hot weather they each put themselves forward to demonstrate the importance of providing dignified and solemn commemorative services for our veterans past and present,” Mr King said in his address during Remembrance Day.

“Their commitment is amazing and each has been sub-wardens for many years. This year we welcomed a new sub-warden, Mrs Shirly Mooney to the ranks.

“Our Deputy Warden, Geoff Simpson, OAM RFD has been critical to the success of the services held within the State War Memorial precinct. Geoff’s knowledge of protocol and procedure, his rapport with organisers and his complete support to the State Warden is very highly regarded and recognised. Thank you very much Geoff for the support that you have provided to me over the past 12 months.”

Mr King handed over the keys to the crypt to WGCDDR Christine Pittman, who has served a total 37 years in the military. She said it was a great pleasure and honour to accept the keys.

The Remembrance Day service is held adjacent to the Pool of Reflection, which Mr King reminded the crowd contains waters from five oceans gathered by the Royal Australian Navy.

The centrepiece four burners represent Navy, Army, Airforce and Women’s Services and serves as a constant and permanent reminder of the cost of freedom.
Absence de texte de lecture naturelle disponible.
Veterans’ centre for RSLWA

Younger veterans are set to benefit from construction of a ‘veterans centre’ on the site of ANZAC House in Perth.

The new $23 million centre will still be officially known as ANZAC House and will accommodate RSLWA administrative staff.

However, it will also have a wider role of providing a one-stop shop for veterans and serving personnel.

More than 50 ex-service organisations operating in WA will be invited to co-locate or have representatives in the new building.

ANZAC House will be demolished next year. Most head office staff have relocated to temporary offices at Level 3, 66 St Georges Terrace.

The ANZAC Club will close its doors on December 21.

Construction of the new centre will take three to four years and rise to seven storeys, with a basement underneath.

On November 9, Premier Colin Barnett, Veterans’ Minister Joe Francis and State President Peter Aspinall signed a Heads of Agreement guaranteeing the RSL freehold title to the land on which ANZAC House currently sits on the corner of St Georges Tce and Irwin Street, as well as vacant land on the western side of the building. The new centre will much wider than the existing ANZAC House.

“This welcome decision by the government paves the way for us to develop a new modern building that will help us to revolutionise services to ex-service men and women and their families,” Mr Aspinall said at the official signing of a Heads of Agreement.

“Currently there are more than 50 separate organisations in WA supporting veterans and serving personnel.

“We are committed to making a real difference in how services are provided by working closely and collaboratively with as many ex-service organisations (ESOs) as possible to provide coordinated support for those who need assistance – whoever they are, whatever they need.

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“We are committed to making a real difference in how services are provided by working closely and collaboratively with as many ex-service organisations (ESOs) as possible to provide coordinated support for those who need assistance – whoever they are, whatever they need.

“RSLWA is taking a customer-focused, ESO-centric approach to serve those who matter most – the veterans - and have the client at the centre of service delivery by ESOs which bring an excellent and proactive range of services and support initiatives.

“There is an ideal opportunity for RSLWA to act as the enabler to bring together other ESOs to add value to the significant and valuable services they already provide.

“Our vision is to bring those services together under one roof to – in effect – do things better together. This land transfer means we can build new offices and open the doors to what is currently a fragmented service-delivery sector.”

In WA, there are an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 veterans who have been deployed overseas in warlike and non-warlike conflicts since the East Timor conflict in 1999. Most of these men and women are aged between 25 and 50.

Veterans’ Minister Joe Francis said there was a perception that the median age of veterans in WA was going up. The reverse was the truth with many younger veterans now living here.

Mr Francis said RSLWA would contribute $15 million toward the new building project and would seek the remaining $8 million from Lotterywest.

Premier Colin Barnett said WA had done itself immensely proud in recognising and supporting veterans.

During the past few years events had included the re-enactment of the departure of two troop convoys from Albany during WWI, the construction of the National Anzac Centre and improvements at Mt Clarence, and the visit to Perth of the ANZAC-themed marionettes the Giants, which drew 1.5 million people to city streets early last year.

“The land transfer is one of a number of Liberal National Government contributions made in recognition of the ANZAC centenary commemorations,” he said. “ANZAC House land alone is valued at $3.36 million.

“In total, the State Government contributed nearly $30 million for the commemorations, including $15.8 million for the National Anzac Centre and centenary events in Albany.”

Both Mr Barnett and Mr Aspinall paid tribute to the former State President of RSLWA Graham Edwards for his vision in initiating the return of the freehold title to the RSL.

Mr Aspinall also thanked former CEO Philip Orchard and ANZAC House manager Matthew Holyday for their work.

FOOTNOTE: RSLWA surrendered the freehold title to the existing property when the Law Courts complex was built. The site for ANZAC House was provided on a leasehold basis and the current ANZAC House was opened in 1981.
Veterans mourned the loss of three stalwarts in October with the death of RSLWA Vice President **Denis Connelly**, Burma Railway survivor **Snow Fairclough** and the indefatigable **Eric Roediger**.

All passed away within a week or so. In fact the funeral on October 7 of Eric at the Fremantle Crematorium in West Chapel immediately followed the service for Denis.

Milton ‘Snow’ Fairclough’s funeral was just three days later at Karrakatta.

All men left their own indelible mark.

Of Denis, RSLWA President Peter Aspinall said, “Denis gave his all as a volunteer and his loss is being felt keenly. He was a true-blue Australian who served in the RAAF for six years, served in Vietnam and then spent more than 19 years helping other serving and ex-serving personnel through the RSL. He was devoted to helping his mates.”

Helen Pickering, who worked closely with Denis at Applecross RSL Sub-Branch, says Denis was a proud and passionate member who was always actively encouraging others to contribute.

“He had a cheerful disposition, a wicked sense of humour and made a huge contribution to our sub-branch. We will miss him.”

Eric Roediger (106) took part in this year’s ANZAC Day Parade through Perth – as he did last year.

He comes from a remarkable military family – his brother Keith was an ace fighter pilot – and went to war with another brother, Claude with the 2/3rd machine gunners in 1941.

They went to Egypt and then were put on the fateful ship Orcades which delivered them to Java with old rifles and a few rounds of ammunition.

With the large Japanese force that
served their nation well

When soldiers landed on Java they had no option but to surrender and this was the beginning of three and half years of captivity. Eric and Claude were sent to Thailand, where they were forced to work long and dangerous days on the Thai-Burma Railway.

The brothers were then sent to Japan on the Byoki Maru, surviving a typhoon, American torpedo attacks and the privations of travelling in a boat gutted of any bridge.

They were sent to work on coal mines under the sea, between Nagasaki and Hiroshima, and survived with Eric believing his faith in God kept him going.

He openly pondered about how lucky POWs in Japan were with the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945 and three days later on Nagasaki.

“I think how lucky we were that the atom bomb was dropped, because that stopped the invasion of Japan. Had there been an invasion of Japan there wouldn’t have been any POWs; the whole lot of us would have been annihilated.”

To Eric, war was not the defining moment of his life. His great love was farming and his faith.

Snow Fairclough is another distinguished Digger. He also was a Japanese POW and a survivor of the notorious Thai-Burma Railway – and a member of 2/3rd Machine Gun Bn.

Snow (96) is worthy of a book in his own right and in fact featured in War, Hate and Lizard, a documentary commissioned by the Town of Victoria Park which deals with his war experiences.

During three and a half years captivity, Snow endured terrible sickness, hunger and beatings in forced labour that caused the death of 2,800 Australian POWs.

“Breakfast would be half a cup of liquidy rice and there was a lot of mice and poo and maggots in that,” Snow once recalled. “A friend of mine used to say, ‘eat it up, it’s good protein’.”

He returned to the Burma Railway in 1985 with his former leader, legendary army surgeon Sir Edward ‘Weary’ Dunlop.

And he repeatedly went back – at least a dozen times – because he felt it was important to inform young Australians about the suffering and sacrifices of Australian and Allied prisoners of war.

Denis Connelly was a familiar figure around ANZAC House in his role as RSLWA Vice President.
John Power left with a big smile

Typically, Leslie (John) Power left us with wonderful memories of his big smile after his long service as a volunteer RSL Advocate.

He passed after a battle with cancer.

John joined the Army as a boy diesel mechanic and after finishing Apprentice School commenced his service with RAEME.

Two of John’s postings outside of RAEME were with 1st Armoured Regiment as LAD SGT and followed years later as officer with 2nd Cavalry Regiment within the RAEME Squadron.

John was awarded Mention in Dispatches (MID) for his work, in South Vietnam, for innovations in mine clearing while a Captain with RAEME.

John’s final days were spent surrounded by his wife Dorothy and family, 10 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren, and he left them a message which has to be repeated.

“Saturday was a great day to have a party. I really enjoyed sitting among my family and friends watching the sun shine outside and seeing the interaction.

I was very mindful of the very high degree of love and friendly support that I have been given since becoming ill.

It has made my journey so much more memorable and easy. It was a day to remember. Thank you to everyone concerned. My best wishes and regards – John.”

RIP – Lest We Forget

Bob Sheppard
Volunteer Advocate

Vietnam mine-clearing saved lives

John Power served for 25 years in the Australian Army and as an officer distinguished himself in Vietnam by developing a successful mine-clearing device.

The device potentially saved hundreds of lives and was fitted to a M113A1 armoured personnel carrier.

Osborne Park RSL’s Norm Wells, who served with John, in his eulogy said John thought up a concept to modify the APC by extending an outrigger from the rear to support eight loosely rolling truck tyres across the undulating ground to trigger any laid mines.

“In this task, he worked exceptionally hard to improve the initial design,” Mr Wells said.

“He further assisted with technical advice during tests in the field. His own personal untiring efforts inspired his men to work very long hours during the construction of the device.

“Captain Power also developed the safest possible means of recovering damaged mine clearing armoured personnel carriers from within the minefield.

In this task he regularly exposed himself to dangerous situations and displayed cool courage and leadership, showing a fine example to others.”

For his efforts, John Power was Mentioned in Despatches. Ironically, the deadly American M16 jumping jack anti-personnel mines that needed clearing were from a massive 11 kilometre barrier minefield, between Dat Do village and Lang Phuoc Hai village, and laid by Australians to protect our own Diggers.

Enemy soldiers quickly learnt to remove and relocate some 5,000 which for an extended period caused more than 50 per cent of Australian Task Force casualties.

Muradup’s memorable memorial

It was fantastic and incredibly moving to witness the pride and support of a small community like Kojonup for its historic Muradup War Memorial on September 24.

I was honoured to lay a wreath on behalf of the RSL at the service to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the memorial which was attended by more than 300 people. It was truly one of the more remarkable and wonderful community gatherings I have attended.

Muradup War Memorial is unusual in that it lists all the 40 men who volunteered for the First World War – farmers, carpenters, labourers, fettlers, horse breakers, carriers and more. Of those who enlisted 12 died in service.

The memorial is believed to be the earliest dedicated memorial to veterans or to those who lost their lives anywhere in Western Australia.

Peter Aspinall
State President
Honouring those who served our country courageously

See & Hear the Spirit of the Anzacs

From the shores of Gallipoli to the deserts of Iraq, Australia’s armed forces have served us proudly with courage and valour. Now, you can remember the bravery of a loved one who served with the “Lest We Forget Cuckoo Clock,” a unique tribute bringing the spirit of the Anzacs to every minute of your day.

A moving tribute in sculpture, sound and motion

Poignant and inspiring, the clock showcases a montage of a century of Australians at war. Journey from the trenches of Gallipoli, to the deserts of Tobruk and to the jungles of Kokoda and South East Asia, where you will witness the courage which made your digger the proudest son of our nation. Laurence Binyons’ immortal Ode graces the art, reminding us of the debt of gratitude our nation owes to the men who sacrificed all for our freedom. The artwork is flanked by two magnificent sculptures of diggers, heads bowed in silent prayer for their fallen mates. At the start of every hour, a trio of diggers emerge from the top of a clock as a faithful rendition of The Last Post fills the air. Each man represents a hero – your hero – never to be forgotten by their families or their country. Through the artistry of the “Lest We Forget Cuckoo Clock,” we will remember them...

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Younger talent energises RSLWA

Younger talent continues to emerge on the board of RSLWA with Gabby Ryan appointed Vice President and Fremantle’s Rob Cashman as its latest member.

In the last edition of *The Listening Post*, we introduced Bunbury-based Chris Mayfield OAM as a new board member.

Rob Cashman (40), President of Fremantle RSL Sub-Branch fills a casual vacancy for the Greater Metropolitan Region until elections are held to coincide with State Congress next year. He has an impressive ‘life experience’ CV, having served in the SAS in Afghanistan and travelled the world for seven years.

“I joined the Army aged 19 in order to get a career, I hadn’t really intended for it to go that way but my Dad was a Navy Veteran of 23 years and he helped me along with that decision,” Rob explains.

“I wanted to go to Cavalry; however I was also focused on getting a trade qualification, so whilst in Kapooka I changed my corps to catering and never looked back.

“Upon graduating Puckapunyal with Student of Merit, I was able to choose a posting to the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and after a few years was posted to the Special Services Regiment in Swanbourne.

“Here I embarked on a fascinating journey for three years seeing active service with the first deployment of troops to Afghanistan in 2001/2002.

“I finished my 6.5-year Army career at 6RAR in Brisbane.”

His seven years on the road taught him empathy, compassion and understanding in some of the poorest countries.

“I always knew that one day these two parallel worlds of my existence would combine, and this happened once I joined the RSL in 2012.”

Rob says it can be difficult for younger veterans to realise they are that, veterans.

“To me with that term there is a tremendous responsibility. The RSL serves the interest of its members, veterans, the ex-service community and the members of the ADF in a multitude of ways. It is the organisation that offers welfare, commemoration, advocacy, employment programs and so much more.

“In my eyes it is the best organisation that is equipped to assist veterans into the 21st Century and beyond.”

Gabby Ryan was elected as Vice President to fill the casual vacancy caused by the untimely death of Denis Connelly.

“I am honoured and privileged – Denis has left huge shoes to fill,” said Gabby after being elected into the position until the 2017 State Congress.

Gabby is Vice President of the City of Cockburn RSL and served 25 years in the Australian Regular Army and attained the rank of Warrant Officer Class 2 with a wide variety of postings, and numerous courses, deployments to Darwin, Butterworth - Malaysia and East Timor.

Gallipoli flag is with WA museum

A significant piece of Western Australia’s World War I history has been returned to the WA Museum after a successful community-led funding campaign.

The 3rd Field Ambulance C Section Red Cross flag is recorded as being the first flown by the Red Cross on the beach at Gallipoli and is of national and State significance.

The 3rd Field Ambulance C Section was largely made up of West Australians who were among the first to land at Gallipoli, supporting the 3rd Infantry Brigade.

The unit was led by Captain Douglas McWhae from Maylands and included Private John Simpson Kirkpatrick, more famously known as ‘the man with the donkey’.

The flag carries the inscription ‘Flag of C Section 3rd Fld Amb April 1915’, as well as the signature of flag bearer Private Arnsed Kemp. He kept the flag throughout the war and sent it to CAPT McWhae in 1918 as a keepsake of the Gallipoli landing.

CAPT McWhae brought the flag back to WA but after his death it disappeared, surfacing many decades later in Canada where it was purchased by military collector Doug Buhler. By chance, Royal WA Historical Society Curator Wendy Lugg saw an online story about the flag.

The campaign to raise the funds for the flag’s return was initiated by Ms Lugg and Museums Australia WA, with strong support from the society. The fundraiser soon gained the attention of community members with links to the 3rd Field Ambulance C Section.

George Roscoe, son of Gallipoli C section bugler William Roscoe, also donated his father’s service medals to the museum.
Imagine an air raid on a WA town, killing 88 people and destroying 22 aircraft.

Imagine raids on not one but seven WA towns, ships being sunk and lives lost all around our coastline - even south of Esperance - and reports of enemy landings at Jurien Bay, Port Gregory and Exmouth.

Imagine Darwin in flames, 252 Allied service personnel and civilians dead, the victims of more than 260 enemy aircraft.

All these things happened and early next year will be the 75th anniversary of many of the air and sea raids by an aggressive Imperialist Japanese Navy and Air Force and German raiders during WWII.

The attacks are little known or understood. But they left more than 1,200 Australians dead on the mainland and more than 1,750 were killed in Australian waters. Fifty four enemy warships sank 53 merchant ships and three warships. HMAS Sydney was sunk on November 19, 1942 off WA by a German raider with the loss of 645 people. The hospital ship Centaur lost 268 souls when it too was sunk.

Since 2008 there has been a concerted attempt to acknowledge and recognise the Battle for Australia on the first Wednesday in September every year. One such service occurred at the State War Memorial in Kings Park this year. More services will be held in February and March next year with 75th anniversaries at Darwin and Broome (and perhaps other places) as communities remember the devastating attacks that caused mass panic and evacuations. In the following articles we will reveal more about those dark days.

The days when we fought with our American ally to turn the tide of the war in the Pacific.

It was a time when a young nation found its very survival at risk.

Australian mainland and Australian cities were under attack. One million Australians served in uniform to protect their country and a further six million Australians were mobilised.

The Battle for Australia extended beyond our mainland and offshore. It encompassed the Battle of the Coral Sea, Kokoda Track, the Battle of Milne Bay, the Battle of Guadalcanal, the Battle of the Bismarck Sea, the Battle of the Beachheads – at Buna, and Gona and Sanananda and the death march at Sandakan.

What might have happened had the Japanese advance not been stopped at Milne Bay and Imita Ridge?

Never in our history was our nation so threatened.

We struggle today to understand how serious Australia’s situation was in 1942. The impregnable fortress of Singapore had fallen. Over 15,000 Australians had become prisoners of war.

Prime Minister John Curtin understood the threat. On the day that Singapore fell, he warned:

“The fall of Singapore can only be described as Australia’s Dunkirk... [The] fall of Dunkirk initiated the battle for Britain. The fall of Singapore opens the Battle for Australia.”

The imminent threat was brought home just days later when Darwin was bombed on February 19, 1942. The first of 64 times.

On March 3, Broome was strafed by nine Japanese Zero fighters, killing 88 and destroying 22 Australian, Dutch and American aircraft.

In succeeding months air attacks were made on many towns in northern Australia including Wyndham, Port Hedland and Derby in Western Australia, Darwin and Katherine in the Northern Territory, Townsville and Mossman in Queensland, and Horn Island in the Torres Strait.
Lifting the lid on Japan’s lethal attacks

by Historian and Author
Tom Lewis OAM

The war across northern Australia in World War II was more comprehensive than has ever been realised.

The Territory Remembers is the Northern Territory Government program commemorating the 75th anniversary of the first air raid on February 19, 1942.

It is also the realisation that the air raids were more savage and devastating is being coupled with an understanding of the role of the Aboriginal military connection; the fuller extent of the raids which continued for two years, and a bigger understanding of the devastation they caused.

For example, evacuation from the northern port of Darwin was known to have occurred on five freighters chartered to take especially women and children south. However, new research undertaken by TTR is showing that thousands more people were evacuated by road and train in very primitive conditions once it was known sea travel was too dangerous.

A program to unveil a statue of Matthias Ulingura, who captured the first Japanese airman brought down, has already been completed. And other research is showing the number of Japanese raids and their aircrews who died is greater than first thought.

The TTR program has also delivered a varied program of commemorative events which have Territorians focusing on what happened 75 years ago.

They include art forums; a travelling series of events, including a presence in local shows, and a series of commemorative vehicle number plates with a ‘BOD’ – for Bombing of Darwin – prefix, the proceeds of which supporting Legacy in the NT, community events and memorial grants, a photographic coffee table book and a television mini-series featuring people from those times who served in the military forces, or were impacted in their civilian lives by the oncoming Japanese forces.

For example, Wendy James, who was evacuated south, tells of her mother’s refusal to go – and the authorities’ willingness to use force to ensure she and her family did.

The late Cec Jensen quips that as an Army driver-mechanic he hauled tonnes of bombs closer to Tokyo, but by truck rather than aircraft. And former Administrator of the Territory and RAAF radar man in the war Austin Asche AC says with determination that he saw no-one talk of surrender in the entire campaign to save Australia.

Australia as a whole seems to be growing in awareness of what happened on February 19,1942, says Jenny Deveraux, the TTR program Director, but it is important to realise that was only a beginning.

The raids continued on a regular basis, often seeing weekly attacks by fleets of Japanese ‘Betty’ bombers escorted by Zero fighters.

In fact the Territory was attacked by submarines in the month preceding the initial air raid. The Sixth Submarine Squadron of the Imperial Japanese Navy was sent south to close down the port, so as to ensure the Japanese new-found possessions would be safe from raids, but also to protect their right flank as they turned left to sweep through New Guinea.

This was so they could base their aircraft and submarines there to cover Australia’s east coast, and prevent the Americans from basing their campaign in Australia – so much nearer to Japanese possessions than their west coast.

The submarines failed: one was sunk and the others fled. Under part of the TTR program that 80-man vessel will be commemorated by the local Australia-Japan Association early next year.

A month after the submarine assault four of the aircraft carriers which had hit Pearl harbour came south with a 17-ship battle group to – this time – achieve some of that original aim.

Other work is continuing alongside the TTR program. The historian for the program, Dr Tom Lewis OAM, has been researching for several years a new book analysing the Japanese aircrew fatalities. The Empire Strikes South will be released in February.

The commemoration on February 19 will likely be the last time veterans of the war make the journey to Darwin to be part of the activities program. In their nineties, they are growing too old to travel without serious discomfort.

There were numerous war activities in the northern half of Western Australia, many still not well known.

For example, the air raid on Broome on March 3, 1942 was the second heaviest in terms of loss of life in Australia’s history. Eighty-six people were killed in a devastating strike on flying boats preparing for take-off, filled with evacuees, mostly from the European colonial power possessions to the north, such as those held by the Dutch.

Their cargo unbeknownst to the attacking Zeroes, the flying boats made excellent targets for strafing runs – their wrecks can still be seen today at low tide.

In fact the air raids ranged as far into WA as what is now Exmouth, then an operations area for mostly-US warships.

The last aircraft shot down over Australia was in fact over Western Australia, a Dinah of the Japanese Navy. These twin-engined machines were fast and manoeuvrable, and used to reconnoitre targets before bombing strikes.

The incoming Dinah was picked up by an early warning station at Cape Leveque and its presence passed on to Truscott’s 154 Radar Station. Three RAF Spitfire Mk VIII fighters of No. 54 Squadron on detachment at Truscott were scrambled to intercept the intruder, guided by the radar operators.

The RAF pilots, Flight Lieutenants D Gossland and F ‘Freddie’ Meakin and Flight Sergeant A Knapp made the interception at 25,000ft, after the Dinah had reportedly released small fragmentation bombs against them, which exploded harmlessly.
Squadron Leader Keith ‘Bluey’ Truscott

Keith ‘Bluey’ Truscott, DFC and Bar, was an ace fighter pilot who played in Melbourne Football Club’s winning WWII grand final sides and died when his Kittyhawk fighter crashed over the waters of the Exmouth Gulf on March 28, 1943.

He is interred at Karrakatta Cemetery. Truscott was the RAAF’s second-highest-scoring ace of World War II after Clive Caldwell.

Bluey Truscott was never regarded as a great flyer, but he was aggressive and accurate with his shooting. He epitomised the true Australian larrikin spirit and was a national hero.

According to the Australian War Memorial website, he was sent to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme and was commissioned in February 1941 and ordered to England, where he joined No. 452 Squadron on May 5. Flying a Spitfire, he scored his first victory in August. After three months of war flying, he had destroyed at least 11 German aircraft, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, and made a flight commander. In January 1942 he was made acting squadron leader before being posted back to Australia in March.

In Australia, Truscott joined No. 76 Squadron in Bankstown. The squadron, flying Kittyhawks, had previously served in Papua. The squadron, including Truscott, redeployed there in July 1942. Before leaving Australia, Truscott played a last game for the Melbourne football club.

Based at Milne Bay, No. 76 Squadron arrived shortly before the Japanese landings. By August Truscott was in command, the previous leader having been killed in action. Truscott evacuated his aircraft to Port Moresby amidst uncertainty about whether the airfields at Milne Bay could be held. Truscott and his squadron served throughout the Milne Bay battle in constant rain, heavy mist and low clouds.

The mountainous terrain, slippery runways, and heavy anti-aircraft fire added to the danger but Truscott survived and continued to command the squadron when it was transferred to Darwin.

His tally rose to 16 enemy aircraft destroyed along with three probables and three damaged. In February 1943 the squadron moved to a quieter posting in Western Australia. Truscott was on a training flight over the Exmouth Gulf on March 28 when he made a mock attack on a low-flying Catalina. Misjudging his height over the glassy water, Truscott crashed into the sea and was killed. Lest We Forget

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History records slight variations in numbers but this is a good indication of the impact of war on Australia during World War II.

Drawn from the excellent book ‘Red Sun on the Kangaroo Paw’ by Kevin Gomm and research by Battye Library’s Steve Howell:

**Wyndham (two air raids)**
- Tuesday March 3, 1942
- Monday, March 23, 1942

**Kalumburu (One air raid)**
- Monday September 27, 1943 +

**Derby (One air raid)**
- Friday March 20, 1942

**Broome (strafed four times)**
- Tuesday March 3, 1942 (Carnot Bay) +
- Friday March 20, 1942 +
- Thursday August 27, 1942
- Monday August 16, 1943

**Port Hedland (Three air raids)**
- Thursday July 30, 1942 +
- Monday August 17, 1942
- Monday August 16, 1943

**Onslow (one air raid)**
- Wednesday September 15, 1943

**Exmouth Gulf (Four air raids)**
- Thursday May 20, 1943
- Friday, May 21, 1943
- Saturday May 22, 1943
- Thursday September 16, 1943

**Port Gregory (one submarine shelling)**
- Thursday January 28, 1943 +

*Denotes deaths occurred*

**In addition Enemy Aircraft shot down over WA skies during WWII:**
- Over Vansittart Bay, July 20, 1944: One twin-engine Mitsubishi Dinah reconnaissance plane piloted by LT Kiyoshi Izuki with observer LT Hisao Itoh shot down by three Spitfires. The wreckage was retrieved in 1980.

**Known shipping losses resulting from Japanese action in WA waters:**
- SS Parigi – 1172 ton Dutch freighter torpedoed and sunk by submarine I-2 in Indian Ocean ostensibly west of Cervantes. March 1, 1942
- SS Koolama – 4068 ton WA State Shipping Line vessel attacked by aircraft on February 20, 1942. Sank and written off at Wyhan Jetty. March 3, 1942
- Foxworthy – 15 ton lugger destroyed by aircraft during first raid in Roebuck Bay, Broom. March 3, 1942
- SS Siantar – 8667 ton Dutch freighter torpedoed and sunk about 600km north west off Shark Bay by submarine I-1 on March 3, 1942 with the loss of 21 lives.

**In addition, of course, there were the attacks by German warships in WA waters:**
- On November 19, 1941 the sinking of HMAS Sydney was Australia’s great naval tragedy with the loss of the entire crew of 645. The careful disguise of the German auxiliary cruiser HSK Kormoran (which looked like a Dutch merchant vessel) was sufficient to entice the Sydney into close range where she was overwhelmed with gunfire and torpedoes. On March 17, 2008 the Australian Government announced that the wreckage of both HMAS Sydney and Kormoran had been found, approximately 112 nautical miles off Steep Point, Western Australia. The German survivors from Kormoran came ashore at Quobba, and were subsequently detained in Carnarvon, where locals formed a bond with these survivors. It developed further in 1981 with the erection of the Cairn at Quobba Point, and with the erection of the Town Cenotaph.

**Attacks on the Australian mainland:**
- Mainland Australia was bombed 98 times by the Japanese. Most raids were on Darwin, some 64 in all, but there were 15 air raids on Western Australia between March 3, 1942 to September 27, 1943. Although the first Darwin air raid was the most devastating with an estimated 252 killed and 400 wounded, the second most devastating occurred at Broome, Western Australia.
- More than 1,200 people died on our own soil as a result of these strafings and bombings.
- Darwin was first bombed on February 19, 1942. The next day the state ship Koolama was attacked by Japanese flying boats off the coast of Western Australia with one killed and three injured. The Koolama was beached near Kalumburu Mission, marooning 180 passengers and crew, including several women, a baby, and some wounded men. The monks at Kalumburu rescued some 127 of these by making two trips in the mission lugger and by having a group of the fittest men walk 50 kilometres overland guided by Indigenous men from the mission. The survivors were housed at the mission and then progressively evacuated by airplane, the last not going until October 1943.
- The last air attack on Western Australia came on September 27, 1943, when a force of some 40 Japanese fighters and bombers attacked the Kalumburu mission and airstrip. (Two runways had been built to allow long-range fighters and medium bombers to take-off and land). During the raid Father Thomas Gil, an Indigenous woman called Veronica and her baby Sylvester, and three other Indigenous children, Dominic, Benedict and Jeremy were killed. Father Gil was dug out from a bomb crater with his arms blown off, his spine broken and his head in pieces. The other victims were similarly disfigured.
We’ve moved!

RSL staff are located at:
Level 3
66 St Georges Terrace
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Come and have a cuppa on us!

Book a room for a sub-branch meeting or gathering. There are two committee rooms, two meeting rooms and an event room suitable for up to 40 people.

To book, contact Matthew Holyday on 9287 3714 or ahmanager@rslwa.org.au

There is no booking charge for RSL events.

Although staff have relocated, phone numbers have not changed.

Email addresses stay the same, although you can email us without the ‘HQ’ in the address.

We’re closer to the bus and train services.

ANZAC Club closes permanently on Wednesday December 21 clearing the way for the development of a seven-storey ‘Veterans’ Centre’.

In the meantime, Members will be welcome at other premises until the new ANZAC House is finished.

LEVEL 3, 66 ST GEORGES TERRACE
(beside London Court)
www.rslwa.org.au

Google map showing location of new offices
Broome to commemorate dark day

The Shire of Broome expects several visiting authors and historians to provide presentations when it commemorates the second most devastating attack on Australian soil in March next year.

“The Shire of Broome is working with the RSL, Norforce, Broome Historical Society, St Mary’s College and others to plan the Broome Air Raid 75th anniversary commemorations,” a shire spokesman told The Listening Post.

“The full program of events is yet to be finalised, but the centrepiece will be a memorial service in Broome’s Bedford Memorial Park at 7.30am on Friday March 3.

“Other supporting events are still being planned and finalised.”

According to research by Battye Library’s Steve Howell, a flight of nine Japanese Zeros led by Zenjiro Miyano flew over Broome on March 3 and were surprised to find 16 flying boats in the harbour and seven other aircraft at the aerodrome, including two Liberators and two Flying Fortresses.

The Japanese first attacked an Empire flying boat, which soon was ablaze, then the Corinna, a Qantas Short Empire flying boat. The Corinna was at the time refuelling from the schooner Nichol Bay and was soon on fire and sinking, but the Nichol Bay was miraculously unharmed.

The Zeros then turned their attention to the Dutch Dornier flying boats, which had been refuelled and were full of people. Dutch refugees, mostly women and children, had spent the night aboard, due to lack of accommodation in the town.

A Curtis float plane from the USS Houston piloted by Jack Lamade managed to get out, Staff Sergeants Melvin Donoho and Willard Beatty. Both men made it back to shore after an epic 36-hour struggle in the water, but Beatty is believed to have died soon after in a Perth Hospital, although no death certificate or grave has ever been found. Lamade in his Curtis float plane managed to escape to the south in the confusion.

In 15 minutes every flying boat was sunk or on fire. Many of the Dutch passengers were killed in the attack or later perished trying to get to shore. The Japanese then turned their attention to the aerodrome, where there were still two B17 Flying Fortresses, another B24 Liberator, a Lockheed Lodestar, a Lockheed Hudson, and a Douglas DC3. All were attacked and destroyed.

The Japanese did not get off scot-free, with Dutch pilot Gus Winckel shooting down from the ground the Zero of Osamu Kudo.

It is estimated nearly 100 people died (official numbers say 88) in the attack. There was much panic in Broome after the air raid and many servicemen and civilians fled south, fearing more air raids or an imminent invasion, but impassable roads caused most to return after a few days.

There was also much heroism, notably Captain Harold Mathieson, skipper of the Nichol Bay, who rescued Dutch survivors, Captain Lester Brain of Qantas put to sea in a small launch to look for survivors and Charles D’Antoine, an Aboriginal refueller, helped survivors reach shore.

At the same time as the raid on Broome, another flight of eight Zeros attacked Wyndham and destroyed a fuel dump. The damaged Koolama, which was tied up at Wyndham jetty, sank.

There was a peculiar aftermath to the Broome air raid. In early March 1942, one of the last planes out of Java was about to transport Dutch refugees away from the advancing Japanese army. At the last minute, a mysterious brown paper package was handed to its pilot, Russian air ace Captain, Ivan ‘Turc’ Smirnoff.

Heading for the supposed safety of Australia, the ill-fated DC-3 flew straight into the path of three Japanese Zeros returning from the air raid on Broome. Under heavy fire, Smirnoff miraculously landed the badly damaged plane on an isolated beach in Carnot Bay on the far northwest coast. The survivors were eventually found, but not before several had died from their injuries or thirst. In the confusion, the package, which contained $600,000 worth of diamonds, was forgotten.
**Lest We Forget: Battle for Australia**

South Metropolitan Region MLC **Phil Edman** has championed the need to recognise the battles to defend Australia 75 years ago.

In September last year he expressed concern in the Legislative Council that the 'Battle for Australia' day, which was supposed to be observed on the first Wednesday of September, had not been properly observed in WA since its declaration in 2008.

“We had more than 97 air raids on Australia and more than 1,200 people die on our soil. I believe that recognition is significantly important.”

Mr Edman began collecting World War II artefacts to tell the story of Australians who died in key battles against the Japanese Imperialist forces.

He displayed them in Rockingham and in May this year at the WA Museum, which was visited by 5,000 people. On Wednesday, September 7, he initiated a ‘Battle for Australia’ commemorative ceremony at the State War Memorial in Kings Park.

He invited along West Australian WWII veterans Peter Hackett and Ronnie Roach. Both Mr Hackett and Mrs Roach helped to defend the West Australian coastline from the invading Japanese.

Mr Hackett was just 19 at the first bombing of Darwin and was among the first Australians to take up arms in an effort to ward off the incoming Japanese aircraft from attacking mainland Australia.

He said the memorial service was as much about education as it was about commemoration.

“In my mind, the average Australian knows nothing about what happened within Australia on the mainland,” he said.

Mrs Roach is a veteran of the Australian Women's Army Service and trained as an instrument operator at Buckland Hill in the Perth suburb of Mosman Park.

For Mr Edman, it is also about education: “Let’s never forget how vulnerable we were back then, and let’s never let history repeat itself either.”

West Australian WWII veterans Peter Hackett and Ronnie Roach were keen attendees at the ‘Battle for Australia’ service at Kings Park.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt, Phil Edman MLC and State President Peter Aspinall at the ‘Battle for Australia’ service.
Daunting Honour Avenues inquiry

There’s never a dull moment with the Honour Avenues group.

Not only do they manage all of the 1,690 Honour Avenues plaques in Kings Park and hold quarterly dedication ceremonies where they research all of the new plaque recipients, they are now working on creating a comprehensive database of all the names from WWII listed on the State War Memorial.

This is a monumental task as the some 4,000 names listed on the bronze tablets only have the initials and surname and in many cases it is very difficult to determine who the name actually belongs to. For example, A. D. Jones could belong to at least four people as there are four listed on the Australian War Memorial Honours Role.

RSLWA does not have an electronic database of all of the names on the SWM and so it is very difficult for us to help out when we have inquiries, usually from relatives, to say with certainty who the name belongs to.

There is also a number of people who enlisted under a false name and so the group has to do some detective work to make sure they have the correct names listed. To get this information means they have to access records from all sorts of different sources. The tricky ones can take hours of research.

Each of the names in the database will now have the rank, service number, full name, unit and how they died. This will be for all 4,000 names. This is a monumental task that the volunteer group has undertaken which will provide a lasting legacy in that all of the names on the State War Memorial for WWII will be accurate and accessible.

The bronze plaques with the names from WWII were originally unveiled by His Excellency the Governor (Lieut-General Sir Charles Gairdner) at an official ceremony on November 6, 1955. The plaques and the additions to the memorial cost 30,000 pounds, much of which was raised through a public appeal. Colonel Athol Hobbs was the honorary architect, he was the son of Sir Talbot Hobbs, who designed the State War Memorial.

If you are interested in searching the database of the names along the Honour Avenues go to http://www.bgpa.wa.gov.au/honour-avenues-plaques.

The Best Xmas Gift Ever

Usually every Christmas I get beer, chocolates or tickets for the cricket, but this year my son surprised me completely! After a picnic in the park and a fish by the creek with my children and grandchildren, I came home and found that they had changed my toilet seat…

I was gob smacked; it had a remote and everything! My son told me that this new seat would wash and dry me with just the push of a button, he said that he had purchased one for his family just last week and they loved it so much that he just had to get one for me to! Well, two weeks later I don’t know how I ever survived without it…

All I have to do is sit down on my nice warm seat and go to the loo, once I am finished I simply press a button and I get a warm water wash and warm air dry! Now my toileting is a time of luxury, it is the best Christmas present I have ever bloody got!

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De-Ann Raphael and Ken Jones in the Honour Avenues offices where they have been undertaking this mammoth task.
Volunteers supporting veterans

Under its new leadership, RSLWA is committed to putting veterans first - front and square. Part of that process is reaching out to all ex-service organisations to do things better together. The Listening Post publishes the following list of ESOs, provided by the Minister for Veterans’ office, to highlight the magnificent voluntary work being done for veterans and serving personnel. The RSL has more than 130 sub-branches in WA, many of which provide welfare and advocacy services and can be contacted via www.rslwa.org.au

In WA, there are an estimated 7,000 to 10,000 veterans who have been deployed overseas in warlike and non-warlike conflicts since the East Timor conflict in 1999. Most of these men and women are aged between 25 and 50.

We appreciate that lists change regularly and The Listening Post would be delighted to update the following list and possibly republish it in a subsequent edition.

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What makes us Australians?

It’s a topic Dr Brendan Nelson AO mulled over during his 70-minute address hosted by the Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch on November 18.

Dr Nelson, director of the Australian War Memorial, former AMA president, diplomat and Federal Opposition Leader, received a standing and enthusiastic ovation after delivering the annual Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture at Cottesloe War Memorial Hall and Civic Centre.

More than 200 people listened intently as Dr Nelson dissected what it means to be Australian.

He said Australia’s WWI historian Charles Bean saw all of the horrors of WWI and later pondered about the character of men and women, their qualities and values, essential not just for victory in battle but for life itself.

Character, he said, transcended money, rank, power, influence or talent.

Character was informed by 15 intrinsic values: resource, candor, devotion, curiosity, independence, comradeship, ancestry, patriotism, chivalry, loyalty, coolness, control, audacity, endurance and decision.

Bean concluded that what made the Australian digger so special, “lay in the mettle of the men themselves”.

Bean said:

“To be the kind of man who would give way when his mates were trusting to his firmness... to live the rest of his life haunted by the knowledge that he had... lacked the grit to carry it through - was the prospect these men could not face. Life was very dear, but life was not worth living unless they could be true to their idea of Australian manhood.”

A century later, SAS Sergeant ‘S’ reflecting on the battle of Tizak in Afghanistan said:

“To fail would be worse than death. To let down your mates in combat... would be worse than death... that’s it – that’s the essence. You don’t let your mates down.”

Dr Nelson said that powerful character trait was epitomised by Perth-born Frederick Bell, the first West Australian awarded the VC, when during the Boer War in 1901 he risked his own life by giving up his horse to ensure a fallen soldier could get to safety. Dr Nelson served as Ambassador to the EU, Belgium and Luxembourg as well as Australia’s special representative at the World Health Organisation and NATO, also commented on the election of Donald Trump as President of the United States. “It is one further manifestation that the world is not only changing but moving to a new era.”
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Pingelly unveils walk plaques

In 2010 Pingelly’s RSL Memorial Walk including the rose garden leading to the rotunda from the road was built as a volunteer community project.

Temporary metal plaques of individuals who served in wars and conflicts were displayed on the pillars.

On October 14 Pingelly RSL Sub-Branch together with Rick Wilson MP, member for O’Connor, Terry Waldron MLA and RSLWA CEO John McCourt unveiled the new bronze plaques.

The Pingelly Community celebrated the completion of the combined community project that had started with the passion of Pingelly RSL member Gail Kemp who wanted to ensure that our local service men and women were honoured in a respectful manner.

The unveiling of the Memorial Walk was followed by a morning tea in the Pingelly Town Hall, and an opportunity to view an exhibition of historical records of individuals from Pingelly who served in all conflicts, put together by Mr Alan and Mr Brian Higgins. Pingelly RSL and the community groups who assisted them have created a great legacy for our community that stands proud on our main street. This project was proudly supported by community donation, Shire of Pingelly, Lotterywest and the Department of Veteran Affairs.

Lou Johnson
Pingelly Community Resource Centre
RSLWA Picnic in the Park

by Royceton Hardey

You have to feel sorry for Kings Park. With hundreds of young people trampling through its gardens, looking for virtual creatures on their phones you can imagine the incredulity it must have when its natural beauty is sidelined.

So when RSLWA Women’s Network was granted funding from the Department of Veterans’ Affairs to host an event to celebrate Veterans’ Health Week a challenge was created.

With this year’s theme being social connection, the Women’s Network wanted to demonstrate how games can be used for social interaction between two people as opposed to a one way experience on a smartphone.

The result was a Picnic in the Park event held at the Ivey Watson Playground across form Stickybeaks Café.

The weather was a perfect 28 degrees on Sunday, October 23 and from a distance you could see children and families making a beeline towards a variety of life size games that were glistening in the sun. They were games you just know how to play, and more importantly want to play. In one corner laid out on the park grass were snakes, not real ones, but the ones you avoid when you play snakes and ladders.

Other games attracting interest included connect four, checkers and colourful sacks for sack racing.

As more and more families arrived it was a delight to see smartphones put back in pockets as children who had only met minutes before developed friendships while strategising their next move on connect four.

In addition to the life size games a line quickly developed for the face painting artist Amber who also came with impressive balloon twisting skills.

Chair of the RSLWA Women’s Network Group Gabby Ryan said, “The numbers were a little low but once the word spreads that these events are on, hopefully more people will take advantage of these activities that are organised.

“We as a committee are looking forward to coming up with more events for RSL families to be involved in, if you or your sub-branch have any ideas for future events please do not hesitate to contact the Women’s Network Committee.”

ANZAC exhibit goes country

Hundreds of thousands of people have enjoyed the Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience travelling exhibition – which is heading to Bunbury and Kalgoorlie in the New Year.

The free exhibition opened in Perth on November 29, with more than 25,000 people booking immediately.

- Eaton Recreation Centre, Bunbury January 11 to 16, 2017
- Goldfields Oasis, Kalgoorlie January 30 to February 5, 2017

The ANZAC Centenary - spanning 2014 to 2018 - is the most significant period of commemoration in our nation’s history. The Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience travelling exhibition is one way the Australian Government is recognising a century of service by our servicemen and women.

The exhibition honours and commemorates the service and sacrifice by generations of Australian servicemen and women who have defended our values and freedoms in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations from the Boer War to today.
Greenbushes Primary School students place candles, flowers and a cross at the town’s War Memorial during their Remembrance Day Service.

Commanding Officer HMAS Perth, Captain Ivan Ingham, AM, RAN, is greeted on the wharf by his wife Celia.

These wreath layers epitomise the emergence of women in the RSL at all levels.
Remembrance Day 2016 brought great joy and sadness. Joy as family and friends welcomed home the 191 men and women onboard the frigate HMAS Perth after six-months deployment on Operation Manitou. Sadness as thousands of people attended more than 50 ceremonies around the State to honour all those who have died and suffered in war. These are some of the images from that day.

- It’s impossible to keep some people down and Kokoda Track veteran Bill Grayden (96), in the middle of the wreath layers, is surely one of them. Bill served with the 2/16th Bn and in Syria, the Kokoda Track, Ramu-Markham Valley (New Guinea) and Balikpapan.

- Able Seaman Boatswains Mate Cameron Duggan and his fiancé Pip Garvey on the wharf after HMAS Perth returned to her home port of Fleet Base West.

- Those remarkably dedicated sub-wardens keep on keeping on at the State War Memorial and were this year joined by Mrs Shirly Mooney.

- About 60 members of the military volunteered to help veterans by collecting donations on Poppy Day in Perth.
The ANZAC Centenary has left a lasting impact on Western Australia.

Since its opening in 2014, the National ANZAC Centre in Albany - a project driven by Albany RSL Sub-Branch members - has been rated by Lonely Planet as one of the must-see places in the world. The centenary also has seen huge events and projects.

Most people are also unaware that the RSL played a pivotal role in bringing The Giants to Perth to commemorate the 2015 Centenary of the Gallipoli landing.

The three-day event in February 2015 by French production company Royale de Luxe mesmerised 1.4 million people and kicked off a massive year.

Persistent lobbying by the RSL to tell the ANZAC story through the two giant marionettes was a coup because Perth then held the biggest arts spectacle in Australia which included Graham Edwards reciting the Ode in front of the biggest crowd in memory.

2015 included the most well-attended ANZAC Day Dawn Service ever at Kings Park with 70 to 80,000 people turning out. The event was broadcast live by Channel 9. Unusually large numbers watched the city Parade and Commemorative Service as well as more than 120 services conducted throughout Western Australia - all supported by a $1.5million Lotterywest grant.

In 2015 the Cultural Precinct and Forest Chase were activated to provide a long weekend of ANZAC-related family events. The whole of Perth came alive with activities that were organised in partnership with the City of Perth, the Department of Culture and the Arts and numerous other stakeholders.

The centenary saw RSL membership grow beyond 10,000 for the first time in many years. 2015 also saw standing ovations given to Afghanistan veteran Dave Singer, key speaker at the Commemorative Service, and to Anne Leach, during the Sunset Services which were first introduced in 2014.

The RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea was launched in March 2015 and became a quick seller in native nurseries and places like Bunnings throughout the country. RSLWA continues to receive 90 cents for every plant sold. More than 20,000 plants have been sold.

In 2016 the focus shifted to the Centenary of the RSL and included the production of a commemorative coin by the Perth Mint and a series of stamps from Australia Post.

A major celebratory event was the Centenary Ball held at Crown. We had 550 guests and we raised $70,000 towards the welfare of our veteran community. Channel 9 created a short documentary about the history of the RSL which was shown on the evening and with complimentary copies distributed to all sub-branches.

2016 is also the year that sees the delivery of new advocacy and welfare services and the closure of ANZAC House for development of a seven-storey head office, including a one-stop shop for all veterans.

During this three-year period, we have benefitted from amazing contributions by people and organisations. These include:

Shannon Lovelady, a Presbyterian Ladies College archivist who led a team of dedicated volunteers/researchers who determined that 1,023 Western Australian men died at Gallipoli. Their names were recorded by students from the Greenmount Primary School and played at the Kings Park Dawn Service.
Ken Jones and the Honour Avenues team are currently compiling a list of Western Australians who died in World War II to create an electronic database. Our fabulous RSL Poppy ladies from around the State have created thousands of poppies which were displayed in Albany (for the 2014 Albany Convoy Centenary), Melbourne (2015 ANZAC Day in Federation Square) and then to the 2016 Chelsea Flower Show in London. The ladies in 2015 created 1,354 sets of scarves and beanies and 326 beanies which were posted to grateful serving ADF personnel based overseas. Our ladies continue to knit these and have since sent some to the farming community in Queensland and also to the 'Help Save our Veterans' project here in WA. Now they are working on creating 60,000 poppies for the Centenary of Armistice Day in 2018.

This project has enabled RSLWA to form links and friendships with hundreds of ladies who would otherwise not be involved with the RSL – and has run in parallel with the development of the RSLWA Women’s Network and the elevation of women to the Board and as sub-branch presidents.

In 2015 McDonald’s Community Cinemas extended their film season by a week with films dedicated to commemoration and generated $14,222 for the RSL.

RSLWA worked with Peter Hind, Glenn Robinson, Ted Tait and Stuart Rhine-Davis to distribute 35 bugles to schools and cadet units. On August 15, 2015 we held the State event for the 70th Anniversary of VP Day. A service was held at the Flame of Remembrance which was followed by a morning tea at the State Reception Centre. All WWII veterans in the State were invited to attend.

ANZAC House has hosted Military Antiques Roadshows as part of Perth Heritage Weekend for the past two years and this year it worked with the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch which hosted a 50th Anniversary of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans Day service for the first time and also created a plaque for the occasion.

The Centenary years continue through to its logical conclusion – the 100th anniversary of the end of World War I on November 11, 2018.

RSLWA will once again be called upon to lead community activities around what will be a very significant ending to the Centenary of ANZAC.

The flamboyant artistic director of French company Royale de Luxe imposed himself on Perth in February 2015 when The Giants came to town. He is pictured at Kings Park with Jonathan Holloway, Graham Edwards and Premier Colin Barnett. Royale de Luxe held secret rehearsals at Cockburn Sound in conjunction with members of the ADF and the Bunbury 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop, again facilitated by the RSL. In the lead up to the event the RSL began engaging with hundreds of women in an effort to create thousands of poppies to go to Melbourne for the Centenary. These poppies were also used to create three giant wreaths. One was given to the girl Giant when she stopped outside ANZAC House in a very moving gesture with the students from Carine High School and a piper from PLC who climbed up in to her boat and played the Lament.

One on the wreaths made by RSL poppy ladies was given to the girl Giant by students from Carine High School when she stopped outside ANZAC House.
This poem by Australia’s David J Delaney, titled ‘New Generation Veterans’ was read on Remembrance Day by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC. 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day.

Honour ALL veterans

We honour our old veterans, we honour them with pride and read of all the horrors they have carried deep inside. We know they served in Asia or New Guinea’s highland rains, Vietnam or in Africa where many men were slain.

We know that fateful landing on Gallipoli’s dark shore, wherever Aussies fought, we know there are so many more, but now a new young generation needs our help as well, they too have been to war and suffer with their private hell.

Though losses are not classed as great, their fears are just the same those electronic hidden bombs, still injure, kill or maim. They fight against an enemy they find so hard to see who mingle in the market place, then cause much tragedy. Insurgents in Afghanistan hide in the rough terrain or roaming in Iraq, where, wearing robes they look the same.

The suicide stealth bombers, don’t care who they hurt or kill, then, with their own beliefs, they try to break our forces will. I know... we all remember with a tear, But all vets young or old, they need our help throughout the year, support and listen to their stories, when they do get told, let’s honour our new veterans, just like we do our old.

This poem by Australia’s David J Delaney, titled ‘New Generation Veterans’ was read on Remembrance Day by the Governor of Western Australia, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC. 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of Remembrance Day.
Remembrance Day brings both joy and sadness, Afghanistan veteran Scott Credlin told the Three Springs-Arrino Remembrance Day service.

“My deployment in Afghanistan is tinged with sadness as we lost four soldiers; four mates who all stood, worked, slept and ate together,” said Scott, who served in the Australian Army for 15 years after enlisting at the age of 17.

“I can never forget the experience of being pulled aside and being told of the mate you were joking with the night before lay dead the next morning, the ripple effect that it causes across the whole battle group,” he said.

“On August 22 we lost one of the snipers Matthew Lambert to an IED, he was a close member of our battle group, easy to talk to and was highly loved and respected by all who knew him.

“October 29th we lost Bryce Duffy, Ashley Birt and Luke Gaum to a member of the Afghan Army; these three guys were great to work with and would go out of their way to help others.

“As you can see all the deaths were close to Remembrance Day. The commander thought having a service for Remembrance would upset the group of soldiers, but, after listening to the views of the men the service went ahead.”

Scott said he could not explain the emotional quietness and frustration that was felt that day.

“I never thought you could have a whole base of different nationalities to be quiet in the middle of the war zone, but, it happened – Australians, New Zealanders, Canadians, Americans and Dutch stood as one, not a sound was made, all remembering someone, some shedding a tear, others thankful, but all remembering their mates who have lost their lives on this and other rotations.

“So Remembrance Day means a lot to me, what does it mean to you? Have you ever sat and thought about the meaning of this day, I have and here is what Remembrance Day means to me.”

Scott said for him it meant remembering mates - his brothers; those who he had lost over the years. The fallen who had paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect our shores.

It meant remembering the families who had sacrificed the loss of loved ones whether they were sons, daughters, husbands, fathers and mothers and were not able to have special days with them. It meant remembering the troops serving overseas, sacrificing their time with family and friends, to keep our country safe.

Scott quoted from the proposal for an annual Armistice Day, put to Lord Miler by Sir Percy Fitzpatrick and immediately approved by King George V, which said

It is due to the women, who have lost and suffered and borne so much, with whom the thought is ever present. It is due to the children that they know to whom they owe their dear fought freedom.

It is due to the men, and from them, as men.

But far and away, above all else, it is due to those who gave their all, sought no recompense, and with whom we can never re-pay - our Glorious and Immortal Dead.

Our service started with our President Ray Morgan welcoming everyone and saying the Ode, followed by Scott as guest speaker.

Robert Hunt also spoke about three fallen soldiers whose names are on Three Springs War Memorial and who had spent time in Three Springs, Arrino or the Carnamah area.

Children from Three Springs Primary School, RSL members and members of the public also attended the service which ended with singing the national anthem.

It is with sadness we noted we have lost another Digger, Jack Thorpe.

Lest We Forget
Child sees meaning of four words

A 12-year-old student at St Kieran Catholic School in Tuart Hill was asked to prepare an address on Remembrance Day and the following was written without assistance.

Assistant Principal Andrea Woodgate thought it was too good not to share. The Year 6 student wrote:

This sheet of paper in front of me has four particular words that are known for bringing people together. Even though it only happens once a year, these words bind us in a way like no others; it only takes one minute a year to stop. However, we all know what they mean, how they affect us. The first word is: We. In this I don't mean me, you, I, or they. We are all in this together. It doesn't matter where we are from, or who we are, Remembrance Day is a day for everyone to take a moment to think of the sorrow that will forever remain. The second word is: Will. We all are going to, we all will, what will we do this Remembrance Day to not simply let it pass, but so that it has a unique meaning, just like all of us.

The third word is a word that really makes you think, it is Remember. We will all take a step back from our everyday lives and remember those who fought, look at their view and really Honour them.

My final word for today is one that all out says why we’re here, because of Them, yes them. The soldiers, giving up all they ever had to give the future a brighter look, lifting our spirits, putting us before them.

The soldiers.

We Will Remember Them.

I was fortunate to be among the privileged few who listened to Dr Brendan Nelson deliver the annual Frederick Bell VC oration. He brought his considerable, knowledge, skills, talents and deep commitment to our nation’s social, military history and heritage together and wove them together into a single theme that expressed the ‘Spirit of ANZAC’ in a way that I have never heard equalled. He covered our nation’s conflicts from the Boer War to Afghanistan, each service in turn received its due credit, each conflict receiving a mention. Western Australia and its common people were woven into the verbal tapestry of his oration. A tribute to his stamina, he flew from Canberra to Perth, and drove straight from Perth’s airport to the Cottesloe Civic Centre, delivered his oration and returned to Canberra the same night. I for one feel that we owe him a debt of gratitude for the work that he does; transcending politics and serving as a genuinely unifying voice in a country beset by division, perhaps more so that at any other time in our history.

Thank you Brendan.

Kevin Bovill
Vietnam veteran - TPI

Editor: See ‘What makes us Australians on page 30’
If you served in South-East Asia, sacrifice and mateship kept you alive when the world turned its back on you. And now pride lets you stand tall, shoulder to shoulder with the greatest legends of the Anzac tradition. Share in that pride when you wear our “Veterans Remembered Hoodie,” a tribute design only from The Bradford Exchange and endorsed by the Defence Force Welfare Association of Australia.

**Bold custom art... classic hoodie appeal**

The back features a powerful image of Aussie diggers in action, protected by an Iroquois “Huey” chopper, along with the message, “A Nation’s Gratitude”. The left sleeve defiantly says “Sacrifice Mateship Pride”. The front features an embroidered “Huey” patch and a zip pull. Design details include deep front pockets, knit cuffs and hem and chrome-look metal tippets on the hood drawstring.

**Affordable Value with a Money-Back Guarantee**

Available in four sizes, the “Veterans Remembered Hoodie” is a true value at just $99.98 or 2 instalments of $49.99, plus $14.99 postage and handling and backed by our 30-day guarantee. To reserve your hoodie, send no money now, just return the coupon or go online today at www.bradford.com.au/veterans.
Remembrance Day 2016 in Toodyay was commemorated before about 90 persons at the colourful and historic ANZAC Park and in front of the war memorial. We enjoyed company from locals and visitors including local MP Shane Love.

The Toodyay singers set a sombre mood with their opening song ‘Requiem for a Soldier’ and later led attendees in the national anthem and their closing song ‘Lest We Forget’.

Our beautiful ‘poppy wall drape’ provided a wonderful backdrop to the War Memorial.

We noticed that workmen on a nearby railway paused to pay their respects.

In the near future the Shire of Toodyay will be improving the memorial surrounds to provide additional level ground to allow for a more comfortable standing area in front of the memorial.

Bruce Guthrie

Toodyay RSL’s President Peter Brennan lays the wreath.

Toodyay service: note the workmen on the railway pausing for the Toodyay service.
Remembrance – through young eyes

We were very fortunate this Remembrance Day to have Tayla Walker (granddaughter of Neville Phillips) taking most of the photos at our Remembrance Day 2016 service at the City of Belmont War Memorial in Faulkner Park.

It was attended by about 400 members of the public, ex-service members and their families.

Editing the 140 or so photos taken by Tayla, the choice of subject matter shown in Tayla’s photos, gave me a possible insight into what the younger generation sees at such remembrance services.

Not vivid memories of the horrors of war that many of us have seen and felt; but the beauty of today’s freedom shared by us all and the immensity of the participation by so many countries in maintaining the freedoms that are rightly taken for granted today.

Tayla’s grandfather Neville has been on our committee and been membership officer and secretary over recent years.

November 11 marks the 98th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914–18). Each year on this day many countries around the world, including Australia, observe one minute’s silence at 11am in memory of those who died or suffered in all wars and armed conflicts.

The City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch ceremony was attended by Mrs Glenys Godfrey MLA member Belmont, the Hon. Samantha Rowe MLC, Member for East Metropolitan Region, Cr Phil Marks, Mayor of Belmont, Cr Robert Rossi, Deputy Mayor, Cr Bernie Ryan and Ms Cassie Rowe, President of the Belmont Community Group.

Formal wreaths were laid by Mr Alan Richardson OAM JP President the City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch, Cr Marks, Mrs Godfrey and Ms Samantha Rowe.

Steve Toon
Vice President & Membership Officer

An old soldier cuts an impressive figure: Steve Toon marches during Belmont’s service. He served 11 years and 3 weeks in the British Army.
In the picturesque setting of the Scarborough RSL Memorial Garden, our sub-branch conducted our 72nd ceremony in the standard format with a few variations.

Nearby Churchlands Senior High School provided services of a talented bugler who sounded the customary calls and was followed by wreath laying of our President, followed by local dignitaries and the general public who had been issued with poppies by our members for that purpose.

There was an address tendered by a student of Doubleview Primary School followed by another by our President.

We were also honoured by the unexpected presence of a group of mobile Vietnam Veterans who added flavour and dignity.

It was touching to see all the hundreds of brass Plaques on our background Wall of Remembrance, dressed with single red poppies.

The national anthem was sung by the student choir of Doubleview Primary School.

The service concluded with an invitation to all present to enjoy morning tea at the adjacent bowling club.

Malcolm Till
Scarborough RSL

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Talented bugler from Churchlands High

Lancelin spreads ashes on big day

The Lancelin & Districts RSL Sub-Branch service and flag raising ceremony on Remembrance Day was really well supported by the township and local primary school. It was gratifying and so appreciated by the membership.

Just as the national anthem was being sung a formation of three pelicans flew low over the gathering to the delight and surprise of all. After the service, family and friends of the late John Oswald, a long-time member of the RSL, proceeded to the beachfront to spread John’s ashes.

Then it was on to the Endeavour Tavern to have a cleansing ale and fellowship. A meaningful day enjoyed and respected by many.

Norm Pearce
Secretary - Lancelin & Districts RSL
The Greenbushes RSL hosted a Remembrance Day Service with participation of students from the town’s Primary School.

RSL member Ron Adair told the gathering the metal soldier on the top of the town’s historic war memorial had reminded people for the past 94 years of the sacrifices made by many thousands of Australian men and women during wars.

Students read poems and laid flowers and candles to commemorate Remembrance Day.

The school hosted a morning tea for the community after the service.
Children place crosses at Karrakatta

The Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Day service was well attended and blessed by a brilliant sunny morning. As in previous years the service was conducted with the support of the City of Nedlands and was held in the grounds of the Australian War Graves Cemetery at Karrakatta.

Once more the cemetery grounds were in flawless condition, a tribute to the work of the War Graves team.

As well as 150 members of the community who attended, guests included representatives of State and Federal Parliamentary members and of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Mayor of the City of Nedlands and students from our four local primary schools.

The address by Peta Alderman, State Manager WA for the Office of Australian War Graves expressed for all the recognition of sacrifice and the deep respect that is felt for those who have sacrificed their lives for Australia.

Year 5 and 6 students from Hollywood Primary School, as part of the Australian National War Memorial project, placed Commemorative Crosses with personal messages, on each grave site prior to the service.

This project is intended to ensure that none among the fallen are forgotten and the aim is to extend it to every Australian war grave worldwide.

Many who attended the service spent time reading the very moving student messages.

Barry Nunn
Secretary

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The Ellenbrook RSL Sub-Branch is refocussing its attention on our place in the community and our branch’s future. With a recent changing of the guard, new President Chris Coote (an Afghanistan veteran) spoke to a crowd of 700 consisting of veterans, politicians, community members and local students about the importance of the occasion for all generations of Australians.

In the scenic surrounds of the Woodlake Memorial Amphitheatre the message, Last Post, Rouse and the wreath laying had special significance. The Ellenbrook RSL is grateful to all parts of this community which has strongly supported us again.

Cass McQueen
Secretary

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Armadale RSL ‘firsts’ as clouds pass

More than 200 people attended the Armadale Remembrance Day Service at the memorial in the Armadale Memorial Park. The service was held in sunshine with only brooding clouds passing by.

New President Warren Campbell gave the Remembrance Day address and the wreaths were laid by individuals on behalf of their organisations prior to individual members of the public coming forward. Following the Ode, read by the President and the Last Post and Reveille the public were then invited back to the clubrooms to partake of lunch and refreshments.

Tom Rynn
Membership Officer

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It’s for all Australians says Ellenbrook RSL

The Ellenbrook RSL Sub-Branch is refocussing its attention on our place in the community and our branch’s future. With a recent changing of the guard, new President Chris Coote (an Afghanistan veteran) spoke to a crowd of 700 consisting of veterans, politicians, community members and local students about the importance of the occasion for all generations of Australians.

In the scenic surrounds of the Woodlake Memorial Amphitheatre the message, Last Post, Rouse and the wreath laying had special significance. The Ellenbrook RSL is grateful to all parts of this community which has strongly supported us again.
North Beach draws crowd

North Beach RSL Sub-Branch conducted its annual Remembrance Day Service at the memorial on Charles Riley Reserve at North Beach.

The service was attended by the Federal Member for Stirling, veterans and families as well as local schoolchildren and the local community.

Following the service, plaques were unveiled to commemorate the service of our deceased members.

Earlier, members turned out in numbers for their Poppy Day collection at the Karrinyup Shopping Centre.

North Beach RSL has enjoyed considerable success this year and now has more than 260 members.

Rob Sweet
Secretary

Flanders Fields at Quinns Rocks

The annual Remembrance Day Service which is held in the grounds of the Quinns Rocks Sports Club was again very well attended not only by a representation of students from the various schools in our community.

We were also pleased to see so many of the members of the local community including members of the Gumblossom Day Care Centre.

Our invited dignitaries included John Quigley MLA Member for Butler, Nathan Keehan who represented Albert Jacob JP MLA, the Member for Ocean Reef and Councillor Natalie Sangalli who represented Mrs. Tracey Roberts JP Mayor of the City of Wanneroo. The Service was conducted Gerry Doyle of the Salvation Army, Merriwa whose prayers were very appropriate to the occasion, and was well received by everyone present.

Following the service, lunch was provided by the sub-branch to all those present.

A special thank you must go to the musical director Justin Tonti along with our Master of Ceremonies, Wally Harmer, as well as Ian Wragg our Vice President whose recital of 'In Flanders Fields' was appreciated by everyone present.

Our Secretary Lisa Wallis was the organiser for the service along with Michelle and Brian Shoosmith.

In closing our sub-branch is indebted to the Quinns Rocks Sports Club who are fully supportive of our Services and are always ready to assist if need be.

Peter Lofdahl
Sub-Branch President
Remembering the Day

Busselton: Members of ‘C’ Coy 2 RAR were visiting Busselton as part of their annual reunion.

Busselton Mayor Grant Henley pays his respects.

Renowned artist Graeme Miles Richards puts the finishing touches on one of six beautiful murals in his Bayswater studio. The murals, painted on aluminium sheets, are now fixed to the ceiling of Esperance RSL’s historic clubhouse.
More country boys

The amazingly passionate researcher Shannon Lovelady is nearly halfway through her two-year project to identify all the Western Australians who died at the Western Front a century ago.

Already distinct differences have emerged between those who died at Gallipoli and those who died later at the Western Front.

Her team of determined volunteers has already established the number of West Australians who died as a result of their Gallipoli service. The Listening Post was privileged to publish, in April 2015, the service number, rank, full name, birthplace, enlistment place and age of those 1,023 men.

The researchers are now raking through more than 6,500 names, with the expectation that between 4,000 and 4,500 died at the Western Front.

With the extraction phase 38 per cent complete, the research has so far highlighted the following differences between the Gallipoli and Western Front dead:

- Venereal Disease (VD). Gallipoli lads almost exclusively suffered from gonorrhoea. But the Western Front soldiers were far more likely to have contracted syphilis, which the team was interested to learn can also cause synovitis of the knee, as can TB! Both can mimic other diseases and, clinically, each other.
- With more men departing, the women in their lives went to war – closer to home – with the Army and became more assertive. While the Gallipoli files are filled with the gracious but restrained letters from bereaved wives and heartbroken mothers, the letters relating to the Western Front while still gracious, are less apologetic and far more assertive.
- Ten per cent more soldiers from WA killed on the Western Front were born in Australia and NZ than the Gallipoli dead.
- Almost two thirds were born in country WA – a higher percentage than Gallipoli dead.
- Appearance: The dominant eye colour is blue. Most are dark haired. Heights range from 5’0” to 6’4”, with most being in the 5’6” to 5’9” range. The average weight is 65kg and ranges from 43kg PTE Donald Ewers (20) of 44th Bn to 97kg CPL Eric Carlin (30) of 51st Bn.
- Top 10 most common first names. The most common is John, followed by the usual royal favourites: William, George, James, Charles… and then the more mundane Thomas, Frederick, Francis (or Frank), Robert and Arthur.
- Who was the youngest West Australian killed during WWI? With research incomplete, Edward ‘Ted’ Giles is the youngest so far. He said he was 18 years and 6 months old when he enlisted in February 1916 with his best mate James Harrington. But Ted was really just a kid, aged 15. Both were killed in action just five months later at Pozieres on July 29, 1916. James was 16 years and 8 days old.
- Eighty two per cent were single. One divorcee so far.
- WA’s lost men came from all skill levels and across all industries, in government and private enterprise. Farmers, orchardists, bakers and grocers – the men who grew their food, made their bread and sold it in their shops. Tailors, hairdressers, tobacconists and bootmakers; timber fellers and railway workers who built and operated every facet of their railways; the brick makers and layers, carpenters, tilers, glaziers and ceiling plasterers who built their homes and the furniture they put in them. Or those who extended, repainted, wired, plumbed and repaired older homes. They lost the men who printed books, handbills and newspapers; school teachers who taught their young children and lecturers of university students.
- WA also lost a Master Printer, Master Baker and a Master Butcher, ten students and one actual ‘schoolboy’.

Of the 1970 eligible (at this stage) WFDWA soldiers, 1329 (67%) were born in Australia and NZ

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Most of the men from WA who were killed at the Western Front were born in Australia or New Zealand.
The huge sacrifice made by WA’s country towns during WWI is illustrated by this diagram showing that two-thirds of those who were born in WA and killed at the Western Front were country boys.

Albany-born, Scotch College student, 1st FAB Gunner Mark D’Esterre Brady who was 18 years and 2 months on enlistment.

Despite the vastly differing conditions and terrain, Killed in Action (KIA) and Died of Wounds (DOW) statistics are very similar to Gallipoli - with 62 per cent KIA, 22 per cent DOW.

When complete, the research will provide an authoritative insight into those who died; punctuated by stories of heroism and tragedy that Shannon has mastered with her eye for detail. Because Shannon’s team has transcribed the entire WWI section of the State War Memorial in Kings Park and included those names in their research, this data will also be gifted to trustees of the State War Memorial, the Kings Park Honour Avenues Group and the RSL.

“But there are no happy endings here, counting the dead,” says Shannon.

“Despite consciously locking my heart away and not looking at the men’s stories until the research-phase of these projects is done, I’ve found it confronting when I’ve seen a brother, or two, and sometimes three – of one of our Gallipoli men on the Western Front list.”

The team is on track to complete the Western Front Dead from Western Australia project next year.
North Beach award

Chris Rampant was awarded the President’s award as the outstanding clubman at North Beach RSL Sub-Branch. President Paul McGuiness said Chris epitomised the ideal of the RSL of mates helping mates. In accepting the award, Chris told a packed luncheon at Hillarys Yacht Club that the names of David House and Sharon Harford should also be on the trophy as major contributors to the success this year of the club’s 50th anniversary of Vietnam Veterans Day.

Lifting the lid on Japan’s lethal attacks

from page 22

Gossland reported the Dinah:

“…crossed my sights at 300’ range, 10° angle off. I gave a short burst and saw strikes on the port engine, along the fuselage and the starboard engine.

The Dinah went into a very steep dive, smoke pouring from both engines, right in front of Red 1 [Meakin] who followed him down firing…

I saw strikes… on the port wing which went up in a sheet of flame and shortly after fell off outboard of the port engine… [which] settled on the sea about half a mile from the main crash…” in Vansittart Bay.

The Dinah crew, Lieutenants Kyoshi Iizuka and Hisao Ito were killed. The aircraft wreckage was recovered to a barge on July 27. The crew’s remains were buried on the foreshore of Vansittart Bay in a brief service conducted by the resident Salvation Army Padre, Captain Vic Pederson.

More can be found out about The Territory Remembers program on their website at www.territoryremembers.nt.gov.au or Facebook page.
**Cadets support Busselton**

Busselton RSL Sub-Branch has been busy assisting and advocating for veterans and conducting events and services.

Our welfare section has a number of primary claims under the Veterans Entitlement Act, Services Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (1988) and the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (2004). It has current and completed cases before the Veterans Review Board cases and Administrative Appeals Tribunal cases are ongoing.

Past President and Senior Advocate Bob Wood OAM supported by Advocate Mrs Bev Streeter remain as mentors and are assisting members of the welfare section. Pension Officers Graeme Caddy and Rob Lennox continue with ongoing training to Level 2 pension officer grade.

The office hours have now changed to Tuesday through Thursday, 9am to midday. Appointments need to be made. Sue Caddy is joining the team as Admin Assistant.

Korean Veterans Day was commemorated on Wednesday July 27 with a small service at the Busselton War Memorial attended by several members plus the President of the sub-branch, Kevin Casey and our Korean veteran Kevin Riseley.

In September, members attended the National Police Remembrance Service held on September 29 at the Busselton Police Station. A good crowd attended.

Several months ago, the Executive Committee decided that it would like to get more involved with the local Army Cadet Unit. Over the last couple of years, the cadet unit has not been active. However this year it is back in action, thanks to Keith Woods, Shane Talbot and Mandy Cant. The unit was visited by members of the executive to discuss what we could do for the unit. It was suggested that the RSL provide annual trophies recognising performance/attendance to the cadets, which would be presented at an annual BBQ to be held at the RSL Hall. Additionally, it was agreed that each cadet would receive a medallion at the presentation for their attendance and commitment.

On November 4 we held our Poppy Day appeal throughout the city with locations manned by sub-branch and social club members. Whilst the day started a little slowly, the people of Busselton were very generous throughout the day.

In late October ‘D’ company 7 RAR were in town for a reunion. Members and partners attended the Friday night Fellowship at the RSL hall where they all had a great time.

Treasurer Rick Winch was MC for the service and welcomed approximately 400 people including local politicians, personnel from local aged care facilities and local schools. In addition to the locals, ‘C’ Coy 2 RAR attended as part of their annual reunion. Local Salvation Army Chaplain CAPT Jason Dannock recited the Soldier’s Prayer and played The Last Post on his bugle.

In the service three Army cadets recited the WWI poem, written by LTCOL John McRae, *In Flanders Fields*. During the one minute silence, a flyover of a local biplane put a special touch to the service.

Rick Winch invited all back to the RSL hall for light refreshments and drinks. Members of the 2 RAR contingent arranged for musician Rick Steele to provide entertainment. Rick played some memorable songs including ones from the Vietnam era. It was great day.

On Saturday November 19, the sub-branch held its annual dinner; the last significant event for what has been a very busy year.

The sub-branch will close on December 16 and reopen on Friday January 6, 2017.

On behalf of the President, committee and members we wish all a very Merry and Happy Christmas and safe Happy New Year.
Riddle solved, 62 years later

It has taken an Assistant Police Commissioner to solve the 62 year-old riddle about a flag pinched by some enterprising Australian sailors when the newly enthroned Queen of the Commonwealth visited Fremantle in 1954.

Peter Skehan (81), who was chief of the Criminal Investigation Branch in Perth before becoming Assistant Commissioner and retiring in 1994, reckons the flag probably came from the Dutch passenger cargo ship Maetsuycker.

He exploded a myth that had grown in corvette ranks that the flag was ‘lifted’ from a French warship. (The French and Dutch tricolour flags are similar - but the Dutch colours are horizontal, not vertical).

In 1954, there was high excitement in Fremantle. The new Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip had embarked on a six-month grand tour of the Commonwealth. During their 58 days in Australia, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh visited 57 cities and towns across all states and territories, except for the Northern Territory.

In Fremantle, two corvettes HMAS Fremantle and HMAS Junee were amongst a large fleet including aircraft carrier HMAS Vengeance, and destroyers HMAS Bataan and Anzac.

Peter was a Nasho seaman on board HMAS Fremantle. The flag saga began when 15 members of the Junee on watch stole the flag as a prank. One of them, John Heath, spirited it away to Victoria. Forty years ago, John decided to send the flag to his Junee shipmate Barry Rayment (81), of Gosnells, who eventually enlisted the help of Peter Skehan to find out who owned it.

Peter says he didn’t even know about the flag until recently.

“I wasn’t on board Fremantle at the time. I was in the honour guard to farewell the Gothic. From a young fellow’s point of view it was a very thrilling occasion.”

The Royal tour was the biggest single event ever organised in Australia. An estimated 75 per cent of the population turned out to catch a glimpse of their beloved Queen. The royal yacht Gothic received a rapturous reception.

FOOTNOTE: The 1954 tour was a high-point of royal adulation in Australia. It is difficult to imagine a visit of such scale occurring today. Elizabeth II averaged five engagements a day and made 100 speeches in towns and cities. She greeted 70,000 ex-servicemen and women at the Melbourne Cricket Ground.

Members of the corvettes HMAS Junee and Fremantle displayed their Dutch flag – ‘acquired’ in 1954 during the Queen’s visit to Fremantle – when they had a reunion on November 28 at the ANZAC Club. In the middle of the group is Barry Rayment (with a lanyard around his neck) and to his left former Assistant Police Commissioner Peter Skehan. Barry deciphers the names on the flag as R. J. Heath, Barry Newton, Ross Moore, Allan Scnall, Don Pearce, Bob Goodier, Bob Hood, Kevin Bethien, Barry Byrne, Brian Hesse, Laurie Green, Alan Debnam, Malcolm Edwards and Ronny Baker. One cannot be read.

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Chidlow - RSLWA's new sub-branch

Chidlow is going ahead full steam with its Chidlow & District Returned & Services League (RSL) Sub-Branch as it was presented with its Charter by the State President of RSLWA Peter Aspinall, on Sunday, November 6, 2016.

Before he handed over the Charter to Mr Aspinall to present, CEO Mr John McCourt said: “It’s not common these days to welcome a brand new RSL sub-branch and Mr President, this is the 133rd sub-branch.”

It’s hard to believe that this quiet, little place, nestling in the Perth Hills with Lake Leschenaultia, was at one time a bustling hive of training activity for army troops destined for the ‘front’. In fact, Lake Leschenaultia was originally created in 1898 as a railway reserve from where water was pumped into the station yard water towers. The village hall was the recruitment centre and also where the ‘medicals’ took place.

It is the preservation of Chidlow’s military history that will be included in future projects of the new sub-branch as well as the completion of an ANZAC memorial hopefully in time for ANZAC Day 2017.

The driving force for these projects, Mr W. O. (Bill) Scrivener, who is President of the Chidlow Sub-Branch said that he joined the Chidlow Progress Association Inc (CPA) last year to assist with their inaugural ANZAC Day Memorial Service.

Vice-President Corrina Caswell, who as a former committee member of the Mandurah RSL and wholly responsible for the in-house magazine, has been the right person to work alongside Mr Scrivener to ‘push and pull’ to get the Chidlow Sub-Branch started.

“More than 30 people today have shown interest in becoming members,” she said, “some only recently out of the forces, which is both exciting and hopeful for its future success.”

Mr Scrivener said that he is not surprised an RSL is so popular due to Chidlow’s strong military connections going back to the First World War. “More than 80 locals received honourable mention during both wars and 12 did not return,” he said.

“The CPA learnt recently how important the Chidlow Army Camp was to Australia’s defence during the Second World War. Chidlow, (formerly Chidlow’s Well) was chosen for its geographical position and for military and strategic advantages. Sharing this experience and Chidlow’s military history will ensure its preservation for future generations.”
The Esperance community had an exciting few days with the submarine HMAS Farncomb in port, a special Remembrance Day service and a wonderful dinner to fundraise for sufferers of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Submariners from the HMAS Farncomb marched through town on Thursday November 10 for a ‘Freedom of Entry’ ceremony. Esperance RSL Sub-Branch and the 10th Light Horse - Esperance Troop also participated in this auspicious occasion. The Esperance community watched on with pride as the parade marched through town accompanied by the Navy band, banners flying and swords drawn. The crew were challenged by the local police force before being welcomed to the town.

Esperance RSL’s Remembrance Day Service was led by the next day by our new President, Shane Miller.

Captivating opening addresses were given by Vice President Marg Churchland and Commander Ian Bray of the HMAS Farncomb. Also present were Dr Graham Jacobs MLA representing the Premier of WA, Commander Doug Theobald of the HMAS Rankin, Captain Wayne Gardiner of the Australian Army Museum of WA and RSLWA, numerous veterans, crew from the Farncomb, Bishop Jeremy James with the staff that Bishop Riley took to WWI, Esperance Police Force, Shire President Victoria Brown, CEO Matthew Scott, shire councillors, local Army and Navy Cadets and students from local schools. Esperance Primary School head boy Jai McElroy and head girl Elise Quinlivan read ‘In Flanders Fields’. A large crowd of supporting locals attended the service and the many were brought to tears by the Last Post performed by bugler Peter Jackson and a moving performance given by Narelle Blakely singing the hymn ‘Abide with Me’, accompanied by Aidan Bridges on piano.

The service was followed by the official opening of the newly renovated RSL heritage building, sponsored by Lotterywest and the Shire of Esperance.

**Digger’s Grave**

Inside, the crowds were treated to six murals painted by international artist Graeme Miles Richards, placed on the ceiling of the building and depicting different Australian conflicts. A particularly moving panel entitled ‘Digger’s Grave’ was mounted above the Honour Roll.

This mural depicted a fallen soldier’s makeshift resting place. The murals were part of a greater RSL initiative to commemorate the 100-year centenary and leave a lasting legacy for future generations. This initiative was driven by the dedicated Entrenchment team and had a number of objectives: the creation of the commemorative murals, increasing community awareness education through digital media, raising the public profile of both the RSL and the Army Museum of Western Australia, a musical production, and raising funds for PTSD.

The project achieved all of its aims with the exception of the musical production, which due to lack of funding has been placed on hold. However attendees to the PTSD fundraising dinner held on the night of the 11th were treated to several musical items from the production.

The dinner was a great success with the fundraising auction raising over $2,000 towards sufferers of PTSD. Another highlight of the dinner was the presentation of a cheque for $10,000 to the Army Museum of WA. These funds had been raised by the RSL.
Entrenchment team with the help of the Esperance community, to help the museum further develop online virtual tour apps. This will enable rural communities to access the museum via digital media.

The events around Remembrance Day in Esperance were considered to be a great success, with the fundraising dinner being requested to be an annual event. The HMAS Farncomb Freedom of Entry parade was a ‘once-in-a-lifetime’ occurrence in the area. The Remembrance Day service and commemorative murals were a stirring reminder to the local community to remember our fallen and wounded servicemen and women.

The events were the culmination of many months of effort and have raised the profile of the Australian Army Museum of WA and RSL Esperance Sub-branch, which is striving to gain new members, even reaching out to HRH Prince Henry of Wales, KCVO… maybe next year Harry?

International artist Graeme Miles Richards painted six magnificent panels for the ceiling of Esperance RSL’s historic clubhouse. This one entitled ‘Digger’s Grave’ is mounted above the Honour Roll. The murals are part of a greater RSL initiative to commemorate the 100-year centenary and leave a lasting legacy for future generations. PHOTO COURTESY OF BOB WALKER.

Navy joins RSL festivities

Esperance Shire President Victoria Brown presents the $10,000 dollar cheque to Captain Wayne Gardiner of the AAMWA. PHOTO COURTESY LEX POREBSKI.

Tom Buchanan from 503 Esperance ACU lowering the flag. PHOTO COURTESY LEX POREBSKI.
The delightful Helen Pickering got a royal send-off at the ANZAC Club recently after she completed 10 years as Secretary of Applecross RSL Sub-Branch and handed the baton to Barry O’Neill. Helen says she and her Vietnam veteran husband John want to travel, with South America on the agenda. But she won’t be away for long and is still working on sub-branch plans for the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Vyner Brook in 1942 – with 65 Army nursing sisters on board. The service will be held on Sunday February 12, 2017.

Young support is ‘humbling’

Fremantle City RSL Sub-Branch partnered up with RSLWA head office on Maritime Day 2016 at Victoria Quay Fremantle to help raise much needed funds for Fremantle’s welfare section. The sub-branch has been actively engaging the community through a variety of projects for some time.

“Our committee has a strong relationship and receives ongoing support from the local council, and this relationship is paramount to the continuing success of the sub-branch,” said sub-branch President Rob Cashman.

“From Maritime Day and stamping the pavements collecting Poppy Day donations, to the businesses who support our values by stocking our tins and poppies in their premises, this year Fremantle RSL was able to successfully raise more than $4,100,” he said.

“Our members locally and RSL members collectively benefit directly from these funds in a variety of ways through advocacy and welfare programs both on a State and a sub-branch level. This year we were truly humbled by the number of young people who dug into their pocket money to give what they could for this collection, and more so how many of these young people, our future leaders knew about the importance of Remembrance Day in our community.

“I strongly encourage the younger people in communities to get involved in their local RSL, and in particular I acknowledge the skills younger veterans are able to contribute to their local sub-branch in so many ways.”

Maritime Day followed Remembrance Day and comprised numerous displays by the Royal Australian Navy, tugs for visitors to explore, free harbour rides, kids’ activities, free entertainment, great food and colourful information booths.

Attractions included the submarine HMAS Sheean, the sail-ship Duyfken, the Taiko Japanese Dancers, a children’s maritime fancy dress competition, gold coin admission to the Maritime Museum and a technology display by Rolls Royce marine equipment. HMAS Stirling also participated with 12 displays on the day.

Rob Cashman
President - Fremantle RSL Sub-Branch

South America in sight for Helen

Wendy Moss, Rob Cashman and Morgana Ramsey joined cadets from TS Marmion at Maritime Day on Fremantle’s Victoria Quay. Wendy and Morgana are based at the RSL head office. Rob is an RSLWA board member.

The delightful Helen Pickering got a royal send-off at the ANZAC Club at Maritime Day on Fremantle’s Victoria Quay recently after she completed 10 years as Secretary of Applecross RSL Sub-Branch and handed the baton to Barry O’Neill. Helen says she and her Vietnam veteran husband John want to travel, with South America on the agenda. But she won’t be away for long and is still working on sub-branch plans for the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the SS Vyner Brook in 1942 – with 65 Army nursing sisters on board. The service will be held on Sunday February 12, 2017.

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Bill Stevens a RWARA Life Member

The Riverton RSL hosted the annual Royal Western Australia Regiment Association Dinner on Saturday October 15. It was a great evening of camaraderie and a perfect opportunity for Peter Shaw, the President of the Association, to announce hard working RWARA member Bill Stevens as an Honorary Life Member of the association.

Patron Brigadier Geoff Hand gave an uplifting speech about the importance of thanking past and present members for their service to Australia.

The following month, on November 5, the Riverton RSL held its 2016 Remembrance Day dinner. It was a wonderful evening of commemoration to honour those who have served, fought and died for Australia in all wars and conflicts.

The young members of 51 ACU Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes welcomed guests and performed several musical pieces after the main meal. Several young cadets from 509 Army Cadet Unit served the meal to the guests and their polite and professional services were appreciated by all who attended.

One of the highlights of the evening was 92-year-old Club Warden Trevor McLean’s outstanding speech on the history leading to Canadian physician LTCOL John McCrae writing the poem ‘In Flanders Fields’ in 1915 and the significance of the red poppies today. Special thanks also to fellow Club Warden Ian Warden for his very moving rendition of The Ode.

In September, Riverton RSL President Bill Collidge and members Vance Bond, Peter Grover, Ron Mitchell, Trevor Hogan, Graham Green, Matthew Willmett and Ian Gunter participated in a friendly and well-run shooting competition against the Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Association.

The competition included shots at 50m, 25m, 15m and 10m targets using .22 rifles and Beretta pistols, and several team members scored numerous bullseyes. Top shot for Riverton in the pistol shoot was a tie between Peter Grover and Ian Gunter, and in the rifle shoot, Trevor Hogan took out the top shot.

The competition was closely fought and the Jarrahdale team managed to win by just three points (374 to 371). At the Riverton RSL Remembrance Dinner, President Bill Collidge presented a magnificent trophy – a .303 rifle mounted on a wooden platform – to Nikki Raffaelli, Captain of the Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Association. No doubt, next year's rematch will be a hard-fought competition to win the impressive trophy back again.

President of RWARA Peter Shaw (right) after presenting longstanding member Bill Stevens (left) with an honorary Life Membership of the Association.

President Bill Collidge with Nikki and Peter Raffaelli and Vice President Vance Bond with the impressive trophy following the shooting competition with the Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Association.

President of RWARA Peter Shaw (right) after presenting longstanding member Bill Stevens (left) with an honorary Life Membership of the Association.

President Bill Collidge with Nikki and Peter Raffaelli and Vice President Vance Bond with the impressive trophy following the shooting competition with the Jarrahdale Sporting Shooters Association.

Club Warden Ian Raymond who delivered The Ode, President Bill Collidge and Club Warden Trevor McLean who gave the Remembrance Day speech at the Riverton RSL 2016 Remembrance Day Dinner.
Great BBQ: Left to right Ian Higley (South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australia WA), Peter Manwaring and David Freemantle (Rhodesian Services Association), John McCourt (CEO RSLWA) and Alan Richardson (President of the City of Belmont RSL).

**Hordes thrill to their first Braai**

Three great Ex-Service Organisations - City of Belmont RSL, South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia WA and the Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated WA - united as one to hoist a Southern African Braai on Saturday October 8.

We were honoured to have as our guest RSLWA CEO John McCourt along with around 130 veterans, carers, family and friends. Many of those attending have travelled extensively but this Southern African Braai, or BBQ, was a first for many of us, providing a unique culinary experience. The hordes went wild for it, with many going back for seconds.

For the first time that I have seen at a function, not a morsel was left on the plates. Our plates were stacked inches high with Boerewors', charcoal grilled steak, Southern African potato and green salad accompanied by mouth-watering sadza (mealie pap – a first for many of us) topped with tomato and onion gravy.

*Steve Toon*
Vice President
& Membership Officer

**Mates helping mates at Belmont**

With the sun reaching a spring high of around 39°C members of the City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch turned out in numbers to sell poppies and receive donations to help raise the much-needed funds for the RSL appeal at Bunnings Warehouse in Belmont.

This year members warmly welcomed the assistance offered by Steve Irons MP, Federal Member for Swan, Glenys Godfrey MLA Member for Belmont and celebrity chef Anna Gare, who was giving a cooking demonstration at Bunnings and enthusiastically gave up some of her time to help with sales of RSL poppies and to talk with generous Belmont residents.

Without these appeals the RSL nationally would not be able to provide much of the financial assistance and support to our current and former service men and women and their families.

This is what the RSL is all about; mates helping mates. RSL volunteers spend time with ex-service men, women and war widows to ensure those living at home, in aged care facilities or in hospitals stay connected with their community.

*Steve Toon*
Vice President
When Billy talks, you listen

by John Arthur

When **Billy Young** talks about the psychological impact of war you listen.

“People ask me about the physical injuries I suffered; no-one wants to know about the psychological,” says the former teenage POW survivor of Outram Road Gaol in Singapore and Sandakan Camp in Borneo.

“Only six of us survived Sandakan (out of 2,500) and one of them came home and shot himself in a room with his daughter present.”

Billy Young is the real deal when it comes to talking authoritatively about brutal prison camps and behaviour – torture, solitary confinement and starvation. He survived, despite enlisting at age 15, partly because he was tough; a bit of a larrikin. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese at 16, for three years.

In the riveting book **BILLY: My Life as a teenage POW**, historian Lynette Silver has compiled a heart-wrenching story based on the personal diary written by Billy in the 1970s, when he took a caravan trip around Australia.

Billy, who lives in Sydney, spoke to The Listening Post about his life, his love of art (some of his paintings illustrate his book) and poetry. He frequently laughs but there’s a fragile side too. At 91, he maintains a lively interest in the world around him.

“When you’re in prison you don’t think about topping yourself because you are trying to survive. When you come back it’s the psychological damage that affects all of us.”

On the Australian War Memorial website is a quote from Billy Young, of the 2/29th Battalion, on surviving Outram Road Gaol:

‘Close confinement coupled with inadequate diet not only cramps the muscles it compresses the mind. Thought has to be squeezed from a constipated brain.’

Billy points to something he wrote years ago as his feelings about being a POW. He wrote:

“I was so fortunate in meeting the men I did. The mates who made a man from out of a kid. Who taught me how to take life on the chin. And to accept consequences with a grin. Well those days have gone, have passed away. As I will too, but not yet, not until another day.”

‘BILLY: My life as a teenage POW’ is published by Sally Milner Publishing Pty Ltd.

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**Bravo Zulu: Honours and awards to naval people**

**Ian Pfennigwerth**, a former naval officer turned naval historian, has published the first volume of **Bravo Zulu: Honours and Awards to Australian Naval People: Volume 1, 1900-1974**.

It is an outline history of Australia’s naval forces upon which are hung the stories behind all the honours and awards presented to Australian naval personnel between the Boxer Rebellion in China and the Vietnam War.

“There are plenty of Western Australians noted in Bravo Zulu, so I want to make its availability as widely known in your state as possible,” says Ian.

Between 1900 and 2014 over 4,000 Australian naval people received honours and awards for their efforts, courage, sacrifice and service.

Whether a George Cross for defusing mines during the World War II UK ‘Blitz’, an American Silver Star for flying helicopters into intense enemy fire in Vietnam, a Distinguished Service Medal for the Iraq War or a Conspicuous Service Medal for quietly ‘just getting the job done’, Bravo Zulu recounts the stories of the men and women recognised for their Royal Australian Navy service. Some give insights into the running of our Navy; others recall inspiring feats of courage under fire or bravery in risking their lives in saving others, on and off duty.

For the past seven years Ian and a team of dedicated volunteer researchers have explored the background of these honours and awards – Imperial, Australian, and foreign.

Bravo Zulu Volume 1 comes in two editions; the hardcover retails for $75 and the paperback for $65. Postage is $13 for domestic purchasers. The book is available through the author’s website at www.nautilushistory.com.au
The Listening Post - DECEMBER 2016

Women rise through RSL

A feature article in *The Listening Post* in March 1928 titled "Women's Work in the RSL" outlines the 'unlimited scope for the work of women in connection with RSL activities.'

A quote from page 16, cites the following...“Although comparatively few are entitled by reason of service overseas to be actual members of the League... many sub-branches of the League in this State are well served by loyal and efficient bodies of womenfolk organised as women's auxiliaries.”

Providing a glimpse of attitudes and conventions of the time, the article exhorts sub-branches to organise a well thought out plan of operations for the efficient bodies of womenfolk organised as women’s auxiliaries. “Experience of successful women’s auxiliaries shows the more work the ladies are given to do, so long as it is necessary and useful, the happier they will be.”

In the 1923 July edition of *The Listening Post* the Collie Sub-Branch report states that “The Branch’s advice is that other Branches that have not yet formed Ladies’ Auxiliaries, is to try it. There is no doubt about their assistance to a Branch being a decided valuable acquisition. The only regret of this Branch is that it did not open its eyes to the fact years ago.”

Although it is a sad fact that the RSLWA Women’s Auxiliary Sub-Branch officially handed in its charter in 2015 it is heartening to know that in these times of change that women are RSL members in their own right and that the number of service women in the Australian Defence Force continues to grow.

The first Women in the ADF report released in 2012–13 showed that women represented 14.4 per cent of the permanent workforce (8,086 women and 48,086 men). The second report (2013–14) indicated that number had risen to 15 per cent (8,568 women and 48,468 men). By 30 June 2015, women made up 15.3 per cent (8,806 women and 48,598 men) of permanent ADF personnel.

The categories in which women are employed have varied over the past six decades, although, according to the latest Women in the ADF (2014–15) report, the health sector remains the largest occupational group. The proportion of women in non-traditional work categories such as combat and security; engineering, technical and construction; and aviation is, in most cases, below 15 per cent. The number of women on key decision making bodies has experienced very little growth since 2013–14: from 13.9 to 14.5 per cent. The slowly increasing percentage of women serving in the ADF is probably due to both internal (eg, more flexible work arrangements) and external factors (eg, civilian workforce pressures).

The recent Defence White Paper community consultation process considered public perceptions about the ADF and the report noted that the ‘long-term benefits for defence capability’ included recruiting and retaining women in the ADF. Much like the RSL today. From women originally not being eligible to join the RSL in their own right, RSLWA currently has 1700 female and 7290 male members.

Reference: Women in the ADF, Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Defence. Posted 01/12/2015 by Nicole Brangwin.

Poppy Day Appeal.

The recent poppy day appeal made in aid of the orphan children in the devastated areas of Flanders was most successful financially, yielding a total amount collected of £29.0 13s. This figure was made up as follows:—Perth, £17 4s.; Boulder, £3 10s.; Yarloop, £5 11s.; Baker’s Hill, £1; Katanning, £3 5s.; Fremantle, £20 1s.; Denmark, £2 7s. 6d.; Collie, £7 10s.;
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<td>WA</td>
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<td>9384 3969</td>
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<td>WA</td>
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<td>WA</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>WA</td>
<td>6105</td>
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<td>WA</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:women@warriors.com.au">women@warriors.com.au</a></td>
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**UNIT AND KINDRED LISTING**
Boer War Memorial Society of WA Inc: Notice of Commemoration and Reconciliation Service 2017 And Dedication of the National Boer War Memorial in Canberra: RSL members and Listening Post post readers are advised that the annual Boer War Commemoration and Reconciliation service will be held at the South African War Memorial in Kings Park (currently undergoing refurbishment) at 11am on Sunday June 4, 2017. Further details will be advised closer to the day.

I am pleased to advise that our National Memorial Project is progressing well and our National Committee have set the date for its dedication on May 31, 2017 on ANZAC Parade in Canberra. RSL members and all in WA who contributed both financially and in others ways to the project can be well pleased with the final result. Please note that the WA government of the day donated $30,000 as our state’s contribution.

The NBWMC WA Br and the Boer War Memorial Society of WA Inc thanks you all for your contributions.

WA residents who may wish to attend are advised to visit the Boer War website at www.bwm.org.au for further information or call Tony Larnach-Jones - secretary@bwm.org.au. National Secretary & Public Officer, National Boer War Memorial Association. Mobile: +61 (0) 418 501 065.

The Boer War Memorial Society of WA Inc is open to any members of the public who may have an interest in Boer War or be a descendant of a Boer War Veteran (of any country and either side). You may register as a descendant without joining.

We receive strong support from SAMVOA and we place a strong emphasis on reconciliation so any expat ‘Springboks’ out there are also welcome to join. A special thank you goes to those RSL sub-branches that both donated to the National Memorial Project and have placed May 31 - which marks the signing of the Vereeniging Peace Accords - on their commemoration calendar.

I am delighted to report that the number of sub-branches conducting their own Boer War commemoration services is slowly but steadily increasing.

If your sub-branch would like advice or assistance with this, please contact us at the above address.

Kevin Bovill
Hon Sec - Boer War Memorial Assn Inc

Scott and Phyl Properjohn of Waikiki – active RSL members, 94 years young.

71 years together

They met when Phyl’s brother, an RAAF pilot, brought Ted Properjohn home for leave at Bellingen near Coffs Harbour in 1945. The rest, as they say, is history and later in 1945 Phyl and Ted Properjohn married. They celebrated their 71st wedding anniversary on November 17 at the City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch. Both served in the RAAF during WWII. “When Ted asks for something I say ‘yes Dear’ and go off and do what I want to do,” Phyl explains as the recipe for a long marriage. “We’re not drinkers so that’s helped a bit.

“I think we’ve just helped each other.” Both 94, the couple live at Waikiki. Ted served with the RAAF Beaufort Bomber Sqn during WWII and later flew in Catalinas in New Guinea serving as a Wireless Air Gunner. Phyl Properjohn was a WAAAF dental assistant.

The June edition of The Listening Post carried an incorrect photograph of Vietnam veteran Leslie Owen ‘Squizzy’ Taylor, pictured here (above right) with his younger brother Bruce. Les Taylor was killed in the Yarloop fires along with an unrelated Malcolm Taylor, also known as ‘Squizzy’. We apologise for the error.
Sudoku

Sudoku is a logic-based, combinatorial number-placement puzzle. The objective is to fill a 9x9 grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine 3x3 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.

Solution in next edition

Sudoku Solution from last edition - Sept 2016

Across
1 American Cancer Society (abbr)
4 Stream
8 Pine tree product
12 Before, poetically
13 Continent
14 Assure
15 Spirits
16 Throw out
17 Church part
18 Rust
20 Relating to the sun
21 Note of debt
22 Adieu
23 Cook in an oven
26 Goof
27 River (Spanish)
30 Publication supervisor (3 wds)
34 Greenwich Mean Time
35 Alter
36 Revise
38 Carry
37 Throw
38 Compass Point
40 Cut off wool
43 Type of poison
47 Writing
48 Capital of the Ukraine
49 Tear
50 Little Mermaid’s love
51 Fence opening
52 Wrath
53 Route
54 Danish physicist
55 Encounter

Down
1 Air (prefix)
2 Point
3 Very large truck
4 Wireless
5 Car manufacturer
6 Citrus fruit
7 Drink
8 Long skinny boat
9 Oval
10 Star
11 Vessel
19 Eat sparingly
20 In _(together)
22 Box
23 Ask
24 High naval rank (abbr)
25 Candy bar brand __kat
26 Sibling
27 Scarlet
28 Roman three
29 Often poetically
31 Smell
32 Abrade
33 Axed
36 Secure
37 Artist Andrew
39 Rescuer
40 Stair
41 Zeus’ wife
42 Exodus
43 Goodbye!
44 Coloured part of the eye
45 Dreadful
46 Fencing sword
48 Former USSR’s secret police

Crossword solution last edition (Sept 2016) over page

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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
DJX727620; Bloxham, Douglas
– Eastern Regional RSL Sub-Branch
37939; Clayton, Robert
– City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch
LTJX385600; Cracknell, Dennis
– Canning Districts RSL Sub-Branch
F3672; Evans, Robert
– Busselton RSL Sub-Branch
113409; Grieve, Veronica
– Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
31473; Hewitt, Herbert
– Central RSL Sub-Branch
R95432; Jackson, Barry
– Balajura RSL Sub-Branch
R55632; Johnson, Reginald
– Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
WX2629; Fairclough, Milton
– Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch
TX6681; Drake, Harry
– Esperance RSL Sub-Branch
55132; Ducat, Trevor
– Northam RSL Sub-Branch
14471234; Duffy, Matthew
– Dongara RSL Sub-Branch
WX23342; Howell, Ronald
– Mount Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch
457042; Lumb, Joseph
– Walpole RSL Sub-Branch
W2771273; McQuat, Gary
– Busselton RSL Sub-Branch
538545; Moss, Dennis
– Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch
5/1257; Gordon, Edwin
– Canning Districts RSL Sub-Branch

Air Force
O55138; Abbott, Anthony
– City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
A5278; Butler, John
– City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
56400; Connelly, Denis
– Applecross RSL Sub-Branch
1701229; Davie, Edward
– Broome RSL Sub-Branch
2071103; Dearden, Doreen
– Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s RSL Sub-Branch
58209; Elder, Arthur
– Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch
1874136; Griggs, Peter
– Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch
436043; Macintyre, L. S.
– Yokine-Joondanna RSL Sub-Branch
82436; Mather, Frederic
– Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch

Army
519190; Adams, Ronald
– Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
WX5155; Biddle, B.L.
– City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch
218703; Bondarczuk, Wasyl
– Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
5/705297; Penaluna, Alan
– Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch
54088; Pereira, Kevin
– City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
58610; Power, John
– Central Branch
WX28041; Quatermaine, Norman
– North Branch RSL Sub-Branch
22035353; Roddy, John
– Mount Hawthorn RSL Sub-Branch
SF64824; Shepherd, Rosemary
– Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s RSL Sub-Branch
** P3 00944; Smith, Peter
– City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
23604066; Stuttard, Robert
– Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch
WX37546; Summerton, Kevan
– Central Branch

Merchant Navy
** M7 00008; Griffiths, G.
– Kwinana RSL Sub-Branch
R277032; Wheeler, Clifford
– Shark Bay RSL Sub-Branch

Remembrance Day PHOTOS 2016
This year’s Remembrance Day photos are on flickr:
VISIT: www.flickr.com/photos/rslw
Members of RSLWA can get free digital copies. To purchase a print, phone ANZAC House 9287 3799
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