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PO Box 3023, EAST PERTH WA 6892
Email: rslwhq@inet.net.au
Website: www.rslwhq.org.au
Facebook: www.facebook.com/rslwhq
Telephone: 9287 3799
Fax: 9287 3732
WA Country Callers: 1800 259 799
(NOTE: ANZAC House admin staff will relocate to Level 3, 66 St Georges Terrace from late October).

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Deadline for next edition: Tuesday November 15

The preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs should be attached separately and a minimum of 1Mb. This is your magazine and contributions and letters are welcome.

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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.
Supporting our volunteers

Barry Chalk, Morgana Ramsey and Rosalind Howat (seated), are the new RSL DefenceCare team in Western Australia.

RSL DefenceCare has been launched in WA and
The small team has been assisted by Fergus Beer and David Faithfull as they complete the archiving of past advocates’ records.

Barry, Morgana and Rosalind have undergone intensive training in Sydney and are now working for current and ex-serving personnel and their families in WA.

Barry comes from six years with the Department of Veterans Affairs, where he worked in several areas, but predominantly in the Outreach area where he was able to advise the veterans’ community of their entitlements and the claims process.

This period included some three years where he regularly visited the military bases in Perth and surrounds, advising and assisting the current serving ADF personnel in submitting their claims to DVA.

He was the proud recipient of the DVA Australian Day Medallion 2016 for his work with the clients and Ex Service Organisations in WA.

Previously Barry served in the Royal Australian Navy for 28 years, finishing his time as a Chief Petty Officer Writer and Personnel Officer at HMAS Stirling. He continues to serve in the Naval Reserves.

Morgana Ramsey served in the Royal Australian Navy for just more than 10 years, where she met her husband.

“I served five years as a Combat Systems Operator and nearly six as an Imagery Specialist,” Morgana told The Listening Post.

“Having served as a member of the Defence Force I am passionate about helping those who have served, and are still serving, as military life and transitioning from it, is a unique and trying experience.

“I believe my unique experiences within the military, and my experience with Apple retail, have given me great insight on how I can better serve our military community as an RSL DefenceCare Claims Advisor.”

Rosalind Howat has worked at ANZAC House for the last seven years assisting veterans and their dependents to maintain their quality of life and dignity in her role as RSLWA State Welfare Officer.

Although Rosalind doesn’t have an ex-service background she does have over 25 years’ experience in the area of Community Services and has held positions in both Government and not-for-profit organisations.

The roles were varied and included working with clients with the following issues: mental health, addictions, corrections, homelessness, unemployment, family support poverty and general disadvantage.

Rosalind says it is an honour and privilege to assist the veteran community and she is looking forward to her new role as Community Support Officer with RSL DefenceCare.
Hannah Amigh is a living example of the benefits of RSL DefenceCare.

She reached out and obtained help from DefenceCare in New South Wales and believes that the service in Western Australia, a key RSLWA initiative, will greatly benefit servicemen and women.

“I would not be where I am today without the assistance and support of NSW DefenceCare,” she told The Listening Post. “The services they provided me (eg, DVA Advocacy) were essential to completing the necessary documentation and applying for my entitlements after being medically discharged in late 2013.

“I believe that now RSLWA has introduced DefenceCare services, our WA returned servicemen and women will be provided with a new sense of hope to be heard, understood and assisted with processes that can be confusing, confronting and difficult.”

Hannah, a former Navy medic, competed in the 2014 Invictus Games in London, courtesy of the nomination and support from the Returned & Service League in NSW and WA. While there she met with Prince Harry, who created the games for wounded, injured or sick armed services personnel and veterans take part in sports. She has been active in RSLWA activities since then to help others.

For Hannah, the Invictus Games provided an opportunity for further recovery after becoming unwell during her eight year service in the Royal Australian Navy.

“Incorporating daily physical fitness provided me a sense of empowerment, certainty in my abilities and helped me to gradually regain psychological wellbeing – an experience I would like to share and encourage others to incorporate into their lives,” Hannah said.

Hannah enlisted from Brisbane at the age of 18 and considers herself fortunate to have been deployed to the west coast of America for weapon trials; the Middle East for anti-piracy enforcement and the Philippines and Indonesia to provide humanitarian aid to the host nations.

Being deployed for the second and third time, although fulfilling, were less enjoyable for Hannah, which unfortunately led to her struggles with anxiety and depression.

While serving on various deployments, Hannah left behind both her biological family and Navy Family, who she grew to love as sisters and brothers.
This edition of *The Listening Post* comes at a time of significant change occurring in RSLWA. RSL DefenceCare has become operational heralding a new approach to welfare and advocacy services for veterans in this State.

Also, after five years in the hot seat, Phil Orchard has stepped down from the position of CEO of RSLWA. Phil relinquished the office just as RSLWA crests the wave of further change with the impending move of head office to temporary premises at Level 3, 66 St Georges Terrace. This will clear the way for a redevelopment of the ANZAC House site with a new, purpose-built building which will have the capacity to accommodate other ESO shopfronts and, possibly, veteran/defence related organisations in office space that will be available for lease.

But first I wish to comment on the recent national commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan as part of Vietnam Veterans’ Day. As one who had participated in the battle as the Artillery Forward Observer in A Coy, 6RAR - which was transported into the Long Tan rubber plantation in the APCs of 3 Troop, 1 APC Squadron – I was invited to participate in the formal commemoration activities conducted in Canberra and Brisbane at Enoggera Barracks.

These activities included a reception in the Great Hall of Parliament House, a Dawn Service in the forecourt area of the Australian War Memorial and a mid-morning commemorative service in front of the Vietnam War Memorial on ANZAC Parade and a battalion parade by 6RAR in Gallipoli Lines, Enoggera Barracks.

Prior to the Parliamentary reception I was able to join a gathering of my artillery unit, 103 Field Battery RAA, at the Ainslie Football Club.

Undoubtedly repeated in countless sub-branches and other gathering places around Australia, and overseas, the camaraderie and sense of mateship I experienced was overwhelming. This was repeated at all the activities I attended. I think even more uplifting was the absolute generosity of the public in recognising, not just the Long Tan veterans, but all veterans of SVN. My first experience of this was the respect and acknowledgement I received from the Qantas cabin crew on the flight to Canberra. This was repeated over and over in all public places we visited.

Reports I have received from various sub-branches here in WA, and from the Eastern States, all convey this heartfelt warmth and respect that was afforded we veterans.

In closing, I wish to express my deep appreciation for our retiring CEO, Phil Orchard. Phil assumed his position following a period of an interim CEO/SS and at a time when there was a significant change occurring in the State Executive. Phil brought with him style and manners and, crucially, substance. I first experienced Phil’s abilities as a member of the State Executive but my closer dealings with him were during my time as the chairman of the Albany Centenary of ANZAC Alliance. This was time of great conflict and division and it was Phil who brought a sense of calmness and sanity, at least to the RSL side of the alliance. That organisational association turned, over his years in office, into a deep personal friendship.

To Isabel and Phil, I wish you many years to come of happiness and joy and happy camping.
RSL DefenceCare has an impressive record after launching in New South Wales and now expanding to Western Australia, thanks to the initiative of the RSLWA Board.

It offers best-practice client-focused services and is responding to calls from more than 3,000 military families every year.

RSL DefenceCare is part of RSL Welfare and Benevolent Institution, a charity and public benevolent institution. Importantly, donations to RSL DefenceCare from Western Australia will return to WA to support operations in this state.

The three main service areas are:
• assistance with DVA claims (MRCA, SRCA and VEA),
• advocacy at the Veterans Review Board, and
• community support including financial assistance and referral services.

Key 2015 statistics from DefenceCare operations in NSW:
• 4,737 calls for help (4,195 in 2014)
• provided $617,448 in direct financial assistance to veterans and their families,
• 1,342 calls from ex-serving members or their surviving partner (1,688 in 2014),
• 1,618 calls from serving members (1,431 in 2014),
• 1,581 calls from government and non-government organisations (936 in 2014),
• lodged 1,062 DVA claims,
• completed 177 appeals at the Veterans’ Review Board, and
• 79 per cent of donations were spent on support, financial assistance and services for veterans and their families.

www.rsldefencecare.org.au

DefenceCare is a great achiever

SASR Vietnam veteran Laurie ‘Truck’ Sams met up with RSL DefenceCare’s Morgana Ramsey during his visit to Perth a few weeks ago. Truck is cycling 10,000km from Hanoi to Sydney and one of the beneficiaries is DefenceCare.
Bits & Pieces...

Farewell, you are in good shape

by retiring CEO of RSLWA

Philip Orchard

By the time you read this I will probably be somewhere in Monument Valley in the Grand Canyon, Arizona. This is the first item on my bucket list. John McCourt is your new CEO and following our comprehensive handover, has a firm grip on the many projects underway. Let me update you on some key business matters:

Congress/Ball

We at ANZAC House have received nothing but praise and compliments for both events. The staff worked extremely hard to ensure these Centenary events were special whilst also ensuring good business governance, fun and entertainment was achieved. Next year Congress will be on July 14/15 at the Ballroom in Government House.

ANZAC House

While we still await the Premier’s official announcement to hand back the freehold title to RSLWA, we are moving forward in our move to alternative accommodation.

That has led us to Level 3, 66 St George’s Terrace to what was the old ASIC floor. It is close to public transport, has easy access and plenty of space for our expanding administration.

The final day for the ANZAC Club is Wednesday December 21.

This allows for our regular member groups to complete their last function in the old club as presently booked in.

It is highly likely that the current Level One admin staff will move on a weekend late in October so as not to disrupt business flow.

Regarding the new ANZAC House we have previously explored 12 options for development of the site in four major groupings which ranged from hotel 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

Continued over page
various reasons - cost and risk to name but two - RSLWA decided on the smaller office option as the preferred direction.

MacCormac Architects set about designing a minimalist building without flamboyance to project an understated no-nonsense expression of the aims and ideals of the RSLWA.

This impression provides vertical elements that project out from the body of the façade and screen the recessed unprotected windows in the same elevations.

The vertical elements are set at different heights to reflect the stepping back of the south facing façade and it is suggested that the louvres in the three vertical elements could be finished in colours to represent the three main theatres of operation of the armed services being under the ground as in the white of the ocean waves, on the ground as in the red of the WA earth and above ground as in the blue of the WA sky.

The three colours of white, red and blue also happen to be the colours of the flag under which all Australian military personnel have served since colonisation and federation as well as being the colours of the flags of our three main allies in UK, US and France.

The stepped design of the building also gives expression to the hierarchical nature of military organisations. More detail will follow as things develop.

**RSL Aged Care**

At the time of writing we still await the next mediation; however it may be by the time of going to print other information is available.

**RSL DefenceCare Update**

The NSW-based executive team of RSL DefenceCare finalised staffing and budget requirements for the new look advocacy and welfare operation in ANZAC House back in June.

Robyn Collins, General Manager RSL DefenceCare spoke at Congress about the organisation’s operations and its proposed modus operandi here in WA. Robyn also answered numerous questions posed to the panel as part of the afternoon business session. Since then, following an extremely high standard of applications Barry Chalk and Morgana Ramsey have been selected for the WA operation and having returned from their training in mid-August are both now in the hot seat. A full introduction to Barry and Morgana is on page 5.

Fergus Beer has almost completed his audit of the ANZAC House Advocacy Department which has enabled him to hand over to Barry. Assisted by David Faithfull, they have both done a fantastic job.

Rosalind Howat has also transferred to RSL DefenceCare and is now the Community Support Officer.

Bob Sheppard continues his excellent ‘volunteer’ advocacy role and will do so until his current client list is completed.

Sadly, John Power remains off work due to illness and Carl Ponnuthurai has now moved on following his short time with RSLWA. He intends remaining in the veterans support area.
Your Letters

Nashos welcome to reunion

On Saturday December 3 the Nashos WA Group will be having its end of year reunion.

The group formed as only five members in 2008 and now has a growing membership with half the members in all the states around Australia.

The group will be meeting in the dining area in the Gosnells Hotel at midday on December 3.

Any former Nashos and their partners are welcome to mix in and join the group.

Any ex Nasho wishing to contact us can phone 9497 9879 or 0402 576 086, or email nashoswa71@gmail.com

We are also saving our National Service history in platoon or section photos – so could you please email to the above email address.

You can view our website of photos that we have managed to save at www.wanashos.wikidot.com/

Bob McGuire  Nashos WA

Think Albany and the National Anzac Centre for your next reunion event.

Our picturesque city marks the location where the first European settlers set foot in Western Australia, and over 41,000 Anzacs left Australia for the First World War. Albany is home to vibrant landscapes, award-winning beaches and fresh locally grown produce.

Albany boasts the convenience of a major city while being surrounded by amazing natural environment, including four spectacular National Parks just minutes drive in any direction.

Set within the heritage listed Princess Royal Fortress - one of Australia’s most significant pre-federation coastal defence fortifications - the award winning National Anzac Centre honours the Anzacs of the First World War. Visitors follow the real life experiences of one of the 32 Anzac characters through the Great War using interactive multimedia unique artefacts, rare images and film and audio commentary.

Contact Matt Hammond on 0472 815 242 to discuss your needs and the package options available.

VISIT WWW.AMAZINGALBANY.COM.AU FOR MORE INFORMATION.
Your Letters

Warrior strips down for speed

We have made a lot of progress in developing the Warrior Racing FG Falcon racing in the National Improved Production Cars events.

We have removed a lot of weight from the car to get it lighter to make it more competitive by removing all unnecessary brackets, electrical items and heat shield/deadeners from under the car. We removed the 20kg battery and sourced a lighter 1kg one.

We have been involved in developing the chassis with ride heights, springs, shock absorbers and relocating items for distribution of weight. The car now handles a lot better, instead of sliding all over the track.

In earlier races our Warrior Race driver Grant Johnson, who recently won the National Saloon Car title, should have used the car as a ‘drift car’ instead of a circuit racing car.

With the development progress the car was much more competitive and was running in the top 5 in the 22 car field. We need this car to run in the high 61 to 62 second bracket to get it up the pointy end of the category, which is quite achievable as we have the most decorated and competitive driver in Australia. Our aim is to have a championship winning Improved Production car.

The team directors are still battling along with the ATO to achieve DGR and ACNC status, this battle has been raging on since the beginning of the year and appears to be bigger than the battle of Long Tan.

At the moment we have stopped running the car to carry out engine development, upgrading the engine from a 5.4 litre modular engine with a cast iron block to a 5.8 litre (351) aluminum block for more horsepower and torque to compete with the 6 litre Holdens.

The Warrior Racing Team is going places and making a name for itself with raising profile, awareness, and funds for military veterans and the families for death on active service/training, disabilities, PTSD, anxiety or family crises. Warrior Racing carries the logos of eight organisations and supports the whole three services, Army, Air Force and Navy. Please all join the RSL as this a worthy organisation.

Kevin Otway
Warrior Racing Team

The Warrior Racing Team first featured in The Listening Post in the April edition this year. Kevin Otway served with the SASR from 1971-77 and then for 20 years as a CIB detective-sergeant in the WA Police Force. In the 90s he moved into the transport industry and ran Ontraq Haulage. At the same time, Kevin Otway developed his passion for racing and set up and managed the V8 Supercar Cat Racing team in Perth.

Why YOU should join the RSL

Please, please, share the news...

If you have or have had a military service number you are eligible to be a member of the RSL.

Service Membership - For those who have served in the Australian Defence Forces or with Allied Forces in any theatre of conflict or for not less than six months in the Regular or Reserve Forces.

Affiliate Membership - For those who are related to a person eligible for Service Membership or who work for a paramilitary force such as Fire Brigade, Nurses, or Emergency Services.

Regardless of how you were enlisted, you are eligible! I was out in Waroona recently talking to a local fella. Somehow we got on to the subject of being in the military and I mentioned I was the President of the Waroona-Hamel RSL. He told me about his service and I asked him if he had considered joining the RSL. His response was "but I was only a Nasho..." My soul was saddened when again I was reminded that many who have served rate their service on the way in which their service came about, where they served and for how long they served. We are all the same! We all served! The RSL is there for all of us and provides support equally. Every day I will do what I can to spread the word and pass on this message. So many need support and it really is close-by and easily accessible... they just need to know that. In response to my personal appeal on Facebook I have had a number of my 'friends' respond as follows...

“Police?” (this person’s Dad had also served in the RAAF). “Well there you go Tracey you learn something every day. Never knew I was eligible. Ex-Army Reserve and Emergency Service. I never knew I could join.”

“You’re such an inspiration! Keep spreading the word and send me the info about how I join?” X (I served in the RAAF). “Well there you go Tracey you learn something every day. Never knew I was eligible. Ex-Army Reserve and Emergency Service. I never knew I could join.”

If a simple post on my personal Facebook page can within a day get responses like this then imagine what we can do if we all posted this info.

I frequently post similar information on a number of Facebook pages in our local area. We have to get the word out there.

Tracey Fickling
President Waroona-Hamel RSL Sub-Branch
Exciting times ahead for RSLWA

by the new CEO of RSLWA

John McCourt

New RSLWA CEO John McCourt says it’s an absolute privilege, yet a great challenge, as he moves into the role at ANZAC House.

He says the stage has been set and the groundwork prepared for one of the most exciting periods in the organisation’s proud history.

The introduction of new advocacy and support services, the continuation of commemorative initiatives toward Remembrance Day 2018, the planned redevelopment of ANZAC House and building membership head a list of opportunities.

“I am very much looking forward to leading a professional team here at ANZAC House in serving the members of RSL in WA,” Mr McCourt said.

A former member of the Board of Directors and a serving reservist, John says a key driver for the organisation into the future is the rollout of improved advocacy and the welfare services and the essential training that goes with it.

“At the core of everything we do is looking after the best interests of our members, serving and ex-serving men and women and their families,” he said.

“The backdrop to our immediate and long-term future is an organisation that rightly recognises those who have faithfully served their country – no matter where that service has been undertaken.

“The heart and soul of the RSL is in the sub-branches, and I will be doing everything I can to support the Board in improving our support and services to members.”

“This comes down to doing core business well. It means ensuring a new approach to advocacy and support services that is visionary in its outlook, best practice in its implementation and focused in its delivery.

“We have a very proud history and my job is to lead a team that delivers on member expectations as we move into the future.”
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Long Tan a 2016 highlight

by RSLWA Centenary Program Manager Sharon Harford

With the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan there were numerous commemorative events held across the State and Australia. It was my pleasure to work with the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch on their commemorative service where the Governor was the guest speaker. The service was well attended and included local schools whose representatives laid wreaths in memory of the fallen.

Following the success of our first Antiques Military Roadshow we will be hosting our last one in ANZAC House before we close down to build new premises. If you have an item of memorabilia please come in on Sunday October 16 to have it valued by our experts Wayne Gardiner, John and David Burridge. We will also be open for one of our famous lunches on the day.

Remembrance Day 2018 will be a very memorable event and in the lead up to it the RSL Poppy ladies are once again knitting and crocheting furiously to create 60,000 poppies to go on display at the State War Memorial. Workshops are held on the first Friday of every month.

After a successful exhibition of the 10th Light Horse in 2015 at the Perth Royal Show, the Royal Agricultural Society will be creating an exhibition called Women of the Empire and Unsung Heroes. Come and visit us in the Guest Town Pavilion where we will be helping out with activities for children and of course making our famous poppies.

If you would like to volunteer to help out please give me a call. For further information on any of these programs and to register your interest please contact Sharon at RSLWA on 9287 3799.

2016 Upcoming Events:

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Part of the parade for the Mandurah service commemorating the Battle of Long Tan.
Respected military antique experts Wayne Gardiner, John and David Burridge will offer free valuations during the military antiques roadshow.

RSLWA Military Antiques Roadshow

Do you have a mysterious piece of military memorabilia that you’d love to know more about? The Returned & Services League of Western Australia can help!

Another Military Antiques Roadshow will be held on October 16 at ANZAC House as part of the Perth Heritage Days weekend. Organisers are expecting First World War memorabilia to feature on the day.

Respected military antique experts John Burridge, his son David Burridge and Wayne Gardiner will be on hand to enlighten members of the public who bring in their treasured possessions and will hopefully reveal some rare treasures from Australia’s war history. Our valuers have years of experience in the militaria collectables field and John is long-time Commonwealth Government Approved Valuer for the Cultural Gifts Program (specialising in militaria).

The inaugural roadshow last year was a great success and this will be the last one at ANZAC House due to the buildings’ demolition as part of the construction of a proposed new ANZAC House complex.

The Westralian Great War Living History Association will also display their associated memorabilia. People are asked to bring in no more than two items per person to allow our experts to see each person. For safety and security reasons please do not bring in any firearms or ordnance (bombs, hand grenades etc).

**When:** 10am to 4pm, Sunday October 16, 2016.

**Where:** ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace (cnr Irwin Street) Perth.

**Tickets:** Free to attend. Lunch will be available to purchase.

**More info:** Phone ANZAC House on 9287 3799 or email rslwashq@iinet.net.au

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Respected military antique experts Wayne Gardiner, John and David Burridge will offer free valuations during the military antiques roadshow.
Sorely missed: Banjo Pattison was an iconic figure at ANZAC House.

Banjo: Commissionaire extraordinaire

Korean War veteran Anthony ‘Banjo’ Pattison died on July 15 and immediately left a glaring vacancy at ANZAC House.

For years Banjo volunteered to act in the role of commissionaire winning popularity with his unpretentious and helpful manner. He enlisted more than 200 new members of the RSL.

On a crisp sunny morning on July 25, around 60 people paid their respects at Karrakatta's Brown chapel.

At the start of the service a guard of honour greeted the coffin as it was laid to rest at the front of the chapel by four members of ANZAC House staff. Banjo's military friends in full uniform and medals respectfully looked on.

A number of stories were shared by close friends Cathy Swan, Diane McGarry and Irma McQueen who all noted how much of an immensely private man ‘Banjo’ was. He was born on August 20, 1939 and came to Western Australia in 1986 to see The America's Cup and never left. He was a medical man in the Navy and was proud of his Navy service.

RSLWA CEO Phil Orchard recited the Naval Ode. The Last Post was played as the coffin descended. A private reception was held at ANZAC Club, the place where Banjo took such pride in his voluntary work.

24,000 Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea sold already

The RSL Spirit of ANZAC Grevillea – sold through all good native garden stores – continues to notch up successes nationally.

Norwood Industries, the company responsible for distributing labels to companies selling the plants, advises that 24,000 hybrid plants have been sold since the launch in March last year.

RSLWA receives a royalty payment of 90¢ per plant which means it will receive $21,600. The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) receives a 10¢ per plant payment.

The plants – special hybrids developed by the BGPA – are wholesaled through WA's Benara Nurseries and Sydney-based Humphris Nursery. Don't miss out on your plant!
RSLWA’s latest Board member is Bunbury-based Christopher Mayfield OAM, a third generation professional soldier who completed 26 years of service with the Australian Regular Army in January 2014.

He took on the role of Director Business Development at South Regional TAFE WA, where he is responsible in developing capabilities and opportunities to support the regional growth plan.

“As a contemporary veteran I am privileged to be provided the opportunity to support serving members, veterans and the wider RSLWA family,” said Mr Mayfield, who will replace now State President Peter Aspinall as the representative for the Great Southern region. “I am focused on advancing RSLWA as a vibrant and relative League. Although a much different fight, I look forward to inform enhanced strategies to better connect with veterans and re-engage with the RSL community.”

Chris is a member of the Capel RSL Sub-Branch.

His interests include mountaineering and ice climbing, and he has undertaken numerous mountaineering expeditions overseas. His other interests include sailing and rugby union and catching up on quality time with his family. Chris is married to Joanna and has three children aged between eight and 16.

Chris enlisted in August 1988 and was allocated to the Corp of Artillery. He has deployed on numerous operations in South East Asia and the Middle East, with postings to the United States of America. His service culminated in senior appointments at Brigade and overseas operational levels.

Chris holds a Master of Arts in Leadership and Strategic Studies from Texas University, a Bachelor of Management and Professional Studies from Southern Cross University and a Graduate Diploma in Vocational Education. He was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in July 2013 for meritorious service and leadership whilst deployed on operations in the Middle East.
Honouring those who were only 19

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50th Anniversary Edition

“We would do anything for a mate…
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They were the forgotten diggers. A generation of young men who fought for Australia like their fathers before them. But they returned as outcasts, casualties of a war nobody understood. In the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, The Bradford Exchange is proud to honour our veterans with a quality timepiece imbued with the spirit of the Anzacs that flows in their veins.

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Kristy Sudintas, from 10th Light Horse Bunbury Troop, demonstrates ‘tent pegging’ at a flat gallop with a P1908 sword in hand. She is riding Australian stock horse ‘Syd’.

WA will for the first time host the Australian Light Horse Association Cup 2016 at Perth Royal Showgrounds on October 28, 29 and 30.

Troopers are coming from all over Australia – and New Zealand – to take part in the military games and to commemorate the 99th anniversary of Beersheba.

“We have confirmation of troopers from Queensland, NSW and South Australia attending as well as representation from all Western Australian Troops – Bunbury, Albany, Esperance, Kelmscott – Pinjarra, Swan,” said Trooper Daniel McDonald, Vice President of the 10th Light Horse Bunbury Troop Inc.

“Troopers are also travelling from Geraldton, Northam, Harvey, Greenbushes, Cowaramup and Margaret River.

“Invitations have been sent to the New Zealand Mounted Rifles Trust and a couple is expected to attend.”

The Australian Light Horse Association has endorsed the project and National President Phil Chalker travelled to Bunbury in January for a weekend training workshop and to Albany in June for a similar session of skill at arms training. All the troops throughout the State are actively training for the events.

“This will be the largest gathering of Light Horsemen on the Claremont Show grounds since 1914.

“We are commemorating the Beersheba anniversary with a ceremony and cavalry charge on Saturday October 29, with riding events and displays on Saturday and Sunday.

“The event is open to the public to view; we will be having displays of memorabilia and equipment.

We have a living history association providing support, ground crew and equipment.”

For the latest information go to www.facebook.com/10thLightHorseBunburyTroop

Beersheba, a heavily fortified town 43km from the Turkish bastion of Gaza, was the scene of an historic charge by the 4th Light Horse Brigade on October 31, 1917. Beersheba anchored the right end of a defensive line that stretched all the way from Gaza on the Mediterranean coast.
We were **expendable**
says Z force man

**Ted Dubberlin** OAM ED JP, is a life member of the RSL and Meritorious Medal recipient. He is a past President and past Secretary of Bedford-Morley Sub-Branch. Today he’s still active in the club as a warden and welfare officer. This is his story...

by **Royceton Hardey**

After seven decades the Z Special Unit is no longer a secret.

The unofficial permission to speak began the moment a long overdue plaque dedication at the Australian War Memorial ended in August this year.

In the front row were 19 Z Special Unit survivors including Perth man Ted Dubberlin (92). As he watched the proceedings, the cold swirling Canberra winds represented the state of his mind; a swirl of memories.

Move forward a couple of weeks and the secrets are being told – fast! The tape recorder is hurriedly switched on as Ted starts sharing stories while leading me to his kitchen table.

Ted grins, the first thing he tells me about Z Unit is “I realised after the war... we were expendable. “We just didn’t think about it. There was a war on; we were in the Army. We didn’t think about how expendable we were.

Continued **over page**

Ted Dubberlin holding an edition of *The Canberra Times* which captured the emotion following the Australian War Memorial’s recognition of Z Special Unit.
It only occurred to me years after the war."

Ted and his mate Jack de Lacy were part of a water transport unit in Caboolture, close to Bribie Island when an opportunity came knocking in 1944.

At the YMCA on a Sunday Ted remembers what happened: "There was this hall; and at the end was a table with about six army officers. My mate Jack didn’t have a hat on, I had a hat but no shirt. So we swapped, he took my hat and away he went and he came back.

“I said what happened, what do they want? He said they asked me a lot of questions so we swapped clothing again and then I went up. They said we were not on the list, but I said we are interested. So they said OK, and they asked a lot of questions.

“What helped me and Jack get in was the moment they realised we were wireless operators. They had 10 names on their list and it turned out they only took seven and in that seven was us two.”

Both Ted and Jack had the skills they were looking for as wireless operators because communication was everything for what was to come. Ted was accepted by the Allied Intelligence Bureau and was posted to the Far Eastern Liaison Office, cover name – FELO, an intelligence and propaganda unit.

Ted recalls some of the missions he had to do...

“We were put on a troop ship after intensive training and landed in Torokino in Papau New Guinea and we had to collect a couple of Japanese prisoners. In the leaflets section of the printing propaganda unit we had these Japanese-Americans who had given up and they helped us make the leaflets.

“So we met the Commanding Officer and I didn’t know what was going on we just did what we were told and the CO says the sergeant will take you to the Quartermaster’s store and you will get an Owen Gun and a side arm (pistol).

The CO looked at Ted and said, “the prisoners will not escape... in other words, this is why you need to be armed; it’s what the weapons are for. So we got a three-tonne truck we rode along the coast and into the jungle and there was this infantry unit who had captured these Japs. We had a had a compound and we put them in there.”

In another role Ted worked the field patrols and ship’s crew. While on the patrol boat his role was wireless operator, port gunner and ‘captain of the heads’.

“The wireless operator had to clean the toilet! I would do the coding, decoding, sending messages but when we were in trouble the skipper took over the radio and I would be on the port gun.”

The information sent back by Ted dealt with the location of fortifications, troop movements and other information that would help with future landings.

He completed overseas service in the Solomon Islands, Dutch Halmahera, and Southern Philippines as well as New Guinea, Morotai and Borneo.

The work of Z Special Unit may not have come to light if it hadn’t been for anthropologist Christine Helliwell. Christine, a reader in anthropology at the ANU College of Arts and Social Sciences, was doing research into the indigenous Dayak people in Borneo. She discovered there were soldiers who had operated in areas where the Dayak people lived.

“She is the one,” Ted says “she is the instigator of it all – that is how we ended up in Canberra recently, all because of her.”

In WA there are three other members remaining of Z Special Unit. Ted served from 1941 to 1946 and was presented with the Meritorious Medal at ANZAC House on June 7, 2001 by the then National RSL President Major General Peter Phillips AO MC (Ret’d).

The Z Special Unit plaque is currently located in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard at the Australian War Memorial.
Sydney-based RSL DefenceCare advocate Ian Wilson joined the WA team for training last month. Pictured from left is Ian, Claims Advisor Morgana Ramsey, State Manager Barry Chalk and Community Support Worker Rosalind Howat.

RSL DefenceCare team is hard at it

by State Manager RSL DefenceCare
Barry Chalk

It’s only been a few weeks since RSL DefenceCare opened shop at ANZAC House in Perth, but the new team has hit the ground running.

In that time the claims team of Barry Chalk and Morgana Ramsey, assisted by Community Support Worker Rosalind Howat, have set up office and gone about the business of putting systems in place to begin providing services for the veterans of WA.

Barry and Morgana have had some 60 queries resulting in 31 interviews booked up until September 26 and the team was initially joined by their trainer Ian Wilson from the RSL DefenceCare team in Sydney.

He sat in on appointments with clients and gave continuous consolidation training to maintain the service quality of the team in WA. From seven interviews in one week the team prepared some 20 claims for submission to DVA.

Interviews were conducted on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday at 0900, 1100 and 1400.

Please take advantage of the email address wa@rsldefencecare.org.au which provides an excellent means of getting through to the team for assistance.

The team has also spoken to groups about the services they can provide and are keen to speak to any ex-service organisations (ESO) that might like to learn more about the services offered.

Rosalind also reported a steady flow of calls for assistance coming through from both new clients and clients previously assisted by RSLWA.

Clients are reassured that the service and level of assistance available to them has not changed.

The Community Support Worker can be contacted directly on 0417 905 742.
Proud Indigenous service

Bishop Jeremy James honoured two Aboriginal servicemen – Harry Thorpe and Reg Saunders – in his homily at St George’s Cathedral on Sunday July 3. The homily was delivered as part of NAIDOC 2016 and the service was attended by RSLWA’s Vice President Denis Connelly.

“Indigenous Australians have served in virtually every conflict and peacekeeping mission since the start of the last century from the Boer War, where they served as trackers, to East Timor and Afghanistan,” Bishop James said.

“For the first half of the 20th century, however, non-Europeans were officially barred from serving in Australian armed forces but during WW1, over 1000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders managed to enlist. Sometimes their skin was deemed ‘white enough’ but as the conflict wore on and losses rose, recruitment officers took everybody.”

Bishop James said the reasons for enlistment were many: some hoped their war service would help the campaign for citizenship and equality (it didn’t); some believed the war was just, others sought adventure, good pay or joined up because mates did.

Indigenous Australians were present in almost every Australian campaign of WWI. In the heat of battle, survival could come down on relying on your mates, so racism, for once, took a back seat. But once the war ended, very few indigenous veterans were granted a soldier settler block. They were not given full citizenship and rights and still had to live under the so-called ‘Protection Acts’ that imposed strict control over almost every aspect of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander life.

“Despite the disappointment of Indigenous veterans after WWI, hundreds joined up with the outbreak of WWII in 1939,” Bishop James said.

“General David Morrison has written, ‘It is humbling to know that during WWII almost every able-bodied Torres Strait Islander enlisted to fight, their intimate knowledge of the waters and their great skill as seamen were highly prized’ (Speech given on August 1, 2014, at the Ramindjeri Kangaroo Skin Presentation, Victor Harbour, South Australia).

“Indigenous servicemen in the regular Army, RAAF and RAN received equal pay (almost unheard of in civilian jobs), they could expect promotion and they forged friendships with all. On the other hand, even in uniform some were refused service in pubs or endured racial taunts from other soldiers, usually not in their own units.”

Altogether 3,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders served in WWII, mainly in specially raised indigenous units. The experience of these troops was very different. Pay was lower, and unless they
Bishop highlights service

Bishop Jeremy James highlighted the service of two Indigenous servicemen during his homily at St George’s Cathedral.

His speech was made as part of NAIDOC Week, which took its title from National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee.

Here are his comments about Harry Thorpe and Reg Saunders.

**Harry Thorpe** was born at the Lake Tyers Aboriginal Mission Station near Lakes Entrance, Victoria.

He was married and working as a labourer when he enlisted in the AIF in February 1916. Posted to the 7th Battalion, he joined the unit in France in July, just as the Somme offensive began. He became an accomplished front-line infantryman. In his first action Harry went into the terrible fighting at the battle of Pozières and was soon seriously wounded. The following year he was wounded again on the Hindenburg Line but was able to rejoin the battalion for the third battle of Ypres. In the capture of Broodseinde Ridge in October he was awarded a Military Medal the citation reading, ‘he inspired those under him’. On August 9 1918, at the battle of Lihoms, Harry was seriously wounded, and died shortly afterwards.

**Reg Saunders** was born in Framlingham, Victoria and had joined up in 1940. His uncle Bill had been killed in action in 1918. His brother Harry having served with the 2/14 on the Kokoda Track was killed in action in New Guinea in 1942. Reg had served in Libya, Greece and in Crete, spending a year on the run after Germans captured the island.

Following his escape and return to Australia, he was sent to an Officer Training Course and became the first Indigenous military officer. After the WWII, Reg enlisted again in 1950 and led a company of the 3rd Battalion in the Battle of Kapyong, Korea.

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**despite obstacles**

served overseas they did not have access to many veterans’ benefits. However, four decades of passionate campaigning have brought about change.

Indigenous women also served, such as Kathleen Ruska from North Stradbroke Island, who became the poet Kath Walker and later took her tribal name of Oudgeroo Noonuccal and served in the Australian Medical Women’s Army Service.

Her cousin Winnie Iselin also served joining the same service.

Yet war service failed to translate into full citizenship and recognition, even though they were allowed to march on ANZAC Day.

“Post WWII we could talk of many. Of Godwin Wilson, Horace and John Cullen in Korea; Graham Taylor and Phil Prosser in Malaya; Frank Charles, Gil Green, Les Kropinyeri, Ian Gordon Muckray in Vietnam; Jason Garlett in East Timor.

“More than 700 indigenous men and women continue to serve today in the Army, both regular and in reserve forces, such as the Pilbara Regiment in this State.

“I respect the service, both past and present of the indigenous peoples to the Australian Army, Navy and Air Force. On behalf of the Archbishop and the Dean and Chapter of this Cathedral, I am sorry for the prejudice that they have had to suffer and endure.”

Bishop James referred to the cathedral’s dedicated Soldier’s Chapel and commitment to honour those who serve their country.

“All are made in the image of God, and all are called to serve God and each other all are created equal, and all are deserving of respect. We give thanks for those from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities who have done so selflessly and with valour.”

**Corporal Harry Thorpe,**
who won the Military Medal in WWI. Courtesy Australian War Memorial.
Wreaths were laid on behalf of RSLWA by businessman George Jones at the 100th anniversary of the battles of Fromelles and Pozières.

He came away from those ceremonies in July with a great sense of pride in Australia’s contribution during the First World War.

Going to those green fields and seeing the memorials and thousands of white crosses, he says, brings home strongly the extraordinary contribution by our World War I Diggers.

“It makes you very proud to be an Australian. We punched way above our weight.

“My feeling is the average Australian doesn’t understand the respect that France holds for Australia - particularly in the north of France, where the respect for Australians is extraordinary and I think it is there as well in the higher echelons of the French military and government.”

Mr Jones, a Vietnam veteran who addressed the 2016 Commemorative Service at Langley Park, has been back to the Western Front eight times and on one occasion offered financial backing to archaeologists who eventually uncovered the remains of 250 Australian and British soldiers near Fromelles. The French land owner actually offered the land for the dig because nothing would grow there. Lime was laid over the bodies a century ago to dissolve them.

In the end, the Australian Government met the cost of the dig and the bodies were relocated to the Fromelles (Pheasant Wood) Military Cemetery, the first new Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery for more than 50 years.
Marinko ‘Tich’ Tomas was born and bred in Nannup, was well liked and very active in the district. He was drafted into the Australian army in 1965 and joined 5RAR for the battalion’s tour of SVN.

On July 8, 1966 he became a statistic - WA’s first Nasho killed in the Vietnam War.

But that vastly underestimates the impact of his death and it emerged again on the 50th anniversary, when hundreds of people gathered in Nannup to attend the commemoration and rededication of the memorial erected in his honour, including members of his family, many of his comrades from 5RAR, a contingent of Vietnamese ex-servicemen and many members of the Nannup community.

Nannup icon Ross Croft, who was MC for the service, reported: “The number of people attending, the sincerity with which the speeches were delivered, and the overall feeling of respect that was on display, amply illustrated that our fallen soldiers, comrades and friends are never forgotten.”

Nannup not only refurbished its memorial to Tich, it has also created an entire Avenue of Honour in the town. There are 23 plaques mounted on timber along the Avenue of Honour in Higgins Street which commemorate the sacrifice of servicemen from WWI, WWII and the Vietnam War.

One of them is for Tich Tomas. Retired RAN commander Trevor Hay, a resident of Nannup, came up with the idea of establishing the Avenue of Honour.

Trevor took his idea to the local shire council and a grant was applied for through the ANZAC Centenary Grants Program. Louise Stokes, the community development officer for the Shire of Nannup, was instrumental in securing the grant.

A number of planning meetings were held to decide where the avenue could be established, what type of plaques and the species of trees to be used. The Nannup RSL Sub-Branch stepped in and provided extra funding to enable the plaques to be made from cast aluminium. It was felt that the proposed stainless steel was ‘too cold’ to be used in a memorial setting.

With an enormous amount of assistance from the Shire of Nannup, the Nannup Timber Processing Company and the RSL sub-branch the avenue of honour was established in time for the 2015 ANZAC Day parade. The well attended dedication ceremony was held between the Dawn Service and the 11am ANZAC Parade.

Like many other small country towns throughout Australia, Nannup does not forget those who went to war to fight for what they believed in.
Women feature in The Centenary of the RSL

Edith Cowan strongly opposed our involvement in the First World War but as soldiers started returning home wounded from Gallipoli and the Western Front she suggested the formation of the Soldiers’ Institute in 1915 as a practical way of helping the soldiers.

The institute then became the first home of what later became the modern Returned & Services League of WA.

Indeed, throughout the RSL’s history and until today, women have played a significant role in the organisation. No fewer than nine women currently head sub-branches in Western Australia.

WA was the first port of call in Australia for hospital ships coming back from the war and Mrs Cowan helped organise a welcoming committee for them.

Some 32,231 Western Australians enlisted in WW1. In 1915, Mrs Cowan established the Soldiers’ Institute to provide soldiers with meals, rest and recreation. She was the first chairman of the Soldiers’ Welcoming Committee and also of the Soldiers’ Institute Committee.

She strongly advocated that people who had returned from the war should be offered jobs before others. After the war, she supported the League of Nations, which was set up in 1919 to promote world peace and cooperation. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of her work.
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After the war, she supported the League of Nations, which was set up in 1919 to promote world peace and cooperation. She was awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in recognition of her work.
Our first President, LTCOL W.O. Mansbridge, DSO, VD, was elected in May 1916.

Soldiering attracted the Colonel early in life and he was one of the first to train at Blackboy Hill Camp, where he was a Company Commander of the 16th Battalion and landed at Gallipoli with this section under his leadership.

On the peninsula he will best be remembered for the gruelling he and his men had at Pope's Hill, where, in addition to the enemy's fire, his company came under the shelling of the Queen Elizabeth, which somehow or other sent her dreadful 15-inch projectiles into the lines of our own men instead of amongst the Turks.

He and his company were blown up as a result, but later he again figured prominently for his good work at Dead Man's Ridge. He was awarded the DSO for service in the field, and, shortly afterwards was invalided back to Australia where he became the first president of what is now RSLWA.

However, after a short period of convalescence he reported for duty. In 1916, he left for the front again and, in France, he remained in command until after the battle of Messines when his health gave way and he was ordered back to England. He returned to Australia in August 1919.

Throughout the war Colonel Mansbridge was familiarly known as 'Old Bill' and regarded by all who came in contact with him as a first-class soldier.

Mansfield was awarded a Distinguished Service Order for exceptional gallantry and resource during the first assault at Gallipoli on April 25, 1915 and again on May 2 and 3 during an assault on a difficult position.
Veterans Exercise Programs

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The homes of the RSL head office

In 1916 the Soldiers’ Institute Building was opened in Perth as the head office of the Soldiers’ Welcoming Committee and it was the first permanent home of the League in Western Australia.

Alongside the Soldiers Welcome Committee, the 11th Battalion Association formed in early 1916 so that returning soldiers could speak with one voice after having received poor treatment at the hands of the authorities. On May 27, 1916 it was resolved that the name should be altered to ‘Returned Soldiers’ Association’ and that membership should be open to men of all units.

The WA Branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia was chartered on April 25, 1917. However, due to the tyranny of distance at the time, it wasn’t until August 1918 that Western Australia attended its first national executive meeting.

The WA Branch head office remained in the Soldiers Institute until 1934. The first ANZAC House was located on St Georges Terrace on the site next to the current building. It was opened in 1934 and served as the headquarters of the League until 1976.

It was demolished with the provision for a new ANZAC House as part of the Law Court structure, which opened in 1981. As part of the new development, the State Branch surrendered its property to the Crown.

Should the WA Government formalise the transfer of title back to RSLWA, a new ANZAC House may provide advanced facilities for the RSL as well as the potential to embrace other ESOs in a one-stop shop capability.
Group photograph: RSL members and four ladies in front of the Soldiers’ Welcome Institute 1925.

From the old to the new: Architect’s impression of the proposed new ANZAC House.
RSL sub-branches grew rapidly

When the RSL was formed in 1916 membership grew quickly and before long it was necessary to split up into branches.

The first sub-branch was chartered in Northam on May 10, 1916 and early offshoots were formed in Fremantle, Kalgoorlie and later in many of the country districts where facilities were established and built – often through the generous assistance of the public.

The number of sub-branches continued to grow and reached a peak of more than 200 throughout the State.

Over the past century sub-branches have been involved in the provision of services such as hospital wards, libraries and infant health centres in addition to hosting Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day services for their communities.

One hundred years later total membership of Service and Affiliate members has climbed above 10,000 for the first time in several years. The Fremantle Sub-Branch was recently revived and were the proud winners of the 2015 Newdegate Cup for best sub-branch and the Ken Bladen shield for increase in memberships, on a pro-rata basis.
Membership a challenge for all

Membership of the RSL has been a major topic of discussion over the century.

If you delve into the archives you will see that we have tried many, many times over the years to increase our numbers.

Affiliate membership of the RSL was first introduced in 1969 in South Australia. It was introduced in the belief that the families of veterans would bring a new vitality to the RSL, while maintaining the RSL ethos of unselfish service, loyalty, and adherence to the highest ideals of citizenship.

Today the scope of Affiliate membership has been increased to recognise the contribution of those who serve our community through their role in emergency services such as the Police, Fire Brigade, Ambulance Service and the State Emergency Service.

In 1976 Service membership was introduced in a bid to increase numbers. For the first time men and women who did not serve in theatres of war became eligible to join the RSL. At the end of 2015, there were 7,883 Service members and 2,152 Affiliate members at 132 sub-branches.

For the first time in many years there were more than 10,000 members – after a slight upward increase in 2014. Membership Officer Andrea Hunt says ‘Let’s keep up the great work and I challenge every one of you to bring in a new member before we tally up the numbers at year end’.

Don’t forget the sub-branch that pro-rata brings in the most new members each year becomes the winner of the Ken Bladen Shield.

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The first Soldiers’ Welcoming Committee in 1915 began a partnership that has lasted over a century.

Originally women were not eligible to join the Returned and Services League in their own right but they were strongly associated with ex-service personnel and set up networks of auxiliaries in most of the sub-branches.

They were a driving force of many a fundraising effort which contributed to welfare and enabled sub-branches to purchase equipment and resources. They also undertook many tasks including the transport of convalescing patients from hospital and sending comfort packages to service personnel. During the Second World War they organised camouflage net-making lessons for the sub-branches and collectively made a substantial contribution to the war effort.

Many of the Women’s Auxiliary members shared the common bond of being the wives, daughters or mothers of Service personnel and were therefore able to support each other in times of grief and hardship.

Although the Women’s Auxiliary officially in closed in 2015 the role of women in the RSL has changed and is now more about being members in their own right.

Tracey Fickling, the President of the Waroona-Hamel Sub-Branch, is one of nine female presidents in 132 sub-branches. She says the growing number of women in executive positions within the RSL is a direct link between the growing numbers of women serving in the Australian Defence Force.

The RSL Women’s Network was established in 2014 and includes currently serving members of the Australian Defence Force and RSL members.
Fantastic RSLWA Centenary Congress

The RSLWA 100th annual Congress and Ball at Crown Perth on June 18 were a fantastic success with the new national President Rod White AM RFD commenting it was one of the best and most positive congress weekends that he and his wife Judith had ever attended.

VIPs attending Congress included Mr White, Premier Colin Barnett, the Federal Minister for Veterans’ Affairs Dan Tehan and State President Graham Edwards AM.

Rats of Tobruk veteran JJ Wade delivered a thundering Ode and speeches were delivered by North Beach Vice President David Singer, Mr Barnett, Mr Edwards, Ms Leza Howie, the Director of the Military Art Program Australia, Mr Tehan, Senator Glenn Sterle, Paul Papalia MLA, Ms Robyn Collins, General Manager of RSL DefenceCare, Repatriation Commissioner Major General Mark Kelly and Mr White.

Media attending Congress picked up on comments by Mr Edwards about the importance of the RSL’s Poppy Day collections and the RSL’s sole right as an ESO to collect on that day.

Mr Edwards said the RSL’s right to be the sole collector was protected by legislation.

“However, we are also aware of a push to have the Act of Parliament that protects the RSL on this day scrapped and repealed,” he said. “There is a thrust to open collections up to around 56 other ESOs with whom we would have to share the shopping centres, street corners, railway stations and other collections points.

“Both the Trustees of the Act and the RSL have sought a joint meeting with Veterans Minister Joe Francis to clarify the situation.”

Mr Edwards said he was heartened by the reported comments of Premier Barnett that there were ‘no plans’ for a change to the fundraising rules.

(Since congress, the RSL has been in discussions with Veterans Minister Joe Francis and his staff about Poppy Day collections and their importance as a source of funding for the independent WA Aged Sailors Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund).

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Mr Edwards added that if the RSL wanted to leave a lasting legacy for the future then it must continue to bridge the generation gap. He believed this was happening in various ways by:

- Using brochures and social media tools to attract younger female and male veterans through our doors and in 2014 when total membership climbed for the first time since 2007. In 2015 it climbed further to break through 10,000. We need the new members because the unfortunate truth is that in 2015 some 280 members passed away.

- Our Facebook page, started in 2014, now has nearly 5,000 followers which is the most of any RSL site in Australia. We also have active Twitter, Flickr and Instagram followers. Pleasingly, nearly 50 sub-branches are now on Facebook with their own pages.

- Engagement with cadets and schools through their participation in various RSL activities, ranging from Australia Day Awards and the Bugle Program to local sub-branches attending school services and commemorative services.

- Encouraging development of more family-friendly facilities and activities in our sub-branches to accommodate young veterans with young families.

- Seeing young women take up the challenge of broadening the appeal of the RSL and taking leadership roles – nine sub-branch presidents and three Board members are women.

- Electing to our Board a good mix of younger and older members.

The City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch President Alan Richardson OAM JP and members of the committee were privileged to share the evening with Cr Phil Marks (Mayor, City of Belmont), Cr Bernie Ryan, Cr Janet Powell (City of Belmont) and Glenys Godfrey MLA (Member for Belmont) and Dr Brendan Nelson AO Director of the Australian War Memorial.

Respect, Remembrance and Comradeship

The City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch was one of many that revelled at the 100th annual State Congress and Centenary Ball at Crown Perth to honour the RSL’s milestone of a century of service to the veteran community.

Since its foundation 1916, the RSL has grown to around 1,306 sub-branches Australia wide with more than 190,000 members and over 200,000 Affiliate members, making it the largest ex-service organisation in the country.

The RSL has a proud tradition of serving current and former members of the Australian Defence Forces and its allies, and through its Australia-wide network is well-placed to ensure excellence in delivery of service to those who have served their country. Sub-branches are determined to retain the identity of the ex-service community in their locations and vigorously uphold the core principles of the RSL – Respect, Remembrance and Comradeship.

Steve Toon
Vice President
City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch
2016 ANZACs of the Year

A highlight of the 2016 Centenary Congress was the presentation of National RSL awards to two ANZACs of the Year – Geoff McClements and Claire Hunt.

The awards were presented by RSL National President Rod White AM RFD.

In particular, RSL National cited:

Mr Geoffrey McClements in recognition of his tireless work for the veteran and wider community of Claremont and for fostering the remembrance and commemoration of Australia's military history.

Ms Claire Hunt of Western Australia in recognition of her inspiring and remarkable commitment to supporting members of the Defence Community and their families through the Defence Transition Mentor Program at the Comet Bay College, Secret Harbour, and for her passionate resolve to honour Australia's military history within the broader community.

Geoff McClements, 93 years young, is the mainstay of the Claremont RSL Sub-Branch.

Claire Hunt is the unassuming Defence 'kids' mentor at Comet Bay College in Safety Bay.

Each in their unique ways made enormous contributions to the serving and ex-serving community.

Geoff enlisted in the Navy at Fremantle in 1941 when he was just 18 years old. He served until 1946 when he was then demobilised. He joined Scarborough RSL in the 1950s, and moved to the Claremont Sub-Branch in the 1970s. Geoff has been the Claremont RSL President for 33 years.

As the Defence Transition Mentor at the Comet Bay College, Claire provides support to secondary students of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families, particularly during their transition into and out of a school on posting or during parental absences due to deployment, exercises or courses.

She has also been the creative force behind the school’s impressive Military History Museum and provided major support for the RSLWA poppy projects, creating no fewer than 7,000 poppies.
Centenary Congress
a great success
New National RSL President Rod White AM RFD was a welcome participant in the Centenary Congress and Ball.

A Vietnam veteran who rose to the rank of Major after enlisting in the Australian Defence Force, Mr White’s service to the RSL and the broader ex-service community won him the Australian Centenary Medal and Life membership of the RSL.

“I joined the RSL in 1971 and have been a champion of its work and Australia’s veteran community ever since,” Mr White said.

Within the RSL, he has had extensive experience including Branch President, State Councillor, Trustee of the Welfare & Benevolent Institution, Director of the ANZAC House Trust plus several other key appointments.

Mr White serves on the Board of RSL LifeCare, the Army Museum of NSW Victoria Barracks Paddington and is on the executive of Regimental committees.

“My priority, of course, will be the betterment of both the veteran community and serving members of the ADF, together with their dependents,” he said. “I also hope to further enhance society’s knowledge and awareness of our military heritage, so Australians never forget the sacrifices that have been made to preserve our freedoms.”

He succeeds Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO, who served as RSL National President from 2009.
The 75th anniversary of the Bombing of Darwin is on February 19 next year and the City of Darwin is inviting civilians and their families who were impacted by this significant event to have their piece of history preserved on the Darwin Civilian Memorial Wall.

Lord Mayor Katrina Fong Lim said the Civilian Memorial Wall, located at the Cenotaph on Darwin’s Esplanade, is an opportunity to recognise the vital role of civilians during the bombing of Darwin.

“The bombing of Darwin was a defining moment in Australia’s history. The Civilian Memorial Wall enables our community and visitors to reflect and pay tribute to those civilians who were affected,” she said.

“I am pleased the City of Darwin is subsidising plaque costs as a small gesture of respect to those affected.”

On February 19, 1942, mainland Australia came under attack for the first time when Japanese forces mounted two raids on Darwin, leaving more than 240 dead and hundreds of casualties.

The two attacks, which were planned and led by the commander responsible for the attack on Pearl Harbour 10 weeks earlier, involved 188 attack aircraft launched from four Japanese aircraft carriers and a second raid of 54 land-based bombers.

Nine ships were sunk in Darwin Harbour and up to 15 others damaged.
Dazzling Centenary Ball raises $70,000

Our Centenary Ball at Perth Crown was a night to be remembered and was well worthy of our centenary. It was a sell-out with 550 members, family, friends and sponsors attending and $70,000 raised from sponsorships and auctions.

Guest speaker Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial, flew in especially for the evening and then flew out immediately after the Ball. We are very grateful to him for giving so generously of his time. He received a standing ovation for his moving speech.

Channel 9 created a special DVD celebrating the Centenary of the RSL which was broadcast at the ball and distributed to sub-branches.

Geoff Hutchison was a fantastic MC and Rob Druitt our auctioneer had the crowd revved up as did the Australian Army Band. Our members were reluctant to leave the Astral Ballroom dance floor and wished the night could have gone on for longer.

Our Gold Sponsors were The George Jones Family Foundation and Bernie and Erin Stephens in conjunction with Midas Plumbing. Our Silver sponsors were Havilah Legal and Hollywood Private Hospital. The Bronze sponsors were the Australian Military Bank, DVG Automotive Group, Defence Bank, Gerard Daniels and Jackson McDonald.

We would like to thank Chris Martin, Military Art, Perth Concert Hall, Fremantle Dockers, Army Museum, Aviation Heritage Museum, Benara Nursery and Lucy Papalia who kindly donated auction items for the event.

We would also like to thank the Perth Mint for supplying the RSL Centenary coins for each of our guests on the evening. These are now available for purchase at our head office.

The evening was also the last official function for past State President Graham Edwards AM and we wish him and Noelene all the very best for his retirement.

Dr Nelson’s video, ‘Reflections’ and the RSL video created by Channel 9 are both available to view on our website; www.rslwhq.org.au
Click on the YouTube link.

Photos of the ball are available on flickr: www.flickr.com/photos/rslwa/albums

Sharon Harford
Centenary Program Manager
Annette and Roger Buddrige and Margot Harness.

Dr Brendan Nelson was a guest speaker at the RSLWA Ball. State President Graham Edwards was also on stage.

Mrs Joanne Baker and Captain Wayne Gardiner.
Squadron Leader John McCourt, Major Wayne Tarr and Commander Philip Orchard, former CEO of RSLWA.

Penny Wilberforce Jones and George Jones AM.

Felicity and Norm Wells.
Vietnam remembered

Many of the 60,000 Australian veterans of the Vietnam War commemorated their lost mates and recalled old times during the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan – Vietnam Veterans Day on August 18.

They did that throughout the nation and, despite a major hiccup, even at Long Tan itself.

Not all services were held on the day but they were all held in the spirit of never forgetting the 521 Australians killed in Vietnam, the 3,129 wounded nor the 60,000 who served.

One earlier highlight was the announcement by the Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan that he will recommend 10 soldiers who fought in the Battle of Long Tan be awarded a military honour or have their existing honour upgraded. One is WA’s Neil Bextrum – recommended for the Commendation for Gallantry.

At the Australian War Memorial, about 1500 Vietnam veterans from across Australia saw B-52 bombers in the air for the first time since the end of the war as they flew over the Australian War Memorial. The planes, both from the United States Air Force’s 69th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, flew an 18-hour, 11,000km mission from Andersen Air Force Base on Guam.

“I was pleased to attend services at the Australian War Memorial and while there was struck by the camaraderie and recognition by the wider community of the contribution by veterans of that era,” said the State President of RSLWA Peter Aspinall.

“One of my most memorable moments came when I met Ramon Lewis, a regular Army veteran of East Timor and the Solomons, who was the son of my radio operator in Vietnam, the late Mick Lewis.

“On display was the original APC – call sign 30A – which I went into Long Tan on with GNR Mick Lewis as part of A Company of the 6th Battalion, RAR. Ramon and I talked about Mick’s service and I was able to point out exactly where his father sat.”

Moira’s CPL Peter Clements was fatally wounded on one of the 10 other APCs as they went to the assistance of D Company 6RAR. He died days later.

Seventeen members of D Company men were killed in action on that day. Of course, many more Australians died during other battles in Australia’s longest war.

In WA, services were held throughout the State, with Col Gibson reporting that at Mandurah, in excess of 900 veterans, families and next of kin of those KIA in SVN, their friends and family turned out for one of two big services on the day.

The other, north of the river, also attracted hundreds of people to Charles Riley Reserve Memorial Precinct.

In Vietnam, a large number of Australian veterans went to Nui Dat and were stunned to learn only a day before that the Vietnam Government had cancelled the 50th anniversary commemorations at Long Tan. Some agreed with the decision.

“I was sympathetic to the decision not to hold a service,” said Graham Edwards, who eventually made it to Long Tan with his family group and other veterans Greg Burrows and Peter Manucci.

“I don’t think the area could have handled such a large crowd – estimated between 3,000 and 5,000.

“I do believe the actual Long Tan veterans should have been given priority in advance of all others and the disappointing fact was that the Vietnam authorities left it so late to make the call.”

Graham got in to the famous cross of Long Tan but no photographs were allowed. The cross is in the epicentre of where the battle raged – on a working rubber plantation with corn and papaya trees.

“The big challenge for the Australian Government is to try to negotiate with the Vietnamese to secure and agree on an area that can be excised for mutual commemorative purposes.”

Graham Edwards and family at Nui Dat – they made it to the Long Tan cross: “We spent 15 minutes at the Cross and laid poppies knitted by Claire Burrow at ANZAC House,” said Graham. “My poppy was kindly provided by Judy Welch. We were not permitted to say the Ode and we respected their wishes...”
44 families of Vietnam KIA at Mandurah

We are done and dusted for 2016, and it's a pleasure to report that in excess of 900 veterans, families and next of kin of those KIA in SVN and our friends and family attended the service at Mandurah.

This attendance figure does not include the Navy sailors from HMAS Stirling (19), SES personnel (12) and the Salvos (8) with an additional 19 VIPs – and 63 high school students from schools in the Mandurah/Murray area.

The march was a great sight from Mandurah Terrace across the old bridge to the swirl of the Scotch College pipes and drums to the Memorial, led by 63 Australian flags. The majority of those marching were even in step, so Marshall Ron Brown reported, with Terry Sullivan being the Parade Commander.

All veterans attending were presented with a badge commemorating the occasion. Brigadier Warren Duncan (ex-LT 8RAR) gave a very detailed and inspiring speech, which was especially well received by those who lost a family member in SVN. Thirty one wreaths were laid, coordinated by Denise Gibson and Barb Hartney.

As part of the honour roll call 63 flags for each of the KIA in SVN were presented to 44 families in attendance. This extensive effort was researched and coordinated by Fred and Anne Abbott with the able help of Colin and Rosanne Cross and Lynn Donnelly.

At the conclusion of the ceremony MC Lionel Morris invited everyone back to Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch for the traditional refreshments and lunch. About 450 helped swell the coffers of the RSL. A military display organised by Ron Rogers (being solely items from SVN period) was very favourably received by all.

Nearly 1,000 veterans and supporters turned out for the 50th anniversary at Mandurah. The march was led by 63 Australian flags honouring West Australians killed in the war.
Children feature at
North Beach

The North Beach Sub-Branch hosted a 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and Vietnam Veterans Day service at the recently refurbished Charles Riley Memorial.

Around 300 veterans marched in a parade preceding the service where Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia gave the keynote address.
A plaque which was created for the occasion with funding from a grant from DVA was unveiled by the Governor and Chris Rampant, past President of the Sub-Branch. North Beach RSL Sub-Branch particularly involved students in the service. The bugler was Angus Jacoumis from Carine Senior High School and the national anthem was sung by Harrison Ion from All Saints College Bullcreek. Trinity College Pipes and Drums accompanied the parade and the 704 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets provided the Catafalque Party. Wreaths were also laid by school students.

Veterans and families then attended a morning tea prepared by Girrawheen Senior High School in the North Beach Community Centre where they were greeted with the tunes of the era which were especially rehearsed for the occasion by the Churchlands Senior High School Band.
Capel held a hugely successful fundraiser in August.

On Saturday August 20, 2016 the staff and friends of Capel Bendigo Bank held a hugely successful fundraising function on behalf of the Capel RSL Sub-Branch. The funds raised will go towards a limestone entry statement wall to be built on the grounds of the RSL Hall in Capel and will complete the upgrade commenced two years ago. The $12,900 raised, along with the sub-branch’s rising membership numbers, prove the firm support from the Capel community for the work being done by Capel RSL members.

Mike McMahon
Secretary Capel RSL Sub-Branch

Building Army bonds

South African veteran Garth Pienaar sent us this photo with a mind to the 74th anniversary of the second Battle of El Alamein coming up in October and to strengthening the mateship between Australian and South African servicemen. He says these mates in a gun pit are easily identified by their distinctive headgear, Australian ’Diggers’ and South African ’Springboks’ playing cards in a gun pit somewhere in North Africa during WWII. Allies since 1914.

It might also be an interesting project for some enthusiast to try and identify the four men in the photograph, says Garth, because it is possible one or more of them could still be alive. The photograph is courtesy the Imperial War Museum in London.
Busselton RSL member Graham Bailey has received an award for his 38 years service with fire brigades in WA.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUSSELTON-DUNSBOROUGH MAIL.

Welcome mat at Busselton RSL

It has been a busy time over the last months at the Busselton RSL Sub-Branch with the Friday Night Fellowship drawing in good crowds. Meals are available on these nights and have proven to be very popular. The Jackpot Joker raffle plus meat raffles have also been very well patronised.

The advocacy and welfare section located in the house adjacent to the RSL hall, headed up by Bob Wood OAM, with Bev Streeter, Rob Lennox and Graeme Caddy, continues to be very busy. The office is open Tuesday through Fridays from 9am until midday. Should anyone need any information regarding any Welfare issues they should call 9752 3382 for an appointment.

The RSL Social Club Social calendar has included several trips visiting wineries and breweries around the local area which all went very well.

The sub-branch annual dinner will be held in November and we are expecting a large crowd.

In June, Graham Bailey received an award for his 38 years’ service with fire brigades in WA. Now with the Sussex Volunteer Fire Brigade, Graham first became a volunteer when he lived in the Wheatbelt. He is very active within the local community in volunteering with iron man events, Men’s Shed and the Veteran Car Club. He also plays a vital role in assisting the RSL with ANZAC and Remembrance Day activities. Well done to Graham! Graham received his award from the Minister for Seniors and Volunteering, Tony Simpson, at a medal ceremony in Perth.

On Wednesday July 27 the sub-branch held a service to commemorate Korean Veterans Day. A small crowd attended the service held at the War Memorial on a lovely sunny Day. Korean veteran Kevin Riseley laid a wreath at the memorial on behalf of the Korean veterans.

Busselton City Mayor Cr Grant Henley, RSL sub-branch President Bob Wood, OAM, Secretary Glenn Woodward, Treasurer Rick Winch, members Don Green and Henry Adam joined Mr Riseley for the service. Following the service, the RSL provided morning tea back at the RSL Hall.

Should you be visiting the Busselton area why not drop in the RSL and say ’Hi’! Every Friday morning around 10am we have a morning tea, and later every Friday commencing at 4.30pm we have our Friday night fellowship which includes a raffles with a two-course meal available for $10 per head.

For any further information please contact Secretary Glenn Woodward on 9752 2488 or email: secretarybsnrsl@bigpond.com

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BUSSELTON-DUNSBOROUGH TIMES.
The City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch celebrated its 100th anniversary with three special activities in June and July.

The first was a bus excursion to the Swan Valley where, among other things, members visited the grave and memorial plaque commemorating a young member of the pioneer Barrett Lennard family who was killed in the conflict.

The second was participation in the RSLWA Centenary Ball, and the third was a celebration luncheon at ANZAC House. Some 30 sub-branch members regularly attend monthly meetings.

City of Perth Sub-Branch was chartered as a sub-branch on June 16, 1916 by the amalgamation of three existing organisations.
Cockburn commemorates Korean service


There were 100 people in attendance who enjoyed the fine sunny weather although there was a chilly breeze blowing. The Catafalque Party and Flag Marshals were from Joint Logistics Unit (West).

Also assembled at the monument were cadets from TS Cockburn Navy Cadet Unit and cadets from Hamilton High Emergency Cadet Unit.

Three ADF Officers presented a Korean War address.

Major Neil Foster from Joint Logistics Unit (West) spoke on the Australian Army involvement during the Korean War. He was followed by CPO Barrie Berggy, also from Joint Logistics Unit (West), who spoke on the RAN service in Korea.

The third speaker was FLLT Mike Dunleavy from No 25 Squadron RAAF Base Pearce, who spoke of the history of the RAAF during the Korean War. The wreath laying ceremony was led by Vice President ‘Tiny’ Small, escorted by Korean War Veteran Brian McKay, and Denis Connelly, State Vice President, who was escorted by Korean War Veteran Jim ‘Dixie’ Lee.

Also in attendance at the service were RSL members from neighbouring sub-branches of Fremantle and Bicton/Palmyra. After the service all in attendance returned to the RSL sub-branch for a light lunch and refreshments. Everyone had an enjoyable day and ensured that we will remember those of the Korean War.

Lest We Forget.

Arthur J Stanton
Ceremonial Advisor
RSL City of Cockburn Sub-branch
The Rhodesian Services Association of WA had a recent get together at its new home – the Osborne Park RSL. Members enjoyed a soup night, put on by the ladies. Mike Nel, the association’s Treasurer and resident pianist, obtained a piano at 100 per cent discount (ie, no cost) and had it tuned and cleaned up to provide background music throughout the evening.

We also had many long serving members of that RSL including the President and some of their ladies, who turned up on the night to join us and we all had a great evening and good comradeship between us all.

We are now planning our own ‘Rhodesia at War’ commemorative service on November 12.

Peter Glynn
Secretary, Rhodesian Services Association of WA
(RSAWA representative to the U & K Association WA)
Three Springs learns of Long Tan

Vietnam veteran Ray Morgan spoke of his vivid memories of August 18, 1966 - of the noise and silence that still haunts him during a 50th anniversary Long Tan service in Three Springs.

Ray, who is President of Three Springs/Arrino RSL Sub-Branch, was five kilometres away in Nui Dat when the fighting occurred.

His outfit built the kitchens, latrines and erected the tents for everyone to use. Ray also told of the trenches his outfit dug to help secure the buildings from enemy fire, and how the noise from the bombing in Long Tan echoed across the land, of the eerie silence when the bombing and gunfire stopped.

Ray’s words bought a few tears to the listening crowd, who applauded his bravery to tell a story that has been with him these last 50 years. About 200 people – including at least 50 schoolchildren – turned out for the service to commemorate Long Tan and the entire Vietnam War.

School children from Three Springs Primary School and members of the public also attended.

Peter McGlade addressed the service, representing RSLWA CEO Philip Orchard, who was attending a funeral in Melbourne. The National Anthem was sung by the Three Springs Primary School, followed by a minute’s silence.

The children read out the names of the Australian fallen on this day in 1966, and the school choir sang a song, which bought a tear to many eyes.

APC finally housed in Three Springs

With our service over it was time to thank the Shires of Coorow, Carnamah, Three Springs and Mingenew for their donations towards obtaining our APC and to thank many donors from around the district.

When Three Springs/Arrino RSL Sub-Branch received notification of APC’s being available to sub-branches; the wheels of motion went into action straight away.

Paperwork filled out with the help of members sent to head office, then how do we get APC from point A to point B? Not a problem, Richard and Veronica Davies came forward with a plan to pick it up, just a date to be sorted. Richard and Veronica set off in their truck and trailer across the country, their sleeping bags on the trailer became their bed at night.

Where do we put our APC? Close to the War Memorial and to stand out enough for people to easily see, walk around it and a shed over the top to cover it. Three Springs/Arrino President Ray Morgan introduced East Timor veteran Rob Ennor to speak about his time driving an APC, of their size and weight and how to drive them in rugged terrain.

Ray then introduced Secretary/Treasurer and fellow Vietnam veteran Con Kikeros who spoke about being a passenger in an APC. Con told of how the APC’s covered them on the fighting lines and how he quickly became to admire not only the machines, but also the men operating them.

The RSLWA State Accountant Peter McGlade was then called upon to cut the ribbon – to cheers and applause.
Sapper Rodney Noel Hubble, who came from the Tammin district, was honoured during a Vietnam Veterans Memorial Service conducted by Tammin RSL Sub-Branch on August 18.

Sapper Hubble was killed in action in 1970. He was only 19.

The service was conducted by the sub-branch secretary Maurice Kissane (ex-RAAF) with assistance from Rod Stokes.

Children from Tammin Primary School who study Vietnam in Year 6 placed a wreath for Sapper Hubble at the Tammin War Memorial Gate, where his name is inscribed. Sapper Hubble performed a very dangerous job with the Vietnam Tunnel Rats but was killed by a mine.

Vietnam veterans were shunned by many in their communities during that divisive conflict. This caused additional psychological problems for our Vietnam veterans and their families.

Tammin Shire President Cr Scott Uphill spoke poignantly of the important healing process.

The Vietnam Veterans Association (WA) President Richard Williams advised that a graveside service was also held in the Perth War Cemetery on August 12 2016 for Sapper Hubble.

I have transferred to Tammin RSL from Belmont RSL and am now Secretary.

I would like to thank past Secretary Lorraine Packman for her excellent service.

Maurice Kissane
Secretary
Tammin RSL Sub-Branch
RSL DefenceCare helps current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in times of injury, illness and crisis.

The team provides:
- a safe place for members of the Defence family to come in troubled times,
- compassionate and understanding support, and
- practical, holistic and immediate assistance.

- An initiative of RSLWA.
- Services include assistance with DVA Claims, Community Support, Financial Assistance and Referrals.
- RSL DefenceCare Claims Advisors are currently undergoing extensive training and mentoring from the NSW team and will soon be able to provide claims advice. Your patience in these early days is appreciated.
- Community Support, financial assistance and referral services are being provided by the experienced Rosalind Howat, who has joined RSL DefenceCare from RSLWA.

Our new team is located at RSLWA Headquarters and is available on 9287 3799 - Give us a call!

Donations to RSL DefenceCare are tax deductible and can be made online at www.rsldefencecare.org.au

All donations from postcodes within WA will be used to support the WA services.
Sub-Branch News

Name changes in northern suburbs

Veterans Woody Woodford, Jan Huscha, John Duffy, Graeme Gibbs (behind) and Bob Paradise attended the function.

Booming population growth in Perth's northern suburbs has resulted in two sub-branches undergoing name changes and being given new charters.

The latest is the City of Wanneroo RSL Sub-Branch, previously Wanneroo/Joondalup, which followed a new charter being presented to Joondalup City RSL, previously Ocean Reef.

State President Peter Aspinall presented the new charter for the City of Wanneroo to Sub-Branch President Wendy Tuffin last month.

Mr Aspinall told the gathered veterans and families it was a rare privilege to be able to present a new charter. Joondalup City received their charter earlier this year and Secretary Ken Beven said the changes were all due to the growing membership.

“This takes our namesake from being Ocean Reef, a suburb of Joondalup, to being Joondalup City, all of Joondalup, due to the growing membership and also being the only sub-branch within the City of Joondalup," he said.

“Our sub-branch was originally chartered as Beaumaris Beach on June 2, 1997 and then re-chartered as Ocean Reef on November 24, 2005.”

State President Peter Aspinall presents the framed charter to City of Wanneroo RSL Sub-Branch President Wendy Tuffin.

Veterans Graeme Gibbs and Steve Cloutman, whose great great grandfather was Sir Brett Cloutman VC, wore his own as well as his relatives' medals.
Korean veterans get their day in the sun

At least a dozen Korean War veterans and their families proudly own South Korean Ambassador for Peace medals due to some dogged work by the City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch’s Secretary Jenny Sciortino.

“She has done some outstanding work chasing up these medals to which the veterans are entitled,” said sub-branch President Ibby Brook. “She is outstanding and goes above and beyond, with her husband Peter helping out in the office and bar.”

In pursuing veterans and families entitled to the medals, Jenny has gathered at least eight more for veterans belonging to other sub-branches. One who recently received his award was Stan Panting, who signed up to help ease his way to board at the appointed time.

On arrival he was told the ship had sailed earlier that morning. After leaving Fremantle, it was torpedoed and only seven men survived.

A few years later, Stan Panting again enlisted – this time for the Korean War fought between June 25, 1950 and July 27, 1953 which involved more than 17,000 Australians, 340 of whom were killed, more than 1500 wounded and 29 taken prisoners of war.

The Korean War began when North Korean forces moved across the 38th parallel into South Korea. In all, 21 nations committed forces and the sacrifice has not been forgotten by the people of South Korea.

South Korean Ambassador for Peace medals were announced by Mr Brook at a ceremony at the Rockingham sub-branch on July 24. He said the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed on July 27, 1953 by US Army Lieutenant General William Harrison Junior, representing the United Nations Command.

The armistice was designed ‘to insure a complete cessation of hostilities and all acts of armed force in Korea until a final peaceful settlement is achieved’. The Armistice established the Korean Demilitarised Zone or border between the two Koreas and finalised the repatriation of prisoners of war.

“However, no final settlement has been yet achieved,” Mr Brook said. “While the cease-fire armistice ended the three year conflict, no peace treaty has been signed so technically the two Koreas remain in effect at war.”

He presented the Ambassador’s Peace Medal and Proclamation to Korean veterans or their representatives: CPL Stanley ‘Stan’ Panting; PTE John Houston Mackay; PTE Herbert Noel ‘Shorty’ Harrison (who was hospitalised and represented by his son Bruce); PTE Kingsley Robert ‘Robbie’ Drew (represented by his wife Marj as Robbie passed away on May 7, 2010); Able Seaman John Ryan; PTE Robert Turner (British Fusilier); PTE Arthur John Scurry (represented by his sisters Anne-Marie and Mary as PTE Scurry was KIA).

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Deadline for next edition:

Tuesday November 15

The preferred method of receiving submissions is via email. Photographs should be attached separately and a minimum of 1Mb. This is your magazine and contributions are welcome.

Address to: The Editor,
The Listening Post,
PO Box 3023 East Perth, WA 6892

Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au

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Laurie ‘Truck’ Sams is an extraordinary 67 year-old amputee who is 100 per cent dedicated to raising awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder.

The SAS Vietnam veteran is cycling 10,000km from Hanoi to Sydney and is now more than half way through the marathon and somewhere between Perth and Adelaide. He left Perth on September 5.

He has opted for beneficiaries like the RSL DefenceCare because he believes they have something to offer veterans. “DefenceCare stands for caring for veterans - but like all organisations they are short of funding and if we can help by making them a beneficiary then that’s where our funding will go so that they can continue to care,” Truck told The Listening Post.

Truck met the new State Manager of RSL DefenceCare, Barry Chalk, only hours after flying into Perth from Singapore last month.

He recalls every detail of a parachute malfunction in 1995 at Aratula, Queensland – after which he was awarded the Star of Courage bravery award for saving the life of his young tandem passenger – and the shattering of his legs when he landed. The lower part of his left leg was amputated – and he has had 14 operations on his right leg.
Truck grabbed a few hours’ sleep after his flight arrived in Perth and then rolled up for an early morning interviews with three TV channels. Meet and greet with locals? No problem. Cycle around Frazer Avenue for the cameras? Sure thing.

Fresh and tanned, Truck is all determination and bright riding gear. He turns 68 on October 3.

A sergeant in the Special Air Service Regiment who went to Vietnam at the age of 20, Truck Sams makes no secret of his PTSD or his determination to help others. He came up with the 10,000km ride – called The Long Ride Home – because the Vietnam War lasted 10,000 days.

“I started in Hanoi and riding down through Vietnam was very appropriate for me because I served there 45 years ago. My whole aim is to raise awareness for our former veterans from all wars and particularly our younger veterans who are suffering from PTSD – and then bringing that awareness to Australians and folks around the world that it is a disease; it’s real and the high suicide rate at the moment is certainly proving we need to do something about it.

“I hope to finish at the Sydney Opera House on the 20th of November after riding up from Canberra, where I am going to be for Remembrance. I’m a sufferer of PTSD and that’s what makes it more motivating for me to help our younger veterans.

“After Vietnam I recognised small symptoms but PTSD does manifest.”

Truck’s early schedule was to ride from Perth to Narrogin, Wagin, Ravensthorpe, Esperance and Norseman before crossing the Nullabor to South Australia, Victoria and New South Wales.

RSL DefenceCare can be contacted on 9287 3799.

- Half way home! Truck salutes the achievement at the Flame of Remembrance in Perth.

10 Reasons why you need a will NOW!

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Take advantage of our flexible home visit appointments.
Team WA – drawn from RAAF Base Pearce, HMAS Stirling and Irwin Barracks plus civilians – raised a staggering $16,000 (and rising) for prostate cancer research in April 2016. The team of motorcyclists covered about 3,300 kilometres in eight days – and it was raining on six of them. The ride was part of a national event involving more than 450 bike riders who raised nearly $400,000 for the research.

Team WA looped around WA after leaving Ginger’s Roadhouse in Upper Swan for Margaret River and then back to Perth.

Civilian riders joined them from as far afield as Kununurra and Broome in the North, and Denmark in the south.

“We participated as a team, be that civilians, Service members or ex-serving members,” said the WA Ride Co-ordinator, Warrant Officer ‘Alby’ Everett. “We had no accidents or injuries and besides the demise of two bikes with engine issues, all went pretty close to plan. The community involvement was a fantastic experience. The generosity of rural Australia never ceases to amaze me and the support, stories and interaction was second to none.”

The primary purpose of the Long Ride (held approximately every 15 to 18 months) is to support the work of the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA), vice Prostate Cancer Research Foundation of Australia, and this is achieved by raising awareness in the community – particularly among men aged 50 years and over – and to raise funds through sponsorship and donations to the PCFA.

Over the preceding months leading up to the ride, Team WA riders did a number of ‘day rides’ out to regional towns to pre-position donation tins for collection either during the Long Ride or at a later date.

Other fund raising activities included seeking local business and corporate sponsorship, the sale of Long Ride merchandise, a motorcycle ‘Show and Shine’ event, and a few days seeking public donations by shaking donation tins at base front gates and in the city.

Ride OIC SQNLDR Ken McLennan said, “Without doubt, the highlight of the Long Ride 2016 was the reception we got from the rural communities we visited. Every town, without exception, appreciated what we were trying to achieve and their support was both generous and without reservation. I personally found it a very humbling experience.

“The approach we took to the Long Ride this year worked very well. Heartened by this, I would like to see an even broader spread of rural community involvement across more of the state.

“We would again seek that support through RSL sub-branches and Men’s Sheds, but also though other groups such
as sporting bodies
for even greater participation
by the towns we visit.”

Ken wrote an intriguing diary of the
eight-day journey by Team WA – which
we’ve abbreviated:

**DAY 1: Sunday April 10**

Team WA riders gathered at Ginger’s Roadhouse, on Great Northern Highway, Upper Swan. Early morning drizzling rain.

RSLWA is represented by State President Graham Edwards, Board member Rick Green and John Arthur. At Jurien Bay Men’s Shed, riders are welcomed with a sausage sizzle lunch and a donation tin containing almost $500. Dongara RSL: again a warm welcome and generosity was evident with a magnificent spread. Cheques and cash donations of almost $800. Information brochures about prostate cancer detection were left with the RSL for distribution.

Swags set in Geraldton’s 16 RWAR Army Reserve drill hall. Distant peels of thunder – in competition with the much closer rumble of widespread snoring - an ominous sign of things to come.

**DAY 2: Monday April 11**

Arrive Mullewa around 0830, most riders drenched. Sadly, we learn a donation tin has been stolen only the night before in a break and enter. Morawa: Shire Council and Community Resource Centre staff put on a very welcome sausage sizzle and hot drinks. We promise a return visit.

Dalwallinu: Dalwallinu Shire Council has generously made available the shire caravan park for our use. Given the extremely wet conditions, Team WA spends the night at Dalwallinu Wheatland Motel.

**DAY 3: Tuesday 12 April**

The run through the Central Wheatbelt region is possibly our busiest day, with a number of towns visited in quick succession. Depart Dalwallinu about 0730 to Wongan Hills and met by Brian Donnellan of the local RSL Sub-Branch. He takes us to his home, where he and his wife Sylvia put on a magnificent morning tea of homemade sausage rolls, quiche, toasted sandwiches, and macaroons. Brian tells us about prostate cancer, before handing over a near full donation collection tin, a personal cheque for $100 and a cheque from the Wongan Hills RSL (two members) for $945 (the proceeds of a dressed lamb auction held earlier). A truly humbling experience.

Brief visit to Goomalling then Dowerin for a very warm welcome and an unexpected chance for some to catch up with long lost friends. Prostate cancer had made its presence felt in this small community too.

A short run to Wyalkatchem for lunch hosted by the local RSL, Men’s Shed and Rotary at the Wyalkatchem Museum. The gravity of the work undertaken by the PCFA was brought home in no uncertain terms, with four members...
of the host group at various stages of prostate cancer treatment. Very sobering. Again, the generosity of the regional communities was highlighted with a number of donations.

Team WA hits the road again for a night under canvass at Merredin where hosts for dinner are the Merredin Men’s Shed. It will be a pleasure to again visit these gentlemen, without the need to adhere to a tight schedule. Good people doing good work.

By now, Team WA is promoting itself as the Long Ride’s gift to the Wheatbelt, due to the amount of rain which seemed to accompany us wherever we went.

**DAY 4:**  **Wednesday 13 April**

Merredin Military Museum. This eclectic and extensive collection of military equipment and memorabilia boasts tanks, APCs, trucks, aircraft and weapons – as well as a recently acquired Vietnam War era UH1H ‘Huey’ helicopter.

Next is Southern Cross, hosted by the Yilgarn Motor Enthusiasts. The wear and tear of the journey is starting to have an effect with various mechanical issues. We arrive at Kalgoorlie’s 16RWAR Barracks. Many riders head into town and make purchases to help out with the remainder of the Long Ride; a new front tyre, a pair of Kevlar riding pants, waterproof boots. SGT Paul Clark, 16RWAR, rallies the troops with a very social barbecue. The President of the Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch presents a cheque for $1000.

**DAY 5:**  **Thursday April 14**

Next leg to Esperance. First rest break at Widgemooltha then Norseman where we saw other national Long Riders making their way west across the Nullarbor. The full magnitude of the Long Ride became evident upon check-in to the Seaview Caravan Park in Esperance. Motorcycles everywhere. Demand for washing machines and dryers at an all-time high.

**DAY 6:**  **Friday April 15**

Run to Albany. Team WA detours 50 kilometres south the Hopetoun to meet with the Men’s Shed members and collect a pre-positioned donation tin. Our very wet ride towards Albany resumes.

At Jerramungup, Team WA encounters the WA Ride Coordinator – along with her husband and daughter – from the 2014 Long Ride to Uluru. They have ridden from Canberra. The camaraderie among the Long Riders being reunited is a joy.

Accommodation in Albany with the 11/28th Battalion, Army Reserve. The 100 year-old plus barracks overlook King George Sound. Perfect for our purposes and we are joined by ADF Long Riders from Townsville in Queensland and Darwin in the Northern Territory. They were quite impressed with the Team WA ‘end-of-day’ Kangaroo Court, where any alleged infringements which may (or may not) have occurred during the day’s ride were identified, and offenders were levied with a fine to be put into the donation tins. Our host is SGT Tony White, who was clearly proud of his unit and delighted to be able to host the Long Riders. Significantly, Albany was the port from which many of the original ANZACs departed Australia in 1915 for duty in Gallipoli.

**DAY 7:**  **Saturday 16 April**

The final day for the run into Margaret River and the completion of the national Long Ride. An early departure from Albany, now in company with the Darwin riders, saw literally hundreds of other motorcyclists on the road and high demand for fuel at all service stations.

In Walpole, the generosity and support of small country towns is in evidence as the local Men’s Shed treats us to some of the finest home cooking. Men’s shed members present us with a cheque for $200.

Team WA arrives in Margaret River at approximately 1430, shortly after the main body of Long Riders had formed up for a mass ride into town. Our guest speaker for the evening is Mr Chris Dunne, the founder of the Long Ride for Prostate Cancer Research. He reports that, at that time, a total of 458 bikes have undertaken the Long Ride from all points across Australia, and the total of funds raised is $365,000. This total continues to grow, however, as donations are still being received.

**DAY 8:**  **Monday 18 April**

Final day of the Team WA Long Ride, and only a dozen riders now remained. Our planned stop after departure from Prevelly Park is at the Bush Brewery, Yallingup. Between the donation tin and their personal donations, we depart with a further $750 towards the total funds raised.

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### Merredin Military Museum

Merredin Military Museum offers an eclectic and extensive collection of military equipment and memorabilia boasts tanks, APCs, trucks, aircraft and weapons – as well as a recently acquired Vietnam War era UH1H ‘Huey’ helicopter.
IMPORTANT NEW COIN ANNOUNCEMENT

SEPTEMBER 2016

KEY DETAILS


LIMITED RELEASE: The edition limit of this coin is 8,709. Fewer than 1 in every 930 Australian households will be able to own one.

AUTHENTICATION: Each coin comes with a numbered Certificate of Authenticity. A maximum of 1,915 of the edition have been struck on the Centenary date of 6th August, 2015.

HIGH SPECIFICATION: Intended as a collectors' item, the main design features a Lone Pine digger going over the top as realised by award-winning artist Robert Todonai. The coin is fully layered in 24K gold with an inlaid ruby Swarovski crystal and arrives in a deluxe presentation case.

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6th August, 1915 – The Battle of Lone Pine. With over 2,000 Australian casualties, the Battle of Lone Pine was one of the bloodiest battles of the Great War. It also saw the Gallipoli spirit rise to its greatest heights of courage. So much so that seven of the nine Australian Gallipoli Victoria Crosses were awarded there. That same spirit which was born on the shores of Anzac Cove barely four months earlier had endured its greatest test. A new crown coin has been released to commemorate this proud chapter in the ANZAC legend. Struck to a high specification, only 8,709 have been minted in honour of the centenary date of which a maximum of 1,915 have been struck on the actual Centenary.

Applications are now open for the crown fully layered with pure 24K gold. It may be yours for just two instalments of $49.99 or $99.98 (plus $9.99 P&H). Only early applicants will have the opportunity to acquire one of the 1,915 coins minted on the actual Centenary.

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IMPORTANT NEW COIN ANNOUNCEMENT SEPTEMBER 2016
ANZAC Day 2016

was commemorated all over the State - and even at sea onboard the Dive Support Vessel DSV 7 Eagle.

Apart from an early break around 6am when the 1 Wembley Downs Scout Group finished an all-night vigil at our picturesque RSL Memorial Garden in Doubleview it was bleak weather until shortly before 3pm when our afternoon service commenced with a Scout Catafalque Party slow marching to our Memorial.

Then followed a solemn hymn with wreath-laying by service and civil dignitaries, Scouts and Guides, our sub-branch, the City Beach Red Cross as well as the general public.

The Last Post and Rouse was sounded by bugler LCPL David Scott and between calls our President Des Cummings recited the Ode. A lady sub-branch officer also recited a patriotic poem.

Throughout our service we had the Challenge Brass Band providing music whilst the solemn sections were ably performed by local Reverend Gail Falconer.

The afternoon was completed by the playing and singing of the New Zealand and Australian national anthems after which a final prayer was heard and all attendees invited to retire to adjacent Bowling Club Hall for afternoon tea. Our service was surprisingly very well attended.

Malcolm Till
Hon. Secretary
Australia pauses for Remembrance Day

Music teacher Peter Hind is one of nine buglers who will bring traffic to a halt in Perth on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month – Friday November 11, 2016.

He will be stationed on a city intersection to play the Last Post – when we will remember that time and date 98 years ago (1918) when the guns fell silent on the Western Front after four years of warfare.

Peter is conductor of the Perth Hills and Wheatbelt Band, which has toured Gallipoli and the Western Front.

For Australia, World War I remains the costliest conflict in terms of deaths and casualties.

From a population of fewer than five million, 416,809 men enlisted, of whom more than 60,000 were killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

Western Australia lost around 5,700 men.

RSL Poppy Day collectors will be out on the streets in country towns and Perth from early on November 11 – with half of the funds going to RSL sub-branches for veteran welfare and the other half going to the independent WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Trust Fund Trust.

Remembrance Day will be commemorated at the Flame of Remembrance, Kings Park, with the new State President of the RSL, Peter Aspinall, officiating for the first time.

The major address will be given by Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia.

Applecross service
At 11am on November 11, the Applecross RSL Sub-Branch will conduct a Remembrance Ceremony at the City of Melville Memorial. RSL sub-branches, ex-service organisations and the general public are invited to attend and lay floral tributes. Please contact: Barry O’Neill 0410 554 484 or barry.oneill@bigpond.com

Rhodeans remember
The inaugural Remembrance Day service of Rhodesia at War (1890 - 1980) is the first of its kind in Australia and will be held at 10am on Saturday November 12, says Peter Glynn, Secretary of the Rhodesian Services Association of WA.

All veterans organisations are invited. The service is at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park.

Rhodesia has a proud and distinguished military history. This includes proudly fighting alongside Australia and other Commonwealth countries in the Boer War, First World War, Second World War, Korea and Malaya. Towards the end of the 90-year history of Rhodesia, thousands of innocent civilians, military personnel and terrorists died in a prolonged Bush War.

Please RSVP by October 15 to anaconda.pag@optusnet.com.au

RSL DefenceCare has been launched in WA and is based at RSLWA head office. The new team is available on 9287 3799.
Christmas cards for our Troops

A suggestion by the RSLWA’s Centenary Program Manager Sharon Harford prompted a team of women to design and make hundreds of beautiful blank Christmas cards for Australian troops deployed overseas.

Ken Beven advised members of the Joondalup City Sub-Branch that the cards were difficult to buy on deployment. As some of our members live in Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village, Kay Seddon (also a member of the card making group) and June Stankowski approached the group for assistance.

As a result, a group of about a dozen card makers, ably led by Jenny Haliday, from the village in Ashby, produced and presented Joondalup City Sub-Branch with some 600 hand-made Christmas cards for our troops on service overseas.

The cards were sent overseas by RSLWA head office to enable those overseas to send Christmas cards to their loved ones this Christmas.

Card making activities have been ongoing for some 12 years and any monies raised goes 50/50 for card-makin Consumables and to various charities. Currently the group is supporting Wheelchairs for Kids. They not only sell the cards within the village but also to the general public at such places as the Wanneroo Show.

Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch (formally Ocean Reef), meets the second Wednesday of every month, 7.30pm at Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club, Boat Harbour Quays Ocean Reef.

At this stage Joondalup City RSL is the only sub-branch within the City of Joondalup and provides a range of support to not only RSL members but to all ex-service personnel, current service personnel and their families through camaraderie and community support, general and specific support for local emergency relief, bill payments, general crisis assistance, home and hospital visits and referral to other agencies. (Financial assistance for Service members only).

For Vietnam Veterans Day and the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan, the secretary of the sub-branch compiled a commemorative booklet titled ‘Australians and the Vietnam War 1962-1975’. The objectives of the booklet are to raise awareness of the Vietnam Conflict with the younger generation.

Copies of the booklet have been distributed to all 64 schools within the City of Joondalup, as well as to libraries run by the city, sub-branch members and all RSLWA sub-branches.

For further information on Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch please contact Secretary Ken Beven email: secretaryjoondalupcityrsl@gmail.com or mobile 0415 443 138.

Ken Beven
Secretary - Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch
Veterans’ news a Capital idea

Since its inception, Capital Community Radio 101.7FM & Capital Digital, which broadcasts from Wireless Hill in Ardross, has programmed material especially for defence personnel, returned men and women, their families and friends.

A program called ‘The Listening Post’ goes to air each Monday evening from 6pm to 8pm; originally called ‘Nashos Years’ and presented by Dean Bradshaw. It took on its current title and was presented, until recently, by veteran broadcaster Jason Kiely. With Jason’s retirement, Capital Radio has appointed Tony Howes as the show’s presenter from September 5.

Tony says that Jason’s boots are big one’s to fill.

“What I hope to do, is to build on the legacy Jason has created – with an emphasis on information and entertainment of interest to the ever-widening listener base associated with our forces, both retired and current; not forgetting their families and friends,” Tony said.

“Such information must be laced with music of all types for all musical tastes.”

Tony’s first program on September 5 featured, as a special guest, Commodore Philip Orchard, the just-retired CEO of RSLWA.

Capital Radio’s ‘The Listening Post’ is keen to hear of any news, information, anecdotes – even ‘tall stories’ - from former and current forces personnel and their friends.

“Radio has an insatiable appetite, so anything readers have to contribute will be happily received,” Tony said.

Contact the program by email: info@capitalcommunityradio.com (and insert in the subject heading ‘Listening Post’) or telephone the station on 9364 9888 and a message will be relayed to the presenter.

Tony Howes also co-presents ‘Capital Events’ Saturday mornings 10am to noon on Capital Radio. Formerly a broadcaster in TV and radio with the ABC, Channels 7 and 9, he is a professional theatre director and educator. In the late 1960s he directed an AFOF concert party to the forces in Vietnam. His father was the founding superintendent of the RSL War Veteran’s Home in Mt Lawley.

Darwin’s 75th war anniversary

from page 43

The City of Darwin Council is expecting a significant attendance of veterans and their families at the 75th anniversary ceremony.

It is encouraging civilians who were affected by the bombing - many of whom were displaced permanently throughout Australia – to share their stories on a website www.frontlineaustralia.com.au

In addition, the Civilian Memorial Wall is an opportunity for civilians who were impacted by the bombing of Darwin to have their piece of history remembered. City of Darwin is covering 80 per cent of the cost of plaques (this subsidy ends October 30, 2016).

Wendy James OAM, aged six at the time, was ordered to evacuate by Military Police on December 19, 1942, along with her mother and brother, aged seven, and baby sister. Ms James said that her father was co-opted into the Civil Construction Core and worked with army engineers until the end of the war.

“We were not allowed to take very much at all. My brother and I had a string bag each with some clothes and my mother packed the baby in the pusher and we walked to the wharf,” said Ms James.

Ms James and her family were sent by boat down the coast of Western Australia to Perth. She and her family were separated from their father for four years.

“Approximately 1000 women and 900 children were evacuated. Some went to unknown destinations, and some never came back.

“We were refugees in our own country. There was no support for the women when they arrived at their destination and some of those children ended up in care. Families were torn apart.

“The bravery and strength of the people during that time was amazing,” Ms James added.

If anyone would like to apply for a memorial plaque, they can download the application form on the website or call City of Darwin on (08) 8930 0300.
The blue marlin that got away

It was the one that got away. Games fishing champion Brian Arnett hooked a marlin and in just 10 hair-raising seconds went from fourth in Kona’s famous marlin tournament to first – then back to fourth.

Brian is a staffer at the ANZAC Club restaurant. He is also a top deep-sea fisherman who competes internationally.

“It was the last day of the tournament and we were running fourth,” he says. “We needed one fish to put us into first place and we hooked this one and got it all the way to the boat. We grabbed the leader, which is a bit of material beside the hooks so we could hold it. We went to tag it with a research tag and the fish pulled away – we had to release the leader and the metal swivel just snapped in half. “We went from fourth to first back to fourth in a matter of ten seconds!”

He reckons the blue marlin weighed around 100kg – a small tyke compared with the 350kg one he hooked half an hour later – “it would have won the tournament completely…we had it on for hour then the hooks for no reason fell out.”

Kona, in the Hawaiian Islands, is famous for its deep-sea fishing. The Hawaiian International Billfish Tournament is the most prestigious tournament in the world.

BRING OUT YOUR MILITARY TREASURES!

Wayne Gardiner, John and David Burridge will offer free valuations during the military antiques roadshow.

Experienced military antique valuers will check your treasured passion at no cost. Part of the Perth Heritage Days weekend. Please bring no more than two items per person to allow our experts to see each person.

WHEN: 10am to 4pm, Sun, Oct 16, 2015
WHERE: ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace (CNR IRWIN STREET) PERTH
TICKETS: Free to attend. Lunch will be available to purchase.
MORE INFO: Phone ANZAC House on 9287 3799 or email rslwahq@iinet.net.au
For safety and security reasons please do not bring in any firearms or ordnance (bombs, hand grenades etc).
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.

It also commemorates those hundreds of thousands who served in the First World War, the tens of thousands who died, and the millions who supported the war effort from the home front.

This free, interactive exhibition is truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, suitable for all ages.

The Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience travelling exhibition will travel to Western Australian locations from late November 2016 to February 2017.

- **Perth Exhibition & Convention Centre** - November 29 to December 11, 2016
- **Eaton Recreation Centre, Bunbury** - January 11 to 16, 2017
- **Goldfields Oasis, Kalgoorlie** - January 30 to February 5, 2017

It covers an area equivalent to three basketball courts, is transported by a fleet of 11 B-double trucks, takes six days to set up and contains more than 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial.

More than 210,000 Australians have visited the exhibition. The people of Perth have embraced the Experience, with more than 1,500 tickets already booked.

Western Australians made a significant contribution to Australia’s First World War effort.

More than 32,000 enlisted for service during the First World War, and Western Australians were awarded 10 of the 64 Victoria Crosses awarded to members of the First AIF.

One of the great legacies of the ANZAC Centenary is Albany’s National Anzac Centre, opened by the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, and the Premier of Western Australia, in November 2014.

The National ANZAC Centre tells the story of the over 41,000 Australians and New Zealanders who left Albany in late 1914, bound for the First World War.

A strong partnership between the Australian Government, the Commonwealth Bank of Australia and Telstra has bought the Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience travelling exhibition to life, and Western Australians are encouraged to visit one of the venues in Perth, Bunbury or Kalgoorlie.

Artists in Residence at Army Museum

In November 2014, Michele Eastwood and Peter Dailey were invited to accept the Artist in Residence Program at the Army Museum of Western Australia.

This program was created and funded by the Army Museum of Western Australia, the Western Australian Branch of the Returned & Services League and the Department of Culture and the Arts. RSLWA through Centenary Program Manager Sharon Harford who applied for funding from the Connect Program of the Department of Culture and the Arts which allowed Michele and Peter to investigate the 11th Battalion Australian Imperial Force and create 11 pieces of art in response to this research.

The residency enabled research of the museum’s collection of artefacts pertaining to the 11th Battalion AIF. Within the galleries Michele and Peter discovered that there were not only the expected uniforms and regalia but also many more personal and utilitarian artefacts, items which gave them a real insight into the daily lives of these soldiers. Access was also provided to the behind the scene storerooms of uniforms, banners, photographs, artefacts and papers. All these materials added to the accumulation of knowledge and inspiration. A wealth of information was also gained from the museum staff and guides.

This allowed Michele and Peter to delve even deeper into personal stories and history of the soldiers of World War I. “It was an interesting experience, and a topic I would not have probably considered had I not been asked,” said Michele. “The mixture of history and the people who lived through those times has been an absorbing and rewarding journey for my art practice.”

The opening of the exhibition was held recently and was attended by Duncan Ord, Director General of the Department of Culture and the Arts and was officially opened by Arthur Spartalis, WA Art Historian. The exhibition runs until the end of November. Opening hours for the museum are Wednesday – Sunday 10.30am to 1pm. For group tours please contact the museum 9430 2535.
The very first edition highlights two dominant issues of that time. The first dealt with the 'criminal' state of war graves at Gallipoli and the need for ongoing management of interment of fallen soldiers. The second outlined a recruitment drive for RSL members with particular focus directed on South West country regions, where returned soldiers had secured farms under the repatriation scheme.

Here are some fascinating insights!

**The Listening Post December 1921**
(Vol 1, No 1 pl), under the heading Gallipoli Graves cites:

**Gallipoli Graves**

...that, the work of locating and exhuming the bodies—of the men who fell fighting on Gallipoli is in a most unsatisfactory state, vouched for by two men who have recently returned from the Peninsula. In a joint statement made to the Melbourne "Herald", Captain Leonard Martin, a Victorian civil engineer, and Staff Sergeant Frederick Redfearn, of Hobart, state that only half the number of dead bodies have been located and that 4,000 are still missing. To leave this work in its present unsatisfactory state is nothing short of criminal. We understand that representations are being made to the Federal Government to have the work continued and we trust that the authorities will realise their duty in this important and solemn task'.

**Archival Footnote:** Today, the Commonwealth War Graves Commission ensures that 1.7 million people who died in the two world wars will never be forgotten. The Commission cares for cemeteries and memorials at 23,000 locations, in 154 countries. Some 150,000 Commonwealth servicemen lie buried in 250 military and 150 civilian cemeteries on the Somme. Six memorials to the missing commemorate by name more than 100,000 whose graves are not known. (Source: CWGC)

**Country Propaganda**

(Today’s term would be Recruitment)

Mr J.R. Butler D.C.M. (State Secretary) returned to Perth on Dec 5. Chatting to a representative of The Listening Post after his return Mr Butler said: “I left Perth on Fri midday and arrived back at 8am Monday. During the intervening period I visited and attended successful meetings in Bridgetown, Brunswick Junction, Kirup, Greenbushes, Balingup and Wokalup

It is a difficult matter to get country members to attend meetings at this busy time of the year. Men who possess farms have principal and interest bills to meet. Nevertheless, at every centre we secured a good muster of men and I am sure that my visit will have beneficial results.

Balingup members rolled up to the tune of between fifty and sixty, but many men were naturally reluctant to leave their farms. At Bridgetown the majority of our members are employed at the timber mills and consequently our meeting was packed to overflowing. There is little doubt that my visit to this centre alone justified the trip

In conclusion, I may say that those returned men who have secured farms under the repatriation scheme, look to the League to get their first five years capitalised. It is a hard job for them to get things running smoothly and it is a very difficult matter for at least a number of years to regularly find the interest. If such a concession could be secured, there is little doubt that the League would have done something of great benefit to those returned men who are battling to improve their farms.”

**Archival Footnote:** Today, there are 132 sub-branches throughout the State.

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RSLWA archivist Helen Starkie has been reviewing old copies of *The Listening Post* which date back to 1921. Some interesting comparisons have cropped up between RSL issues then and now.

The Listening Post 1921: The first edition highlights two dominant issues of that time. The first dealt with the 'criminal' state of war graves at Gallipoli and the need for ongoing management of interment of fallen soldiers. The second outlined a recruitment drive for RSL members with particular focus directed on South West country regions, where returned soldiers had secured farms under the repatriation scheme.

Here are some fascinating insights!
**Singalongs for women at Bicton RSL**

- Choir member Bec Willis and coordinator Victoria Dixon are urging women with links to ADF members to get involved in the choir.

The Perth Military Wives Choir is on the look-out for women wanting to have a bit of fun at their fortnightly gatherings hosted by the Bicton Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch.

PMWC coordinator Victoria Dixon welcomes women who have a significant relationship with an Australian Defence Force member.

This includes partners, daughters, mothers, sisters etc. They are part of the national network of Military Wives Choirs in Australia.

As a no-experience, no-audition choir, women with all levels of musical knowledge and skill are welcomed and are provided with a safe and supportive environment for singing.

The choir meets each fortnight on Thursdays, for rehearsals which include musical education and vocal coaching intermixed with the natural joy that comes from singing. For more information, please contact Victoria Dixon at amwc.perth@gmail.com

The sub-branch is based at 30b Foss St Bicton.


John Nuttman
President - Bicton Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
The pride and sacrifice of small towns shines through with the renovation of one of the oldest World War One memorials in Australia – at Muradup, near Kojonup.

Proud citizens will commemorate the 100th anniversary of the memorial on Saturday, September 24, 2016. They did the renovations with donated funds and local labour.

Muradup War Memorial is unusual in that it lists all the 49 men who volunteered – farmers, carpenters, labourers, fettlers, horse breakers, carriers, farriers and blacksmiths. Twelve men were married, some with children.

Of those who enlisted, 12 died in service. A further 15 were wounded, many multiple times and 11 were repatriated home due to severe injury or illness. Six were awarded decorations for bravery.

In 2009, the centenary of Muradup Hall became the catalyst for upgrading the memorial. A committee was formed and the work was later taken over by Kojonup RSL Sub-Branch.

Before work started, careful attention was paid to anything that could be considered sacred, even including trees and shrubs. The original memorial was not changed. Names remain on it even if incorrect. Temporary roofing over the memorial was replaced and a new structure housing panels explaining the history of the memorial – including corrections to names on the memorial, those who died or were wounded – has been erected.

Citizens were very mindful of their history which goes back to early in 1916, when the Muradup Football and Cricket Club decided to record in some way the names of the men who had enlisted for service.

The memorial was built at a cost of 20 pounds and unveiled on September 20 1916. At that time, the memorial had only one tablet – but two more were added in 1917 to record other members of Muradup Football and Cricket Club who enlisted.

All would have played sport on the adjacent sports ground.

One-quarter of the enlistments were killed in action. Even more were injured as war ripped the hearts out of our country towns.
Why we have 'Remembrance Day'

'Remembrance Day' is the 11th Day, 11th Month at the 11th Hour in the Australian psyche when all Australians come together to remember those that served in WWI, and who paid the ultimate price as this date and time signalled the end of ‘The Great War’ and the guns of war finally fell silent.

The tragedy of this Great European War of 1914-1918 did not end with the silence of the guns, as many young Australians who were lucky enough to survive the killing and slaughter of ‘The Western Front’ arrived home in Australia damaged. ‘Remembrance Day’ formally known as ‘Armistice Day’ is commemorated at the State War Memorial, Kings Park.

The memorial was funded by public subscription, costing 3,500 pounds with the foundation stone being laid on the 11/11th 1927 and completed on November 24th, 1929 – the year of the Centenary of Western Australia.

The architect for this memorial was Sir J. Talbot Hobbs, a leading architect in Perth with several iconic buildings to his credit. He was an Allied Commander of Australian troops during WW1, serving on ‘The Western Front’ so he had a real feeling for this memorial. In the undercroft there are the names of 7,000 from WWI who didn't make it home, 4,000 from WWII who didn't make it home, names from the Korean conflict, from Vietnam, Peace Keepers, and more recently conflicts in the Middle East.

Denis Connelly
State Vice President

Books that have crossed the editor’s desk...

**Pompey’s Story: A Man For His Time**

WA’s Nerina Coopes’ account of her father ‘Pompey’ Gull’s life and times is an enthralling piece of history. The life of Arthur Wilfred (Pompey) Gull spans World War I as a Light Horse man, racial riots in Broome and even WWII. Historian and former Perth ABC journalist Dr Peter Gifford comments, “After surviving the slaughter of the 10th Light Horse Regiment at the Battle of the Nek on Gallipoli, he served with the Imperial Camel Corps throughout the subsequent Sinai and Palestine campaigns and then returned to the Light Horse for the final march on Damascus where he won the Military Cross. His gaining of that decoration, for the taking of a Turkish machine gun post, helps put paid incidentally to the legend that Damascus fell solely to Lawrence of Arabia and his Arab irregulars. What is less known and equally credible is the role he and other Australian soldiers had as peace keepers in Egypt during the post-World War I pro-independence riots and then on his own account in Broome soon after when racial strife erupted between Japanese and Timorese people engaged in the pearling industry.”

**Jum’s Luck**

Vince Cusworth tells the incredible story of Victoria-born Jum Moore, who moved at the turn of the last century with his family to Boulder in search of a better life. Hard work was beginning to bear fruit when Australia and the world was plunged into war. Jum and three of his brothers signed up to fight for King and Country. Jum, wounded at Pozieres, was saved by his mother’s love after the three brothers were killed in action.

RSLWA Business Cards now available

RSLWA has produced business-size cards at the suggestion of Stan Davies, President of the Dawesville Sub-Branch.

The card gives both serving and retired ADF members a quick outline of the benefits of being a member of the RSL and it also gives current RSL members a succinct overview of membership benefits.

Stan approached RSLWA in early June thinking of a way to enhance recruitment of new members.

After many rewrites and a collaboration between Stan, RSLWA Media, Welfare teams and the CEO a non-gender specific card has been created.

Individual sub-branches may wish to modify the words before printing the cards. ANZAC House can provide the badge and logo separately if required.

The images along with printing intrusions are on the RSLWA website. www.rslwahq.org.au/Membership/Administration-Forms.aspx

The back of the card displays the following:

**Camaraderie & Community Support:**

General and specific support for local emergency relief, bill payments, general crisis assistance, home and hospital visits and referral to other agencies. (Financial assistance for Service members only)

**Entitlement & Advocacy Assistance:**

RSL provides experienced paid and volunteer serving and ex-servicemen & servicewomen.

**Welfare Assistance:**

the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen’s Relief Fund may provide emergency financial assistance to any person qualified to be an RSL member. (Service members only).

Denis Connelly
State Vice President
Long Tan awards 50 years later

“It’s been 50 years in the coming - but you still get a surprise.”

Neil Bextrum, now a Maida Vale horse trainer, was speaking within hours of hearing the official news that he had been recommended for a Commendation for Gallantry for his actions at the battle of Long Tan on August 18, 1966.

As the battle raged Mr Bextrum and another Digger ran out and hauled their mortally wounded mate onto Mr Bextrum’s shoulders and carried him back to their lines.

The laconic West Australian added, “It’s amazing what you can do when you have to.

“I was more honoured and happy to see Harry Smith got what he had been after – medals for his soldiers,” said Mr Bextrum.

“What I find amazing is that he can fight for 50 years and finally get them. It’s probably why we did so well…because of his persistence and dedication.”

D Company’s commanding officer LT COL Harry Smith recommended a range of gallantry awards for his men, but to his dismay only half were awarded.

So he continued to fight for the award of 13 individual honours, some of which are posthumous.

On August 10, Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan announced he would recommend to the Governor-General that 10 soldiers be awarded a military honour or have their existing honour upgraded. He would recommend each recommendation of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal’s review into the actions of 13 individual soldiers during the battle be approved.

Footnote: In the June edition of The Listening Post, we reported WO Jack Kirby had carried PTE Bextrum during the battle – in fact WO Jack Kirby carried a wounded PTE Harley Webb.
A further six military murals are being painted on the ceiling of the recently renovated Esperance RSL Sub-Branch building and will be unveiled on Remembrance Day.

The murals have been funded by Lotterywest and international artist Graeme Miles Richards is making good progress.

The historic sub-branch building was recently renovated with funding from the Shire of Esperance and Lotterywest.

Esperance sub-branch proudly unveiled its Australian Light Horse mural depicting the charge at the Battle of Beersheba on ANZAC Day this year.

This mural, also by Mr Richards, was funded by New Holland Agricultural and is a tourist attraction in its own right.

Unfortunately, Esperance has been unable to secure additional funding for the musical theatre performance ‘Entrenchment’ at this point in time. However the sub-branch plans to host a fundraiser dinner on November 11. The fundraising dinner will involve an auction and the entertainment will be samples of the musical items from the theatre production.

During the evening the sub-branch will present funds raised so far for the Army Museum of Western Australia to assist in the creation of virtual apps, aimed at increasing access to the museum interactivity for regional and remote communities.

All other proceeds raised from the dinner will be going towards combatting PTSD.

Esperance is also excited to receive news of Collins class submarine HMAS Farncomb conducting Freedom of Entry during the Remembrance Day weekend.

Please note the following events coming to Esperance later this year:

**November 10** – HMAS Farncomb Freedom of Entry – for further information please contact the Shire of Esperance. www.esperance.wa.gov.au

**November 11** – Esperance RSL Sub-Branch, Remembrance Day Ceremony followed by the unveiling of further military Murals and the recently renovated RSL building.

For further information please contact Esperance RSL President George Starcevich 0402 817 543;

**November 11** – Fundraiser Dinner for PTSD and the Army Museum of Western Australia virtual apps project. For further information please contact Sonja Andrews – 0427 140 116 Facebook: www.facebook.com/Entrenchment1 or email: entrenchment.info@gmail.com and www.esperance.wa.gov.au

**November 12** – 8am to 12pm – Entrenchment Market Fair – Adventure Land Park Esperance, for further information please contact Annie Smith – 0427 942 088 or Amanda Thomas – 0415 388 420.
In 1967-68 nine members of 2 Royal Australian Regiment B Company were seconded to the 135th Assault Helicopter Company US Army - the home of the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight, Vietnam known as the EMU’s.

These nine men crewed 'Slick’s & Gun Ships' as Door Gunners and during their assigned period flew sufficient hours to become eligible for the United States Air Medal.

Unfortunately, these were not forthcoming so through the Chief of Navy, the RAN Fleet Air Arm struck Air Gunners Wings and these have been presented to the nine men at functions around Australia. Other RAN personnel have also received the medals.

The last of the nine was presented to the father of the late Kerry Pearce, Mr Arthur Pearce in Albany this year during a service on Vietnam Veterans Day.

The nine men were involved for four years with the RANHFV which achieved many plaudits for its professionalism and its resolve 'to get the bloody job done'. The gallantry and distinguished service of RANHFV members was recognised by the award of three Member of the British Empire Medals, eight Distinguished Service Crosses, five Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC), one British Empire Medal, twenty-four Mentions-in-Dispatches and numerous Vietnamese and US decorations. 723 Squadron, RANHFV’s parent unit, was awarded the battle honour 'Vietnam 1967-71' on December 22, 1972.

Keith Taylor
Member of 1st Contingent RANHFV 1967-68
Secretary Fleet Air Arm Association WA
Vietnam veteran Doug Wyness has spent his life looking after his mates so he was extremely disappointed and saddened when he was accused of wearing unofficial medals in the same medal group as his Australian Government issued medals.

It happened after his picture appeared on the cover of *The Listening Post* in June – Doug was riding on a jeep during thunderous rain on ANZAC Day.

Doug was pictured wearing two medals – the General Service Cross and the Merchant Navy Service Medal – on the left-hand side of his jacket. These medals were ordered and paid for through the Association of Mariners after Doug sent to the association all his Service particulars.

However, according to official protocols these should be worn only on the right-hand side. Doug, who proudly served with 32 Small Ships Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers in Vietnam, had the two medals removed from his medal group so they can now be worn separately and correctly.

John Burridge, who is Perth’s authority on Australian and British medals and medal mounting, says incorrectly mounted medals are a common problem.

There are some golden rules:

- Generally speaking, the only medals that may be worn on the left-hand side are those issued by the Australian Government;
- If the medals cost money, they are not official;
- Use a reputable medal mounter who will correctly guide you; and
- Guidelines concerning the acceptance and wearing of foreign honours and awards by Australians were approved by Her Majesty The Queen in August 2012 and a copy of the guidelines, together with the latest list of approved foreign awards, is available on the Governor-General’s website: www.gg.gov.au
On behalf of SAMVOA (South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia) and RSAWA (Rhodesian Services Association of WA) we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Inc for their fantastic support and assistance during the Battle of Delville Wood Commemorative Service held at the Flame of Remembrance, Kings Park on Wednesday, July 20, 2016.

Without your help and assistance we could not have honoured the fallen of the 1st South African Infantry Brigade in a fitting manner and are deeply appreciative of all your support and assistance on the day, ensuring that the service was conducted in a dignified manner. We commend the way the Wardens went about their duties and thank them for their professionalism and commitment.

We remain, yours faithfully,

Veteran Garth Pienaar
National Vice Chairman
Regional Chairman WA
South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia
The recently formed Battle of Crete Memorial Committee (BCMC) hosted a special 75th anniversary Commemorative event and launch of their campaign to raise funds for the creation of a designated memorial dedicated to the ANZACS and allies including Greek Soldiers and Cretan civilians who fought there 75 years ago.

The BCMC has applied to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority for initial in-principal approval for the memorial to be established at a prominent location such as Kings Park. At the same time, the campaign to raise the significant funds needed for the project began with the commemorative event in the form of an afternoon tea held at the Yokine Bowling Club (also the Yokine RSL Sub-Branch) on Sunday June 19, 2016.

The event was a big success and was well attended by not only members of the Greek Australian community, but also many family and friends of 2nd/11th Bn veterans who are no longer with us. We were very honoured to have amongst our guests, Mr Arthur Leggett OAM President of Ex-POW Association and former signaller in the 2nd/11th Bn who was at Crete and was captured by the Germans during the War.

The guest speakers were the Veterans Minister Joe Francis, who spoke about the ANZAC involvement in the Greek and Cretan campaign and the alarming statistics of the casualties and those taken prisoner. The other speaker was Ms Marilyn Sadlier, who gave a moving speech about her late father’s experiences in the war and his generous gesture of gratitude to the Cretan people who helped him and others escape.

Mr Geoff Edwards OAM was instrumental in donating the land and helping establish a Greek Orthodox memorial chapel at Prevelly, named after the Preveli monastery in Crete.

At the conclusion of the speeches the audience was treated to a fine display of Cretan dancing by a group of children from the Greek School dance group in traditional costume, organised by the Cretan Brotherhood of WA. This was a perfect lead up to the coffee, tea and delicious food and sweets that followed.

The feeling by everyone who attended was very positive and encouraging for the BCMC who have a long journey and hard work ahead. With everyone’s support the memorial is sure to become a reality.

B. Evangel
Chairman BCMC

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Many of the VIPs who attended are, from left to right: Ms Catherine Papanastasiou (BCMC), Ms Marilyn Sadlier (guest speaker), Dr Ken Michael AC, former Governor (BCMC), Mr Denis Connelly Vice President RSLWA (BCMC), Cr Michelle Sutherland, Veterans Minister Joe Francis (guest speaker), Ms Eleni Evangel MLA, Mr Bill Evangel (Chairperson BCMC), Mr Peter Katsanbanis MLC, Mr Jeremy Quinn (Federal Candidate for seat of Perth) and Dr John Yiannakis OAM (BCMC).
Who is Frank Taylor?

Frank Taylor served 38 years in the Australian Army Reserve and 31 years in the Western Australia Police – mostly in the area of emergency operations.

He first walked the Kokoda Trail in 1983 and thus began a 30-plus year relationship with the people and the landscape along with his finding a practical application of his research.

“The group’s encouragement led me to create my own business (Kokoda Treks and Tours) which, from the start, delivers historically comprehensive and often personalised tours along the Kokoda Trail and beachheads. Initially these tour operations were on a part-time basis, but, since retirement, are full time.”

He now takes tours as far afield as Borneo and the Western Front, often doing personal research so his clients can ‘connect’ with family or friends. Most of his clients are referred by word of mouth.

Apart from being a history buff and experienced tour operator, he has been a guide for film and documentary projects for film crews and authors. These countries of work with tours and projects include Myanmar, Malaysia and Borneo, Egypt, Libya, Turkey, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, Greece and Crete, Belgium and France.
Constitution

Where are we with reshaping our State Constitution?

Answer – much further down track than we have been before. Under Wayne Tarr as the chair we have prepared the main bulk of the constitution document. This is currently being written up with the ideal plan being to send it to several sub-branches for comment and feedback prior to final presentation at the next State Congress.

Membership

On August 29 2016 the membership team of Andrea Hunt (Membership Officer) and Wendy Moss (Assistant Membership Officer) undertook a Membership Forum. This was well supported and many issues, ideas, recommendations provided. It is intended, like the Treasurers and Secretary’s forum, to continue these in the future. Due to some staff review requirements Wendy will now be focussed entirely on events planning and Rowena Bush our receptionist will assume the duties of Assistant Membership Officer. My thanks go to the team for this long awaited forum and to DVA who assisted in presentations regarding grant applications.

Staff Changes

Since the last Listening Post we have lost a few RSL members including Banjo Patterson our loyal Concierge. You will read more about Banjo in this edition. The contracted position of Centenary Program Manager will end on December 3, 2016. Sharon Harford, who has done a sterling job in the role, will leave the RSL after three years. Similarly we start the search for a new media person as John Arthur will complete his contract in November. JA has done a fabulous job in improving this publication into the excellent magazine it is today. I wish JA and Sharon good luck in retirement and future employment and thank them both for a job well done.

So, that’s about it regarding the major points I wanted to mention before signing off. My five-year contract is up and I’ve now handed over the watch to John. My time as CEO has been very diverse, challenging and rewarding and included a range of internal restructures to ANZAC Centenary events which required intense planning for crowds of up to 70,000.

Internally, I have tried to lead the transition of the RSL toward business lines and with Graham changed the cumbersome structure of having a State Executive and Board to a single streamlined Board; after much delay in the production of the National Constitution the State Constitution is being rewritten; staff, governance and services have been reviewed and modernised; and interaction with sub-branches has been improved through roundtables, regional visits and better communications.

Major projects have included the planned redevelopment of ANZAC House and the long-running legal action relating to the sale of RSL aged care facilities. RSLWA has reformed its pensions and advocacy service. Total RSLWA membership, after a decline over seven years, began increasing in 2014 and last year broke through 10,000. I’m of the opinion that having attended 55 Board meetings, 47 Finance meetings in WA as well as my National RSL CEO meetings and duties as the National RSL Membership and Marketing Officer for eight months has ensured a forward movement in the organisation.

Two of my greatest satisfactions, on a large and detailed scale, were my involvement in gaining funding for the iconic Albany Precinct walk and my dealings with Wesfarmers through Alan Carpenter and the redrafting and acceptance of the criteria for those named on the State War Memorial. Disappointments, well that has to be that after five years the situation with Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch has still not been resolved and the members patiently wait for the outcome of legal matters. In similar vein there is disappointment and sadness at having to execute the Government’s plan to vacate the RSL Memorial Caravan Park at Point Peron. I will miss my MC’ing role at various commemorative events including Dawn Services at the State War Memorial and being involved in projects such as the development of an ANZAC Tom ‘app’ at Kings Park and the planned ANZAC Bell at the Bell Tower.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my relationship with you, the members and thank you all for your support and friendship over the years. I am very sad to leave the fantastic team at ANZAC House and disappointed to only have a short time working with the new State President, Peter Aspinall. I have no doubt that Peter, John and all the staff will continue to navigate the organisation forward and ensure the many projects generated by Graham and I come to fruition. I wish you all the very best for the future.

John McCourt has the watch!

Retiring RSLWA CEO Phil Orchard and wife Isabel were farewelled last month.
At the age of 19 Terry Newman found himself in the thick of the largest battles of the Vietnam War, at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.

“As a 19-year-old in 1968, I spent 10 months in Vietnam as an APC driver before being promoted to crew commander,” Mr Newman recalls.

“At Coral and Balmoral I grew up very quickly and after returning home from Vietnam I shut that time out of my life.”

So the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan provoked mixed feelings in Mr Newman on Vietnam Veteran’s Day on August 18. Initially named Long Tan Day to commemorate the loss of 18 soldiers, including two Western Australians, the date was renamed in 1987 to commemorate all conflicts during the Vietnam War.

During 1968 in fierce fighting at Coral and Balmoral, more than 300 enemy were killed. Twenty six Australians were also killed and 100 wounded in the fighting.

“It was pretty scary knowing that we were heavily outnumbered,” Mr Newman said. “We owed a lot to the training we had received and to the leadership we had.”

After an initial attack on Coral in May the bases were defended by infantry from the 1st and 3rd Battalions, artillery, mortars and armoured vehicles which also supported infantry patrols. Attacks by the enemy on both bases attempted to drive the Australians from this important strategic area and the actions were Australia’s costliest and most protracted battles of the Vietnam War.

Mr Newman’s ‘A’ Squadron, 3rd Cavalry Regiment supported infantry rifle companies in the defence of each of the bases, where very heavy casualties were inflicted on the enemy after attacks on the bases. Many of the dead were buried in B52 craters.

He recalls going on daily patrols to chase down the North Vietnamese Regular Army and Viet Cong forces.

Mr Newman attended the Vietnam Veterans’ Day service at the Charles Riley Memorial Precinct in North Beach. VIPs included the Governor, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AO and other dignitaries.

He said that Vietnam Veterans’ Day was an enduring day in Australia’s history and it was important that young people attended these services to keep the memories alive. The service was very moving and it was great to see so many school children participating.

The Vietnam War claimed a total of 521 lives - 61 from WA.
Nurses Aboard SS Vyner Brooke
Of the 65 Army Nursing Sisters aboard the SS Vyner Brooke when she was sunk in 1942, 12 drowned, 21 were massacred at Radji Beach and the balance became POWs on Bangka Island. Eight subsequently died. Seeking surviving nurses or relatives to participate in a 75th anniversary Commemorative Service which will be held on Sunday February 12, 2017 at the memorial, Honour Avenue, Point Walter Reserve, Bicton. Please make contact so an official invitation can be sent. Contact Helen Pickering, Applecross RSL Sub-Branch, 9364 8564, pickjh@bigpond.com

Remembrance Day
The Applecross RSL Sub-Branch will conduct a Remembrance Day Ceremony at the City of Melville Memorial, located at Wireless Hill Park, Ardross, at 11am on Friday, November 11, 2016. RSL sub-branches, ex service organisations and the general public are invited to attend and lay floral tributes.
Attendees are requested to be assembled by 10.50am. Contact Barry O’Neill, 0410 554 484 and email: barry.onell@bigpond.com

Olympic winner for HMAS PERTH
HMAS Perth’s ABBM Alyce Packard was paying closer attention than most to the Olympics this year as her brother, Australian Olympic swimmer Jake Packard swam in the individual 100m breaststroke and achieved a PB - just missing out making the final. But Jake made up for that disappointment when he won Bronze as a member of Australia’s 4 x 100m medley team, which cracked the 200th medal milestone.
Alyce and all her PERTH shipmates recorded a special ‘personal’ video message for Jake - which was uploaded to the internet and social media sites – to support their man.

College military history museum
Secret Harbour’s Comet Bay College has its own Military History Museum. In addition to some very impressive displays, the museum houses a permanent honour wall with the photographs of ex-students, parents, staff members and extended family members who have served or who continue to serve. The museum is a credit to the school’s Defence Transition Mentor Claire Hunt.

Information sought:
Geoffrey Ernest Gabriel and 11 Aust Small Ship Coy: Geoffrey Gabriel joined the Naval College in 1928 and discharged from the Navy in 1936. He joined the CMF in 1942 (possibly an RAA anti-tank unit). He was then seconded to the 2AIF in 1943 and became a Master of Craft in the 11 Australian Small Ship Company (possibly skippering MCVs Blackwood & Danae or Doreen in New Guinea). He discharged from the Army in 1946. Seeking contacts and information on Geoffrey’s Navy & Army service and the operations of 11ASSC. Contact John Douglas on 0431 174 508 or tweedyahs@gmail.com

Braai night – Belmont
Coming up: in October with have the inaugural Southern African Braai Night (For us Aussies a BBQ with many unique culinary delights) Hosted by South African Military Veterans Organisation of Australasia WA and the Rhodesian Services Association Incorporated WA. This outback (my term) BBQ is being held on Saturday October 8 at 5am on and is extremely good value at $25 per person. Steve Toon, City of Belmont RSL.

SASR Luncheon – November
All current members of the Australian Special Air Service Association, ex-members of the Australian SAS Regt, wives, partners and family are invited to attend a luncheon to be held at the Capel Hotel on Saturday November 19. Meet at Capel RSL at 11am with Mike McMahon then on to the Capel Hotel for lunch and drinks from noon onwards. Please forward names and numbers to Mike McMahon by the latest 10 November 2016 Phone 0427 777 701 or email michael1950mcmahon@gmail.com

WRAAC Association (WA) – Welcome!
We have a new Committee and email contact so we would love to hear from any other former WRAAC ‘out there’. Our next quarterly General Meeting is on Saturday September 17 from 2pm to 4pm. Our meeting will be followed by afternoon tea.
All ex-WRAAC and sister services are welcome. We meet at the War Widows’ Hall in Plantation Street, Menora. Our current Executive Committee consists of Judy Welch, President; Hazel Donald, Vice President; Jean Pearce, Treasurer; Jenny (Abby) McNamara, Assistant Secretary (Minutes); May Tomich, Welfare (Immediate Past President); Dianne Donovan; Edith McAllister and Norma Jones. For any information and/or membership enquiries, please contact us at wraac.wa@gmail.com or phone Judy Welch on 0412 984 739.

Second annual ride for PTSD
The Rockingham Sub-Branch of the Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club is holding its second annual long ride for PTSD on Saturday October 8.
The ride departs at 9am from BP Baldivis Southbound Service Centre and travels to the Bull & Barrel Festival in Dardanup. Registration is at 8.30am and the fee is $20 per bike. All riders and motorbikes welcome. Contact Gary Scott on 0417 974 994 or scottm@bigpond.net.au

HQ1ATF Reunion
A reunion of HQ1ATF Association is being held at Caloundra Waterfront Holiday Park from October 13 to 17. We have 139 veterans and partners registered as at September 3. Phone John Verheist on 0437 212 121 or email him at john@jchonsult.com.au

Back to Bush Reunion
The 2016 Back to the Bush Veterans Reunion at Bruce Rock will be a little different to previous years. This year’s event will run for three days from Friday November 4 until Sunday November 6. The oval will be available for camping from Wednesday November 2. You can find more information under ‘Upcoming Events’ on the RSLWA website www.rslwaq.org.au or on the Shire of Bruce Rock website. Saturday is a big day with a 10th Light Horse display, Memorial dedication to pay tribute to the Red Cross and Salvation Army, march (with medals) and entertainment.

War Widows’ Guild of Australia WA Inc.
The 70th anniversary of The War Widow’s Guild of Australia WA Inc. will be commemorated with a service on November 21 at the State War Memorial. The hour-long service will start at 9.30am. There will be a formal dinner and other celebrations throughout the week.

Q Class reunion
All Q Class ex-crew and partners are invited to celebrate the 75th anniversary (1942) of the commissioning of our ships Quadrant, Queenbrough, Quiberon and Quickmatch. Celebrations will be held in Penrith (NSW) Thursday March 16 and Friday March 17 2017. Further details contact Bryan Burdett (03) 9877 4443 or burdettbryan@yahoo.com

Lost medals WW1 27544 DRVR PJ Scanlon
Searching for the WW1 medals of 27544 DRVR PJ Scanlon.

Dictionary Found
A dictionary has been found and whilst efforts have come to a stop. The following is known from the book: Name: Arthur Moss Rank: Cpl S/No WX 15666 DOB: 7.05.1917 @ Subiaco Enlisted: 8.8.1941 @ Claremont WA. Discharged: 23.06.1945 M.T. Sect: 2/1st AFW AIF. Lest We Forget. You can find more information under ‘Upcoming Events’ on the RSLWA website www.rslwaq.org.au or on the Shire of Bruce Rock website. Saturday is a big day with a 10th Light Horse display, Memorial dedication to pay tribute to the Red Cross and Salvation Army, march (with medals) and entertainment.

Small Ships information
John Douglas, a Coolangatta Tweed RSL member, is assisting information about Geoffrey Ernest Gabriel, who joined the Naval College in 1928 and was discharged from the Navy in 1936. He joined the CMF in 1942 (possibly an RAA anti-tank unit). He was then seconded to the 2AIF in 1943 and became a Master of Craft in the 11 Australian Small Ship Company (possibly skippering MCVs Blackwood & Danae or Doreen in New Guinea). He discharged from the Army in 1946. Seeking contacts and information on Geoffrey’s Navy & Army service and the operations of 11ASSC. Contact John Douglas on 0431 174 508 or tweedyahs@gmail.com
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.

Across
1. Hit
4. Head cover
7. Title of respect
10. Good grief!
11. Sounds
13. Sports official
14. Lanka
15. Account
16. Pace
17. Capital of Montana
19. Snaky fish
21. Beggar
23. What a clock tells
26. Nuns
29. Snake
30. North northeast
31. Household cleaner brand
33. Goof
34. Pope's country
36. Video game stores
38. Carry
39. Shiny balloon material
40. Omen
42. Goes with or
46. Poem of praise
48. Mythological water nymph
50. Frost
51. California (abbr.)
52. Tight at the top, flaring at the bottom (2 wds.)
53. Doctoral degree
54. Dynamite
55. Sister for short
56. Distress call

Down
1. U.S. President
2. Giant
3. Mr. Donahue
4. Capital of Guinea on Atlantic Ocean
5. Picnic visitor
6. Small knife
7. Lessened
8. Rascal
9. Revolutions per minute
11. Edgily
12. Caustic substance
18. Dine
20. Limited (abbr.)
22. Writing
24. Meager
25. Goofs
26. Irritation
27. Towards
28. Car safety device
29. Spanish fortress commander
32. City New___
35. Constellation
37. Artist's creation
39. What you eat
41. Cell stuff
43. What legs are attached to
44. Resound
45. Cincinnati baseball team
46. Halloween mo.
47. Newsman Rather
49. Roman three

Sudoku Solution from last edition - June 2016

Crossword Solution in next edition

Crossword

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11. Sounds
13. Sports official
14. Lanka
15. Account
16. Pace
17. Capital of Montana
19. Snaky fish
21. Beggar
23. What a clock tells
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31. Household cleaner brand
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34. Pope's country
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47. Newsman Rather
49. Roman three

Sudoku courtesy of Sudoko.com.au

Crossword solution last edition (June 2016) on page 90

Share your RSLWA news and views on facebook!
www.facebook.com/rslawahq
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
RS3246; Alberti, Stephen
Wanneroo RSL Sub-Branch
R307721; Brooks, George
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
F5102; Cross, Williams
Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
DJX568445; Cunningham, Thomas
Riverton RSL Sub-Branch
F4894; Davidson, Ross
Cambridge RSL Sub-Branch
R53919; Revett, Bevil
Eastern Regional RSL Sub Branch
S43806; Stephens, William
Central Branch
PA 3648; Whitehorn, Doug
Narrogin RSL Sub-Branch

Army
NF454994; Anderson, Marian
Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch
2548328; Atkins, Brian
Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
F5264; Balcombe, Dorothy
City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch
WF56822; Bradley, Elizabeth
Returned Ex-Servicewomen’s RSL Sub-Branch
54593; Brunalli, Walter
Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch
2791165; Carpenter, Douglas
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
WX30334; Cole, Edgar
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
WX119892; Davis, Keith
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
WX10078; Digby, Kenelm
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
54029; Dorter, Peter
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
WX39230; Freeman, Leslie
Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch
282622; Friedlander, Peter
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
WX3981; Gardiner, Victor
City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch
WX2665; Goldspink, Harold
Central Branch
433982; Harper-Nelson, Barbara
Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch
WX30728; Hill, Hector
Bicton-Palmyra RSL Sub-Branch
WX14359; Hudson, K.
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
WX204011; Jackson, Kelvin
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
WX22511/531; Jones, John
City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch
160817; Kapernick, Harold
Port Kennedy RSL Sub-Branch
WX36896; Knight, Ernest
City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch
WX20267; Lee, Allan
Dowerin RSL Sub-Branch
2410957; MacIntosh, Francis
City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch
WX22730; Maver, Stewart
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
5/410024; Mead, Leslie
Canning Districts RSL Sub-Branch
WX5859; Norrish, Keith
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
5411297; Powell, Allan
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
U43695; Price, Michael
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
3791933; Reardon, David
Juniper Bay RSL Sub-Branch
22946921; Savage, Richard
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
346252; Schrader, Leonard
Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
WX19098; Smyth, Robert
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
WX38721; Tempest, Dudley
City of Perth RSL Sub-Branch
13512; Thompson Malcolm
Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch
518822; Thompson, Martyn
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
WX41314; Verrier, Albert
Scarborough RSL Sub-Branch
WX501064; Waterhouse, Robert
Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
WX41081; Westcott, Harry
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
Y623736; Whiting, Lewis
Bridgetown RSL Sub-Branch
35660; Wilson, Leslie
Waroona-Hamel RSL Sub-Branch

Air Force
81362; Abernethy, Clive
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
427291; Brady, Frank
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
424505; Brown, William
Albany RSL Sub-Branch
A125401; Duff, John
Bullsbrook RSL Sub-Branch
406646; Gaston, Bruce
Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
82502; Grigson, Keith
City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch
441551; Jaques, Alan
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
A5391; Mayfield, Robert
Armadale RSL Sub-Branch
A510066; McGregor, Eric
City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch
R93252; Noble, Robert
Canning Districts RSL Sub-Branch
R52322; Pattison, Banjo
Central Branch
456472; Roberts, Hannah
Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch
A32794; Rumball, Dennis
Harvey RSL Sub-Branch
A58494; Stacey, Graham
Geraldton City RSL Sub-Branch
83095; Ward, Donald
City of South Perth RSL Sub-Branch

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But don’t just take our word for it!

I am writing to say thank you so much for everything that you did for my brother’s funeral last Friday. You were so compassionate to our family at this very sad time of our lives. You were incredibly understanding of little 8 year old Seth’s needs. Your actions were noted by everyone who saw how much you cared for Seth. I wanted to formally say “thank you so much” to the whole team. Our dark day became a little brighter with your care and concern. - Kerrie

Thank you for supporting the family through the preparation phase of Mum’s funeral and at the service itself. We were very pleased with the dignity of the arrangements and the staff assisting were most helpful. Please accept our sincere thanks. - John

These flowers come with so many thanks for the kindness and care that was shown to us organising my dear brother’s funeral by everyone involved. Thanks again. - Shirley, Karelle & Dawn

We would like to thank you for your professionalism and caring support in the sudden loss of our Mother, Sister, Nan and Great Nan. On behalf of our family, Thank you very much. - Evelyn

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They fought for our freedom.  
They taught us respect.  
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