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- the story of Lance Corporal David Scott

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RSL Statement of Purpose

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

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

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

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

Previous Editions
Copies of The Listening Post published since June 2017 are available on our website: www.rslwa.org.au


Publishing
Publishing of The Listening Post: Published three 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.
The RSL logo is very near and dear to generations of Australians.

So when I was asked to update the current logo, my brief to the designers was to update but maintain traditional links.

There was a strong need to maintain the respect and the integrity of a long-established national ‘brand’ look.

We also wanted to provide an important sense of ownership and recognition to the Western Australian State Branch, and all the work, such as Welfare and Advocacy, the Sub-Branches provide to current and ex-servicemen and ex-servicewomen throughout the State.

Red and blue are colours of depth and strength representative of the RSL’s members nationally, and the colours match the existing and familiar logo design.

The font, or style of lettering, hints at tradition but with an edginess that’s also contemporary.

We positioned RSLWA alongside RSL to symbolise partnership with the National Organisation, while featuring WA in bold red to draw attention to the State and provide a sense of independence to the local aspect of the brand.

One day, we might venture to modernise the servicemen and servicewomen featured on the emblem. But for now, we feel the updated design helps to symbolise the direction along which the RSLWA is heading - traditionally, but boldly into the future.

We are WA

by Debra Bishop

[L-R] Members of the Bunbury RSL Sub-Branch. John Gelmi, President; Tim Thomson, Vice President; Laurie French, Committee Member; Athena Sofilas, Treasurer and Alan Hall, Secretary
It is with an enormous sense of pride and enthusiasm that I announce to our valued members a new way forward for RSLWA as we look to where we want to be in the future and what we want – and need – to deliver to Veterans and their families.

In October 2017, your Board of Directors gathered for an intensive two-day strategic workshop, facilitated by the much-respected business mentor and veteran, Peter Fitzpatrick, to plan for our future.

There are of course challenges but there are great opportunities and I am determined to lead a committed team to develop our existing services, grow new services, improve on our sound financial base and deliver on our plans and promises.

At the core of our way forward is asking ourselves why we do what we do. It might sound simple but it focuses the mind on just who we are and what we want to achieve on behalf of all Veterans.

The most pleasing aspect of the two-day workshop was a totally unified approach to what we are calling our ‘belief’ statement that will carry us forward in everything we do.

We believe that RSLWA provides the leadership, compassion and support for Veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much for the Australian people.

Over the next month, the CEO and the State Branch team will develop a plan to take us to Year 2020 and be assured that Sub-Branches and all RSLWA members are fundamentally central to the way ahead.

Our vision is that by 2020, RSLWA will enjoy the full confidence of government, the community and Veterans through professional, innovative and collaborative service delivery to Veterans and their families.

Importantly your Board has drilled down to practical yet innovative ways to improve support to Veterans and the importance of community and government support.

I look forward to keeping you all informed about developments. In the meantime, I commend an article in this edition by decorated SAS soldier, James McMahon, who provides a contemporary veteran’s view of RSLWA.
The State President’s announcement of a new way forward for RSLWA marks a turning point in not only the way we do business here in WA but, more so, what it means to services to Veterans and their families.

I firmly believe what we are doing here in Western Australia is a game-changer. We have a real opportunity to turn our backs on the totally unacceptable goings on in NSW and forge ahead in WA by doing what’s right and what’s important to Veterans – and doing it with good governance, sound financial management and delivery of what’s needed.

I am able to share with you how RSLWA will move ahead, starting now. We have already arrived at implementing sound management practices and a high level of compliance. That’s fundamental for any business – and our mission is in the business of being an agile and innovative not-for-profit organisation that has at its core the welfare and support of those who served and those still serving.

Our Values

Your Board and myself as your CEO share a new statement of values for RSLWA. While we have always been a committed and quality organisation, now is the time to forge ahead as a leading Ex-Service Organisation (ESO) in WA and across the nation.

Our Value Statement

At the recent Board strategic workshop the following was unanimously adopted as our way forward:

RSLWA is recognised as a leading provider of support, welfare and advocacy services to all serving, ex-service personnel and their families. We understand the sacrifices made on our behalf by Veterans and we work in cooperation with government, the community and other ex-service organisations to commemorate and recognise their contribution to our freedom as a nation.

Our people are dedicated to the highest possible standard of care for the Veteran community. We stand behind those whom we are privileged to serve.

As the State President announced our vision is that, by 2020, RSLWA will enjoy the full confidence of government, the community and Veterans through professional, innovative and collaborative service delivery to Veterans and their families.

How we go about it includes collaborating with as many other ESOs as possible in order to do things better together for the common goal of service and support to Veterans and their families – that is, you and Defence people you know.

Key Strategic Objectives

The key strategic objectives for RSLWA over the next three-years are as follows:

- Increase membership retention and growth; and
- Develop relevant partnerships and collaboration opportunities with like-minded organisations.

And more currently, my responsibility on your behalf over the rest of 2017 and into 2018 is to:

- Promote RSLWA’s reputation and communicate our belief statement;
- Secure what is called Deductable Gift Recipient status that will allow us to attract tax-deductable donations for the roll out of services to Veterans, including Veteran Central and Veteran Hubs;
- Consult with all Members on what they think about RSLWA and what they may suggest on how we move forward;
- Review budgets for new services and the expansion of existing services and develop business units to deliver such services; and
- Communicate more with our key stakeholders including government, the business community, the corporate sector and communities throughout WA.

We have a fantastic and committed team here at State Branch and I look forward to putting into effect our new vision and objectives.
RSLWA into the future

by James McMahon – DSC, DSM

As a 'modern veteran', who up until now has not been meaningfully involved with the RSL, the following is a reflection on what the RSLWA means to me and my hopes for the organisation in the future.

The RSL was borne of a need to look after Veterans following the First World War. This mission is as important today as it was in 1916, when troops returning from the war sought to continue the camaraderie, concern and mateship experienced by Australian Diggers while serving in the theatre of war.

The RSL is an essential, iconic Australian institution that forms part of our nation’s culture. In light of this, it has been disappointing to see the reputation of the organisation diminished by recent events at State level on the East Coast.

Gratefully, RSLWA has not been tarnished by such inappropriate behaviour, however, it is beholden on those overseeing our RSL to fiercely protect its reputation and ensure that the standards of governance are of the highest order.

I am confident that all endeavours are being made to uphold this standard.

With the passing of many of the outstanding old Diggers from the two World Wars, senior active members are now mostly Veterans of the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

The majority of Veterans in our community have returned from more recent conflicts and peace-keeping operations.

RSLWA must constantly strive to adapt to the needs of modern Veterans and their families. The failure of Australian society to show due care and support to our Vietnam Veterans provides an opportunity to learn from past mistakes and inform us as to how we can best support today’s Veterans.

The badge of the Australian RSL is described as a symbol of readiness at all times to render service to our country and comrades, without thought of personal gain or ambition, anywhere under our blue sky.

In keeping with this ethos, there exists great opportunity for revitalisation at RSLWA, evolving its mission to support Veterans and currently serving members of the ADF and, importantly, their families. There are many existing organisations, both government and private, that exist to support current and former members of the Defence Force.

RSLWA is in a position to support and provide coordination of these services, streamlining and improving access to those needing support.

Issues such as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and the impact it has on individuals and those closest to them are not specific to the ADF.

RSLWA must be across the latest developments in treatment regimes and support mechanisms available in our State. Efforts in this area could be shared with other services such as WA Police and Paramedic Officers and their families.

An opportunity also exists to support other ‘for purpose’ charities outside of the military. Charities that support the wider community in areas such as youth education and mentoring, family support and general community service.

In essence looking after ourselves and others reinforces the RSL mission of continued service. We are bonded by our service and love for Country.

It unites us, provides example, makes us proud and allows us to continue to serve our community. How we look after those in our community determines the quality of our community.

It gives us meaning. RSLWA’s future is based on its founding ethos, proud service history and mission – we look after our current and former soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen, and their families. This continues to make all Australians proud of this essential, iconic Australian institution. This institution is one of many in our Country that unites us and forms part of our nation’s culture.

To achieve the RSLWA mission and evolving roles in the wider community, we need continued sound governance, a strategic plan and to be truly financially independent.

From my recent involvement in the RSLWA Investment Advisory Committee I have seen governance that is continually improving, a strategic plan developing and an asset base and investment strategy that can achieve financial independence and potentially support others. However, the essential requirement to all of the above is people.

Having the right people in the right place.

This requires all recent and not so recent Veterans and current serving personnel to get involved with RSLWA and continue to serve, in whatever form that service takes. Service could be in the form of governance, fund raising, mentoring, Veterans programs, age care, art rehabilitation programs, commemoration, family days, community service and the list goes on. Everyone has a role and a place at RSLWA.

In conclusion at RSLWA we continue our mission of service to our current and former soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen, their families as we evolve to provide further service in the community.

We continue to be proud of RSLWA. It honours those that have served, our history and our Country by continuing to serve our community.

Our future is about our people, it’s about you, your continued service is essential and our everlasting bond to each other and our Country.
A mission statement that rings true

by Peter Tinley AM MLA - Minister for Veterans Issues

In the sometimes complex world of Veterans’ affairs it is pleasing to see how RSLWA is planning for its own future and how to be more agile and responsive to veteran needs.

Keeping pace with change is fundamental for such a service-based organisation and striving to keep things simple is an effective strategy in adapting to change.

RSLWA’s model of effectively placing the veteran at the centre of the circle around which are many well-meaning and committed Ex-Service Organisations is a model that helps to ensure it meets the needs of the individual veteran and his or her family.

It’s what it’s all about.

Back in 1916 when the RSL was first establishing itself in WA, the core objective was crystal clear – remember those who did not return and look after those who did.

It’s a simple mission statement that rings as true today as it did then.

And although I recognise the importance of commemoration – it is the ongoing well-being and support for our Veterans that is the current focus of my interest.

It is vital that the RSLWA continues to drive the message that we need to do things better. Effective partnerships and strong collaboration can help ensure that the organisation is well-placed to make a real difference here in WA. The State Government strongly supports this approach and as Minister for Veterans Issues, I am keen to do my part.

Importantly, RSLWA has reaffirmed that the word veteran should be taken to mean anyone who has served as a member of the Australian Defence Force. With an estimated 5,500 personnel leaving the ADF each year, the number of younger and more contemporary Veterans will continue to grow in WA – as will their corresponding need for services and support.

With the RSLWA’s planned development of a new ANZAC House looming – and within it, a Veterans Central one-stop-shop – I am pleased to see that real progress is being made in partnering with other ESOs to deliver tailored and timely support to our Veterans.

The McGowan Government is proud to support WA’s Ex-Service Organisations and the help that they provide to Veterans and their families.

I recently announced funding of $300,000 for the annual ANZAC Day Trust Grants for programs and events that focus on mental health issues and the transition to employment post service and I urge eligible organisations to make an application for funds.

Our Veterans deserve all the support we can offer.

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.
Remembrance Day

State War Memorial, Kings Park - 10.30am-11.45am

In 2017, Remembrance Day marks the 99th anniversary of the Armistice which ended the First World War (1914-1918). RSLWA State Branch and over 40 of its Sub-Branches have organised Remembrance Day Services to commemorate right around the State of Western Australia. We are proud that so many Sub-Branches comprising of hundreds of volunteers have given our communities the opportunity to reflect.

At the State War Memorial in Kings Park RSLWA invites you to join us for our Remembrance Day Service. Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia will be in attendance and will deliver the keynote address.

Local schoolchildren will attend, and a number of dignitaries and representatives of Ex-Service Organisations lay wreaths around the Flame of Remembrance.

Turn to Page 50 for a list of Remembrance Day Services and Poppy Appeal locations!
Marching to the Perth Concert Hall

by Royceton Hardey

The iconic Perth Concert Hall is now a part of the ANZAC Day event programme.

Participants in the ANZAC Day March will now be invited into the comfort of the Concert Hall instead of meeting at Langley Park for the Commemorative Service.

RSLWA Chief Executive Officer, John McCourt, said a change of venue was needed.

“Year after year we have quite literally been at the mercy of the weather,” Mr McCourt said.

“There have been years it has been stiflingly hot while others have seen a wash-out.

“While the Dawn Service and March will remain at the mercy of the weather, we can at least have a facility for the Commemorative Service that will deliver a more controlled environment and also provide for catering and socialising before and after the Commemorative Service,” he said.

The events team at RSLWA have worked closely with Concert Hall staff to develop a plan for ANZAC Day 2018 and their professionalism and assistance has been most welcoming.

For Lorraine Rice, Deputy General Manager at the Perth Concert Hall, this event has special significance.

“As an ex-member of the British Women’s Royal Air Force, it was my privilege to serve with men and women from NATO forces during a time in Europe when the Cold War was at its height,” she said.

“To be a part of the services ‘family’ and to have this enduring connection with the armed forces is something that prevails, whatever your circumstances.

“We are honoured to be a part of and host this event at the Perth Concert Hall, and are proud to be associated with RSLWA.”

Perth Concert Hall is renowned for having one of the finest acoustics in the southern hemisphere. The Concert Hall serves as the primary performance venue for the West Australian Symphony Orchestra.

The building was opened on Australia Day in 1973 and serves as a prime example of the “brutalist” mid-century architecture style.

Many of the world’s best contemporary artists have performed at the Concert Hall including: Ray Charles, PJ Harvey, Nina Simone, Sting, Tim Minchin and KD Lang.

A communication plan is being rolled out over coming months to inform members and other stakeholders of arrangements.
Sam Levett is a picture of order within the strewn shell of ANZAC House. He walks carefully around the rubble expertly gauging the more secure chunks of concrete while he converses with me about his work on this project. Sam is Project Manager at Pindan Constructions and he has kitted me out with a hard hat and Hi-Vis vest. I’m standing in the middle of the site and the rubble is so high that I can see directly into the upper level of the building. This is my only chance to be here and I show no mercy with my Canon camera. “I was kind of a bit stuck going through High School,” remarks Sam. “I was flicking through a careers book and there was this Curtin University course in Construction Management, and it sounded good. I’ve been with Pindan for 14 years now and I actually started while I was still at University,” he said. Sam has worked on a number of projects in his time with Pindan and while looking after ANZAC House he is overseeing the demolition of the Millstream Arcade building on Mends Street in South Perth. The old Arcade will make way for Quest Serviced Apartments and Retail Development. Other projects Pindan have worked on include the removal of St Catherine’s College and St Thomas More College buildings in Crawley in order to construct new student accommodation buildings consisting of 200 and 250 rooms respectively. “It’s a great job. Each site will have a different array of challenges, no two sites will ever be the same,” Sam said. Most of the demolition work at ANZAC House is done on the weekend and two excavators on the site lie dormant. The hydraulic excavators, both of which weigh in excess of 30 tonnes each come with specialised hydraulic attachments including a rock breaker and a concrete pulveriser. The pulveriser, or nibbler, is a hydraulic set of jaws which is attached to one of the excavators.
These jaws grip a section of the building and apply a huge amount of pressure to crush the concrete and steel into small pieces. The resulting look, as if something has “nibbled” at the building, gives it the name.

The second excavator is fitted with a rock breaker attachment which is like a giant jackhammer. This is used to break down larger sections of concrete, like the large concrete beams in the building so the jaws of the nibbler can fit around.

This process enables the building to be carefully taken down in a controlled manner and also reduces the amount of dust created.

A wrecking ball was never going to get a look in at this site.

Due to the location, proximity to other buildings and public areas, the demolition equipment used has to be as delicate as possible in order to keep the debris within the site boundary.

The debris mound we are standing on plays an important role in allowing the excavators to climb and reach the higher sections of the building.

Once completed, the building is reduced to one large pile of crushed concrete and steel which is then removed from the site using a front end loader or excavator and truck.

The demolition contractor on this project is also a recycling contractor and the material removed from site is transported to their recycling facility in Bayswater.

At this facility steel is separated from the concrete and is usually transported offshore to be smelted down and used to remake new products. The concrete is broken down further and is used to make road making products such as roadbase.

“I wouldn’t go too much further,” cautions Sam.

I had gotten carried away and was almost at the peak of the debris mound in my photo-taking excitement. Not in the mood to cart me off to hospital Sam had quite rightfully saved me from myself.

“This building was unusually constructed,” notes Sam.

“It was made of extremely thick high strength concrete with a lot of reinforcement steel and post tensioning cables.”

For the first time ever I have a newfound appreciation for the building I used to work in. It seems if the unusual occurrence of an earthquake was to hit Perth I would probably live to tell the tale.

But despite the challenges, it doesn’t look like ANZAC House has given Pindan too much grief.
Partnership with the Western Australian Club

by John McCourt – CEO, RSLWA

I am pleased to advice that a new partnership has been forged between RSLWA and the highly-respected Western Australian Club (The WA Club).

As you know, RSLWA is operating in leased accommodation while we redevelop the site upon which the old ANZAC House was situated. It is anticipated the build will not be complete till the first half of 2020.

A consequence of our move to 66 St Georges Terrace, Perth, is that we do not have a social amenity such as that enjoyed at the old ANZAC Club which was well regarded and patronised by members and their guests.

As such, I have held discussions on RSLWA’s behalf with the WA Club President and Committee and am very pleased to announce that, effectively immediately, all financial Service Members of RSLWA will be afforded reciprocal rights till 30 June 2020 on the following terms and conditions:

1. Reciprocal rights would be Life or Service Members and RSLWA State Branch personnel only. The WA Club is informed that RSLWA Service Members are those who are deemed so in our Constitution and By-Laws.

2. RSLWA members in the Affiliate and Social categories will not qualify for reciprocal entry to The WA Club.

3. Relevant to (1) and (2) above, RSLWA members will enjoy access to The WA Club premises at Level 11, 12 St Georges Terrace, Perth for the purposes of use of the premises for socialising and use of the restaurant and bar facilities.

4. Access by a RSLWA Member will be by presentation of a current RSLWA Membership Card which denotes that Member is currently financial. No card. No entry.

5. WA Club Members to be offered access to relevant RSLWA licenced premises throughout Perth Metropolitan Area and selected regional centres with WA Club Members enjoying RSLWA membership rates in relation to food and beverage. (Note: Not all RSLWA Sub-Branches occupy their own premises nor do they have food and beverage facilities).

6. RSLWA Members will have the liberty of being accompanied by a maximum of three (3) guests per each individual RSLWA Member. Guests must accompany the designated RSLWA Member and may not remain at The WA Club premises without that RSLWA Member.

7. RSLWA Members will not have access to any other rights or privileges or membership of its own reciprocal arrangements with other clubs and entities. As such RSLWA members are not full members of The WA Club and cannot participate in any meetings or vote on any matters.

8. In return, any current financial member of The WA Club would enjoy entry rights at any licensed premises of RSLWA and its Sub-Branches subject to those persons presenting their WA Club Membership Card. Sub-Branches that do not wish to offer such rights will not qualify for any of its Life or Service Members taking up the reciprocal arrangement at The WA Club premises.

9. Relevant to (8) above, a visiting WA Club member will enjoy same rates for food and beverages as RSLWA Sub-Branch Members.

10. RSLWA State Branch and Sub-Branches can also seek to take up opportunities to utilise the facility for functions that would require catering beyond that which can be managed by State Branch or a Sub-Branch.

11. RSLWA persons would be required to, at a minimum, meet the dress and behavioural standards as determined by The WA Club from time to time.

Current minimum dress and other standards are as follows:

**Monday to Thursday**

Gentlemen: Tailored trousers, long sleeve collared shirt and shoes (no sandals).

Ladies: Smart attire appropriate to dress requirements of gentlemen.

Non-acceptable dress: denim, shorts, short sleeved shirts, casual shirts, runners or boat shoes.

No sunglasses worn on the head nor any male headwear.

**Friday**

Members and guests are welcome to use the Club wearing neat business casual.

Non-acceptable dress: denim, shorts, short sleeved shirts, casual shirts, runners or boat shoes.

No sunglasses worn on the head nor any male headwear.

Other Protocols

Mobiles: On silent or turned off. Should members need to take a call, they must do so discreetly and not impinge on the enjoyment of others.

**Smoking**

The Club is strictly non-smoking.

**Opening Hours**

See the website at www.waclub.com.au for opening hours, lunch and dinner times and menus.

**Behaviour**

The WA Club has strict protocols with regard to acceptable behaviour. Loud, interruptive or bad language is not tolerated with offenders required to leave the premises immediately along with any and all of their guests.
Legacy Week 2017

Perth Legacy teamed up with RSLWA for their annual Legacy Badge Day in September.

RSLWA provided use of its boardroom, kitchen and meeting rooms to the charity for the day.

The central location, at 66 St Georges Terrace, proved ideal as a central meeting place for voluntary collectors positioned around the City.

Executive Officer at Perth Legacy, Rob Ratkovcic, said support on the day was strong.

“It was great to see so many volunteers, ADF personnel and cadets out on the streets of the Perth CBD and around Fremantle on Badge Day,” Mr Ratkovcic said.

“The support shown over the week for Legacy WA does not go unnoticed and I would like to extend a big thank you to all those involved.”

Perth Legacy is dedicated to caring for the families of deceased and incapacitated Veterans.

WALGA ANZAC Day Award

The inaugural RSLWA/Western Australian Local Government Association (WALGA) Award for excellence, presented at the WA Local Government Conference, recognised outstanding involvement by a Local Government Authority in supporting RSLWA on ANZAC Day.

The Perth metropolitan award went to the City of Wanneroo while the country award was won by the Shire of Three Springs.

The high standard of entries was matched by the exceptional effort put in by many Councils across the State in ensuring ANZAC Day commemoration was recognised as a community-based event.

RSLWA President, Mr Peter Aspinall, congratulated WALGA for its collaborative effort with RSLWA to establish this special award.

“Local government involvement in the promotion and facilitation of community involvement in ANZAC Day paves the way for a very promising future for what is indeed one of Australia’s most important days,” Mr Aspinall said.

WALGA President, Cr Lynne Craigie, said the Association was delighted to join with RSLWA in establishing the award.

“Local Governments and local RSLWA Sub-Branches have strong, ongoing ties in particular through their joint contribution to ANZAC Day celebrations,” Cr Craigie said.

“The entrants to this award were varied but all highlighted the significant role local celebrations play in commemorating ANZAC day and in keeping the ANZAC spirit alive across communities in WA.”
Estate Planning and Capacity:
the Importance of Planning for the Future Early

by Claire Hawke-Gundill - Senior Associate - Kott Gunning Lawyers

It’s no secret that Australia has an ageing population.
ABS statistics project that in 2042, our society will look quite different from what it does today. The number of Australians aged 65 and over is expected to increase rapidly, from around 2.5 million in 2002 to 6.2 million in 2042.
That represents an increase from around 13 per cent to around 25 per cent of Australia’s population.

What are the implications of an ageing population?
Estate planning is not just an activity for the elderly, but it is certainly a more pressing issue for those in the later stages of their lives. If estate planning is left too late, the consequences can be devastating, both for the person and their loved ones.
In order to make any estate planning documents (Wills, Enduring Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Guardianship and Advance Health Directives), the law requires the maker to have soundness of mind and an understanding of what he or she is doing when making the Will, Enduring Power of Attorney, Enduring Power of Guardianship or Advance Health Directive.
This requirement means that in some instances a person is not able to make one or more of these documents, because they lack sufficient capacity to do so.

**What are the implications of incapacity for the individual?**

The implications of a person being unable to make an estate planning document due to incapacity varies, depending on the person’s circumstances.

It could result in the need for the State Administrative Tribunal to become involved and make orders in respect of the person’s financial affairs and/or medical treatment and care.

It may result in the person’s estate being distributed on their death in accordance with an outdated Will that don’t suitably match the person’s circumstances. Alternatively, the person’s estate may be distributed in accordance with rigid entitlements set out in the Administration Act, if the person had never made a Will.

The primary issue with these fallback alternatives, is that the person doesn’t really get a say. Their ability to have a say on who looks after their finances, who stands to benefit from their estate and how their future care decisions are made, is essentially lost when they lose capacity.

**How is incapacity determined?**

It’s important to note that standards for capacity are task-specific.

Whether a person has capacity to do something, depends on what it is they intend to do. Capacity to make a simple Will is different to capacity to make a complex Will. Capacity to make a Will generally, is different from capacity to make an enduring power of attorney.

In the New South Wales case of Apice v Gutkovich – Estate of Abraham (No 2) [2010] NSWSC 1333, the Court found that Ms Abraham, a 93 year old lady with dementia, had capacity to make a particular Will (but not other particular Wills), despite the fact that she lacked capacity to manage her financial affairs and lifestyle decisions.

**Conclusion**

With our ageing population, matters of capacity are becoming increasingly relevant.

The best thing we can do to avoid some of the worries that come with losing capacity is to ensure that those close to us have appropriate estate plans in place, early.

If you are concerned because you know somebody who doesn’t have an appropriate plan in place and who may not have capacity, or may have declining capacity, we recommend that you encourage them to consult a lawyer as soon as possible so it does not become too late for them.

The information published in this paper is of a general nature and should not be construed as legal advice.

Whilst we aim to provide timely, relevant and accurate information, the law may change and circumstances may differ. You should not therefore act in reliance on it without first obtaining specific legal advice.

**To make an appointment with Claire, call (08) 9321 3755.**
Ric Giblett OAM JP, is this year’s ANZAC of the Year Award recipient.

He’s had a busy year so far, in January he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his service to Veterans and their families.

As the current President of the Serpentine-Jarrahdale (S-J) Sub-Branch he was instrumental in establishing a very successful Op Shop in Byford that is owned, managed and co-located with the Sub-Branch and which provides a direct income stream.

“The Op Shop came from an idea we had to run a jumble sale every month to try and maintain an income source,” Mr Giblett said.

“We succeeded in this and soon realised that something like that was needed in the area so we found an older house to rent and in an ideal place to start something permanent. “We are now one of the main sources of sponsorship for all local community groups. The relevance of the RSL in the Shire of Serpentine-Jarrahdale is very well established.”

Ric was the driving force behind the establishment of the ANZAC Crescent Memorial Park. Opened in 2015 it features the names of 321 local soldiers who died in the First and Second World Wars.

A “Waler” Horse forms the centrepiece of the Memorial.

A gallant “Waler”, one of the finest cavalry horses in the world, carried the Lighthorseman through the most harrowing of battles. The horses were called Walers because, although they came from all parts of Australia, they were originally sold through New South Wales.

“Building that Park was a labour of love for me,” Ric said.

“It had its knockers from select members of the local community. I had the support of our ex-service community and all of the Sub-Branch.

“There was no dedicated memorial park in S-J Shire of any worth and what was there seemed to the local ex-service community as a hurried afterthought.

“That is what motivated us to do it.

“Not only is the Park in place with a wall naming the locals who paid the ultimate price, but we managed to have the developers, LWP Property Group, name the surrounding streets after those who have fallen.”

Ric has worked tirelessly as an Advocate since 1996, processing claims and representing Veterans to the Superannuation Complaints Tribunal, Veterans Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

He has also served on both the Western Australian and the National Australian Treatment Monitoring Committees. He is a member of the Operational Working Party at the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and the application committee for the Bravery Trust.

Mr Giblett joined the RSL in 2002, and received his award at State Congress from Robert Dick, National President of The Returned & Services League and RSLWA State President Peter Aspinall.
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I have fond memories of the town of Wagin located in the Great Southern region of WA.

My Father used to work for the R&I Bank as an Agribusiness Valuer. His role meant that for many years I would be at the Wagin Woolorama for an enjoyable weekend in March. This was a different time, a time when financial institutions were well regarded within the community and the banks had respect for the customer. Chief Executive Officers didn’t make anything north of $80,000 a year and farming families would converge at the ‘tent’ to update Dad on their grain forecasts for the season.

They’d get complimentary drinks and free money boxes for the children.

From the moment the tractor pulling hay trailer scooped you up from the carpark to whisk you around to the showgrounds entrance the Woolorama was a day of fun.

These memories flooded my mind as we started to leave the City behind us.

I have a travelling companion on this trip in RSLWA State Membership Officer Andrea Hunt. We began tackling the world’s problems when we reached the Armadale turn off and by the time we saw the first golden crop of canola we were ready to receive our Honorary Chair at the United Nations.

Wagin smelt so fresh. The surrounding fields acted as one giant air purifier and the chilly winds carried with it the most glorious air. For three days prior to our visit rain had moved through the area and Arthur River was starting to flow again.

I must have taken the wrong road into Wagin as I saw no giant ram or Sub-Branch but instead ended up at the Wagin War Memorial.

The Memorial was moved to its present position when the Wagin Swimming Pool was constructed in 1967. The monument is crowned by a broken granite pillar which symbolises the lives broken and destroyed by World War One.

The Memorial was moved to its present position when the Wagin Swimming Pool was constructed in 1967. The monument is crowned by a broken granite pillar which symbolises the lives broken and destroyed by World War One.

The ANZAC Day March from Sub-Branch to War Memorial must be a short one. The distance between the two places would be no more than 200 metres with a couple of houses and the town’s one screen theatre in-between.

The Sub-Branch location was originally the Union Bank and was erected in 1927. Later it was the premises of Elder Smith & Co. before becoming a Community Centre.

President of the Wagin RSL Sub-Branch David Hill and Treasurer Robert Boyd are waiting for us out the front. It’s hard to say hello at first as our greetings are drowned out by a huge sheep truck thundering down the street.

I love old buildings and I was keeping my eyes peeled for any old money bags which may have been mistakenly left behind. The RSL has the best spot occupying the entire top floor which comprises of a main dining area, adjoining bar, toilets, kitchen and plenty of storage space.

“I’m relatively new to the RSL,” David said as we sit down.

“I came to an ANZAC Service one year, joined up, and now I’m President, that was four years ago.”

Wagin RSL Sub-Branch has a good mix of Members for the size of the town. It currently has ten Service Members and 14 Affiliates. But like so many other regional Sub-Branches David points out the challenge of getting new members.

“The thing is you get spread very thin in the country,” remarks David.

“You have the RSL, the Wagin Club, and various sporting clubs. For myself I also help

The Listening Post hits the road to bring the stories of regional Sub-Branches to the fore. Our next visit in this series is to the Wagin RSL Sub-Branch.
out with the bar at the Bowling Club and I’m tied up with the Hospital Support Group as Treasurer.

“It’s hard to get the younger ones interested with the demands of these roles, especially when they have to move on to where the employment is.”

Treasurer Robert Boyd says even something as enjoyable as a sundowner does not guarantee they will come running to your door.

“For the younger ones they are a bit reluctant to come to our Friday night sundowners, because they need to drive back to the farm,” notes Robert.

“There are no taxis out here to get you back, so they’ll probably do the drinking on their farm.”

The last Friday of each month is dinner night and they are themed. Chicken all ways, which includes three different chicken dishes, Christmas in July and more recently, a lamb shank night have been popular.

“We have a number of widows in the town,” says David.

“They love to attend these nights and are Social Members of our Sub-Branch.”

In a town as small as Wagin you need to have your recruiting cap on all the time, especially when new residents arrive in the district.

“Every year the Shire of Wagin has a new residents welcome,” David said.

“So everyone who has arrived in the town in the last year are invited to that and all of the local organisations go along so we can chat to all of the newbies. We try and sound them out and sometimes you win, sometimes you lose.”

While membership can be a challenge, fundraising is not.

“If you have a collection happening, we have a very generous community,” says David.

“The local Wagin IGA a few months back phoned us up and told us we were to be the recipients of their IGA Community Chest. It was a cheque for $600. So we get amazing support and our street collections always do well.

“For the Woolorama we ran a sausage sizzle out of the Eric Farrow Pavillion and we were competitively priced so that was good for (the RSL) us.”

As is the case with so many other Sub-Branches the locals embrace the ANZAC Day Services.

“The Community love the Services we put on,” David says.

“We had at least 200 at the Dawn Service and then probably the same again at the later Main Service. We conduct the Dawn at Six O’clock followed by the Main Service at Eleven O’clock. In addition to all that we do a ceremony at the Waratah Lodge Nursing Home.

“There would be about a dozen at the nursing home who are too frail to come to our other Services. We do The Ode and The Last Post. We also give a small talk. This includes them in everything but it makes for a long day for us,” David says with a smile.

As the conversation continued I jumped up to take some photos around the Sub-Branch. I found myself drawn to an item on the wall. It was the Australian Commonwealth Military Forces badge but this was a huge replica of it. At the very centre of the main dining room wall it commanded attention.

Right on cue David must have read my mind.

“There’s a story to this,” he says.

“That was actually made for the Perth Royal Show State District Displays. The Great Southern were going to use it last year. Their theme for the display was the ANZAC’s leaving from Albany. So they made it up and it was designed but they couldn’t get permission to use it.

“So we inherited it and it fills that space well.”

While it looks incredibly heavy David tells me it’s made out of Styrofoam and is in fact very light.

Time was marching on so Andrea and I started to make a move.

As we made our way to our car we were just in time to see another truck crunch through its gears. We said farewell to David and Robert knowing that the Wagin RSL Sub-Branch was in great shape. The generosity in the town from the Shire to the locals is strong and helps the RSL continue its work.

This time I did spot the giant ram. He’s known as ‘Bart’ to the locals and I decided to wave him farewell but I don’t think he noticed.
At the foot of Cantonment Hill and adjacent to the majestic Fremantle Harbour, is the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia, located at historic Artillery Barracks – Fremantle’s hidden gem.

This is a unique museum in WA because it is the only such place that interprets the Army in the State and Western Australians in the Australian Army, from the colonial era to present day.

The museum started in Perth in 1977 and relocated to Fremantle in 1995. Since then, it has continued to flourish and has become a superb museum. It has various themed galleries, covering WA-related military historic era, from 1826 to the present day.

The outstanding, recently refurbished galleries reflect the service and sacrifices of WA’s former and serving men and women through their personal experiences in various wars and peacekeeping operations. There are also large exhibits outside the galleries that include tanks, armoured cars, artillery and trucks.

David Baker is both the museum’s marketing manager and one of the many volunteer guides who happily show people around the many displays.

“What we have here are not just objects. ‘Objects’ without a story would just remain an object. The museum uses these objects, such as medals, badges, uniforms and weaponry, as a means to interpret and highlight the stories and experiences of WA Veterans,” David said.

“The Australian military heritage we have here allows us to bring these objects to life, because of the stories behind them,” he said.

A musician with the Australian Army Band Corps for 20 years, including the Band of the First Battalion Royal Australian Regiment (1RAR), David has since served another 17-years in the Army Reserve. He is still serving and currently with the Australian Army Band Perth, and for many years has been a volunteer at the Army Museum.

His instrument of choice, the alto saxophone, means that he can blow a pretty mean tune or three. Interestingly, for many people who work in front of an audience, once off the stage, David is a quiet and unassuming person but certainly comes alive when talking about the Australian Army Museum of WA and Australian military history.

Describing his love of interacting with the many visitors to the museum, he said: “Every rostered shift here, I learn something new; the stories keep on coming.”

“Many stories have unfortunately gone to the grave. Most ex-service personnel didn’t want to talk about it or relive their war experiences...
which is quite understandable. I have however been privileged to have some Veterans recount aspects of their service which I can impart to visitors when they come to the museum. It also broadens my knowledge and personal experience," he said.

“I personally feel that my duty and obligation here is to carry those stories forward for future generations. I don’t want those former service men and women who have gone before us to be forgotten.”

In an age that bandies about terms such as ‘fake news’, it is refreshing to hear David speak of the importance that the Army Museum of WA places on “telling the story as accurate as possible because each story is also representing the story of thousands who are no longer with us.”

Many school students visit the museum, with school groups forming one of their largest clientele. Many overseas tourists who travel to Fremantle, find out about the museum and seek it out as a place of significance to visit.

Artillery Barracks is a rare example of early 20th Century military-built heritage and makes a wonderful home and backdrop for the Army Museum. It was built between 1910 and 1913 for the gunners of the Royal Australian Garrison Artillery but since the end of World War Two, it has been the location of a number of Regular Army Units as well as the Citizen Military Forces/Army Reserve units.

“We remain current with social media by having a museum website, a Facebook site, and more recently, Instagram,” David enthused.

The Army Museum has a Temporary Exhibition Gallery and currently there is an installation of the significant medal collection belonging to the Royal United Services Institute of WA, which incidentally have never before been on public display.

As a final word, David said “a visit to the Australian Army Museum of WA at historic Artillery Barracks here in Fremantle will not disappoint and by the way, the museum is always seeking volunteers – so feel free to apply.”

Located on Burt Street, it is open Wednesday to Sunday, from 10:30am to 3:00pm (last entry at 1:00pm). School and community group bookings for tours are welcome.

For more information, visit: www.armymuseumwa.com.au
A chance discovery at a Western Power site has bridged the gap between our war heroes of yesteryear and today.

Russ Sharp, a Western Power Project Manager of the Depot Modernisation Program and a former enlisted Sergeant in the Royal Australian Air Force, found a historic World War Two employee Honour Board with over 200 names from the City of Perth Electricity and Gas Department (now Western Power).

“Western Power began an initiative this year to support the men and women in the business who have, or are currently serving, in the military.

“This group facilitated the first ever ANZAC Day Commemoration Ceremony held at Western Power. After the ceremony, a staff member told me that they remembered there was a “small” plaque honouring a Victoria Cross recipient, who had worked at our organisation and had been placed in storage.

“Recognising that this was a significant piece of our history, we set out to investigate. We couldn’t find the plaque but we were stunned when we peered under a blanket, and sitting in a corner of a storage room, there was this magnificent Honour Board,” Mr Sharp said.

In consultation with RSLWA, Western Power unearthed some fascinating stories behind the names including a Victoria Cross (VC) recipient – Stan Gurney – who, along with five others, died in action.

Named as one of the famous Rats of Tobruk, Stan was employed in 1927 as a clerk and meter-fixer with the City of Perth Electricity and Gas Department. An enthusiastic cyclist, he won a number of road-races and officiated at fixtures conducted by the League of Western Australian Wheelmen.

Stan was just 33 years old, and a Private in the 2/48th Battalion Second Australian Imperial Force during
the Second World War, when he was awarded the VC (posthumously) for 'a heroic deed'.

His VC citation appeared in the London Gazette of Tuesday 8 September 1942:

No. WX.9858 Private Arthur Stanley Gurney, Australian Military Forces. For gallant and unselfish bravery in silencing enemy machine-gun posts by bayonet assault at Tell el Eisa on 22 July 1942, thus allowing his Company to continue the advance.

During an attack on strong German positions in the early morning, the Company to which Private Gurney belonged was held up by intense machine-gun fire from posts less than 100 yards ahead, heavy casualties being inflicted on our troops, all the officers being killed or wounded. Grasping the seriousness of the situation and without hesitation, Private Gurney charged the nearest enemy machine-gun post, bayoneted three men and silenced the post. He then continued on to a second post, bayoneted two men and sent out a third as a prisoner.

At this stage a stick grenade was thrown at Private Gurney which knocked him to the ground. He rose again, picked up his rifle and charged a third post using the bayonet with great vigour. He then disappeared from view, and later his body was found in an enemy post.

By this single-handed act of gallantry in the face of a determined enemy, Private Gurney enabled his Company to press forward to its objective, inflicting heavy losses upon the enemy.

The successful outcome of this engagement was almost entirely due to Private Gurney's heroism at the moment when it was needed.

Later his comrades, whose advance he had made possible, found his body. There is a grave at El Alamein, Egypt in the desert at the battle site.

The Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch, The Stan Gurney ward at the former Repatriation General Hospital, Hollywood, and the Stan Gurney VC Memorial Bike Race held annually in Midland, are named in his honour.

For unknown reasons a name has been removed.

“I think that the missing name is a reminder that there are always going to be mysteries of war no matter how much history can be unearthed,” Russ said.

“The missing name could become one of those mysteries that may never be solved, but then again we never thought we’d find this Honour Board either. “If I had to speculate I’d say that I know many underage civilians assumed the identities of older relatives so they could enlist to fight and then later had service records altered. But that is only a theory for this mystery.”

For Western Power, restoring the Honour Board is a sign of respect to those who bravely served their country.
I’m waiting in line at The Botanical Café in Kings Park which is attracting a brisk trade.

The sun has come out after a period of wintry Perth weather and the precinct around the State War Memorial is busy for a weekday. Young mothers pushing prams are enjoying the opportunity to get out of the house and slurp down a decent coffee.

Happy in the knowledge the scones don’t have sultanas in them I quickly complete my order and race back to my guest who’s happily sitting at a table out the front.

Lance Corporal David Scott from the Australian Army Band Perth made quite the impression on his arrival. He showed up in khaki uniform at my request but the clash between his greens and the activewear all around us created some sideways glances.

“Let me tell you what this is all about,” says David as I settle down.

“I’ve turned the magical 70,” David says with a grin.

“Once you turn 70 that is it, that’s the deadline. I’m going to fall just nine months short of 40 years’ service.”

To delve into David’s musical journey before he hit 70 we go back to his arrival in Perth from New Zealand. The year is 1971.

Back then the Salvation Army was invited to play the Last Post at the Dawn Service on ANZAC Day at the State War Memorial. David, a Salvo at the time, would perform with two other representatives.

“I have basically been playing here (State War Memorial) since 1972, from my time at the Salvation Army to enlisting in the Australian Army,” David said.

Every ANZAC Day was busy. David would deliver his call at the Memorial, then do the same again at the Jewish Memorial followed by the 2/28 Battalion Memorial. Then he’d hop on a bus to participate in the ANZAC Day March. More Bugle calls were to follow in the afternoon.

“Back in those days the crowds were nothing like they are now. I don’t think anyone could have envisaged back then as to how big it was to become. It’s great the young people want to come.”

Having skills the Army wanted – with an ability to play the bugle, trumpet and cornet – David core enlisted into the Band Corps on 19 June 1978 and started immediately in the 5th Military District (5MD) Band after 13 weeks at Kapooka doing basic training.

After a number of years 5MD was disbanded in 1993 as WA’s Army presence began to dwindle. Many regular Army units became reserves leaving only the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) out at Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne.

“The SASR were never here,” says David.

“So we ended up doing more and more concerts for civilians and the Army looked at that and made the decision to stop the Regular (5MD) Band. But I was lucky as we had a Reserve Band running side by side with our Regular Band.

“Lance Corporal David Scott has lost track of the amount of times he’s performed The Last Post. From playing in conditions so frigid he couldn’t feel his hands to finding himself at an Ultimate Frisbee Competition there have been many remarkable moments in his time with the Australian Army Band Perth.

Sounding military signals

by Royceton Hardey
morning from Leeuwin Barracks and I did all the check-ups with the doctor, dental and then you hand everything in. They cut up my card to get in the gate but by the afternoon I joined the Army Reserve Band and played in a concert that night.”

The Australian Army Band Perth (the name changed again in 1999) is active to this day. They are a big hit among Local Government Associations, community events and music in the park. The 2/16th Battalion Association feature the Brass quintet from the Band at their Brigadier Potts Orations and they go on tour both in the state’s north where the infantry regiment North-West Mobile Force (NORFORCE) is based, as well as the South West.

But the real work for David comes when he leaves the accumulative safety of the performing Band to play the Last Post. The Australian War Memorial describes the Last Post as: “The bugle call that signifies the end of the day’s activities. It is also sounded at military funerals to indicate that the soldier has gone to his final rest and at Commemorative Services such as ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day.”

“You certainly don’t want to make a mistake,” David reflects. “Once you’ve made that mistake it’s gone and everybody knows that tune and how it goes, and the spotlight is just on you. You have to do your best as that is where most of the individual reflecting is done.”

If that situation is not nerve-racking enough other elements can come into play. During a visit to Villers-Bretonneux this year on ANZAC Day a French icy blow descended on the Commemoration.

“I had involuntary shaking,” said David, “never been so cold in my life. I had on four layers of clothes, thermals the lot, and I just couldn’t stop shaking. My fingers were ice.”

David has always been in demand at sporting events.

“I bugled at Western Force games and at the Len Hall Tribute Game hosted by the Fremantle Dockers. I’ve played a few of them going right back to when AFL was played at the WACA. I can remember standing next to the jeep in which Len Hall was standing.

“Once I bugled at a Frisbee Championship at McGillivray Oval. It was part of the Australian University Games and they were playing on ANZAC Day. All the players came together and had a Remembrance type ANZAC Service before the tournament itself. It was the first time I’ve been to a competition like that.”

Throughout all of the years of playing it has become a lifestyle for David but in a couple of days’ time he will hand back his Army gear. He falls just nine months short of completing 40 years of service which would have earned him the Federation Star and a trip to Canberra to receive the award from the Chief of Army.

“I still have the old backpack, water bottles and webbing,” David proudly mentions.

“My shaving mirror and toothbrush are in a trunk on top of my locker in the band room at Irwin Barracks. The only thing I’m missing from 1978 is my polyester green woollen tie.”

As he leaves the Army behind his musical contribution continues in a Band called ‘The Silver Threads’. The average age is 73 and you either need to have silver hair or no hair at all to join. Playing the Star Wars theme to delighted school children or visiting a nursing home to play some golden oldies is a rewarding task for the members of the Band.

For ANZAC Day next year it will be a totally different experience for David. “I might finally get to walk down amongst the crowd.”

“Although I’ll still have some duties with my role as a Sub-Warden at the State War Memorial, I’ll be able to find the time to take a walk to see just how far that crowd goes.”
Robert Crofts

At the table he was the king of attention.

“I take two sugars in my tea thanks,” says newly crowned centenarian Robert Crofts as a cup of tea is pushed towards him.

A small group of friends, family, and well-wishers gathered at Café Dean at the Alice Ross-King Care Centre located on the RAAFA Bull Creek Estate to spend some time with the man who enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) back in 1943.

The State Minister for Veterans Issues, Hon. Peter Tinley AM MLA and State Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Dr Mike Nahan MLA were present along with RSLWA Chief Executive Officer John McCourt, RSLWA Operations Manager Martin Holzberger AM CSC, and Riverton RSL Sub-Branch President Bill Collidge RFD.

Mr Crofts was presented with a gift and an RSLWA letter of appreciation signed by RSLWA State President Peter Aspinall acknowledging the occasion.

While enjoying some birthday cake Mr Crofts let it be known that he misses his ability to drive.

“I wanted to sit for my driving test recently but I couldn't even get an interview,” he said with a smile.

“In all the years I’ve been driving I only hit one Kangaroo!”

Maisie Kilgallon

Nobody’s actually sure when Maisie Kilgallon joined the RSL Women’s Auxiliary Service.

No official records were kept regarding membership back then but Maisie can remember when she first volunteered behind the City of Belmont RSL Sub-Branch Bar.

“It was 1983,” she says.

“I had finished working at the Swan Portland Cement Works after 16 years and I did enjoy being with people. So I decided to volunteer behind the bar.

“I spent 20 years serving drinks and would come in at least once a week. Back then women usually ordered a lemon lime & bitters and the men always wanted either a beer or whisky.”

Good friend to Maisie, Phyllis Worth, remembers the activities the Club held back then.

“There was a larger membership in those days so events like dances with a band were common,” Mrs Worth said.

To this day Maisie is still a part of the Belmont RSL Sub-Branch but you won’t find her behind the bar. Each week 22 ladies take part in the Belmont Seniors Keep Fit Club, held at the Sub-Branch.

Maisie started the Club with friend Beryl Rowe and originally participants met at Ascot.

“Doctors who knew about our exercise routines would actually refer their patients to us,” recalls Maisie.

“We exercise every part of the body including the eyes and legs. If you find it hard to stand you can do these exercises while sitting.”

Maybe this is the secret to Maisie’s excellent health. Having been born on 5 August 1918, making her 99 years young, she is as spritely as ever.
The Australian War Memorial (AWM) has become the proud custodian of 6,500 contemporary photographic portraits of Second World War Veterans.

The largest photographic project ever undertaken in Australia, Reflections – honouring our Second World War Veterans was the brainchild of the Australian Institute of Professional Photographers (AIPP), who worked with the Memorial and the Returned and Services League of Australia to achieve its ambitious objective.

It took two years and more than 450 professional photographers from across the country to produce the portrait collection. Reflections’ National Project Manager, Mr John de Rooy, said time was running out to capture this invaluable photographic record.

“Our aim was to produce a sensitive portrayal of these Veterans’ elderly state, which will provide a cognisant comparison to wartime imagery of young men and women photographed at their most youthful and vibrant,” Mr de Rooy said.

The images will be projected in the Memorial’s Second World War Galleries for the appreciation of visitors. Once accessioned into the collection, they will be accessible to the public as part of the Memorial’s online collection.

AWM Director Dr Brendan Nelson said the Memorial is the home for these photographs, as these are the images of the men and women whose stories are held and told here.

“Looking into the faces of this remarkable generation of Australians now leaving us, is an emotional experience. They mobilised to defend us when our vital interest were at stake and gave their youth and their all for us.

“It has taken an extraordinary effort from the AIPP to assemble this vast archive. The Memorial was honoured to work with them and the RSL as part of this project. We commit to maintain and make accessible this unique and compelling collection for all Australians,” Dr Nelson said.

Veterans and their families and friends are encouraged to view the photographs in the Second World War Galleries of the Memorial.
RSLWA State President Peter Aspinall addressed the Vietnam Veterans’ Day Commemoration Service conducted at the Mandurah War Memorial.

His address was based on the question...

“Was it worth it?”

When I sat down to draft this address I was immediately stuck on the question of just what to say.

Apart from personal anecdotes which may, or more likely may not, be of interest to most of you, what could I say that had not been said before?

A thought crossed my mind; our service - was it worth it?

Perhaps not particularly original but, now 50 years after my return to Australia from South Vietnam, a half century in which there have been enormous societal changes in Australia as elsewhere in the world, maybe there is some value in looking back and asking whether that time in our lives as participants in the Vietnam War was worth it.

Continued on next page...
Those Vietnam Veterans who served in the Navy, the Air Force and the regular Army may possibly reach a different assessment than those Army Veterans who were conscripted although my experience over the years has been that most National Servicemen viewed their conscription as something they preferred had not happened but having so served generally believed that they had benefitted from the experience.

In making such an observation I am clearly referring to the majority of Veterans who returned suffering few or no adverse effects from their service.

In assessing whether it was worth it, one way is to accept the compelling fact - they won, we lost!

If you do accept this black and white fact, without qualification or acknowledging mitigating factors and nuances then you would surely judge that your time in Vietnam had been utterly wasted.

I would then expect that you would hold the view that we should never have become involved in the conflict at all.

But is this a realistic view?

Personally I cannot subscribe to it.

Major conflicts are fought on at least four levels:

At the level of national governments; at the strategic level of the senior military commanders; at the tactical level of the seaman on a warship, the soldier on the ground or an airman on a mission; and the fourth level of the civilian population.

The major combatant nations that went to the aid of the Republic of Vietnam, principally the United States (US), Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and South Korea, were all committed by democratically elected governments.

With regard to Australia there may have been some ulterior motives to our supporting the US however it was a popularly supported commitment in the early years of the conflict.

The domino theory of expanding communism down through Southeast Asia was a firmly held conviction at the time.

That the Vietnam conflict was an internal war of nationalism was not appreciated in the early 1960s.

Later government actions regarding the prolongation of the war can be severely criticised but, according to the social mores of the early 1960s, the initial commitment can be defended.

Hindsight can be a wonderful refuge.

Our Australian senior commanders held a different approach based on conservative use of resources and, more importantly, their more recent experience of fighting counter insurgency operations in Malaya and Borneo.

One element of the overall US strategy was the conduct of aerial bombardment of the North, particularly around the Hanoi/ Haiphong region.

You may recall the early operation, Rolling Thunder, and then Linebacker I and II, the latter conducted in December 1972.

From a purely military standpoint Linebacker II was an overwhelming success, severely crippling the war making capacity of North Vietnam. In a political sense, Linebacker II was also a remarkable success.

For the first time in the war the US had used air power in a way that influenced the will of the North Vietnamese to continue the conflict.

In the words of Sir Robert Thompson, a World War II military officer in Southeast Asia, an expert in counter insurgency warfare and the former Head of the British Advisory Mission to Vietnam:

“...In my view, on 30 December 1972, after 11 days of B52 attacks on Hanoi, you had won the war. It was over! They, North Vietnam, had fired 1,242 surface-to-air missiles; they had none left save for a mere trickle which would come in from China.

“They and their whole rear base at that point were at your mercy.

“They would have taken any terms. And that is why, of course, you actually got a peace agreement in January, which you had not been able to get in October.”

Militarily the US and its allies had won the war.

That is worth repeating, militarily we won the war.

At the tactical level, which is where virtually all of us Veterans participated, it should be noted that nowhere on the battlefield, which includes on the sea and in the air, were we defeated.

As sailors, soldiers and airmen we fought and won the war our political masters had demanded of us.

Even what is thought to be the turning point of the war, the Tet Offensive of early 1968, was a massive military defeat for the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese forces deployed.

It was, however, an equally massive public relations coup for Hanoi and was immensely significant in the turning of public opinion in the US and Australia.

This brings me to the fourth level of conflict, the support of the general population.

The decline in this support was crucial to the eventual decisions made by the Nixon Administration and our own Federal Government.

Decisions made were all directed to ensure the most expeditious withdrawal of our forces from Vietnam.

After the success of the Linebacker II operation, one wonders why the US settled for a "peace" which was so favourable to the North Vietnamese and which, ultimately, resulted in the communist takeover of South Vietnam.

Could popular support have been maintained?

Perhaps, perhaps not, but, in my opinion, there appears to have been very little political will to try to maintain this support. To go back to my initial stark statement, they won, we lost. Exactly who lost the Vietnam War?

While we had numerous military failings, particularly at the strategic level, I don’t believe we, the Veterans of the Vietnam War, can be accused of losing the shooting war.

Was it worth it?

Only you can decide.
More than 100 people arrived at the Mandurah War Memorial to commemorate the memory of those who served, suffered and died in the Vietnam War.

This Vietnam Veterans’ Day Commemoration Service is organised by the Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group Inc (MMVVG) and is held on 18 August each year.

The cold and blustery weather did not stop a crowd of Vietnam Veterans, dignitaries, schoolchildren and the public from commemorating.

The Royal Australian Navy provided the catafalque party, their uniforms blending in with the large white pillars of the Memorial which peak in height behind the central lectern.

As the ceremony began, the sound of a lone piper could be heard in the distance, leading a parade of Veterans from Hall Park to the Memorial. Marching in two lines the crowd significantly bolstered with their arrival.

A welcome from Mr Ron Brown, President of the MMVVG, was followed by a prayer to the fallen from Reverend David Oxley. The State President of RSLWA, Mr Peter Aspinall and Cadet Imari Morris gave the main address and student address respectively.

The tribute to a Veteran was bestowed upon Mandurah resident Yvonne Bolton. Mrs Bolton who was present at the Service, was one of 43 Australian female Army Nurses who saw duty in Vietnam. She was appointed Nurse in Charge of triage and the operating theatre at 1st Australian Field Hospital in Vũng Tàu, Southern Vietnam.

Towards the end of the Service students from Singleton Primary School did a great job exerting their voices so both New Zealand and Australian national anthems could be heard over the wind.

After the Service Veterans gathered at the Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch for refreshments.
According to the 1st Australian Field Hospital Association (1AFH) website, the professional services provided at the Hospital were of such a high standard, they achieved a survival rate of 98.6% on patients who reached them alive.

This stands as a truly remarkable achievement given that many of the casualties reached the hospital barely alive, with horrendous wounds and severe injuries. On average, a soldier would receive emergency treatment at 1AFH within 30 minutes of being wounded or injured in the field.

There were a total of 43 Australian female Army nurses who saw duty in Vietnam. This is the story of one of those many dedicated nurses who took care of us Veterans in Vietnam – Theatre Nurse, Captain Yvonne Werndly, known to us as Yvonne Bolton.

Yvonne is the last of the only two nurses who had come from Western Australia, the other having since passed away.

After completing her nursing in Perth she moved to Melbourne to practice midwifery. Three years of nursing overseas followed this before Yvonne returned to Perth and worked in the operating theatre.

Realising she had the skills; and out of self-interest; she then joined the Citizens Military Force before signing onto the regular Army in 1967 in order to serve in Vietnam.

In May 1969 with a full complement of military personnel, she flew to Saigon via Singapore and then transferred to Vũng Tàu where 1AFH was based, within the Australian Logistic Support Group.

No sooner was she off the plane in Vũng Tàu, she was grabbed by the hand, told a “dust-off” was arriving and they needed her help. “Dust-off” was the call sign for casualties arriving. The wounded were flown to 1AFH to a helipad located near the beach. The Medical Detachment UH-1 “Huey” helicopters were landing and unloading casualties, still in their full combat gear.

Medical officers were sorting the casualties in order to prioritise the more seriously wounded for the triage area.

Due to her experience in the nursing field, Yvonne was appointed Nurse in Charge of triage and the operating theatre. Staff were on call twenty-four seven so sleep was a luxury rarely given and on one occasion they worked 36 hours straight.

More times than not, sleep became elusive due to the adrenalin highs after a dust-off arrival. Yvonne was happy to serve, knowing the wounded were comforted by the treatment they received by the Australians. Psychologically this treatment greatly benefited their survival and recovery.

Regrettfully Yvonne’s tour only lasted six months as she contracted Hepatitis B from all the fresh blood she had been in contact with.

This led to a lowered immune state wherein she contracted pneumonia.

She was flown home to Perth via Sydney and following her recovery, remained in the Royal Australian Army Nursing Corps for a further four years.

She was discharged as a Captain in 1972.

Although the Battle of Long Tan took place in August 1966, three years before her tour in 1969, Yvonne believes that having Vietnam Veterans’ Day allows us all to remember the service of the men and women who were called on, wounded or killed, as well as a day to remember our mates who served in the Vietnam War.

Note: At the time of publishing we received word of Yvonne’s passing. No funeral service was conducted as Yvonne donated her body to the University of Western Australia for medical research.
Approximately 200 people attended a Vietnam Veterans’ Day Ceremony at the Moora War Memorial located in the town’s Centenary Park.

Moora RSL Sub-Branch President Arthur Tonkin led participants through a short programme which concluded with a visit to Moora Cemetery to lay a wreath on the grave of Peter Clements.

Corporal Peter Clements, on the night of 18 August 1966, was relieving troops at the Battle of Long Tan when he was shot in the stomach while manning a .50 calibre machine gun. He died from his wounds 10-days later.

Corporal Clements was recommended for the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry and was awarded the RVN CG with Gold Star (RVN CG GS).

Cemetery visit in Moora

A crowd of about 70 people turned up at the Vietnam Veterans’ Rock located in the grounds of the Village Green in Rockingham.

The City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch held the Service with Australian Army Major Lyndon Jackson coordinating the commemorative programme.

“For many people who grew up in the 1970s, the views on the contribution of Vietnam Veterans have changed,” Major Jackson told the crowd.

“It is undeniable that the service carried out by loyal and committed soldiers was not properly acknowledged and that is a regret that must now be lived with. Thankfully, the welcome home parade and ongoing events like today do a lot to honour the service and sacrifice made by those Veterans of that war. “The Veterans are now held with high regard and respect and we thank them for their contribution to Australian military and national history.

“The Salvation Army also played a very large supporting role in the Vietnam conflict.

“The Salvationist’s consider their efforts were little compared to sacrifices of the soldiers who had answered a country’s call, but a hot cuppa, some spiritual comfort or just someone to talk to should not be underestimated for its value to the soldier.”

It was at this point that Rockingham Salvation Army Corps Lieutenant Darrell Wilson, was invited to lead the crowd in prayer.

Comet Bay College Student and Australian Air Force Cadet Sergeant James Hoops read a poem as part of the proceedings.

At its conclusion participants were invited to attend the City of Rockingham RSL Sub-Branch for refreshments.
The unsung four-legged and winged heroes of the past

by Linda Scott – WA Ambassador, Australian War Memorial Organisation

In July of this year I was present at the unveiling of the Western Front’s first Animal War Memorial. It took place at Pozières and the occasion was a significant one for all of us at the Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO).

The AWAMO is a not-for-profit organisation that raises awareness of the deeds and sacrifices that animals have made in warfare. Pozières, a small village in the Somme Valley in France, endured some of the most bitter and costly fighting for Australian troops in 1916.

According to the Australian War Memorial, “The British strategy focused on the seizure of the ridge east of Pozières village from where an attack could be mounted on German strongholds further north at Thiepval which had not fallen to British attack.

“In less than seven weeks in the fighting at Pozières and Mouquet Farm three Australian divisions suffered 23,000 casualties. Of these, 6,800 men were killed or died of wounds.”

It was also a place of untold losses in animal life.

According to Nigel Allsopp, in his book Animals at War, “It is estimated that over nine million perished or were wounded in the Great War, however this figure is low as records from Asian countries and the fledgling Soviet Union were either non-existent or restricted.”

For some time AWAMO has undertaken numerous fundraising initiatives to raise funds to recognise the invaluable contribution animals have made to Australia’s military history.

The Memorial itself comprises of four memorials.

There is the memorial commemorating the Veterinary Corps, a New Zealand memorial, as no ANZAC memorial is complete without the inclusion of our closest allies, a memorial to animals of all nations and finally our memorial.

Among the memorials are a statue of Saint Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals; a stone of remembrance for the Australian Army Veterinary Corps and a sculpture of two dogs.

The ceremony, held on Friday 21 July, was conducted in both English and French with many nations in attendance. Australia was represented by AWAMO President Nigel Allsopp, Director of the Australian War Memorial Dr Brendan Nelson and much loved TV Veterinarian, Dr Harry Cooper.

Donkeys and horses were present, with a particular horse taking pride of place thanks to his coat of purple poppies made up of knitted and crocheted poppies from the Australian and French public.

An original First World War pigeon carrier released pigeons covering the sky to the delightful gasps of all in attendance.

AWAMO plans to erect a pigeon feeder on the site to encourage animals to visit the Memorial.

After the unveiling, morning tea was held at Pozières Town Hall where Mayor Bernard Delattre OAM was presented with gifts for a local museum.

One of the gifts was a painted animal portrait by WA Veteran and artist Brad Kay from Military Art Program Australia.

If you are planning on visiting the Somme you are bound to pass through Pozières. Please add the Australian War Animal Memorial to your list. Whilst it’s predominately an Australian Memorial, it is hoped that people from all Nations will stop and reflect on the sacrifices made by animals at war.

For more information about the AWAMO you can contact me on plscott@ozemail.com.au or on 0413 416 524.
The Australian War Animal Memorial Organisation (AWAMO) have had a busy year.

Fresh from Pozières, where they unveiled the Western Front’s first Animal War Memorial, they have now completed another unveiling closer to home.

The front lawn of ANZAC Cottage in Mt Hawthorn is where you will now find Western Australia’s first Animal War Memorial. Unveiled on Sunday 10 September, the granite stone Memorial acknowledges the sacrifices that animals made when they served alongside Australian troops in theatres of war.

“The Friends of ANZAC Cottage are proud to have this significant Memorial installed at ANZAC Cottage and plan to annually commemorate the animals that supported and comforted our servicemen and women in times of conflict,” Anne Chapple, Friends of ANZAC Cottage Secretary said.

“ANZAC Cottage was a haven for animals during the Porters' tenure at ANZAC Cottage. They kept many animals as pets and John Porter kept racing pigeons, now immortalised by the mural in the back yard.”

ANZAC Cottage was built in one-day in February 1916 with 200 workmen helping in the construction.

Private Porter was a member of the 11th Battalion of the First Australian Imperial Force, and one of those in the landing at ANZAC Cove and was wounded on the first day; the injury subsequently causing him to return as an invalid.

The Mount Hawthorn Progress Association decided to build a practical memorial that was also a house named "ANZAC Cottage" to provide a home for a soldier wounded in the landing. Porter and his wife lived in the cottage until their deaths in the 1960s.

The Friends of ANZAC Cottage was presented with two AWAMO Charles De Gaulle roses, to sit either side of the Memorial.
Christmas Cards for Troops

An alliance between Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch, Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village and College Park Over-55’s Lifestyle Village has resulted in a very merry Christmas for Defence Personnel on deployment overseas.

This year the Lake Joondalup Lifestyle Village card ladies presented Secretary Ken Beven with 186 packs, each containing six assorted (1,116 cards) Christmas cards. The College Park Lifestyle Village crafting ladies designed their cards by occasion. There were birthday cards (22x6 pack), Christmas cards (48x6 pack) and assorted cards (15x6 pack), with 510 created.

The cards from both groups were creative. Each one handmade and individually crafted. Old material was brought back to life again such as ribbon from chocolate boxes.

All 1,626 cards have been delivered to RSLWA State Branch. It’s envisaged the cards will find their way to some of those deployed on current operations.

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It’s been great fun keeping an eye on Richard Wassell’s Facebook page.

From the 23 to 30 September the 51-year-old athlete from Rossmoyne has been competing in Toronto Canada, and right from the outset his journey to those games has been exciting.

Just before leaving Australia Richard was on the Today Extra couch at Channel Nine’s famous Willoughby (NSW) studios chatting to hosts Sonia Kruger and David Campbell about his efforts.

From there things went into overdrive.

A series of photos started appearing of Toronto landmarks, and one of Richard with VIMY, a labrador retriever who is the official Games’ mascot.

After that things got serious.

Richard competed in both indoor rowing and athletics. He’s relatively new to athletics competition but he currently holds three world records in indoor rowing.

Toronto was playing tough weather-wise. Competition took place during the hottest two days of heat in Toronto since 1958.

Richard missed out on the 100m final by one place. However, he was eighth in the Men’s 200m final, sixth in the Men’s 400m final and was part of the Australian 4x100m mixed group relay team, which placed second.

In indoor rowing Richard came eighth in the four-minute endurance final and seventh in the one-minute sprint final.

This is not bad for someone who has limited control of the right side of his body. Richard joined the Navy in 1992 as an Electronics Warfare Submariner before discharging in 1996, after suffering a series of strokes while onboard HMAS Ovens.

Through the wonders of Facebook Messenger, I made contact with Richard.

“I was privileged to say that I was a competitor,” Richard typed.

‘In his closing speech the creator of the Invictus Games, HRH Prince Harry said, “It doesn’t matter how many gold, silver, or bronze Medals you may have won, getting to the start line is your biggest achievement.”’

“Sentiments I totally agree with,” said Richard.

“The journey started for me twelve months ago and I couldn’t have done it without the support of my wife and family (both here and overseas) my amazing workmates, RSL, ADF training partners and coaches. With all of you I’ve already won…love and respect to each and every one of you, this experience changed my life.”
Every Remembrance Day is important. Each year, RSLWA and its Sub-Branches, organise respectful commemorative events that promote within the community the importance of acknowledging the 11th day in November.

With the signing of the Armistice on that day at the 11th hour in the 11th month, the Great War (World War One) came to an end after more than four years of continuous warfare.

It seems almost disrespectful to put more importance on one Remembrance Day over another, as they are all important.

But in an effort to continually promote the acknowledgement of the sacrifices made within our community it would be remiss of RSLWA to not plan something fitting for the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day in 2018.

To acknowledge such an occasion, I’m proud to announce RSLWA with its Poppy Ladies’ groups around WA, have begun work on a major commemorative project.

62,000 handcrafted red poppies will be placed on the lawns at Kings Park surrounding the State War Memorial.

This visual tribute acknowledges the 61,513 lives that were lost in battle. According to the Australian War Memorial: “Australia’s population of fewer than five million people, saw more than 416,000 men enlist and ended with 61,513 being killed.”

The red poppy has particular significance for Australians. Worn on Remembrance Day, poppies were among the first flowers to grow along the battlefields of northern France and Belgium during World War One, a region where Australian troops fought.

In soldiers’ folklore, the vivid red of the poppy came from the blood of their comrades which had soaked the ground.

As a tribute to each of those lives, poppies are starting to be created. Whether you are a beginner or experienced crafter, choose to make only one or hundreds of poppies, anyone can contribute to this history making event in WA.

Patterns and guidelines can be found on our website’s Poppy Project page www.rslwa.org.au/rslwa-poppy-project-2018.

You can post your poppies into RSLWA State Branch - PO Box 3023, East Perth WA 6892 or drop your handcrafted creations off at your local RSL Sub-Branch.

To find your local RSL Sub-Branch visit our website www.rslwa.org.au/subbranches/.

When making your contribution, please include your details on a completed submission form available on our website’s Poppy Project webpage.

RSLWA looks forward to working with the team at Kings Park so that with the knitters and crocheters of WA we can create this historic installation of Remembrance.

Keep up to date with the progress of the project by liking our Facebook page or visiting the Poppy Project page on our website.
The Perth Royal Show had a world-first this year.
It managed to combine our RSLWA Poppy Ladies with Zombies. Yes, you read that correctly... Zombies.
This is the fun of the show. It's a visual and sensory overload.
As I look around I hear the sound of a very long groan. They’re noisy; I’ll give you that.
Our location is a stone’s throw from the ‘Escape of the Zombies’ attraction. Spooky piano music plays among the occasional scream and I see interested ‘victims’ lining up for a fright.
Now, if those Zombies were to escape, we hoped they wouldn’t make their way across to our location.
Situated on Hardy Avenue, right next to Showground Train Station, is the Royal Agricultural Society of WA Hall of Fame Building. Built in 1929 it’s the oldest building at the Showgrounds and was once used as the display centre for the Millars Timber and Trading Company.
I reckon it would still sell them timber if they were around today.
The wooden flooring and dark timber panels make this building grand and homely. A number of portraits positioned around the walls pay tribute to the men and women who have significantly contributed to Western Australian agriculture and pastoral life.
In a corner of this building a table is filled with eye-catching merchandise and grinning people. A middle-aged couple have stopped for a chat with the three ladies who have volunteered for the day.
“Do you crochet them yourself?” asks a showgoer clearly impressed with what she sees. The conversation concludes with merchandise being purchased and the proceeds going to RSLWA.

For RSLWA Events Coordinator Wendy Moss our presence has been a success.
“This has been a great opportunity for the Poppy Ladies to speak with the public about the exciting Armistice Day 2018 Poppy Project,” she said.
“It’s been fantastic to see so many people express an interest in contributing to the installation. I look forward to working with all who want to get involved.”
Another fun aspect of the show has been the creativity shown by all of the ladies over the course of the week in attracting the attention of the steady stream of people walking by.
The front of the building has a large balcony comprised of latticework, making it a perfect canvas for creativity and the ladies didn’t hold back.
On day one, a long string of poppies held in place by clothes pegs had been woven through the lattice to give a taste of what you’d find within.
As each day passed, in a brilliant demonstration of group creativity, the idea was built on.
By day five a giant poppy, comprised of over 100-odd knitted poppies had been created which spread most of the length of the front latticework. The display was stunning and I think we had the Zombies worried as more and more people came in to take a look.
“It has been a fantastic week at the show,” says Wendy.
“I wish to thank the Royal Agricultural Society for their support shown for RSLWA and the Poppy Ladies. A special thank you to Mr David Thomas, Vice President of the Royal Agricultural Society for arranging us to be at the Hall of Fame and to all the lovely ladies who volunteered their precious time to make it possible.
“We look forward to being involved again in 2018.”
A wedding dress always commands attention.

You could place one on a mannequin in the middle of the desert and people would just come running. This is what is happening now, but we aren’t in the desert, we are at RSLWA’s offices and I’m struggling to take photos without someone getting in the way.

Sonja Andrews, Secretary at the Esperance RSL Sub-Branch is responsible, she has designed something truly remarkable and we all have the best seats in the house.

Her War Widow’s Wedding Dress holds special significance through its links to the ANZAC tradition. According to Sonja, “For the Centenary period of World War One, I wanted to create a dress that pays tribute to the men and women who have served, loved and lost in conflict.”

Sonja is a great believer in reducing clothing waste and the technique of upcycling, by turning discarded items into new fashion garments, is not only acceptable among fashionistas but desirable.

“The piece is based on a vintage dress I sourced from local Esperance resident Mrs Compagnoni through our Anglican Op Shop,” Sonja said.

“Vintage doilies from the local Esperance community were used for the sleeves and underskirt of the dress.

“Many of them were handmade by a wife, sister or mother of service personnel and some date back to the World War One era and needed restoration work,” she says as a circle of onlookers grows bigger.

The most striking feature of the dress is the use of poppies along the train.

“I did this by designing a cut from a crocheted tablecloth.

“The poppies were collected from ANZAC Services around Western Australia and some were donated from the Esperance RSL, RSLWA, the Army Museum of WA and the Canberra War Memorial.”
I’ve jumped on some random bus that’s heading along the Terrace towards East Perth.

My destination is the Quest Apartment Hotel located on Adelaide Terrace. I keep my finger close to the bell button as I try to predict the closest stop. As we pass Hill Street I whack the button and hope for the best.

I could not have arrived any closer and I can see a concierge type person helping somebody with their bags. Doing the assisting is Byron McDonald, my interview subject and franchisee of both Quest East Perth and Quest Fremantle.

Byron, a former Infantry Officer, spent ten years in the Australian Army. After studying politics at the Australian Defence Force Academy and then spending a year at the Royal Military College in Duntroon, Byron was posted to 6RAR as a Lieutenant. He was deployed to Iraq for eight months.

Later, after being promoted as Captain, he went to Afghanistan with 5RAR for ten months.

As a fairly new entrant into the thriving Perth accommodation scene Quest East Perth was opened on 31 October 2016. The front of the place is intriguing, it looks like a church has the features of a church and it was a church. Turning the church into a reception was an adaptive re-use master stroke.

The Heritage Listed building named, “The New Church” was built in 1940 and provides a unique lobby and reception. Happy that the assisted man is confined to the perils of a taxi ride to the airport Byron turns and takes me through the archway doors.

“The Army actually sets you up to be a good franchisee,” says Byron as we walk through reception.

“People say the best thing the Army gives you is discipline. That’s a cop out. There are people who haven’t been in the Army that are very disciplined by nature and there are people who have been in the Army that aren’t disciplined by nature. “What the Army gives you is the ability to network and build relationships. As an Army Officer I built relationships, and I followed systems, and those roles are similar to what I do now in this Quest brand franchise model.

Byron’s entry into the Army was even a surprise for him.

“I had no family in the Army or Defence Forces, but I played representative Rugby and Rugby League and getting out and about really appealed to me so I applied to join.

“I didn’t take the screening process seriously. But I kept getting through the various stages.

“When they invited me to Sydney from my home in Nowra, NSW I decided I needed to take things seriously. In the end, as I did well in my Higher School Certificate, it was either study Mathematics and Finance at Wollongong University or join the Army and go to the Australian Defence Force Academy and study Politics.

“The best decision was to join the Army and I ended up studying politics with Andrew Hastie MP, the Federal Member for Canning.

“The career highlight for me as a Captain was in Afghanistan. I had this team of Australian soldiers who were so motivated, we did patrols every day and there were a number of contacts and improvised explosive device incidents. You are being shot at and having to make decisions and there were deaths.

“It was a time when I really learnt about the world. You go to Afghanistan and Iraq and you see how their minds work in such a sparse existence and we are just so lucky in Australia. I had such a great team and my superiors carried me through the trip.”

In the lift Byron takes me to the top floor and turns left towards the Hotel’s Rooftop Terrace. Having worked in East Perth previously for 12 years I can confidently say I know East Perth, but never have I seen it like this. Being the tallest building in that area the view at the top of those 18 floors was uninhibited.
If Byron wore a crown on his head it would be modelled to look exactly like Perth Stadium. Able to literally hold the multi-purpose facility visually in his hands from our location he admires the third-largest stadium in Australia. With a 60,000 person capacity it’s safe to say that some of the patrons will be needing a bed for a night or two.

He points at it as the light shimmers off the bronze-façade. With its location just a 15 minute walk away via the footbridge when completed you can understand why Byron would want to be the first to cut the ribbon at the opening.

“We are going to be smack bang in the middle of town in seven-years,” Byron says as he points in different directions. “The City is migrating east. You have the new stadium with footbridge, a revamped Casino, Ku De Ta restaurant has just opened, the WACA and over there will be the Waterbank residential complex near Trinity College.”

As I take in the view I find it hard to believe Byron was in the Army just four and a half years ago.

“I transitioned from the Army into petrol and convenience,” he said.

“A close family friend, Dickie David set me up at some service stations in Western Australia. Everything I’ve achieved since leaving the Army is thanks to him. My Mum and Dad still oversee my fuel operations and I wouldn’t be able to do any of this without them.

“I grew a petrol station franchise from two sites to seven sites in two years and then I purchased a car wash. I just couldn’t keep up with the growth in petrol. There has been so much pressure along the way and sadly I was engaged, but the relationship broke down.

“To get a business up and running was rough. Going from the Army and being on a good salary as a Commanding Officer of the Motorised Combat Wing in Puckapunyal to facing crazy overheads in the petrol industry. It was scary.”

When Byron started to become interested in a hotel franchise his Army credentials helped again.

“They see Captain on your résumé and this gets your foot in the door and with my background in fuel stations I was pleased to get the nod from the people at Quest,” Byron said.

While the mining industry has slowed Byron still believes Perth’s economy is improving.

“Perth is proving to be an extremely diverse economy, with other industries evolving and performing with strength. Perth is one of the most liveable cities in the world and current developments will see the place evolve and become an even more popular tourist destination in the future.”

As I take my leave Byron delivers the same friendly send-off that I had witnessed earlier. With no bags and no need for a taxi I walk to my bus stop across the road. As I look back I can see someone else has just arrived and Byron is helping them inside. The quest continues.
You’ve probably heard of a Boa constrictor but have you heard of a Bugle constrictor?

The Bugle constrictor is a strange device that is seen in Ken and Jenny Morris’ patio every three months. The Bugle’s editor, Ken Morris, is the scribe behind the quarterly newsletter of the City of Geraldton RSL Sub-Branch.

Ken’s constrictor makes its living by squeezing Bugles down to an acceptable thickness to pass through Australia Post’s measuring gauge.

If the Bugles are even slightly over the acceptable thickness the postage cost doubles to nearly $2.00, so a crush diet is necessary.
We as a committee have met on various occasions to discuss the future of the Network.

Sadly, we decided to cancel our March Women’s Network Forum due to lack of numbers. This was caused by the date conflicting with the 2017 Western Australian state election.

Since then I’ve been re-elected to the RSLWA Board of Directors for a further three-year term, this will give the Network some stability with our ideas as we move forward.

Our intention is to host another event, and we are planning for Saturday 10 March 2018.

Please save this date.

We would like as many females as possible to attend, this will give us a better picture of what is happening in the Sub-Branches and ex-service organisations.

Our Committee has had a few changes. We welcome two current serving members in SGT Kellie Jones (Army Veteran from Afghanistan) and CPO Amanda Kurts.

We also have Dale Olsen, Secretary of the City of Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch; Judy Bland, President of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen RSL Sub-Branch; Judy Welch President of the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps Association (WA); and we are fully supported by Wendy Moss, Events Coordinator from RSLWA.

I would like to thank CPO Deborah Schluter and Tracey Fickling for all their support.

Ex-Servicewomen RSL Sub-Branch; Judy Welch President of the Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps Association (WA); and we are fully supported by Wendy Moss, Events Coordinator from RSLWA.

In my time as Chair we held a Christmas in July event at ANZAC House in 2016. The entertainment was so good an impromptu singalong began thanks to Nicki Gillis, our wonderful entertainer. A surprise appearance from Santa Claus (aka previous Chief Executive Officer and now RSLWA Trustee Philip Orchard) concluded the afternoon.

Recently, I attended the second Female Veterans’ Policy Forum in Canberra hosted by the Department of Veterans’ Affairs (DVA). The forum allowed us to provide feedback to DVA so they could better understand the experiences and challenges faced by female veterans and veteran families.

Finally, I’m pleased to see that a number of Sub-Branches have formed their own Poppy Groups for female members of the RSL. If your Sub-Branch has done this then we would love to hear about it.

Projects like this continue to maintain our focus on creating a strong RSL that is engaged with and is inclusive of women.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the team for their support.
This Lion is temporarily back in familiar surroundings
Lions stand watch at Menin Gate

by Gavin Briggs

The Menin Gate lion statues which take pride of place at the front of the Australian War Memorial (AWM) in Canberra, are currently standing guard half a world away in Ypres, Belgium.

Proudly back in place at the Menin Gate Memorial, these statues are on temporary loan from the AWM in commemoration of the centenary of 1917 battles of the First World War.

The Menin Gate lions were originally donated in 1936 as a gift to the Australian people by the Mayor of Ypres. Their temporary return to Ypres was marked with an official unveiling earlier this year on ANZAC Day.

During the First World War, tens of thousands of Allied troops passed these two lions which stood at either side of Menin Gate, which stood guard to the old fortified medieval city of Ypres.

The troops knew the place as ‘Wipers’ and locals refer to it by its Flemish spelling of ‘Ieper’.

In silence, these statues watched over these soldiers as they went to fight against an entrenched enemy in the Ypres salient, which formed part of a much larger mechanised killing field that stretched from the North Sea to the Swiss border.

Tragically, approximately 54,900 British and Commonwealth (then referred to as ‘Empire’) troops died in Belgium with no known grave.

6,000 of that number were Australians of the Australian Imperial Force, including men from the Western Australian 11th, 16th and 28th Battalions.

Designed by architect Sir Reginald Blomfield, and unveiled on 24 July 1927 by Field Marshal Lord Plumer, the memorial’s intention was to provide a place of homage to those with no known grave.

The inscribed names of the missing are grouped under the units which served in the Ypres salient battles and fell in battle before 16 August 1917.

Every evening since 1927, a Last Post ceremony is conducted by the Last Post Association under the memorial’s Hall of Memory.

Traffic is halted as the ceremony is almost always attended by a crowd that numbers well into the hundreds. Some nights it is even a couple of thousand people.

Together, they stand in silence. Wreaths are also laid in memory of the many who never returned to their homeland. Many travel great distances in honour of a family member, others out of an interest in the historical significance of the town and the surrounding region. Whether one is a tourist, or the grateful descendant of the fallen, they all pay their quiet respects.

This Last Post ceremony has been conducted every evening since its inception, except when Belgium was occupied by Nazi Germany during the Second World War.

Standing silently during wartime as they did 100 years ago, the Lions of Menin Gate temporarily keep watch. They will return to Australia after Remembrance Day.
The A-League Remembers

The A-League Remembrance Round, a feature of last season, will be observed again at all five Hyundai A-League matches over the weekend of November 10 – 12.

Perth Glory will play in New Zealand against the Wellington Phoenix at Westpac Stadium.

Perth Glory are proud supporters of RSLWA and the RSLWA Poppy Appeal.

“It’s unfortunate that for a second year in a row, we have been drawn away in Remembrance Round,” Peter Filopoulos, Chief Executive Officer of Perth Glory said.

“We are honoured to be building our relationship with RSLWA and thereby helping to acknowledge and raise awareness of the incredible contribution made by those who served our great country.”

You can watch the game on Sunday 12 November at 2pm Perth time on Fox Sports.
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The Listening Post

NOVEMBER 2017

RSLWA KINGS PARK

NOVEMBER 11, 10.30AM
Hosted by RSLWA, this significant Remembrance Day Service will take place at the State War Memorial in Kings Park. Our Patron, Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia will be in attendance and will deliver the keynote address. Local schoolchildren will attend, and a number of dignitaries and representatives of Ex-Service Organisations lay wreaths around the Flame of Remembrance. The Master of Ceremonies will be RSLWA Chief Executive Officer John McCourt.

APPLECROSS

NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service is held in conjunction with the City of Melville in Wireless Hill Park. All are welcome to participate. On 10 of November the Applecross RSL Sub-Branch will be selling poppies at shopping centres around the Melville area. They will also have collection points at Bunnings Melville, and at the Canning Bridge, Bull Creek, and Alfred Cove IGA's.

BELLEVUE

NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Sub-Branch Hall, Purton Place. There will be a wreath laying and refreshments will be available after the Service. Poppy day collections will take place on Thursday 9 and 10 November at Bunnings Midland, Stratton Shopping Centre and at Midland Railway Station on Friday 10 November from 6.00am - 9.00am.

BOULDER

NOVEMBER 11, 10.50AM
A Remembrance Day Ceremony will be held at Boulder Loopline Park. Parade to fall in at 10.50am. Ceremony commences at 11.00am. The ceremony includes the Last Post, Ode, Reveille, speeches, Australian and New Zealand National anthems, prayers, wreath laying and a choir. At the conclusion of the ceremony the President of the Boulder RSL Sub-Branch invites everyone to enjoy refreshments at the Boulder Ex-Servicemen’s Club. Poppy collecting will take place on 20 October at Boulder Market Day. Collections will also take place on Remembrance Day at Boulder Stall before the Ceremony.

BOYUP BROOK

NOVEMBER 11, 10.30AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Boyup Brook War Memorial located across from the Boyup Brook Council Offices. Please congregate at the Memorial by 10.30 am for the Service to start at 10.55 am. There will be an opportunity for the public to lay wreaths. Limited parking is available at the Town Hall. Street parking is available within a short walking distance to the Memorial.

BROOKTON

NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will take place at Memorial Park on Brookton Highway. Poppy collecting will take place at the Brookton IGA on Robinson Road in Brookton all day on Friday 10 November and on Saturday 11 November before 10.30 am.

BULLSBROOK & DISTRICTS

NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Bullsbrook & Districts RSL Sub-Branch. The club will be open after the Service. Poppy collecting will take place on Friday 10 November both at RAAF Base Pearce and Bullsbrook Shopping Centre.

BUNBURY

NOVEMBER 11, 10.50AM
A short Remembrance Day ceremony will be held at the Bunbury ANZAC Memorial. Members of the public are advised that Victoria Street and Stirling Street will close to traffic at around 11.00am so that the Ceremony can commence. Local schools, politicians and community groups will lay wreaths and the Last Post will be played. At the conclusion of the Service light refreshments will be available at the RSL Hall.

BUSSELTON

NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Busselton Cenotaph. After the Service all are invited back to the RSL Hall for refreshments.

CAMBRIDGE

NOVEMBER 11, 10.30AM
An Armistice Day Service will be held at the West Leederville Cenotaph.

CANNING DISTRICTS

NOVEMBER 11, 1.00PM
The Canning Districts RSL Sub-Branch are holding an open afternoon with free roast meat rolls for all who attend. The Sub-Branch will be selling poppies at six venues: Carousel Cannington, Bunnings, Myers, Woolworths, Hamleys Supa IGA and Bentley Plaza on Friday 10 November and Saturday 11 November. 20 volunteers will be assisting the Sub-Branch with their collecting.

COCKBURN

NOVEMBER 11, 10.30AM
A Remembrance Service will be held at the City of Cockburn War Memorial. Poppy collection days are on 8, 9 and 10 November at Gateway, Phoenix, Kardinya and Coolbellup Shopping Centres as well as Bunnings Stores in Cockburn and Bibra Lake. Teams of two people will be collecting in shifts of one to two days.
REMEMBRANCE DAY
Services 2017 & RSLWA Poppy Appeal

COLLIE-CARDIFF
NOVEMBER 11, 10.50AM
A short Remembrance Day Commemoration Ceremony will take place in Collie at Collie Soldiers Park. Poppy collecting is on Friday 10 November from 9.00am - 3.00pm outside the office (Main Street, Collie) of local MLA Mr Mick Murray.

DAWESVILLE
NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
This Remembrance Day Service is held jointly between the Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch and the First Falcon Scout Group at the Dawesville Foreshore Memorial. Speeches will be made by Sub-Branch President and a Senior Scout. Poppy collecting will take place at Bunnings - Halls Head; and at shopping Centres in Erskine; Miami and Halls Head.

DONNYBROOK
NOVEMBER 11, 11.00AM
A Service will be held at the Donnybrook War Memorial. On 10 November a Poppy Day collection will take place at the Donnybrook Supa IGA, 38 South Western Hwy, Donnybrook.

EASTERN REGIONAL
NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Town of Bassendean War Memorial. The Eastern Regional RSL Sub-Branch will be Poppy Collecting at Morley Galleria on Thursday 9 November and at the Bassendean Shopping Centre on Friday 10 November.

ESPERANCE
NOVEMBER 11, 11.00AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Esperance War Memorial Park followed by a BBQ lunch after the service. Collection tins and poppies will be left at various business outlets. Esperance RSL Sub-Branch Members will offer poppies to the local community for a donation. Poppies will be available on Friday 10 November at several locations around the town including Post Office, Esperance Boulevard, Bunnings, Dunc’s IGA, Pink Lake IGA & Castletown IGA.

FREMANTLE
NOVEMBER 11, 11.00AM
The City of Fremantle conducts a Remembrance Day Service at 11.00am on 11 November at Monument Hill Reserve in High Street. Fremantle City RSL Sub-Branch Members will take up strategic positions around the City to collect for Poppy Day (on Friday 10 Nov):
- 6.00am - 9.00am  Fremantle and North Fremantle Train Stations
- 10.00am - 5.00pm  Fremantle Markets

GREENBUSHES
NOVEMBER 10, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held in conjunction with students from Greenbushes Primary School at the Greenbushes Cenotaph. Participants are invited to morning tea at the school after the Service. There is no Service on 11 November as there will be a bike tour (Tour de Margaret River) finishing its event on Blackwood Road from 10.00am to 12.00pm. An appropriate service will be held at the commencement of the race acknowledging all those Australians who fought and died in various battles.

JOONDALUP CITY
NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
In conjunction with the City of Joondalup, Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch will be holding a Remembrance Day Service at the Ocean Reef memorial in the grounds of the Ocean Reef Sea Sports Club. On completion morning tea and biscuits will be provided by the City of Joondalup.

JURIEN BAY
NOVEMBER 10, 10.45AM
The Service is conducted by the Jurien Bay Emergency Cadets under the supervision of the Jurien Bay RSL Sub-Branch, in the Jurien Bay District High School quadrangle. Students from lower primary to secondary school attend along with teachers, special guests and RSL members. The school P&C host a morning tea after the service.

KWINANA
NOVEMBER 11, 10.40AM
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the City of Kwinana RSL Sub-Branch Memorial. A guest speaker will deliver the Remembrance Day address. All service and ex-service personnel along with the the local community are welcome to attend. Poppy Day collections will take place at the following locations:
- Kwinana Marketplace Shopping Centre: Wednesday 8 November: 9.00am - 4.30pm, Thursday 9 November: 9.00am - 4.30pm and Friday 10 November: 9.00am - 4.30pm.
- Wellard Shopping Centre: Wednesday 8 November: 9.00am - 4.30pm, Thursday 9
REMEMBRANCE DAY
Services 2017 & RSLWA Poppy Appeal

November: 9.00am - 4.30pm and Friday 10 November: 9.00am - 4.30pm.

Lancelin & Coastal Districts
November 11, 10.45am
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at Lancelin Memorial. Refreshments will be enjoyed after the Service at the Endeavour Tavern. Poppy collecting will be conducted at various locations in Lancelin and Ledge Point.

Leonora
November 11, 10.50am
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at Leonora Memorial Park. Local schoolchildren are involved. Poppy sales are available from 1 November at the White House Hotel, the meeting area of the Leonora RSL Sub-Branch.

Mandurah
November 11, 10.15am
The Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch will be holding their Remembrance Day Service at the Mandurah War Memorial on Leighton Road, Mandurah. The service will commence at 10.15 with a medley from Voices in Harmony, followed by a Call to Order at 10.30am. The public is then invited back for Fellowship at the RSL Hall, 22 Third Avenue, Mandurah. There is plenty of parking available at Hall Park, adjacent to the Memorial. For further information, call Teresa on 9581 4781.

Manjimup
November 11, 11.00am
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Manjimup War Memorial. After the ceremony has concluded RSL Members and the public are invited to gather at the RSL Hall for a sausage sizzle and drinks. Manjimup RSL Sub-Branch will be carrying out Poppy collections on Friday 10 November outside the Manjimup Newsagency in the town centre.

Mount Barker
November 11, 10.50am
A commemorative service and wreath-laying ceremony will take place at the Mount Barker War Memorial. Participants are to assemble at the cenotaph opposite the District Hall on Memorial Road. Later RSL members, their families and friends will gather at the RSL Sub-Branch Clubrooms at 8 Booth Street for a barbecue lunch and camaraderie. Poppy Day collections will occur in the Co-Op foyer in Mt Barker, outside the shop at Kendenup and at the Community College on Friday 10 November.

Nannup
November 11, 11.00am
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Nannup War Memorial. Collection tins and poppies are left at various business outlets around the Nannup Town Centre. Nannup RSL Sub-Branch Members will have a stall at the local markets preceding the Memorial Service to offer poppies to the local community for a donation.

North Beach
November 11, 10.50am
Members will gather at the memorial precinct in Charles Riley Reserve for a short service followed by an unveiling of plaques on the Memorial wall. Local schoolchildren have been invited to attend and the public are most welcome. North Beach RSL Sub-Branch will be carrying out Poppy collections on Friday 10 November at the following locations: Warwick and Greenwood train stations and Warwick, Karrinyup, Greenwood, Duncraig, Carine, Glengarry, North Beach, and Gwelup shopping centres.

Peaceful Bay
November 11, 6.00am
A Remembrance Day Dawn Service will be held at Peaceful Bay Memorial. After the Service a gunfire breakfast will be held at the RSL Shed.

Pinjarra
November 11, 10.30am
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the Pinjarra War Memorial. After the Service; fellowship and refreshments will be held at the Pinjarra RSL Sub-Branch. A Poppy collection will take place at Pinjarra Junction Shopping Centre from 8.00am to 5.00pm on Saturday 28 October and Saturday 4 November.

Port Hedland
November 11, 10.50am
A Remembrance Day Service will be held at the War Memorial, Port Hedland. The proceedings are as follows: 10.50am Assemble at War Memorial; 11.00am Service Commences; 11.30am Service ends; 12.00am ANZAC House open for fellowship; 4.00pm ANZAC House closes. Poppies are available for sale from the RSL Community Shop, Lot 550 Hedditch Street, South Hedland.

Quinns Rocks
November 11, 10.45am
A Remembrance Day Service will take place at the Quinns Rock Sports Club. The Service will be followed by a light lunch.

Riverton
November 2 (Poppy Collecting Only)
Poppy Day collections will be at Southlands Shopping Centre in Willetton and Stockland Shopping Centre in Riverton. Both venues from 8.30am to 5.30pm.

Scarborough
November 11, 10.45am
A Remembrance Day Service will take place at the Scarborough RSL Memorial Garden. Extensive parking available in Shearn Crescent and Millcrest Street plus adjacent to the Doubleview Bowling Club and sportsground.
REMEMBRANCE DAY
Services 2017 & RSLWA Poppy Appeal

There will be a laying of wreaths by local dignitaries and others then the singing of the National Anthem. Bugle calls will be performed by a student from Churchlands Senior High School. At the conclusion of the Service, morning tea will be served at the hall adjacent to the Memorial Garden.

SERPENTINE-JARRAHDALE
NOVEMBER 11, 11.00AM
The Serpentine-Jarrahdale RSL Sub-Branch will hold a brief service at ANZAC Memorial Park in The Glades at Byford. All are welcome to attend and floral tributes can be made all day.

SHENTON PARK/SUBIACO
NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
Participants in this ceremony will convene at 10.45am with the service beginning at 11.00am. The Fallen Soldiers Memorial is on the corner of Rokey Road & Hamersley Road in Rankin Gardens. This Service includes one minute’s silence and laying of wreaths.
A choir from Subiaco Primary School and a local bugler will be part of the proceedings. Poppy collecting will take place on the corner of King Street and Hay Street in the City. Other locations are Shenton Park and Daglish Train Stations and Shenton Park shops located on Onslow Road.

SOUTH PERTH
NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
A Remembrance Day Service will take place at the South Perth War Memorial. Members of the public may lay wreaths if they wish. At 11:01am a Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) flypast will take place. A bugler will sound the last post, then a minute silence and then royst is sounded. The emcee will read a list of names from the district who fell in WWI. A choir will sing the Australian National Anthem. Refreshments will be available in the Council Hall after the service. Parking is available at the South Perth City Council offices.

Poppy collecting will take place at Perth Markets, Canningsvale, Royal Perth Hospital and at the IGA, Preston Street, Como. There will also be collectors at various points along Angelo Street, South Perth, the Mends Street Jetty, South Perth, Waterford Shopping Centre, Karawara, South Perth Council offices and at several locations in the Perth CBD.

TOODYAY
NOVEMBER 11, 11.00AM
The community are invited to attend the Toodyay War Memorial for a Remembrance Day Service. After the Service fellowship will take place at the Freemasons Hotel. On 9 and 10 of November Poppy collecting will take place outside the IGA supermarket in Toodyay on Charcoal Lane.

VICTORIA PARK
NOVEMBER 11, 11.00AM
The Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch will be holding their Remembrance Day Service as part of the Perth 4WD and Adventure Show at McCallum Park. Please note to attend this Service you must pay for admission into this event. It is a full service using a replica model of the actual Victoria Park Sub-Branch memorial with flags.
Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch will be Poppy collecting in the following areas:

- WED 1 NOV
  Have A Go Day, Burswood Park
  10:30am to 3.00pm

- SUN 5 NOV
  Swansea Street Markets
  8:00am to 2:00pm

- TUE 7 NOV
  Swansea Street Markets
  8:00am to 2:00pm

- FRI 10 NOV
  CBD Cloisters (Sub-Branch)
  9:00am to 2:00pm

- FRI 10 NOV
  Hay & Barrack Streets (ADF)
  9:00am to 2:00pm

- SAT 11 NOV
  Perth 4WD Show
  8.00am to 5.00pm

- SAT 11 NOV
  The Park Shopping Centre
  8.00am to 3.00pm

- SAT 11 NOV
  Swansea Street Markets
  8:00am to 2:00pm

- SAT 11 NOV
  The Park Shopping Centre
  8.00am to 3.00pm

WANNEEROO
NOVEMBER 11, 10.30AM
This Remembrance Day Service is held jointly between the Naval Association and the Wanneroo RSL Sub-Branch at the Wanneroo War Memorial. Speeches will be made by Service Officers and Sabine Winton MLA, the Member for Wanneroo. There will be a dedication of a plaque commemorating the one, and only, resident of Wanneroo to lose his life in the Korean War.
On Thursday 9 and Friday 10 of November, Poppy Collections will take place at Kingsway Shopping Centre, Wanneroo Central Shopping Centre and Woodvale Shopping Centre.

YORK
NOVEMBER 11, 10.45AM
The York RSL Sub-Branch will present a 30 minute Remembrance Day Service at the York War Memorial in Railway Street. The service will last approximately 30 minutes. After the Service you are welcome to partake in a light lunch at the RSL Hall, 164 Avon Terrace.
Poppy collecting will take place outside the Independent Grocers of Australia (IGA) supermarket on 10 November between 8.00am and 4.00pm.
In November 2004, the Australian Defence Force lost a Cavalry Trooper to heat exhaustion from a training exercise at the Mount Bundy training area in the Northern Territory.

His name was Trooper Angus Lawrence. As the public affairs officer at the time for Headquarters 1st Brigade at Robertson Barracks, Darwin, part of my role was to ensure that a comprehensive imagery package was prepared to commemorate Angus. This was developed from his subsequent funeral at Lone Pine Chapel within the barracks grounds with selected images released to the media.

Normally, on such an occasion officers attending would be dressed in polyesters and Sam Browne belts, as a mark of respect for their fallen brother. However, on this occasion, and due to other commitments, Brigadier John Cantwell gave me permission to carry out my task in my normal dress of the day, camouflage uniform.

During the course of the parade a unit Regimental Sergeant Major (RSM) broke ranks from his group and jogged a 100 metres to berate me about what he perceived to be my lack of respect for a fallen comrade.

I was shocked and upset by the accusation although now, in hindsight, I can see it was the RSM’s grief at the loss of a mate that caused him to react in the way he did without knowledge of my particular set of circumstances.

It particularly upset me because it was the first time I’d lost a brother in arms since Donny Hill (Donald Cameron Hill) got blown off the top of an armoured personnel carrier in Phuoc Tuy Province during my tour of South Vietnam in June 1971.

I didn’t know either of them personally but each of their losses has had a lasting affect on me that I didn’t realise until shortly after returning from Afghanistan in 2011.

And one thing I do know is that I would never disrespect a fallen comrade.

The depth of these losses was brought home to me after returning from a six and a half month tour of the Middle East in which, during my time there, Australia lost another five soldiers.

I arrived in Tarin Kot, Afghanistan on 1 August 2010 and in the first three and a half weeks took part in three memorial services and Ramp ceremonies for four of our soldiers: Special Forces Trooper Jason Brown (29) who died on 14 August 2010; Privates Grant Kirby, (35), and Thomas Dale, (21), who were killed by an improvised explosive device (IED) on 20 August 2010 and Lance Corporal Jared MacKinney who died in a firefight on 24 August 2010.

Again, the role of public affairs is to provide appropriate imagery and words of these events to media outlets back in Australia as well as vision and imagery for the bereaved families.
These tasks are carried out with as much care and sensitivity as is humanly possible.

It’s almost impossible to explain the grief I witnessed shown by the mates and colleagues of the soldiers killed in action as they sat quietly through those memorial services to honour the friend, or friends, who were no longer serving beside them. It was heartbreaking.

But they shed their tears, and consoled those who were closest to the deceased soldier, or soldiers, and over the next few days and weeks supported each other as they struggled to get back on terms with the fact that they had a job to do in Afghanistan and were the most highly qualified people to carry out those tasks.

These soldiers are men of the highest order who have learnt (if you ever can) a degree of how to cope with sharing the burden of grief and developing an even stronger bond to help them return to their daily jobs.

On 7 October 2010 I returned to the Australian Defence Force’s logistics and staging base at Al Minhad Air Base in the United Arab Emirates to provide theatre-wide public affairs support to Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 for the final four months of my deployment.

During that time we had various VIP visits into the Middle East Area of Operations along with two Defence Force Concert Tours and a National Australia Day Council (NADC) visit to Tarin Kot and Al Minhad. With me due to finish my deployment on 2 February 2011 the NADC visit, with Gretel Killeen and the pop band 1927, was a great way for me to finish my tour.

However my tour was delayed slightly when I was asked if I could extend my time for another week to cover an unforeseen circumstance… which I didn’t think would be an undue burden on me.

However, the loss of Corporal Richard Atkinson in that final week hit me like a sledgehammer and brought home to me just how closely the military family feels for every one of their number… whether they know them personally or not.

I have now lost seven mates during my time in the Army who I never knew personally but I can tell you that with each one it hurts that little bit more.

Each one was a part of the fabric of our Army family that, before my final retirement at the end of last year, we would work and muck about with every day.

I can’t imagine the pain or sense of loss felt by the families of these seven men – or with that felt by former Commander of Joint Task Force 633, Major General John Cantwell (Ret.), or the Commanding Officer of Mentoring Task Force One, Lieutenant Colonel Mark Jennings, or his Regimental Sergeant Major First Class, Brett Brown – for the losses suffered under their commands while they were in theatre… but I do know how I felt as I sat writing this reflection back in 2011… and it hurt like hell.

So, if at some time in the future you feel the urge to react like the RSM in my story, take a moment to reflect on the fact that the military is made up of many different elements and each one of us mourns in our own way the loss of our fallen.

Lest We Forget.
Bangkok Visit

Recently Members of the Port Kennedy RSL Sub-Branch and a few retired personnel from the Royal Australian Navy visited Bangkok and Laos over a ten-day period.

During the Thailand leg of the visit they organised a day trip to the Kanchanaburi JEATH Museum, the War Cemetery, the Bridge over the River Kwai, Death Railway and finally Hellfire Pass.

First port of call was the JEATH War Museum and Kanchanaburi War Cemetery. The JEATH War Museum is filled with pictures, sketches and tools which depict various aspects on the way of life for the prisoners of war (POW) working on the Death Railway.

The Kanchanaburi War Cemetery was in immaculate condition and something the Thai Government should be proud of. The war cemetery contains the graves of 6,982 personnel who perished building the railroad, which comprises:

- 3,585 British;
- 1,896 Dutch;
- 1,362 Australians;
- 12 members of the Indian Army (including British Officers);
- 8 Canadians;
- 2 New Zealanders; and;
- 2 Danish.

From here we ventured to the Bridge over the River Kwai which looked nothing like the one portrayed in the 1957 film.

Here we boarded a train to traverse the only section of the Death Railway still in operation.

Most of it was decommissioned at the end of the Second World War, a 130 kilometre portion remains active at the behest of the Thai Government.

As one might expect, the carriages are far from luxurious, it’s a simple set up of wooden benches that fits in well with the history of the railroad.

The Burma Railway, also known as the Death Railway, the Burma–Siam Railway, the Thailand–Burma Railway and similar names, was a 415-kilometre (258 mile) railway between Ban Pong, Thailand, and Thanbyuzayat, Burma, built by the Japanese in 1943 to support its forces in the Burma campaign.

This railway completed the rail link between Bangkok, Thailand and Rangoon, Burma (now Yangon). After an hour on the old rattler we disembarked to visit the Thai Government’s Memorial. This consists of a statue of Buddha situated in a cave just off the cutting and provides a nice local touch to honour the fallen.

After a short lunch break we rejoined our driver and headed to our final destination.

Hellfire Pass, known by the Japanese as Konyu Cutting, is the name of a railway cutting on the Death Railway which was built with forced labour during the Second World War, in part by Allied POWs. The pass is noted for its harsh conditions and heavy loss of life suffered by its labourers during construction.

Hellfire Pass is so-called because the sight of emaciated prisoners at night by torchlight was said to resemble a scene from Hell. More than 180,000—possibly many more—Southeast Asian civilian labourers and 60,000 Allied POWs worked on the railway.

Javanese, Malayan Tamils of Indian origin, Burmese, Chinese, Thai and other Southeast Asians, were forcibly drafted by the Imperial Japanese Army to work on the railway, died in its construction.

12,621 Allied POWs died during the construction.

The dead POWs included 6,904 British personnel, 2,802 Australians, 2,782 Dutch, and 133 Americans.

After the end of the Second World War, 111 Japanese military officials were tried for war crimes because of their brutalisation of POWs during the construction of the railway, with 32 of them sentenced to death.

No compensation or reparations have been provided to Southeast Asian victims.

Hellfire Pass was lost to the jungle in the years after the war when the railway was demolished.

The preservation of the Hellfire Pass itself had its origins in 1983 when former POW J.G. (Tom) Morris toured the area in Thailand and resolved to convince the Australian Government that portions of the Thai-Burma Death Railway should be preserved as an historical site.

Now it is the site of ANZAC Day ceremonies, the location of the Australian government’s Hellfire Pass Memorial Museum and a walking trail for visitors.

As you proceed through the pass you become aware of the silence and are overwhelmed with the magnitude of task forced upon these poor men.

You can’t help but to reflect on the horrors and hardships endured by all who were forced to dig out this cutting. A memorial awaits the visitors at the end of the walking trail; this is a time for a minute’s silence and to reflect once again on the meaning of this place to all Australians.

If you are ever in Bangkok we strongly recommend taking the time out of your busy schedule to make the day trip to Kanchanaburi to pay tribute to all those brave men who were lost.

Lest We Forget.
It was a great honour for the Busselton RSL Sub-Branch to receive the “Colonel Collett” Trophy for our efficiency and performance. This is the second time we’ve received this Trophy in three years. I thank our committee and members who have supported and assisted us throughout the year.

As this year draws to a close I’d like to briefly mention some of our Sub-Branch highlights.

Our Advocacy and Welfare section now comprises of four Advocate/Welfare Officers. Led by Bob Wood OAM we have Bev Streeter, Rob Lennox and Graeme Caddy.

Our Club remains busy with Friday night Fellowships getting reasonable attendance albeit winter.

Earlier in the year our Kitchen Manager left causing the committee to take on continuing a meal service. Luckily one of our Members, Nicki Banfield took on the role as acting Kitchen Manager, which has been a real success. We raised our normal $5 meals to $10, this charge includes mains and sweets and has proven successful.

At our Social Club AGM in September Nicki was appointed as full time Kitchen Manager. Many local community groups continue to utilise our Hall. The Royal Flying Doctor Service, Weight Watchers, Voices for Vasse Choir, Busselton Choral Society and the Laurel Ladies are at the facility on a weekly basis.

Several years ago it was decided that use of the Hall for local community and not-for-profit organisations be allowed at no cost, however groups do make a token donation quarterly towards power and water.

Last year the City of Busselton made a presentation to the RSL detailing the proposed “Traffic Management Plan” for the City. The Sub-Branch were concerned that access would be limited with the proposed new road layout. Part of the plan would have a considerable impact on Victoria Park where the Cenotaph and Memorial Wall are located.

During the presentation we were advised that should the RSL wish to relocate the Cenotaph and Memorial Wall the City would cover the cost for the removal.

This was a generous offer however, any decision would need to be agreed and approved by the Service Members. It was agreed to set up a Sub Committee to review all the issues we may have with such a move.

Following our first meeting an email was sent out with several proposals to members. It requested that any comments or suggestions be discussed at the next General Meeting.

At that Meeting proposals were discussed and it was agreed that only the Cenotaph would be relocated. The Memorial Wall would remain at Victoria Square.

The Sub-Committee was set to meet with the City to discuss the proposed moves, however with a change in State Government and funding cuts the issue still needs to be discussed further with the City of Busselton. The Sub-Committee will be meeting with the City in the coming weeks to review this issue. The Committee is currently exploring new ways to bring our newest Veterans into the RSL fold so that we can give them the support they need. Providing an informal drop-in centre is being looked at.

I must reiterate at this point that this project is very much at its infancy stage and no decisions have been made. Members of the RSL will be kept informed of any proposals/suggestions at all times.

On Sunday 24 September we held both our Sub-Branch and Social Club AGM’s.

At the meeting the then President Kevin “Doc” Casey decided to stand down due to several health issues. Whilst only in the position for one year he has done a great job and was thanked by all for his efforts throughout the year.

Keith Scardifield who had been the Vice President was elected as President with Jack Evans elected as Vice President. Other positions remained the same, Yours Truly as Secretary; Rick Winch, Treasurer; Wilf Lynch, Membership Officer; Wardens, Peter Dalgleish and John Cutbush; and Graeme Caddy, as Bar Manager.

We have a new general email for the Club. email@busseltonrsl.org.au is the email that should be used for all enquiries reading the Busselton RSL Sub-Branch and Busselton RSL Social Club (Inc.)

We also have a Facebook page, which is managed by our Treasurer, “Busselton RSL Sub-Branch”.

Should you be travelling down our way, it would be great to catch up.
Sub-Branch News

The Chidlow District RSL Sub-Branch has joined forces with Acacia Prison in an effort to change the perception of prisoners within the local community.

At the Sub-Branches Quiz Night, a children’s table created by prisoners undertaking woodwork skills was put up for auction. The sturdy table was thoughtfully designed in pink and white with low benches on each side making it easier for children to sit on.

The table was purchased by Jo Hallam at Real Estate Plus in Chidlow for $65. Jo then donated the table to the Chidlow Family Playgroup for their activities.

Assistant Director of Reducing Reoffending at Acacia Prison Natalie Sangalli was delighted with the outcome.

“Paying it forward to the playgroup and having the kids know that the table was made by Acacia Prisoners allows the breakdown of stereotypes in the community,” she said.

For their assistance both Natalie and Julia Nepia from Acacia Prison were each presented with a Certificate of Appreciation from Chidlow RSL Sub-Branch President Bill Scrivener.

Funds raised at the auction will go towards the Sub-Branches welfare activities.

Pay it forward

[L-R] Paige (little girl), Jess and Elliot enjoy the new children’s table
**Korean War Veterans’ Remembrance Service**

*State War Memorial, Kings Park – Thursday July 27*

The Royal Australian Regiment Association (WA Branch) held a Memorial Service at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park to commemorate the 64th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice agreement.

Nearly two million soldiers representing countries from all over the world fought for the freedom of South Korea. Countries including Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States provided combat units.

There were 25 Western Australians of the Royal Australian Regiment who gave their lives for the freedom of the South Korean people.

In his commemorative address, Brigadier Duncan Warren AM RFD (Ret'd) spoke of the current situation facing the world.

“I wonder what those Western Australians listed in your Order of Service, who gave their lives for the freedom of the South Korean people, would think of the current situation on the Korean Peninsula?”,” Brigadier Warren told the assembled crowd.

“Despite the fact that there is still only an armistice in place and the Korean Peninsula is considered a possible nuclear flashpoint, the contrast between the two countries today could not be more stark.

The Republic of Korea has forged ahead to become one of the top ten economies in the world. I will leave you to make your own judgement about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.”

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**Charge of the Nek Remembrance Service**

*Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch – Sunday 6 August*

It is one of the most harrowing freeze frames in Australian movie history.

The character of Archie Hamilton in a frozen moment of time fills the screen as the Turkish bullets head for him, cold and accurate. The climatic ending to Peter Weir’s film Gallipoli depicts the attack at The Nek on the morning of August 7 1915.

The Nek is a narrow ridge, the name derives from the Afrikaans word for a “mountain pass”.

Four waves of 150 men each were ordered to attack Turkish trenches 27 metres away. By the time the futility of the mission was realised three waves had gone over the top and the entire fire ground was covered with dead and dying Australians.

“With that regiment,” wrote the official historian C.E.W. Bean, “went the flower of the youth of Western Australia.”

Last year Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch Affiliate Member Phil Sullivan, approached the Sub-Branch to host a Nek Remembrance Service with a display. This is the second time the Service has been held at Bellevue, prior to this it was held in Parkerville but room was limited.

60 people attended the Service and saw items including a full size horse fitted out as per the original Light Horse Regiment, a model dressed as a Light Horseman, some 200 photos, medals, rifles and bayonets.

Guest Speaker Major Geoffrey Craggs from the 10th Light Horse Regiment spoke of the initial reasoning behind the charge, the conditions on that morning and why the Australians had no bullets in their rifles. The 8th Light Horse suffered 234 casualties, 154 fatal; and the 10th Light Horse, suffered 138 casualties, 80 fatal.
‘Merdeka’ is an expression of freedom and independence.

Held in the tranquil surroundings of Kings Park State War Memorial’s Flame of Remembrance, this location proved the ideal setting to remember those who served and in conflicts across Southeast Asia, particularly in Malaysia and Borneo.

The 2017 Merdeka Commemorative Service, held on 26 August was conducted by the Malaya-Borneo Veterans WA, the Malayan Volunteers Group (Australia), and Association of Malaysians in WA (Inc.).

The remembrance service was held in conjunction with the 60th Merdeka Day Celebrations, which celebrates the declaration of the independence of the Federation of Malaya.

The long road to the modern state of Malaysia endured struggles which included war, occupation, communist insurgency and border conflicts.

Seated around the Wall of Contemplation, the well-attended crowd of approximately 250 people heard Her Excellency the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia deliver the Memorial Address.

“The act of remembrance is an important way of recognising the courage and sacrifice of those who served in these wars and conflicts, and we pay tribute to their contribution and to the result, namely the peace that we enjoy today,” Governor Sanderson said.

“Also let us remember the many men, women and children who lived in the zones of conflict and had to escape from the horrors of war which unfolded around them,” she said.

“Just as Australians and Malaysians have come together over the years to support one another, today we once again stand side by side, resolute in our common commitment to a peaceful future.”

The Merdeka Address was delivered by the Consul-General of Malaysia, Mr Nazarudin Ja’afar, who recognised and acknowledged the courage of the fallen as well as all those who survived the ordeal of war.

The link between Perth and our neighbours to the north has been a long and enduring one. Incidentally, the first Merdeka commemoration service held in Australia occurred in Perth back in 2001.

Mrs Elizabeth Adamson, Secretary of the Malayan Volunteers Group (Australia), gave the Address for the Fallen, and spoke of how ‘the memorial’ in the hand-out given to attendees listed the names of its members who had seen service during World War Two, the Malayan Emergency, Borneo Confrontation (Konfrontasi), Timor and the Thai border.

“These men listed have all passed away since 1995, when our Association was first formed, and many had memories of their service in Malaysia,” Elizabeth said.

“They sleep among us today, knowing that they contributed to the growth of the peaceful nation now called Malaysia.

Their service, in conjunction with brother nations, has established lasting friendship. We will remember them.”
To Paint a War
by Gavin Briggs

Painting and warfare. They appear such contradictory concepts, and quite rightly are.

One is known for its peaceful, creative pursuit while at the other extreme, war is understandably known for its unlimited suffering and loss.

Paintings allow for the inexpressible to be represented through works of art that can capture either the larger scene or provide up close and personal pictures that hint at the emotional and inner turmoil wrought by war.

Richard Travers’ ‘To Paint a War: The lives of the Australian artists who painted the Great War, 1914-1918’, is a publication that does proud the painterly tradition. Much of that which is captured by the artist’s brushstrokes, this book includes pen and charcoal sketches, that also captured the political, wry and humorously.

Living in England or serving in campaigns far from their southern land, Australian painters sought to honestly capture the realities the world’s first truly industrialised war.

Iconic artworks abound, many of which people will know. Among them include George Lambert’s ANZAC, the Landing, 1915 and The Charge of the Australian Light Horse at Beersheba, 1917, as well as Will Longstaff’s haunting Menin Gate at Midnight.

High-quality colour reproductions abound throughout this well presented book.

The first part of the book spends a considerable, but necessary, amount of time outlining the development of the impressionist art movement in late nineteenth-century Europe and how this influenced Australian artists.

This provides context for the reader, including how these once radical and ‘outsider’ artists were slowly, and then quickly, accepted by critics, the art market and art academies. Many made their way to England for greater recognition, acclaim and reward and were there when war was declared.

When the shock of war came in August 1914, the great call to arms came. Originally, artists were “told that painting was too frivolous a pastime for total war”. Despite England having their own Artists Battalion, as the war entered its third-year, the Australian authorities asked for the war to be painted.

Many were quick to take up this opportunity to be an official part of the AIF. Many artists originally sought military service and some were considered too old to serve in uniform.

Accomplished artists such as Tom Roberts, aged 58, joined the Territorial Army and participated in weekly 30-kilometre route marches and later worked in a military hospital in England. Arthur Streeton, another famous Australian artist joined the Territorial Army in England in 1915 but their age did not prevent their desire to contribute more meaningfully to the greater war effort. Both still painted the war.

Hilda Rix Nicholson’s oil painting of two dead soldiers somewhere on the Western Front, titled These Gave the World Away, is something which if represented in a photograph, would not have got past the official censor.

Her later work, titled A Man, was painted back in Australia in 1921 and graces the book’s cover. It does strongly to the stereotypical image of the Aussie Digger.

The home-front is also well represented here. Grace Cossington Smith is another wartime artist who painted life on the home-front during wartime. Dora Messon paints a soldier leaving his family for the front.

The wounded being tended in a casualty clearing station or a nursing stations by George Coates, or waiting for an x-ray by Rupert Bunny. All depict a quiet, deeper humanity.

A Norman Lindsay’s recruitment poster or a Will Dyson anti-conscription political cartoon represent the different styles and modes of art. Dyson later worked alongside Charles Bean on the Western front.

To Paint a War accurately describes historical events and military battles, and are weaved among the personalities, friendships and rivalries of the artists. All the while, Traver’s compelling book describes the larger military and political picture, providing a strategic backdrop to the fascinating, interesting stories of the individual artists.

Aspects of this book quite rightly explores the lesser representation of the impact of war. In Derwent Wood’s work, Daryl Lindsay had a direct influence on the reconstruction of men with scars and facial trauma, caused either by rounds, blasts or shrapnel.

Using pre-wound photos of the patient, Woods made plaster of Paris masks then placed into a copper electrotype plate, fitted with a glass eye if required, and the ‘model’ was then silver-plated. This and other work directly contributed to the development of plastic surgery and was described as “ground-breaking work”.

This is without question a quality publication. Well researched with extensive notes, the art reproductions are of the highest order. This work offers a new examination of Australia’s war efforts through the contribution of our artists. They too did their part in recording Australia’s involvement in the war that was meant to end all wars.
The 25 April 1916 marked the first ANZAC Day Parade through Perth, commemorating the Gallipoli landing a year earlier.

World War One was still raging and the marchers consisted of men who had returned home and others who were preparing to leave for Europe and the battle front.

Today, across the State and indeed the country, Dawn Services, veteran marches, RSL Gunfire Breakfasts, games of two-up, the sale of alcohol, football matches and race meetings (within prescribed time frames) now occur as part of ANZAC Day commemorations, even if the day falls on a Sunday.

It was not always so.

The December 1923 edition of The Listening Post outlines the efforts of the RSLWA State Executive at that time, in having input into legislation concerning ANZAC Day.

The Listening Post records that in October 1923, the State Congress of the League was aware that the Premier intended to introduce an ANZAC Day Observance Bill which would have the effect of closing hotels and preventing race meetings on ANZAC Day.

It was also known that the Member for York (Mr Latham) intended to move as an amendment that the day should be observed in all respects as if it were a Sunday.

With the Government Bill having passed the third reading in both Houses of Parliament, the State Executive of RSL held a special meeting to consider the position and resolved to protest to the Premier and appoint a special committee with power to act.

The feeling of the League was that... “The soldiers’ wishes had been flouted on a subject that they would expect their views to receive tangible consideration.”

The League claimed... “If ANZAC Day was to be observed as a Sunday it would put into force statutes of Charles II and George II., which make Sunday undesirable and miserable, it being an offence to exercise any labour or to ride in boats or ferries etc., on that day.”

The Listening Post records that the special committee interviewed the Premier, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly and a number of Members of Parliament.

In order to overcome the remarkable difficulties presented by “the result of the digging up of the old Acts of Puritan days” the League secured the following draft of the proposed Bill which it was felt should meet with general approval:-

“In every factory and shop within the meaning of those words in the Factories and Shops Act, 1920, and for the purpose of every industrial agreement or industrial award under the Industrial Arbitration Act 1912, or the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904 - 1920, ANZAC Day (the 25th day of April) shall be observed throughout the State as if it were a Sunday.

“Penalty, one hundred pounds.

“Provided that nothing herein contained shall effect the right of any boy or woman under the Factories and Shops Act, 1920, or any other worker or employee under the provisions of any industrial agreement or industrial award to a holiday on full pay on ANZAC Day.”

Today, various legislation updates and amendments such as ANZAC Day Act 1960, Liquor Control Act 1988, ANZAC Day Amendment Bill 2003, enable sporting events, liquor trading, games of two-up etc., occur along with the traditional commemorative aspects.
## UNIT AND KINDRED LISTING

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<td><a href="mailto:tingira@gmail.com">tingira@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Veterans of Foreign Wars WA</td>
<td>0413 620 394</td>
<td><a href="mailto:VFVWJoin@gmail.com">VFVWJoin@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>War Widow's Guild of Australia WA Inc</td>
<td>9371 7470</td>
<td><a href="mailto:warwidowswa@bigpond.com">warwidowswa@bigpond.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australian Branch of the Partners of Veterans’ Association of Australia Inc</td>
<td>1300 553 835</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ager@iinet.net.au">ager@iinet.net.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Western Australian University Regiment Assoc Inc.</td>
<td>0439 842 909</td>
<td><a href="mailto:chapmans@iinet.net.au">chapmans@iinet.net.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WRAAC Association (WA)</td>
<td>0412 984 739</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wraac.wa@gmail.com">wraac.wa@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WRAAF Branch - RAAF Assoc</td>
<td>9311 4401</td>
<td><a href="mailto:gbj41@bigpond.com">gbj41@bigpond.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>WRANS-RAN Women's Association WA</td>
<td>9499 1431</td>
<td><a href="mailto:colli@wn.com.au">colli@wn.com.au</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Z Special Unit Association of WA Inc.</td>
<td>9275 1348</td>
<td></td>
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</table>
**Notices**

- **Royal Australian Artillery Association (WA)**

  The Committee of the Royal Australian Artillery Association (WA) Inc would like to invite all Gunners past and present, their families and other interested parties to attend our annual Gunners’ Day parade and service at Stirling Square, Guildford on Sunday 5 November.

  Those marching should gather at St Matthews Church at 10.10am for a 10.15am march off to the War Memorial, entry off Johnson/Stirling Street. A light luncheon will be provided at the Church Hall following the service.

  For enquiries contact John Blylevens on 0438 695 711 or by email info@artillerywa.org.au.

- **NASHOS WA**

  On Saturday 2 December, National Servicemen in the Nashos WA Group will be having their end of the year reunion at the Gosnells Hotel. Any former Nashos and their partners are welcome to mix in and join the group at the midday lunch.

  Phone Bob McGuire on 9497 9879 or 0402 576 086 or by email nashows71@gmail.com.

- **WA Fire & Emergency Services Concert Band**

  The WA Fire & Emergency Services Concert Band is seeking information about its history and would appreciate hearing from past members and their families as well as receiving photos and stories. The Band is preparing to celebrate its centenary in 2020.

  Photo: RSL Band, 1924. The band went through a number of name changes over the years, but the RSL Band is where they started.

  Back row: W. Griffiths, W. Dadd, Tom P Lennon (President) C. Bishop, J. Dowdell, R. Firth


  First row: W. Williams, G. McCorkill, O. Owens, Arthur O’Keefe (Secretary) H. Goninon, G. Webb, J. Holmes, J. Crawley

  Seated: Walter Court, A. Cunningham, G. Mellor (Conductor) H. Tucker and J. Cooney

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**Crossword Solution** from last edition – July 2017

- **Correction**

  In the last edition of The Listening Post (July 2017 Vol 40 – No 2) our In Memoriam section contained an error. We accidentally titled George Aylmore as having an Order of the British Empire (MBE) post-nominal. This is not the case.

  As mentioned, he is the recipient of the Chevalier de la Légion d’Honneur but not an MBE.
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.

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</table>

Sudoku Solution from last edition - July 2017

Crossword

Across
1 Volcano
5 U.S. President
9 Present toppers
10 Rabbit
11 Globes
12 Where you were at crime time
13 Most recent
15 Gauze
16 Money
18 Small case
21 Cause of sickness
22 Unbelievers
26 Bust
28 Recession
29 Tents
30 Decorative needle case
31 Swirl
32 What dogs sit on

Down
1 Black
2 Ripped up
3 Northwest by west
4 Grade
5 Friend
6 Declare
7 Sully
8 Makes a sweater
10 Recently
14 Peels com
17 Dog run
18 Wire
19 Made public
20 Pray
23 Small particle
24 Daring deed
25 Snow gliders
27 One of these

Crossword solution last edition (July 2017) on previous page

Share your RSLWA news and views on facebook!
www.facebook.com/rslwahq
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
We will remember them. Lest We Forget.
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PROSTATE CANCER

Join the thousands of Aussies hosting BBQs this summer just like cricket legend Matthew Hayden and help men like Matthew’s Dad, Lawrie survive prostate cancer.

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They fought for our freedom.
They taught us respect.

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