



SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL

August 2021

FROM THE BOARD

RSLWA PROPERTY AUDIT

After a detailed tender process, the job of auditing the 42 properties was awarded to WA-based company, SW19 Building Consultants, who began the audit process at the start of June. It is expected the audits will take till September to complete with a comprehensive report provided for Board consideration before the end of the year.

The important process of auditing all RSLWA-owned properties is now in full swing, following a decision by the Board of Directors to do an effective stock-take of the properties and gaining a better understanding of buildings and structures. The Board identified that, to plan ahead, a detailed understanding of the state of the buildings on RSLWA-owned land was needed.

The audit process will include the current condition of buildings, issues relating of compliance as well as estimated costs of rectification and maintenance.

VETERAN HUBS

State Branch continues to plan for the roll-out of Hubs in designated locations within the Greater Perth Metro Area and in regional centres. Currently, the Board has identified three top priorities – Avon, Busselton and Jarrahdale. Other locations are also to be considered into Year 2022 and beyond. Importantly, RSLWA is looking for State Government grant funding to support planning and implementation.

Out and About

PRESIDENT FORUMS

RSLWA State President, Peter Aspinall, extends thanks to those Sub-Branches whose representatives attended two President Forums last Friday and Saturday (6th and 7th August). The forums were well-attended and very informative.

Outcomes included better ways to assist Sub-Branches in accessing support, including homelessness initiatives, funeral costs, membership, recruitment and grants.

The State President also briefed attendees about the State Branch's desire to reintroduce a motion to State Congress 2022 on the staggered election of Board members. This was considered important to maintain corporate knowledge at Board level and avoiding the potential for an entire Board to be replaced at once. The importance of staggered elections for charities (such as RSLWA) has been stressed by the Australian Charities & Not-for-profits Commission and other regulatory entities.

KOREAN ARMISTICE

The RSLWA's State President Peter Aspinall, with Royal Australian Navy Korean War Veteran John Bolton (picture on header), attended a Korean Armistice Commemorative Service hosted by the Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch on 27 July. Due to blustery winter conditions, the 68th Anniversary service was forced inside the RSL Sub-Branch Hall in Hamilton Hill.

KALAMUNDA GENERAL MEETING

Mr Peter Aspinall also recently attended the Kalamunda RSL Sub-Branch's General Meeting held on Friday 30 July, which was followed by their regular dinner evening.



(L to R) Peter Aspinall with Federal Minister for Hasluck the Hon. Ken Wyatt, City of Kalamunda Mayor Margaret Thomas and Sub-Branch President Geof Irvin.

New Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel



The Hon Andrew Gee MP was sworn in as the Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Minister for Defence Personnel on 2 July 2021.

Minister Gee has held previous roles as the Assistant Minister to the Deputy Prime Minister from 25 January 2019 to 6 February 2020, and Minister for Decentralisation and Education and Minister Assisting the Minister for Trade and Investment from 6 February 2009 to 2 July 2021.

Minister Gee is the Member for Calare in New South Wales and was first elected to Federal Parliament in 2005 and re-elected in 2019. The seat encompasses a region of nearly 33,000 square kilometres west of the Blue Mountains in NSW, including the key regional centres of Bathurst and Orange.

Prior to entering federal Parliament, Mr Gee was a Member of the NSW Parliament.

Minister Gee is also the father of a young family. He studied economics and law at Sydney University and practised as a barrister in the fields of civil litigation and family law.

On behalf of the veteran community, we would like to welcome Minister Gee to the Veterans' Affairs portfolio, and look forward to working with him to serve veterans and their families. We also acknowledge the former Minister, the Hon Darren Chester MP, for his service to the veteran community over the past 3 years.



Brothers cycle across Australia for assistance dogs 12



Launch of new online tool for transitioning ADF 16



Brigadier Wade Storch on the Joint Transition Authority 18



Excellences and services for veterans living overseas 22

Budget 2021–22 breakdown

The focus of the 2021–22 Budget for veterans and their families is on wellbeing, suicide prevention and more funding for critical departmental services to ensure veterans and their families can continue to meaningfully contribute to our nation.

"There are a range of measures in the Budget that will enable DVA to better respond to the current and future needs of veterans and their families."

There are a range of measures in the Budget that will enable DVA to better respond to the current and future needs of the increasing number of veterans and their families engaging with the department.

The Government invests over \$11.5 billion each year to support 325,000 veterans and their families, and the 2021–22 Budget builds on this with an additional \$702.6 million with a focus on wellness, support, suicide prevention and ensuring DVA is appropriately equipped.

As part of the success of changes made to DVA, there has been a doubling of compensation claims received between 2017–18 and 2019–20, with more than 121,000 claims received last financial year.

The Government is providing an additional \$98.5 million for claims processing over the next two years. DVA has also received funding for more than 440 Australian Public Service staff to bolster capability in the year ahead.

The Government will provide \$62.1 million to improve long-term data capability, which will for the first time examine all aspects of an Australian Defence Force (ADF) member's service – from enlistment to transition – and will allow both Defence and DVA to make better policies to support whole-of-life health, wellbeing and safety outcomes for current and former ADF members and their families.

Continued on page 5

CONTENTS

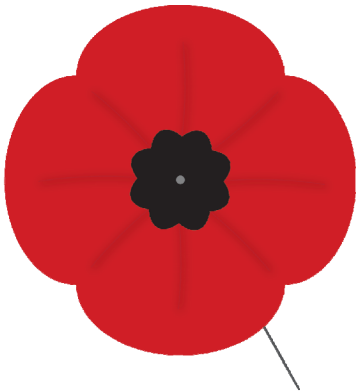
NEWS	2-8
WIDOWS' NEWS	9
ESO NEWS	10-11
HEALTH & WELLBEING	12-15
TRANSITIONING WELL	16-10
FAMILIES	19-20
FEATURES	21-24
COMMENDATIONS	25-29
AMN	30
NOTICEBOARD	31-32

The July 2021 edition of Vet Affairs is now available online, featuring:

- The appointment of Andrew Gee as Minister for Veterans' Affairs
- A breakdown of the 2021-22 Budget
- A column by DVA's Chief Health Officer Prof Jenny Firman AM, which looks at reducing the risk of dementia

- A progress report on the Joint Transition Authority
- Features on overseas services and entitlements, war dogs, Disaster Relief Australia, WWII code-breaker Joan Sanders Majithia, and Operation Overlord.

Click [HERE](#) to read the full issue.



Poppy Appeal

Planning for the Remembrance Day Poppy Appeal is well underway and Sub-Branches will receive order forms and other information by e email in the next few weeks.

Permits are in place for the CBD Street Appeal which will be held on Friday, 5 November. Permits have also been arranged for the Transperth collections points. Poppy Appeal information will include forms for Sub-Branches to nominate preferences if they plan to participate. With only 22 Transperth points available, collection points will be nominated on a first in best dressed basis.

This year's forms have been updated to be digital online with online payment for orders to help streamline the coordination processes.

For Sale



The Dawesville RSL Sub-Branch has a fully equipped Sausage Sizzle Fund Raising Trailer available for sale. Just fill the fridge with drinks, turn on the gas, add sausages and buns and start fundraising.

Registered until February 2022, the complete trailer unit is offered for \$11,000.



The well-designed unit consists of a tandem trailer with a tradesman-designed steel enclosure, two lift up side doors, a rear access door and a spare wheel. The 75 litre Engle fridge is connected to a 100-amp deep cycle battery which is charged by a roof mounted solar panel.



The Trailer has interior lighting, a four-burner roll out gas BBQ plumbed to two front mounted 9 kg LPG cylinders. Mounted underneath the Trailer is a 55 litre fresh water tank and the Aquacube hot water unit supplies the sink, which is mounted into a food grade bench working space.

For more information or to view the trailer
contact the Secretary, Dawesville RSL on
0418 905 156 or
admin@rsldawesville.org.au



Copyright © 2021 RSLWA, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:

PO Box Z5424, St Georges Terrace, Perth WA 6831

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).

--

This message has been scanned for viruses and dangerous content by
[E.F.A. Project](#), and is believed to be clean.