



# THE SUB BRANCH SIGNAL

DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL  
8.30 AM — 4.30 PM

#### ANZAC House & Reception

28 St Georges Terrace, Perth  
PO Box 3023  
EAST PERTH WA 6832  
Website: [www.rslwahq.org.au](http://www.rslwahq.org.au)  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: (08) 9287 3799  
Fax: (08) 9287 3732  
Country Callers : 1800 259 799

#### Acting CEO / State Secretary

Monday to Friday  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3799

#### Assistant State Secretary

Monday to Friday  
Assist to State President & CEO  
Email: [rslwahq@inet.net.au](mailto:rslwahq@inet.net.au)  
Tel: 9287 3702

#### Membership

Monday to Thursday  
Membership Enquiries  
Sub Branch Enquiries  
Email: [membership@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:membership@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3705

#### Welfare

Monday to Friday  
Welfare Applications  
Emergency Housing  
Food & Lodging Grants  
ASS&AR Trust Fund Applications.  
Overseas Pensions  
Email: [welfare@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:welfare@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3707

#### Advocacy

Monday to Friday  
S31 Reviews  
Veteran Review Board,  
Admin Appeals Tribunal  
Email: [advocate@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:advocate@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3708

#### Finance

Monday to Friday  
All Account Enquiries  
Sub Branch Credits  
Sub Branch Insurance  
Information, Claims  
Grant Application Assistance  
DVA & Lotterywest (ABN, tax)  
Email: [helena@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:helena@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3703

#### Pensions

Monday to Friday  
Pension Entitlements  
Claims Preparation  
Email: [pensions1@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:pensions1@rslwahq.org.au)  
[pensions2@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:pensions2@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3710 or 9287 3711

#### ANZAC Club

Monday to Friday  
Facilities Bookings  
Catering & Hospitality  
Email: [anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3714

#### Listening Post

Monday to Friday  
Editorial Staff  
Email: [listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au)  
Tel: 9287 3716

## From the Presidents Pen...

### RSL Submission on Indexation of Military Superannuation

The submission was forwarded to Prime Minister Rudd under a covering letter dated 22 February 2010. The submission was subsequently posted on the RSL National Web Site. Because no response has been received, copies of the submission and the covering letter were handed to Minister Snowdon on Wednesday 24 August along with the verbal inquiry as to when a response could be expected. The Minister undertook to ensure that a formal response from Government would be prepared and forwarded. We continue to put the case for a fairer rate of indexation of military superannuation entitlements than is provided by the Consumer Price Index. The Government does not support the RSL stance on this matter and there is no indication of any change in the Government's position.

### Review of claims by those who served in British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF)

Minister Snowdon advised verbally that he had tasked an historian to undertake a thorough and comprehensive investigation of all documentation and outcomes of previous investigations into the BCOF claims.

It is understood this work is nearing completion and that the historian's findings/conclusions will be presented to the Minister shortly. The appointment of the historian is a Ministerial initiative and it will be a matter for Minister Snowdon to then decide on future action.

### Dropping of all charges against soldiers on operational service

Although the RSL made public our legitimate concerns about the inordinate delay in bringing to trial the three soldiers charged with serious service offences resulting from operational service in Afghanistan, our stance was always to let the law take its course. This process is now complete and it is pleasing to note that all charges against the Lieutenant Colonel, the Sergeant and the Corporal have been dropped. The RSL will continue to fully support the due processes of law but will not resile from critical comment if there are future circumstances involving exceptional delays in the military justice system

### Military Court of Australia Bill 2010

We have received informal advice that in a recent High Court decision the validity of trials by Courts Martial for accused members of the ADF under the Defence Force Discipline Act was supported. This appears to suggest that the attempt to replace trials by Courts Martial with trials by a single military judge acting alone (as proposed in the Military Court of Australia Bill 2010) is not necessary. The RSL will continue to mount a case against provisions of the Military Court of Australia Bill 2010 for the reasons cited in our submission to Government (which remains posted on the RSL National Web Site).

## CHANGE OF POSTAL ADDRESS

Please note that the postal address for RSL WA Branch has changed due to the closure of our Post Office.



The new address is:  
PO Box 3023  
**EAST PERTH WA 6832**



### [Apparent Taxation disadvantage for ADF personnel wounded or injured while on operational service](#)

We understand that the tax-free status of pay and allowances of ADF personnel badly wounded or injured in action on operational service ceases when they are discharged from hospital and is not available while they are undergoing out-patient treatment and rehabilitation up to the conclusion of their notional tour of operational service. The National Conditions of Service Committee has considered this matter and, subsequently, it was raised in discussions with Minister Snowdon. The Minister acknowledges there may be a problem and encouraged the RSL to put forward a formal submission. We expect to forward this after completing further research into Tax ruling 23AD and into the possibility that the financial disadvantage suffered might be able to be compensated by other means.

### [Commonwealth Monitoring Force—Rhodesia 1979-1980](#)

In early August the Government accepted the recommendation of the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal inquiry into the recognition of service with the Commonwealth Monitoring Force—Rhodesia 1979-1980, which recommended that no action be taken to award the Australian Service Medal to members of the Australian Defence Force who served between December 1979 and March 1980.

Service in Rhodesia is recognised with the Rhodesia Medal and Zimbabwe Independence Medal.

The full report is available at [www.defence-honours-tribunals.gov.au](http://www.defence-honours-tribunals.gov.au)

### [Veterans' Entitlements Amendments Bill](#)

The RSL supported Schedules 1 and 3 of this Bill but not Schedule 2 because it appeared to allow “double dipping” by the Commonwealth in certain circumstances when offsetting was being applied to allowances. At the invitation of the Senate Committee inquiring into this legislation, the RSL tendered a formal submission (which is on the Senate web site). Between then and the appearance of the National Veterans' Affairs Advisor and the National President as witnesses before the Senate Committee on 11 August 2011, discussions with Department of Veterans' Affairs staff suggested that there was no intention that Schedule 2 should allow for “double dipping”. More recently Minister Snowdon has given a verbal assurance that there will not be “double dipping” and it is understood RSL concerns may be put to rest by the inclusion of new words in the explanatory notes appended to the Bill.

### [New program to maintain graves of our bravest](#)

The graves of recipients of Australia's highest honours for bravery will be protected under a new maintenance program which covers the Victoria Cross (VC), its equivalent civil award, the Cross of Valour, and the predecessor of the Cross of Valour, the George Cross.

The program will also cover the graves of one New Zealand and 18 British VC recipients buried in Australia.

### [Did you know...](#)

Many live theatre venues around Australia are now providing a free live captioning service for the assistance of people with hearing loss. Within the next few months more venues will be offering this service.

## **WA AGED SAILORS, SOLDIERS & AIRMEN'S RELIEF TRUST FUND**

**Ready to Assist**

**Veterans and Dependents in  
Need or Necessitous  
Circumstances**

**Apply: Welfare Officer  
(08) 9287 3707**

### **Included in this Sub Branch Signal**

Congress Programme  
Congress Dinner Invitation  
Sub Branch Awards Form  
Congress Remittance Forms  
Congress State Election Forms  
Congress Agenda Items Form  
Certificates of Insurance  
ANZAC Sub Branch Grant Forms

**Please note the return dates on the enclosed documentation. LATE FORMS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**



**HOLLYWOOD**  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL





### [Battle of Long Tan Veterans Recognised](#)

The Governor General of Australia, Her Excellency Ms Quentin Bryce AC, presented a Unit Citation to Delta Company, the 6th Battalion RAR, for acts of extraordinary gallantry in action at the Battle of Long Tan in 1966 on 18 August 2011.

There was a formal parade and presentations at Gallipoli Barracks in Enoggera.

18 Australians were killed in the Battle of Long Tan, the most in any one engagement in the Vietnam War.

Pictures are available at <http://adfmedia.smugmug.com/snowdon>

### [From RSL National Headquarters](#)

Advice was received from Minister Warren Snowdon's Office on 4 July 2011 to the National President stating:

You will be aware that the Senate passed a set of three Acts that will consolidate the trusteeship of the Commonwealth's main military and civilian superannuation schemes and modernise the governance of administration of these arrangements. The new single trustee, the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation, is effective from 1 July 2011.

The three Acts implement reforms required to maintain strong, contemporary governance arrangements for Commonwealth superannuation schemes, allowing substantial benefits to flow to members, while retaining the individual scheme benefits. The package protects those features of military superannuation that recognise that military service as different to civilian employment.

The Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation will be governed by an 11 member board, which will comprise an independent Chair and equal numbers of employer and employee/member trustee directors (that is, five employer trustee directors and five employee/member trustee directors). Employer and employee/member trustee directors must act in the best interests of all members and other beneficiaries of a fund and also in accordance with the standards of care, skill and diligence set out in superannuation laws. These obligations override any obligation to the group who nominated them as trustee directors. Further, when the board is making decisions concerning matters solely related to the military schemes, at least one director who has been nominated by the Chief of the Defence Force must be present.

The legislative requirement to establish the Defence Force Case Assessment Panel to perform functions currently performed by the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Authority ensure the interests of Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits members are maintained.

This legislation will provide a net benefit to members of the Australian Defence Force who are members of the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme, by consolidating funds under management and reducing administrative costs. You would appreciate that the larger the fund, the greater the ability of a trustee to pool funds and thereby lower investment costs and drive higher returns. It will mean an improvement in the superannuation returns to these members.

I appreciate the efforts you have made to ensure that the interests of members of the military superannuation schemes are adequately reflected in the legislation and that the unique nature of military service, embodied in the military superannuation schemes, is recognised in the new arrangements.

**MEMBERSHIP PRO-RATAS**  
**JULY-SEPTEMBER 2011**  
**NEW MEMBERS ONLY!**

***Fee: \$20***  
***Headquarters: \$12.50***  
***Sub Branches: \$7.50***

### [New Service Model at DVA](#)

A new service model for contemporary dependents (widow/ers, partners, children, parents and/or next of kin of deceased ADF members) has been implemented in all DVA State Offices, with a Service Coordinator working directly under the Deputy Commissioner.

In WA the Service Coordinator is Maria Soares, and she can be contacted at the DVA office on 9366 8222.



## 95<sup>th</sup> Annual State Congress Dinner



ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth  
6.30 pm, Saturday, 26 November 2011  
Tickets \$70.00 per head



For more information, see the Congress Circular  
attached with this Sub Branch Signal

## Remembrance Day Luncheon

Friday 11 November 2011  
12.30 pm

Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Terrace, Perth

### Menu

Chicken Breast filled with Avocado & Mushroom,  
served on Puree Potato  
with a Creamy Mushroom Sauce & Seasonal Vegetables  
and a crusty Bread Roll & Butter

Individual Berry Fruit Trifle  
served on Raspberry Coulis

Tea & coffee

Includes a bottle each of red and white wine, various beer & soft drink on the table

Cost - \$45.00

RSVP: *Essential by Friday 21 October 2011*

*Only 120 places available – tickets issued on a first come basis*



Did you know....  
The ANZAC Club is having  
a Springtime Tea Dance!



## ANZAC Club Springtime Tea Dance

Wednesday, 7 September

11.30 am - 1.30 pm

Admission Free!

Reserve your table or group  
now for this fantastic  
morning of memories  
Ph: ANZAC Club on 9287 3714

Enjoy Luncheon  
& Bar Service  
with the usual  
fantastic value of  
the ANZAC Club

Dance to your  
favourite old tunes  
with your MC  
Bill Louwen  
&  
The Sapphires!

Afternoon Tea available - Modest Charge

