



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA
WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

Issue 11/2009
Sub Branch Signal

THE SUB BRANCH SIGNAL

DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL
8:30 AM — 4:30 PM

ANZAC HOUSE

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

RECEPTION

Monday to Friday - general enquiries
Email: adminassist@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3799

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Monday to Friday - PA to State
President & State Secretary
Email: rslwahq@inet.net.au
Tel: 9287 3799

MEMBERSHIP

Monday to Thursday - membership
enquiries, Sub-Branch enquiries
Email: membership@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3705

WELFARE

Monday to Friday- welfare applica-
tions, emergency housing, food &
lodging grants, SS&A Relief Trust
Fund applications. Overseas pen-
sions
Email: welfare@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3707

ADVOCACY

Monday to Friday - S31 reviews,
Veteran Review Board,
Admin Appeals Tribunal
Email: advocate@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3708

FINANCE

Monday to Friday - all account en-
quiries, Sub-Branch credits
Sub-Branch Insurance, information,
claims, grant application assistance,
DVA, Lotterystart (ABN, tax)
Email: stateacct@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3703 or 9287 3718

PENSIONS

Monday to Friday - pension entitle-
ments, claims preparation
Email: pensions1@rslwahq.org.au
pensions2@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3709
9287 3710, 9287 3711

ANZAC CLUB

Monday to Friday - facilities book-
ings, catering/hospitality
Email: anzacclub@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3714

LISTENING POST

Monday—Friday—Editorial Staff
Email: listeningpost@rslwahq.org.au
Tel: 9287 3716



Notice of Meeting of State Congress

*Pursuant to powers vested in me by State Rule 40.3
I, William E Gaynor OAM RFD call a meeting of State Congress*

SATURDAY 6th MARCH 2010

1.00 pm

ANZAC HOUSE PERTH

Business:

- *To receive and, if appropriate adopt the Annual Audited Financial Statement for the year end 30 June 2009*
- *To amend State Rule 27.11 to read
“Unless approved by State Executive no Sub Branch shall take or cause to be taken any steps to become incorporated under the provisions of The Act”.*
(Note additional words are underlined)
- *To consider an independent report on options available to the RSL for the realisation of RSLWA Branch Assets*

Full working papers with Rationale will be provided to Sub Branches no later than 29 January 2010.

A quorum is required to conduct this special business.
Should this not be achieved the provisions of State Rule 40.4 will apply.



Future Commemoration Activities

The growing interest and support for Commemorative Services reflects a growing support for our past and present servicemen and women. The increase in attendance at almost every Service we conduct indicates that this interest will continue well into the future. With the centenary of the Gallipoli Landing in 2015 – just six years away we can expect a significant increase in support for our Services. Obviously we can not do this by ourselves and the direction we must take is to further engage our local communities in the presentation of the Services. We are led to believe that in the first half of 2010 the Government will make an announcement on its support for commemorative Services and activities for the period 2014 – 2018. The expectation is that there will be a requirement for ESO and Community partnerships to be formed for the presentation of such services. No doubt we will wait with keen interest to see how the planned activities will be resourced and conducted

Review of DVA Advocacy & Welfare Services

Advice has been received that the Department of Veterans' Affairs has commenced a review of DVA Funded Advocacy and Welfare Services which encompasses:

- Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST)
- Training and Information Program (TIP), and Veteran and Community Grants

This review arises from some concerns expressed during the BEST Grant Funding Round for 2009/10 and issues raised by Ex-Service Organisations about the operation of the BEST program and associated support programs.

The review will incorporate recommendations contained in the independent Study into Suicide in the Ex-Service Community by Professor David Dunt. Specifically recommendation 8.1 refers to pension officers, welfare officers and advocates.

In this regard, the RSL has produced a discussion paper, a copy of which is shown separately under 'National President' on this webpage.

The review will be conducted by Mr David Bachelor and Ms Olivia Witowski and is expected to be completed by the end of 2009. The Terms of Reference, together with the Consultation Framework, will be advised by the Department in the near future

The Clarke Review

This review is still underway and it is expected findings will be handed down early in the New Year. Emphasis will be on Submariners, Nuclear Testing and British and Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF).and F111 Reseal/ Deseal.. Again a decision is most likely to be available early in 2010.

DUNT Review into Mental Health.

There are 21 recommendations made by Professor Dunt which the government has accepted and will implement. Two issues that will need to be considered are the future of Advocates and the review into BEST funding. In respect of the latter this is currently being undertaken with considerable consultation with the ESO community. The Review Team visited Perth in early October 2009.

Review into Pharmaceuticals.

This review is taking longer than first expected and some delay is being experienced in arriving at the final outcomes. No date of completion has been made.

Future Meetings of the National Veterans' Affairs Committee (NVAC)

Meetings for 2010 have been scheduled for the following dates;
3 March 2010
14 July 2010
6 October 2010.

Therefore Sub Branches who have motions that they wish to submit for consideration by NVAC must ensure that these are received by the Western Australian Veterans' Affairs Committee (WAVAC) prior to these dates so that they can be considered before being referred to NVAC for a final decision. Please note that from next year onwards these motions will not be considered at a National Congress but dealt with on a regular basis. This will allow the NVAC to consider issues for inclusion in the RSL's Budget submission to government to be passed at National Congress well ahead of the time required for this to be submitted and allow time for more considered debate than has been allowed for in the past.

Young Australian of the Year (WA)

Congratulation goes to Trooper Mark Donaldson VC who was recently named as the winner of the WA Section of the Young Australian of the Year at a ceremony held in Government House Ballroom on Saturday 21st November 2009. Tpr Donaldson VC will be considered for the national title which will be announced in Canberra on Australia Day eve.

Christmas Closure

ANZAC House will close on Wednesday 23 December 2009 at 3.00 pm and will reopen on Monday 11 January 2010 at 8.30 am.

Membership Statistics As at 30 November 2009

Service—9 303
Affiliates—1 776
Total—11 080



Reminder

Sub Branches that have not returned their Annual Poppy Day Reconciliation Statements to this Headquarters are reminded the documentation is overdue and is preventing the submission of our report to the State Government.

Sub Branches in default are asked to urgently contact the State Accountant, Mr Ken van Lit at ANZAC House

Country Visit

In late October the Gnowangerup Sub Branch, in association with the local community mounted a display of the military history of the district in the towns Memorial Hall. Extensive research on many of the local men who enlisted was undertaken and placed on well prepared display boards. A suitable mix of photographs, extracts from research documents, and memorabilia added to the professionalism of the display. The Sub Branch meeting room was also well kept and for the Sub Branch that recently raised a query with me as to the whereabouts of the *Wilson Cup* – I can report that it is in safe hands surrounded by the many miniatures – won by Gnowangerup. As we move towards the centenary of the Gallipoli Landing it is hoped that Gnowangerup's initiative can be replicated throughout the State.

AFOF Parcels

The Christmas issue of parcels to troops serving overseas funded from the Australian Forces Overseas Fund were sent from Sydney to various overseas locations in the last week of November. In all, 3280 parcels were sent. At the National Executive I had the pleasure of making a \$1000 donation to the fund from the Bedford Morley Sub Branch. This donation was well received and will guarantee the continuation of the Fund. Feedback for Unit Commanders and troops serving overseas is very positive.

The Listening Post

I had the opportunity to meet with MAJ-GEN Steve Gower AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra in late November. In discussion he referred to the WA RSL Publication *The Listening Post* and mentioned that it was a high class publication which was well received by staff and visitors to the War Memorial. He congratulated the editorial staff on the wide range of articles and the coverage it gave to all services from all conflicts. He said it was easy to read and very informative.

Indexation of Military Superannuation – A New Approach by The RSL

The National Executive has decided to mount a new campaign aimed at convincing the Federal Government to apply a new fairer index when adjusting superannuation payments to former members of the Australian Defence Force.

A comprehensive and detailed submission is being prepared in accordance with policy approved by the National Executive.

Compilation of this document will be overseen by the National President with input and advice being provided by research experts with significant experience in superannuation and related disciplines. The National Executive will monitor progress of the submission on a monthly basis and provide whatever further guidance might be needed.

The plan is to have the paper detailing this new approach completed by 30 June 2010

As further information comes to hand we will keep you advised via the *Sub Branch Signal* and our Website.

Membership Renewals – 2010

By now members would have received their Membership Renewal Notice for 2010. We ask that members renew early by one of the many payment options listed on the renewal notice. We also urge members not to pay at the Sub Branch as we have moved to a Centralized Membership Renewal System (CMRS) which will provide members with a faster delivery of Membership Cards and Discount Benefits Booklet. Should members wish to make cash payment, this can still be done at ANZAC House. Some Sub Branches may also offer this service but not via the traditional capitation form process.

An early response to renewals, by any method, would be greatly appreciated.

Attachments to this Sub Branch Signal

Sub Branch Executives Training Course
Sub Branch Pensions & Welfare Seminar
Gunfire Breakfast Application
ANZAC Day 2010 ADF Support
Media Contacts—ANZAC Day
Application—ANZAC Day Street Appeal





The Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal



In November 2008, the Australian Government formally accepted an offer from the President of East Timor, His Excellency José Ramos-Horta for Australian Defence Force personnel to formally accept and wear the Timor-Leste Solidarity Medal.

The medal was established to recognise those men and women who provided service in stability and peace operations in East Timor from 1 May 2006. 'Our hope is that this medal will be worn proudly by soldiers ...to the farthest reaches of the globe... as an enduring symbol of strengthening ties between Timor-Leste and our many friends...it also recognises the sacrifice of these men and women ...who have been separated far from loved ones and put their safety at risk in service to their country and the Timorese people'. President of East Timor HE José Ramos-Horta

Am I eligible?

The commencement date for the medal is 1 May 2006.

The qualifying criteria are:

1. Having served a minimum of 180 days continuous or accrued service in East Timor from 1 May 2006; or
2. Nominations will be considered for personnel that have served a minimum of 120 days from 1 May 2006; or

3. Nominations will be considered for personnel who served with a start date in May or June 2006 for a period at least 90 days; or

4. The President of East Timor may consider extraordinary cases outside the above time periods. Applications for extraordinary cases must be endorsed and submitted through the Directorate of Honours and Awards (DH&A), to be considered and approved by the President. However, service may still only count from 1 May 2006.

The qualifying period is not required in the event of death in service in East Timor.

Where is it up to?

DH&A has compiled an initial list of eligible current and former serving members, which amounts to approximately 7 000 names. This list has been forwarded to the East Timorese Government for final approval by the President. Unfortunately DH&A are unable to advise of the process once the East Timorese Government receives the list. A time-frame for completion or dispatch cannot be given.

If you wish to confirm that your name is on the list, please contact our Customer Response Team on 1800 111 321. Members who are not included on the list and who were force assigned to OPERATION ASTUTE from 1 May 2006, can submit the Application to Accept and Wear Foreign Awards (AD111), which is available at www.defence.gov.au/medals

If found to be eligible, your name will be submitted to the Timor-Leste Government on additional lists that are sent on a monthly basis. Once the list is returned to DH&A, the necessary steps will be taken to have the medal approved for wear by the Governor-General. Medals will be dispatched to serving personnel according to the unit address on PMKeyS. Former serving members will have their medal dispatched to their home address as listed on our database. Former serving members are advised to contact our Customer Response Team on 1800 111 321, if they wish to update their postal address.

