



THE LISTENING POST

The Official Journal of The Returned & Services League of Australia WA Branch Incorporated

JUNE 2022

**MACCA'S WATCH
NAVIGATES
MISSION
IMPOSSIBLE**

**ANZAC Day 2022
Around the State**

**NEW AGREEMENT
A BOOST FOR
VETERAN JOBS**





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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* are available on our website:

www.rslwa.org.au

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Publishing of *The Listening Post*:

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To all Sub-Branch Presidents and Secretaires: Send photographs (IMB plus) and a short article (in a Word document) on special activities at your Sub-Branch to *The Listening Post*.

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

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Many years ago while serving in the RAAF at Williamstown I attended an ANZAC Dawn Service at a place called Wallsend.

I noticed that some of those laying tributes on the cenotaph were laying books instead of floral wreaths. I had not seen this before so asked about it.

The practice was designed to add to the number and variety of books in the local school library. The RSL supplied donors with paper plaques to be affixed to the inside cover, with "Donated By" for the donor, "In Memory of"....e.g. Private J.C. Bloggs..... "lost" when/ where e.g. Gallipoli 1916. I think there was a prominent RSL badge front and centre of the plaque.

This enduring tribute might be in the school library for 10 or even 20 years, and serve to remind possibly hundreds of children of the sacrifice made by a local man or woman serving his/her country.

Wreaths, in Geraldton at least, are around \$70.00 now, and at best will last a day or two before becoming litter or going to landfill. Maybe we should consider this alternative tribute, and have a word with the local school(s) librarian(s) to see if we can get it going.

In Wallsend the school(s) sent the RSL Sub-Branch a wish list of books they would like a month or so before major commemoration services. If your local school is not interested, perhaps the public library might be. Many deliver books to homebound people and might be glad to have new books available from outside of their budget.

Many, I'm sure will prefer to lay traditional floral tributes. In Wallsend that day it was around 50/50 books and wreaths. The cenotaph still looked good and the kids enjoyed a lasting benefit.

Perhaps an option we could think about offering this Remembrance Day?

Ken Morris

You can email your **Letters to the Editor** to publicaffairs@rslwa.org.au

If you prefer more traditional means, please post to:

Letters to the Editor
PO Box Z5424
St George's Tce, PERTH WA 6831

The best of your submissions will be published in the next edition of **The Listening Post**.

P.S.: Nothing makes us happier than receiving all your emailed story and letter submissions. But please ensure all The Listening Post email submissions are provided on a Word document. Also, all photos must be 1MB or higher resolution in jpeg form, sent separately as an attachment.

In the lead up to Congress 2022 I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Sub-Bran­ches which put motions forward for discussion. In all, 17 motions were received and after review, all 17 were discussed at Congress. This is a wonderful outcome for RSLWA.

FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

I will be also shortly contacting Sub-Branch Presidents by email. I will use this as an avenue to contact Sub-Branch Presidents directly, reciprocal communication is welcomed and encouraged. I am also seeking to schedule 'Presidents Forums', commencing after Congress.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise our Patron, His Excellency The Honourable Kim Beazley AC who departs his post of Governor of Western Australia on 30 June 2022.

His Excellency has been the Patron of RSLWA since taking his post in 2018 and has been a fervent supporter of Defence and Veterans throughout his public life. For those fortunate to have heard him speak, you were never left in any doubt of his passion and commitment to our National Interest and those who step into harm's way to protect it. I will ensure I pass on our collective gratitude to the Governor for his support for Veterans and their families.

I would also like to recognise John McCourt who has recently announced his resignation as the Chief Executive Officer of the Returned and Service League of Western Australia.

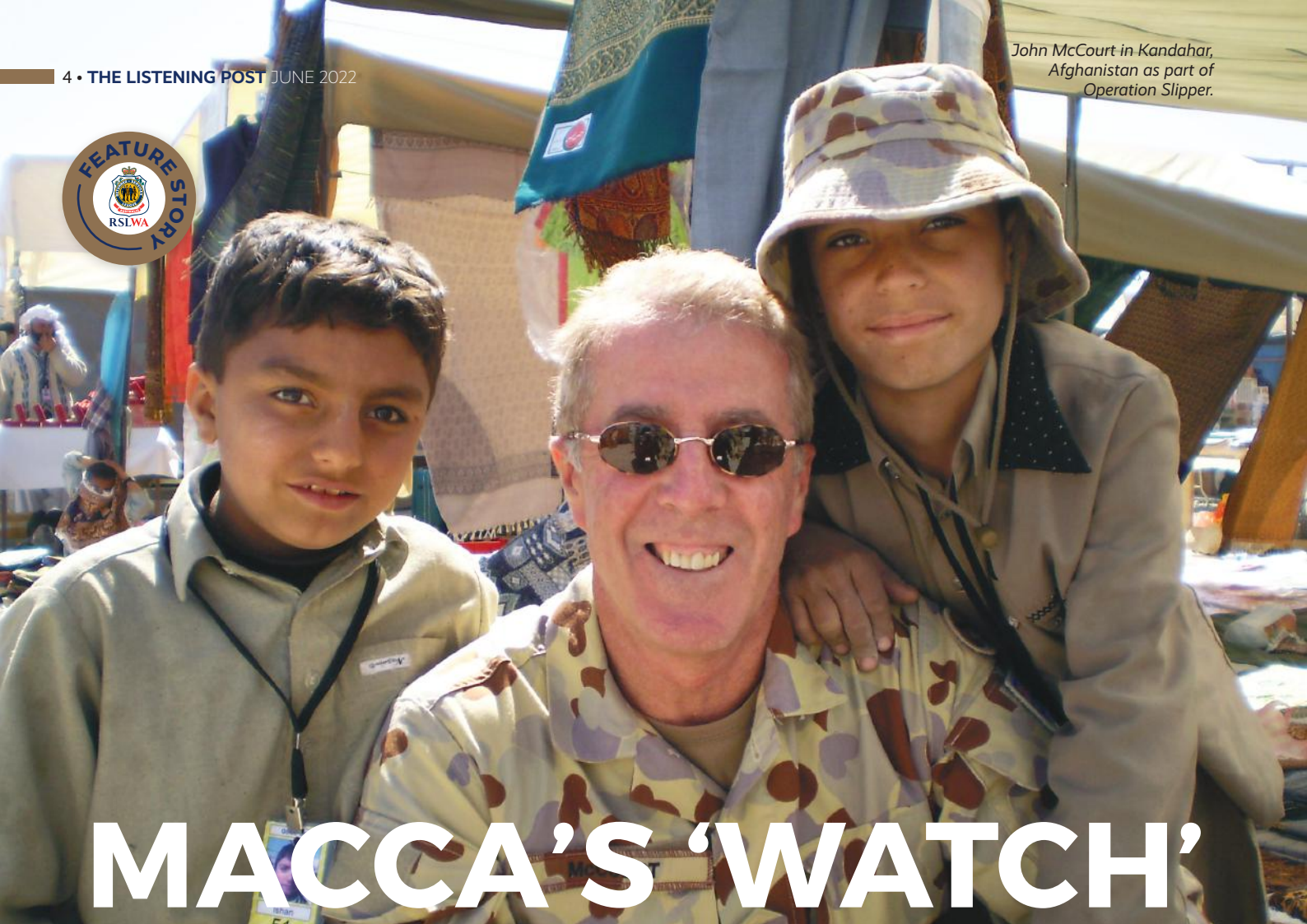


DUNCAN ANDERSON
RSLWA STATE PRESIDENT

John McCourt has been at the centre of the resurrection of RSLWA for more than a decade. While serving on the Board of RSLWA, John led the development of the notion of 'Veteran Central' model of support and care. Put simply, this paradigm shift put the Veteran at the centre of the support system network.

As our Chief Executive Officer, John has been pivotal in bringing to life the 'Veteran Central' model of service delivery. The construction of ANZAC House on St Georges Terrace was an immense undertaking that will serve the RSL in WA for generations to come. John also oversaw the re-establishment of an asset base that will form the foundation for the organisation to support Veterans and their Families for many years to come.

On behalf of the Board of RSLWA and all members, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the commitment and dedication shown and wish John all the very best for whatever the future holds.



MACCA'S 'WATCH'

NAVIGATES MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Departing RSLWA is a mix of sadness yet triumph for Chief Executive Officer John McCourt. In his wake, after six years at the helm, is a ground-breaking new way of supporting Veterans and their families.

A centrepiece of the new initiative was the development of ANZAC House Veteran Central and the concept of Veteran Hubs and virtual services, placing Veterans at the centre of service delivery.

Such has been the success of the new approach, it is being copied Australia-wide with strong Government and community support.

The one-stop shop model at Veteran Central provides medical, mental health, dental, counselling, wellbeing, legal and financial support services and more.

John formally announced his resignation at Congress 2022 after navigating big challenges to help put RSLWA in a strong financial and service delivery position.

"I had thought I would see out some more years to come, but I believe I am at least leaving at the top of my game," John said.

"It's been quite a ride and I would be remiss in not mentioning the fantastic support given to me by former President, Peter Aspinall.

"Peter gave me the left and right of arc to do what I did. His leadership was fantastic and I think we were a great team. It was not a decision made lightly and I go with a heavy heart.

I sincerely wish the next CEO all the very best."



Awarding Kerry Stokes with RSL's highest civilian award, the Certificate of Merit with Gold Badge.



Governor-General of Australia is His Excellency General the Honourable David Hurley AC DSC (Retd) and Her Excellency Mrs Linda Hurley, visiting ANZAC House Veteran Central in 2021.

John joined RSLWA's State Executive as a representative for Kimberley/Pilbara in March 2010. Immediate Past State President Peter Aspinall said it was apparent 12 years ago John would be an active and involved Director.

"This became even more obvious when he subsequently assumed the role of Chair of WAVAC, our veterans' affairs committee. It was in this capacity that he began to formulate a concept for better delivery of related services for veterans and their families," Peter said.

"The concept he labelled ANZAC House Veteran Central (AHVC) must be the highlight, and lasting legacy of his tenure as CEO."

A veteran himself, John served full-time, and as a reserve, with the Royal Australian Air Force. His service included deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan and East Timor, where he served with the International Stabilization Force.

John's military service also included OIC of the Air Force Public Affairs Specialist Reserve; Commander, Joint Information Bureau for the search for Malaysian Airlines MH370; Specialist Staff Officer, Headquarters Joint Operations Command and communications adviser for the visit to Australia by US President, Barack Obama.

John was awarded a Chief of Defence Force Unit Commendation for active service.

His first-hand experiences transitioning from military to civilian life and traversing the complex path to get the medical and financial entitlements available to ex-service personnel was the catalyst to develop the streamlined Veteran Central model – the first in Australia.

When John took on the role of RSLWA CEO in September 2016, former CEO Phil Orchard recalled using a naval term when he handed over.

"I said 'you have the watch', which at sea means the safety of the ship and its people are in your hands. John had a different skill set to me and was the right man to move things forward," Phil said.

"John brought to fruition many of the issues that I had been dealing with for several years, a pleasing outcome that presented the new leadership of Peter Aspinall and John McCourt the leverage to grow the seeds planted by their predecessors.

"Over the past six years John has led the RSL to a new beginning."

John's 'skill set' included strong political networks and knowledge, combined with business acumen and a media background, which during his six years as CEO, enabled him to bring to RSLWA, almost \$44 million in grants and donations. This included direct fundraising through State and Federal Governments toward construction of ANZAC House and the return of the ANZAC House Land Title from a Government lease proposal.

Peter said John's ability to assemble the remarkable range of veteran services to establish Veteran Central is what has enabled this legacy.

"John can be immensely proud of what he has achieved, not just AHVC, but across all facets of management of RSLWA that earned him the respect of State and Federal authorities," Peter said.

"His ANZAC House Veteran Central legacy, effectively the first veteran wellness centre as envisioned by the previous Federal Government, is truly his monument."

Phil said he was disappointed to hear John was stepping away, but understands there comes a time when you need to make a life-changing decision.

"John can leave AHVC with his head held high knowing how hard he has worked and what that has achieved," Phil said.

"He's a thoroughly professional operator who has gained a high regard of respect from State and Federal Government luminaries for his running of RSLWA. I wish him the very best and thank him for the excellent outcome from his time with 'the watch'."

John has no immediate plans other than to recharge and reset, with the priority to spend some quality time with his grandkids, which the pandemic has prevented him doing in the last two years.





CHARITY BALL

A UNITED EFFORT

WA's two major veteran organisations have teamed up to stage an annual Charity Ball to raise vital funds for Veterans and families.

The Charity Ball, to take place on 12 November, is a new initiative of RSLWA and Legacy WA as a way of doing things better together for the benefit of Veterans.

Both organisations have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to stage the Charity Ball after successful collaboration earlier this year for the ANZAC Day Street Appeal and a special combined Parliament House sundowner.

RSLWA State President, Duncan Anderson, and Legacy WA President, Peter Emmett, said the initiative would demonstrate to valued donors and the wider WA community that collaboration is the way to the future when seeking business, philanthropy and community support.

"RSLWA and Legacy WA have a proud history of looking after the needs of veterans and their families for many decades and are firmly committed to an exciting way forward in collaboration for mutual outcomes," they said.



SAVE THE DATE

Charity Ball

Collaborating to provide better outcomes for Veterans and their families

Saturday, 12 November 2022
River View Room, Optus Stadium
Burswood

Enquiries: events@rslwa.org.au or 9287 3710

“As such, we are reaching out to get sponsors on board for the 2022 Charity Ball to raise much needed funds for a growing new wave of Veterans and their families.”

RSLWA was founded in 1916 to serve those who served while Legacy WA was founded in 1928 with a key vision of looking after partners and the children of Veterans.

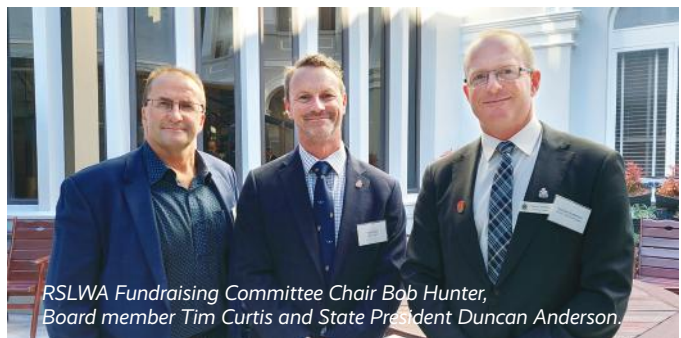
“There is a great synergy between RSLWA and Legacy WA and we are at one with how we raise these important funds well into the future.”

Both Presidents confirmed that the MoU committed both organisations, where practicable, to deliver mutually beneficial fundraising and public awareness events.

All proceeds at the Charity Ball will go to RSLWA and Legacy WA.



RSLWA and Legacy WA CBD ANZAC Appeal collaboration.



RSLWA Fundraising Committee Chair Bob Hunter, Board member Tim Curtis and State President Duncan Anderson.



Parliament House Sundowner collaboration.

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The RSL Veterans' Employment Program has received grant funding from the Australian Government and is free to access. You do not need to be a member of the RSL for us to help you.

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Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

NEW AGREEMENT A BOOST FOR VETERAN JOBS

A landmark agreement between RSLWA and award winning ex-service organisation, Working Spirit will pave the way for a boost in the number of Veterans securing a job after transitioning out of the Australian Defence Force.

The joint venture sees RSLWA and Working Spirit working together with financial support from the McGowan Government as well as Federal funding through RSL National.

RSLWA Chief Executive Officer, John McCourt, said the joint venture is a classic example of the benefits of collaboration that can deliver on vital services and support to Veterans and their families.

Mr McCourt said there has been an identified increase in interest from WA employers seeking to hire Veterans.

“The opportunity exists to establish an enduring collaborative employment service that facilitates Veteran’s transition into employment both directly from the Australian Defence Force (ADF) as well as enabling the Veteran to describe the skills acquired in the ADF for future employment throughout their working life,” Mr McCourt said.

“The aim is to actively promote employment opportunities for Veterans and/or their families while attracting and diversifying further funding to ensure sustainability.

REGIONAL SUPPORT

To ensure equitable delivery of services to regional areas, the major regional locales will be targeted to present the information in person. This will also be an opportunity to market the program to local employers. The locales planned to be visited annually are:

- Albany
- Busselton
- Kalgoorlie
- Geraldton
- Karratha
- Broome
- Kununurra
- Newman

WAVE

The joint venture, under the name of Western Australian Veterans’ Employment (WAVE), will include the introduction of a dedicated portal to manage and coordinate Veteran employment services.

The concept behind the portal is for it to be a user-friendly application that enables Veterans to enter their skills in a language they are familiar with. The portal will then present these skills to potential employers in the form that they are also familiar.

The promotion of the service will have two arms; one aimed at Veterans, and one at employers. A more fully developed marketing plan, budget and targets are now being finalised including, but not limited to:

- jobs fairs;
- presentations to transitioning ADF members;
- Defence newspapers;
- RSLWA Sub-Branches;
- the RSL National Veterans Employment Program;
- Defence organisations and bases (e.g. Pearce, Rockingham);
- social media channels such as Facebook and LinkedIn to advertise the program and promote its success;
- direct emails to such stakeholders as currently engaged employers; those with political influence including State and Federal politicians, and broader supporters such as Corporate ANZAC Club Members; and
- Information pack in hard copy and soft copy.

In order to be eligible for the assistance, individuals must have served at least one day in the ADF or Allied forces (inclusive of Reservists), or be a partner, spouse or direct family member of the Defence Member.

Veteran Employment providers will utilise a number of premises around Perth including ANZAC House Veteran Central and Working Spirit offices.



(L-R) RSM WO1 David Nutini 13th Brigade and Working Spirit’s Karen Hinder with Brigadier Brett Challenor CSC Office Commanding 13th Brigade (right) at the Civilian Career Summit held at the 10th Light Horse Regiment Drill Hall, Irwin Barracks Karrakatta.

For more information, contact RSLWA Employment Officer,
Sherry Baxter on 08 9287 3799 or email vetjobs@rslwa.org.au



NUNGARIN MUSEUM

SHEDS LIGHT ON FASCINATING MILITARY HISTORY

by Norman Burns

Around 280 kilometres from Perth as the crow flies, the Wheatbelt town of Nungarin pitches itself as the ‘small town with the big heart’. But Nungarin is also home to a massive ‘shed’ boasting an amazing history that today houses one of the most unique collections of military hardware in Australia.

The cavernous 2500 square metre timber ‘shed’ (believed to be the biggest remaining in the Southern Hemisphere) was once part of the Australian Army’s No.5 Base Ordnance Depot (or 5BOD for short), built in World War II at the cost of 10 million pounds. At its peak from 1943-45, the depot covered more than 600 acres, had its own sewerage and drainage system and 12 major buildings covering 376,230 square feet. As well as tank and machinery workshops, the depot housed 1200 troops and their families. It even had a golf course, tennis courts and two sports grounds.

The Nungarin location was no accident - it was chosen to be well out of range of Japanese bombers.

The Japanese never attacked and after the war, 5BOD and its contents were surplus to Army requirements, prompting a huge sell-off.

In 1961, the then new Nungarin Shire Council forked out 1000 pounds for the Vehicle Maintenance Workshop and some adjoining land, to use as a depot for council equipment.

But in October 1994, after two years' of planning, that 'shed' was relaunched as the Nungarin Heritage Machinery and Army Museum.

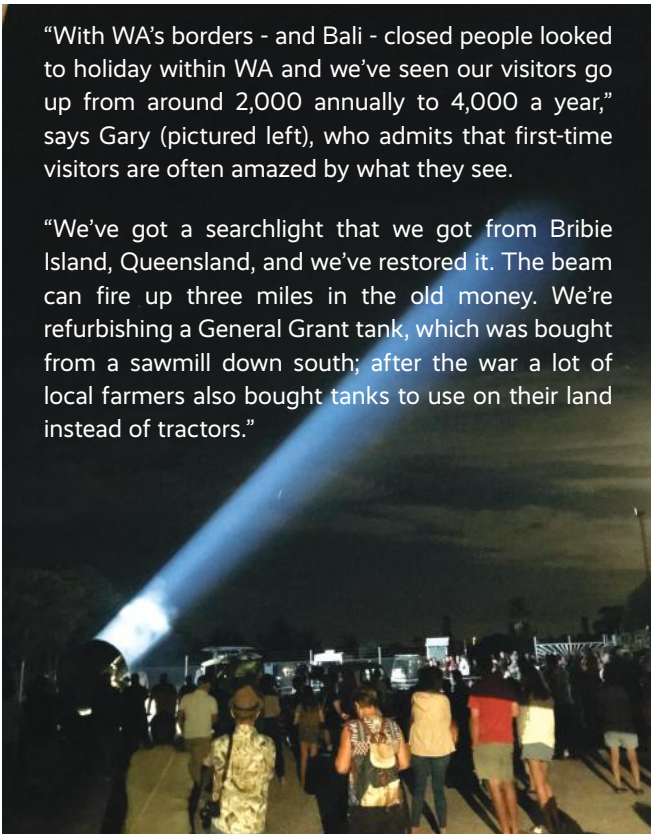
Today a team of enthusiastic volunteers, led by retired local farmer Gary Coumbe, not only keep the flame burning for what is a fascinating link to Australia's military and agricultural past, but actively promote the site as a community hub, hosting weekend breakfasts for locals and visitors.

The museum itself has an eclectic range of exhibits, from tanks and military ephemera to vintage tractors, motorbikes, vehicles and even a working WWII anti-aircraft searchlight.

And while the COVID-19 pandemic has hammered local businesses over the past couple of years, ironically it has come with a silver lining for the Nungarin enterprise.

"With WA's borders - and Bali - closed people looked to holiday within WA and we've seen our visitors go up from around 2,000 annually to 4,000 a year," says Gary (pictured left), who admits that first-time visitors are often amazed by what they see.

"We've got a searchlight that we got from Bribie Island, Queensland, and we've restored it. The beam can fire up three miles in the old money. We're refurbishing a General Grant tank, which was bought from a sawmill down south; after the war a lot of local farmers also bought tanks to use on their land instead of tractors."



MUSEUM DETAILS
nungarinmuseum.com.au

ACCOMMODATION AND OTHER PLACES OF
INTEREST IN NUNGARIN AND SURROUNDING AREAS
www.nungarin.wa.gov.au



Upkeep of such a facility is not cheap, but Gary says the museum has had great support from the Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development, Lotterywest and the Shire of Nungarin - as well as the stellar efforts of the volunteer team.

"We've just secured a \$120,000 Lotterywest grant for a new shed; we'll contribute \$20,000 and Nungarin Shire \$60,000 for this."

A steady stream of visitors (the museum is open 9am till 4pm seven days a week) also contributes through admission fees and souvenir sales and a highlight once a year is the Vintage Rally and Searchlight Party held on site and which attracts hundreds.

"We fire up the searchlight, there are vehicle displays, and we even have a guy from Waroona who comes and fires off a civil war cannon - not with projectiles, of course. There's a band and bar and it's a great event."

And while Nungarin is probably a bridge too far just for a day drive to visit the museum, Gary says there's a range of accommodation options in the area.

"There's the historic Mangowine Homestead, which was built in the 1870s, there are caravan parks, the Woolshed Hotel right in town and McCorry's Old Hotel B&B."

The next Nungarin Heritage Machinery and Army Museum Vintage Rally and Searchlight Party will be held on Saturday March 4 2023.



HIGH TECH AT KINGS PARK SUPPORTS VETERAN HISTORY

The Botanic Gardens & Parks Authority (BGPA) is adopting new technology to engage visitors to Kings Park and have implemented Markr to provide an augmented reality experience to some of the iconic locations throughout the park, including three at the State War Memorial.

Interactive Markr information technology is being made available to users when they are in and around Kings Park.

The Markr virtual information points will enable RSLWA to share the story of fallen servicemen and women and the memorials established in their honour.



BGPA Executive Director Alan Barrett.

This way of connecting the visitor comes with an automatic translation to the user's language, a new way of presenting visual content and has a zero carbon footprint.

BGPA Executive Director, Alan Barrett, said he was pleased to provide RSLWA this new way of sharing the stories of the Australian Defence Force personnel.

"We have dropped a number of Markrs around the park for people to discover and by using the free Markr app visitors can experience the information in a whole new way," he said. "We hope it helps the people of Perth connect to veterans of Western Australia and learn more about the State War Memorial and those who gave the ultimate sacrifice."



Markr virtual sign posts.

RSLWA Chief Executive Officer, John McCourt, said the innovation was another way of collaborating with like-minded organisations to better inform the general public of the sacrifices made by our soldiers, sailors and air personnel. The new locally developed augmented reality experience has been launched at Kings Park in time for families to enjoy during these school holidays.

RSLWA was part of the recent launch of the technology in Kings Park by WA Environment Minister, Reece Whitby.

Using Markr, visitors can access a raft of information including the State War Memorial and the Tobruk Memorial precinct on May Drive, and information about new memorial projects commemorating the Korean War and the Battle of Crete.



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RSLWA CHARITY GOLF DAY 2022



The RSLWA Charity Golf Day 2022 was a great success despite COVID taking players out at a high rate in the last week. Teams managed to fill the gaps and we finished up with a good field of 62 with two teams playing with three.





The weather was perfect for a day on the fairways at the challenging Joondalup Resort on Quarry 1 and Lakes 1 courses.

Novelty hole Sponsors Black Market (Ian Gompertz, Lachlan Menzies, Grant Meyer and Simon Turner) came in as winners with a gross score of -13. Digital Brokers (Aaron Kanters, David Hewitt, Jarret Riley and Brodie Woolcott) were not far behind in second place with -11. With one player down, Quarry 9B team (Stuart brown, Jamie Powers and Tony Wills) played a good round to bring up third place with -10.

The Navy Golf WA team (Tim Ayling, Scott Brown, Tom Costello and Guy Lewis) playing for the Lunch Sponsors Hancock Prospecting and Roy Hill performed well to bring up fourth place with -9.

Nearest the Pin prizes went to Olivia Robinson and Sven De Jonghe (Lakes 3) while on Quarry 3 it went to Carolyn Ngan and Luke O'Sullivan.

Longest drive went to Novelty sponsor Ian Gompertz and Olivia Robinson.



Hancock Prospecting and Roy Hill Lunch Sponsors team, Navy Golf WA
 Tim Ayling, Scott Brown, Tom Costello and Guy Lewis.



Veterans Sponsor Spinifex Brewery Representative Jason Connor



A lot more fun was enjoyed off the field with the lunch event which included an insightful panel discussion about transition with defence veteran Ryan Wilson and football veterans Simon Eastaugh and Will Schofield, who was also MC for the luncheon.

Competition off the field was strong with the Silent Auction which brought competitive bidding for the top items.

Brinkhaus Jewellers gold and diamond necklace (value \$1295) was picked up by Breakfast Sponsor OQEA Managing Director Martin Wier.

Jetts Gym membership for two (value \$1030) was bought by Price Waterhouse Cooper team leader Miquela Riley.

Buster was popular with friends when he purchased the Western Force v Hurricanes open side box for eight people which was played the night after the charity golf event.

The Duxton Deluxe Accommodation package (value \$450) will be enjoyed by Michael Hadlow.

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Praline by Maison Saint Honore

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Spinifex Brewery Veterans Sponsor team
Terry Healy, Dave Jones, Mick McQueen and John Riley

RLSWA extends thanks to our sponsors and donors for their generous support which makes the RSLWA Charity Golf Day possible.



RSLWA AWARD

A FEATURE OF LATEST GRADUATION OF AIR FORCE PILOTS

Leadership is seen as one of the top ten attributes of successful Air Force pilots and RSLWA was once again on hand at the most recent graduation of our latest RAAF graduates.



Students from the Australian Defence Force Pilots Course received their wings and graduated from the No. 2 Flying Training School at RAAF Base Pearce just before ANZAC Day.

With full pomp and ceremony, four of the 10 graduate pilots received awards for their achievements during their course.

Among them was Pilot Officer Hayden Krammer who received the RSLWA Leadership trophy for displaying the highest qualities in leadership. On hand was RSLWA Chief Executive Officer John McCourt (a retired RAAF Officer) to present the coveted award alongside Reviewing Officer, Air Commodore Tim Aslop, who is Commander of Air Force's Air Combat Group.

Air Commodore Aslop told the graduates they were commencing their military aviation careers at a dynamic and challenging time as Air Force continues a period of rapid transition and evolution.

Mr McCourt said it was always an honour to present the Leadership Award for pilot graduation ceremonies at RAAF Pearce where he commenced his own Air Force journey spanning 24 years.

"RAAF regards leadership as an important attribute required of a potential pilot," Mr McCourt said. "I am aware that recruiting continues to look for evidence of leadership qualities and that goes a long way, not only for new pilots but for command positions into the future."



**"THERE'S AN OLD SAYING THAT,
WHILE MANAGERS ARE NECESSARY;
LEADERS ARE ESSENTIAL."**

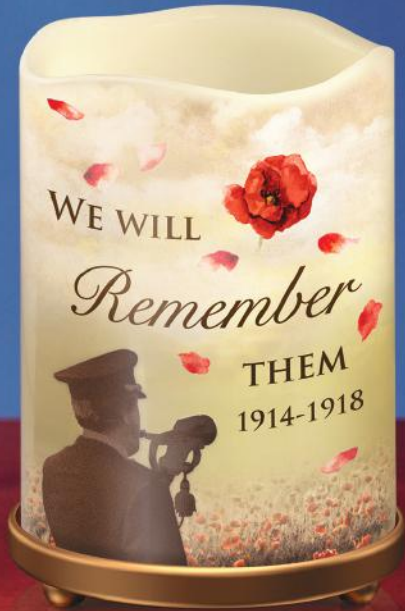


LEST WE FORGET

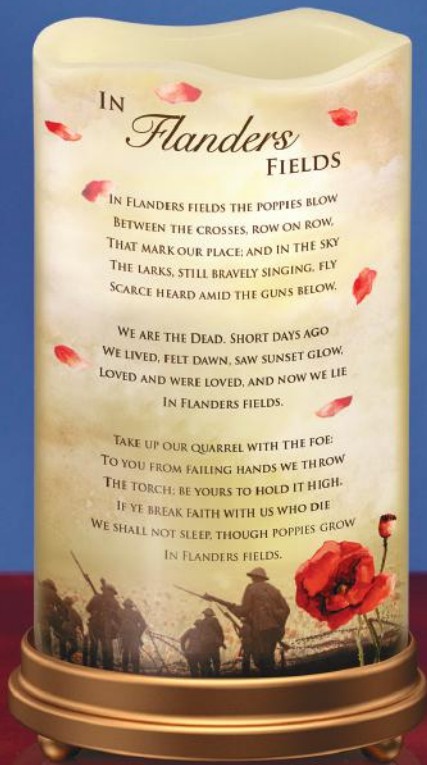
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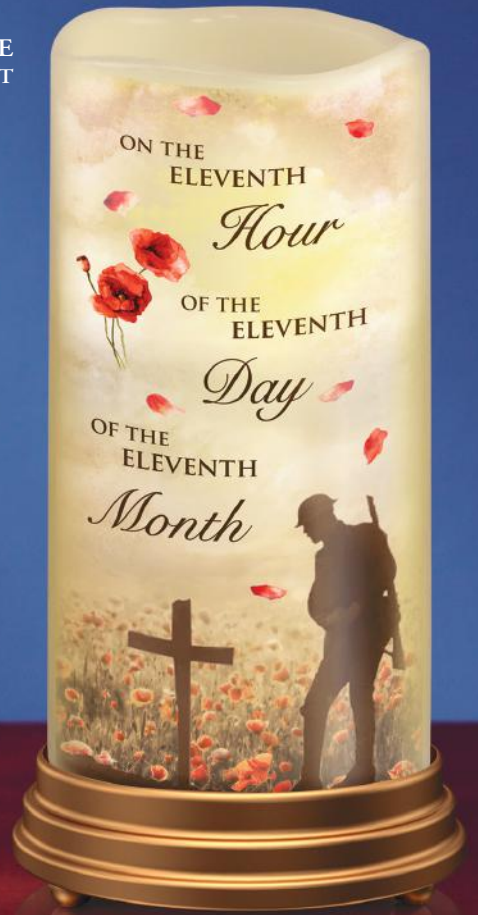
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ANZAC DAY 2022

After two years of cancelled ANZAC Day events in the City of Perth there was strong public support for this year's commemorative events which included a Dawn Service at Kings Park, Gunfire Breakfast in the Government House Gardens, a CBD March and a Commemorative Service at the Perth Concert Hall.

While the Level 2 COVID restrictions deterred many Sub-Branches from proceeding with ANZAC Day 2022 Commemorative services this year, many around the State did hold out in the hope of lowered restrictions and were able to proceed with a variety of Commemorative events, which are highlighted in the following feature pages.



ANZAC Day March in Mount Barker

DAWN SERVICE

During his opening address at the dawn service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park, the Governor of Western Australia, The Honourable Kim Beazley AC, began with a poignant reflection about the COVID pandemic.

“We gather here this morning knowing that, while we are still living in challenging times due to the COVID pandemic, we are free from war and conflict. There were times when this was not the case. When fighting for freedom meant looking after one another, and pausing to remember those Australians who backed up their mates in dire circumstances. As we gather here this morning at sunrise, elsewhere around the world, ANZAC Day services are also being held in places where Australian lives were lost on foreign soil.”

The public enthusiasm for the return of the ANZAC Day Commemorative Services was demonstrated by more than 1000 people making their way to Kings Park for the dawn service despite their being no infrastructure to ensure the public could hear and see the service. Back dropped by a stunning sunrise, the solemn and peaceful Commemoration was capped off by an impromptu formation flypast by four bi-planes.

RSLWA partnered with 94.5 and Triple M to deliver a live broadcast from the Kings Park service to enable the broader community to participate with their own Driveway Dawn Services in the safety of their own home. The return of the CBD Parade along St George’s Terrace was well supported by a very enthusiastic crowd of more than 10,000 people who turned out to support the veterans or participate in the march themselves.



LOTTERYWEST GRANT

DRIVEWAY SERVICE COMMEMORATES GENERATIONS OF SERVICE

Robert Mitchel, a National Serviceman who served from 1967 – 1969 with 9RAR and fought in Vietnam was among those who hosted his own private Driveway Dawn Service.

He was joined by his wife Wilhelmina, their daughter Maria with husband Paul and children Samantha and Nathan, also Samantha’s partner Leading Seaman Adam Atkinson who is currently serving in the Royal Australian Navy.

Joined also by friends they met through the local RSL in Port Kennedy, John, who served in CMF as Staff Sargent, his wife Christine, joined them with John’s son, CFN Matthew Simpson who is currently serving in the Army Reserves, and his fiancée Kym.

The group tuned into the Kings Park live broadcast by Mix 94.5 and set the scene with a hand painted sign, first created in 2020 when we were in lockdown. Robert’s granddaughter and local photographer Samantha captured the moment.



PARADE



GUNFIRE BREAKFAST



2/4TH MACHINE GUN BATTALION

Approximately 25 members of the 2/4th Machine Gun Battalion Ex-Members Association, led by President Bernie Dorizzi, marched behind the banner during the ANZAC Day Parade.



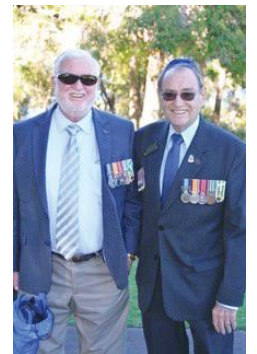
THE KARRAKATTA CLUB

Members from The Karrakatta Club supported the ANZAC Day lunch held at ANZAC House and enjoyed watching the CBD march. Lest we forget.

RSLWA CEO John McCourt photographed with the group of Karrakatta members.

JEWISH WAR MEMORIAL ANZAC COMMEMORATION

More than 200 people attended the annual ANZAC Day commemoration at the Jewish War Memorial in Kings Park. Many wreaths were laid by the ex-service men and women, the community, politicians and dignitaries. The service was held on Sunday, 24 April because of crowd restrictions for the Dawn Service in Kings Park.



VIETNAMESE SERVICES RSL SUB-BRANCH

Members of the Vietnamese Services RSL Sub-Branch marching on ANZAC Day.

BASSENDAN

ANZAC Day in Bassendean started with the Dawn Service at Bayswater followed by a Gunfire Breakfast at the RSL. Some members travelled to Perth city for the main march and returned for the Bassendean march. The Bayswater Dawn Service, Guildford Service and The Bassendean Service were presented by our President Andrew Robertson. Afterwards, the Bassendean RSL had the Cathy Earl Band joined for a couple of songs by the Lindsay Wells Band.

The ANZAC weekend included supporting the Swan Districts ANZAC Day football match on Saturday at Steel Blue Oval, Bassendean Football Club at Jubilee Reserve with David Beacham singing the Australian National Anthem.



CANNING DISTRICTS



After two years without ANZAC Day commemorations, about 600 guests attended the Canning Districts Dawn Service, more than 100 of these were members with the remaining coming from the local area and other Sub-Branched. Rev Gibson conducted the service and short addresses were made by Terry Reynolds and Brett Caines. Whaleback scout group held an overnight vigil. The Last Post and Reveille were played by Victor Moss.

The day continued with more than 200 staying on for the Gunfire Breakfast, which made it a busy day for the committee. The City of Canning March and Service ended with the Sub-Branch providing morning tea which was followed by a lunch for about 100 members.

A lot of fun was had by all at the two-up and the City of Canning Brass Band entertained for an hour with local musician Michael continuing for the afternoon which wrapped up around 5pm. The Sub-Branch extends special thanks to all the volunteers who assisted to make it happen.

CLAREMONT

ANZAC Day commemorations at the Claremont Memorial have been held since 1942, until the onset of COVID in 2020. While the ANZAC Day service at the Claremont Memorial was cancelled again this year, it was replaced with a twilight commemoration service held at the Claremont Showgrounds held on the Eve of ANZAC Day. The scaled down events this year were still highly significant to the Claremont community, with some 120 people attending to pay their respects.

A small group of 10th Light Horse Troopers from Bunbury added significance to the commemoration at the showgrounds, which had been recognised as a potential training ground for a new Regiment when Lieutenant Colonel Brazier visited it on 19 October 1914. An evening snack was provided after the twilight event by the Showgrounds Community Men's Shed.



COCKBURN

At one of the last ANZAC Day events before his recent passing, the late Billy Cork (left) is photographed with another Cockburn RSL Sub-Branch member, Robert Long, enjoying the camaraderie of his mates after the March.

Robert transported the then 99-year-old Billy to all the Cockburn functions. He and his wife Dorinda also hosted Bill at their home on several occasions.



COTTESLOE

The Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch and Town Council held a combined ANZAC Day service at the Cottesloe Civic Centre. During his address Sub-Branch President Jonathon Sciortino reminded the audience that Anzac Day was a time stop and say thank you to the thousands of men and women who have spent time protecting their country. "It is also a time to remember those who are still suffering," he said.

Cottesloe Mayor Lorraine Young drew similarities of how the courage and strength of the ANZACs enabled people to draw the confidence to face the challenges posed by the pandemic. Ms Young and other special guests laid wreaths and the public were invited to place sprigs of rosemary with the wreaths.

Mr Sciortino said he was very pleased with the crowd of about 300 which attended the event. He said that after not having a service for two years, he would have been happy if only two people had turned up.

Photo courtesy of Post Newspapers.

KWINANA



Kwinana RSL Sub-Branch, like so many not being able to hold any ANZAC Day services for two years, got great public support with about 600 turning out on a cool and calm morning for the Dawn Service. With COVID restrictions limiting numbers of RSL members and invited guests attending the Gunfire Breakfast at the Sub-Branch hall, Rotary Kwinana provided a community breakfast at the Medina Hall. The Kwinana mid-morning service was attended by about 300 people, included a guest speaker and catafalque guard supplied from HMAS Stirling which was very much appreciated by the Sub-Branch and all those present.



JOONDALUP

The Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch commemorated ANZAC Day 2022 in the biggest way possible this year, starting with three days collecting for the annual ANZAC Appeal.

ANZAC Day started with a Dawn Service at the Ocean Reef Memorial with Sub-Branch President Rick Green as MC and Nathan Van Den Broek reciting the Ode. Some 1500 attended the service which was followed by a gunfire breakfast, two-up and an early bar.

The service was also supported by Joe Shore on the bugle, Keith Allan on the bagpipes, the Indian Blue Chorus choir, 16 RWAR Catafalque party, the Mullaloo Surf Life Saving Club with boats on the water in the Marina and Cadets as flag orderlies and wreath laying escorts.



NORTH BEACH

Due to COVID Restrictions North Beach RSL Sub-Branch also held a scaled back Dawn Service event, which did not deter about 2000 members of the community attending. The Sub-Branch was well represented and were formed up adjacent to the Memorial during the Service. It was particularly pleasing to see so many families, Veterans and serving Defence Force personnel in attendance. The increasing number of younger Veterans was noticeable and much appreciated. It was very satisfying to have the community gather to commemorate this important day in our Sub-Branch calendar.

The weather was pleasant, and the local kookaburras echoed through the Reserve as the sun was rising behind the Memorial during the Service, providing a colourful backdrop. The traditional North Beach Football Club match on the 23 April also involved a commemoration service which was appreciated by the young footballers and the community.

OSBORNE PARK

Osborne Park RSL Sub-Branch held their first commemorative services in three years which started with 6.30am Parade form up at the RSL Hall on Main St for a short march which was followed by a Gunfire breakfast.



BAKERS HILL

With COVID-19 restrictions still affecting the surrounding community, the Bakers Hill RSLWA Sub-Branch invited neighbours Wundowie and Clackline to join their ANZAC Day Commemoration at Hooper Park War Memorial in Bakers Hill. The Bakers Hill Primary School Students who attended in uniform spoke of our ANZAC's with pride and were well received. To top off the morning we had not one, but two fly overs from the RAAF. The service was well attended and many people went on to the Bakers Hill Golf Club Fellowship and enjoyed some entertainment. The day was a complete success.



WANNEROO

Wanneroo RSL Sub-Branch commenced its ANZAC Day Dawn service with the sound of a Didgeridoo, followed by a lone Piper which set the scene for a well-attended Dawn Service. Brigadier (Retired) Steve Coggin read a moving speech, with the birds awakening in the background. After the service, the march ended with a Gunfire Breakfast and Fellowship in the Clubrooms. Veteran Jack Le Cras OAM (below) attended Landsdale Christian College to give a short speech and lay a wreath at another service following ANZAC Day.



DWELLINGUP



BRIDGETOWN

The formation of the Australian Army Nursing Service more than 100 years ago was the focus of the Bridgetown ANZAC Day Service. About 500 people attended the event where guest speakers, Levi Nichols and Katie Davies from Bridgetown High School, gave insight into our Military Nurses who cared for the sick and wounded on hospital ships, trains, casualty and clearing stations close to the front line, many decorated for bravery.

The first nurse to die on active service, Sister Fanny Hines from Victoria, died of pneumonia contracted while serving in Rhodesia South Africa during the Boer War. At the time of her death, Fanny was working alone with up to 26 patients at any one time with no possibility of assistance or relief, and she and her patients were without sufficient nourishment. Sister Hines was buried with full military honours on 7th August 1900.



CAPEL

A spectacular sunrise at Peppermint Grove Beach was the backdrop for the 7th Dawn Service held by the Capel RSL Sub-Branch which was attended by about 400 people. Later in the morning the community turned out in similar numbers to pay their respects at the March which consisted of Veterans, present members of the armed forces, veterans' family, 515ACU Bunbury Cadets, restored Jeeps, a Cadillac, a fire engine, an ambulance, a troop of horse riders and various community groups.

A Commemorative Service which followed was conducted by Capel RSL President Ray Jones with Shire of Capel Freeman Murray Scott as guest speaker.



MOORA

Moora RSL Sub-Branch held a full range of ANZAC Day events starting with the dawn service which about 100 people attended. Many enjoyed some fellowship at Gunfire Breakfast that followed before Sub-Branch members went to lay a wreath at Miling Road where the 14 soldiers were killed during a training exercise.

A memorial Service was held in the hall before the march past took place at the local war memorial, where wreaths were then layed. Two WWII veterans, John McDonald and Tom Bashford, were able to attend the Commemorative Services.

DONNYBROOK AND BALINGUP



Donnybrook and Balingup honoured ANZAC Day with a shortened Dawn Service which still attracted some 300 people. Local resident, Pamela Harrison, said some children in the crowd were around the same age as those who put their ages up to fight in WW1 so they could go have what they thought would be an adventure, and return home again.

The morning service that followed was also well attended to honour all those who never returned to their loved ones. Donnybrook RSL Sub-Branch President, Ric Evans, welcomed all those who attended the Dawn and Morning Services and explained how COVID Restrictions had influenced the shortened events and the cancellation of this year's Gunfire Breakfast and March. Pamela said WW2 Veteran Arthur Scanlan, who turned 100 on December 20 and recently passed away, was especially remembered. "Arthur led the parade for several years, either as a passenger in a vehicle or in his Gopher," she said.

Reverend Mavis Tyler offered a prayer in remembrance of those who never returned home and Wreaths made by the CWA ladies were placed at the Memorial by various organisations and schools. Donnybrook bugler Callum Gray sounded The Last Post as he has done for the last four years and two young Scouts raised the flags.

MOUNT BARKER

The morning started with a Dawn Service at the town memorial on Memorial Road Mount Barker WA which was followed by a Gunfire Breakfast across the road at the District Hall. Later in the morning marchers formed up on Lowood Road adjacent to the Town Library and the March then will proceed along Lowood Road, turning left into Memorial Road and along to the Memorial precinct.



NORTHAM

Northam RSL Sub-Branch enjoyed a 'normal' Anzac Day with the Dawn Service and Gunfire Breakfast drawing a crowd of more than 300 people.

Local singer Jodi Ingram delighted the audience by leading the National Anthems a cappella. and local piper, Angus McPhee, was available to lead both parades, which was a highlight of the events. The main march drew a similar sized crowd.

YORK

The 2022 ANZAC Day parade through the historic town of York WA was led by WA Police. The parade featured the Kalamunda Pipe Band with flag bearers from York District High School, Emergency Services Cadet Corps who led the RSL ex-service contingent and community groups.

Senior veterans got to ride in a WWII era Jeep owned and driven by John Bullock, while York resident Bob Starcevich marched wearing medals awarded to his father, Private L. "Tom" Starcevich VC, who was awarded the Victoria Cross for actions in Borneo in 1945. The star of the parade was York's Red Cross donkey mascot, Thumbellina, commemorating all animals who served in war.



TO NEW FIELDS POPPIES BLOW

RSLWA's VOLLIES for Vets, fondly referred to as the Poppy Ladies, who are well known for their Remembrance Day installations at Kings Park and London Court, have also recently expanded their wings into Government House Gardens.

The Poppy Ladies coordinator Judy Welch said it was a real honour to do the Government House Gardens display which took approximately 54,000 knitted poppies.

"We usually don't do poppies for ANZAC Day, which is traditionally Rosemary, but as the Governor mentioned "we will honour those who fell" and this was such a beautiful way to honour them in such a special place.

"Of course, we have Remembrance Day still to come this year... so now could be a good time to join us," she said.

The group is now also firmly booked into the Perth Sewing and Craft Extravaganza to be held in the Cannington Exhibition Centre on Saturday and Sunday, the 8-9th of October and they have also accepted an invitation to participate in the Perth Hills Artisan Markets in Mundaring the following week – Sunday 15th October.



"We'd love people to be involved or come to visit us at the shows....as one would expect, there just 'may' be a reasonable amount of Poppy-bombing, so we should be easy to find," she added.

Regular workshops are held from 9am-12pm on the 3rd Friday of each month at ANZAC House Veteran Central. Judy asks for you to please let her know you're coming so space can be booked and morning tea organised. Other workshops on and off-site are held as required.

"If you'd you like to join this awesome group, or simply support them when they need help with plantings, you would be welcomed with open arms, we don't discriminate and all talents and abilities are welcome," Judy said.

The VOLLIES for Vets (Poppy Ladies) can be contacted through Facebook on RSLWA Poppy Ladies Project or email: poppy_dayz@hotmail.com.



Trafalgar Day Dinner

Enjoy a formal Mess dinner to commemorate the famous Battle and Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson

Friday, 21st Oct 2022

ANZAC House, 28 St Georges Tce, Perth

6.30pm - 9.30pm

\$90pp

- Traditional 3 Course Meal Including Port, Red & White Wine -

Booking: www.trybooking.com/CABSNS
Enquiries: events@rslwa.org.au or 9287 3710



NEW LEASE OF LIFE FOR BUSSELTON WAR MEMORIAL

Grant funding by the Department of Veteran Affairs will see the Busselton War Memorial restored and relocated from its current location to Rotary Park.

Busselton Sub-Branch RSL President Glenn Woodward said the funding, announced by the Hon. Nola Merino MP, would enable the Sub-Branch to relocate the memorial and make some much needed repairs.

“For years we have seen a huge increase in the number of people attending the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day services, and the current park is small, surrounded by roads and noise,” he said.

“This Project will provide more space for our services and will also address the members’ concerns for the safety of participants and accessibility to nearby car parking and toilet facilities.

“The new War Memorial will include the Memorial Walk featuring the bronze plaques on a path leading to the Cenotaph. It will be a pleasant, quiet place for contemplation with benches to sit on and landscaping to enjoy.”

The War Memorial Project will include restoration and relocation of the Cenotaph with a new granite base, limestone walls for updated Honour boards, installation of the Memorial plaques and flag poles. The work will include correcting some names and titles that are misspelled and will also include the names of several service nurses who served and were not originally listed.

The current funding was received through the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grant. During the Anzac Centenary, the Busselton Sub-Branch received a grant to create 186 individual bronze plaques that honour the fallen and those men from the district who served overseas in World War 1.

The City of Busselton will contribute to the memorial restoration, landscaping, and infrastructure for the service area and the Memorial Walk around the perimeter of Rotary Park.

Mayor Grant Henley said the City and the RSL had been communicating about the relocation of the War Memorial for a number of years.

“The City has allocated funds in the long-term financial plan to contribute to the project and we are supporting the Sub-Branch which will ensure that the new War Memorial and Cenotaph is respectful and its surrounds are restful.”

(L-R): John Cutbush RSL Sub-Branch Project Committee, Dave Churchill RSL Sub-Branch Warden; Busselton RSL President Glenn Woodward; Mayor Grant Henley; Rod Beattie RSL Sub-Branch Vice President; Kneeling: Secretary Busselton RSL Melanie Sorokine, Cultural Development Officer Jacquie Happ.



“The RSL and their members are the custodians of the War Memorial and the Memorial Wall and have the best information about the needs for the project as the main group using the space.”

Mr Woodward said both parties were aware that there is a lot of community sensitivity relating to the Memorial Wall.

“There will be community engagement about the Memorial Wall, but at this stage there are no plans to relocate it. We invite people who have a connection or interest in the Memorial Wall, to contact us so they can be involved in the future planning.”

For further information or to engage in discussions about the Memorial Wall, email the Busselton RSL Sub-Branch Secretary on email@busseltonrsl.org.au.





A LIFE OF SERVICE

79306 WILLIAM JOHN (BILL) FIELDING RAAF

It can be said that Bill has had an action packed life, but this was not just the result of good luck - but accepting opportunities offered, hard work and commitment. Bill is a regular attendee and a valuable member and contributor to the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch. Just one of our World War 2 Veterans who have contributed much during his life.

by Rachel Hogan

Bill was born on the Sunshine Coast Queensland in 1924. His father and Uncle both served in the Boer War.

After qualifying and being employed by the Department of Agriculture, Bill was accepted as a trainee Radio Location Mechanic in October 1942 for the newly developed and Australian designed, Light Weight Air Warning Radar (LW/AW). This was developed in September 1942 to be rugged, tropic proof, air-transportable and easily disassembled and reassembled in the field. At 2-3 tons, it was much lighter and performed far better in the tropics than the 30-40 ton American model.

After technical training in Melbourne, Bill underwent specialist training at Richmond NSW Radar School before being posted to Fort Lytton, Queensland, arriving at the Fort just after the Hospital Ship Centaur was sunk, east of Moreton Island.

“When I arrived I was told by the operators that – ‘prior to the attack, they identified echoes that they thought to be a surface vessel located off Moreton Island. This was reported up the line, however, was discounted and no defensive action initiated,’” Bill said.

The outstanding success of the LW/AW Radar resulted in the installation of a line of stations along the eastern coast of Papua New Guinea from Milne Bay northward. On the 9 January 1943 equipment was landed at Cape Pierson on the north east of Normanby Island.

“I joined the 304 Radar unit in August 1944. Supplies were delivered every 10 days, and thanks to my days with the Bilinga Surf Life Saving Club, I was one of the strong swimmers and assisted with the offloading,” Bill laughed.

The next move saw Bill on Kranket Island located off Madang where they were to join other units preparing to join McArthur’s US forces as they advanced north towards the Philippines. Training involved landings, setting up, operating, and dismantling radar stations.

Bill reflected that “One of the downsides of being on Kranket was an outbreak of Dengue Fever.”

Following the declaration of peace, Bill was based at Amberley RAAF Base engaged in dismantling radar stations along the Queensland coast, and was discharged on 11 March 1946.

Bill continued to travel extensively after discharge with time spent in North Borneo, Papua New Guinea, Vancouver and the United Kingdom.

Bill’s years were varied and he used the skills learned over his lifetime in roles such as communication installations, agricultural management, a Member of Parliament supporting independence in Papua New Guinea and whilst there also assisted in the rebuild of Popondetta after the eruption of Mt Lamington which killed many and left over 5000 homeless.

Bill and his wife Jen both still lead busy lives maintaining their home and extensive garden and participating in helping charitable organisations.



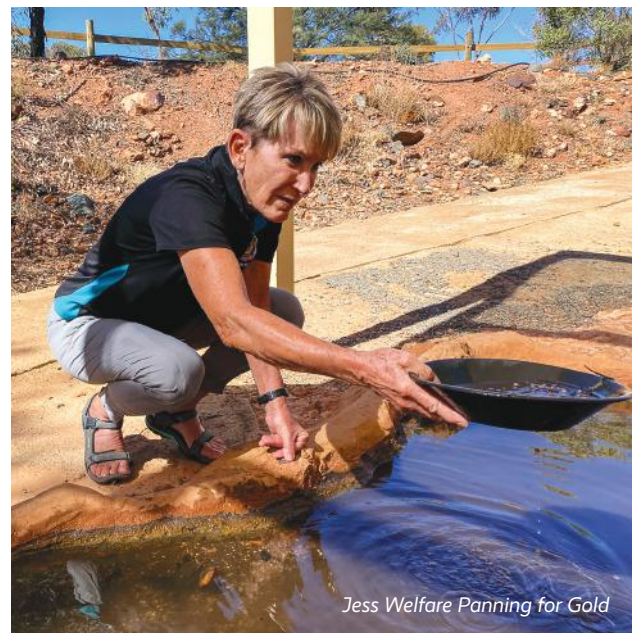
NORTH BEACH'S ANNUAL TOUR OF DUTY



Kalgoorlie War Memorial

Following a successful Tour of Duty to Darwin in 2021, and after six months of planning, 39 veterans and members from Western Australia's North Beach RSL Sub-Branch recently toured Kalgoorlie and immediate surrounds. They travelled to Kalgoorlie on the "The Prospector", and visited historical related sites dating from the 1890's to present day mining operations, and military Museums.

President of North Beach RSL John Rolfe, said the tour was part of the Sub-Branch's annual program aimed at continually improving the wellbeing and interest of members.



Jess Welfare Panning for Gold

Paul McGuinness from the Sub-Branch, and Robyn Steenbach, President of the Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch and RSLWA Board Member, planned a full schedule for the veterans, including tours of:

- Hannan's Museum
- Mount Charlotte
- The Streets of Boulder
- Kalgoorlie Military Museum
- Boulder and Kalgoorlie Town Halls
- Tour of Kalgoorlie's Super Pit
- Day trip to Gwalia to visit the Museum with stop overs in Menzies and the Kookynie Hotel
- Visit to Coolgardie and surrounds.



Paul McGuinness and John Rolfe with Robyn Steenbach

“As the average age of participants was over 70, it was carefully planned so all our veterans could enjoy the tour at their own pace,” Paul McGuinness said.

“It’s important when we plan and undertake our ‘Tours of Duty’ that we consider the interest, health and capability of our veterans and Members.”

The tour included a barbeque with members of Kalgoorlie’s 16 Battalion which helped forge a strong relationship with the Kalgoorlie RSL Sub-Branch. Local tour operators were supported as were hospitality businesses, with all members dining out at a different venue for each lunch and dinner.



Boulder War Memorial



Two Up

The costs associated with the tour were met by individual members, and all agreed that it was definitely value for money.

“They were pleased that they’d had the benefit of local knowledge provided by Robyn” Paul said.

The North Beach RSL Sub-Branch has strong interest from its membership for the Annual Tours of Duty, and preliminary planning has already commenced for its next venture in late 2023 to wider horizons.

– Brian Jennings, North Beach RSL Sub-Branch



Menzies War Memorial



At the Super Pit

ALBANY RSL TO RAMP UP THE SEARCH FOR YOUNG WARRIORS

The Albany RSL Sub-Branch recently secured \$7000 in Lotterywest funding for its Young Warriors Program.

Coordinator Stephen Morrow said the funding would help with branding and advertising of the pilot program set up last year as part of Albany RSL Sub-Branch's push to engage with our younger veterans.

"The aim of the program is not to replicate services already offered to our veterans and their families, but to seek to provide a safe place for them to talk about life after the Services," he said.



"Many of these younger men and women are still working, juggling young families and many may not have considered that they may need some assistance. Many have not realised that the Albany RSL Sub-Branch is in a position to be able to assist them, or may see it as not relevant to them.

"Basically, Albany RSL Sub-Branch is offering our young warriors a place to talk, a place where some of our younger RSL members can relate to them with what they may be going through and, where needed, help steer them to counselling, claims or simply some extended friendship."

Many of the younger warriors have been to places such as Rwanda, Iraq, Afghanistan, Timor-Leste or the Solomon Islands. Steve Morrow said: "They may have had issues while training; may be wondering why they are having issues with talking to their kids; arguing with their partner or that some parts of their bodies are starting to ache when they didn't before.

"These are the ones who, when engaged in a relaxed environment with someone their own age, may be helped to find the service they need," he said. "That's our aim and if they join the RSL after, well that's a bonus for all involved."

Reputed to be the 'Home of the ANZAC's in Albany, the Sub-Branch has opened its doors on Monday's from 9am to midday and has set up a Facebook page for information as a portal for them to engage. "Now we just need to get the word out," Stephen said.

The Young Warriors has started promoting the new brand by sponsoring the Albany Primary Schools under 12's Junior Soccer team that Stephen coaches. "You don't get any younger warriors than them!" he laughed.

The Young Warriors Facebook page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/AlbanyYoungWarriors>

Contact is available through the Albany RSL Sub-Branch secretary, Stephen Morrow by calling 0448 796 144 or emailing the Sub-Branch on albanyrsl@bigpond.com.

At JB Military Antiques we specialize in the purchase and sale of worldwide militaria, including medals, uniforms, swords/ edged weapons, flags, unit patches/insignia, badges, helmets/headgear, field equipment, military books, and other items of related memorabilia.

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SERVICEWOMEN'S RSLWA SUB-BRANCH

The Servicewomen's RSLWA Sub-Branch prides itself on being the oldest all-female Sub-Branch in Australia, and one of only two in the country.

Servicewomen's RSLWA Sub-Branch Secretary, Judy Bland, says that being the oldest Sub-Branch doesn't mean they are all old ladies

"We're starting to attract the younger Veterans which means we're growing in numbers and diversity," she said. "However, that said, some of our ladies are National Treasures. Yes, we have WWII Veterans who come to our meetings and events regularly who have wonderful stories to tell.

"They pass on their wisdom, are loyal to a fault and we wouldn't have it any other way."

The Servicewomen's Sub-Branch is keen to welcome new members across all Services whether that be from our WWII Veterans to currently serving or recently retired; and everyone in between.

"To our younger female or contemporary Veterans, why not come to one of our next meetings? Or if you're unable to due to work commitments, drop us an email. We would love to hold activities and meetings outside of working hours once our membership reflects the appetite to do so," Judy said.

"We're currently recruiting current and ex-serving members (Service Members), your eligible family – Mums, sisters, aunties, daughters (Affiliates), or friends who can join as Social Members ... we would love to have you all!"



*DVA Deputy Commissioner WA
Peter King with one of our
National Treasures, Eleanor Tafe*

The Servicewomen's Sub-Branch currently meets in ANZAC House, Veteran Central on the third Thursday of each month and hold some events at other times. They start at 1pm which allows time to have lunch in the ANZAC Club beforehand. Come early and join the ladies - even for a cuppa.

"The beauty of the time is that if you're a young Mum, or on school pick-up duties, you should be able to get back in time to collect your precious cargoes," Judy said.

Perhaps it's your first posting and you're looking for others who are in the same boat, or simply looking for something worthwhile with which to connect. Maybe, if you're able to slip away from work for an afternoon, a long lunch or a few hours?

You can bring a babe/baby along and, if needed, you will have well qualified pseudo Nannas and Aunties at your disposal.

"We're planning a fabulous event around October for Veterans Week which should be a doozy! Remember the Inter-service Sports Days? Nothing better than a bit of competition and fun.

To become involved contact Secretary: Judy Bland on 9311 4401; President: Judy Welch on 0412 984 739, trublu7@bigpond.com; or Vice President - Jen Riches AM on 0419 132 826, richesjen8@hotmail.com



*Current serving help
out at Christmas*

DISASTER RELIEF AUSTRALIA GETS NEW LEASE OF LIFE IN WA



The Western Australian team of Disaster Relief Australia (DRA) celebrated their first year of operations in WA with a small event in the new office and storage facility which RSLWA helped provide through a local philanthropist.

The event provided an opportunity to showcase DRA's new premises and acknowledge people who have supported the WA team with the presentation of engraved plaques.



DRA co-located with RSLWA in the two-storey office and warehouse property just north of the railway line in North Perth.

DRA Manager Wayne O'Brien said the facility meant the WA team is the only one in Australia to have a dedicated facility. "Our teams across Australia primarily operate from cost effective temporary storage facilities, like our team in WA were in until we established the three-year lease agreement with RSLWA."

"This great facility not only provides meeting and work space for planning, it also provides us with a warehouse facility which enables us to locate and store our resources in a response ready condition, which ultimately means we can mobilise more effectively and efficiently to support our communities," Mr O'Brien said.

DRA was established in 2016 by Veterans and has evolved over the past five years to have more than 1,800 members nationally. DRA includes emergency service specialists, as well as like-minded volunteers from the wider community who share the common values to serve communities impacted by natural disasters.

"DRA provides opportunity for Veterans to grow beyond their military service and has already proved to be a powerful tool to help them transition back into society and their local communities," Mr O'Brien said.

Anyone interested in volunteering with DRA can go to <https://disasterreliefaus.org/volunteer/>



MILITARY WORKING DOG KUGA HONoured AT ANZAC HOUSE



RSLWA is now the proud owner of a replica Dickin Medal which was awarded to Special Operations Working Dog Kuga, SO-005 DM who was the 71st recipient of the award.

WA Ambassador for the Australian War Animal Memorial Association (AWAMO) Linda Scott presented the framed award to RSLWA State President Duncan Anderson in April.

Kuga, a Belgian Malinois, was eight months old when he began training with the Special Air Service Regiment (SASR) in January 2008 at Campbell Barracks in Swanbourne WA. He was teamed with his handler in April 2009 and they both deployed to Afghanistan in June 2010.

In August 2011 during his second tour, Kuga and his handler were part of a Special Operations Task Group conducting a counter-leadership mission to capture a senior Taliban insurgent, where Kuga's actions prevented the troop walking into an enemy ambush.



Kuga was sent forward by his handler to search for concealed insurgents or improved explosive devices (IEDs) that may have been located along the river's edge. Kuga indicated an enemy presence and moved towards the river, as his handler moved into position to support Kuga.

As he swam to the opposite bank, Kuga was injured with automatic small-arms fire, which identified the enemy's position. During the incident Kuga was shot five times and received shrapnel wounds to his lower spine.

Despite his injuries and without risking exposure of the patrol to enemy fire, Kuga swam back across the river when recalled by his handler who administered emergency first aid.

Kuga was medically evacuated to coalition medical facilities in Afghanistan and Germany before returning to Australia for further treatment and rehabilitation.

Kuga passed away in kennels in July 2012, believed to have succumbed to the stress caused by his injuries. His death is officially recorded as 'Died of wounds'.

Kuga's original medal is on display at the Australian War Memorial. Linda hopes the replica from PDSA in the UK will help raise public awareness in honouring the integral role that our Military Working Dogs play in the Australian Defence Force. The Dickin Medal was instituted in 1943 in the United Kingdom by Maria Dickin to honour the work of animals in World War II.

Maria Dickin was the founder of the People's Dispensary for Sick Animals (PDSA), a British veterinary charity. Between 1943 and 1949 the medal was awarded 54 times to 32 pigeons, 18 dogs, 3 horses, and a ship's cat.



THE DIGGER OF KOKODA: THE OFFICIAL BIOGRAPHY OF REG CHARD by DANIEL LANE

As one of the last surviving soldiers of the Kokoda Trail campaign, Reg has now become a custodian of its legacy. This deeply moving, healing and inspiring biography tells us of Reg's war in the jungle and how, 80 years after the battle that saved Australia, Kokoda still lives within him.

My name is Reg Chard, and at 98-and-a-half-years of age I can't believe I'm releasing my biography – The Digger of Kokoda. After all, it's been almost 100 years in the making. I was born in Sydney on 31 October 1923 just in time for the Great Depression, World War II, and the reshaping of post-war Australia, I grew up in the working-class Sydney suburbs of Marrickville and Dulwich Hill.

I was reluctant to write my life story because I didn't want to appear to be pushing myself as some kind of 'hero', because I'm definitely no hero. I've always believed that title belongs to the soldiers and nurses who didn't return home from the war – they're Australia's greatest heroes.

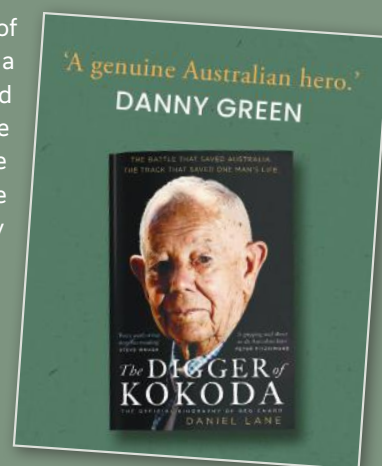
Knowing there's now only a handful of veterans left from the terrible Kokoda and Beachhead campaigns is what pushed me to share my story in the hope (in its own small way) would honour the thousands of men and women who gave their all for Australia.

Writing this book made me revisit some wonderful (and not so great) moments in my life as a boy, and it also took me back to the day when a girl rode past our house on her bicycle and my declaration 'I'm going to marry that girl one day,' was shot down by my mother. She told me to, 'Stop being a bloody idiot and to get inside.' The girl on the bike – Betty – and I married, and in all we spent 75 happy years together.

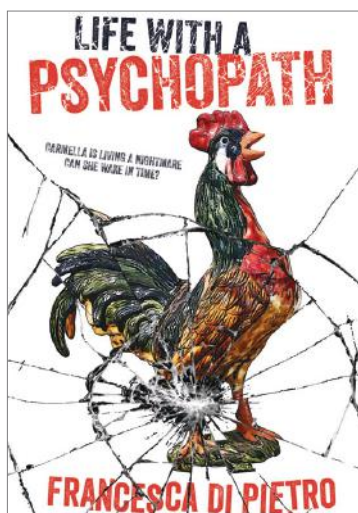
Through my biography I've also recalled the mates I made in the army – and there were great characters – and the adventures we had. However, it has also forced me to revisit the dark periods of my life as well – especially the horrors of the fighting in Papua New Guinea and learning about the terrible things we humans are capable of doing to our fellow man.

I've also relived the heartbreak of losing my Betty and having to find a reason to keep going when it would have been so easy to simply give up. For all of that, I'm proud of the finished product, and it's my hope you can take something from my life's experiences. – Reg Chard OAM

To be published in July this year, coinciding with the 80th anniversary of the 1942 Battle of Kokoda.



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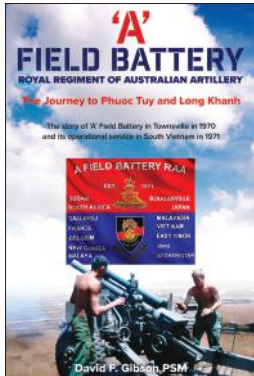
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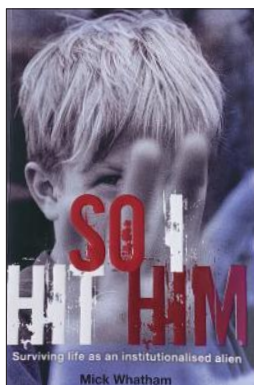
ON THE BOOKSHELF



'A' Field Battery Royal Regiment of Australian Artillery: the Journey to Phuoc Tuy and Long Khanh. By David F. Gibson, PSM

Review by Mike O'Brien, Maj Gen Retd. President RUSIV.

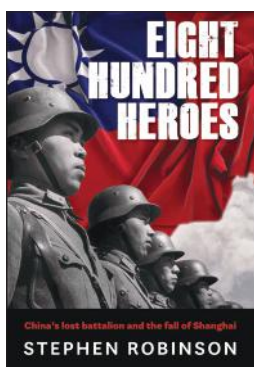
Perhaps there have been some benefits of COVID 19 – isolation has given the author the time to assemble this book! It tells the story of A Field Battery RAA from its Townsville-based workup in 1970 until its deployment to South Vietnam and its subsequent tour of duty in 1971. A well-researched and clearly written story that is particularly well illustrated with clear and informative maps. Though half a century has passed, it is full of well-integrated diaries and other personal contributions. Almost all the soldiers of the battery are mentioned and photographed. The story of the battery's operations in Vietnam rightly take centre field. The chronological narrative deftly combines action on the gun line with the events in the unit it supported – 3 RAR. The close working relationship between the two units is clearly evident. This book tells the story of the battery in great detail, but it does so in the context of the events around it. The result is a book of great value to those who served in the unit, their relatives and those with an interest in the Australian involvement in Vietnam. It is a pity that the volume lacks an index. Available from online booksellers.



So I Hit Him – Surviving life as an institutionalised alien. By Mick Whatham

An extremely powerful memoir that will shock many people yet it is intensely inspirational. Born in a former workhouse hospital in Manchester, England, with multiple disabilities and not expected to survive, Michael was placed in care from birth. By the time he was 17, he had been placed in more than 30 institutions and suffered every manner of physical, emotional and sexual abuse and neglect. His Asperger's became the key to his survival, enabling him to ensure punishment, deprivation and emotional conflict. His willingness to live and learn helped him survive time in care, his forced migration to Australia as a child and later, his alcohol addiction. It helped him achieved his ultimate goal of getting an education and helping youth in trouble. A compelling story about a man who despite all odds against him, still says he had a lucky life.

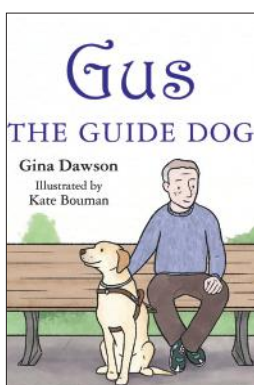
300 pages. Paperback \$33.06 Kindle \$7.99



Eight Hundred Heroes – China's lost battalion and the fall of Shanghai. By Stephen Robinson

This gripping account by historian, Stephen Robinson, tells of China's legendary last stand against the Japanese in Shanghai in 1937. An in-depth account, resulting from extensive research that comprehensively utilises first-hand accounts of the Chinese participants and the observations of westerners who witnessed the battle at close range. It makes this important story accessible to western audiences for the first time. This encounter is so formative in China's conception of its nationhood, that the book is a must-read for every Australian who ever wondered about the forces that helped shape the most powerful nation in our region.

RRP \$49.99. Available from www.exislepublishing.com and wherever good books are sold.



Gus the Guide Dog. By Gina Dawson, Picture book 3+

A lovely, educational story about the teamwork and close bond between a man with low vision and his guide dog. Noah loves visiting Grandma and Grandpa in the city, but this visit brings quite a surprise. Grandpa, who is usually found sitting in his chair, is getting ready to head out and about with his new Guide Dog, Gus. A day in the life of Gus the Guide Dog shows what Guide Dogs really can, and cannot do, and the important role they have in the lives of their handler and family. Life-long lover and trainer of dogs, Author Gina Dawson, has almost always had a canine companion at her side. Her books focus on teaching children about disability, including mental health, and assistance dog etiquette. Illustrated by Kate Bouman.

Other titles by Gina include *Next Door's Dog is a Veteran's Dog* and *With a Dog's Love*. Available for sale online at Gina's website: <https://www.ginadawson.com/books/>

RWAR ASSOCIATION CALL FOR HELP

Royal West Australian Regiment committeeman, Bob Schrugin, is calling for help in doing historical research for the RWAR Association since its formation in 1960.

Bob is trying to identify personnel who made up the A Company and Training staff in March 1967 of 28th Battalion, Perth for National Service and who had paraded for six years with 33 continuous service per year.

These were 20-year-olds called up for National Service who were unable to do the full two years continuous conscription. They were able to opt to do the six years with 33 continuous service attendances each year instead.



If anyone can identify a numbered person in the photo, please send Bob an email at bschrug@inet.net.au with a name, and number, so over time he can identify the group.

The end goal is to have a framed print with names to be presented to 11/28Bn for their wall of fame.



ANZAC FOOTBALL MATCH



The ANZAC Football Match at the North Beach Football Club has become a tradition for members of the North Beach RSL Sub-Branch and local community.

A commemorative service held as part of the match is attended by all players, umpires and the observers. The game is part of the Sub-Branch's community involvement and facilitates our ongoing relationship with the youth of that organisation by helping to improve understanding of RSL values and the commemoration of all those who served.





THE RWANDA MEMORIAL POST

A new memorial post representing the Royal Australian Regiment's (RAR) participation in RWANDA 1993-94 has been included in the RAR Memorial Walk in Victoria Park.

The memorial limestone path passes through a local bush land setting where wooden memorial markers indicate the area of operation the RAR has been involved in since 1948.

Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch held a special ceremony which was attended by special guest Mr Graham Edwards, who initially opened the memorial walk on the 10th March 2002.

Approximately 20 veterans and their families attended the event. Special thanks were made to the Royal Australian Regiment Association (RARA) WA Treasurer Peter James Heeney, RARA WA Secretary Mr Derek Parsons and Mr Dan Cavanagh.

Two granite rocks with memorial plates, set on concrete piers, mark the entry, and exit to the walkway that leads down the side of Gurney Hall towards Hillview Terrace.

At the start of the walk a stone bearing a bronze plaque has the inscription:

*"The Royal Australian Regiment Memorial Walk
Dedicated to the members of the Regiment who have
made the supreme sacrifice for their country and the
Regiment whilst on overseas service since the formation of
the Regiment on the 23rd November 1948."*

The path leading to a Contemplation Seat at the base of the walk also includes a plaque with "The Regimental Ode" set on granite rock. It reads:

*"Rest Ye, oh warrior, you'll battle no more,
No longer to live the horrors of war,
Your duty was done with honour and pride,
Farewell, oh brother, until we march by your side."*

Wooden posts along the walkway identify the following conflicts:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Korea 1950 to 1953. | Malaya 1955 to 1960. | Malaysia 1960 to 1973. |
| Sarawak 1963 to 1965. | Vietnam 1965 to 1972. | Somalia 1993. |
| East Timor 1999 to 2002. | Afghanistan 2001 to 2021. | |

The path was built with the hope veterans using it would gain some healing from the process of recognition at the memorial walk.

SCRAP METAL ART WORK PRIDE OF BASSENDEAN RSL



With the artwork Huey is Secretary Kylie Rowe, President Andrew Robertson, David Beacham and metal artwork artist Ralph Taylor.

Eastern Suburbs RSL Sub-Branch (Bassendean) held a special event to unveil the Metal Art Helicopter which now stands proudly outside the premises.

Made by Ralph Taylor to represent all who served with one of Australia's most iconic vehicles, the Huey, was completely hand made from scrap metal.

Special thanks were extended to David A Beacham who started a ride to raise money and turned the donations into this art piece. Thanks were also extended to Burnett Transport for their help in getting the Huey to Bassendean.

The unveiling was attended by members, veterans, the public, RSLWA board member Tim Curtis and Bassendean Mayor Kathryn Hamilton. Local Blues Singer Cathy Earl entertained those attending.



VP Justin Hughes (left), President Andrew Robertson (middle), RSLWA Board member Tim Curtis (right).

THE LAST P ST

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ARMY

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Cooper, Stephen R, 526150
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Counsel, Walter G, WX25920
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Fay, Charles R, 535583
Armadale

Hogg, Leslie, 552678
Northam

Johnson, Brian E, 519303
Nollamara

Jones, Alan T, 1200009
Albany

Kennedy, Daryl W, 2783227
Central

Klein, John (Jan), 53882
Highgate

Lansdown, Donald T, 54271
Central

Mahoney RFD, Peter J, 551139
Armadale

Marshall, Alex C, 8240734
Busselton

McKenzie, Richard, 242700
Kwinana

Nguyen, Tang V, 65/100978
Vietnamese Services

Nie, John E, WX16763
City of Mandurah

Ott, Kerry C, 138291
Bedford-Morley

Scanlan, Arthur F, WX29182
Donnybrook

Shenfield, Robert W, 56626
Albany

Thorburn, John R, 54540
North Beach

Wagnon, John C, 551665413
Yanchep-Two Rocks

Watson, Clive L, 5/400164
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Wagin

Roberts, Nicholas D, R58594
Central

Simmonds, David J, 0118082
Bunbury

Williams, Bruce L, F5490
Quairading

Woodward, Alfred E 29924
Dongara

If you have recently lost a loved one who was a veteran and would like to have them honoured here, please let us know by emailing membership@rslwa.org.au

UNIT AND KINDRED FINANCIAL MEMBERS

102 Coral Field Battery	0402 329 457	kgf1942@gmail.com
1st Armoured Regiment Association	0419 331 401	secretary@paratus.org.au
161 (Indep) Recce Flight	0409 683 868	ddo92797@bigpond.net.au
2/11th Battalion Group	9383 2282	cjj.cott@drewj.com
2/16th Battalion AIF Assn Inc	0417 985 400	peterchucknorrish@gmail.com
2/2nd Commando Association Australia Pty Ltd		secretary@doublereds.org.au
2/28th Battalion and 24th Anti-Tank Company Association Inc	0419 916 362	duncan.warren13@gmail.com
2/3rd Machine Gunners & Relatives Assoc of Western Australia Inc	0419 911 729	meckermann1@bigpond.com
2/4th Machine Gun Battalion (AIF) Ex Members Assn	0432 442 574	2nd4thmgbsecretary@gmail.com
2/7th Australian Field Regiment Association of WA Inc	0419 044 511	mark@fitzhardinge.net
3 Telecommunication Unit Association (RAAF)	0418 944 425	johnhish@inet.net.au
Airborne Forces Associations WA Inc	0408 947 223	jpmoorcroft@bigpond.com
Allied Merchant Seamen Assn of WA Inc	9404 5140	derekandmoira@bigpond.com
American Returned Military Services	0421 420 498	bandj.gravelle@gmail.com
Australian Army Training Team Vietnam WA Branch	0435 459 236	jhriley@tpg.com.au
Australian Intelligence Corps Group WA	9277 5371	robingail72@gmail.com
Australian Peacekeeper & Peacemaker Veterans Assn Inc	0408 002 892	mike.romalis@peacekeepers.asn.au
Australian War Widow's Guild WA Inc	9371 7470	warwidowswa@bigpond.com
Combined Defence Support Assn of WA Inc	9437 4186	cdfswa@bigpond.com
Defence Reserves Association WA Branch	0400 716 724	tacticswa@aol.com
Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships Association	0438 397 671	thesailor@bigpond.com
Far East Strategic Reserve Navy Assn (Australia) WA Division	0417 966 653	cfcutts@bigpond.com
Fleet Air Arm Assn of Australian WA Division	0409 913 252	ktt59345@bigpond.net.au
Girl Guides WA	9479 9800	stateteam@girlguideswa.org.au
HMAS Bataan /Tribal Class Destroyers WA	9409 1014	jack.lecras@ozemail.com.au
HMAS Perth National Assn WA Branch	0432 254 486	hmasperthsecwa@hotmail.com
HMS Ganges Association WA Division	0400 204 801	james.sharkey@bigpond.com
Indian Veterans Association	0477 161 601	rkmittal54@yahoo.com
Legacy WA	9486 4900	vblycha@legacywa.com.au
Malayan Volunteers Group Australia	9247 3374	bunneyelizabeth5@gmail.com
Mandurah Murray Vietnam & Veterans Group	0427 659 858	cathyebrown57@gmail.com
Military Brotherhood Military Motorcycle Club Perth Central Sub-Branch Inc	0414 154 885	markwalker68@mac.com
National Servicemen's Assn of Australia (Mandurah-Murray Sub-Branch)	9534 9977	nsaam.m@hotmail.com
National Servicemen's Assn of Australia (WA Branch Inc.)	0456 107 542	stuwf@gmail.com
Naval Assn of Australia WA Section	0477 160 097	iholthouse@hotmail.com
No.25 (City of Perth) Squadron Branch	0450 606 858	etectech@msn.com.au
North American Veterans Unit	0478 669 882	navu.perth@gmail.com
RAAF Police Assn	0413 675 010	cjf3003@yahoo.com
RAAF Vietnam Veterans Assn of WA Inc	9409 7299	raafvwwa@gmail.com
Remembering HMAS Armidale Association Inc	0418 367 869	rhaainc@gmail.com
Rhodesian Services Assn of WA Inc	0412 771 523	anaconda.pag@optusnet.com.au
Royal Australian Air Force Association WA		
Royal Australian Armoured Corps Assn WA Branch	9295 2281	noel.moyes@bigpond.com
Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps Assn WA Inc	0412 672 103	j.arco@bigpond.com
Royal Australian Artillery Assn WA Inc	0438 695 711	info@artillerywa.org.au
Royal Australian Electrical & Mechanical Engineers Assn	0488 932 179	richard.fenton@defence.gov.au
Royal Australian Engineers Assn of WA Inc	9371 1290	raeAssoc.wasec2017@gmail.com
Royal Australian Navy Clearance Divers Association	0447 838 930	wachapter@rncda.com
Royal Australian Navy Comms Branch Assn WA	0407 726 994	kowandi205@outlook.com
Royal Australian Signals Assn WA	0467 609 993	kevin.byrne@telstra.com
Royal Military Police Assn (WA Branch)	0429 081 037	eric.heath@bigpond.com
Royal Australian Regiment Assn (WA Branch)	0417 559 973	pheeney@smartchat.net.au
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Soldiers & Sirens	0459 317 772	terrencecook@soldiersandsirens.com.au
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Submarines Association Australia WA Branch Inc	0414 407 067	wa.secretary@submarinesaustralia.com
The British Ex-Services Assn Inc.	0428 317 652	british.ex@bigpond.com
Tingira Australia Association	0403 402 496	tingirawa@gmail.com
Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 12163 Inc	0437 099 310	cmd@vfw12163.org
WA Branch of the Partners of Veterans' Assn of Australia Inc	0409 088 905	ager@inet.net.au
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WRAAF Branch of RAAF Assn WA Div.	9311 4401	gjb41@bigpond.com
WRANS-RAN Women's Assn WA	9455 1473	Wranswa@outlook.com
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