



NEWSLETTER

RSL East Victoria Park Sub Branch



Welcome to our first newsletter for some time. Included is a quick update on your new committee, what is happening around the Sub Branch and what we are trying to achieve for the future. Spend some time reading the newsletter. Contact us and come visit us soon.

Currently we have the following open hours

**Monday & Wednesday 9am to 11am
Friday 1pm to 3pm**

Next General Meeting : 10am on Sunday 13th June 2010
Everyone is welcome to attend our General meetings and we look forward to meeting you.

Contact details for the Secretary - Jacquie are:
Mobile: 0400 661 523
Email: rslevp@westnet.com.au
Mail: PO Box 5444, East Vic Park WA 6981

ISSUE 1, MARCH 2010

Committee



President
Kelvin D Liddiard
Mobile: 0419 913 375



Vice President
O Brecon Jones, OAM, RD
Phone: 9361 5823



Treasurer
Andrew Diong
Mobile: 0438 286 678

Your committee is available to talk to,
so please if you have any questions
don't hesitate to contact us.

"THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE"

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING

1. Poppy Day Appeal
2. RSL Street Appeal (Fri 23 April)
3. Next General Meeting Date (Sun 13 June)
4. Sub Branch Office Hours
5. Anzac House Hours
6. Memberships Statistics
7. New Issue of DVA Cards
8. Memberships Renewals

This nation will remain the land of the free, only so long as it is the home of the brave.

POPPY DAY APPEAL

Headquarters have sent out a thank you to all Sub Branches and their supporters for participation in the 2009 Annual Poppy Day Appeal. It was a great result and the proceeds will boost the Relief Trust Fund considerably.

For the record:

Total Collections	\$375,298
Less Costs	\$ 41,286
Nett Amount	\$334,012
Transfer to Trust Fund	\$167,006

Again, it is pointed out that the RSL conducts the Poppy Day Appeal on behalf of the Aged Sailors, Soldiers & Airmen's Relief Trust Fund which is administered by three Trustees. Unlike sub Branches, RSL State Branch holds no Amelioration account and has no responsibility in the operation of the Trust Fund other than Administrative support.

Appreciation was expressed to Sub Branches that assisted State Branch to meet its statutory obligation by submitting their returns on time. This allowed compliance in submission of the reconciliation return for the Poppy Day Collection to government by the due date. Unfortunately several Sub Branches let the side down - a situation that will need to be resolved for future collections.



Your Sub Branch needs your support for collections for 2010, please contact the Secretary and let her know you are able to assist this



DOING BUSINESS WITH RSL State Branch:
8:30am — 4:30pm

ANZAC HOUSE

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

RECEPTION

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

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

In our next issue we will have some dates for get togethers, sundowners, BBQ lunch, etc. Please keep a watch for the newsletter so that you can pencil in your diary the dates. We hope to see you coming along and joining your fellow Sub Branch members in a bit of social activity.

'Whoever said the pen is mightier than the sword, obviously never encountered automatic weapons.'

RSL STREET APPEAL 2010

RSL has been allocated Friday 23rd April 2010 for its Annual Street Appeal. Application Forms for participation by your Sub Branch have already been issued. In the past this Appeal has not been well supported by Sub Branches and its future will need to be assessed in the light of 2010 participation. There are other organizations who would like to collect on that date - the Friday nearest to ANZAC day and it would be unreasonable for the RSL to claim the date if we are not maximizing the potential. Proceeds from the collection are shared 50% / 50% with State Branch and the use of the funds is for the administration of welfare services provided by RSL.

Please contact the Secretary if you are able to help with collections around our local area or indeed within the Perth CBD. It is important to ensure the public is aware that we are out there and need their support and help.

Proposed Changes to the Governance of Military Superannuation Schemes

The National Executive is taking urgent action to challenge the proposed changes without due consultation with superannuants

On 31st October 2008 the Minister for Finance and Deregulation, the Hon Lindsay Tanner announced that “on 1 July 2010 the Boards of the Australian Reward Investment Alliance (ARIA), the Military Superannuation and Benefits Scheme (MSBS) and the Defence Force Retirement and Death Benefits Scheme (DFRDB) will merge to form a single trustee board.”

The reason cited for this merger was that *“consolidation will bring more than 650,000 members and pensioners under a single trustee board, establish a greater pool of assets for investment purposes and apply best practice management approaches across all schemes.”*

A press release by Minister Tanner on 26th November 2009 quoted him as saying that *“the Government is committed to ensuring governance arrangements for its superannuation schemes are effective and consistent with the broader superannuation industry.”*

To give effect to these intentions, the Government introduced the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Schemes Bill 2010*, the *Comsuper Bill 2010* and the *Superannuation Legislation (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010* into the House of Representatives on 4 February 2010.

The Government did not consult the RSL about these proposed changes to the governance of military superannuation schemes affecting many RSL members.

RSL Course of Action

RSL military superannuants:

- are not persuaded that the Government has made a case for the proposal to merge the DFRDB and MSBS Boards with ComSuper;
- seek factually based sound reasons why the merger should take place; and
- request the RSL be supplied with the Department of Finance Review on which the merger is based and with the Risk Analysis of the proposal to outsource administration of the merged system.

The RSL recommends that further Parliamentary consideration of the *Governance of Australian Government Superannuation Bill 2010*, *Comsuper Bill 2010* and *Superannuation Legislation (Consequential Amendments and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2010* be deferred to allow military superannuants time to examine relevant information and make an informed assessment about this material.

Changes to DVA Cards

All Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Repatriation Health Cards (DVA Cards) are due to expire during 2010. From March 2010 DVA will begin reissuing all cards. As part of this reissue there will be some improvements made to DVA cards. All eligible veterans, war widows/widowers and dependants will be issued with a new card.

Changes to DVA Cards will not reduce eligibility for current DVA cardholders.

The changes being made to the cards are to increase:

- veteran access to services;
- provider satisfaction; and
- security of the cards.

Specialised descriptions on DVA Gold Cards will remain unchanged, these descriptions include but are not limited to:

- Totally and Permanently Incapacitated;
- War Widow/Widower; and
- POW.

Cards expiring between now and June 2010

Temporary DVA cards will be issued between now and June 2010 with a short expiry date. These cards will work the same as current DVA cards and offer DVA clients the same access to services. DVA clients who are issued with a temporary card will be issued a new look card before their card expires.

Veteran Access to Services

The magnetic stripe on the cards will contain the following information:

- full name;
- file number;
- card Type; and
- expiry date.

This change is expected to improve provider satisfaction, as this will enable providers to swipe DVA cards in the same way Medicare or Private Health Fund Cards are currently utilised. By improving the claiming experience for the providers it will increase the likelihood of providers accepting DVA cards.

All eligible clients living overseas will, for the first time, be issued with a DVA card. This will remove the need for veterans to contact DVA to receive a “letter of authority” when receiving medical treatment within Australia.

Entitlement to treatment overseas is limited to veterans that have an accepted disability/disabilities and DVA funds treatment of those accepted disabilities only. This process for receiving treatment while overseas will not change.

Security Upgrade

All DVA cards will have microprinting and a DVA registered hologram added as security features. The microprinting and hologram are added security features to ensure non entitled persons cannot reproduce a card.

Expected Arrival Date

The reissue of all cards is due to commence in March 2010. This process is expected to take 10 - 15 weeks to complete.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN – AN UPDATE OF WHAT'S HAPPENING

Members who have visited the Sub Branch will have noticed that your committee has been working quite hard with other Sub Branch organizations to improve the overall appearance of the Centre. The Town of Victoria Park has also been totally involved in working with the current committee to improve the maintenance of professional services available to the Sub Branch centre.

It is worth noting that the general community is continuing to support the Sub Branch by hiring our facilities on a regular basis. This service will continue to improve as your committee moves towards improving services to our members.

I as the current President would ask that you consider reestablishing your ties with your Sub Branch so that we are able to return to offering you a place to meet, socialize and so improve your day to day activities as members of our great community.

Please mark your social calendar to include our ANZAC Eve Memorial Service on Saturday 24th April commencing at 1800 hours. After the service light refreshments will be served in the Sub Branch hall. As members of the Sub Branch you are automatically offered an invitation to attend. Your committee and I look forward to seeing you there and being able to meet you.

Millen Primary School has been approached to conduct a service at the Sub Branch memorial site during the week preceding ANZAC Day. You are also welcome to attend this service.

It is the intention of the committee to introduce social mornings or afternoons (whichever the majority wants) over the coming months. We would welcome you to attend and enjoy the occasions.

We will be looking for volunteers to assist us with coming events, gardening around the Sub Branch and other activities that either members or associates are able to assist with. If you feel you are able to help out at your Sub Branch please contact me and we can look at setting up a roster system to get the Sub Branch up and running to full capacity again. We would like to see as many members, associates and their families as actively involved in their Sub Branch as possible.

Sincere thanks to Doug Golding from the committee for offering his services as Warden at the AGM however due to other commitments Doug has tendered his resignation. Dick Garrett has stepped up and offered his services as Warden in Doug's place. Thank you Dick and we look forward to working with you on the committee.

Till the next issue in April, stay safe, keep well and I look forward to catching up with you soon.

Membership Statistics

We are pleased to present our February Membership Statistics:

Life Members	158
Life Subscribers	85
Service Members	6,500
TOTAL	6,743
Affiliates	410
GRAND TOTAL	7,153
EVP Sub Branch	94

If you have something you want to put in the newsletter, an article, photos, etc, please contact the Secretary either by post or email. The newsletter is for you and for passing on information to all Members of the Sub Branch.

Jacquie

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thanks go to members who have promptly renewed their membership for 2010. All renewals directed to ANZAC House prior to closure for the Christmas break were processed by 23 December.

The centralised renewal process has made a significant impact on work flow in the membership office with benefits to everyone. Over 3000 renewals were processed within the 10 working days promised. Renewals sent in on Capitation Forms will be dealt with in the normal course of business.

The popularity of on-line and credit card payments have proved very popular and are a safe and secure way of making payments.

The new Affiliate Cards are also gaining popularity, as they will attract additional benefits for Affiliates through the Discount Booklets.

ANZAC DAY EVE SERVICE – Saturday 24th April

Your Sub Branch will be holding their yearly Anzac Day Eve Service on Saturday 24th April commencing at 1800 hours. We would like all Members, Associates and their families to attend the service along with other invited guests and join us after for a get together.

THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VILIGANCE

EAST VICTORIA PARK RSL SUB BRANCH NEWSLETTER

P O Box 5444
East Victoria Park, WA 6981

[Recipient]

Address Line 1
Address Line 2
Address Line 3
Address Line 4