

ANNUAL REPORT 2025



RSL
WA



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

STATE PRESIDENT

Duncan Anderson

STATE VICE PRESIDENT

Miquela Riley

BOARD MEMBERS

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Roy Mellon, Berneigh Elderfield,
Steven Mott, Hayley Edwards,
Luka Zivkovic

CO-OPTED MEMBERS

Neil Gerrard, Tim Curtis

TRUSTEES

CMDR Philip Orchard AM, AFNI RAN (Ret'd),
Douglas Simpson JP,
BRIG Phillip White AM RFD (Ret'd),
John Rolfe

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VISION STATEMENT

We believe in enabling veterans and their families to thrive in the community.

OUR MISSION

RSL WA enables veterans and their families to thrive through sustainable, relevant support and services whilst retaining the full confidence of the community and all stakeholders.



OUR VALUES

CAMARADERIE

We foster a culture of trust, mateship and teamwork, united by a shared commitment to supporting veterans and their families. Through mutual respect and collaboration, we work together to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.

CARE

We care deeply for one another, our members, and veterans and their families. By being attentive, empathetic and understanding, we provide support with compassion, dignity and respect.

ADVOCACY

As experts in our field, we work alongside members, veterans and their families to navigate challenges and find practical solutions. We advocate for their interests and influence key stakeholders to achieve positive outcomes for the veteran community.

COMMEMORATION

We honour the sacrifices of veterans, their families, and fallen servicemen and women through recognition and remembrance. By educating the community and preserving their stories, we ensure their service and legacy are never forgotten.



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

1. RSL WA is relevant, agile and inclusive for veterans and their families

- 1.1 A clear value proposition for current and prospective members, including a sense of place and purpose for all veterans.
- 1.2 Regular engagement between RSL WA State Branch, Sub-Branches and members through two-way flows of information.
- 1.3 Members and veterans can easily access RSL WA support and services regardless of ability or geographical location.
- 1.4 Enhancement of current service offering and increasing discretionary services that align with the RSL WA vision and mission.
- 1.5 Demonstrate agility in readily adapting to sector and social changes.

2. Strengthen RSL WA for future generations

- 2.1 Commercial performance is centred on strong fiscal responsibility and revenue generation to ensure delivery of core services and discretionary programs.
- 2.2 Approaches to governance are enhanced and simplified to ensure alignment with the expectations of a modern organisation and ease of implementation across Sub-Branches.
- 2.3 Systems support the capture of relevant data to inform decision making across the organisation.

- 2.4 Regular and effective fundraising, which contributes to ongoing income streams.

- 2.5 State Branch has the capability and capacity to redirect effort on priority activities whilst ensuring continuity of base support and services.

3. RSL WA is a trusted and credible organisation

- 3.1 Commemorative activities are modernised to ensure increased participation across the WA community.
- 3.2 RSL WA is the partner of choice for veteran-related by Government, Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) and corporate enterprise.
- 3.3 Enhanced partnership with Defence industry, including relevant service delivery and support for AUKUS.
- 3.4 Systems support the accurate and timely reporting of information, which demonstrates transparency across the organisation.
- 3.5 Veterans consider the involvement in RSL WA a natural continuation of service.
- 3.6 Veterans' programs and commemorative activities are promoted through strategic and targeted marketing campaigns, which enhance awareness of the RSL WA brand.
- 3.7 RSL WA is a community leader in WA through participation in events and activities, which have a positive impact on local communities.







FROM THE STATE PRESIDENT

DUNCAN ANDERSON – RSL WA STATE PRESIDENT

I am proud to present the Annual Report for the Returned and Services League of Western Australia for 2025. Our collective efforts delivering positive outcomes against the objects of the League and our strategy have been immense. We should be collectively proud of what we have achieved and how we have carried out this vast array of undertakings.

The RSL across Western Australia remains relevant, agile and inclusive for all veterans and their families. Our value proposition continues to be refined and better communicated. While new programs are pursued, we remain committed to core support activities such as supporting claims processes and welfare. The small dedicated team in this continues its amazing work.

Our service offerings have grown significantly, with RSL Active being a foundation program, delivering an array of programs to all veterans and families. Engagement with our Sub-Branches and members continues to improve; both State Congress

and the Committee Conference proved invaluable in this two-way transfer of information.

A clear focus remains on strengthening RSL WA for future generations. Our financial position continues to strengthen with improvement in investments and operations at Anzac House. All involved should be congratulated for this improvement.

Similarly, our governance standards continue to develop, in-line with organisational and community expectations. I would like to pause and highlight the efforts in our Sub-Branches in this endeavour. Our systems and processes have consumed enormous effort with incremental improvement. This will remain a focus in 2026 to not only support the organisation, but our members, Sub-Branches and the broader veteran community.

The RSL in WA remains a trusted and credible organisation. Our primary 'outwards facing' tool are the multitude of commemorative events. We should be collectively proud of continued improvement. The standards of services across the state continue to adapt to community expectations without losing the essence of commemoration. I would like to

draw particular attention to the 80th Anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific. To be joined by so many Second World War veterans was a great privilege.

Trust and credibility were further enhanced through targeted marketing campaigns that improved awareness of RSL WA activities and offerings. This will remain a key focus for future years as the League remains focussed on all veterans and their families in Western Australia.

I would like to sincerely thank my colleagues on the Board of RSL WA and all supporting sub committees. Your continued support, effort and commitment is without question and has ensured consistent and stable leadership of the League. I would also like to recognise the efforts of the CEO and staff of RSL WA. You consistently go above and beyond and should be immensely proud of your achievements.

Finally, I would like to pass on my sincere appreciation for our members, the broader veteran community and all your families. I am humbled daily by the amazing efforts by you all. Thank you for all you have and will do.

'The price of liberty is eternal vigilance.'



FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

STEPHEN BARTON – RSL WA CEO

2025 was another eventful year in supporting WA veterans and their families.

We marked the 80th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP) Day with a commemorative service at Kings Park where we brought together 25 living Second World War veterans in solemn remembrance. In collaboration with the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), we identified some 100 living Second World War veterans residing in WA.

We delivered Anzac Day commemorative events once again in the City of Perth and around Western Australia. Over 46,000 people attended Anzac Day events in the City of Perth. There was a great turnout at Anzac Day events hosted by RSL Sub-Branched around WA.

We announced the new development plan for the Goldsworthy Veterans and Families Centre in Rockingham in collaboration with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Hon Matt Keogh MP, Minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs.

We expanded the RSL Active program by hiring a new program officer and offering more wellbeing activities and class times to WA veterans and their families. This exciting program has opened new opportunities to connect and engage with younger veterans and their families. We have seen improved social connection, the development of new skills, and enhanced physical and mental wellbeing. Of note, the program engaged over 1,800 veterans during the reporting period.

In 2025, the Welfare and Wellbeing service provided direct support to approximately 1,588 veterans and family members across Western Australia, managing an average of 31 welfare cases per week.

In 2025, RSL WA took significant strides towards implementing new systems and efficiencies to improve operation performance. It is important to state, that there has been a lot of change at RSL WA in 2025. Thank you to all of our Sub-Branch Committees and members for your support as we navigate this modernisation of our operation.

We progressively rolled out standardised email accounts for Sub-Branch Committee volunteers. This has standardised email communication across the board and helps ensure historical communication is handed off when Sub-Branch Committee roles change. The greatest challenge has been managing access for some 330 users. There has been a large volume of IT support requests for account management.

We implemented the new SwiftFox membership system that provides an online member portal for members to manage their memberships and personal data online. This new system enabled us to renew 50 per cent of the RSL WA membership online without having to manually process paper forms, which greatly extend processing time. There is still room for improvement in this area, and our team are working towards further improving member experience.

PROGRAMS & VETERAN SERVICES

SUPPORTING WA VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

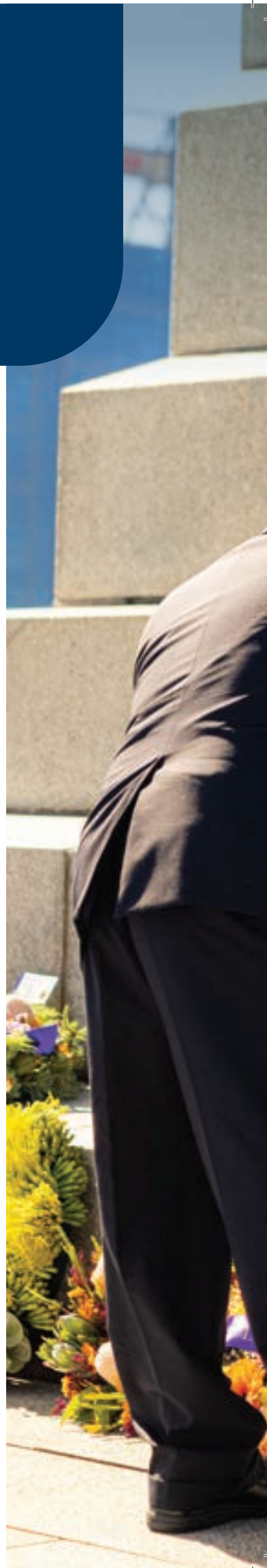
FEE-FREE CLAIMS ADVOCACY

RSL WA Advocacy offers claims assessing assistance, support in the appeal process up to the level of the Veterans Review Board (VRB), and financial assistance and referral services.

We provide support for veterans and veteran's families, which includes but are not limited to:

- **Assistance with lodging initial liability claims.**
- **Application for Disability Pension increase.**
- **Commonwealth super reconsideration applications and invalidity benefits applications (medical discharge).**
- **Guidance throughout the DVA process regarding investigations of claims.**
- **Guidance with the information needed for supporting evidence of claims with DVA.**
- **Liaising with DVA delegates when needed.**
- **Support for any appeals at the Veterans Review Board and the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT).**
- **Assistance with application for incapacity payments through DVA if a veteran is unable to work due to their accepted conditions (DRCA & MRCA).**
- **Guidance with DVA decision letters for the knowledge of the veteran in understanding the reasons for claim decisions.**

Moving forward, RSL WA have applied for a significant increase of Building Excellence in Support and Training (BEST) Grant funding. This will enable an increase of the number of qualified claims advocates to meet the demand for support when the new Veterans' Entitlements, Treatment and Act 2025 (VETS Act) come into effect as of 1 July 2026. From this date, all new claims will be processed under the new VETS Act.



THE GREAT WAR 1914 - 1918

CLAIMS ADVOCACY CLIENT STORY: THE PASSING OF A VETERAN

Every year, RSL WA advocates for hundreds of veterans seeking support for service-related injuries and/or illnesses. This is just one of our stories.

RSL WA has de-identified the client and family in respect to their privacy but sought approval to share their story to raise awareness for other veterans and their families going through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Claims process.

The veteran first contacted the RSL WA Claims Advocacy team in February 2025 with the aim to achieve 80 impairment points under the Military Rehabilitation Compensation Act (MRCA) and apply for a Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) as he was no longer fit to work due to his service-related health conditions. The veteran was also seeking children's education support to support his family.

Prior to reaching out to RSL WA, he already had accepted conditions. After taking the time to understand his unique situation, he attended a Claims Lodgement Assistance (CLA) appointment in March 2025. CLA appointments involve RSL WA booking an in-person appointment with a DVA Claims Lodgement Assistant to lodge a claim in MyService (online portal) on behalf of a veteran.

A claim was successfully submitted with several conditions. Over the next couple months, the veteran was in the process of obtaining the supporting medical evidence when tragically he had an accident and passed away in June 2025.

RSL WA liaised with the will executor and ex-wife, continued representing the family and advocated for a prioritisation of the claim through DVA. Shortly after, six conditions were accepted and RSL WA additionally advocated for the veteran be awarded a Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP) posthumously. Fortunately, the pension was granted.

The veteran was divorced, therefore there was no spouse entitlement. However, the two children were granted the eligible young person's payment (EYP) of \$111,173.19 each plus MRCEATS tax-free fortnightly payments of \$369.80 with arrears being paid from his time of death.

RSL WA are currently still working with DVA's permanent impairment team in relation to six conditions hoping there is an entitlement for payout for these conditions to be paid to his estate.

The successful outcome of securing Special Rate Disability Pension (SRDP), including the associated children's payments, was received with much appreciation and gratitude from the children's mother.





WELFARE AND WELLBEING

RSL WA provides a full range of welfare and case management services to the veteran community, including allied forces, ex-serving, current serving members and their dependents.

The service is delivered through face-to-face, online or phone appointments. Home and hospital visits can be arranged through our Pastoral Care program.

The Welfare and Wellbeing services delivered by RSL WA provides timely, veteran-centred support to current and former service members and their families experiencing hardship or crisis. Core services include emergency financial relief, crisis intervention and psychosocial support, wellbeing visits, bereavement assistance, advocacy, and community wellbeing initiatives.

Support is delivered through a statewide network of 113 Sub-Branches, enabling rapid local assistance. RSL WA provides welfare triage and case coordination, with Anzac House Welfare supporting Sub-Branches and complex or high-risk cases escalated to Headquarters to ensure coordinated and appropriate care.

In 2025, Welfare and Wellbeing services supported around 1,588 veterans and family members, delivering approximately \$45,000 in direct financial assistance, alongside advocacy, crisis support, and case coordination. This included supporting veterans at risk of homelessness with bond

and rent assistance to secure safe accommodation, assisting veterans experiencing acute mental health distress through crisis engagement and referral to specialist mental health services, and providing short-term financial relief to veterans managing significant medical needs, recovery from substance use, or complex debt, helping stabilise immediate hardship and support pathways back to independence and longer-term wellbeing.

In 2025, the service continued to strengthen proactive community wellbeing support while incorporating approaches that help veterans build stability and confidence over time. Immediate assistance remained available where it was most needed, alongside earlier intervention to support longer-term wellbeing where appropriate. This was supported by guidance from Anzac House Welfare and clearer referral pathways to specialist mental health services, veteran and state housing providers, and coordinated support across RSL WA employment, advocacy, and wellness services, ensuring consistent and compassionate responses to more complex needs.

Through the Western Australian Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund (WAASSARF) Trust, supported by the Poppy Day Appeal, needs-based financial assistance was provided to approximately 25 veterans per month to help meet essential living costs, including housing, utilities, food, medical needs and transport.

WELFARE AND WELLBEING CLIENT STORIES:

1. RSL WA supported a veteran experiencing severe mental health distress, and relationship breakdown was supported through extended crisis engagement, referral to appropriate mental health providers, and stabilisation during a high-risk period.
2. RSL WA supported a veteran facing homelessness. The team assisted with bond and rent support, enabling immediate access to accommodation and preventing rough sleeping.
3. RSL WA supported a veteran with significant medical needs and financial hardship. This individual received assistance with essential bills while regularly being encouraged to engage with health and advocacy services.
4. RSL WA supported a veteran navigating substance use recovery and substantial debt. The Welfare and Wellbeing Officer provided financial relief alongside coordinated referrals to specialist support services, supporting ongoing recovery and stability.

In 2026, Welfare and Wellbeing will implement a comprehensive training program for Sub-Branch Welfare Officers, strengthening capability, consistency and confidence across the network. This will support a more cohesive and collaborative response to veterans in crisis, with consistent triage, escalation, referral, and case coordination processes across all Sub-Branches.

The focus will remain on early intervention, trauma-informed practice, and coordinated support to ensure veterans receive timely, appropriate care regardless of location.

Welfare assistance is available for, but not limited to, the following:

- **payment of utility bills,**
- **food vouchers,**
- **other essential requirements,**
- **general crisis assistance and**
- **referral to other support services**
- **bereavement assistance through the WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Fund Trust. Financial assistance towards funeral costs, purchase of white goods, car repairs and other necessities that the veteran or ex-service member is unable to provide for themselves,**
- **housing insecurity,**
- **crisis counselling to point of referral**
- **complex case management and resource for Sub-Branch Welfare Officers.**

RSL WA welfare and wellbeing receive on average five calls per day with the most common presenting issues being:

- **food insecurity,**
- **housing,**
- **mental health distress, often with drug and alcohol misuse co-presenting.**

Advocating for welfare services, including, but not limited to:

- **promoting and protecting the rights and wellbeing of older veterans through the provision of information, support and representation at the State Administrative Tribunal,**
- **liaising with government departments, such as Centrelink and the Department of Housing, on behalf of veterans,**
- **Referral to RSL Advocates for assistance in making claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs**





WAASSAARF TRUST

The WA Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's relief Fund (WAASSAARF) Trust provide support and financial assistance to veterans, including allied forces, ex-serving, current serving members and their dependents.

To qualify for assistance, you must reside in Western Australia.

Examples of assistance provided by the fund to those experiencing financial hardship include:

- **assistance with rent arrears and security bonds,**
- **funeral costs,**
- **outstanding debts (water, gas, electricity, telephone),**
- **replacement of white goods,**
- **removal costs,**
- **school fees,**
- **mobility products,**
- **motor vehicle repairs.**

It is not necessary to be a member of the Returned and Services League (RSL). Basic proof of Service and hardship is required.

Moving forward RSL WA are developing and enhancing partnerships with key stakeholders with area expertise on housing, alcohol and other drug and mental health. These include:

- **GROW (mental health peer support),**
- **Lion Clubs (food hampers and social contact program),**
- **Sub-Branch Welfare Officer development calendar,**
- **Cyrenian House (alcohol and other drugs),**
- **Wounded Heros (after-hours crisis support),**
- **Bravery Trust (financial counselling and support).**

JOB READY AND EMPLOYMENT

Throughout 2025, RSL WA continued to deliver employment support services to veterans and their families through its partnership with Working Spirit.

The program focused on improving job readiness by providing personalised support, including resume development, career coaching, interview preparation, employment guidance, and connections to training opportunities. These services assisted veterans and family members to identify their transferable skills, build confidence and prepare for meaningful civilian employment.

As the year progressed, planning commenced for an expanded employment service model to be launched next year. In 2026, RSL WA will launch an expanded employment offering designed to provide more comprehensive support to veterans and their families throughout their employment journey. This exciting evolution will bring RSL WA into closer alignment with leading RSL employment programs across Australia, while introducing new opportunities in career development, education, training and employer engagement. The enhanced model reflects RSL WA's commitment to delivering meaningful employment outcomes and empowering veterans and families to achieve long-term career success.

ASSISTANCE DOGS PROGRAM

The Psychiatric Assistance Dogs (PAD) Program continued to make significant progress throughout 2025, delivering life-changing outcomes for veterans across Western Australia.

In partnership with Kaizen K9, two assistance dogs, Senna and Alonso, were successfully paired with their veteran handlers, marking an important milestone in their journey towards improved wellbeing, independence and social connection. The remaining two dogs, Oscar and Kimmi, also progressed through the program and entered the pairing process with their prospective veterans.

The demand for the program has been overwhelming, with more than 55 expressions of interest received from veterans seeking access to a Psychiatric Assistance Dog, despite only minimal promotion of the initiative. This strong response highlights both the need for innovative mental health support within the veteran community and the positive reputation the program has developed.

RSL WA remains committed to working collaboratively with Kaizen K9 and other key stakeholders to ensure the continued success of the program. As the pilot phase progresses, we look forward to securing future funding opportunities that will enable the acquisition, training, and placement of additional Psychiatric Assistance Dogs, allowing more veterans and their families to benefit from this unique and impactful support service.





TESTIMONIAL

from Sophia:

"It hasn't even been two weeks since Alonso came to our home – it feels like he's always been part of our lives. He has settled in so naturally and it's a real testament to the incredible work you've all done. Ben, Colleen and the entire team, thank you from the bottom of my heart. Alonso is not only beautifully trained, he is calm, intuitive and so easy to work with. His gentle nature and steady temperament shine through in everything he does. You can see the time, love and dedication that has gone into shaping him, and we are so incredibly grateful. You've not only trained a dog – you've helped change our lives. Thank you all so much."

– Sophia

Throughout 2025, RSL Active delivered over 355 activities across 30 locations, engaging 1,871 participants in partnership with 17 activity providers.

ANZAC HOUSE





RSL ACTIVE

RSL Active is a veteran-centred wellbeing initiative of RSL WA, designed to support veterans and their families through purposeful activities that strengthen social connection, physical health, mental wellbeing and community participation.

In 2025, funding provided by RSL Queensland and the ANZAC Day Trust enabled RSL Active to significantly scale its reach and maturity under new program leadership. This investment supported rapid growth in delivery capability, stakeholder engagement, and operational infrastructure, resulting in measurable outcomes across participation, geographic reach and program development.

Throughout 2025, RSL Active delivered over 355 activities across 30 locations, engaging 1,871 participants in partnership with 17 activity providers. Alongside delivery, substantial foundational infrastructure was established, including a comprehensive program plan, a formalised and repeatable activity provider framework and the creation of a targeted communications database.

Together, these elements have positioned RSL Active as a scalable, accountable and sustainable program, well prepared for continued growth in 2026.

CHAPLAINCY

Chaplaincy has a unique place in the support of veterans and the wider veteran community at large. They are recognised as an important source of pastoral care and spiritual support for veterans and their families as part of a multidisciplinary team.

Chaplains work closely with the Welfare and Wellbeing team, providing both guidance and support to veterans and their families in time of need.

Within Sub-Branches, chaplains supported commemorations with ceremonial assistance along with directly supporting veterans and their families. This support is conducted in homes, hospitals and aged care facilities. Funerals of veterans were also prevalent in 2025.

A key area of activity in 2025 has been training of pastors and priests to give incidental support for WA veterans and families. During 2025, RSL WA chaplains conducted two training

programs with approximately twenty chaplains. This involved introducing chaplaincy services to veterans and their families.

RSL WA plans to hold two courses each year as a means of increasing the available chaplaincy and pastoral care to veterans, and any who are in need.

Looking forward to 2026, the aim for this year is to encourage our current chaplains to further upskill. In keeping with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide, it is hoped that we will be able to access some of the training that groups like Open Arms offer, like ASIST (Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training) and Moral Injury Skills Training and mental health awareness and support. This will further add to the capability of the chaplains who are offering their services freely to the veteran community.

Support to staff at the RSL WA State Branch has been a priority in 2025. A number have had difficult periods working with complex cases, including challenging interactions with clients.



Chaplains work closely with the Welfare and Wellbeing team, providing both guidance and support to veterans and their families in time of need.



RSL SUB-BRANCHES

There are 113 RSL Sub-Branches in Western Australia that offer varying support and services tailored to the needs of the local community.

RSL Sub-Branches serve as important support pillars for veterans and families in WA through social connection, Anzac Day events, and direct wellbeing and welfare support for those who need it most.

The centre will offer a safe, welcoming, and non-clinical environment where veterans and their families can access a wide range of services.





GOLDSWORTHY
Veterans + Families Centre

GOLDSWORTHY VETERANS AND FAMILIES CENTRE

In 2025 RSL WA announced revised plans to open the Goldsworthy Veterans and Families Centre in Rockingham – the state's first wellness hub for veterans.

In a July 2025 press release, the Hon Matt Keogh MP, minister for Defence Personnel and Veterans' Affairs, said: "The new centre will bring together the already tight-knit Navy community around Rockingham and HMAS Stirling as a one stop shop for not only veteran services, but family supports as well."

The Goldsworthy Veterans and Families Centre represents a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to the veteran community. Construction is now well underway, and we are pleased to report strong progress on-site, with an anticipated opening of late August 2026.

The centre will offer a safe, welcoming, and non-clinical environment where veterans and their families can access a wide range of services, including wellbeing support, advocacy, chaplaincy, social connection, and soft referrals to specialist health and community services.

By fostering strong partnerships with ex-service organisations, health providers, and government agencies, the Goldsworthy Centre aims to make coordinated care more accessible, encourage early and stigma-free help-seeking, and nurture the social bonds and overall mental, physical, and social wellbeing of the veteran community throughout the region.

KEY MILESTONES FROM 2025–2026

Development Timeline	Dates
Settlement finalised	15 July 2025
Formal announcement	16 July 2025
Design and internal fit-out planning	March – July 2025
Tender preparation	September 2025 – 14 October 2025
Contractor selected	November 2025
Building permit secured	April 30 2026
Fit-out begins	May 1 2026
Goldsworthy Centre opens to public	Late August 2026



CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

PHILLIP WHITE AM, RFD

Like any incorporated body, the governance of RSL WA is defined by the provisions of its Constitution (also referred to as the Rules) and its supporting By-Laws.

As the needs of the RSL WA State Branch, Sub-Branches and members continue to evolve, it is essential that these governing instruments are regularly reviewed and, where appropriate, amended. This process is inherently complex and time-consuming. Amendments to the Constitution require approval by State Congress or an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) of Sub-Branches, whereas amendments to the By-Laws may be approved by the RSL WA Board. Responsibility for leading this work rests with the Constitution Committee, supported by State Branch personnel and the broader RSL membership.

The year 2025 was another exceptionally busy and productive period for the Constitution Committee. At its first meeting of the year, the Committee was pleased to welcome Ms Jane Inglis, the highly experienced Secretary of the Joondalup RSL Sub-Branch, as its newest member. Ms Inglis joined State President Mr Duncan

Anderson, Chief Executive Officer Mr Steve Barton, Trustees Mr Phil Orchard, Mr John Rolfe and Mr Phil White (Committee Chair), and Claremont RSL Sub-Branch President and Board Member Mr David Thomas. Collectively, the Committee worked diligently to progress and implement substantial reforms to both the Constitution and the By-Laws.

Throughout the year, the Committee met on a monthly basis, with decision-making further strengthened through ongoing collaboration between meetings. This approach facilitated timely and constructive feedback on draft amendments among members of the Constitution Committee, the Board of Directors, and co-opted contributors, including Mr Doug Simpson and others. As a result of this detailed and methodical work, amendments to Rules 7.24 (Membership – Cessation of Membership), 8.12 and 8.13 (General Provisions of membership – Non-Admittance) and 9.5 and 9.6 (Financial Matters) were approved at the Annual Congress in June, reflecting proposals originally raised at the 2024 Congress.

In addition, during March, May and June, the State Board approved for publication amendments to By-Laws

4.5(b) (Affiliate Members), 5.4 (Sub-Branches – General), 10.13 and 10.14 (Sub-Branch Welfare – Governance and Audit), 22 (Member and Sub-Branch Communications) and 24.4 (Disciplinary Powers of a Sub-Branch – Determining a Disciplinary Matter).

Between July and December, the Committee undertook an extensive program of work to comprehensively redraft, and where necessary reformat (with associated renumbering), a significant number of By-Laws. These included By-Laws 3.4 – 3.17 (Service Members – Processing of Applications for Membership), 3.18 – 3.22 (Unattached List of Members), 3.23 – 3.30 (Miscellaneous List of Members), 3.31 – 3.33 (Processing Applications for Transfer), 3.34 – 3.35 (Cessation of Membership), 4.20 – 4.30 (Honorary, Honorary Life, Social and Associate Members), 5.5 – 5.9 (Sub-Branches – General), 5.30 (Duties of Sub-Branch President), 8.1 (Travel and Accommodation), 11.3 – 11.4 (Subscriptions), 11.6 – 11.9 (Life Subscriptions), 24.4 (Disciplinary Powers of a Sub-Branch – Determining a Disciplinary Matter), 24.22 – 24.23 (Penalties for a Breach of Discipline) and 26.3 (Disciplinary Powers of the State Branch

Tribunal). All amendments were approved by the State Board for publication in 2026.

Concurrently, the Committee prepared recommended amendments to, and the reformatting and renumbering of, a number of Rules within the Constitution. These included Rules 3.2(c) and (k) (Definitions and Interpretations), 5.3 (Powers of RSL WA – Sub-Branch), 7.1 (Membership), 7.10 (Honorary Membership), 7.13 (Honorary Life Membership), 7.15 (Affiliates of Sub-Branches), 7.18 (Social Members of Sub-Branches), 7.20 – 7.23 (Commencement of Membership), 7.24 (Cessation of Membership), 7.25 (Register of Members), 8.4 – 8.6 (Associate Membership), 8.7 – 8.10 (General provisions of Membership – Australian Citizen), 8.11 (General provisions of Membership – Subscriptions), 8.12 – 8.13 (General provisions of Membership – Non Admittance), 8.14 – 8.18 (General provisions of Membership – Inspection of Records and Documents), 8.19 (General provisions of Membership – Suspension or Expulsion of Member), 14.2 and 14.5 (The Board of Directors), and 18.2 and 18.3 (The State Trustees). These constitutional amendments were approved for publication in 2026 at the RSL WA EGM held in December.

Beyond its formal responsibilities for the review of Rules and By-Laws, the Constitution Committee also provided advice and guidance to Sub-Branches on a wide range of governance matters. These included the payment of subscriptions and annual membership fees; membership eligibility; Sub-Branch By-Laws; differentiation between Service, Social and Affiliate Membership rights; the formation, closure and amalgamation of Sub-Branches; nomination and quorum requirements; the use of welfare funds; the management of disputes and disciplinary matters; and the voting rights of Affiliate and Social Members. The Committee also published guidelines to assist Sub-Branches in developing their own By-Laws, including a sample set generously provided by the North Beach Sub-Branch.

These matters, together with the broader issue of effective Sub-Branch governance, will remain a priority focus for ongoing review in 2026. As noted in previous reports, the Committee also acknowledges that the By-Laws have evolved over many years and, as a result, contain occasional cross-referencing errors and instances of ambiguous or inconsistent language. Accordingly, the Committee will

continue its systematic review of the By-Laws and welcomes feedback from Sub-Branches regarding any identified discrepancies.

As previously advised, it is important that Sub-Branches understand the formal process for amending the RSL WA Constitution and By-Laws. Unless Congress is presented with a motion that clearly includes the proposed wording of a constitutional amendment, any resolution in support of such a change will generally be subject to a delay of at least 12 months. This period is necessary to allow the Constitution Committee to prepare a properly drafted motion for consideration at an EGM or a subsequent Congress.

In closing, I wish to acknowledge and sincerely thank all members of the Constitution Committee, together with Mr Daniel Kennedy-Stiff, Ms Colleen Adleigh and Ms Rebecca Graham from the State Branch, for their dedication and valuable contributions throughout the year. Their commitment has been instrumental to the work of the Committee and to the continued strengthening of good governance across RSL WA.





STATE TRIBUNAL

DOUGLAS SIMPSON JP

The following members constituted the State Branch Tribunal at the beginning of the year:

CHAIR OF THE TRIBUNAL

- Douglas Simpson JP

TRIBUNAL MEMBERS

- Kim Doherty RFD
- John Rolfe
- Stephen Aspinall
- Michael Page RFD
- Warwick Gately AM
- Paul Evans
- Phillip White AM, RFD
(appointed August 2025)

The Tribunal members gave 139 hours of service during the past 12 months. During the 12-month period, the Full Tribunal of three members was required to sit on two occasions and carried out preparation for an Appeal to National. However, there were 63 other occasions during this period that members of the Tribunal became involved in disciplinary, mediation and administrative matters:

- two informal meetings of SBT members to consider various disciplinary matters
- 19 separate situations involving administrative actions
- 16 queries that required interpretation and an opinion given on disciplinary and mediation matters
- 26 matters that required advice to be given to Sub-Branches on disciplinary situations

The Registrar began the modification of Dispute By-Laws back in September 2023 after a request from the RSL WA President to consider updating of our Dispute Resolution process. Once the Disputes section of our By-Laws was modified, the work then began in April 2024 to consider changes to our Disciplinary By-Laws. By December 2024 all changes to the Disputes and Disciplinary By-Laws had been approved by the Board of Directors.

The revamping of the By-Laws relating to Disputes and Disciplinary matters has certainly made for a simpler process when

looking at disciplinary matters during 2025. The flow diagrams under the Sub-Branch Toolbox have also given a much clearer picture for Sub-Branches to understand how the disciplinary process works and to be able to follow the By-Laws relating to disciplinary and disputes in a more cogent way.

In the near future it is hoped that a clearer distinction will be made between members in the Unattached List and those on the Miscellaneous List. Once this has occurred, members will not be able to escape Sub-Branch disciplinary matters by simply resigning from their Sub-Branch and transferring to the Unattached List of members.

It was sad to hear of Bill Collidge's passing this year. Bill Collidge OAM, RFD, retired from the SBT in June 2024 after 6 years of service and many more years of service as a Board member. His sage advice will be sorely missed by all.

Phillip White's appointment needs to be endorsed by the 2026 Congress.



FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

LUKA ZIVKOVIC

PERFORMANCE

I'm pleased to announce that the Financial Statements for 31 December 2025 show that RSL WA recorded a surplus. This marks the second consecutive year in which a surplus has been achieved, reflecting positive financial trajectory.

The surplus was primarily driven by stronger grant income, investment returns and favourable operating margins. A significant portion of grant income (\$1.5m) was directed to capital expenditure.

PROPERTY

During 2025 RSL WA made further investments in property, and the ongoing due diligence of the property portfolio continues under the oversight of the Finance Advisory Committee.

INVESTMENTS

RSL WA continue to hold investments in property developments. Dividends have continued to actualise in 2025 with further cash inflows uplift expected in 2026.

Entrust continues to manage approximately \$11m of funds on behalf of RSL WA.



CASHFLOW AND LIQUIDITY

At the end of 2025, cash balance was approximately \$1.4m. RSL WA remains solvent and continues to meet all financial obligations as they fall due.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all members of the Finance Advisory Committee for their contribution throughout the year. Your time, expertise and commitment provide invaluable support to both management and the Board in ensuring prudent capital management and informed decision-making.

I would also like to acknowledge and thank Neil Gerrard ("Gerry") for his years of dedicated service to RSL WA, including his tenure as Chair of the Finance Advisory Committee and as a Board member. Under his leadership, the organisation has benefited from significant process improvements and a higher standard of financial reporting.



COMMEMORATIONS COMMITTEE

DAVID THOMAS

The Commemoration Committee supports Western Australia's veterans and families by planning, governing, and delivering dignified commemorative activities – particularly at the State War Memorial (SWM) and by maintaining service standards and protocols that uphold the intent and solemnity of remembrance.

Service standards and protocol control (SWM) reviewed during 2025/26 include:

- **Identified concerns about non-RSL WA commemorative services running excessively long.**
- **Identified protocol inconsistency, particularly in the wreath-laying sequence.**
- **Operational support for key roles (e.g., Deputy Warden/ Sub-Wardens).**

- **Stakeholder guidance and policy communication (e.g., Welcome and Acknowledgement to Country policy clarity and distribution).**
- **Providing refinements for major events (e.g., Anzac Day dais protocols and Order of March).**
- **Action pathway established to ensure staff training and templates include service-length/protocol requirements.**
- **Review organisations using SWM, including allocation and participation criteria.**

In 2025, the Commemoration Committee focused on ensuring commemorations remain accessible, respectful, and consistent, reducing confusion and improving the experience for veterans, families, and expectations around service duration (to reduce attendee fatigue and maintain dignity).

From 2025 to 2026, the items will be developed as guidelines for Sub-Branches to support their commemorative events. RSL WA also offers a library of information for Sub-Branches.

FUTURE ROLE OF EX-SERVICE ORGANISATIONS (ESOS) IN COMMEMORATIVE SERVICES

A discussion paper is under review and examines changes in the ESO community. It highlights the problem of declining membership and how this could affect the community's future and its ability to hold important events. This decline might reduce the quality and frequency of future commemorative services.

COMMEMORATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

- **David Thomas - Chair**
- **Nigel Ernsshaw - Secretary**
- **Bill Munro**
- **Michael Page**
- **Ian Holthouse**
- **Geoff Simpson - Deputy Warden**

INVITEES:

- **Stephen Barton - CEO**
- **RSL WA Events staff**



WA VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MATT MORAN



RSL WA's WA Veterans Advisory Committee is a critical Sub-Committee to the Board, which assists in policy development, veteran engagement and represents WA on the RSL National Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Over the past year the Committee has gone through renewal with the departure of members Dan Moss and Cody Cox. Thank you for your efforts.

The current members of WAVAC include Matt Moran (Chair), John Rolfe (Deputy Chair), Kelly Bradley, Barry Yesberg, Simon Bell, Berneigh Elderfield, Arthur Ventham, Jarrad Irvine, and Matt Munro.

The committee has drawn from this wealth of experience to assist RSL WA in putting together its response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide. This has been the main focus of WAVAC over the last 12 months.

It must be noted WAVAC is concerned about the number of recommendations and the risk of stalled/limited action because of the volume of recommendations. WAVAC highlighted key recommendations it believes RSL WA can actively support, such as developing employment pathways for ex-serving members in public sector agencies and establishing a national peak body for ex-service organisations. The hard work now starts to hold government to account to ensure the recommendations are followed up and not forgotten.

WAVAC continues to meet with veteran groups to listen to their ideas and concerns and provide advice to the Board.

WAVAC wants to increase its engagement with veterans across WA. Please contact WAVAC members if you have ideas that could help veterans and their families. Email admin@rslwa.org.au.



TRUSTEES

PHILIP ORCHARD AM, AFNI

Your Trustees have continued to provide consistent and effective support to the Board through a range of mechanisms, overseeing numerous matters that have presented complex challenges for the Board of Directors. In most cases, these challenges have resulted in positive outcomes as the organisation continues its transition toward generational change.

Like last year there have been a few changes around the Boardroom table from both the Directors and the Trustees perspective. Congratulations to Berneigh Elderfield and John Rolfe whose appointment as a Director and Trustee respectively were ratified at the Annual General Meeting. Congratulations go to Hayley Edwards who joined us as a director in mid-November. Hayley is extremely well qualified academically and with much business sense and experience. Prior to joining the Board she held the position of Deputy Mayor in Rockingham.

I draw members' attention to the RSL WA website, where a generic Expression of Interest (EOI) document is available for individuals wishing to apply for positions within RSL WA. This process applies to all roles, from Deputy Sub-Wardens through to Chief Executive Officer. Members with suitable qualifications, experience, interest and commitment are encouraged to submit an application.

Following Mr Neil (Gerry) Gerrard's decision to step down as Chair of the Finance and Audit Committee (FAC), Mr Luka Zivkovic has been appointed Chair, having previously served on the committee for more than four years. Mr Zivkovic is well acquainted with the Board's expectations and governance requirements. Mr Gerrard, together with the committee, the Chief Financial Officer, and Restaurant Manager are to be commended for their collective efforts in restoring the restaurant to profitability.

Being both Chair of the Trustees and the Nominations Committee, I am in the privileged position of interviewing respondents to our generic EOI, again, found in the toolbox on our website. As Directors move on due to change of career path or geographical

circumstances these vacant positions need filling. Furthermore, I take this opportunity to thank Murray Lampard AM, APM, JP for his excellent work as Warden of the State War Memorial through 2025 and congratulate CDRE Warwick Gately AM RAN (Ret'd) on being his successor. Congratulations to Mr Rob Wilton who has been selected as the new Chair WHS committee.

Mr Phil White and Mr Doug Simpson have overseen important amendments to the Rules and By-Laws during 2025, including provisions relating to dispute resolution, mediation, and disciplinary processes. These matters are addressed in detail in their respective reports. Notwithstanding these improvements, the past 12 months have seen an unacceptably high number of disciplinary matters. Strict adherence to the Code of Conduct remains essential, as repeated breaches unfairly reflect upon the organisation as a whole. Several of these matters were addressed and formally endorsed at the Extraordinary General Meeting held in December.

The year 2025 also marked the implementation of a new membership system, an initiative many years in development. While its introduction was not without

difficulty, the system represents a significant advancement. It delivers improved efficiencies and enhanced support for both membership officers and members, which remains a key organisational priority.

Prior to the Extraordinary General Meeting held in mid-December, I had determined to step down from the position of Chair. That decision was further reinforced by the approval of rule changes at the EGM. More specifically I now intend to step down as a Trustee at the 2026 State Congress, having served in this capacity for nine years – three of those as Chair. In doing so I extend my sincere appreciation to Doug Simpson, Phil White and John Rolfe for their commitment and professionalism in maintaining high standards of governance. Each chairs their respective committees: State Tribunal; Constitution and By-Laws; and Youth Development. I also acknowledge the State President and Vice President for consistently

considering my written and verbal contributions with due regard.

Mr John Rolfe will provide further detail regarding the Cadet community in his report. However, the Trustees have unanimously supported the renaming of the Cadet Community Trophy as The Bill Collidge Cadet Community Trophy. It is hoped that this award will be presented annually by Mr Collidge's wife, Leonie.

This period has been characterised by close collaboration and the strengthening of professional relationships across the organisation. The timing of my departure is appropriate, noting that the State President is expected to consider stepping down following the 2027 Annual General Meeting.

To all Board members, past and present, I extend my sincere thanks for your support, collegiality, and service over the years. Governance of RSL WA is a collective endeavour. While

individuals may change, effective and respectful communication among those remaining is essential. Internal communication processes remain sound; however, there is scope to enhance external engagement. Information is disseminated through *The Listening Post*, the Sub-Branch Signal, social media platforms, the RSL WA website, and direct correspondence to Sub-Branch Presidents and Secretaries. While these mechanisms should ensure broad coverage, engagement levels remain variable.

If you have read this report in full, I trust you will agree that RSL WA has made substantial progress over the past nine years, particularly during the last three. I thank all members for the invaluable work undertaken at Sub-Branch level. Ours is a diverse and complex organisation, and your continued commitment is essential to addressing the many challenges we face collectively.



NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

PHILIP ORCHARD AM, AFNI

For the benefit of those unfamiliar with the Nominations Committee, it operates as a key element of the organisation's corporate governance framework.

The Committee is responsible for evaluating and assessing the skills, experience and personal attributes required of candidates for appointment to the Board of Directors and its committees. In fulfilling this role, the Nominations Committee identifies and recommends suitably qualified candidates for Director and Board Committee positions.

The Nominations Committee plays a critical role in the governance of a charitable organisation, forming part of the broader system of rules, practices, and processes by which an organisation such as RSL WA is directed and controlled. Effective corporate governance is essential to balancing the interests of RSL WA's diverse stakeholders and ensuring the organisation operates with accountability, transparency and integrity.

As noted in my previous Annual Report, I remain of the view that the roles of Chair of the Trustees and Chair of the Nominations Committee should be held by the

same individual. While this matter remains under consideration, I advise that I will be stepping down from both positions at the 2026 Annual General Meeting.

The Nominations Committee has typically comprised a permanent Chair, together with one additional Trustee and one Director, with membership adjusted as required to align with the Board's skills matrix and to address specific vacancies as they arise.

One identified limitation of the Committee has been its capacity to comprehensively assess individual member performance against strategic objectives and key performance indicators (KPIs). In 2023, the Committee engaged Ms Suzanne Ardagh AM, a professional director and senior management executive with more than 30 years of extensive international experience, to undertake an independent review and provide a written report. In 2025, an internal survey was conducted; however, it did not achieve the same level of depth or rigour as the earlier external review. It is anticipated that Ms Ardagh will conduct a further independent assessment in early 2026.





NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

- **Philip Orchard AM** – *Chair, (Trustee until 27 June 2026)*
- **Doug Simpson JP** – *Deputy Chair, Trustee*
- **Phillip White AM RFD** – *Trustee*
- **John Rolfe** – *Trustee*

Plus, those listed immediately below:

The responsibilities of the Nominations Committee cover many areas. When recruiting new Directors, the interview panel will consist of the Chair plus one Trustee and one Director. For committee members recruitment the Chair of the Nominations Committee, one trustee and the Chair of the committee seeking recruitment will form the panel.

WA VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WAVAC)

- **Matt Moran** – *Chair, Director*
- **John Rolfe** – *Deputy Chair, Trustee*
- **Kelly Bradley**
- **Simon Bell**
- **Kim Kuchel** – *Padre*
- **Berneigh Elderfield** – *Director*
- **Matt Munro**
- **Jarrad Irvine**

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

- **Phillip White AM RFD** – *Chair, Trustee*
- **David Thomas** – *Director*
- **Philip Orchard AM** – *Trustee (until 27 June 2026)*
- **John Rolfe** – *Trustee*
- **Jane Inglis**
- **Duncan Anderson** – *State President*

ATTENDING:

- **Stephen Barton** – *CEO*

FINANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FAC)

- **Luka Zivkovic** – *Chair*
- **Neil Gerrard**
- **Miquela Riley** – *State Vice President*
- **Tim Curtis**
- **Phil Strapp**
- **Glen Holder**
- **(Vacant)**

ATTENDING:

- **Sean Hensbury** – *CFO*
- **Stephen Barton** – *CEO*
- **Daniel Kennedy-Stiff** – *COO*

COMMEMORATION

- **David Thomas** – *Chair, Director*
- **Geoff Simpson** – *Deputy Warden*
- **Ian Holthouse OAM**
- **Michael Page**
- **Bill Munro OAM**

ATTENDING:

- **Stephen Barton** – *CEO*



AGM AND MOTIONS

- **Phillip White AM RFD** – *Chair, Trustee*
- **Doug Simpson JP** – *Trustee*
- **John Rolfe** – *Trustee*
- **Philip Orchard AM** – *Trustee*
(until 27 June 2026)
- **Duncan Anderson** – *State President*
- **Miquela Riley** – *State Vice President*

ATTENDING:

- **Stephen Barton** – *CEO*

STATE TRIBUNAL

- **(Random)** – *Chair*
- **Doug Simpson JP** – *Registrar, Trustee*
- **Kim Doherty RFD**
- **John Rolfe** – *Trustee*
- **Mike Page RFD**
- **CDRE Warwick Gately AM RAN (Ret'd)**
- **Stephen Aspinall**
- **Paul D Evans**
- **Phillip White AM RFD** (on acceptance at 2026 AGM) – *Trustee*

HONOURS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

- **Philip Orchard AM** – *Chair, Trustee* (until 27 June 2026)
- **Deputy Chair Doug Simpson JP** – *Deputy Chair, Trustee*
- **John Rolfe** – *Trustee*
- **Phillip White AM RFD** – *Trustee*

ATTENDING:

- **Sean Hensbury** – *CFO*
(or *Financial Services Officer*)*
- **Stephen Barton** – *CEO* (or *COO*)*
- **Executive Assistant**
- **Marketing Representative***

*Note: * only one rep needs to attend. Furthermore, the Chair plus one Trustee will lead the panel.*

WORKPLACE HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

- **Rob Wilton** – *Chair*

CADET AWARDS COMMITTEE

- **John Rolfe** – *Chair, Trustee*
- **Lieutenant (ANC) Maggie Johnston** – *Australian Navy Cadets*
- **Major (AAC) Geoff Tooth** – *Australian Army Cadets*
- **Geoff Harvey** – *CadetsWA Police Rangers*
- **Ms Alli Gould** – *CadetsWA Surf Life Saving*
- **Lincoln George** – *CadetsWA Coordinator*
Department of Communities

Representatives on external committees:

NATIONAL BOARD

- **Duncan Anderson** – *State President*

NATIONAL VETERANS ADVOCACY COMMITTEE (NVAC)

- **Matt Moran** – *Director*

HONOURS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

PHILIP ORCHARD AM, AFNI

At the 2026 Congress I will be stepping down as Chair to the Honours and Awards Committee after some seven years as secretary and two years as Chair.

Whilst there are a number of achievements I could mention, I consider the revitalisation of the Sub-Branch Competition the most important and the second in importance is the higher standard of nominations for authors proposing their members for awards.

For many years we have worked two scoring patterns for metro and regional. The recent changes supported by the Board now have all Sub-Branches competing for five trophies rather than the previous two groups competing for eight cups/shields. Gone are the Newdegate Cup, Mary Cornell Cup, the Geraldton Shield and the Denis Connolly Shield.

RSL Sub-Branches are important pillars in WA communities that provide social connection, commemorative events, and support that enable WA veterans and their families to thrive. RSL WA is committed to supporting our Sub-Branches to operate and create a place that veterans can feel welcome and engage



with the local community, and in the awards scenario show a competitive spirit against fellow Sub-Branches. This new method of scoring will be used from 1 January 2026 through 31 December 2026 and each year following. The current outgoing system will cease 31 December 2025 with the deadline for all input being 25 February 2026.

Having mentioned the trophies being retired they will still be presented to the 2025 winners, however, the decision as to whether they remain on display or indeed find a new home at the Sub-Branch who has won that trophy the most has yet to be decided.

Individual nominations for various awards – I am pleased to see the number of nominations that have used the example of good narrative from the toolbox. A nomination is only as strong as the author writes it. For example, Mr Flintstone's narrative must say more than 'Fred runs an excellent Saturday sausage sizzle'. This will not get a recommendation to be forwarded for an Australia Day medallion, for example.

2025 AWARDS

AUSTRALIA DAY MEDALLIONS

- Mr Robert Sheppard
- Ms Anne Stedman
- Mr John Rolfe

STATE PRESIDENTS' COMMENDATION

- Dr Graeme Hammond
- Mr Peter King
- Alan West OAM

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- **Brian Anderson**
Kwinana RSL Sub-Branch
- **Geoffrey Box**
Donnybrook RSL Sub-Branch
- **Frank Cox OAM**
*Victoria Park South Perth
and Districts RSL Sub-Branch*
- **Jane Inglis**
Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch
- **David King**
North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
- **Scott Rogers**
Bellevue RSL Sub-Branch

SUB-BRANCH TROPHIES

NEWDEGATE CUP

- **Winner**, North Beach RSL Sub-Branch
- **Runner up**, Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch

BRIGADIER ARNOLD POTTS CUP

- **Winner**, Bedford Morley RSL Sub-Branch

COLONEL COLLETT CUP

- **Winner**, Northam RSL Sub-Branch

THE GERALDTON SUB-BRANCH SHIELD

- **No winner**

MARY CORNELL TROPHY

- **Winner**, Quinns Rock RSL Sub-Branch
- **Runner up**, Northam RSL Sub-Branch

ANNE LEACH TROPHY

- **Winner**, Applecross RSL Sub-Branch

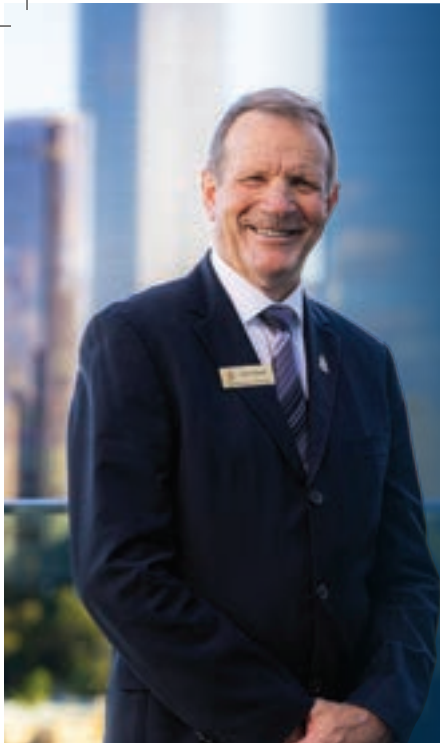
LTCOL KEN BLADEN AM TROPHY

- **Winner**, Joondalup City RSL Sub-Branch
- **Runner up**, Port Kennedy RSL Sub-Branch

DENIS CONNELLY TROPHY

- **Winner**, Applecross RSL Sub-Branch





CADET AWARDS COMMITTEE

JOHN ROLFE

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP AND MEMBERSHIP

The year 2025 marked a change in leadership for the RSL WA Cadet Awards Committee.

Squadron Leader (AAFC) Roger Buddrige stood down from his role as Chair of the Cadet Awards Committee. I, John Rolfe (Trustee), subsequently assumed the role of Chair. The committee formally acknowledges and thanks Squadron Leader Buddrige for his commitment and service during his tenure.

The committee also welcomed Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Michael Thomas, Squadron Executive Instructor, 715 (City of Belmont) Squadron. Due to formal processes, the transition period took longer than anticipated.

VALE – BILL COLLIDGE

It is with deep regret that I note the passing of Mr Bill Collidge, a stalwart of the cadet movement in Western Australia. In recognition of his contribution, the committee resolved to rename the former Trustees Cadet Award as the 'Bill Collidge Spirit of ANZAC Cadet Community Award', subject to Board endorsement.

SPONSORSHIP

The committee understands that the \$8,000 sponsorship from Hollywood Hospital remains ongoing. A meeting with CEO Mr Andrew Tome is planned for early 2026 to discuss continued support.

CADET OF THE YEAR AWARDS

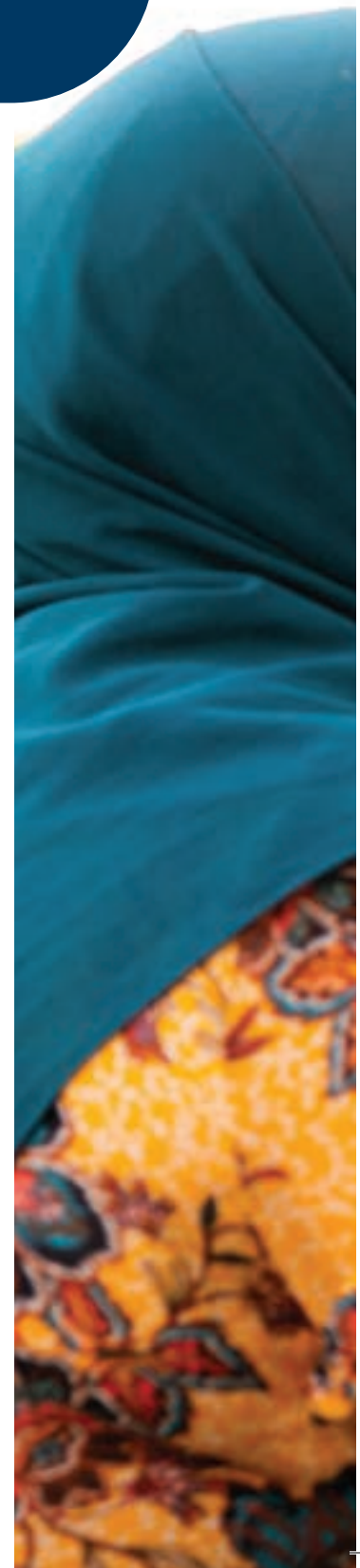
The Spirit of ANZAC Cadet of the Year Award application process has been streamlined. Assessments are to be conducted at 509 ACU Lines, Cannington, on 14 February 2026, from 0800 to 1530 hours.

FUTURE DIRECTION

RSL WA is encouraged to continue taking a leadership role in promoting Cadets in Western Australia, as they represent the future of Defence and the RSL.

FIELD ENGAGEMENT

Attendance at the Annual Field Exercise at the Bindoon Training Facility highlighted the professionalism and capability of WA Cadets and reaffirmed confidence in their leadership and instruction.





RSL WA CADET AWARDS COMMITTEE 2025

John Rolfe – Chair (Trustee)

P 0439 934 036

E jrsenior49@gmail.com

Major (AAC) Geoff Tooth

Commanding Officer, 51 BN WA AAC BDE

P 0400 724 516

E geoff.tooth4@bigpond.com

Lieutenant (ANC) Maggie Johnston

Commanding Officer, Navy Cadets

P 0439 169 939

E maggie.johnston@navycadets.gov.au

Mr Geoff Harvey

Police Rangers, Ellenbrook Cadets WA

P 0493 549 929

E geoff.harvey@outlook.com

Flight Sergeant (AAFC) Michael Thomas

715 City of Belmont Squadron

P 0420 585 718

E michael.thomas5@airforcecadets.gov.au

Mr Lincoln George

Cadets WA – Department of Communities

P 0432 840 083

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Ms Alli Gould

Coordinator, Surf Life Saving / Cadets WA

E agould@ccgs.wa.edu.au



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA WA BRANCH INCORPORATED

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

