



HIGHGATE



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Website: <http://Highgatersl.org.au>

NEWS

The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) SubBranch of the Returned & Services League of Australia

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON AND AGM

Monday 19 March 2012

Venue: Gallipoli Room
Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER: *More of a "Featured Guest Spots" and 'INFO-TAINMENT" for the month of March. See Page 3 for more details.*

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE:

- 1. To attend a monthly luncheon you need to book your name on the BOOK-IN SHEET by the Friday before the Monday lunch (Friday 16th March, for the next one). You can do this by using the link previously emailed to you. FOR THOSE WITHOUT email please call Margot Harness on 9293 1076 (or, just for March/April: Lynn Durant on 9384 7709) or any of the committee listed at left.**
- 2. HOWEVER - NO Monthly Luncheon in APRIL.. Instead will be - 22 April: Luncheon at RFBYC; and on ANZAC Day - the "GUNFIRE BREAKFAST"**
- 3. If you need the link again send an email to our Treasurer (see email on front cover) and request it. Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to place yourself on a PERMANENT basis.**

president's Report

This will be a necessarily short report as I will be going away overseas for two weeks and therefore have limited time at my disposal. So many of our committee members have been away over summer I thought I might try it too?

Ray Galliot has now taken over as Secretary from Adrian Young for the rest of the year and has already been very active. I would like to thank Adrian for his dedicated work leading up to the changeover and for his personal support to me over a period in RSL history I can only describe as disturbing.

Continued on Page 2

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 2 April 2012 NO LUNCHEON - ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast and RFBYC Mixed Social Lunch on 22 April



My major focus this year is to encourage new members to join – particularly younger servicemen and ex-servicemen. It would also be encouraging to see a few ladies join as well to create a nice balance. This is the reason we are targeting our mixed functions on weekends to allow those who may still be working to enjoy our activities. RFBYC on 22 April will be a great venue for the son or daughter or friend to be able to mix with members in a relaxing environment. So start your planning now.

Unfortunately it is close to ANZAC Day but this is the only time we could arrange as the modifications on the club ran over time.

We are always looking for ideas and input to help build our membership so don't be afraid to express them or step forward to volunteer your services.

Please also consider a stint as welfare officer with the Sub Branch. We can arrange training and support if you are new to the role.

Must away. The blue skies and palm trees beckon.

Yours in friendship.

Leon.

NOTICE: EDITOR'S TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE

My husband and I (hmmnnnn now where have I heard that 'intro' before??) are heading off in mid March for a cruise to Cape Town - and we will be staying on in Africa for until the end of April.

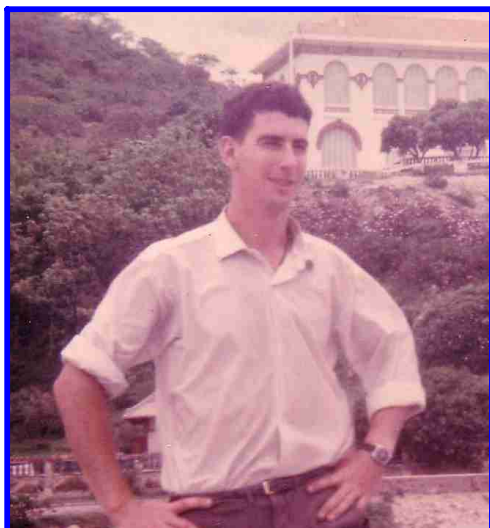
In my absence, Lynn Durant has agreed to produce the Newsletter for April for me; **and** will handle any "late bookings" for the March Luncheon. Her phone number is 9384 7709.

For anyone who is unable to book "on-line" for the RFBYC Luncheon (22 April) and/or the Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day (which will be held in the Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House this year) - PLEASE RING LYNN (9384 7709) OR RICHARD ADAMS (our Treasurer):

I am most grateful to both of these helpful colleagues for lending such a hand at this time; and may I wish you all a marvellous Luncheon at the Yacht Club, with a terrific Gunfire Breakfast to follow.

Margot Harness Editor

"The Way We Were" Gallery our Golden Oldies



"Who CAN it be?"
I hear you cry.

'Tis none other than our very capable, super-efficient Treasurer: Richard Adams. At Left, as a young soldier on R&C in Vung Tau - 1967. (R) Back there again 42 years later. (*French villa at rear (L) still there today).



It's good to feature such an unsung, hard-working member of our Committee, who quietly carries out a range of tasks on our behalf in the background. "Thanks" on behalf of us all- you old Rock-'n'-roller!

NEED A LIFT TO ANZAC HOUSE TO ATTEND MONTHLY HIGHGATE LUNCHEONS?

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

Wreath Laying Services currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park

Saturday 31st March 2012 : 0915 for 0945 hrs- RAAF Association

The wreath-laying ceremony for the Consulate of Greece has to be Cancelled

Wednesday 25th April 2012 : 0600 for 0630 hrs- Jewish Community Council of WA

GUEST APPEARANCES AT THE 19TH MARCH LUNCHEON

1. First spot: DFRDB recipients please note!

A number of our members served 20 years or more in the "Regular" Defence Forces - some are war veterans as well. Consequently, these former personnel paid into the DFRDB superannuation scheme and have been alarmed and concerned at the erosion of their 'super' due to an unfair way payments are indexed by the government. The Defence Forces Welfare Association (DFWA) has been very proactive in advocating to all contributors as well as the government, pressing for a more equitable system. DFWA has spearheaded a number of initiatives to address this issue.

Richard Usher - President of the DFWA in WA, will up-date us on the current situation. This presentation will take approx 10 minutes - and we encourage as many DFRDB recipients as possible to come along.

2. Second spot: Defence Health Benefits Society.

Private Health Funds are in the spotlight at the moment. Founded in 1953 and formerly known as the "Army Health Benefits Society", this particular Health Fund is very competitive and has broadened eligibility to all three 'arms' of the ADF as well as former personnel. A short presentation will be given.

3. Third spot: Australian Defence Credit Union:

This Credit Union has steadily grown since its inception in 1979 - offering favourable interest rates and loans to members of the three Services. This brief presentation will outline what is available and what this Credit Union may have to offer our members.

A "Pun Can be Fun" Corner

(Not quite a pun - but courtesy of those artful 'gems': "The Two Ronnies"):

"... Ladies and Gentlemen - here is a Newsflash:

A report has come in from NASA Control, that astronauts today landed safely on Mars. On alighting from the spacecraft, they were greeted by an enthusiastic local inhabitant.

It looked like a giant geranium. It had one large eye and a huge flipper in place of feet. However, on expressing its breathless welcome, it blinked its eye, flipped its flipper, burst into bloom and erupted into flames.

Alas, there was no time to photograph the flippin', blinkin', blooming, flaming thing PHooff- and it was gone".

ANZAC DAY

GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

This event is usually held at the WA Club, but due to rising costs, this year's will be in the Gallipoli Room at ANZAC House.

Organiser, Peter Farrell, has managed to keep cost down to \$35 a head - same as last year.

Final details (re Guest Speaker) are yet to be confirmed, but the customary full, cooked breakfast (this time with a choice of scrambled or poached eggs) will be served.

FURTHER DETAILS IN APRIL ISSUE



LAST POST

ALL Past Members of Highgate, who have passed on

Lest We Forget



MARK YOUR CALENDARS! ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB MIXED LUNCHEON

As President Leon has mentioned in his Report- this event will go ahead on Sunday 22nd April. No details of the Menu are available at this stage, but Leon has negotiated a cost of \$35 a head (plus drinks). Highgate will have the benefit of that beautiful, Swan-side venue - gleaming in its freshly renovated glory! Time: 11.30 for Noon. DO bring your spouse/partner along and try to encourage other members and prospective new members to join in the merriment. Leon's initiative in organising these mixed events is to try to open up the social life of the Sub-Branch to reach a wider spectrum of members. See Front Page for Booking details.

DO YOU KNOW ANYONE WHO IS "DOING-IT-TOUGH" FINANCIALLY???

You may have noted in our last issue our report that over \$22,000 was collected by our Highgate team on Poppy Day. Not everyone might be aware that

- HALF of those collected monies were retained by the Sub-Branch for "amelioration" and welfare purposes;
- the other HALF was remitted to the WA RSL State Branch, to be paid into the "WA Aged Sailors, Soldiers' and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund" (where it is also utilised for "amelioration and welfare purposes" for the broader veteran and ex-ADF community).

Amelioration basically translates to "assistance in times of financial hardship". Many couples, or people living alone- particularly pensioners or part-pensioners, have times when everything goes wrong at once. If you or a veteran/ex-serviceperson you know are suffering financially be aware of the following:

- **What sort of help comes under "amelioration?"**
You've just paid your council rates and your bank account has been depleted then, in the same week, your house insurance is due, the head goes on your car, the fridge conks out, and you cannot afford to pay an overdue electricity account. This is when RSL financial assistance can be a Godsend.
- **Who can seek assistance?**
As outlined above, an applicant needs to be a veteran, ex-serviceperson (who has had at least three months in the ADF), the spouse or widow/widower of a veteran or ex-serviceperson—and be genuinely experiencing financial hardship. A person doesn't have to be a member of the RSL.
- **What is the procedure for someone to seek financial assistance?**
Have a private word with the Sub-Branch Welfare Officer or Treasurer. Show him/her your unpaid bills, quote(s) for car repairs or replacement item(s). Cash is not given but sometimes the timely payment of a couple of utility bills can "free up" money for other necessities.
- **Are inquiries treated as 'Confidential'?**
Yes. Absolutely.
- **If I needed assistance, but didn't want to approach the Sub-Branch—is there any alternative?**
Yes. An alternative path is to speak to Rosalind Howat, the RSL Welfare Officer at State HQ (her office is in Irwin Street, opposite the back entrance to ANZAC House). Rosalind has Application forms to the WA Aged SS&A Relief Trust Fund you can ring her on 9287 3707 and she will post one out to you. She would also be willing to see you to talk things over, if you would prefer that.
(The forms are also available online (www.rslwahq.org.au—click on 'PAWS', follow prompts— or by e-mailing Ros: welfare@rslwahq.org.au NOTE: She can help directly, without ANY reference back to the Sub-Branch (or any one else)).

The continuing support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance to RSL Highgate Sub-Branch is warmly and greatly appreciated.

