



HIGHGATE



NEWS

Issue 521
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Website: <http://Highgater-sl.org.au>

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

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON AND AGM

Monday 17 SEPTEMBER 2012

Venue: Gallipoli Room
Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

AGM and Luncheon: Highgate has a long tradition of conducting Luncheons each month as a social priority to minimise the formal running of "meetings" to discuss the running of the SubBranch and "business" - preferring to leave that to the incumbent Committee. The emphasis, as you know, is on social 'mateship' and good fellowship. Thus the AGM has special importance for us, and as President Leon urges: 'Please come along?' (See Page 5 for list of Committee Nominees to date).

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE: To attend a monthly luncheon you need to book your name on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** by the **Friday before the Monday lunch (Friday 14th September)** 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 any of the committee listed at left). 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

September will be an important month.

We have our Annual General Meeting scheduled during the next monthly luncheon on September 17, 2012. Please attend to have your say, or at the very least vote for your committee for next year.

Unfortunately some committee members will not be able to attend. However, we are bound by the Constitution to hold this meeting within three months from the end of the financial year. If you have held a secret desire to become a committee member, then you are quite welcome to nominate for any position - we would welcome your participation.

The other important election that is coming up will be for the RSLWA State Executive positions. The Supreme Court has nullified the election held last November and a new election is to be held, run by an

(Continued on page 2)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 17 September 2012 (Committee: 10am same day)



(Continued from page 1)

independent body. The court's delegation has been instigated and the State Electoral Commission has been approached by the RSLWA to conduct this election in accordance with the Constitution. At least we can count on an honest and fair election.

It will now be up to all Sub Branch delegates to ensure their vote is cast for the preferred candidates and that the vote fully reflects their members' wishes. At the moment the Constitution requires amendment before the ballot can go out to all members, as is usual for elections held in other similar organizations. This issue is likely to be a matter for the new State Congress to address. Also high on the agenda for Congress is review of a proposed corporate plan. This plan needs a complete revamp to turn it into a productive and progressive working document. Highgate will have four delegates attending Congress.

Moving on to a lighter topic, our Annual Memorial Lunch booking form and details for November 4 will be put onto the website so members can make their bookings early this year. This is a very popular event on our calendar. It will fill quickly, however we have plenty of space to accommodate everyone for this very pleasant day out. Martyn Thompson has again offered to co-ordinate seating, so get together to make up your group and have it ready for him. Special guests will be invited.

Finally don't forget donations for our raffles. If we can build up our stock, subsidies can continue without impacting on our operational costs. Thank you in anticipation.

Yours in friendship,
Leon.



REMINDER - POPPY DAY IS COMING UP - Friday 9th Nov

Once again, Martyn Thompson is girding his loins to spearhead this year's Poppy Day collection. Martyn and his wife, Jill, coordinate the collection point at the Esplanade train and bus stations.

He is seeking a Knight in Shining Armour to succeed Jim Eayrs, who can no longer supervise the second team at the Wellington Street railway and bus stations. Highgate usually acquits itself well on this special day - so if you can spare an hour (or two, or even three) Martyn would be grateful to hear from you: Ph: 9383 2681 or e-mail: martyn.thompson@highgate-rsl.org.au Please indicate availability, preferred location and preferred hours to rattle a tin. For 80 year olds or over - one hour is plenty.

The early "Rush Hours" yield the best results!

NEW ADDITION TO THE "HAG" TEAM

Members might recall that for the past three months, the Honour Avenue Group (the HAG) has been asking for a willing volunteer to "step-up-to-the-crease" to understudy long-term, loyal Treasurer: Alf Till.

So, imagine how pleased they were to welcome the good-natured soul who did just that! His name is Chris Chapple. Chris is a former National Serviceman and Vietnam Veteran who served with the Artillery as an observer. He later forged a long and notable career as a Bank Manager for the ANZ Bank.

If the other HAG lads had been Navy - you'd have been "piped aboard" when you attended for your first session last Tuesday Chris. A hearty "Welcome Aboard" nonetheless, and Norm and his Merry Men trust you will enjoy your time with them on Tuesdays.

And "Thank You Chris" for heeding the call!

A "Pun can be Fun" Corner

A couple went to a pet shop and, after endless arguments about parrots, pussy-cats and pooches, ended up buying a lion (as you do). The shop owner had told them that unfortunately the lion had an odd allergy to wet weather and that raindrops would actually hurt it. One day the lion was outside when the couple heard plaintive cries from the garden. "What's that noise?" asked the man. "It's the lion", his wife replied, "it's roaring with pain."

CALLING ALL YOU COMPUTER BUFFS:

How many of you have checked out the Highgate RSL web site?? If you haven't - why not take a peek? John Cleary has done a marvellous job putting it together. Check out your own photo and brief CV on the "Hall of Honour": http://highgate-rsl.org.au/hall_honour3.php

There is also a direct LINK to the current Newsletter at any time (as well as accessing previous copies). Go to the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch web-site. The Link is:

<http://highgate-rsl.org.au/documents/HighgateRSLJuly12.pdf>

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

Sunday 9th September - 1130 for 1200 hrs start. Maltese Association. ANF and Maltese Flag.

SUB-BRANCH "SNIPPETS"

Bad luck has struck one of our esteemed members: Dr Alex Kerr AM. Not long after returning from his attendance at the Bomber Command Memorial Dedication in London in July, Alex accidentally fell on stairs and tumbled two flights, breaking his neck.

This is a serious injury for anyone, let alone a man of 91 tender years. Fortunately, Alex has been in touch, and I gather has movement in all his limbs, but he has quite a long recuperation ahead of him still.

He wanted his friends in the SubBranch to be aware of his accident, and to know that he will be back up and around again as soon as he is able. I gather he would welcome a cheery visit or phone call from any mate who can do so.

We all join in wishing you a full and speedy recovery Alex!

A lovely picture of Alex Kerr PhD AM taken several years ago with the late, ever-ladylike ex-WW2 nurse: Joan Dowson MBE OAM (one of the first women to join Highgate Sub-Branch, and a long-serving member of the RSL WA State Branch Executive).



"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

From Cadet Midshipman to Commodore, it's pretty clear that salt water has flowed through the veins of this month's veteran: Bunbury-born **Bob TROTTER OAM**, now retired from his RAN adventures. The picture (L) is of a youthful "Middie" in 1966- no facial hair at that time, please note!- from where he proceeded to the UK for training, achieving a BSc (Eng) in 1970. After Vietnam Logistics service 1970/1, Bob underwent training in the Submarine service, where he remained for the next 18 years.

Following various procurement and HQ jobs, Bob was appointed CO Fleet Base West from 1995 to 1997, and then Commodore Fleet Bases 7ntil 1998.

In more recent years, Bob was heavily involved in the search for the longmissing HMAS Sydney - being a key member of the "Finding Sydney Foundation". As we all know now, this final search successfully found the wrecked vessel to the joy of the whole nation.

Bob's Dad, Frank, served with 2/16th Bn during WW2 (Middle East and Kokoda) Now retired, Bob and wife, Norelle, enjoy movies, ballet, eating out and warm holidays. He remains active in several ESOs and still manages to squeeze in a daily bicycle ride and weekend sailing - and is, apparently, a half-way decent cook!



LAST POST

We remember all our Members who have died with honour, respect and affection

Lest We Forget



SOLDIERS' DEATHS IN AFGHANISTAN - May they Rest in Peace

As we "go to press", we salute and mourn the five young Australian Diggers who lost their lives in Afghanistan on Thursday, 30th August. These are tragic losses, and our hearts go out to their families and loved ones.

They were: Lance-Cpl Mervyn McDonald (Carnarvon, WA); Pte Nathaneal Galagher (Wee Waa, NSW); Spr James Martin (Perth, WA); L/Cpl Stjepan ("Rick") Milosevic (Penrith, NSW) and Pte Robert Poate (Canberra, ACT). All had been based at Enogerra Barracks in Brisbane prior to deployment.

LEST WE FORGET

REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON "HEAR YE!" "HEAR YE!"

Our very popular annual Sub-Branch "Remembrance Day Luncheon" will be held this year on Sunday, 4th November. The format will again start by gathering at the Flame of Remembrance at the State War Memorial, and then adjourning to nearby Fraser's Restaurant. At \$45 a head, the cost is a little higher than last year - but still excellent value for a quality three-course meal including wine.

As ever, the Sub-Branch is indebted to Hollywood Private Hospital, who generously subsidise this event each year, thus keeping down the cost for Members. We are most grateful for this generosity.

Although we will advertise again in the October issue, if you wish to be an early bird and book in early, to ensure places for you and your spouse/partner, see the slip below.

Dress for this function is Lounge Suit (or smart jacket) with tie - Medals to be worn. Smart attire for ladies.

HIGHGATE'S 2012 REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

To be held at King's Park on Sunday, 4th November, 2012.

**ASSEMBLE AT FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE AT 10.50AM, followed by LUNCHEON
at FRASER'S RESTAURANT**

Cost to Members (and spouses/partners) \$45.00 a head (Cost for Guests is higher)

Paying by Mail: Attach your cheque to this portion

Paying by EFT: CBA 066001 : 00925571 (include your name)

Payment confirmation/bookings: Internet Link has been sent to everyone on the Newsletter-mail distribution list; OR access our web-site: <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> and follow the prompts (Look for the picture of Fraser's plus info re Sunday 4th November). OR phone Margot Harness (9293 1076)

Cheques to: Treasurer RSL (WA) Highgate Sub-Branch
PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832

Name

Name of Spouse/partner

Guest(s)



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 2012

The President and Committee hope that we will have a good rollup of Members at the September Luncheon and AGM at ANZAC House on Monday, 17th September. To echo our President Leon in his Report: we welcome additional nominations for various positions, and are grateful to two members who've been prepared to put their hands up.

The nominations already received are as follows:

President: Leon Griffiths	Membership Officer: Adrian Young PhD
Senior VP: Peter Farrell *	Welfare Officer: Margot Harness
Junior VP: Steve Chamarette	Committee Member: Bob Arnold
Secretary: Ray Galliot	
Treasurer: Richard Adams *	(* denotes absent overseas)

Nominations "from-the-floor" will be welcomed

"NURS-IE COME OVER HERE AND HOLD MY HAND"

Caring for the wounded and sick in times of war is a very long tradition- dating from the time of the first military nurse: Florence Nightingale. Australian nurses have been going to war for over 100 years- never far from the front line, and often far from home. They care for the wounded on land and sea, and in the air.

The Australian War Memorial in Canberra is currently featuring a special Exhibition entitled: "Nurses: from Zululand to Afghanistan" to honour and recognise the hundreds of women who committed to put their military patients first, come what may.

The very first "war nurse" born in Australia was Mary Jane Armfield (nee Briscoe), who had married an Englishman and moved to England. She was one of seven women selected at short notice to "promote the convalescence of the sick and wounded in South Africa" during the Zulu War. Armfield received the Royal Red Cross in 1884 for "special devotion and competency displayed in nursing duties with Her Majesty's troops". This award was bequeathed to the AWM, and is part of the current display.



Sister Sybil Fletcher (Middle East, 1940)

'Australia' still consisted of a group of colonies preFederation, when the Boer War broke out and the "New South Wales Army Nursing Service Reserve" was formed in 1899. All 24 of the women who joined had over seven years' nursing experience. In January 1900, 14 of these nurses sailed to South Africa - some paid their own way. Over the next three years, 60 Australian nurses served, dispersed throughout the provinces. They had expected to nurse men wounded in battle, but much of their time was taken up caring for the sick, particularly typhoid patients: water was contaminated, disease rampant, and conditions in the hospitals unsanitary. Most of these women were well-educated, but whilst sustained by a sense of duty and loyalty to the Empire, often had to endure British military prejudice in the field.

After her return to Sydney in 1902, one of these Boer War veteran nurses: Nellie Gould, continued her commitment to the education of nurses and to the work of the army nursing service. When WWI broke out in 1914, Gould, aged 54, enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force - serving as a matron - first in Egypt, then in France and England. Gould was awarded the Royal Red Cross in 1916 for her distinguished service.

At Right: Off Gallipoli, nurse and orderlies on hospital ship: "Karoola"





Right from the ANZAC Day landings on 25 April 1915, nurses cared for hundreds of casualties in the hospital and transport ships anchored off-shore. The wounded came in an endless stream, night and day, some barely able to walk, others on stretchers, often shivering and unconscious through loss of blood. Medical supplies were scarce and there was a desperate lack of fresh water. Despite the constant threat of Turkish shelling and torpedoes, the exhausted nurses cleaned, bandaged, warmed and comforted their patients. Sometimes there were the complications of gangrene and disease. Over the next nine months, soldiers were ferried to the nearby Greek islands of Imbros and Lemnos or transferred to Malta, Egypt or Britain. Seasickness (for nurses and patients alike) was an ongoing problem- decks were crowded and poorly ventilated.

With the advent of the Second World War, nurses again stepped forward to “do their bit”. Eventually, 5,000 served in all theatres alongside their Australian comrades. Initially the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) was the only women’s service. The RAAF Nursing Service (RAAFNS) was formed in 1940, and the RAN Nursing Service (RANNS) in 1942; but the AANS remained the largest by far, and many of the nurses served in Egypt, Palestine and Greece. Some, evacuated to Crete, set to work in a British tent hospital, as wounded troops flooded in. Many later served in New Guinea. Overall, 78 died - most as a result of enemy action or as POWs.



Nurses of the 2/5th AGH on parade in Palestine, awaiting inspection by Matron (later Lieutenant Colonel) Kathleen Best.



The “Cold War” era: In the 30 years following WW2, Australian troops were committed to campaigns in Korea, Malaya, Indonesia and Vietnam. As in earlier wars, nurses had to adapt rapidly to new environments and heavy workloads. From 1946 to 1956, 140 were posted to Japan as part of BCOF, and later to Korea. Army nursing sisters were first sent to the 1st Australian General Hospital SVN in 1967. Advances in medical technology and methods of patient care saved many lives. In tandem with the speed of helicopter evacuation of the wounded to 1AGH radically slashed battle casualty mortality rates compared to earlier conflicts, but “traumatic amputations” from mines, gunshot and severe shrapnel wounds remained a serious hazard for all.

The AANS was awarded the title “Royal” in 1948 and became an army Corps: the RAANC. A peacetime RAAFNS was reinstated in 1948 - with its members largely involved in aero-medical evacuations; and then integrated into the RAAF Medical Branch in 1977.

The theme of the AWM Exhibition is very succinct: “Where there are men fighting, there are always nurses” (Sister Florence Syer, WW2)

Left: RAAFNS Nursing sisters caring for troops wounded in Vietnam as they are aero-Medicav’d by Hercules back to Butterworth Air Base and Australia.

The continuing support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance to RSL Highgate Sub-

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL



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