



HIGHGATE



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Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

NEWS

The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON AND AGM

Monday 19 November 2012

Venue: Gallipoli Room
Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER: Kevin PARKER AC RFD QC. Kevin is a former Judge appointed by the UN to the International War Crimes Court in The Hague - more widely referred to as the **International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia** - a body established to try those accused of serious crimes, including genocide, committed during the wars in the former Yugoslavia. It promises to be a very interesting address.

For the next Luncheon (19th November) PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by Friday 16 November), 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

State Congress last Saturday certainly had some enlightening speeches by our politicians and Department heads (with the accompanying promises), but was devoid of anything constructive being discussed during the business session. One and a half hours after lunch business was finished. It was arranged to leave some space in the newsletter so we could report back to members on the outcomes, but nothing of importance eventuated. It is of concern that many delegates travel for long distances with so little being achieved.

We are only days away from our eagerly anticipated Memorial Luncheon. Apart from our important guests this year, we are honoured to have the SASR widows and their children participate in the service and then attend as guests for the luncheon afterward. They are really looking forward to the day and I trust we all recognize the enormous impact of the loss of their husband and father has had on their lives and make them feel most

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 19 November 2012 (Committee: 10am same day)



welcome. The outgoing State Warden Dr Ruth Shean has done a wonderful job in her role and has been notably very supportive of Highgate during the year in our other events.

The function is also our opportunity to acknowledge the Highgate Sub wardens and the Honour Avenues group who unselfishly give their time during the year and to thank them for a job well done.

At our lunch on November 19 we will have a table of visiting members from the Quinns Rock Sub Branch who are going to make a day of it and come down to socialise. As well during State Congress, we were able to discuss the finer points of a visit to Bunbury RSL located in the centre of town for lunch on a return train trip. All we need now is a date for this to happen. This has the promise for a great day out!

Lastly, but not least, David Grace has volunteered to MC the Christmas function and is warming up his vocal chords. We will witness talent unfold.

As you can see we have a lot to look forward to.

Yours in friendship.
Leon.

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A "Pun can be Fun" Corner

A sceptical anthropologist was cataloguing South American folk remedies with the assistance of a tribal Brujo who indicated that the leaves of a particular fern were a sure cure for any case of constipation. When the anthropologist expressed his doubts, the Brujo looked him in the eye and said, "Let me tell you, with fronds like these, you don't need enemas."

SUB-BRANCH SNIPPETS

There would be those unaware that our new Membership Officer: Northern Irish-born: Adrian Young, is now entitled to be referred to as "Dr Young" - as he was recently awarded a PhD in his professional field of Psychology (Educational). "Hearty Congratulations" from us all, Adrian!! Well done!

Four Delegates represented the Highgate Sub-Branch at the 2012 WA RSL State Congress held on Saturday, 27th October. These were: President: Leon Griffiths, SVP: Peter Farrell; Treasurer: Richard Adams; and Margot Harness. (Also attending were long-time Senior Members: (our highly respected "Elder Statesmen": Bob Mercer (former Trustee) and Don Blair, who is still a Trustee at the State level).

One recurrent theme of the various speakers, was the necessity to try to attract some of the younger veterans of more recent conflicts - some of whom have served four, six or even more, dangerous "tours of duty" in Iraq, Afghanistan etc. In the meantime, the RSL needs to be proactive in assisting some of these younger, currently serving servicemen, and finding ways to support their families where it can.

One action our Sub-Branch has taken, is to invite the widows and children of SASR men who have paid the supreme sacrifice to the Flame of Remembrance ceremony and our Remembrance Luncheon on 4th November. It will be a special tribute to their late husbands/Dads. This was President Leon's initiative. We know that members will extend the hand of friendship and goodwill towards these women and their children. Several widows have remarried, and their new husbands are absent on active service.

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, 4 November 2012 : 1030 for 1100 hrs - Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Sunday, 11 November 2012 : 1000 for 1100 hrs - Remembrance Day Memorial Ceremony - (preparatory routines)
Wednesday, 14 November 2012: 0800 for 0830 hrs - Minister for Defence (subject to confirmation)
Wednesday, 21 November 2012: 1130 for 1200 hrs - Perth Legacy

REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON - Sunday 4th November 2012

The “big day” is very close now. All attending are asked to gather in the vicinity of the Flame of Remembrance by 10.50 hours, to enable the Remembrance ceremony to begin at 11am SHARP! At the conclusion of the short memorial service, we shall adjourn to Fraser’s.

THE MENU:

Entree (Set): Poached chicken, pea puree and spinach, spiced pistachio and raspberry vincotto.

Main (CHOICE): Roast eye fillet of beef, pumpkin and hazelnut puree, baby carrot and beetroot jus OR

Grilled goldband snapper, parsnip puree, broccolini and soft herbs

SERVED WITH a “Side” of Steamed green vegetables in extra virgin olive oil

Dessert (Set): Fraser’s Mess’ Raspberry puree, crushed meringue, candied walnuts and vanilla ice-cream.

Beverages to be served as part of the package: House wines, Tap beers, Soft drinks, Juice.

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

He’s a quiet sort of chap - but his record shows he’s been something of an “Action Man”! Ted Stevenson, who was President of Highgate Sub-Branch in 1988, had a long and distinguished Army career. Ted must have taken a liking to khaki early, because he became a School Cadet at the tender age of 13, in Lismore NSW. By 1954 he had been accepted into, and graduated from, the Officer Cadet School Portsea. A number of Army postings followed including: Kapooka, Parachute Training at RAAF Williamtown (where the photo of him at Left was taken), Malaya (with the Kings Yorkshire Light Inf), 2RAR (Brisbane), 2 Commando Coy and the RAAF Staff College (Fairbairn ACT) in 1970. Ted saw active service in South Vietnam with both 6RAR and

4RAR/ANZAC Bn, and was then posted to Townsville. He did a stint in WA (HQ Swan Bks) before a posting to Canberra, but there - a serious MVA (*en route* to trying out for the Army’s Inter-Service Golf Team) laid him up in hospital for three months and took its toll on his health.

Ted discharged in 1981 after a long and faithful 28 years service; but then, undaunted, he did another three years with the Army Reserve. Married to Glenys, he has two adult daughters. He still loves his golf and pottering in and around his home garden.



LAST POST

Ken Barrington (former Sub-Warden)

Lest We Forget



WORDS FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE RSL

National President of the RSL, Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO (Ret'd) gave an excellent closing address at the WA State Congress on Saturday, 27th October. With his typical *panache* he spoke without the use or benefit of notes - always an admirable talent!

In the process of his speech, he mentioned to the assembled Sub-Branch Delegates and observers that over the past year he has been writing a bi-monthly Newsletter, which is posted on the Internet.

Through this forum, he focuses on issues that are pertinent to the RSL and typify veterans' concerns. He particularly mentioned that he endeavours to keep these as "to-the-point" and relevant as he can; with the emphasis on keeping members informed as to what "their" National body is trying to accomplish on their behalf. Formal Submissions made to Government are faithfully reproduced for RSL members to read for themselves.

His most recent "communiqué" (which was submitted to the government) expresses a number of RSL concerns, but he squarely targeted several specific matters following changes to the 2012 Budget announced in May. These (edited) are:

Urging a "Fairer" Indexation deal for ex-ADF on Military "Super":

This has been a vexed issue for our former ADF members for some years now; and Adm Doolan bluntly says that the RSL is 'disappointed' that past submissions and "repeated requests to Government for some amelioration of the situation ... continue to be ignored". Whilst the Coalition parties have undertaken, in writing, to commit to improving the level of indexation for Military superannuants if they win government, the incumbent government is intransigent.

The RSL, in its 2010 Submission, had sought a policy change: breaking the nexus between military superannuation and that for Commonwealth Public Servants. The RSL's position is that this "nexus" lacks validity and is unjustified. Military service is unique, and there is no convincing argument that it should be pegged to Public Service superannuation.

Reduced spending on Defence:

The 2009 Defence White Paper explained the stra-

tegic situation which Australia faced then and for the foreseeable future. It outlined an appropriate level of funding to develop an adequate force structure up to 2030. It also imposed a fiscal discipline on the Department of Defence requiring it to maintain a credible high level combat capability.

The RSL seeks to reaffirm that strategy. It is concerned that 2012/2013 reductions in government spending are placing this programme under threat, and Adm Doolan's candour is, I believe, worth quoting verbatim: "The RSL urges the rejection of what appears to be a new government fiscal paradigm of reducing Defence appropriations on an opportunistic basis. The ongoing need for the nation to be able to defend our national interests is of far greater importance than one off economic blips on the federal budgetary scale".

Straight-talking indeed!

Erosion of some Conditions of Service for ADF personnel:

In 1984, a Defence Force Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) was set up to act as an arbiter of rates of pay and allowances for members of the ADF - many of whom are members of the RSL. This disciplined force is constrained by the reality that bargaining freely for proper pay and conditions is not possible (unlike most of the work-force, who have access to trade union advocacy, 'right-to-strike' etc).

Up until approx 2000, the DFRT effectively safeguarded the interests of Defence members (the "employees"). But in recent years this respected and successful system of arbitration for the ADF has been amended by the technique of requiring the Department of Defence to put both the case for the government and the case for service personnel.

Again, Adm Doolan's words pull no punches: "The DFRT was established to be the independent umpire and it should be allowed to undertake this task not so diminished that its findings ... are "simply a rubber stamp process"".

Editor

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

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL



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BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON STEPHEN SMITH, MEMBER FOR PERTH**