



HIGHGATE



NEWS

Issue 534
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Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

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 18 November 2013

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER: Adam Smith: whose topic will be "The art of proper estate planning". As an experienced financial planner (since 1990) and now running his own Succession Planning Business, Adam will address the unprecedented inter-generational transfer of wealth expected in Australia over the next 20 years. Most Australians die without having made a Will. The presentation will highlight the important facets of estate planning and the common pitfalls experienced when planning people's estates.



For the next Luncheon (Monday 18th November) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 15th November). Cost: \$30, paid at Reception Desk. **GO TO the web-site.** Click on **NOVEMBER LUNCHEON** under the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and the list will appear). **FOR THOSE WITHOUT email** please call **Margot Harness: 9293 1076** (or any of the committee listed at left) to book in. Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to enter a "P" in Column 3 to indicate you are a **PERMANENT** booking.

President's Report

Those members on email will have received Ray Galliot's message that he is now home and thanking all for their concerns and good wishes. Many of our members visited him whilst he was in hospital and he thanks those also. Ray is still required to attend Shenton Park three times a week for physio and training. He hopes that the stump will be sufficiently healed and consolidated to be able to have a permanent prosthesis fitted in early December.

The first list of name badges has been delivered and later orders are currently being processed. New orders may be made at the next Luncheon meeting.

A reminder that our Memorial Luncheon is being held at Fraser's Restaurant following the Wreath Laying at 1150 hrs on 10 November. If you haven't made a booking, please do so, and pay, by 10am Monday, November 4th.

Thanks to Mike Harness and Barry Campbell and all their helpers, our Poppy Day Appeal on Friday 8th November, is ready to go. Thanks in anticipation to all those

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 18 November 2013

(Committee: 10am same day)



(Continued from P.1)

who have volunteered to be collectors on the day.

We need everyone to be a recruiter for new members. We are trialling distributing a business card to members to facilitate this. When you hand one out you need to put your contact details on it. Prospective members then can contact you.

On Saturday, 26th October, four delegates from Highgate attended the 97th State Congress as your representatives. These were myself (as President), SVP: Steve Chamarette, JVP: Geoff Hourn; and Ken Bladen (a former RSL State President). A report appears separately in this Newsletter (p.4) but several matters raised that will be of interest to some of our members:

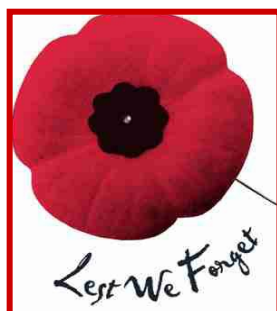
The new Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator Michael Ronaldson,

- promised that indexation of ComSuper payments would proceed as previously promised and would be in the next budget.

- He gave an undertaking that the Department of Veterans Affairs must be ready to support those who served wherever and whenever needed.

- He undertakes to support the Centenary ANZAC commemoration ceremonies to take place in Albany 31 Oct-2 Nov 2014.

Yours in fellowship,
Peter



Hours"

**REMINDER : *POPPY DAY* on FRIDAY 8th
November**

If you can help rattle-a-tin, and have not already volunteered, please call Mike Harness Ph: 9293 1076 (or e-mail: mharness@westnet.com.au). Indicate preferred location and times that suit.

As usual, Highgate will be collecting at the Esplanade BusPort/Train station and at the Wellington Street Bus Station between 0600 and 1030/1100 am. The early "Rush

A Pun Can be Fun Corner

A mother skunk gave birth to twins, whom she named "In" and "Out".

One day In was out, so she spoke to Out. "Out", said she, "go out and find In: your brother. In's out and I want him in; I've been looking for In outside for ages, I can't find him. So go out Out - find In and bring him in."

"What?" said Out. (Even he was perplexed).

Mother was starting to get exasperated. "In's out, so Out: go out and find In. I want In in, Out go out and bring In in, if you can find him."

So Out went out to look for his brother In, and within seconds of leaving, he came back with In in tow. His surprised mother asked "Out, how did you find In so quickly?"

(here it comes....) "In stinkt."

Sub-Branch Snippets

As most of you will know by now, our wonderful, recently retired Secretary, **Ray Galliot**, suffered a minor abrasion to his right heel in early August, that became quite infected after a swim. Despite treatment with antibiotics, this steadily worsened, and the doctors realised that a "superbug" had got in that was eating away soft tissue at an alarming rate. Despite top medical treatment, this "bug" could not be stopped, and the infection spread to his foot and toes. The only effective answer was to undergo amputation below his knee to arrest its spread.

Ray came through the surgery well - physically and psychologically; and after a short spell at Shenton Park Rehab centre (where he is still an Out-Patient several times a week) - he is getting on well and preparing for his prosthesis. We all join in wishing you all the very best Ray, and hoping that healing will continue to go well. We expect that in your gutsy way, you will soon be walking around and then off to dancing lessons!

John and **Carmen Homer** have been travelling in France and Italy these past weeks. John, a horse-racing man, is no doubt hoping to be back home in time to put a bet on the Melbourne Cup.

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

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



QUOTABLE QUOTE: *“In this life of toil and trouble, two things stand alone: Kindness in another’s trouble, courage in your own”.* (Adam Lindsay Gordon). A favourite inspiration of our late member and friend to all: the late Laurie Palmer.

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

There are many wonderful “stories” tucked away on the Highgate “Hall of Honour”: so many cryptic histories of a unique generation who experienced tumultuous events and heroism but now just quietly live among us. Thus it was that the word “Arnhem” caught this Editor’s eye one day - causing the realisation that one of our members: John Hatley, had been a British Army paratrooper in that ill-fated but courageous expedition.

John is such a modest, unassuming man, that it wasn’t easy to elicit key details of this time from his past - but his life reads a bit like a “Boys’ Own Annual” tale in many ways. John was born in 1922 in London and grew up in various villages and towns across England before the family settled in Folkestone in Kent. His father had served in the Kings Royal Rifle Corps during WWI, and his unit had suffered terrible losses in France - events that, understandably, had had a profound effect on him. He was a stern disciplinarian.

By his own admission, John always much preferred sport to studies during his school days, and at weekends rode his bike for miles. He grew up with two brothers and a sister. At age 16, he won a medal for winning a local cross-country championship. In March 1939, as a shipping clerk and having just turned 17, John sensed that war was looming and joined a Territorial Battalion of his father’s old regiment. On 1 September 1939, with war inevitable, John was called up for full-time service and his infantry battalion became part of a newly formed armoured Division. He was sent to Egypt in late 1941 - an arduous trip via Capetown, Port Elizabeth and Durban on a ship that kept breaking down. On eventual arrival in Egypt, fierce fighting was already taking place between mainly Commonwealth troops and Axis forces and after desert training, John’s battalion took part in both battles of El Alamein in July and October 1942.

Later, in Syria, he learned that volunteers were being sought to join a new Parachute Regiment being formed. This appealed to his adventurous spirit, and he undertook training in Palestine, followed by time in Tunisia and a landing by sea at Taranto (Sicily), participating in the first invasion of Italy. At Christmas 1943, the whole of the 1st Airborne Division returned to England for leave, before training for the invasion of Europe.

In addition to seeing a lot of action during WW2, four very traumatic events occurred. His younger brother, Robert - also a paratrooper and only 19, was killed on D-Day (6 June 1944) and is buried near Caen in France. On 17 September 1944, John was dropped near Arnhem (Holland), where 25 Dakotas each carried 19 paratroopers of the British 1st Airborne Division. Along with Canadian Engineers and Polish parachutists their task was to seize and secure three essential bridges over the Rhine River to assist the push into Germany. Unfortunately, the Germans took control of one bridge, leaving remnants of John’s Airborne Brigade “marooned” on the German side of the Rhine. Taking cover in a disused quarry-like “dip” near the river, John and his comrades tried to find a way to regroup. From the edge of the “dip”, hidden by a tree, he’d observed a German tank on the nearby road and reported this to his OIC; but just as the officer moved over to him, climbed to the rim and raised his head to look, he was fatally shot in the head by a German sniper, falling backwards on John - bleeding profusely: a deeply distressing episode.

In further fighting over the following days, John and his comrades were captured and became POWs. Notwithstanding, in the general mayhem, making their way across country, John assisted a German soldier whose back had been terribly wounded from shrapnel. Some time later, having been struck in the head by falling shrapnel himself and temporarily concussed from this injury, John “came to” to find a German soldier standing over him, with a rifle and fixed bayonet - about to bayonet him to death. In an extraordinary turn of events, another German soldier rushed over and remonstrated with his colleague. He had apparently witnessed John’s earlier kindness to his countryman, and persuaded his fellow German to lower the bayonet and spare his life.

John spent the remainder of WW2 as a POW, mainly Stalag 4B, but was released in May 1945.

He remained in the British Army however, serving in diverse postings: training parachutists in Aldershot, then North Germany; back to Aldershot (by now a married man with two daughters); 18 months in Cyprus, various peacekeeping missions in the Middle East, Cyprus again, and finally - by now a Warrant Officer, back to England. He worked for Customs and Excise for several years and for a time had his own business: conducting a Driving School.

With wife Wynne and his girls: Susan and Jenny, he emigrated to Australia in 1968. He has been active in the Airborne Forces Association in Perth since that time, as well as Highgate RSL Sub-Branch for nigh on 40 years (almost eight as Sub-Branch Secretary).

John now suffers from arthritis in his back, hips and other joints - no doubt the legacy of his estimated 150 or more parachute jumps. He tries to come along to Lunches whenever his health is up to it.

John describes himself as an “ordinary” man - but in many ways his life has been little short of “extraordinary”. John: we salute you!



LAST POST

All deceased men and women of Highgate Sub-Branch. R.I.P.

Lest We Forget



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

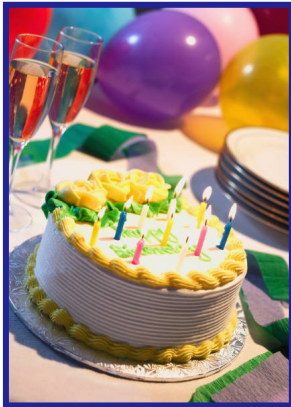
Wreath Laying Services currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park

Sunday 10 November : 1115 for 1200hrs - Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Memorial Day **

Monday 11 November : 1015 for 11 hours - State RSL Official Remembrance Day **

Sunday 24 November : 1130 for 1200 hrs - Perth Legacy

Monday 25 November : 1030 for 1100hrs - War Widows Guild of Australia Inc ** **NOTE earlier set-up timings**



BELATED BIRTHDAY WISHES to ALL the "OCTOBER BABES"!

With our dynamic former Secretary, Ray Galliot, indisposed in hospital, alas no Birthday cards were sent out to the "October" people last month. So, although a little late, here is a Belated Wish to this group for their "big day", and we hope you were spoilt rotten!

Bob Airey

Roger Buddridge

Keith Chapman

Nordon Digby

Margot Harness

Wendy Healy

Richard Hooper

Tom Horton JP

Arthur Hutchison

Ken Jones

John Lindsay

Howard Montagu

John Morriss

Ian Mulholland

William Munro

Don Newman

Peter Rowles

Peter Salmon

Graeme Sherriff

Phillip Skelton AM

Robert Smyth OAM

Ann Spiro

Stan Stewart

Jack Suriano

Ian Sutherland

AND LET US WISH ALL the NOVEMBER "BIRTHDAY FOLK" A GREAT DAY TOO!!

Hoping all the November-born babes-that-were will ALSO have a lovely, Happy Day - this comes with the very Best Wishes of all your chums at Highgate: "Chin Chin"!

Bob Bunney

Joe Cicala

Les Coy

Allan Downs

John Evert

Doug Farmer

Peter Farrell

Judy Farrell

Susie Glasfurd OAM

Les Gordon

Colin Hebbard

Max Kay AM CitWA

Graham Reynolds



PRESIDENT PETER's REPORT on the RSL STATE CONGRESS for 2013

The State Branch (WA) recently hosted the Annual State Congress on 25/26 October.

My summary of the overarching message of the Congress is that as we approach the Centenary of ANZAC we must carry forward the spirit of the Anzacs with courage as we advocate on behalf of our veterans. By the end of the year, as the withdrawal from Afghanistan is completed, we will have a very large group of contemporary veterans.

It behoves us not to allow what happened to Korean and Vietnam veterans to occur again. To this end it is recognised that these new veterans have different aspirations. It won't be easy to change the format that the RSL has been using nor will it be easy to build bridges to accommodate them. National and the WA Branch have started working on this with a number of plans. Our National President called this "Building into the Future".

Communication is one of the imperatives and we need to utilise the communication modes that younger veterans now use including email, internet, websites, instant messaging etc. Younger members' forums are being conducted in an effort to ascertain their needs.

Changing legislative requirements are pushing changes in the governance of our Branch and Sub-Branches. This also necessitates the revision of the National and WA Branch Constitutions. To this end the constitutional amendments proposed at this Congress were withdrawn and referred to the Constitutional Review Committee chaired by our member: Wayne Tarr. It is intended that a special Congress be held at a later date to deal with the new constitution.

The Congress agreed in principle to the names of those who gave their lives whilst deployed on peacekeeping missions or humanitarian roles being added to the State War Memorial. Following that Motion, the Congress agreed to replacing the current Vietnam Memorial Plaque with inscriptions in the format used elsewhere throughout the Crypt.

A short, closed Question and Answer session was conducted by President Graham Edwards at the end of the Congress.



STILL WANTED

Sub-Wardens for the State War Memorial



Highgate Sub-Wardens on duty at the Flame of Remembrance

Deputy Warden of the SWM, Geoff Simpson, is calling for volunteers to bolster our dwindling "pool" of members who are Sub-Wardens. Wreath-laying ceremonies take place approximately two or three times a month through the year. Geoff seeks members who are willing to contribute their time to fulfil this important role. He asks for them to be punctual, smartly turned out and reliable. Ceremonies usually only take about 45 to 50 minutes including setting up beforehand.

Interested applicants should contact Geoff Simpson directly on 0408 925 432 or gsimpson001@optusnet.com.au

HIGHGATE'S 2013 REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

To be held at King's Park on Sunday, 10th November 2013

ASSEMBLE AT FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE AT 11.50am for Ceremony to start at 12 Noon SHARP followed by LUNCHEON at FRASER'S RESTAURANT (approx 1220 to 1500 hrs)

Cost to Members (and their spouses/partners) - \$50 a head. (This includes all drinks).
Cost for Guests and Non-Members is higher - \$75 a head (but also including all drinks).

NOTE: MEMBERS HAVE BOOKING PRIORITY

IF Paying by EFT (the method, if possible, preferred by our Treasurer): CBA 066001 : 00925571 (include your name); **BUT**

IF Paying by Mail: Complete this portion, attach your cheque, and post to the Treasurer

To register/confirm your Booking: go to our web-site: <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> and follow the prompts. (Look **just above** the photo of Fraser's - see the "Click onto ..." instruction. There is also info re Sunday 10th November); **OR** phone Margot Harness (9293 1076).

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

Name

Name of Spouse/Partner

Guest(s)



Hollywood Catering Staff Plate Up A Winner

Hollywood Private Hospital has won the 2013 Press Ganey Success Story award for *Reinventing the Meal* – the hospital’s unique initiative that has dramatically improved catering processes and patient meals.

Reinventing the Meal – as the initiative is known – has been an exceptional story of change and success, made possible by a combination of factors at Hollywood: dedicated leadership from Hollywood Executive; more effective kitchen and meal delivery processes; targeted professional development and training of staff; commitment to purchasing only fresh and high-quality produce, meat and breads; creation of an entirely new menu, along with detailed dietetic review; and integration of the new electronic meal ordering system Chefmax.

“We put in place the vision for a more contemporary dining experience at Hollywood, that also brings patients the health benefits they need during recovery,” said Chris Jowett, Catering Manager at Hollywood.

“We focused on the idea that hospital food can be something that is both healthy and tasty – that can bring not only nutritional benefits to the healing process, but an increased level of dignity to people at a vulnerable time in their lives.”

For head chef Javier Fernandez, that meant a switch to premium suppliers including Amelia Park for lamb, Linley Valley Pork for organic pork and Kailis for fresh fish, and sourcing local fresh produce. The hospital also brought in Margaret River-based celebrity cook, Ian Parmenter, who worked with the catering team to help them achieve their vision.



L to R: Chris Jowett, Javier Fernandez, Ian Parmenter, Peter Mott

Press Ganey Managing Director, Terry Grundy, said that the standard of submissions for the 2013 competition was outstanding and the judging was a very difficult task. “It was fantastic to see such passion and enthusiasm across all submissions and that quality improvement is alive and well in Australian healthcare,” said Mr Grundy.

“A key factor we look for is that outcomes from the project can be proven. This was clearly evident in the Hollywood submission. The ultimate judge of care and meals at a hospital is the patient. Hollywood scored higher ratings for patient perceptions of meals than any other hospital in Australia – and has been able to maintain this standard of excellence since the introduction of the new program.” Hollywood Chief Executive Peter Mott said the award was the result of the vision established by the Hollywood Executive several years ago, as well as a significant commitment on the part of the catering team.

“The award recognises the outstanding effort by our catering and dietetics staff in turning around the quality of food in a relatively short space of time,” said Mr Mott. “Their achievements are all the more impressive because they implemented changes while working in the hospital’s original 1940s kitchen.

“As part of a substantial building expansion project scheduled to begin in late 2013, a new purpose-built kitchen costing \$3 million will assist in Hollywood retaining a leading position in food quality.”

Hollywood has also ranked first, for the past two quarterly surveys, in a national survey of patient satisfaction in the category for private hospitals with over 300 beds.

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

