



# 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

Monday 20 October 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1100 hrs for 1215 hrs

**GUEST SPEAKER: Mike Sargent.**

**TOPIC: "Horatio Nelson: The Hero".**



British-born Mike had a long, distinguished career in the Merchant Navy before migrating to Australia and, after 1981, moving into the retail and later, finance industries. He is an admirer of Lord Nelson - has been Chair of the Nelson Society since 2004 - and this promises to be a rousing presentation!

To make an Internet Booking for the next Luncheon (Monday 20 October) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 17th Oct). Cost: \$30, paid at Reception Desk or EFT.

**Method:** **GO TO** the web-site. Click on "**OCTOBER LUNCHEON**" under the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and **AS IF BY MAGIC**, the printing will change colour and be underlined. 'Click' on it again and the spreadsheet/Book In list will appear).

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

**N**umbers were well down for our last Luncheon and AGM but that didn't stop those attending from enjoying themselves.

Starting our AGM at 12 noon enabled us to complete the meeting in time to commence our lunch at the normal time. All management positions were filled, but we still need a couple more members to join the committee. We encourage volunteers to step up please - it would be most appreciated.

For those who were not present, we had a very capable guest speaker from the Stroke Foundation. During his presentation one of our members noticed that another member didn't appear to be too well. Initially, it appeared that she might have suffered a stroke.

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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 20 October 2014 (Committee: 10.30am same day)



(Continued from Page 1)

An ambulance was called and she was taken to Royal Perth Hospital for further tests. I am pleased to be able to tell everyone that she was given a clean bill of health and later discharged. Had our speaker tried to stage a demonstration, it could not have been as successful or so well timed if he had tried! We wish Annette and Roger well on their round the world trip coming up soon, and are happy that it didn't have to be cancelled because of this little episode.

Within the next couple of months we have two important activities coming up for which we need your assistance.

I refer to our Memorial Service and Luncheon on Sunday the 9th of November.

Just two days later - on Remembrance Day itself (Tuesday, 11th November), we will need willing volunteers prepared to shake a tin for Poppy Day.

Details for both these special days are in this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the October Luncheon.

Yours in fellowship,  
*Peter*

### How to recognise the crucial SIGNS of a Stroke:

**F** : Check the **FACE**. Are facial movements OK?

**A** : **ARMS**. Can the person raise their arms?

**S** : **SPEECH**. Can the person speak normally?

**T** : **TIME**. Speed seeking help is crucial.

### Sub-Branch Snippets ....

**Bob Mercer** reports that his wife, Jean, and her team of friends, have now completed more than 500 knitted and crocheted Poppies, which will be placed in the sand of Middleton Beach as part of the ceremonies in Albany in early November, to mark the Centenary of the departure of the ANZAC force to fight in WWI.

With the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Arnhem last week, I was prompted to give **John Hately** - veteran paratrooper who took part in that battle, to see how he is going. John's health isn't too good - but he sends a cheery "Hello" to his old mates in the Sub-Branch. He misses his old mate, **John Harper-Nelson**, who has moved to Geraldton, but hopes his grandson can bring him to our next Luncheon. Our hearty best wishes to YOU John!

"Welcome back" to our peripatetic Junior Vice Prez: **Geoff Hourn**. Geoff has been in Afghanistan these past three months or so, to help oversee and monitor the recent elections held in that strife-torn country, with a team from the UN. Security was understandably very 'tight', but Geoff reports that back in the guarded Compound, the chefs were French and his greatest hazard was watching his waistline!

HAG stalwarts: **Arthur Hutchison** and **Mike Harness** have both recently had a spell in hospital.

*The RSL State Congress will be held on Sat 25th October at the Mercure Hotel. Delegates for the Highgate Sub-Branch, to represent us at that assembly are: Steve Chamarette, Geoff Hourn and Leon Griffiths. (Sub-Branches are allowed one Delegate per every 75 members or part thereof).*



### TEE-HEEs and FIDDLE-DEE-DEEs Corner .....

Best friends graduated from medical school at the same time and decided that in spite of two different specialties, they would open a practice together to share office space and personnel. Dr. Smith was the psychiatrist and Dr. Jones was the proctologist. They put up a sign reading:

Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones: "Hysterias and Posteriors".

The town council was livid and insisted they change it. The docs changed it to read: "Schizoids and Hemorrhoids". Nope - this was also not acceptable; so once again the sign was changed to now read:

"Catatonics and High Colonics"? No go. Next they tried: "Manic Depressives and Anal Retentives"

Ooops .... Thumbs down again. Then came: "Minds and Behinds" .... No ... no - this too was unacceptable .....

"Lost Souls and Butt Holes" was tried .... then "Nuts and Butts". Even "Freaks and Cheeks" upset people. "Loons and Moons"? they tentatively suggested. Goodness - "NO!" Almost at their wit's end, the docs finally came up with: "Dr. Smith and Dr. Jones - Specializing in Odds and Ends".

And everyone was happy!



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Friday - 24 Oct 2014 : 1530 for 1600hrs - RSL State Congress

Friday - 24 Oct 2014 : 1730 for 1800hrs - RWAR 100 years Celebration

Sunday - 26 Oct 2014 : 1200 for 1230hrs - Consulate of Greece. OCHI Day

### “The Way We Were” Gallery ..... Our Golden Oldies .....

Some folk seem to be born under a “lucky star” and, like the song: a “Wanderin’ Star” too. Such a man is our ex-British Army member, John Morriss, who has seen many parts of the globe during a diverse career. John was born and raised in Ely (Cambridgeshire), and on leaving school in 1953, enlisted in the Royal Norfolk Regiment before attending the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. On graduation he was commissioned into the Suffolk Regiment.

Initially posted to Germany, John’s battalion was sent to Cyprus in 1956 at the height of the EOKA emergency there, serving for two years as Platoon Commander, Battalion Intelligence Officer and Company 2IC. Then came a huge change: seconded to the Queen’s Own Nigeria Regt, part of the Royal West African Frontier Force. Here he was posted to a depot in Zaria, Northern Nigeria, staying for three years. Nigeria gained independence during this interesting time.

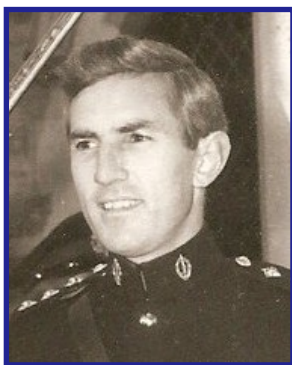
John then rejoined his regiment (by now, due to amalgamations, called the 1st East Anglian Regiment) stationed in British Guiana (now Guyana). The unit had been rushed there initially to deal with civil unrest. Disappointed voters had burnt down buildings in the mayhem; but John was told that the sight of British soldiers parading down the main street with fixed bayonets effectively quietened things down! Appointed Adjutant, in due course he organised the return of the Battalion to the UK. Shortly afterwards he was posted for a year to be Aide-de-Camp to the Commander 1 British Corps in Germany.

1965 brought another interesting move, this time to jungle environs: as GSO3 Intelligence with 51 Gurkha Brigade in Borneo during “Confrontation”. The Brigade was based in Brunei but also had responsibility for the 4th and 5th Divisions of Sarawak. An Australian SAS Sqn was attached too, with whom John became friendly - so much so that he twice “hitchhiked” to Australia with them and was introduced to the delights of Perth. The following year, he joined 48 Gurkha Brigade in Hong Kong as GSO3 Ops, during which time he scored an official visit to Australia, this time to attend Operation Barra Winga in Qld. *En route* back to Hong Kong, he visited Perth again, and decided it was “the place” for him.

John left the British Army in early 1967, settled in Perth and joined 11 RWAR. He found a job at Royal Perth Hospital as Assistant Work Study Officer, but over the next 23 years worked his way up the ladder. At one stage, as Deputy Administrator, the first line of his Duty Statement read: “Responsible for the day to day administration of Royal Perth Hospital” - a pretty tall order in anyone’s language!

By late 1968, having begun to experience “itchy feet”, the government asked RPH to put together a civilian Surgical Team to work in a civilian Hospital in Vietnam under its Colombo Plan commitments. For seven months in 1969 John was the team’s Admin Officer. In this unlikely setting, Cupid struck! He met and courted Sue, one of the team’s Theatre Sisters, and they were married on returning to Perth by Sue’s father: Bishop Brian Macdonald (ex-2/28th Chaplain in Tobruk).

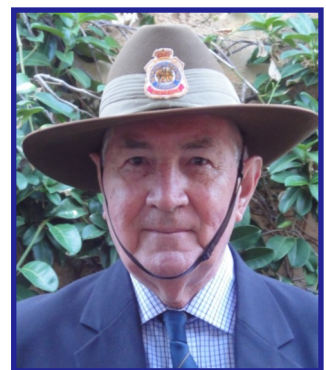
Prior to going to Vietnam, John was asked to “bone up” and report back on the health hazards of tent living, duck boards and the dubious joys of digging deep trench latrines. But finding himself billeted in a former French colonial mansion (nine bedrooms and seven bathrooms), this was impossible to do! (“If only he’d asked US”, we can hear some of you cry!)



In 1991, as an “Expert in Hospital Administration”, John spent two years in Antigua (West Indies), during which he found himself Liaison Officer to the visiting Australian Cricket Team. They lost the series, but he was recognised as a member with the presentation of the ACB tie - a much-cherished souvenir!

Amongst other post-service activities John has been President of the Fremantle Bowling Club and very active in Fremantle Legacy where he was President for almost five years.

John’s quiet charm is an asset to our Sub-Branch, and we are so glad he voluntarily decided to become a “British export” to our fair land all those years ago. “Onya John!”



## LAST POST

Jan Berg

Lest We Forget



## REPORT - Outcomes from ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15 SEP 2014

Fortunately for the Sub-Branch, all key office-bearers were prepared to nominate to serve for another year, with no-one else nominating to stand. Confirmed in their positions, unopposed, were:

**President:** Peter Farrell

**Treasurer:** Richard Adams

**Senior Vice President:** Steve Chamarette

**Web-site Manager:** John Cleary

**Junior Vice President:** Geoff Hourn

**Membership Officer:** Howard Montagu

**Secretary:** John Cleary

\* Jim Boot has again agreed to be our Honorary **Auditor**

\* \* \* \* \*

### **President's Report - 2014**

May I firstly thank you all for the honour of being your President for the year 2014, bestowed on me at the last AGM.

I have consciously tried to report to you through the President's Pen in our regular monthly newsletter so that we keep everyone informed. Without the conscientious efforts of Margot Harness the newsletter wouldn't happen. On your behalf I thank her for all the hard work she does. A newsletter of five pages doesn't happen without a lot of work. I must also thank Bob Arnold for all the work he has done in previous years producing the newsletter and for stepping in when Margot has been away.

Our other activities don't just happen either. Our thanks go to Geoff Simpson for looking after the activities of the Sub-Wardens; Norm Manners for the Honour Avenue Group and Mike Harness for the organisation of the Poppy Day collection. Our Guest Speakers have been organised by our Vice Presidents and they have done a marvellous job organising some exceptional speakers this year. Who will forget the inspirational address by Rabia Saddique or the talk by Brother Pickett on the Wheelchairs for Kids that inspired a whip around that effectively paid for more than five wheelchairs?

Once again this year we've had the following most successful activities:

- Annual Poppy Day collection at the bus ports.
- A Memorial serve at the State War Memorial followed by a lovely luncheon at Frasers, an event which we hold again in just over a month's time.
- The annual Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day at the ANZAC Club.
- A mid year luncheon at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.
- Our annual recognition of our OBEs: over eighties and nineties.

This year it was decided that due to many financial increases in cost of living we would take the initiative and offer a one off payment to our very senior members. This was quietly made. We had a feeling that there were some who needed assistance but as a matter of pride wouldn't apply for it. We had a number who gratefully accepted the offer and of course a large number who refused, saying that they had no need and some who instead offered a donation to the fund. In addition we were able to assist in relocating a member to the country to be with family. We are of course able to do this due to members' efforts collecting on Poppy Day.

The Birthday cards and luncheon vouchers have been extremely well received and some have commented that ours was the only card they received.

Finally, may I thank all the committee for their assistance and dedication this year. Without a hard working committee none of our activities would be possible. In particular, I would like to thank Bob Arnold for all of his years working on the committee and assure him he will be missed; but we will catch up with him at the luncheons.

### **"Tin Rattlers" W A N T E D for Poppy Day**



Poppy Day will be Tuesday 11th November. Highgate will be collecting at TWO sites:

1. The **Esplanade Bus and Rail Stations**, (as usual); and
2. The **Temporary Bus Station** (situated primarily at Roe St, close to the Horseshoe Bridge) which currently replaces the old Wellington St Bus Port that has been demolished.

Pay Parking stations are close by/in Roe Street; which is NOT the case at the Esplanade.

Prime collection times are between 0630 - 0830hrs. Both locations will be manned from 0530 to 1030hrs.

Some members have already volunteered to Rattle-a-Tin. However, we need more. If you can volunteer, please do so at the October Luncheon or telephone Mike Harness (9293 1076) or John Homer (9291 3432) nominating your preferred location and time slot - any period of 30 minutes or more is most appreciated.

Thanks to all who pitch in.

**Mike Harness (Co-ord)**



## HIGHGATE'S 2014 REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

To be held at King's Park on Sunday, 9th November 2014  
**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) - \$55 a head. (This includes all drinks).

Cost for Guests and Non-Members is higher - \$80 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, cut it out, 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 for the picture of Fraser's plus info re Sunday 9th November); or phone Margot Harness (9293 1076).

**Although it is "Open Seating" - a separate column allows you to book a specific Table Booking with friends if you prefer.**

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

Name .....

Name of Spouse/Partner .....

Guest(s) .....

**NOTE:** Indicate if ANYONE has special dietary requirements .....



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

# HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY  
BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN,  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH**