



HIGHGATE NEWS

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

President

Steve Chamarette
Tel: 9242 1865
sunridge@it.net.au

Vice President

Geoff Hourn
Email: ghourn@gmail.com
(Mob): 0414 063 707

Junior Vice President

Roger Buddrige
Tel: 9247 2333
Email: roger.buddrige@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Peter Farrell
Tel: 9246 1367 - 0458 720 022
Email: peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

Greg Wilson
4 Florian PI DUNCRAIG 6023
9448 8213
Email:
greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Richard Adams
PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832
Telephone: 9325 6387
Email: richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Editor

Margot Harness
Telephone: (H) 9293 1076
(M) 0438 936 405
Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions Officer

Margot Harness
Telephone: 9293 1076

Website

www.highgate-rsl.org.au
Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 19th October 2015

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



Physiotherapist, **Dr Jenny Downs**, was awarded her PhD in 2003 - and has worked in the field of Child Disabilities at the Telethon Kids Institute since 2005. She continues to have a particular interest in rare disorders, including Rett syndrome, the CDKL5 Disorder, the MECP2 Duplication Syndrome, Duchenne muscular dystrophy and Early Onset Scoliosis - disorders that have devastating impacts on affected children and their families. Dr Downs is building and maintaining disorder-specific databases, to assist longitudinal research into the growth and development of these conditions.

For the Monthly LUNCHEON, PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by 1400 hrs Thursday - 15 October) using the web-site. Cost is \$30 a head.

Method: GO TO the web-site HOME page. Double-click on "HIGHGATE LUNCHEON" below 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. ****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. EFT details appear at the TOP of the Book In spreadsheet.

You may need to Double-click IN the 'empty' cell for your name to register.

President's Report

At the AGM I thanked the out-going President, Peter Farrell, for the excellent contribution he has made over the last two years and I again reiterate those thanks here on your behalf. My thanks are also offered to those on the Highgate Committee who again volunteered their services for the coming year. Joining the Committee are some new faces: Roger Buddrige (Junior Vice President), Greg Wilson (Secretary) and Jack Suriano (Committee Member). I would also like to sincerely thank the whole committee who have steered the Sub-Branch through the past year. Without their dedication, our Branch administration, hospital visits, social activities and interesting meetings would not happen.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON: 19 October, 2015 (Committee meeting: 11.00am that day)



(Continued from p.1)

Our dedicated sub-wardens at the State War Memorial, so ably organised by Geoff Simpson and Bill Wilson, once again deserve our thanks and that of all West Australians for the work they have put in during the year. Similarly, the Honour Avenue Group (HAG) continues to do a splendid job. The HAG work is generally unknown by the public at large but is greatly appreciated by relatives of those service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country and the Kings Park Administration. I would strongly recommend that all Brnach members attend one of the Plaque Dedication Services conducted by HAG in Kings Park to witness the appreciation shown by relatives of those being honoured.

Special thanks are extended to the dedication and hard work of Margot Harness, our "editor-in-chief". In addition to carrying out the duties of the Welfare Officer on behalf of the Branch each month, Margot presents a most informative, well-constructed newsletter, with jokes you can tell your grandchildren. Thanks Margot, on behalf of all members.

Once again, "into-the-breach" Bob Arnold took on the role of Secretary when John Cleary suffered a hospitalising injury. He also generously steps in to produce the Newsletter if/when Margot takes a holiday. A sincere, warm "Thank You" to you Bob! And to John Cleary - a healthy and speedy return to our meetings and the Committee as our Web Master.

In addition, I would like to acknowledge and thank the work of Adrian Young and Robert Campbell who are carrying out the duties at the front desk each and every month. Their work allows the Committee to meet without the distraction of "who is collecting the money for the lunch and raffle". Their time and efforts in undertaking this task is greatly valued.

Three final points:

1. Our newsletter keeps members informed of the Sub-Branch activities. If you have an email address, Highgate would like to forward the Newsletter by email and save on postage. Please hand your email address to ANY Committee member.

2. The Remembrance Day Service and Luncheon is on Sunday, 8 November. Bookings are now being taken through our web-site. Please register and pay by EFT or contact Margot (on 9293 1076) to book - and forward a cheque to our Treasurer: Richard Adams.

3. Highgate's Poppy Day Collection is on Wednesday, 11th November. Mike Harness will be calling for volunteers to collect donations for a couple of hours in the morning **on that day**. More information appears in this Newsletter.

I look forward to catching up with you at our October meeting on Monday the 19th.

Yours in fellowship, *Steve Chamarette*

Sub-Branch Snippets

Barry Campbell is currently "cruising down the Rhine-Danube" in the lap of luxury. We trust you are having a grand old time; and that your new knees are holding up well Baz!

Excitement abounds as we "go to press" - with the West Coast Eagles set to play in the AFL Grand Final in Melbourne. With the faith of a true fan, our new Prez: Steve Chamarette, secured tickets to attend weeks in advance, so he and Joanne could be there. Fingers crossed you get the result you're hoping for Steve!

VALE - TOM HORTON

Luncheons will not be the same without the merry presence of one of our last WW2-era active members: **Tom Horton**. Always a staunch "Legacy man" - our Christmasses too, without Tom there, urging us to buy a "Legacy Pudding" - will be lesser by his absence. We hope you are reunited with your beloved Pat now Tom; and have no doubt you'll have also caught up with your old "best mate: Phil Loffman". Rest in Peace Tom.

TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner



Quotable Quotes: If you don't read the newspaper you are uninformed, if you do read the newspaper you are misinformed. -- Mark Twain

Suppose you were an idiot. And suppose you were a member of Congress. But then I repeat myself. -- Mark Twain

I contend that for a nation to try to tax itself into prosperity is like a man standing in a bucket and trying to lift himself up by the handle. -- Winston Churchill

A government which robs Peter to pay Paul can always depend on the support of Paul. -- George Bernard Shaw

Democracy must be something more than two wolves and a sheep voting on what to have for dinner. -- James Bovard, Civil Libertarian (1994)

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries. -- Douglas Casey, Classmate of Bill Clinton at Georgetown University

Giving money and power to government is like giving whiskey and car keys to teenage boys. -- P.J. O'Rourke



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Friday **8th October 2015** : 1530 for 1600 hrs - RSLWA State Congress.

Sunday **25th October 2015** : 1130 for 1200,hrs - Greek Ochi Day.

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Ray Ward - who quite recently transferred into Highgate from North Beach, is a “dinky-di” son of Western Australia: saying “Hello” to the world in 1947, when delivered at King Edward Memorial Hospital. (“Which West Aussie wasn’t?” he has remarked). His Dad had come from the UK in 1926 under the Child Migrant Scheme - later serving in WW2 in the Middle East, New Guinea and Borneo with the 2/43rd Battalion (then part of the 24th Brigade in the 9th Division). His mother worked at Lemnos Hospital as a Nursing Aide during the war. Post WW2, his Dad had his own cleaning business.

Ray attended Swanbourne Primary and later Hollywood High School. Both schools have since been demolished and the land sold for a fortune. Ray was happily beavering away as part of the clerical staff of the PMG (later Telstra) when he received the rather sobering and less-than-delightful news that his “marble” had been pulled out - and he’d been conscripted into the Army for two years.

With customary fortitude, he took this news on the chin - reminding himself of his Dad’s 2nd AIF service and that his paternal grandfather had served in the RN during WW1; but fondly hoping he wouldn’t end up in the Infantry. But, as he says philosophically: “The Army felt differently!” - and after Infantry training, he was sent to South Vietnam with 5RAR on its second ‘tour’. Almost on arrival, although a quite slightly built young lad, his Platoon Commander selected Ray to be the “radio operator” in the platoon - and the weights he carried over the succeeding months almost led to his legs buckling! However, when providing the photo below (left) - he commented that he’d just come in from operations, yet to have a much-needed shower; “but as you can see, a picture of health and vitality”!

Generally, Ray enjoyed and valued his time in the Army - making many firm friends along the way. On leaving the service, he took some months “time out” travelling in Europe, Egypt and other places he’d hankered to see. The PMG were happy to welcome him back, and when in 1975 Telecom was created, he opted to stay with them. He worked in Human Resources, specialising in the latter part of his career in Industrial Relations. He was also the HR Manager for the Telstra project in Saudi Arabia between 1989 and 1992 - a period that coincided with the first Gulf War. This posting was not without risks! Overhead Scud missiles were certainly a real threat. He married Carmel in 1990 - and goodness knows how he persuaded her to go back to Saudi Arabia with him, reporting that their initial marital bed was a four wheel drive vehicle! The couple have no children, but they DO have a “manic dog called Coco”. In the earlier days of their marriage they had Corgis, but “contrary to popular belief, they were Republicans and not Royalists”.

Ray left Telstra after 17 years, and embraced retirement with gusto. Kind and good-natured, he had joined Perth Legacy Club as a Legatee as early as 1980, and over many years of devoted service with that very worthy organisation he has held a myriad of voluntary positions: as an office-bearer, and active in running camps for Legacy Wards (Rottnest Is. and Busselton). In 1986, Ray became President of Perth Legacy. Always actively involved in supporting the interests and welfare of fellow Vietnam veterans, he was on the Committee for WA for the Welcome Home Parade in Sydney - conducting the ceremony for the NOK of those West Aussies who’d been killed in Vietnam, who carried Flags at the head of that Parade. He was a member of the Committee behind the WA Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Kings Park (and is still a Trustee).

In 1994, having moved to Melbourne, Ray became very active in the Melbourne Legacy Club - becoming State President two years later; and after several more years, appointed to the Legacy Australia Council (its Chairman 2002-2004). Ray has also devoted many years to senior positions in the RSLWA.

Ray loves to travel. In 2000, accompanied by a brother-in-law, he walked across northern Spain (“The Camino”) covering 650 kms on foot. He has been back to Vietnam twice; and ridden the Trans-Siberian railway, travelling from Beijing to Russia, through Europe to London. He loves to settle down with a good military history book!

Still a staunch “5RAR Assn” man, he’d never miss a reunion! Ray and Carmel are planning a river-cruise from Basel to Amsterdam next year. With his zest for new places, they’ll have a ball. “Onya Ray!”



LAST POST

Jim Monteath Les Gordon Tom Horton Eric Watts

Lest We Forget





REPORT - Outcomes from ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 SEP 2015

Fortunately for the Sub-Branch, most key office-bearers were prepared to nominate to serve for another year, with TWO generous "newies" prepared to accept nomination and to stand. Confirmed in their various positions, were:

President: Steve Chamarette

Treasurer: Richard Adams

Senior Vice President: Geoff Hourn

Web-site Manager: John Cleary

Junior Vice President: Roger Buddrige

Membership Officer: Howard Montagu

Secretary: Greg Wilson

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

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President's Report - 2015

May I firstly thank you all for the honour bestowed on me of being your President for the past two years.

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 5 pages doesn't happen without a lot of work. I must also thank Bob Arnold for all the work he put in and did in previous years, producing the newsletter and for stepping in when our Secretary was away or injured.

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 Poppy Day collections.

Our guest speakers have been organised by our Vice Presidents, and they have done a marvellous job organising some exceptional speakers this year.

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

- Annual Poppy Day collection at both Bus Ports and Esplanade train station;
- A Memorial service at the State War Memorial, followed by a lovely luncheon at Fraser's - an event which we will hold again in just over a month's time.
- The annual Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day at the ANZAC Club;
- Our annual recognition of our OBEs (our "over eighties and nineties" boys!)

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

The committee was concerned that some old members were resigning when they were no longer able to continue attending meetings or luncheons. We approached the RSL State HQ in this regard and suggested that a new category of membership be created to retain these members on the books of Sub-Branches to enable Sub-Branches to appropriately honour them on their passing. Our suggestion is now being incorporated in the new RSL constitution, currently being re-written. We have since been able to offer this class of membership to some of our members.

Finally, may I thank all of the committee for their assistance and dedication this year. Without a hard working committee, none of our activities would be possible. In particular this year, I wish to acknowledge the long service of our Treasurer, Richard Adams. Richard has been the Treasurer for at least eleven years, and truly deserves this Certificate of Appreciation.

As I had over to the new committee, may I wish them great success in recruiting new members to replace those we have lost over the past years. I know that the Highgate Sub-Branch is in good hands to go forward. **PETER FARRELL**

"Tin Rattlers" WANTED for Poppy Day



Poppy Day will be Wednesday, 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.

Prime collection times are between 0630 - 0830hrs. Both locations will be manned from 0600 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, 8th November 2015

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) - \$60 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" - Fraser's deals with a MAXIMUM of TEN per Table. If you have organised a TABLE FOR TEN people/friends - please "pay-in-advance" when making your Table Booking. Individual couples may STATE preferred seating companions when Booking, if you wish.



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



A little bit of Irish Humour t' tickle your fancy

Father McGinty from Dublin was visiting a small village in County Kerry to preach at a Parish novena. Wanting to post a letter, he stopped a small boy in the street and asked him where the Post Office was. When the boy told him, Father McGinty thanked him and said: "If you'll come to the church this evening, you can hear me telling everyone how to get to heaven". "Well, I'll not be going there" said the lad; "you don't even know how to make your way to the post office!" **Boom Boom!**

Paddy Murphy went into a cafe in Cork. There was a menu on the wall which said: "TWO PIES - JUST SIXTY PENCE". He said to the waitress: "How much is it for one pie?" She said: "Forty pence". Thinking fast, Paddy said "Begorrah ... Right, I'll have the other one!"



A "ROUND-UP" OF NEWS FROM HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL

As we know, Hollywood Private Hospital - one of many owned and operated by Ramsay Health Care - is always innovative and at the forefront of medical and management expertise. Over the past few months, some of their activities have included:

Marking the ANZAC Centenary

This year marked 100 years since the landing at Gallipoli, and to commemorate this historical event and honour special links with the veteran community, Hollywood held a service for all staff, patients and visitors led by Rev Bruce Eagles. The service was particularly special for Hollywood employee: **Tony Tuncer** - originally from Turkey - who was asked by Rev Eagles if he would like to lay the wreath.

Hollywood was also a proud sponsor of a special ANZAC concert held by Voiceworks, a local community choir. Voiceworks has a close relationship with Hollywood and each year sings Christmas carols in the main foyer - to the delight of patients, visitors and staff.

\$14,000 raised in support of Nepal

After the major earthquake in Nepal, many Ramsay hospitals and facilities organised fundraising activities to provide much needed support. One of HPH's initiatives included donating a day's takings from the cafeteria. The addition of giant churros to the menu proved very popular, and helped boost sales exceeding \$3,000.

In addition, **Shanti Phuyal**, Theatre Nurse, and **Jan Rigby**, Acting CN Staff Development Coordinator, organised a raffle draw and a collection of blankets, sleeping bags, tents and medicines. In total, \$1,170 was raised: \$848 from the raffle and \$322 in donations.

On hearing of Ramsay Health Care's decision to match all funds raised, Hollywood Respiratory Specialist, **Dr Michael Tandon** gave a generous donation of \$10,000. Dr Tandon, originally from India, has worked with Veterans Affairs at Hollywood Repatriation Hospital from 1969.

Guide Dogs Corporate Challenge

International Guide Dog Day celebrates the empowering effect of guide dogs on the lives of blind and vision-impaired individuals. The day helps to promote awareness of the unique work carried out under the Guide Dogs program, as well as raising vital funds for its continuation. Community generosity is essential to maintain the marvellous work carried out by well-trained Guide dogs.

Hollywood participated in the corporate challenge and despite fielding one of the smallest teams, came a very respectable fifth place out of 10. The Corporate Challenge raised \$27,404.15 for the guide dog program, almost enough to train one more much-needed guide dog for a blind person.

Relay for Life

"Relay for Life" is the largest fundraising event for cancer *in the world*. Relay for Life Perth was held back in May. Admirably ever-ready to participate in community causes, HPH Clinical Nurse Educator, **Emma Arnold**, motivated other members of the Hospital's Training and Development team to participate.

The team of eight came up with a banner and the stirring slogan: "Walking Hearts ... 16 feet walking 8 hearts beating Together we fight Cancer!" This prompted the fitting addition to the team of Hollywood's amazing SuperHeart as the team's lucky mascot.

Lucky they were! - winning the "best fight back message" category at the event!

"Well Done Hollywood!" Highgate Sub-Branch thanks you and salutes you!

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