



# 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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## Christmas Luncheon -

**Monday 20 December 2010**

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room

**Time:** 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



This Christmas we welcome Dr Peter Harries - Raconteur extraordinaire who will be the Master of Ceremonies for our Christmas Party. His exceptional talents have seen him supporting on air Telethon appeals and numerous other worthy causes, Australia Day Committee and UNICEF Christmas Parties and, dear to the hearts of many of us, his compeering and performing with Vietnam concert parties over the years 1968-71.

Thank you Peter for giving us your time. We are eagerly looking forward to you joining us to what we know will be a memorable occasion.



## President's Report

Activities seem to have reached a crescendo during the past month – and what a wonderful month it has been. Our major fundraising event for the year – the Annual Poppy Day Appeal on Friday 5th November was a 'best ever'. Coordinator Jim Eayrs and the team of volunteers at the two city Busports did a magnificent job collecting around \$18,000 in donations. I particularly noticed the wonderful spirit and camaraderie amongst the volunteers who all seemed to enjoy themselves. The early morning workers were also in good spirit and eagerly lined up at times to make a donation. So if you had anything to do with the Appeal, make sure that you give yourself a well deserved pat on the back.

Sunday 7 November was another special occasion when Highgate members and their partners gathered at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park for a short but moving service organised by Deputy Warden Phillip Skelton. It was a glorious day and many visitors to the Park quietly observed the ceremony which was followed by the Highgate Memorial Luncheon at Fraser's Restaurant. The function was a huge success thanks to SVP Leon Griffiths who is to be commended for his initiative and organisation. A very generous donation from Hollywood Private Hospital heavily subsidised the cost. Medallions were presented to three retired Sub-Wardens, Mick Michael, Ken Birks and Bob Campbell. Retiring Warden Kevin Cass-Ryall who for the past 12 months has undertaken the duty of Warden in a thoughtful and exemplary manner was presented with a gift of a suitably inscribed miniature naval sword. Serving member of Highgate, Mr Ian Petkoff, who would take up his position on Remembrance Day, was welcomed as the incoming Warden. The opportunity was also taken to thank representatives from the Botanic Parks and Gardens Authority, CEO Mr Mark Webb and Senior Park Management Officer Alan Pearse, both of whom work closely with the Honour Avenue Group and with the Sub-Wardens. It is hoped that the Remembrance Sunday Memorial Luncheon will become a fixture on the Highgate

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**IF ATTENDING THIS LUNCH AND NOT ON THE PERMANENT LIST  
PLEASE ADVISE BOB ARNOLD BY 16 DECEMBER**

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**Committee: 7 Feb 2011      Monthly Luncheon: 21 Feb 2011**



## MEMORIAL DAY LUNCHEON — 7 NOVEMBER 2010



The photos taken at the Memorial Day Luncheon on the 7th of November are available to view on the Highgate website gallery page which can be found at <http://highgate-rsl.org.au/gallery.html> There are many of them and they are well worth a look. You never know you may see your smiling/earnest/scowling/laughing, (or what ever adjective is appropriate), face.



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calendar. Check out the photos on the website.

On Saturday 20 November I joined the Honour Avenue Group (HAG) in Kings Park to witness the dedication and erection of 14 plaques that honour the memory of war heroes who never returned. It was a very impressive and poignant ceremony. I congratulate Norm Manners, Ken Jones and the HAG who gave close to 2,000 hours of service during the last financial year.

Now for some housekeeping – annual subscriptions. Due to administrative changes the process of renewing membership is different this year. Serving Members will have received an account for \$40 from the RSL State Branch and another for \$20 from Highgate. To remain a member of Highgate both must be paid. Subscriptions for Associates and Affiliates will be slightly different. Members who are experiencing financial difficulties are asked to contact Treasurer Richard Adams rather than letting membership lapse. John Cleary has been hard at work improving the website. He has also arranged for Committee members to have an RSL email address – mine is [marty.thompson@highgate-rsl.org.au](mailto:marty.thompson@highgate-rsl.org.au). We must now get on with plans for the coming year to ensure that Highgate is relevant to a greater number of members.

Our last function for the year will be the ever popular Christmas Luncheon on Monday 20 December. Dr Peter Harries is sure to spread some fine Christmas spirit as he leads the entertainment with wit, wisdom and song. Last year the function was booked out. To ensure your place you MUST 'book in' – failure to do so could result in disappointment.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a joyful and safe holiday season? *May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through* (anon).

Warmest regards

Martyn

### Editorial

A regular topic of discussion amongst members during fellowship prior to our monthly luncheons is Afghanistan. There is an air of scepticism and, what to the casual observer and those directly involved in the discussions, a sense that the problems are not going to be resolved in the manner espoused by the politicians, and in Australia's case, politicians of all persuasions.

Each day we hear or read of a different strategy in the deployment of our troops in Afghanistan, sometimes it relates to the longer term and sometimes exit. No matter what the case it appears to be solely politically driven. We hear less and less of practical mili-

tary tactics relating to the prosecution of the war.

David Cameron, UK Prime Minister has said that the withdrawal of British Troops could start as early as next year. Barack Obama has frequently talked about beginning the pull-out of US troops from July 2011. Our Prime Minister states that we will be there "as long as it takes" - whatever that means.

A major conference in Afghanistan a couple of weeks ago chaired by Hamid Kazai backed a plan that would see Afghan forces lead security operations across the country by 2014. Shades of Vietnam? And, all this optimism is at a time when the Taliban is gaining strength and apparently, the initiative.

The utterances of political leaders noticeably contrast with the comments of former head of the British Army, General Sir Mike Jackson, who said that he was "wary" about setting dates and a plan to transfer power "does not equal reality".

The dubious re-election of Hamid Kazai marred by corrupt practices and reported vote rigging does not engender confidence in the ability of the Afghan government to resolve the day to day structural and social problems with which they are faced; let alone containing the Taliban.

We know that over the centuries, the Mongols, Arabs, Persians, British and Russians have endeavoured to subjugate the Afghan War Lords and we know the outcome.....Where to now Afghanistan?



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 13 February 2011 - 1030 hrs for 1100 hrs - Women's Royal Australian Army Corps Association (WA)

## "HIGHGATE DOES IT AGAIN"

## WANTED EDITOR

The Poppy Day collections made this year on the 5 November by Highgate members were the most successful yet. We collected more money than in previous years. The Esplanade site collected \$11,088.55 and the Wellington street site \$6870. Donations made by individual members and other sites which were organized by President Martyn raised this amount to the total of \$18,063.55. Not bad for a mornings work.

The number of collectors at each site was:  
18 to Wellington St. and  
35 to the Esplanade site.

Totalling 53 collectors. This is about the same as last year. Last year the money collected was \$17,701. It seems that if we can continue to put about 50-55 members into the field on Poppy Day we can assume about \$18,000 return for our efforts. So much for statistics.

It was a delight to see Tom Horton and Phil Loffman collecting again this year. Both are now 90 years old (should I say young). Phil Loffman was sat down in a folding chair on the Wellington St Bus concourse when a lovely young thing, about 6ft 6 inches tall, in shorts offered him a donation. Phil said "all I can see is legs". The girl blushed but bought a poppy anyway. Phil looked at me and said "I would rather be here looking

at legs than home looking at the TV".

Tom Horton had a good day also. I am told that he took up his normal position next to a Vietnamese food outlet at the Esplanade concourse. Somebody told them it was Tom's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday (which it was). They gave him a card and a kiss. (that is, the ladies did Tom). Wonderful to see these esteemed gentlemen setting the example.

Finally. Congratulations to everyone who became involved. Take a bow people.

From Jim Eayrs  
Highgate Poppy Day Coordinator.



"In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we  
lie,  
In Flanders fields."

© 2000

*The old year went and the  
new returned in the withering  
weeks of drought and the aged  
and greyed editor knew that his  
thoughts were all cut out.*

*The time had come as well he  
knew to leave the mental tank,  
which is hard and dry and  
crossed with many a crack.  
Oh it is a terrible thing to die  
of empty pens in the old desk's  
rack.*

(With apologies to Henry Lawson)

..... Apart from all that the eyes  
are not crash hot.

Applications to the Editor  
please. All will be considered  
by the Sub-Branch Commit-  
tee and interviews con-  
ducted from the short list of  
applicants, of whom we be-  
lieve there will be many.



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

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

*Ken Bladen*



## CELEBRATING 70 YEARS OF AN AMAZING HOSPITAL

(With thanks to Richard Calautti Hollywood Private Hospital)

Everyone's a Hero  
Stories from the first 70 years at an Amazing Hospital

# Everyone's a Hero

Stories from the first 70 years  
at an Amazing Hospital



ROZ DAVIES

A new coffee table book tells the social history of Hollywood Private Hospital, showing its evolution from wartime hospital to contemporary, state-of-the-art private facility.

“Everyone’s A Hero” – a coffee table book capturing the Hollywood Private Hospital journey – has been compiled by Roz Davies, independent researcher and social historian. The book recounts the hospital’s story right back to 1940, when Hollywood was built as a military hospital to treat the wounded returning from World War II. It traces, through stories and photos, the hospital’s subsequent evolution into the contemporary private facility it is today.

The author has gathered an extensive array of stories from former staff, along with

patients’ anecdotes on the emergencies, hardships and sheer volumes of patients relating to the first six years of the hospital, then known as the 110 Australian General Hospital.

In addition to the stories, the book is also a feast to look at, with photography being a strong feature of the publication. All images to support the text are authentic and came from people who were there in the 1940s, and who generously loaned their photo albums, or from the Australian War Museum or the archives at West Australian Newspapers.

The book is available for \$45 (soft cover) or \$80 (hard cover). If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, please email [enquiry.hph@ramsayhealth.com.au](mailto:enquiry.hph@ramsayhealth.com.au). All profits from the sale of the book will go to the Hollywood Private Hospital Research Foundation.



*This publication is produced with the support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance is greatly appreciated.*

# HOLLYWOOD

## PRIVATE HOSPITAL