



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 21 March 2011

Venue:

Gallipoli Room

Time:

1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



Guest Speaker: Mark Skeels

Topic: *Border Protection*

Mark joined Customs in June 1979 and after an initial 12mths of training spent 4 months on the water-front then joined the Marine Unit and transferred to Port Hedland on the Australian Customs Vessel (ACV) Jerboa in January 1981. He transferred to Geraldton Jan 1984

on to the ACV Jabiru and ACV Charles Kingston then moved back to Fremantle in Jan 1987 and spent 3yrs in the Intelligence area concentrating on maritime intelligence. In Jan 1990 Mark transferred back to the Marine Unit on to the ACV Jacana in Broome and remained in Broome until 1997 where they had taken delivery of a new vessel the ACV Andrew Fisher in April 1992. He then alternated between Perth and Canberra with a number of roles within the NMU including managing the on-site requirements and interests of the Commonwealth during the construction of 8 new ACVs by Austal Ships in Henderson. Mark cut ties with the NMU in February 2002 and returned to Fremantle. He spent 12 months in the Border Enforcement area before moving into the Intelligence area March 2003 and he is still located within the Intelligence area and says that he is managing to have an interesting time.



President's Report

I am pleased to report that the Highgate year is off to a good start. About 70 members turned out for the February luncheon meeting at which Mr Kevin Davidson MVO OAM, Chief Executive Officer of RSL Care and RSL WA State Branch was Guest Speaker. Subsequent to a long naval career Kevin held a senior position at Government House Canberra during which he served three Governors-General. He shared some of his experiences and behind the scenes anecdotes that prove that even the best laid plans can go astray during a royal visit. Whilst no doubt the ground swallows up some of those involved, others are enjoying a hilarious moment. Thank you Kevin for entertaining us so royally and for brightening our day.

SVP Leon has been busy organising more social functions, the next a buffet luncheon to take place on Sunday 20 March at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club. This is a fan-

(Continued on page 2)

**IF ATTENDING THIS LUNCH AND NOT ON THE PERMANENT LIST
PLEASE ADVISE BOB ARNOLD BY 17 March 2011**

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 7 Mar 2011 Monthly Luncheon: 21 Mar 2011



LUNCH BY THE SWAN



ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB
 Keanes Point
 MOSMAN PARK
 Dress: Smart Casual - Please wear name tags
 Pay at the door

Sunday 20 March 2011 1130 am for 12 noon
\$30.00 per person

Open to all members, wives, partners, family and friends. Make up a party.
 Have a day of it and stay as long as you like. Soak up the ambiance and action on the bay.
 Ample hot and cold side buffet selection provided with juices, fruit and tea/coffee.

Seating inside or out – tables of eight and ten provided.

Alcohol can be purchased at the bar if required.

Ramp access for those who may need assistance.

Ample parking below the first level and on the grass. Disabled patrons may be set down at the upper level but cars must be parked at the lower level.

ADVISE NUMBERS TO Leon Griffiths 04390 33399 or 9332 9039

Menu opposite

(Continued from page 1) **President's Report**

tastic way to while away a few hours with family and friends whilst enjoying mouth-watering food in the most beautiful of locations. The luncheon will also provide a window of opportunity to introduce prospective members to Highgate. Further details and menu are to be found in the newsletter. Ring Leon now and let him know you are coming.

Our normal Monthly Luncheon will take place the following day when the Guest Speaker will be an Officer from the Customs and Border Protection Service who will speak on problems associated with border security. We are sorry to have two functions so close together, but felt the opportunity to meet socially at the Yacht Club was too good to miss.

Plans are well in hand for the Highgate Gunfire Breakfast to be held on the 25th April, the 97th anniversary of ANZAC Day, at the WA Club in St George's Terrace. We will be requesting members to advise Treasurer Richard Adams of your attendance. Currently Richard is living the high life cruising in South East Asia so give him a few days before you ring.

Sadly I recently learnt of the death of one of our active mem-

bers when it was too late for Highgate to be represented at his funeral. So once again I am asking you to let me know if you hear that a member is ill or has passed away. We like to visit and keep an eye on members who are on the sick list and where possible to pay our respects at a member's funeral if the member or family wishes. It is better to be notified three or four times than not at all. The clock is ticking away for all of us. Knowing that everyone will have already worked their way through most of their New Year resolutions (tongue in cheek), I have another to add to the list - write down your 'end of life' wishes and let your nearest and dearest know.

Last month I referred to the catastrophic events that have taken place over the summer – that was before the most recent earthquake in New Zealand. Bearing in mind the number of opportunities available for members to contribute financially to the public appeals that have been organised, Highgate will leave it to members to choose which to support.

Highgate was well represented at a recent Seminar for Sub-Branch Executives held in February at ANZAC House. The



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Saturday 26 March 2011 - 0915 hrs for 0945 hrs - RAAF Association - Anniversary of the formation of the RAAF

Sunday 27 March 2011 - 1200 hrs for 1230 hrs - Consulate of Greece (National Day)

SUNDAY 20 MARCH 2011

HIGHGATE RSL LUNCH

ROLAND SMITH BALLROOM

ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB

BAKERY BASKET

Fresh baked assortment of rolls

SOUP

Pumpkin & Ginger Soup

CARVERY

Roast Beef

Roast Pork

Gravy and condiments

HOT SELECTION

Baked salmon with white wine sauce

Coq au vin and rice

Vegetable pasta bake

Roasted vegetables - potatoes and pumpkin

Steamed Vegetables

SALAD SELECTION

Gourmet Potato Salad

Fresh Tomato Salad

Cesar Salad

Feta, beetroot and pear

DESSERT

Assortment of cakes and fresh cream

DRINKS

Tea and coffee buffet

Soft drink (3 x jugs per table)

Cold water per table

Further beverages of Beer, Wine, Sparkling can be purchased from the

Ballroom bar on the day.

(Continued from page 2) **President's Report.**

importance of office-bearers being aware of their responsibilities when entrusted with running a Sub-Branch, were emphasised. If you are wondering why our AGM will be held in September, it is to comply with the requirement that an AGM must be held within 90 days of the end of the Financial Year. However due to the disruptions of CHOGAM, the State Branch AGM, Elections, and Congress are scheduled for 26th November.

The break up of the \$40 RSL annual subs is National - \$5, State Branch \$20 and the Sub-Branch receives \$15. Highgate has no bar trade profits to supplement our funds. I hope you understand the reason for the separate account that has been rendered, as pay it as soon as possible.

John Cleary has been doing an excellent job administering the Highgate website. Unfortunately he is experiencing a major computer problem and unable to update the website. Please be patient until things are back to normal. .

Looking forward to catching up at Freshwater Bay or at the March meeting, preferably both

Martyn

THE STATE WAR MEMORIAL—Sub-Wardens

HONOUR AVENUES GROUP—Members

Both of the above named bodies, which were established, and have been supported by Highgate RSL Sub-Branch for many years, and, render an invaluable service to the Community of Western Australia **ARE URGENTLY IN NEED OF MEMBERS.**

Please give serious thought to volunteering to be part of one, or both of, these prestigious and high profile groups. There is no question that they bring great credit to our sub-branch and perform functions of which we can all be justifiably proud.

Contacts are : Sub-Wardens - Phillip Skelton - 94521883 & 0405188792.

HAG Members - Norman Manners - 94052421

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

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



Editorial

Occasionally, when searching, sorting, or removing that which we believe we no longer need we may unexpectedly chance upon a treasure and just maybe, it is valuable.

This happened a few days ago in my voluntary capacity as librarian to the RAA Historical Society.

There in a well concealed box amongst some newspapers which heralded the start and the end of the Second World War in Europe was a copy of the 'Western Australian Chronicle' circa 1832 of which the prime headline was "COLONY'S POPULATION ABOVE 1,500."

I showed it to Don Rae, who is well known to most of us, and who manages the Society. We had visions of a holiday in the Bahamas or more probably a well healed Historical Society. But, being cautious we decided to verify its authenticity by means of a visit to the Battye Library.

Oh! Disappointment. Although a copy of an original document it had been issued as a supplement to one of our newspapers to celebrate, as far as the lady to whom I spoke could recall the State's sesquicentenary and there were several copies in the library.

Nevertheless it is a very interesting read and the following are two extracts:

WANTED

By a respectable man, age 35, a young and well-educated female for a wife. His temper gentle, his person prepossessing, and his means independ-

ent.

His only object in thus making his desires publicly known is to find a female of similar disposition, to enlighten the remainder of those years which he may be doomed to pass by an allwise Providence in this world's wilderness.

Apply, if by letter, post-paid, to Mr. William Skippon, Carpenter/Builder and Undertaker, York.

N.B. No objection to property.

Depredations of the natives

Fatal Spearing

A MEETING of all settlers along the Upper Swan has been convened at Guildford next week to debate the increasing dangers to themselves, their households, servants and stock caused by the horrid depredations of the natives.

It will be proposed at the meeting that the colony be abandoned unless the Government takes more effective steps to safeguard life and property.

Such a proposal should not surprise Authority in view of the latest outrage by the natives, the fatal spearing of Mr. Gaze in his own paddock on the Canning River and the near escape of his companion Mr. Thomas.

The murderers, who have since terrified women and children by hurling their spears through windows, are apparently men of the Upper swan clan led by that formidable warrior, Yagan.

Poor Mr Gaze was their third victim in the past year, the others being

Mr. Mackenzie and Mr. Entwistle, who was speared to death before the horrified eyes of his two little sons.

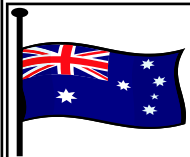
There are those, including the Civil Courts Commissioner, Mr. George Fletcher Moore, who claim that the present state of war between Yagan's tribe and the white community is not altogether the fault of the natives.

These apologists point out that the killings are not all on one side; that, in fact, a native was the first to die in an affray over a housebreaking, that more natives than whites have been killed and that on of them was Yagan's half-brother Domjuim, shot stealing loaves from a Fremantle bakery.

It must be admitted that the natives find our property laws hard to understand and that some settlers have taken little note of Governor Stirling's proclamation that no frauds, cruelties or felonies should be practised against the colony's original inhabitants.

The blood-feud tradition of the the Upper Swan tribe has been aroused and not yet assuaged. There seems a daunting likelihood of further tragedies unless more protection can be given to settlers and Yagan apprehended.

**OUR SINCERE THANKS TO
TINGLEWOOD WINES**
For their donation of truly delightful wines
that were raffled at our last luncheon
and from which the funds raised used
for the benefits of our members.



LAST POST

John (Pat) Mehan

Colin Gunn

Lest We Forget



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
BY THE OFFICE OF STEPHEN SMITH
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH & MINISTER FOR DEFENCE**

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

**HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**