



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

President

Martyn Thompson
Telephone: 9383 2681
martyn.thompson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Vice President

Leon Griffiths
Tele: 9332 9039 - 0439 033 399
Email: leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Junior Vice President

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

Secretary

Margot Harness
**32 Lenori Road
GOOSEBERRY HILL WA 6076**
Telephone: (H) 9293 1076
(M) 0438 936 405
Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Richard Adams
**PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832**
Telephone: 0411 737 723
Email: richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Editor

Margot Harness
**32 Lenori Road
GOOSEBERRY HILL WA 6076**
Telephone: (H) 9293 1076
(M) 0438 936 405
Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions Officer

Jim Eayrs
Telephone: 9341 2979

Website

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 20 June 2011

Venue:

Gallipoli Room

Time:

1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

Guest Speaker:

Dr Anne Aly — Curtin University



Dr Anne (Azza) Aly is an expert in the fields of counter terrorism, extremism, radicalisation and Islamist ideologies. She was born in Egypt but migrated with her family to Australia at the age of two. Dr Aly has published widely, and written a book: "Terrorism and Global Security: Historical and Contemporary Perspective" which was launched in April this year. The book is the first major work of its kind published in Australia, drawing from the various fields of psychology, political science, criminology and sociology. She is a Research Fellow at Curtin University.

IF ATTENDING THE JUNE LUNCH AND ARE NOT ON THE 'PERMANENT LIST' PLEASE ADVISE MARGOT HARNESS (Ph: 9293 1076) BEFORE 16 JUNE.

President's Report

The most pressing issue in the public domain that must be resolved by RSL State Branch is the wish of the SAS widows to see the names of their husbands engraved on the State War Memorial. A number of members who have strong views about the RSL policy have contacted me; at the same time many have voiced their concerns at the manner in which the issue has been handled in the media. The State Executive matter will be an agenda item at the State Congress in November; several members have asked that Highgate submit a motion to Congress. That would be so easy if all our thoughts were in agreement. As opinions are divided I have invited two of our highly respected members

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 4 July 2011 Monthly Luncheon: 18 July 2011



(Continued from page 1)

Phillip Skelton and Ken Bladen, to each give a five minute presentation during the September meeting. They will outline the different viewpoints, present the historical background, and identify and clarify the issues. Once the facts are on the table we will all be better informed. The wishes of the membership will then be determined by a poll, the results of which will become the basis of Highgate's motion for Congress. If you are unable to attend I ask that you put your thoughts in writing to the Secretary prior to the luncheon.

The luncheon speaker program organised by Peter Farrell is extremely interesting. The May Speaker Wing Commander Russell Page was excellent. Don't miss Dr Ann Aly from Curtin University who will present *Terrorism and Middle East Politics* at the June meeting. July luncheon will be devoted to members who will notch up a big 'O' birthday sometime this year. In August member Geoff Hourn will be guest speaker following on from Dr Aly by telling us about his experiences and observations in the Middle East. In September together with the AGM we will have our discussion and vote regarding Highgate's approach to the War Memorial issue and motion for RSL WA Congress in November. There will be no Guest Speaker in October, but an opportunity for members to rise to their feet and share some memories or anecdotes. There are so many stories to tell - pick out your favourite now and fine tune it to five minutes.

Provisions of the Privacy Act preclude hospitals from releasing information about inpatients unless they have the patient's authority to do so. This is providing Hospital Visitor Ken Bladen with a challenge to locate members who have been hospitalized. You can help by letting the staff or your family know that you are happy for the RSL to visit; let Ken know of others who are on the sick list. On the matter of health insurance - whilst in the past eligibility for membership of the Defence Health Fund was restricted to serving members of the Australian Defence Force it has in recent years been broadened. Ex-service personnel and a wide range of extended family members are now eligible. If you are interested, further information can be found on the DFH website.

We are so lucky to have members who are willing do that extra bit. Last month member John Thornton, proprietor of the Regal Theatre offered us 50 tickets to see the John Denver Show. From all accounts it was a fabulous night and those Highgate members who

were able to attend had a most enjoyable evening. Thank you John. Geoff Simpson has agreed to take on the role of Deputy Warden at the State War Memorial when Phillip Skelton stands down after the Remembrance Day Service. Thank you Geoff for stepping up to the mark. Congratulations to our current Secretary and new Editor Margot Harness who produced her first Highgate newsletter in May. Well done Margot. Once Jim Eayrs is home and unpacked after his round the world holiday he will relieve Margot of the secretarial duties. Mick Coyle has taken responsibility for organising the luncheon raffles. With his Irish charm, I feel sure he will prove persuasive and our luncheons will benefit. We are always looking for prizes, so if you have a spare bottle of single malt, please think of Highgate.

Over the years the format and traditions associated with Highgate meetings have barely changed. However what worked well in the past does not necessarily work when one is trying to attract younger members to balance the aging membership. Without younger members the Sub Branch will simply wither. With this in mind your Committee has been looking at different strategies, one of which is to be more inclusive and to encourage more women to attend the luncheon meetings. I encourage you therefore to bring along your wives and partners as well as guests to the next meeting.

Finally I would like to reflect on a moment in military history - 'supercentenarian': Claude Choules, who passed away recently at the grand age of 110 was the last living member in the world to see active service in the First World War.

Yours in Fellowship
Martyn

A "Pun can be Fun" Corner

King Ozymandias of Assyria was running low on cash after years of war with the Hittites. His last great possession was the Star of the Euphrates, the most valuable diamond in the ancient world. Desperate, he went to Croesus, the pawnbroker, to ask for a loan. Croesus said, "I'll give you 100,000 dinars for it." "But I paid a million dinars for it," the King protested. "Don't you know who I am? I am the king!" Croesus replied, "When you wish to pawn a Star, makes no difference who you are."



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Wednesday 1 June 2011 - 0915 for 0945 hrs - Commemorating Indigenous War Graves Committee
Sunday 17 July 2011 - 0830 for 0900 hrs - Assoc of the Movement of SC Combatants
Sunday 17 July 2011 - 1130 for 1200 hrs - Greek Cypriot Community of WA

HAS ANYONE LOST A CAMERA??

The WA Club Manager has advised that following the ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast, (and Parade) a camera was found. It is a Casio 7.2mp and has photos on it of member: Mick Michael and others, including some of the Parade. If it is yours - please contact WA Club Manager - 9481 7000.

SNIPPETS FROM MAY LUNCHEON

Many members (especially our ex-Air Force people) expressed pleasure and appreciation that we were graced with an all-too-rare speaker from the RAAF for our meeting. Wing Cdr Russell Page treated those present to a very enlightening talk on the changes that have occurred over recent years in the RAAF. Outlining his own career path in the RAAF over the years he forecasted the shape the service will continue to take in the future.

DEFENCE HEALTH: PRIVATE INSURANCE:

The Regional representative of Defence Health was available at the conclusion of the meeting to provide information on the changes to membership eligibility. In the past eligibility was restricted to serving members of the Australian Defence Force. Recently this has been broadened to include ex-service personnel and extended to family members. Further information can be found on the web at <http://defencehealth.com.au>. We will obtain some brochures which will be available for members at future meetings.

Remembering ... 2/16th Foundation Dinner

Member and ex-2/16th Bn veteran, Keith Norrish OAM asks that we help publicise this year's Dinner. Major General Len Roberts-Smith RFD, QC (Retd) a former Judge Advocate General of the ADF will present the Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration. The Dinner will be held at the Bill Walker Room, Patersons Stadium, Subiaco Road, Subiaco, on Friday 19th August 2011 at 6.30pm. Cost \$125 a head.

Bookings: Margaret Smith (9384 4144 or 0419 914 534)

margaretsmith14@hotmail.com

Or Mary Goldthorpe (9384 9105 or 0409 085 987)

mary.goldthorpe@yahoo.com.au

PREMIER'S ANZAC STUDENT TOUR FOR 2012

This WA-wide competition is open to students enrolled in Years 8 to 11. The tour will travel to Sarawak and Sabah, with a particular focus on the tragic story of POWs condemned to the Sandakan Death March. Ten students in all will be selected. The first stage of the competition is a written essay; finalists then need to present a five-minute speech and interview. Entries must be in before Friday 12 August 2011. Sec has details, or go to www.det.wa.edu.au/anzac

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

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



HOLLYWOOD HOSPITAL? UP-DATE

A PATH THROUGH ART IN KASHMIR

Dena Lawrence – an Art Therapist and Mental Health Nurse at Hollywood’s Mental Health clinic – has established a community-based art therapy project in Kashmir.

Dena Lawrence took a pioneering step last year when she travelled to Kashmir in July, September and December to create and facilitate a series of art therapy workshops. Her aim was to address the trauma amongst the Kashmiri people who have experienced violent events as a result of the ongoing conflict in the region.

Dena facilitated the next workshops in April and May this year, with part of her trip funded by Hollywood. The art therapy program provides art therapy for those who suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder as well as those experiencing depression and anxiety as a result of trauma.

The group consists of male and female adolescents, young adults and professionals who are interested in expressing their feelings and experiences of living in Kashmir through painting, drawing and poetry. Dena assists by facilitating an exploration of the images and associated thoughts and feelings.

Besides being a Registered Art Therapist and a Registered Mental Health Nurse, Dena is also a practicing artist who has been working as a mental health practitioner for 26 years. For the past 16 years, she has been working at Hollywood’s Mental Health clinic, where she has created, developed and implemented an art therapy program.

“Art has the potential to change lives in profound ways,” said Dena. “When words are not enough, we turn to images and symbols to tell our stories.

“In telling stories through art, we can find a path to health and wellness, emotional reparation, recovery and, ultimately, transformation.

“Art therapy is the deliberate use of art-making to address a variety of psychological and emotional needs: to enhance coping skills, to manage stress, to create new pathways to a more authentic self and to nurture a positive sense of self.

“In the case of trauma, art therapy can assist with the containment of traumatic material within an image, giving a participant control over terrifying or intrusive memories.”

The groups in Kashmir provide a way to find new meaning and to develop a sense of community and trust amongst the participants who have seen or experience traumatic events in the ongoing violent conflict between India and Pakistan. The three-week workshops will culminate in an art exhibition.

The three-week workshops will culminate in an exhibition of artworks, showing the shifts and changes and renewed creativity of the participants after the sessions. Exhibitions are planned for Srinagar, Delhi and Australia.

REMINDER— Don’t forget to mark in your diaries our O.B.E. (“Old Boys over Eighty”) Luncheon to be held on Monday, 18th July. “OLE!” (Old Ladies over Eighty too!)



LAST POST

Ian Medcalf Dominic (Nick) Smith RADML Philip Kennedy



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

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

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL