



# HIGHGATE



**Issue 513**  
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Website: <http://Highgatersl.org.au>

## NEWS

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

### President

Leon Griffiths

Tel: 9332 9039 - 0439 033 399

Email: [leon.griffiths@highgatersl.org.au](mailto:leon.griffiths@highgatersl.org.au)

### Vice President

Peter Farrell

Tel: 9246 1367 - 0458 720 022

Email: [peter.farrell@highgatersl.org.au](mailto:peter.farrell@highgatersl.org.au)

### Junior Vice President

VACANT

### Immediate Past President

Martyn Thompson

Tel: 9383 2681

Email: [martyn.tyn.thompson@highgatersl.org.au](mailto:martyn.tyn.thompson@highgatersl.org.au)

### Secretary

Adrian Young

21 Davalia Road

DUNCRAIG WA 6023

Telephone: (H) 9448 4451

Mob: 0437 561 243

Email: [adrian44@iinet.net.au](mailto:adrian44@iinet.net.au)

### Treasurer

Richard Adams

PO Box 3551

PERTH WA 6832

Telephone: 0411 737 723

Email: [richard.adams@highgatersl.org.au](mailto:richard.adams@highgatersl.org.au)

### Editor

Margot Harness

Telephone: (H) 9293 1076

(M) 0438 936 405

Email: [margot.harness@highgatersl.org.au](mailto:margot.harness@highgatersl.org.au)

### Pensions Officer

Jim Eayrs

Telephone: 9341 2979

### Website

[www.highgate-rsl.org.au](http://www.highgate-rsl.org.au)

Email: [john.cleary@highgatersl.org.au](mailto:john.cleary@highgatersl.org.au)

## MONTHLY LUNCHEON AND AGM

Monday 19 December 2011

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room

**Time:** 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

### GUEST ENTERTAINER: Peter HARRIES.

*From our own ranks, and by popular demand, we shall once again enjoy the light-hearted accordion strains, songs and jokes repertoire of the dulcet-voiced Peter, So warm up your vocal chords and be ready to join in for a "Cool Yule" luncheon!*

**PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE: To attend a monthly luncheon you will need to book your name on the BOOK-IN SHEET by the Friday before the Monday lunch (Friday 16 December, for the next one). You can do this by using the link previously emailed to you. FOR THOSE WITHOUT email please call Margot Harness on 9293 1076 (or any of the committee listed at left). If you need the link again send an email to our treasurer (see email on front cover) and request it. Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to place yourself on a PERMANENT basis.**

**\*\* CHECK FOR YOUR NAME ON THE LIST, Page 3 \*\***

## president's Report

This has been a difficult month.

After attending a harrowing State Congress on 26 November I received news that one of our favourite members, our only centurion Harold Birch, passed away today 30 November 2011 aged 102.

Harold will always be remembered very fondly as the absolute gentleman and on behalf of our members I wish to offer his family our deepest condolences. They will always have friends in Highgate standing by to offer support if it is needed. I know he was proud to be a member of Highgate and he made every endeavour to attend our functions and be part of the friendship. He knew how to enjoy life.

We must have some positives and we have. As a result of the Highgate

*(Continued on page 2)*

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 5 December 2011

Monthly Luncheon: 19 December 2011



(Continued from page 1)

motion put to Congress and despite determined resistance by the President, delegates were adamant in their desire to express to the public that they shared their widespread sentiment. This sentiment was in favour of the inscription of the names of SAS/ADF veterans killed in action onto the State War Memorial. The motion was passed and now it is up to State Executive to iron out any obstacles and to ensure this action proceeds.

I am very proud of the fact that members chose to debate the issue at our AGM in a considered manner then submit this motion to Congress. I doubt that this issue would even have seen the light of day, despite a media release in April put out by the State Executive stating that it would be 'dealt with by the membership'? The release went on to say it was intended to be placed on

the Agenda for discussion at Congress. I can only assume we saved them the effort because it would have been too late to go through any other process in time. It does go to show that there are positive things we can do for our servicemen and women as well as enjoying ourselves socially.

Talking about enjoying ourselves Christmas is creeping closer. I have no doubt that you have already identified the 19 December as a **must attend** Christmas lunch. It will be bigger and better than last year and Peter Harries has some new jokes and Christmas songs to brighten the day. Hope you'll come along.

Have a very enjoyable and happy Christmas with your family and loved ones.

Roll on 2012.  
Leon.



### VALE - Harold BIRCH

*It is with sadness that we learned of the death of our oldest member: Harold Birch, on 30 November. The picture at left was taken when Harold attended the 2009 "OBE Luncheon", and was recognised for his 100th birthday.*

*A man of great charm, he was born in 1909, and in 1927 was conscripted (Universal Service) into the Citizen Forces. His CV on the Sub-Branch's 'Hall of Honour' goes on to read: "1929 Best Turnout Sgt AFA Military Tournament. 1941 Enlisted AIF 2/4 LAA Regt 9th Division El Alamein, New Guinea including landing at Finschhaven. Discharged 1946. Civilian history 1924 - 71 Process Engraver West Australian Newspaper. 1936 London, Jakarta 1958 Instructor Government Print & Perth Tech. Played Football for Claremont".*

*Highgate extends sympathy and condolences to his widow and Helen, his devoted daughter, who is also a member. May he Rest in Peace.*

### A "Pun can be Fun" Corner

My aunt's beloved cat, "Ginger", had grown seriously overweight, so she decided to take him to the vet to find out if there was anything wrong with him- and more to the point: whether anything could be done about it.

So she put him into the kitty-carry box, and drove to the surgery. The veterinary doc prescribed a course of pills, and my aunt left, happy in the knowledge that Ginger would soon be his slim old self again.

Alas, after a few weeks of taking the pills, there was no change: Ginger was just as fat as ever. Soon months had gone by, and still there was no difference. In fact, if anything, it was getting worse.

The other problem was the invoices from the vet- these pills were costing a fortune.

It soon became clear to us all that Ginger had become a doebilled fatty-puss.

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

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072 Ken Bladen



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

NIL SCHEDULED FOR THE MONTHS OF DECEMBER OR JANUARY

### STILL RE-WORKING THE "PERMANENT LIST" FOR MONTHLY LUNCHEONS :

As outlined on the Front Page, we now have an "on-line" Booking In system in place each month, but those wishing to register as a "Permanent", just as before, will have his/her name "carried forward" automatically from month to month. It is still a "system-in-progress".

**PLEASE CHECK TO SEE IF YOUR NAME IS LISTED BELOW.**

**IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME ADDED TO THE LIST, ring Margot (9293 1076). Bear in mind that once you register for this, you will need to notify Margot ONLY when you CANNOT attend.**

Adams Richard	Harper-Nelson John	Sher Abe
Arnold Bob	Harrison Rev Tim	Stacey Roy
Bladen Ken	Homer John	Thompson Martyn
Campbell Robert	Hummerston Peter	Walkley Cecil
Coy Les	Lane Bert	Weatherhead Malcolm
Durant Lynn	McKenzie John	White Ted
Eayrs Jim	Mercer Bob	Wilson Bill
Farrell Peter	Morris Keith	Wood Ken
Graham Kevin	Morriss John	Young Adrian
Griffiths (Pres) Leon	Newman Don	
Harness Margot	Palmer Laurie	
Harness Mike	Quartermaine Eli	

### Psst ..... things one hears over the Bush Wireless ....

Former WW2 WRAAF Sgt: **Eleanor Wells** has been made a Life Member of the Save the Children Fund. (Eleanor founded and produced a Newsletter for the organisation for 14 years, among other contributions). Well done Eleanor!

It was wonderful to see Highgate stalwart **Bob Mercer**, with Jean by his side, at the Memorial Luncheon at Fraser's on 6th November, after a recent bout of illhealth. Continue to do well Bob!

Bubbly **Lynn Durant** recently returned from a wonderful trip to Europe. With exWW2 Commando husband, Harold: who is the President of Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch, they started off in Prague, then "did the cruise" down the Danube Main-Rhine Rivers from Budapest to Amsterdam, before winding up with a six day stop in Paris. Harold who previously staunchly resisted travelling, now has itchy feet to go again. Keep the passports upto-date Lynn.

SVP, **Peter Farrell**, who'd been planning a similar European canals/river trip, had to cancel at the 11th hour after his wife, Judy, had to unexpectedly undergo emergency eye surgery. Fortunately, she is making a steady recovery and plans have been shifted to next year. To quote Peter: Vienna and Basle won't be moving anywhere they'll still be there in 2012. May all go smoothly for you both next year, Peter and Judy.

The group of Sub-Wardens, drawn from Highgate membership, does a sterling job at the State War Memorial, and after eight years as Deputy Warden, **Phillip Skelton** has handed the baton to the new appointee: **Geoff Simpson**.

Other sterling workers are the Honour Avenue Group (HAG for short), who install and maintain the plaques along the Memorial Avenues of trees at Kings Park, ably led by **Norm Manners** and **Alf Till**, and their merry band. On Remembrance Day, small Australian flags were placed on each plaque- over 1400 in all. Young people and their teachers from Carine SHS assisted. Well done all!



### LAST POST

Dick Larson Harold Birch

Lest We Forget



## Hollywood nurses shine in acute care at the annual excellence awards

Hollywood nurses Tracy Swanson and Sara Garofallou won acute care nursing awards at the annual Nursing and Midwifery Excellence Awards held at Burswood Entertainment Complex in September 2011.

Organised by the WA Department of Health, the award categories reflect the diversity of work undertaken by nurses and midwives across health in a range of clinical, educational, research and leadership roles.

Tracy Swanson was the category winner in the Metropolitan Acute Care Registered Nurse category, whilst Sara Garofallou was the Metropolitan Acute Care Enrolled Nurse category winner. Both nurses are fulltime employees of Hollywood Private Hospital.

Of her win, Sara Garofallou says, "It's a huge recognition of the work that I have put in. A lot of it comes down to enjoying who I work with and the award has given me the push to keep going with what I am doing. I had a lot of nerves on the night but it was extremely inspiring, hearing what everyone had to say and how big the event was."



Sara Garofallou completed her Enrolled Nurse Graduate program at Hollywood in August 2005. She developed a passion for Orthopaedic Nursing during the program and remained on the Orthopaedic ward whilst increasing her knowledge and skills in the area which contributed to her reaching advanced skill Enrolled Nurse status in 2009.

Tracy Swanson said, "I was very overwhelmed and honoured to win on the evening and found it especially humbling to be acknowledged by my peers."

Tracy has extensive knowledge and experience in the specialty of cardiac rehabilitation, monitoring standards of cardiac education for all cardiac patients at Hollywood.

She provides excellent leadership to her nursing colleagues utilising expert skills to achieve the best outcomes for patients.

HPH has TWO of the very best! Award-winning nurses: Sara Garofallou (L) (winner of the Metropolitan Acute Care Enrolled Nurse category); and Tracy Swanson (R) (who took out the Metropolitan Acute Care Registered Nurse Category)

Of the two Hollywood award winners, Nola Cruickshank, Director of Clinical Services at Hollywood said: "This is an amazing achievement and we are especially proud of Sara and Tracy for their amazing work at our hospital. These awards reflect the outstanding service provided by everyone at Hollywood Private Hospital."

\* \* \* \* \*

*I am sure that all our veteran members (and widows) who have spent time in Hollywood Private Hospital and have had first-hand experience of the excellent quality of care demonstrated by the nursing staff, would gladly join the congratulatory chorus to exclaim: "Congratulations and 'Well Done' Sara and Tracy!"*

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



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BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON STEPHEN SMITH, MEMBER FOR PERTH**