



HIGHGATE



Issue 49
May 2010

Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

NEWS

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

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

17 May 2010

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs—Fellowship

1215 hrs—Luncheon



Guest Speaker: Professor Murray Lampart APM MAICD

Professor of Public Safety, School of Law and Justice,
Professor of Security, Security Research Centre.
Retired Deputy Police Commissioner.

Murray was appointed a Professor (part time) at Edith Cowan University in August 2008, post his retirement as the Deputy Police Commissioner for the Western Australia Police. Prior to this appointment he held the position of Adjunct As-

sociate Professor where he supported and advocated ECU to the public and private sector.

He retired from the Western Australian Police in July 2008 at the rank of Deputy Commissioner. His appointments whilst in office included: a senior role in the Delta Change Management Program, key leader in the tri state Cross Border Justice project, was chair of the National Taskforce Working Group and the WA Police representative on the National Counter Terrorism Committee.

He has toured and inspected Police deployments in Malaysia, Timor and Solomon Islands as part of the International Deployment group. Married to wife Toni, they have two adult children, one being a Senior Detective in WA Police and a Commissioned Officer in the Australian Army Reserve. Murray is a golfer and a cyclist.

Topic: Preparedness V Paranoia.

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

At the time of writing ANZAC Day is still a few days away. Public interest certainly seems to be increasing and just this morning a parish rector came to ask for information about this day of remembrance to include in his Sunday sermon. However by the time the newsletter reaches your mailbox the 25th April will have passed – without incident I hope. I trust that many members will have participated in at least some part of the formal activities, be it a Dawn Service, Highgate's 57th Annual Gunfire Breakfast or the Parade. I hope that you caught up with friends especially those whom you might only see once a year, and that when the medals were put away you took time to say 'well done'.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 14 June 10

Monthly Luncheon: 21 June 10

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Dual Appointment
Leon Griffiths



(Continued from page 1)

I was recently advised that Ray Martin from one of the national commercial television channels would be mounting a challenge to the Australian National Flag on ANZAC Day before an invited audience. I asked myself - 'Why? Why ANZAC Day when there are 51 other Sunday evenings in the year to re-ignite a controversy? Is this exploitation? Ratings and/or profit down?' So many questions but few answers. Although not initially included in the program, the channel has responded to fierce lobbying by inviting Highgate member Bert Lane to present his point of view. A good example of the squeaky door that gets attention.

There are a number of members who do that little bit extra for Highgate. Phillip Skelton, Deputy Warden State War Memorial and the Sub-Wardens attend many commemorative services during the course of the year. May is usually a busy month so this is a good time to thank them on your behalf.

Many thanks also go to the Mulholland family who were instrumental in setting up the Highgate website some time ago and have taken responsibility for its maintenance. In the last few weeks Mo and Jenni have sold their Hills property and moved to Denmark. Although Mo intends to continue his active involvement with Highgate, over the next few weeks the Committee will be looking for someone with the necessary skills to take on the important role of regularly updating the website.

Recently a longstanding member who due to failing health had not been attending meetings, passed away. Sadly neither I nor any of the Committee was alerted until several weeks after the deceased member's funeral. Highgate endeavours to make sure that the Sub-Branch is represented at funerals. It is very helpful if close family members already know that their loved one would like Highgate to be involved, to recite the Ode and hand out poppies. We are all getting older and know what is in store one day. I urge you to take the time to talk about these matters before it is too late, and preferably to put pen to paper and write your wishes down.

On a brighter note, since the beginning of this year we have had a number of new members, some of whom are recently retired Reserve Servicemen. Please look out for the 'smiley faces' on name badges and give the newcomers an extra warm welcome.

retired Reserve Servicemen.
Yours in fellowship
Martyn

wanted Webmaster or webmistress



With the dawning of the year 2011 we will need a computer wise member, or perhaps the offspring of a member, to take on the (self) rewarding duties of managing our Sub-Branch website.

Please consider this great opportunity and give the Junior Vice President Leon Griffiths your details. Leon can be contacted on 9332 9039 or leon@leongriffiths.com

HIGHGATE SUB-BRANCH ATHLETICS Inc

AMA National Championships Perth 2010 - 2-5 April

Class M 90

Peter Kennedy—only competitor in the class - competed in the Outdoor Pentathlon:

- Javelin 9.79 meters
- Discus 11.23 meters
- Long Jump 1.36 meters
- 200 meters dash 72.48 secs
- 1500 meters 14 min 29.78 secs

You have our sincerest congratulations Peter—a remarkable achievement.

HOSPITAL VISITS

I visited Hollywood Private Hospital on 21 April 10 and saw the only Highgate member of whom I was aware, Mick Michael. Mick hopes to be released in time for ANZAC day.

Ken Bladen.



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Monday 10 May 2010 1030 hrs for 1100 hrs - Australian American Association - Battle of the Coral Sea.
Monday 31 May 2010 1030 hrs for 1050 hrs - North American Veterans' Unit - USA Memorial Day.



Editorial:

There is nothing quite so dear to an old Sub-Branch RSL Editor's heart as a "warie" from a reader, but sadly they don't come very frequently. It is consequently of considerable moment when two come to hand in close succession and sincere thanks Ken you may just have encouraged others. Our memories are precious and we bring pleasure to others when we share them. So! how about bringing more joy to an ageing editor and more importantly, the rest of our readers.

Here's a great story about hunger:

We were at the Hintock Road camp in 1943 and were members of the Hammer & Tap gang. We were required to drill at this time 3 metres of hole a day. It started off at 60 centimetres and gradually— not so gradually—increased to the above figure. It was hard work but our gang finished before the rock clearing gangs who had to remove the broken rock after we had finished our drilling and after the holes were blasted. We were then able to return to camp while there was still some daylight. On the way we could sometimes catch a lizard or snake to add to our dinner of rice and watery stew which might, but mostly, did not contain meat.

There were four of us in our little group, Jimmy, Colin, Harry and myself. We gathered around a fire at night

and the conversation was mostly about food, memories of meals we had and dreams of what we could have when we got home. One great idea was Steak and Eggs which was about the only cafe meal beside Fish and Chips readily available. But the ultimate was Steak and Eggs with tomato and onions on toast, the ideal special. Harry - a Queenslander - had his own idea. A LARGE plate of oysters.

Shortly after that we were split up and I did not catch up with Harry until 1945 when by chance we were in the same group evacuated out of Singapore on a Hospital ship, the Highland Chieftain. Harry talked about the large plate of oysters and we berthed at Brisbane and the Queensland passengers disembarked. We also got off to a tumultuous welcome from the girls who covered us with lipstick but we had to be back on board by 4 pm. Harry grabbed my arm and said - The Large Plate of Oysters.

He took me to what was his favourite oyster bar and we sat down and ordered expecting a plate with two dozen oysters. What we got was a plate with ten oysters each. Harry complained to the waitress - We ordered large plates. The waitress put her hands on her hips and said "There's been a war on you know - they ARE large plates".

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

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen

A REMINDER

For those not on the *Permanent's List*, FOR THE MAY LUNCHEON ONLY, please advise Eli Quartermaine; I'll be back for the June Luncheon.

Eli's contact details are:

TELEPHONE: 9447 8822

EMAIL: qmaine@hotlinks.net.au

Bob Arnold



Editorial

THE AWESOME STRENGTH OF NATURE

We hear of the effects of earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis and hurricanes and we say how terrible, but usually just go about our business. It however strikes home when we may be personally affected. This year is the 95th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli and there are many Australians planning to attend the Dawn Service and the Service at Lone Pine and at the time of writing (19 April), may well already be in Turkey. If so there could be significant problems for them when it comes to returning to Australia and for those waiting to go much doubt exists because, as at this morning Istanbul, along with Rome, was being considered for closure.

Those who, in some cases are making the pilgrimage of a life time, in visiting Gallipoli for the two Services we feel for you in your frustrations and disappointment. (As this editorial was written before the event it is our hope that the predictions fail to materialise and all those who planned attending the services at Gallipoli are able to do so)

My wife and I are due to leave for Canada, to visit our granddaughter on 27th April and from Canada we hoped to go to Europe to spend a couple of weeks on the continent and Ireland. Europe is now in doubt and the travel agent tells me that we may not be able to get out of Canada until a week or more after aircraft start flying as the clearance of the backlog will have priority. Rightly so.

Months of planning for those travelling at this time may well be in tatters. For those, with no current plans and staying at home the disturbance is of interest value only.

So what we can now begin to heed is that nature is a truly formidable force, a force which man with all his technology and inventiveness has no capacity to intervene.

The current dilemma, a volcano the Eyjafjallajokull in Iceland last had a substantial eruption in 1821AD, which lasted for around 5 months. This current eruption also appears to be an ongoing event, rather than a 'one off' explosion, seen with other well known eruptions, such as those at Mt St Helens and Krakatoa.

With the upper level jetstream winds being a fairly constant feature over northern Europe, there is the possibility that air traffic will be interrupted on and off for weeks if the volcano continues to erupt.

DID YOU KNOW? FLAGS ON COFFINS

There seems to be some confusion pertaining to the use of the Australian National Flag (ANF) on the coffins of non Ex

Service Personnel. Let us clear this up - once and for all.

Contrary to popular belief, the use of the ANF exclusively is not for Deceased Ex-service Men & Women.

The protocol book, "Australian Flags" which is produced by the Awards and Culture Branch of the Department of prime Minister and Cabinet makes this statement .

DRAPING A COFFIN ,The Australian National Flag may be used to cover the coffin of any deceased Australian citizen at their funeral.

Some Funeral Companies are seemingly ignorant of the above and actually advise family of deceased non Service personnel that the RNF cannot be used to drape the coffin of their loved one. That of course is not true, Whilst most Funeral Directors will supply the ANF to drape a coffin, they will not give the flag away and will retrieve it as soon as the service is concluded. This action has the effect on the grieving family of non closure and can leave them with the feeling that the service is in some way incomplete.

This can be easily corrected if the flag used on the coffin was neatly folded near the conclusion of the service and solemnly presented to the NOK for them to keep. This action is a most respectful and appreciated conclusion to the ceremony.

The only way to achieve this however is for the family of the deceased to the Funeral Company prior to the funeral with firm instructions of what is required of them.

Bert Lane

ANZAC of the Year Award

The ANZAC of the Year Awards are made annually 'to recognise the efforts and achievements of up to seven Australians who have given service to their fellow Australians and to the community in a positive, selfless and compassionate manner.'

Mr Robert Mercer of Western Australia

In recognition of his years of dedicated and committed service to the community of Western Australia, particularly through the WA Ostomy Association, the Police & Citizens Youth Clubs of WA and the Returned and Services League of Australia.

Our sincerest congratulations to you Bob on your receipt of this most deserved award.



LAST POST
Anthony Welwood Smith

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

**HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**