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

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Monthly Luncheon

16 March 2004

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon
Speaker: Professor Alex Kerr
Topic: Australian Commemorative Commission

Presidents Report

Firstly, members thank you for the privilege of my appointment of President of this illustrious Sub-Branch. Be assured I will continue to uphold the traditions and customs of Highgate that have been established over the years.

Our numbers were down a little at our February luncheon but that can be blamed upon the uncertainty of the trains and also of course the heat on the day. The new air-conditioning is up and working at ANZAC House.

New Members

The importance of making our new members welcome, cannot be stressed strongly enough, it is up to each and every one of us to ensure we meet and greet each and every new member. I refresh your memory that we appointed Greeters from each service to assist with the induction of new members. If unsure of the protocol for new members please ask a committee or speak with one the service Greeters.

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast

ANZAC Day is fast approaching and planning is well advanced to make our 51st Gunfire breakfast a most enjoyable morning. Being Sunday we have been affected by unavoidable extra labour costs this year.

We have secured the Club Suite on the 1st floor of the WA club again this year and can seat 120+ for the Gunfire Breakfast.

Bert Lane from Australian National Flag Association will address the meeting.

Please be early with your booking (**Green Return enclosed with the Newsletter**)

Regards Ian

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
5 April 2004

Luncheon: 11:30 hrs, Monday
19 April 2004

**Assistant Cashier for March
Errol Smith**

Members, please bring correct money \$25.00

(Continued from page 1)

Hospital Visits – Otto Pelczar	New Memberships
Otto is pleased to report that no members are currently receiving treatment in hospital. If you have a query or some information you may contact Otto on: 9385 9849 or, 0408 940 928.	

Sub Wardens Duties

Wreath laying ceremonies currently scheduled at the State War Memorial, Kings Park:

Sunday 28 March	11:45 hrs for Noon	Greek Consulate
Wednesday 7 April	11:00 hrs for 11:45 hrs	Dept of Education

Honours & Awards

Special congratulations to long time Highgate member and previous newsletter editor Keith Flanagan on his award of the Order of Australia Medal in the New Year Honours. Keith is modest in saying that he was only doing what he enjoyed but the point is Keith, you did it so well. Well done.

Your Senior Vice President for 2004

Norm Manners was born in Kalgoorlie and educated in Perth before joining Radio 6PR as a junior announcer in 1948. There followed over twenty years in the industry, including 6IX and 6KY before Norm became Programme & Production Manager with the 'new boy on the block' STW Channel Nine. Later he joined Kerry Stokes and Jack Bendat as an Associate Director of West Australian Property Management and as an alternate Director of then BTW, later GWN.

He concluded his business life as proprietor of Manners Marketing & Media and founding Chairman of 89.7FM.

Norm joined 10Light Horse in 1961 and discharged in 1986 having served as Public Relations Officer with HQ Western Command in later years.

He has served as JVP, SVP & President of the Naval Military & Air Forces Club of WA, is a member of 10LH Officers' Mess, the Royal Australian Armoured Corps Association (WA) and the Honour Avenue sub-Committee of Highgate RSL sub Branch.

The author of "Bullwinkel: a recently published biography of Sister Vivian Bullwinkel, he lives with his wife, Pauline, north of the river where they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last month.

From The Pensions Officer

The Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) has determined a number of 'Statements of Principle' (SoP), relating to solar skin damage, which includes a factor relating to UV exposure. This factor is currently linked to a series of complex definitions which make reference to a computer program used by the disability claims processors at the Department of Veteran's Affairs in determining the veteran's claim.

The DVA have notified the RMA that its new computer system will be incompatible with the existing UV Risk Software. One of the options being considered to overcome this is for the RMA to develop a new approach to solar damage factors moving away from the complex formula making the need for the computer program unnecessary.

The current method compares lifetime exposure to an estimate of the lifetime exposure that would have occurred but for service. The proposed approach looks only at service exposure and whether a material dose has accumulated.

The proposed factor looks much simpler to use than the existing computer system and hopefully will result in a better result for the affected veteran.

Best wishes from

Jim Eayrs

Your Welfare Officers

Not many realise that we now have two Welfare Officers where, previously for quite some time we had none. John & Clare Curtis is a husband and wife double act who are there to advise you on matters other than what Jim Eayrs, our Pensions Officer, does.

John is an Advocate with Veteran's Affairs having trained with Jim Eayrs in a number of courses. Clare has completed the Welfare Officer's Course with the TIP Training Team and fulfils a very important role as John's opposite number.

Clare has the ability to speak to our female members on matters that affect them. Of course John can also help in this regard, but sometimes a female to female discussion is more beneficial to those members.

John has had about 6 years experience in working with Veteran's Affairs helping the veterans get all their entitlements. However, John's place now is purely in the Welfare side of our RSL Branch. To this end, he and Clare are happy to discuss your problems with you and work with you to find an agreeable solution. Our Welfare Officers can negotiate with DVA on matters of home help or a visit from a DVA nominated Occupational Therapist to look at your home problems. John and Clare are there to advise you.

John has a military background in both the RAAF and in the Army. Having commenced as an apprentice with the RAAF he transferred to the Army and went on to complete 40 years with both services. So John is well and truly aware of what goes on in the Services and what happens afterward having retired from the Army as a Warrant Officer Class Two.

Clare also served in both the RAAF and the Army. She served 4 years in the RAAF and left when married females were not allowed to serve. After a spell as a home maker she joined the Army and served for 14 years before a serious hip injury forced her retirement from the Service and, like John is well aware of family problems with serving members and service retirees.

If you have a problem, give them a call and have a chat. Sometimes a problem shared is a problem halved. John and Clare can advise you on what to do in many cases. If they do not have the answer they will find out for you.

Book Launch – Dr Alan King

"A Question of Duty" – a biography of Highgate member Dr Alan King and written by celebrated writer Cyril Ayris will be launched at a function on behalf of the TB Advisory Board of Westcare through the Australian Tuberculosis & Chest Association on 24 March 2004 at Legacy House, 64 Mill Point Road, South Perth commencing at 6PM. Members may book by phoning Alan on 93674842 or Julie on 63894100. Alan will also be available at the March luncheon to take bookings and answer questions.

51st Gunfire Breakfast – ANZAC Day

This year we will celebrate our **51st Gunfire Breakfast** with the guest speaker being Mr Bert Lane President of the Australian National Flag Association.

Once again the breakfast is to be held at the WA Club. We are expecting a greater number of members and guests once again so we have booked the Club Suite on the 1st Floor.

Unfortunately, as this year ANZAC Day is celebrated on a Sunday, the cost must be increased to cater for additional wages. The WA Club has kept the costing to an absolute minimum for this prestigious event; however the fee will still rise to \$27.00 for this year. To ensure your place make sure you complete the 'GREEN RETURN' in this newsletter and forward with your payment to the Treasurer as soon as you can. If you have a guest you need to include their name and payment also.

Numbers are limited to 120; door sales are unlikely, so get your returns to the Treasurer ASAP. Also, due to the increased number of veteran guests attending each year it is requested that our members refrain from including their wives on the return



Hollywood Continues its Celebration

Hollywood held a 'Morning Tea' for representatives of all Veteran organizations at 'Tawarri' on Wednesday 25 February.

Our President Ian Mulholland attended on behalf of Highgate and other members attending as representatives of other groups were; Warren Smith, John Costigan and Otto Pelczar. As well as offering all those attending a pleasant 'Morning Tea' the function gave everyone a chance to be familiarized with the latest improvements at Hollywood Hospital. A pleasant surprise was the gift from Hollywood to each member of a thermos flask, which will be greatly appreciated during such events as the forthcoming ANZAC dawn service.

An Eccentric English Soldier

From the memoirs of the English soldier Lieutenant-General Sir Adrian Carton de Wiart titled 'Happy Odyssey' comes the following story, which shows his humour for the Australian soldier:

"He was a real eccentric of the old school. He listed his favourite sport in Who's Who as pig sticking!

De Wiart won a VC on the Western Front during World War I. Later, he had a hand blown off and won a DSO. Earlier, as a humble Colonel he was wandering on the Western Front one day with General Birdwood, a Pom commanding one of the Anzac Corps.

A Digger trudged past them looking grimly ahead and said nothing. Colonel de Wiart called to him and said: "Soldier, don't you know who you have just passed? That is General Birdwood." The weary Aussie replied: "Well why doesn't he wear a feather in his arse like any bird would." He turned and trudged on."

URGENT: Volunteers always required for duty on Honour Avenues at Kings Park each Tuesday morning. Phone Brian Martin on 92941915 or Alf Till on 93875113.