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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**

**Monday 18 October 2004**

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House  
**Time:** 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon  
**Speaker:** Mr Nick Maher (Dept Vet Affairs)  
**Topic:** Veterans' Health

**Presidents Report**

**Poppy Day**

With "Poppy Day" early next Month, Friday 5 November, we are still looking for collectors. A couple of hours on the Friday can really add to our coffers. Highgate has the Bus Station in Wellington Street and the Bus Port in Mount Bay Road. If you can help contact Don Blair 9272 5933 or Tom Horton 9332 0446.

**Membership Fees - 2005**

In this issue there is a return for the your Membership fees for 2005. With a plea as from previous years, please pay direct to the Treasurer, not through ANZAC House, that is because we lose out on collecting the \$7.00 for the Newsletter. Only include your address if you have moved recently. If you have an e-mail address please include that so we can pass on messages and information quickly and directly.

**Welfare Distribution**

At the last Luncheon Highgate presented Graeme Sherriff CEO of the, RSL Retirement and Aged Care Association (RACA) the renamed War Vets Home at Mt Lawley with a cheque for \$9000.00. With a caution to spend the money wisely. Highgate has now distributed our Amelioration Fund for 2003 & 2004. And look to Poppy Day to top up the fund for distribution midway through 2005. Graeme gave a quick synopsis of the redevelopment and is delighted with the sales from the plans.

**All the best**  
**Ian**

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**Committee:** 10:00 hrs Monday  
1 November 2004  
**Luncheon:** 11:30 hrs, Monday  
15 November 2004

Assistant Cashier for October - **Errol Smith**  
Members, please assist by bringing the correct money **\$25.00**

<b>Hospital Visits – Otto Pelczar</b>	<b>New Member</b>
Past State President Jim Hall was in ICU Hollywood. Ring Otto 9311 2429 or 0408 940 928.	On behalf of Highgate Sub Branch we extend a most sincere and warm welcome to our new members Alex Kerr, Ian Sutherland, Keith Norrish transfer from Darling Range and Ian Johnstone transfer from South Perth.

### **Sub Wardens Duties**

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

Wednesday 20 October	09:45 for 10:00	RMC Duntroon Class of 57-60 Reunion..
Thursday 11 November	10:30 for 11:00	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 17 November	16:45 for 17:00	Perth Legacy

### **Ladies Dining Night - Friday 26 November 2003**

Venue: WA Club  
101 St Georges Terrace  
PERTH

The Dinner is filling fast at the WA club. Please let Brian Martin know if you and your wife or partner want to attend. The cost for Dinner is \$60.00 per head. His Excellency Lt Gen John Sanderson AC Governor of Western Australia accompanied by Mrs Sanderson will again attend.

### **The annual Poppy Day Appeal embodies the core values of the RSL – Remembrance and Welfare.**

It is the major source of funds for the RSL's extensive provision of welfare services to war veterans and the ex-service community and Poppy Day has been an important part of remembrance in Australia for over 80 years.

Poppy Day is usually observed on the Friday before Remembrance Day (11<sup>th</sup> November). This year Friday 5 November. at this time RSL volunteers distribute hundreds of thousands of red poppies throughout Australia in exchange for generous donations from the public. The poppies are traditionally then worn on the left lapel for the day and on Remembrance Day and also on ANZAC Day, to signify remembrance of the nation's war dead and support for the valuable welfare work of the RSL.

Donations made to the Poppy Day Appeal are used to support RSL welfare services for returned servicemen and women in the locality in which the funds were raised. Recipients need not be members of an RSL to benefit from Poppy Day Appeal assistance, but must be returned services' personnel or their dependants in need.

To support this valuable work, Australian's are encouraged to make whatever donation you can afford on Poppy Day, or at any other time. The great generosity of the Australian public enables the RSL to continue its vital welfare work.

And help us to collect become a collector.



**From the of the Senior Vice President**

### **HIGHGATE RSL SUB-BRANCH HONOUR AVENUES**

The Honour Avenues of Kings Park have been maintained since 1927 by the RSL and it has only in past years that we have gained recognition for our efforts.

One in principal was the granting, by the WA Government, of \$32,000 to enable us to continue our work. Our group is small, consisting of some 16 men who volunteer to help on a Tuesday morning from 9.00 to 11.00am in Kings Park where our shed is located. This is now being extended to Thursday mornings to cater for those who cannot attend on Tuesdays. The work is light painting, attaching plaques and unit colour patches together with locating posts in the ground.

This time of the year we are very short of labour because of members taking R&R, so we appeal to you to assist us, on either day, for the good of the branch but more importantly, to maintain the memory of all those young Western Australians who gave their lives in time of war. Please ring Deputy Chairman Alf Till on 9387 5113 or Ken Jones on 9448 2415.

Ken Wood is retiring as treasurer of the group having served well for many years and so we urgently need a TREASURER. You do not have to work in Kings Park but at home, there are only four meetings a year and the amount to be juggled is some \$8,000. It is an easy job but an important one. Please ring me on 94052421 or Alf Till 9387 5113.

**MISSING PLAQUES:** Members may be concerned to see a number of missing plaques when driving through the park. Up to 20 at a time are being systematically recovered, by our group, into the workshop for maintenance and a quick turnaround.

### **Wreath Laying Remembrance Services**

Work on refurbishing the Cenotaph at the State War Memorial is expected to start early in October. It is expected that reconstruction will be completed in time for ANZAC Day 2005. During the time the Cenotaph is not available there would normally be about six or seven Remembrance Services. These will all take place at the Flame of Remembrance. The procedure for Remembrance Services at the Flame has been worked out and rehearsed by the Sub-Wardens. I am fully confident that these services will invoke the same sense of dignity and contemplation as we are used to feeling at the Cenotaph.

Although originally being only the Cenotaph, the State War Memorial now comprises much more. Since its dedication in 1929 the State War Memorial has been entrusted to the State Branch of the RSL. The precinct so entrusted now comprises two major elements and the Concourse that links them. It includes the grassed areas both sides of the Concourse out to the footpaths on the North and South sides. The two elements are: the Cenotaph (comprising the obelisk and the undercroft, the latter housing the Roll of Honour); and the semi-circular Court of Contemplation, at the centre of which is the Flame of Remembrance located in the Pool of Reflection.

The State Branch entrusts the provision of Sub-Wardens and the conduct of Remembrance Services to the Highgate Sub-Branch.

All Highgate Members are eligible to join the Sub-Warden fraternity see Phillip Skelton.



### Bill Dedman a tireless volunteer

Since 1985 Bill Dedman OAM has worked voluntarily at Hollywood Private Hospital as an official hospital visitor.

At 84 years of age and almost 20 years later, Bill has decided it is time to hand in his badge.

Bill said he had thoroughly enjoyed his time at Hollywood and couldn't have imagined a better place to volunteer his services.

"I have been very, very happy volunteering at Hollywood. I've got nothing but praise for the hospital," he said.

"Hollywood has become my second home and the staff are my friends. I will truly miss my contact with Hollywood."

Bill did active service for almost four years and was in Darwin during the bombing of 1942. He has been associated with Hollywood since upon his return, when he was admitted to the hospital for malaria.

Hollywood Private Hospital's executive director Kevin Cass-Ryall said Bill was a great source of strength and understanding for the many veterans he assisted over the years.

"We greatly value Bill's contribution and we thank him. Bill will be sadly missed," Kevin said.

Bill's exciting plans for the future include travelling with his son on The Ghan Railway from Adelaide to Darwin, where he will donate historical memorabilia to the war museum.

Hollywood salutes you Bill.

### The Poppy Legend

The poppy legend originated in China. A white flower from which a potent drug was distilled was called the 'Flower of Forgetfulness'. Genghis Khan brought some of the seed westward but after a battle the flower became red. In the centre of each was a cross.

It was found that on many battlefields, when everything else had been laid waste, the landscape was soon ablaze with the blood-red blooms. On the Somme battlefield in 1917, (and again after the war was over), the land burst forth in a blaze of scarlet with patches of yellow Charlock and white Chamomile. Many graves of those buried near the front line were soon marked by the Charlock due to the seeds being released when the grave was dug.

NOTE: Lord Macauley drew attention to the strange link of the poppy with battle and put forward the suggestion it should be regarded as the flower of sacrifice and memorial.

### **Last Post**

Sir Francis (Red) Burt, former Chief Justice and State Governor. Foundation Member Ian Bessell-Brown and former Committee Member Martyn Ridgwell and Len Bird.

**Lest we forget**