

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

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Monthly Luncheon

Monday 20 December 2004

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon
Speakers: Various Members
Topic: War Time Service 1944

Presidents Report

Ladies Dining Night

The Ladies Night at the WA Club was a most enjoyable and relaxed evening. The Governor and Mrs Sanderson, Sir Charles and Lady Judith Court joined us for the evening together with the Chairman of RACA (RSL Homes) Graeme Sherriff and his partner Beverly Berry, John and Chris Mahoney from Elite Badges who make the Colour Patches for Honour Avenue and Noel and Hilary Monks of Perth Legacy. The SVP, Norm's Manners toast to the ladies was a light hearted look at the lives our ladies enjoy sharing the consequences of their husband lengthy hours away home doing Highgate business.

Poppy Day

An excellent "Poppy Day" result, over \$11,089.00 with more to come with expenses and disbursement to RSL HQ that leaves us with \$5,078.00 in the amelioration fund to distribute next year.

Thank You

Tom Horton and Errol Smith for most ably looking after the door and payments at Luncheons. Bill Wilson for setting up and clearing away after each Luncheon. Great commitment. Thank you.

Legacy Christmas Puddings \$8.00, available at the Luncheon.



Seasons Greetings, Ian

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
7 February 2005

Luncheon: 11:30 hrs, Monday
21 February 2005

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

Hospital Visits – Otto Pelczar	New Members
John Jackson in for stint at Hollywood and Brian Cooper in Intensive Care at Joondalup Otto Pelczar 9311 2429 or 0408 940 928.	On behalf of Highgate Sub Branch we extend a most sincere and warm welcome to new members: Helen Birch and Patricia Kailis Affiliate Member.

Sub Wardens Duties

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

Sunday 13 February 2005 10:45 for 11:00 WRAAC Association (WA)

RSL Funeral Format / Ritual for Members

The positive feedback and the returns to the Secretary have been most encouraging. Highgate has received letters from member's who were most positive in their acceptance of the initiative. Please make sure you discuss arrangements with your families and return the "Blue" form to the Secretary.

From the Pensions Officer

Here's some good news. The Repatriation Medical Authority have released a bulletin outlining changes to some Statements of Principle (SOP's) concerning chronic bronchitis and emphysema, rheumatoid arthritis, Hodgkin's disease, haemorrhoids, and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease. These changes may be beneficial to veterans who have unsuccessfully claimed for these disabilities to DVA in the past.

There have been major simplifications of the disease definitions for chronic bronchitis and emphysema including a reduction in the smoking dose requirements. Also there is now a new passive smoking factor included as well as exposure to silica dust and for inhaling smoke from biomass or fossil fuels.

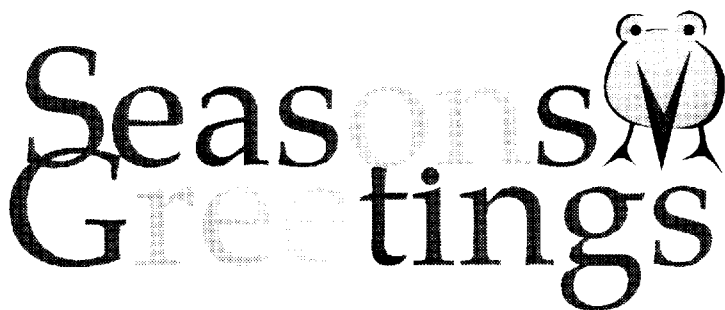
There are six new factors for rheumatoid arthritis including a new smoking factor, exposure to silica and taking certain drugs.

There are three new causative factors for Hodgkin's lymphoma including a new smoking factor. Also the Vietnam factor now includes consuming potable water on ships.

There are some changes to the SOP on haemorrhoids and Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease.

Veterans who have been unsuccessful in the past with their claims for any of these disabilities should contact their Pension Officers for an update. They might be successful this time.

Jim Eayrs



Seasons
Greetings

The President and committee wish to convey to members, their families and loved ones the very best for the forth-coming festive season, may it be a happy, healthy and a safe time for all and we look forward to seeing you, sometime in the New Year.



From the of the Senior Vice President

Dedication Ceremony : The Honour Avenue Group will carry out a dedication ceremony, in Kings Park, for 13 Western Australians who gave their lives in either World War One or World War Two.

The ceremony is on Saturday 18 December 2004 at 10:15 hrs. Enter from Thomas Street into Saw Avenue turn right into May Drive just around the corner on the right, look for the crowd. Medals are to be worn.

There are now 1229 plaques in the Honour Avenues with only 16 Highgate members to maintain them. To give you an example of what has been done for the period January to November 2004 as follows:

66 days have been worked. 677 posts repainted. 238 posts replaced. 455 new posts painted. 118 RAAF colour patches fitted. 20 plaques repainted. 2280 hours worked including maintenance & administration.

You can help. Contact Alf Till on 9387 5113 or Ken Jones on 9448 2415

As told to Norm by Clare & John Curtis as they report on their visit to the El Alamein War Museum.

About 250 metres from the War Cemetery standing an ultra modern looking building built only a few years ago. The building is in the shape of a hollow square and in the centre is a memorial to all those who lost their lives at El Alamein. The memorial is in the form of a series of steps rising up to about 3 metres. At the top of the stairs is a bronze statue depicting the olive branch of peace and around that is 16 bronze doves of peace. Scattered on the steps are the weapons and equipment that was used to gain that peace. Both of us would admit to shedding quite a few tears when we saw sheer beauty of the memorial.

Inside the museum, the rooms are divided into various countries, including Italy and Germany. But the greater part is a mock Allied operations room and a young soldier whose job it is to point out various places as the battle develops using a sound tape. This operations room opens onto the Egyptian room where the Egyptian part in the battle is explained. Then into the German and Italian rooms and finally into the Allied room. The museum gives the impression that the Axis Powers are surrounded by the Allied Powers. All the exhibits have been collected from the actual battlefield area, including uniforms and equipment, personal and unit used.

Outside the Museum is a very large collection of battle damaged vehicles and one Spitfire fuselage and wings. All of this equipment, tanks, half-tracks, vehicles and field guns have all been collected from the battlefield area. The Spitfire part fuselage and the wings and weapons were dug out of the desert sand only a couple of years ago. Every exhibit has been cleaned up and painted beautifully and then set on concrete plinths.

As with the cemetery, the Egyptian Army looks after the Museum as a formal posting. They keep it spick and span. The gardens are well manicured and weeded; the exhibits kept clean and polished. Just by looking at them you can see that the soldiers really enjoy this posting by putting a lot of extra work into the museum.

The museum and memorial is a fitting tribute to those soldiers who lost their lives at the battle of El Alamein. We recited the Ode for the soldiers at the Museum and every one of them understood what we were saying even though their English is not the best and every one of them stood in silence after we finished. They understand the meaning of loss.

Lest We Forget. John & Clare



We will remember them

Hollywood Private Hospital holds a Remembrance Day ceremony every year to pay tribute to the servicemen and women who lost their lives fighting for our country.

Hollywood Medical Director Margaret Sturdy said, "Hollywood remains committed to caring for servicemen and women and we are proud to remember the legacy these courageous people bestowed upon our nation."

Once again this year, Hollywood's service involved students from Hollywood Primary School.

Year seven student Nathan Coenen read a poem he had written especially for Remembrance Day.

His moving work, *'The Soldier's Journey'*, won the assembled guests over with its heartfelt description of a soldier's sacrifice.

The Soldier's Journey

The sound of guns, bullets shooting through
Your captain standing, shouting at you.

"Hold your heads up high men, and don't look back,
Run your way down the deathly track."

Nervous, you look above and see men amore,
Snarling faces, weapons galore,

To go out there is impossible, you think
Shot down by those men, in less than a blink.

You look up to your captain, and see him smiling,
"Don't be afraid, son of going out there and dying,
Just think, if you do, you'll see all of your mates,
Your mum, your dad, waiting at those Pearly White
Gates"

"And there will be GOD, welcoming you back home,
Spirits and angels, singing in a happy tone,
So get out there, and think those thoughts,
Run across and don't be worried of getting caught."

Determined, you stand, gun in your hand,
Stare at the sky, bright and grand,
You climb up the trench, and cry out in war,
Pull up your mates to the bloody, sandy floor

Then, you charge, running as fast as you can
Your mates all scared, as together they cram
One, two, three, as down trenches men fall,
Bullets firing through them and in pain they call

But just as your speed and hope begins to gain,
You feel the everlasting pain,
Your fears arise as you trip over and dread
You look down and see blood leaking out of your leg

Willingly and with force you get up and run,
Shooting at everything with your strong faithful gun
But there is the shot, the one which is the best
It shoots through the air, right at your chest

This time you fall, with a painful thump,
You try to get up, but back down you slump
Lifting your gun, you fire more and more
But more and more your heart is torn

You think the thoughts of death you panic
But a thought comes back to you as quick as static
The golden dream your captain told
The place where you can stay and grow eternally old

Not even aware dark becomes your vision
And in your mind you make the decision
You shut your eyes and let them slacken
And gripped by a hand, you are taken

Darkness and all is what you see
But there comes the brilliant light of glee
And there are the gates, shining beautiful and bright
And there you see everyone, dazzled at the sight

*Thank you captain, for being there for me,
This wonder, this light, this is where I'm meant to be
And there you see him, walking up the stairs
The happiness the two of you both share*

So do not grieve, relatives of a soldier
For tears will only weigh them down and make them
colder.

But do not forget, but remember their duty
Their honour, their pride, their faith, their beauty

Love and live the rest of their lives for them,
LEST WE FORGET

Last Post

Clarrie Taylor, Hyman Bensky, Jim Hall and Jim Richards.

Lest we forget