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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 21 March 2005

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon
Speaker: David Grace (WA Historical Society)
Topic: Light Hearted War Time Memories

Presidents Report

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting held no surprises for members the format was formal but brief so we could enjoy the talk by Andrew Freemantle.

The Financial Statements of the Sub-Branch have now been audited and will be available to members with the April Newsletter.

The Committee is into the swing again and we are assured of a smooth and orderly transition and continuity into the future as we have Members waiting in the wings to step in to the senior roles and progressing through to President.

Gunfire Breakfast – ANZAC Day – WA Club

See Page 2 and the "GREEN RETURN" I urge you to get your returns in early. due to the popularity of this event. We have been able to negotiate a better price this year so \$25.00 a head a reduction of \$2 from last year.

Poppy Day

Poppy Day this year falls on Friday the 11 November, Remembrance Day. I want Members to really give some thought to helping out this year, as many collector Members of Highgate will have duties at the War Memorial.

The more collectors we have the more money we take.

All the best, Ian

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
4 April 2005

Gunfire Breakfast 07:00hrs,
Monday 21 March 2005
at the WA Club

Assistant Cashier for March **Richard ADAMS**
Members, please assist by bringing the correct money
\$25.00

Hospital Visits – Otto Pelczar	Wanted New Members
John Jackson is still crook in Hollywood. Otto Pelczar 9311 2429 or 0408 940 928.	Welcome to Hazel Donald who joined us for the February Luncheon.

Sub Wardens Duties

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

Sunday 27 March	12:15 for 12:30	Greek National Day
Sunday 3 April	09:30 for 09:45	Air Force Week (RAAFA)
Sunday 6 April	09:30 for 10:00	Schools ANZAC Commemorative Service
Monday 25 April	05:30 for 06:00	ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Gunfire Breakfast – ANZAC Day – WA Club

This year we will celebrate our **52nd Gunfire Breakfast** with guest speaker our own Peter Winstanley who's subject is the ANZAC Spirit of Australian Medics under the Japanese. Once again the breakfast is to be held at the WA Club. We expect similar numbers of Members and guests as last year; we have again booked the Club Suite on the 1st Floor.

The WA Club has kept the costing to an absolute minimum for this prestigious event; and the fee is \$25.00 a reduction of \$2.00 from last year.

To ensure your place make sure you complete the **“GREEN RETURN”** in this newsletter and forward with your payment to the **new Treasurer (Richard Adams)** as soon as you can. If you have a guest you need to include their name and payment also.

Numbers are limited to 120; there are no door sales.

From The Pensions Officer

The other day an elderly lady came into my office with documentation from the Department of Veteran's Affairs, which showed that her husband had been rejected for his claims of atrial fibrillation, ischaemic heart disease and vertebrobasilar ischaemia. The husband was now in a nursing home and she wanted to see if I could do anything to help them.

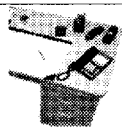
In reviewing the documentation I noticed that the rejected claims were from August 1999 and as I have said so many times before, it's very worthwhile for veterans who have been rejected by DVA in the past to check on their entitlements every few years in case something has changed. That something is often the Repatriation Medical Authorities Statements of Principle (SOP's).

SOP's are promulgated by the RMA and show the factors that must exist to relate a veteran's claim for disability to his/her service. In this case the SOP for the veteran's ischaemic heart disease had changed.

In 1999, the delegate of the Department of Veteran's Affairs had used the SOP on ischaemic heart disease current at that time. The new SOP is dated 2003 and the factors relating to cigarette smoking have been relaxed to the extent that I am confident we can get his claim recognized this time by DVA.

I would encourage veterans who have had a claim rejected by DVA in the past to see one of our pension officers with a view to checking the current SOP for any changes that may benefit them.

Jim Eayrs



From the of the Senior Vice President

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

The Scullin family lived in Pirie Street Boulder in a crowded house of four boys, two girls and two of Mr Scullin's brothers from Ireland. The three eldest boys John, Dan and Pat played football with the Mines Rovers and the whole family would turn out on a Sunday to cheer the three champions on.

Then came 1914 and the war broke out. John, a grocer, immediately joined the 28 Battalion and was quickly followed by Patrick, a labourer and Daniel, a battery hand, who went to the 51 Battalion and the three sailed for overseas.

Their destination was Gallipoli. But the prayers of their devoted Catholic mother saw them safe until the evacuation and the three brothers were then taken by troopship to France. In 1916 Father Donogher, the family priest, learnt that twenty three year old John had been killed in action on 29 July at Pozieres, France and with a heavy heart he brought the news to Mrs Scullin. In a little over a year Father Donogher could not believe it when he was informed that both Daniel, 25 and Patrick, 22 had been killed, side by side, in Polygon Wood, Belgium on the 26 September 1917 and he had to again make the trip to Mrs Scullin's doorstep.

The Scullin family had made the ultimate sacrifice. Today, as you drive through May Drive near Saw Ave. you will see the only tree in Kings Park that has three plaques at its base....we wanted to keep the Scullin boys together.

Remember it is your Honour Avenues Group that allocates and maintains the remembrance plaques of Kings Park, if you can't give us a hand, give us a donation.

Honour Avenues Group - Committee 2005

At the Honour Avenue's Group, AGM on 1 March 2005 the following officers were elected:

Chairman	Norman Manners
Deputy Chairman	Alf Till
Treasurer	T Tom Horton
Secretary	.Ken Jones
Assistant Secretary	Robin Slater

SPEAKER'S CORNER

Last Month

Following on from our very interesting speaker of last month Brigadier Andrew Freemantle, who spoke about his years in the army and that as CEO of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, we have something totally different in March

This Month

David Grace from the WA Military Historical Society will recall some of histories and odd happenings together with some wartime musical moments in a light hearted manner.

HEARTFELT THANKS

Our patients' well-being is the only outcome the hospital seeks, however Hollywood is flattered to continuously receive enough flowers and thank you cards to stock a gift shop.

Don Fairs is just one patient who felt a need to express his appreciation after finding himself in dire need of medical treatment.

In 2004 he received expert care from Hollywood professionals on three separate occasions – once in the hospital car park.

Mr Fairs was leaving Hollywood in August – about seven months after attending the hospital for treatment of his heart condition – when he collapsed.

“I was returning to my car after visiting a friend when my heart apparently fibrillated and stopped,” Mr Fairs said.

From that point, he was subject to the complete Hollywood service.

Radiologist Dr Alar Kaard was first on the scene and put Mr Fairs on his side, cleared his throat and rested his bleeding head on his satchel.

Clinical nurse manager Nicky Venville began mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and Dr Nick De Marco administered cardiac resuscitation.

Forty minutes after collapsing, Mr Fairs had been treated by two doctors and a nurse – and he hadn't even left the car park.

After he was stabilised, he was taken into radiology for a CAT-scan then to intensive care, passing through several sets of expert hands until he was fit for release days later.

It was almost a month to the day when Mr Fairs was re-admitted to remove a kidney. His heart again fibrillated and was again jump started by hospital staff.

You would understand if Mr Fairs was a bit tired of Hollywood!

However, the truth is he looks back on his experience with a heart full of appreciation and love.

“I am certain that more than once my survival has been continued because of the direct assistance of the staff at Hollywood,” Mr Fairs said.

“Hollywood has a wonderful medical team. I'm at a loss how to acknowledge and thank the wonderful staff for the superb application of their medical training to myself except to say, thank you, with everything and anything I can muster.”



Don Fairs (centre) meets his life-savers, coronary care unit clinical nurse manager Nicky Venville and Dr Nick De Marco.

Peter Winstanley

Our guest speaker at the Gunfire Breakfast this year has an interesting website:

<http://www.pows-of-japan.net/>

Please take your time to have a look most interesting