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Gunfire Breakfast

Monday 16 May 2005

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon
Speaker: Russell Leith
Topic: 60th Anniversary of VE Day (18 May)

Presidents Report

ANZAC Day - Gunfire Breakfast

There is no doubt the Gunfire Breakfast was a resounding success and we have had most positive feed back from members.

The breakfast is also a fertile recruiting zone and we hope to be able to gain some new members and hopefully, some transfers to Highgate from other sub-branches.

It was great to see John Jackson at the Gunfire and hope to see him back in our midst for Lunches shortly.

Ladies Luncheon – Thursday 26 May – ANZAC House

The Ladies Luncheon is coming up on the 26 May 2005. Please get your return off to the Treasurer. There are some places left

\$30.00 a head 3 course Luncheon with selected wines. And an interesting raffle prize.

Up-coming Events

Our June Luncheon on the 20th his Excellency the Governor is to address the Membership, which is likely to be the Governor's last function with Highgate.

The Birthday Luncheon is set for July and invitations will be sent a little later this month if you are not in the Highgate Anniversary Booklet and your birth date is in the years 1905, 1915 or 1925, get your name to the Junior Vice so he can include you in the invitations.

All the best Ian

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
13 June 2005
Luncheon: 11:30 hrs. Monday
20 June 2005

Assistant Cashier for May – **Ron Adams**
Members, please assist by bringing the correct money
\$25.00

Hospital Visits – Otto Pelczar	New Members
John Jackson has returned home after a long stint Hollywood great to see him at the Gunfire Breakfast Otto Pelczar 9311 2429 or 0408 940 928.	We are in the process of putting some new memberships through State HQ. Please welcome new members; Frank Taylor and Doug Webb.

Sub Wardens Duties

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

Monday 9 May	10:45 for 11:00	Australian American Assoc (Battle of the Coral Sea)
Sunday 15 May	12:15 for 12:00	Consul of Greece
Tuesday 24 May	10:45 for 11:00	RSL Women's Auxiliary
Tuesday 30 May	10:45 for 11:00	RSL Women's Auxiliary
Friday 10 June	09:45 for 10:am	Labuan Borneo Veterans
Friday 10 June	10:45 for 11 am	Rededication of State War Memorial

Ladies Luncheon - ANZAC House – Thursday 26 May 2005

The Ladies Luncheon at ANZAC House is to be relaxed affair. This will allow the ladies to have a look at the planned changes afoot for ANZAC house as well as enjoy a nice Luncheon

If your return is not in see the Treasurer, \$30.00 a head.

From The Pensions Officer

It's close to ANZAC Day again and each year it seems to come around faster and faster. Bob Elliot and I are traditionally involved at this time of year in conducting an ANZAC commemorative service for Cottage Homes for the aged at Highgate. The service is run along guidelines set out by the RSL State Branch and is very popular with the very elderly residents of the Home.

This year over 40 people attended. Included were some of the resident's children and grandchildren. Also in attendance is Penny the Moocher, the resident dog, who was well dressed for the occasion with a small flag tied over her back.

The service is sited around the Home's flag pole and commences with a rendition of the poem Our Flag followed by the Lord's Prayer and the laying of wreaths. Then the service continues with the playing of a recording of the Last Post, a rendition of the Ode, a minutes silence, Lest We Forget, Reveille and the National Anthem.

Then Penny takes us all in for morning tea where Bob and I have a cuppa with the residents. Many of these people are very elderly. One lady had her hundredth birthday that day and I believe that another who was present had had her 109th birthday. They all enjoy the service and have invited Bob and I back again next year (and the next and the next).

Bob and I laid a wreath on your behalf from our Sub Branch. The accompanying note said "Lest we forget".

Best wishes from Jim Eayrs



From the of the Senior Vice President

THE ANZAC SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF AUSTRALIA

On the day before ANZAC DAY 2005 some 80 students from the Carine Senior High School volunteered to attend Kings Park to attend a ceremony before placing a flower on each of the 2100 memorial plaques in the Honour Avenues.

The Chairman and members of the Highgate RSL Honour Avenues Group attended.

This year the address was given by fellow Highgate Sub-Branch member Sir Charles Court AK, KCMG, OBE. His words had a profound effect on the young people there and the following extracts clearly indicate why.

“The price of liberty is eternal vigilance and you are among the ones who, long after some of us are gone, will need to be vigilant if we are going to carry the Spirit of Anzac into the future.

The Spirit of Anzac is the Spirit of Australia.

It pays to reflect often, both publicly and in the sanctity of our own hearts and minds, on what is the Spirit of Anzac and how it was natured in Australia even before it made history in war.

In itself it is not a spirit of war, although we commemorate the Spirit of Anzac because of the sacrifices made for our country in times of war.

So let us reflect how the Spirit of Anzac was first developed and nurtured in Australia.

It goes back to the European settlers.

At the time Australia was a huge, harsh and undeveloped land. No one knew what would be experienced in this vast hinterland, yet strong hearts, full of courage and hope, ventured into these unexplored regions.

There were no established communications, radios, television etc as we take for granted today. No known water supplies, no roads, no established systems of transport, no established towns, villages, housing or shelter. No schools, no hospitals, doctors or medical facilities, little knowledge, if any, of fertile or non-ferile lands or assured rainfall.

Yet they went and established toeholds and tested the potential. Towns, farms, mines and a host of things eventually developed and it brought out the best in the human spirit in terms of courage and fortitude in adversity. An imaginative and innovative approach, self help, stamina, an indomitable will to succeed and a generosity to those who needed help and found the going tough.

In other words all that is best in good human beings.

It was from people with rugged pioneering experiences in Australia that the Spirit of Australia and of Anzac was born and nurtured. With it came mateship, a vital characteristic of Anzac.

Is it any wonder the world took notice when our servicemen and women performed as they did when confronted with the horrors of war such as Gallipoli and trenches of France in World War I and subsequently the deserts of the Middle East and the jungles of New Guinea and the challenges of many other places in later encounters.

Continued Page 4

Continued from Page 3

We do not come here to glorify war.

No one hates war more than those who have been in a real war and yet none of our veterans would accept peace at any price – peace without honour, without freedom, without democracy.

You and I have to do our best to ensure this spirit continues now and for evermore – this spirit must never die.

Fortitude in adversity, indomitable courage, stamina, trustworthiness, the spirit of mateship, caring for one's mates – the Spirit of Australia.

Because of our background in times of peace, war and adversity, I believe we are a special breed and as young Australians you inherit all of this and so think of all these things and be proud Australians as you remember those who gave their lives that we can be free".

Lest we forget.

You can rest Assured at Hollywood

With all the recent media attention focused on the shortage of public hospital beds, it is relieving to know there are no waiting lists at Hollywood.

Superior bed management is critical to the smooth running of any hospital and this is why Hollywood is the hospital of choice for so many patients.

Hollywood's bed management coordinator Jan van der Straaten and her team have the impressive task of allocating beds to the many patients admitted to the hospital each day and they take great pride in their work.

Bed management assistants, Mark Foo and Melinda Pash, provide valuable clerical and professional support.

"People who are ill need to know they can be accommodated," Jan said.

"All you have to do is envisage your loved-one requiring urgent medical treatment. It compels you to do your best to help them out."

Jan said constant communication between bed management and the wards was vital.

"We all work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for our patients and we do everything to ensure we have beds available," she said.



"It's a great job - challenging at times, but extremely rewarding," Jan said.

You can rest assured the bed management team at Hollywood is working around the clock to ensure beds are always available, leaving patients to focus on the more important aspects of their hospital stay.

Don't forget the Ladies Luncheon.

Last Post

Mick Walters MC MBE after a long illness.

Lest we forget