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

## President's Report

### PROJECTED INCREASE

We were advised this month by the ANZAC CLUB that there would be an increase in both the food menu and beverage list as of our first meeting in February 2007.

This price review, we are advised, "is to provide cost competitive catering when compared to commercial venues providing similar, and in some cases lesser provisions".

Overall this will incur an increase of \$5 per person. Currently you are paying \$30 per head on arrival, which is broken down with \$22 for food, \$5 for wine/soft drink and \$3 for the club to cover the cost of luncheon guests.

As we have already had a 10% increase in food & beverage this year your committee were reluctant to pass on a further price increase. After viewing the alternatives, it was decided the fairest move would be to maintain the charge at \$30 per head and have the members purchase their own drinks.

This will mean fellowship will conclude at 12.15pm with members purchasing their requirements from the bar in the upstairs Gallipoli Room and paying cash for same.

Our meeting will commence, as usual, at 12.30pm sharp.

We believe this arrangement will suit those who do not partake of alcoholic beverages and tables can arrange to purchase either collectively, or individually, whatever they wish.

#### Beverage Charges:

Fox River Wines per bottle =	\$17.50
Carafe wines per carafe =	\$12.50
Jug of squash =	\$7.50

The alternative is to charge all members \$35 per head however; there is no guarantee that there will not be a further increase in the year to

(Continued on page 2)

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(Continued from page 1)

come.

## JOAN DOWSON

I attended the celebration of Joan's life on Thursday the 19 October, which was held in St George's Cathedral before a packed audience that spilled out onto the footpath.

The VIP's attending were too numerous for me to list here however I did spot our former Governor; Lt Gen. John Sanderson and Sir Charles Court, our Highgate member, who was one of the pallbearers.

Standing out amongst the many that had come to pay their respects to an amazing woman who dedicated her life to the community in which she lived, were the men of the Highgate Sub- Wardens.

Forming an honour guard of a line either side of the entranceway, all who attended walked between the two rows of immaculately turned out men dressed in smart reefer jackets with medals gleaming, regimental ties carefully knotted and an Aussie slouch hat slightly tilted..... they looked magnificent. As Pauline and I walked down their avenue of honour one felt a great pride in being a member of Highgate RSL.

Well done.

I look forward to seeing you at our next luncheon.

Norman Manners

# R e s u m e



### Dorothy (Joan) Dowson MBE OAM

Joan was born on 4 June 1918 and died on 11 October 2006.

Her contribution to her country and to society was enormous.

The recognition that she received during her lifetime, for her selfless devotion to the organisations that she has served, is reserved for the very few.

Some of Joan's honours are:

- Red Cross Distinguished Service Award.
- Member, of the Order of the British Empire
- Meritorious Medal, RSL
- Honorary Life Membership RSL
- Honorary Life Membership, Australian Red Cross Society
- Medal of the Order of Australia
- RSL 50 years Service Award
- Honorary Life Membership, Australian American Association.
- Senior Volunteer Award, Town of Mosman Park.

Joan is sadly missed and her passing is a great loss to society.

Rest in the knowledge Joan that you have benefited many and will be fondly remembered for your gifts of time and devotion.

## PENSION OFFICER'S REPORT

This is to inform you that the following Repatriation Medical Authority Statements of Principles (SOP's) are now at hand. Some have been updated and some are new SOP's.

Acute Myeloid Leukaemia	Updated
Myelodysplastic Disorder	New SOP
Rotator Cuff Syndrome	Updated
Decompression Sickness	New SOP
Pulmonary Barotrauma	New SOP

Dysbaric Osteonecrosis	New SOP
Shin Splints	New SOP

I hope that none of this applicable to you but if you need any further info then please give me a call.

Best Wishes

*Jim Eyres*



## SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

**This Months Luncheon:** Monday 20 November 2006

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room      **Time:** 11.30 hrs Fellowship, 12.30 Luncheon

(Please note seat reservation requirements below)

**Speaker:**            **Doug Love — Men of The Trees -**

**Subject:**            Spreading the Arboreal Gospel

**Committee:**            4 December 2006

**Christmas Luncheon:**    18 December 2006

### Sub Wardens Duties

**Wreath Laying Ceremonies currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park**

Saturday	11 November 2006—10.15 hrs for 11.00 hrs—Remembrance Day (Please note early arrival)
Wednesday	15 November 2006—16.45 hrs for 17.00 hrs—Perth Legacy
Sunday	19 November 2006—10.15 hrs for 10.30 hrs—9 RAR Association WA
Tuesday	28 November 2006—10.00 hrs for 10.15 hrs—War Widows Guild

### NEW MEMBERS

We welcome you to our Sub Branch and the congenial companionship of all. And, invite you to play as active a part in our affairs as you are able.

Keith Morris-(Service Member), Damien Anthony-(Affiliate)  
Clive Body-(Affiliate), Norman Marks-(Service Member)  
Trevor Arbuckle-(Service Member)



### SEAT RESERVATIONS – MONTHLY LUNCHEONS

#### **MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE**

The practice of reserving seats at luncheons for friends before they have paid, frequently causes confusion relating to catering numbers and seating spaces, and you are asked to cease this practice.

In reserving a seat please place your reserved name tag and the door prize ticket on the table and also, if applicable for your guest/s.

It is regretted that failure to follow this procedure could see the reservation being removed.

### THE RAILWAY MAN

(Eric Lomax)

I recently borrowed this autobiography from my local library and was profoundly moved by the experiences of this, then, young Lieutenant. The following fly leaf description of Lomax's enthralling story accurately encapsulates the character and strength of a courageous, dignified and gentle officer.

Throughout his childhood Eric Lomax possessed a passion for trains.

In an ironic twist of fate, he was captured by the Japanese during World War 2 and sent to Thailand to work on the infamous Burma-Siam Railway, the barbaric project that claimed the lives of 250,000 men. There he constructed a radio to bring news of the war and secretly drew a map of the railway. For this, Lomax suffered brutal and incessant torture and interrogation. Standing by it through it all was Nagase Takashi, a young Japanese soldier who translated the captors questions and Lomax's replies. Fifty years later, Lomax sought out this Japanese tormenter, meeting him on a hillside overlooking the River Kwai Bridge. But Lomax's object in meeting Kakashi was not revenge. It was reconciliation.

Here is a remarkable true story of forgiveness—a tremendous testament to the courage that propels one toward remembrance and, finally, peace with the past. A classic war autobiography, *The Railway Man* is a powerful tale of survival and of the human capacity to understand even those who have done us unthinkable harm.

It is a great read and if your library has a copy I strongly recommend it to you.

*Editor.*

**(Published by Random House)**



## Hollywood in Focus

(With thanks to Ashlea Hatcher—Hollywood Private Hospital)

*The Hollywood Star* had a brief chat to ANZAC of the Year Mr Ron Stone while he was a patient at Hollywood Private Hospital.

Mr Stone is the most worthy recipient of the ANZAC Award for his outstanding community service and self sacrifice. Hollywood Private Hospital would like to congratulate Mr Stone for this special recognition.

### Q. How did you feel when you won the award?

A. It was a bit of an embarrassment really because I'm chairman of the committee and I was following everyone up for their submissions. They all kept a good job of keeping it quiet from me because it was a real surprise when it was announced. I'm going to put winning the award down to "OBE" – Other Boy's Efforts! The award was announced on ANZAC Day but was presented in September by the State Governor. The medal is made of bronze and weighs a tonne!

### Q. What community initiatives are you involved in?

A. I am a life member and Meritorious Medal recipient of the RSL for my services as a Sub-Branch officer, Trustee of the Branch and Deputy Warden of the State War Memorial. I have also served as a volunteer with the RSL for 60 years. I was Councillor and Mayor of the City of Stirling, Councillor of The City of Perth. I'm a member of The Lions Club, Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Association, WA Opera Company and City Accord. Basically, if I'd been a girl before the pill I'd be in a lot of trouble because I just can't say 'no' to anyone!

### Q. What is your involvement with Hollywood?

A. I was first a patient at Hollywood Private Hospital back in 1942 when I got Malaria. I was a Sydney-sider at the time, but I married a Western Australian girl I met in the last year of the war and came here. I'm always singing the praises of Hollywood staff – from those who sweep the floor, to those who serve you meals, to the nurses and doctors. They always keep you in touch with everything that's going on. I can't speak highly enough about Hollywood, and the Ramsay Health Care group.

### Q. What did you do as a career path after the war?

A. I was Managing Director of Wallace's Jewellers in the city for many years. If you're under 21 and drafted to the war, when it's over you get the opportunity to be re-trained. I did a watch maker's course and was an apprentice for four years. I actually met my business partner on a lifeboat coming back from the Middle East.



### LAST POST

Les Lively, — Joan Dowson MBE OAM, — T.V. (Bluey) Arthurs

Lest We Forget