



Issue 47
September 2007

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

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 17th September 2007

Venue: Gallipoli Room
Time: 1130 hrs—Fellowship, 1215 hrs—Luncheon
Speaker: Dr Karl O'Callaghan APM, Commissioner for Police WA.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

THE EXPULSION OF MR MILTON KIRK FROM THE LEAGUE

Although this matter has been raised and the main points answered, at a recent luncheon meeting of Highgate Sub-Branch, I am very disappointed to report the resignation of one of our senior and most respected members from our branch. After much consideration this member felt that Mr. Kirk had the right to represent his personal feelings in the matter of the Surf Life Saving WA leading the 2007 ANZAC Day Parade through Perth.

The facts are:

1. Surf Life Saving WA contacted RSLWA Headquarters seeking some prominence in the parade for veterans, who were, or still are, surf lifesavers.
2. As part of the consultation process the proposal was placed before the Unit & Kindred Association. This is a group, comprising representatives from WA Ex-Service organizations who have traditionally set policy for the conduct of the ANZAC Day Parade in Perth. They supported the proposal that veterans who were and still are lifesavers could lead the veterans section of the parade.
3. In late November 2006 the State Executive contacted SASR, who were celebrating their 50th year, seeking a written confirmation of previous verbal requests for prominence in the parade.
4. Mr. Milton Kirk JP, President of Wanneroo-Joondalup Sub-Branch RSL commenced agitating the State and other Sub-Branched for SASR to have prominence.
5. Both the Australian Intelligence Corps Association and SASR filed written requests for prominence in the parade late January 2007.
6. Mr. Kirk resigned from the RSL in January 2007
7. In February 2007 at the U&K meeting a letter was tabled from the WA Surf Lifesaving Assn. Written on behalf of its veterans it detailed their withdrawal from the ANZAC Day Parade as they were disillusioned at the misinformation being circulated.
8. The U&K forum then made a recommendation to the RSLWA Board of Directors that due to the controversy surrounding who should lead the parade, "that in future ANZAC Day marches revert to the same order of precedence as prior to 2002, i.e Navy, Army and Air Force,

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 8 October 2007
Luncheon: 15 October 2007

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then Veterans in order Navy, Army, Air Force in their particular Order of Precedence."

9. As a result, the Australian Intelligence Corps was allocated lead position of the Veteran Group, acknowledging their centenary and SASR Assn. the lead position of the post 1945 veterans, recognising their 50th anniversary.
10. Mr. Kirk's behaviour, in this matter, became an issue when he was clearly acting in an inappropriate manner, persistent in breaching State rules and engaging in discourteous behaviour towards the State Executive, State Officers and ANZAC House staff.
11. State Executive referred the matter of this behaviour to the State Tribunal who invited Mr. Kirk to attend and discuss the matter. He failed to respond with his attendance and his communications with the State Tribunal were offensive.
12. In March 2007, Mr. Kirk rejoined the Wanneroo- Joondalup Sub-Branch of the League.
13. On 9th May 2007 Mr. Kirk again resigned from the League.
14. Despite further requests Mr. Kirk, through his non attendance and media statements, appears unwilling to neither present his explanation nor accept responsibility for his actions.
15. In July 2007 and in accordance with due process, as stated in the RSL Rules, the State Tribunal formed an opinion and expelled Mr. Kirk from the RSL.

IN SUMMARY

Your President spoke to the Monthly Luncheon Meeting concerning the matter and received a positive show of hands indicating that Highgate Sub-Branch was not in favour of the U&K recommendation to allow the Lifesavers to lead.

I then took the matter personally to the State President who assured me that discussions were already underway with the relevant parties to conclude the matter harmoniously. This occurred and it was resolved to everyone's satisfaction. This I reported back to both the committee and the following monthly meeting.

This should now clear any doubts some members may have and finalise the matter. Remember, "Together we stand, divided.....?"

I wish you all good health and hope to see you, in fellowship, at our September luncheon.

Norm Manners

ATTENDANCE / GUEST SPEAKERS / MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

I have to admit that knowing of the bonds that exist between Highgate members. I was a little surprised that more Highgate members did not make the effort to physically show support for their mates at the traditional 'OBE' Luncheon! I have come to realise that each OBE Luncheon is a principle, a mark of respect, an open appreciation that each 'OBE' knows too, the common bonds of mateship and a tangible demonstration of the effort you make to attend. Perhaps also a tacit recognition of how you see your own OBE Luncheon day.

Statistically it is possible that on several occasions within the next decade, we will see over a dozen OBE celebrants at each annual July Luncheon.

On another note, the listing of Guest Speakers/Presenters invited between now and the end of next year ranges from: Police Commissioner, several State CEOs (ie FESA), Federal/State Cabinet Ministers, UN Observers & Aid Workers (eg Sudan), Peter Cundall (ex Para/POW/Gardening Australia), Surgeons, at least one Consul, Newer Veterans, Entertainers, Film, Vigneron/Veteran, TV Personalities and other local luminaries.

The point needs to be made that at one stage last year, NO Guest Speakers were listed to speak at Highgate. That despite the fact that every member knows that he or she can (and should) recommend a Guest Speaker. The programme has been revitalised and requests for members to say what they want from a Guest Speaker, within the past 12 months, have only resulted in tangible contributions from seven Highgate members. Direct suggestions of preferred topics are almost unknown and (for example) I have absolutely no idea as to whether members still want military/related topic addresses (not by 'Senior' Officers) on the Vietnam War/related incidents, 'The Trek' out of Burma etc.

Inviting Guest Speakers is not difficult, as well over ninety percent of invitees happily say Yes. However they also deserve, need and in some cases have expectations of, the audience size for which Highgate has long had a reputation.

Roger Tingley SVP

STOP PRESS SWEET 'N' DISCREET ESCORTS

Would like to take this opportunity to welcome the 2nd Cavalry Regiment to Darwin and invite them to partake of our

"IN TOWN"
DISCOUNTS
SWEET "N"
DISCREET
41 1242 or
018 89 4378

For the perfect companion

When I mentioned to a 2 Cav officer that 1st Armoured Regiment's move to Darwin hadn't received the same 'invitation', I was told that it might be "A matter of relative stamina, y'know!" Being an ex Tank & Cav man, I stayed quiet.

Certain senior infantrymen have advised me that similar (but more hastily chalked) ads appeared when the Aussies arrived in the Middle East.....?

Roger Tingley



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

Wreath Laying Services currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park:

Wednesday 5 September 2007 — 1015 hrs for 1040 hrs — RAAFA — Battle for Australia.
 Sunday 16 September 2007 — 1145 hrs for 1200 hrs — Maltese Association

Burma Thai Railway Memorial Association

A highlight of the August AGM of the Burma Thai Railway Memorial Association were the Awards of Life Membership to distinguished Highgate members Arthur Bancroft and Jack Boon, who now join Highgate members Ken Wood and Keith Flanagan in that select brotherhood. Well Done those men!

Other ex POWs who were awarded BTRMA Life Memberships on the day were Charlie Chapple, Billy Monks, Eric Roediger and Gordon Roberts. BTRMA Chairman and Highgate member Ken Bladen AM stood down after several years of sterling service and Roger Tingley, another Highgate member, was duly elected as Chairman of the BTRMA.

SANDAKAN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The WA Prisoners of War Association will hold the Annual Boyup Brook Sandakan Memorial Service on Tuesday, September 11th. This Service has considerable significance and is always very well attended, with great support from the Boyup Brook Community and Shire.

Buses to the service leave from both Perth and Mandurah and although the Mandurah bus is almost full, the Perth bus will depart at 9am on Monday September 10th, with overnight accommodation in Bridgetown and then return to Perth by the evening of Tuesday September 11th.

For bookings and costs: Mrs Cowie. 9446 5903.

Wanted: Sub Branch Secretary

Your Sub Branch is urgently seeking a Secretary to relieve the editor who is currently acting in the position. The duties are not arduous and are most suited to a member who has some, but certainly not necessarily advanced, word processing skills. Put your hand up and you will be rewarded by being given an opportunity to serve on a committee of dedicated and interesting people.

Distribution of Highgate News

At the last luncheon I was given the names of a few people who had advised one or two committee members that they had not received their last issue of the Highgate News. A check of the mailing list, which is emailed to the printer each month, included all the names of those of

whom I was advised.

Should you, at any time, not receive your copy of the newsletter, either by email or post please give me a call and I will establish the reason why and also forward a copy to you.

Bob Arnold
Editor.

THAT OTHER DICTIONARY

Battle n. A method of untying with the teeth of a political knot that would not yield to the tongue.

Beard n. The hair that is commonly cut off by those who justly execrate the absurd Chinese custom of shaving the head.

Befriend n. To make an ingrate.

Beg n. To ask for something with an earnestness proportioned to the belief that it will not be given.



Run, run as fast as you can!

With thanks to Ashlea Hatcher—Hollywood Private Hospital

Not only did the Activ Foundation break records at the 2007 City to Surf on Sunday 26 August, so did Ramsay Health Care WA! For the third year running, the Ramsay group took out the Largest Corporate Team award.



the finish line that was stocked with complimentary food and drinks for the wet and tired Ramsay mob to 'come home' to after the completion

of the course.

Hollywood Private Hospital again sponsored the Fancy Dress Competition

The Ramsay team consisted of 1,026 staff - along with their family and friends - from Attadale Private Hospital, Glengarry Private Hospital, Hollywood Private Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus.

Along with the other 27,000 plus competitors, the Ramsay team braved the atrocious weather to run or walk 12 or four kilometres to raise funds for Western Australian's with disabilities. It was the largest number of people Activ has had register since the fun run began.

The Ramsay team kept up the tradition of wearing brightly coloured gear and this year the red t-shirts and caps bore a gingerbread man with the tag, "run, run as fast as you can!" Before the event, Ramsay delivered gingerbread men to all wards and departments to inspire them to join in the fun.

Ramsay Health Care had a massive marquee at

and awarded the most creative outfits with amazing prizes, such as an Apple iPod, digital camera and \$600 voucher to The Subiaco Hotel. This year saw all kinds of the weird and wonderful and the winners were definitely a site to behold.

A lot of hard work went into organising Ramsay Health Care's involvement in the City to Surf and state manager operations Kevin Cass-Ryall said he was very impressed with everyone's efforts again this year.

"It is such a big job but one we feel is well worth it. Not only is it a fantastic community event to be involved in, but a great day out for the staff of Ramsay Health Care to enjoy with their family and friends," Kevin said.



LAST POST

Neil Hubbard ED

Lest We Forget



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

Ladies Dining Night - 7:15 pm for 8:00 pm Friday 30 November 2007.

Venue: ANZAC House
28 St Georges Terrace
PERTH

The cost for the Ladies Dining Night is \$75.00 per head.

If attending please complete the form and post, with your payment to:

Mr Richards Adams
Treasurer Highgate Sub-branch
PO Box 1013
SUBIACO WA 6904

I will be attending the Ladies Dining Night on Friday 30 November 2007.

My payment for \$..... is attached.

My Name:.....Accompanied by:.....