



Issue 468
October 2007

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

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AGM—MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 15th October 2007

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs—Fellowship, 1215 hrs—Luncheon

NO GUEST SPEAKER

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I will be stepping down from the President's chair at our Sub-Branch's Annual General Meeting of the 15 October. In reflecting on my years with Highgate RSL Sub-Branch it has always impressed me how the members stay, unswervingly, on the path laid so reverently, in 1916, by those men who had survived the carnage of the First World War.

Today Highgate continues to commemorate those men and women who gave their lives so freely and perpetuate that sacrifice by honouring them at the many services held at our State War Memorial throughout the year.

We care for the Honour Avenue plaques in Kings Park, where many relatives visit on special occasions for most within the Avenues have no known grave.

We continue to assist financially, through the State Branch, veterans and their families and encourage school students to learn more of the ANZAC Spirit that took our young men and women off to war.

And we gather at our monthly luncheons to share the fellowship of one another, a fellowship that cannot be explained in words to others, but is understood by all who have worn a uniform and served.

As our esteemed member Sir Charles Court once stated, "What is most important of all, Highgate has always remained faithful to its trust to the philosophies, policies and activities of the RSL. Time marches on and many of us who were Foundation Members will not be around all that long, but I hope that under the new membership rules of the League there will be a continuing group of those who qualify for membership to understand and take up the torch to continue what was started by a great band of ex-servicemen immediately after World War 11."

I feel we have continued to uphold the traditions and objectives of

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 5 November 2007

Luncheon: 19 November 2007

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the League and that more young men and women will come forward, in the future, to strengthen the ranks and maintain that ANZAC Spirit.

I look forward to your company at the AGM.

Norman Manners

**AGENDA
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING -
15 OCTOBER 2007**

1. Confirmation of 2006 AGM Minutes and Special Meeting Minutes dated 20 November 2006
2. Presentation and adoption of the President's annual report.
3. Presentation of the Financial Statements to the meeting for the past 18 Months ended 30 June 2007
4. Receive the auditor's report on the Sub-Branch financial affairs.
5. Confirmation of the elected Sub-Branch officers and committee for 2007/8.
6. Appointment of an auditor for 2007/8

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS FOR 2007-08

President:	Ian Mulholland
SVP:	Roger Tingley
JVP:	Martyn Thompson
IPP:	Norm Manners
Secretary:	VACANT
Treasurer:	Richard Adams
Cadet Liaison:	Leon Griffiths
Chair, Honours and Awards Sub-Committee:	Les Stewart
Custodian:	Warren Smith
Editor:	Bob Arnold
Historian:	Phillip Loffman
Pensions Officer:	Jim Eays
State Branch Representative:	Bob Mercer
Sub-Warden Representative:	Phillip Skelton
Committee Member:	Don Blair
Committee Member:	Tom Horton
Committee Member:	Laurie Palmer
Committee Member:	VACANT
Ex Officio-Welfare Officers:	Clare and John Curtis

NOMINATIONS ARE SOUGHT FOR THE VACANCIES

**DOCUMENTARY FILM/DVD SHEDS NEW LIGHT ON THE
WEARY DUNLOP STORY**

The producers of a just completed documentary film have unearthed hitherto unseen footage and shed new light on Australia's greatest story of wartime courage and compassion.

"The Quiet Lions" includes interviews - never before broadcast - of the surgeon at the centre of the Thai-Burma Railway's wartime construction, Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop. It also includes until now unpublished photographs of the railway's construction, and the Australian POWs forced to build it. The photos, taken by a Japanese engineer, were unearthed in Japan only this year.

"The Quiet Lions" also contains new revelations about a family of 'Thai angels' in the form of the

Boon Pong family who risked their lives to help Weary Dunlop and other Allied Doctors and officers save thousands of allied POWs.

The documentary film produced and directed by Robin Newell with extensive contribution from Keith Flanagan offers crucial new insights into one of our most important wartime stories at a time when it was in danger of being forgotten.

The documentary film was shot in Thailand, Burma, the UK and Australia. It contains footage of "Weary" - including insightful interviews in which he recalls his time as a surgeon on the railway line-shot on 16mm film and held in trust until now.

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SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 28 October 2007 — 1200 hrs for 1230 hrs — Consulate-General of Greece. OCHI Day

Sunday 11 November 2007 — 1000 hrs for 1100 hrs — Remembrance Day (Note early arrival)



Editorial

Many of us will easily recall that some 50 years ago there were various clubs and associations to which we could gain membership. A feature of membership was then, as it is today, committee work.

Way back then there was competition for a position on the committee and the common practice was to have an election to determine who would represent the general membership.

Today clubs and other associations continually battle to find volunteers to fill the essential appointments of President, Secretary and Treasurer and there have been instances of clubs folding because nobody has been pre-

pared to accept the responsibility of committee work.

Many members, for a variety of reasons, are unable to devote their time to more than attendance at regular branch meetings but there is little doubt that many who have the time are silent when volunteers are sought. Acceptance of membership brings with it certain responsibilities and an important responsibility is that of committee work.

Please bear this in mind and give consideration to working with your fellow members on the Management Committee. It is necessary, it is rewarding and with more member involvement committee duties will not be the province of the same members, year following year.

Weary Dunlop Story *continued.*

It also shows how the Thai River trader and later prominent businessman Kanchanburi Mayor Boon Pon smuggled desperately needed medicine into the work camps and for the first time the crucial role Boon Pong's 14 year old daughter Paneen played in distracting the Japanese guards.

It also tells the story of Weary's fellow POW Keith Flanagan who has devoted his retirement to bringing Weary's story to general notice.

"Weary Dunlop is more relevant now than he's ever been. He shows us that real leaders have compassion as well as strength, and that the bravest and most beautiful acts are possible in the midst of unimaginable savagery. The documentary film is also about the legacy Weary and Boon Pong left in the form of a memorial trust for trainee Thai surgeons. Weary Dunlop, who had more reasons than most people to fear people from other countries and cultures, showed that we only really win when we build bridges of friendship and cooperation" said Newell.

The cost of this DVD is \$29.95 and negotiations are underway to have a percentage of the cost donated to our Sub-Branch.

The Senior Vice President, Roger Tingley will bring a limited number of the DVDs to the November luncheon and should you wish to purchase a copy you may do so from him at that time.

DON'T FORGET

Ladies Dining Night

7:15 pm for 8:00 pm Friday 30 November 2007.

It is too easy to put pieces of paper aside and then forget about them. The time is marching on and we are again drawing this important event to your attention. An event at which you can honour and thank your ladies for the sacrifices many of them make on our behalf, day after day.

Be part of this significant occasion and get your returns in as soon as you are able.

WANTED URGENTLY

Highgate Sub-Branch Secretary.

This is a rewarding, but not arduous task. If you are interested and would like to know what is involved please call Ian Mulholland on 9572 2632 or Bob Arnold on 9448 2757.



HOLLYWOOD IN FOCUS

(With thanks to Ashlea Hatcher, Marketing & PR Coordinator, Hollywood Private Hospital)

Hollywood Private Hospital has welcomed Patricia Morris to the team as the International Patient Officer. Patricia recently facilitated the admission of Han Verdel from the Netherlands, who was extremely impressed with the service and facilities at Hollywood. The Hollywood Star spoke to both Patricia and Han to see how our overseas patients will benefit from having an international patient officer at Hollywood.

Q What is your role at the hospital, Patricia?

A. I actively market the benefits of patient treatment within Hollywood Private Hospital to international patients/health groups. Our primary focus has been with Indonesia, for which I have some years experience organising patient treatment. I also have four years experience with the Australian Indonesian Business Council (AIBC) and am currently director of the council. This has given me some important insights and understanding of the cultural needs of the Asian market. The hospital will certainly be looking at offering patient services to other countries, such as Japan and Korea and the United Kingdom. There are currently five thousand Japanese living and working in Perth. The United Kingdom has a long patient/procedure wait list and patients can be treated very successfully during regular visits to family in Perth.

Q. What do you think Hollywood has to offer for overseas patients?

A. I have visited a number of hospitals overseas and, recently, two of the three hospital's owned and operated by Ramsay Health Care in Indonesia. All the hospitals are similar in size, the rooms comparable; however, the attention to detail and care shown here at Hollywood Private Hospital is certainly amazing.

Q. What process do prospective overseas patients need to undertake before seeking treatment at Hollywood?

A. Before a patient arrives at the hospital, I will coordinate as much medical history as possible to be given to the specialist of choice, if a decision is then made by the specialist to accept the patient, a cost of the procedure is finalised and given to the patient before they arrive in Australia. Medical visas are organised for the patient and the family member or carer, flights organised and accommodation booked. The patients are met at the airport and taken to their accommodation. The patient and family are

cared for until they leave, and are returned to the airport. To be in a country you have often never visited before and to be sick, can be a frightening experience so a great deal of understanding is needed, and from the few patients we have already admitted here to Hollywood Private Hospital the staff have shown incredible care and kindness.

Q. Han, what procedure did you have done at Hollywood?

A. I came to Hollywood so Dr Michael Wren could operate to repair a totally torn tendon and stabilise another tendon, which were both in my left shoulder. I sustained this injury when I stumbled on a rock in 30cm of snow during a walk while I was in England. I carried this injury for quite some time until Dr Wren diagnosed the problem! He immediately suggested surgery at Hollywood.

Q. What was your Hollywood experience like?

A. I checked in at admissions where I was then introduced to International Patient Officer Patricia Morris who did all the paperwork with me. Within half a day I woke up on Axford ward in luxury equivalent to a first class hotel room. The nurses were most friendly and understood their job extremely well and at all times I felt very welcome during my stay. Excellent can't be any less than excellent can it?

Q. What would you say to people considering coming to Hollywood from overseas?

A. I would say call +61 (08) 9346 6204, the phone number of Patricia Morris and the red carpet will be rolled out for you. I guarantee you will feel welcome and pampered from the first day on. I say, "Be and feel like a star at Hollywood Private Hospital!"