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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 17 March 2008

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs — Fellowship, 1215 hrs — Luncheon

Guest Speaker: John Harper-Nelson, Member of Highgate RSL. John is an ex British Army Officer with a wide and varied background. His service included the Middle East, Guiana, Berlin and Africa. He is an author of note, has directed the production of films and was with the ABC for fourteen years. We are guaranteed a talk of substance, much interest and undoubtedly sprinkled with some humour.

Topic: "Decline and Fall of the British Empire"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Guest Speakers

There is no doubt that the quality of Guest Speakers adds markedly to the attendance at Luncheons. Dr Leo Laden our speaker last month was great and had members laughing almost in the aisles. Margot have you recovered yet? Roger and Martyn are doing a great job in lining up top speakers for the future. Have your say - lodge your questionnaire with Roger or Martyn to make your wishes known about Guest Speakers, Topics and Themes.

Purchasing of Drinks for Luncheon

I understand the purchasing of drinks to take upstairs for the Luncheon worked Ok. It is the only way the committee could see to not increase the cost to Members.

Gunfire Breakfast – ANZAC Day

A reminder to get your returns to the Treasurer for the Gunfire Breakfast which is of a similar format to previous years. The cost is \$30.00. This year the breakfast will be held in the Dining Room on the ground floor of the WA Club.

Sub-Branch Auditor

At the last meeting we appointed an Auditor for the Sub-Branch, Mr Jim Boot. Members will have an opportunity to meet him at a Luncheon in the near future.

Ian Mulholland.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 7th April 2008
Gunfire Breakfast: 25th April 2008



THE VYNER BROOKE TRAGEDY

ON 14 FEBRUARY 1942 SIXTY FIVE AUSTRALIAN ARMY NURSES WERE ORDERED TO EVACUATE SINGAPORE TO ESCAPE THE ADVANCING JAPANESE ARMY. ALONG WITH MANY CIVILIANS THEY BOARDED THE SHIP "VYNER BROOKE", TWO DAYS LATER THE SHIP WAS DISCOVERED BY ENEMY AIRCRAFT, BOMBED, STRAFED AND SUNK. TWELVE NURSES DROWNED AFTER THE ATTACK. THE SURVIVORS MADE THEIR WAY TO SHORE AT BANGKA ISLAND. A GROUP OF TWENTY TWO NURSES CAME TOGETHER ON RADJI BEACH AND THE NEXT DAY, 16 FEBRUARY, SURRENDERED TO THE JAPANESE. THEY WERE FORCED TO WALK INTO THE SEA AND WERE SHOT FROM BEHIND. ONE NURSE, VIVIAN BULLWINKEL SURVIVED THE MASSACRE BY FEIGNING DEATH AND SPENT THREE AND A HALF YEARS AS A PRISONER OF WAR. ONLY TWENTY FOUR NURSES RETURNED HOME TO AUSTRALIA. OF THE FIVE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NURSES HONOURED HERE, ONE WAS LOST AT SEA WHEN THE SHIP WAS SUNK AND THE OTHER FOUR WERE MASSACRED BY THEIR CAPTORS AT THE BEACH.

LEST WE FORGET



Ann Leach (94) well known Highgate Sub-Branch Member remembers her friend Bessie Wilmott who was shot dead in the Bangka Massacre on 16 February 1942.



Honour Avenues Dedication Service 16th February 2008
 (Further words cannot add more poignancy or meaning to this noteworthy occasion)





SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 23 March 2008 — 1200 hrs for 1230 hrs — Consulate of Greece (Independence Day)

Saturday 29 March 2008 — 0930 hrs for 0945 hrs — RAAF Association - *Flame*, 87th Anniversary of the formation of the RAAF

Wednesday 9 April 2008 — 0915 hrs Rehearsal - Schools' ANZAC Day Service - *Flame*

- MEET YOUR COMMITTEE -

Members will recall from reading an earlier newsletter that we will, where space permits, give you some insight into the background of your Committee Members whose one interest is to look after your interests. On this occasion we feature:

Bob Bunney, your new secretary. Bob was born in Brisbane Queensland in 1952

He was a Cadet at Banyo SHS for four years and reached the rank of Staff Sergeant. His first full time job, while awaiting the Senior Examination results was as a Sales Cadet with the Wilkie Group, Printers. He did this work for two months before accepting a Trainee Teacher Scholarship with the Queensland Government. Teachers' College lasted three weeks before he realised that teaching was not going to be his life's vocation.

Bob's next job was as a salesman in the camping department of Myer in Fortitude Valley. He held this job for about six months before taking up a job as a Purchasing Clerk with BP Australia. In August 1971, he then joined the Queensland Police and after training, was sworn in as a Constable on 3 December 1971.

In February 1976, Bob was Commissioned as a Pilot Officer in the Supply Branch of the RAAF. He attended Officer Training School at Point Cook from February to June 1976 and was posted to Base Squadron Williamstown in June to be the Assistant Barracks Officer.

Supply Officer Basic training followed at No 1 Stores Depot from August to December 1976 and Catering Officer training was undergone at Clerical and Supply Training School at Wagga from August to November 1977. In December 1998, Flying Officer Bunney was posted to Base Squadron Richmond as the Assistant Catering Officer.

From January 1981 to December 1983, Bob was employed, as a Flight Lieutenant, in Supply EDP in Canberra where he was responsible for maintaining the integrity of the existing Honeywell tape based batch system during its transition to a modern 'hard disc' system that allowed 'real time' processing. Bob would like to be able to say that he is one of the few remaining people who can read the FACT computer programming which was

used on the Honeywell system, but it was beyond him then, and is still so to this day.

January 1984 saw a posting to be Officer In Charge, Equipment and Catering Training Flight which was part of the RAAF School of Technical Training at Wagga. This was followed by his first Command when he was granted acting rank as a Squadron Leader and appointed Commanding Officer of the newly formed RAAF School of Clerical and Supply Training in June 1984. He was promoted to substantive Squadron Leader in January 1985 and remained at Wagga until December 1986. During his time at Wagga he completed a BBUS Degree at Riverina Murray Institute of Higher Education, majoring in Finance and Economics. He was now qualified as an Accountant and knew well enough that he did not want to be one.

Returning to Canberra in January 1987, Bob was posted to the Organisation and Establishments Branch. This was busy at the time with the disestablishment of the Helicopter Squadrons and their transfer to the Army. It was also the time of preparation for the Commercial Support Program which saw numerous category and mustering changes as well as disestablishment and reorganisation of units and functions. Bob was personally involved in the disestablishment of a number of domestic mustering as well as the closure of all the RAAF Support Units.

Having alienated most of the Air Force during his time at Organisation and Establishments, it was felt in mid 1988, that his skills could be best used at the Directorate of Personnel Officers where he became the Careers Adviser for the officers of the Supply, Works and Medical Branches as well as the Chaplains. March 1992 saw a vacancy for a Wing Commander Supply Officer within Resource Management Branch. Bob was granted acting rank and posted to the position and immediately made responsible for coordinating the Air Force response to, and writing, the Program Per-

formance Statements. After 8 years in Canberra, it was felt that Bob should get his experience in the far west. In January 1995, Bob was posted to be Executive Officer, 306 Air Base Wing at RAAF Base Pearce. As such he was also Deputy Base Commander and took command of the base during the OC's absence. This was a busy time at the base during which the OC's position was down-graded to Group Captain and all base domestic services were placed out to contract. With a further round of changes to be implemented as part of the Force Structure Review in 1997, Bob re-evaluated his career choices and left the RAAF in September 1997.

Bob became the CEO of the RAAF Association in September 1997 and set about expanding the range of services provided to its members as well as influencing changes to structures and governance of the organisation. RAAFA had close links with other service organisations such as RSL RACA, Legacy, and TPI, as well as close links with the Royal Commonwealth Society.

Since leaving RAAFA, Bob has held the position of General Manager of the St Ives Group and is now the Executive Manager Strategic Development for Baptistcare.

Since 1997, Bob has held positions on the Boards of Aged and Community Services WA, the Retirement Villages Association WA; the Australian Retirement Villages Association (two years as National President), the RSL War Veterans Homes, the Naval, Military and Air Forces Club (two years as President) and various other committees.

Bob is single, has two ex-wives, three children and two grand-children.

LAST POST

George G Henderson

LEST WE FORGET



HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL BUILDING PROGRAM UPDATE

(With thanks to Ashley Hatcher, Marketing and PR Coordinator Ramsay Health Care WA)

Hollywood Private Hospital's \$128.5 million building program is progressing nicely with a number of projects underway. The final project is on track for completion in late 2009.

The new theatre staff changing rooms, dining room and offices and an increased sterile supply department project commenced in December 2006 and was completed in December 2007.

Construction of theatres 5 and 6 started in July 2007 and is nearing completion. They should be operational by mid March 2008. The gastroenterology unit is being expanded to accommodate three procedure rooms and 20 beds. The project is going well and completion is expected in May 2008.

A multi-storey car park is under construction at the eastern end of the hospital campus and is due for completion in July 2008. This will comprise of three levels plus ground floor with a total capacity in excess of 600 bays (see before and after shots).

Once the car park has finished, building of the second specialist medical centre will commence immediately. The project completion date is September 2009.

There are a couple of projects that are expected to commence shortly, one of which is the much anticipated new ward block including 130 beds, a 30-day oncology unit, two new theatres and a chapel.

The demolition of four buildings has been undertaken to clear the way for the footprint of the new ward block and the foundations will be poured around mid March 2008. The construction period will take some 18 months and therefore the building will be operational by September/October 2009.

The expansion of the day procedure and day of surgery units will commence once the gastroenterology unit has relocated, which is expected to be in May 2008. This project should take around 12 months to complete.

Hollywood has just launched a building program website aimed at keeping the public and staff in the loop with a complete update on building progress at the hospital.

The website will provide information on where to park if you're a visitor, doctor or staff member coming to the main hospital or the specialist centre; when to expect delays and closures; and a comprehensive 'where do I find?' search function, among other features.

To access the building program website please visit the Hollywood corporate website at www.hollywood.ramsayhealth.com.au and follow the links. For more information on the building program please call project manager Wayne Williams on (08) 9346 6702.