



# Highgate Highlights

Official newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch  
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)  
www.highgate-rsl.org.au

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## From our President

**N**evil Shute's apocalyptic 1957 novel *On The Beach* described the end of the world, following a World War III nuclear holocaust. In Shute's fictional narrative, Albania launched a 1963 nuclear attack on Italy, followed by similar attacks by Egypt on America and the United Kingdom.

NATO launched a retaliatory attack against Russia which had supplied the Albanian and Egyptian aircraft, and life in the northern hemisphere was annihilated. A deadly radioactive cloud then spread south leaving a similar calamity in its wake.

Appropriately, the novel is set in Melbourne, where the main characters prepare to take suicide pills to avoid lingering deaths from radiation poisoning. Or living in Melbourne.

Fast forward to 2018. The former Ottoman dominion of Albania has emerged from Italian and German occupation in World War II and a repressive communist dictatorship, to become a developing market economy. Once a close Russian ally, Egypt is now more aligned with the US, which is its major military supplier.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Our next meeting is on Monday 19 March at The Western Australian Club

**Important:** Please book before COB on Wednesday 14 March

The Western Australian Club is located in the Grosvenor Building at 12 St Georges Terrace, directly opposite the byway between Perth Concert Hall and Duxton Hotel. Enter through the revolving door and use only the far right-hand lift to Level 11.

### Monthly luncheon bookings

Our monthly luncheon meetings are \$30 per person and held at the Western Australian Club on the third Monday of each month. For catering reasons, your booking must be made no later than 1700 on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon, please. *(Note: April luncheon is replaced by ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast from 0730 on 25 April; and November luncheon date is advised yearly for the Remembrance Day Luncheon at Fraser's Kings Park)*

### Booking methods

- 1. Via the Highgate website** at www.highgate-rsl.org.au. Click on *Click here to view our next luncheons details*. Then click on *Luncheon Details* and you'll be transferred to the booking sheet page. Electronic funds transfer details are on the spreadsheet.
- 2. Go direct to the luncheon booking spreadsheet** by pasting this link into your internet browser: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P\\_WKvR1El2qoSUCwK\\_7\\_8dg/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P_WKvR1El2qoSUCwK_7_8dg/edit#gid=0)
- 3. Via Committee Member:** If you do not have internet access, please call Margot Harness on 9349 2847 or any Committee member (see list this page) and they will help you book in.

## Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 19 Mar** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 19 Mar** | Monthly Luncheon
- 0700 for 0730 | **25 Apr** | ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast

## Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Member  
**Albert (Bert) William Lane OAM**  
and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends





## From our President

(continued from page 1)

The contemporary equivalent of Shute's Albania is North Korea, a rogue dictatorship with historic grudges against its democratic southern sibling, the U.S. and Japan. Kim Jong-un has conducted an aggressive program to make his reclusive regime a nuclear power, capable of striking the U.S. mainland and as far south as Australia.

In Shute's novel, America's ability to project its power around the world was destroyed. A similar scenario has been canvassed in a recent report by the Rand Corporation, *US Military Forces and Capabilities for a Dangerous World*. The report argues U.S. capabilities have failed to keep pace with the modernising forces of great-power adversaries, and are neither structured nor trained to counter multiple and disparate regional contingencies.

China has simultaneously developed and fielded an array of air, naval, and missile forces to put at risk U.S. and allied military capabilities. The long war on terrorism still presents the U.S. and its allies with multiple threats on multiple fronts; not forgetting the North Korean enigma.

It's a frightening scenario for 2018, although things could be worse. We could be in Melbourne.

While most commentary on the war on terror is now focused on Syria, it was irresistible to have our minds drawn back to Iraq 2003 by Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA at our last luncheon. Peter gave a very personal, up-close perspective of his experiences in SAS operations. His candour was refreshing and his insight into the capture of the vast Al Asad airbase, including over 50 aircraft, was fascinating.

Peter, of course, is WA's Minister for Veterans' Issues and was accompanied by his Chief of Staff, as well as one of his political advisors.

Peter's new Federal counterpart is Gippsland MP Darren Chester, the third Minister for Veterans' Affairs in three months. We will see if we can get him as a Highgate guest speaker.

Speaking of which, Highgate really has to be one of the best luncheon clubs in Australia.

We meet in the delightful WA Club penthouse, we are always served a beautifully-presented two-course meal, and we have the very best speakers in the country.

If you think that is an idle boast, reflect on our guest speakers over the past few years. Who could forget Rabia Siddique's account of being held hostage by Hezbollah in Basra? Or Lisa Scaffidi, 12 months ago, telling us that she would fight to the bitter end?

Our guest speakers have included Michael Jeffery, Kim Beasley, Xanana Gusmao, Major General John Hartley, Bishop Kate Wilmott, Major General Barry Nunn, our very own Professor Alex Kerr - who gave a wonderful insight into the South China Sea incursions by China - and most recently, our very own John Adeney, who gave an absorbing description of WA soldiers defending West Australia Hill against an overwhelming number of foes during the Boer War.

This month, we have former Premier of Western Australia, Brian Burke.

If you haven't invited your friends, please do so.

With best wishes - Geoff Hourn

## Local book to tell soldiers' stories

Students and staff of Mount Lawley Senior High School are producing a book that will tell the stories of the service and sacrifice of soldiers from their local community.

The book is to feature 35-50 soldiers who live or have lived in Bayswater, Mount Lawley, Northbridge, Perth, Mount Hawthorn, Leederville, North Perth, Dianella and Maylands.

These soldiers may be your neighbours, family or friends, and some have won the Victoria Cross.

Cost of the publication has not yet been set, but if you are interested, please email: [lynne.noack2@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:lynne.noack2@education.wa.edu.au) for more information.

**This newsletter is printed as a service to the Veterans Community by the Office of Tim Hammond MP Federal Member for Perth**

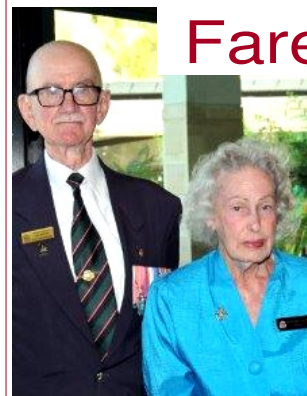
## SUNSET SERVICES AT SWM PRIOR TO ANZAC DAY

RSLWA and our Sub Wardens will again host special Sunset Services at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on Sun 22, Mon 23 and Tue 24 April, as lead-in to ANZAC Day on Wed 25 April.

Commencing at 1700 and finishing at 1730, each service will reflect on one of the three Australian Defence Force Services, commemorating significant conflicts over the past 100 years.

In particular, Navy will focus on the Battle of the Atlantic, Army will commemorate the battles of Villers-Bretonneux, and Air Force will focus on Australia's air campaign during the Vietnam War.

The Sunset Services will allow those unable to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service to pay their respects and remember those who served Australia with courage and dignity.



## Farewell

We extend our deepest sympathy to Bill Wilson on the passing of his beloved wife, **Elizabeth**, on 07 Mar 2018.

We also mourn esteemed member **Albert (Bert) William Lane OAM** who passed away on 24 Feb, just six days after his 78th birthday.



A Vietnam Veteran, Bert had 20 years service in RASigs, including seven years overseas. He was active in the RASigs Association (WA) for many years, as well as serving 16 years as President of the Australian National Flag Association (WA).

Bert served as a Sub-Warden at the State War Memorial from 2011, and was awarded an Order of Australia medal for his service to the armed forces and the community. *Photo courtesy Community Newspapers*

**Sub Warden Duties | 2018****Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park**POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial

<b>Sat 17 Mar</b>	1430 for 1500	St Patrick's Day   Consulate of Ireland   At the Flame
<b>Sat 24 Mar</b>	1300 for 1330	Greek National Day   Consulate of Greece
<b>Sun 22 Apr</b>	1615 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Service - Navy
<b>Mon 23 Apr</b>	1615 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Service - Army
<b>Tue 24 Apr</b>	1615 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Service - Air Force
<b>Wed 25 Apr</b>	0515 for 0600	ANZAC Day Dawn Service

**2018 Commemorations**

25 Apr	Dawn Service	ANZAC Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Turkey
25 Apr	Dawn Service—100th Anniversary of Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, Official opening of the Sir John Monash Centre, and Digger Memorial Service	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux (am); and Digger Memorial, Bullecourt (pm), France
25 Apr	Dawn Service	Isurava memorial, Kokoda Track, Papua New Guinea
01 May	75th Anniversary of Battle of the Atlantic	Royal Australian Navy Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra
13 May	50th Anniversary of Battles at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, Vietnam	Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra
04 Jul	100th Anniversary of Battle of Le Hamel	Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France
27 Jul	65th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
16 Oct	75th Anniversary of Australian work on Hell Fire Pass and completion of Thai Burma Railway	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
11 Nov	100th Anniversary of First World War Armistice ( <i>possible joint service with New Zealand</i> )	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

**Republic of Korea War Service Medal approved for wear**

Veterans of the Korean War have been given approval to wear the Republic of Korea War Service medal by the Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd).

Minister for Defence Personnel Michael McCormack said the approval to wear this medal, after initially refused by the British Government in 1951, shows the Australian Honours and Awards system has evolved to become its own unique system of recognising our service men and women.

During the Korean War, in which more than 15,000 Australians served, Australia used the Imperial Honours and Awards system and was therefore subject to the award policies set by the United Kingdom.

The Australian Council of Korea Veterans Associations campaigned to have the decision reconsidered from an Australian perspective.

The Republic of Korea War Service medal was introduced by South Korea in 1951 to recognise the assistance provided by members of the United Nations forces in combatting communist aggression in Korea.

It had been policy to accept only one foreign award for a particular service or campaign. In this case, the United Nations Medal KOREA had been accepted and therefore the offer of the Republic of Korea War Service Medal from the South Korean Government was declined.

As a foreign award, the Republic of Korea War Service Medal is not administered by Defence. Eligible veterans may therefore purchase the replica medal from any reputable medal dealer. Veterans who have been awarded the Australian Active Service Medal 1945-75 with clasp KOREA (AASM KOREA) are eligible for the Republic of Korea War Service medal.

Eligibility criteria, as directed by the Republic of Korea, is to have served between 25 Jun 1950 and 27 Jul 1953. Prescribed service must have been performed while on permanent assignment, on temporary duty within the territorial limits of Korea, or on waters immediately adjacent for 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days, as crew members of aircraft in aerial flight over Korea participating in combat operations, or in support of combat operations.

More information on the medal is available at:  
<http://www.defence.gov.au/Medals/Foreign/Republic-of-Korea-War-Service-Medal.asp>





## Our March Guest Speaker | **BRIAN BURKE** Former Premier of Western Australia

*We will be welcoming Brian Burke, Former Premier of Western Australia, as guest speaker at our luncheon on Mon 19 March. Reflecting on the tumultuous years of his premiership and subsequent careers by a master story teller, this will be a luncheon talk not to be missed.*

### **Bookings close COB Wednesday 14 March**

Brian Thomas Burke is a former Labor Premier of WA (1983-88) and Australian Ambassador to Ireland and the Holy See (1988-91).

Some years after leaving office, Burke was charged with misusing his travelling allowance and was sent to prison. As soon as he learned of the 'double-dipping', all allowances were repaid in full. The charges Burke faced - and which probably would not be laid today - were not a result of the so-called WA Inc. Royal Commission that was set up to investigate the government's links to business and from which there were no findings of corruption by the Commission.

Burke returned from Ireland, where he was Australian Ambassador, to defend his reputation at the Royal Commission. His jailing had a devastating impact on his life and family, particularly wife, Sue, who he met at school and to whom he has been married for more than 50 years. They have six children and 19 grandchildren.

Burke recently published his autobiography, *A Tumultuous Life*, which deals in detail with his colourful and often controversial life and career.

It outlines his childhood as the son of a Federal Labor MP, his school days in Perth, his courting of Sue Nevill, his time as a newspaper, radio and television journalist, his entry into politics and emergence as WA Labor leader, his two landslide election successes in the 1980s, the wide-ranging social and economic reforms of his governments, his association with high-flying businessmen of the 1980s - including Alan Bond, Laurie Connell and Robert Holmes a Court. It also reflects on his time as Ambassador to Ireland and the Holy See (Vatican), his grilling at the Royal Commission, his court appearances, and his time in prison.



And then it follows his subsequent career as a lobbyist, and his ongoing battles with the WA Corruption and Crime Commission, which he has

challenged for using dubious tactics to damage people's reputations without laying a charge.

About *A Tumultuous Life*, Burke says: "I have written it with honesty and candour. It will open some wounds, but hopefully heal others."

*A Tumultuous Life* is very readable and has received wide praise. Burke is a knowledgeable, interesting, humorous and entertaining guest speaker - not surprising, given that he was considered an outstanding speaker and debater in WA Parliament, and a brilliant political strategist. While he is no longer a member of the Labor Party, Burke maintains connections across the political spectrum. He is a well-informed, insightful and astute observer and commentator on the Australian political scene.

Brian Burke is happy to speak about his book and its many subjects of interest, or on historic and current matters of political interest, and about the politicians involved.

Brian Burke is regarded as an excellent speaker, always prepared to address difficult subjects frankly and without fear.

**Please note:** *Brian will bring some of his books for purchase. Price is normally \$30 but he will sell to our members for \$20. If a member wishes to pay full price, Brian will make a \$10 donation to Highgate for each book sold at \$30.*

## Our May Guest Speaker **BILL HASSELL AM**

Guest speaker for our May luncheon is Bill Hassell.



Born on 6 June 1943, and attending Hale School, Bill graduated with a law degree from the University of WA in 1965. He entered legal practice in 1966.

In 1977, Bill Hassell was elected to the Legislative Assembly seat of Cottesloe and served in the WA Parliament until 1990, including as a Minister in the governments of Sir Charles Court and Ray O'Connor, as Deputy Leader, and then as Leader of the Opposition 1984-1986. He is a life member of the Liberal Party.

Bill Hassell became Western Australian Agent General in Britain and Europe 1994-97. He is currently Deputy Mayor of the City of Nedlands.

He is a Member in the Order of Australia, and was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal, and also the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Bill has been married to Susan for 44 years and they have three adult children and four grandchildren.

Bill's intriguing topic for our luncheon on Mon 19 May will be: *The Australia Day Speech I Would Like the Prime Minister to Give.*

## **John Pope celebrates 100th birthday**

**On behalf of all members, we congratulate our RSL Platinum Member, John Pope, who turned an amazing 100 years on 11 March.**

**John was a member of 2/28 Battalion, fought at Tobruk and was captured in North Africa.**

**He saw out the Second World War near Salzburg, Austria, before escaping in March 1945.**

**Congratulations, John, on achieving your century.**



## Voyager/Melbourne Commemoration

Highgate Member, Lieutenant Michael Munjak USN ((ex-military) attended the recent 54th anniversary service of the Voyager and Melbourne collision, held in Kings Park.

"It was a very solemn service and I intend to attend in future on behalf of the North American Veterans' Unit," said Michael.



Photo by David MacLean after the service



## BOER WAR MEMORIAL

SOCIETY OF WA INC



'SPECTEMUR AGENDO'



## Boer War Peace Treaty - 116th Anniversary

The annual Boer War Commemoration and Reconciliation Service will be held at the South African War Memorial in Kings Park from 1100 on Sunday 27 May.

This year marks the 116th anniversary of the signing of the Vereeniging Peace Accords that brought the Boer War (1899-1902) to its close.

The Governor of Western Australia will lay a wreath in memory of all West Australians who participated in the conflict. Everyone is welcome.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Members celebrating their birthday in March include:

Richard Adams, Robert Arnold, Frederick Brown, Norman Coleman, Shane Edmonds, John Farrell, Rodney Halcombe, Reginald Hall, Stephen Joske, ronnie Leigh, Harry Lodge, Ray Mawson, Tony McKay, Garrett McDuling, Ian McGuckin, Robert Mitchell, John Pope, William Ritchie, Geoff Simpson, Geoff Stooke and Doug Webb

## Welcome to NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to **John Barnes**, a National Service Officer Training Unit Scheyville graduate who served with 127 Signals Squadron in PNG and Northern Queensland; and is a member of the OTU Assoc and the Duntroon Society

We also welcome new Affilliate Members, **Deanne Raphael**; and **Neville Harlow**. Neville was awarded the Vietnam Logistic and Support Medal for his work as an entertainer in Vietnam, playing guitar in a backing group called the Surfriders, who supported several singers including Robin Stein, (pictured). Nev is on guitar on the left, and played for Australian servicemen in Da Nang.



They were recruited by American agent Randy Crane for the USO, so he is not on the list of Australian Entertainers in Vietnam on the DVA website.

## Future Highgate Luncheon Speakers

President Geoff Hourn and Vice President John Cleary arrange most of our monthly guest speakers. We are grateful to them for the extraordinary quality and variety of our guests, all of whom inform - and sometimes amaze us.

### March | Brian Burke, Former Premier of WA

Accompanied by wife, Sue, Brian will reflect on his time as Premier and also talk about his recent autobiography, *A Tumultuous Life*. He has agreed to donate \$10 of any \$30 book sales at Highgate RSL.

### April | Gunfire Breakfast | BRIG David Thompson Warden - State War Memorial Kings Park

### May | Bill Hassell AM

WA Parliamentarian 1977-1990, including Leader of the Liberal Opposition. WA Agent General in Britain and Europe 1994-97. Currently Deputy Mayor of the City of Nedlands.

Bill's intriguing topic for our luncheon on Mon 19 May will be: *The Australia Day Speech I Would Like the Prime Minister to Give*.

## About Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

Now in our 71st Year

Formed in 1947, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch has long had responsibility for managing commemorative activities at the State War Memorial, and our members also form the Honour Avenue Group that installs and maintains the commemorative tree plaques in Kings Park that memorialise West Australians who have fallen in service of their nation, but are not buried in WA.

As well as information specific to Highgate Sub-Branch, our newsletter also includes from time to time relevant items relating to State and national RSL administrations; projects and issues from the Department of Veteran Affairs; comment by the Minister for Veterans Affairs; articles on significant historical events and achievements; information from the Australian War Museum in Canberra; and of course, the obligatory humour moments to lighten things up a little.

We have enjoyable luncheons on the third Monday of each month with fascinating guest speakers. Until ANZAC House is rebuilt, we meet in the serene surroundings of the Western Australian Club, high above St Georges Terrace and opposite the Perth Concert Hall. Members of other RSL Sub-Branches are very welcome to join us for luncheon, and booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.

### Newsletter contributions are always welcome

Please send your material to the editor at [roger.buddrige@gmail.com](mailto:roger.buddrige@gmail.com)

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Our nations heroes found in one book,  
the brave soldiers who fought for our  
country from our area.



MLSHS presents a book that  
tells the stories of the service  
and sacrifice of the soldiers  
from our local community.

These soldiers may be your  
neighbours, family or friends.

This book features 35-50  
soldiers who live or have lived  
in this area, some of who  
have even won a Victorian  
Cross.



Suburbs included are Bayswater,  
Mount Lawley, Northbridge, Perth,  
Mount Hawthorne, Leederville, North  
Perth, Dianella and Maylands.

If you are interested then email  
[lynne.Noack2@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:lynne.Noack2@education.wa.edu.au)  
[kieren.pearce@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:kieren.pearce@education.wa.edu.au)

Price to be included at a later date.