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HIGHGATE



NEWS

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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 AND AGM

Monday 19 November 2012

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

CHRISTMAS PARTY/LUNCHEON: No Guest Speaker at this Luncheon - instead a rollicking and "informal" get-together to celebrate Christmas together. Our very own Affiliate Member, David Grace, has kindly undertaken to "do the honours" as Master of Ceremonies.

GENTLEMEN, PLEASE NOTE: In deference to Perth's even-warmer-than-usual Summer months - your Committee has voted to allow the wearing of ties and jackets to be ***optional!***

For the next Luncheon (17th December) PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by Friday 14 December), using the link previously emailed to you. FOR THOSE WITHOUT email please call Margot Harness on 9293 1076 (or any of the committee listed at left). If you need the link again send an email to our Treasurer (see email on front cover) and request it. Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to place yourself on a PERMANENT basis.

President's Report

I have received a letter from the State Executive of the WA State Branch in which they object to the implication contained in my comment published in the August edition, namely:

"At least we can count on a fair and honest election"

Apparently this comment implies that there was an element of dishonesty and unfairness in the conduct of the 2011 election of the State Executive. In order to preserve the good name and integrity of the League I have been requested to withdraw the comments to prevent any potential exposure to legal action by any individual who I may have inadvertently brought into disrepute.

Given that an in-house investigation was conducted directly as a result of my formal complaint and that I have not been provided access to this report I can only assume the finding *"that there was no basis at all to assert that such irregularities resulted from anything more than clerical or administrative*

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 17 December 2012

(Committee: 10am same day)



error” is correct. An investigation in which the complainant was not contacted or interviewed nor given the right to examine the findings leaves unanswered questions. To fully demonstrate the State Executive’s stated commitment to transparent and faithful governance, I welcome the public release of this investigation or alternately examine the option of an independent and open inquiry into the election.

However, as it appears that there is no proper basis in fact for my comment and implied insinuation, and as I have complete faith in the professional ability of the CEO/State Secretary, I am prepared to consider this withdrawal. Ironically, in this instance, the comment referred to the recognised ability of the State Electoral Commission to conduct fair and honest elections.

I will therefore publish an apology. I did not intend that my comments implied that any of those involved in the conduct of the election did so dishonestly or unfairly and I withdraw them unreservedly. I look forward to the outcome of a new election and the oppor-

tunity to express an opinion without the threat of legal redress.

Moving on to more pleasant issues, it was great to see so many members and partners enjoying themselves at the Memorial Luncheon on November 4. The invited guests really enjoyed the opportunity to participate and mix with members in this moving and pleasant event and the committee will undertake to extend another invitation to our guests for next year’s Luncheon. Hollywood Private Hospital has again promised their generous support for members and partners so they can attend at a very reasonable cost.

Our next monthly lunch is the much anticipated Christmas wind-up so make it your aim to come along to join in the festivities. If you have some items to raffle then bring them along as well please. I hope to see you there.

Yours in friendship,
Leon

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ADVANCE NOTICE:

Although we were unable to book into RFBYC in March next year—alternative dates in late May and June are being investigated. More info will follow at Christmas Lunch.

POPPY DAY Report:

“Congratulations” and big pats-on-the-back are due to our wonderful teams of volunteers (40 Highgate members showed up) who collected for Poppy Day on 9th November. In all, \$19,558.05 was the total raised.

Martyn Thompson’s wonderful team, who manned the Esplanade area, collected the majority - and did a sterling job. Jill Thompson, as ever, was there to back them all up.

Mike Harness, and John and Carmen Homer led their team of stalwarts at Wellington Street Bus Station, and they too racked up a great result.

From all of us in the Sub-branch folks: **“THANK YOU!”**



A “Pun can be Fun” Corner

A man took a walk on a warm sunny day and sat on a bank by a pleasant pond. After a spell, he rose to leave, but he lost his footing, slipped and fell into the pond. The water wasn’t deep but he had to struggle to make it safely to shore. After climbing out, dripping wet, he noticed he had dropped his wallet. Pondering the pond, and wondering how he could search for it, he noticed a large carp swim by, then another - and then another. They appeared to be chasing something around.

Suddenly, one carp broke the surface. To the amazement of the man - the fish had the wallet in its mouth. He flipped it to another carp, who caught it in *his* mouth. This second carp flipped it on to a third fish that shot out of the water, flicked his head - bending it like Beckham ... (*groan*) ,,,, and tossed the wallet on to a fourth.

The man watched for quite a while. He tried to intervene and grab his wallet when ’twas airborne, but the carps wouldn’t let him play! All he could do was to report this strange behaviour to the Fisheries experts, but they told him it was a well known phenomenon: it is known as carp-to-carp walleling.

NEED A LIFT TO ANZAC HOUSE TO ATTEND MONTHLY HIGHGATE LUNCHEONS?

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Friday, 18 January, 2013 November : PROVISIONAL: Morning ceremony (British/Aust Ministers Defence and Foreign Affairs)

SUB-BRANCH SNIPPETS

Commiserations to our erstwhile HAG member: **Arthur Hutchinson** who, as an SES volunteer up at Kalamunda, was up a ladder at the local SES HQ when it slipped and he fell - fracturing a hip and both wrists. He is now out of hospital, fortunately, and although on crutches, is off to his son's wedding in Victoria next week. Safe journey and best wishes from us all Arthur!

The Sub-Branch has organised, as part of a Welfare project, to send **Christmas parcels** to as many WA-born service personnel as possible, currently serving in war zones overseas. This has been organised through the Overseas Forces Comforts Fund, and 'parcels' should consist of toiletries, sweets, magazines etc. A nice Card from Highgate RSL Sub-Branch is also being included. We hope they will enjoy them!

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

He's an extraordinary survivor - something of a National Treasure really and aren't we in Highgate lucky to have him?! I refer of course to Kenneth Walter Wood - who was born in 1918; enlisted for WW2 in 1940; and served with the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion in Syria, Libya and Palestine. En route back to Australia aboard the "Orcades" in early 1942, all had the misfortune of making landfall in Java, only to be taken prisoner of the Japanese and being forced to finish the war as POWs(J). Under the command of the marvellous Edward ("Weary") Dunlop, Ken and other POWs were sent to work on the Burma-Thailand railway in January 1943, including the Kintok cutting - better known as "Hellfire Pass".

In January 1945 Ken was near the bridge now called the 'Bridge over the River Kwai' when the Allies bombed it. Several POWs pulled four unexploded bombs out of the river the next day and had to help repair the bridge downstream. With the name WOOD, he became "chief carpenter"! Ken was working on an airstrip at Nakhon Nayok (NE of Bangkok) when he heard the news that Japan had surrendered on 15 August 1945.

Repatriated back to Australia by Hospital ship, it was November 1945 before he was reunited with his WA family - but he still spent months in Hollywood hospital recuperating from his ordeals.

Post-war, Ken rejoined his old firm: Goldsborough Mort (it later became Elders GM): and served at a variety of WA country branches for five years, generally as Branch Manager. In Dowerin, he met a newly graduated young teacher called Daphne. The pair married in 1952 - which means this devoted couple celebrated their Diamond anniversary this year! Space prevents more about this intrepid man's exploits (who would have guessed, for instance, that he has been a keen 'thespian' and has played Nanki-Poo in a Narrogin production of "The Mikado", as well as Marco in "The Gondoliers"? - obviously he has a fine singing voice!)



This remarkable man worked all over Regional WA in multiple management capacities until finally retiring at the venerable age of 77 years. In recent years, Ken has actively participated in Australia-Thai projects to promote the training of Thai doctors and foster good fellowship between both countries.

Ken has three adult children and been in Highgate RSL and an active member of the Honour Avenue Group at Kings Park for many years.

Ken - you are an inspiration!



LAST POST

Brig (Retired) R.D.F. Lloyd OAM MC Capt (RAN Retired) John Lancaster

Lest We Forget



Highgate News

Highgate RSL Remembers

The collage consists of 20 individual photographs arranged in a grid-like fashion. The top-left photo shows a wide view of the war memorial with a large monument in the background. The top-middle photo shows a close-up of the memorial's base with the inscription 'WE WILL REMEMBER THEM'. The top-right photo shows a young girl in a black dress. The middle-left photo shows a group of people in uniform standing in a line. The middle-middle photo shows a group of people sitting on a bench. The middle-right photo shows a group of people standing in a line. The bottom-left photo shows a woman in a black dress speaking at a podium. The bottom-middle photo shows a group of people sitting on a bench. The bottom-right photo shows a group of people standing in a line. The photos capture various moments of the event, including speeches, floral tributes, and people gathered around the memorial.



GLIMPSES AND IMAGES TO REMEMBER OUR 2012 MEMORIAL “REMEMBRANCE” SERVICE AND LUNCH

Few who attended our Wreath-laying ceremony for 2012 will forget the moving and touching presence of the widows and children of SASR men who have paid the ultimate sacrifice, with their lives, in recent conflicts. It certainly lent a very special poignancy and significance to the occasion. How proud those men would have been to see their beautiful children lay their own wreath in their fallen fathers' honour and memory.

It was a privilege to have them with us.

Grateful thanks to Roger Buddridge for providing the “montage” of images taken at and around the Flame of Remembrance (see page at left), and random shots of the happy diners who enjoyed fellowship and a wonderful meal at Fraser's Restaurant afterwards.

FRASER'S:

A section of the happy throng listening to President Leon Griffiths deliver a few well-chosen words



Our Honoured Guests:

The families of WO2 David Nary, Sgt Mathew Locke MG and Sgt Andrew Russell...with Graham Edwards AM (former Federal MP and State Minister).

Good food, wines, conviviality reigned..... Retiring State Warden, Ruth Shean PhD (daughter of our late member: Max Shean DSO, accompanied by her husband: Professor Mike Daube (on her left) can be seen in centre foreground.





Hollywood Private Hospital implants Asia-Pacific's First MRI-conditional cardiac resynchronisation pacemaker

Hollywood Private Hospital is once again at the forefront of medical and technological innovation as one of the hospital's cardiologists implanted Asia-Pacific's first 'MRI conditional' cardiac resynchronisation (biventricular) pacemaker.

The 71-year-old man who received the revolutionary pacemaker was complaining of worsening shortness of breath and swollen ankles due to fluid accumulation. He was diagnosed with heart failure due to dilated cardiomyopathy (where the heart becomes weakened and enlarged and cannot pump blood efficiently).

His heart failure was difficult to treat despite maximal medications. He had suffered a recent stroke in March 2012 thus necessitating the need for a device that could be implanted to help improve his heart function and still be safe for future possible cranial MRI scans.

Many patients with pacemakers are restricted from undergoing MRI procedures as it interferes with the pacemaker's functions and leads.

However, the new BIOTRONIK EVIA ProMRI® HF-T device from BIOTRONIK Australia Pty. Ltd, has widened the scope of medical treatment that has previously been restricted for people fitted with cardiac resynchronisation pacemakers. This is an important consideration as a significant number of patients with pacemakers may be affected by other conditions that often require MRI scanning.

Cardiac resynchronisation pacemakers are designed to help treat patients with heart failure. It sends small, undetectable electrical impulses to both lower chambers of the heart to help them beat together in a more synchronised pattern. This improves the heart's ability to pump

blood and oxygen to the body in addition to medical therapy. The device itself is actually a miniaturised computer and a battery, contained in a small titanium metal case that is about the size of a pocket watch.

Consultant Cardiac Electrophysiologist Dr Shakeeb Razak, who performed the revolutionary procedure, said several thousand people in Australia get a pacemaker implanted every year and many among them may need an MRI scan during their lifetime.

"In the past patients would be barred from undergoing any MRI scanning as exposure to magnetic radiation could cause complications. But this new MRI conditional cardiac resynchronisation pacemaker is a game changer for patients as it ensures they can safely receive future diagnostic imaging as well as advanced

features such as comprehensive heart failure diagnostics, the unique patented Closed Loop Stimulation® (CLS) technology and the BIOTRONIK Home Monitoring® remote monitoring service that allows for early detection of any potential problems." said Dr Razak.

Recently appointed Director of Cardiology at Joondalup Health Campus, Dr Jenny Deague said the cardi-

ology team at both Hollywood Private Hospital and Joondalup Health Campus who are part of the Ramsay Healthcare Group, were delighted to lead the way in this medical advancement.

"This is truly revolutionary and demonstrates how we can improve the scope of our care and treatment to more of our patients."

Courtesy of Annie Palmer—Ramsay Health



Cardiologist Dr Shakeeb Razak with Rosanna and Robert Hindmarsh

The continuing support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance to RSL Highgate Sub-Branch is warmly and greatly appreciated.

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL



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