



HIGHGATE NEWS

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Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

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

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 19th May 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER: Kevin Graham (Lt Col Retd)



One of our "own" Highgate men - and member of the Sub-Branch Committee - Kevin has an eclectic and varied Army career behind him.

He ran the full gamut from 15 years old Army Apprentice (RAE) to an OCS course and commission before later transferring to Ordnance Corps and specialising in ammunition and explosives. He is widely travelled: postings to Papua/New Guinea, South Vietnam as well as training stints in UK, USA and Canada. Be sure to book a seat!

For the next Luncheon (19th May) PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by Friday 16th May) - using the web-site). Cost is \$30 a head.

Method: GO TO the web-site. Double-Click on "MAY LUNCHEON" under the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and **AS IF BY MAGIC**, the printing will change colour and be underlined. 'Click' on it again and the spreadsheet/Book In list will appear). ****FOR THOSE WITHOUT email** please call Margot Harness: 9293 1076 (or any of the committee listed at left) to book in.

Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to enter a "P" in Column 3 to indicate you are a PERMANENT booking.

EFT details appear at the TOP of the Book In spreadsheet.

President's Report

Our Gunfire Breakfast was well attended proving again that our members wish to continue this tradition. Although we advertised and invited young veterans from the two recent conflicts we had no acceptances. This doesn't mean that we give up on attracting younger members but it does mean that all our members have to actively recruit from their friends and relatives young veterans. It was heartening to see and speak to the young grandsons of Tom Horton who drove all night from Albany to be at the dawn service and our breakfast.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON: 19th May, 2014

(Committee: 10am same day)

*(Continued from p.1)*

Our guest speaker and the current Warden of the State War Memorial, Jan Stewart, gave a most heart-warming talk about her father's service and experiences on the Burma railway. She also gave a potted history of the Lotteries Commission and its support of the RSL. Not only did she give of her time and experiences she gave all present a chance to win a prize in lotto this Anzac weekend.

Jan mentioned her Dad and his mates - and their unique memories - during her talk. It got me thinking that we have a veritable treasure of memories walking around and getting older. We have lost many of these memories as our older veterans have passed away. The question is how do we go about recording the memories of our current members before they too are history? Currently we have a token record in a small thumb sketch of member's careers, from those who have submitted them, in our Hall of Honour. Wouldn't it be great to have some audio visual records but how to undertake such a task? Any ideas gratefully accepted.

Thanks must also go to the sub-wardens who had a busy week with the new initiative of the evening wreath laying services leading up to Anzac Day. This of course culminated in the dawn service as normal. Well done all.

At our May Luncheon we will be featuring and acknowledging the valuable role of our Honour Avenue group. Norm Manners will give a short briefing on their activities before our guest speaker. No doubt he will mention the next quarterly Dedication (of new Plaques) Ceremony to take place on Saturday, 17th May.

Thanks to John our website, <http://highgate-rsl.org.au/> is continually being updated. There is a new calendar of events and a link to the State RSL's "Sub-Branch Signal" monthly publication where you can keep up to date with what is happening in the WA Branch. Links are also there to make bookings for the luncheon and the lunch at Royal Freshwater Bay on the 29th of June.

With the cooler weather it has been suggested we move to our normal standard of dress from the beginning of May.

The committee is always open to suggestions to take the Highgate sub-branch forward. It is also time for members to think of serving on the committee next year as I know we have some who are feeling they have done their bit and are going to retire.

Yours in fellowship

Peter

Hear Ye Hear Ye Our hard-working Treasurer, Richard Adams (who does such a good job, it is unlikely he will ever be 'relieved' in this role!) - backed up by President Peter - wants to encourage as many members as possible to utilise payments to the Sub-Branch by Electronic Transfer (EFT) please. This includes pre-payment for Monthly Luncheons (\$30). For those who use electronic banking, the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch is with the CBA. BSB is 066-001, A/c: 00925571. **Ensure you include your surname**. This will help ease Richard's burden a great deal, and will be much appreciated.

A Pun Can be Fun Corner A Traveller's musings

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Cahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Cahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my friends, family and work. I live close so it's a short drive.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age I need all the stimuli I can get!

And, sometimes I think I am in Vincible but life shows me I am not.

People keep telling me I'm in Denial but I'm positive I've never been there before!

I have been in Deep manure many times; the older I get, the easier it is to get there. I actually kind of enjoy it there.

So far, I haven't been in Continent, but my travel agent says I'll be going soon...



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Monday **5 May 2014** : 1030 for 1100hrs - 72nd Commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea (Australian-American Association (WA Division)

Monday **26 May 2014** : 1020 for 1050hrs - USA Memorial Day (North American Veterans' Unit)

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

With RAAF maritime aircraft featuring prominently in the search for Malaysian Airlines, MH370 in recent weeks, it is timely to focus on our long-standing member: Alan Saville, who spent much of WW2 as a pilot in maritime Squadrons.

Alan was born in Launceston, Tasmania, on 30 January, 1922, and completed his education there at Scotch College. Aged 16, he joined the Commercial Union Assurance Co at Launceston. His career was interrupted by the outbreak of WW2, and he enlisted for Air Crew in the RAAF in December 1940, entering the No.1 I.T.S. at Somers (Victoria) in October the following year; and, having completed Elementary Flying Training, was posted to Canada under the Empire Air Training Scheme shortly afterwards.

He graduated as a pilot at No.8 SFTS Moncton, New Brunswick - going on to train at the School of General Reconnaissance at Summerside (Prince Edward Island) and the Officer Training Unit at Debert, Nova Scotia. Alan then commenced duties with RCAF No.3 Operations (Maritime) Squadron for a time before being posted to the UK and to Coastal Command RAF 200 Squadron - flying Lockheed Hudsons from Freetown, Sierra Leone on Atlantic anti-submarine and Convoy Escort duties. Pretty demanding stuff!

In July 1944, he returned to Australia, was appointed as OC of No.7 Elementary Flying Training School and remained there until demobilisation in June 1946. For 10 years after the war he continued to serve as a training Officer in the Air Training Corps.

Back in civilian life and returning to the Commercial Union Assurance Company, Alan's career flourished steadily, with successive appointments to that of Branch Manager in Hobart, in 1955; Queensland Manager four years later; and State Manager WA in June 1964. It was then that his international career took off, and he subsequently became the General Manager of the company in Central Africa and General Manager Rhodesia in 1973; General Manager New Zealand, 1974; and President and CEO Commercial Union of Canada and Associated Companies in October 1975 before retiring in April, 1983. However he remained on the Board of Directors there until returning to Australia in 1985.

Never one to rest on his laurels, Alan has contributed his time and talents to a variety of service and social organisations over many years, including Apex, Junior Chamber of Commerce, the Tasmanian Aero Club, Probus, the RAAF Association, the Weld Club and many Insurance Industry bodies in Tasmania, Queensland, WA, Rhodesia, NZ and Canada.

On top of all of these, he served as Secretary of Highgate in 1995, and its President in 1999.

Alan, who has now attained the impressive age of 92, recently relinquished independent living, to move into an aged care facility. Unfortunately, he was unable to lay his hand on a photo taken during his days in uniform. It is hard to imagine the rigours and challenges of flying over the Atlantic for hours on end, in all sorts of turbulent weather - faithfully keeping a vigilant eye over the potentially treacherous waters below, and facing the threat of encountering enemy aircraft as well. It must have been nerve-wracking!

What a colourful, varied and peripatetic life you've had Alan - in peace and in war. Rest assured, the whole Sub-Branch joins in wishing you well!



LAST POST

All deceased men and women of Highgate Sub-Branch. R.I.P.

Lest We Forget

**IT'S GETTING CLOSE! Mark in your Diaries ...**

SUNDAY LUNCHEON AT ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB. To be on 29th June. You may like to invite family and friends to join you for what is usually a wonderful relaxing day in one of the most "plum" dining locations on the Swan River. Your Committee has, thanks to member: Lynn Lovell-Durant, negotiated a special price of \$40 a head for a Roast+Hot dish/Veg/Salads meal + Dessert. Further details **ARE ALREADY ON THE WEB-SITE** and to follow **IN THE JUNE Edition.** PAYMENT WILL BE "AT THE DOOR" - but we will need to ascertain numbers attending beforehand, to assist the Yacht Club with catering.

NEW NAME BADGES - AWAITING COLLECTION:

A number of Members have already paid \$10 for one of the new black, Name Badges - which can now be collected from the Reception Desk at our Monthly Luncheons. NAMES are:

KEN BARTON	ALEX KERR	PETER ROWLES
DON BLAIR	SUNNYL KIM	HUGH RITCHIE
JOHN EVERT	DAMIAN LAMBERT	RON SEARES
RAY GALLIOTT	RAY MAWSON	MICHAEL SUTHERLAND
SUSAN GLASFURD	MICK MICHAEL	STAN STEWART
BARRY GRAVELLE	NOEL MONKS	JOHN THORNTON
JOAN GRAVELLE	KEITH MORRIS	RAY WARD
LOU HALVORSEN	MICHAEL MUNJAK	TED WHITE
JOHN HOMER	ANNETTE NEWELL	RODNEY WILLOX
CARMEN HOMER	NEIL OLIVER	
DICK JONES	JOHN POPE	

**AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM OUR WEB-MASTER!**

The Highgate events calendar accessible from the Highgate RSL website has been upgraded. The new calendar, providing information on forthcoming Highgate events, is far more user friendly and enables whomever is looking at the calendar to easily transfer the information of a particular calendar event to their own personal calendar located on their smart phone, iPad or computer with a couple of clicks. The new calendar has a Google maps feature which can provide directions to Highgate function venues such as the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

The home page of the website has also been redesigned to include the new RSL WA logo. There is now a link on the website home page which takes you to the current RSL WA Sub-branch Signal. Back copies of the Signal are also accessible from the website."

Even MORE about our Web-site

From Web-master to all our members who have access to the Internet:

On the front page of our website and when you scroll down, there is a section called "historical interest page". I have just inserted into that page a story about Operation Market Garden. Included in that story is a link to a video which you may find quite beautiful. (EDITOR's Note: I did! Take a look).

**A light-hearted definition of a DOCTOR:**

A person
Who kills
Your ills
By pills,
Then kills you
With his bills



ANZAC Remembered at "GUNFIRE"

On this year's 99th Anniversary of ANZAC, as many members as were able gathered at the Gunfire Breakfast after the Dawn Service, as comrades, to share memories and good fellowship. Also to pay tribute, and to honour the memory and legacy of all who have fought and died for our country and for freedom.

It was held in the Gallipoli Room, upstairs at ANZAC House., with a traditional "Full English Breakfast" - juice, fruit and all the usual trimmings.



Above: Wonderful to see Ray Galliot back within the throng - standing well on his new lower leg!

Guest Speaker was the multi-accomplished CEO of LotteriesWest: Jan Stewart, who spoke lovingly of her Dad and his companions, who were captured by the Japanese during WW2 and forced to live out the war as POWs - 'free' slave labour building the Burma-Thai railway.

She, fiercely proud of him; and he - clearly, had he been present, would have been extremely proud of her.

As ever, a warm, convivial atmosphere of friends-meeting-up-with-friends characterised the atmosphere - with a wee "tot o' rum" to liven things up, not doing any harm at all!



Below: Could they be on their Mobiles? Texting? Of course not! Just reading their Menus and feeling comfortable when surrounded by old mates and comrades



Above: Guest Speaker and current State Warden of the SWM: Jan Stewart - daughter of a former POW(j)

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

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL



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