



HIGHGATE



Issue 540
June 2014

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

NEWS

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

President

Peter Farrell
Tel: 9246 1367 - 0458 720 022
Email: peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Vice President

Steve Chamarette
Tel: 9242 1865
sunridge@it.net.au

Junior Vice President

Geoff Hourn
Email: ghourn@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Leon Griffiths
Tel: 9332 9039 - 0439 033 399
Email: leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

John Cleary
Tel (Mob): 0417 955 864
PO Box 7141 APPLECROSS
WA 6153
Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Richard Adams
PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832
Telephone: 0411 737 723
Email: richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Editor

Margot Harness
Telephone: (H) 9293 1076
(M) 0438 936 405
Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions Officer

Margot Harness
Telephone: 9293 1076

Website

www.highgate-rsl.org.au
Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

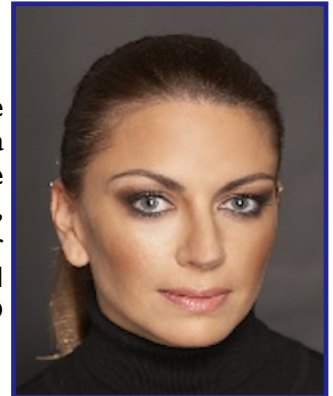
Monday 16 June 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER: Rabia Siddique

A criminal lawyer in Perth before joining the British Army (now retired), multi-lingual Rabia made world headlines whilst serving in Iraq. She has been a terrorism and war crimes prosecutor, and is now a humanitarian, professional speaker and published author. This dynamo lady still works in the legal sphere (with WA Police) AND is Mum to 5 year old triplet boys!! What a lady! Come along to hear Rabia for yourselves.



For the next Luncheon (Monday 16 June) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 13 June). Cost: \$30, paid at Reception Desk or EFT.

Method: **GO TO** the web-site. Double-Click on "**MARCH 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.

president's Report

Our numbers for the Luncheon on Monday were down. We know that there are quite a few of our members taking the opportunity to travel to Europe. I've heard a group are heading to the battlefields of France. It's a little late to wish them safe journeys, but for those still to leave: keep safe.

We were very pleased to have most of the Honour Avenue Group present at this luncheon and to feature their contribution to the Branch. Norm Manners briefed us all on their activities and the work they do. Thanks Norm and your merry band on behalf of us all.

Our annual lunch at Royal Freshwater Bay is on Sunday 29th June. Please bring along your wives, partners and friends. Cost is \$40 per head and drinks to be

Continued P.2

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 16 June 2014

(Committee: 10am same day)



(Continued from p.1)

purchased separately. Tables of 10 are available. Payment is at the door so please have the correct amount to assist our collectors. The booking sheet is available now through the website.

We are continuing to investigate means of helping our ageing members to get to our luncheons. Many are finding it difficult to get from the train to ANZAC House so they decide not to come. As I've mentioned before, it is so important that we keep contact with our mates and what better way than spending some time lunching with perhaps a nice glass of wine to loosen the tongue and to reminisce.

May I also remind everyone that **you** are the best means of increasing our membership. Encourage your mates to come along to a lunch and see what they are missing.

Our June Guest Speaker, Rabia Siddique, promises to be most interesting. With her eclectic background and array of qualifications, I believe we are in for a very stimulating talk - and I, for one, am looking forward very much to hearing what she has to say.

Whilst I was checking the membership list, I noted that there are quite a few members who have not submitted a brief CV for the Hall of Honour on our website. If you haven't yet done this, you may soon receive

a request from us. It would be even better if you know - and download (and complete) a form from our website to assist you. Just click on *Membership* and then the top form: *Membership and information*.

I look forward to you joining us for the 16th June Luncheon and the Sunday (29/6/14) Lunch at RFBYC.

Yours in fellowship

Peter

Sub-Branch Snippets

Alas, we have bade "Farewell" to intrepid **John Harper-Nelson**, who is moving up to the warmer climes and slower (we hope!) pace of Geraldton. All the best up there John!

Commiserations to Dr **Cecil Walkley**, who had a nasty fall the night before our last Lunch, and ended up in hospital to have his head stitched and ice applied to a very swollen knee. Cecil is no stranger to hospitals of course - but being a patient was a bit of a novelty! Hope you heal up well Cecil! Hopefully you'll soon be back pounding the pavements again, on one of your half-marathon runs!

The Honour Avenue Group will be pleased to get **Barry Campbell** and **Mike Harness** back to work again soon following minor surgery: Barry with a pesky kidney stone, and Mike a shoulder arthroscopy,

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 couple lived near the ocean and used the nearby beach a lot. One summer they noticed a girl who was at the beach almost every day. She wasn't unusual, nor was the travel bag she carried, except for one thing; she would approach people who were sitting on the beach, glance around and then speak to them.

Generally, people would respond negatively and she would wander off; but occasionally someone would nod and there would be a quick exchange of money and something that she carried in her bag. The couple assumed that she was selling drugs and debated calling the police, but since they didn't know for sure, they decided to just continue watching her.

After several weeks the wife said, 'Honey, have you ever noticed that she only goes up to people with radios and boom boxes and other electronic devices?' He hadn't and said so. Then she said, 'Tomorrow I want you to get a towel and our big radio and go and lie out on the beach. Then we can find out what she's really doing.'

The following day, the plan went off without a hitch and as the wife watched, the girl approached then spoke with her husband and then left. The wife was almost hopping up and down with anticipation. The man then walked up the beach and met his wife at the road.

'Well,' she asked excitedly; 'IS she selling drugs?' 'No, she's not,' he said flatly.

'Well, what is it then? What does she do?' his wife demanded.

The man grinned and said, 'She's a battery salesperson.'

'**Batteries?**' exclaimed the wife. 'Yes!' he replied. 'She Sells C Cells by the Seashore!'



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Saturday 7 June 2014 - 12 Noon for 1230hrs : Consulate of Greece

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Ken Bladen AM loved the military from the time he played with lead soldiers as a young boy during WW2. His father, a GP, was an honorary Army Captain examining recruits; his grandfather served in Gallipoli and France with 23rd Battalion - a 50 years old Padre from Victoria. Born in WA in 1934, Ken was the eldest of five siblings and spent his first four years of life in Narembeen WA where his father ran the local hospital.

In 1954, on completion of a 3-month National Service stint, Ken was selected for OCS Portsea, graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant and destined to be a career infantry officer.

For the next 21 years he served in various regimental, instructional and staff postings both in Australia and overseas. For three years he was a foundation member of the Special Air Service Company, subsequently posted to IRAR in 1957, to be a platoon commander in Malaya. Of his 30 years Army service, Ken says 1961 proved to be the fastest learning experience than at any other time. By now a Captain, he continued to serve in Malaya a further two years as Adjutant 2RAR.

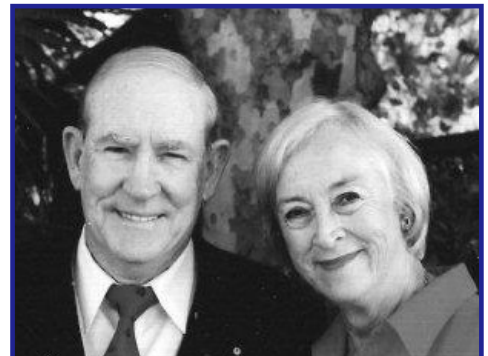
Following Staff postings at HQ 1st Div in Sydney, Ken was sent to Puckapunyal (Victoria) to help raise 7RAR - becoming its inaugural Support Company commander as a Major. After training in 1966, 7RAR relieved 5RAR in Vietnam in April 1967 for 12 months. Ken was then selected to attend the 1968 Staff College Course at Queenscliff, following which he served at HQ Western Command. A crack shot - in 1969 he won the Queen's Medal to become Champion Shot of the Australian Army, using the 7.62mm Self Loading rifle. This skill probably influenced his next posting: to the Jungle Training Centre at Canungra (Qld) where he was a Tactics Instructor before spending a three-month attachment on the SEATO Writing Team in Bangkok. Promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, Ken became Commander Third Cadet Brigade in Melbourne.

After two years in this posting, Ken resigned from the Regular Army and transferred to the "Active Reserve" (Ares) in Perth WA. Ken had married Stephanie in the meantime and they had three daughters: two being born during Ken's active service. They had lived in 17 houses in 21 years during Ken's Army service - the time had come to 'settle'! After his military service, Ken became a Credit consultant/Debt collector. Civilian life also brought him the chance to pursue another interest. He began singing Bass in the WA Opera Company men's chorus and participated in a number of concerts and productions, including "Carmen", "The Pearl Fishers", "Die Fledermaus", "Orpheus in the Underworld", "Falstaff" and "The Elixir of Love".

Ken was elected to be State President of the RSL WA Branch in 1998 and served three terms - to 2001. He is credited with having "turned the League in WA around". Subsequently he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM), awarded the Centenary Medal and also appointed an Honorary RSL National Vice Chairman for Life. Ken's wife, Stephanie, is the daughter of a former POW(J) who was forced to help build the Burma-Thailand railway. Among many community and ex-service organisations to whom this accomplished man has devoted his time and energies has been the Burma Thai Railway Memorial Association (BTRMA): he served as President 2004-2008. He spent two years as a senior committee member of the P&C of Methodist Ladies College; was Patron of the Airborne Forces Assn of WA for six years; and Squad Patron on three occasions at the WA Police Academy. As if this weren't enough, he was Vice President of the RAR Assn (WA) for four years (1995-98), served on the committees of the RUSI and Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, is a Life Member of Guildford Grammar School, and been a Freemason for a remarkable 50 years! All this and he taught himself to play the piano as well.



Although having ably proved himself as a tough and professional "warrior" in his time, Ken is a gentle, kind and sensitive family man and friend to many. What a rich life! And long may those well-tuned tonsils continue to lead us into the National Anthem Ken!



LAST POST

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

Lest We Forget



"Heave Ho" let's raise a Glass

Once again, the Sub-Branch issues an OPEN INVITATION to all members.

*Bring your
wives, husbands, partners, family, friends
& prospective new members*
to a casual **LUNCH BY THE SWAN** at
**ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT
CLUB**

Keanes Point (off The Esplanade) Peppermint Grove

on **Sunday 29th June 2014**

at 12 Noon — 3pm (meal—Roast, Hot pasta, vegies + salads, Dessert to follow) available 1230-1430 hrs)

NOTE: NO 'pre-pay'. It is PAY AT THE DOOR - \$40 per person. (Guests: same price)

RSVP *To cooperate with our RFBYC "hosts", we DO need to get an idea BEFOREHAND of numbers attending, for catering purposes. So please advise attendance by Sunday 22nd June.*

Booking In on the web-site: www.highgate-rsl.org.au—scroll down to **Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club** (in Red lettering) - double click on it—the page will come up ; or, if you are *not* on-line

- Phone JVP: Steve Chamarette (Ph 9242 1865).

Indicate whether you are bringing a large number of guests/family—as a table for 8 or 10 can be Reserved for you. OTHERWISE, IT IS "FREE-SEATING".

Drinks to be purchased at the Cash Bar in the Ballroom.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, water—FREE

Ample parking is available in the Lower Level Carpark and on the grassed areas, but NOT the Upper Level Carpark—which is reserved for Members Only. Disabled patrons may park in the couple of ACROD bays next to the Club House, otherwise they need to be set down at the Club House and their cars parked at the Lower Level. There is ramp access to the Club House.

Dress: Neat Casual. A map of the location is available on website www.highgate-rsl.org

COME ALONG?? Centenary POPPY "CRAFTY" WORKSHOP

Do any members or their wives/partners, widows-you-might-know enjoy a bit of knitting or crochet? If so, HOW enthusiastically they will be welcomed to this coming Workshop! The RSL in WA is planning to place 5,000 Poppies into the sand at Middleton Beach, Albany, as part of the forthcoming Centenary Remembrance ceremonies. Knitted and crocheted poppies will be far more durable (in the event of wind/rain etc), so the RSL is encouraging as many people as possible to contribute to this worthy cause.

Approaches are being made to businesses to donate the materials - but ... *if* you can spare a ball of Red wool (8-ply is ideal - eg: Patons "Totem"), and any small green and black buttons - bring those along with your knitting needles and/or crochet hooks! *PATTERNS provided* - only nimble fingers and a generous heart required!

Where will this special project take place? **ANZAC House.** Date: **Friday, 20 June 2014.** Time: **10am to 4pm.** **Morning tea will be provided.** **Lunch time Meals at cheap prices available in the ANZAC Club.** Come along. Have a chat and a laugh *Knit one, Purl one (Drop one)* It should be fun!





YOU CAN'T KEEP A GOOD MAN DOWN!

Only a mere nine months after losing his right lower leg due to a "SuperBug" infection, our indefatigable former Sub-Branch Secretary, Ray Galliot, has bounced back with a vengeance!

Heeding the call to take part in a pre-ANZAC Day fundraiser for "Soldier On", which had sought participants in some special running events on soft sand - our Ray gamely lined up on Swanbourne beach in one of the injured and disabled categories. He was one of 117 competitors who took part in various races. Our spies tell us that he not only came FIRST! he was 2nd and 3rd as well. That can happen when one turns out to be the sole competitor (presumably based on age and distance).

The lack of competition didn't detract one iota though from Ray's readiness to step up to the starting line and Have-a-Go. We can well imagine that that stump is still a bit tender.

"Soldier on" is a Fund to assist and support veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts who have been wounded physically and psychologically by their service; and, where necessary, their families. An admirable \$8,000 was raised on the day. In all, a worthy effort and a fun day.

The picture at right shows Ray (at Right) being congratulated by organiser: Dr Mark Familton. We too say: "Good on you Ray!"



TRIBUTE TO A REMARKABLE AUSTRALIAN

Paul Joseph Ramsay AO, exceptional businessman and philanthropist, was born in Sydney in 1936. He attended St Ignatius College, Riverview. He had suffered a heart attack whilst in Spain, and died at his home in Bowral (NSW) on 1 May.

In 1964, he founded one of the first private psychiatric hospitals in Sydney, which, after a shaky start evolved into Ramsay Health Care, a private hospital company now comprised of 117 hospitals in Australia and Europe, of which he was Chairman of the Board. One of these is Hollywood Private Hospital - which has generously sponsored our Sub-Branch for a number of years; and we are very grateful.

Paul Ramsay enjoyed widespread respect for his ethics as well as his philanthropy. In his Will he bequeathed his fortune of over \$3 billion to our nation - the largest bequest ever made by a private citizen in its history. He never married. A fine and good man. We salute his memory. **May he Rest in Peace.**

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

HOLLYWOOD PRIVATE HOSPITAL



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN,
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH**