



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

HIGHGATE



NEWS

Issue 541
July 2014

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

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It's good ole OBE Time again!

MONTHLY LUNCHEON : Monday 21 July 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

NO Guest Speaker this month. Rather, it is a chance to learn a bit about the backgrounds of our various "Over Bl--- Eighty" lads and help them celebrate this significant milestone year!

DEPUTY SUB-WARDEN AND COMMITTEE MEMBER, Geoff SIMPSON, will be coordinating this Function.

IF YOU CANNOT MAKE AN INTERNET BOOKING - PHONE Geoff DIRECT on either 6380 1014 or his Mobile: 0408 925 432.

MARGOT IS AWAY OVERSEAS ALL OF JULY/early AUGUST

To make an Internet Booking for the next Luncheon (Monday 21 July) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 18 July). Cost: \$30, paid at Reception Desk or EFT.

Method: **GO TO** the web-site. Click on "JULY 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).

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 luncheon guest speaker, Rabia Siddique, last month left the whole audience captivated. It was probably the most inspiring address that I've been privileged to hear at one of our luncheons. There were many comments made along the same lines by many of those in attendance.

By the time you read this we will have had our Sunday lunch at RFBYC. There have been over 90 bookings for this event. Thanks in particular must go to Lynn Lovell Durant for organising the venue and liaison with the caterers in addition to organising all the other little touches. Well done Lynn!

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 21 July 2014

(Committee: 10.30am same day)



(Continued from p.1)

In these times with governments increasing charges and fees as well as reducing concessions it is probably timely to remind members that we have an amelioration or welfare fund to help those members who may require some urgent financial assistance. Don't be too proud to ask for assistance if you need it. Our amelioration fund needs to work when needed - not sit in the bank account. All enquiries will be handled in the strictest confidence.

This month we have pleasure in recognising our OBE's. Thanks to Geoff Simpson once again, for organising this day.

Now is the time for members to think about volunteering their services for next year's committee. Bob Arnold who has served on the committee for so many years in various positions has announced his intention of retiring thus creating another vacancy. He has volunteered to edit the August newsletter whilst Margot has a well earned holiday. Thanks Bob! Please consider sharing the load in some position.

If you want to know what is happening in the State Branch go to our website and click on the SUB BRANCH SIGNAL. There you will be able to select and read an update between issues of The Listening Post - the RSLWA (State) bi-monthly magazine.

What did you think of the new look Listening Post?

Come along to our next lunch and help celebrate the achievements of our OBE's.

Yours in fellowship

Peter

Sub-Branch Snippets

Our sympathies are extended to Honour Avenue Stalwart, Alf TILL - who recently had a nasty fall and fractured his hip, necessitating an urgent re-placement. Alf was the HAG Treasurer for many years - and thus proved to be a bit of a "treasure" himself! Hope you will be on the mend very soon Alf - hang in there!

Keith POTTER, currently in Alfred Carson Nursing Home, recently turned 92. Hope you had a lovely day Keith!

To echo President Peter - last month's Guest Speaker, Rabia SIDDIQUE, was a "Wow" with everyone who attended. Not only was her delivery utterly erudite (she didn't use ANY notes) - she is a charismatic woman with a passion for social justice and fair play. We were all privileged to hear her speak.

Ken BLADEN, he of the "velvet tonsils" and leader of our monthly spirited renditions of "Advance Australia Fair" - has just celebrated his 80th birthday. Daughter Emma - who resides in Dubai, came home to help him celebrate. "Happy Birthday from us all Ken!"

Many thanks to all the "crafty" ladies who stepped up to knit and crochet Red Poppies in readiness for the ANZAC Centenary at Middleton Beach, Albany, come November. You really are "purrrls (sic) of girls!" Good on you!

Nice to see that the 'new-look' Listening Post prominently features a young veteran from the Afghanistan conflict: Dave SINGER. A good move!

A Pun Can be Fun Corner

Fred was in the fertilised egg business. He had several hundred young 'pullets,' and ten roosters. He kept records, and any rooster not 'performing' went into the soup pot and was replaced. This took a lot of time, so he bought some tiny bells to identify them, and attached them to his roosters. Each bell had a different tone, so he could tell from a distance, which rooster was ... ahem performing.

Now Fred could sit on the porch and fill in an efficiency report by just listening to the bells. His favourite rooster, old Butch, was a very fine specimen, but one particular morning Fred realised that old Butch's bell hadn't rung at all! He went to investigate. The other roosters were busy chasing pullets, bells-a-ringing - but the pullets, hearing the roosters coming, would run for cover and hide. To Fred's amazement, old Butch had his bell in his beak, so it couldn't ring. He'd sneak up on a pullet, do his job and toddle on to the next one.

Fred was so proud of old Butch, he entered him in the Brisbane City Show and he became an overnight sensation among the judges - scooping the pool of awards. Not only did he win the "No Bell Peace Prize", but they also awarded him the "Pulletsurprise" as well.

Clearly old Butch was a politician in the making. Who else but a politician could figure out how to win two of the most coveted awards on our planet by being the best at sneaking up on the unsuspecting populace AND screwing them when they weren't paying attention?!

Vote carefully in the next election. You can't always hear the bells!



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 20 July 2014 - 0830 for 0900 hrs : Assn of the Movement of Serbian Chetnicks "Draza Mihailovich" (WA)

Sunday 20 July 2014 - 1130 for 1200 hrs : Cypriot Community of WA

Saturday 26 July 2014 - 1000 for 1030 hrs : Korean Association of WA

Thursday 31 July 2014 - 1000 for 1030 hrs : Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

It would be hard to "pigeon-hole" the diverse career path of our erstwhile "Senior Vice": Steve Chamarette. He has worked hard all his life: from a 12 year old "tarboy" on a shearing team; farm-hand; been a teacher (Headmaster of the 17 students/one-teacher school in outback Payne's Find); a soldier; a farmer; Supply Manager (later General Manager Corporate Services) at the Metropolitan Transport Trust, running Perth's buses; and then ran his own Consultancy business. At one stage he was elected to be a Director of the Australian Wheat Board (AWB), but he stresses that this was **after** the "Oil for Food" scandal - although he had to contend with the issues arising out of the Royal Commission that followed.

But, to quote Maria von Trapp: "Let's start at the very beginning" Steve was born in India - the youngest son of a British Officer (Royal Armoured Corps) and Scottish Engineer's daughter. Post-WW2, the family emigrated to Australia and settled in Perth. Steve was schooled at North Perth Primary and Mount Lawley Senior High before completing a year at UWA and then a Teacher Training course. After his stint as the lone teacher of **seven** different grades in isolated Payne's Find - a task that would try the most stoic of souls! - he resigned to follow a military career.

Steve attended the Officer Cadet School at Portsea and on graduation in 1968, was allocated to RAAOC and posted to 7RAR. LtCol Ron Grey was the CO, who had a reputation as a demanding and uncompromising officer (he later rose to the rank of Major General prior to a later appointment as Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police); but his thorough standards ensured the Battalion was very well trained. In February 1970 Steve joined the advance party for what was to be a 13 month tour of duty in South Vietnam. His principal job in the Battalion was to control the Helicopter Pad and Administration radio net at the Fire Support bases - also to oversee forward resupply for the Battalion on operations. Although a junior officer, he was privy to all operational briefings and plans, which gave him great insight into the operational realities of the conduct of the war in that province. As time wore on, he was assigned other roles: ambush patrols, 2IC of Support Company, Acting Intelligence Officer - accompanied by a driver and interpreter - visiting all villages that had ARVN and USA/Australian defence posts in 7RAR's area of operations. Challenging - but great experiences.

Steve came under fire several times, and helped to execute a number of successful contacts. But mines were a constant hazard, and on one occasion an unfortunate soldier stepped on one and lost his leg; another received head injuries. But Steve recalls "the most telling effect on morale afterwards was that every track crossed for the next 3 days, you saw only one set of footprints. The whole company trod in each other's foot print".

On return to Australia, there were other postings to RAAOC units. During his three-year posting to WA (51 Supply Bn) he enrolled at UWA and, in his own time, completed the degree of Bachelor of Economics. After promotion to Major, he joined the staff at the Royal Military College, Duntroon - after which he was selected to do a Master of Science degree at the Naval Post Graduate School in California USA - a memorable posting for he and wife Joann and their two children: Pia and Jonathan; and a unique opportunity for them to visit many National Parks.



Steve was a LtCol when he left the Army in 1988, to try his hand at farming - buying a wheat and sheep farm at Trayning which he and the family still maintain. Always a keen and able sportsman himself (a former A Grade hockey player!) he has contributed much to many community sporting groups over the years, in many states - as a coach and on Committees. He and Joann love to travel and in 2015 plan to visit Gallipoli with a party of 7RAR veteran friends.

Go well you two - and have the magical time that you both deserve!



LAST POST

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

Lest We Forget

CALLING ALL HISTORY BUFFS

Below is a photograph, of a group of the earliest post-WW2 Sub-Wardens, taken shortly after the end of the Second World War.

Current Sub-Warden, and Member of the Honour Avenues Group, Doug Farmer, would like to hear from anyone who might be able to identify any members of the group pictured. Doug can be contacted on 9447 6315.

Doug is aware that the man second from the Left, is former long-serving Labour MLA (and Premier of WA from 1971-1974): John Tonkin. But has no other names.



MORE NEWS OF THE STATE WAR MEMORIAL

State President, Graham Edwards, has commended the Sunset Services "trial" introduced at the SWM at Kings Park this year between Easter Sunday and ANZAC Day. These proved to be a resounding success and very popular with the public. The simple and informal ceremonies were conducted at 5pm over five days, lasting approximately 20 minutes, and on several evenings attracted up to 600 members of the public attending.

On each occasion, a two-minute reading about one or two fallen soldieries was offered and families that had previously registered with the RSL, laid wreaths. Members of the general public were also invited to place floral tributes - which they did. Each service was attended by senior RSL and military personnel, a piper and a bugler. Numerous messages of support and commendation have been sent to the State Branch's "Facebook" page.

On ANZAC Eve, the two readings commemorated the late SAS Tpr, Joshua Porter - who was killed in the HMAS Kanimbla helicopter crash in 2006; and Pte Jamie Clark, a peacekeeper in the Solomon Islands in 2005, who lost his life there after falling into a deep shaft.



The Hollywood Clinic opens its new \$6.9 million 30-bed wing

A brand new 30-bed wing was officially opened this month at The Hollywood Clinic, almost doubling the Clinic's capacity to meet the increasing demand for mental health services in Western Australia.

Hollywood Private Hospital Chief Executive Officer Mr Peter Mott said the \$6.9 million expansion has increased the number of beds to 70 and will enable the hospital to meet increasing demands for first class care.

"The Hollywood Clinic is one of the largest private mental health facilities in Western Australia and is the only stand-alone private inpatient mental health facility located on a private acute care hospital site.

"The co-location of The Hollywood Clinic alongside Hollywood Private Hospital provides important clinical benefits to the patients it cares for".

Operations Manager WA/SA and Indonesia Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall said the funds Ramsay Health Care has invested into The Hollywood Clinic shows its continued commitment to mental health into the future.

"The Hollywood Clinic was the first WA mental health facility Ramsay acquired, housing 30 mental health beds".

"Ramsay Health Care's significant investment allows us the ability to meet the current community needs while allowing senior leadership to begin planning the next expansion of the Clinic".

The Clinic will treat an additional 400 inpatients and 2,500 same day patients each year.

The \$6.9 million expansion invested by Ramsay Health Care includes:

- A new 30-bed wing of single rooms with en suite bathrooms
- a new dining room with alfresco area
- a group therapy room
- a lounge room
- a courtyard with decking

The Clinic was officially opened on Monday 12 May by The Honourable Helen Morton MLC, Minister for Mental Health; Disability Services; Child Protection.



UNVEILING THE PLAQUE: (L to R): Kevin Cass-Ryall, Regional Manager Operations WA/SA and Indonesia, Ramsay Health Care; Dr Mathew Samuel, Chair of the Psychiatric Advisory Committee, the Hollywood Clinic; Hon Helen Morton MLC, Minister for Mental Health, Disability Services; Child Protection; Peter Mott, CEO Hollywood Private Hospital

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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