



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

HIGHGATE NEWS

Issue 543
September 2014

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 AND AGM:

Monday 15th September 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: **NOTE!** FELLOWSHIP TO START AT 11.00 hrs (at the Bar).



To allow members to move upstairs **at 11.55am** for the AGM.

Guest Speaker this month: Dennis Hartley from the Stroke Foundation.

Fast recognition of the symptoms of 'stroke' and effecting a rapid intervention/summoning medical assistance, could well save a loved family member, neighbour or friend from suffering lasting disablement. Indeed, a fast response and treatment can often lead to a full recovery. Valuable lessons to learn that could save a life!

To make an Internet Booking for the next Luncheon (Monday 15th September) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 12th Sept). Cost: \$30, paid at Reception Desk or EFT.

Method: GO TO the web-site. Click on "SEPTEMBER 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

As I write this in Carnarvon I am reminded that the north of our state saw much action during WW II. Just north of here in Exmouth the Krait mission to attack the ships in Singapore was launched. Many of our airbases also were in this area and of course in the Indian Ocean our ships and submarines saw service. In this year of the beginning of WW I when we focus on Albany it is easy to forget what happened here in our north.

As September is when we hold our AGM I would like to sincerely thank the whole committee who have steered the sub-branch through the past year. Without their dedication our activities wouldn't happen. Our dedicated sub-wardens at the State War Memorial once again deserve our thanks for all the work they have put in this year. The Honour Avenue and we were honoured to feature them at one of our luncheons this year.

(Continued on p.2)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 15 September 2014 (Committee: 10.00am same day)



(Continued from p.1)

group has again performed their duties quietly and efficiently over the year and we were honoured to feature them at one of our luncheons this year.

Without the dedication and hard work of Margot, we wouldn't have this most informative newsletter. We must sincerely thank Margot for producing our newsletter each month and Bob Arnold for filling in as needed. Our newsletter is our method of keeping our members informed and feeling part of the sub-branch. If you have an email capability at home, we would like to send it direct on email and thus save postage. Emailing also means that you get it straight off the press rather than waiting for it to be printed and then mailed, as this always takes time.

More information about our AGM appears later in the newsletter, but I would like to see some new faces on the committee to bring new ideas; and give some of those who have worked so hard over the years a rest.

Yours in fellowship

Peter

Sub-Branch Snippets

Hospital visitors, **Bob Elliott** and **Keith Morris**, have learned that our esteemed "Senior Member" (and long-time Committeeman), **Tom Horton**, has been admitted to SJOG Hospital at Murdoch with a throat problem. All of us send you a cheery "Get Well Soon Tom!" We missed you at our August Luncheon.

NOTE: Tom has since called your trusty Editor. He has been discharged from SJOG's, but has mobility problems, and "not flash" at all. He was sorry to miss the last Luncheon: "I missed meeting up with the boys", he told me; "but I'll have to miss the next one as well". Tom lives at 14 Matthews Ave LEEMING. If you live anywhere near here, or passing nearby - he would really welcome your visit!

You may recall that a small group of RSL wives and supporters have been busily knitting and crocheting some durable Red Poppies to be featured at the forthcoming ANZAC 100th Commemorations Ceremonies at Albany in November. **Jean Mercer** - wife of our Bob, reports that her little group has produced over 50 of these to date. Well done Jean & Co!

'Twas great to see **Ray Galliot** looking really fit at our last Luncheon - doing so well on his prosthetic leg (who would ever know?) He reports he is about to get an "up-grade" prosthesis soon. He'll be doing the Tango next!

OBITUARY

Kenneth WOOD : Born 12 Apr 1918 - Died: 26 Aug 2014 R.I.P.



The sad day has come to bid "Farewell" to our last surviving POW (Japan) survivor: **Ken Wood**. Ken lived a remarkable life - his fortitude, optimism, and abilities made him an all-round exemplary Australian. He served in Syria, Libya and Palestine with the 2/3rd Machine Gun Battalion, before being taken prisoner in Java in Jan 1943 - where he laboured in the infamous "Hellfire Pass" on the Burma-Siam railway until released.

Post WW2, he worked in WA regional towns, for Goldsborough Mort and then multiple managerial capacities until finally retiring at age 77 years! He actively participated in many volunteer roles, and fostered Australia-Thai projects that benefited both countries.

Our sympathies go to his beloved wife, Daphne, and three adult children. Always know that our Highgate members respected him greatly and held him in the highest esteem.

TEE-HEEs and FIDDLE-DEE-DEEs Corner

(Editor's NOTE: The supply of Funny Punny Stories had dried up; time to change course!)



Three elderly sisters, aged 92, 94 and 96 share a home together. One night the 96-year-old draws a bath, puts her foot in and pauses. She yells to the other sisters, "Was I getting in or out of the bath?"

The 94-year-old yells back, "I don't know. I'll come up and see." She starts up the stairs and pauses, "Hmnnnnn Now Was I going up the stairs or down?"

The 92-year-old is sitting at the kitchen table, having tea, listening to her sisters. She shakes her head and says, "I sure hope I never get that forgetful knock on wood." She then yells to the others: "I'll come up and help both of you as soon as I see who's at the door!"



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Saturday - **30 August 2014** - 1030 for 1100 hrs : The Malaya Borneo Veterans WA Inc

Sunday - **14 September 2014** - 0900 for 0930 hrs : Maltese Association of WA Inc.

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

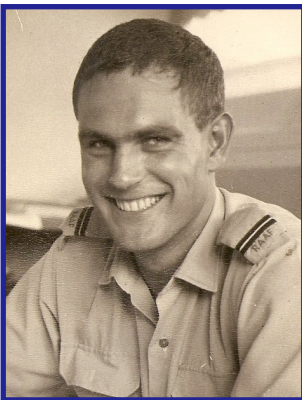
Mike Harness was a young teacher in Roebourne when he realised he was not really cut out to be an outback "Mr Chips" and began thinking of a different career path. His British Grandfather had served in the Army during WWI; his Dad, and three uncles had all served in the British Army during WW2 (one, Jack, died in the mines of Japan as a POW). Even his Mum had been a Nursing Sister in the Indian Army. (Note: She is still alive, and now aged 102 years!) But it wasn't the "Khaki and Green" that attracted him: it was the call of the Air Force!

Mike's parents met and married in India, and he was born in Poona (now Pune) in 1942 - the eldest of four children. The family moved back to his father's village in Lincolnshire post-war, and then emigrated to Perth in 1953. After schooling and Teacher Training, he spent several years as a "chalkie" before enlisting in the RAAF in 1965 as a direct entry administrative officer. A keen sportsman - always itching for a game of Aussie Rules, basketball, badminton and squash, he loved his new life from the outset, and every posting brought a range of experiences and joys he embraced with gusto. Mike was posted to SVN in Feb 1967, to be Adjutant of 9 Helicopter Sqn, based in Vung Tau. He is the first to say he "had an easy war compared to many", apart from being shot at whilst out after curfew one night. Never a hirsute man, his most trying times were good-natured rambunctious evenings in the Mess when his mates would hold him down, count his chest hairs and exclaim: "Look he's got FIVE now!!" and proceed to yank them out.

After a spot of leave, Mike was posted to the RAAF School of Technical Training in Wagga Wagga, where he met Margot, his wife-to-be - who was a Junior Staff Officer at Kapooka Army Camp, also just outside Wagga. They were married in late 1968. Both were posted to Melbourne in late 1970. Various appointments and roles in Canberra and Fairbairn (Staff College) followed before promotion to Wing Commander, and appointments at East Sale, Glenbrook (Blue Mountains) and Richmond. Mike was on the cusp of further promotion and due to attend the Joint Services Staff College the following year when it was suddenly brought forward at short notice. By now a family, with two daughters, Mike decided the time had come for them to seek a proper "home" and more stable life. The "Wild West", with its cheaper housing and opportunities beckoned!

Resigning from the RAAF, and keen for a break from office-work and management, the couple bought a Newsagency business on arriving in WA, which they ran successfully for five years. Thereafter, Mike always preferred to "be-his-own-boss" if possible, and at various times has run his own courier truck, been a lawnmowing contractor, and spent years as a consultant in the turf-growing industry. Anyone who knows Mike though, knows that his real dream job of course, would be as a 'professional punter'. The man is a horseracing 'tragic' - and every Saturday afternoon can be found either at the TAB or, on a lucky day: the track! (Margot refers to the former venue as "Secret Men's Business". Mike terms it "The Investment Parlour"!)

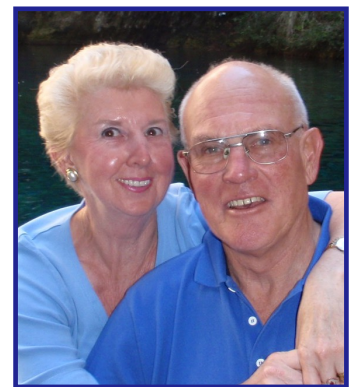
Although Margot was the one who initially pressed for them to travel overseas, it is now mainly Mike who "has the bug". Many interesting trips and cruises have been taken, wonderful sights seen, many new friends have been made.



The couple also share a love of musical theatre, cryptic crosswords, entertaining, vintage British TV Vomedies shows, gardening and board-games - they are quite certain they are probably of a rare world champion standard in Chinese Checkers - all colours in play. HE is definitely a handier, craftier, chess player.

Mike is a member of the Honour Avenue Group and serves on the Highgate Committee. He is also the RSL's Rep on the HPH Community Consultative Committee; and assists his wife with some of her local church charity work (which is not bad for an atheist).

He's a great scout - you can ask his wife!



LAST POST
Kenneth Walter Wood
Lest We Forget



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15 SEP 2014

The timings for the AGM are as follows: (**TRY TO GET TO ANZAC HOUSE A BIT EARLIER THAN USUAL**)

- Fellowship: 1100 hrs - 1155 hrs. **Bell rings - adjourn Upstairs to Gallipoli Room**
- AGM: 1200 hrs - 1230 hrs
- Luncheon: 1230 hrs. Guest Speaker will present his talk as the Meal progresses.

(In honour of the occasion, ONE bottle of **RED** and **WHITE** wine will be placed on each table to share).

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICE BEARERS HIGHGATE RSL

All positions become vacant; and any member is invited to nominate for any position. Office-bearer positions are: President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

We encourage someone particularly, to be prepared to nominate to be ASSISTANT TREASURER. Richard Adams has done a marvellous job as Treasurer these past nine years, and is prepared to "soldier on" for a bit longer. But he needs a "back up" for when he occasionally takes a holiday - and that someone to learn his methods using the MYOB programme.

We also seek members to take a lesser role as "ordinary" Committee Members please.

Should you be prepared to be considered for any of the above positions, would you please advise The Secretary, John Cleary at [0417 955 864](tel:0417955864) or john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

POPPY DAY is looming once again.

Mike Harness AND John Homer will coordinate the Esplanade/Busport location - as well as around the Perth Railway/"Wellington St" Bus precincts, (Our usual collection points around the latter have gone, due to current construction works).

Mike and John will know more after they attend the Planning Meeting at State HQ - but will be canvassing for "collectors" to help out, at the October Luncheon.

"Please consider"



SOME DARNED NICE "TRACKS" AND SONGS - FOR A VERY WORTHY CAUSE

A number of fine Australian record artists, including Kylie Minogue, Eric Bogle, Gina Jeffreys - have generously donated their time and talents to putting this DVD together to help fundraise for our younger veterans of Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan.

It's not only easy listening and would make a grand gift - 100% of sales will help our lads so you'd be helping our younger fellows as well!

FROM THE WA STATE "SUB-BRANCH SIGNAL"

State President, Graham Edwards, always writes a good front-page article for the "Signal", which is called "From the President's Pen".

In the latest, August issue, he draws attention to the rising proportions of women now represented in personnel serving in today's ADF. Army has the lowest ratio (11.6%) but Navy numbers are now 18.5% female; and the RAAF: 18.1%.

As at 1 April this year, 210 women were serving on overseas ADF operations, representing 16.2% of the total deployed force.

Graham submits that the RSL needs to look at itself to see what it can offer these women - noting that few recognise themselves as "veterans" in the usual sense of the word. The RSL Women's Auxiliary has quietly supported the organisation for decades; but seems the time has come to actively try to attract more women into our "Returned" ranks.

The Repat Foundation Healthy Veterans, Healthy Communities

'Doin' It For The Troops'

...doing something for PTSD.

And so can you, by purchasing this fundraising DVD from The Repat Foundation. This unique DVD features performances previously only seen by our serving troops and has the full support of the Australian music industry.

All money raised goes to The Repat Foundation for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Research and Projects nationally.

Purchase at www.therepatfoundation.org.au or phone (08) 82751039

Supported by

Only **\$24.95**



"A POEM" by Pam Ayres

I have a little Satnav, It sits there in my car
A Satnav is a driver's friend, it tells you where you are.

I have a little Satnav, I've had it all my life
It's better than the normal ones, my Satnav is my wife.

It gives me full instructions, especially how to drive
"It's sixty k's an hour", it says, "You're doing sixty five".

It tells me when to stop and start, and when to use the brake
And tells me that it's never **ever**, safe to overtake.

It tells me when a light is red, and when it goes to green
It seems to know instinctively, just when to intervene.

It lists the vehicles just in front, and all those to the rear
And taking this into account, it specifies my gear.

I'm sure no other driver, has so helpful a device
For when we leave and lock the car, it still gives its advice.

It fills me up with counselling, each journey's pretty fraught
So why don't I exchange it, and get a quieter sort?

Ah well, you see, it cleans the house, makes sure I'm properly fed
It washes all my shirts and things, and keeps me warm in bed!

Despite all these advantages, and my tendency to scoff,
I only wish that now and then, I could turn the bugger off.

Editor's Note: NEXT month (if space allows) I might treat you to "They Should Have Asked My Husband"!

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

The ANZAC Centenary - How things are coming along in Albany as the big days near

Ian "Mo" Mulholland, Life Member (and still Associate) of Highgate Sub-Branch (who did two separate terms as our President), now dwells down in Denmark and is active in the planning for the forthcoming ANZAC Commemorative ceremonies in Albany.

He has kindly sent me a Brochure containing the Program of Events, as well as practical information about accommodation (now quite limited), military heritage sites, the new National ANZAC Centre building, maps of the city and surrounds, as well as other local tourist spots of interest. It should be a marvellous experience!

Key events will be the RAN Ceremonial Sunset (saluting the lowering of the Ensign) in King George Sound after all the ships assemble, at sunset (31 Oct); a sound-and-light show to follow. The Troop March/Commemorative Service/Opening of the new ANZAC Centre/symbolic departure of Naval Ships take place on 1 Nov, followed by a Community Concert. A Naval Ships Open Day and further events are programmed for Sun 2 Nov.

Volunteers will play a crucial role in the staging of events in Albany to commemorate the Anzac Centenary. Naturally, "Mo" is pitching in to put his shoulder "to-the-wheel!". He will be a Marshall. Others will be tour guides, assisting people with disabilities and generally helping their fair city to "host" the thousands of people expected to attend.

www.anzacalbany.com.au will tell you more!



Still under construction: the National ANZAC Interpretive Centre ALBANY

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