



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

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

Monday 17 November 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



GUEST SPEAKER: Ken Bladen AM is well-known to most of us: gentle and caring Hospital Visitor, former foundation member of the SAS Company, former WA State President of the RSL, fine tenor voice - but many might not be so aware of "Ken the Warrior" - whose long Army career included service with 1st, 2nd and 7th Battalions of the RAR in Malaya, and, still with 7RAR: 12 months in South Vietnam. In 1969 - he won the Queen's Medal - best shot in the Australian Army! His Topic: Highlights of 7RAR in 1967/68. (We'd better sit up straight!)

To make an Internet Booking for the next Luncheon (Monday 17th November) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Thursday 13th Nov). Cost: \$30, paid at Reception Desk or pre-paid by EFT.

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

We have had to institute a voucher system for our luncheons due to an apparent shortfall in members paying for their lunch at the AGM. This may be due to the fact that our AGM commenced at an earlier time and some members arrived after the desk downstairs closed and inadvertently forgot to pay. In future, members will be issued with a numbered meal voucher at the desk. This voucher will be collected in exchange for your meal - and thus removes ambiguities re "actual numbers attending".

Could we also ask that bookings be made by late on the **Thursday before the luncheon please**, to allow us to give the ANZAC Club more accurate projected figures. The ANZAC Club staff are very accommodating but, lately, despite allowing for some increase in numbers on the day, they have had to set up an additional table just before we moved upstairs.

(Continued on p.2)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 17 November 2014 (Committee: 10.30am same day)

*(Continued from Page 1)*

The duty collectors at the desk have also requested that those paying by cash endeavour to have the correct change as so many are presenting \$50 notes and they are having difficulty providing change.

This month is going to be a very busy month for Highgate. We start with our Remembrance Ceremony at the Flame of Remembrance, followed by our Memorial Lunch at Kings Park on Sunday, 9th November, and we are extremely pleased that some of the widows and children of veterans who lost their lives in modern-day conflicts are able to join us.

The annual Poppy Day Collection follows on Tuesday, the 11th: being the actual "Remembrance Day" this year. An Honour Avenues Plaque Dedication Ceremony is at 10am on Saturday, 15th November. Our normal luncheon follows then on Monday, 17th November. There has been a suggestion that perhaps we should consider doing away with our normal Monday Luncheon when we have a second, special luncheon event that same month - just as each April, we only hold the Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day. What do you think? The committee will be planning the 2015 calendar in January and any ideas for functions and or changes will be most appreciated.

Thank you to those members who have volunteered to help by manning the Reception Desk when required. It is important that we share the load. (See Roster: Page 4).

It was most pleasing to be able to welcome four new members this month. Thanks to those members who encouraged them to join. Remember that each of us is a recruiting officer, so spread the word and invite some of your mates to join.

The committee looks forward to seeing everyone at the November Luncheons, so book to join your mates.

Yours in fellowship,

Peter



TEE-HEEs and FIDDLE-DEE-DEEs Corner

A young woman has twin boys and gives them up for adoption.

One of them goes to a family in Egypt, and is named "Ahmal"

The other little boy goes to a family in Spain: they name him "Juan".

Years later, Juan sends a picture of himself to his birth mother. Upon receiving the photograph, she - now married - tells her husband that she wishes she also had a picture of Ahmal.

Her husband, hardly a sensitive man replied: "But they're twins. If you've seen Juan you've seen Ahmal".

Sub-Branch Snippets

It was good to see **Tom Horton** at the October Luncheon, looking hale and hearty once again after his recent scare and spell in hospital.

Mike Harness too, is glad to be out - if not yet 'about' - after his recent surgery and hospitalisation. Mike would like to thank all those who sent cards and good wishes and says: "They were a tonic!"

We were looking forward to seeing our ex-Airborne member, **John Hately**, again at our last Luncheon. After battles with illness he was all booked in and set to come. Alas, motoring along on his "Gopher" two days before, he struck some uneven paving, and over he went, suffering nasty lacerations and bruising. Typically philosophical, John merely remarked: "Thank heavens as an old parachutist, I knew how to protect my head. Could've been a lot worse!" We hold out hope we will catch up with you NEXT month John!

A number of our Members are set to attend the ANZAC Centenary commemorative ceremonies at **Albany** this first weekend in November, which promises to be memorable in many ways. Safe journeys, and enjoy yourselves!

POPPY DAY nears some "final details"



This collection will, this year, take place on Remembrance Day itself: ie - the 11th of November.

WE STILL NEED MORE COLLECTORS AT ROE ST /WELLINGTON ST BUS STANDS PLEASE.

If you could see your way clear to volunteer for just one hour at this venue, (especially between 0630 and 0830 hours), we'd be most grateful).

DRESS: Jacket / tie / head-dress / medals please.

Any queries: Mike Harness: 9293 1076

IMPORTANT!!

Please note the change of timing for the wreath-laying ceremony at the Flame of Remembrance prior to our Memorial Luncheon on 9th Nov.

Assemble at the Flame precinct at 11.35 am, for the Ceremony which will commence at 11.45 am SHARP.



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday - 2nd Nov 2014 : 1100 for 1130 hrs - Ministers of Defence - Australia and France

Sunday - 9th Nov 2014 : 1115 for 1145 hrs - Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

Tuesday - 11th Nov 2014: 1000 for 1100 hrs - RSL(WA) State Remembrance Day

Tuesday - 11th Nov 2014 : 1730 for 1800 hrs - WA Scouts and Venturers

Monday - 24th Nov 2014 : 1030 for 1100 hrs - War Widows' Guild WA

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Those of us on the Highgate Sub-Branch Committee have come to greatly appreciate the collegiate, consultative leadership "style" of our current President: Peter Farrell. It is not surprising to learn that these qualities were honed during a long and fruitful civilian career as a Primary school teacher over many schools and years. In tandem with this, Peter has also devoted many years as an active Army reservist, involved with 3 Fd Regt RAA and attaining the rank of Lt Col.

Peter's forebears were pioneers of the wheat-belt town of Perenjori, where he lived with his family until he was twelve. At that time, his Dad and Mum bought a virgin block at Duranillin to develop from scratch, and with Peter, his brother and a sister, all moved there. Peter was sent to boarding school - his father insisting that they all gain another career before returning to the farm. His mother had been a teacher, and perhaps the smell of blackboard chalk, was a lure, as Peter went from school to Claremont Teachers' College in 1959.

Peter's first appointment was to Cadoux, where he remained for three years, teaching 35 youngsters in Years 3/4/5. Any "commuting" had to be done via goods trains, sleeping in the guard's van - as there were no passenger trains up that way, and he didn't have a car. Peter's true "gift" as a teacher, it seems, was that he took a "holistic" look at the lives of the young pupils in his care - noting their needs, whether or not they had adequate meals etc. In Cadoux, he saw that many of the little girls were involved in Girl Guides - but there was nothing comparable for the boys; so he established the first Cadoux Boy Scout troop. This "social consciousness" has been evident throughout his long, successful, teaching career.

1964 saw Peter off to Ashfield Primary, to teach Year 4, with classes sometimes numbering 45 pupils! Peter still had connections with the Junior Farmers organisation, and at one social event, met his future wife, Judy. Peter says the Junior Farmers was probably the greatest marriage bureau around during the early sixties. He and Judy married in January 1966.

A posting to East Perth Primary followed, where he was struck by the poverty and poor home backgrounds of many of the students; sometimes the police were involved. He learned that some overtired children didn't even have a bed of their own to sleep in. Peter helped the school devise a system whereby children with more lunch than they needed placed leftovers in a box for those less fortunate. His awareness of these social problems led to Peter's next post: the then-new primary school at Balga - so new the oval was a sand-patch; the grey, square cement building surrounding a quadrangle so utilitarian that to Peter it resembled an unwelcoming prison. He and his colleagues did their best with a burgeoning population of diverse children from all nationalities. After that - perhaps as a well-deserved reward, he was sent to leafy, prosperous Nedlands for a year, before being appointed Deputy Principal of Allendale school in Geraldton. In 1974, Peter was transferred back to Balga, by now more established - although still needing to cope with the socio-economic disadvantages of the community it served. During this time, Peter helped initiate a Canteen Breakfast Programme for all children, the benefits of which were soon realised via improved learning and school morale. He also took advantage of a then-Whitlam government grant opportunity to buy and set up a video and TV system, which he encouraged every child to operate.



As a Deputy Principal there were other schools and roles, but a three-year teacher exchange to Ottawa (Canada) was a definite highlight. During this time Peter was attached to the Canadian Militia for a year, serving with 30 Field Regt Royal Canadian Army.

Among an eclectic myriad of hobbies, associations and interests he has pursued, Peter loves boating; and he and Judy, sometimes accompanied by their daughter, Amanda, have sailed down canals in France, Holland, Ireland and the Thames in England, as well as local sailing. It is just one facet of an interesting man. "Looking back, I'm puzzled as to how I fitted so much in and still found time to teach", he has reflected. So are we Peter - but we're really glad you did!



LAST POST

All departed Members of our Sub-Branch - R.I.P.

Lest We Forget

**LEST WE FORGET**

In this centenary year of ANZAC and remembering the carnage of The “Great War”, and what it meant for the Australian and New Zealand forces who “answered the call” - it is similarly interesting to see the way the United Kingdom is marking this landmark 100th anniversary.

In an imaginatively conceived tribute, the usually dry moat of the Tower of London has been filled this northern summer with 888,246 red ceramic poppies: one for each British *and* ‘Colonial’ soldier, sailor or airman, or nurse who perished during World War I.



Looking as though a “river of blood” has spurted from the building - it is both a visually confronting sight as well as an awe-inspiring reminder that ever single flower represents a a soldier, sailor, airman or servicewoman, who died in the service of Britain and its Empire during those terrible years.

For every Poppy and every person represented, may each of us say a prayer and murmur: “Lest We Forget”.



Close-up view of the ceramic poppies

MANNING OF THE HIGHGATE RECEPTION DESK

As mentioned in President Peter’s Report on Pages 1 - 2, we recently called for volunteers to carry out this valued duty at Monthly Luncheons for the last months of 2014, as well as most of next year. Our “Thanks” to the following, who “stepped-up-to-the-crease” offering to help out:

| <u>MONTH / YEAR</u> | <u>NAME</u> | <u>PHONE No.</u> |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| NOV 2014 | John Lindsay | 0418 938 926 |
| DEC 2014 | Ted Stevenson | 9387 6708 |
| FEB 2015 | Ian McGuckin | 0467 450 995 |
| MAR 2015 | John Farrell (?) | 0419 903 529 |
| MAY 2015 | Bob Arnold | 0407 329 353 |
| JUN 2015 | Jack Suriano | 0414 699 626 |
| JUL 2015 | Owen Page | 0431 956 261 |
| AUG 2015 | Leon Griffiths | 0439 033 399 |
| SEP 2015 (AGM) | Geoff Hourn | 0414 063 707 |
| OCT 2015 | Ken Bladen | 9244 8072 |
| NOV 2015 | TBA | |
| DEC 2015 | TBA | |

**MAGNETIC NAME BADGES**

Nice as our new, black name badges are, some of our members are finding that the thickness of jacket lapels is preventing the badges remaining safely in place.

Several members have had them come apart, and have actually lost their badge OR the backing magnet.

The Committee apologises for this, and we have taken steps to order SPARE backing magnets to rectify that part of the problem.

IF **you** are missing a name badge backing magnet, please let Margot know on 9293 1076.

**HIGHGATE'S 2014 REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON**

To be held at King's Park on Sunday, 9th November 2014
ALL ARE ASKED TO ASSEMBLE AT the FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE at
11.35am for the Ceremony to start at 11.45am SHARP
followed by LUNCHEON at FRASER'S RESTAURANT (approx
12.15am to 3 pm)

Cost to Members (and their spouses/partners) - \$55 a head. (This includes all drinks).

Cost for Guests and Non-Members is higher - \$80 a head (but also including all drinks)

NOTE: MEMBERS HAVE BOOKING PRIORITY

IF Paying by EFT (the method, if possible, preferred by our Treasurer): CBA 066001 - A/c 00925571
 (include your name); **BUT**

IF Paying by Mail: Complete this portion, cut it out, attach your cheque, and **post to the Treasurer**

To register/confirm your Booking: go to our web-site: <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> and follow the prompts.
 (Look for the picture of Fraser's plus info re Sunday 9th November); or phone Margot Harness (9293 1076).

**Although it is "Open Seating" - a separate column allows you to book a specific
 Table Booking with friends if you prefer.**

Post Cheques to: Treasurer RSL (WA) Highgate Sub-Branch ** (ALL PAYMENTS by Monday 3rd Nov
 PO Box 3551 please)
PERTH WA 6832

Name

Name of Spouse/Partner

Guest(s)

NOTE: Indicate if ANYONE has special dietary requirements

(Cut here)



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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