



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

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

(Mob): 0414 063 707

Immediate Past President

Leon Griffiths

Tele: 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 15th December 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



Join in Our CHRISTMAS festivities!

It's always good fun to be in the orbit of our own highly entertaining "troubadour": Peter Harries OAM PhD - multi-talented maestro; man who mixes music, mayhem and mirth! Peter has had a long, successful career that has encompassed TV, radio, many a platform and stage - and still runs his famous "Kabaret Klub" at the Royal Thai Restaurant, 370 Oxford St Leederville. He has generated many a smile already at Highgate functions - singing, joking and "ad libbing" whilst accompanying himself on his faithful accordion. Such dazzling dexterity! He's De-licious, De-lightful, De-vely! Come along - bring your wife as well - you know she could do with a day out!

For the next Luncheon (15th December) PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by Thursday 11th Dec) - using the web-site). Cost is \$30 a head.

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

November, as promised, proved to be a very busy time for Highgate. Our month started with a wreath-laying ceremony at the State War Memorial followed by Lunch at Frasers. It was very gratifying to be able to honour the families of our SAS Regiment who were killed on active service. Four families attended and three of the children participated in laying a wreath from the families of the fallen. We were indeed honoured to have their presence at the lunch and I can assure you they all appreciated the opportunity to be part of our commemoration.

On Remembrance Day, with many volunteers selling Poppies at two venues, we

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON: 15th December, 2014

(Committee: 10.30am same day)



(Continued from p.1)

managed to collect \$19,339.10 for the appeal. Particularly I would like to thank Mike Harness for his organisation of this event and to his stalwart helpers at both venues. Mike, despite being in recovery mode after a serious operation, was an inspiration by his presence and leadership. Many of those collecting then repaired to the State War Memorial to undertake Sub-Warden duties there. Thank you one and all for your dedication and support.

Saturday, it was the turn of the Honour Avenues Group to hold another Plaque Dedication ceremony. Once again the members diligently performed an impressive ceremony watched by many relatives of the fallen. The work that goes into the preparation of the narrative of each serviceman's service is truly staggering - and full marks to the Secretary of HAG: Ken Jones, who puts so much into this research. Preparation and presentation of the plaque itself is but the final act. Those relatives who attended appreciate your valuable work.

A smaller-than-usual number attended our November luncheon, but were treated to an extremely fine presentation by Ken Bladen on the Vietnam conflict from his

point of view. Thank you Ken for giving us a different perspective; my only wish was that some of the politicians of the time had heard you. Those currently in power need also to hear your comments on PTSD and its effects on our returning troops.

On a brighter note, Christmas is around the corner and our usual Christmas luncheon will be held on the 15th December. Please assist our catering **by booking in by Thursday, 11th December.**

This year we ask you to bring something along for a raffle prize - then purchase a \$5 ticket. We will continue to draw prizes until all items have gone. Our aim is for everyone to go home with something - preferably different to that which they donated! It promises to be a lot of fun - so come and join us.

May I, on behalf of the Committee, wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Take care of yourselves, and above all: keep safe!

Yours in fellowship,

Peter



"Ho Ho Ho"

"LEGACY" CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS!

How many men at 94 years of age would still be personally acting as an "agent" to sell and distribute Christmas "puds" to help raise funds for a charity?

But our erstwhile Tom Horton is once again "raising the torch" himself to assist widows and kids who've lost their Dads. Tom has larger ones (\$10) and smaller ones (ideal for just two people: \$8), and will be selling them at our Christmas luncheon. He would greatly value and appreciate your our ...support! If possible, please ring Tom on 9332 0446 in advance - so he can estimate what he can carry in.

TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner "Oldies can be a bit "slow", but also "quick"!

An elderly famer in Louisiana had a large pond behind his house. Over years, he had worked hard to have it looking like a nice, kidney-shaped, backyard swimming pool: grassy surrounds, tables and chairs, nice peach and apple trees and palms around the edge. One evening, not having been near the pond/pool for a couple of weeks, he decided to check on things and to pick some fruit - grabbing a bucket and taking it with him.

On nearing the pond, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he got closer, he saw there was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in it. Coughing discreetly at first, he then made sure all the women were aware of his presence. All the gals swam up to the deep end. "One of the women shouted to him: "We are not coming out until you leave!"

The old man replied: "I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the pond".

Holding the bucket up, he called "I'm just here to feed the alligator!"





SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Saturday: **10 January 2015** : 0800 hrs for 0830 hrs - Western Australian Genealogy Society (for descendants of the 11th Battalion AIF)

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Most of us have met a Padre or two during our service days - but one can safely say that Highgate knows it is blessed indeed to have in its midst a Padre with the panache and pizzazz of our very own active member: Rev Tim Harrison! No-one, standing in readiness for Tim to “say Grace” before our meals, ever quite knows what to expect: sometimes we are gently and seriously reminded of a historical landmark battle to commemorate; just as often we are treated to a quite irreverent witticism that elicits grins and guffaws as we then sit down to enjoy our meal together.

Tim was born in Liverpool (UK) on 18 June 1927, but did most of his growing up in North London, with a brother and two sisters. He well remembers the experience of living through “the Blitz” - stark memories which have stayed with him.

He enlisted in the Royal Marines in 1944, going on to do officer training the following year. But with changes in the services that occurred at the end of WW2, (and declining to transfer to the Navy!), Tim transferred to the British Army and became commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 1st Bn South Lancashire Regt in 1946, after which he was posted to Egypt. Shortly afterwards, during the troubled period Jewish refugees and settlers were seeking to form an independent state, he was sent to Palestine for six months, serving as a Platoon Commander. Come 1947, adventure continued with a posting to the 4th Bn, Kings African Rifles, in Kenya and Tanganyika; and promotion to Lieutenant and Company Commander. In 1948 however, Tim was demobbed from the Regular forces.

Although Tim returned to civilian life, his dedication to Army service continued through a further eight years, serving in the “Territorial Army”. In 1948, hearing that the SAS had been re-established, he enlisted as a Trooper in the 21st SAS (Reserves) for several years, regaining commissioned rank in 1951, and being promoted to Captain two years later. From 1953, he served mainly in the 44th Para Field Ambulance in various Reservist capacities, always in tandem with his civilian career in the Hardware Retail field, which usually involved him holding down a managerial role. Well-travelled, he has spent considerable time in West Africa. A broad outline of Tim’s CV shows that at various times between 1952 and 1984, he lived, worked and carried out Reservist jobs in Manchester, Oxford, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, back to Manchester, and Norwich - holding down a wide cross-section of jobs and roles in retailing, buying, merchandising and management.

Tim had married in 1952, and by the early 1980s, with two daughters, the couple decided to emigrate to Australia - making the move in 1984. At that stage, although he had always had a staunch Anglican faith and spent years on Parish Councils as well as serving as a church warden and sacristan at various times, it was coming to Australia that gave him the opportunity to be drawn more fully into his vocation to the Anglican clergy. With his wife’s full support, Tim gradually acquired his religious training, becoming a Deacon in 1988, and ordained the following year. Thenceforth he became Honorary Assistant Curate at Karrinyup Parish from 1988 to May 1997 (when he “formally” retired) but during which time he held down the position of Chaplain to Osborne Park Hospital. From 1997 however, he has held an Archbishop’s Licence for Permission to Officiate in Perth; and been an Honorary Associate Priest at St George’s Cathedral.

It would be fair to say that it is hardly surprising that Rev Tim - kind in nature and a gifted “people-person” if ever there was one, was attracted to a life of serving and caring for others. He spent a number of years active in the Boy Scouts and

as a Scoutmaster; he readily served on Parish Church Councils whilst juggling career demands, commitment to Reservist duties, his family life and voluntary community service of a pastoral nature. For many years, despite commuting daily from Norwich to London for work, he was a volunteer counsellor with the Samaritans in Norwich (a 24-hour telephone service to comfort and counsel unfortunate people contemplating suicide). Anyone who can step-up-to-the-plate to patiently console people when they are desperately seeking such help, is truly “special” - in the very best way!

Tim remains an active Chaplain to many ex-service organisations, and long may we enjoy the “Graces” of this very gracious man!



LAST POST



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

Lest We Forget

**POPPY DAY REPORT**

My warm "Thanks" to all those who threw their weight behind our 2014 Appeal this year, which took place on the "11th of the 11th". Despite a reduction in the numbers of our own members still physically able to participate as collectors, we did really well. The public were very generous overall, and we collected a combined total of \$19,339.10.



I particularly thank John and Carmen Homer, who did so much to assist me as Coordinator (and physically, at the Esplanade/Busport); and both Barry Campbell and Jim Eayrs at the Wellington/Roe Streets Bus stands. Thanks to these good folk, and our wonderful collectors - we collected over \$4,400 more than last year!

Mike Harness

The FLANAGAN name lives on

This year's winner of the Man Booker Prize (a very prestigious international award for new works of fiction) is the Tasmanian novelist: Richard Flanagan. His novel which has taken out the 2014 "Booker" is entitled: "The Narrow Road to the Deep North".

Few of our members would know that his late father, Keith Flanagan - a POW on the Burma-Siam railway in Thailand during WW2, lived in Perth and was an active member of Highgate for many years.

Keith, along with his old ex-POW(J) mate: Bill Haskell (also now deceased, unfortunately) would also go on to found "The Quiet Lion" Tours to Thailand, in honour and remembrance of their old pal, champion and comrade: Sir Edward ("Weary") Dunlop.

The book is largely based on anecdotal stories of life on "the Railway" the son heard his father tell over many years, and thus has a ring of authenticity rarely achieved. Literary critics throughout the world have lauded the book: "Flanagan", said the LA Times "can stop a reader's breath".

It's a great read. Keith would have been very proud!

A VIEW OF THE KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA

The Memorial centrepiece is a central cylindrical feature wall showing etched scenes from various battle-sites in Korea, and the names of all those Australians who died there.

Few West Australians seem to have visited Canberra. A pity, as the walk along the imposing "ANZAC Parade" - which sweeps from the Australian War Memorial down to the shores of Lake Burley Griffin, looking directly at the "new" Parliament House on the opposite shore is flanked on either side by some very moving Memorials.

One such monument is the Memorial to those who served in the Korean War: 1950 - 1953: Australia was the only Commonwealth nation that provided Army, Navy and Air Force personnel. It is a sombre place - ghostly statues amid the grids of vertical narrow poles suggest the icy, bleak, blurred environment many of the troops fought in.

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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