



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 18 August 2014

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

Guest Speaker: Commander Bob Mummery RAN (Rtd)

Topic: The floating dock at the Australian Marine Complex.



Bob entered the Navy as an Apprentice in 1960. He was commissioned as a specialist Engineer Officer in 1970. In 1990 he took on a new career in industry and maintained significant links with defence through defence contracts. In 2004 Bob was recalled to Navy specifically for his ship repair and general contracting experience. He returned to industry in 2010 working towards the first docking of an ANZAC Class ship in the new floating dock at the Australian marine Complex in Henderson.

** President's Report **

Our OBE luncheon was a very full day. President Graham was most welcome at this event and we thank him sincerely for giving his time to join us to recognise our senior members. Our sincere thanks go to Geoff Simpson who co-ordinated and read out member's CVs. We decided that we would read all those received including those of recently deceased members and those who at the last minute were unable to attend.

The committee have decided to invite one member of the office to attend the monthly luncheon to foster bonding between the Branch and the HQ. Helen Starkie, RSL archivist attended and gave a short insight into her work, which is important in preserving the history of the RSL in WA.

I will be heading to the warmth in Carnarvon to thaw out in August so will be leaving the Branch in the capable hands of the Vice President. September is our Annual General meeting and then we look towards November with Poppy Day and the Memorial luncheon. Please give consideration to serving on the committee and where you can help collect on Poppy Day.

An Extraordinary General Meeting was held in ANZAC House on Saturday 26th of July to consider a number of amendments to the constitution. These were necessary to facilitate better management of the State Branch. Instead of an Executive and a Board RSL WA will have a Board of

(Continued on Page 2)

Forthcoming Meetings

Luncheon: 18 August 2014 (Committee 1030hrs Same Day)



(Continued from Page 1)

Management only and this has been reduced in size to 11 members. It had been hoped that a new Constitution would have been produced by now. Unfortunately the new National Constitution needs to be adopted before the WA one can be drafted.

I heard many favourable comments about the new look Listening Post at our luncheon meeting. I believe that this is but the first step in a new look RSL. We all need to do our part and encourage fellow service men and women to join. HQ is conducting a Women's Forum in August as a step towards expanding our membership in this area and interested persons are encouraged to attend.

Yours in fellowship

Peter



It's a winter's morning in Carnarvon

WA. The year is 1938. And, we are standing at the back of the Gascoyne Hotel, in what is loosely called the Garden Bar, enjoying the warming sunshine and a few beers. Down the yard a bit behind a cyclone wire fence there are a few chooks, scratching away at the scraps from the breakfast table, The yardman is poking a fire in which he is burning some rubbish and there's a very dusty old International ute parked on the gravel at the side of the pub.

And, to add to the scene two station hands, a couple of sheets to the wind, are arguing the merits of their respective dogs.

"My old Bluey is a real bright dawg, better than any in the district. "

"Gawn" says the other "There's not a dawg in the whole of the Nor-West that can outsmart Ginger"

We are all starting to get pretty interested in all this banter and one bright spark suggested that they have a competition to prove the better of the two dogs.

It's on.

Bluey's owner says,

"A' Bluey see the old rooster in the chook pen. Bring 'im to me" Bluey trots off, jumps the fence, singles out the rooster, grabs him by the scruff of the neck and drops him at his boss's feet.

"Wow" we all mutter "That's something".

Ginger's owner, smugly mumbles, "somethin' you say, you aint seen nothin' yet"

Then to Ginger

"I'm 'ungry"

Ginger with a querulous look on his face ponders for a while and then, like a shot runs down to the

chook pen, jumps the fence, pushes a fowl off a nest, grabs an egg and back to the ute. Puts the egg on the ground, jumps onto the old ute drags out a billy and gently puts in the egg.

With this between his teeth he trots off to a tap, puts the billy under it and turns the tap on. He then, with the billy, trots down to the fire on which the yardman had been working, puts the billy on the fire and after a three minute boil takes it back to his master and empties the can including the egg at his feet.

He then stands on his head.

We are all **absolutely** amazed. But old Joe, a one time camel teamster, asks the obvious,

"Why's he standin on his bloody head?"

Gingers proud master says, "He knows I 'aven't got an egg cup".

THE WORLD'S FIRST HI-JACKING?



With the missing Malaysian Airlines MH370, and the tragic loss of MH17 through a ground to air missile attack much in the news, it is interesting to note that

hi-jacking of aircraft has been around for some time.

Sixty years ago, a passenger plane was hijacked and forced to land on a deserted beach in Burma (Now Myanmar). And, many of us will recall the incident. *Was this the first?*

For many years the incident involving Karen rebels was hushed up. Sixty years may have passed, but this is clearly a story the 87-year-old Saw Kyaw Aye wishes to tell.

He closes his eyes for a second. He's back in the moment. It's 1954 and he has just forced his way into the cockpit of a passenger plane. This is the critical instant in an audacious plot to steal a Dakota DC-3 and use it to smuggle weapons. At that point he looks up and tells that he shouted at the British pilot - one Capt A Hare: "I'm going to die for my Karen nation - what cause are you going to die for?" Realising the danger, Capt Hare capitulated. He took the map the rebels had drawn and agreed to fly them to a rendezvous point near Myanmar's west coast.

At the time, the Karen controlled land both East and West of the then capital Rangoon, and the plan



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

- Sunday 3 August : 1200 for 1230 hrs - Macedonian Community Council of WA (Macedonian Flag, Priests.
National Anthems on CD)
- Monday 4 August : 1330 for 1400 hrs - Perth Mint - Centenary Coin Launch (Flame)
- Saturday 9 August : 1000 for 1030 hrs - HMAS Canberra Association
- Friday 31 August : 1120 for 1150 hrs - National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association, Merdeka Day
(Flame. 2xANF, Malaysian flag. UK flag. Priest)

was to use the plane to link the two. For the next three hours Saw Kyaw peered desperately at the ground below looking for the large piece of white paper that would show a prepared runway. But something had gone wrong.

Maybe none of his fellow rebels had actually believed the plan would work. Hijacking in the 1950s was almost unheard of and two of the most senior Karen commanders had rejected the scheme outright. One of them had even called him a fool. Fool or not, Saw Kyaw was now in control of the plane with nowhere to go and with fuel running out. In desperation the pilot attempted to bring the plane down on a deserted beach. Twice the landing was aborted before, at the third try, they came juddering down into the sand. The passengers were allowed to disembark and the hijackers then discovered the plane was carrying two

heavy metal chests. It was cash being transported between bank branches - 700,000 Burmese kyat. That's about \$700 in today's money but worth very much more back then.

"We figured it was enemy money so we took it," Saw Kyaw says with a smile. The passengers and crew were allowed back on and somehow the plane managed to take off, as the rebels slunk off into the bush.

It's a story worthy - almost - of Hollywood. But under Burma's strict censorship rules, for the last 50 years you had to go to Saw Kyaw's house if you wanted to hear it. The Generals didn't want people finding out about plucky rebels seizing government-owned planes. But now, censorship of the printed word has been lifted and Saw Kyaw's story was published in a book last year.

NEED A LIFT TO ANZAC HOUSE TO ATTEND MONTHLY HIGHGATE LUNCHEONS?

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen

STATE WAR MEMORIAL SUB-WARDENS

Join with other Highgate Members and be part of the solemn and memorable Wreath Laying Services in the beautiful surroundings of Kings Park.



If interested:
Contact Geoff Simpson on:
6380 1014 or 0408 925 432.



LAST POST

Eleanore Wells - Clem Littleton AO - Lindsay Caddy

Lest We Forget

20 — OBE's LUNCHEON — 14

For those unable to attend, a much shortened version of the biographies so ably presented by Geoff Simpson follows;

Those turning 90 in 2014 are:

Eleanore Wells celebrated her 90th birthday on 27th January. Unfortunately as you heard earlier, Eleanore sadly passed away on the 9th July. She enlisted in the Women's' Royal Australian Air Force in 1940 and served in Western Australia and the Eastern States, mainly as a Radar Plotter. Post war she graduated from UWA as a teacher and lived and worked in the UK for several years.

On return to Australia she resumed teaching in Perth and had a long and distinguished career.

Lindsay Caddy celebrated his 90th birthday on 5th April. Sadly, Lindsay had a fall last Monday and died on Friday night from complications.

As an 18 year old in 1943, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force as a Wireless Telegraphist and trained at Point Cook. He then went on to serve in the South West Pacific, Milne Bay New Guinea, Kiriwina, Port Moresby, Madang and Rabaul.

He was discharged in 1946

Ken BIRKS celebrated his 90th birthday on 8th January, he is with us today, thanks to his chauffer, Les Herbert.

Ken enlisted into the RAF in 1942 and saw service in Canada and United Kingdom. Did tours with Bomber Command - never went to Berlin but to other notable targets such as Dortmund-Emms Canal, oil refineries, industrial areas, and Dresden.

In 1948 he joined the then CMF - 16 Bn Cameron Highlanders for about 10 years.

Harry Lodge celebrated his 90th birthday on 6th March. Whilst still hale and hearty, he isn't with us today because of a medical appointment he could not change.

Harry attended Hale School where he was a platoon commander in the cadets. On leaving he enlisted into the RAAF, trained as a pilot and flew 63 combat missions in the SW Pacific in a Beaufort Bomber. On discharge he flew with ANA in Sydney for a year before return-

ing to Perth and undertaking a law degree.

Les Gordon will celebrate his 90th birthday on 27th November. Les and his wife are with us today.

Les served with 75 New Zealand Squadron in Bomber Command Royal Air Force. Flying Lancasters, he survived 16 daylight raids on synthetic oil refineries. Also night raids on Potsdam, Essen, Cologne and Munster. May 45 Dropped Food for Dutch forces. On one raid they were hit by flak and managed to limp home on only 2 engines.

Post war he served as State President.

Brigadier Bill Jamieson celebrated his 90th birthday on 16th February. Unfortunately he was not well enough to join us today.

Bill attended the Royal Military College Duntroon in 1943 and then served in New Guinea, Korea, South Vietnam, UK, India and Thailand. He was appointed GOC Western Command in 1972 - 78 in which time the Army Museum was established.

**And now those turning 80 in 2014:**

Ken Bladen celebrated his 80th birthday overseas in the company of Stephanie.

Called up for National Service he was selected to attend OCS Portsea and graduated in 1954.

Original Member, Special Air Services Company, then Platoon Commander 1RAR, and Adjutant 2RAR in Malaya 1961-63. Helped raise 7RAR then deployed as a Company Commander with them to Vietnam. Promoted Lt Col and became Commander 3 Cadet Brigade 1973-74. Awarded Queens Medal as the Champion Shot in the Army 1969.

Retired from regular Army and served in the Reserve at CSTU in WA.

John Evert will celebrate his

80th birthday on the 20th November. Unfortunately unable to attend the luncheon being on the sick list.

Called up in 1954 for National Service in the Army at Swanbourne, followed by 7 years in RAEME Workshops. Transferred to 10th LH and promoted WO2 in 1963. John completed 20 years with the Squadron before seeing out his 32 years' of service as an instructor at OCTU.

Donald King will celebrate his 80th birthday on the 15th September. He joins us today!

As a 17 1/2 year old with a high IQ he was sent to Duntroon, and completed a Science Degree in Psychology. Then posted to Korea in the Intelligence Corps. On leaving the Army he joined the South Australian Police Intelligence Service, undercover for Eight years and is still a practicing V.A. Licensed Private Investigator.

Due to Don's theatrical bent his career blossomed into the role of MC, working with such luminaries as John Denver, Robert Palmer, Harry Seacombe, Vera Lynn, and Frank Sinatra.

Jim Monteath celebrated his 80th birthday on 26th April.

Jim joined the Army in 1953, graduating from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1956.

He saw active service with 3 RAR in 1958-59 during the Malayan Emergency. From 1962-65, he served in the PNG as a Captain with the Pacific Islands Regiment, 1 Bn, C Coy, and later was transferred to Borneo.

Promoted Major, he went to South Vietnam in 1967-68 with 2 RAR, as OC C Coy.

Jim retired from the Army in 1983 after 30 years of service.

Otto Pelczar will celebrate his 80th birthday on the 9th August. He is here today accompanied by Beverly.

Otto joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1956 and participated in the Monte Bello Islands Atomic tests whilst serving in HMAS FREMANTLE. Commissioned in 1958, he served in ten RAN and two us SHIPS. Being appointed in Command of HMAS ACUTE (1971 - 78) was the highlight of his Naval Career - only to be surpassed by his promotion to Commander and 'Head of Naval Intelligence WA during 1988.

**HOLLYWOOD SURGICAL SKILLS SET TO SAVE LIVES IN THAILAND**

Hollywood Private Hospital has shared its angiography expertise with a Thai medical team in what promises to be the first of many global skill-sharing partnerships.

Dr Chartrungsan, a cardiovascular thoracic surgeon from Lampang Hospital, spent two days enhancing his endovascular surgery skills under internationally renowned vascular surgeon Kishore Sieunarine.

Mr Sieunarine said the Thai surgeon and his two scrub nurses learnt many practical skills they intended applying in their regional centre. "Essentially the experience was about the Thai medical team witnessing best-practice in our angiography facilities," he said.

"We demonstrated a range of endovascular procedures and the team learnt about our strategies to overcome potential issues.

"Dr Chartrungsan will take these practical learnings and translate them to the Thai environment - the overall aim being to increase efficiency and improve outcomes for local patients.

The training program involved observing live cases and was focused on stenting and angioplasty techniques to treat a range of endovascular conditions including potentially fatal aneurysms.

Dr Chartrungsan said the opportunity to train with Mr Sieunarine at Hollywood Private Hospital enabled him to develop tangible life-saving medical skills. "The hospital has a great team focus so it was vital my team learns from this. It will definitely mean we can improve our procedural processes and delivery of care to our patients," he said.

The training covered procedural effi-

ciency, focussing on how the hospital's Angiography Suite team manages resources, patient flow and radiation safety.

"Teamwork is an important component in any hospital procedural area," Mr Sieunarine said.

"The Thai medical team not only learnt in an excellent facility but also witnessed some of the most efficient nursing and support staff in action."

Dr Daniel Heredia, Director of Medical Services Hollywood Private Hospital, said the hospital was delighted to host the medical team.

"We are excited about the opportunity to impart our knowledge and expertise with our Thai visitors.

"One of Hollywood Private Hospital's core values is 'contribution to the community' and we see our community as being one that extends beyond Australian borders," said Dr Heredia.

The training took place in Hollywood Private Hospital's Angiography Suite on Tuesday 10 and Wednesday 11 June 2014.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr Kishore Sieunarine is a vascular and endovascular surgeon, trained in the UK and at multiple sites in Australia. He is trained in all types of endovascular procedures including stenting and fenestrated grafting for arterial and venous disease. Mr Sieunarine remains committed to ongoing professional development and, in 2012, became one of first surgeons in Western Australia to use the innovative Zenith p-Branch graft for large and difficult aortic aneurysms of the abdomen. Mr Sieunarine offers patients a full complement of clinical, diagnostic and procedural services. He performs all open and endovascular procedures from the carotid arteries to the below knee arteries. Special areas of interest include aneurysmal disease, carotid disease and below knee arterial disease, and diabetic foot disease. He

offers a comprehensive service for venous disease from compression stockings to sclerotherapy, thermal ablation options and surgery.

Hollywood Private Hospital's Angiography Suite contains some of the most advanced medical imaging in Western Australia and accommodates most of the hospital's cardiology and vascular procedures within its three cardiac catheter labs. With this advanced technology offering increased efficiency and safety to patients and doctors, it allows prompt and accurate diagnosis, as well as high-resolution image-guided assistance during procedures. Patients will experience the benefits of the facility in terms of speed, safety, efficiency and comfort. The suite includes Siemens Artis Zeego technology with its Multi-axis cardiovascular imaging system, and the Syngo iPilot and iGuide systems. Both systems provide three-dimensional imaging during complex interventions with the aim of increasing the accuracy and safety of procedures.

Hollywood Private Hospital is a contemporary, 660 bed, acute care hospital in Nedlands. The hospital is a part of Ramsay Health Care Group - Australia's largest private hospital operator and has over 800 accredited medical specialists working across a wide range of disciplines including orthopaedics, urology, cardiology, psychiatry, oncology, gastroenterology, palliative care, rehabilitation, general medicine and general surgery. Hollywood Private Hospital employs over 1,800 people and has over 60,000 patient admissions each year.

MEDIA INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Annie Palmer on 9346 6664 or palmer-annie@ramsayhealth.com.au or Clare Sadlier on sadlierc@ramsayhealth.com.au or call 9346 6662.

The continuing support provided by Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance to Highgate RSL Sub-Branch is greatly appreciated.

HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL