

HIGHGATE NEWS

Issue 549

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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

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NOTE: TWO Functions this month!

1. "Informal" Lunch - Monday 20 April 2015

Venue: Downstairs Dining Room - ANZAC Club (Ordinary "line-up-order-from Blackboard-and-pay"),

Time: 1130 hrs onwards. **NO BOOKING NECESSARY!** NO Guest Speaker - just "Good Fellowship"

2. **GUNFIRE BREAKFAST - ANZAC Day: 25th April 2015**

Venue: Gallipoli Room - ANZAC House: 0700-0730hrs.
Full, cooked breakfast. (Full details on Page 3)

NOTE: The **GUEST SPEAKER** we organised has been forced to **Cancel** unfortunately. When a Replacement has been confirmed, we will announce who it is on the web-site.

HONOUR AVENUE NEWS: On Tuesday, 7 April at 10am, the **HONOUR AVENUE PLAQUES DATABASE**, involving over 1,600 identified plaques, personal details and locations in Kings Park will be officially launched by the Botanic Gardens and Parks Auth.

For the **GUNFIRE BREAKFAST** (25th April) PLEASE enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by 1400 hrs Wednesday, 22nd April) - using the web-site. Cost is \$40 a head - which includes Rum. For those without computer access - a **BOOK IN SLIP IS ON P.3** of this Newsletter.

Method: GO TO the web-site HOME page. Scroll down to "Highgate RSL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST" (just above the photo of the Eggs and Bacon on the plate!). Scroll down a few more lines and you'll see the words in Dark Red print: "**Click here to access the Booking Sheet**". Do so, and the spreadsheet/Book In list will appear). You may need to Double-click IN the cell for your name to register.

President's Report

Although we previously announced that the date of this year's Memorial Luncheon at Fraser's (Kings Park) would have to be on the Tuesday - we have since been told Fraser's can offer us the SUNDAY, (8th November) after all and at the same price! As a result, your committee decided to **accept the Sunday** - so please change your diary entry.

Another "top" day on offer will be our midyear Mixed Luncheon set for Sunday, 28th June. A booking has been made at Swan Yacht Club in East Fremantle. The cost will be \$45 per person - further details in the May

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

INFORMAL LUNCHEON: 20 April, 2015 (NO Committee meeting that day)



(Continued from p.1)

Issue of Highgate News.

It is **essential** that your bookings for the Gunfire Breakfast be made by the 22nd April. We will be submitting a list of attendees to State HQ so that we are able to sign in non-RSL member guests. The reporting table will be in the foyer. Please NOTE that HQ has placed restrictions on the number of non-RSL members who can be signed into the ANZAC Club on ANZAC Day.

The Reception/payment table for monthly luncheons has again requested that members endeavour to present the correct amount of \$30 as much as possible as they have difficulty providing change for \$50 notes. It is even better to pay in advance by EFT if possible. Please also try to pre-book by the Thursday night before so the Club can arrange sufficient seating. At our last lunch there were **eight** who failed to book.

Remember that if you are a Permanent Booking and cancel for one meeting, you must reinstate yourself afresh for the next luncheon - ie: enter your name AND indicate the letter "P" in the Permanent column. (The "Permanent" (P) status is NOT automatically carried forward.)

We are trying something new for Monday, 20th April. As a trial (and for continuity reasons) we are having an informal (noon) lunch downstairs in the ANZAC Club Dining Room for any members who would like to meet for fellowship. Just turn up - no booking necessary.

If anyone hears of the death of one of our members please let one of the committee know so that we can arrange appropriate acknowledgement by placing a Death Notice in the paper. We also need to know, to try to have Sub-Branch representation at the funeral, and perhaps helping to arrange a flag; and someone to recite the Ode, if the family wish it.

April looks as though it is going to be a busy month - and certainly this coming ANZAC Day promises to be a landmark occasion. Take care of yourselves.

Yours in fellowship, *Peter*

Sub-Branch Snippets

John Hately, who reports that he seems to spend more time in hospital than at home these days - spent another spell in Hollywood recently. All those years of parachuting, heavy landings and training paratroopers (using those old-style parachutes) have taken their dreadful toll on his poor hips, knees and legs. Please know that all your ex-airborne mates send their warmest regards to you John.

Another former UK-Airborne Forces soldier has his wrist in a plaster cast too. **Mick Coyle** came to grief recently when he fell **whilst at work!!** (Amazing Mick is 79!)

Former State President and our valued, resident "Tenor", **Ken Bladen**, was recently diagnosed with kidney cancer and is receiving treatment. Warmest wishes from us ALL Ken!

Yet another person "in-the-wars" is **Martyn Thompson**, who slipped and fell backwards down stairs at home, injuring his lower spine, and has been in awful pain with it. Many of us can sympathise Martyn - hope you are able to dispose of the walking stick very soon

Our Guest Speaker for March - former ABC political 'journo', **Peter Kennedy**, proved to be a popular choice for our members. His talk was scintillating - offering a host of amusing anecdotes about some of the **eleven** WA Premiers he has known and worked with over the years.

Mike Harness is still undergoing chemo following surgery for liver cancer in mid-October. It's a matter of "one-day-at-a-time and gritted teeth", according to Mike!

Ray Galliot has taken up caravanning, and ever keen to see-the-world, has been driving and sightseeing around the South West of WA in recent weeks.



TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner

('Tis after bein' St Pat's Day - but here's a little Irish laugh anyway, t'be sure!)

Paddy's pregnant sister was in a terrible car accident and was hospitalised in a deep coma. It lasted for many months, before she regained consciousness.

As she came round and became more alert, she realised with dismay that she was no longer pregnant.

Frantically, she asked the doctor about her baby. The doctor replied "Ma'am, you actually had twins. A boy and a girl. The babies are fine now. However, they were poorly at birth and had to be christened immediately - your brother came in and named them".

The woman, greatly alarmed thought: "Oh **NO!** Begorra and to be sure - not me feckless brother Paddy! He's a clueless idiot!" Expecting the worst she anxiously asked the doctor: "Would you be happenin' to know my daughter's name by any chance?"

"T'be sure I do! It's Denise," said the doctor.

The new mother was greatly relieved. "Why now - that's a beautiful name. I guess I was wrong about my brother. I like Denise."

She thought for a moment and asked: "What's the boy's name then?"

There was a slight pause. "Denephew" came the reply.



HIGHGATE'S 62nd ANNUAL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

- Date:** ANZAC Day, Friday 25 April 2015
Time: 0700 for 0730 hrs until 0900 hrs
Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
28 St Georges Terrace, Perth
Cost: \$40 per person (to be paid by 18th April)
Bookings essential – NO PAYMENT AT THE DOOR!
(Wives, husbands, partners welcome.)
Dress: Jacket, Tie, Medals

Menu: Poached Egg/Sausage/Tomato/Bacon/Hash Brown/Mushroom/Toast/Coffee/Tea

Bookings: Via the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch web-site: www.highgate-rsl.org.au : Scroll down to 2015 Highgate RSL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST. Keep scrolling to **Click here to access the Booking Sheet**. Do so. This will open up the Booking in screen. E-Pay details at top of spreadsheet. (You may need to "double-click" on the "cell" for the cursor to appear).

OR complete the PAYMENT SLIP below and mail it to Treasurer: Richard Adams - at the address set out below

HIGHGATE'S 62ND ANNUAL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST "PAYMENT SLIP"

- Close-off date: 1400 hrs Wednesday, 22nd April 2015
Paying by mail: CUT OUT THIS VOUCHER. Attach your cheque to this portion
Paying by EFT: CBA 066001 : 00925571 (include your name)
Payment confirmation/bookings: Internet Link or Mailing in this Booking Form with cheque (\$40 per person) to our Treasurer:
Cheques to: Treasurer RSL (WA) Highgate Sub-Branch
PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832

Name.....

Guests.....



LAST POST
William Peart
Lest We Forget



MARK IN YOUR DIARIES! Some coming SPECIAL events:

- **Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day : 7 for -7.30am until 9 - Gallipoli Room ANZAC House.**

Bookings and Pre-Payment - ESSENTIAL - either via the web-site; or Mail (using the form on previous page).

- **Sunday Luncheon at Swan Yacht Club - Sunday 28th June, 2015**

Cost will be \$45 a head (Bar Drinks extra). Bring your wives, partners, guests.

- **MAY Monthly Luncheon: 18th May, 2015. Guest Speaker: Aviation Journalist: Geoffrey Thomas.** His topic will be "Recent Air Disasters" and promises to be very stimulating and interesting.

"LEST WE FORGET HIM"

On 3 May - next month - an important statue will be unveiled at the National Artillery Memorial in Ottawa, Canada. You may ask: "Why should this event hold any significance for Australians, or veterans?"

The statue is of Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae - gunner, physician and poet; veteran of both the Boer War and WWI. Its dedication will mark the centenary of the writing of his world famous poem: "In Flanders Fields" - source of our "Ode of Remembrance", and of the Red Poppy as the enduring symbol of Remembrance.

The unveiling will be the cornerstone of the national commemoration of the Second Battle of Ypres.



John McCrae was born in 1872. At age 15 he became a bugler in the Canadian Field Artillery. In time he attended university in Toronto to earn a BA and then went on to study medicine, graduating in 1898. However, he remained in the Artillery, was commissioned, and served in the Boer War (1900-1901) with D Battery, Royal Canadian Field Artillery.

His achievements as a Physician included a period as Lecturer in Medicine and Pathology at McGill University in Montreal; and Professor of Pathology at the University of Vermont.

In 1914, on the outbreak of WWI, McCrae sought to return to an Artillery appointment, but was enlisted as a doctor. At the Second Battle of Ypres in the spring of 1915, he could see the guns firing from nearby fields as well as a small cemetery. During the battle, German shell fire killed two young artillery officers from McCrae's unit. The next day he officiated at one's funeral, and he was inspired that day to write "In Flanders Fields". It has become one of the world's best known poems.

It has resonated down the generations - as has the poppy, throughout the Commonwealth and beyond. We join with Canadians in honouring this man's wonderful legacy.



A SURE WAY TO KEEP FIT AND REMAIN TIP-TOP!

We are all pretty aware of THE BENEFITS OF EXERCISE and keeping FIT!
But how many of us actually DO it?!

Those who attended the March Luncheon heard a concise summary of the effectiveness of physiotherapy and exercise physiology on everyone who values their health and fitness. And more importantly: how to access it AND enjoy it.

The young man who delivered the talk was **Hayden Fisher**, who is involved with "Activate Life Rehabilitation" - fully equipped health centres that are located at many suburbs in Perth (Riverton, Balga, Midvale, Joondalup, Mandurah and Melville) as well as one in Albany.

With enough demand in the Western Suburbs, (one might possibly be considered in that area too, if sufficient patronage could be assured).

Hayden was an impressive ambassador for "Activate Life Rehabilitation": well-built, brimming with energy and obviously in tip-top condition physically in every way. One of the ladies on my table was heard to murmur: "I'll have what he's having - if I could look as good!"

Exercises are individually tailored. Programs are devised to rehabilitate and manage chronic disease and injuries. **Health Fund Rebates and Bulk Billing is available for those eligible.**

If your physical health has been affected by injury, diabetes or chronic disease, it is entirely possible that some regular structured exercise and gym work tailored to YOU, might well help you a lot. For more info:

Phone: (08)93354 9508 or www.activateliferehab.com.au



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

SIX Sunset Ceremonies will be conducted at the Flame of Remembrance : 1615 for 1700 hrs on the 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd and 24th April 2015 : PLUS the DAWN SERVICE on ANZAC Day.

(NOTE For Sub-Wardens - ANZAC Day: Bus will pick up in front of Council House Car Park, Terrace Road at 0445 hrs to be at the State War Memorial for 0515 hrs).

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Few members of our Sub-Branch would fail to recognise the distinctive visage of our popular Mick Coyle OAM JP - he of the impressive “handlebar” moustache and ever-cheerful demeanour. It comes as no surprise that he has had a full and active life, and despite his 79 years (Yes! Hard to believe, isn’t it!?) - continues to exercise a restless energy.

Mick was born in Bradford (UK) in 1936, one of three brothers and a sister. As a lad he liked catching rabbits and competing with his mates to see whose “Conker” (horse-chestnut) on a string was the biggest, best and most destructive. At 18, he enlisted in the Irish Guards - subsequently being posted to the Middle East with them, including the Suez Crisis in 1956. In time, he was trained in the Parachute Company of the Guards (Pathfinders), and some time later, the Parachute Regiment Airborne forces of the British Army.

As time wore on, now married to Jacqueline and with three sons and a daughter, the couple decided to emigrate. Mick’s yen was South Africa, which had greater prospects for adventure; Jacquie was looking for a stable life. They compromised: whichever country offered delivery via cruise ship would be “the one”. So in 1973, offered a passage on SS “Canberra”, they became “Ten Pound Poms” and arrived in Perth and, temporarily: Graylands Hostel.

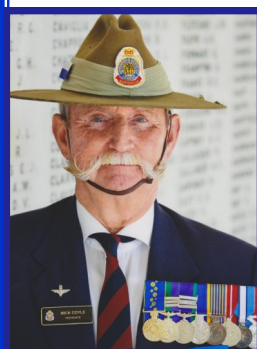
Mick’s ongoing commitment to an Army life saw him serving as a Reservist: the Cadet Unit at Victoria Park; 16th Bn Cameron Highlanders’ 11/28 Bn WAUR, and NorForce in the Pilbara Regt, where he held the rank of Warrant Officer. In his civilian occupations, Mick trained Prison Officers for a while, but later he and Jacquie became very active in managing the Oombulgurri Aboriginal Community in the Kimberly just North of Wyndham - another adventure itself in a very remote part of WA. After returning to Perth, Mick worked in the Law Courts for years as a Court Orderly.

With his Celtic heritage, he has spent years playing the bagpipes, and has been an active member of the Cockburn Pipes and Drums Band. A peak thrill of this experience was the Band’s invitation to take part in the famous St Patrick’s Day Parade through the streets of New York in 2008. The Band also travelled on to Edinburgh in Scotland to compete in the World Championships in Bagpipes and Drumming. Then-aged 72 years - he was the oldest in the entire competition.

Mick has been the Secretary of the Airborne Forces Association in WA “for yonks” (16 years) - wife Jacquie the Treasurer; and in that time also produced their Newsletter regularly. As stated in our “Snippets”, Mick is nursing an injured wrist at the moment - the fracture so bad it required a titanium plate to be inserted to hold the bones together. HOW this came about is typical Mick: “I was working at the old Shenton Park RPH Rehab site, assisting with dismantling it. Keen to reach up, I stepped onto a high table which collapsed. I tried to do an old side RIGHT from my old parachuting days.

However, I missed and ended up crushing my wrist”. Mick was taken to the new Fiona Stanley Hospital where a young female Doctor worked at putting his wrist back into place. Mick heard a loud “Crack”. “Is that my wrist back in place?” he inquired. “No” she said “that is your shoulder cracking!” A week later, doctors began asking him if he was “in care”. Mick’s reply was a stout “**No** - I am a very active 79 going on 80 ACTIVE person!” And thus was the decision made to insert the titanium plate: “Which”, says Mick - “is a bit of a worry. What are the chances for the NON-active in such a situation?!”

His injury prevented him playing the bagpipes on this year’s St Pat’s Day - but, as a faithful and dependable Sub-Warden at the State War Memorial all these years, he has already presented himself back on duties, representing Highgate - the epitome of the old “Soldier On” slogan! Continue to “Hold Fast” - and “Happy Healing” Mick!



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

**HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL**



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BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN,
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH**