

# 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

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## MONTHLY LUNCHEON *and* AGM

Monday 21st September 2015

Venue: Gallipoli Room \* **NO GUEST**  
Time: 1130 hrs for 1225 hrs **SPEAKER \***



### AGM - LUNCHEON - FELLOWSHIP:

Unlike other RSL Sub-Branches, Highgate has a long tradition of conducting Luncheons each month as a **social priority**: to minimise the formal running of "meetings"; preferring to leave the "business" side of things to whoever is serving on the incumbent Committee. The emphasis is thus on fostering "mateship" and good fellowship. **HOWEVER - the AGM is an integral part of our functioning**, and President Peter urges you to "Please come along and show support for the hard-working squad who quietly keep the wheels of Highgate humming along for all!"

For the **Monthly LUNCHEON**, PLEASE enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by 1400 hrs Thursday - 17 September) using the web-site. Cost is \$30 a head.

**Method:** GO TO the web-site HOME page. Double-click on "HIGHGATE LUNCHEON" below 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.

You may need to Double-click IN the 'empty' cell for your name to register.

## President's Report

This is my last report for my term as President. It has been an honour to serve as your President for the last two years and for that I thank you. Unfortunately we haven't as yet solved the problem of declining membership. Like many other organisations we don't seem to be able to compete with many of life's time demands in this fast paced world. Sometimes I think we had a less demanding world in our growing years.

This year has gone by very quickly, and we are already planning our Memorial Lunch in November. Unfortunately, we have had to increase the cost slightly, as

*Continued P.2*

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**LUNCHEON: 21 September, 2015 (Committee meeting: 11.00am that day)**



(Continued from p.1)

we have had no success in obtaining any sponsorship money. However, the Committee has committed funds to subsidise the event. It is thanks to our monthly raffle that we have been able to do this.

Bob Campbell and Adrian Young must be thanked for manning the Reception Desk on Luncheon days AND selling the raffle tickets to one and all. This additional income allows us a little more flexibility.

Look for info about the Memorial Luncheon - and Bookings, elsewhere in this newsletter. Get a table together for 10 and arrange to pay for that table (TEN people on any one table is the absolute "max"! For smaller groups or couples, just book and let us seat you. Judging from past years, it will be a most pleasant Sunday lunch.

My thanks also go to the hard working committee that supported me for the past two years. All of them deserve your appreciation for the time and commitment they give. This month at our AGM, please consider offering your services as a committee member. Most of the committee have served many years, and some would appreciate a rest. Any organisation must benefit from "new blood" and ideas coming onto its committee.

It is also time to consider volunteering for collecting on Poppy Day - which again will be on the actual day this year. We have always been very active, but again will need all the support we can muster - as some of our regular collectors are finding it difficult due to their advancing years.

Once again, may I thank you all for your support and assistance over the past year. Thank you all of those who give your time as Sub-Wardens at the State War Memorial. It has been a big year. The efforts of the Honour Avenue Group members is also deserving of our thanks and appreciation. For all of you in these groups: a job well done. Thanks!

Yours in fellowship,

**Peter**



### TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner .....

John Smith was on his deathbed and knew the end was near. His nurse, his wife, his daughter and two sons, were with him.

He asked for two witnesses to be present and a camcorder be in place to record his last wishes, and when all was ready he began to speak:

"My son Bernie, I want you to take the Mayfair houses." "My daughter Sybil, you take the apartments over in the east end." "My son Jamie, I want you to take the offices over in the City Centre."

"Sarah, my dear wife, please take all the residential buildings on the banks of the river."

The nurse and witnesses were blown away as they did not realise his extensive holdings, and as Doug slipped away, the nurse said,

"Mrs. Smith, your husband must have been such a hard-working man to have accumulated all this property."

Sarah replied, "Property ? He was talking about his paper route!"

**POPPY DAY is ON THE DAY  
this year: Wednesday, 11th November.**

### **SUPERVISOR WANTED**

Highgate will again take donations at the Esplanade Train station/Busport location - as well as the Wellington St Bus Station. Volunteers to collect at each venue will be called for soon. A very important post to be filled is SUPERVISOR at Wellington St: to organise collectors on the day and be responsible for monies collected. Pre-day tasks will be completed by others. Would anyone prepared to take on this role please contact Mike Harness on 9293 1076 or 0419 091 708.



### **We say "VALE" to two of our Stalwarts**

Few Highgate members are left who would remember **Ernst Baints** well, but we note his recent passing with sadness. Ernst was a young Dutchman in Australia, who joined the 2nd AIF in 1940 when the Netherlands was bombed. He was a Commando in 2/4th Independent Company. He later transferred to "Z Force" during which some intrepid raids were taken on Royal Netherlands Navy Subs 021 and K15. Post-WW2, he devoted 40 years as a teacher and Principal in WA schools. Rest in Peace Ernst - you earned it. \* \* \* Likewise, our hearts go out to the family of **Peter Hummerston**, who has just died after some months of illness. Peter joined the Air Force in 1941, becoming a Wireless Op/Air Gunner, and later a Navigator.



He served with 36 Sqn, flying Dakotas throughout the South West Pacific on many varied missions. Flying over New Guinea in those days, in the unarmed, unescorted Dakotas - erratic weather as a constant hazard, was a risky business. When discharged in 1945, he'd flown 84 supply dropping missions and over 1400 hours. Peter gave a LOT to Highgate.

**May they both Rest in Peace**



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 13 September 2015 : 0900 for 0930 hrs - Maltese Association of Western Australia Inc  
Sunday 27 September 2015 : 0930 for 1000 hrs - WA Australian Army Cadets Brigade

## "The Way We Were" Gallery ..... Our Golden Oldies .....

Many of our members might recall when one of our own: Kevin Graham, delivered an interesting Luncheon talk one day, about ONE of his "post-service" careers - as a Celebrant for Marriages and Funerals. Quite a dramatic switch for a bloke who had previously been an Army plumber and gas fitter, PTI and then Ordnance/Ammunition expert!! Our Kevin, in his quiet way, is a man of multiple talents and accomplishments!

A "dinky-di" West Aussie from his birth in 1936 - at least in the early days! - he attended South Perth Primary and then Guildford Grammar until, at the tender age of 15 years and one month, he was enlisted/accepted into the Army Apprentice School, Balcombe (Vic) for his trade training. He was so slight and small in stature that he had to have his Battle Dress and Blues Ceremonial uniforms tailor-made. It was six months before he had a real uniform to wear! Just a kid really - how many of us would allow our barely fifteen-year-old offspring to join the Army?!

But this was a youngster made of "stern stuff!" After graduation, Kevin was posted to 23 Construction Sqn (Warradale, S.A.) He then transferred to regimental duties as an instructor at 16 NS Trg Bn (Woodside, S.A.), and then to the School of Military Engineering (Casula, NSW) as a Physical Training Instructor. Kevin was accepted into the Officer Cadet School, Portsea, Vic) in early 1958, graduating the following January.

In 1960, he got a Corps transfer to the Royal Australian Army Ordnance Corps (RAAOC), and thenceforth began his long career in the technology and management of ammunition - with various courses and postings in that field. In March 1965, he commenced a two year posting as Staff Capt (Q) at HQ PNG Command in Port Moresby - remembered fondly as "my best posting!" In September, 1968, Kevin was posted to HQ Australian Force in Vietnam - but after six months, in quite a nasty ammunition demolition accident, he was quite seriously injured and burnt, necessitating being Medevac'd back to Australia.

Several admin and training posts followed before a lovely little pick-me-up - not without its own nice dollop of "glamour": an 18-month enjoyable posting to undergo further training in the UK, Canada and the USA. Thereafter further postings to AHQ in Canberra and the relatively benign (and safer!) world of clothing and General Stores Development.

Kevin was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in 1978 whilst serving at 21 Supply Bn, Moorebank (NSW). He then went back to South Australia for a spell (CO 4 Army Quality UA), and retired in January 1980, after 28 fruitful years, of which only three were spent in his home state of WA.

On returning to civvy life, Kevin became the first Executive Officer of the WA Sports Federation at Perry Lakes for over two years before he resigned to study for a degree at UWA. He then took a job as State Secretary of the Royal WA Bowling Association - a position he held for five years, before being appointed Executive Officer of the WA Licensed Clubs Association for a four year stint.

In 1995, he became Honorary Colonel RAAOC. On presenting at the Clothing Store, he once again found the Army could not produce a uniform to fit him, so once again he had to wait for a "made-to-measure". As he says: "Seems nothing changes - except, maybe, waist-lines!" He handed over to Lt Col Vic Hayes in 2002.

Coming from farming stock, Kevin retains a lively interest in vegetable gardening - successfully too. He is still a member of the North Cottesloe Surf Life Saving Club, and tries to visit the gym and take a swim most days. All the better since you've had your lovely, "new" knees Kevin!

Living in Nedlands and only about 400 metres from Karrakatta Cemetery, Kevin has a very genuine interest in conducting meaningful funerals as a celebrant - especially for anyone who has had military service. He also lives quite close to Hollywood Hospital, gladly and generously serving our Sub-Branch wherever possible as a Hospital Visitor - for which we express our warmest thanks Kevin. Kevin is married to Jan - and he has a daughter and granddaughter who live in Margaret River.

He's a modest, unassuming sort of chap, but don't be fooled: he's a bit of a GUN!



## LAST POST

Ernst Baints Peter Hummerston

Lest We Forget

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 21 SEP 2015**

The timings for the AGM are as follows:

- Fellowship: 1130 hrs - 1225 hrs. **Bell rings - adjourn Upstairs to Gallipoli Room**
- AGM: 1230 hrs - 1300 hrs
- Luncheon: 1300 hrs. **NO GUEST SPEAKER. Nice chance to just catch up with mates.**

(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 **TEN** (!) 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. The position of JUNIOR VICE PRESIDENT is also Vacant.

**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, Greg Wilson, at **9448 8213** or [greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au](mailto:greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au)

**MARK IN YOUR DIARIES!****HIGHGATE'S 2015 REMEMBRANCE DAY**

**LUNCHEON** is coming up ...

to be held at King's Park on Sunday, 8th November 2015

As always, we will **ASSEMBLE AT FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE AT 11.50am for the Ceremony to start at 12 Noon SHARP**  
**followed by a delicious three-course LUNCHEON at FRASER'S RESTAURANT (approx 1220 to 1500 hrs)**

Cost to Members (and their spouses/partners) - **\$60** a head (includes all drinks)  
 Cost for Guests and Non-Members is higher - **\$85** a head (but also including all drinks).



**MEMBERS HAVE BOOKING PRIORITY. On-line Booking is now OPEN. (Pre-PAYMENT can be made by EFT - CBA 066-001 : 00925571)**

**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 8th November); or phone Margot Harness (9293 1076).

**IF YOU BOOK A FIXED TABLE FOR 10 (the maximum number at ANY table) - FULL PAYMENT MUST BE IN ADVANCE. Couples/Small groups will be allocated seating.**

**If you wish to book by MAIL - post your Cheque AND THIS SLIP to:** The Treasurer

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch PO Box 3551 **PERTH** WA 6832

**NAME:** ..... **SPOUSE/PARTNER** .....

**No. of GUESTS:** ..... (and NAMES) .....

**Indicate if ANYONE has special dietary requirements** .....







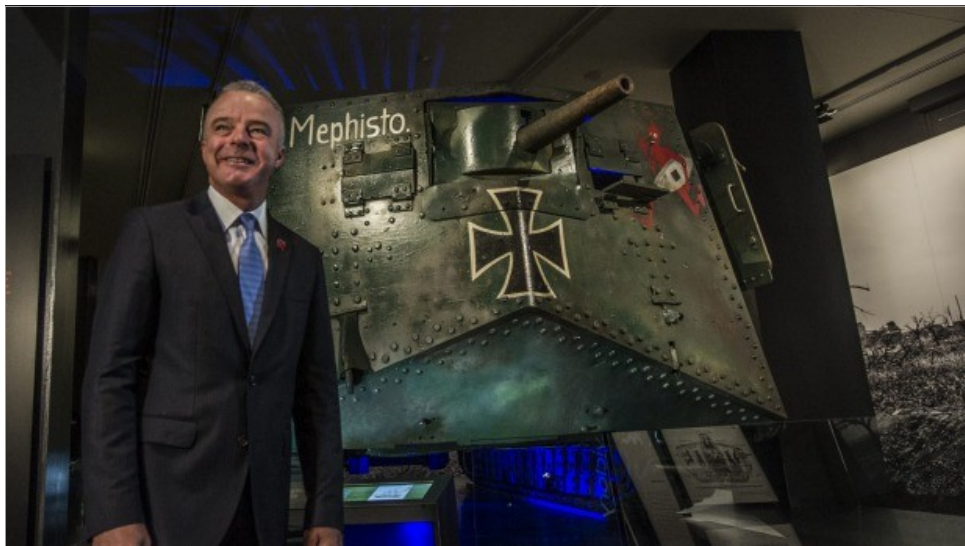
## THE WORLD'S LAST SURVIVING "MEPHISTO" TANK COMES TO THE AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

A unique exhibit is currently capturing the attention of visitors to Canberra's Australian War Memorial. On loan from the Queensland Museum for the next 18 months, the displayed item is a very rare World War I German tank that has aroused a lot of interest amongst tank and armoured warfare aficionados.

Germany produced only 20 of their A7V Sturmpanzerwagens to take part in WWI, but they engendered considerable fear and respect in Australian troops, who at the time considered them to be "state-of-the-art". Nonetheless members of the 26th Battalion AIF courageously managed to capture one of them - known as "Mephisto" - in 1918, after it had become bogged and stuck in a hole. It was later brought back to Australia - and is now the last remaining tank of its kind in the world.

The tanks were cramped, hot and noisy, making it an unpleasant experience for the crews on board, which could be up to 26 men at a time. For many German tank crews, painting decorations on their tank was a form of both enjoyment and a way of making their tank distinguishable from others in the fleet. This one bears a depiction of Mephistopheles, the red, smiling Faustian demon - hence its name.

AVM director: Dr Brendan Nelson said bringing the tank to Canberra would allow more Australians to learn about tank warfare in WWI and the engineering side of German tanks. "The introduction of this tank into warfare when the Germans did it in 1918 had the potential to be a significant game changer," he said.



*Dr Brendan Nelson, head of the AWM showing off the new exhibit*

Transporting the tank to Canberra was no easy feat. Mephisto had to be wrapped using lankets and sheets of plastic before being transported by road for the journey south, which happened over the course of a weekend.

Upon arrival in Canberra, the difficult process of setting the exhibit up began. Two cranes were required to move the tank from the truck to a custom-made trolley which not only allowed for easy transfer into Anzac Hall, but provides a base for it during its time in Canberra.

Anyone planning to take a trip to our national capital in months to come, should call in and take a look!

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

**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**