

HIGHGATE NEWS

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November 2015



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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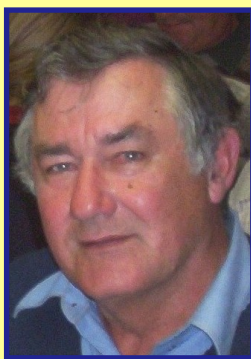
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MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 16th November 2015

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



GUEST SPEAKER: Roger Underwood

Roger is a professional forester and bushfire specialist: a graduate of Hale School, UWA and the Australian Forestry School. Roger's long, practical working life brought responsibilities for forest regeneration and bushfire control, including a nine year stint as General Manager of the then-Dept of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) with oversight of bushfire operations in State forests and national parks throughout WA. He has published numerous articles and papers on bushfire science and seven books. A man who REALLY know his subject!

For the Monthly LUNCHEON, PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by 1400 hrs Thursday - 12 November) 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

The October luncheon meeting was successful in every way. Good fellowship, high attendance, a memorable joke from Rev Sunny Kim, quality food - and an excellent presentation by the Guest Speaker: Dr Jenny Downs - an some enjoyable entertainment from Peter Harries and Ken Bladen.

Our Guest Speaker, Jenny Downs PhD - the daughter of our member Alan, gave us a significant insight as to the importance of data collection and analysis in the medical research of Rett Syndrome. This research is conducted by the Telethon Kids Institute (Child Disability Group). Peter Kennedy made a cameo role in the

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON: 16 November, 2015 (Committee meeting: 11.00am that day)



(Continued from p.1)

Presentation as a supporter of this organisation. You may recall earlier this year Peter sought sponsorship for the Telethon Kids Institute by entering a Charity Run. He has agreed to run again in 2016 so will be looking for sponsorship to enable this vital research to continue.

State Congress

In early October, Geoff Hourn, Ken Bladen and I attended the 100th RSLWA State Congress as your Delegates. This year the Congress was held in the recently refurbished Government House Ballroom, which proved an excellent venue. The Congress was very well attended with most sub-branches, interstate dignitaries, Federal and State politicians and DVA representatives being present.

The keynote address was delivered by the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer of RSL Australia: Mrs Samantha Jackman - the first woman to hold this position. Samantha spoke with passion, conviction and a vision to reform the RSL. She is aiming to ensure that the services provided to members are as relevant today as they were in the past.

At the Congress, all FIVE Motions previously approved by the Highgate Sub-Branch members were passed without amendment. Thanks are extended to Geoff Hourn and Ken Bladen for clearly and succinctly articulating supporting information to the Delegates present.

Next year, the 100th RSLWA State Congress will be held on the 17-18th June, 2016 - with the Centenary Ball as the highlight. Further information on this important occasion will be distributed closer to the event.

The Remembrance Day Service and Luncheon Future:

Many members consider this Memorial ceremony and Lunch at Fraser's the premium event of the Sub-Branch. Unfortunately, the numbers of members attending each year are reducing. Consequently, the continuing financial viability of the function is now being placed in jeopardy. As a result, I have requested Peter Farrell, the Immediate Past President, to review the Remembrance Day Luncheon to assess whether the current format is still appropriate for members. All members are requested to phone Peter on 9246 1367 with their constructive suggestions to improve the format or attendance at future luncheons.

Finally - a few reminders

The Remembrance Day Luncheon on Sunday 8th November, 2015:

- * Bookings closed 30 October.
- * Members are requested to assemble at 11.30am at the Court of Contemplation. Sub-Wardens will take their posts at 11.40am.
- * Lunch at Fraser's commences at 12.30pm. Please move directly there (Entry from the Car-Park side) for a welcome drink. Collect your Name Tag and proceed to your Table.

Poppy Day Collection:

- * If you can help with collection by rattling a tin on Wednesday 11th November 2015, please call Mike Harness on 9293 1076.

Next Luncheon is Monday 17 November.

- * Hope to see you there!

Yours in fellowship,

Steve Chamarette

Sub-Branch Snippets

Allan Downs can be justly proud of his daughter, physiotherapist researcher: **Jenny Downs PhD** - whose address and presentation as our Guest Speaker last month was outstanding.

President Steve (see column at left) is asking **ALL** members to phone **Peter Farrell** on **9246 1367**, for ideas as to whether we can **CONTINUE** our annual **Memorial Luncheons!** **WE NEED YOUR INPUT!**

AT-TENNnn - SHUN!!! Just a little Reminder for the Remembrance Day Lunch:

It could be a very HOT DAY, so we suggest:

- **HATS for the Gents**
- **HAT or PARASOL for Ladies**
- **Roll-on insect repellent against flies!**



TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner

A teenage boy had just passed his driving test and inquired of his father as to when they could discuss his use of the car.

His father said he'd make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study your Bible a little, and get your hair cut. Then we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer, and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, you've brought your grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm disappointed you haven't had your hair cut."

The boy said, "You know, Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair, and there's even strong evidence that Jesus had long hair."

"Hmmmnnn ..." said his Dad. "Did you also notice they all walked everywhere they went?"



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 8th November 2015 : 1125 for 1145hrs - Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Ceremony
 Wednesday 11th November 2015 : 1040 for 1100hrs - RSLWA Remembrance Day ceremony
 Wednesday 11th November 2015 : 1830 for 1850hrs - Venturers and Scouts WA
 Sunday 15th November 2015 : 1100 for 1130hrs - Perth Legacy
 Monday 23rd November 2015 : 1030 for 1100hrs - War Widows' Guild of Australia Inc

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Young Bob Elliot was the son of a WWI veteran, Fred Elliot, who'd enlisted with 28 Battalion, (later merged into the predominantly Western Australian 51st Battalion), but who'd been seriously wounded at Pozieres on the Western Front. So it was hardly surprising that this fresh-faced young lad - born and raised in South Perth - "answered the call" to do-his-bit in WW2. Bob had just turned 19 years when he arrived at Flinders Naval Base, south of Melbourne at the beginning of 1944, to commence training to be a Navy Signaller. Months of learning semaphore, Morse code, recognising a host of individual flags and timing his "dots-and-dashes" on an Aldis lamp followed, with Bob quickly becoming an accomplished "visual signaller" - or, to quote the naval slang: a "bunting-tosser".

Whilst awaiting a permanent "draft" (posting), he was sent to HMAS Penguin in Sydney where he was employed as an escort to the WRAN ambulance driver - "a job", he laments "that was too good to last!" And so it was that he found himself ordered to report to "NBCA" - without having the foggiest idea what or where this was. After quite a few days train journey, he arrived in Cairns (Nth Qld) - and was taken by truck into the scrub, where he found himself in the camp of the Naval Beach Commandos "A" Section. This was part of Beach Group "A" comprised of a battalion of pioneers, a few engineers and Sigs - predominantly Army. He learned that their role was to land on the beach in the first wave of an assault; then to communicate the Beach Master's directions as to where the following craft were to beach. This must have sounded quite an unnerving task when outlined to him!

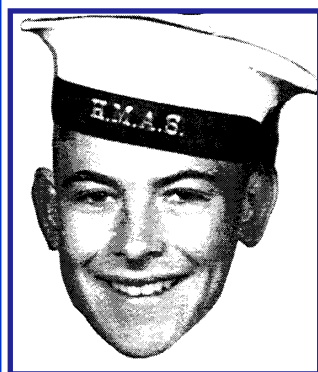
After a short period at Morotai in the Halmahera Islands, his unit took part in the Labuan Island, Brunei Bay North Borneo operation on 10th June, 1945. On completing these duties, the group was occupied as supply barge escorts for the British Borneo Civil Administration.

Immediately following cessation of hostilities on 15th August, 1945, Bob - together with fellow sig Richard Aitchison, was sent to Sandakan to set up a signal station. This was aborted when it became known that there were no surviving Allied POWs remaining there following the Death Marches. Instead, the pair were sent to Ambon where there were survivors of the Australian Gull Force (POWs) to be evacuated. He then went back to Morotai, where the RAN had commenced the handover of the naval base from the US. Bob remained there until his return to Australia in April, 1946.

However, he served on - joining HMAS Glenelg in Sydney and sailing to the Royal Navy base at Trincomalee on the East Coast of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka). Here he was tasked to crew a vessel LST 3501 (landing ship tanks) and bring it back to Sydney. Loaded with equipment bound for New Britain, this vessel developed major problems with its bow doors soon after entering the Coral Sea, and had to be escorted back to the Captain

Cook Dry Dock in Sydney. The time had come, after three years of service and adventures, for young Bob to find himself back in Leeuwin, Fremantle - ready for discharge and rarin' to resume his accountancy studies *by correspondence!*

Post-war Bob later became a Chartered Accountant. In 1954 he married Shirley (now dec'd) - saying he was her "Toy Boy": he was a day younger than her! They had three kids: Richard, Paula and Ross, who all remain close to their Dad. Bob's great hobby, to relax, has been woodwork and wood-carving. He is a Past President of Highgate; and for years has been a Hospital Visitor for us. A former "Saltie" who's a salt-of-the-earth-kinda-bloke!



LAST POST

Brig Doug Collins

Lest We Forget



“CONGRATULATIONS” to our HAG Lads!!

A lovely surprise lay in store for a group of our Honour Avenue stalwarts at the evening Reception at ANZAC House that preceded the recent RSL WA State Congress on 9th October.

Unbeknownst to them, the group of volunteers had been chosen as the inaugural worthy recipients of a newly founded RSL State Award: “The State President’s Award”. This honour recognised the valuable and wonderful work done by this group of volunteers in installing and maintaining the more than 1,600 plaques that commemorate the Fallen of Western Australia in King’s Park. The Fallen whose bodies never came home.

RSLWA State President, Graham Edwards, AO - founder of this Award, made a gracious speech, eloquently acknowledging and thanking each member of the group for the work they do. It was a “very special moment” for them all. All of us in Highgate similarly thank them for their quiet, ongoing work behind-the-scenes, and congratulate them on being so honoured! (NOTE: Alas, some members could not attend, and will receive their Certificates later.)



RSL National President: Admiral (Ret'd) Ken Doolan (far (L)) assisted State President: Graham Edwards (front) in presenting the Certificates: (L to R) Dick Jones, Helen Birch, Norm Manners (HAG Pres), Ken Jones (HAG Sec) John Homer, Mike Harness, Rod Halcombe.

THANKS to the “Tin Battler” VOLUNTEERS for **Poppy Day**

Poppy Day this year is **ON THE DAY** - ie: Wednesday, 11th November. Highgate will be collecting at TWO sites:

- The **Esplanade Bus and Rail Stations**, (as usual); and
- The **Roe Street Busport**.



DRESS: Jacket, tie, medals and head-dress.

Prime collection times are between 0630 - 0830hrs. Both locations will be manned from 0600 to 1030hrs.

Some members have already volunteered to Rattle-a-Tin. However, we need more. If you **can** volunteer, even for just 30 minutes, please do so: Mike Harness (9293 1076 or 0419 091 708). Nominate your preferred location and time slot - any period of 30 minutes or more is most appreciated.

Thanks to all who pitch in.

Mike Harness (Co-ord)



HIGHGATE'S 2014 REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON

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

**ASSEMBLE AT FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE AT 11.30am for Ceremony
to start at 11.45am SHARP - followed by LUNCHEON at FRASER'S
RESTAURANT (approx 1215 to 1500 hrs)**

Cost to Members (and their spouses/partners) - \$60 a head. (This includes all drinks).

Cost for Guests and Non-Members is higher - \$85 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 : 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 8th November); or phone Margot Harness (9293 1076).

Although it is "Open Seating" - Fraser's deals with a MAXIMUM of TEN per Table. If you have organised a TABLE FOR TEN people/friends - please "pay-in-advance" when making your Table Booking. Individual couples may STATE preferred seating companions when Booking, if you wish.



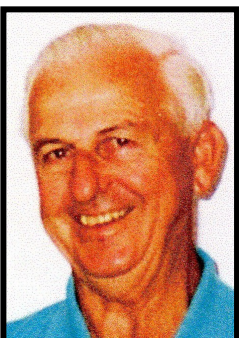
Post Cheques to: Treasurer RSL (WA) Highgate Sub-Branch
PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832

Name

Name of Spouse/Partner

Guest(s)

NOTE: Indicate if ANYONE has special dietary requirements



V A L E - Doug Collins

A number of members - especially former "Gunners" - will be saddened to learn of the recent death of Brigadier Douglas James Collins. One of three children, born in Taree (NSW), Doug Collins had to learn independence from an early age: his mother died when he was only 10; and his father passed away only six years later. He was still 16 when he "upped his age" to enlist in 1939 before the outbreak of WW2. In those days, field artillery was still horse-drawn. He quickly proved himself, and was commissioned as an Artillery Officer in late 1942. He never saw overseas service, but post WW2 pursued simultaneous successful careers in the Public Service - most notably in the sphere of Town Planning; and the CMF/Army Reserves, in which he attained the rank of Brigadier. Always widely liked and respected, he leaves a widow (Betty) and two sons. May he Rest In Peace.



Dear Secretary,

This year sees the 40th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. On Remembrance Sunday, 8 November, a special Vietnam Memorial Service is being held at St George's Cathedral in Perth. Sung by a choir of young voices from Perth College, the Service includes the Dedication of the Plaque to the WA Fallen of the Vietnam War which was formerly located in the crypt at the State War Memorial.

Newly restored and dedicated, the Plaque will be installed in the Cathedral, commemorating the Vietnam fallen alongside the fallen of the two world wars, and of other conflicts who are memorialised in the Cathedral.

There will be the opportunity to light candles and to lay rosemary or poppies before the Memorial during the course of the Service. A drinks Reception follows the Commemoration in Burt Memorial Hall, immediately adjacent to the Cathedral.

**40th Anniversary of the End of the Vietnam War
Remembrance Sunday 8 November 5pm
St George's Cathedral**

Should your organisation wish to reserve a number of seats for members, please contact the Cathedral Precentor (graeme.napier@perthcathedral.org) before Tuesday 4 November with numbers and please advise if any wheelchairs will be used.

Location and access

The Cathedral is on St George's Terrace between Pier St and Barrack St. It is about a 10 minute walk from Perth train station, and many buses also stop outside the Cathedral. Council House car park is directly across the Terrace from the Cathedral. There are also two Wilson car parks on Pier St: one between Wellington St and Murray St, the other between St George's Terrace and Hay St. Drop-off is possible at the front of the Cathedral itself, via Cathedral Avenue from the Terrace, though parking is not possible there. Cathedral Avenue provides wheelchair access to the Cathedral and lavatories in the Hall are fully accessible.

Dress

Smart, medals.

**RSLWA and St George's Cathedral warmly invite all
Veterans and their families to attend this very special service.**

Graham Edwards AM
State President

The Very Reverend Richard Pengelley
Dean of Perth

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**