

# HIGHGATE NEWS

Issue 557  
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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

Monday 21st December 2015

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

*Join in Our CHRISTMAS festivities!*



Our ever-smiling, merry member, "Doc" Peter Harries OAM PhD has once again agreed to bring his music, mayhem and mirth to us, in a spirit of rousing Christmas cheer! Peter has generated many a smile already at Highgate functions - singing, joking and "ad libbing" whilst accompanying himself (and others) on his faithful accordion. He has asked Kelly Green - his stage partner for many years, to come along too. Feel free to bring your wives along as well for this whizz-bang Yuletide fun and entertainment!!

For the Monthly LUNCHEON, PLEASE enter your name electronically on the BOOK-IN SHEET (by 1400 hrs Thursday - 17 December) 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

On Sunday, 8th November, our Sub-Branch enjoyed a wonderful Remembrance Day Service at the Flame of Remembrance at Kings Park followed by a luncheon at Fraser's. The service was conducted by Rev Tim Harrison and coordinated by Deputy Warden Geoff Simpson. Wreaths were laid by the Hon. Alannah MacTiernan MP and myself, on your behalf.

To Geoff and Bill Wilson who lead the Sub Wardens, a big "thank you" for your ongoing dedication and support in fulfilling this important community function - not only on our Sunday but throughout the year. Following a welcoming address by the outgoing State War Memorial Warden: Duncan Warren, Rev Tim Harrison gave a stirring address that proved to be very prophetic. (See FULL TEXT on back page). 12.

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

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



(Continued from p.1)

On moving to Fraser's Restaurant, members and partners were welcomed by a convivial atmosphere, fine food, service and fellowship. During the luncheon, Alannah and Duncan made short, well-received speeches. Later Geoff Simpson awarded medallions to Doug Farmer, Richard Adams and Phillip Skelton in recognition and appreciation of their service as Sub Wardens.

Special thanks were also expressed to the Bugler, David Scott and Roger and Annette Buddrige for the production of name tags and menus. Prior to closing our luncheon, Peter Harries and Peter Kennedy provided some impromptu entertainment, much to everyone's enjoyment. To all those who helped to make the day a success: "THANKS!"

At our regular November Luncheon, Mike Harness delivered a brief report on Poppy Day, which raised \$18,047.15 - a hearty "Well Done"

### Just WHO was "hob-nobbing" with WHOM??!



There was "our" Mick Coyle, part of the crowd outside St Georges Cathedral, when HRH Prince Charles spotted his "Airborne Forces" tie and made a bee-line for him! We've always known you stand out from the crowd Mick!! Well done!

to Mike and his teams. Adrian Young and Robert Campbell were presented with "Certificates of Appreciation" for the great job they've done as "Front Desk" men over the past year. New member, Peter Garside, has kindly offered to man the desk at future meetings.

We were fortunate to hear an informative address from our excellent Guest Speaker, noted Forester, Roger Underwood. His knowledge of bush fires and hazards is second to none. His analogy and explanation that bush fire readiness is similar to the principles of war resonated with those present. It was an outstanding talk.

Please remember that our last meeting for 2015 is the Christmas Luncheon on Monday, 21st December. Peter Harries and Kelly Green will be providing the entertainment, so we look forward to your attendance and fellowship. Remember, if it is hot, coats and ties are optional. Come and enjoy the day.

I take this opportunity, on behalf of the Sub-Branch Committee, to wish you and your families a joyful Christmas and healthy 2016!

Yours in fellowship, *Steve Chamarette*

### Sub-Branch Snippets ....

Wishing **Jack Suriano** a speedy and full recovery after his recent, unexpected spell in hospital. Hope to see you back amongst us very soon Jack!

### Poppy Day Result:

Esplanade/Busport :

\$10, 805.30

Roe St : \$7,241.85

**TOTAL \$18, 047.15**

**Well done ALL!! And THANKS!!**



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



A man went into a Birmingham supermarket and tried to buy half a cauliflower. The young greens-produce assistant told him that they sold only whole cauliflowers. The man persisted, and asked to see the manager, so the boy went to find him.

Walking into the stock room, the boy said to his manager, "Some idiot out there wants to buy half a cauliflower!"

As he finished his sentence, he turned to find the customer standing right behind him, so he added: "And this gentleman has kindly offered to buy the other half."

The manager approved the deal, and the man went on his way. Later the manager said to the boy: "I was impressed with the way you got yourself out of that situation earlier. We like people here who think on their feet. Where are you from, son?" "Cardiff, sir," the boy replied.

"Why did you leave Cardiff?" the manager asked.

The boy said, "Sir, there's nothing there but prostitutes and rugby players."

"Really?" said the manager. "My wife is from Cardiff."

"You're kidding?" replied the boy. "What position did she play?"



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES - Wreath Laying Services schedule N O Services currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park FOR DECEMBER

**Warmest "CONGRATULATIONS!" to our INDEFATIGABLE and much-respected RSLWA  
State President: GRAHAM EDWARDS AO  
on being recognised as 'WA SENIOR OF THE YEAR!!' Well done Graham!**

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

Long before he sent this photo of "Peter of Arabia" back home to his folks in South Perth, young Peter St John Kennedy had developed strong tastes for sport, adventure and FUN! Peter, born on 1st April, 1920 (but *nobody's* "April Fool"!), describes a pretty-much idyllic childhood, being the middle boy of five sons, in a warm, loving, sporting family. He used to catch the paddle steamer "Duchess" from Mends Street jetty to school at Christian Brothers College in Perth - a somewhat more exotic daily journey than most kids commuting to school today.

Even as the dark clouds of war began to gather in 1938, Peter joined the Militia (CMF) because it offered guns, horses and camps ... all grist-for-the-mill for a lad from the suburbs. His two older brothers (Dick and Ken) enlisted when war broke out, and Peter joined them in May 1940, all of them posted into 14 Battery of 2/7th Aust Field Regiment. They trained in Northam and sailed overseas in November 1942, seeing service in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, Egypt and Libya before Peter was wounded at El Alamein in July 1942. He still has the original Telegram sent to his parents advising of his wounding. Peter came home in February 1943 to do jungle training in North Queensland. A younger brother, Neil, joined them in the Tarakan Landing in 1945, with all four brothers safely home again and intact in late 1945.



Peter's love affair with travel started with his being chosen for the Australian Hockey team in 1948. As the years rolled by, Peter married and started a family. He ran several successful businesses in Perth, but ever a keen yachtsman, he crewed on Alan Bond's "Apollo" in the USA and Europe for two years, before taking his family to Europe for a year in 1971. Peter somehow stopped long enough here and there to pick up both French and Spanish. Returning with his family to Perth from overseas, he put his family on a ship for their voyage home, whilst he opted to drive alone from Spain to Eilat (in Southern Israel) to get the car he'd purchased back to Australia Duty Free! (Soooo ..... 'canny' as well!)

One of Peter's sons - also named "Peter", became a noted and respected ABC journalist and political commentator, and frequently covered the political news in our nightly Channel 2 bulletins. Having interviewed 14 separate State Premiers during his journalistic career, he published a book this year entitled: "Tales from Boom Town: WA Premiers from Brand to Barnett". Peter Kennedy Jnr was a popular Guest Speaker at our May Luncheon - clearly a chip-off-the-old-block!

Meanwhile, as Cruiser Captain of the South Perth Yacht Club, Peter Kennedy Snr created the inaugural Fremantle to Geraldton Yacht Race. He also navigated "Starfire of Perth" in the first Fremantle to Albany yacht race.

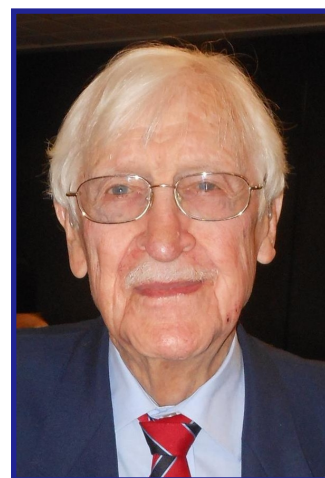
Peter's love affair with hockey endured until he had his 80th birthday - as he competed over the years in Veterans hockey at National and International levels. But never a bloke to sit on his hands, he then took up Veterans' Athletics. At the Australian Veterans' Championships in 2010 he won three events, setting new Australian records, and has 20 (yes - 20!) State records under his belt.



Peter is a staunch supporter of Telethon Kids, and most of us know that he ran several kilometres in the most recent "Fun Run Fundraiser" - at age 95, the oldest competitor.

He is now preparing to compete in the World Veteran Athletics Championships to be held in Perth 2016.

It's hard to pin down just what gives this feisty 95-year old such a perennial spring in his step - but methinks if he could bottle it and sell it - he'd be up and running with ANOTHER career and successful business!



### LAST POST

**Robert Airey   Jack Benski  
Lest We Forget**





## 2015 REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON in PICTURES .....



Key members of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch commence the 2015 Remembrance Day Memorial ceremony at the Flame of Remembrance, Kings Park on Sunday 8th Nov.

(L to R): Geoff Hourn (SVP), the Rev Tim Harrison (who delivered a speech as Celebrant), Brig (Rtd) Duncan Warren (Warden of the State War Memorial), Geoff Simpson (Deputy Warden) and our President: Steve Chamarette.

*(EDITOR'S Thanks to Roger Buddrige and Peter Harries for the photos!)*



Ever-faithful bugler: Cpl David Scott



The Hon Alannah MacTiernan, popular Member for Perth, made a moving speech, and later chatted informally at length to our four ex-VVW2 servicewomen guests (BELOW - L. To R): Sue Thomas, OAM, Cecile Hinton BEM, Eleanor Tafe and Barbara Clinton..







## .... And still more PICTURES ....



Rev Tim Harrison chats with Dr Patricia Kailis

(At RIGHT:  
Brig (Rtd) Duncan Warren,  
Retiring Warden of the State War Memorial during the past year, spoke to the assembled Members.

Duncan's replacement will be Peter King (of the DVA)



## HOORAY for our faithful "Sub-Wardens"! Deputy Warden, Geoff Simpson, OAM, presented Medallions to .....



Our treasure of a Treasurer: Richard Adams ...

Long-serving Deputy Warden predecessor:  
Phillip Skelton OAM - and



Sub Warden **and** HAG stalwart: Doug Farmer



Two "Peters" (Kennedy and Harries) leading the throng in song!



Harold and Lynn Durant, two of the many who enjoyed their top-class meal washed down with a refreshing glass of 'vino'. Former WW2 Commando, Harold, was President of Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch for many years.



## **A SERMON BY THE REVEREND TIM HARRISON** **ON THE OCCASION OF REMEMBRANCE DAY 2015**

My role in this simple service of remembrance is not to preach or harangue or lecture. My privilege is to share with you your personal search for meaning; what some of us call our pilgrimage of faith.

Particularly this morning, at this season of the year within this sacred plot, we are confronted by a quest for truth – the great paradox of war and peace.

We have an enigma - where the world, with all its potential for harmony and prosperity, is tearing itself apart. Today we have a world where no nation or city or village lives without its internal threats of violence or alerts for acts of terrorism.

Currently the risk assessment of Australia is 'High', indicating a terrorist attack is likely. That reality has perhaps been the inner prompting which has brought us together today; to honour men and women killed in war when we are far from 100% certain as to whether they have died in vain.

In our uncertainty, those of us who profess the Christian faith can turn to the experience and writing of the great evangelist Saint Paul. In his letter addressed to the citizens of Ephesus there is no uncertainty. Our earthly passage through life is made through a world in which the forces of good and light are in constant conflict with those of evil and darkness.

Caught up in that cross fire, we can triumph and maintain our integrity if we take upon ourselves the protection of good with the acceptance that our salvation and the well being of our soul has been promised and guaranteed. But that conviction has to be lived out by our actions.

Such words, such sentiment, may seem too woolly; too pious; in fact, too religious. And at the mention of that word '*religion*' our hackles rise and our prejudices come to the fore. Such reactions are well justified when one recalls how often religion has been the main spring of incredible horror and bloodshed. This is no more so in our own day and age when we witness the enmity between the Western World and the extreme factions of the Islamic faith.

But if religion is part of the problem then might it not also be part of the solution? Madeleine Albright, America's Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001, admitted that the greatest mistake when in office was not to take seriously the role of religion in international affairs.

Demonizing and being fearful of any faith, particularly that of Islam, is to make a mistake and displays a wishy-washy pagan philosophy. It is vital to understand that when encountering Muslim society we engage with a community which finds it unbelievable how a so called "*Christian world*" divorces it's secular structure from it's claimed spiritual beliefs.

The men and women we remember today did not die in vain. They contended with the evils of their times, bequeathing to us the peace and freedom we enjoy. But with that endowment is the unspoken obligation that we too will continue to strive for that ideal of a world in harmony.

Our battlefield will be different. But our foes of evil and darkness are the same. There will be financial and material costs of all kinds, together with modification of lifestyle. We will be required to change direction, but without jeopardising those precepts of justice and freedom held so dear by those whose sacrifice and death we give thanks for and honour today.

*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**