



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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GUNFIRE BREAKFAST - ANZAC Day: 25th April 2015

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

We will be very privileged to have TWO GUEST SPEAKERS:



Peter King : Deputy Commissioner of DVA WA - and current State Warden of the SWM. Many of our members are very grateful to the benefits they receive from the DVA, under Peter's stewardship.

A N D - supporting the launch of his Book: "Enduring Memories":

Xanana Gusmao : First President of independent East Timor.

Former teacher, militant guerilla leader and hero, prisoner of Indonesia for more than seven

years - Xanana Gusmao later returned to East Timor (now "Timor-Leste") and served as its first President from May 2002 to May 2007. He then became its fourth Prime Minister (2007-15). During the Indonesian occupation, from Dec 1975 to 1999, a third of the East Timorese population died, due to military action, disease and starvation. He has made his indelible mark in the history of Timor-Leste and our region.



For the **GUNFIRE BREAKFAST** (Monday - 25th April) PLEASE enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by 1400 hrs Thursday, 21st April) - using the web-site. Cost is \$35 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 the cursor to appear.

president's Report

We had a particularly interesting monthly meeting in March. We were addressed by a distinguished Forensic Scientist and specialist: Professor James Speers - now heading up this faculty at Curtin University.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

GUNFIRE BREAKFAST: 25 April, 2016 (NO Committee meeting that day)



(Continued from p.1)

James recounted how he had headed up the "Cold Case" review into the "Omagh bombing", in Northern Ireland that occurred in August, 1998.

The crucial breakthrough was initiated by a breathalyser test of a man called Sean Hoey, seven years later - which was found to match DNA taken from the Omagh bomb-site. Of great interest was a replica model of the bombs 'trigger' device - which was handed round for members to examine. This device is simple and effective and still being used by today's Terrorists. The talk was greatly enjoyed by our attentive audience - one could have heard a pin drop! ...

Unfortunately, this is the second occasion Highgate has had a topical and interesting guest speaker warning of the potential for disaster in the community. Late last year Roger Underwood warned that WA was totally unprepared to avert bush fires. This was shortly followed by death and destruction in the Esperance and Yarloop fires. Within the week of James's talk, the Belgian bomb attacks occurred. Don't refer to the Nostradamus Almanac, just turn up to Highgate's monthly luncheons to find out what may happen next!

There is no April meeting on Monday 18th, because of the ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast. Members may wish to arrange to meet informally with their usual table group on the 18th April. The catering at ANZAC House is excellent so if you intend to meet, give Matthew Holyday (the Manager) a call (9287 3714) to reserve a table for your group in the down stairs Dining Room.

Please note there is no cash taken at the door for the Gunfire Breakfast. Registration is **essential** and payment can be made by ETF **or** completing the proforma produced by Margot within this newsletter. Due to the earlier timings of the Anzac Day March, the Gunfire Breakfast will commence at 7:30am and will

conclude by 8:45 am.

Ken Bladen and Bob Arnold prepared SIX motions for the RSL Congress in June. All these motions were passed by the members at our March meeting. Details of these motions will be produced in the May newsletter for the information of all members.

I look forward to catching up with you at our traditional Gunfire ANZAC Day Breakfast.

Yours in fellowship, *Steve*

Sub-Branch Snippets

Ex-Navy man, **John Young**, has recently spent a spell in hospital, undergoing a couple of "ops". All members - not just the former "Tars", will be sending him warm wishes for a speedy recovery, and we look forward to you joining us for Luncheons again very soon John!!

Another stalwart who has been in hospital during this past month is **Doug Farmer**. Best wishes for a full recovery Doug - especially from all your HAG mates, who want you back on deck again as soon as you are able!

* * * * *

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE PART IN THE ANZAC DAY MARCH - but unable to do it on foot??

ANZAC House have advised that you CAN arrange to travel in Jeeps or Vehicles. The relevant "contacts" are:

Jeeps - contact Bob Wise - 0422 064 453

Vehicles - contact Cassandra Brennan - 0402 845 459

TO GET TO THE VEHICLE PICK UP POINT:

Bob Wise (Military Section, VVC(WA) - 0422 064 453 (Email: bob.wise@hotmail.com) is coordinating some buses from Langley Park to the vehicle assembly area. But seats are limited, and veterans must contact Bob ASAP to lodge a reservation.



TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner

A local radio station was interviewing an 80-year-old lady because she had just married for the fourth time. The interviewer asked her questions about her life, about what it felt like to be marrying again at age 80, and then about her new husband's occupation. "He's a funeral director," she answered.

"Hmnnnnn interesting," the newsman thought.

So he then asked her if she wouldn't mind telling him a little about her first three husbands and what they did for a living. She paused for a few moments, needing time to reflect on

all those years.

After a short time, a smile came to her face and she answered proudly, explaining that she had married her first husband, a banker, when she was in her early 20's; then a circus ringmaster when in her 40's; her third hubby - when in her 60s - was a preacher; and now, in her 80's, the funeral director.

The interviewer looked at her, quite astonished, and asked why she had married four men with such diverse careers. She smiled and patiently explained... "I married one for the money, two for the show, three to get ready, and four to go."



HIGHGATE'S 63rd ANNUAL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

Date: ANZAC Day, Monday 25 April 2016

Time: 0700 for 0730 hrs until 0900 hrs

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
28 St Georges Terrace, Perth

Cost: \$35 per person (to be paid by 18th April) - *includes Rum*
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 2016 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 63rd ANNUAL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST "PAYMENT SLIP"

Close-off date: 1400 hrs Thursday, 21st April 2016

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 (\$35 per person) to our Treasurer:

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

Name.....

Guests.....



LAST POST

Peter Smith

Lest We Forget



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

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

(NOTE For Sub-Wardens - ANZAC Day: Bus (only 9 passenger seats) 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 set-up; and march on at 0550 hrs).

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Leslie (Les) Robert Herbert, born in May 1945, lived in Maddington with three sisters plus Mum and Dad until 1966, completing his Primary education at Orange Grove, then it was off to Armadale High and Kent St High School - passing his Leaving Certificate in 1962. A keen sportsman, he did well in athletics and played Australian Rules football both at school and Maddington Football Club.

Les' early employment after leaving school was in banking: the Commercial Banking Co of Sydney (CBC Bank). He simultaneously undertook accountancy studies. In 1965, Les married - but this was also the time his number came up in "the Lottery-no-one-wanted-to-win": National Service! Although granted several deferments due to his accountancy studies, Les soon decided to just "GO". In July, 1966, with a new little daughter just two weeks old, Les left for Puckapunyal: 2RTB.

Within a couple of weeks he had been identified as "officer material" and sent to the Officer Training Unit (Scheyville - NSW), from where he graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in December 1966. 'Twas just after Christmas that he was whizzed off to the School of Artillery at North Head for a "Young Officers' Course"; and then posted as a Section Commander to 102 Battery, 12 Fd Regt RAA at Holsworthy NSW. Les remembers 1967 as a "year of courses" - undergoing many artillery exercises, a Unit Emplaning Officers' Course, Forward Observers' Course, Canungra Jungle Training (OF COURSE!) ALL were to prepare him for a posting to South Vietnam in December, 1967.

Les became a Section Commander in 106 Bty, 4 Fd Regt until its return to Australia in early 1968, when, still in SVN, he was sent, again as a Section Commander, to 108 Bty (still part of 4th Fd Regt). Apart from serving at several Fire Support Bases (FSBs) with these Batteries, he was seconded to a US Medium Gun Unit for a week; and for the duration of the TET Offensive in February, 1968, was a junior officer in ARTY TAC - which was the coordination of all things in the air: a very intense time. He was still in Vietnam when his original Regiment (12th Field) arrived, and he re-joined them, first to 104 Bty and then his "old original": 102 Bty. Les served in several more FSBs, including "Coral" and "Balmoral". He narrowly missed the famous action at FSB "Coral", but arrived in time to photograph the damage, particularly to the two guns that were put out of action. That was in May, 1968 - just before his 23rd birthday. He returned to Australia for discharge in July 1968, having just neatly completed his two-year "Nasho" commitment.

Back in Perth, Les - who had earlier met then-Major Don Rae in SVN - accepted his invitation to join his unit: 7 Bty 3 Fd Regt CMF), and he did so immediately. He became a full Lieutenant and served as Major Rae's Gun Position Officer (GPO). In about 1971, he was seconded to 2 Task Force to become Liaison Officer under Brigadier Doug Collins, which brought promotion to Captain.

Once back in "civvy street" Les re-joined the CBC Bank, but realised it was no longer for him, so - on achieving his Accountancy Diploma (and a later "Triennial Certificate") - made the move into Real Estate. Over the following two years, his career became very busy and quite demanding. He started a joint real estate and accounting practice in Bentley; established a Settlement Agency, and became a partner in a Building company. As years passed, he concentrated on his Real Estate agency, which he later moved to Kalamunda.



There have been other business interests along Les's way, and he has moved around Metro Perth over the years; but he continued working in real estate - always with his own licence, until his retirement in 2002. He has three adult children.

Second wife, Diane, is a mainstay member of Innaloo Bowling Club and both are loyal Eagles fans who also enjoy cruising and travel; and, in general - keeping active. Les is planning a trip to the Western Front with fellow-Highgate-mates: Peter Rowles and Ray Galliot. Always "on the go" - no "grass grows under the feet" of this man. Have a great time Les!

