

HIGHGATE NEWS

Issue 561

May 2016



Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia

President

Steve Chamarette

Tel: 9242 1865

sunridge@it.net.au

Vice President

Geoff Hourn

Email: ghourn@gmail.com

(Mob): 0414 063 707

Junior Vice President

Roger Buddrige

Tel: 9247 2333

Email: roger.buddrige@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Peter Farrell

Tel: 9246 1367 - 0458 720 022

Email: peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

Greg Wilson

4 Florian PI DUNCRAIG 6023

9448 8213

Email:

greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Richard Adams

PO Box 3551

PERTH WA 6832

Telephone: 9325 6387

Email: richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Editor

Margot Harness

Telephone: (H) 9293 1076

(M) 0438 936 405

Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions Officer

Margot Harness

Telephone: 9293 1076

Website

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 16th May 2016

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs



GUEST SPEAKER: Major General John Hartley. A graduate of the Royal Military College at the end of 1965, this young officer was posted to 5RAR as a Platoon Commander three months later. He served a second tour in 1970/71 with the AATTV. During these two deployments he was wounded three times, was twice Mentioned in Despatches, and awarded the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry. His topic will focus on the potential strategic implications involved with China's build-up of military installations in the South China Sea.

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

Our April meeting was the Gunfire Breakfast held on ANZAC Day and was attended by over one hundred members and guests. At the Breakfast, Highgate Sub Branch welcomed a Timor-Leste Delegation headed by the First President of Timor-Leste: His Excellency Xanana Gusmao Minister for Planning and Strategic Investment and Chief Negotiator for the Delimitation of Maritime Boundaries Government of Timor Leste. Xanana Gusmao was one of our Guest Speakers. The other Guest Speaker was Mr Peter King, Warden of the State War Memorial and Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs in WA. Both these Guest Speakers were most interesting and informative.

Continued P.2

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON: 16th May, 2016 (Committee meeting: 11.00am that day)

*(Continued from p.1)*

Also attending the Breakfast were a number of members of the 2nd/2nd Commando Association who were in attendance for the launch of the book: "Enduring Memories". This book is about Timor Leste's Resistance veterans and the 2015 Centenary of ANZAC Tour many of them made to Australia. Prefaced by His Excellency, Xanana Gusmao, with a Foreword written by Ken Doolan (Admiral Ret'd) - National President of the RSL, a limited number of free copies of this book will be free to many members who attend our May meeting. (As there are likely to be more members attending than books, a draw will be conducted to allot the lucky winners).

Due to health reasons (principally severe arthritis in her neck), our erudite, dynamic and enthusiastic Newsletter Editor, Margot Harness, has foreshadowed she will reluctantly have to resign her position in June. Margot has been an excellent editor and her journalistic writing style will be missed.

Consequently, we will be looking for a replacement for the JULY Newsletter. If you are willing to do this important Sub-Branch communication task or know of someone who could do the job, please contact any Committee member or Margot on 9293 1076. She will be happy to instruct any newcomer in the ways of the "Publisher" program, if they wish.

Ken Bladen and Bob Arnold spent considerable time and effort producing SIX Motions for the RSLWA State Congress in June. All these Motions were passed by members at our March meeting. For those who were not there - the Motions are reproduced more fully on p.4 of this newsletter. Our sincere thanks to Ken and Bob for their valuable input.

At the Monday Meeting, 16 May - we will have Maj Gen John Hartley talking about China. With China's increasing economic and military strength and its vital role in the Australian commodity and infrastructure ownership, I am sure the talk will be topical and interesting. I expect that the "Q&A" session to follow will be very insightful. This is a meeting you should attend!

Yours in Fellowship,

*Steve Chamarette***OBITUARY**

Some of you may have seen the moving Obituary and tribute to our late esteemed member, John Hately, in the "West Australian" on 28th April. Written by Rod Moran, it was a wonderful article. John was a former President of Highgate, and a Sub-Warden at the SWM for 12 years. May he Rest in Peace.

Sub-Branch Snippets

One of our members: **Bert Lane**, suffered a stroke some weeks ago, and is still in Fiona Stanley Hospital undergoing treatment and rehabilitation. If any of our members live over Murdoch way, do try to pop in It gets boring in hospital ... Bert would love you to pay him a visit.

Members of the **Honours Avenue Group** will conduct their second quarterly Dedication Ceremony of new plaques for 2016 at Kings Park (May Drive): 10am on Saturday, 14th May. **Thirteen** new plaques will be dedicated, in the presence of the relatives of those who died for our country, and have no grave or final resting place in Australia. Always a sombre, but uplifting, memorial ceremony. The HAG lads would love to see you there.

Beaut to see the impressive visage of **Mick Coyle** adorning the front page, (no less!) of the "West", taken at the SWM on ANZAC Day. He looked every inch "The very model of a model former RSM" (apologies to Gilbert and Sullivan) it has to be "The Handlebar Moustache!"

If you have a computer - be sure to regularly check out our web-site: www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Webmaster: **John Cleary**, does a wonderful job keeping it current and informative. - often including LINKS to other interesting web-sites relating to veterans.

TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner

Two Irishmen were sitting in a pub watching the Tour de France on TV. Seamus shakes his head and asks Mick: "Why the hell do they do that?"

"Do what?" Mick replies.

"Go on dem bikes for miles and miles ... up and down the hills, round the bends, racin' through the towns. Day after day, week after week - no matter if it's icy, rainin', snowin', hailin' ... why would they torture themselves like that?"

"It's all for the prestige and the money," says Mick. "You know the winner gets about a half a million Euros".

"Yeah, t'be sure - oi oonderstand that", says Seamus "But why do all the others do it?"



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Monday **9th May 2016** : 1030 for 1100 hrs - Australian American Association (WA Division) Battle of the Coral Sea
Sunday **22nd May 2016** : 1145 for 1215 hrs - Greek community - Battle of Crete
Wednesday **25th May 2016** : 0930 for 1000 hrs - DVA : Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony Committee
Monday **30th May 2016** : 1020 for 1050 hrs - North American Veterans' Unit - USA Memorial Day

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

Barry Campbell, born in Perth in 1938, was the son of a railway engine driver. His Mum had been a professional dress-maker and embroideress in a clothing factory, working with her two sisters, until she married. With the outbreak of WW2, Barry's Dad was keen to enlist, but was "man-powered" in his railway occupation - much to his disgust So eager was he to sign up that he tried **twice**, under different names! - but to no avail. Like many railway families, Barry spent his early years moving from town to town with his parents around WA. But he was only 11 years old and an only child, when his mother died from a brain tumour.

His Dad tried to raise him alone, but after a transfer to Salmon Gums, where there was no High School, Barry was placed with an Aunt in Kalgoorlie, where he attended Eastern Goldfields High School. He left to take up an apprenticeship as a Mechanical Fitter with the Railway Workshops in Midland. Barry had almost completed his apprenticeship when he got married.

It was also on the cusp of completing his Trade qualifications in 1958, that Barry was called up for National Service - just three months in those days. On his very first day, formed up in a squad with all the other "Nashos", one of the staff NCOs asked if anyone knew First Aid. Thinking someone needed help, our Baz raised his hand and called: "I'm a surf lifesaver!" "Right! Well, YOU'RE in the Medical Corps!" came the reply. And thus did Barry quickly learn that one must be wary of Army-style "volunteering"; and also thus - his Army career pathway had been decided for him! However - fortunately, Barry discovered that he liked Army life and the challenges it brought; so much so that he stayed in the CMF after his NS obligation had ceased.

Over the years he steadily advanced through the ranks in both the WA Railways and the Army. In the railways he eventually became the Mech Signals Inspector responsible for the correct operation of all Mechanical Signals in the whole state. In the Army, he rose to WO2 before being posted to OCTU (5 Trg Gp) as the course WO on No. 12 Course. Subsequently, he was promoted to WO1 and posted back to 7 Fd Ambulance as the CMF RSM. He was commissioned with the rank of Captain in January 1981.

Barry then returned to OCTU for four enjoyable years of training officers (Nos.16 and 18 Courses), meeting a cross-section of fine young men and women, many of whom went on to forge distinguished careers for themselves. His next post was as Quarter Master of 7 Fd Ambulance, where he spent a very satisfying four years; before being sent to WAUR, promoted to Major, and becoming OC Admin Company for three years. His final 18 months of service was spent back at 7 Fd Ambulance.

It was at this stage that he joined the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, and in 2004 he joined the Honour Avenue Group, working at Kings park one morning a week - something he thoroughly enjoys and finds rewarding. Even though he will celebrate his 78th birthday in June, he is fit and energetic - even more so with his two brand spanking new knees!! - and heads the HAG "field team": who physically install and maintain the plaques for that worthy Kings Park group.

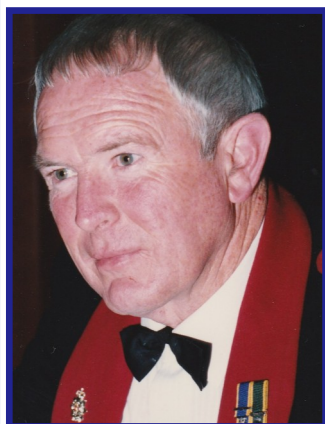
Barry is no longer married, but he has five children to whom he is close, and of whom he is very proud. He has travelled

widely through South East Asia, Japan, many Pacific nations, much of Europe and Russia - and one of his all-time best memories of all was being present at Gallipoli for ANZAC Day in 2002.

Along with travel, he is a keen reader, and is constantly repairing things for friends and keeping busy in his home metal-working workshop. They say: "Every Aussie bloke needs a shed" Barry!

Barry considers that he has had a very fortunate life - raising a wonderful family, working in an occupation that was varied and very rewarding, and making many friendships in his civilian and Army lives.

These things always "cut-both-ways" though - and there are many of your friends, pals and HAG mates who consider it fortuitous to have you on their team too Barry!



LAST POST



To ALL valiant members of Highgate over the years, who have gone to their final rest

Lest We Forget



This SPECIAL OCCASION is almost upon us ...



The RSL CENTENARY BALL

**Saturday 18 June, 6.00pm
CROWN CASINO PERTH**

MOTIONS for STATE CONGRESS

("Supporting statements" have been paraphrased due to space restrictions)

MOTION 1: That the RSL National Executive urge the Australian Government to use cyber, digital and all other technology available to it, to stop ISS targeting Australian civilians via the Internet. (Supporting statement: Based on Internet incitement and radicalisation of young Australian Muslims, emanating from the Middle East, which has provoked various acts of terrorism; and in the national interest).

MOTION 2: That the RSL, at both State and Federal levels, become much more pro-active with Public Relations communications generally, during 2016, than in past years. (Supporting view: In recent years, the RSL has been markedly reticent about commenting on aspects of our national life, which it should do, if it is to retain its place as a relative and contemporary national organisation leading other ESOs within the Australian community. Whilst active in ongoing commemorations etc, it needs to have a more vital profile in National commentary and dialogue).

MOTION 3: That the upper income thresholds for the Commonwealth Seniors' Health Card (CSHC) be immediately increased by \$10,000 to:

- a) \$62,273 for a single person; and
- b) \$93,636 for a couple; and

That they be indexed annually as per the Centrelink Age Pension.

(Supporting view: On 1 July 2001, the levels of CSHC were raised to \$50,000 (singles) and \$80,000 (couples) respectively. Save for one minor rise (3% and 1.5% respectively since), no other adjustments have occurred in that 15-year period. The \$10,000 sought would maintain a comparable degree of relativity with the existing Aged Pension rate(s)).

MOTION 4: That the hours of use of the State War Memorial (SWM) be restricted during the hot months of November to March inclusive so that Wreath Laying Ceremonies conducted during those months, with the exception of Remembrance Day: 11th November, are completed by 11am or commenced after 4pm. (Supporting statement: With the hot weather patterns in recent years, and the ageing of SWM Sub-Wardens - mainly provided by Highgate - restricting the timings to the cooler hours, for all practical purposes in the hot months makes commonsense; and would not cause hardship to user organisations).

MOTION 5: That the RSL Executive urge the Federal Government to differentiate terminology so that those veterans who have served in a war zone are known as 'War Veterans' and, that any compensatory pensions paid to such War Veterans for war-caused injuries remain tax free. (Supporting statement: The term "veteran" used to describe a returned serviceman/woman who had served overseas in a war zone. With new legislation introduced 1 July 2004, onwards, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has to consider a 'veteran' to be a member of the ADF. We seek to return to differentiating between 'veteran' and "War Veteran".)



This "GUNFIRE BREAKFAST" hit-the-target!



Some of the Highgate crowd who gathered for the Gunfire Breakfast

Highgate has enjoyed listening to many impressive Guest Speakers at its annual ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfasts over the years, but 2016 marked a very special difference! For the first time ever, we were addressed by a former Head of State: Xanana Gusmao - the first elected President of independent Timor-Leste (East Timor).

We were also privileged to be addressed by Peter King: the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs in WA - who has several brothers who served (one a Vietnam Veteran) - and who delivered a stirring tribute to all veterans of every era, who gave their best and often their lives. Peter King is the current State War-den of the State War Memorial in Perth.

His Excellency, Xanana Gusmao acknowledged the efforts of the 2/2nd Commandos (well-represented at the Breakfast by family descendants); and those of the 2/4th Ind Coy who came later, for their bravery and fortitude in East Timor during WW2. At one stage, 400 Australian commandos held off 10,000 Japanese for a year, greatly assisted by local Timorese. However after the Australians left, more than 60,000 Timorese were killed during the Japanese occupation in ruthless reprisals.



Our first Guest Speaker: Peter King, addressing members



RSLWA State President, Graham Edwards, introducing Xanana Gusmao



President of Highgate: Steve Chamarette, paying tribute to our guest: Former first President of East Timor: Xanana Gusmao.



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN,
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH**