



# 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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## MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 20th June 2016

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Perth Lord Mayor: Right Honourable **Lisa Scaffidi**.



Graduating from then-WAIT (now Curtin Uni) as a Dental Therapist, then becoming a TAA Air Hostess - Miss Scaffidi (nee Sanders) gravitated to the Hospitality field and world of Public Relations. She was the WA state director of the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA) for over ten years. She was elected to be Perth's first female Lord Mayor in the October 2007 council elections.

For the **Monthly LUNCHEON**, PLEASE enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by 1400 hrs Thursday - 16th June) 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

At our May meeting, the guest speaker, Major General John Hartley AO (Retd) gave members a discerning exposure and informative talk on the complexity of the Australian economic and military relationship with China. In an entertaining and forthright manner John's address covered the food, energy and social issues (the "one child" policy and growing income divide) facing China. John is the CEO and Director of "Future Directions International". I would recommend members visit the website: [www.futuredirections.org.au](http://www.futuredirections.org.au). This website has a number of eminent contributors writing succinct authoritative papers addressing important issues that will face the world in the future.

*Continued P.2*

## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**LUNCHEON: 20th June, 2016** (Committee meeting: 11.00am that day)

*(Continued from p.1)*

On a less palatable matter it has been brought to the Committee's attention that some members are not adhering to the RSL protocol with respect to the wearing of medals. It is the personal responsibility of all members to follow protocol. Medals issued to NOK are worn on the right breast. Reserved for the left breast are Australian government Campaign and Service Medals issued as a personal entitlement. Campaign and Service Medals issued to members by governments other than the Australian Government should also be worn on the left breast of the people who personally earned them. Members are requested to ensure this protocol is followed on all occasions when medals are worn.

The June guest speaker will be the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Lisa-M Scaffidi of the City of Perth. Lisa will be addressing members on her vision for Perth. No doubt all the contentious issues such as City boundaries, amalgamations, public transport accessibility, commercial and community housing mix, as well as the entertainment and recreational activities planned for our capital city will make this a meeting to attend.

**Save the date!** Thanks to Geoff Simpson and Peter Farrell's organisational abilities, Highgate will be holding its traditional Remembrance Day Service at the Flame of Remembrance followed by a luncheon at Fraser's Restaurant, on Monday 14 November, 2016. The cost of this all-inclusive function (food AND drinks/wines) will be \$80.00 per head for members, partners **and guests!** There will NOT be a November Luncheon Meeting in the Gallipoli Room - so ... Meet up with friends and their "better halves" on the 14th November instead. More details of our Remembrance Day Service and Luncheon will follow in later newsletters.

I would like to thank Geoff Hourn, who has worked tirelessly in producing excellent guest speakers throughout the past 12 months. Topics have been informative, controversial and interesting. Members are encouraged to invite

other members, friends and partners to our monthly Luncheon Meetings to enjoy a good meal, a laugh and listen to topical subjects from our Guest Speakers.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Margot Harness, our Newsletter Editor, who is stepping down after five diligent years of service as Editor. Fortunately, Roger Buddrige has volunteered to take on the role for us. Roger would welcome contributions from members. Any articles of military interest, photos, or information of military specific websites to visit, would be appreciated. Please email Roger Buddrige at [roger.buddrige@gmail.com](mailto:roger.buddrige@gmail.com) with your contributions.

Finally, the best way you can thank Geoff and Roger and the rest of the Committee is by your participation; by attending our luncheons; and making a periodic contribution to the Newsletter.

Yours in Fellowship,

*Steve Chamarette*

#### **Sub-Branch Snippets ....**

*A warm "Cheerio" to popular HAG "Honcho": **Norm Manners**, who isn't at all well at the moment.*

*Another greatly valued member who also is very unwell at the moment, is former State President and "He-who-leads-us" with singing our National Anthem: **Ken Bladen**.*

*And former Highgate President: **Martyn Thompson**, too, is battling health problems of a serious nature.*

**Know that you are all in our thoughts and prayers fellas. Your many friends CARE - and send their very best wishes.**



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

Sister Mary Katherine entered the Monastery of Silence. At her interview, the Abbott told her, 'Sister, this is a silent monastery. You are welcome here as long as you like, but you may not speak until I direct and permit you to do so.'

Sister Mary Katherine lived in the monastery for five years before the Abbott invited her to speak, saying: 'Sister Mary Katherine, you have been here for five years. You can now speak two words.'

Sister Mary Katherine said, 'Hard bed.' 'I'm sorry to hear that,' the Abbott said, 'We will get you a better bed.'

After another five years, Sister Mary Katherine was called forward by the Abbott. 'You may say another two words, if you wish, Sister Mary Katherine'. So she did. 'Cold food,' said Sister Mary Katherine; and the Abbott assured her that the food would be better in the future.

On her 15th anniversary at the monastery, the Abbott again called Sister Mary Katherine into his office. 'You may say two words today Sister'. 'I quit,' said Sister Mary Katherine.

'It's probably best', said the Abbott. 'You've done nothing but moan since you've been here.'



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Friday 17th June 2016 : 1530 for 1600 hrs - RSL WA State Congress

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

It was hard, looking through the *Resume* of **Geoff Hourn's** life and career, to decide just where to start - so varied and interesting has been his life. He has not only acquired a multitude of accomplishments; most of his jobs have imposed such a level of responsibility on his shoulders, that - had your erstwhile editor been in his shoes - she'd have often needed to reach for a Prozac (just a nibble!) - to keep going.

Currently our Sub-Branch's SVP, Geoff was born in Sydney. A keen young sportsman - he swam, sailed, rowed and played Rugby (at a senior level) - leaving school to join the Army. He was accepted into the Royal Military College where he excelled: being awarded the "Sword of Honour" at graduation for his exemplary conduct, leadership and outstanding performance throughout his time as an Officer Cadet, as well as other prizes.

As his Army career progressed, Geoff was posted to the Australian Intelligence Corps. He completed numerous courses in this specialist category - many to do with safeguarding national security and acquiring counter-terrorist expertise. He applied for, and was selected, to be a member of the SAS, as an Intelligence Officer, following rigorous and gruelling testing procedures. In this role, he was tasked with helping to develop a capable counter terrorist force, liaising with government departments at every level, working closely with law enforcement agencies and relevant organisations (in the UK and Europe as well as Australia) - developing strategies on all intelligence aspects.

Along the way, Geoff attended Queensland University as well as the Australian Command and Staff College. Some of his more senior postings included being appointed as a Senior Instructor at the Land Warfare Centre; and as a Company Commander and Senior Instructor at RMC (Duntroon) - totalling five years in those roles. But a more unusual posting was a two year exchange appointment in West Germany, commanding a Security Section of the British Intelligence and Security Group - the second largest in the Federal Republic. Its role was to maintain the security of NATO forces and families; and to investigate and counter hostile threats from espionage, sabotage and other subversive acts. A major proportion of the work involved investigating bombings, shootings and other acts of terrorism carried out by such groups as the IRA, the Irish National Liberation Army, the Bader Meinhof Gang, the Red Army Faction and other terrorist groups active in the UK and Europe during the latter 1980s.

Geoff became the Deputy Director of Military Intelligence (Canberra) holding that appointment during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He was responsible for the day-to-day management of the Directorate, but also provision of high-level advice and briefings to senior government and public service figures and national security bodies such as the Australian Federal Police, ASIO, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and so on. In 1989/1990, he became a Military Observer Team Leader for the United Nations of the Iran-Iraq conflict. A VERY interesting time.

He held the rank of Lieutenant Colonel when, in 1991, he resigned from the Army to take up an appointment as Executive Director Investigations: Australian Securities Commission (now known by the acronym: ASIC). This was just after the period known as the era of "WA Inc" - and the government recognised that the excesses of certain corporations and individuals had to be curbed, and not repeated! Geoff's job required overseeing the amalgamation of a number of bodies, recruiting and training a very large number of legal, accounting, stock-broking, and law enforcement professionals into multi-disciplinary teams. A **BIG** task! He then (1993/94) took on being Chairman (WA) of the "Serious White

Collar Crime Liaison Committee"; and then became an Investigator for the WA Ombudsman. Simultaneously he became the Services Member of the Veterans' Review Board (in WA): a part-time appointment he still holds.

Geoff has returned to Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan at various times over the past few years - being privately contracted to consult and oversee quite complicated United Nations projects; directed clean-up operations after earthquakes; and assisted with UN and UNICEF relief for thousands of refugees.

All of this scarcely scratches the surface of this quiet, modest man's history and achievements. Here's to one **very** capable Aussie bloke!



## LAST POST

**BRUCE GASTON DFC KEITH NORRISH MICK MICHAEL FRANK BRADY**

**Lest We Forget**





### “What’s Up Doc???”

He may have finally relinquished running his “Knight Klub” in Leederville, but there is no keeping our irrepressible “music man”, Peter Harries OAM from making music and mayhem and having a lot of fun at the same time! He just LOVES to entertain - be they young or old!

Peter was one of the many “Street artistes” who featured at the “Moondyne Joe” Festival in Toodyay during May.

The festival celebrated the legend of the Avon Valley’s famous bushranger - a lively re-enactment of the man’s various escapades: his robberies, arrests, mock trials, and escaping from custody. The locals (mainly) dressed in colonial-era costumes, and happily cheered on Joe’s gang of ‘floozy’, coppers, swaggies and the Town Crier.

Nice to see that a fella in his 80s can attract a trio of young fans. Well done Doctor Pete!!

### VALE

Highgate was very sorry to hear of the death in May of our long-term member, and a former Lord Mayor of Perth: **Mick Michael OAM**.

Mick enlisted in the RAAF in 1940 and served in Darwin and New Guinea on various aircraft and squadrons. Post-war, he was a councillor for the City of Perth for 15 years, and was Lord Mayor from 1982 to 1988.



**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**

### VALE

Sadly, we have also had to farewell another Highgate stalwart: **Keith Norrish OAM**.

Keith was a Cranbrook lad who served with the AIF 2/16th Inf Bn in the Middle East, where he was WIA Damour (Syria). He later served on the Kokoda Track, where he was wounded again, (at Brigade Hill) spending 3 months in hospital.

Keith’s survival was little short of miraculous. Caught by a burst of Japanese machine-gun fire, he owed his life to a small steel pocket mirror and a wad of 17 letters he’d received that morning from his future wife, Peg. He’d stuffed the lot into his left breast pocket just before the charge. When he ran into the machine gun burst, the mirror deflected eleven bullets in all - which struck him instead in the stomach (four), lung, pericardium and bicep muscles. Patched up with field dressings, he walked back down the “track” for six days to medical help, with only a caring “Fuzzy Wuzzy angel” accompanying him. His punctured lung kept filling with fluid.

In 1943 he was commissioned, and posted to 2/2 Bn Aitape (New Guinea). In 1952, he served with 3 Bn RAR in Korea.

Keith went on to spend years in the CMF and was a Life Member of the 2/16th Inf Bn Association. He served a remarkable 59 years as an active member of Legacy WA. A physically tough man, but a gentle and revered one too.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**



### VALE

And yet another valued member of our Sub-Branch is about to be laid to rest: **Bruce Gaston DFC**. Pre-war Bruce had been an outstanding champion swimmer and surfer with Cottesloe Surf Club, representing WA in State championships. Bruce was only 19 when he joined the RAAF in 1940. He



was sent to serve with RAF Coastal Command in the UK. In 1943, as Captain of a Liberator Bomber, he was credited with sinking German U-boat U266 in the North Atlantic - and a possible second sub as well. His official citation read “ .... on another occasion he encountered two JU-88s - an engagement that lasted for 45 minutes”. His final posting was less gruelling: he became a flying instructor at RAF OTU in Nassau and the Bahamas. Post-war he continued to tirelessly support the Cottesloe Surf Club; and was active in the RAAF Association.

**MAY HE REST IN PEACE**



## CONTRIBUTIONS FROM SOME OF OUR MEMBERS .... And a final word from your outgoing Editor .....

Roger Buddrige, who has kindly volunteered to take over as Editor of the Newsletter, has told me he will be **MOST GRATEFUL** to members who are happy to provide little snippets of information to him for inclusion. So - for those of you who'd remember the wonderful Dean Martin TV series all those years ago (so superior to the "reality" pap the channels dish up to us these days!), and might remember Dean's closing words each evening: "Keep those cards and letters comin' in folks .... my Jeannie and me get such a laugh! ...." PLEASE DO THE SAME! Roger wants to hear from you'all!!

Here are some "samples" of beautiful contributions that have come in over the past few weeks from some of our members - always "grist for an Editor's Mill", and providing snippets of news and inspiration that are most appreciated!

### **SOUND ADVICE** - from Mick COYLE

Never wait till it's too late  
To say a kindly word,  
To greet old friends, or make amends  
when quarrels have occurred.  
NEVER wait till it's too late,  
delay may bring regret,  
So make a Vow to do it now -  
don't WAIT and then Regret.

### **A Memoir: "YOU NEVER KNOW" by Phil Zeid**

Our august member, Phil Zeid OBE, was an RAF pilot during WW2, who transferred to gliders and served in the Burma campaign with the Combat Cargo Task Force. Post-war, he worked in Malaya, Indonesia and West Africa. As a Plantations Managing Director, he was awarded a KHS (Knight of the Holy Sepulchre) - a Catholic Order of Chivalry.

Now aged 93, Phil sent me an email, alerting me to the fact that he "at long last" has just published a "summary of my memoirs. It can be found on the Internet under: **"You Never Know", author: Phil Zeid.**" He hopes some members will take a look at it. He went on to add that it is a summary, as he was unsure how many years he had left to finish it and have it published!

### **The City of ALBURY turns on a great "Welcome" for the 50th Anniversary RAAOC Reunion!**



Bob Arnold - long-time member and Committee-member of Highgate - AND my predecessor as Editor **for eight years!** sent me this beautiful pic of RAAOC Vietnam veterans marching through Albury (NSW - on the Murray River), to celebrate their 50th Anniversary. Approx 400 veterans (including partners) attended - former units being 2 Advanced Ordnance Depot (2AOD), 1 Ordnance Field Park (IOFP) and 1 Composite Ordnance Platoon. A highlight was a visit to the Ordnance Centre and School at Bandiana and being shown over the various wings. The changes he noted from his days there were "awe-inspiring". "But" quoting Bob verbatim: "to cap it all was the address by the CO, a Lieutenant Colonel. We were all directed to a large grassed area and there to speak to us was a noticeably attractive young lady in neat casual civilian dress, with a baby on her hip. And, was she switched on! Most impressive, if only it had been the same "in my day". (Bob - I couldn't agree more! Glad to hear that you all had such a great Reunion. Editor)



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BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON ALANNAH MacTIERNAN,  
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH**