



Highgate Highlights

Official newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)

Congratulations – Bert and Norm awarded Order of Australia Medals

Warmest congratulations to members, Bert Lane and Norm Manners, recently awarded the Order of Australia Medal.

Albert William Lane was awarded the OAM in recognition of his service to the community; and Norman Gibson Manners was awarded an OAM for his service to veterans and their families.

President Steve Chamarette spoke to both members on the day of the announcement and on behalf of all Highgate RSL members, conveyed our delighted congratulations on their service to their communities and richly deserved honours recognition.

Should you wish to pass on your congratulations, Norm's telephone number is 9405 2421 and Bert can be reached at 9398 9814.

OBE Awards at July Luncheon

Join us for lunch on Monday 18 July, as we celebrate the birthdays of our members who have reached the Big Eight Ohhhh! Jack Suriano is bringing his cutlass (sans blood) for the official cake cutting ceremony.

To whet your appetite, here's a photo from the 2012 OBE Awards....



To make your luncheon booking, please enter your name electronically on the booking page via the website, (by 1400 Thursday 11 August. Go to our website home page at www.highgate-rsl.org.au and double-click HIGHGATE MONTHLY LUNCHEON below the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and you'll be transferred to the booking sheet page.

The booking sheet also lets you enter a 'P' in column three to indicate you are a permanent booking.

Electronic funds transfer details are on the spreadsheet.

For those without internet, please call any Committee Member to book in. Cost is \$30 per person.

Important dates & events | please diarise now

Sub-Branch Committee Meeting - 1100 | Mon 18 July 16

Monthly Luncheon | Gallipoli Room - 1130 for 1215 | Mon 18 July 16

Last Post | Lest We Forget

Past President Martyn Thompson RFD

We remember with deep sadness and affection our recently departed Member and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to Jill and family

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www.highgate-rsl.org.au

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From our President

June has been a busy and sad month for our members and Committee.

The sudden passing of our past President, Martyn Thompson, was a shock, especially as earlier that day, Martyn had an enjoyable lunch with Adrian Young, Howard Montague and Ray Ward. Rev Tim Harrison officiated at Martyn's funeral Service with more than 60 Highgate Members in attendance, reflecting his popularity and standing in our Sub-Branch. Geoff Simpson and the Sub Wardens officiated, along with Bugler David Scott and Don Blair (who gave a humorous eulogy). Thanks all for your contribution.

Martyn's family were grateful for Highgate RSL's attendance, as the Sub-Branch had played an important role in his life and were very appreciative for the fitting and dignified farewell afforded him.

On a more cheerful note, earlier this month two Highgate members, Norm Manners and Albert Lane, were awarded OAM's in the Queen's Birthday Honours List. On behalf of all Highgate members, please accept our congratulations. Both of you are very worthy recipients of the OAM award as the honour reflects your many years of contribution to the West Australian community and was well deserved.

The 100th Annual State Congress was attended by Geoff Hourn, Greg Wilson and me.

Following wreath laying services in King's Park, a State Congress reception was held at ANZAC House during which 11 Highgate members - Bill Wilson, Mick Coyle, Alan Downs, Ken Bladen, Don Blair, Greg Wilson, Phillip Skelton, Geoff Simpson, LCPL David Scott and Richard Adams received the State President's Award in recognition of their outstanding service.

Sincere congratulations to all of you, and it is genuinely pleasing to see your contribution to RSLWA being acknowledged.

This year's Congress was very informative and important as it marked the 100th Year of RSLWA.

It was opened by the Premier, Colin Barnett and excellent speakers followed. In addition to the politicians from both sides extending congratulations to the community contribution RSLWA has made to the State over that period, Congress was also addressed by National President Rod White, DVA Commissioner Mark Kelly and Defence Care CEO Robyn Collins.

All spoke about the challenges facing veterans and how they intend to work to achieve better outcomes.

The RSL Listening Post will be publishing pertinent information from Congress and I recommend you read the articles and raise any questions with Geoff Hourn, Greg Wilson or me.

More than 40 Highgate members and partners danced the night away to the excellent music of the Australian Army Band at the RSL Centenary Ball. A most memorable speech was given by Hon Dr Brendan Nelson AO, Director of the Australian War Memorial. Brendan delivered an inspiring and emotional address that received a standing ovation. Congratulations to outgoing State President Graham Edwards AM, RSL CEO Phil Orchard and all the RSLWA HQ staff who did a wonderful job in making the Ball such a memorable night. I suspect that none of us will be at the RSL Bicentennial Ball to see if it is better than this one.

Our June Guest speaker was Perth Lord Mayor, The Right Honourable Lisa Scaffidi, who gave a passionate and enthusiastic address with humour and candour. Questions from the floor made it obvious that all members appreciated her talk, especially her opinion on the cable car concept from Kings Park.

Our Remembrance Day Service and Luncheon will be on Monday 14 November 2016 in Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park, at a cost of \$80.00 per person. There will be tables of 10 so members are encouraged to group with fellow members, friends and family. Further information will be issued as we approach November.

Finally, at our next meeting on 18 July 2016, Highgate will conduct our traditional OBE celebrations. I urge all members to attend to help our Over 80's celebrate this happy milestone. Jack Suriano has volunteered to bring his cutlass (all blood removed) for the cake cutting. I look forward to catching up with you then. Yours in fellowship

Steve Chamarette

Comings and Goings

Peter Aspinall is new State President: The RSLWA Board has appointed Board member, Peter Aspinall, as State President from 01 July 2016. Outgoing State President, Graham Edwards OAM congratulated Peter on his appointment and offered full support. The first State President from regional WA, Peter is an immediate past President of the Albany RSL Sub-Branch, and has served on the Board since July 2008. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the position, having completed nearly 30 years of military service in a variety of regimental, staff and training postings.

Phil Orchard resigns: Phil Orchard, has resigned as RSL WA CEO and State Secretary, effective early September 2016, following completion of his five-year contract. The former Navy Commander acknowledged the ongoing support received from State President Graham Edwards and the Board of Directors throughout his tenure, and has no doubt his successor will continue to navigate the organisation forward and ensure the many projects generated by Graham and him come to fruition.

Margot's last joke

A police officer called the station on his radio:

"I have an interesting case here.

"An old lady shot her husband for stepping on the floor she just mopped."

"Have you arrested the woman?"

"Not yet. The floor's still wet."

Sub Warden Duties | July-August 2016

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial | Kings Park

- Sun 17** 0830 for 0900 Association of Serbian Chetnick Combatants
Sun 17 1130 for 1215 Greek Cypriot Community of WA
Wed 20 1015 for 1100 Rhodesian Services Assoc & South African Military Veterans Assoc
– Battle of Delville Wood - Flame
Wed 27 0930 for 1000 Korea Veterans Association - Flame
Sun 31 0950 for 1020 Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Assoc
Sun 31 1130 for 1200 United Macedonian Communities
Tue 09 0930 for 1000 HMAS Canberra - Shropshire Assoc

State President's Round Table Conference

G Geoff Hourn represented Highgate RSL at the recent State President's Round Table Conference in Bunbury and provided the following notes:

Retiring National President Ken Doolan reported:

- A draft paper on a new paradigm for health is circulating among State Branches for comment. One important aspect is for the Defence Department to automatically transfer medical documents to the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) at the conclusion of an individual's Australian Defence Force (ADF) service. A register of doctors familiar with ADF service conditions and considerations is also proposed. Compensation for accepted disabilities would continue, but trade-offs would be offered.
- DVA is investing \$49 million to update its computer systems and this is expected to benefit Veterans.
- A reverse onus on disability claims has been proposed and is being considered.
- It is intended to measure the national benefit of the RSL to Australia, in terms of advocacy hours and the value of service to Veteran's and the wider community provided by the RSL. Having this data should increase the amount of leverage the RSL can exert when dealing with Government.

State President Graham Edwards OAM reported:

- An offer of compensation has been made to the State Branch regarding the Menora Retirement Village. The amount offered was regarded as insufficient and rejected. However, receiving an initial offer is promising.
- The ANZAC House reconstruction project is progressing well. The new building will ensure the future financial viability of the Branch as well as provide modern office facilities and short stay accommodation for regional members.
- The proposed new State Branch Constitution still awaits acceptance of a new National Constitution. To expand membership, our proposed constitution includes a new definition for Affiliate Members.
- Recent Lotterywest cuts in funding will have dire consequences for the Branch as it currently costs the Branch about \$1 million each year to run ANZAC Day events.
- DVA continues to shrink in WA.

Sub Branch President input included:

- Nannup Sub-Branch held a special event on 01 July to commemorate the first death of a conscript.
- Collie Sub-Branch was required to submit details of public liability insurance for ANZAC Day to Local and State Government authorities. This has ramifications for future insurance premiums if Government authorities expect RSL to cover public liability.

Biodata | Your new editor

We all owe Margot a great debt for her unstinting work over many years in providing us with timely and accurate information via the monthly newsletter. Margot set a high standard and I'll be working hard to keep up her excellent work. From all of us, thank you, Margot.

I'm very keen to publicise our events and activities, and to this end, I welcome your contributions. You can contact me any time on 0408 900 126 or email roger.buddrige@gmail.com.

As background for members who may not know me well, I serve in the Australian Air Force Cadets (formerly AIRTC) since 2002, currently as staff officer in charge of national public affairs and communications, with the rank of squadron leader. We train young people aged 13-20 in leadership, and teach those who want to fly aircraft solo, from age 15 - yes, 15.

I've also had 35 years of service as a senior leader in Scouts Australia and Boys Brigade; and pro bono leadership for 13 years of a government-funded community group working hands-on with seriously disadvantaged youth to address juvenile crime.

An Australia Day award was given me for services to youth, plus a Scouts Australia long service decoration, Australian Air Force Cadets service awards, and an Officer Commanding commendation.

I was a member of the Naval, Military & Air Forces Club for a decade, on committee for most of the time, with two years as president.

Outside my volunteer work, I'm currently principal of a communications consultancy specialising in crisis and issues management training, media relations, public affairs and photography; following several decades as a communications manager in telecommunications, banking, tourism, mining and energy, and government.

My Father served in the British Army and I lost a tank-commander Uncle fighting Rommel in North Africa. Annette's parents both served in the Australian Army in WWII, with her Dad a Sapper in 2/6 Australian Field Company, Royal Australian Engineers helping fight the war in New Guinea and Borneo, including the battle of Balikpapan; and her Mother in Army Signals. More recently, our youngest son served in the Australian Army with frontline postings to East Timor, Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.

We're both honoured to serve Highgate RSL Sub-Branch and deeply appreciate the extraordinary service given to our nation by our members. - Roger Buddrige

Invitation to Veterans to attend: 75th Anniversary of Fall of Singapore at Ballarat Memorial

The 75th Anniversary of the Fall of Singapore will be commemorated with a national service on Wed 15 Feb 2017 at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial in Ballarat, Victoria.

The Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA) invites nominations from Australian Second World War Veterans of the Fall of Singapore to attend the 75th Anniversary Commemoration Program, to be held in Ballarat.

This includes Australian Veterans who served in the Malayan Campaign between 08 Dec 1941 and the Fall of Singapore on 15 Feb 1942, or in adjacent waters at approximately the same time.

Veterans wishing to attend need to nominate with DVA.

Nominees will be required to undergo medical assessment for fitness to travel, assessment of their military service, and if selected, will travel to Ballarat with one nominated personal carer.

DVA will organise the itinerary and travel program, including ground transport, air travel, accommodation and some meals. Veterans and carers will be away from home for about 3-4 days in mid-February 2017.

More information along with nomination and assessment forms can be found at: <http://rslwahq.org.au/News/75th-Anniversary-Fall-of-Singapore.aspx>

Please note: Veteran nominations must be received no later than 1700 AEST on Fri 26 August 2016.

From the web: Movies and photographs of significant military events

Just copy the coloured link into your Internet web browser and bring the past back to life:

Vietnam Veterans finally return home to Australia:

<https://youtu.be/FyJ-ih5kjEs>

From camping in front of the pyramids to late night storytelling: Incredible photographs of Australian troops during the First World War brought to life in colour by Melbourne art curator Dr Benjamin Thomas who spent years converting them from black and white images:

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-3443603/Incredible-colour-photographs-Australian-troops-World-War.html>

General Montgomery's one-page D-Day plan:

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/06/06/montgomerys-one-page-d-day-plan-revealed/>

Japanese Surrender Ceremony | General Douglas MacArthur | Tokyo Bay | Sep 1945:

http://www.youtube.com/watch_popup?v=vcnH_kF1zXc&feature=player_embedded%3E

Six months before Pearl Harbour, Henry Ford decided he could mass produce bombers just as he had done with cars, so he built the Willow Run assembly plant in Michigan and proved it, producing a B-24 every 55 minutes in the world's largest building at the time. Ford had his own pilots test them and there were no recalls:

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/iKlt6rNciTo?>

Music video 'Spirit of the Anzacs' featuring Lee Kernaghan, Guy Sebastian, Sheppard, Jon Stevens, Jessica Mauboy, Shannon Noll and Megan Washington: <https://www.youtube.com/embed/NfFFzFiiVYM?rel=0>

Roger's first jokes

For those of our generation who cannot comprehend why Facebook exists, I am trying to make friends outside Facebook, while applying the same principles: Every day, I walk down the street and tell passersby what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog, and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them the 'thumbs up' and tell them I like them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have four people following me: two police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

Overhead near the pool on the aft deck of a luxury cruise liner between sips of the cocktails:

"Darling. I'm tired of all these world cruises.

"Isn't there somewhere else we can go?"

Disclaimer

Please note source material may be edited to shorten the item, clarify or remove political content. Although normal tests for accuracy are undertaken, you should not rely on this material without carrying out your own validity checks. Opinions expressed in Highgate Highlights are not necessarily those of the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch. You are welcome to forward information of interest to your colleagues and friends, although we would appreciate acknowledgment of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch as its source.

Newsletter contributions are always welcome. Please send your material to the editor at roger.buddrige@gmail.com

RSL Centenary Ball | Crown Perth



Highgate RSL's dashing night out, with the ladies in all their finery, bristling handlebar moustaches on the gentlemen, cavalry swords tangling the legs, and perhaps 10 paces at dawn with pistols to address any slights that may have occurred during the evening...