



Highgate Highlights

Official newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)
www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Issue 566 | October 2016
ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

YOUR COMMITTEE

President

Steve Chamarette
0429 801 037 | 9242 1865
steve.chamarette@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer & Past President

Peter Farrell
0458 720 022 | 9246 1367
peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Senior Vice President

Geoff Hourn
0414 063 707 | ghourn@gmail.com

Junior Vice President & Editor

Roger Buddrige | 0408 900 126
roger.buddrige@gmail.com

Secretary

Greg Wilson
4 Florian Place Duncraig 6023
0412 095 201 | 9448 8213
greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions & Veterans Affairs

David MacLean
0418 917 982
davidmaclean@iinet.net.au

Web Manager

John Cleary | 0417 955 864
john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
0408 925 432 | 6380 1014
gsimpson001@optusnet.com.au

Membership Officer

Howard Montagu | 0417 956 621
howardmontagu@bigpond.com

Honours & Awards Sub-Committee

Bob Arnold | 0407 329 353
arnold353@bigpond.com

Kevin Graham | 0419 984 007
ktgraham@iinet.net.au

Hospitals & Welfare

Bruce Taylor | 0408 955 219
brucetaylor@yahoo.com

Honour Avenue Representative & Poppy Day Organiser

Mike Harness
0419 091 708 | 9293 1076
mharness@westnet.com.au

General Committee

Leon Griffiths
0439 033 399 | 9332 9039
leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Richard Adams

0411 737 723 | 9325 6387
richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Margot Harness

0438 936 405 | 9293 1076
margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Ian Petkoff

| 9275 9295
thepetkoffs@hotmail.com

Front Desk

Peter Garside & Jack Suriano

From our President

It is with great pleasure that I present the President's Report for 2016, and following the recent Annual General Meeting, thank you for re-electing me in the position for the coming year.

You will find a complete list of Committee members and their contact details on the front page of this newsletter. I congratulate each of you on your election and look forward to working productively with you all.

Our past year was tinged with sorrow at the loss of many good members who faded away. I think it fitting that I record their names, as all were great contributors to Highgate RSL Sub-Branch and we are poorer for their absence.

Sadly, this year, the Last Post sounded for Jim Monteath, Les Gordon, Eric Watts, Peter Hummerston, Ernst Baints, Doug Collins, Bob Airey, John Hately, Jack Benski, Peter Smith, Mick Michael, Keith Norrish, Frank Brady, Eric Watts, Bruce Gaston DFC, Keith Morris, Richard Savage, Ronald Rigg, Robert Naylor Smith OAM and Denis Connelly, as well as for three Past Presidents - Tom Horton, John Surridge and Martin Thompson. Again, thank you for your service. Lest We Forget

On a more cheerful note, I acknowledge and thank all the Committee for their ongoing support that ensures Highgate RSL Sub-Branch continues to deliver good meetings and functions. *(continued page 2)*

Guest Speakers | 17 October Luncheon

Our October speaker is David Stokes of John XXIII College who was a scholarship winner and participated in the ANZAC Tour to Borneo this year. He will be introduced by Ryan Rowland, founder of the Borneo Exhibition Group Scholarship Program.

A reminder that we have our Remembrance Day service and luncheon at Frasers in Kings Park from 11.30 on Mon 14 November, and there will be no guest speaker at the December Christmas Party lunch.

To book your lunch, 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

- 1100 | Mon **17 Oct** | Committee Meeting
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon **17 Oct** | October Luncheon
- 0600-1000 | Fri **11 Nov** | Poppy Day - CBD Volunteers needed, please
- 1000 | Sat **12 Nov** | 15 plaques dedication - Honour Avenue Group KP
- 1130 | Mon **14 Nov** | Remembrance Day Service & Luncheon Memorial Flame - State War Memorial Kings Park (\$80pp for lunch)
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon **19 Dec** | Christmas Luncheon

Last Post | Lest We Forget

Ronald Rigg | Keith Morris | Denis Connelly

We remember with deep sadness and affection our recently departed Members and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to their families



From our President *(continued from page 1)*

In particular, I acknowledge and thank on your behalf:

1. **Peter Farrell** - For his stewardship over the previous two years as President and his ongoing contribution as Immediate Past President. Peter negotiated the financial arrangements with our November Remembrance Day Luncheon function and he ensures our newsletter is posted to all those with no email address.

2. **Geoff Hourn** - For inviting and facilitating the excellent guest speakers we have been privileged to hear. I am sure those present would agree that the topics were relevant, informative, controversial and Interesting, but more importantly the speakers spoke with enthusiasm, humour and passion. Over the past year, we have enjoyed presentations from: Dr Jenny Downs (daughter of member **Alan Downs**); Roger Underwood; Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC; Professor James Speers; First President of Timor Leste, His Excellency Xanana Gusmao; Mr Peter King, Warden of the State War Memorial and Deputy Commissioner for Veterans' Affairs; Major General John Hartley AO; Perth Lord Mayor, The Right Honourable Lisa Scaffidi; and Bishop Kate Wilmot.

3. **Roger Buddrige** - For serving as Editor of our Highgate Highlights newsletter; investigating and recommending alternative meeting venues during the ANZAC House reconstruction; and for also providing us with an excellent photo record of our meetings and events.

4. Other Committee members who have strongly contributed include: **Margot Harness**, previous newsletter Editor and Pension and Welfare Officer; **Richard Adams**, who served for 12 years as Treasurer; Secretary **Greg Wilson**; Website Manager **John Cleary**; and **Robert Campbell** and **Peter Garside** who managed the front desk each month.

These members carry out a vital role in keeping Highgate members informed, maintaining records and attending to all the necessary administrative tasks that keep the Sub-Branch active and on track.

5. I also gratefully acknowledge **Mike Harness** for organising our annual Poppy Day collection. Last year, Mike and his Team collected over \$18,000, and this money is used by RSL HQ and Highgate Sub-Branch to assist past and current ADF members facing difficult times.

We are well-known for the four special activities we conduct each year, the success of which continue to rely on member participation and Committee organisation.

Firstly, our annual Remembrance Day Service on Mon 14 Nov at the Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park, with luncheon following at Frasers Restaurant: To **Geoff Simpson** and **Bill Wilson** who lead the Sub Wardens, a big thank you from us all for your ongoing dedication and support in fulfilling an important community function, not only on this occasion, but throughout the year. Following a welcoming address by outgoing State War Memorial Warden, **Duncan Warren**, **Reverend Tim Harrison** gave a stirring address, including a prophetic statement that unfolded a week later on the streets of Paris.

Secondly, our Christmas function: Warm thanks to **Peter Harries**, **Kelly Green** and **Peter Kennedy** for providing enjoyable entertainment to close 2015. State RSL President, **Graham Edwardes** also visited with best wishes for Christmas and 2016. Unfortunately, Graham resigned in June 2016 to spend more time with his family. After nearly 50 years of serving the community, we all wish Graham our very best, although having known him personally from our 7RAR service in Holsworthy and South Vietnam, I am sure he will continue to serve the community,

albeit at a reduced pace.

Thirdly, the Highgate ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast was the largest held in recent times: At the breakfast, Highgate Sub-Branch was honoured to welcome a Timor Leste Delegation headed by Xanana Gusmao, Minister for Planning and Strategic Investment in Timor Leste, and members of the 2/2 Commando Association who were in attendance for the book launch of *Enduring Memories*. Many members now own a copy due to the generosity of the publisher.

Finally, our OBN and OBE Luncheon in July: Sincere congratulations to **Eric James**, **Bill Ritchie**, and **Kevin Whiting** on joining the OBNs, while **Kevan Barret**, **Don Blair**, **Mick Coyle**, **Colin Hebbard**, **Ron Jager**, **Brian King**, **Barry Long**, **Noel Sivewright**, **Robin Slater** and **Ted Stevenson** joined the ranks of the OBEs. And in particular, we acknowledge with gratitude the considerable research by **Geoff Simpson** who also delivers each member's life story at the meeting, so we can more fully appreciate the amazing tales and great contribution each has made to our nation, both in service and civilian life.

It is also a great pleasure for me to report that several Highgate RSL members this year received recognition for their services to the community.

Norm Manners (Leader of the Honour Avenue Group) and **Albert Lane** (Australian National Flag Association) were awarded OAMs in the Queen's Birthday 2016 Honours List. Both members are very worthy recipients of the OAM award, which acknowledges many years of contribution to the WA community.

Doug Farmer, **Richard Adams** and **Phil Skelton** were awarded medallions in recognition and appreciation of their service as Sub Wardens at the State War Memorial; while **Adrian Young** and **Robert Campbell** were presented with Appreciation Certificates for their front desk management throughout the year.

At the Centenary State Congress cocktail reception held at ANZAC House, 11 Highgate members - **Bill Wilson**, **Mick Coyle**, **Alan Downs**,

Continued page 3

Disclaimer Please note Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove inappropriate content, and to clarify or shorten the item where needed. 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 RSL Highgate Sub-Branch. You are welcome to forward information of interest to your colleagues and friends, although we would appreciate acknowledgment as its source.

Sub Warden Duties | October-November 2016

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD | Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Sun 16 Oct 1030 for 1100 Republic of Azerbaijan
Sun 30 Oct 1230 for 1300 Consulate of Greece - OCHI Day
Mon 21 Nov 0930 for War Widow's Guild of Australia WA Inc



BIRTHDAYS

Highgate Members celebrating an October birthday include: Paul Brabazon, Roger Buddrige, Keith Chapman, Glenn Darlington, Margot Harness, Wendy Healy, Richard Hooper, Arthur Hutchinson, Ken Jones, John Lindsay, Howard Montagu, John Morriss, William Munro, Peter Rowles, Graeme Sherriff, Phillip Skelton, Robert Smyth OAM, Stanley Stewart, Jack Suriano, Ian Sutherland and Michael Sutherland MLA.

From our President *(continued from page 2)*

Ken Bladen, Don Blair, Greg Wilson, Phillip Skelton, Geoff Simpson, David Scott, and Richard Adams received the State President's Award in recognition of outstanding service.

On behalf of all Highgate members, please accept our sincere congratulations on your awards.

It is obvious that the past year has been very successful for Highgate Sub-Branch. Looking forward, as always, there are many challenges to overcome, and I am confident that Committee and you, our members, will continue to achieve great results.

Our immediate challenge is to encourage more members to support our monthly meetings and functions.

We have 204 financial members, but average meeting attendance is about 60 - less than one third of total membership. Of course, some members are ageing rapidly, become ill and frail, and are not always able to attend our monthly meetings and functions.

My message to all members therefore, is that when you do feel fit and healthy, please seize the day and join us - to enjoy a drink, a meal, a laugh, and to reminisce with fellow members. Lunch is provided at cost with the raffle money being our main source income to cover the presentation gift for the guest speaker, prizes and birthday gifts. Low attendance numbers directly reduce this income source and jeopardise our ability to deliver you good meetings.

As you are aware, ANZAC House was opened in 1981 by Highgate member, then Premier, the late Sir Charles Court. On 21 December 2016, ANZAC House doors will close for demolition and rebuilding. Our Christmas meeting is two days earlier, on Monday 19 December 2016 with all the usual Christmas fare. I urge you to attend to celebrate the forthcoming Christmas and New Year season as well as bid farewell to the Gallipoli Room, our home since the 1980s, as I am sure it holds many treasured fellowship memories for members.

With the closure and rebuilding of ANZAC House, we have examined many options for a venue that will see us through until it reopens in in 3-4 years time. These have narrowed to two nearby locations - the Mercure Hotel (directly opposite ANZAC House) and the Western Australian Club on the penthouse floor of 12 St Georges Terrace (directly opposite the Concert Hall). So that members can make the final choice of venue, we will hold our 20 February meeting in the Western Australian Club (\$30pp); and the 20 March meeting at the Mercure (\$40pp). At the March meeting, members will be asked to vote for their preferred venue until ANZAC House reopens.

In conclusion, may I thank all members for your support. It has been a great privilege to serve you as President this past year, and I look forward to an exciting and rewarding 2017 for us all.

Steve Chamarette

RSL WA Vice President dies unexpectedly

In a shock to the RSL WA staff and Board, Vice President Denis Connelly (76) unexpectedly passed away on 28 Sep. A former member of Highgate, he transferred to Applecross Sub-Branch in 2010 and became Acting President in April 2015; and played an integral role in developing the new City of Melville War Memorial. Born in 1940, Denis Patrick Connelly joined the RSL in 1968 and was a Vietnam Veteran who served in the RAAF from 1962 to 1968 in NSW, Victoria, the Northern Territory (Tindal) and WA. In 1967 he was posted to South Vietnam with the No 5 (Det.B) Airfield Construction Squadron (Phan Rang). Denis was elected to the RSL State Executive in Dec 2012 and served as Vice President three times. His contributions at ANZAC House were at many levels as a volunteer for more than 19 years, serving on numerous committees and in various positions. He was editor of The Listening Post for six years. Denis will be sadly missed.

RSL WA Military Antiques Roadshow

The Antiques Military Roadshow is from 10am - 4pm on Sunday 16 Oct 16 at ANZAC House.

Valuers John and David Burridge of John Burridge Military Antiques, with Wayne Gardiner assisting, will be on hand to assess your militaria.

Members of the Great War Living History Association will also be in attendance, dressed and kitted out in period uniforms. The ANZAC Club will be open for lunch and refreshments.

Please bring no more than two items per person, to give the experts time to see everyone.

This newsletter is printed as a service to the Veterans Community by the Office of Tim Hammond MP Federal Member for Perth

Be moved at the Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience

A free touring exhibition, the Spirit of ANZAC Centenary Experience, is coming to Western Australia. Highly experimental and with interactive technology employed throughout, the Experience features more than 200 artefacts from the Australian War Memorial that tell the story of Australia's involvement in the First World War, and all wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations to the present day. See it at:

- Perth Convention & Exhibition Centre | 29 Nov - 11 Dec
- Bunbury-Eaton Recreation Centre | 11-16 Jan
- Kalgoorlie - Goldfield Oasis | 30 Jan - 05 Feb

Find out more and book your preferred session at www.spiritofanzac.gov.au or telephone 1300 462 313

RSL DefenceCare up and running

RSL DefenceCare is a charity and not-for-profit organisation helping current and ex-serving members of the Australian Defence Force and their families in times of injury, illness and crisis.

It provides compassionate and understanding support as well as practical, holistic and immediate assistance, with three main services:

- Assistance with DVA claims
- Advocacy at Veterans' Review board, and
- Community support, including financial assistance and referral services.

The WA team is available on 9287 3799 and based at ANZAC House, but will move to temporary RSL State HQ at Level 3 - 66 St Georges Terrace by mid-October.

The team comprises two new staff and RSLWA's former State Welfare Officer, Rosalind Howat, who has worked at ANZAC House for seven years assisting veterans and their dependents. She has over 25 years' experience in community services in government and not-for-profit organisations.

Barry Chalk has been appointed State Manager, following six years with the Department of Veterans' Affairs and 28 years service in the Royal Australian Navy.

Morgana Ramsey served in the Royal Australian Navy for more than 10 years and later completed a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in English and Cultural Studies, as well as French language and culture.

Remembrance Day Service

Although we will be holding our own service from 1130 on Mon 14 November, the official Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial will take place at 11am on Friday 11 November. Minor road closures will occur at Fraser's Circle in Kings Park during this commemoration and this may affect vehicle and pedestrian access.

Australians observe one minute of silence at 11am on November 11 each year to remember those who died or suffered for Australia's cause in all wars and armed conflicts. It has been 98 years since the guns of the Western Front fell silent after years of continuous warfare.

New address RSL WA HQ from mid-October

Level 3 - 66 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA 6000
(Opposite Allendale Square and next to London Court)
Plenty of space for meetings (but no liquor licence)

Membership Cards mailout from Feb 2017 onwards

RSL WA membership cards will be mailed from February 2017 onwards. However, if a member requires a card prior to this, please contact Andrea Hunt RSL WA State Membership Officer, and she will arrange it for you.

Picnic on 23 Oct a part of Veterans' Health Week

Supported by the Women's Network, RSL WA will be holding a *Picnic in the Park* to celebrate Veterans' Health Week on Sunday 23 Oct from 10.30am to 12.30pm, outside Stickybeaks Café at 37 Kings Park Road in West Perth.

All RSL members and their families are invited to this family-friendly event, with children's activities including face painting, balloon twisting, garden games, colouring-in and music. Please bring your own picnic and to register your attendance, contact RSL WA on 9287 3799 or rsllwahq@iinet.net.au.

Honour Avenue Group arranging dedication of 15 plaques on Sat 12 Nov in Kings Park

Fifteen Honour Avenue plaques will be dedicated at a ceremony in Kings Park at 10am on Sat 12 November.

Organised by our esteemed Honour Avenue Group, the service will take place at May Circle, May Drive in Kings Park. Everyone is welcome to attend this important and emotional event as loved ones and friends honour the memory of a family member who made the supreme sacrifice for us all.

Dedication ceremonies are held four times a year, with the criteria for approval being the person must be listed on the State War Memorial in Kings Park; have died overseas on active service and is buried overseas or has no known grave; and must have enlisted in Western Australia. There are currently more than 1,600 plaques along Honour Avenues in Kings Park.



Members of the Highgate RSL's Honour Avenue Group in Kings Park