



HIGHGATE NEWS

Issue 559
March 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 21st March 2016

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER: Associate Professor James Speers



This month's Speaker is a very Senior Forensic Scientist with extensive expertise and experience in the field of forensic investigations into criminal and terrorist offences in Northern Ireland. He has conducted training in forensics internationally, and was recently appointed to Murdoch Uni to develop various degree programmes at all levels, in this important field of science. Those who enjoy such TV programmes as "Bones" and "Silent Witness" will enjoy this address!

For the **Monthly LUNCHEON**, PLEASE enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by 1400 hrs Thursday - 17th March) 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 February Meeting address by Major General Michael Jeffery AC, CVO, MC was greatly appreciated by those who attended. The General gave a very informative and interesting talk on incidents that occurred in the numerous positions he has held.

His talk was interspersed with a lot of humour. At question time, his answers were candid and delivered in a cordial manner. Thanks must go to Geoff Hourn who worked hard to secure the General's attendance as a Guest Speaker and to Ken Bladen, who gave an excellent Vote of Thanks.

Continued P.2

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON: 21st March, 2016 (Committee meeting: 11.00am that day)



(Continued from p.1)

Geoff Hourn is continuing to invite notable guest speakers. At the March Luncheon we will have the good fortune to be addressed by the distinguished Forensic Scientist: Professor James Speers - now of Murdoch University.

Also at the March Meeting, Ken Bladen will explain the "Motions" that Highgate has prepared - and is proposing to submit - at the WA State Congress in June. These need to be formally presented at Sub-Branch level before they can proceed further. A majority of members present will need to vote in the affirmative for each Motion before it is forwarded to RSL State Headquarters.

As ever, we need to be 'budget-conscious', and to assist the Committee in reducing our costs and admin overheads, we request all members assist by:

1. As postage is now \$1 per Newsletter and takes longer for delivery, you are requested to accept the Newsletter via email. For those without computer access, there is still the "snail mail" option, which will continue to be used.

2. Secondly, the Committee has decided that only written Apologies will be read at the meetings. This means you need to place your name under "Apologies" on the electronic Monthly Luncheon Booking spreadsheet; or have a friend notify Peter Garside or Bob Campbell at the desk when they pay their Luncheon and Raffle money.

Yours in Fellowship, *Steve Chamarette*

Sub-Branch Snippets

Members of the **Honours Avenue Group** gathered at Kings Park on Saturday, 13th February, for their first quarterly "Dedication Ceremony" for 2016. Eleven new plaques were 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.

A REMINDER that next month it will be ANZAC Day and time again for our Gunfire Breakfast. Details (cost/venue etc) will be published in the APRIL issue of "Highgate News".

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.

Several Tables have already been booked by Highgate members for the forthcoming **RSL Centenary Ball on 18th June**. But we understand that places ARE still readily available. Take a look at our very own Poster on Page 4 for further details. For a lovely venue, meal, drinks, music and entertainment, it represents good value.



REMINDER: Annual Subs to the RSL became due at the start of the year. Members pay \$40 to the State Branch (at ANZAC House) - of which \$15.00 is then remitted to Highgate. Many thanks!

TEE-HEEs and Fiddle-Dee-Dees Corner

with a wee Irish "twist" - given it's St Patrick's month



1. Father Murphy ran out of petrol while driving down a country lane. He had no spare petrol can, no bottles of any kind; he didn't know what to do. Scratching around in the boot of his car, he finally found a little kiddies' potty which he had kept from a family outing. It would have to do. So he walked to the nearest garage and had the potty filled with petrol.

Getting back to the car he was pouring it into the tank when a passing motorist shouted out: "Hey, Father! You've got more faith than I have!"

2. Mick Danaher was admitted to hospital and the next morning he heard a knock on the door. Danaher said: "Come in." In came a woman who said: "I'm your doctor and I need to examine you. Please take your clothes off." "Do you mean that I have to take off ALL my clothes?" asked Mick. "That's exactly what I mean," said she.

So he took off all his clothes and she examined him - nose, throat, ears, stomach, thighs, feet - and listened to his chest. When she had finished her examination, she said: "Now you can get back into bed. Do you have any questions?" Danaher said: "Why did you knock?"

3. SIGN IN IRISH CHAPEL: "We regret that the box marked "FOR THE SICK" must be reserved henceforth for money contributions only".



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 20th March 2016 : 1130 for 1200hrs - Consulate of Greece

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

So vast was the British Empire during the early 20th Century that it was said: "The sun never sets..." on it. And many an interesting - and intrepid - Britisher helped establish those many Colonial outposts. Our member, Cecil Walkley, could easily lay claim to being a "child-of-the-Empire" from that era - as he lived in many of the lands that were coloured **RED** on maps of the world in those days - and, as can be seen: made-his-mark!

Cecil was born in India in April, 1929, to an army family: his father being the RSM of a military hospital. His father, like the three previous generations before him, enlisted. He was a boy soldier in the 1/8th King's Liverpool Regiment, later one of 1200 Britons who supported the Japanese Army against the Germans in 1914; before service in the Balkans and at Gallipoli where he was awarded an MSM.

His Dad had been stationed in Egypt for two years when WW2 broke out and the family was evacuated to South Africa in 1940. - where Cecil attended Durban High School and joined the cadet corps in the Transvaal. The family was repatriated to the UK in early 1944 - with Cecil working as a cabin boy for 14 weeks on the troopship - coming under air attack as the ship made its way through the Mediterranean. Quite an experience for a 15-year-old lad.

He must have been a bright young chap though, receiving a Kitchener Medical Services Scholarship post-war, that enabled him to study Natural Sciences and Zoology at Downing College Cambridge for three years; succeeded by a period of clinical medicine at Westminster Hospital, London. 1948 was an extraordinary year for him, as he was also selected to join an exchange group of 30 Air Training Corps cadets touring Eastern Canada for three weeks, as in addition to his undergraduate studies he had broken two Sussex County Junior Athletic track records; plus winning the Eastbourne Junior Tennis Singles Championship. This love of athletics and running brought him into the hallowed echelons of top, world-class British athletes.

Although primarily a "3-miler" (5000m) runner, Cecil had to transfer to the "one-mile" to obtain his full Uni Blue because he was often 'pipped' at the post by the famous Chris Brasher. In 1952 he beat off American, French and Scandinavian challengers to take out the London University 3-mile race, breaking the record. Roger Bannister approached him and Chris Chataway in May 1953, to assist him to break the "four-minute mile" at a meet in Oxford, but due to headwinds, only ran the 800 yards instead. Cecil and Roger Bannister later undertook their oral examinations in Medicine (Surgery) on the same day.

Somehow, amidst all that dedicated athletic training, Cecil's medical career steadily progressed (he ended up a Physician), and he was drawn to military service. His first posting was the 23rd Parachute Field Ambulance in Cyprus, and then Port Said before transferring to the Kings African Rifles, where he cared for Jomo Kenyatta, among others, on the Ethiopian border for six months. Whilst with the KAR, he encountered Idi Amin every year, as he attended promotion courses. He was also, in 1959, seconded to Paramount Film Corporation for six weeks to establish a medical facility during the making of the film "Hatari", and got to know the actor: John Wayne. By now married, Cecil's attractive wife, "Rusty", was "stand-in" to the film's female star: Elsa Martinelli. Cecil attained Major rank, and helped form the first KAR Medical Company of 120 Askari. He also spent three weeks at the top of Mt Kilimanjaro in late 1961, preparing for Tanganyika Independence Day. It goes without saying that he also administered and managed the KAR and Kenyan National Athletic teams for several years.

Cecil and Rusty migrated to WA in 1962, where he practised as a Doctor (later as a Rehabilitation Specialist) and became an RAAMC Reservist. Sadly, Rusty died several years ago.

Having resumed his running in 1989, he won his age group in the 1994 World Masters 5000 metres in Brisbane, and was invited to run the one mile for Oxford and Cambridge against Harvard and Yale in June 1995. Cecil eventually beat both Brasher and Chataway in the one-mile invitation race at Oxford in that meet (see photo at left) - which must have been a moment of deservedly justified exhilaration for him - looking at that broad smile!

"I'm still running" he says - "though v-e-r-y slowly now"! Who would ever guess, looking at him, that this fit bloke is in his 87th year?!

Oh And his other great interest is philately (stamp-collecting). Yep - he's a Fellow of the Royal Philately Society of London! Dr Cecil Walkley - what a life you've lived!



LAST POST

Andrew Trunkfield

Lest We Forget

Be part of this SPECIAL OCCASION



The RSL CENTENARY BALL

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

**Early Bird payment until 31 March : \$150
per head**

Tables of 10 are \$1500



**To make a booking or Register a
Table please call ANZAC House
on 9287 3799**

**Let's celebrate 100
years since the RSL was formed.
Try to get a table together of
Sub-Branch mates, wives, partners,
and really HAVE A BALL!!**





Proving that “he’s STILL got it!”



You can call your Editor “Miss Marple”! Trawling through some historic photos of the English “golden era” of middle-distance athletes on the Internet, she spotted this one and recognised “our” Cecil Walkley!

It was taken at the Masters Athletics meet in Perth, April 2014, when our Cecil had already reached his 85th birthday milestone.

Along with the pic were some notes, recording some of Cecil’s past athletic achievements, and quoting an English newspaper at the time, which had described the 1950 athletics “clash” between US Ivy League Universities: Harvard and Cornell, against the best of Cambridge and Oxford. Chris Brasher and Cecil Walkley were the ‘reps’ for the two latter universities.

One note read: “Chris and Cecil conspired between them for Cecil to pace and wear out the US with Chris, having a slightly stronger finish, winning the race. It worked. Chris first (14m 36s), Cecil second (14m 44.4s). The papers reported: ““Competitors and the 15,000 crowd, with thunderous applause, voted Walkley, the Cambridge three-miler, top sportsman in a grand match. Walkley didn’t win, but with England losing by 4-2, and scrambling for vital points, he sacrificed all hope of personal triumph to back Brasher’s victory bid. ... it was a triumph of strategic manoeuvre and team spirit, translated into track action.”

(Editor’s Note): Modest Cecil refrained from passing this on to me himself!

A GATHERING OF EX-WRAAC “GIRLS” RE-UNITE ON THE CORPS’ 65th ANNIVERSARY

Approximately 365 former and current Army women converged on Canberra over the 12th -15th February, to celebrate 65 years of post-WW2 service. It was a marvellous celebration of fun and laughter - a nostalgic time for renewing old friendships and “camaraderie”.

Although women were enlisted into all three services during WW2, these were disbanded at its conclusion. By 1951 however, their worth had been realised, and the government decision was made to “re-boot” their enlistment once again. The Women’s Royal Australian Army Corps was formed, led by Colonel Kathleen Best, OBE, RRC - its first Director.

Most were utilised by the Army as clerks, drivers, cooks, in administrative roles or in Signals; but over the years, more diverse job opportunities arose. In 1985, the “WRAAC” as a separate entity was disbanded, and female soldiers henceforth served in the Army across a range of occupations, pretty much alongside the men. At the celebratory Dinner, “the girls” were addressed by the first female Major General, Liz Cosson, AM, CSC; and Brigadier Jane Spalding AM (an explosives expert!).

The photo above shows WRAAC Cadets of the 16/67 Officer Cadet Course marching through the distinctive gates of the “WRAAC School” (completely run by women), back in 1967. Designed by Colonel Best, the gates are now at the Royal Military College, Duntroon. Most of this group remain friends today and attended the Reunion.



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