

Registered  
Publication  
PP60269/0033



Issue 461  
March 2007

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

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## President's Report

### GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch will commemorate its 54th Annual Gun-fire Breakfast this ANZAC Day at the WA Club.

It is one of the highlights of our year and always proves to be a popular event. For this reason, I urge you to get your request for a reservation in early as the room will hold only 110 persons. Full details will follow with the requisite return slip.

**This year, instead of a guest speaker, your committee will endeavour to coax some of our members up onto their feet to reveal where and what they did on an ANZAC Day sometime between 1940 and 1945. These memories will obviously range over many countries and under various conditions as we will try and draw members from the three services.**

***If you have a story, which you believe will entertain then simply phone our Junior Vice President, Roger Tingley, on 9586 8271.***

Remember this day replaces the normal monthly luncheon.

### DEDICATION SERVICE

In preparing remembrance plaques for the Honour Avenues of Kings Park, our group of volunteers frequently find it disturbing working on plaques representing the deaths of brothers in action. There were the three Scullin boys, from Kalgoorlie, killed in France in 1916-17 aged 25, 23 and 22, two on the same day in the same battle.

Then the Gillam brothers dying together on Gallipoli on the same day and the Hurlston boys aged 23 and 24. We cannot help but dwell upon the anguish and the deep sadness that must have been felt by their mothers, who had to bear the heavy sorrow of losing not one but two or three sons in such a short space in time.

On Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2007 ten new plaques will be dedicated in Marri Walk, Kings Park, in front of relatives and friends. Amongst these plaques will be the three Dorizzi boys.



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All members of the 2/4<sup>th</sup> Machine Gun Battalion they died on the infamous death march of 1945 at Segindai, Sandakan and Ranau.

Rose Danze, who attended a previous dedication service for a relative lost in time of war, felt moved to pen the following poem, which we have read out in subsequent services. Entitled "He was an Ordinary Fellow" it captures the spirit of ANZAC and so is fitting for this time of the year when we focus on the deeds of so many ordinary Australians who did not hesitate to answer their country's call.

### **"He was an Ordinary Fellow"**

He was an ordinary fellow  
Who answered the call  
To fight for King and country  
And offer up his all  
He was an ordinary soldier  
When Gallipoli's slope he climbed  
Alongside other soldiers  
Their courage so sublime

He was still an ordinary soldier  
When he fought in Flanders Fields  
Earning for himself some medals  
For a proud heart, some little shields  
He's never worn his medals  
Bravely earned in that far land.  
He'd never see his friends again  
Nor see his land of birth.  
No more an ordinary soldier  
He's a hero in our eyes  
An extraordinary fellow  
Now remembered by us all.

I look forward to seeing you at our luncheon on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of March. Meanwhile I wish you good health.

*Norman Manners*

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### **HIGHGATE NEWS -VIA EMAIL**

A feature of exposing ones "knowledge" to the multitude is that you will soon be informed when you are wrong. But, the good thing about this is that you are continually learning, and having once read that studying new things is a proven way of staving off mental deterioration: I say thanks to those who introduced me to the wonders of *PDF*, of which I now almost have a handle.

To cut short that which you now probably think is becoming a tedious story: **you don't need *Publisher* to receive the newsletter by email, *PDF* does it all.**

If you would like to receive the newsletter via the electronic highway would you please advise me of your email address. For those who have already done so, thank you, you are on file.

*Editor.*



## COMING EVENTS

**This Months Luncheon :** Monday 19 March 2007

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room

**Time:** 11.30 hrs Fellowship, 12.15 Luncheon

**Guest Speaker:** (Provisional) The Honourable Justice Len Roberts-Smith RSD Judge Advocate General, Court of Appeal Supreme Court of W.A.

**Topic:** Current Developments in Military Discipline and Law

**Committee:** 2 April 2007

**Luncheon:** NB. There is no regular luncheon in April—Gunfire Breakfast takes precedence.

## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 25 March 2007—11.45 hrs for 12.00 hrs—Consulate of Greece

Saturday 31 March 2007—09.30 hrs for 09.45 hrs—Royal Australian Air Force Association.

Sunday 8 April 2007—10.45 hrs for 11.00 hrs—RNZ Navy Reunion ( To be confirmed)

## ARMY MUSEUM



(Leopard MBT)

Tankies and all those who love tracked AFV's will be excited to learn that the museum now has a Centurion tank and an M113 APC which saw service in South Vietnam.

And, as this newsletter goes to print, we are also able to advise that a Leopard tank is on its way to the Museum and probably will be ensconced by the time that your euphoria dies down, after having read this notice.

## PENSION OFFICERS REPORT

The next annual State RSL Congress will be convened about next July. The Congress will discuss and act upon items of business such as Finance Reports, Committee Reports and Notices of Motion from RSL Sub Branch delegates from throughout the State. As usual, Highgate will field five delegates to the Congress and again, we will have plenty to say.

This is the ideal venue for our members to put forward ideas with a view to effecting change within the organization. The method of doing this is for you to put forward Notices of Motion to your Highgate Committee. If acceptable to the Committee, the Notices are then forwarded to State Branch for eventual Congress debate and vote. Successful Notices of Motion are then presented by State Branch to the annual National Congress for debate and action.

In order for Highgate to act on your behalf, we need to have input from you on issues which you think are pertinent. These may be on such subjects as DVA compensation, pensions or issues of social significance which you feel should be raised.

I would like to ask you to put your thinking caps on and contact myself or the editor of our Newsletter, Bob Arnold, in order to discuss your issues or proposals so that they can be formulated and presented to the Congress. In order to meet a pretty tight time frame, we need to have your input by the end of March if possible. This allows your Committee to consider the proposals and then forward them in due course to State Branch for inclusion in the Congress Agenda. Hope to hear from you soon.

Cheers from Jim Eayrs



### LAST POST

Hugh M Alexander

Lest We Forget



**IN MEMORY OF  
ORIEL "GEORGE" RAMSAY  
1921–2007**

On behalf of everyone from **Hollywood Private Hospital** who knew George Ramsay, the hospital executive would like to offer their sincere condolences to his family and friends.

After serving in the Navy for nearly seven years, George became known to Hollywood back in 1986, when he was appointed an Official Hospital Visitor to ex-service men and women – a role he dedicated himself to for over 25 years. It was particularly poignant when George read *The Ode* at many of the hospital's Remembrance Day ceremonies.

George was an excellent dancer, and he and his wife of 62 years, Edna, made an impressive duo on the dance floor. This was indeed evident at Hollywood's Annual Veterans' Tea Dance, an event George took great pleasure in attending every year since it began.

More recently, George proudly participated in Hollywood Private Hospital's re-branding campaign "Amazing". His friendly, smiling face and devotion to Hollywood made him the perfect choice to represent the hospital's veteran community.

By all accounts, George was a selfless man who went through life serving others - a true and gallant gentleman. He was a devoted husband and a loving father and will be remembered as a modest and genuine man with a great sense of humour.

It was obvious that George Ramsay had a special connection with Hollywood Private Hospital and therefore it was a natural place for his last post.

**May he Rest in Peace.**

