



Issue 454  
November 2007

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

**MONTHLY LUNCHEON**  
Monday 19th November 2007

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room  
**Time:** 1130 hrs—Fellowship, 1215 hrs—Luncheon  
**Guest Speaker:** Jo Harrison-Ward, CEO, Fire & Emergency Services Authority (FESA) of WA.  
Jo joined the WA public service as an Emergency Services Advisor in 1993 and moved to a senior executive position in FESA in 1998 where, with the exception of two one year absences firstly as Director of the department of Local Government & Local Development and later, after a Churchill Fellowship, as Executive Director of the WA Police Service, returned to FESA in 2006 as its CEO

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Firstly let me acknowledge the good work carried out by Norm Manners as President of Highgate over the last 20 Months and as Chairman of the Honour Avenues Group (HAG). His first and foremost duty is to ensure the continued operation of this group as they continue the dedication of new plaques and the continued maintenance of existing plaques. Honour Avenue are always looking for more support in their programmes at Kings Park.

**Financially Speaking**

We are in relatively good shape in the terms of finances and with the income expected from Subscriptions in the next couple of months will be in good stead for 2008. On the subject of finances I want to thank the treasurer for his good work in this and to keep up the good work into the future.

**Ladies Dining Night - Cancelled**

There was no option but to cancel the Ladies Dining Night for November as we had insufficient acceptances. We now have a Ladies Luncheon pencilled in for either April or May next year.

**Poppy Day**

By the time you receive this Poppy Day will be upon us. We certainly have

*Continued on Page 2*

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**Committee:** 3rd December 2007  
**Monthly Luncheon:** 17th December 2007

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(Continued from page 1)

had an upsurge in collectors this year which was sorely needed. There is an expectation that we will pass last years total and good luck to all in collecting.

### New Committee Members

It was great of Bob Bunney to volunteer to take over the reins as Secretary I am sure he will appreciate the terms and condition of his appointment. It is also good to be able to acknowledge two other volunteers in Leon Griffiths who is taking on the role of Cadet Liaison and Laurie Palmer who becomes a Member of the Committee.

Lastly, thank you for your confidence in having me back.

Regards  
Ian

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At the AGM

Tim Welsh — Alf Till — Bill Wilson

### A Mother and Three Sons in the 1st AIF

**D**uring 1915 the AIF Administrative HQ was located in Cairo.

Following the move of 1 ANZAC Corps under its GOC Lieutenant General Birdwood to France in March 1916 the Admin HQ was moved into 130 Horseferry Road London under the command of Brigadier Victor Selheim, With the expansion of the AIF to five divisions a need arose to increase the administrative staff at AIF HQ and Selheim agreed to employ more local staff.

In May 1916 the Pay Corps personnel arrived at Horseferry Road HQ

On 1 August 1916 Brigadier Robert Anderson was appointed Commandant AIF Administrative HQ to replace Selheim who returned to Australia.

Brigadier Anderson had a solid business and accounting background and on taking command he initiated a review of every aspect of the overall administrative procedures.

He also overhauled the AIF pay system and ordered that every soldier's pay book be audited in the presence of the soldier and that they be issued with a new paybook.

This was a major undertaking which increased the workload of the pay Corps and the civilian staff.

#### The Mother:

To assist in this huge workload more civilian women staff were employed and by the end of August these totalled 200 plus. Supervision had now become a problem and the Chief Pay master employed an Australian, Mrs Teresa Mehan as Lady Supervisor-Pay Corps. Teresa was a 44 year old divorcee from Sydney, who had three sons serving in the AIF

Teresa had arrived in London in July 1916 because she had been aware that her sons were either in France or going to France and wished to be close to her boys. By September 1918 the AIF had 1248 local women employed at Horseferry Road.



*Handsome? is as Handsome does.*

Both have and are doing handsomely.

Outgoing President, Norm Manners handing the gavel over to the Incoming President, Ian Mulholland at the AGM on 15 October 2007.



The Editor - (Temporary Acting Secretary) is much relieved as the New Secretary Bob Bunney, is welcomed on board by the outgoing President, Norm Manners



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday	11 November 2007 — 1000 hrs for 1100 hrs — Remembrance Day
Thursday	22 November 2007 — 1140 hrs for 1200 hrs — Perth Legacy
Monday	26 November 2007 — 1045 hrs for 1100 hrs — War Widows Guild

(Continued from page 2)

Teresa Mehan who by early 1918 had been promoted to Lady Superintendent Finance-AIF HQ was the highest ranked civilian staff member in the AIF in London.

2131 women served with the 1st AIF.

Mrs Mehan was awarded a Mentioned in Despatches, gazetted in the London Times on 4 September 1918, for meritorious service to the Australian Imperial Force.

Three days later on 7 September Teresa received a telegram from AIF HQ advising that her youngest Lt Alfred (Paddy) Mehan MM, 5th Field Artillery Brigade 2nd Division had died of wounds at Peronne on 2 September 1918. Paddy had just turned 21.

A heartbroken Teresa stayed on at AIF HQ until October 1920, after which she returned to Australia.

She later returned to London to live with her middle son Dodd who after AIF service, decided to stay in England to pursue an acting career.

Dodd went to try his luck in Hollywood in 1931, and along with Teresa they stayed in New York on their way to California. Teresa died in New York in 1931 aged 59.

### **The Three Sons:**

#### The Oldest Son

Lieutenant Jack Mehan MC 5th Field Artillery Brigade 2nd Division.

Born 1890, grew up in Townsville, joined the Queensland Railway in 1911 and by 1915 was an assistant surveyor.

Along with his younger brother Alfred joined the AIF on 24 September 1915.

He arrived in Egypt in December 1915 and was sent to France in April 1916

He was awarded the Military Cross at Villers Bretenoux on 6 August 1918 for bravery under fire.

He returned to Australia in 1919 and took on a soldier settlement orchard and farm in Queensland.

On the outbreak of WW11 Jack was reactivated as a Captain and served with the VDC in Adelaide.

#### The Middle Son

Lieutenant Dodd Mehan MC 56th Battalion 14th Infantry Brigade 5th Division

Born 1892, grew up in Townsville and in 1913 went to Sydney to pursue a career as a journalist.

Soon after war was declared in August 1914 Australia raised and dispatched the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) to secure German New Guinea. The force was comprised of an infantry battalion under the command of Colonel J Legge. Dodd joined this force on 16 August 1914 and was allocated to E Company 1st Tropical Battalion.

He was returned to Australia on 14 October 1915 and on 27 October 1915 joined the AIF

He rose through the ranks to S/Sgt and in January 1917 was promoted to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

Whilst serving as a platoon commander at the Battle of Polygon Wood Belgium he was awarded the Military Cross for bravery in action when leading numerous attacks between 26 September 1917 and 1 October 1917. From February 1918 to August 1918 Dodd served with the 14th Training Battalion in England before returning to 56th Battalion in France where he served until the end of the war.

Following discharge he stayed in England to pursue an acting career.

#### The Youngest Son.

Lieutenant Alfred Mehan MM 5th Field Artillery Brigade 2nd Division.

Alfred (Paddy) Mehan was born in 1897 in Townsville. Along with Jack he joined the AIF on 24 September 1915 aged 18.

While in action, on 8 October 1917 with 15th Battery 5 FAB at Broodenside, Sergeant Alfred Mehan was awarded the Military Medal for bravery in action.

Early in the morning on 2 September 1918 whilst taking part in the 2nd Division attack on Peronne in the Somme Valley the now Lieutenant Alfred Mehan was mortally wounded by an artillery shell explosion and died from a massive stomach wound.

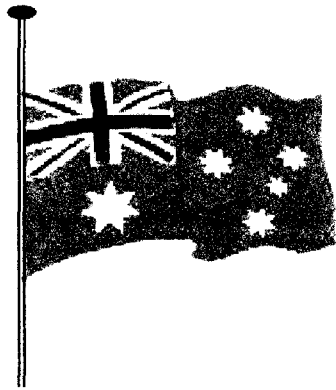
— THE MEEHAN FAMILY SERVED AUSTRALIA WELL —

### THE WEARY DUNLOP STORY.

**A Reminder** - the Senior Vice President, Roger Tingley will have copies of the DVD, (detailed in the October issue of the Highgate News), for sale at the November Luncheon, at the price of \$24.95.



**LAST POST**  
Kevin H McGrath  
**Lest We Forget**



## REMEMBRANCE DAY AT HOLLYWOOD

**A**s we approach the 79<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the armistice to mark the end of the “war to end all wars” it is appropriate to reflect upon the ex-service men and women of Australia and the ongoing sacrifices they have made to guarantee our way of life and our freedom.

Although there are no longer any veterans of “the great war” alive in Western Australia, Hollywood Private Hospital still sees many of the thousands of World War 2 Veterans as well as Veterans of the Korea War, the Vietnam War, the Malayan Emergency, Gulf War 1 and 2, the “War on Terror”, and the many peacekeeping missions, both past and current.

Hollywood Private Hospital started life as a military hospital in 1942. After being run as a Repatriation Hospital for many years, it was privatised in 1994. Under an agreement with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs, Hollywood has continued to be the principal provider of inpatient hospital services for veterans in Western Australia.

Over the past 12 months Hollywood has provided over 10,000 inpatient services for Veterans and over 5,000 day case services for Veterans.

The majority of our Veterans are now wearied by their age and the deprivations of their youth. On Remembrance Day (11/11/07) it is right that the free world stops for a moment to reflect upon their sacrifice and to express our gratitude for our freedom and way of life.

Hollywood holds a small Remembrance Day ceremony in the main foyer of the hospital to commemorate this important event in the veteran’s calendar. Patients and visitors of the hospital are more than welcome to attend and are also invited to stay afterwards for morning tea.