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

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**MONTHLY LUNCHEON**

**Monday 19 May 2008**

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room

**Time:** 1130 hrs — Fellowship, 1215 hrs — Luncheon



**Guest Speaker:** Commander Simon Ottaviano, RAN. Simon was born in Perth and educated at Guildford Grammar School. He graduated from the Australian Defence Force Academy in 1988 with a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Management. In 1997 he was posted to Maritime Headquarters as Staff Officer Logistic Plans, with the rank of Lieutenant Commander during which time he was responsible for the logistics planning for the RAN involvement in East Timor (OP WARDEN). In December 2000 Lt Comd Ottaviano was posted as the Supply Officer to HMAS Manoora which

included a stint in peace monitoring in the Solomon Islands, transportation of unauthorised boat arrivals and maritime interception operations in the Persian Gulf.

From February to September 2006 Commander Ottaviano was posted to the Australian Headquarters (Joint Task Force 633) Baghdad Iraq as the Principal Staff Officer responsible for Logistics, Personnel, Movements and Health for all ADF units deployed in the Middle East.

His awards include a Commander Australian Theatre's Commendation and the United States Meritorious Medal.

He is married with two daughters.

**Topic:** A Naval Officer's experience in Baghdad.

**Following Commander Ottaviano's presentation, Highgate Member Commodore Bob Trotter will give a brief overview and update on HMAS Sydney**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**ANZAC Day - Gunfire Breakfast**

The Gunfire Breakfast was a resounding success and we have had most positive feedback from members.

83 Members and guests sat to a Gunfire Breakfast in the Dining Room at the

*(Continued on page 2)*

**FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

**Committee:** 9th June 2008

**Luncheon: (Please note change of date) 23rd June 2008**



**THE NEXT IN THE SERIES OF  
GETTING TO KNOW YOUR SUB-BRANCH COMMITTEE**



**Brigadier Ernest Laurence (Laurie) Palmer  
AO (Rtd)**

**B**orn Perth WA 6 Oct 1923; Married Perth August 1946; Wife Rosa; 3 Children, 6 Grand Children, 1 Great Grand-child.

Educated Carlisle Primary School and Perth Boys School.

Graduate Army Command and Staff College and the Joint Services Staff College.

Fellow Australian Institute of Management (by invitation).

Certificate of Supervision Industrial Management Perth Technical College.

Prior to joining the Army in Jan 42 was employed as Junior Assistant Storeman Dept of Army Midland Junction having commenced work as a Messenger with the then PMG at the age of 14 years.

Served in the AIF 42-47 Overseas service in SWPA (PNG) 44/45. Held all ranks except WO1, before graduating from OCTU as Lt in 1944.

Joined the Interim Army in July 47 and the ARA in Aug 52. Held a wide variety of Corps and Staff appointments in the ranks of Lt through to Brigadier. Appointed Director-General of Supply (Army) and Head of the RAAOC in 1975. Immediately prior to retirement in August 78 was Chairman Defence Warehousing and Related Facilities Committee and produced the "Palmer Report".

Appointed an Officer in the Military Division of the Order of Australia (AO) June 78.

**Post retirement Activities included:**

Hon Col RAAOC (WA) 11 consecutive years  
Representative Hon Col RAAOC  
Patron RAAOC Association (WA) current  
Patron Defence Logistics Unit West Palmer  
Barracks Opened Oct 88

Legatee Perth Legacy (previously member Melbourne and Canberra Legacy)  
State Warden State War Memorial (WA)  
Chairman Order of Australia Association (WA)  
Member Highgate RSL  
Member RUSI (WA)  
Member Sir Thomas Blamey Memorial Fund  
Deputy Chairman Rockingham RSL Recreation Centre  
President Melville Glades Golf Club

**Other Interests**

Golf, Fishing, Music (Violin)

*(Continued from page 1)*

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

WA Club. I hope that next year we will be able to let members and guests remain in the Dining Room after breakfast to finish off the Rum and Coffee. Frank Taylor the Guest Speaker was most interesting and hopefully we can get Frank for Guest Speaker at a Luncheon at some future date.

The breakfast is also a fertile recruiting zone and we hope to be able to gain some new members and hopefully, some transfers to Highgate from other sub-branches.

It was great to see Mick Michaels and Alan Saville at the Gunfire and hope to see them back in our midst for Lunches in the near future.

**Up-coming Events**

***Our June Luncheon is now shifted a week to 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008. Please let your fellow your Members know.***

The Birthday Luncheon is set for July and invitations will be sent a little later this month if you are not in the Highgate Anniversary Booklet and your birth date is in the years 1909, 1918 or 1928, get your name to the Junior Vice so he can include you in the invitations.

**All the best,**

*Ian*



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Monday 12 May 2008 — 1030 hrs for 1100 hrs — Australian American Association (Battle of the Coral Sea)

Sunday 18 May 2008 — 1215 hrs for 1230 hrs — Consulate of Greece (Battle of Crete and Mainland Greece)

Monday 26 May 2008 — 1030 hrs for 1100 hrs — North American Veterans Unit (USA Memorial Day) - **Flame**

Tuesday 27 May 2008 — 1045 hrs for 1100 hrs — RSL Women's Auxiliary Conference

Wednesday 28 May 2008 — 0930 hrs for 0945 hrs — Commemoration of Indigenous Veterans - **Flame**

## **CEREMONY AT HIGHGATE COTTAGE HOMES FOR THE AGED**

On 24 April I conducted an ANZAC theme ceremony for the residents of Highgate Cottage Homes For The Aged. This ceremony has been conducted at the Homes for the last 16 years and is very much appreciated by the residents. The residents are very elderly and consist mostly of ladies, who honour their late loved ones by wearing their loved ones medals and the laying of a wreath at the base of the Homes flag pole.

Reveille. I placed a wreath, purchased by Highgate RSL, at the base of the flag pole. The card simply states "Lest We Forget from the President and Members of Highgate RSL"

*Jim Eayrs*

*Another most worthy project undertaken by a Member of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch.*

*Editor*

About 30 residents attended. The ceremony consists of a rendition of the poem "Our Australian Flag". The Lords Prayer, laying of wreaths, Last Post. the Ode and then

## **Dr Alan King**

Dr Alan King's name was erroneously included in the Last Post section of the April issue of the newsletter. We sincerely apologise for this mistake and the evident misunderstanding of information received. Alan is in Avalon Apartments which is a part of St Ives in Murdoch and next month will see his 97th birthday.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHGATE NEWS**

*Due to the loss of email distribution data this issue has been forwarded to you by post. To overcome the necessity of asking members to advise their readiness to receive the newsletter via email the next edition will be emailed to all those whose address we have on our records. Should you however not want to receive your copy per email would you please advise me and future copies will be posted to you.*

*Bob Arnold*

*Editor*



*I'm sure it's not missing it's probably straight in front of us.*



## **LAST POST**

Eric Silbert

**LEST WE FORGET**



## WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S VINEYARD AREAS — OUR "BORDEAUX'S"?

( With thanks to John Keenan, *Ordre des Coteaux de Champagne* )

**K**nown around the world now as a result in part of Margaret River's popularity, Western Australia produces only 3 per cent of the grapes crushed in Australia.

The reason for the international recognition is that most of these grapes are used for the production of premium wines.

Our first vineyards were established in 1829 but it is an argument as to who was the first to plant them, Captain John Septimus Roe, or Thomas Waters. It is for sure that the first vineyard producing grapes for winemaking was Waters' Olive Farm vineyard at the beginning of the Swan Valley. Waters was bartering wine according to records in the 1840's. It is still there at the gateway to the Valley and still worth a visit.

One of the biggest and best known vineyards came about because of a grant King William IV made to Henry Revett Bland in 1835. This was for 3000 hectares (about 7400 acres) of land in the Swan Valley. Bland sold the land to a group of three British Army officers, Lewis, Yule, and Houghton, who were stationed in India.

As senior officer, Colonel Houghton sent Yule to Western Australia to manage the property, which became the first commercial winery in the State. All that fame which followed for the Houghton Winery was without Colonel Houghton ever setting foot in the country!

The Swan Valley was the first wine producing district to be established, and for many years was the only one. It produced everything from "sherry" to "Riesling" and almost everything in between, mainly by experienced European immigrants. It was many years before newer areas emerged as a result of a great deal of research into climatic conditions.

Mount Barker was the first, and I remember in 1975 trying the experimental wines coming out of trial plots of vines established on the Pearses' property "Forest Hill", by our local Department of Agriculture. The most well known and first commercial vineyard planted there was Plantagenet vineyard, established in 1968 by Tony Smith.

The next area was the Frankland, the most well known vineyard being Alkoomi, established in 1971, and lastly, the most internationally recognized, Margaret River. Vasse Felix was the first established there, in 1967, by

Dr. Tom Cullity but it was a few years until more vineyards were planted and the area really established.

As a result of long and drawn out negotiations in Europe, on behalf of the European Union, there is now a strict control on what vineyard areas can call themselves. For instance France can't call any of its districts "Margaret River" but neither can Australian districts claim to produce "champagne", or "burgundy".

The areas are now known as "geographic indicators", or GI's and Western Australia's are: Swan District; Perth Hills; Peel; Margaret River; Geographe; Blackwood Valley; Pemberton; Manjimup; Frankland River; and Great Southern.

Better known vineyards worth chasing up in only one of these areas, the best known one of Margaret River, are also great for lunch, with recognized quality restaurants. They include Brookland Valley; Vasse Felix; Clairault; Cullens; Xanadu; Leeuwin Estate; Voyager; and Watershed.

Locations of these, and all the other now famous vineyards around the State are available from the local and Perth Tourist Bureaus.

Get out and visit them all, and at the same time get to see more of our great State.

Happy motoring and safe and responsible drinking.

**W**ith all the new technology regarding fertility, a 69 year-old woman was able to give birth to a baby recently.

When she was discharged from the hospital and went home, her relatives came to visit.

"May we see the new baby?" one asked.

Not yet," said the mother. "I'll make coffee and we can chat for a while first."

Thirty minutes had passed, and another relative asked, "May we see the new baby now?"

"No, not yet," said the mother.

After another few minutes had elapsed, they asked again, "May we see the baby now?"

"No, not yet," replied the mother.

Growing very impatient, they asked, "Well, when can we see the baby?"

"When she cries!" she told them.

"WHEN SHE CRIES?" they demanded. "Why do we have to wait until she cries?"

"**Because** I've forgotten where I put her."

This publication is produced with the support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their kind assistance is greatly appreciated.

**HOLLYWOOD**  
PRIVATE HOSPITAL