



HIGHGATE



NEWS

Issue 478
October 2008

Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

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

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON—AGM

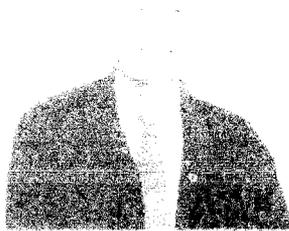
Monday 20th October 2008

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs — Fellowship, 1215 hrs — Luncheon

Guest Speaker: Barry J May OAM, Th. Dip., SSC, JP

Barry was born in Adelaide. He became a police officer in South Australia in 1958 and in 1962 a Sub-Inspector of Police in Papua New Guinea. He was ordained in the Anglican Priesthood in 1969, serving the church in PNG, South Australia and Western Australia.



He became an Army Reserve Chaplain in 1978 and in 1992 was appointed the first full-time Chaplain to the Western Australia Police Force. He retired from full-time ministry in August 2007, and now serves as a Justice of the Peace and Honorary Chaplain to three Veterans Associations

He was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in June 2008.

Barry is married to Kath and has four adult married children and nine grand-children. He is the author of an autobiography "Padre Plod" which was published in 2007.

Topic: Padre Plod the Chaplain and the Author.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Annual General Meeting 20 October 2008

This month is the AGM - Committee Nominations, last AGM Minutes and Agenda for this AGM are available with the Newsletter and are also available at <http://highgate-rsl.org.au>.

Highgate Website - <http://highgate-rsl.org.au>

The Hall of Honour is visible for all members. If you want to make a change to your entry please ensure you email the administrator, the address is shown on the Website, or write to the Secretary.

Highgate needs to maintain the dynamics by advertising Guest Speakers, marketing our Meetings and keeping up-to-date with events and commemorations that effect Highgate and/or its members.

There are some gaps in the Members' profiles if you are able to assist with the year that Members died or other pertinent info please let the Web Administrator or the secretary know.

So please just don't visit once, go often; make it your home page and give your ideas to Richard Adams.

(Continued on page 3)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 3rd Nov 2008

Luncheon: (AGM) 17 Nov 2008

**COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS 2008—2009**

President	Ian MULHOLLAND
Senior Vice President	Martyn THOMPSON
Junior Vice President	Bob BUNNEY
Immediate Past President	Norm MANNERS
Secretary (Dual Portfolio)	Bob BUNNEY
Treasurer	Richard ADAMS
Cadet Liaison	Leon Griffiths
Chair, Honours & Awards Sub-Committee	Les STEWART
Custodian	Bob MERCER
Editor	Bob ARNOLD
Website Admin/Historian (Dual Portfolio)	Ian MULHOLLAND
Honour Avenue Representative (Dual portfolio)	Norm MANNERS
Hospital Visiting Officer	Otto PELCZAR
Pensions Officer	Jim EAYRS
State Branch Representative	Don BLAIR
Sub-Warden Representative	Phillip SKELTON
Sergeant at Arms	Dick JONES
Committee Member	Tom HORTON
Committee Member	Laurie PALMER
Committee Member	Doug FARMER
Committee Member	Vacant

brother-in-law's Haddon Rig Merino Stud property at Walgett NSW. After two years, not seeing an immediate future on the land, Don entered the automotive trade as a Panel Beater serving in his trade for twelve years, from Canberra to Melbourne to Perth the last four years as Manager Mortlock Motors Panel Paint & Truck Division & Attwood Motors Panel Work Shop.

His military career commenced in August 1955 on being called-up for National Service (20 NS Trg Bn Puckapunyal Victoria) and continued service in the CMF & Reserve until 1985.

Don served in three Corps during the next 30 years being commissioned in the RAAOC 1958 - moved to Perth in 1962

RA INF IRWAR Assault Pioneer Commander 1962-66 Commenced Full Time Duty 1966 - 1973 as Adjutant / Quarter Master 28 RWAR and Adjutant 5 Base Ordnance Depot, Midland.

Officer Commanding A Company 28 Independent Rifle Company RWAR

Officer Commanding Perth Water Transport RACT 1978-1980.

On completion of Full Time Duty in 1973 Don continued in the Reserve and commenced a business with his wife Jennifer called Kingsize Menswear which now has 10 stores across Australia. He has been involved with Highgate Sub Branch management committee continuously since 1997, serving as President for two years in 2002&2003.

He supports all projects of his Sub Branch when possible, particularly the Sub Warden Duties at the State War Memorial. He fervently believes in the aims of the State RSL and the welfare support to all Veterans.

In 2004 till 2006 he was tasked initially with the then State Treasurer Brian Martin to overview the business procedures of the ANZAC Club, which resulted in some management practices being implemented to the betterment of the Club. (Regular stocktakes, computer interface and recording of all sales, staffing, relocating of manager's office, weekly meeting with staff to improve work practices and to review purchasing procedures.)

In 2004 Don was appointed a State Trustee of the RSL and is currently the Chairman. He attends most State, Executive and Board of Directors meetings and has been a member of the State Finance Committee since 2006.

Don has been a member of the RSL for thirty years.

**On change of email address
please advise the editor.**

Jobs

for the upcoming financial year.**Highgate RSL Sub-Branch**

1. Secretary (To enable Bob Bunney to concentrate his efforts on the position of Junior Vice President)

2. Committee Member.

- Please raise your hands when invited by the President at the next luncheon, or
- Advise the Secretary by whatever means you wish. He will welcome your call.

Please allow us to introduce another member of your hard working Committee. On this Occasion it is:

Donald John Blair. RFD ED, Highgate Sub Branch



Joined 9th June 1978 Badge Number W 1875 Army Service Number 3135498

After completing his education at De La Salle Boarding School Cronulla Sydney in 1952, Don commenced work as a jackaroo on his



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 26 October 2008 — 12 noon for 1230 hrs — Consulate General of Greece — OCHI Day

Continued from page 1

Poppy Day

Poppy Day this year is Friday 7 November.

A Sub-Committee with Norm Manners as chair is well into the planning stage and the Roster Sheets again available at the September Meetings.

Please we need you and your families' assistance to collect monies there are not enough Members to fill all the positions from where we want to collect.

Remember this year we have requested two extra venues as well as our normal Venues of Wellington Street Bus Station, Mercantile Lane and Mounts Bay Road Bus Port we have also asked for collection points at the New underground station at William Street and the Station at the Esplanade.

I am confident if we can man the venues we will raise well in excess of \$20k.

Regards,
Ian

BETTER AT CRICKET

BETTER AT COURTESY

(With the courtesy of the London Time's Stephen Pollard and thanks to the SVP Martyn Thompson for bringing the following article to our attention)

You can tell a lot about a country from its loos. Visit any British public toilet and you have to wear boots to avoid the spillage, not to mention the need to cover your nose with a handkerchief.

It says much about Australia that on its biggest day of the year – Melbourne Cup day – Flemington race course can be packed with 130,000 people and the toilets remain in the same pristine state at the end of the afternoon as they were at the start of the morning and that without the need for any cleaning staff.

It's not just the cleanliness of Flemington's loos which show the contrast between Australians and Brits. What I saw yesterday at the Melbourne

2008 - AGM AGENDA

1. **Confirmation of 2007 AGM Minutes.**
2. **Presentation and adoption of the President's Annual Report.**
3. **Presentation to the meeting of the financial statements for the period ended 30th June 2008.**
4. **Receive the Auditor's report on the Sub-Branch Financial Affairs.**
5. **Confirmation of the elected Sub-Branch Officers and Committee for 2008/9.**
6. **Appointment of an Auditor for 2008/9.**
7. **Motion – Proposed by Phillip Loffman, that one bottle of each, Red and White table wines be supplied to each table and the cost be included in the Luncheon price, with effect from the next Luncheon.**

Cup is simply unimaginable in Britain; a crowd of 130,000 people, a majority of whom seemed to be well under 30 spending an afternoon in the sun drinking more or less non-stop, with almost no discernible police presence and with not the slightest hint of violence in the

air. There is clearly something in the Australian psyche that breeds decent behaviour and the ability to have fun without tears.

The propensity of young British males—and increasingly females—to anti social behaviour is one of the most troubling issues of our time. Australia was built on socialising one set of British thugs. How about simply rounding up all those under 30 with a caution or conviction and packing them off to Australia so the country can do the same for another generation of Brits?

It would certainly solve our problem, but Australia has done nothing to deserve such a punishment. Oh well, back to the drawing board.

I'm in Australia on honeymoon. Here, first in New South Wales and now in Victoria, the friendliness and helpfulness one encounters everywhere is so outstanding that we can't stop remarking on it even though Australian friends wonder what we are on about.

In one department store I needed a particular type of shirt. The assistant, despite working on commission, not only recommended another shop with a better range but then took me to the exit to point out the directions. In restaurants the waiters are unfailingly chipper.

What a contrast with Britain. We have all been stranded in a shop as an assistant carries on talking to her colleague rather than deigning actually to serve anyone. As for restaurants; last month we took my in-laws to one of the supposedly great British institutions as a thank-you. Le Gavroche was, once, the first seriously good British restaurant. Our experience there provided a microcosm, at huge expense, of British service attitudes; incompetent and surly waiters who appeared to have no idea about the food they served and to care even less.

We've eaten like royalty in Australia, at reasonable prices with stunning ingredients and wonderful staff.

Mickey-taking British restaurants be warned; I'm mad as hell, and I'm not going to take it from you anymore.



HANDYMAN LEADING LIFE TO THE FULL

(With thanks to Katherine Filippi - Marketing Coordinator, Hollywood Private Hospital)



The weekend before having his right arm amputated, Michael Della Franca decided to have one last fling while he still had two hands and fix the squeaky brakes on his Prado.

Now, seven months after his surgery, Michael is in line for a tailor-made prosthesis that he hopes will allow him to continue with some of the activities he enjoyed when he had both arms – but the waiting game hasn't stopped him from taking on new challenges.

The beginning of what evolved into a drastic life change started over three years ago when Michael began experiencing a nagging pain in his right shoulder. He sought medical advice and was told that he had adhesive capsulitis or what is sometimes referred to as 'old man's shoulder' - and offered physiotherapy and cortisone injections to treat the problem.

Initially, it all made a certain amount of sense to someone who grew up on a farm and thought nothing of stacking 3,500 hay bales each year but he returned to his GP and requested an MRI when a bag that he was carrying slipped off his shoulder and he experienced a sudden, excruciating pain. The scan showed an undisplaced crack fracture in the upper part of the humerus bone in his arm. Michael was referred to an orthopaedic surgeon and according to Michael, asked two questions that made his heart sink.

"He asked me how my appetite was and if I had lost weight recently," he said "two questions that you dread ever being asked."

Finally in May 2007, Michael received a definitive diagnosis – and it was one that he didn't want to hear. He was told that he had a very aggressive cancer called a sarcoma in his right shoulder that had already spread to the lymph nodes in the armpit. The only treatment for this rare and poorly diagnosed cancer is excision.

Michael was then sent to Hollywood Private Hospital to see Professor David Woods, an orthopaedic surgeon who specialises in the removal of complex tumours, only to be told that so much time had elapsed that the cancer had

now reached a stage where the only option left was radical.

"I was told there was only a small window of opportunity in which to perform the surgery before the high-grade sarcoma spread to the chest wall and neck," he said.

Michael, who had worked in healthcare facilities management for over 16 years, urgently sought other solutions and second opinions from some of his hospital contacts in a bid to save at least some, if not all, of his right arm. .

He also saw Hollywood Private Hospital oncologist Dr Alex Powell within the first week of learning of his diagnosis who recommended three 21-day cycles of chemotherapy in an attempt to shrink the tumour prior to surgery but explained that there was only a 40 per cent chance of success.

Michael responded exceptionally well to the treatment in two different ways. The first was that the post-chemo PET scan showed a significant reduction in the size of the tumour and the second was that an additional fracture that had occurred in the arm at the site of the cancer healed spontaneously with the treatment.

As is usually the case with chemotherapy, the side effects from the toxic drugs were unpleasant and debilitating – but in characteristic fashion, he refused to put his life on hold during the treatment.

Instead, he not only returned to his job as engineering supervisor at Royal Perth Hospital between each cycle but also began an officer training course with the Australian Air Force cadets after the first chemo cycle.

Eventually the amputation was performed in early September 2007. He returned to work 13 days after his operation.

In January this year, he attended a 10-day Air Force Cadets course in Melbourne where he made it through the gruelling course of study on very little sleep, then sat and passed the exams to become an instructor. In his new role as a part-time pilot officer in the Australian Air Force Cadets, he now lectures and trains other cadets and assists with camps at the RAAF Base Pearce.

He attributes his extraordinary adaptation to the ongoing challenge of life with

one arm to the enormous family support that he has received from his wife Michelle and his three sons – 8-year-old Cameron, 13-year-old Adrian and 16-year-old Shaun. Michael also sings the praises of Dr Powell and the staff on Carroll Ward at Hollywood Private Hospital.

Lending credence to Michael's testimony is the Health Consumers' Award that Dr Powell has recently received for his holistic medical approach and his clear and compassionate communication with patients.

"It has given me confidence to continue the way in which I work but the award also reflects the efforts of the hard-working and dedicated team of people that I work with," Dr Powell said.

Michael Della Franca has a long road ahead as he awaits his \$15,000.00 arm prosthesis. Prior to the design of the prosthesis being finalised, he must practise simulated movement of the new 'arm' on a computer in the same way that trainee pilots simulate flights on an aircraft. This involves placing a practice socket on his shoulder that houses a series of micro switches. He must then learn to re-train what muscles he has left in the shoulder blade region to operate the switches that control different movements in the arm.

According to prosthetist Janet Scates, who is involved in the design of Michael's prosthesis at TLC Unlimbited, the first and most critical part of the whole process is the site identification and selection for the electrodes. Her primary role in the whole process is to design a shoulder 'cap' that normalises the cosmetic appearance and improves the drape of clothing so it will look as though a shoulder, collar bone and shoulder blade is still present.

Clearly he has no intention of allowing the devastating loss of his right arm to limit his life. His idyllic 20-acre property in Bullsbrook is evidence of a 'hands-on' life. It is the creation of a man who enjoys design challenges and physical work and has used his energy and ingenuity to build his own house and outbuildings and there is every indication that his courage and determination will serve him well as he learns how to integrate his new arm into his full and satisfying life.



BYE BYE BULGE-BRACKET

(Robert Peston)

The Global Financial Crisis impinges on all to a greater or lesser degree, but to many of us what we hear is largely gobbledygook. In reading through the financial columns on the (BBC Home) website I came across the following article. Although it summarises only one element of the crisis and does not bring with it a feeling of improved financial security, or does it? Nevertheless I consider that it is worthy of a page but, because of space it is limited to our email readers.

Editor

That the last two bulge-bracket firms standing, Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley, have become licensed deposit taking banks is extraordinary. It is precisely the opposite of what happened after the Great Crash of 1929. Back then, the US government decided that the best way to protect US citizens' savings was to prevent investment banks having access to those retail savings. So investment banks which engaged in what was perceived as high-risk securities trading and underwriting were banned from taking insured retail deposits, under the Glass-Steagal Act of 1933. That prohibition was removed on 12 November 1999 - and since then there has been a rapid convergence between commercial banking and investment banking. The preferred new banking model became the universal bank, typified by Citigroup, with its mixture of retail banking, commercial banking and investment banking. The universal model hasn't been an unalloyed success: Citi and UBS, to name just two, have lost colossal sums on their subprime-related investments, imperilling their depositors (though both have survived). Even so, in the wake of the credit

crunch, the new orthodoxy is that all investment banks must have access to retail deposits. Why? Well this is where it becomes a touch surreal. First, retail deposits are supposed to be stickier. Or to put it another way, you and I are less likely to panic en masse and withdraw our savings at the first whiff of trouble at our banks.

Banks are counting on our inertia for their survival.

Which is not altogether reassuring. Second, the political and economic fallout from any damage to our savings is

such that retail banks that take our deposits receive much greater protection from the authorities than banks that don't look after the public's savings.

In the US context, for example, there's the official insurance provided for deposits. And, more importantly, there's access to the Federal Reserve for day-to-day and emergency funding - which Goldman and Morgan Stanley will be able to access in full, now that they are formal "Federal Bank Holding Companies".

So the conversion into banks by Goldman and Morgan may perhaps be redolent of the greatest failure of global financial regulation over the past decade or so.

The original separation of investment banking and retail banking was designed to prevent ordinary savers from being damaged by the collapse of a Goldman Sachs or a Morgan Stanley.

But Goldman Sachs and Morgan Stanley have been permitted to grow

so enormous, and other banks which look after our savings have become so inextricably dependent on them, that even they are now too big to be allowed to fail.

Just a week ago, the US Treasury took a big risk and allowed Lehman to fail.

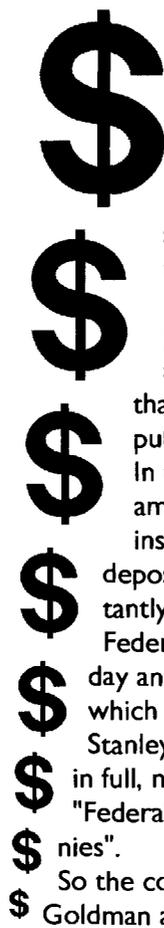
Since then, the repercussions have almost brought the US, the world's biggest economy, to its knees.

The collapse of Lehman is what - in part - has led to all money-market funds being insured at an incremental cost to the taxpayer of \$400bn and to the US Treasury's proposal to spend \$700bn on buying distressed mortgage and other assets.

So the attitude of the Treasury and of the Federal Reserve, the US central bank, is that it would be better to allow Goldman and Morgan to become formal banks - benefiting from the full protection of the US government - than to sustain the illusion that they could be allowed to collapse.

But Morgan Stanley's claim that its conversion into a federally insured bank will not lead to "limitations on its activities" will doubtless be viewed by some US politicians as contemptible.

Now that the US taxpayer is in a formal sense underwriting Goldman and Morgan Stanley, their days of buckling the swash on the worldwide high seas of finance are over, possibly for good.



**"WHATEVER YOU HAVE
SPEND LESS"**