



HIGHGATE



NEWS

Issue 482
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Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

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

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 16th March 2009

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs — Fellowship, 1215 hrs — Luncheon



Guest Speaker: Our Guest Speaker is Bret Christian, the Proprietor, Editor, and Publisher of the Post Newspaper Group, who distribute the various editions of the Post Newspaper to western suburbs each week. He was one of the main protagonists in the recent spate of major bad convictions by West Australian Judiciary including the now infamous case involving the wrongly convicted John Button

Topic: "Justice and the Newspaper"

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Army Museum – Breakfast and Tour



Sunny side up?

A great day at the Army Museum in Fremantle; about 60 Members and Guests joined us. Following a nice breakfast we



Robyn, Laurence and Michael

broke up into groups for various tours around the museum. Wayne Gardiner the Curator and Highgate Member took some of us for a behind the scenes look at how items are received, marked, catalogued, stored and made ready for display either at the Museum or other displays outside the Museum tours.

Some members travelled fair distances to attend. Laurence Connolly travelled up from Bunbury to attend and he enjoyed the day. Great to see you Laurence.



Carol, Laurie and Rosa

(Continued on page 2)

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 6 Apr 09

Gunfire Breakfast: 25 Apr 09



(Continued from page 1)



It was a very successful day and we may do it again next year, perhaps about mid March.

Bob, Cecil and Tim

Highgate Luncheons

With our shrinking numbers it is difficult for us to command the whole of the Gallipoli Room for Luncheons these days. The Sub-Branch is grateful to WA Branch for installing the Audio/Visual equipment in the Gallipoli Room so our speakers can perform A/V presentations with this modern equipment.

Attendance at Luncheons

Because we need an accurate count of members attending future Luncheons please signify your attendance by sending an email or telephoning either Bob or Ian as listed below. If you get an answering machine just leave your name so we know you will be attending. We need your RSVP by NOON on the Wednesday prior to the Luncheon and for this month that is 11th. Please diarise this as a reminder.

Bob Arnold

Email: arnold@wn.com.au
or Telephone **9448 2757**

Ian Mulholland

Email: mojen@bigpond.net.au
or Telephone **9572 2632**

Ian

HOSPITALISED AND ILL HIGHGATE MEMBERS

You will appreciate that the committee, in most instances, unaware that one of our Sub-Branch members is in hospital or at home and unwell. Should you wish to have a member call on you please let the Secretary, or any committee member know and we will ensure that that you are visited.

WA AGED SAILORS', SOLDIERS', AND AIRMANS' RELIEF FUND TRUST

Can help veterans/ADF personnel on low incomes, or those unable to pay essential accounts. If you are in necessitous circumstances please don't hesitate to call 9287 3707 (ANZAC House Welfare) for an application form.

THE QUIET LION TOUR

(With thanks to Ken Wood)

This tour of Thailand has been operating annually since 1984 when at the suggestion of the late Keith Flanagan - a member of Highgate - several



former members of D Coy 2/3 Regt MG Bn retraced their steps from Java to Thailand and the notorious "Hell Fire Pass"

The "Quiet Lion" is of course the late Weary Dunlop, a huge tall man of the quiet voice so named by a group of Am-

bonese Dutch Army soldiers POW in the camp at Bandoeng in 1943 as "Singa Yang Diam" which translates to "The Quiet Lion". A most appropriate name for the man we knew so well.

The annual tour has over the years had students sponsored by several RSL Sub Branches especially Three Springs, Morawa and Esperance and lately a few others. It was considered that Highgate could sponsor a student from Carine Senior High School whose students have for some years been involved with the Honour Avenues in Kings Park and have also been active in the Annual Sandakan Memorial Services.

In May last year the Principal of Carine was interviewed and advised of the proposal whereby Highgate would provide \$2,500.00 to sponsor a student to go on the tour in April 2009. He promptly advised that the school would certainly match the amount to send another student as well. It now appears that two students have been given places on the Tour and in addition two teachers - at their own expense - will also go on the tour.

It was realised that the Principal could not act on a promise and the amount of \$2,500.00 was underwritten and given "from the Members of Highgate". Funds of this nature cannot come from the Sub Branch and it is therefore necessary for members to subscribe so that the fund can be re-imbered. At this time \$1,200.00 has been raised leaving \$1,300.00 still to come. Donations should be given to our Treasurer who is administering the fund. It is hoped that the amount can be raised before June when the financial year ends



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 22nd March 2009 1200 hrs for 1230 hrs — Consulate of Greece

Saturday 28th March 2009 0915 hrs for 0945 hrs — Royal Australian Air Force Association

Editorial



Last Saturday's little jaunt to The Army Museum to enjoy the companionship of fellow Highgate Sub-Branch members and their guests at breakfast brought back memories of its time in Dilhorn, that wonderful old colonial home.

I wonder what purpose it serves now?

However the purpose of this editorial is not to cogitate on the older days of Dilhorn but to eulogise on the wonders of the Artillery Barracks site and the museum of today and the fortuitous circumstances that caused the re-location.

The Museum now has five established galleries and on the parade ground, a static display of vehicles both armoured and soft skinned, .

A wander through the galleries is both a rekindling of emotions and a re-acknowledgment of the hardship that many of our predecessors underwent during the times of their service.

There is also much personal history on display some of which is truly poignant. And, it makes one think "What am I doing to ensure that my children and grandchildren have an appreciation of the many years of my own life". Should we not all prepare a "living history"?

Thank you to all those who volunteer to keep this brilliant facility alive and especially to those who fought, often against what must have seemed to have been, insurmountable odds to retain these wonderful old barracks as the home of the Army Museum of WA.

Let us all do them the honour of visiting and show our appreciation by taking our offspring with us. We will never be disappointed.

CASUAL COMMITTEE VACANCY

Nominations are called for the position of Junior Vice President.

The current incumbent Bob Bunney, who is also presently filling the role of Secretary, is relinquishing the Junior Vice President position in acknowledgement of his work commitments and to enable him, from our sub-branch perspective to concentrate on his secretarial duties.

Should you be interested in nominating please contact the President on:

- Email: mojen@bigpond.net.au
or
- Telephone: **9572 2632**

LAST POST

Richard Standing

- Lest We Forget -





BURMESE PEOPLE WAITING IN THE DARK

(as experienced by Cherry Winn)

Life is back to normal now, 'normal' being a total decline in every area. Poverty, fear, lack of human rights, that's what's normal here.

The government pushed us into a situation even worse than before.

The inflation rate is getting higher and higher. We expect that prices will go up because the economy is suffering from the political instability.

People suffer as they don't earn enough to buy daily essentials. Many families can only afford one meal a day and people have started to drink rice juice when they can't afford to buy food.

"People drink rice juice when they can't afford to buy food"

There are two groups of people - a small group determined to fight until they reach their goal and a huge number of people who wait in the dark and hope for salvation from outside.

We are sure that there will be more protests in the future and finally there'll be a great revolution.

(A reminder to us all of how fortunate we are.)

VICTORIAN BUSHFIRES

Those who were at the last luncheon will recall that the hat was passed around in support of the victims of the tragic bushfires in Victoria. A letter of thanks has been received from the Victorian Branch of the League. It is addressed to the Secretary of our sub-branch and reads:

Dear Bob

Thank you for your most generous donation of \$1000 towards our Bushfires Relief Fund. I can assure you that the money has already begun to flow to those RSL families most in need and we are turning around requests for assistance on the same day they are received.

Your sense of comradeship and your desire to help those who have suffered the most appalling

experience and loss is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

Michael Annett, Chief Executive Officer



NOW IT CAN BE TOLD

The reason why Blackpool largely escaped the wartime blitz is not, as the resort's many enemies in high places would have it, that no one would be able to tell the difference, but that Hitler took a shine to the town.

It makes sense. Wellington bombers by the hundreds were built in Blackpool, an important leave centre for thousands of troops.

Flattening Coventry, why did Adolf spare Blackpool? Because he wanted to keep it as a playground for himself to enjoy as chancellor of a conquered Britain.

It is the only explanation for newly-released maps and aerial photographs found in a German military base, showing where paratroops could land in fragrant Stanley Park and march triumphantly through the Golden Mile.

But why Blackpool? Why not Brighton, if Hitler fancied seaside holidays? Or Bournemouth? Or Bognor? Because the dictator was essentially a vulgarian.

You only have to look at his blueprint. We cannot see Adolf in a kiss-me-quick hat but he would have taken at once to the supremely pointless Blackpool Tower, with its theatre organ rising through the ballroom floor, doubtlessly playing the Horst Wessel Lied.



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