



HIGHGATE



NEWS

Issue 484

May 2009

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 18th May 2009

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs - Fellowship 1215 hrs - Luncheon

Guest Speaker: Ray Galliot - Profession: Senior Banker

- 27 years with ANZ Bank
- 4 years with HSBC
- 3 years with Standard Chartered Bank.
- 3 years as a finance industry consultant.

Worked in Australia, India, Hong Kong, Dubai and many other SE Asia countries.

Joined CMF in 1971, commissioned in 1973.

Served in 11Bn, 16 Bn, 28 Bn, 5 Trg Gp, RTC [Regional Training Centre] WAUR, 5/6 RVR, HQ 4 Bde, HQ 13 Bde.

Currently OPSO for the Reserve Response Force in 13 Bde.

Topic: Victorian Bushfires - Army involvement

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ANZAC DAY—56th Gunfire Breakfast



Another great Gunfire Breakfast with more than seventy members and guests in attendance.

John Tick gave us an interesting talk on the history of Gallipoli and he noted that during the 60's and 70's the interest in ANZAC Day waned. But, that

since then there had been a marked resurgence in interest in the day with an upsurge in national pride to the high level which is so evident today. Even Vietnam Vets are proving popular.

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 8 June 09

Monthly Luncheon: 15 June 09



Editorial

Highgate's Gunfire Breakfast brought together old mates, some of whom had not seen each other for a long time and as you can imagine many of the discussions centred around common experiences and incidents. And isn't this what ANZAC Day is all about?

From its inception it has been a national ceremony, at which we honour the involvement and sacrifice of our servicemen in war. It is our event. We meet each other again and again and often at the Gunfire Breakfast. We honour fallen comrades and recall many things, most of which are now tinged with humour and, arguably, have over the years been embellished and are now, perhaps, larger than life.



Today the attendance of those who served is shrinking, if only because Australia has been free of major conflict for so long. A decade from now, World War II survivors will be few and while Australians will continue to honour Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq veterans, many Korean and Vietnam veterans are nearing or are octogenarians. And so our numbers mercifully dwindle.

Nevertheless the meaning of ANZAC Day has survived. Hundreds of thousands of Australians with no personal experience of war including a great number of whom are children, gather at memorials to honour and commemorate the service and the sacrifice made by their fellow Australians. Some will also have made a special pilgrimage to Gallipoli. And, increasing numbers are now visiting the battlefields of France and Belgium. It is in these pilgrimages, that we see the emer-

gence in our youth of an understanding, an emotional involvement and a heartfelt kinship in the actions of their grand fathers and great grandfathers.

ANZAC Day is in a new way at the centre of Australian consciousness and it is this consciousness that sees, more than at any other time in history, a growing involvement in ANZAC ceremonies. It has arguably become the most significant day of the year.



A woman accompanied her husband to the doctor's office. After the check up, the doctor took the wife aside and told her, "Your husband is seriously ill but the most tender care could help him pull through, but if you don't do as I suggest he could lose his will to live and will surely die."

...Each morning, fix him a healthy breakfast and send him off to work in a good mood.

...At lunch time, make him a warm, nutritious meal and put him in a good frame of mind before he goes back to work.

...For dinner, fix especially nice meals selected from his favourite foods and don't burden him with household chores or problems. Ensure he is very relaxed.

...Make love with him several times a week and satisfy his every sexual whim.

On the way home, the husband asked his wife what the doctor had told her.

She replied, "You're going to die."



(Continued from page 1) (President's Report)

We had many distinguished guests with us for breakfast among whom were representatives of the WA Consular Corps and Services Chiefs stationed in Western Australia.

I have booked the WA Club as the venue for our 57th Commemorative Gunfire Breakfast in 2010.

Remember May Luncheon—you will need to book.

Because we must have an accurate count of members attending luncheons please signify your attendance by email or telephone to Bob A or Ian (Details on front page)

If you get an answering machine please leave your name. Your response is needed by noon on the Wednesday preceding the lunch which for May is Wednesday the 13th.

Don't forget our guest for the June luncheon is the Governor Dr Ken Michael AC.

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SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Monday	11 May 2009	1030 hrs for 1100 hrs - Australian American Association (Battle of the Coral Sea)
Saturday	16 May 2009	1530 hrs for 1600 hrs - 1 RAR Battle Group Re-union
Sunday	17 May 2009	1215 hrs for 1230 hrs - Consulate of Greece (Battle of Crete and Mainland Greece)
Monday	25 May 2009	1030 hrs for 1050 hrs - North American Veterans' Unit (USA Memorial Day)
Wednesday	27 May 2009	0930 hrs for 1000 hrs - Commemoration of Indigenous War Veterans Committee

KNOW YOUR ENEMY

With the announcement by the Prime Minister of the commitment of a further 450 troops to Afghanistan and the resurgence of the Taliban with its bases and heightened activities in Pakistan, it is probably fitting that we refresh our memories of whom the enemy is.

The Taliban first came to prominence in the autumn of 1994. Their leader was a village clergyman, Mullah Mohammad Omar, who lost his right eye fighting the occupying forces of the Soviet Union in the 1980s.

Their target was the feuding warlords known as the Mujahideen who had forced Soviet troops out of the country.

The Taliban's promise was to restore peace and security and enforce Sharia, or Islamic law, once in power. Afghans, weary of the mujahideen's excesses and infighting, generally welcomed the Taliban.

Their early popularity was largely due to their success in stamping out corruption, curbing lawlessness and making the roads and the areas under their control safe for commerce to flourish.

From their birthplace in the province of Kandahar in south-western Afghanistan, the Taliban quickly extended their influence.

They captured the province of Herat, bordering Iran, in September 1995.

Exactly one year later, they captured the Afghan capital, Kabul, after overthrowing the regime of President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his defence minister, Ahmed Shah Masood.

By 1998, they were in control of almost 90% of Afghanistan.

Pakistan 'the architect'

The circumstances of the Taliban's emergence remained the centre of controversial debate.

Despite repeated denials, Pakistan is seen as the architect of the Taliban enterprise.

Suspicious arose early on when the Taliban went to the rescue of a Pakistani convoy stranded in Kandahar following attacks and looting by rival mujahideen groups. Many of the Afghans who joined the Taliban were educated in madrassas (religious schools) in Pakistan.

Pakistan was also one of only three countries, along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which recognised the Taliban regime. It was also the last country to break diplomatic ties with the

Taliban.

The US put Pakistan under pressure to do so after the 11 September, 2001, attacks in New York and Washington.

Pashtun sympathies

The Taliban were overwhelmingly Pashtun, the ethnic group that forms the majority of Afghanistan's diverse population and also inhabits the North-West Frontier Province (NWFP) and Balochistan in neighbouring Pakistan.

Even now, the resurgent Taliban draw considerable sympathy from fellow Pashtuns in Pakistan. Some of their fugitive leaders are able to find refuge across the long and porous border in NWFP, Balochistan and the semi-autonomous tribal areas.

Once in power, the Taliban set up an authoritarian administration that tolerated no opposition to their hard-line policies.

Islamic punishments - such as public executions of convicted murderers and adulterers and amputations of those found guilty of thefts - were introduced.

Television, music and cinema were banned after being adjudged frivolities.

Girls aged 10 and above were forbidden from going to school - working women were ordered to stay at

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EMAIL ADDRESSES

We are aware that there are a number of members, who have an email address who want the newsletter posted. However occasions do arise when it is highly desirable that we contact members between newsletters. We therefore request please that if you are one of those whose newsletter is posted that you provide the treasurer with your email address to enable us to contact you if a need arises. The newsletter will of course continue to be posted when required.

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

The charge for the luncheon is now \$25.00. Sweets have been deleted but the bread roll, butter and coffee or tea are included in the cost. Drinks are at member's expense.

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home.

Men were required to grow beards and women had to wear the all-covering burqa.

The Taliban's religious police earned notoriety as they tried to implement these restrictions.

Taliban policies, particularly those concerning human and women's rights, also brought them into conflict with the international community.

The name is Bin Laden and Al Qaeda

But what was to bring much greater conflict was the Taliban's role as host to Osama Bin Laden and his Al Qaeda movement.

The August 1998 bombings of the US Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that left more than 225 people dead prompted Washington to present the Taliban with a difficult choice.

The were required to expel Bin

Laden, whom the US held responsible for those bombings and other attacks, or face the consequences.

When the Taliban refused to hand over their Saudi born guest, US President Bill Clinton ordered a missile attack on a Bin Laden camp in southern Afghanistan.

As further punishment the US persuaded the UN Security Council in 1999 to impose sanctions on Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

The sanctions, and the denial of Afghanistan's seat in the UN to Taliban, increased the political and diplomatic isolation of their regime and it also prompted them to pursue a more isolationist and fundamental agenda.

US onslaught

The events of the 11th September 2001 signalled the beginning of the end for the Taliban's control of Afghanistan.

The US reiterated its demand that the Taliban hand over Bin Laden to face trial for masterminding the attacks on US soil.

But again, the Taliban defended Bin Laden and refused to expel him.

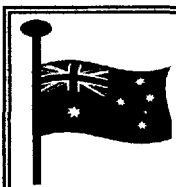
On October 7th, 2001, a US-led coalition intervened militarily in Afghanistan and by the first week of December the Taliban regime had collapsed.

(Somewhere here there is a lesson. In speaking of the early days of the Taliban -

"Their early popularity was largely due to their success in stamping out corruption, curbing lawlessness and making the roads and the areas under their control safe for commerce to flourish."

tells us that there is a solution. But, in probing the history of previous external intercessions in efforts to stabilise the government of Afghanistan, we see failure follow failure. And, now we must ask the question. Has the UN the ability and has the Western World the political will to not only subdue the Taliban, but to create the infrastructure and to introduce and foster a way of life and culture which differs markedly from that existing today?)

Editor



LAST POST

Henry Glyn Mawson

Lest We Forget