



# Highgate Highlights

Official newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch  
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)  
www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Issue 590 | November 2018

ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

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## From our President

Last December, when the Highgate Committee contemplated the most appropriate way to mark the Centenary of Armistice, it was decided we wanted to do more than just commemorate the Centenary. We also wanted to perpetuate the memory of our forebears who gave so much for us.

To do so, we chose three significant projects for the Centenary year, the Virtual Memorial Project, the Remembrance Walk Project and the Centenary of Armistice Luncheon Project.

The first two projects will benefit the wider community and help perpetuate that memory. The Virtual Memorial Project and the Remembrance Walk Project both help preserve the story of our nation. The story is that of the legacy left to us by the wonderful generation of World War 1, and by later generations.

The third project, the Centenary of Armistice Luncheon Project, appropriately commemorates the Centenary of Armistice. This event will also provide a platform for the Governor of Western Australia to give a Centenary of Armistice oration.

In making our decisions last December, it took less than divine inspiration to focus our attention on Kings Park. The fact that Kings Park has over six million visitors each year helped decide the 'ground of tactical importance'.

(continued on page 2)

## ARMISTICE!! 100 years on .... Highgate Reflects and Remembers

In the annals of modern history over the past century, no event has been as tragic and had more significance to millions of people than that of "The Great War": World War 1.  
"The war to end all wars".

*Highgate has taken a very proactive role to participate in the commemoration of the end of that terrible conflict, in this the Centenary year of the Armistice.*

**FULL DETAILS OF HIGHGATE'S "CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE LUNCHEON" ARE ON PAGE 3**

## Important dates & events | please diarise now

- **11 Nov** | 1030 for 1100 Centenary of Armistice Commemoration & wreath-laying
- **11 Nov** | 1200 Centenary of Armistice Luncheon - State Reception Centre
- **17 Dec** | 1100 | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- **17 Dec** | 1130 for 1215 | Christmas Party—Karrakatta Club

## Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Members and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to their family and friends





## From our President : Geoff Hourn *(Continued from Page1)*

Highgate also has a close association with Kings Park, developed over many decades. This began when Highgate Sub Branch evolved from the West Perth Sub Branch and steadily grew through the provision of Deputy Wardens and Sub Wardens, for the State War Memorial, and through the Honour Avenues Group.

Deciding on the Virtual Memorial Project was greatly helped by **Ian Petkoff's** speech at the Highgate Remembrance Day Lunch in 2017. He spoke about the research he had undertaken, over a number of years, on the biographical details of those named on the State War Memorial.



The information collected was unsuccessfully offered to the Australian War Memorial and RSLWA. It was Ian's desire to make the information publicly available.

The Highgate Committee, therefore, established the Virtual Memorial Project to use the Highgate website as the repository for the research information.

The Virtual Memorial Project has led to this information now being publicly available at [www.highgate-rsl.org.au](http://www.highgate-rsl.org.au). Eventually, biographical information about every name on every War Memorial and Honour Board in Western Australia will be available on the web site.

It is pleasing that the Australian War Memorial has now decided to follow our lead by beginning a National Register of the 6,000 war memorials in Australia. Hopefully, the AWM will one day go further by adding biographical details for each name.

That will at least be done in Western Australia, with the AWM agreeing to link the National Register with the Virtual Memorial Project.

With regard to the Remembrance Walk Project, that idea came from a visit that **Steve Chamarette** made in 2017 to New Zealand. While visiting the grave of a Vietnam War comrade with friends, Steve asked how to find the grave. One friend then took out a smart phone and referred to a specific computer application containing the details.

This was the genesis of the idea for a computer application giving the details of the 29 war memorials in Kings Park, and this developed into the Remembrance Walk Project.

Under Steve's guidance, the Remembrance Walk Project has employed a professional Historian and an information technology specialist to produce

the computer application. In addition, there has been considerable volunteer input in the form of photography, editing, route planning and site testing.

The result is a wonderful computer application that has significant community benefit - for locals, tourists and school children.

***The Governor will launch both the Remembrance Walk Project and the Virtual Memorial Project at the Centenary of Armistice Luncheon.***

The Centenary of Armistice Luncheon is being directed by **Leon Griffiths**, who has a long association with organising our Remembrance Day lunches. Please come to this very special, once-in-a-century event that, by happenstance, falls on a Sunday.

To assist you getting there, we have organised the Subiaco Tram (*pictured below*) to run along May Drive. If you park anywhere along May Drive, you can catch the tram to and from the door of the State Reception Centre. It will be convenient, with a turn-around time of about 10 minutes, so please do make use of it.



As we draw near to Remembrance Day it is appropriate to reflect on the great sacrifice of our forebears 100 years ago.

The Centenary of Armistice Luncheon Programme will contain a quote from John Curtin. The quote epitomises that sacrifice. On November 1918, in the *Westralian Worker*, Curtin wrote:

*"For more than four terrible years ... the flames of war have lit the sky with death ... History has no parallel to the destruction that has been occasioned. The toll demanded of life and limb; the price paid in anguish of spirit and bafflement of high hope; the tears; the suffering; the terrific mortality of actual combatants; the actual and potential weakening of civilisation itself, is too vast a computation for living men to make ...."*

*(Continued Page 6)*

## Sub Warden Duties | 2018

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



ADJUST  
DATES

**Sun 11 Nov** 1015 for 1045hrs

**Centenary of Armistice Remembrance Day**

### **“Tin Rattlers” WANTED for Poppy Day**

Poppy Day will be **Friday, 9th November**. Highgate will be collecting at the TWO usual sites:

1. **Elizabeth Quay Rail Station and Bus Concourse;** and
2. **Wellington St - Busport and Yagan Square**

**Prime collection times are between 0630 - 0830hrs.** Both locations will be manned from 0600 to 1000 hrs.

Some members have already volunteered to Rattle-a-Tin, and I thank them for their help. However, we need more, if possible. If you can volunteer, please telephone Mike Harness (0419 091 708) nominating your preferred location and time slot - any period of 30 minutes or more is most appreciated.

Thanks in advance to all who pitch in.

**Mike Harness**



## **HIGHGATE'S 2018**

### **CENTENARY OF ARMISTICE REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCHEON**

will be held at King's Park on Sunday, 11th November 2018

The Luncheon will follow the 11am RSLWA Remembrance Day ceremony at the State War Memorial

and be attended by the Hon Kim Beasley AC, Governor of Western Australia



**NOTE:** *Big crowds are expected.*

***ASSEMBLE at the FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE at approx 10.30am for the Ceremony to start at 10.50am SHARP***

***followed by LUNCHEON at the STATE RECEPTION CENTRE (shown in the photo (at left) which is ABOVE FRASER'S RESTAURANT).***

**Luncheon will commence at 12.30pm. A delightful MENU awaits:**  
**MAINS:** Grilled Snapper Fillet or Roast Chicken Breast with various vegetables and Salad etc;

**DESSERT:** Caramelized apple tart, caramelized almond with crème fraiche;  
Choice of wines and/or non-alcoholic drinks. Tea or Coffee to finish

***ACCESS (including ramp) is from the REAR of the building.***

***On ENTERING, large boards showing alphabetical lists of attendees will indicate TABLE SEATING. Howard Montagu and Adrian Young will be on hand to assist.***

Bookings have been made available to other Sub-Branched, and corporate sponsors. However, there are seats still available to Highgate Members.

**Cost for ALL is \$80.00 per person. (This includes all drinks).**

***IF*** Paying by EFT (the method, if possible, preferred by our Treasurer): make it to Highgate RSL, CBA 066001 : (A/c No): 00925571. (**BE SURE** to include your SURNAME).

Cheques to be made payable to “Highgate RSL Sub-Branch” and posted to the Treasurer, Bill Munro, (PO Box 65 Hillarys 6923).

Booking on-line is necessary. This is the direct LINK: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevDTqCITXNro95br0bOGAAmO7RCk9GgUwqcytWXBgi\\_WgH9g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevDTqCITXNro95br0bOGAAmO7RCk9GgUwqcytWXBgi_WgH9g/viewform) **OR**

1. Go to the Highgate website at [www.highgate-rsl.org.au](http://www.highgate-rsl.org.au)
2. Click on Highgate **Events** (just under the photo of the band)
3. Click on **Centenary of Armistice Luncheon** option
4. Click on **Centenary of Armistice Luncheon Booking** (the line in GOLD lettering). It will change colour to DARK RED and the first booking sheet then appears
5. Complete the booking sheet screens, as per the embedded instructions, and click on SUBMIT.

(NOTE: If you experience any difficulties with these procedures - contact a Committee member and ask he/she to do it for you).





## BIRTHDAYS

### Members celebrating their birthday in November include:

Kevan Barrett, Carmen Barrett, Robert Barrett, Brian Barrett, Doug Farmer, Clare Curtis, Colin Hebbard, Graham Reynolds, Peter Farrell, Allan Downs, Judy Farrell, Joe Cicala, Leslie Coy, John Evert, Max Kay and Susan Glasfurd

**MANY HAPPY RETURNS!!**

### Luncheon bookings

#### How do I know who else is coming?

Some members have asked how they can see who also is coming to the current monthly luncheon.

Our luncheon software program guru, Ray Galliot, advises that a link is provided on the acknowledgment screen that pops up immediately after hitting the SUBMIT button when completing the form, but it isn't viewable retrospectively.

To assist further, Ray has therefore included the link on the second page of the registration form so members can have a peek, before confirming attendance or apology.

Additionally, when the confirmatory email sent to the member after submitting the registration form is received, the link will also appear on the form copy (on page 2 - Instructions

## SOME FOLLOW-UP TO RAY GALLIOTT'S RECENT TALK

Ray Galliot's informative talk at the September Luncheon proved very popular with our members. He recounted how a group of interested veterans (including five of our Highgate members) flew to Israel earlier in the year to commemorate the centenary of the audacious and extraordinary "Battle of Beersheba": the last great armed, cavalry charge in history.

Utilising dozens of photographs taken by the group during their travels around Israel (they also visited Cyprus), and citing engrossing histories of various famous landmarks, as well as commentary, Ray did a sterling job of bringing stories of their travels to life.

Just a week after his presentation, a group of 80 Australians attended a ceremony in memory of the 19 Australian Light Horsemen who fell in the Battle for Semakh, 100 years ago. : His Excellency Chris Cannan, Australian Ambassador in Israel; Mr Idan Greenboim, Head of the Jordan Valley Regional Council; and Professor Shimon Gepstein, President of Kinneret College laid wreaths at the Semakh Railway Station in honour of the Fallen.

NOTE: Ray has advised that this link is to a presentation by Earon Tearosh, who briefed the tour group prior to them departing Australia for Israel -

<https://youtu.be/fcjCjXG62LA> Given the interest in his presentation, members may be interested in the link and taking a look at it.

Ray didn't have sufficient time to present any material at all to describe the group's visit to Cyprus - an island he found fascinating, with its 6,000 remarkable years of history. He has offered to present a similar talk, focussing on Cyprus, in the future.

### Victoria Cross Exhibition The Western Australian Story

#### Largest exhibition in Australia outside the Australian War Memorial

Wednesday - Sunday | 08 Aug - 11 Nov  
1030-1500 | Last entry 1300

#### Australian Army Museum of WA

Artillery Barracks | Burt Street Fremantle

Six original Victoria Crosses on display, with story of their recipient and the action resulting in the award

Also on show are replica medal groups, photographs and citations of all West Australians awarded the Victoria Cross - from Frederick Bell in South Africa 1901 - to Ben

Roberts-Smith in Afghanistan in 2010

Standard museum entry fees apply  
[www.armymuseumwa.com.au](http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au)



Some of Highgate's hardworking Committee: (Clockwise): Geoff Simpson, Mike Harness, Margot Harness, Steve Chamarette, John Cleary (SVP) Geoff Houn (Pres), Greg Wilson (Sec - partly obscured), David MacLean, Howard Montagu, Bruce Taylor, Ian Petkoff. (Photo by Roger Buddrige (JVP))

### CONTACT Air, Land and Sea

is an excellent and free Australian military e-magazine published by Army Reservist, Brian Hartigan.

Quality is extremely professional, featuring lots of great stories and photographs, and candid viewpoints as well.

Check it out at [www.contactairlandandsea.com](http://www.contactairlandandsea.com)



## Our successful OCTOBER LUNCHEON



President Geoff Hourm on the "mike" with Peter Harries and some of the Luncheon crowd at the Karrakatta Club in October

A good crowd of almost 70 members came along to our October Luncheon, at which the US Consul General in WA: Rachel Cooke, proved to be a most engaging and polished Guest Speaker.

She concisely recounted the long, cooperative and amicable shared history that has characterised US and Australian relations for over 130 years, describing it as a unique "mateship" that continues to be nourished by our shared goodwill.



She touched on the mutual support that has endured through the years, as well as the robust investment and commercial interactions we enjoy. And she was quite thrilled (*see Left*), to take out one of our Raffle prizes of fine Aussie wine!

### Monthly luncheon bookings at the Karrakatta Club

This monthly luncheon meeting is \$40 per person and held on the third Monday of the month. For catering reasons, your booking must be made no later than 1700 on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon, please.

### THREE ways to book - Choose the best for you

1. Via the Highgate RSL website at <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> Click on *Next Luncheon*. Then click on *Luncheon Booking or Apology* and you'll be transferred to our new booking sheet page. Electronic funds transfer details are also on the page.

Or...

2. Go direct to our new luncheon booking sheet by pasting this into your browser: <https://goo.gl/forms/vNHgoyZm1AnWA4No2>  
NOTE: Available now for early bookings.

*Via the new booking sheet, you can add guests, food intolerances, purchase raffle tickets, check friends; and also register a non-attendance apology.*

*(NOTE: If you book your luncheon via our website or direct, you will receive an email a couple of minutes later confirming your booking).*

Or...

3. Via Committee Member: If you do not have internet access, please call Margot Harness on 9349 2847, or any Committee member, and they will help you book in.

## Welcome to Highgate RSL

We have enjoyable luncheons on the third Monday of each month with fascinating guest speakers. Since September, we have moved our venue to the **Karrakatta Club**, 4 Sherwood Court (at the bottom of the hill directly opposite London Court on St Georges Terrace, and on the corner of The Esplanade).

## !! NOTICE !!

**NO LUNCHEON will be held in November - due to the landmark Centenary of Armistice Remembrance Day Luncheon on 11/11/2018.**

## HOWEVER, come

## DECEMBER...



We get together again for our **CHRISTMAS Party Luncheon** - always an occasion for a bit of fun and frivolity.

Mark the date: 17 Dec 2018

## AN IMPORTANT NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

**Please support our monthly Luncheon RAFFLES. The purpose of our raffles is two-fold:**

1. To help keep our Luncheon costs **DOWN; and**
2. To pay for our Guest Speaker's meal as well incidental costs.

**DONATED PRIZES ARE MUCH APPRECIATED TOO!**

**What is a pessimist?** An optimist who's had too much life experience

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## From our President *(Continued from Page 2)*

*.... Tomorrow must assuredly be a better and fairer day."*

The hope of that generation, for the Great War to be 'the war to end all wars', turned out to be forlorn. How the world changed from 1918 to 1938. In just 20 years, two of our World War 1 allies, Italy and Japan, had joined the Axis and the world was at war again.

Yet, despite the forsaken hopes of the Armistice, where would the world have been if our forebears had not succeeded in World War 1?

They gave their all for world peace. Their sacrifice was so great. **Lest We Forget.**

With best wishes,

*Geoff Hourn*

### *Some facts about "The Armistice"*

The Armistice of 11 November, 1918 ended the fighting on land, sea and air in World War 1 between the Allies and their opponent, Germany, although it was never a formal surrender.

By the autumn of 1918, Germany and its allies realised they were exhausted: their armies defeated, the weary populace hungry and becoming rebellious, and their allies seeking to withdraw. The German government approached the United States with a request for an armistice based on the "Fourteen Points" laid down by US President Woodrow Wilson as early as January 1918, seen as a foundation for "peace without victory".

But as the year wore on, the carnage on the Western Front hardened American, French, British/Allied and Belgian military attitudes. Allied governments did not negotiate Terms for the Armistice, they were largely drawn up by their French commander-in-chief, Ferdinand Foch. He ensured that its conditions made it impossible for the German Army to recommence fighting.

The Armistice however, was the result of a hurried and desperate process. Germany experienced a "sailor's revolt" on 29-30 October in Wilhelmshaven, which spread across the country in days and led to the proclamation of a republic on 9 November, 1918, and the subsequent abdication of Kaiser Wilhelm II. In some areas, soldiers challenged the authority of their officers and set up 'Soldiers' Councils'. Also on 9 November, the office of German Chancellor was handed to Friedrich Ebert, a Social Democrat.

The Armistice amounted to complete German demilitarisation, with few promises made by the Allies in return. The Germans were presented with the Allied demands listed and given 72 hours to agree. The German delegation, in five cars and headed by Matthias Erzberger, were escorted to Northern France and taken to the secret destination aboard Marshal Ferdinand Foch's private train, parked in a railway siding at Compiègne.



*This painting depicts the six signatories of the Armistice in the railway carriage in the forest of Compiègne. L.-R. They are: German Admiral Ernst Vanselow; German Count A. Von Oberndorff; German General Detlof von Winterfeldt (with helmet); British Captain Jack Marriott, RN; and, standing in front of the table: Matthias Erzberger, head of the German delegation. Behind the table, Rear Admiral George Hope; First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Rosslyn Wemyss and the French Representatives: Marshal Ferdinand Foch (standing) and General Maxime Weygand.*

The Germans were in no position to refuse to sign, especially on learning that the Kaiser had abdicated the previous day.

*Photograph taken of the train carriage in the forest of Compiègne after reaching an agreement for the Armistice*

The Armistice was agreed upon at 5am on 11 November, to come into effect at 11am (Paris time - but noon in Germany).

Although the Armistice terminated hostilities, it needed to be prolonged three times until the Treaty of Versailles, signed 28 June, 1919, took effect on 10 January, 1920.

***This newsletter is printed as a service to the Veterans Community by the Office of the Federal Member for Perth***

## ORIGINS OF “WEARING A POPPY” IN REMEMBRANCE – ON ‘ARMISTICE DAY’

The “Red Poppy” as a symbol of Remembrance, came about after the end of the “Great War”: WW1. In the ghastly, devastated, muddled fields of northern Belgium of 1915, Spring brought the unexpected sight of beautiful flowers growing across a landscape already sown with the bodies of thousands of dead men. These left an impression on all who witnessed it - the flowers delivering a curiously mixed evocation of the red blood of the fallen yet the regeneration of new life.

One man captured by that vision was a Canadian Army Medical Officer: Lieutenant-Colonel John Alexander McCrae. A close friend of his had been killed that day, moving him to write a poem: “In Flanders Fields”.

At the end of WW1, the Allied nations of the conflict jointly decided to commemorate the sacrifice of all who had given their lives, by a special “Remembrance Day” every year, to mark “Armistice Day” – and to observe one Minute of Silence - at the 11<sup>th</sup> Hour, of the 11<sup>th</sup> Day, of the 11<sup>th</sup> Month, as a mark of respect, thanks, and contemplation - to acknowledge the Fallen.

It was the American humanitarian, Moina Michael, greatly moved by the poem: “In Flanders Fields”, who suggested the inclusion of the wearing of a Flanders Poppy. She wrote: ‘And now the Torch and Poppy Red, we wear in honour of our dead...’.

She campaigned to make the Poppy an enduring symbol of remembrance of those who had died in the war. Those who wear it continue that tradition - paying tribute to all the Fallen over every war since, who fought and died for our Freedoms.



### **In Flanders Fields**

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.

