



HIGHGATE



NEWS

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

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APRIL: ANZAC DAY GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

Thursday 25th April 2013

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 0700 for 0730 hrs - After Dawn Service: at Kings Park

GUEST SPEAKER: Commodore Steve Davies BSc MA - RAN; Commodore of the Submarine Force. CDRE Davies has already had a long, distinguished naval career, the majority of which has been spent in seagoing appointments in the submarine Force Element Group, including command of the submarines HMAS COLLINS (1996-98) and HMAS DECHAINEUX (2000-03). This promises to be a very stimulating and informative address.

See the BOOKING SLIP inside (Page 5) for the ANZAC Day Gunfire breakfast. Members with access to the web-site CAN book in AND PRE-PAY electronically; but others (without PC access) need to complete and mail the Booking Form and PRE-PAY by cheque etc. (PLEASE BE AWARE: it is NOT POSSIBLE TO PAY "AT THE DOOR").

president's Report

What a difference it makes having an efficient Sub-Branch Secretary.

With the election of a new State President and a reformed State Executive, the Highgate Committee has progressed from a situation of being constantly in the dark to one of providing comment and information at short notice. This is what we have asked for for a long time now, so the onus is on us all to meet the challenge.

Our Secretary, Ray Galliot, has continually kept the needs of serving servicemen and women to collate detailed responses back to State HQ. We have also had several meetings with the State President both in a personal context and in forums to advance our ideas for the future of the RSL. It is a busy and extremely important time when a new direction is in the process of being formed for the organisation as a whole.

Highgate has always been proactive in putting forward a motion or suggest

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

NO LUNCHEON -for April

just the Gunfire Breakfast

(NO Committee meeting either)

*(Continued from Page 1)*

tion that has resulted in some significant changes for the better; and we are committed to continuing to be a prominent voice within the RSL.

By courtesy of John Cleary, we have also kept up with the latest technology and are now one of the first Sub-Branches to link Facebook on our website in an effort to make the connection with prospective younger members. John has also added a history section on the Home web-page, in which he plans to add historical data to make the site more interesting and enjoyable.

ANZAC Day 2013 is rapidly approaching and our Gunfire Breakfast is sure to be a well attended event. We are limited to 80 places for members, so to avoid disappointment, pay and register your attendance on the web-page (click onto 'GUNFIRE BREAKFAST' on the Home Page or complete the Booking In and Payment Slip provided on Page 5). The Guest Speaker is Commodore Steve Davies, the current Warden of the State War Memorial. If you cannot manage the March, make it your aim to just come in for the Breakfast.

For coming events, a Sub-Committee has been formed to develop a social calendar for the remainder of the year, with the focus being on events that can be attended by wives/partners and prospective new members. The Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club function will still go ahead and has been booked for Sunday 30th June. This is a day out for prospective members and family as well.

Hopefully I will see you on ANZAC Day.

Yours in friendship, Leon

REPEATING THIS IMPORTANT NOTICE

HEAR YE! ... HEAR YE! ..We need your CV!!

Our web-site "Hall of Honour": <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au> needs to be up-dated with the details of all our NEWER members (apparently no new photos have been added since 2008). **IF** you have joined Highgate since then, please send a brief CV of your service details (and post-discharge career) to our Web-master: John Cleary (john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au) WITH a Service-era PHOTO please. If you are not on-line, a hand-written CV (and small photo) can be sent to the Editor of Highgate News (32 Lenori Rd Gooseberry Hill WA 6076).

SUB-BRANCH SNIPPETS:

Ken Jones, the very conscientious Secretary of the Honour Avenues Group, who volunteer each week at Kings Park, has advised that the remaining Dedication Ceremonies for 2013 are to be held on 18th May, 17th August and 16th November.. The services will be held at May Circle, May Drive on the Saturdays shown above and commence at 10.00am irrespective of the weather conditions.

Eli Quartermaine is still in Hollywood Private Hospital—as ever, quietly keeping his chin up, and happy to see a visitor or two. A "Cooo-EEeee" from us all Eli. You are missed.

Associate Member: **Peter Harries** PhD (also a noted entertainer) advises he has just opened a "Knight Klub Kabaret Show" at the refurbished Royal Thai Restaurant at 370 Oxford St Leederville. Special guest artists appear, along with lots of singing, music and "Snuggle Dancing". Three course Dinner and Show costs \$55 per patron—next nights are Fridays 3rd and 17th May. Venue Fully Licensed (NO BYO). 9446 1640 for bookings or peter.harries@bigpond.com Sounds a lot of fun!

A "Pun can be Fun" Corner

A woman took her very beloved but limp pet duck to a veterinary surgeon. As she laid "Donald" on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest. After a few moments he shook his head and sadly said: "I'm sorry. Donald has passed away".

"Are you absolutely sure?" protested the woman. "I mean, you've done no tests. He could just be in a coma". The vet quietly rolled his eyes, but left the room, returning shortly afterwards with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on its hind legs, put his paws on the table, and sniffed the duck from head to toe carefully before looking up to the vet and sadly shaking his head.

The vet patted the dog and took him from the room, returning within minutes with a tabby cat. The cat jumped on the table, and she too delicately sniffed the motionless duck from head to foot. She then sat back on her haunches, shook her head, meowed softly and strolled from the room.

The vet said to the woman: "I'm sorry, but as I've said: this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck".

He then turned to his computer, hit several keys and presented the duck's owner with his bill. "\$150!!" she cried in disbelief: "\$150 to tell me my duck is dead!!"

The vet shrugged. "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been only \$20. But I have no option but to charge you the extra fees for the Lab Report and the Cat scan".

NEED A LIFT TO ANZAC HOUSE TO ATTEND MONTHLY HIGHGATE LUNCHEONS?

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Thursday, **25 April**, 2013 : Bus at 0500 hrs. 0530 ready for 0548 hrs — ANZAC Day Dawn Service

Thursday, **25 April**, 2013 : Jewish Service—**No involvement of Sub-Wardens**

FORECASTING SOME COMING EVENTS

Monday - 15-Jul-13: OBE Lunch - Birthday Lunch (possibly to be combined with a brief AGM)

Monday - 19-Aug-13: **Guest Speaker:** Duncan Warren - Vietnam Veterans Day presentation

Monday - 16-Sep-13: **Guest Speaker:** Keith Russell - WA Institute of Medical Research

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

It was probably always on the cards that our member: Bob Mummery, would gravitate towards a career in the Armed Services. Bob, born 5 June 1944, was one of three children of an Army father. His brother Mick, later served with 9RAR in South Vietnam, and a sister: Christine, was in the CMF for a time. Bob, schooled in NSW and then Floreat and Perth Boys High in WA, worked briefly for a printing firm before joining the RAN in January, 1960, as a Naval Artificer Apprentice. After graduating as an Engine Room Artificer, he spent the next six years at sea on HMA Ships SUPPLY and MELBOURNE.

By 1970, he was already a Chief Petty Officer (see picture below left) but elevated to commissioned officer rank later that same year. Twelve months engineering studies in the UK followed, with another sea-posting to MELBOURNE on his return. Bob was next appointed to Deputy Engineering officer on HMAS HOBART, followed by secondment to the US Navy at the Communications Station HAROLD E. HOLT in Exmouth, prior to it becoming a joint USN/RAN base.

A wide variety of training courses and postings through the 1970s livened up his career even more, and in 1978 he was part of the commissioning crew at HMAS Stirling: Fleet base West. He became a “land-lubber” for several staff appointments for a time after this (which his wife would have welcomed!), before the sea beckoned again in 1981 and he was appointed Engineer Officer of the destroyer: HMAS PERTH., before becoming OIC Fleet Maintenance Team in Sydney and then of Darwin Naval Base. This last was the forerunner of a posting to the staff of the Commander Australian Mine Warfare and Patrol Boat Forces, where he spent three years as the Principal Engineer and promoted to the rank of Commander. Bob’s final full-time Navy posting was as the Chief Staff Officer (Engineering) to the Naval Officer Commanding WA. From 1990 on, he worked as a Project Manager in industry here in WA on Defence, Oil and Gas and government infrastructure projects, retiring at age 60. However, the RAN had different ideas, and he was seconded as a Reserve Officer for the next five years, working in the ship repair contracting arm of the Defence Materiel Organisation. (Seems the Navy wasn’t going to allow this long-serving, industrious “matelot” to just slip out of its grasp! - and it is not hard to imagine that the bosun’s whistle “piped him ashore” when he walked down the gangway for the last time!)



Bob acquired an impressive array of professional qualifications during his long career, and continued to undertake further casual work in industry before finally becoming a “retiree” in 2010.

He is married with two adult children, six grandchildren and a dog. His interests nowadays revolve around caravanning and overseas travel, along with assisting in community projects and various clubs and associations.

He doesn’t mention whether he owns as much as a dinghy these days, but we suspect he sometimes yearns to feel a heaving deck beneath his feet once more, and hear the comforting throb of a ship’s engine behaving itself!



LAST POST

Ralph Lang (died: 8 Dec 2012)

Lest We Forget

**ANZAC DAY Centenary Ceremonies 2015 — plans are already afoot**

With the months flying by, attention is gradually focussing on the many plans being made throughout Australia to commemorate 100 years since our WWI soldiers, sailors and very early airmen stormed ashore on the Gallipoli coast and in doing so, forged a remarkable legacy which helped give a fledgling nation its own sense of identity, character and pride.

One of the biggest commemoration events will be conducted in the city of Albany, which will be hosting re-enactment ceremonies including commemoration of the troop-carrying convoys that assembled and left that city all those years ago - carrying our Australian soldiers to what was to be their fate at Gallipoli. The most recent edition of the "Sub-Branch Signal", which is sent out from the WA State Branch every month, featured a first-hand up-date of these matters from our new RSL State President, Graham Edwards, AM. An excerpt from that personal message written by **Graham Edwards** is re-published here:

I think the Centenary is a great opportunity to retell the stories and recreate the lives of those young Australians who forged the legend of the ANZACs. It is a time to reflect on their bravery, courage, mateship, love of a fair go and their great love of country. It will be a time to involve our communities in our activities in a comprehensive way and above all to ensure that our focus is on education of our youth and to ensure that they carry these stories into the future.

The RSL does some great work in our communities. We don't always get everything right; but one of the things we do exceptionally well is the commemoration of ANZAC and that is why we enjoy immense community support on ANZAC Day.

You only have to look at the growth in your own ANZAC services in recent years. The continued growth of attendance and interest in our community based suburban and country communities on ANZAC Day at our services, and the expectation by the public that these services will be carried out in a professional, dignified and respectful way, puts added pressure on our sub-branches to ensure we get it right.

I think the interest in ANZAC Day right across Australia in 2015 will be enormous. I want to encourage all members to start planning for their services now. Not just your services but other activities as well. Above all, I hope there will be a major effort and focus on involving our broader communities in our activities and plans with a strong emphasis on young people.

We need to remember not just a one year event from November 2014 right coming of our troops position will also have a moving conflicts from that original cluding present day de-

The Federal Government funding guidelines, and I and make arrangements to will be approaching State and their funding bodies, who provide us with strong publish their guidelines for involvement to ensure support will be available This early advice will assist you in your planning.



Some of the troops departing from Albany 1914

too that the Centenary is but one that extends through to the home-1918. The commemorating focus on all wars and landing, right to and in- ployments.

has now released its encourage you to plan access this funding. I and Local governments including Lotterywest support, to establish and funding and community early advice on what during the Centenary.

The Centenary of ANZAC will be many things to many people. But it is not, and should not be allowed to become a mere celebration. It is our challenge to ensure that the Centenary of ANZAC has a focus on all of those qualities which we in the RSL and veteran community hold close. Love of and pride in country; commemoration of sacrifice; remembrance; youth involvement; community involvement; courage in adversity; humour; self-sufficiency and above all ensuring that the heritage of ANZAC lives on into the next one hundred years.

Graham Edwards



HIGHGATE'S 60th ANNUAL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

Date: ANZAC Day, Thursday 25 April 2013
Time: 0700 for 0730 hrs until 0900 hrs
Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
28 St Georges Terrace, Perth
Cost: \$35 per person (to be paid by 18th April)
Bookings essential – no payment at the door.
(Wives, husbands, partners welcome.)
Dress: Jacket, Tie, Medals

Menu: Poached Egg/Sausage/Tomato/Bacon/Hash Brown/Mushroom/Toast/Coffee/Tea

Bookings: Via the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch web-site: www.highgate-rsl.org.au . Click on GUNFIRE BREAKFAST (immediately under the picture of the Flame of Remembrance at Kings Park). This will open up the Booking in screen

OR completing the PAYMENT SLIP below and mailing to Treasurer: Richard Adams

HIGHGATE'S 60th ANNUAL GUNFIRE BREAKFAST "PAYMENT SLIP"

Close-off date: 1600 hrs Thursday 18th April 2013
Paying by mail: Attach your cheque to this portion
Paying by EFT: CBA 066001 : 00925571 (include your name)
Payment confirmation/bookings: Internet Link or Mailing in this Booking Form with cheque (\$35 pr person) to our Treasurer:
Cheques to: Treasurer RSL (WA) Highgate Sub-Branch
PO Box 3551
PERTH WA 6832

Name.....

Guests.....

NOTICE received from WA State HQ foreshadowing some changes to future key dates:

Diary Change:

Due to the change of location for the National Congress to be held in the ACT vice WA, the RSL WA State Congress date has been moved from 21 September to 26 October 2013. The National Congress will now take place in WA in 2014 and will be coordinated with the ANZAC Centenary commemorations in Albany. More details regarding this year's State Congress will be forwarded when known.

**RECRUITING DRIVE IS 'ON'!!**

At Highgate's last Committee meeting, President Leon and Secretary Ray Galliot, urged EVERYONE in the Sub-Branch to try to "bring in" a new member. Sadly, the straightforward approach taken by Lord Kitchener (at left) all those years ago, is no longer effective in today's world. Oh no today's Highgate stalwart must be tactful, yet possess the art of gentle persuasion, to try to encourage "newies" to take an interest and join up. No more of this old service-era stuff, eg: "Come on you"

Even more sadly, so many of our earlier members have passed away; and many of those remaining distinguished, long-time members are now becoming frail, ill and limited by mobility problems. (Indeed it is inspiring to see those who make a huge effort to still come into Luncheons, relying on walking sticks and so on. Don't think we don't notice and appreciate your loyalty, determination and the way you cope with your physical trials fellas!! - we do!)

But Leon and Ray are urging EVERYONE who is able, to try to find just one mate each to bring along. If you have oodles of charm, of course, it should be easy. But for most of us, the old tried and true "carrot on a stick" is being proposed. In other words: anyone who can introduce and sign up a NEW MEMBER to Highgate will get his/her Lunch absolutely **FREE!**

As an added incentive: for anyone who signs up THREE - there's a "Dinner for Two" at a plum restaurant as our mega-award!

Hopefully, there are still a number of Vietnam-era veterans out there, ripe for the plucking, who may be inveigled to join up.



Three of our newest members (L to R) Ian McGuckin, Joe Cicala, President Leon and Fred Brown. "Welcome men—enjoy your time with us!"

The Poem: "INVICTUS"

I don't know whether any Members saw the movie: "Invictus" when it was released a couple of years ago—but it tells the inspirational story of how the leadership of Nelson Mandela helped the failing "Springboks" improve sufficiently to win the Rugby World Cup in 1995 against all odds. Much of the story revolves around the friendship he developed with the young white South African team captain: Francois Pienaar - and the perennial themes of courage, determination and perseverance. This was the poem at the heart of the story. The poet was English. I can recommend the film—it's gripping!

*Out of the night that covers me, Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be - For my unconquerable soul.*

*In the fell clutch of circumstance—I have not winced nor cried aloud
Under the bludgeoning of chance, My head is bloody, but unbowed.*

*Beyond this place of wrath and tears, Looms but the horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.*

*It matters not how strait the gate, How charged with punishments the scroll,
I am the master of my fate: I am the captain of my soul.*

William Ernest Henley

The continuing support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance to RSL Highgate Sub-Branch is warmly and greatly appreciated.

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON STEPHEN SMITH, MEMBER FOR PERTH**