



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

HIGHGATE NEWS

Issue 5335
December 2013

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

President

Peter Farrell

Tel: 9246 1367 - 0458 720 022

Email: peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Vice President

Steve Chamarette

Tel: 9242 1865

E-mail: sunridge@it.net.au

Junior Vice President

Geoff Hourn

ghourn@gmail.com

Immediate Past President

Leon Griffiths

Tel: 9332 9039 - 0439 033 399

Email: leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

John Cleary

Tel: 9315 5875

PO Box 7141 APPLECROSS
WA 6153

Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Richard Adams

PO Box 3551

PERTH WA 6832

Telephone: 0411 737 723

Email: richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Editor

Margot Harness

Telephone: (H) 9293 1076

(M) 0438 936 405

Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions/Welfare

Margot Harness

Telephone: 9293 1076

Website

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Monday 16th December 2013

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST MC AND ENTERTAINER: Don King



Korean veteran, Don, is a man of many "hats" and 'multi'-talents. From his Army (AA Intelligence Corps) days, through a B.Sc (Psych) degree, Diplomas in Transport Admin and Hotel/Motel Management, being a Private Investigator and Security Consultant AND a professional compere, singer and actor - this man has literally "done-it-all" and is still going strong. Add to that the time and effort he has generously devoted to such charitable pursuits as Freemasonry and Rotary for many years, and we have a very colourful fellow indeed!



For the next Luncheon (16th December) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 13th December), using the web-site (ie: click on **DECEMBER LUNCHEON** under the picture of the Flame of Remembrance, and the list will appear). **FOR THOSE WITHOUT** email please call **Margot Harness 9293 1076** (or any of the committee listed at left) to book in.

Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to enter a "P" in Column 3 to indicate you are a **PERMANENT** booking.

president's Report

A great big thanks to Mike Harness, John Homer and Barry Campbell and all their helpers at our Poppy Day Appeal on 8th November which collected \$15,804.80. Others who had been organised by members' children assisted the efforts of our members. May I ask you to please pass our thanks on to them. As the years progress our membership increases in age. To overcome this problem we need to encourage younger members.

We need everyone to be a recruiter for new members. Members at the November luncheon received a business card to assist in recruiting. When you hand one out you need to put your contact details on it. Prospective members then contact you. Membership application forms can be downloaded from our web-page.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 16 December 2013

(Committee: 10am same day)



(Continued from page 1)

Our Memorial Luncheon was a huge success. Thanks are due to our Sub-wardens for our memorial service. Past President Leon Griffiths and Roger Buddridge organized the lunch venue and we thank them for their efforts. In a surprise move, Peter Harries had written a new verse to "And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda" and he offered to perform this for us. Before this he led members in some old wartime songs. Many commented on this - a nice touch to end a lovely day. Thanks Peter!

Your committee is in the process of formulating a plan for our way forward over the next five years. We need to change the way we operate if we are to remain relevant over the coming years; and find ways of encouraging more of those who have recent service to join us. Your input and ideas are urgently sought. Please share them with the committee.

For the past couple of years many members have been paying for the ANZAC breakfast and the Memorial Luncheon by making EFT payments. Commencing with the December luncheon, members (including those on

the Permanent list) will be encouraged to EFT their payment (to reduce the amount of money taken at the door and cash that has to be banked).

The Committee is concerned that we now have a large amount of money in our amelioration fund and very little "draw" on it. We are restricted in the amount we can keep and may have to forward some to State HQ shortly. **It is imperative that we know of those in need.** We know pride stops some from asking, but it is better we use it than lose it.

Some of our older members are finding it difficult to catch public transport to our luncheons. We are investigating practical ways to help. Can we help you? Please contact Margot or one of the committee, as we believe you need to keep coming to join your mates, and your mates need you to keep coming! Thanks to Ken Bladen for the work he puts in organising lifts.

Yours in fellowship,

Peter

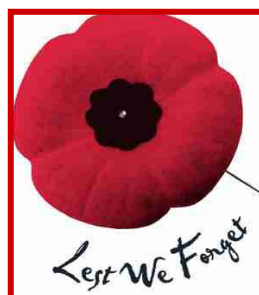
Sub-Branch Snippets

Tom Horton, a stalwart of Legacy as well as the RSL, is taking orders/selling Legacy Christmas Puddings again this year. Orders are best - as Tom is limited as to what he can carry into the city "on-the-off-chance". Large (800g) are \$10; Small (100g each) cost \$7.50 for four. They are lovely quality puddings. Please phone Tom on 9223 0446 to place an order and he will bring your pudding(s) with him to the Luncheon on the 16th December. This has been "**Tom's Tradition**" for years, so please get behind him once again!

Ray Galliot has provided an update on his progress, which is re-printed verbatim: "Again, many thanks to all those members who have emailed, phoned, sent cards and called to see me as I continue with rehab at Shenton Park Campus. I'm being treated as an outpatient so it is great being home where I can keep myself better occupied rather than staring at four walls and dirty bed pans. I'll be fully mobile in the New Year so you will see more of me. Best wishes to all for a Safe Xmas and a Prosperous and Healthy New Year".

It's going to be good to have this popular member back amongst us - hale and hearty!

POPPY DAY FEEDBACK



Once again, a great result.

My sincere thanks and congratulations to those members (and others) who rattled a tin or helped in other ways.

A special "Thanks" to Martyn Thompson for his invaluable support and guidance.

We collected \$15,804.80 in all, so we can justly give ourselves a pat on the back and say: "Well done!"

Mike Harness
Coordinator

CALLING ALL YOU COMPUTER BUFFS:

How many of you have checked out the Highgate RSL web-site?? If you haven't - why not take a peek? John Cleary has done a marvellous job putting it together. Check out your own photo and brief CV on the "Hall of Honour": http://highgate-rsl.org.au/hall_honour3.php

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

NO CEREMONIES SCHEDULED FOR DECEMBER

"The Way We Were" Gallery Our Golden Oldies

"There are thousands of stories in the Naked City" a sonorous voice used to declare before a popular 1960s-era TV series and the same could safely be said about some of the characters and stories of some of our Highgate members. How many of us would know, for instance, that one of our ex-British members: still-boyish-looking Malcolm Weatherhead, saw considerable action during the Korean War?

Young Malcolm was born in Yorkshire in April 1932, one of three brothers. His Dad served as Adjutant of 54 Spitfire Squadron in Darwin with the RAF during WW2, absent from the family home for over two years. He left school at age 18 and immediately began the mandatory two years of British National Service in 1950. In early 1951, there was a call for volunteers for service in Korea, and this sounded like a very exciting prospect for a lad with a sense of adventure. This service was to be with the Royal Northumberland Fusiliers.

This unit had taken heavy casualties in late April 1951 and urgently needed reinforcements. A six-day air trip - rare in those days - followed, via British bases (Malta, Cyprus, Baghdad, Karachi, Colombo, Singapore, Hong Kong) and finally to Japan for two weeks "toughening up" training; and then: Korea.

Malcolm recalls his first visual impression of Korea as being one of utter devastation. Assigned to X Company, 6 Platoon, and issued with a .303 bolt action rifle, he found himself on a hill overlooking the Imjin River with "a magnificent view across the river valley to the enemy positions". Weeks of patrols and listening posts ensued until the order came that they were to move to the enemy side of the river and things "became serious". Subjected to frequent shelling from that point on, they lost their first platoon commander shortly afterwards.

In October 1951, the Commonwealth Division (comprised of three British Regiments, one Canadian, one Australian (3RAR) NZ and British artillery) was to attack a range of hills named Maryang San. On that first day, casualties totalled 113, and their second platoon commander was blown up but survived. The ferocious machine-gun firepower they confronted was unrelenting and terrifying in its intensity. Exploding shells often demolished trenches. Over the following days, the RNF lost their CO, a Major and six lieutenants. From Malcolm's account, it must have been mayhem with attacks and counter-attacks from both sides. Sometimes dubbed "the Forgotten War", the Korean conflict inflicted substantial casualties killed and wounded during its three-year duration, estimated to be 856,500 on the "allied" side in total; civilian casualties over two million, and 739,180 enemy (China and North Korea) - far heavier ratios than Vietnam, for instance.

After completing his two years NS, Malcolm served three more years in the Reserves, earning his parachute wings in the Parachute Regiment of the Territorial Army. He took up employment in the wool trade, employed as a buyer for several Yorkshire wool mills before starting his own business importing wool from Australia, NZ and South America, necessitating trips abroad to these sources. But by the early 1960s the Yorkshire wool industry was

markedly declining, so his wife and he "and three and a half children" emigrated to WA, where he had connections, to allow him to carry on in the wool trade.

He was able to retire at the age of 62. He and his wife have lived in the same Mount Pleasant home for 26 years and celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary this year. Both enjoy a vibrant social life, lots of travel, and active engagement with their four offspring and their families, including five grandchildren. (And Highgate RSL of course).

The photo at left is of 19-year old Fusilier Weatherhead just prior to departure for Korea. In his dry way, Malcolm has observed: "Age has wearied him and the years condemned" but it seems fair to say that on the contrary, you have "weathered well Malcolm!" Good for you!



LAST POST

Fred Johnston

Lest We Forget



TEN NEW PLAQUES DEDICATED AT KINGS PARK

The final 2013 quarterly Ceremony to dedicate plaques to WA servicemen who gave their lives on foreign soil took place on 16 November. Even after all the years that have elapsed since the World Wars, families gather to attend these special, formal Dedications that provide a tangible name plaque to their loved one in front of a tree on one of the Memorial Avenues. Ten men were acknowledged on this occasion at which a synopsis of the life of each hero, as always, was read aloud, and a family representative is handed the plaque.



Members of the Honour Avenue Group line up before the Dedication of plaques ceremony at Kings Park - State President of RSL(WA) State Branch, Graham Edwards AM at right

A Pun Can Be Fun Corner

Paddy was a youthful and hard working Irishman at a Donegal coastal village.

Daily he would pole a heavy old punt out to sea then work a heavy iron grapple to bring up the sand oysters which he sold to the local ice-works.

He was a man of regular habits - leaving and arriving home each day at the same times.

Sadly, Paddy did not realise that the heavy grappling was taking a toll on a faulty heart.

One day he failed to come home, so his wife contacted the Garda (Police) and asked them to investigate her missing husband.

They rowed out and found Paddy dead in the punt; beside him a huge grapple full of oysters he had tried to hoist aboard.

The headline in the next day's "Irish Times" Newspaper read "Oysters Kilpatrick!"

*Just a reminder that there **WILL NOT** be an issue of "Highgate News" in January, so see you in February 2014*

Wishing all our members a

very Happy Christmas with a

Wonderful New Year

to follow !

People caring for people & the environment



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
BY THE OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL MEMBER FOR PERTH**