



Highgate Highlights

Official newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)
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Peter Garside & Jack Suriano

From our President

At our May meeting, guest speaker John McCourt JP, CEO and State Secretary of RSLWA, briefed members on RSL initiatives and projects.

While the principles of commemoration, advocacy and welfare are still its reasons for being, John said RSLWA wants to deliver these services to members in a more accessible, timely and comprehensive manner. To this end, RSLWA is looking at creating regional hubs to assist members with services so they don't have to travel to RSL headquarters in Perth.

John also gave members a detailed look on plans for the new ANZAC House. Work has already commenced, with a deadline to occupy the new premises in October 2019. Members should therefore note that Monday 15 October 2019 should be the date for Highgate's first luncheon meeting in the new ANZAC House. In the interim, we continue to be very thankful we can enjoy the hospitality afforded to Highgate by the Western Australian Club.

(continued on page 2)

Our next meeting is on Monday 19 June at The Western Australian Club

Important: Please book before COB on Wednesday 14 June as the Western Australian Club needs catering numbers finalised that day

The Western Australian Club is located in the Grosvenor Building at 12 St Georges Terrace, opposite the byway between Perth Concert Hall and Duxton Hotel. Enter through the revolving door and use the far right-hand lift to Level 11.

Please use the booking sheet on the website or telephone any Committee member to register. The cost of the monthly luncheon is \$30 per person, payable by no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting, which takes place on the third Monday of each month (*except April - Gunfire Breakfast; and November - Fraser's Kings Park*).

To book your monthly lunch, please enter your name electronically on the booking page via the website, (before 12 noon on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Go to our website home page at www.highgate-rsl.org.au and double-click HIGHGATE MONTHLY LUNCHEON below the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and you'll be transferred to the booking sheet page.

Electronic funds transfer details are on the spreadsheet. Cost is \$30 per person.

You will need to book your luncheon each month by noon on the Tuesday prior to the meeting.

If you do not have internet, please call Margot Harness on 0438 936 405 or any Committee member to book in.

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | Mon 19 Jun | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon 19 Jun | Monthly Luncheon - WA Club

Last Post | Lest We Forget

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



From our President

(continued from page 1)

At the last Committee meeting, a proposal was agreed that Committee members contribute items of information and interest with respect to their various portfolios and responsibilities when the occasion arises.

In addition, it was requested that Geoff Simpson and Mike Harness coordinate photographs and text profiling members currently or previously involved as Sub Wardens or members of the Honour Avenue Group. This initiative will provide recognition and appreciation of Highgate members who make such a substantial contribution to the West Australian community in commemoration activities.

All members (or their family or friends) are also invited to submit photos and brief details of sporting or social events in which our members have participated during the year. In the past, many members have achieved outstanding and newsworthy outcomes in their lives but have gone unrecognised.

Accordingly, please email your contribution to our Highgate Highlights Editor and Junior Vice President at roger.buddrige@gmail.com

At our 19 June luncheon, member Geoffrey Stooke OAM will be our guest speaker, with the topic *A Journey in Sport*.

An Officer Cadet School graduate, Geoff has also had a lifelong involvement in rugby since 1965, playing more than 850 grade games (still playing Fourth Grade) and almost 100 representative games. He has coached at club, State and national levels and is also active in various other sports, including as a grinder on the Kookaburra crew that competed in the 1987 America's Cup Defence.

Geoff is currently a director of the Australian Rugby Union and of the Reabold Tennis Club.

From our President (continued)

Previously, Geoff was Chairman of Rugby WA - Western Force from 1988 to 2011 and a Director of the Australian Sports Commission. I am sure Geoff will entertain and interest all of us.

Please note it is essential to register your luncheon attendance by COB on Wednesday 14 June for our meeting on Monday 19 June. If you have registered to attend and fail to show up you will still be charged the \$30 as this is the catering cost to Highgate.

This link will take you straight to the booking sheet so you can register your attendance: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzxscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P_WKvR1EI2qpSUCwK_7_8dg/edit#gid=0

For those not familiar with the on line booking sheet, please call Margot Harness on 0438 936 405 to register your attendance. It is also requested when you pay for your lunch, to please add \$5 for each raffle ticket you wish to purchase as this will reduce the amount of cash collected at the desk and allow more time for fellowship.

Looking forward to catching up with you at our meeting on Monday 19 June.

Steve Chamarette

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Greetings to our Members celebrating their birthday in June, including:

Jeff Astfalck, Helen Birch, Barry Campbell, Kevin Cass-Ryall, Ken Chapman, Alex Donald, Stefan Frodsham, Brian Gibson, Lou Halvorson, Tim Harrison, John Hollingshead, Frederick Johnson, Sunnly Kim, Murray Lampard, Peter Mack, Bill Mees, Robert Mercer, Bob Mummery, Michael Munjak, Gerry Postmus, Jeremy Sher, Noel Sivewright, Geoff Stevens, Bruce Taylor, Bryan Taylor, John Tick, Max Walters and Adrian Young.

June Guest Speaker biodata Geoffrey Stooke OAM

Geoff Stooke OAM is Managing Director of Standard Wool Investments (previously Standard Wool Australia), assuming the role in 1996. Following a successful management buyout in 2004, Geoff is now also the owner. In addition, he is Chairman (and shareholder) of Tropus IT & Management Services.



Geoff has previously held senior positions in fishing, food and resources industries and his early career was as a commissioned officer in the Australian Regular Army. This included service in Australia and overseas (1PIR). A Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, he has various company and organisational directorships.

With a lifelong involvement in rugby, Geoff has played over 850 grade games since 1965 (still playing Fourth Grade) and almost 100 representative games; and has coached at Club, State and National levels. He is also active in various other sports, and in 1987 was a grinder on the Kookaburra crew that competed in the 1987 America's Cup Defence.

Geoff is currently a Director of the Australian Rugby Union and a Director of the Reabold Tennis Club. Previously, he was Chairman of RugbyWA/Western Force from 1988 to 2011 and a Director of the Australian Sports Commission.

Honours and awards include the Medal of the Order of Australia, the Australian Sports Medal, the Centenary Medal and in 2006, he was WA Citizen of the Year in the Sport category. Geoff Stooke is also a Life Member of RugbyWA, Associates RUFC and patron of the RAE Association (WA).

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

Sub Warden Duties | 2017

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD | Deputy Warden State War Memorial

- Sat 26 Aug** 0930 for 1000 Merdeka Day Commemoration - Malayan Emergency
Malaya Borneo Veterans Association of Malaysians in WA, Malaya
Borneo Veterans WA and Malayan Volunteers Group Australia
- Sat 09 Sep** 0930 for 1000 Rhodesian Services Association of WA
- Sun 10 Sep** 0900 for 0930 Maltese Association
- Sat 02 Sep** 0930 for 1000 2/16th Battalion Association (update)



RSLWA Membership
At 30 April 2017
Service 6,745
Affiliate 1,535
Total 8,280

State War Memorial Report

By Deputy Warden Geoff Simpson

May 2017 was a particularly eventful month, with five services at the State War Memorial.

02 May | Sub Wardens formed an honour guard at the funeral of our past president, Ted Stevenson.

08 May | The Australia-America Association held a commemorative service at the Cenotaph for the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Regarded as the turning point of the war in the Pacific and the first action in which aircraft carriers engaged each other, it was also the first in which neither side's ships sighted or fired directly upon the other. In the battle, 04-08 May 1942, more than 1,600 lives were lost, together with two destroyers and 161 aircraft.

09 May | On this night, many families of the Russian Community gathered with remembrance candles at the Pool of Reflection to remember their fallen comrades.

23 May | An evening gathering commemorated the 76th anniversary of the Battle of Crete. Organised by the Greek Consulate, we were fortunate to have in attendance Vice-Chief of the Greek Defence Force, Lieutenant General Konstantinos Floros, as well as our former Deputy Chief of Army, Major General John Hartley AO. General Floros presented commemorative medals to two Crete Veterans - William Taylor (age 101) and Norman Eaton (age 99).

29 May | With 99 wreaths, USA Memorial Day this year witnessed the largest-ever wreath-laying ceremony at the Flame of Remembrance. Guests of honour included the Governor of Western Australia, US Consul General and RSLWA State President.

31 May | Our Indigenous Veterans were honoured at this commemoration which also included a smoking ceremony during the playing of the Rouse. We were also graced by the attendance of Her Excellency, the Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, Governor of Western Australia.

There are no commemorative services scheduled in June.

Key domestic and international ANZAC Commemorations 2017-18

25 August 2017

o 75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay
Australian War Memorial

14 September 2017

o 70th anniversary Australian Peacekeepers and Peacemakers | Anzac Parade, Canberra

26 September 2017

o Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood
Passchendaele | Zonnebeke, Belgium

23 October 2017

o 75th Anniversary of the start of El Alamein
Australian War Memorial

31 October 2017

o Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, Sinai Palestine Campaign | Be'er Sheva, Israel

2 November 2017

o 75th Anniversary of Kokoda and the Beachheads
Australian War Memorial

25 April 2018

o Anzac Day Dawn Service, Gallipoli, Turkey
o Centenary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux

4 July 2018

o Centenary of the Battle of Hamel
Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France

11 November 2018

o Centenary of First World War Armistice
Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition. Here are some winners:

1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. Ignoramus: A person who's both stupid and a bum.
3. Intoxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realise it was your money to start with.
4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. Foreplay: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
6. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
7. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.

ANZAC House
flashback



Highgate Luncheon Speakers

By Geoff Hourn

Many members may not know that Senior Vice President Geoff Hourn arranges most of our monthly guest speakers. We are all grateful to Geoff for the extraordinary quality and variety of our guests, all of whom inform - and sometimes amaze us.

June | Geoff Stooke OAM | One of our own Highgate members but also the WA representative for Australian Rugby Union. If you want to know where Super Rugby is going, ask Geoff Stooke!

July | Kim Beazley AC | Former Federal ALP Leader Kim Beazley spoke to us seven years ago, just before he left to become Australia's Ambassador to the USA. In the meantime, he severely criticised the election campaign and credentials of Donald Trump. I don't think Kim is eating humble pie - but ask him!

August | OBE and AGM | The Rats of Tobruk and Bomber Command are still represented. Wish them all a happy birthday. It's also a good chance to farewell the Highgate Sub-Branch President.

September | Serge DaSilva Chairman of Defence Industries Association WA | Has WA been duded? Should we be building submarines in Cockburn Sound? Serge will tell us.

October | To be confirmed, but it might be former Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer. If not, Tim will join us in 2018 and we will learn about the secret *Double Sunrise* flights from Perth's Matilda Bay to Ceylon in WWII.

November | Remembrance Day lunch at Fraser's Kings Park | Do you want a speaker? Please let Geoff know.

December | Christmas Party | We hear that Elvis now lives in Subiaco. Anything is possible!

January 2018 | No meeting

February | One of our very own - **John Adeney** | Respected CSIRO researcher and now an archaeologist.

Disclaimer Please note Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove any inappropriate content, and to clarify or shorten the item where needed. Although normal tests for accuracy are undertaken, you should not rely on this material without carrying out your own validity checks. Opinions expressed in Highgate Highlights are not necessarily those of RSL Highgate Sub-Branch or RSLWA. You are welcome to forward information of interest to your colleagues and friends, although we would appreciate acknowledgment as its source.

Rejoining Member | Clare Curtis

Membership Officer Howard Montagu asks all members to warmly welcome Clare Curtis who rejoined Highgate RSL in May. Clare and husband John were valued members of Highgate some time ago. Sadly, John has passed away and Clare recently decided to re-join us. She is also very active in several organisations, including Bayswater SES and the War Widows Guild.

Vietnam Camaraderie Tribute

A special performance for Vietnam Veterans and their families by entertainers who toured and performed on stage for the troops in Vietnam from 1962 to 1973, the Vietnam Camaraderie Tribute is the first time the entertainers have got together since the 1960s and/or 1970s.

Supported by the Vietnam Veterans Association and LotteryWest, the show features Eddie Storm, Highgate member Dr Peter Harries, Kelly Green and Ray Van Ross.

"Kelly Green and I entertained in official Government Concert Parties in Vietnam in 1968 and 1971, and Eddie Storm and Ray Van Ross did likewise in 1969 and 1970," said Peter Harries.

Entry is by gold-coin donation and afternoon tea will be available. The event will be held at the Eastlake Church, 99 Lakes Road, Greenfields on Wednesday 05 July from 1.30 - 4.30pm.

Although in a church building, the venue is first class and was actually built with this sort of use in mind

Bookings are essential via **Vee Storm on 0401 832 195 or email stormey3@aapt.net.au**, and there is every possibility you will be able to catch up with some old mates on the day.

A VIETNAM CAMARADERIE CONCERT
M.C. PETER HARRIES OAM
5TH JULY 1.30PM TO 4.30PM—EASTLAKE CHURCH
99 Lakes Road Cnr Murdoch Drive
(opposite Peel Campus Hospital on Lakes Road)

A special performance for Vietnam veterans and their families with music from the era by West Australian entertainers **Eddie Storm OAM, Peter Harries OAM, Kelly Green and Ray Van Ross** who toured and performed on stage for the troops in Vietnam 1962—1973

Bookings are Essential to secure your seats, please call Vee on 0401 832 195
Gold coin entry donation per person.

PETER HARRIES OAM KELLY GREEN
EDDIE STORM OAM RAY VAN ROSS
READY FOR THE SHOW 5TH JULY
GREENFIELDS - EASTLAKE CHURCH
1.30 TO 4.30 PM

lotterywest supported



At last! National Boer War Memorial dedicated in Canberra on 31 May



Our Membership Officer, Howard Montagu, has provided a report from Kevin Bovill, Secretary of the Boer War Memorial Society of WA, following the dedication on 31 May 2017 of the National Boer War Memorial in Canberra.

The National Boer War Memorial in Canberra features soldiers on horseback, with letters from veteran Frederick Harper Booth at their feet.

"We have presented the nation in perpetuity with a lasting tribute to those who served and fell in the Anglo-Boer War of 1899-1902," said Kevin. "The memorial is no doubt the first among equals along Canberra's ANZAC Parade, in terms of its striking visual effect.

"We have well and truly brought the Boer War back into national focus and lifted the curtain of ignorance that has existed around this earliest of Australian troop deployments, thereby continuing the work started by film director, Bruce Beresford, with his epic movie, *Breaker Morant*."

Fought between 1899 and 1902, the conflict was Australia's first foreign war. About 23,000 Australians volunteered to aid the British when they suffered severe casualties after the South African Boers invaded Natal and Cape Colony. By the end of the Boer War, a fledgling Australian nation had suffered about 1,000 casualties, including one nurse.

Kevin said the ceremonial opening event was first class, with the Australian Defence Force performing their tasks with professional polish and Governor General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd), delivering a well-structured address.

Notable West Australians present at the ceremony included Hon Peter Tinley, WA Minister for Veterans and Mayor of Cockburn, Logan Howlett JP, a Boer War descendant.

Australian veteran, Colonel John Haynes, who spearheaded the campaign for the memorial, said it had been a long time coming.

"I had a bright idea ... about 20-odd years ago," he said. "My uncle went to the Boer War so I have a connection with it.

ANZAC House flashbacks



Kevin Bovill with Valma Thomas (83), daughter of Tasmanian Boer War Veteran Arthur Chilcott, at the Boer War Memorial Dedication.

"Additionally, the memorial connects with the current Army Corps, because the troopers of today go to war on armoured personnel carriers, while the troopers of the Boer War had armoured personnel carriers in the form of horses."

Valma Hunter, daughter of Boer War soldier Corporal Joseph Lock, believes the men who took up arms in the Boer War deserve as much recognition as any Australian soldier, saying "They were the fathers of the ANZACs".



From Peter Aspinall RSLWA President:

On 17 May, ABC Radio National interviewed James Brown, an RSL member of the Bondi Sub-Branch in NSW and also a candidate for the position of State President in the imminent RSLNSW Congress elections. The interview focused mainly on issues that have engulfed RSLNSW. However, Mr Brown regrettably repeatedly referred to 'the RSL' when he was, in fact, referring to RSLNSW. As the interview was broadcast nationally, these references unfortunately implied that all State Branches were similarly tainted.

While I agreed with much of Mr Brown's commentary, it was a comment he made towards the end of the interview that caused me great concern when he referred to inappropriate and improper management in the NSW, SA, QLD and WA State Branches.

When referring to RSLWA Mr Brown stated that "...a court case of the last couple of years showed that the RSL's own management were acting improperly in selling some of its assets to external companies". At best, Mr Brown has been badly misinformed.

The inaccuracies in this statement are:

1. It was the RSLWA Board of Management, not another party, which initiated litigation against its former aged care business and other parties in a successful effort to gain a greater value for the asset that RSLWA had divested itself of. This litigation was resolved through mediation prior to the court hearing date. At no time was RSLWA's Board ever accused of improper conduct in relation to the divestment.
2. While the wisdom of the divestment can be questioned, its legitimacy was never questioned by any legal adviser engaged by all parties to the divestment.
3. Reference to 'external companies' is misleading. RSLWA's former aged care operation was acquired by RACA itself.

I have tried to contact Mr Brown to apprise him of the inaccuracy of his comment and the adverse impact it has created.

Message to RSLWA Sub-Branches from RSLWA CEO John McCourt **RSLWA CEO welcomes new NSW RSL president**

On behalf of the State President, Peter Aspinall, I am very pleased to inform you all that James Brown has today been elected the new RSL New South Wales State President. Mr Brown joins the Board along with some with other new, younger veterans, which augurs well for the future. A veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan, James Brown is son-in-law of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

WA State President, Peter Aspinall, says there are now high hopes for a clean-up of the debacle which has seen months of turmoil amid serious allegations of misconduct within the NSW Branch. He said the news comes as great relief by other State Branches including, of course, WA and there is the opportunity to rescue the reputational damage the RSL in NSW has caused.

National President Robert Dick, who attended today's RSLNSW Congress, expressed his pleasure at the success of Mr Brown's election. Ahead of the Congress, RSL National had called for the existing council to stand down while investigations were conducted. They didn't and contested the elections.

Police, the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profits Commission, among others, are investigating the NSW Branch over claims of fraud and misconduct.

As CEO of the RSL in WA, it is a reminder that RSL Branches Australia-wide need to ensure the very highest standards of good governance and ethical responsibility.

Update: Complimentary first-year RSL membership for serving ADF personnel

Subsequent to last month's Highgate Highlights report that the RSLWA Board has unanimously agreed to offer current serving full-time ADF members wishing to join RSLWA their first year's membership at no charge, RSLWA Operations Manager Martin Holzberger advises that a subsequent review of the various categories of Defence Reserve members has since taken place and ADF Reserve members are now also eligible for the discount. For questions or assistance, please call Membership Officer Andrea Hunt on 9287 3705.

Compensation & Pensions

By David MacLean | Highgate RSL's Pensions and Veterans Affairs Officer

David is a volunteer ATDP Advocate Level 2, Compensation & Welfare

The sage tells us that the only constant in our lives is change. This is certainly the case in the pensions and compensation area, as I was part of a team presenting the last Training and Information Program (TIP) training course for volunteer advocates to be held in Perth.

The new regime, the Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) replaces TIP on 01 July 2017. However, TIP-trained advocates remain current until 2020, by which time many will have transitioned to the ATDP stream, either through recognition of prior learning or by taking part in online ATDP training programs.

The transition to ATDP has been very much like the curate's egg - good in parts. Online access remains bumpy at best and the communication flow from the east has been marked by long dry patches.

As your Pensions Officer, I operate from the Bullcreek Veterans' Support Centre, RAAFA Estate in Bullcreek, which is manned by volunteers - RAN Mondays, RAAF Tuesdays and Army by arrangement. Queries may be left on the answering machine (9311 4235) when the office is unattended. New volunteers are always welcome.

The quotable Will Rogers

Will Rogers, (1879-1935) was a stage and motion picture actor, vaudeville performer, cowboy, social commentator, newspaper columnist and humourist....

- o Never kick a cow pat on a hot day.
- o Never miss a good chance to shut up.
- o Always drink upstream from the herd.
- o If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging.
- o The quickest way to double your money is to fold it and put it back into your pocket.
- o Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.
- o If you're riding ahead of the herd, look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.
- o Letting the cat out of the bag is a whole lot easier than putting it back.