



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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MONTHLY LUNCHEON AND AGM
Monday 21 November 2011

Venue: Gallipoli Room
Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKER - Dr Alex Kerr PhD: *This distinguished ex-Bomber pilot, ex-POW(E), economist and senior academic is one of our very own: he was also one of our OBE's (he turned 90 this year actually!) this past July. Fasten your seatbelts and listen in to some inspiring tales of "derring-do"!*

**REMEMBRANCE LUNCHEON AT KINGS PARK :
ASSEMBLE AT "FLAME" 10.50AM- 6 Nov 2011**

BOOKINGS HAVE BEEN FANTASTIC—150 members, spouses and guests have secured their place on the list (170 is the cut-off).

Bookings can still be squeezed in by contacting Margot Harness: 9293 1076 **URGENTLY**; or margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au **OR** any of the other Committee members listed (at left). (Please provide first name of your partner/spouse to assist the SVP with name-tags/seating plans etc).

PLEASE TAKE SPECIAL NOTE: THE "PERMANENT LIST" HAS BEEN AMALGAMATED INTO A "DIRECT BOOKING IN" SYSTEM (See Page 3 for list). THOSE ON E-MAIL HAVE BEEN SENT THE DIRECT GOOGLE WEB-SITE. MAIL RECIPIENTS CAN BE REGISTERED AS A "PERMANENT", BUT MUST BE AWARE TO ADVISE MARGOT HARNESS IF UNABLE TO COME. FOR ONE-OFF BOOKINGS, PLEASE PHONE MARGOT (Ph: 9293 1076) BEFORE 17th NOVEMBER.

president's Report

2011 is rapidly drawing to a close.

With Perth's great event (CHOGM) now over we move onto Perth's next main event – Highgate's Memorial Lunch at Kings Park on Sunday 6 November. By then the staff at Frasers will be well experienced at serving dignitar-

(Continued on page 2)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 7 November 2011 Monthly Luncheon: 21 November 2011



(Continued from page 1)

ies and therefore it will be a natural progression for them to wait on our own distinguished members and partners. Our thanks must go to Hollywood Hospital for supporting such an important and significant event arranged to commemorate Remembrance Day and recognize the voluntary effort put in by our Sub-branch members over many years, both at the War Memorial and into maintenance duties on the Honour Avenues.

After this we will be looking forward to our Christmas function, once again hosted by the man for the occasion, Peter Harries. Last year, as well as providing great entertainment on the day, Peter generously donated a limousine voucher for the raffle. Also, because he enjoyed himself so much on the day, he joined Highgate as a member. The way to go Peter!

Looking at the bigger picture our Sub-branch purpose does not entirely revolve around social activities. They remain extremely important, however, we will be trying very hard to meet the expectations of our members in other areas. We offer support in difficult times and when health is failing, we will raise funds for support where they are required and we will review and offer comment on matters affecting veterans and families. We will also look at ways to offer something new for members and partners to encourage membership. Times are always on the move so we must move with them.

Highgate has always been a strong Sub-branch and the committee will endeavour to keep it that way. The strength in any organization is in its people, and in our case, the continuing growth of its membership. It is essential to make the link with the younger serviceman and women to determine what they want from an organization like ours and then make the decisions to ensure this happens. We will continue to hold captivating monthly lunches at ANZAC House and to ensure this happens SVP Peter Farrell has developed a captivating speaker list that will include the Governor of WA. However, as these lunches are held during the working day we need to examine other options or activities that cater for partners, members and associate members that are still employed and unable to attend. Any suggestion is welcome, as always.

Four members of the committee will be attending State Congress being held at the end of the month. At Congress we will be presenting the motion passed at our AGM related to recognition on the State War Memorial of SAS servicemen killed in action during recent conflicts. Also Highgate will again collect for Poppy Day under manage-

ment of Jim Eayrs and Martyn Thompson on Remembrance Day 11 November. On average \$17,000 is col-

lected each year. Well done Jim and Martyn for coordinating this outstanding contribution.

Finally, for your early information, a booking has been made for Sunday lunch at the Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club at the end of February for a scrumptious Sunday lunch.

They can cater for 200 people so here is your opportunity to bring your friend, intending member or family member along to enjoy the day at a very reasonable price in magnificent surroundings. The best outcome from this booking is that we will be the first customers to occupy new, completely rebuilt facilities with a large deck overlooking the Swan River where we can soak up the ambience in the company of friends and comrades. What more can you want?

I leave this with you to plan ahead. Please be on the lookout for new members or associate members and do not be afraid to put your hand up to join the committee. We still need a JVP. All assistance is welcome.

Keep well.
Leon

A "Pun can be Fun" Corner

Two young musicians: Tom and Roy, boarded a train in Pennsylvania bound for the Deep South.

One had with him a brand new pair of shoes, the other had his pet cat.

Having dinner together in the Dining Car, they discussed ideas for new songs, particularly wanting something with a Southern flavour. Little progress was made however, and after several nightcap drinks they returned to their sleeper compartment.

During their absence, Roy's cat had mischievously rummaged through their luggage, including Tom's new shoes. On ruefully picking up the somewhat damaged shoes, Tom pensively looked at the cat, his friend, and a shoe.

Rhythmically tapping his foot he quietly began to hum a tune before remarking: "Pardon me Roy, is that the cat who chewed my new shoe"

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

Sunday 6 November 2011 : 1030 for 1100 hrs- Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
 Friday 11 November 2011 : 1000 for 1100 hrs **Note early arrival** Remembrance Day
 Monday 21 November 2011 : 1030 for 1100 hrs- War Widows' Guild of Australia WA
 Friday 25 November 2011 : 1800 for 1830 hrs- RSL State Congress

** Possible ceremonies for Venturer Scouts and Perth Legacy - Dates yet to be notified/confirmed

RE-WORKING THE "PERMANENT LIST" FOR MONTHLY LUNCHEONS:

As outlined on the Front Page, we now have an "on-line" Booking In system in place each month — but anyone wishing to be recognised as a "Permanent": just as before - will have his/her name "carried forward" automatically from month to month. The people who have specifically asked for this so far are listed below. Please check to see if your name is here. **IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR NAME ADDED TO THE LIST, ring Margot (9293 1076).** Bear in mind that once you register for this, **if you fail to notify when you CANNOT attend, you will have to be charged for the meal nonetheless. (Sorry!)**

Adams Richard	Harness Margot	Quartermaine Eli
Arnold Bob	Harness Mike	Stacey Roy
Bladen Ken	Homer John	Thompson Martyn
Coy Les	Lane Bert	Walkley Cecil
Eayres Jim	McKenzie John	Weatherhead Malcolm
Graham Kevin	Morris Keith	Wilson Bill
Griffiths (Pres) Leon	Morriss John	

MEMORIAL LUNCH 6th November - IT IS NEARLY UPON US!

How the months have flown! CHOGM became a reality, and now in the past- and it is almost time for us to gather together again for our own special Sub-Branch Remembrance Day ceremony at the Flame of Remembrance, followed by our "annual" Memorial Luncheon at Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park.

Members and their wives/partners and guests are asked to assemble in the precinct surrounding the Flame before 11am on Sunday 6th November, for the Memorial Service to the Fallen before adjourning for a three-course sit-down Lunch and fellowship. Wines/drinks included

MENU:

Entrée: Smoked breast of chicken on roast pumpkin and pinenut pissaladier; rocket and chardonnay dressing.

Main: Roast eye fillet of Beef (cooked medium) with potato and sweet potato pie, choice of one sauce- red wine, béarnaise or pepper sauce

OR

Chargrilled Atlantic salmon fillet with chick peas, preserved lemon and cucumber yoghurt.

WITH BOTH MAINS - Choice of steamed green vegetables or salad

Dessert: Mango and blueberry crumble with rhubarb and vanilla bean icecream. (Tea/Coffee etc)

Cost: \$70 a couple for members. We DO acknowledge the efforts and imagination of our current President, Leon Griffiths, who initiated this event and master-minded the original organisation/admin for it.



LAST POST

Larry Widger

Lest We Forget



LET US ACKNOWLEDGE TODAY'S WARRIOR HEROES

I have often thought that it would be marvellous if the Highgate SubBranch could reach out and establish more robust links and friendship with the SASR: that unique Regiment of modern-day soldiering that resides virtually on our door step.

It is understandable that, with their own Association and Club ("The House"), close to their Swanbourne "homebase" of Campbell Barracks, that past and present members have their own venue for social camaraderie - and hence preferring to relax and reminisce with people who have shared the same rigorous experiences. Notwithstanding, how wonderful it would be if a number of them could see their way clear to follow the example of former Lt Col Ken Bladen (the only exSASR member I know of in Highgate!) and **also** join the RSL, hence contributing their modern-day insights into the life of our Sub-Branch.

The recent death of Lt Col Bill Braithwaite brought home to me the enormous contribution made by this Regiment in modern warfare, and all post-WW2 wars and conflicts in which Australia has been involved. Since its formation in 1964 (modelled on the British SAS, but also drawing on the experiences of special WW2 reconnaissance and Commando units) it is recognised as an elite force. When its founding CO Lt Col Braithwaite (a former WW2 member of the 2/3rd Independent Commando Coy and "Z" Special Force) approached AHQ for permission to form unconventional four-to-six man teams as opposed to more traditionally-sized patrols of 15-20 men - he was forced to sign a secret document asserting he would have to personally take "full responsibility" for lost lives if these tactics did not work out. It is said that Lt Col Braithwaite 'with a courageous flourish of a pen and a bold disregard for the consequences' signed the paper on the spot and a legend was born.

Comprised of three Squadrons (with daunting, multiskilled capabilities in reconnaissance, infantry, and versatile fieldcraft on land, sea and air) and a separate Signals Squadron - the SASR and its members have gained a larger-than-life reputation for outstanding resilience and personal endurance, partly because entry requirements alone are so tough and demanding.

The SASR first saw action in 1965 in operations in Malaysia aimed at stopping Indonesian infiltration. It then acquitted itself with distinction in Vietnam (between Apr 1966 until withdrawn Oct 1971), as the eyes and ears of the 1st Australian Task Force. Post-Vietnam, the SASR has fulfilled wideranging and varied peacekeeping roles in places as diverse as Rwanda and Sinai; and at squadron strength (in tandem with an attached NZ SAS troop) were deployed to Kuwait, as part of the US-led Operation Desert Thunder.

In late 2001, the SASR was deployed in the campaign against al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan - primarily conducting surveillance, but also offensive operations, suffering a number of fatal casualties. Since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, the unit provided the majority of the ground force element of the Australian contribution to that war, successfully securing its allotted region in Western Iraq.

The SASR has also performed multiple security tasks here in Australia (eg: the Sydney Olympics and counter-terrorist alerts) - indeed, in its short but impressive history since 1964, the SASR has lost more men in training than in combat due to the nature of its training regime.

It behoves us in the RSL, it seems to me, to actively investigate and encourage greater ties and cooperation with former and current SASR members if we can. The RSL WA's Pensions and Advocacy section is bring proactive offering assistance, which is, I understand, being increasingly taken up. These moves are to be applauded.

Australia is proud of these fine, special warriors and I am sure we too, in Highgate, would welcome the opportunity of their friendship.

Editor



Across generations: The late Lt Col Bill Braithwaite (R) pictured chatting with modern-day SASR hero: Cpl Ben Roberts-Smith VC

(Refs: Photo and History derived from facts/data on SASR-related websites)

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

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL



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