



HIGHGATE



Issue 494
April 2010

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

NEWS

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

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

No Monthly Luncheon—Gunfire Breakfast 25 April 2010

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Leon Griffiths



Guest Speaker: Mac Hanlin

Mac studied speech and drama at Loretto: He is now a student at Scotch College and his presentation to us this morning has been approved by his headmaster.

In his young life he has won awards for his public speaking and he has undoubtedly a great future in this field.

We are in for a considerable treat.

Topic: Gallipoli

PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

In time to come we may not remember the date - Monday 22 March 2010 but those who lived in the path of the recent hail storm will hardly forget the day when lawns turned white, windows and windscreens were broken and roads became rivers. At times like these there are possibly members who could do with a hand to get their lives back in order. Crises often come out of the blue and are not restricted to dramatic events affecting the general population; as one gets older they are not so easy to handle.

Let us never forget that Highgate was founded on the notion of support for comrades and make sure that we continue to meet our founders' expectations. By our actions rather than our words will we be judged. Proud men and women find it difficult to ask for help but Highgate is one resource to draw upon in an emergency. Just get in touch with one of the Committee. We can all do our bit by looking around to see who is missing, living alone or who might just need a friendly phone call to ask if they are safe and sound.

Never forget. April is an important month in the Highgate calendar. It is a time to reflect. A time to remember comrades past and present. It is also a time to say thank you to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice to make Australia a safe place in which to live. Attendances at the ANZAC Day Dawn Services and Capital City Marches are increasing as more and more come to realize the price that Australian Servicemen and their families have paid

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FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 3 May 10

Monthly Luncheon: 17 May 10

**DEFENCE FORCES RETIREMENTS BENEFITS FUND***(continued from page 1)*

in wars and confrontations when supporting other nations. In acknowledging the public's interest and gratitude, try to answer their questions and understand that they would really like to hear your story.

If you haven't already done so, may I recommend that you try to visit the Western Australian Museum between now and 2 May to view the travelling exhibition from the Australian War Memorial *This Company of Brave Men: The Gallipoli VC's*. The exhibition includes a display of all nine of the Victoria Cross medals awarded to Australian Servicemen during the Gallipoli campaign and the stories of the courageous awardees. It has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Mr Kerry Stokes AC and Seven Network Ltd and will be open between 1pm and 5pm on ANZAC Day.

Attendances at the Monthly Lunches have been improving. Guest Speaker in March was Captain Brett Dowsing, RAN, Naval Officer commanding HMAS Stirling at Garden Island.


One of his senior shore postings was Staff Officer Naval Aviation on the Naval Attaché's staff in Washington DC, responsible for liaison between the ADF and US on maritime helicopter operations. Brett spoke of the time following the 9/11 terrorist attacks as being surreal. He shared a few of his experiences and his observations of locals and foreigners and their reactions to the attacks. Apparently the safest place for a visiting Australian dignitary was deemed to be the wine cellar of our Embassy – and that was where Prime Minister John Howard found himself with plenty of choices but possibly no corkscrew.

I look forward to seeing as many

members as possible at our Annual Gunfire Breakfast .at 0700hrs on Sunday 25 April at the WA Club when we will be joined by a number of dignitaries. On this occasion we will have a short sharp presentation from a young man, Mac Hanlin who for a few minutes will take you to ANZAC Cove.

Yours in Fellowship

Martyn Thompson



INDEXATION OF
MILITARY SUPERANNUATION
PENSIONS

Dear Colleagues
You will be aware of the efforts that the Defence Force Welfare Association (DFWA) has been undertaking on your behalf regarding the unfair Indexation of Military Superannuation Pensions and our campaign to protect the purchasing power of them.

More recently, we have expressed some concern regarding prior associations between Senator Sherry (who commissioned the Matthews Report into ADF / APS Superannuation Indexation in June 2008) and Mr Trevor Matthews (who lead the Review) and also Mr David Harris (who played a prominent role in it). We have written to the Prime Minister asking him to release all documentation relating to the decision to engage Mr Matthews and Mr Harris (including those related to the financial arrangements) and for the Prime Minister to clarify the nature and extent of the reported associations between Senator Sherry and Mr Matthews and his review team members. Parliament is responsible to set ADF service conditions and it is important that all serving and former members have confidence that this responsibility is taken seriously by all MPs and not feel let down by the Government.

Your support remains fundamental to achieving ultimate success of

our campaign. If you are able, we encourage you to make your views known to your federal MP and/or senator, the PM and other Ministers and Opposition Spokespeople (some email contact details are provided below). You could also consider approaching media outlets as well to give them your views (some email contact details are also provided below). Please also refer the issue to any of your acquaintances who have an interest in ADF Superannuation.

IMPORTANTLY ... DFWA believes this campaign would get more consideration by our political representatives if those among us, who are sometimes emotional and at times even abusive over the lack of support by the Government, use more measured words. We do understand the frustration and we have no quarrel with forceful language but please avoid personal attacks because these can spoil the very well developed arguments that are now being put by other individuals and organisations, including the DFWA. simple consistent message without distractions is what is needed the simple message that what we seek is to "protect the purchasing power of military superannuation pensions" is the key theme. Remember also that "all we want is a fair go" is a great slogan encapsulating our campaign for justice and equity.

We must ensure this is an election issue so continued pressure, in a constructive but firm tone by email, phone, written correspondence or even personal representation to your local members and others, is important.

We have a wealth of information on our website to help you. Some email addresses are also provided at the end of this email.

Yours sincerely

Les Bienkiewicz
Executive Director

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SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday 25 April 2010 0530 hrs for 0548 hrs - ANZAC Day Dawn Service (Bus at 0500 hrs)

DON'T MISS THIS IMPORTANT EVENT ON OUR CALLENDER



GUNFIRE BREAKFAST

DATE: ANZAC DAY Sunday 25 April 2010

TIME: 0700hrs for 0730hrs until 0900hrs

VENUE: WA CLUB 101 St Georges Tce, Perth

COST: \$40 per head

DRESS: Tie & coat (with medals)

RSVP: Only by payment no later than 16 April (cut-off date)

to:

RSL Highgate Sub-Branch

PO Box 1013

SUBIACO WA 6904

59th Anniversary of the Battle of Kapyong

Dear Secretary RSL-WA Branch,
The Royal Australian Regiment will hold a ceremonial parade and family afternoon on Saturday 24 April 2010 at Kapyong Lines, Holsworthy, commencing at 1030 hrs for 1100 hrs and concluding at approximately 1300 hrs.

I wish to extend an invitation to you, the members of your organisation, and their families, on behalf of "Old

HOSPITAL-HOME VISITS

Trying to keep in touch with those members who are unwell, indisposed, hospitalised or just too frail to attend monthly lunches has always been part of Highgate's ethos. Privacy laws frequently make it difficult to discover who is in hospital and which hospital, so we need the co-operation of all Highgate members.

Any member who would appreciate a home or hospital visit is asked to communicate this fact directly or via a relative or friend to any of the following:-

- the hospital concerned;
- any Highgate member or Committee member;
- directly to Ken Bladen - Home telephone 9244 8072, or
- Otto Pelczar - Mobile 0408 940 928 or
- Reverend Tim Harrison - Home telephone 9448 0139

Remember in a changing world we need to stick together.

On Wednesday 24 March I visited the following in Hollywood Private Hospital:

Lindsay Caddy and Geoff Stevens in Guernsey Ward, Mick Michael in Pope Ward, Ron Rigg in Gosse Ward and Jim Monteith who was in for a day procedure.

Ken Bladen

Faithful" to attend the parade and afternoon. The Colonel Commandant of the Royal Australian Regiment, Major General B.W. Howard, AO, MC, ESM (Retd) will be the Host Officer.

Inquiries to:

Lt Tim Farrell:
timothy.farrell@defence.gov.au or 02 8782 1996.

LTCOL T.M. Scott, CO 3Bn RAR

TRANSPORT—LUNCHEONS

1. In some instances a number of Highgate members who rely on public transport still find it difficult to attend monthly lunches. Some of the reasons are.

- infrequent or no train services.
- infrequent bus services or too far to the bus-stop.
- expensive taxi alternatives.

2. Members in these circumstances may like to be considered for possible shared private car travel arrangements with car driving members who live close by - willing to offer seats.

3. Those interested - either in obtaining a 'lift' or drivers willing to participate are kindly requested to phone me directly on 9244 8072.

Ken Bladen.



ATTENDANCE—MAY LUNCHEON

Would you note that if you are not on the permanent list and intend being at the May luncheon please advise Eli Quartermaine by 13 May as I will be away during the month. His contact details are:

- Telephone: 9447 8822
- Email: qmaine@hotlinks.net.au

Bob Arnold



Black Swan Theatre Company Welcomes Hollywood

With thanks to Katherine Filippi - Hollywood Private Hospital



Black Swan Theatre Company will be added to Hollywood's arts sponsorship portfolio in 2010, joining the WA Opera and The West Australian Ballet. This makes the hospital one of the State's most significant corporate contributors to the arts.

As well as being featured prominently throughout the year in the company's production material, Hollywood will be the Associate Partner of the production *The Clean House*.

Black Swan State Theatre Company's General Manager, Shane Colquhoun is absolutely delighted to have Hollywood on board. "We are excited to welcome Hollywood Private Hospital as a Black Swan sponsor and look forward to a long and mutually beneficial relationship. Hollywood's support will help ensure that Perth audiences get to see high quality live theatre productions by the company in 2010."

"With courage and humour an old soldier remembers; Thanks Ken":

THE CAMP BUTCHER

In the latter part of 1944 I was in a party of 200 sent up the line to Konquita near the Burma border on maintenance of the railway.

Rations were pretty poor and we had not seen any meat for some weeks. I jokingly said to our commander that it would be a good place to be the camp butcher. Our commander was not noted for his sense of humour.

A few days later he called me up and said "you wanted to be the camp butcher - well you are". Unaided I had to erect yards to hold six cattle due to arrive in a few days. The yards were constructed of bamboo and some

timber and in due course 6 miserable cattle - hog tied on flat top trucks arrived. They had to be carried to the yards. One died almost straight away so I cut its throat and butchered it. IT WAS THE FIRST I HAD EVER DONE IT!

The next item to butcher was a large sow in a cane basket - not for us but for the Japanese guards.

I had to have a helper and arranged for Charlie - a slaughterman in civil life to help out. Our tools comprised an axe two well worn knives and steel worn smooth with use.

We killed the pig with the axe and then had to skin it. As the Japanese did not eat the skin or the head all this was ours.

We told them that the pig had been "beeoky"(sick) and that the liver, heart and kidneys were unfit to eat so that we had all the offal. As we had cut off the head level with the shoulders the carcass did not look too good. We cleaved it and then quartered it and handed the four pieces to the Japanese cook who thanked us profusely. Little did he know that we had cut out a complete rib and enjoyed the greatest pork chop of all time.

Ken Wood