



# HIGHGATE



Issue 493  
March 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

Monday 15th March 2010

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Dual Appointment  
Leon Griffiths

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room  
**Time:** 1130 hrs—Fellowship 1215 hrs—Luncheon



**Guest Speaker:** Captain Brett Dowsing RAN Commanding Officer, HMAS Stirling.

Brett was born in Perth WA on 20 September 53 and spent his childhood in Merredin, Broome and Rabaul, PNG. He joined the RAN in January 69 and graduated from the Naval College HMAS Creswell in December 73.

Professional training saw completion of operations and warfare courses in the UK and sea service in HMA Ships, *Parramatta*, *Anzac*, *Duchess*, *Vendetta* and *Sydney* the last operating in Vietnamese waters during conflict.

He commenced pilot training in 1976 and received his "Wings" at RAAF Pearce in December 77. He has had extensive operational flying postings.

Senior shore postings have included:

- Fleet Aviation Officer on the Maritime Commander's staff responsible for operational standards and planning for the embarked elements of the Fleet Air Arm— this period included the initial operations in Timor and Bougainville, preparation of evacuations from Indonesia and in support of counter-terrorist operations associated with the Sydney Olympics
- Staff Officer Naval Aviation on the Naval Attaché's staff in Washington DC responsible for liaison between the ADF and US on all aspects of maritime helicopter operations - this surreal period included the 9/11 terrorist attacks and the subsequent wars in Afghanistan, Iraq and on terror.
- Director for East Timor in International Policy Division of ADHQ.
- Directing Staff at the Australian Defence College's Centre for Defence and strategic studies.

**Topic:**

### PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

I urge anyone who has not as yet paid their membership dues to do so as soon as you can for the cut-off date is rapidly approaching. Many thanks go to those who have included a donation to Highgate over and above their subs; your gifts are very much appreciated.

I am also very pleased to report that Highgate will be supporting the RSL Australian Forces Overseas Fund with a donation of \$1000. The monies are used to put together packages that are despatched at Christmas and midyear to personnel on active service or in a peacekeeping role. Credit goes to Don Blair for initiating the collection for this worthy cause and to members attending the December and

(Continued on page 2)

### FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**Committee:** 12 Apr 10 - **Monthly Luncheon:** No luncheon in April because of Gunfire Breakfast.



## STARS 'n TANKS

The Army Museum of Western Australia is pleased to announce the first "Stars 'n Tanks" day to be held at the Army Museum, Burt Street Fremantle on Saturday the 27th of March.

Gates will open at 2:00pm and the event continues into the evening, closing at 10:00pm. For the first time an amazing array of telescopes, earth sciences, astronomical and army displays will be available at one venue. The Perth Observatory will be providing their 30" telescope, the largest available to the public in Australia. Public lectures including talks by Dr James Biggs (Director of the Perth Observatory), Peter Birch, the Mars Society plus demonstrations on how to use GPS equipment, astronomical photographic



exhibitions make up just some of the exciting attractions that will appeal to young and old. Viewing of the Sun with specially equipped telescopes during the day will be followed by looking at the Moon, Saturn and Mars in the evening. All this and more including full access to the Army Museum collection featuring the newly restored Centurion Tank.



colonial past.

The cost for adults is \$15, children and concession holders \$5 and a 2+2 family pass for \$35. All proceeds go to Museum Gallery fund as part of the 100th anniversary of the Artillery Barracks.

David Nicolson (Event coordinator.) (On behalf of the Army Museum of Western Australia Foundation.)

The army re-enactment group will be on parade to give a glimpse of the Western Australia's

### TRANSPORT TO MONTHLY 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.

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### President's Monthly Report

February luncheons for their generous contributions. However I need to reassure members that such collections are strictly on an occasional basis and will not become a regular feature of meetings.

A good audience in February listened intently to Guest Speaker Dr Philippa Rogers as she displayed her passion for all things pertaining to railways. Her presentation on the role of Western Australian Railways during the period 1939-45 brought back memories for many in the audience. It seems that life was extremely difficult for those trying to manage the rail services in a country ill prepared for war, as it was for the railwaymen and equally so for soldiers moving around the country. A number of our members were able to confirm the discomforts of rail travel at that time, and to share some of their war time memories.

I was recently in a public building in Perth which had to be evacuated because of fire and am mindful that each of us should be aware of the procedure to be followed if such an event occurred at ANZAC House. Whilst the staff

would be in charge and give directions, we have a personal responsibility to be aware of the fire exits and fire equipment, and to know the location of the Assembly point in the case of evacuation. The RSL has recently reviewed procedures at ANZAC House and now requires that a short statement be read out at the start of each meeting. I hope that you will give some thought to these matters.

We are rapidly approaching ANZAC day and the annual Gunfire Breakfast. Fifty seven years ago a group of friends, some of whom are today's longest serving Highgate members, breakfasted together in a West Perth home and warmed themselves with a 'tot' of rum between the Dawn Service and the Parade. The tradition continues so please make sure to book early for this year's Breakfast to be held at the WA Club.

With the assistance of their families, several extremely interesting obituaries of Highgate members have been published in the West Australian during the past month. These personal stories and anecdotes make history come alive. Don't wait until you pass on for others to tell your story - take the time now to write it down for the younger generations. Share your past,

warts and all, so that they know that active service is not an overseas holiday but a journey often started by politicians and only ended by politicians after many lives have been lost.

Your Committee has been very active during the past month. A decision was agreed at the February Committee meeting that the Executive should meet monthly in addition to the full Committee meeting.

We were well represented at the recent Seminar at ANZAC House which focused on Sub-Branch responsibilities. This reminds me that the RSL WA Constitution and By-Laws are very lengthy and that members do not receive a copy when they join. It is however available in full on the website at <http://www.rslwahq.org.au> or from ANZAC House - \$5.00 for a CD, \$40 for hardcopy.

In closing I would like you to spare a kindly thought for the person who gets the newsletter to you - Editor Bob Arnold. Thank you Bob from each of us.

Yours in fellowship  
Martyn Thompson.



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

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

Sunday	21 March 2010	1200 hrs for 1230 Hrs - Consulate of Greece - National Day
Saturday	27 March 2010	0915 hrs for 0945 hrs - RAAF Association - Anniversary of the formation of the RAAF

### Australian General Service Medal for Korea receives royal approval

The Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon. Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, today announced that Her Majesty the Queen has approved the official regulations and design for the award of the Australian General Service Medal for Korea.

The Australian General Service Medal for Korea is being struck to recognise former Defence Force personnel who completed 30 days participating in operations in South Korea. This includes any location within 161 kilometres seaward from the coast of South Korea during the post-armistice period from 28 July 1953 to 19 April 1956.

It is expected that the medal will be available for dispatch to some eligible recipients before ANZAC Day 2010.

Former Defence Force personnel who served in South Korea during the post-armistice period are encouraged to submit their application to the following address:

Directorate of Honours and Awards  
Department of Defence  
PO Box 7952  
CANBERRA ACT 2610

'There is nothing, Sir, too little for so little a creature as man. It is by studying little things that we attain the great art of having as little misery and as much happiness as possible.'

*Samuel Johnson.*

### TRUST FUNDS AVAILABLE TO VETERANS NOW

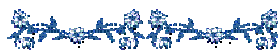
Not many veterans are aware that support and financial assistance is available to them - including serving members and their dependants.

To qualify you must reside in Western Australia. If you are experiencing financial hardship this is what is available to you:

- Monthly grants;
- Assistance with rent arrears and bonds;
- Outstanding debts (Water, Electricity, Telephone);
- Replacement of White goods;
- Removal costs;
- School fees;
- Invalid wheel chairs;
- Motor Vehicle repairs.

It is not necessary to be a member of the Returned and Services League (RSL). Basic proof of Service and hardship is all that is required.

If you are experiencing financial difficulties please contact the Trust Secretary, Rosalind Howat at ANZAC House, Perth on (08) 9287 3707, mobile 0412 009 191 or email: [welfare@rslwahq.org.au](mailto:welfare@rslwahq.org.au)



### 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.

*Ken Bladen*

Statistics have established that we in our Sub-Branch are mostly pretty ancient and may well remember when we counted cherry or prune stones. 10 to 1 that our grand children don't. Test them or introduce them;

When shall I marry?  
*This year, next year, sometime, never.*

What will my husband be?  
*Tinker, tailor, soldier, sailor, rich man, poor-man, beggar-man, thief.*

What shall I wear?  
*Silk, satin, cotton, rags.*

How shall I get it?  
*Given, borrowed, bought, stolen.*

How shall I get to church?  
*Coach, carriage, wheelbarrow, cart.*

Where shall I live?



**Permanent Luncheon List** The following members are listed as attending all luncheons, unless they advise to the contrary. Should you wish to have your name added to, or deleted from this list please advise me - arnold@wn.com.au or 94482757. Those not on the list please notify me of their attendance **by midday on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon date** to enable us to inform ANZAC House staff of the numbers, for seating and catering purposes. Bob Arnold

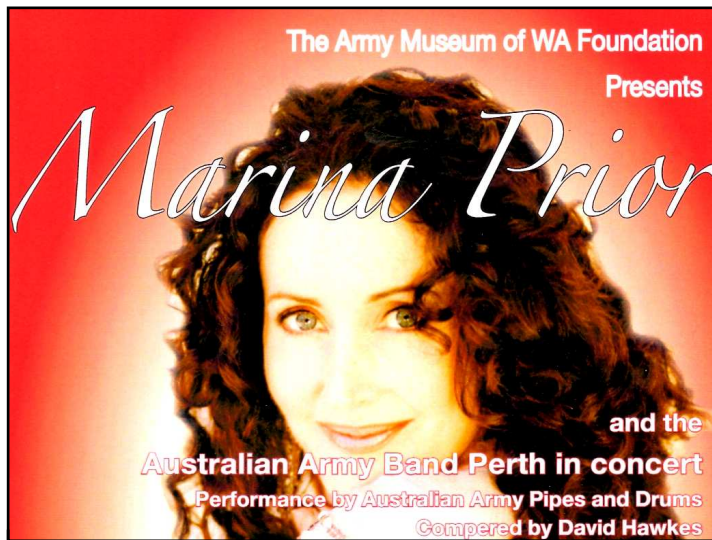
Adams Richard	Graham Kevin	Mercer Bob	Stacey Roy
Arnold Bob	Griffiths Leon	Monks Noel	Thompson Martyn
Atherton Phil	Harper-Nelson John	Montagu Howard	Walkley Cecil
Bladen Ken	Harrison Tim	Morriss John	Weatherhead Malcolm
Blair Don	Hummerston Peter	Mulholland Ian	Wells Eleanor
Coy Les	Jones Dick	Palmer Laurie	Wilson Bill
Digby Norden	Lane Bert	Saville Alan	Wood Ken
Durant-Lovell Lynn	Manners Norm	Scriven Stephen	Young Adrian
Eayrs Jim	McKenzie John	Skelton Phil	White Ted

**N**ew element discovered at ANU to be included on the Periodic Table:

The Nuclear Physics Department of the Australian National University has discovered the heaviest element yet known to science. The new element, Governmentium (Gv), has one neutron, 25 assistant neutrons, 88 deputy neutrons, and 198 assistant deputy neutrons, giving it an atomic mass of 312.

These 312 particles are held together by forces called morons, which are surrounded by vast quantities of lepton-like particles called peons. Since Governmentium has no electrons, it is inert; however, it can be detected, because it impedes every reaction with which it comes into contact. A tiny amount of Governmentium can cause a reaction that would normally take less than a second, to take from 4 days to 4 years to complete.

Governmentium has a



Thursday 8pm on 15th April 2010  
Perth Concert Hall  
Tickets available through all BOCS Ticketing Outlets 9484 1133 or outside the metropolitan area  
1 800 193 300 - [www.bocsticketing.com.au](http://www.bocsticketing.com.au) -  
\$95.00 A — \$80.00 B Reserve - Concessions and Group Bookings Available.

**Congratulations to Cecil Walkley**  
**M80 16:01.8 - World Record**  
18 February 2010—An exciting night. A world record, when the M80's (Men's over 80) 800 relay smashed the previous World record, 2 Australian records and 3 State records!  
[Team:- Vic Beaumont 4:22, Stan Lockwood 3:51, Cecil Walkley 4:04, Irwin Barrett Lennard 3:45.]

normal half-life of 2 - 6 years. It does not decay, but instead undergoes a reorganization in which a portion of the assistant neutrons and deputy neutrons exchange places. In fact, Governmentium's mass will actually increase over time, since each re-organization will cause more morons to become neutrons, forming isodopes. This characteristic of moron promotion leads some scientists to believe that Governmentium is formed whenever morons reach a critical concentration.

This hypothetical quantity is referred to as critical morass.

When catalyzed with money, Governmentium becomes Administratium, an element that radiates just as much energy as Governmentium since it has half as many peons but twice as many morons.

*(With tongue in cheek - but there is no doubt that our political servants do need a serve from time to time.)*

Editor

*This publication is produced with the support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance is greatly appreciated.*

**HOLLYWOOD**  
**PRIVATE HOSPITAL**