



Highgate Highlights

Official newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)
www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Issue 571 | April 2017

ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

YOUR COMMITTEE

President

Steve Chamarette

0429 801 037 | 9242 1865

steve.chamarette@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer & Past President

Peter Farrell

0458 720 022 | 9246 1367

peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Senior Vice President

Geoff Hourn

0414 063 707 | ghourn@gmail.com

Junior Vice President & Editor

Roger Buddrige | 0408 900 126

roger.buddrige@gmail.com

Secretary

Greg Wilson

4 Florian Place Duncraig 6023

0412 095 201 | 9448 8213

greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions & Veterans Affairs

David MacLean

0418 917 982

davidmaclean@iinet.net.au

Web Manager

John Cleary | 0417 955 864

john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Geoff Simpson

0408 925 432 | 6380 1014

gsimpson001@optusnet.com.au

Membership Officer

Howard Montagu | 0417 956 621

howardmontagu@bigpond.com

Honours & Awards Sub-Committee

Bob Arnold | 0407 329 353

arnold353@bigpond.com

Kevin Graham | 0419 984 007

ktgraham@iinet.net.au

Hospitals & Welfare

Bruce Taylor | 0408 955 219

brucetaylor@yahoo.com.au

Honour Avenue Representative

& Poppy Day Organiser

Mike Harness

0419 091 708 | 9293 1076

mharness@westnet.com.au

General Committee

Leon Griffiths

0439 033 399 | 9332 9039

leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Richard Adams

0411 737 723 | 9325 6387

richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Margot Harness

0438 936 405 | 9293 1076

margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Ian Petkoff | 9275 9295

thepetkoffs@hotmail.com

Front Desk

Peter Garside & Jack Suriano

From our President

Our March meeting was enjoyed by more than 50 members and guests at our new venue, the Western Australian Club.

Guest speaker, Dr Robyn Yeo, gave us a great insight into her RAAF career, from winning a RAAF scholarship to complete medical studies at the University of Western Australia, to the harrowing experience of the Rwanda genocide.

Robyn gave a personal account of the inspirational humanity demonstrated by Australian Defence Force personnel during the massive atrocity in Rwanda during 1994, where in just 100 days, an estimated 800,000 people were slaughtered by ethnic Hutu extremists.

At the same meeting, it was good to see former of Highgate President, Bill Munro, catching up with past friends.

(continued on page 2)

April meeting is ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast at the Western Australian Club 0700-0900 25 April

Important: Please book before 12 noon Wednesday 19 April as the Western Australian Club needs catering numbers finalised that day

Our ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast will be held from 0700 on ANZAC Day, 25 April at the Western Australian Club, 12 St Georges Terrace, opposite the Perth Concert Hall. Please enter through the revolving door and use the far right-hand lift to Level 11.

Breakfast cost, including rum ration for over-18s, is \$30 per person, payable by no later than Wed 19 April.

Pre-registration is essential. Please use the booking sheet on the website or telephone Margot Harness on 9293 1076 to register, as there will be no money collected at the door on ANZAC Day. All payments must be by electronic funds transfer or by cheque to The Treasurer, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, 9 Bonito Way, Sorrento WA 6020 and to be received no later than Wednesday 19 April 2017, please.

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 Wednesday prior to the meeting.

If you do not have internet, please call Margot Harness 9293 1076 to book in

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 0700 | Tue **25 Apr** | ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast - WA Club
- No April Monthly Luncheon or Committee meeting
- 1100 | Mon **15 May** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon **15 May** | May Monthly Luncheon - WA Club

Last Post | Lest We Forget

During the ANZAC Day period, we especially remember with deep sadness and affection all our departed Members, and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to their families



From our President

(continued from page 1)

Dress Standards | As Highgate RSL luncheons will continue to be held at the Western Australian Club, members and guests need to be aware of our respective Club's dress standards.

Gentlemen are asked to wear tailored trousers with a long-sleeved, collared business shirt; and ladies are requested to wear smart attire appropriate to the male dress requirements, please. Denim clothing, shorts, short-sleeved shirts, casual shirts (including polos), runners and boat shoes are not acceptable.

In keeping with the Western Australian Club dress code, your Committee has decided the Highgate standard of a coat or jacket should be retained as our minimum standard, although the wearing of a tie will be optional. Please ensure you and your guests follow the Highgate dress standard and do not breach the WA Club code.

Luncheon registration | It is essential you register your attendance at our next luncheon on Monday 15 May by booking and paying by no later than the preceding Wednesday, 10 May, please. However, if you register to attend but do not show up, you will still be charged \$30 as we are obliged to pay for the numbers registered as catering will have already been arranged.

For those not able to use the online booking sheet, please call Margot Harness on 9293 1076 to register your attendance. For those who are computer literate and can use electronic funds transfer (EFT), it is requested that you add an additional \$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.



From our President (continued)

ANZAC Sunset Services | Please also remember that you and your family and friends are very welcome to attend the ANZAC Sunset Services being conducted with our Sub Wardens at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on the five evenings prior to ANZAC Day.

The ANZAC Sunset Services will be held at 1700 from Thu 20 April - Mon 24 April inclusive, and are a good way to avoid the Dawn Service crush and may be easier and more meaningful for younger family members.

More details on pages 3-4.

ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast

Our 64th ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast will be held in the Western Australian Club on Tuesday 25 April, in lieu of our monthly luncheon meeting.

Our guest speaker will be Warden of the State War Memorial, Wing Commander Christine Pittman. Breakfast will be at 0700 for a 0730 start with conclusion by 0900, providing sufficient time for members to enjoy breakfast and fellowship, before attending the ANZAC Day city march. The full breakfast (including a rum ration for those aged over 18 years) is \$30 per person and you are encouraged to invite guests.

Registration is essential. Please use the booking sheet on the website or telephone Margot Harness on 9293 1076 to register, as there will be no money collected at the door. All payments must be by EFT or by cheque to The Treasurer Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, 9 Bonito Way, Sorrento WA 6020 to be received no later than Wednesday 19 April 2017.

On arrival on ANZAC Day, you will be issued with a Breakfast Ticket to receipt your payment and this is to then be used as a place card to reserve your seat.

From our President (continued)

Dress code is coat, tie and medals.

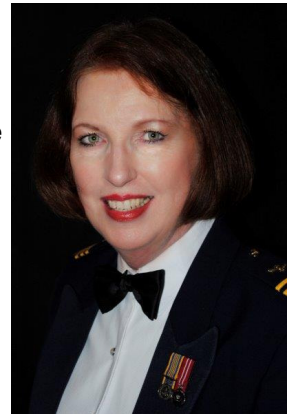
Please confirm your attendance and complete your payment for the Gunfire Breakfast as soon as possible, and before 19 April, as we have also invited members of the Western Australian Club to join us for the breakfast as continuation of a previous tradition.

I look forward to seeing you at our ANZAC Day Breakfast.

- Steve Chamarette

New State War Memorial Warden appointed

Wing Commander Christine Pittman accepted the one year appointment as Warden of the State War Memorial at a handover ceremony in Kings Park on 11 November 2016.



She has qualifications in law, social work and mediation; and has more than 36 years Service experience, having joined the RAAF in 1979 as a legal officer.

Christine spent seven years in the Permanent Air Force, with the remainder in the Specialist Reserve. She currently works as a school counsellor and a family law mediator. Wing Commander Pittman is our guest speaker at the ANZAC Day Breakfast.

RSLWA Membership

At 31 December 2016

Service 7,804

Affiliate 2,175

TOTAL 9,979

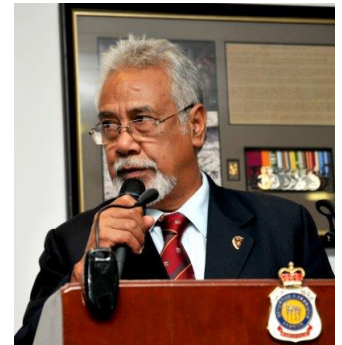
***This newsletter is printed
as a service to the
Veterans Community
by the Office of
Tim Hammond MP
Federal Member for Perth***

Sub Warden Duties | 2017

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

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

- Thu 20 Apr** 1615 for 1700 ANZAC Sunset Service | Bomber Command Operations
- Fri 21 Apr** 1615 for 1700 ANZAC Sunset Service | Battles of El Alamein & Kokoda
- Sat 22 Apr** 1615 for 1700 ANZAC Sunset Service | HMAS Perth & USS Houston sinking
- Sun 23 Apr** 1615 for 1700 ANZAC Sunset Service | Massacre of Vyner Brooke
- Mon 24 Apr** 1615 for 1700 ANZAC Sunset Service | Battles Bullencourt Paschendaele
- Tue 25 Apr** 0515 for 0550 ANZAC Day Dawn Service
- Mon 08 May** 1030 for 1100 Australian American Association (WA Division)
- Mon 29 May** 0920 for 1050 North American Veterans' Unit
- Wed 31 May** 1030 for 1100 Remembering Indigenous Service
- Sat 09 Sep** 0930 for 1000 Rhodesian Services Association of WA
- Sun 10 Sep** 0900 for 0930 Maltese Association
- Sun 10 Sep** 1000 for 1030 2/16th Battalion



Key domestic and international ANZAC Commemorations 2017-18

25 April 2017

- o Anzac Day Canberra | Australian War Memorial
- o Anzac Day Turkey | Gallipoli, Turkey
- o Anzac Day France | Villers-Bretonneux, France
- o Anzac Day PNG | Isurava PNG
- o Anzac Day Thailand | Hellfire Pass, Thailand
- o Anzac Day Borneo | Sandakan, Borneo
- o Anzac Day Belgium | Ypres, Belgium
- o Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt | Bullecourt

4 May 2017

- o Battle of Coral Sea Day | Australian War Memorial

4 June 2017

- o 75th Anniversary of Bomber Command Operations
Australian War Memorial

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

Remembering ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast 2016 With Guest Speaker Xanana Gusmao



ANZAC Sunset Services

ANZAC Sunset Services conducted around the Flame of Remembrance start at 1700 and finish at about 1730 each day. The five Services each focus on a different theme, with the program also including a wreathlaying ceremony.

To find parking and secure a viewing position at the Sunset Services, RSLWA recommends arriving by 1630. Parking is available at the Wadjuk Carpark and along May Drive in Kings Park. You can find a good position at the Whispering Wall and there will be standing room around the Flame of Remembrance.

If you wish to lay a wreath during one of the Sunset Services, please contact RSLWA on 9287 3799 or events@rslwa.org.au.

SCHEDULE | ANZAC Sunset Services

Thu 20 April | 75th Anniversary of Bomber Command Operations | First 1,000-bomber raid launched by the Royal Air Force with the target as Cologne, Germany. To make up the numbers, crews were taken from operational training units to participate in the raid. The RAF bombing offensive against Nazi Germany was one of the longest, most expensive and controversial of the Allied campaigns during the Second World War. Its aim was to severely weaken Germany's ability to fight, which was central to the Allies' strategy for winning the war. Bomber Command was predominantly made up of British, Australian and Canadian airmen later assisted by the US Air Force, following America's entry into the war after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese.

Fri 21 April | 75th Anniversary of Battles of El Alamein and Kokoda | The battle of El Alamein in Egypt was one of the turning-point battles of the Second World War. It began with a massive artillery bombardment preceding attacks by British and Australian divisions. El Alamein demonstrated the growing numerical and material superiority of the Allied powers. However, casualties were severe with the 9th Australian Division suffering more than 2,500 wounded or killed.

Sat 22 April | 75th Anniversary of sinking of HMAS Perth and USS Houston | Having survived the battle of the Java Sea, HMAS Perth and the United States Cruiser Houston were sunk in a battle against overwhelming Japanese forces in the Battle of the Sunda Strait in 1942. About half of Perth's crew went down with the ship, including Captain Hec Waller. Those who survived the sinking became prisoners of war. Approximately one-third died during captivity, many on the Burma-Thailand railway.

Sun 23 April | 75th Anniversary of Vyner Brooke massacre | Vyner Brooke was one the last ships carrying evacuees (including 65 Australian nurses) to leave Singapore in February 1942. It was sunk by Japanese aircraft in the Banka Strait. Of the 65 Australian nurses embarked on Vyner Brooke, 12 were killed during the air attack or drowned following the sinking, 21 were murdered on Radji Beach, and 32 became internees, eight of whom subsequently died before the end of the war.

Mon 24 April | 100th Anniversary of Battles of Bullecourt and Lagincourt and 100th Anniversary of Third Battle of Passchendaele-Ypres | Marked by some of the most intense trench fighting of the war, the two battles of Bullecourt (April and May 1917) cost Australia more than 10,000 casualties, with more than 2,200 Australians and more than 1,800 Britons killed in action and having no known grave. The Battle of Passchendaele (Third Battle of Ypres, Flanderschlacht and Deuxième Bataille des Flandres) was a major campaign of the First World War.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Highgate Members

celebrating in April, including

Ken Barton, Ray Bird, John Bush, Veronica Byrnes, Leslie Castle, Stephen Chamarette, Sean Collopy, Brian Copping, Jim Eayrs, Peter Garside, Ronald Jager, Peter Kennedy, Alex Kerr, Norm Manners, Ian Petkoff, Robert Pickard, Theo Ricketts, Leigh Salter, Roy Stacey, Wayne Tarr, Robert Trotter, Cecil Walkley, Gerry Warner, Malcolm Weatherhead and Phillip White

Confirmed Monthly Guest Speakers

April - ANZAC Day | Wing Commander Christine Pittman, Warden of the State Memorial

May | John McCourt, CEO and State Secretary, RSL WA

June | Tim Fisher AC, Former Deputy Prime Minister - *To be confirmed*

July | Kim Beazley AC, Former Federal ALP Leader, former Ambassador to USA

September | Sergei DeSilva, Australian Industry and Defence Network of WA

Highgate Howlers

- As I hurtled through space, one thought kept crossing my mind – every part of this rocket was supplied by the lowest bidder - *John Glenn*
- A computer once beat me at chess, but it was no match for me at kickboxing - *Emo Philips*
- Wood burns faster when you have to cut and chop it yourself - *Harrison Ford*
- Lawyers believe a person is innocent until proven broke - *Robin Hall*
- America is the only country where a significant proportion of the population believes professional wrestling is real but the moon landing was faked
- - *David Letterman*
- Having more money doesn't make you happier. I have \$50 million but I'm no happier than when I had \$48 million - *Arnold Schwarzenegger*

Disclaimer Please note Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove 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.

Motion regarding promotion of General Sir John Monash Highgate RSL to submit at RSLWA Branch Congress 2017

A motion is to be put to the WA Branch RSL Congress 2017 by Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, that...

The WA Branch supports the Jerilderie Proposition, proposed by the Saluting Monash Council, with the aim of ensuring that General Sir John Monash be promoted one step in rank to Australian Field Marshal.

The Saluting Monash Council is a nationwide movement chaired by Hon Tim Fischer AC. The proposal is formally entitled *The Jerilderie Proposition* after the NSW town which formulated the proposal and where Monash grew up as a boy.

The proposition states | *Following the outstanding contribution of Sir John Monash to State and Nation before, during and after World War I, and reflecting that Monash received no Australian awards or honours after 11 November 1918, the Prime Minister is called on to approve by Government Gazette, the posthumous promotion of General Sir John Monash to the rank of Australian Field Marshal, with effect 11 November 1930, one year after he was promoted to the rank of General.*

As background to the motion, General Sir John Monash GCMG KCB VD (27 June 1865 – 8 October 1931) was a civil engineer and Australia's greatest military commander.

Monash went ashore at Gallipoli early on 26 April 1915 in command of the 4th Infantry Brigade where he made a name for himself with his independent decision-making and organisational ability.

On the first anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli, while back in Egypt, Monash and his men solemnly observed the first ANZAC Day remembrance. After the First World War, he was one of the principal organisers of the annual observance of ANZAC Day in Australia, and also oversaw planning for Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance.

In June 1916, Monash and his Brigade were transferred to the Western Front. The following month, he was promoted Major General to command the Australian 3rd Division.

Monash's impact on Australian military thinking was significant in three areas: He was the first Australian to fully command Australian forces and he took a relatively independent line with his British superiors; he promoted to a pre-eminent position the commander's duty to ensure the safety and wellbeing of his troops; and he forcefully demonstrated the benefit of thorough planning and integration of all arms, including logistical, medical and recreational services.

Monash was involved in many actions and the British High Command was impressed by his abilities and enthusiasm. In May 1918, he was promoted Lieutenant General to command the Australian Corps (the largest individual Corps on the Western Front).

On 25 April 1918, after the Germans had previously overrun the 8th British Division, Monash successfully drove the recapture of Villers-Bretonneux, which he described as the turning point of the war.

Monash also planned the successful Allied attack at the Battle of Amiens on 8 August 1918 and this expedited the end of the war.

Australian war correspondent and military historian, Charles Bean, noted that Monash was more effective the higher he rose within the Army, where he had greater capacity to use his skill for meticulous planning and organisation and to innovate in technology and tactics.



King George V knighted Monash on the battlefield on 12 August 1918, the first time in 200 years that a British monarch had honoured a commander in such a way.

Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery wrote: *"I would name Sir John Monash as the best general on the Western Front in Europe"*. And according to British historian AJP Taylor, Monash was *"the only general of creative originality produced by the First World War."*

As one of the best Allied generals of the First World War, Monash is considered the most famous commander in Australian history; and if the war had continued, there is little doubt Monash would have replaced Field Marshal Haig as leader of the British High Command.

After hostilities concluded, Monash was appointed Director-General of Repatriation and Demobilisation to repatriate Australian troops, and therefore did not return to Australia until December 1919 where he received an enthusiastic welcome.

Later, Monash worked in prominent civilian positions. Notably, he was the head of the State Electricity Commission of Victoria from October 1920, and among many other achievements, he built the Yallourn Coal Fields and established the electricity grid in Victoria and southern NSW. He was also Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

More information at www.salutingmonash.org.au



2017 Military Art Program Australia

No Experience Required | 25 March - 29 July 2017

Military Art Program Australia is a not-for-profit organisation providing access to greater services and free classes in arts, for current and former serving Australian Defence Force veterans.

The program's wide range of art materials and facilities is provided FREE to participants due to donations and sponsor support. Regular art activities include a range of visual arts for those keen to learn and develop. The program's core group of artists are well known and many share a military background.

Established in October 2015, the program is endorsed and supported through significant Defence networks in Navy, Army and Air Force, including Commanding Officers in WA. Military Art Program Australia is well supported by SAS Association WA, RSLWA and other military groups and associations, as well as many corporate sponsors.

Art experience classes cater for skills at all levels from beginners to advanced, allowing maximum participation and learning. No experience is necessary. Whether you have been experimenting with art for a while, or you have never picked up a pencil or a brush before, these classes will provide skills and techniques for all.

To be eligible, you need to be a current serving Australian Defence Force OR former serving Australian Defence Force member. You can register for as many classes as you like.

You are encouraged to give it a try and through your attendance you also encourage and support other veterans or mates to participate, some who may be suffering as a result of service.

Our aims are simple

- Learn skills, technical and professional art development
- Encourage interest in art
- Contribute to relaxation
- Encourage mateship
- Aid connection with community and mates
- Aid recovery from Service issues
- Exhibit art works where appropriate

The program includes

- Painting with water colour, oil, acrylic and pastel
- Drawing and illustration using pencil, charcoal, ink, biro and pastel
- Photography - five digital cameras are available for loan
- Sculpture and Ceramics
- Creative writing

Artists | Well known Australian artists, including emerging and award-winning, and current and former serving military personnel, provide the widest possible range of art mediums and techniques for learning.

Each artist donates their time, providing all attendees a rare and free opportunity to access some of the country's best artistic talent. Class admission is by registration forms. Classes are subject to change and participants will be notified of successful registration and any change. Location details for classes are provided on confirmation of your place in the class. Registrations are based on first come first served basis as classes have limits on numbers.

You must email a completed **participant registration form** and a **class selection sheet** to militaryartprogram@hotmail.com. All participants will receive confirmation of acceptance by email.

Registrations and enquiries to Leza on 0418 807 551

militaryartprogram@hotmail.com
[Facebook@MilitaryArtProgram](https://www.facebook.com/MilitaryArtProgram)
www.militaryartprogram.com.au

PROGRAM

PLEIN AIR PAINTING

With Dr Meath Conlan
 Sat 29 April - 0900-1300
 Sat 6 May - 0900-1300

Meath will take us to a location at Kings Park to set up easels and undertake our first Plein Air art activity. We will paint with watercolour and. The practice goes back for centuries but was made into an art form by the French Impressionists. These are not connected class sessions and you can register for one or both.



WATERCOLOUR LANDSCAPES

With Dr Meath Conlan

Sat 13 May - 0930-1300

Sat 20 May - 0930-1300

Over two Saturdays, Meath will show us a range of techniques as we create an A3 watercolour landscape. These classes are connected to allow time to complete an artwork over two sessions.

LIFE DRAWING

With Robert Chalmers

Sat 13 May - 0930-1300 - Class 1

Sat 20 May - 0930-1300 - Class 2

Sat 17 June - 0930-1300 - Class 3

Life drawing uses charcoal or pencil to draw the human form through live observation. The model changes poses in quick intervals to develop skills in drawing the human form.

Class 1 - Introduction to proportion, volume, perspective and visual pivot points

Class 2 - Shade defining form plus incorporating first lesson elements

Class 3 - Drawing on pre-prepared background and applying skills from other areas of life drawing. Note: Life Drawing incorporates a nude model for each class. These are not connected classes and you can register for one or all.

TEXTURE, COLLAGE, ACRYLIC

With Maryann Devereaux

Sat 03 June - 0900-1230

Sun 04 June - 0900-1230

Maryann will show us how to create art using a combination of texture and collage by working with moulding paste, collage papers and acrylic paint.

PAINTING EYES AS A PORTRAIT

With Sally Edmonds

Sat 22 July - 0930-1300

Sat 29 July - 0930-1300

Over two sessions, Sally will help us to create a portrait in eyes. This is a two-class activity and both sessions are required to complete the artwork.