



# Highgate Highlights

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

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## From our President

**L**es Sayers and his unit were evacuated from Gallipoli, along with the remainder of the Allied troops, on 13 December 1915. Les was a Busselton boy and part of the 10th Light Horse Regiment

Being unable to walk, he was carried across the beach by his mates to the MV Sicilian Prince for the trip to Lemnos. Upon reflection Les wrote: "A day I shall never forget, it being my 19th birthday".

Les was just one of the brave, ordinary men who were involved in one of the defining experiences of a young nation. Men like the larrikin Ben Bailey, heroic Douglas Barrett-Lennard, resourceful John Simpson and future acclaimed author Albert Facey.

Brave, ordinary men who helped forge a national identity.

A total of 1,025 men from Western Australia died at Gallipoli.

Les Sayers wasn't only leaving the horrors of war on 13 December 1915. He was also saying farewell to the conditions that accounted for so many of the illnesses experienced.

The 10th Light Horse got to Gallipoli in May 1915. Another famous WA unit, the 28th Battalion, arrived in September. The first WA unit to land at Gallipoli was the 16th Battalion, which arrived on the afternoon of 25 April 1915.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Our next meeting is ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast 0700 for 0730 Wed 25 Apr at Western Australian Club

**Important: Please book before COB on Thu 19 April**

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

### ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast bookings

Our ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast is \$30 per person at the Western Australian Club at 0700 for 0730 (finishing in time for you to join the Perth City ANZAC Day March which commences at 0915). **For catering reasons, your booking must be made no later than 1700 on Thu 19 April.** RSL and Western Australian Club Members are very welcome.

### Booking methods

**1. Via the Highgate website** at [www.highgate-rsl.org.au](http://www.highgate-rsl.org.au). Click on [Click here to view our Gunfire Breakfast details](#). Then click on [Luncheon Details](#) and you'll be transferred to the booking sheet page. Electronic funds transfer details are on the spreadsheet.

**2. Go direct to the Gunfire Breakfast booking spreadsheet** by pasting this link into your internet browser: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzxscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P\\_WKvR1El2qoSUCwK\\_7\\_8dg/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzxscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P_WKvR1El2qoSUCwK_7_8dg/edit#gid=0)

**3. Via Committee Member:** If you do not have internet access, please call Margot Harness on 9349 2847 or any Committee member (see list this page) and they will help you book in.

## Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 0700 for 0730 | **25 Apr** | ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast
- 1100 | **Mon 21 May** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 21 May** | Monthly Luncheon

## Last Post | Lest We Forget

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





## From our President

*(continued from page 1)*

Arthur McCallum, an Albany boy, landed at ANZAC Cove about 6pm on the 25th, one of 995 men from the 16th Battalion who landed. Within seven days, 346 had been killed in action.

Arthur survived the initial assault on Gallipoli only to be evacuated in June with bronchitis and mouth ulcers. He recovered and returned to Gallipoli, only to be evacuated later with jaundice.

He then got influenza and had to be evacuated to Alexandria. Later Arthur transferred to Cairo, where he was also hospitalised a number of times.

Arthur then travelled to the Western Front and fought in battles that included Pozieres and Mouquet Farm. In August 1916, he was again admitted to hospital with nasal haemorrhaging and deafness.

Later in the war Arthur received gunshot wounds to his head, thigh and hand. He was initially treated in France before being evacuated to England. After six weeks in hospital, Arthur returned to France and then finally embarked for home.

But even that wasn't the end of hospital for Arthur. When he got to Fremantle, he was quarantined at Woodman's Point due to an outbreak of the deadly Spanish Influenza. Once cleared, however, Arthur finally received Special Leave 1914. This was reserved for servicemen who had served at Gallipoli.

When discharged from the AIF in February 1919, Arthur's service file stated that he had not experienced any illness while on service. It also recorded that his heart, lungs and other organs were 'normal'.

Arthur died in 1930 aged 41. His doctor concluded he had died from heart failure and the engraving on his headstone states he died from 'heart trouble and war gas effects'.

The stories of Les Sayers and Arthur McCallum are fairly typical of the young men in the AIF in WWI. There is a difference, however. Both Les and Arthur were Aboriginal.

Approximately 50 Aboriginal servicemen fought a century ago, at Gallipoli.

One Aboriginal family, the Farmer family from Katanning, sent four of eight sons to war. Two died on active service, including a son who was awarded the Military Medal.

Larry Farmer was the third of the eight sons. He was in the 28th Battalion at Gallipoli and died later in the war while engaged in the Battle of Pozieres.

Larry's brother, Lewis, was wounded at Pozieres and also served at Gallipoli.

Within two months of Lewis returning to Katanning after the war, he was playing football again with the Katanning Wanderers. But like many Aboriginal servicemen who fought during World War I, Lewis encountered great difficulty in attaining equal rights, including access to the local RSL.

What a great privilege it would have been to have those men as members of the RSL. Les Sayers, Arthur McCallum and Lewis Farmer were brave, ordinary men.

Thankfully, society changed. When Lewis Farmer passed away at the age of 50, he was buried with full military honours and it was reported, 'with RSL executives and ex-servicemen from both World Wars in attendance'.

It was also reported 'a good muster of the Morawa RSL members accompanied Arthur's coffin to the cemetery', as a mark of respect to Arthur McCallum.

It is worth reflecting this ANZAC Day just how long and hard the battle has been for equal rights. We should also remember that until 2000 we had the nonsensical situation at Highgate Sub Branch where women were excluded from membership.

Bill Munro and Ruth Shean wonderfully exhibited the 'new', sensible, Highgate membership at our last lunch. Bill introduced Brian Burke as our guest speaker and Ruth thanked him afterwards.

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

Brian may have been uncertain of what to expect from his audience and a little apprehensive. If so, Bill fixed that in no time with his kindly welcome.

The audience may also have been uncertain of what to expect. We were, however, expectant - and Brian delivered. It was a very engaging talk that was of notable interest and, at times quite amusing.

We were reminded, for instance, that one of the most basic human rights was only recently protected by legislation in Western Australia. That was when the Burke Labor Government abolished the death penalty in 1984.

Brian did not pull any punches and related how he had been a guest of Her Majesty at both Buckingham Palace and Wooroloo.

With good humour, he related how his grandfather had been Labor, his father had been a Federal Labor MP, how he is Labor and how he asks his six children and 19 grandchildren, "who supports Labor and who doesn't want tea tonight?"

There were questions afterwards and Brian's responses were given with candour.

Afterwards, Ruth gave a charming but very insightful thank you speech.

Our next speaker is Brigadier David Thompson, Warden of the State War Memorial. He will speak at our Highgate Gunfire Breakfast on ANZAC Day.

With warm regards - Geoff Hourn

## Grants assist ANZAC Day

A Lotterywest grant of \$849,498, along with City of Perth funding of \$64,285 and RSLWA's in-kind contribution valued at \$115,000, will support events across WA to highlight the sacrifice and devotion of men and women who served Australia in the defence forces.

WA Veterans Issues Minister, Peter Tinley, said the State Government, through Lotterywest, was pleased to continue its support for ANZAC Day commemorations.

"Commemorative occasions allow us to acknowledge the sacrifice and unselfish devotion of men and women who have served their country."

**Sub Warden Duties | 2018****Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park**POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial

<b>Sun 22 Apr</b>	1615 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Service - Navy
<b>Mon 23 Apr</b>	1615 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Service - Army
<b>Tue 24 Apr</b>	1615 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Service - Air Force
<b>Wed 25 Apr</b>	0515 for 0600	ANZAC Day Dawn Service
<b>Wed 09 May</b>	1815 for 1900	St Mary & St Martha Orthodox Welfare Association
<b>Mon 28 May</b>	TBA	North American Veterans' Unit
<b>Wed 30 May</b>	0645 for 0730	Indigenous Veterans' Ceremony
<b>Sun 09 Sep</b>	0845 for 0930	Maltese Association of WA

**2018 National Commemorations**

25 Apr	Dawn Service	ANZAC Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Turkey
25 Apr	Dawn Service—100th Anniversary of Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, Official opening of the Sir John Monash Centre, and Digger Memorial Service	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux (am); and Digger Memorial, Bullecourt (pm), France
25 Apr	Dawn Service	Isurava memorial, Kokoda Track, Papua New Guinea
01 May	75th Anniversary of Battle of the Atlantic	Royal Australian Navy Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra
13 May	50th Anniversary of Battles at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, Vietnam	Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, ANZAC Parade, Canberra
04 Jul	100th Anniversary of Battle of Le Hamel	Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France
27 Jul	65th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
16 Oct	75th Anniversary of Australian work on Hell Fire Pass and completion of Thai Burma Railway	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
11 Nov	100th Anniversary of First World War Armistice ( <i>possible joint service with New Zealand</i> )	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

**SUNSET SERVICES AT SWM PRIOR TO ANZAC DAY**

RSLWA and our Sub Wardens will again host special Sunset Services at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on Sun 22, Mon 23 and Tue 24 April, as lead-in to ANZAC Day on Wed 25 April.

Commencing at 1700 and finishing at 1730, each service will reflect on one of the three Australian Defence Force Services, commemorating significant conflicts over the past 100 years.

In particular, Navy will focus on the Battle of the Atlantic, Army will commemorate the battles of Villers-Bretonneux, and Air Force will focus on Australia's air campaign during the Vietnam War.

The Sunset Services will allow those unable to attend the ANZAC Day Dawn Service to pay their respects and remember those who served Australia with courage and dignity.



State Library of Western Australia 51st Battalion Memorial Cross erected on the battlefield of Villers-Bretonneux in 1918 | B3599639

**SOLEMN INVITATION - Choral Evensong**

In the presence of the historic Villers-Bretonneux Cross, the **Dean and Chapter of St George's Cathedral, Perth** invite you to a **Choral Evensong**, commemorating the Centenary of the 51st Battalion AIF counter-attack at Villers-Bretonneux, France on the night of 24-25 April 1918,

**Details |** From 5pm on Sunday 22 April at St George's Cathedral, St Georges Terrace, Perth  
RSVP by Fri 13 Apr to [info@perthcathedral.org](mailto:info@perthcathedral.org) or 9325 5766

The Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux claimed the lives of 365 Australians.

The Villers-Bretonneux Cross was a constant and poignant reminder of the suffering, not only of those involved in the battle for which it was created, but of all those whose lives were lost or damaged in the horror of warfare.

Pieced together from battlefield debris, the historic cross was made in 1918 to mark the site where the Western Australian 51st Battalion fought the Germans and turned the tide of the war.

The cross occupies a place of honour in the Soldiers' Chapel of St George's Cathedral, where it was placed on Remembrance Day in 1956.





## Our Gunfire Breakfast Guest Speaker **BRIG David Thomson AM** Warden of the State Memorial

*We will be welcoming former 13 Brigade Commander, Brigadier David Thomson AM, as guest speaker for our ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast.*



Highgate RSL President Geoff Houn receives BRIG Dosoo Gimi's military sword from his daughter, Kamal Plank, bequested on behalf of her Mother.

A very special bequest was made to Highgate RSL during our March meeting, with the presentation of the military sword belonging to BRIG Dosoo Gimi, by his daughter, Kamal Plank, on behalf of her Mother.

BRIG Gimi played a significant part in the history of the Indian Army



BRIG Dosoo Gimi

during the tumultuous post-War years, with a career culminating in his appointment as Deputy Military Secretary at Army Headquarters.

Born in 1919 and commissioned in the 1st Battalion Baluch Regiment in 1941, he served in Syria as the Regiment's Commanding Officer.

In 1948, Dosoo Gimi was appointed Commanding Officer of the 5th Battalion 8th Gurkha Rifles in Jammu and Kashmir.

Six years later, in 1954, he was assigned staff duties as Assistant Quarter Master General at Poona, then appointed General Staff Officer (Grade 1) at Army Headquarters in New Delhi.

He served as Deputy Military Secretary, before retiring with the rank of Brigadier in 1969.

BRIG Dosoo Gimi was a member of Highgate RSL for more than 15 years, before he passed away in 2008.

## Our May Guest Speaker **BILL HASSELL AM**

Guest speaker for our May luncheon is Bill Hassell.



Born on 6 June 1943, and attending Hale School, Bill graduated with a law degree from the University of WA in 1965. He entered legal practice in 1966.

In 1977, Bill Hassell was elected to the Legislative Assembly seat of Cottesloe and served in the WA Parliament until 1990, including as a Minister in the governments of Sir Charles Court and Ray O'Connor, as Deputy Leader, and then as Leader of the Opposition 1984-1986.

He is a life member of the Liberal Party.

Bill Hassell became Western Australian Agent General in Britain and Europe 1994-97. He is currently Deputy Mayor of the City of Nedlands.

He is a Member in the Order of Australia, and was awarded the Centenary of Federation Medal, and also the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Bill has been married to Susan for 44 years and they have three adult children and four grandchildren.

Bill's intriguing topic for our luncheon on Mon 19 May will be: *The Australia Day Speech I Would Like the Prime Minister to Give.*

## New Honour Avenue plaques dedicated

The Kings Park Honour Avenues Group arranged dedication of 12 new plaques on 17 Feb, with 180 persons in attendance for the moving and emotional event.

The RSL accepted responsibility for maintenance and preservation of the plaques along Kings Park's Honour Avenues in 1922.

The first Honour Avenue in Kings Park was dedicated to 404 fallen soldiers in August 1919 on the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of World War I.

## Unique transport solution if unable to march on ANZAC Day

RSLWA offers a unique transport service to men and women who served in the armed services.

If unable to physically march for any reason, RSLWA will arrange for a driver to collect you (or the passenger, if you are assisting) from your home, take you into Perth to take part in the parade and service in a car, and then home again. There is no cost for this service.

The service is not able to just take you to Perth so you can march. Any passenger collected must stay with the vehicle. However, drivers always provide morning tea for passengers.

For registration and enquiries, please contact Cassandra Brennan on 0402 845 459 or at [cassandra@monarchevents.com.au](mailto:cassandra@monarchevents.com.au)

## VALE

We extend our deepest sympathy to Chris Chapple, whose Wife, Margaret, passed away in March.

## Perth ANZAC Day Service New venue | Ticketed event

This year, the ANZAC Day Commemorative Service will be held in the Perth Concert Hall, providing a moving service in comfort.

The Commemorative Service will follow the traditional Kings Park Dawn Service, public Gunfire Breakfast in the grounds of Government House, and the formal Perth ANZAC Day March.

Of course, Highgate RSL will also hold its traditional Gunfire Breakfast from 0700 for 0730 in the Western Australian Club.



**Congratulations again to Highgate Member and SWM Sub Warden Allan Downes, at Government House with family recently, following presentation of his Order of Australia Award by WA Governor Hon Kerry Sanderson AC.**

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### **Members celebrating their birthday in April include:**

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

## WHO IS A VETERAN?

An interesting and important change of perception was made some months ago that relates to the definition of who is a Veteran and how Veterans are viewed by Government.

In a Joint Communique of Federal and State Veterans Ministers in November last year, an important paragraph embedded into the communique has considerable significance for RSLWA and other RSL entities throughout Australia.

The paragraph in the Joint Communique relates to the official definition of a Veteran and how it should be enshrined in legislation:

***The Roundtable reached consensus on a common definition of Veteran that is to be recognised by all jurisdictions.***

***It was agreed that a Veteran would be defined as: 'A person who is serving or has served in the ADF'.***

***Ministers agreed use of the term Veteran should not be limited by the definitions contained in existing legislation.***

This agreement means that the term Veteran does not solely relate to someone who has deployed while serving in the ADF. Indeed, many serving and ex-serving ADF members provided selfless and distinguished service to the country in between wars and in times of peace.

The Roundtable of Ministers also agreed that there needed to be a question about Veterans in the next Australian Census, as this would assist all levels of government to better support Veterans and their families.

## ANZAC House future Update from RSLWA State President

Dear RSLWA Members

It is important that I brief you with regard to the planned redevelopment of ANZAC House at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Irwin Street in Perth City.

Regrettably, the transfer of title has taken much longer to effect than envisioned.

When a Heads of Agreement between the State Government and RSLWA was signed in late 2016, our understanding was that the title would allow us to redevelop the property unencumbered by restrictive conditions.

This turned out to be not the case. With the process left in the hands of the bureaucracy, the title documentation, when finally received by RSLWA, contained conditions unacceptable to us.

Had the title as presented been accepted and the ANZAC House redevelopment then been approved, RSLWA would, in effect, have committed to a multi-million dollar project on land that it did not have total control over.

Demolition of the old ANZAC House, a necessary precursor whatever the outcome of the title transfer, had been commenced as a result of the initial transfer agreement.

By mid-2017, when it became apparent that an unconditional title would take much longer to achieve, the RSLWA Board agreed to slow down the project.

However, the project was halted as more time passed without receipt of an acceptable title.

It is hoped we will soon see progress and then plan ahead for our new home, with a new approach to supporting our veterans and their families - a Veterans Central one-stop-shop to allow much greater collaboration between RSLWA and other Ex-Service Organisations.

A new ANZAC House will happen, but we need to be prudent and your Board of Directors is focused on being just that.

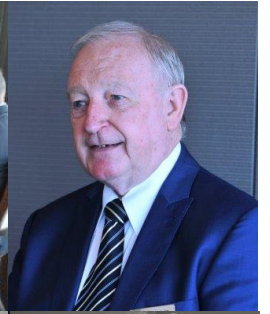
- State President Peter Aspinall

### **Newsletter contributions are always welcome**

Please send your material to the editor at  
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Highgate RSL March Luncheon  
**Guest Speaker Brian Burke**  
Former Premier of Western Australia

