



Highgate Highlights

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

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Peter Garside & Jack Suriano

From our President

One hundred members and guests at our July meeting were enthralled by Guest Speaker, Hon Kim Beazley AC, who ranged widely in discussing topics of keen interest to members.

In particular, Kim dealt with the Australia /USA Defence relationship and it was reassuring to hear that our economic, military and intelligence ties established over several generations surpass any short term political influences.

(continued on page 2)

Attention All Members

Notice is given that the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting will be conducted at The Western Australian Club 11/12 St Georges Terrace Perth from 1230h on Mon 21 August 2017

All positions become vacant. Nominations are called for President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and three Committee Members. Nominations are also called for Sub-Committee Chairpersons - Membership, Honour Avenue Group, Pension and Veterans Affairs, Hospital and Welfare, and Website Administration. Nominations and Proxy forms are on the back page and must be lodged with the Secretary prior to the AGM.

Our next meeting is on Monday 21 August at The Western Australian Club

Important: Please book before COB on Wednesday 16 August as the WA Club needs catering numbers finalised that day

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 the far right-hand lift to Level 11.

Please use the booking sheet on the website or telephone any Committee member to register. The cost of the monthly luncheon is \$30 per person, payable by no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting, which takes place on the third Monday of each month (except April - ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast; and November - Fraser's Kings Park).

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 Tuesday prior to the meeting.

If you do not have internet, please call Margot Harness on 0438 936 405 or any Committee member to book in.

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | Mon 21 Aug | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon 21 Aug | Monthly Luncheon - WA Club

Last Post | Lest We Forget

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





From our President

(continued from page 1)

Some of the facts quoted by Kim were revealing and from later comments, it would seem they were new to the majority of those present. Kim touched on the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq but noted our only binding Treaty to provide military assistance is the one with South Korea, should the Armistice with the North be broken.

He also gave us insight into his tasks and responsibilities as Ambassador to the United States of America. Kim said he was deeply honoured to hold that appointment for Australia and did so under several Prime Ministers.

The extended question time gave members an excellent opportunity and understanding as to the reasons for Presidents Trump's election win.

In summary, Kim demonstrated his strength as a competent politician with an impressive knowledge and understanding of world affairs. He delivered an excellent and discerning address sprinkled with humour. It was very relevant and detailed the issues and concerns facing Australia today. All members were pleased they had made the effort to attend.

Our August Meeting will be special, as we will be recognising all our graduating OBEs for 2017. Geoff Simpson has been in touch with the Graduates to ensure their biodatas are current.

In addition, we will also conduct the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting at the August meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and are welcome to invite a friend.

Committee positions nomination forms are on the last page of this newsletter and will also be available at the meeting, should you wish to nominate yourself or someone else.

As you know, Highgate holds annual elections for all positions, other than the position of Immediate Past President and Sub Warden of the State War Memorial. This ensures that good governance and accountability of the Committee to members is of the very highest standard. Any member can put up their hand for the positions of President, Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer,

From our President (continued)

Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Web Manager, Pensions and Veteran Affairs, Hospital and Welfare, Membership, Honour Avenue Group Representative, or one of the three Committee Members. The selection criteria are simple - competency and enthusiasm to work in the best interests of Highgate Sub-Branch.

I look forward to your joining us to celebrate the OBE Luncheon and participate in the AGM. Jack Suriano has again offered to bring his Naval sword for the ceremonial cutting of the cake and Peter Harries his accordion for the traditional Happy Birthday singalong.

Geoff Hourn, Greg Wilson and I represented Highgate at the 101st RSL WA Congress held on Saturday 15 July. Highgate's motion *that the WA State RSL Branch supports The Jerilderie Proposition proposed by the Saluting Monash Council with the aim of ensuring General Sir John Monash be promoted one step in rank to the rank of Australian Field Marshal* was defeated. The second motion to have annual elections for all Board positions was also defeated. Full details of Congress will be published in the next publication of RSLWA's *The Listening Post* magazine.

Members are reminded to submit photos and brief details of sporting or social events in which you have participated during the year. In the past, many members have achieved outstanding and newsworthy milestones in their lives which have gone unrecognised. Accordingly, please forward your item of interest by email to our *Highgate Highlights* Editor and Junior Vice President at roger.buddrige@gmail.com

Please note it remains essential to register your attendance by COB on Wednesday 16 August for our meeting on Monday 21 August 2017. If you have registered to attend and fail to show up, you will still be charged \$30 as each recorded lunch is costed to Highgate. Members unfamiliar with the online booking sheet can call Margot Harness on 0438 936 405 or 9349 2847 to register your attendance. It is also requested that when you pay for your lunches, please add \$5 for each raffle ticket you wish to purchase as this will reduce the amount of cash

From our President (continued)

collected at the desk and allow more time for fellowship. Members who do not use EFT, please ask a friend who is familiar with EFT to pay for you and give them the \$30 dollars cash when you see them at lunch.

I look forward to catching up with you at our meeting on Monday 21 August to celebrate with our OBEs and to exercise your democratic rights in selecting our Committee for the coming year. It has been my privilege to serve as President, and I thank you for this honour and your support.

Regards - *Steve Chamarette*

Glorious insults

"Some cause happiness wherever they go; others, whenever they go."

- *Oscar Wilde*

"He had delusions of adequacy."

- *Walter Kerr*

"I have never killed a man, but I have read many obituaries with great pleasure."

- *Clarence Darrow*

"He has all the virtues I dislike and none of the vices I admire."

- *Winston Churchill*

"I didn't attend the funeral, but I sent a nice letter saying I approved of it."

- *Mark Twain*

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends."

- *Oscar Wilde*

"Thank you for sending me a copy of your book; I'll waste no time reading it."

- *Moses Hadas*

"I've just learned about his illness. Let's hope it's nothing trivial."

- *Irvin S. Cobb*

"I've had a perfectly wonderful evening. But I'm afraid this wasn't it."

- *Groucho Marx*

"I feel so miserable without you; it's almost like having you here."

- *Stephen Bishop*

"He is simply a shiver looking for a spine to run up."

- *Paul Keating*

***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



Sun 06 Aug	1000 for 1030	HMAS Canberra – Shropshire Association
Sun 06 Aug	1200 for 1230	Macedonian Community Council of WA
Sat 26 Aug	0930 for 1000	Merdeka Day Commemoration - Malayan Emergency Malaya Borneo Veterans Association of Malaysians in WA, Malaya Borneo Veterans WA and Malayan Volunteers Group Australia
Sat 02 Sep	0930 for 1000	2/16th Battalion Association (update)
Sat 09 Sep	0930 for 1000	Rhodesian Services Association of WA
Sun 10 Sep	0900 for 0930	Maltese Association
Sat 16 Sep	1030 for 1100	Australian Army Cadets (Surrey Army Cadet Force visit)

Key 2017-18 ANZAC Commemorations

25 Aug 2017

75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay
Australian War Memorial

14 Sep 2017

70th anniversary Australian Peacekeepers
and Peacemakers | *Canberra*

26 Sep 2017

Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood
Passchendaele | *Zonnebeke, Belgium*

23 Oct 2017

75th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein
Australian War Memorial

31 Oct 2017

Centenary of Battle of Beersheba, Sinai
Palestine Campaign | *Be'er Sheva, Israel*

2 Nov 2017

75th Anniversary of Kokoda & Beachheads
Australian War Memorial

25 Apr 2018

Anzac Day Dawn Service
Gallipoli, Turkey
Centenary of Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux

4 Jul 2018

Centenary of Battle of Hamel
Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France

11 Nov 2018

Centenary of First World War Armistice
Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux

Veterans Review Board introduces Alternate Dispute Resolution procedures

David MacLean, Highgate's Pensions and Veterans Affairs Representative, attended a Veterans Review Board (VRB) briefing at the Department of Veterans Affairs on Tuesday 27 June, and reports on changes to VRB procedures from 01 July 2017 whereby all reviews lodged after this date will be dealt with under Alternate Dispute Resolution (ADR) procedures:

No appeal rights are diminished or lost, should ADR prove unsatisfactory, with the right to a full hearing remaining with the appellant.

ADR has been trialed in east coast jurisdictions for the past 12 months. Almost 60% of reviews have been conducted under ADR, with more than 40% going in the appellant's favour - an increase in successful reviews.

The ADR system is streamlined and results are presented within months, rather than years.

Commission staff vet applications and clear-cut applications (incorrect interpretations, mathematical errors, etc), are referred straight to a Member who can decide the matter 'on the papers'. This speeds up the entire process to the advantage of the appellant.

With Part Successful Claims, a negotiation channel provides for successful parts of a claim to be dealt with on the papers, and the unsuccessful parts referred on for further negotiation.

More complex claims are studied in depth and if a decision can't be reached, the matters go to a hearing.

A strong feature of ADR is the Outreach function where liaison between the Commission and the Advocate is greatly improved, with the registrar contacting the Advocate on a regular basis (about a six week cycle), updating the Advocate and client on the progress of the review.

It is expected the refined ADR system will prevent the VRB being treated as a mini Administrative Appeals Tribunal and lead to speedy and satisfactory resolution of claims.

National Flag Protocols

Sub-Branches not represented at the recent RSLWA Congress will have missed an announcement made regarding the flying of the National Flag at commemorative events conducted by the RSL.

Following recent media coverage regarding flying the Indigenous Flag at such services, RSL National has reaffirmed its standing policy that the only flags to be flown at commemorative events conducted by the RSL are the Australian National Flag and flag poles permitting, the formal National Flag of any relevant allied nation that participated in the conflict being commemorated.



August Commemorations

Presidents and Members of the Naval Association WA Section and Perth North Sub-Section invite Presidents and Members of kindred organisations to attend the unveiling of a plaque to commemorate the service of the Royal Australian Navy during the Vietnam War.

1100-1300h | Saturday 12 August 2017
Joondalup Memorial | 187 Grand Boulevard
(Close to Joondalup Rail | Parking at the Lakeside Shops)

Medals may be worn | Please advise if a wreath is to be laid
Light refreshments will be served

RSVP by Saturday 05 August 2017 to Jack le Cras OAM
on 9409 1014 or jack.lecras@ozemail.com.au

Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia will hold their Memorial service at the Vietnam Memorial

May Drive in Kings Park.
1100-1230h | Sunday 13 August 2017

Charge of the Nek Remembrance Service

Guest speaker | Major Geoffrey Craggs - 10th Light Horse Regiment || Last Post | Luis Lim
1400h | Sunday 06 August 2017
Bellevue RSL Club | 2 Purdon Place Bellevue

Afternoon tea and bar facilities after the ceremony
Phil Sullivan's 10th Light Horse Display and Reg Stevens Medal Display will be present
Point of contact: 0417 182 998 | philmaur@iinet.net.au

RSLWA Payment and Donations

The new RSLWA website uses a secure donation/membership payment system. Payments can be made by Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

One, three and five year membership options will be included shortly as per the motion passed at Congress.

Payments made for 2018 and beyond can be made this way any time from now on. Membership cards will show the year you are financial up to. To pay your membership or make a donation, go to www.rslwa.org.au/payments/



Future Highgate Luncheon Speakers

By Geoff Hourn

Many members may not know that Senior Vice President Geoff Hourn arranges most of our monthly guest speakers. We are grateful to Geoff for the extraordinary quality and variety of our guests, all of whom inform - and sometimes amaze us.

August | OBE and AGM | The Rats of Tobruk and Bomber Command are still represented. Wish them all a happy birthday. It's also a good chance to farewell the Highgate Sub-Branch President.

September | Serge DaSilva Chairman of Defence Industries Association WA | Has WA been duded? Should we be building submarines in Cockburn Sound? Serge will tell us.

October | Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED will enlighten us on the the secret Double Sunrise flights from Perth's Matilda Bay to Ceylon in WWII. Barry is also Secretary of Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch

November | Remembrance Day lunch at Fraser's Kings Park | Do you want a speaker? Please let Geoff know.

December | Christmas Party | We hear that Elvis now lives in Subiaco. Anything is possible!

January 2018 | To be advised

February | One of our very own - **John Adeney** Respected CSIRO researcher and now an archaeologist

RSLWA

Membership

At 30 June 2017
Service 7,293
Affiliate 1,973
TOTAL 9,266

MILITARY TRUISMS

- o If you can't remember, the claymore mine is always pointed at you
- o The enemy diversion you have been ignoring will be the main attack
- o If your attack is going well, you have walked into an ambush

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Greetings to our Members celebrating their birthday in August, including:

Louis Byrnes, Barry DeBruyn, John Dowson, Peter Harries, Patricia Kailis, Ross Lightfoot, Neil Oliver, Otto Pelczar, Mike Radwell and John Thornton

Two elderly men on a park bench. One says, "Roy, I'm 84 years old, and I have nothing but aches and pains. How do you feel?"

Roy says, "I feel like a newborn baby!"

"Really, a newborn baby?"

"Yes! I have no teeth, no hair, and I think I might've wet myself!"

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



Honour Avenue Group's *Mr Fixit* - Dick Jones

By Mike Harness

Bearded and bewhiskered, wizard "fixit-man": **Dick Jones**, is Highgate's Workshop Supervisor for the Kings Park Honour Avenue Group (HAG).

A UK-born child migrant, Dick travelled to WA on the SS *Austurias* in 1947 and was placed in Swan Boys' Orphanage (now Swanleigh). At age 14 he moved to foster care in Carlisle and attended Midland High School where for three years he served as an Army Cadet.

His love for things military continued when he joined 10th Light Horse, as a Trooper.

During 30 years of service, including three years full-time in the Royal Australian Survey Corps, Dick rose to the rank of WO2. At various times he served as Squadron Sergeant Major of HQ, and both A and B Squadrons.

On the civilian side, Dick worked as a radio operator/technician for the ABC from 1967 until 1987, when satellite technology replaced him. Never one to sit still, he 'rebadged' as the Mobile Camp Manager in the Department of Sport and Recreation. Apart from his service with 10th Light Horse, this youth environment is one of his most memorable experiences. As the title implies, his times at camps at Point Peron, Woodman Point, Ern Halliday, Bickley and many others varied from a few days to several months, but were immensely rewarding.

A treasured, second youth-orientated pursuit followed: nine 'fantastic years' (his words) where he was OC and Training Instructor of the Army Cadet Unit at Scarborough Senior High School.

Dick joined Highgate RSL and the HAG in 2006, where he initially was one of the outside crew, responsible for installing and maintaining memorial plaques. His technical talents were soon realised and he became workshop leader.

Notwithstanding his zealous guardianship of all matters technical, Dick participates energetically in all the activities of HAG.

His HAG mates admire his skill and tenacity, and some even believe his modest (?) claim that he 'Can FIX ANYTHING!!'

And he does! He's a great team-mate.



BATTLE OF EL ALAMEIN Culmination of North Africa campaigns 75th Anniversary

Monday 23 October 2017 will mark the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of El Alamein, with a National Service of Commemoration at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Nominations to attend are open to Australian veterans who served in the Battle of El Alamein. Details about the Canberra commemorations and nomination process are available at anzacentenaryprojects2@dva.gov.au. Alternatively, contact DVA on 02 6289 6057. This is a free event and the public is also encouraged to attend.

One of the Second World War's decisive battles, fighting in the El Alamein area of western Egypt began in July 1942. Australian troops were in action at Ruin Ridge that month and at Tel el Eisa in September. The main battle was fought between 23 October and 05 November 1942 when the British Eighth Army, which included the Australian Ninth Division, launched a major offensive against German and Italian forces.

The Australians played a key role in the battle, driving forward on the British right flank along the Mediterranean coast and withstanding a series of determined counter-attacks, some at division strength. Allied attacks in the south eased the pressure and when British armour broke through, German forces began to withdraw. The German advance on Cairo, the Suez and ultimately the oil fields of the Middle East was at an end.

The Germans never regained the initiative, and their last troops left North Africa in 1943. The Ninth Division suffered more than 2,600 casualties, about one-fifth of the Eighth Army's losses.



Nominations

A veteran nomination form (PDF 121 KB) and veteran medical information form (PDF 169 KB) are required to be completed for the commemoration nomination process. Nominees will be required to undergo a medical assessment to confirm suitability for travel to Canberra.

DVA will arrange for return travel and accommodation for veterans and an accompanying carer from the home location. A letter to be provided to *General Practitioners* is also available to assist with the medical clearance process. *Letter to General Practitioners* (PDF 60 KB) *Letter to General Practitioners* (DOC 2.7 MB) Nominations should be emailed or posted to DVA to be received by the specified closing date.



Frank organises permanent monument in New Guinea for Kokoda hero, Brigadier Arnold William Potts DSO OBE MC

Highgate RSL member Frank Taylor, owner of Australian Military History Tours writes: In April, we constructed a monument to Brigadier Arnold Potts within the present day Alolo Village on the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. The project was funded entirely by donations (principally 16 Battalion's Foundation, 2/16 Battalion AIF Association and 21 Brigade Association) with two Australian volunteers and a local work force. The plaque was donated by WA company National Engraving.

Arnold Potts was an outstanding WA citizen soldier who commanded the Battle for Isurava in 1942 from a Command Post HQ near the location of the monument, and his achievements would be well known to many of our members.

It was an honour and pleasure to be involved with placing recognition and information for the many Kokoda Trail trekkers of today onsite in Papua New Guinea. Steve Harrold of Toowoomba and I supervised funding, logistics, construction and landowner negotiations, and I was project manager.



Kokoda Track Military Hero
Brigadier Arnold Potts DSO OBE MC

Above right: **Text on plaque** erected by Frank, Stephen and Alolo Villagers

Alolo Village | Kokoda Track
The plaque was erected in the clearing in the centre of this photo



Brigadier Arnold Potts Plaque Erection Team | Frank Taylor, Jack Fred, Thomas Lamy, Gilbert Solbat, Dennis Kenny, Stephen Harrold

Brigadier Arnold William Potts DSO OBE MC

In this vicinity, on 23 August 1942, Brigadier Arnold Potts DSO OBE MC (and three Mentions in Despatches) assumed command of Maroubra Force comprising 39th and 53rd Battalions and his 21st Brigade (2/14th, 2/16th and 2/27th AIF Battalions) who were tasked with the recapture of Kokoda from Japanese Forces.

A grazier from Kojonup WA, Potts fought with distinction in the original 16th Battalion in the Great War. He rose through the ranks to Captain, won the Military Cross and had been severely wounded. Between the wars, he returned to WA, working as a jackeroo then purchasing and working his own farm at Kojonup. Potts joined 2/16th Battalion in May 1940. In the Syrian Campaign, he was awarded a DSO and Mentioned in Despatches, given command of 2/16th Battalion and then promoted to command 21st Brigade. From his headquarters at Alola in New Guinea, Potts commanded the Battle of Isurava in which 39th, 2/14th and 2/16th Battalions held the Japanese South Seas Force at bay for four critical days. Subsequently, Potts and his Maroubra Force fought an utterly determined and ultimately successful fighting withdrawal from Isurava to Brigade Hill. Pott's hard-fought withdrawal lengthened the enemy's planned program and supply chain so that the Japanese were confronted by exhaustion, hunger and then a fresh Australian Force. The Japanese withdrew to their Gona-Buna-Sanananda Beachhead for the ferociously-fought end to their invasion of Papua. Shamefully removed from his command in October 1942, Brigadier Arnold Potts and his 21st Brigade have since been lauded as having accomplished arguably one of the most critical fighting withdrawals in Australian military history. He continued to serve with 23rd Brigade, and after a period of duty in Australia, he and his Brigade went on overseas active service at Lae, Wau then to the Solomon Islands, including Bougainville, where Potts was Mentioned in Despatches twice for outstanding service. At war's end, he returned to farming at Kojonup and an active community service life. He was also awarded an Order of the British Empire. Brigadier Arnold Potts died in Kojonup on 01 January 1968, aged 71 years.

This plaque was erected with voluntary labour and donations by 16 Battalion's Foundation, 2/16th Battalion (AIF) Association and 21 Brigade (AIF) Association. Concept by Stephen Harrold | Organisation and Logistics by Frank H Taylor | Alolo Village Memorial Site by the Segal Family

Lest We Forget



Alolo Villagers | Some members of the part-time female workforce with Frank and Stephen



July 2017 monthly meeting

Guest speaker Hon Kim Beazley AC





Attention All Members

Notice is given of the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Western Australian Club | Level 11 12 St Georges Terrace Perth

From 1230h Monday 21 August 2017

All positions become vacant

Nominations and Proxy forms must be lodged with the Secretary prior to the AGM

- ° President
- ° Senior Vice President
- ° Junior Vice President
- ° Treasurer
- ° Secretary
- ° Three Committee Members

Sub-Committee Chairpersons:

- ° Membership
- ° Honour Avenue Group
- ° Pension and Veterans Affairs
- ° Hospital and Welfare
- ° Website Administration

To the Secretary | Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Western Australian Club | Level 11 12 St Georges Terrace Perth

From 1230h Monday 21 August 2017

NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE & SUB-COMMITTEES 2017-2018

We hereby nominate: _____

For the position of: _____

Proposer: _____

Seconder: _____

Acceptance by Nominee: _____

Date: _____

To the Secretary | Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Western Australian Club | Level 11 12 St Georges Terrace Perth

From 1230h Monday 21 August 2017

PROXY VOTE

Being an eligible voting Member of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, I hereby appoint
_____ or failing him/her, the Chairman for the time being
of the Meeting, as my proxy to attend and vote on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting

Member: _____