



Highgate Highlights

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

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YOUR 2017-18 COMMITTEE

President

Geoff Hourn | 0414 063 707
geoff.hourn@highgate-rsl.org.au

Senior Vice President

John Cleary | 0417 955 864
john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

Junior Vice President & Editor

Roger Buddrige | 0408 900 126
roger.buddrige@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Peter Farrell
0458 720 022 | 0460 6679
peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

Greg Wilson
0412 095 201 | 9448 8213
Box 65 Hillarys 6923
greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Warden & Immediate Past President

Steve Chamarette
0429 801 037 | 9242 1865
steve.chamarette@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions & Veterans Affairs

David MacLean | 0418 917 982
david.macleane@highgate-rsl.org.au

Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Geoff Simpson
0408 925 432 | 6380 1014
geoff.simpson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Membership Officer

Howard Montagu | 0417 956 621
howard.montagu@highgate-rsl.org.au

Honours & Awards Sub-Committee

Bob Arnold | 0407 329 353
bob.arnold@highgate-rsl.org.au

Kevin Graham | 0419 984 007
kevin.graham@highgate-rsl.org.au

Hospitals & Welfare

Bruce Taylor | 0408 955 219
bruce.taylor@highgate-rsl.org.au

Honour Avenue Representative & Poppy Day Organiser

Mike Harness | 0419 091 708
michaelharness1@bigpond.com

Web Manager

Ian Petkoff | 0490 242 676
ian.petkoff@highgate-rsl.org.au

General Committee

Richard Adams
0411 737 723 | 9325 6387
richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Margot Harness | 9349 2847
michaelharness1@bigpond.com

Leon Griffiths

0439 033 399 | 9332 9039
leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Front Desk

Peter Garside & Owen Page

From our President

His Excellency, Hon Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia, has accepted our invitation to attend the Highgate RSL Centenary of Armistice Luncheon on Sunday 11 November 2018. The lunch will immediately follow the 1100 hours Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial and will be held in the nearby State Reception Centre (above Fraser's Restaurant).

We have asked the Governor to officially launch our *Centenary of Armistice Virtual Memorial Project* and our *Centenary of Armistice Remembrance Walk Project* at the lunch.

In addition to appropriately commemorating such an important event as the Centenary of Armistice, the luncheon will provide an opportunity to recognise the voluntary work, over many years, of the Honour Avenue Group and the Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Sub Wardens of the State War Memorial.

We will be inviting current and former members of the Honour Avenue Group and current and former Wardens, Deputy Wardens and Sub Wardens to put together tables and participate in *(continued on page 2)*

Our next meeting is on Monday 20 August at the Western Australian Club

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.

Monthly luncheon bookings

Our monthly luncheon meetings are \$30 per person and held at the Western Australian Club on the third Monday of each month. For catering reasons, your booking must be made no later than 1700 on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon, please.

Three ways to book - Choose the best for you

1. Via the Highgate RSL website at <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> Click on *Next Luncheon*. Then click on *Luncheon Booking or Apology* and you'll be transferred to our new booking sheet page. Electronic funds transfer details are also on the page.

Or...

2. Go direct to our new luncheon booking sheet by pasting this into your browser: <https://goo.gl/forms/Vixi1ftjSJaCoCi62> Available now for bookings.

Via the new booking sheet, you can add guests, food intolerances, purchase raffle tickets, check friends; and also register a non-attendance apology. (If you book your luncheon via our website or direct, you will receive an email a couple of minutes later confirming your booking.)

Or...

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

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 20 Aug** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 20 Aug** | Monthly Luncheon
- 1100 | **Mon 17 Sep** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 17 Sep** | 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)



Geoff Hourn

this very significant commemoration.

Our colleagues in other Sub-Branches, as well as RSLWA office holders and staff and Consuls of Allied nations, will also be invited to put tables of

ten together. We expect

to have about 350 attending. We are going to use the Subi Tram to alleviate parking problems in Kings Park. It holds 27 passengers and will run free shuttles for lunch guests from Saw Avenue/May Drive to the State Reception Centre, and then back again after lunch.

So far, Highgate has received a Lotterywest grant and a generous personal donation from Kerry Stokes AC, to help run the event. We hope other sponsorship will ensure this is a very memorable occasion. I have invited Kerry Stokes and his wife, Christine, to be our special guests.

With regards to our projects, they are both progressing apace:

Ian Petkoff is well advanced in having his research data for the Virtual Memorial Project placed on our Highgate website. A grant application for this project is still being assessed by DVA. I expect further news about the grant will be available next month.

Ian is also working hard on revamping the Highgate website and has recently re-drafted the information on the Honour Avenue Group and the State War Memorial. Please visit our website to see it.

Steve Chamarette is also well advanced in managing our Remembrance Walk Project. We have employed historian Shannon Lovelady to write the history of each memorial in Kings Park. For those not familiar with Shannon's work, she is currently writing a very interesting page each week for Community Newspapers, entitled *Western Front Remembered*.

Roger Buddrige has photographed from every conceivable angle, each of the 29 war memorials in Kings Park, and we thank him for his meticulous work.

The actual computer application from which these photographs and histories will be accessed is being developed by Nano IT Solutions; a technology company selected from a competitive tendering process.

In other important news, David MacLean is now qualified as a Level 2 Military Compensation and Welfare Advocate. We warmly welcome his qualification and have given him Sub-Branch accreditation. This means that David is not only our Welfare Officer, he is now also the Highgate Sub-Branch Compensation and Welfare Advocate.

I hope there are others in Highgate ranks that might follow in David's footsteps, as there are never enough qualified advocates! To find out how to become an advocate, please contact David.

As most of you are aware, the Western Australian Club recently entered into voluntary administration. I am pleased to pass on the news that the Club has been able to negotiate a further rent-free period until December 2018, and significantly reduced rent for the premises beyond that.

The Western Australian Club has been in existence for the past 125 years and is a wonderful institution. Highgate will continue to use the Club for luncheons and I encourage you to give the Club your patronage at other times, as you have full access as an RSL Service member.

Our Annual General Meeting will be on 20 August, followed by the OBE (Over Bl**dy Eighty) Luncheon. This year is unique in the history of the OBE – we have three members turning 100 in 2018. And two of them will be at the lunch.

Something else unique is that Highgate will also be turning 100 soon. The Sub-Branch can trace its roots to 1922 with the formation of the West Perth Sub-Branch which later became the Public Service/Press Sub-Branch. That Sub-Branch amalgamated with Highgate in 1976.

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

West Perth provided the Sub-Wardens at the State War Memorial from 1922 until that amalgamation; when Highgate took over the role.

To end this month, it was a relief to learn of the resignation of Robert Dick as RSL National President and Chairman of the RSL National Board. An interim appointment has been made until an independent Chairman is appointed. The resignation is in the best interests of the RSL.

Best wishes - Geoff Hourn

Honour Avenues Group 2018 AGM Report

Robin Slater, Highgate member and also RSL Chairman of the Honour Avenues Group, reports that the 53 new plaques placed during four dedication ceremonies this year have raised the total number of commemorative plaques in Kings Park to 1,765.

Members of the Group expended 2,571 hours of work in upkeeping the plaques, posts and colour patch plates, as well as maintaining records and computer data bases.

Upgrading of May Circle has commenced to enhance the area where the dedication services are held, prior to the placement of plaques in the Honour Avenues.

On behalf of the Honour Avenues Group, Robin thanked long-time former Chairman and fellow Highgate member, Norman Manners OAM for his service, as he has now had to stand down due to ill health.

Robin also thanked the staff of the Kings Park Botanical Gardens for their enthusiastic support and help; and said it was a privilege for the Honour Avenue Group to be able to commemorate in such a special way our service personnel who never came home from the fields of battle.

*o I'd kill for a Nobel Peace Prize.
o Borrow money from pessimists - they
don't expect it back.
o Half the people you know are below
average. ...
o A conscience is what hurts when all your
other parts feel so good.
o A clear conscience is usually the sign of a
bad memory.
o All those who believe in psycho kinesis,
raise my right hand.*

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

Sat 01 Sep	0915 for 1000	Malaya Borneo Veterans - Merdeka Day Commemoration
Sun 09 Sep	0845 for 0930	Maltese Association of WA

**2018 National Commemorations**

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

Remembering Long Tan | 18 August 1966By Brigadier Duncan Warren AM RFD (Retd) - *edited version*

This month, we commemorate the Battle of Long Tan, which took place 52 years ago, on 18 August 1966.

It was the most intense battle ever to involve

Australian soldiers and forces of the National Liberation Front, and was fought in a rubber plantation at Long Tan, Phuoc Tuy Province, in the Republic of Vietnam.

Although battles involving larger Australian units were fought before and after Long Tan, on no other occasion was so small an Australian force engaged for so long, and so intensely, by so large an enemy. In fact, one of my section commanders from B Company 6RAR was wounded in that action as part of the relief force.

From my experience, the Vietnam War was very localised. We were very focused on our area of operations and task, and didn't hear a great deal about what was happening elsewhere. However, a little research shows there was great support provided to Army by the RAN and RAAF, as well as to the US Forces.

Familiar to Army will of course be the *Vung Tau Ferry*, the converted aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney, which carried 16,000 troops to and from South Vietnam. So also HMAS Jeparit and HMAS Boonaroo, both commissioned into the Navy due to union bans. The Jeparit made over 40 trips carrying ammunition and supplies.

Four destroyers, HMAS Vendetta, Perth, Hobart and Brisbane

deployed to Vietnam waters as part of the US Seventh Fleet in their Sea Dragon operations against North Vietnamese shipping, shore batteries and installations, and providing naval gun fire support to Australian and South Vietnamese Army units, firing over 100,000 rounds of ammunition and steaming nearly 400,000 miles.

Probably less well known was the contribution of the Clearance Diving Teams who were primarily employed in clearing rivers and shipping channels of mines and booby traps, (particularly hazardous in the murky conditions), and also with salvage and assisting with trawler and ship searches. The Navy also provided medical personnel and a helicopter flight. Our medical officers served with the 1st Australian Field Hospital and US Army and Navy hospitals, while the helicopter flight of the Fleet Air Arm, known as Emu Flight, provided tactical airlift and gunship support to Australian and allied forces.

The RAAF also made a significant contribution in Vietnam with Forward Air Controllers, the 2nd Squadron Air Defence Guards, the 5th Airfield Construction Squadron, and through transport with the Caribou and Hercules Squadrons, with the Herc's carrying out aero medical evacuation of 3,164 casualties back to Australia.

An enduring image from the Vietnam War is that of the helicopter, particularly the ubiquitous *Huey*. RAAF's No 9 Squadron's helicopters provided insertion and extraction, ammunition and ration resupplies, gunship and dustoff support. Their speed of evacuation contributed

significantly to the saving of life, as so often, these pilots and crew risked their lives to save others.

Many veterans also acknowledge their mates on dates other than today due to particular actions in which they were involved.

This includes 1RAR and 3RAR with the battles that raged around Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral in Bien Hoa Province during the 1968 Tet Offensive, the Battle of Binh Ba, and the final major engagement involving 4RAR/NZ at Nui Le.

My Battalion commemorates Long Hai Day each February where we lost nine killed and 16 wounded.

However, the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan now brings us all together to remember the sacrifice of all those who lost their lives during the Vietnam conflict.

The Australian Defence Force considers that, of all their assets, the first and most important are the Australians who fill their ranks.

That was as true during our service in Vietnam as it is today.

I believe that whatever peoples' attitude to the Vietnam War, there is now great and well deserved pride in our performance throughout that conflict.

But, at this time in particular, let us also ensure we remember and honour those who did not return.

Congratulations, David

Congratulations to Highgate RSL member, David MacLean, who is now qualified as a Level 2 Military Compensation and Welfare Advocate.

David does great work - not only with Highgate members, but also at Bull Creek and for veterans in general.



Unit Citation for Gallantry Awarded to Units Battles of Coral & Balmoral

On 13 May 2018, Minister for Defence Personnel, Hon Darren Chester MP, announced that the extraordinary gallantry displayed by members of the 1st Australian Task Force (Forward) and associated units deployed to Area of Operation Surfers during the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, was being recognised by the Unit Citation for Gallantry.

Since that time, more than 1,200 Citation insignia have been despatched to servicemen who served at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral within the identified Units.

There has been some confusion reported as to the eligibility for the Citation insignia, and the Directorate of Honours and Awards has therefore updated its website to clarify this.

The Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral were fought between 12 May and 6 June 1968. To be eligible to wear the Citation insignia, with Federation Star, personnel must have served with an identified unit during this period.

Victoria Cross Exhibition The Western Australian Story

**Largest exhibition in Australia
outside the Australian War Memorial**

Wednesday - Sunday | 08 Aug - 11 Nov
1030-1500 | Last entry 1300

Australian Army Museum of WA
Artillery Barracks | Burt Street
Fremantle

Six original Victoria Crosses on display, with story of their recipient and the action resulting in the award
Also on show are replica medal groups, photographs and citations of all West Australians awarded the Victoria Cross - from Frederick Bell in South Africa 1901 - to Ben Roberts-Smith in Afghanistan in 2010

Standard museum entry fees apply
www.armymuseumwa.com.au

BIRTHDAYS

Members celebrating their birthday in August include:
Mike Radwell, John Dowson, Otto Pelczar, Chris Adams, Ross Lightfoot, Peter Harries, Neil Oliver, Michael Page, Patricia Kailis, Louis Byrnes, Barry DeBruyn, John Thornton and Jeremy Buxton

New member welcomes

Associate Member Shirly Mooney serves as a Sub Warden at the State War Memorial and is a member of the Returned Ex-Servicewomen Sub-Branch.

Service Member John Reidy-Crofts served in three of the Battalions of the Royal Western Australian Regiments.

Affiliate Member Sarah Freeman is warmly welcomed

Service Member Damien Quirk is currently Senior Aviation Officer with the Australian Air Force Cadets, and has been a member continuously for 27 years with postings in almost every role.

Peter Rowles awarded RSLWA Life Membership

Congratulations to Peter Rowles, awarded RSL Life

Membership at the recent RSLWA State Congress. Peter joined Rockingham

RSL in 1984 and is still very active in the Sub-Branch, clocking up an astonishing 26 years on committee.

One of his key roles is as organiser for Poppy Day and ANZAC Day collections, and with his team of co-workers has helped raise over \$100,000 for the RSL.



Attention Booklovers

The next Save the Children UWA Book Sale will be held in Winthrop Hall, University of Western Australia, from 17 to 22 August.

Association of Malaysians WA Malayan Borneo Veterans WA Malayan Volunteers Group

Invite Highgate RSL members, partners and friends to the

**Merdeka Commemoration Service
Flame Of Remembrance
State War Memorial,
1100 Sat 01 Sep 2018**

*Wreath layers assemble at 1025
and march forward at 1050*

The Merdeka Commemoration honours all Commonwealth Comrades and Auxiliary Friends who served in Malaya, Borneo, Java, and Timor regions during WWII, or during the Malayan/Malaysian Emergency conflicts, the confrontation in Borneo and more recently, the Thai border and the East Timor operations.

Following the service, all are invited to an informal smorgasbord of Asian dishes in the Wildflower Pavilion

Luncheon bookings

How do I know who else is coming?

Some members have asked how they can see who also is coming to the current monthly luncheon.

Our luncheon software program guru, Ray Galliot, advises that a link is provided on the acknowledgment screen that pops up immediately after hitting the SUBMIT button when completing the form, but it isn't viewable retrospectively.

To assist further, Ray has therefore included the link on the second page of the registration form so members can have a peek, before confirming attendance or apology.

Additionally, when the confirmatory email sent to the member after submitting the registration form is received, the link will also appear on the form copy (on page 2 - Instructions).

CONTACT Air, Land and Sea

is an excellent and free Australian military e-magazine published by Army Reservist, Brian Hartigan. Quality is extremely professional, lots of great stories and photographs, and candid viewpoints as well.

Check it out at
www.contactairlandandsea.com



DVA online services now available through myGov

Veterans and their families can join millions of Australians transacting with government online through myGov.

As part of its program to modernise and streamline services, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), in partnership with the Department of Human Services, has made it simpler for clients to do their online transactions with government by linking all their DVA online services with myGov.

This change allows veterans and their families to use one username and password to access DVA services in the same place they access Medicare, the Australian Taxation Office, Centrelink and other government services.

DVA clients using online services MyService and MyAccount will need a myGov account. Over the next 12-18 months, services available through MyAccount will transition to MyService, which has been co-designed with ex-service organisations, veterans and their families.

Veterans and their families wanting to access face-to-face services will still be able to visit DVA's Veterans Access Networks around Australia.

Instructions on how to register for myGov are available through the myGov website (my.gov.au); and details on how to register for MyService are available at www.dva.gov.au/MyService.

Using MyService, current and former ADF members and their families can:

- Register as a client;
- Lodge a claim for compensation;
- Access free mental health treatment;
- Apply for an increase in their disability pension;
- View an electronic copy of their DVA health card and accepted conditions;
- Submit claims for education allowance through the education schemes;
- Inform DVA of their change of personal details;
- Track the claims they make online.

Australia thanks Veterans 65th Korean War Armistice anniversary

Late last month, our nation reflected with gratitude on the service and sacrifice of about 18,000 Australians, including Army and Royal Australian Air Force nurses, who served in the Korean War and post-Armistice period.

All three of Australia's armed services took part in the Korean War, which started in June 1950 when North Korea invaded the south. The invasion prompted the

beginning of a war that pitted the Cold War powers of communist China and the Soviet Union against the United States and its allies, fighting under United Nations' auspices, in a massive military confrontation.

Australia suffered about 1,500 casualties, including more than 350 who lost their lives and 30 who were taken prisoner. More than 40 Australians are still listed as missing in action.

Our Luncheon Guest Speakers

September | Member **Ray**

Galliot - Beersheba Centenary and Israel tour

October | **U.S. Consul General Rachel Cooke** will speak about U.S./Australian relations

Welcome to Highgate RSL

We have enjoyable luncheons on the third Monday of each month with fascinating guest speakers. Until ANZAC House is rebuilt, we meet in the serene surroundings of the Western Australian Club, high above St Georges Terrace, opposite the Perth Concert Hall. RSL members of other Sub-Branches and WA Club Members are very welcome to join us for luncheon, and booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.

***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 this newsletter to your colleagues and friends, although we would appreciate acknowledgment as its source.*



THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CLUB
SINCE 1893

Events to enjoy at the Western Australian Club

More information | 9481 7000

Open for Breakfast

Every Tue | 0730-0900

Business Lunch Offer

Main course select choices and glass of wine each for two people
Mon-Thu 1200-1400 during August - \$55 all inclusive

Happy Hour Every Thursday & Friday

1730-1830 | Half-price beer and wine in the bar

Dinner at the Club

a la carte | First Thur and Second Fri every month

Outlook for the Australian Stock Market Hot Breakfast

with tea/coffee 0730-0900
Thu 23 Aug with Romano Sala Tenna of Katana Asset Management

Viva Casino | 1900-Late 24 Aug | \$50 incl two drinks, canapes & entertainment

Gala Masquerade Ball

WA Club 125 Anniversary
1900 onwards 16 Nov

As part of our reciprocal arrangement, all RSLWA Service Members are now able to dine and socialise at the Western Australian Club, and to also attend Club events of their choosing, such as specialist speakers on a wide range of topics, professional luncheons and sundowners, and other general social events in the WA Club premises.

For details, visit:
www.waclub.com.au/events

**Penthouse - Level 11
12 St Georges Terrace
Perth WA (opposite
Perth Concert Hall)**





Over 80 Flashbacks

