



Highgate Highlights

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Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)
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From our President

The Centenary of Armistice is over and the centennial commemorations fall silent. Continuing, however, is the legacy of that wonderful, strong, generation that helped save the world and forge a new country.

Befittingly, as an RSL Sub-Branch that was begun by World War I veterans just a few years after the Armistice, Highgate continues to commemorate that legacy day by day in Kings Park, through the Sub Wardens of the State War Memorial and the Honour Avenue Group.

In addition to commemorating that World War I legacy in this centenary year, Highgate has also helped to propagate that legacy by successfully completing the Remembrance Walk in Kings Park.

We have also provided public access to a Virtual Memorial for Western Australia.

Both projects help immortalise the legacy of our forebears, for families and students and the six million annual visitors to Kings Park. Our aim was to perpetuate and not only commemorate.

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Our Christmas Luncheon is on Monday 17 December at the Karrakatta Club in Sherwood Court Perth

The Karrakatta Club is located at the bottom of Sherwood Court, on the corner of The Esplanade in the Perth CBD. (*Sherwood Court runs south off St Georges Terrace, directly opposite London Court*).

Monthly luncheon bookings

Our monthly luncheon meetings are \$40 per person (plus \$5 per raffle ticket if wanted) and held at the Karrakatta 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 the luncheon booking sheet by pasting this link into your browser:

<https://goo.gl/forms/vNHgoyZm1AnWA4No2>

Via the electronic 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 17 Dec** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 17 Dec** | Christmas Luncheon
- 1100 | **Mon 21 Jan** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 21 Jan** | 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

I think it is fair to say that our endeavours have been more than fruitful.

It was appropriate the Remembrance Walk and the Virtual Memorial were launched by the Governor of WA at our Centenary of Armistice Luncheon on Remembrance Day.

In his Centenary of Armistice Address, the Governor recounted the national cost and huge personal sacrifice of almost every family in Australia at the time.

Thank you to Steve Chamarette who directed the Remembrance Walk Project.

Thank you also to Ian Petkoff, who directed the Virtual Memorial Project.

And thank you to the others who contributed many hours of concentrated effort to assist them throughout the year.

Our thanks also go to Leon Griffiths and the Highgate members who organised and set up the Centenary of Armistice Luncheon.

It was a great success.

Contributing to that success was the Australian Army Cadet Unit's 51 Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes under the leadership of Music Director, Captain Peter Jones OAM. They were fabulous.

Somewhat subsumed by the centenary, this year, were our efforts selling poppies for Remembrance Day.

Thank you to Mike Harness for yet again organising and coordinating our poppy sales.

We are entirely dependent for our Welfare funds on poppy sales and Mike's efforts are very much appreciated.

Thank you also to those who sold the poppies. It was a great effort.

Warm congratulations are also due to the RSLWA staff for their hard work in putting together the Centenary of Armistice commemoration.

The 62,000 poppies and the coordinated buglers in the CBD were superb, as was the very well-run

Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial and Poppy Day Appeal.

We turn now to 2019. In doing so, Highgate can be satisfied our 2018 Centenary of Armistice endeavours were meaningful and lasting.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Best wishes - **Geoff Hourn**

Our January guest speaker | Terri-Anne Simmonds Australian War Memorial - *Places of Pride* register

A great follow-on to Highgate RSL's accomplishment in establishing the Remembrance Walk and the Virtual Memorial during 2018, is the Australian War Memorial's *Places of Pride* Project.

And as guest speaker at our monthly luncheon meeting on 21 January, **Project Manager Terri-Anne Simmonds from the AWM will tell us all about the project, which aims to gather information on the 6,000+ war memorials around Australia.**

The *Places of Pride* website is the National Register of War Memorials that will record the locations and images of every publicly accessible memorial in Australia, from cenotaphs, honour boards, and church shrines to memorial halls, pools, bowling clubs and tree-lined remembrance ways.

Since the Boer War, war memorials have been erected across Australia by local communities, families, and friends to honour those who served and those who died, allowing our nation to remember lives lost.

To continue that community pride today, the AWM has developed this important online initiative, which encourages users to add images, videos, and information relating to these memorials, to be shared in perpetuity.

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

Poppy Day benefits RSL Welfare Funds

On Friday 09 Nov, Highgate members again sold poppies in Perth for the RSL welfare funds and we are grateful to Mike Harness and all who helped. The public generously donated with a remarkable collection total of \$12,548 - up \$1,400 from last year. The money will be used exclusively for the RSLWA Aged Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen's Relief Trust Fund, and the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Veterans' Welfare Fund.



Places of Pride reminds Australians that, irrespective of distance, the stories told at the Australian War Memorial are those of our communities

across the length and breadth of the country.

Memorial Director Dr Brendan Nelson said it was part of the AWM's job to create a record of these memorials.

"Our responsibility now is to build a national archive, a photographic repository, of all of those places that were conceived and built with love and memory at the end of the First World War.

"Through *Places of Pride* we aim to connect all Australians, united by pride and loss, with each of these memorials from the Boer War through to Afghanistan," said Dr Nelson.

"We invite all Australians to take part in this initiative and contribute images of their community's memorials. This is a challenge to every RSL, local government authority, schools, community groups and local MPs to get a photograph taken and upload it.

"The more the better. We hope to have a large digital wall display in the Australian War Memorial where visitors will be able to view and interact with memorials from the communities that make up the fabric of this nation – all connected by memory, grief, and love."



Centenary of Armistice | 11 November 2018

Speech from Wreath Laying Ceremony | State War Memorial

By Hon Kim Beazley AC | Governor of Western Australia

I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet – the Noongar people – and pay my respects to their elders past and present. In particular, I add our respects to the Noongar men who enlisted and fought with their fellow Australians in this and subsequent conflicts.

All of us here are performing a sacred duty. Our forebears promised our Service men and women, particularly those who perished, that they would never be forgotten, and we uphold that promise today.

I was in Albany earlier this week where more than 2,000 children marched down York Street for the Cross and Bell Ceremony for the Combined Schools Centenary Commemoration of Armistice.

Our State Premier told me that 104 years ago, his Great Uncle marched down York Street, then to Lone Pine at Gallipoli - and from there to eternity.

On 11 November, 100 years ago today, the guns went silent. Ten minutes before, they were anything but.

For example, on one part of the front, the Americans fired off all their remaining ammunition. A British machine gunner, at two minutes before 11, fired a whole belt, stood up, took off his helmet, bowed to the German trenches and walked slowly back to his lines.

However, apart from specialist elements, Australians weren't at the front when the firing ceased. We had been withdrawn to refit five weeks earlier when, in a series of battles, we had broken Germany's main defence, the Hindenburg Line. In France, our numbers had fallen below 100,000 and we were no longer replacing ourselves.

Recruiting in 1918 brought 30,000 troops, but there were 65,000 of our dead and wounded on the battle field that year. Still the refitted 1st and 4th Divisions were moving up to the front line at the time of the armistice. By then our battalions across the Corps, supposedly around 700-800 each, were no



stronger than 200-300. In many ways, we just made it.

We have never been as influential on the world stage as we were in 1918.

Under General John

Monash, the Australian Army Corps developed new ways of fighting which broke the trench warfare model of bloody attrition and stalemate.

We substituted movement and fire power for substantial numbers of men. We were critical in the defensive battles at the beginning of the year, which broke the last major German throw of the dice.

That August, we were the spearpoint of the counter-offensive, starting in Amiens and then over the next few months, breaking the Hindenburg Line.

Our last great battle at Montbrehain and the St Quentin Canal did that on the back of our victory at Mont St Quentin – Péronne. We were then out of the front line on 05 October 1918.

All year, it was a benchmark of German intelligence that if you discovered Australians on your front, you could expect to be attacked within 48 hours.

Our population then was just five million. Of the 420,000 men of military age who served, more than half had enlisted, with 330,000 of them serving overseas. As a nation, we suffered having 61,514 killed and over 155,000 wounded.

We need to imagine that effect on us. We now have five times the population. Calculate what the impact on us would have been if we had just lost 300,000 men and women in battle and had a million wounded among us.

Further, during the 1920s aftermath of the war, another 60,000 died as a result of their war service

- an additional 300,000 in today's equivalent.

There was not an extended family unaffected anywhere in Australia.

We emerged proud of ourselves. We had established an Australian type. It was really a definition of the Australian male. It wasn't until World War II that an ANZAC definition was gender inclusive.

In 1914-18, we fought for Empire. In 1939-45, for survival.

Proud but utterly shattered, our men came home, but many more died. Make no mistake about it. After November 1918, Australia was a subdued, quiet and devastated nation.

For me, an overwhelming image from the welcome home parades was the 10,000 widows in black who marched to the harbour in Sydney from where their menfolk had left.

Not the old women we imagine, but women not much older than those here today. We were a sadder nation but a more mature one. We were more complex thinkers.

Looking back over the four years of World War I, why were we so committed at the beginning?

It's because many saw themselves, as in the phrase of the day, 'Independent Britons of the southern sun'.

Paradoxically, British diplomat Cecil Spring Rice wrote a poem in 1913 which captured that spirit. Verses 2 and 3 became the content of the popular English anthem, *I Vow to Thee, My Country*.

But it is the never-sung first verse that carries the weight of this spirit:

*I heard my country, calling,
Away across the sea.
Across the waste of waters,
She calls and calls to me.
Her sword is girded at her side,
Her helmet on her head,
And round her feet are lying
The dying and the dead;
I hear the noise of battle,
The thunder of her guns;
I haste to thee, my mother,
A son among thy sons.*



Commemoration of Armistice Centenary II Remembrance Day | 11 November 2018 Highgate RSL Special Commemorative Projects: *Remembrance Walk & Virtual Memorial*

Remembrance Walk Project

By Steve Chamarette

Project Director

The Remembrance Walk Project computer application brings into the digital age the wartime heritage commemorated by the 29 war memorials in Kings Park.

Significantly, the application will communicate to students of military history, family history researchers and the millions each year of Kings Park visitors, the significance of each memorial in the context of Australia's military service since the Boer War of 1899.

This free application identifies the historical importance of each memorial and includes photographs from the past. It can be downloaded to mobile telephones, tablets, laptop and desktop computers, anywhere in the world. More importantly, each memorial history details a specific West Australian community connection.

By opening the link application at <https://remembrance.memorial>, students and visitors can access information relating to the campaigns and units associated with each memorial. There are also links to relevant veteran associations connected to particular memorials, plus links to the Australian War Memorial in Canberra for further material.

In addition, there are suggested Remembrance Walks with specific memorial themes. For the computer literate, Google Earth can be used to plan your own memorial walk, including with time and distance calculations.

Highgate RSL thanks the Department of Veterans' Affairs for providing a Major Commemorative Grant for the Remembrance Walk Project. We also sincerely thank all those who contributed their time and effort to bring this project to fruition.

We at Highgate RSL believe the Remembrance Walk Project is an appropriate tribute and remembrance to our West Australian fallen and their families for the Centenary of Armistice, and for many years to come.

Virtual Memorial Project

By Ian Petkoff

Project Director

The Virtual Memorial Project consists of a series of files in PDF format held on the Highgate Sub-Branch website that show the names of Service men and women honoured throughout the State.

The names are identified to a level that enables further information for each person to be readily obtained by online searches of World War II and subsequent service in nominal rolls at the National Archives, Australian War Memorial, Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

The concept of the Virtual Memorial project is not new, as many historians have been identifying names on local memorials for many years. However, this project differs from previous work, as it will eventually cover the whole State.

So far, the Project includes mostly Kings Park Unit memorials to which rolls of honour have been added, as well as virtual local rolls of honour compiled from Australian War Memorial and Department of Veterans' Affairs records.

A DVA grant enabled the nearly 700 files and 26 menu links to be added to the Highgate website. The grant also helped fund a researcher to collect photographic information from the many war memorials, honour boards and rolls of honour, located mostly in the Perth metropolitan and nearby regional areas, and for which lists of names were not available from online or other sources.

The Highgate website is not the intended final host for this information, and all the Virtual Memorial information is therefore available to Commonwealth, State and Local Government, ex-Services and historic organisations who wish to display and present the information on-line.

The reason for this offer is that the Highgate RSL is a low-technology website that cannot be searched, although individual files containing names can be located, using the PDF search function.

In addition, this information is almost invisible to web browsers, and casual searchers will therefore be unlikely to find the Virtual Memorial information using Google, Chrome, Safari or other internet search engines, although the information related to the Virtual Memorial Project can be found from the link available on the Highgate website home page at www.highgate-rsl.org.au.

A Great Big Thank You

After the Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park on 11 Nov, **Governor of Western Australia, the Hon Kim Beazley AC** was our special guest at the Centenary of Armistice Luncheon in the State Reception Centre (above Fraser's Kings Park), and we thank him for launching Highgate RSL's two major projects that now provide a lasting legacy of the centenary.

We also acknowledge with gratitude the generous financial support for these projects by philanthropist **Kerry Stokes, Woodside, Lotterywest**, and the **Department of Veteran Affairs**.

Our sincere thanks also go to **Niki Peinke** who donated use of the **Subiaco Tram** to provide transport to the venue from nearby carparks, with assistance from tram drivers, **Adrian Roberts** and **Xavier Aerts**, who also generously donated their fee for the day to Highgate RSL's welfare fund. Thank you, so much.

Highgate member, **Leon Griffiths**, project-directed the **Luncheon Team**, which saw 264 members and guests enjoy some of the finest food available in Western Australia, together with superb precision performances from the **Australian Army Cadet Unit's No 51 Swan Regiment Drums and Pipes**, including 'piping in' the Governor on his arrival. The quality of their music, their dress and bearing and the keen sense of duty displayed by the Cadets under the leadership of **Music Director, Captain Peter Jones OAM** was magnificent, and greatly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone present.



New State War Memorial Warden

Lieutenant Commander Guy Burton RAN is the newly appointed Warden for the State War Memorial.

On 29 May 1978, Midshipman Guy Burton entered service with the Royal Australian Navy. Now, 40 years on, LCDR Burton continues to serve and deliver exceptional results.



Over this time, LCDR Burton has completed sea postings on HMAS *Melbourne* (the aircraft carrier), HMAS *Tobruk*, HMAS *Onslow* (gaining submarine qualification in 1982), HMAS *Orion*, HMAS *Oxley* and HMAS *Protector* (as Commanding Officer).

He saw operational service in 2009-10 on deployment to the Middle East Area of Operations in support of Operation Slipper and the International Coalition Against Terrorism, receiving the Australian Active Service Medal and the Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

Importantly, he has also been awarded the Australian Service Medal (Special Operations clasp) in recognition of his submarine service through the 1980s.

In recent years, LCDR Burton has delivered exceptional outcomes in the Submarine Escape and Rescue realm, including bringing the new hyperbaric suite into service.

And last July, LCDR Burton received the highly coveted Federation Star from Chief of Navy to recognise his 40 year career.

New Members

We welcome two new members to Highgate RSL Sub-Branch:

Greg Smith RFD is a Major in the Australian Army Reserve and has completed 40 years service to the nation.



Dean Smith, Senator for Western Australia, has joined us as an Affiliate Member.



Dean was appointed a Senator for WA in May 2012. He is the Government's Deputy Whip in the Senate and has been a

member of the WA Liberal Party for almost 30 years. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in 2011.

SWM SUB WARDENS

No requests have been received for commemorative services at the State War Memorial during December and January

BIRTHDAYS

Members celebrating their birthday in December include: **John (Bill) Bailey, Phil Zeid, John Fisher, Ray Galliot, Greg Lakeman, Michael Galvin, Barry Cooke, Craig Collas, Jim Irving, Michael Harness, Duncan Warren, Richard Albury, Kevin Graham, Robin Slater, John Adeney, Robert Elliot and William Kynaston.**

And our very warm congratulations to member Rabbi Shalom Coleman CBE AM JP, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 05 December.

Rabbi Coleman joined the Royal Air Force in 1939 and trained as an Air-Gunner/Wireless Operator, flying with 107 Boston Squadron over Western Europe.



From 1947-60, he was a Padre with the South African Forces. Migrating to Perth, he became a Chaplain in 5th Military District Australian Army in 1966 and Padre to the Z Special Unit Association.

In 1977, he received the Queen's Coronation Medal. He retired in 1985. Rabbi Coleman is Honorary Life President of the Rabbis and Ministers Association, and an Australian Past District Governor of Rotary.

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RSLWA UPDATE

RSL National Directors have been required to sign an Australian Charities and Not-For-Profits Commission (ACNC) Compliance document to ensure RSL National continues to act with due diligence while a restructuring of the entity is undertaken. RSL National and its operations will become more of a lobbying and research entity, serving the needs of member States.

Sub-Branches point of contact is now Matthew Holyday (9287 3799 or matthewh@rslwa.org.au), following the departure of Martin Holzberger on 07 Dec. The Chief Operations Officer position will remain vacant until a decision is made on a replacement.

The field of poppies, containing tens of thousands of poppies knitted by the Poppy Ladies over a two-year period, was a Commemoration highlight.

A successful Poppy Day street appeal was conducted on 09 November 2018 with strong community support.

Planning is progressing well for ANZAC Day 2019, including the Dawn Service at Kings Park; Gunfire Breakfast in the grounds of Government House; the Street March down St Georges Terrace, and the commemorative service in the Perth Concert Hall.

The new Mandurah Peel Veterans Centre and home for the City of Mandurah RSL Sub-Branch is nearing completion.

Work is progressing well for construction of the new ANZAC House at the corner of St Georges Terrace and Pier Street, with basement construction now under way.

A Department of Veterans Affairs grant application is being prepared to help fund changes and additions of names at the State War Memorial, following research that indicates 158 names are missing from the Memorial.

RSLWA's office will close from 1200 Fri 21 Dec, reopening Wed 02 Jan.



Thanks, Marget

Our grateful thanks to Committee member and former Highgate newsletter Editor, Marget Harness, for her excellent editorship, production and distribution of the Oct and Nov issues of Highgate Highlights; while the incumbent editor was overseas.

Thank you to
David Nicolson
for all photographs
on this page