



# 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

**S**adly, Highgate RSL and Australia lost five remarkable sons in the past few weeks. Each had a very distinguished service record and each was a long-term member of Highgate.

It is valuable to recount their service. Looked at together, their individual service records give a fascinating insight into the history of some of the world military conflicts over the past seven decades.

**Lieutenant Colonel Edwin William Dubberlin OAM ED JP** was born in 1923 and joined the Army in 1942. Ted saw operational service in the Solomon Islands, New Guinea, Indonesia's Morotai Island and Borneo.

Much of his war service was in a water transport unit that supported Z Special Unit, a joint Allied specialist reconnaissance and sabotage unit formed during the Second World War to operate behind Japanese lines in South East Asia.

Predominantly Australian, Z Special Unit also included British, Dutch, New Zealand, Timorese and Indonesian members.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Our next Luncheon is on Monday 21 January 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/7MY5X3CbWbmdgfix1>

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 21 Jan** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 21 Jan** | January Luncheon
- 1100 | **Mon 18 Feb** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 18 Feb** | 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  
**Edwin William Dubberlin OAM ED JP | Dr Trevor James Arbuckle RFD ED PhD**  
**Professor Alexander Kerr AM Hon DEC (UWA) | William John Young DSM**  
**and Dr Wojciech Gorski OAM MENGSc PhD**





## From our President

(continued from page 1)



Geoff Hourn

The unit carried out 81 covert operations in the South West Pacific Area, with parties inserted by parachute, submarine and other water transport to provide intelligence and conduct sabotage and guerilla warfare.

The best known of these missions were Operation Jaywick and Operation Rimau, both of which involved raids on Japanese shipping in Singapore Harbour. Operation Jaywick was extraordinarily successful but Operation Rimau resulted in the deaths of 23 commandos, either in action or by execution after capture.

Towards the end of the war, Z Special Unit trained guerilla forces in Borneo which then operated very successfully against the Japanese.



Although the unit was disbanded after the war, many of the training techniques and operational procedures employed were later used during the formation of other Australian Special Forces. They remain a model for guerrilla operations to this day.

After the war, Ted continued to serve with Australia's Citizen Military Forces (CMF) and retired in 1970 as a Lieutenant Colonel. As well as being a member of Highgate, at various times Ted was also a member of the Mount Lawley and Bedford Sub-Branched, including President of Bedford for nine years. He was a Life Member of both the RSL and Z Special Unit Association.

Lieutenant Colonel Edwin William (Ted) Dubberlin OAM ED JP (RL) passed away on 05 December 2018, aged 96 years.

Born in 1933, **Dr Trevor James Arbuckle RFD ED PhD** was called up for National Service in 1951, initially serving with the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps (RAAMC), before transferring to the Infantry.

As a young officer, Trevor served

with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). The first group of military observers for UNMOGIP had arrived in the mission area in Jan 1949 to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Following renewed hostilities between India and Pakistan in 1971, UNMOGIP has remained in Kashmir to the present time and is the longest military observer mission in UN history. Australia provided military observers for UNMOGIP for over 50 years, but no longer does so.

After his UN service, Trevor served as Officer Commanding 11 Independent Rifle Company and then with 28 Royal Western Australia Regiment. He commanded the Western Australian University Regiment from 1980 to 1983. For a period, Trevor was secretary of the Committee for Employer Support for Reserve Forces. He retired from the Army after 42 years service.

Lieutenant Colonel Trevor Arbuckle RFD ED (Retd) passed away on 13 December 2018, aged 85.

Another of our losses has been **Professor Alexander Kerr AM Hon DEC (UWA)** who was born in 1921. Alex enlisted in the Royal Australian Air Force in April 1940 and was in the first course of pilots in the Empire Air Training Scheme. After training in Australia and Canada, Alex arrived in the United Kingdom in December 1940.

In April 1941, Alex was posted to 115 Squadron RAF as a Wellington Bomber pilot and on his fourth operational mission, in May 1941, was shot down over Hamburg. Badly wounded by an attacking German fighter, his life was saved by his rear gunner who attached his parachute and pushed him from the burning aircraft.

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



Alex was taken to a POW hospital for life-saving surgery by a French POW surgeon. After nine months recovering from his wounds, Alex was transferred to a POW camp, where he subsequently spent his 21st birthday and four Christmases as a POW.

During those years, he studied and passed exams for a Certificate in Social Studies (Oxford University) and a Bachelor of Science in Economics (London University).

Alex was involved in three escape attempts, one of which included the construction of a 'record breaking' tunnel and 10 days of freedom.

On his third attempt, during the infamous POW death march in 1945, he succeeded in escaping. He and a fellow escapee evaded retreating German forces, appropriated a mayor's car from a German village, and drove to Brussels where they swapped the car for two seats on a RAF aircraft to London.

Alex returned to Australia, civilian life and an academic career at the University of Western Australia. Ultimately, he became Foundation Professor of Economics at Murdoch University and then Deputy Vice Chancellor, as well as Deputy Chairman of Challenge Bank.



Alex was almost a founding member of Highgate and belonged to a number of other ex-service organisations. He was a proud member of the

Caterpillar Club (his life having been saved by a parachute), and the Ex-POW Association.

A secret diary Alex wrote during his service was published in 2015, under the title *Shot Down*. I am proud to have an autographed copy.

In 2017, Alex gave a fascinating and erudite talk on South China Sea geopolitics at a Highgate RSL luncheon.

Alex Kerr was a remarkable man in every respect, and only ceased public speaking when he was 96.

Accompanied by daughter Robyn in his latter years, Alex was a regular



## Sub Warden Duties | 2019

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Sun10 Feb

1030 for 1100

WRAAC Association wreath laying ceremony



## From our President

(continued from page 2)

attender at our Sub-Branch meetings until a few months ago.

Robyn advised that surrounded by a lot of love, Alex passed away peacefully at home on 30 December 2018 at the age of 97.

Also a prisoner of the Germans during WWII was **Dr Wojciech Gorski OAM MEngSc PhD.**

Dr Gorski was born in Warsaw to parents Stefan and Maria (nee Lesniewska) and, at the age of 15, joined the Home Army underground resistance as a Senior Private.

The Home Army became the dominant Polish resistance movement when Poland was occupied by both Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union at the beginning of WWII.

The allegiance of the Home Army was to the Polish Government-in-Exile and it sabotaged German operations, such as transports headed for the German Eastern Front. The Home Army also fought several full-scale battles against the Germans, particularly in 1943 and 1944, when it tied down substantial German forces and destroyed much-needed German supplies.

Wojciech's unit was the Kilinski Battalion where he was posted to 412 Platoon, 9 Company (former WSOP 41 Company) that was enabled on the 04 April 1944. He was allocated to Downtown North battle area and participated in the Warsaw Uprising in Aug-Sep 1944. He became a POW of the Germans after the uprising, but escaped five weeks before the end of the war and subsequently moved to the UK before migrating to Australia, arriving at Fremantle on the SS Oriana in June 1968. He became Senior Lecturer in Mechanical Engineering at Curtin University.

Wojciech served as President of the Polish Ex-Services Association of WA and the Coordinating Council of Polish Organisations of WA; and in June 1993, was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in recognition of service to the Polish community.

Wojciech also served as a Sub Warden of the State War Memorial and was a member of Highgate from 1981 until 2014, when he moved from Perth and transferred to the Mandurah Sub-Branch.

Wojciech passed away on 02 January 2019 in his 90th year.

### William John Young DSM

About 50 years ago, HMAS Perth II was struck off the coast of North Vietnam. The ship's aft gun turret took a direct hit, with the shell then exploding below decks.

Gun Captain, Leading Seaman John Young, was inside the turret and reported communication was lost between the bridge and the gun mount and there were problems with the loading system.

"I was immediately able to restore the gun mount to working order which enabled the ship to return counter-battery fire against the enemy positions, knocking out the target which had fired on us," said John.

"No one in the gun mount was injured, but seven sailors below decks were."

John was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal in recognition of his bravery and resourcefulness in getting the gun back into action and knocking out the shore battery.

John retired from the Navy as a Warrant Officer Naval Police, and went on to become a respected pastor in his church and a good supporter of Highgate RSL. He passed away on 13 January 2019, aged 76 years.

Australia and the world are richer due to the dedication and service of these five men, and we extend our sincere sympathy to their families.

Highgate has been richer due to their membership. We salute them.

Kind regards - **Geoff Hourn**



## February Guest Speaker Michael Piu

Our February luncheon guest speaker is Michael Piu, CEO of St Patrick's Community Support Centre in Fremantle.



For the past 47 years, St Pat's has been assisting persons in the region who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

Michael engages with all sectors of the community, including business and government, with the goals of breaking stereotypes relating to homelessness, and helping vulnerable people live independent and fulfilling home lives.

St Pat's provides specialised services for young people and adults, women, families and those affected by addiction to alcohol and other drugs; as well as assistance that includes housing, health services, emergency relief and meals.

We look forward to your joining us.

## Alex Kerr - In his own words

On 03 Mar 04, Alex Kerr was interviewed by the University of New South Wales for their *Australians At War Film Archive*, in which he reflects on his extraordinary life.

You can read the amazing transcript at: <http://australiansatwarfilmarchive.unsw.edu.au/> and search: **Alexander Kerr**

## BIRTHDAYS

Members celebrating their birthday in January include:

**Chris Chapple, Barry Gravelle, Ken Ashman, Kevin Campbell, Leon Griffiths, Annette Newell, John Spatcher, John Harper-Nelson, Phil Sumner, Frank LeFaucheur, Bernard Clarke, John Stephens, Frank Taylor, Annette Buddrige, Tom Arnautovic, Barry Eather, Noel Monks, Rod Willox, Jamie Holloway, Don Blair and Trevor Boag.**



## Extracts from RSLWA's Sub-Branch Signal

RSLWA is maintaining a strong balance sheet and a healthy return on capital investments during 2018. The Investment Advisory Group and Finance Committee continue to look at emerging investment options with a view to diversify investments to reduce risk.

A national workshop in November reshaped functions of RSL National which now moves toward being more of a lobbying and research entity, while also working as a secretariat for member State Branches. Acting RSL National CEO is Ken Henshaw, CEO for RSL South Australia and is working on RSL National's ACNC compliances and governance provisions. RSL National will be self-funded in 2019 and no funds will be drawn from State Branch capitulations.

A new Commemoration Guide has been completed and after final review by military subject matter experts, will be distributed to Sub-Branched early in the New Year. Part of the new guide will be conduct of funerals protocols, with the guide to be sent to the Funeral Directors' Association.

Planning is progressing well for ANZAC Day 2019 including traffic management plans, Dawn Service in Kings Park, Gunfire Breakfast in the grounds of Government House, March down St Georges Terrace and the Commemorative Service in the Perth Concert Hall.

The RSLWA Constitution requires amending, following resolutions carried by the 2018 State Congress. This is largely a procedural matter with an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) to be conducted on 7th February 2019 at 1130.

Work on ANZAC House is now ahead of schedule, with preparations for construction of the basement commencing over the Christmas/New Year break. The Project Manager and RSLWA staff are planning the detailed fit-out needs of RSLWA offices and facilities.

A DVA Grant application is being progressed to help fund changes and additions of names at the State War Memorial. This follows the extensive and meticulous work of researcher and historian Shannon Lovelady, who discovered that 158 names are missing from the Memorial.

Concerns about the lack of timely returning of telephone calls is being addressed with a new routing system expected to improve services.

In the past two months, RSLWA has successfully returned four sets of medals, two sets of dog tags and one set of postcards from the Western Front to the descendants of the original owners, using the power of social media and volunteer assistance.

RSLWA is compiling a list of known service personnel burial places in Western Australia. If you are able to provide information on the resting place of a veteran, please email details to [socialmedia@rslwa.org.au](mailto:socialmedia@rslwa.org.au)

RSLWA has provided the Australian War Memorial with imagery and information on the various memorials across the State for the *Places of Pride* project. We encourage Sub-Branched to add to this by sending in their own photos and more personal information.

## RSLWA membership renewals

By Bill Munro | Treasurer - Highgate RSL

Membership renewals are handled by RSLWA headquarters and invoices are likely to be sent out by mid-January.

Many years ago, Highgate sent out renewal invoices from the sub-branch which included a small levy to assist in branch expenses, but that was curtailed.

With 130+ sub-branch treasurers and secretaries all being volunteers with varying degrees of financial ability, and with the need for a portion of fees to go to RSLWA, and for records to be kept updated, it was decided to centralise the operation at RSLWA HQ, which also now allows members to pay three years in advance.

## At Ease: ADF Post-Discharge GP Health Assessment

After you have left the Australian Defence Force (ADF), you can access a comprehensive health assessment from your GP to track how you are going.

This assessment has been designed specifically for you and it can help your GP identify the early onset of any physical or mental health conditions you may be experiencing and provide treatment, or refer you to other services if you need it.

And there is no 'time out of service' restriction.

## Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group

Mandurah Murray Vietnam Veterans Group was formed 19 years ago and now has over 250 members with its own clubhouse on the Murray River at Ravenswood.

Membership is open to any past or present member of the ADF or Allied armed forces and their partners, or widows/widowers.

Activities include weekly cycling, kayaking and walking groups, caravanning and 4WD trips, sun-downers, and the Vietnam Veterans commemoration in Mandurah each year on 18 August.

More information [www.mmvmvg.asn.au](http://www.mmvmvg.asn.au)

## Turn your radio on to - The Listening Post

Highgate member Tony Howes hosts Capital Community Radio's program *The Listening Post* each Monday, 1800-2000h.

It's information and entertainment specially for those with defence force associations past and present, as well as their families and friends.

Each broadcast features an interview with a career defence person or someone with an intimate knowledge of military matters. Recent interviews featured Chip Harvey, a WWII Spitfire pilot, and Jack Chandler, navigator and wireless operator in a WWII bomber.

Another segment is *This Week In Our Military History*; and news and information from Army, Navy and Air Force communications outlets is also heard. Music includes great marches played by world-class bands, as well as songs from past conflicts and eras of battle.

Tune in on Capital Radio 101.7 FM and Capital Digital – and throughout the world on [www.capitalcommunityradio.com](http://www.capitalcommunityradio.com)







## Those unable to remember the past are condemned to repeat it Remembrance Walk Memorials II State War Memorial

**Each month, we'll feature one of the 29 Remembrance Walk Memorials in Kings Park.**

Ten per cent of Western Australia's population enlisted in the first World War, a higher proportion than any other state in the nation.

When the war ended in 1918, over 6,500 West Australians had been killed in action, or died of wounds or disease. Immediately, towns and districts throughout WA began commemorating the fallen.

The grieving families and communities constructed monuments, with the Government playing no part in funding these memorials.

All over the State, these modest, poignant, stone or brick monuments carried the names of the dead from their districts, forever inscribed on bronze plaques or etched in stone.

In 1920, questions were asked in the WA Parliament about establishing a State War Memorial. An early proposal was a memorial on Commonwealth land in Forrest Place, but the Federal Government refused permission. Several years of debate followed and there was a depressing series of delays.

The approaching 1929 WA centenary helped push opposing sides towards agreement. General Sir Talbot Hobbs, a war leader and renowned architect, designed an obelisk in the same style as the AIF memorials in France and Belgium. Appeals to the public were ongoing throughout, even during construction, and the State Government finally agreed to a small funding contribution.

In September 1927, the exceptional site on Kings Park's Mount Eliza bluff was selected. The contract was awarded to A T Brine, who had built St Mary's Cathedral and much of the University of Western Australia. The memorial was planned for completion by Anzac Day 1928 but construction delays saw the unveiling postponed several times.

On Anzac Day 1929, the Perth Dawn Service was therefore held beneath the scaffolding of the unfinished obelisk, with nearly 5,000 people attending in silent remembrance.

As it took its finished shape, visitors



noted the memorial's stunning location, its great and simple stability, and its symbolism. Eighteen metres tall and made of 189 blocks of Mundaring granite, the obelisk is set over a crypt holding marble Rolls of Honour that list the names of those who died in WWI.

On opening day, Sunday 24 Nov 1929, 10,000 watched Governor Sir William Campion unveil the State War Memorial and commend it in trust to the RSL for their care and protection. The Governor repeated Field Marshal Lord Plumer's quote from the Menin Gate Memorial in Belgium: **"They are not missing. They are here."** Rabbi Freeman read the dedication. The Consuls of France, Italy, Belgium and Germany laid wreaths.

In November 1955, Governor Sir Charles Gairdner unveiled bronze Rolls of Honour on the outside walls for the over 4,000 that died in World War 2. The memorial also now commemorates the names of Service members who died in Korea, Malaya, Borneo, Vietnam and more recent conflicts.

In the following years, the concourse was expanded to meet the greater attendances on commemorative days. In 1960, a viewing platform was extended at the front of the cenotaph. Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, dedicated the Court of Contemplation and Flame of Remembrance in April 2000.

A major restoration of the memorial was undertaken 70 years after it was built, to repair water damage in the crypt. The memorial was then re-dedicated in 2005, at the same time as the planting of the Kings Park Lone Pine.

*To discover the history of the other 28 Remembrance Walk Memorials in Kings Park, just click on <https://remembrance.memorial/> and place the App icon on your phone or screen.*

## About Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

*Now in our 72nd Year*

Formed in 1947, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch has long had responsibility for managing commemorative activities at the State War Memorial, and our members also form the Honour Avenue Group that installs and maintains the commemorative tree plaques in Kings Park that memorialise West Australians who have fallen in service of their nation, but are not buried in WA.

As well as information specific to Highgate Sub-Branch, our newsletter also includes from time to time relevant items relating to State and national RSL administrations; projects and issues from RSLWA and the Department of Veteran Affairs; comment by the Minister for Veterans Affairs; articles on significant historical events and achievements; information from the Australian War Museum in Canberra; and of course, the obligatory humour moments to lighten things up a little.

We have enjoyable luncheons on the third Monday of each month with fascinating guest speakers. We meet in the serene surroundings of the Karrakatta Club in Sherwood Court, Perth. Members of other RSL Sub-Branches are very welcome to join us for luncheon, and booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.

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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.





**Christmas Luncheon 2018**  
Entertainment by Margot Harness,  
Peter Harries and Don King

