



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
& Les Herbert

From our President

It is always a great pleasure to pen the Presidential iteration and it should be even more so this time round - I am writing this from the Half Moon Inn in Sherborne, Somerset.

Despite the nice locale, writing this one is not easy, however. That is because something is badly tainting the RSL at the moment. Put bluntly, the present situation regarding the governance of the RSL in other states and nationally is disgusting.

Four RSL Branches as well as National RSL have all recently come under some form of scrutiny by the Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission. That scrutiny is due to blatant criminality in some cases and mismanagement in others.

How the RSL in other states and nationally got to this point is difficult to fathom. However, what is clear is that the mission of the RSL (to ensure the well-being, care, compensation and commemoration of serving and ex-Service Defence Force members and their dependents; and promote Government and community awareness of the need for a secure, stable and progressive Australia) has been badly... *(continued on page 2)*

Our next meeting is on Monday 16 July at the Western Australian Club

Important: Please book before COB on Wednesday 11 July

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. **However, you will not be able to book via the website until 01 July onwards.**

Or...

2. Go direct to our new luncheon booking sheet by pasting this into your browser: <https://goo.gl/forms/Vixi1ftjSJJaCoCi62> 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 16 Jul** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 16 Jul** | Monthly Luncheon
- 1100 | **Mon 20 Aug** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 20 Aug** | 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

compromised by the actions of a few.

If I was a member of the Victorian or New South Wales Branch of the RSL, or even the Queensland or South Australian Branch for that matter, one might wish to legitimately

question how I'm funding the pint of local ale I'm sipping at the moment on my overseas jaunt.

But that is not a problem, you say, as I'm firmly embedded in the WA Branch. And a recent statement by the WA State President (also published in this issue of Highgate Highlights) has reassured us that the financial management of RSLWA is sound.

Regrettably, the reality is that the standing of the whole RSL has been affected by these scandals. It is going to take a very long time to regain the trust of the Australian community due to the actions of a few.

Many of our members devote a lifetime of service to Australia, by first becoming a veteran and then serving the veteran community. They do so without thought of recognition.

The focus of the RSL has always been, above all, the welfare of others. The idea of any self-aggrandisement by members of the League should remain anathema to all of us.

Whenever formal recognition is made, it is hard earned. Examples of that were the recently announced presentations of the Meritorious Service Award to Ian Mulholland and Life Membership to Peter Rowles.

Peter Rowles joined the City of Rockingham Sub-Branch in 1984 and served on committee for 26 years. In recent years, he has been associated with Highgate and we warmly congratulate him on being awarded Life membership of the League. (Photo on last page)

Ian Mulholland is currently a member of Denmark Sub-Branch and an Associate Member of Highgate.

He was President of Highgate for four years and has given outstanding service to our Sub-Branch, and to the League in general.

Ian's award is richly deserved and we offer congratulations to him and our thanks for his work over many years.

This year, the focus of our commemoration is the Centenary of Armistice. In relation to that, my travels in Europe this summer have enabled me to pay respects to my great uncle, who was killed in the Great War, 100 years ago.

To fittingly mark the Centenary of Armistice, it was decided in December for Highgate to undertake two relevant projects in 2018 and to launch both at our annual luncheon for Remembrance Day. This year, Remembrance Day appropriately falls on Sunday 11 November.

As mentioned in the last edition of Highgate Highlights, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs has announced a \$30,510 grant to Highgate Sub-Branch to undertake a Remembrance Walk Project in Kings Park. The purpose of the grant is to enable development of a computer application giving public access to the history of the 29 commemorative memorials located in Kings Park.

There are over six million visitors to Kings Park annually and this project will provide free access for users who will also be given suggested walk routes between memorials.

Steve Chamarette is Project Director for the Remembrance Walk Project.

A commemorative grant from DVA has also been requested for the Virtual Memorial Project, which will provide lists of WWI soldiers and sailors from war memorials throughout the State. We will use the Highgate Sub-Branch website for this and ensure the information is in one location and readily available worldwide on the internet.

Ian Petkoff is Project Director for the Virtual Memorial Project.

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

Both projects will be launched at a very special Armistice Day Luncheon in the State Conference Centre in Kings Park, immediately following the Remembrance Day Service at the State War Memorial.

In addition to Highgate members, previous Wardens of the State War Memorial, and dignitaries will be invited to put together tables for the lunch, along with other Sub-Branches. About 300 guests are expected to attend and a Lotteries Commission grant of \$1,050 has been received to help run the event.

Leon Griffiths is Project Director for the Highgate Armistice Luncheon.

These worthy and appropriate contributions to the commemoration of the Centenary of Armistice will be effectively carried through to completion, with full accountability and transparency. I look forward to providing monthly updates on the progress of the projects.

In the meantime, I am crossing over to Dorset, before eventually heading home to Perth.

See you on Monday 16 July to hear what should be a very interesting talk on the world's largest aluminium shipbuilder.

Best wishes - **Geoff Hourn**

HMAS Canberra Memorial Service

HMAS Canberra-HMAS Shropshire Association invites all former crew, relatives and interested community to the 76th Anniversary wreath laying memorial service at the State War Memorial, Kings Park at 1030 on Thu 09 August to commemorate the 1942 loss of the heavy cruiser, *HMAS Canberra* and the 84 souls entombed within, and the loss of three cruisers *USS Quincy*, *USS Vincennes*, *USS Astoria* and destroyer *USS Jarvis*, along with 956 ships' company, in the Battle of Savo Island on this day.

The Association has three RAN WW11 survivors who may attend (depending on health and weather), including Ernie Rudland, who stepped off the sinking *HMAS Canberra*.

Enquiries: David Shine
Secretary 0408 955 607
or secretary@
hmascanberra-
shropshire.asn.au



Ernie Rudland

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

Sun 15 Jul	0830 for 0900	Movement of Serbian Chetniks Ravne Gore WA
Sun 15 Jul	1130 for 1200	Cypriot Community of WA
Fri 27 Jul	0900 for 0930	Royal Australian Regiment Association
Tue 31 Jul	0950 for 1020	Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association
Sun 05 Aug	1145 for 1230	United Macedonian Committees of Perth
Thu 09 Aug	1000 for 1030	HMAS Canberra – HMAS Shropshire Association
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

27 Jul	65th Anniversary of Korean War Armistice	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
16 Oct	75th Anniversary of Australian work on Hell Fire Pass and completion of Thai Burma Railway	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
11 Nov	100th Anniversary of First World War Armistice (<i>possible joint service with New Zealand</i>)	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

Centenary of the Battle of Hamel Commemoration*By Hon Darren Chester MP | Minister for Veterans' Affairs | 04 Jul 18*

Life is full of choices. Today, we choose to commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who fought in the Battle of Hamel, 100 years ago.

By any measure, this is sacred ground for the people of France and the young Australians who travelled from our distant shore to defend freedom. But freedom came at an enormous cost.

While we gather at this magnificent memorial in the beautiful countryside, we can hardly imagine the brutality of the battles: the fear, the chaos and the horrendous loss of life which occurred here and across the Western Front.

As French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said at the opening of the Sir John Monash Centre just two months ago: *"For many young Australians, this earth was their final safe place. For many of them, this earth was the final confidante of a thought or a word intended for a loved one from the other side of the world. Loved ones who would only learn the sad news several months later."*

The 93-minute Battle of Hamel commanded by General Sir John Monash was a turning point in the war and helped change the course of history.

To serve with such loyalty, courage and determination, the troops must have been filled with hope that their sacrifice would be worth it.

Hope, that the killing and maiming would stop.

Hope, that peace would eventually reign.

But they could never have hoped - indeed they could never have imagined - how their service would shape our two nations.

The bonds forged on this sacred ground have grown into cultural, social and economic links that are made stronger by our shared history.

So what does it mean for us today?

Life is full of choices.

The best way to honour the fallen is found in the choices we make today:

We could choose to forget them and focus only on ourselves and our own problems.

We could choose to ignore the past and consign their deeds to the dust of history, or we can choose to honour and solemnly commemorate all of the fallen.

We can choose to respect all those who serve in uniform today and strive to keep us safe in dangerous times.

We can choose to show support and understanding to their families.

And we can choose to learn from the battles and never forget the horrific lessons of war.

Lest we forget

Australian Remembrance Trail in France

Two significant initiatives have recently been launched in France, encouraging Australians to visit the Australian Remembrance Trail along the Western Front and learn more about our nation's First World War history.

The Australian Remembrance Trail - A Traveller's Guide - is a practical guide to the Western Front battlefields.

The guide is a key resource for travellers, not only from Australia but other countries, so they can make the most of their visit along the trail.

More than 295,000 Australians served on the Western Front and deaths here accounted for about 75 per cent of all Australians in the First World War.

For Australians, this is one of the most significant regions in the world and important to experience first-hand.

The second initiative is the addition of Naours Caves to the Australian Remembrance Trail.

This small, yet significant site, is also featured in the new traveller's guide. The caves are a three-kilometre long complex of tunnels which were visited by soldiers.

During the First World War, the caves became a tourist attraction for military in the area, and the tunnels features more than 2,000 individual inscriptions made by Allied soldiers. (*cont. next page*)



Remembering the Battle of Hamel 100 years on

By Hon Darren Chester MP | Minister for Veterans' Affairs | 04 July 2018

One hundred years ago today, a 93-minute battle was fought during the First World War on the Western Front that is heralded as one of Australia's greatest military achievements and is still considered a masterpiece of logistics and combined arms warfare.

Today marks the centenary of the Battle of Hamel, one in a series of battles after the German Spring Offensive had been halted at nearby Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918.

The Battle of Hamel was a turning point in the First World War and the first time Australia fought alongside our American allies. We have fought together in every major conflict since.

Seeking an opportunity to straighten the line north-east of Villers-Bretonneux, then Lieutenant General John Monash, in what would be his first battle as Australian Corps commander, decided to launch an attack on the Germans at Le Hamel.

Monash meticulously planned the attack, consolidating the strategies used in previous battles by the British Expeditionary Force, and coordinated infantry, artillery, armour and aircraft in a way that had not been done before.

Australian Remembrance Trail in France *(from prev. page)*

In addition to the initial Australian Government contribution to protect the graffiti in the caves, the Department of Veterans' Affairs is working closely with local authorities in Naours to scope out a management strategy to help secure and preserve this important part of Australia's history.

The Naours Caves are close to the former Somme battlefields, about two hours north of Paris, and only a short drive from the newly opened Sir John Monash Centre, so is an ideal point for visitors to commence or finish their visit along the Australian Remembrance Trail.

The Australian Remembrance Trail - A Traveller's Guide can be accessed digitally via the Sir John Monash Centre website



Stretcher bearers at the Battle of Hamel
Photo courtesy Australian War Memorial

The Allies achieved all of their objectives in 93 minutes, just three minutes longer than Monash had planned, with a relatively small number of casualties compared to other battles on the Western Front.

In all, some 1,200 Australians and more than 170 Americans were killed or wounded, while German casualties were more than 2,000, with about 1,600 taken prisoner.

Many view the Battle of Hamel as the forerunner of the successful Allied battles leading to the end of the First World War.

Official War Historian Charles Bean was right when he described Hamel as 'a big battle on a small scale' as the methods used - the product of trial and experience - were used on a far grander scale at Amiens on 8 August 1918.

The Battle of Amiens was a great success and in just over three hours, Allied troops had overrun the enemy's front line. By the time the battle ended, the Allies had taken more than 29,000 prisoners, more than 330 guns, and liberated more than 110 towns and villages.

German General Erich Ludendorff called 8 August 'the black day of the German army', but for the Allies, it represented a significant victory and further validated the effective tactics used at Hamel.

As the Anzac Centenary 2014-18 period comes to a close it is important to remember these critical battles at the end of the First World War, and also recognise a Century of Service commemorating the service and sacrifice of all Australians killed in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

HOT NEWS

Funding approved: Kings Park Remembrance Walk App

Students and visitors to Kings Park will soon be able to access the rich military history there through an app and associated website.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Darren Chester MP, has announced Highgate RSL Sub-branch, will receive \$30,510 to develop the *Remembrance Walk App* as part of the Federal Government's *Saluting Their Service Major Commemorative Grants Program*.

Kings Park is home to 28 war memorials commemorating the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have fought and died for our country.

To be officially launched on Remembrance Day, 11 Nov at Kings Park, the *Remembrance Walk App* will bring the history of these memorials into the digital age and communicate to visitors their significance in the context of Australia's military service over more than 100 years.

The free app, which will be able to be downloaded to mobile telephones, tablets and laptop computers from 11 November, will include a photograph and history of each memorial.

It will also include the specific connection to the community of each memorial, links to further information, the distance and routes from memorial-to-memorial, and walking routes of various distances.

The *Saluting Their Service Major Commemorative Grants Program* will help preserve Australia's wartime heritage and enhance the understanding and appreciation of Australia's wartime history and the sacrifice of service men and women.

And projects such as the *Remembrance Walk App* will ensure our younger and future generations develop an understanding and appreciation for those who have, and still do, wear the uniforms of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force.



Financial Management of RSLWA

By President Peter Aspinall AM

You may have been made aware of the ABC report detailing governance concerns with RSL Victoria. The report said four State Branches and National have all come under some form of scrutiny by the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission (ACNC).

At the recent RSLWA State Congress, we outlined our governance practices and sound financial position to all members. I want to assure all members that RSLWA is maintaining a solid governance structure and is in no way embroiled in any of the issues outlined in the ABC report.

RSLWA has in place a formal organisation structure which assists in the governance, financial management and compliance of RSLWA and WA Sub-Branches.

This structure includes a Board of Directors, Finance Committee, Investment Advisory Group, and Honours and Compliance Committee.

The Finance Committee reports directly to the Board and is supported by the Investment Advisory Group which was formed in July 2017.

The IAG oversees implementation of an investment strategy that maximises returns while minimising risk for RSLWA in utilising its asset base to more effectively deliver advocacy and welfare services to Veterans.

The Finance Committee considers recommendations by the IAG and in turn presents such to the Board for its determination.

The Finance Committee also works to ensure RSLWA and Sub-Branches are compliant with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission regulatory framework. The ACNC is the governing body of all charities in Australia.

As can be noted from recent events of several RSLs in the Eastern States, RSLWA and Sub-Branches must remain compliant with the ACNC framework.

RSLWA State Branch ensures such compliance by having effective internal mechanisms and working closely with Sub-Branches to ensure compliance is met on an ongoing basis.

It was due to good regulatory compliance and effective governance by RSLWA prior to and during 2017 and the culmination of a significant amount of work by the CEO that saw the State Branch being granted Public Benevolent Institution and Deductible Gift Recipient or DGR status by the Australian Taxation Office on 14 November 2017, backdated to 15 July 2017.

RSLWA is in a very sound financial position and has excellent opportunity and responsibility to ensure that with good strategic management of its assets, it is able to support the objects under its Constitution, particularly in regard to providing advocacy and welfare services to our Veterans well into the future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Members celebrating their birthday in July include:

Trevor Arbuckle, Talbot Bashall, Ken Bladen, Robert Caldera, Robert Campbell, Ian Conaghan, Richard Cook, John Cox, Lynnette Durant-Lovell, John Homer, Graham Horne, Damian Lambert, Rosa Palmer, Hugh Ritchie, Barry Standen, Brian Walley, Ray Ward, Ian Warner, David Watson, Gregory Wilson, Gerald York and John Young.

And hearty congratulations to Bob and Jean Mercer who recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary

New member

We welcome new member Steve Sinclair who retired as an Army Reserve Major in 2017, following 46 years of service in the Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers; and 29 years in PMG-Telecom-Telstra as a Communications Technical Officer. Steve is currently a Registered Migration Agent, with 21 years experience in this field; and is also a volunteer at the WA Army Museum.

Our Luncheon Guest Speakers



July | Adrian Strang from Austal. (*Austal is an Australian-based global ship building company and defence prime*

contractor specialising in design, construction and support of defence and commercial vessels)

August | AGM and OBE (*Over Bl**dy Eighty*)

Celebration (no guest speaker but lots of cake)

September | Member Ray Galliot - Beersheba

Centenary and Israel tour

October | U.S. Consul

General Rachel Cooke will speak about U.S./Australian relations



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

Dinner at the Club

a la carte | First Thur and Second Fri every month

Celebrate Bastille Day

Une soiree en France | 1800-2100 | 12 Jul | \$65

champagne, canapes, six wines paired with food

Alba Gomez | Professional image consultant | 1730-1900 19 Jul | \$30 incl canapes and arrival drink

Tier One Networking Lunch

1200-1330 06 Jul & 20 Jul | \$30 incl arrival drink and one-course meal

Cryptocurrency Q&A

With Scott Phillips 1730-1900 25 Jul | \$30 incl canapes and arrival drink

Christmas in July | 1730 until late 27 Jul | \$40 incl canapes and cocktail tasting

Happy Hour Every Thursday & Friday

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

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

Gala Masquerade Ball

WA Club 125 Anniversary 1900 onwards 16 Nov | early bird ticket price for July bookings

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)



Commodore Brett Dowsing RANR
Guest Speaker | June 2018

