



Highgate Highlights

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

From our President

On behalf of us all at Highgate RSL, it gives me great pleasure to warmly congratulate Bill Jamieson and Bill Wilson, who have both been recognised for their community service.

Bill Jamieson was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Bill Wilson has been awarded Life Membership of the RSL.

To briefly outline their service, **Bill Jamieson** had a very notable military career, serving in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He graduated from the Royal Military College in 1943 and served as a Rifle Platoon Commander in New Guinea in 1944 and 1945. In 1954 and 1955, he served in Korea as a Company Commander.

From 1965 to 1967, Bill raised and commanded the 2nd Recruit Training Battalion and was responsible for training 12,000 National Servicemen.

Bill was also the Senior Australian Defence Representative at the South East Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and later, Director of Military Intelligence in Canberra.

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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/kjdxM1cVGk7yvaaM2> 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 18 Jun** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 18 Jun** | Monthly Luncheon
- 1100 | **Mon 16 Jul** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 16 Jul** | 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



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Peter Garside & Jack Suriano



From our President

(continued from page 1)



Geoff Hourn

Bill then served as Chief of Staff of the Australian Force Vietnam and was awarded a Distinguished Service Order by the Government of South Vietnam.

Promotion to Brigadier followed, with appointment as Commander of Western Command.

Living in Perth following retirement from the Army, Bill Jamieson, among many other things, was Chairman of Save the Children Fund WA, Honorary WA Consul General for Thailand for 32 years, member of the Vietnam Veterans Trust Appeals Tribunal, Honorary Colonel of the Royal Western Australia University Regiment, President of the Australian-American Association (WA), founder of the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia in 1977, and its patron from 1977 to 1995; as well as being patron of many other organisations.

Brigadier William Drayton Jamieson OAM (Retd) was knighted twice by His Majesty, the King of Thailand, for distinguished service; and has now received modest but most deserving recognition in the Order of Australia for service to Australia-Thailand relations and to the community.

Bill Wilson was awarded an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for his exemplary military service.

After leaving the Army, Bill Wilson served as a Sub Warden of the State War Memorial for over 30 years. The average number of ceremonies at the State War Memorial each year is 35. During that time, Bill Wilson assisted the Deputy Wardens in conducting tours of the War Memorial and explaining the role of the Sub Wardens to visiting schools, Scouts and other youth groups

In addition to his long service as a Sub Warden, Bill Wilson was also Sergeant at Arms of Highgate Sub-Branch for 17 years. His long, dedicated and exemplary service as a Sub Warden, and to Highgate and to the RSL in general, is very worthy

of the prestigious award of RSL Life Membership which was presented during the 2018 RSLWA State Congress in Government House Ballroom on Sat 16 June.

In other important news, the Department of Veterans' Affairs has granted Highgate \$30,500 to undertake a Centenary of Armistice project. This will be known as the Remembrance Walk Project and consists of a computer application describing each of the commemorative memorials in Kings Park. Steve Chamarette is project director.

I will provide details of the Remembrance Walk Project in our next newsletter. By then, I hope to have further news of other grant applications Highgate has submitted to commemorate the Centenary of Armistice.

Turning to other news, I am writing this from Eastern Europe and can reliably report there is still a bit of rust behind the Iron Curtain. In the past few weeks, Carol and I have visited Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Croatia and Serbia. Much progress is being made with the economies of each of those countries but there are high levels of unemployment and relatively poor infrastructure maintenance.

What is very noticeable in each of those countries is the often-expressed preference of being free of Communism.

In Australia, we take being safe from external subjugation as the norm. Although we came perilously close to being invaded during WWII, our internal liberties are taken for granted.

If we are safe from our enemies, we can assume our freedoms – freedom of thought, speech, religion and movement - what the Americans refer to as the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

Possibly, that is why the referendum to ban communism in Australia failed.

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

The current erosion of our freedoms was spoken about at our last lunch in May, by guest speaker, the Honourable Bill Hassell AM.

Bill's beguiling talk was titled *The Australia Day Speech I Would Like the Prime Minister to Give*.

Bill Hassell referred to the RSL Motto *The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance* and said:

"Today, the eternal vigilance we need is both for our external defence and for what is happening at home.

Today our liberty is under threat from insidious forces within our nation. You can rightly say that this is because of what we are doing to ourselves; what we put up with; the totality of our tolerance of things that are damaging us; our lack of commitment to our historical values and to our very ethos.

We are now subjugated, scarred and scared by the outcomes of political correctness and even humour is now dangerous in many cases."

Bill began his talk by imagining it is Australia Day and that the Australian of the Year has been announced. To quote Bill once more: "...And hopefully it is not again an ex-military man who wants to run the military as a school of inclusiveness".

Bill Hassell believes we have gone much too far in promoting what amounts to separate cultures, and not insisting there is only one pre-eminent, dominant and official culture. One loyalty owed to one nation.

Now, we fund and positively welcome approaches that lead to separation, whereas the watchwords should be *one people, one flag, one nation*.

Bill concluded on the vital topic of freedom of speech by saying it is fundamental to all our freedoms. That includes the right to say things which others may find offensive, with the limits being found in the law of defamation and in laws against incitement to violence.

It was a brilliant speech that resonated with the audience. The speech is being submitted to Quadrant for possible publication. If it is published, I highly recommend it be read. If you cannot wait, let me know and I will forward you a copy.

With best wishes

- Geoff Hourn

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

Sun 05 Aug	1145 for 1230	United Macedonian Committees of Perth - Wreath laying ceremony
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**

04 Jul	100th Anniversary of Battle of Le Hamel	Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France
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

The Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust

is a national independent charity helping children and grand-children of Australian ex-Service men and

women to a better future by providing tertiary scholarships.

Through the generous support of the Department of Veterans' Affairs, ex-Service organisations and individual donors, AVCAT offers up to 90 new scholarships each year for students enrolled at an Australian University, TAFE College or Registered Training Organisation. To be eligible, students must be:

- A child, step-child, foster child or grandchild of an ex-serving Australian Veteran
- An Australian citizen or permanent resident
- Enrolled, or planning to enrol in 2019, in a full-time course at an Australian University, TAFE College or Registered Training Organisation
- Receiving, or eligible to receive, Centrelink Youth Allowance or an equivalent means-tested educational payment

Applications for the 2019 Long Tan Bursary and sponsored scholarships of up to \$12 000, managed by AVCAT, open on 18 August 2018 and close 31 October 2018.

For information about how to apply contact the AVCAT team
(02) 9213 7999 | avcat@dva.gov.au
www.avcat.org.au



AUSTRALIAN VETERANS'
CHILDREN ASSISTANCE TRUST

About Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

Formed in 1947, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch has long had responsibility for managing commemorative activities at the State War Memorial.

In addition, 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. In addition, we provide you with information on projects and issues from 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; lots of photographs, and of course, the obligatory humour moments to lighten things up.

REMINDER | You're invited to WA Club socialising and events

As part of our reciprocal arrangement, all RSL WA 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. Check out www.waclub.com.au/events

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Members celebrating their birthday in June include:

Jeff Astfalck, Helen Birch, Barry Campbell, Kevin Cass-Ryall, Ken Chapman, Alex Donald, Ray Doust, Stevan Frodsham, Brian Gibson, Lou Halvorson, Tim Harrison, John Hollingshead, Frederick Johnson, Robyn Kerr, Sunnly Kim, Murray Lampard, Peter Mack, David MacLean, Robert Mercer, Robert Mummery, Michael Munjak, Gerardus Postmus, Jeremy Sher, Noel Sivewright, Bruce Taylor, Bryan Taylor, John Tick, Max Walters and Adrian Young

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 are very welcome to join us for luncheon, and booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.



Governor-General awards Unit Citation for Gallantry

"For everyone who was there"

Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral - South Vietnam 1968

The 50th anniversary of the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral during the Vietnam War was marked by 1,200 veterans attending services in Canberra at the Royal Australian Artillery National Memorial and the Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade on Sun 13 May 2018.

Extracts of speech by Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Defence Personnel, Minister assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC:

Today, we commemorate the 50th anniversary of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral.

I am pleased to formally acknowledge the extraordinary gallantry displayed by members of the 1st Australia Task Force (Forward) and associated Units deployed to Area of Operations Surfers during the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral, and have the great pleasure to announce His Excellency the Governor-General's approval to award the Unit Citation for Gallantry for these actions.

It has been a long time coming – perhaps a medal for persistence.

Fifty years ago, Australians fought their longest and most costly battle of the Vietnam War at Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. The Australian Task Force commander called the battles *'some of the heaviest fighting that the task force ever undertook'*.

Australian troops moved into the area of operations, known as *Bondi* in Bien Hoa Province on 12 May 1968 and began setting up Fire Support Base Coral. They didn't know how strong the enemy presence in the area was until a devastating attack fell upon them less than 12 hours later.

Nine Australians were killed. The artillery and mortar men were the hardest hit.

The North Vietnamese and Viet Cong could not tolerate the Australian presence across the route they used to attack Saigon.

Over the next 16 days, North Vietnamese troops launched another determined attack against Coral and twice attempted to drive the Australians from nearby Fire Support Base Balmoral.

A man dazed by an exploding mortar shell in the first attack on Balmoral remembered his thoughts as enemy troops launched their second assault on the base, *'I was an innocent country boy from Australia ... Now I found myself on the brink of madness ... Everybody else at Balmoral must have been feeling the same terror I was feeling.'*

Coral and Balmoral were too strongly defended to fall to the waves of infantry sent against them, but for the men who faced these attacks, the fighting was intense, close and terrifying.

Outside the two bases, infantry patrols had many contacts with North Vietnamese troops. On one day, nine such encounters left three Australian and 12 North Vietnamese soldiers dead.

Australian tanks and infantry fought several fierce battles in the midst of heavily defended enemy bunker complexes as the toll of dead on both sides rose.

By early June, after suffering devastating losses, the North Vietnamese conceded this route to Saigon. The last Australians left the area on 6 June.

Twenty-six Australians lost their lives in three and a half weeks at Coral and Balmoral. Almost 100 were wounded. At least 270 Vietnamese were killed, though we will never know the true number.

The Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral are not widely known in Australia. Yet they were among the most important of our country's long commitment to the war in Vietnam.

The Unit Citation for Gallantry is richly deserved. In the words of the Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal report – the citation is *'For everyone who was there'*.

The Battle Honour 'Coral-Balmoral' is shared by the 1st and 3rd Battalions, the Royal Australian Regiment, the 1st Armoured Regiment and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment.

The Royal Australian Artillery's 102 Field Battery received the Honour Title *Coral* in 2008, the year of the battle's 40th anniversary.

Today, we remember all those who fell in this distant corner of South Vietnam, we honour the Veterans here with us today, and acknowledge those who could not.

All who served at Coral and Balmoral earned a proud place in Australia's wartime history.

Lest we forget

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS Highgate RSL



You will be aware that Highgate RSL is proposing we hold our traditional Remembrance Day Luncheon in Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park, following the Centenary Armistice Service at the State War Memorial on 11 November 2018.

To keep costs of the luncheon to last year's \$75 per person, we are seeking sponsorship from corporate organisations, business owners and individuals that you may have formed a relationship with over the years.

The sponsorship is to help cover the venue set up and administrative costs.

Donations are tax deductible and sponsors will be recognised by acknowledgement in our President's address, in the foyer, and on our luncheon menu with business logo, name, a short promotional message, and in any other reasonable way.

Please contact Luncheon Coordinator Leon Griffiths or Treasurer Peter Farrell (their details are on page 1) with names of persons who may wish to sponsor Highgate RSL in this or any other way.



Just A Common Soldier

(Australianised version)

He was getting old and paunchy and his hair was falling fast,
And he sat around the RSL telling stories of the past.
Of a war that he once fought in and the deeds that he had done,
Of his exploits with his friends - they were heroes, every one.
And although sometimes to his neighbors his tales became a joke,
His RSL friends listened quietly for they knew of what he spoke.

But we'll hear his tales no longer, for old Joe has passed away,
And the world's a little poorer, because a Veteran died today.
He won't be mourned by many - just his children and his wife.
For he lived an ordinary and a very quiet sort of life.
He held a job and raised a family, going quietly on his way
And the world won't note his passing, though a Veteran died today.

When politicians leave this earth, their bodies lie in state,
While thousands note their passing, and proclaim that they were great.
Papers tell all their life stories from the time that they were young,
But the passing of a Veteran goes unnoticed, and unsung.

Is the greatest contribution to the welfare of our land,
Some jerk who breaks his promises and cons his fellow man?
Or is it the ordinary fellow who in times of war and strife,
Goes off to serve his country and offers up his life?

The politician's stipend and the style in which he lives,
Are often disproportionate to the service that he gives.
While the ordinary Veteran who offered up his all,
Is paid off with a medal and, perhaps, a pension, small.

It is not the politicians with their compromise and ploys,
Who won for us the freedoms that our country now enjoys.
Should you find yourself in danger with your enemies at hand,
Would you really want some cop-out with his ever-waffling stand?
Or would you want a Veteran, his home, his country, his kin,
Just a common Aussie Veteran, who would fight until the end?

He was just a common Veteran and his ranks are growing thin,
But his presence should remind us we may need his likes again.
For when countries are in conflict, we find the Veteran's part,
Is to clean up all the troubles that the politicians start.

If we cannot give him honour while he's here, to hear the praise,
Then at least let's give him homage at the ending of his days.
Perhaps it's just a simple headline in the paper that might say:

Our country is in mourning. A Veteran died today.



- By A. Lawrence Vaincourt, who served in the
Royal Canadian Air Force during WWII
He passed away on 20 April 2009,
having written this poem in 1987

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Newsletter contributions are always very welcome

Please send your material to the editor at
roger.buddrige@highgate-rsl.org.au

Most of us are between 65 and death...

Part 1

1. It's time to use the money you saved up. Use it and enjoy it. Don't just keep it for those who may have no understanding of the sacrifices you made to get it. Remember, there is nothing more dangerous than a son or daughter-in-law with big ideas for your hard-earned capital. Warning: This is also a bad time for investments, even if it seems wonderful or fool-proof. They only bring problems and worries. This is a time for you to enjoy some peace and quiet.

2. Stop worrying about the financial situation of your children and grandchildren, and don't feel bad spending your money on yourself. You've taken care of them for many years, and you've taught them what you could. You gave them an education, food, shelter and support. The responsibility is now theirs to earn their own money.

3. Keep a healthy life, without great physical effort. Do moderate exercise (like walking every day), eat well and get your sleep. It's easy to become sick, and it gets harder to remain healthy. That is why you need to keep yourself in good shape and be aware of your medical and physical needs. Keep in touch with your doctor, do tests even when you're feeling well. Stay informed.

4. Always buy the best, most beautiful items for your significant other. The key goal is to enjoy your money with your partner. One day one of you will miss the other, and the money will not provide any comfort then, so enjoy it together

5. Don't stress over the little things. Like paying a little extra on price quotes. You've already overcome so much in your life. You have good memories and bad ones, but the important thing is the present. Don't let the past drag you down and don't let the future frighten you. Feel good in the now. Small issues will soon be forgotten.

6. Regardless of age, always keep love alive. Love your partner, love life, love your family, love your neighbor and remember: A person is not old as long as they have intelligence and affection.

7. Be proud, both inside and out. Don't stop going to your hair salon or barber, do your nails, go to the dermatologist and the dentist, keep your after-shave or perfumes and creams well stocked. When you are well-maintained on the outside, it seeps in, making you feel proud and strong.

8. Don't lose sight of fashion trends for your age, but keep your own sense of style. There's nothing worse than an older person trying to wear the current fashion among youngsters. You've developed your own sense of what looks good on you – keep it and be proud of it. It's part of who you are.

And did you hear about the Aussie Veteran to whom God granted two wishes to recognise his life of sacrifice and service: "I'd like the best drink and the best woman ever born, please." So God gave him a glass of mineral water and Mother Teresa.



ANZAC Day 2018 flashback

Some of the RSL Sub-Wardens were ferried to Kings Park by mini-bus for the ANZAC Day Dawn Service. From left: Don Blair, Doug Farmer, Greg Wilson, Bill Munro, Brian Prangnell (North Beach RSL), Mick Coyle, Arthur Hutchison (Kalamunda SES member/driver). Front: Richard Adams, Margot Harness. (Not included are Geoff Simpson, Shirly Mooney, David Scott and Phillip Skelton, who took their own cars)

Our Luncheon Speakers

July | Adrian Strang of 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 | Annual General Meeting and OBE (Over Bldy Eighty) celebration (no guest speaker but lots of cake!)**

September | Member Ray Galliot - Centenary of Battle of Beersheba, and Israel tour highlights

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



Award congratulations



(left) Brigadier Bill Jamieson (Retd) has received an OAM (Photo courtesy of Australians At War Film Archive, UNSW)

(left) Bill Wilson MBE has been awarded Life Membership of the RSL



Guest Speaker | Hon Bill Hassell AM May Highgate RSL Luncheon

