



Highgate Highlights

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

From our President

Our first meeting for 2017 was enjoyed by 54 members and guests at the Western Australian Club which is located on Level 11 at 12 St Georges Terrace (opposite Perth Concert Hall). The ambience was excellent and the Swan River and city views magnificent.

It was a great opportunity to meet and greet members and welcome you to the new year, following our final meeting last year at Anzac House.

Pastor Sunny Kim stepped into the big shoes vacated by Reverend Tim Harrison to say grace. Sunny also introduced his guests, President Jingil Lee and Vice President Kunhyung Lee of the Korean Veterans Association in WA. Jingil thanked Highgate members for their support and participation in the awards of the Korean Peace Medal. He also warmly thanked the Australian nation for responding to the invasion of South Korea.

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Western Australian Club is our March meeting place

Important: Please book before 12 noon Wednesday 15 March as the WA Club needs catering numbers that day

A majority vote of members at the recent February luncheon chose the Western Australian Club as our ongoing new venue until ANZAC House is rebuilt and becomes available to us, possibly in 2019.

Therefore, we will **not** be meeting in March at the Mercure Hotel, as originally planned.

Our meeting on 20 March will be held at the Western Australian Club at 12 St Georges Terrace, opposite the Perth Concert Hall. Please enter through the revolving door and use the far right-hand lift to Level 11.

The Western Australian Club overlooks the Perth Concert Hall at Level 11 - 12 St Georges Terrace and the cost of the monthly luncheon is \$30 per person, payable by no later than the Wednesday prior to the meeting, which takes place on the third Monday of each month (*except April - Gunfire Breakfast, and November - Fraser's Kings Park*).

To book your monthly lunch, please enter your name electronically on the booking page via the website, (before 12 noon on the Wednesday prior to the meeting. Go to our website home page at www.highgate-rsl.org.au and double-click HIGHGATE MONTHLY LUNCHEON below the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and you'll be transferred to the booking sheet page.

Electronic funds transfer details are on the spreadsheet. Cost is \$30 per person.

You will need to book your luncheon each month by noon on the Wednesday prior to the meeting.

For those without internet, please call Margot Harness 9293 1076 to book in.

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | Mon **20 Mar** | Committee Meeting - **WA Club**
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon **20 Mar** | March Luncheon - **WA Club**
- **Address:** Level 11 - 12 St Georges Terrace Perth (*opp. Concert Hall*)

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We especially remember with deep sadness and affection all our departed Members, and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to their families



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From our President

(continued from page 1)

President Jingil Lee particularly thanked those Service members who helped secure their freedom, with special recognition of those who were KIA or WIA during the Korean conflict.

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch was especially grateful for the kind donation by our guest of 12 bottles of plum wine which will be used for raffle prizes.

South China Sea geopolitics | Our guest speaker was member, Alex Kerr, who has a remarkable history of academic and work achievements throughout his life, including surviving an escape with seven machine gun wounds from his burning bomber, and three escapes from POW camps (the last one successfully) in Germany during WWII.

Alex delivered a perceptive and thorough insight into the history and strategic trade and military importance of the South China Sea. The relevance of the South China Sea to Australia and all those countries on its shores or reliant on its resources, as well as unhindered and safe passage of shipping through this area, was clearly put into context if China continues its expansion and influence in the region.

Alex shared his great knowledge of the current military and proposed military strengths of the proponents in the area, and what is at stake if there is not a balance of power for peace in the region.

Alex, on behalf of members and guests present, please accept our sincere thank you for your professional presentation. Please also pass on our thanks to your daughter, Robyn, for coordinating the slides during your talk. I am sure your excellent address gave all members present a timely reminder of the RSL motto *The price of liberty is eternal vigilance* and the inscription on the side of Anzac House *They only deserve freedom who are prepared to defend it*.

Remembrance Day Luncheon

Leon Griffiths is coordinating this year's Remembrance Day Service and Luncheon at Frasers in Kings Park and confirms the event will take place on Sunday 12 November

From our President (continued)

Leon spoke of the importance of inviting your children to this event to acknowledge the sacrifices previous generations have made to our Nation and which has been to their benefit. We know this is an early announcement but the way the year flies past, it is appropriate to ask you to reserve the date now and fill in the details as we move closer.

Our new venue | To all who attended the February luncheon at the prestigious Western Australian Club, thank you for contributing to this important milestone event in Highgate's history, as it was the first regular meeting held outside the Gallipoli Room since 1981 - 36 years ago! Arriving members made good use of the cash bar for drinks both prior and during the meeting, before we held our luncheon in prime position overlooking the Swan River, Perth Concert Hall and Government House.

A special thanks to Roger Buddrige for organising the venue and negotiating the luncheon price of \$30 each.

WA Club our new venue | The members were so impressed with the food, service, facilities and ambience that on a show of hands, there was a clear majority vote that Highgate RSL Sub-Branch should continue to use the WA Club for our future meetings. We will therefore not be holding our March meeting at the Mercure Hotel, as previously advised, but instead from hereon forward will meet monthly at the Western Australian Club.

Register by previous Wed | Please note it is now essential to register your attendance for the March luncheon before Wednesday 15 March, prior to our next meeting on 20 March.

If you register but fail to attend, you will still be charged the \$30 as we are obliged to pay for the meals we order. Three members booked but failed to attend in February but Highgate RSL was still billed for their meals.

Consequently, the Committee has decided to **cancel** the Permanent List and require all members to register on the website Luncheon List. Would all those who were previously on the permanent list now notify your attendance on the booking sheet

From our President (continued)

each month by the Wednesday before the lunch, please. However, if a member misses the cut-off, they are still very welcome to attend the meeting, with the option to purchase a meal from the normal Club menu.

Reserved seating cards | At the February meeting, there was also an issue with pre-placed reserved seat cards. If you are getting there early and reserving seats for friends, please check the list of attendees to ensure the persons you are reserving seats for are attending, and that no-one else is booking a seat for them. Last meeting, one lucky member had two seats, and another had three seats!

Online booking alternative | If you are not familiar with the online booking sheet, please call Margot Harness (9293 1076) to register your attendance. If you are computer literate and EFT savvy, it is also requested when you pay for your lunch to please add \$5 for each raffle ticket you wish to purchase. This will reduce the amount of cash collected at the desk and allow more time for fellowship.

I look forward to seeing you at our Monday 20 March 2017 meeting at the Western Australian Club Level 11 - 12 St Georges Terrace, Perth, via the far righthand express lift in the lobby.

- Steve Chamarette

Disclaimer Please note Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove inappropriate content, and to clarify or shorten the item where needed. Although normal tests for accuracy are undertaken, you should not rely on this material without carrying out your own validity checks. Opinions expressed in Highgate Highlights are not necessarily those of RSL Highgate Sub-Branch or RSLWA. You are welcome to forward information of interest to your colleagues and friends, although we would appreciate acknowledgment as its source.

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

Sub Warden Duties | 2017

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD | Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Sun 26 Mar 1145 for 1215 Consulate of Greece

Mon 08 May 1030 for 1100 Australian American Association (WA Division)

Wed 31 May 1030 for 1100 Remembering Indigenous Service

Mon 29 May 0920 for 1050 North American Veterans' Unit



Report | Honour Avenue Group

Rod Halcombe advises that the Honour Avenue Group conducted a quarterly Dedication Ceremony at Kings Park on Saturday 18 February where 12 new plaques were dedicated and affixed to posts on the Honour Avenues. Demand for plaque dedications for the rest of the year is also encouraging.

Plans for the ANZAC Wall at May Circle are now well under way, with the project fully funded, and work about to commence.

RSL | Statement of Purpose

The RSL was founded in 1916 to provide comradeship and support to Australia's veterans and their families. That core mission has never changed but has continued to evolve to meet the needs of each generation of servicemen and women.

We have a Branch network that covers Australia and any Veteran who needs help will get it - every serving ADF Member and Veteran will be warmly welcomed at their local RSL Sub-Branch or Club.

We advocate for the best possible conditions for our serving men and women and for those who have served the nation in the past. We foster respect and thanks from the nation for all those who have made sacrifices in Australia's name and we provide a strong voice on issues of national unity and security.

Anzac Centenary commemorative period | 2014 - 2018 Domestic and overseas commemorations

The Anzac Centenary Commemorative Period spanning 2014 to 2018 is featuring major overseas commemorations to recognise Australian service and sacrifice since Federation.

Attendance passes will be required for most overseas commemorations conducted by DVA within the safe, secure and comfortable carrying capacity of the commemorative sites.

Check with the Department of Veteran Affairs to register for an attendance pass (no cost) and learn more about these commemorations by visiting

<https://overseascommemorations.ticketek.com.au/>. (Passes are not required to attend domestic commemorations.)

Service-specific information is provided, as well as what to expect and how to prepare before you travel.

Overseas, Australia will commemorate the 100th anniversaries of the Battle of Bullecourt in France, the Battle of Polygon Wood in Belgium and the Battle of Beersheba in Israel from the First World War.

The Australian Government will support Anzac Day Dawn Services in France, Turkey, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Borneo in 2017.

On 25 April, the commemoration of the Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt will be recognised in a service at the Digger Memorial in the Australian Memorial Park in Bullecourt. More than 1,100 Australians were taken prisoner during the Battle of Bullecourt - the largest number captured in a single engagement during the First World War.

A commemoration to mark the Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood will be held at Buttes New British Cemetery in Zonnebeke, Belgium on 26 September 2017. Polygon Wood was one of five battles in which Australians were involved as part of the larger British and Dominion offensive known as the Third Battle of Passchendaele. In eight weeks of fighting, there were 38,000 Australian casualties.

In Israel on 31 October 2017, a commemoration will recognise the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, and the famous charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade. At sunset on 31 October 1917, the Light Horsemen charged the Turkish lines using their bayonets as swords. The momentum of the surprise attack carried them through the Turkish defences and more than 1,000 prisoners were taken.

In 2017 Australia will also mark its other days of national commemoration including Battle for

Australia Day, Merchant Navy Day and Remembrance Day.

In Australia, commemorations are being held for 75th anniversaries of Second World War events - the Fall of Singapore, the Battle of the Coral Sea, Bomber Command operations, the Battle of Milne Bay, the Battle of El Alamein and the culmination of the North Africa campaigns, and Kokoda and the Beachheads.

A commemoration will also be held to recognise the 70th anniversary of the contribution made by Australian peacekeepers and peacemakers around the world.

"As a nation, we continue to honour the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have served in defence of our nation," said Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Dan Tehan MP, in announcing the 2017 overseas commemoration services.

"It is incredibly moving to stand on a foreign field where Australians have fought and died for our values and reflect on the enormous debt we owe to the men and women who serve in our military.

"Many Australians will be planning overseas trips this year to attend a commemoration service and pay their respects, and I encourage them to register early."

EVENTS LIST ON NEXT PAGE

Key domestic and international Commemorations in 2017 and 2018

25 April 2017

Anzac Day Canberra | Australian War Memorial
Anzac Day Turkey | Gallipoli, Turkey
Anzac Day France | Villers-Bretonneux, France
Anzac Day PNG | Isurava PNG
Anzac Day Thailand | Hellfire Pass Thailand
Anzac Day Borneo | Sandakan Borneo
Anzac Day Belgium | Ypres Belgium
Centenary of the Battle of Bullecourt | Bullecourt France

4 May 2017

Battle of Coral Sea Day | Australian War Memorial

4 June 2017

75th Anniversary of Bomber Command Operations
Australian War Memorial

25 August 2017

75th anniversary of the Battle of Milne Bay
Australian War Memorial

14 September 2017

70th anniversary Australian Peacekeepers and
Peacemakers | Anzac Parade, Canberra

26 September 2017

Centenary of the Battle of Polygon Wood,
Passchendaele | Zonnebeke, Belgium

23 October 2017

75th Anniversary of the start of El Alamein
Australian War Memorial

31 October 2017

Centenary of the Battle of Beersheba, Sinai Palestine
Campaign | Be'er Sheva, Israel

2 November 2017

75th Anniversary of Kokoda and the Beachheads
Australian War Memorial

25 April 2018

Anzac Day Dawn Service, Gallipoli, Turkey
Anzac Commemorative Site, Gallipoli, Turkey
Centenary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux
Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux,
France

4 July 2018

Centenary of the Battle of Hamel
Australian Corps Memorial, Le Hamel, France

11 November 2018

Centenary of First World War Armistice
Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux,
France

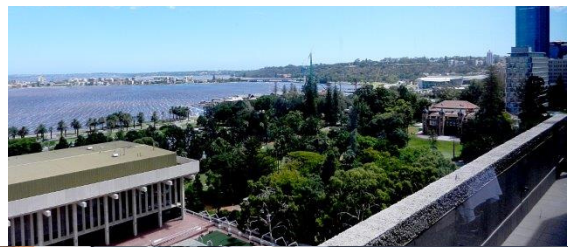
Happy Birthday to Highgate Members celebrating in March, including:

Bob Arnold, Frederick Brown, Norman Coleman, Ian Douglas, Shane Edmonds, John Farrell, Rod Halcombe, Reginald Hall, Stephen Joske, Ronnie Leigh, Harry Lodge, Ray Mawson, Ian McGuckin, Robert Mitchell, John Pope, William Ritchie, Geoff Simpson, Edmund Stevenson, Geoff Stooke and Doug Webb

Rare and weird facts about World War II

- ◇ The **first German** serviceman killed in the war was killed by the Japanese
- ◇ More than **100,000** Allied bomber crew were killed over Europe
- ◇ More U.S. servicemen died in the Air Corps than the Marine Corps
- ◇ Polish Catholic **midwife** Stanisława Leszczyńska delivered 3,000 babies at the Auschwitz concentration camp
- ◇ In World War II, British soldiers got a ration of three sheets of **toilet paper** a day. Americans got 22
- ◇ **Four of every five** German soldiers killed in the war died on the Eastern Front
- ◇ **Only 20 percent** of the males born in the Soviet Union in 1923 survived the war
- ◇ In World War II, the **youngest serviceman** in the United States military was Calvin Graham - aged 12. Graham lied about his age when he enlisted in the US Navy and his real age was not discovered until after he was wounded
- ◇ Only **one out of every four** men serving on U-boats survived
- ◇ The **Siege of Stalingrad** resulted in more Russian deaths (military and civilian) than the United States and Britain combined in all of World War II
- ◇ To avoid using the German sounding name 'hamburger' during World War II, Americans used the name '**Liberty Steak**'
- ◇ Adolf Hitler's nephew, **William Hitler**, served in the US Navy during World War II
- ◇ Adolph Hitler and Henry Ford each kept a **framed picture** of the other on his desk
- ◇ During World War II, the **largest Japanese spy ring** was located in Mexico
- ◇ The **mortality rate for POWs** in Russian camps was 85 percent
- ◇ Had it been necessary for a **third atom bomb**, the city targeted would have been Tokyo
- ◇ An Imperial Japanese Army intelligence officer who fought in the Philippines in World War II, Hiroo Onoda, **never surrendered** until his former commander traveled from Japan to personally issue orders relieving him from duty in 1974
- ◇ **Total casualties** for World War II totalled between 50-70 million people, 80 percent of whom came from only four countries - Russia, China, Germany and Poland. Over 50 percent of casualties were civilians, with the majority being women and children

FIRST LUNCHEON MEETING Western Australian Club | February 2017



...The members were so impressed with the food, service, facilities and ambience that on a show of hands, there was a clear majority vote that Highgate RSL Sub-Branch should continue to use the Western Australian Club for our future meetings....



Compelling Guest Speaker Alex Kerr delivered a perceptive and thorough insight into the history and strategic trade and military importance of the South China Sea....

