



Highgate Highlights

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

From our President

I have decided to see how other RSL Sub Branches are faring and report to you as I thought it might offer some comparison to help measure our own performance. My research included travelling through a lot of country towns and villages in the WA Wheatbelt. Having driven solidly for the past two days, mostly at 110kph, I find myself still in WA, at Esperance....and still in the Wheatbelt.

WA is a big place. And it's a big place with a lot of grain being grown and shared with the world. The Wheatbelt also shares a lot of RSL history. Like the Country Women's Association, the RSL is ubiquitous in rural and regional WA.

I found a classic example in the small town of Brookton, where the RSL Sub-Branch building can be found on the main street, close to the CWA. Purpose built in the 1950s, the Brookton RSL building looks in very good repair. Much further south, the Esperance RSL Sub-Branch is housed in a beautiful building prominently located in the centre of town. Built in the 1900s, this former school house has

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Our next Luncheon is on **THURSDAY 21 March** 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 usually on the third Monday of each month but to accommodate our VIP guest speaker, His Excellency Mr Baeksoon LEE, Korean Ambassador to Australia, it will be on **Thursday 21 March**. For catering reasons, your booking must be made no later than 1700 on Mon 18 Mar 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/nZKZouTX4G8XDWZn2>

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 | **Thu 21 Mar** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Thu 21 Mar** | Luncheon
- 0730 | **Thu 25 Apr** | Gunfire Breakfast - Ibis Hotel 334 Murray St, between King and William Streets. *Please note - No third-Monday RSL luncheon or Committee meeting in April*

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Member
Kenneth John Bladen AM

and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to Stephanie, family and friends



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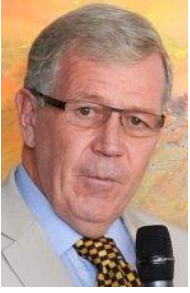
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From our President

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Geoff Hourn

thick stone walls that are heavy with history. As if to display how Sub-Branches are unique in their own right, Esperance Sub-Branch has a Leopard tank sitting

outside. Surely there can't be many RSL Sub-Branches (anywhere) with a Leopard tank! (Digressing, I can remember that while standing in the hatch of a Leopard doing best-speed cross-country (about 55kph) you could still read a map spread on the turret. Porsche designed the vehicle.)

Of course, the health of Sub-Branches is not measured in main battle tanks, other memorabilia or bricks and mortar. A more usable measurement of the health of a Sub-Branch, at least in WA, might be membership numbers. It is not as valid in other States where membership numbers are huge compared to WA. In other States, there are often many Social, Affiliate and Community Members, as well as other membership categories, in addition to Service Members. Members in other States are also often attracted by club licensing and gambling arrangements.

The Box Hill RSL Sub-Branch in Melbourne, for instance, has over 16,000 members, including more than 900 Service Members. Some NSW RSL Sub-Branches have even greater member numbers. Many Queensland Sub-Branches also have large memberships. In spite of these larger RSL membership numbers in Victoria, NSW and Queensland, the corporate health of the RSL, as well as the RSL's public standing, has taken a battering in those States in recent years. The same can be said about the RSL in South Australia.

By comparison, the corporate health of RSLWA is sound. When measured in membership numbers, the health of many Sub Branches in WA is also sound. The bigger Sub-Branches such as North Beach, Joondalup and Highgate continue to be resilient. Sadly, however, that is not the case State-wide and the membership figures of some WA

Sub-Branches show they are currently in their death throes. Four or five metropolitan Sub-Branches nobly continue with membership numbers in single figures. Those very small Sub-Branches are still able to commemorate ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day in their local communities but are able to do little else. These once thriving Sub-Branches, located in old, well established suburbs, now only survive through the valiant dedication of a few.

A possible way to help might be for larger Sub-Branches to introduce an *Adopt a Sub-Branch Program*. This might take the form of a larger Sub-Branch *adopting* one or more smaller Sub-Branches to help them with membership drives or by helping to swell the numbers at their local RSL events. A membership drive might involve letterbox-dropping of RSL material that advertises a future event being run by the smaller Sub-Branch at a local venue. That event could be in the form of a sundowner with the local MP or mayor as guest, or a military history talk about a local hero. With a lot of goodwill, there is a chance that some of our smaller Sub-Branches could be revitalised.

There is also a great necessity for larger WA Sub-Branches to not become complacent about their membership numbers. At Highgate, for example, an ageing membership with current *Vietnam-era* leadership and an attrition rate higher than the current recruitment rate, demands a recruitment plan if Highgate is to renew and effectively continue beyond the current generation.

One of the goals I have set before I step down as Sub-Branch President, is to put in place such a membership plan. For all organisations, the best form of advertisement is word-of-mouth with the best form of recruitment by personal invitation. This is certainly the case with voluntary organisations like the RSL and the membership plan will rely

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as a service to the
Veterans Community
by the Office of the
Federal Member for Perth***

heavily on these two facts. It will also rely heavily on promoting the uniqueness of the RSL and of Highgate.

Like each of the Sub-Branches in the RSL, Highgate is distinctive. For a start, Highgate is one of only two Perth CBD Sub-Branches and we meet in the city centre. A separate Committee meeting undertakes all the business of the Sub-Branch so that monthly meetings involve conviviality with an interesting guest speaker. The Committee rejuvenates regularly and there is an expectation that at some point, all members will play their part in running the Sub-Branch.

In terms of commemoration, patriotism, camaraderie, welfare, tradition, interest, events, projects and defending the national interest, Highgate is far from being exclusive but it is exceptional. Like many other Sub-Branches, our antecedents go back a century but, in addition, we organise the Sub Wardens for the State War Memorial and the Honour Avenue Group in Kings Park, and regularly host very prominent speakers on topics of current importance.

Whether warranted or not, Highgate has a certain reputation and should exploit that reputation in recruiting members. Within the RSL, there is room for coat and tie as well as jeans and thongs.

In formulating our recruitment plan, all of these things will be used to ensure Highgate RSL Sub-Branch is alive and well into the next century and still making a solid contribution to both the RSL and our community. Our Highgate Committee is currently looking at a draft of the membership plan. Consideration will include how we might help other Sub-Branches, thus providing mutual support to RSLWA.

Regards - Geoff Hourn

BIRTHDAYS

Members celebrating their birthday in March include:

Geoff Simpson, Frederick Brown, Rodney Halcombe, Robert Mitchell, Harry Lodge, Geoff Stooke, John Pope, William Ritchie, Richard Adams, Tony McKay, Shane Edmonds, Ian McGuckin, Doug Webb, Norman Coleman, R E Mees, Sarah Freeman, John Farrell, Ronnie Leigh and John Maltas



Duty First | Vale Ken Bladen

We are deeply saddened to advise that LTCOL Ken Bladen AM (Retd) passed away peacefully in Hollywood Hospital on 22 Feb 19, aged 84. Ken was a long-time Highgate member, Sub-Warden of the State War Memorial, RSL Life Member and Past President of RSLWA. We convey our deepest sympathy to Ken's beloved wife, Stephanie, and to his family, including Louise, Penny (dec), Emma, John and Cameron.

Kenneth John Bladen was born in WA and educated at Guildford Grammar School. He graduated as a Second Lieutenant from the Australian Army Officer Cadet School as a career Infantry Officer and for the next 21 years, served in regimental, instructional and staff appointments in Australia and overseas. His service as a junior officer included anti-terrorist operations in Malaya as a platoon commander, and as a foundation officer of the Special Air Service (SAS) in Perth. He served overseas with the 1st, 2nd and 7th Battalions of the Royal Australian Regiment, and in 1967, saw active service in Vietnam as an Infantry Company Commander with 7RAR.

Ken was a graduate of the Australian Staff College in 1968 and posted to HQ Western Command as a General Staff Officer, Grade 2. Fifty years ago in 1969, Ken won the rare Queen's Medal as the Army Champion Shot (only 23 have been awarded to Australians). At age 39, he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and commanded Third Cadet Brigade, Victoria during 1973-74, and later served in the Australian Army Reserve, retiring in 1984 after 30 years of service. Typical of the Army of that era, Ken and Stephanie, with their children, lived in 17 houses during his military service.

An RSL member since 1968, Ken was elected State President of RSLWA 1998-01, appointed Honorary National RSL Vice President for Life, and awarded RSL

Life Membership in November 2001. In January 2003, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia for his voluntary services to veterans and their families. Later that year, Ken was awarded the Centenary Medal for similar services to veterans and their families.

Ken often led the singing of the national anthem at RSL meetings –

no surprise, as his hobby was singing bass in the Men's Chorus of the WA Opera Company. He also enjoyed gardening and golf.

Ken's numerous achievements and community involvements included as Associate of the Institute of Credit

Management in 1994, election as RSLWA State President (three consecutive terms until 2001), awarding of the Australian Centenary Medal in 2001, appointment as Honorary National RSL Vice President for Life in 2003, Honorary Squad Patron on three occasions with the WA Police Academy Recruit Training Wing, President of the Burma/Thai Railway Memorial Association for many years, patron of the WA Airborne Forces Association, serving on committees

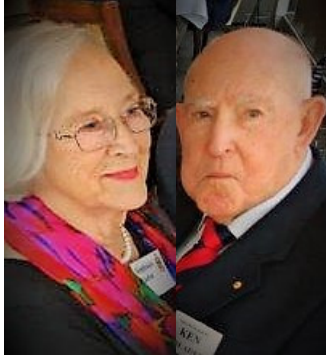
including Methodist

Ladies College P&F, Australian National Flag Association, Australian/American Association, the WA Naval, Military & Air Forces Club, an active Mason and of course, a long-time and highly regarded member of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch.

(With thanks to Wayne Gardiner OAM and WA Airborne Forces Association)

2018 Poppy Appeal

Congratulations and thank you to all who gave their time for the 2018 Poppy Appeal. The combined effort from the street appeal, Sub-Branch collections and private business collections, amounted to \$359,447.53.



Highgate Luncheon THURSDAY 21 March at Karrakatta Club VIP Speaker | Korean Ambassador to Australia

Important note: The next Highgate RSL Sub-Branch luncheon will be held on **Thursday 21 March** at 1130 for 1230h, instead of the preceding Monday. Cost is \$40. Venue the Karrakatta Club, Sherwood Court, Perth.

The luncheon may be booked through the Highgate website or through this link: <https://goo.gl/forms/nZKZouTX4G8XDWZn2> RSVP by Monday 18 March.

The change is to allow attendance of the Republic of Korea Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Mr Baiksoon LEE.

Senior Vice President John Cleary advises that in addition to his addressing our meeting, the Ambassador will also be presenting medals to several Korean War Veterans, who will attend our luncheon with their costs being paid for by their Association. Honorary Consul to South Korea, Ms Fay Duda, will also be attending. The presentation will receive media attention.

Members and visitors who have received the Korean Veterans Ambassador for Peace Medal from the South Korean Government may wish to wear it on this occasion.



ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast

We will hold our traditional ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast at 0730 in the **Ibis Hotel at 334 Murray Street, Perth.**

Located between King and William Streets, the Ibis Hotel is easy to get to, particularly from Kings Park and the Perth underground station, and is also close to the ANZAC Day March assembly point.

Parking is available opposite in His Majesty's car park. The Warden of the State War Memorial, Lieutenant Commander Guy Burton RAN will be our guest speaker.



Anzac Day Dawn Service for Villers-Bretonneux, France

Hon Darren Chester MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, has instructed the Department of Veterans' Affairs to conduct a Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, France on Anzac Day 2019.

"When it comes to sensitive matters like this which are at the heart of our entire nation, it is vital that DVA conducts full consultations with Ex-Service Organisations and the general public before they make any changes. That's what the public expect, it's what the Prime Minister and the government expect."

The decision to revert to the Dawn Service follows feedback from ESOs and the general public in Australia. There will be comprehensive consultation with local authorities and tour operators in France, as well as with the ESO community in Australia, before any further changes are considered.

Nelson reappointed Director Australian War Memorial

Dr Brendan Nelson AO will continue as Director of the Australian War Memorial until 31 Dec 2019.

"Dr Nelson has made a significant contribution to the Australian War Memorial since his appointment as Director in December 2012, including extensive upgrades and overseeing the Centenary of Anzac program," said Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester.

"His contribution to the Australian War Memorial has been outstanding as it continues to raise awareness of the service and sacrifice by current and former serving members of the Australian Defence Force.

"The Australian War Memorial is a world-class institution and as it moves into the period after the ANZAC Centenary, it's a critical period as a memorial to the members of the Australian armed forces who have died or served in conflict.

"Our \$498 million investment in the Australian War Memorial's redevelopment announced last year will ensure we honour all Australians with service in our armed forces."



RSLWA Help Our Heroes Charity Ball

Get your dancing shoes on. You're officially invited to RSLWA's night of nights - the Help Our Heroes Charity Ball and assist those who served by supporting our Help Our Heroes fundraising campaign.

Members tickets are \$185 each, or \$1,800 for a table of 10. Early-bird pricing is valid until 29 March. This price includes a drink on arrival, three course fine dining, live entertainment, special guests, raffle, live auction and dancing. You can also help celebrate the achievements of RSLWA, and dance the night away, while catching up with old and new friends.

Purchase your Charity Ball tickets and secure some great deals on accommodation at Crown Perth. Congress and the Ball occur on the same day, at the same location.

A **Fundraising Committee** has been established to drive RSLWA's Help Our Heroes campaign, which will gain momentum throughout 2019. Importantly, this will involve Sub-Branches. More information will come soon.

A new **Commemoration Guide** has been posted on the RSLWA website and distributed to all Sub-Branches to assist on a wide range of commemorative and protocol matters, including guidance on the conduct of funerals. The guide will also be sent to the Funeral Directors' Association.

The RSLWA Board has endorsed a request - subject to confirmation by Chief of Defence Force - that **Air Force leads the ANZAC Day parade in 2021**, which is the RAAF's 100th Anniversary.

Welcome | Phillip Clover

By Howard Montagu

Phillip Clover was a Signal Corps Officer for many years, serving as a Captain in 709 Signal Troop in Vietnam, with subsequent postings here to 5th Military District, and back again later, in the Army Reserve. At one time he was Officer Commanding of 109 Signal Squadron. Phil retired from the security industry some years ago and is currently heavily involved with 2/16th Battalion Association. Welcome to Highgate RSL, Phil.



Phil Clover with Dick Cook at our last Highgate luncheon

Perth Concert Hall will again host this year's **ANZAC Day Commemorative Service**, and will feature the Salvation Army Perth Fortress Band, Perth Modern School Chamber Choir and Perth Modern School Alumni Singers. While this is a FREE event, you must register to attend. Also, please note the venue does not have assigned seating and, as a result, guests will be seated in order of arrival. Information about parking and building access will be included with tickets.

POC: RSLWA 9287 3799 or eventsmanager@rslwa.org.au

The RSLWA Vice President has presented a proposal, endorsed by the Board, to establish a **new WA Auxiliary**, similar to the format of RSL Queensland.

An Extraordinary General Meeting in January resulted in a new category of **Interim Service Membership** enabling new ADF recruits to join RSLWA ahead of full-service membership.

Sub Warden Duties | 2019

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



Sun 24 Mar	1200 for 1230	Greek Independence Day
Wed 24 Apr	1630 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Ceremony
Thu 25 Apr	0515 for 0545	ANZAC Dawn Service

St John of God Mental Health Support

Tailored, no-cost therapy, counselling and psychological therapies are available to Veterans and family members experiencing mental health issues.

Clinicians from St John of God Ferns Community Mental Health Services (FCMHS) provide safe and accessible support to Veterans in WA. Family members who request psychological support are also able to access the clinicians, who are accredited by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA).

Veterans must hold a White Card under the Department of Veteran Affairs provisions, with eligibility for non-liability health care (speak to RSL Advocacy if unsure) and obtain a referral from a GP. Family members can access services with a Mental Health Care Plan from their GP. Once you have this in place, simply call 6226 9400 to register.

Services will be delivered at RSLWA headquarters (Level 3 - 66 St Georges Tce Perth), or at St John of God Community Mental Health Services offices in Fremantle and Mandurah.

\$2,000 defibrillator for \$200

St John Ambulance Australia Ltd currently has 500 Defibrillator units available for community groups. The grant provides a \$2,000 defibrillator unit, a lock box and first aid training. Community groups are asked to contribute \$200 toward each defibrillator. Sub-Branches are permitted to utilise \$200 from their Welfare Accounts towards this installation. Please contact Samuel Lee at RSLWA for more information.

Help Our Heroes campaign

A new Fundraising Committee has been established to drive RSLWA's Help Our Heroes campaign, which will gain momentum throughout 2019. Importantly, this will involve Sub-Branches. More information from RSLWA will come soon.

Information and training for Advocates and Welfare Officers

Important advocacy and welfare training classes are planned for the first week in April. Under the Advocacy Development Training Program (ADTP), there are two pathways towards an ADTP qualification - Training or Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL).

For existing Training and Information Program (TIP) Levels 1 and 2 Welfare/Wellness and Compensation Advocates, you can now have RPL counted towards qualifying for recognised qualifications under ADTP. This is important because Levels 1 and 2 Welfare/Wellness and Compensation Advocates have until the end of July this year to formally qualify under ADTP.

Sessions will take place at the RSLWA Perth HQ during the first week in April, with dates for each course to be advised. Prior registration is essential via www.atdp.org.au/atdpMain.php

For those not undergoing training but interested in becoming a Welfare or Advocacy officer, an information session has been scheduled for 01 April 1 at 1300 in RSLWA Perth HQ and will be run by ADTP Regional Manager, Ian Thompson. RSVP deadline is 28 March. POC: Sharon Briggs 9287 3799 or sharonb@rslwa.org.au.

ANZAC House update

ANZAC House is understood to be on time and on budget, and should be open as venue for the 2020 Highgate RSL Gunfire Breakfast.

Construction of the basement will begin before this year's ANZAC Day.

RSLWA has received Expressions of Interest from other Ex-Service Organisations and Veterans Service Providers to co-locate in the new ANZAC House Veterans Central facility

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 the Department of Veteran's Affairs; comment by the Minister for Veteran's 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. Until ANZAC House is rebuilt, we meet in the serene surroundings of the Karrakatta Club in Sherwood Court Perth, right in the heart of the CBD. RSL members of other Sub-Branches and their families and friends are very welcome to join us for luncheon, and booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.

UK exam for 15 year olds

Define the word 'monotony'.

Monotony is being married to the same person all your life.

Use the word 'judicious' in a sentence to show you understand its meaning.

Hands that judicious can be soft as your face.

What is the correct use of a semi-colon?

Only to be used as a last resort, a semi-colon is a partial removal of the intestines.



**February Luncheon with guest speaker
Michael Piu, CEO of St Patrick's
Community Support Centre in Fremantle**

