



Highgate Highlights

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

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From our President

Much is happening in the veteran community at present, but let me begin with our own Sub-Branch.

We have been preparing for our premier annual event on Sun 12 Nov for some time and will again present another very special Remembrance Day Luncheon at Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park, in lieu of our November monthly meeting. Always a popular event, we begin with a short Memorial Service at the Flame of Remembrance at 1120, followed by lunch at noon.

Our Remembrance Day Lunch is open to all members of the RSL and their guests and is an enjoyable day for partners, family and friends. It is held in an iconic setting, and this year marks the 70th anniversary of Highgate RSL and the 99th anniversary of the end of World War One. Our special guests will be Marcelle Broderick, CEO of King's Park and Tim Hammond MP, Federal Member for Perth. *(continued on page 2)*

Our next meeting is on Sunday 12 November at the State War Memorial & Fraser's Restaurant Kings Park

Service from 1120 | Luncheon from 12 noon

Please book before 12 noon on Tue 07 Nov

Our Remembrance Day commemoration at the State War Memorial, followed by luncheon in Fraser's Restaurant, Kings Park on Sunday 12 November REPLACES our usual monthly luncheon at the Western Australian Club. Please use the website booking sheet at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14RncolDwtFbEpfk3LL-M1SZFrZFBSb7-mjcWnd5MhrA/edit#gid=0> or telephone any Committee member to register. The cost of the Fraser's luncheon, including alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, is \$80 per person, payable no later than **12 noon on Tue 07 Nov**, please.

To book your **regular** monthly luncheon, 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 Tuesday prior to the meeting.

If you do not have internet, please call Margot Harness on 9349 2847 or any Committee member to book in.

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 0600-1000 | **Fri 10 Nov** | Poppy Day Collections Elizabeth Quay Busport/Rail Station & Wellington Street Bus Station - details inside
- No Committee Meeting in November
- 1120 | **Sun 12 Nov** | Remembrance Service - State War Memorial Kings Park
- 1200 | **Sun 12 Nov** | Remembrance Luncheon - Fraser's Restaurant
Remembrance Day Luncheon replaces usual monthly luncheon
- 1100 | **Mon 18 Dec** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 18 Dec** | Christmas Luncheon - WA Club
- 1100 | **Mon 15 Jan** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 15 Jan** | Monthly Luncheon - WA Club

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Member
Alan Raphael (Highgate RSL Member 1986-2012)
and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends





From our President

(continued from page 1)

Marcelle is a strong supporter of our State War Memorial and Honour Avenue Group activities, and Tim and his staff arrange duplication at no cost of our monthly newsletter for despatch by snail mail to members without email. It is hoped the new Warden of the State War Memorial will also join us, but that awaits the announcement of his or her appointment.

How to book is detailed on the first page of this newsletter. I encourage you to please join us.

Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd) was our guest speaker in October and gave a fascinating talk on the little known history of the secret 'Double Sunrise' flights from Matilda Bay in Perth to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) in War War II.

Carrying documents and personnel important to the war effort, each flight was an epic achievement in the Japanese-dominated world of that time. The aircraft first tracked north to Exmouth before turning out over the Indian Ocean for the gruelling non-stop flights. Just taking off on the Swan River in a Catalina, overloaded with seven tons of fuel, was a major achievement in itself and Barry brought alive that life and death reality.

Barry is also the Secretary of Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch, whose President is the indomitable Bomber Command pilot Doug Arrowsmith. The Nedlands War Memorial has a 25 pounder field gun which was acquired with the help of our own Peter Kennedy, sadly just deceased. Each ANZAC Day, Peter would regale generations of young kids on how the gun was loaded, aimed and fired (skills he put into practise at El Alamein).

In news from further afield, it was heartening to read that the NSW RSL is taking measures to revoke the RSL membership of the former NSW Branch President, including his RSL Life Membership. Such a move is to be applauded loudly. It is a small measure in what will be a long process of restoring faith in the RSL.

Regrettably, restoring credibility to the RSL has not been helped locally

From our President (continued)

by the recent endorsement of a psychiatrist in the latest Sub-Branch Signal. Psychiatrist Dr Zelko Mustac was banned from practising by the Medical Board in 2003, in a decision upheld by the WA Supreme Court. It appears the RSL endorsement was made inadvertently but the only sensible course of action now is for

John Adeney will tell us about the battle for West Australia Hill in South Africa during the Boer War when 30 West Australians fought over 300 Boers

the WA Branch to fully retract the Sub-Branch Signal article.

A genuine endorsement that could be made at the moment would be in support of Ben Roberts-Smith VC MG and Matthew Locke MG. This would be timely and appropriate support for two Australian military heroes currently under attack.

And on the subject of heroes, Cottesloe RSL Sub-Branch will be holding its annual Lieutenant Frederick Bell VC Memorial Lecture at 1800 on 10 Nov in the Cottesloe Civic Centre. The guest speaker is Mark Donaldson VC.

Lieutenant Bell was the first person born in WA (and the third in Australia) to receive the Victoria Cross. Aged 26 and a lieutenant in the West Australian Mounted Infantry in 1901 during the Second Boer War, he was retiring through heavy fire at Brakpan, Transvaal, when he saw a man dismounted. Lieutenant Bell returned and took the soldier up behind him. The horse not being equal to the weight fell with them and Lieutenant Bell then remained behind and covered the man's retirement until he was out of danger.

Following subsequent extensive military service, mainly in Africa, Bell was promoted Lieutenant Colonel in 1918 before relinquishing his commission the following year. He died in 1954 and is buried in Bristol, England. The Frederick Bell Unit at the former Hollywood Repatriation General Hospital was named in his honour.

Next month, Highgate will finish 2017 with a Christmas lunch at the Western Australian Club. We have already locked in some wonderful entertainment, including at least one

From our President (continued)

Telethon star, but more about that in the next newsletter. One of our star billings, David Grace, is offering Christmas entertainment for organisations which might wish to use him. Please email David at graced@westnet.com.au

And please also diarise 15 Jan 18 for our first meeting next year. It will be worth fitting any holiday travel plans around it. We will commence next year with a standard luncheon meeting on Monday 15 January, preceded by our Committee meeting.

Our guest speaker in January is Highgate member Captain John Adeney RFD (Retd) and a former CSIRO Scientist, who is about to commence his Honours year in Archeology. John Adeney will tell us about the largely unknown, but significant battle for West Australia Hill in South Africa during the Boer War, when 30 West Australians fought over 300 Boers.

I look forward to seeing you at our Remembrance Memorial Service and Luncheon on Sun 12 November at the Flame of Remembrance and Fraser's Restaurant in Kings Park.

With best wishes - Geoff Hourn

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Greetings to our Members celebrating their birthday in November, including:

Kevan Barrett, Robert Burney, Joe Cicala, Leslie Coy, Clare Curtis, Brian D'Cunha, Allan Downs, John Evert, Doug Farmer, Judy Farrell, Peter Farrell, Susan Glasfurd, Les Gordon, Colin Hebbard, Carmen Homer, Max Kay and Graham Reynolds

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



Sat 11 Nov	1000 for 1100	Remembrance Day
Sat 11 Nov	1800 for 1830	Venture Scouts
Sun 12 Nov	1100 for 1120	Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

Annual Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Remembrance Service and Fraser's Luncheon

Sunday 12 Nov 17 | Kings Park | All welcome



Service | 1120 at Flame of Remembrance Luncheon | 1200 in Fraser's Restaurant

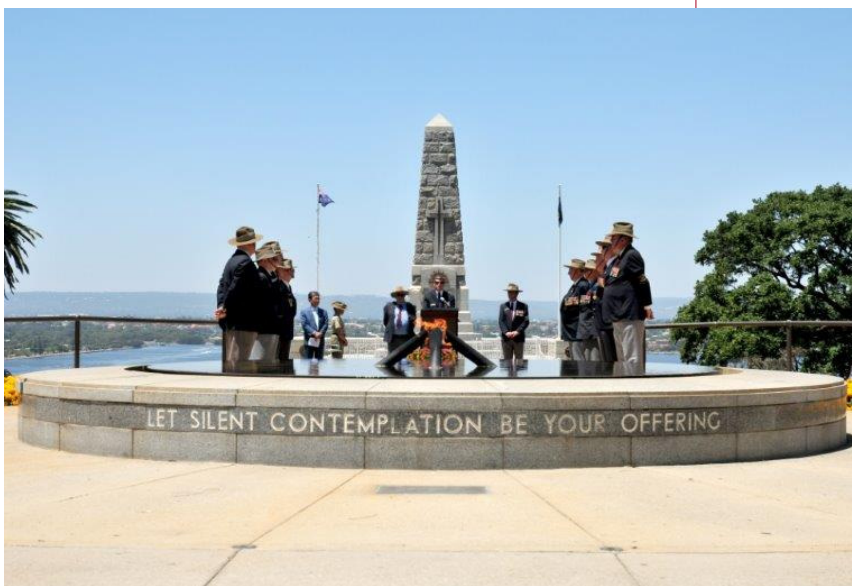
Our Remembrance Service commences at the Flame of Remembrance from 1120 with a Lone Piper. A two-course luncheon, with alcoholic and non-alcoholic refreshments included in the \$80 cost per person, follows immediately after in Fraser's Restaurant.

Members are encouraged to invite partners and friends to make this a memorable occasion.

Dress is Men - Coat/tie | Ladies - Day dress, plus medals.

Please book and pay now. The booking sheet is at: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/14RncolDwtFbEpfk3LL-M1SZFrZFBSb7-mjcWnd5MhrA/edit#gid=0>

You may also access the booking sheet on the Highgate RSL website. Please make your EFT payment at the time of the booking (details are on the booking sheet). Alternatively, please post your cheque payment to our Treasurer, 9 Bonito Way Sorrento WA 6020, by NLT 07 Nov.



State War Memorial | Kings Park

Our State War Memorial Cenotaph commemorates Western Australian servicemen and women who have served in all wars and conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

Situated on top of the Kings Park and Botanic Garden escarpment, the War Memorial overlooks the city of Perth with views of the Swan and Canning Rivers and the Darling Ranges. The memorial was developed around an 18-metre tall obelisk as the principal feature, and is almost a replica of the Australian Imperial Force Memorials erected in France and Belgium.

The concrete foundations are supplemented by heavy brick walls which enclose an inner crypt and are covered with the Roll of Honour - marble tablets which list under their units the names of more than 7,000 members of the services killed in action or as a result of World War One.

Glass cases enclose the colours of the 1st, 2nd, 11th, 16th, 28th and 44th Infantry Battalions, and of the 10th Light Horse Regiment. Bronze plaques on the outside wall of the crypt entrance list under Navy, Army, Air Force, Women's Services and Merchant Navy, the nearly 4,000 West Australians killed or who died from the effects of World War Two.

Inside the crypt on a marble tablet are the names of West Australians killed in Korea (1950-1953), Malaya (1950-1960), Borneo (1962-1966) and Vietnam (1962-1973).

Designed by Sir Talbot Hobbs, the Cenotaph was unveiled by the State Governor, Colonel Sir William Campion KCMG DSO TD, on 24 Nov 1929 and committed to the care of the Western Australian Branch of the Returned and Services League.

Front Inscription | *Erected by grateful citizens in remembrance of men of this State who at the call of duty gave their lives for freedom and humanity in the Great War 1914-1918 and in remembrance of the men and women of this State who gave their lives in subsequent conflicts. Lest We Forget*

Back Inscription | *On these bronze tablets are recorded the names of the servicemen and women from Western Australia killed in action or who died from the effects of war service in the World War 1939 - 1945*

Inscription in Proximity | *This plaque commemorates the placing of a wreath by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the dedication of the additions to the State War Memorial on 27 March 1954*

Newsletter contributions are always welcome
Please send your material to the editor at
roger.buddrige@gmail.com



POPPY DAY COLLECTORS NEEDED

Poppy Day collections this year will be from 0600-1000 on Friday 10 Nov at Elizabeth Quay Bus Port/Railway Station and the Wellington Street Bus Station.

Our prime collection time is 0630-0830 and members able to attend either collection point for any part or all of these hours are requested to please contact Mike Harness on 0419 091 708 or 9349 2847, nominating your preferred location and time.

This is our main (only?) source of welfare funds, so the more collectors we have, the better the result for our veterans.

Dress of the day guidance: Most collectors wear grey tailored slacks, navy jacket or navy reefer jacket, medals and head dress.



Honour Avenue plaques

Honour Avenues Group Remembering our overseas fallen

The next formal dedication ceremony of 12 memorial plaques will take place at May Circle in Kings Park at 1000 on Sat 18 Nov, making a total of 50 plaques dedicated during 2017. All are welcome to attend this very moving event.

Sincere thanks of a grateful nation are extended to all Honour Avenue Group members, including: Norman Manners (Chairman), Rod Halcombe (Deputy Chairman), Ken Jones (Secretary), Robin Slater and Norman Coleman (Assistant Secretaries), Chris Chapple (Treasurer) and members Richard Albury, Helen Birch, Barry Campbell, Barry Eather, Doug Farmer, Mike Harness, John Homer, Arthur Hutchison and Dick Jones.

The first Honour Avenue in Kings Park was dedicated to 404 fallen soldiers in August 1919 on the fifth anniversary of the outbreak of World War I. The responsibility of maintenance was delegated to the RSL's West Perth Sub-Branch, now known as the Highgate Sub-Branch.

The Returned and Services League accepted responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the plaques along Kings Park's Honour Avenues in 1922.

The Honour Avenue Committee was formed in 1948, following the dedication of over 300 World War II plaques in Lovekin Drive. There are now more than 1,700 plaques along Honour Avenues in Kings Park.

Dedication ceremonies are held four times a year for plaques approved by the Honour Avenues Group. There is a limit of 12 additional plaques per dedication ceremony.

The criteria to apply for a new plaque are that the person must be listed on the State War Memorial in Kings Park, have died overseas on active service and be buried overseas or has no known grave, and enlisted in Western Australia.



Some members of the Honour Avenues Group | Photo: D Nicholson



Our Guest Speaker | November Luncheon Group Captain Ian Petkoff

At the November Luncheon in Fraser's Restaurant, our guest speaker will be Highgate RSL member, Group Captain Ian Petkoff, former Senior Air Defence Force Officer for WA and Base Commander at RAAF Base Pearce, who will tell us about his research into the lives of some of the names on the State War Memorial.

Ian served more than 31 years in the Royal Australian Air Force. He trained as a navigator and flew operationally in P-3B and P-3C Orion aircraft based at RAAF Edinburgh in South Australia. He then served as a navigation instructor at RAAF East Sale from where he was sent on the General Duties Aerosystems at RAF Cranwell, Lincolnshire.



He returned to undertake software development for the P-3C at RAAF Edinburgh for six years, followed by a position with the Air Force Scientific Adviser in Canberra. Upon completion of RAAF Staff College, Ian was posted to HQADF in Force Development (Air) and then as th Assistant Air Attache at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC. Subsequent postings were to RAAF Townsville as Officer Commanding 323 Air Base Wing, to HQADF in Strategic Policy Development.

Following student time at the ADF School of Languages Ian was posted to Seoul as our Defence Attache to the Republic of Korea; and finally as Senior Officer at RAAF Pearce.

After his RAAF career, Ian spent almost 10 years with WA government departments of Planning and Infrastructure and then Transport.

While at RAAF Pearce, Ian became interested in the Base's Honour Board which listed his predecessors and it became a personal challenge to identify them and investigate their Service careers.

Concurrently, when representing Air Force at commemorative ceremonies at the State War Memorial, Ian noted in particular the names on the RAAF memorial plaques, and it then became a further challenge to identify and research what happened to each of them.

In typical military-style mission creep, this then became a project to identify and investigate all names on the State War Memorial and this challenge is ongoing.

At our Remembrance Day Luncheon on 12 Nov, Ian will speak about some of the results of his research.

Parachute For Sale
Never been opened
One small stain

Future Highgate Luncheon Speakers

By Geoff Hourn

President Geoff Hourn arranges most of our monthly guest speakers. We are grateful to him for the extraordinary quality and variety of our guests, all of whom inform - and sometimes amaze us.

November | Remembrance Day lunch at Fraser's Fellow Committee member, **Group Captain Ian Petkoff**, former Senior Air Defence Force Officer for WA, will tell us about his research into the lives of some of the names on the State War Memorial

December | Christmas Party | We hear that Elvis now lives in Subiaco. Anything is possible!

January 2018 | One of our very own - **Captain John Adeney RFD** Respected CSIRO researcher and now an archaeologist on the WA soldiers' Boer War battle at West Australia Hill in South Africa

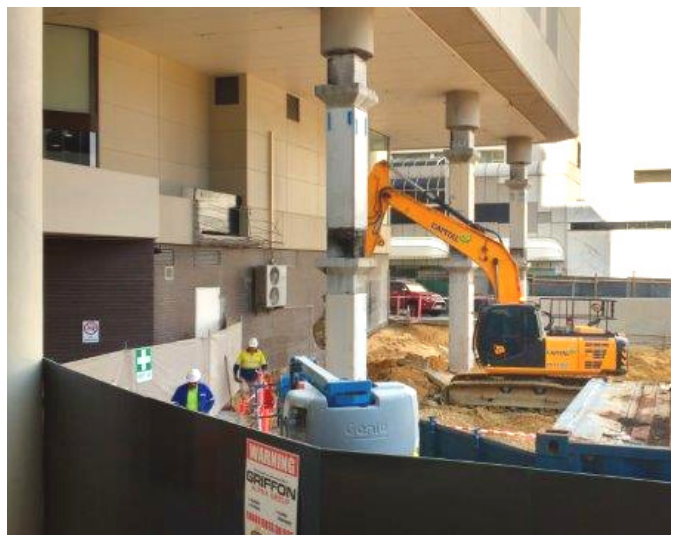
February | WA Minister for Veteran Affairs, Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA on Veterans issues in WA; plus how he planned/implemented the Australian Special Air Service Regiment operations in Iraq and Afghanistan while a member of the SAS. **(This meeting will be on third Tuesday 20 Feb as Cabinet meets on the Monday)**

March | Brian Burke, Former Premier of WA

Accompanied by wife, Sue, Brian will reflect on his time as Premier and also talk about his recent autobiography, *A Tumultuous Life*. He has agreed to donate 20% of any book sales to Highgate RSL.

Going, going, almost gone... ANZAC House update

Demolition work at the old RSLWA Headquarters in Perth is almost finished, with heavy equipment now



Disclaimer Please note Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove any 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.

\$31 million in extra funding for veterans mental health

"We best honour the diggers of 1917 by ensuring our veterans in 2017 receive the support they need and deserve. When someone stops serving their country, it is their country's turn to start serving them."

- Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

The Government announced on 24 Oct 17 it will provide an additional \$31 million to support veterans' mental health as part of its response to the Senate Inquiry into veterans' suicide and subsequent report *The Constant Battle: Suicide by Veterans*.

The Government will provide:

\$16.1 million over four years for a new Veteran Payment for financial vulnerable veterans claiming mental health conditions

\$7.1 million over four years to extend support for families of veterans

\$2.1 million over four years for an annual health assessment for ex-serving ADF members for the first five years post-discharge

\$4.0 million over two years to pilot a case management service for transitioning or recently discharged ADF members, and

\$1.7 million over two years to undertake a scoping study to professionalise veterans' advocacy.

Fact sheets on each of these initiatives can be found on the [DVA website](#).

The Government agreed to 22 of the 24 recommendations made in the Senate committee report and agreed in-principle to the remaining two recommendations.

Mental health treatment works best when a veteran can get help early so the Government has made treatment of any mental health condition free for anyone who has served one day in the fulltime ADF.

The Government will now provide a DVA White Card to access mental health treatment through this program to all personnel leaving the military.

Australia's Menin Gate Lions gift strengthens friendship with Ieper

The Australian government is to produce replicas of the famous Menin Gate Lions and gift them to the Belgian city of Ieper (Ypres), in recognition of the 100th anniversary of the service and sacrifice of Australians in Flanders during the First World War.

Carved from limestone, the Menin Gate Lions were given to the Australian Government by the City of Ieper in 1936 as an expression of gratitude for the ultimate sacrifice by more than 13,000 Australian soldiers in Belgium.

In exchange, in 1938, the Australian War Memorial gave a bronze casting of C. Web Gilbert's sculpture *Digger* on behalf of the Australian government. The inscription on the casting of *Digger* reads: *In assurance of a friendship that will not be forgotten even when the last digger has gone west and the last grave crumbled.*

The Menin Gate Lions had stood on each side of the Menin Road since the mid-nineteenth century, and in 1917 many Australian soldiers passed through the Menin Gate on their way to the Western Front, outside of the town they knew as 'Wipers'.

After the war, the Menin Gate became the site for a memorial to those killed in Belgium and who have no known grave.

The memorial consists of an imposing archway surmounted by a recumbent lion and is inscribed with the names of 54,900 dead from

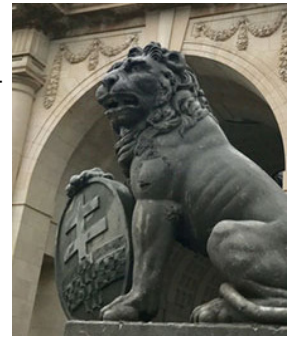
Britain and Commonwealth countries. It was opened in 1927.

The names of more than 6,000 Australians with no known grave are included on the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres. Every evening in Ieper, the residents honour the memory of those missing Australians, and every Australian who served in World War I, by sounding the Last Post at the Memorial.

Australia's gift of a reproduction of the Lions is symbolic of our shared history as allies in the First World War.

"Almost every Australian who fought and died on the Ypres-Salient in Flanders, marched to battle past the Menin Gate Lions," said Dr Brendan Nelson, Director of the Australian War Memorial.

"For our 13,000 dead, they represented often the last glimpse of a civilised normality."



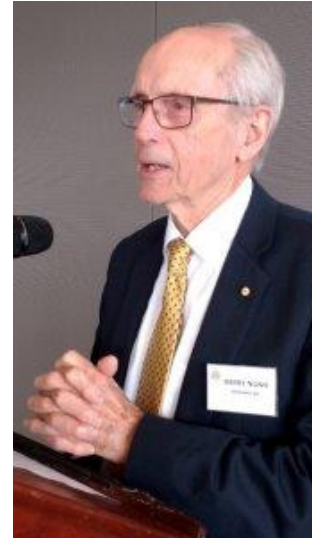
About Highgate RSL Sub-Branch | Our 70th Year

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 Affairs; comment by the Minister for Veterans Affairs; articles on significant historical events and achievements; information from the Australian War Museum in Canberra; and of course, the obligatory humour moments to lighten things up a little.

We have enjoyable luncheons on the third Monday of each month with fascinating guest speakers. Until ANZAC House is rebuilt, we meet in the serene surroundings of the Western Australian Club, opposite the Perth Concert Hall. Members of other RSL Sub-Branches are very welcome to join us for luncheon, and booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.





**Highgate RSL October Luncheon
at the Western Australian Club**
Guest speaker, Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD
ED (Retd) told us about the secret Catalina flying
boat flights from Perth's Matilda Bay to Ceylon
(Sri Lanka) during the Second World War

