



# Highgate Highlights

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

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## From our new President

Our thanks go to Immediate Past President Steve Chamarette for his leadership of Highgate over the past two years. Although the Navy might describe Steve as steering a steady course as President, he did much more than just keeping a firm hand on the tiller and we are fortunate to continue benefitting from his guidance, now that he is our (first) Sub-Branch Warden.

I would also like to reiterate Steve's thanks to our outgoing Committee, whose work throughout the year has kept Highgate running smoothly and successfully. The high quality of our website, our Poppy Day collection, Honour Avenue contributions, commemorations at the State War Memorial, our hospital and welfare work, pensions and veterans affairs work, Highgate Highlights newsletter, and our Remembrance Day luncheon, all speak volumes for those who organise and carry out these tasks.

*(continued on page 2)*

## Our next meeting is on Monday 16 October at The Western Australian Club

**Important:** Please book before COB on Wednesday 11 October as the WA Club needs catering numbers finalised that day

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. Please use the website booking sheet at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzxscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P\\_WKvR1EI2qoSUCwK\\_7\\_8dg/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1nzxscFmBY7oiJtu17Xv9P_WKvR1EI2qoSUCwK_7_8dg/edit#gid=0) or telephone any Committee member to register. 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 - ANZAC Day 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](http://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

- 1030 | Mon **16 Oct** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon **16 Oct** | Monthly Luncheon - WA Club
- *Remembrance Day Luncheon replaces usual monthly luncheon*
- 1120 for 1130 | Sun **12 Nov** | Remembrance Day Service - State War Memorial
- 1200 | Sun **12 Nov** | Remembrance Day Luncheon - Fraser's Kings Park
- 1100 | Mon **18 Dec** | Committee Meeting - WA Club
- 1130 for 1215 | Mon **18 Dec** | Christmas Luncheon - WA Club

## Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Member  
**Peter StJohn Kennedy**  
and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to his family





## From our President

*(continued from page 1)*

And of course, they have also been supported all the way by our Treasurer, Membership Officer and other Committee members.

Given that the make-up of your new committee is the same, it will be business as usual at Highgate.

On a deeply disappointing note, all of us have been appalled by the recent revelations

coming from the inquiry into the RSL NSW Branch.

It beggars belief that the trust of the RSL rank and file has been betrayed so heartlessly, not just in NSW, but throughout the Returned and Services League of Australia.

And it has not just been a betrayal of RSL members; it is the betrayal of a national icon and the trust of all Australians who contribute to the welfare of veterans.

Regrettably, there is also an inquiry at the RSL national headquarters regarding the presentation of a car to a former National President. I write 'regrettably', because it will question the reputations of honourable men. Nevertheless, full transparency is required and the justification or otherwise of such a presentation must be made public.

While these important inquiries are being conducted, it is hoped that the RSL is not completely distracted from its raison d'être. Currently, the Defence Advocate General is seeking 'rumours' of SAS involvement in possible war crimes and there has been little or no RSL comment.

Sadly, August saw us lose a notable Australian and Highgate member. Peter StJohn Kennedy played hockey and sailed for Australia; and fought at El Alamein and in Borneo with his brothers. Amazingly, they were in the same gun crew.

Peter later arranged for a 25 pounder to be placed at the Nedlands War Memorial, overlooking the Swan River.

At his funeral, our Sub Wardens honoured 97-year old Peter with a guard, and his family have sent us a letter of appreciation thanking the guard of honour, bugler, flag presentation and presence of our members.

## From our President (continued)

In September, the presence of Associate Professor Mike Johnstone to speak on cyber security at our lunch was timely, as a couple of days after Mike spoke, Highgate RSL suffered a cyber attack.

Mike had a very discerning audience at the lunch, including a serving officer from 152 Signals Squadron

## ***Sadly, August saw us lose a notable Australian and Highgate member, Peter StJohn Kennedy***

(Swanbourne), a former colonel who specialised in electronic warfare, and a former vice chancellor - each a Highgate member. It was an interesting and topical subject which Mike illustrated with some thought-provoking slides and statistics. It was gracious of him to remain behind to answer questions.

Phil Skelton gave such a comprehensive and warm response after Mike's talk that it must now be regarded as the 'gold-standard' for thank you speeches.

Our October speaker is Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd) who will tell us about the secret Catalina flying boat flights between Matilda Bay and Ceylon during WWII. I'm sure it will be a fascinating talk.

Until then, my best wishes.

Regards - Geoff Hourn

## 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 contact Mike Harness on 0419 091 708, 9349 2847 or at our monthly luncheon, 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:** Most collectors wear grey tailored slacks, navy jacket or navy reefer jacket, medals and head dress.

## 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, 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 Memorial 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.

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.

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

**Greetings to our Members celebrating their birthday in October, including:**

Paul Brabazon, Roger Buddrige, Keith Chapman, Glenn Darlington, Margot Harness, Wendy Healy, Richard Hooper, Arthur Hutchison, Ken Jones, John Lindsay, Howard Montagu, John Morriss, Ian Mulholland, William Munro, Don Newman, Peter Rowles, Graeme Sherriff, Phillip Skelton, Stanley Stewart, Jack Suriano, Ian Sutherland and Michael Sutherland

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

## Sub Warden Duties | 2017

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



Sun 29 Oct	1130 for 1200	Ochi Day   Consulate of Greece
Tue 31 Oct	0930 for 1000	Battle of Beersheba   100th Anniversary
Fri 10 Nov	1030 for 1100	Kalamunda Senior High School Education Support Unit
Sat 11 Nov	1000 for 1100	Remembrance Day
Sat 11 Nov	1800 for 1830	Venture Scouts
Sun 12 Nov	1110 for 1145	Highgate RSL Sub-Branch

## Part 2 | Veterans' Affairs Ministerial statement to National Parliament on veterans' mental health and employment initiatives



*Last month, we featured the first part of DVA Minister Hon Dan Tehan MP's statement on transition and support for veterans. This is the second part of his 14 Aug 17 statement and covers important improvements to mental health and employment assistance for veterans.*

The Department of Defence and the Department of Veterans' Affairs spend more than \$244 million a year in providing mental health support and treatment to current and former ADF members.

This includes services provided by general practitioners, psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers and hospitals, as well as pharmaceuticals and online information and support tools.

It also includes access to the Veteran and Veterans' Family Counselling Service (VVCS), which has been at the frontline of the Government's veteran mental health support response for more than 35 years. This service is part of the strong legacy of our Vietnam veterans, whose experience has informed how we care for modern veterans. VVCS provides free confidential counselling and support for current and former members of the ADF and their families.

Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS) can be reached 24 hours a day across Australia for crisis support and free and confidential counselling on 1800 011 046 (international: +61 8 8241 45 46). VVCS is a service founded by Vietnam veterans. It has 26 centres around Australia and a network of more than 1,100 outreach clinicians. It delivers services to more than 27,000 members of the ADF community and their families annually.

As we know the burden of mental health conditions can also fall on families of veterans, the Government has expanded VVCS to include as many families as possible. The recent Budget provided \$8.5 million to continue to expand eligibility for VVCS. We recognise that as a result of a veteran's service, children can be affected. In March, the Government allocated \$2.1 million over two years to the Australian Kookaburra Kids Foundation to deliver age-appropriate mental health education to the children of veterans with a mental health condition.

We know mental health treatments work best when intervention is early. The faster that we provide support to veterans, the better their chances of recovery and for mitigating any long-term impact.

For many years, Governments only provided mental health support when a veteran was able to prove their condition was caused by their service. Last year, the Government decided Australia should provide its veterans with free and immediate mental health treatment.

Under the scheme, any veteran who has served even just one day in the full-time ADF will be given full cover for five of the most common mental health conditions: post-traumatic stress, depression, anxiety, alcohol abuse, and substance abuse. For the first time, an eligible veteran with one of these conditions doesn't have to prove it was caused by service. From the moment of contact with the Department to register their need for support, we are there for them.

From now on, any veteran of the full-time ADF will get free and immediate mental health cover. This program of non-liability mental healthcare is fully funded and completely uncapped – if there is a need it will be met. This common sense approach to mental health support is the biggest change in veterans' policy in decades and we must continue to build on it.

As all Australians know, even one suicide is one too many. Suicide affects all areas of our community – eight Australians a day take their own life and it remains the greatest cause of death for men between the ages of 14 -44. As we have seen, our veterans and members of the ADF are sadly not immune.

We are determined to address suicide in our community and last year the Government commissioned the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) to provide the first accurate, robust data ever produced on suicide among serving and ex-serving populations.

This study was independent of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and is providing a greater understanding on where and how to help those who are struggling. The AIHW study has revealed the suicide rate is 53% lower for men serving fulltime in the ADF and 49% lower for men in the Reserves when compared to the general population. In all male ex-serving members, the rate of suicide is 13% higher than the general population. However, men who have left the ADF between the age of 18-24 have twice the risk of suicide compared to their peers. The Government will continue to independently track this data in order to provide support, as this information is informing our approach to suicide prevention.

The Government also asked the National Mental Health Commission to review the suicide prevention services offered by Defence and DVA.

*(continued next page)*



## DVA Minister's report on mental health and employment initiatives for veterans (cont.)

Their comprehensive report told us to target four areas: 1. Improving suicide prevention and mental health support for serving ADF, veterans and their families. 2. Improving the transition process from the ADF. 3. Improving family support. 4. Transforming DVA's systems, processes and culture.

These reviews helped inform the Government's action on veterans' mental health in this year's Budget, which included an additional \$58.6 million in mental health funding. As part of this, the Government is investing \$9.8 million to pilot new approaches to suicide prevention and improve care and support available to veterans. This will include funding to increase support for those discharging from hospital and who are at risk. DVA also has a range of suicide awareness and prevention resources, known collectively as Operation Life.

The moment a member of the ADF becomes a veteran is crucial so we must be better at the transition process. Just as members of the ADF prepare for posting to a deployment, we should prepare them for posting to civilian life. To give some idea, when a soldier leaves the ADF they may have never filled out a rental application, written a resume or used a Medicare card. We know that for some ADF personnel, the transition period can therefore bring significant change and with that change comes stress.

For example, until January last year the Department of Defence didn't have the capacity to notify the Department of Veterans' Affairs when a serving member became a veteran. Until a recent change in policy, DVA only knew of around one in five ADF members leaving Defence.

An important improvement now is the Early Engagement Model so that when a serving or former ADF member needs DVA in the future, they will already be registered with the Department, and this will reduce claims processing times.

Another reform to improve our processes will be to allow Defence, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation to share medical information on a veteran in order to save them from having to undergo up to three separate medical assessments.

Additionally, a commitment to 'No Discharge Without Documentation' will ensure all separating members of the ADF leave with the necessary documents, including their medical and training records, to make the transition phase more seamless.

Veterans need to be able to walk into civilian life with confidence and dignity and this will happen through the Veterans' Employment Initiative. This is not about charity. We are not asking businesses to engage in some sort of philanthropic exercise. We want to remind business leaders that the servicemen and women of Australia have unique skills and extraordinary experience. The Initiative is about helping business appreciate the unique skills former ADF members can bring to a job.

Launched last November, it highlights the Government's commitment to improving support provided to veterans during their transition out of the ADF. Through the program's Industry Advisory Committee on Veterans' Employment, strategies will be developed for business to recognise and transfer the talents of our veterans into post-service careers. Already over 1,000 jobs on the jobactive website have been identified as veteran-preferred.

Helping our former Defence personnel find meaningful post-service careers is one of the best ways we can honour their service and sacrifice.

**As a Government, we commit today (14 Aug 17) to the following: 1. A stand-alone Department of Veterans' Affairs; 2. A Department that focuses on the needs of the veteran first; and 3. A stronger voice for the veterans' community.**

It is imperative that Australia continues to provide veterans with their own Department. It is the best way that their service and unique needs will be recognised and provided for.

Veteran Centric Reform, providing funding for the upgrade of the Department's systems, and an improved service culture are the first steps. Veterans' Affairs legislation is complex. Across three Acts, the support that is provided to different ages and cohorts can be difficult to navigate. Parliament is looking at how we can begin to modernise and simplify this legislation, including placing all relevant Acts under the control of the Minister for Veterans' Affairs.

We should also look to how we can provide payments faster, as the time between making a claim and receiving rehabilitation can be lengthy. This year's Budget has provided for a pilot to provide rehabilitation to veterans as soon as they have submitted their claims rather than after approval. If this leads to better outcomes, Parliament should look to developing this model over time across the veteran entitlement system.

Equally, we need to ensure that when the veteran community speaks, it does so with one voice.

**My challenge to the veteran community is for them to respond to this statement each year with a single voice so we can better serve all veterans.**

In other countries, veterans' organisations have united together into a national confederation or association, with the varied and differing needs of each group within the community putting forward their needs through a single body. I believe it is time that veterans' organisations create a similar body in Australia. If veterans can form this body and provide a response to this statement with one voice, I will ensure their response is tabled in Parliament annually.

It is a core role of any society that we serve those who have served in defence of our country and our values. This Ministerial Statement on Veterans and Their Families is an important part of that duty. It will be the touchstone of how we mark our service to them each year.



## Guest Speaker | October Luncheon Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd)

This month, Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd) will tell us about the secret WWII Catalina flying boat flights between Ceylon and their base at Matilda Bay, (near UWA and where Royal Perth Yacht Club now stands).



Born and educated in NSW, Barry Nunn graduated from the University of NSW with a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, and was employed by the Shell Group of Companies in Australia and overseas for 36 years in technical, marketing, human resources and management.

His international activities included responsibilities in the UK, Asia, USA and (then) East and West Europe. On retiring in Dec 1990, he was a member of the Board of Shell Australia and their Executive Director of Human Resources and Public Affairs.

Barry's ongoing consultancy work from 1990 specialises in business planning, change management, and organisation development, including serving as a director with KPMG Management Consulting and as a senior staff member of the Australian National Training Authority.

For six years, he was chairman of Perth-based international building products company, Brady's Building Products, with manufacturing and marketing activities in WA and Asia; and in 2000-01, Barry participated in a major study for the Government of Brunei, preparing a master plan for the development of their oil and petrochemical industry.

Barry Nunn served in the Australian Defence Reserves for more than 40 years, following National Service in 1952, and achieving the rank of Major General. At retirement, he was principal staff officer advising the Chief of Defence Force on Reserve matters.

During 2001, he chaired the ADF Remuneration Review, examining all aspects of pay and conditions for Regular and Reserve Forces, with particular reference to the impact of employment conditions and management on recruiting and retention.

Recent consultancy has been with Water Corporation on project evaluation and team facilitation, together with risk evaluation for projects in Perth and on the Burrup Peninsular. He has also facilitated operability, constructability and HAZOP studies as part of this work, and also been involved with a major contractor in alliance management within the WA public sector.

Barry is National Chairman of the Order of Australia Association. A board member of the Australian Shareholders Association for four years, he remains their WA chairman. He is a member and past chairman of the Naval, Military and Air Forces Club of WA and is Secretary of Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch.

Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED (Retd) was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (Military Division) in 1989 and awarded a Centenary Medal in 2003.

## 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.*

### October | Major General Barry Nunn AO RFD ED

will enlighten us on the secret Double Sunrise flights from Perth's Matilda Bay to Ceylon in WWII. Barry is also Secretary of Nedlands RSL Sub-Branch (*see Barry's biodata adjacent*)

### November | Remembrance Day lunch at Fraser's

Fellow Committee member, **Group Captain Ian Petkoff (Retd)**, 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

### 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 loading rubble and scrap onto trucks for disposal.





## Applications open: Compensation Advocate Level 1 and Welfare Advocate Level 1

By David MacLean

WA management representative for the Advocacy Training & Development Program (ATDP), Rev Dr Alan Stubbs RFD, has been diagnosed with a serious illness and been forced to withdraw from all day-to-day ATDP activities.

Rev Stubbs served as an ADF chaplain with both the Australian Regular Army and the Royal Australian Navy. His contributions to the ATDP program and appearances as advocate at the Veterans Review Board and Administrative Appeals Tribunal will be greatly missed.

Locally, the Advocacy Training & Development Program (ATDP) is now accepting applications for Compensation Advocate Level 1 and Welfare Advocate Level 1. The courses will be held at the end of 2017 or early 2018 and you can register your interest at <http://atdp.org.au/atdpMain.php>

ATDP is funded through DVA and provides training in Military Advocacy for members of Ex-Service Organisations (ESOs) serving current and ex-serving members of the armed forces and their dependants.

Ideally, new entrants will have been exposed to the role in the workplace prior to enrolment to ensure their ability and willingness. The ESO must then nominate the person using the online nomination form. The nominee then completes an online application form to finalise the enrolment.

Training is conducted primarily in the workplace and guided by a mentor appointed by the ESO. Workplace experiences are supplemented by formal training, including online study units and face-to-face consolidation.

As all TIP courses have now ceased, pension and welfare officers trained under the TIP system will be able to undertake recognition of prior learning (RPL) to transition to the ATDP system. The RPL process will only recognise existing practitioners to level 2. When RPL for levels 3 and 4 in the compensation stream become available, this will only be offered to those advocates who have met ATDP level 2 standard.



## 100th Anniversary | Battle of Beersheba

Two separate events will commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba at the end of this month:

Beersheba, a heavily fortified town 43 kilometres from the Turkish bastion of Gaza in Palestine, was the scene of a historic charge by the 4th Light Horse Brigade on 31 Oct 1917. The charge personified the courage and skill of Australian horsemen in WWI and enabled the fall of Beersheba and subsequent withdrawal of Turkish troops from the Gaza-Beersheba line.

o **RSLWA State Branch** will hold a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba at the State War Memorial - Flame of Remembrance 1000-1130 on Tue 31 Oct

o **Victoria Park RSL Sub-Branch** and the **Kelmscott-Pinjarra 10th Light Horse Memorial Troop** have organised displays and horse riding re-enactments at Playfield Park behind the RSL Hall, 1100-1600 on Sun 29 Oct.

## Centenary: Battle of Polygon Wood

Australia suffered more than 5,700 casualties at Belgium's Polygon Wood, out of a total of 38,000 during eight weeks of fighting, known as the Flanders Offensive, between Sept and Oct 1917 on the Western Front.

The Flanders Offensive resulted in massive casualties on both sides and contributed to a manpower crisis in the Australian Imperial Force.

Those involved in the Battle of Polygon Wood were just some of the more than 300,000 Australian volunteers who served on the Western Front, where 45,000 lost their lives and more than one-third of those have no known grave.

For Australian soldiers, the third year of the Great War was the worst they had ever experienced. More Australians died in battle in 1917, and more were taken prisoner than in any other year. There has never been a year when Australia lost more to war than 1917.

One hundred years on, we honour the service and sacrifice of those Australians who fought and died far from home in our country's name.

## Battle for Australia Day

Battle for Australia Day was commemorated on 06 Sep, recognising the more than 500,000 Australian service personnel and civilians who helped defend the home front in 1942 and 1943.

The service paid respect to the men and women who stood tall in Australia's defence during critical moments in our history; and also recognised with rejoicing that many of them are still with us today.

## Perth at the Outbreak of War

*Perth at the Outbreak of War* is a travelling exhibition showing how Perth people played, worked, and cared immediately before and during the First and Second World Wars.

The display has been gifted to the RSL and is available for loan free of charge within the Perth metropolitan area, but the recipient Sub-Branch will need to pay courier fees. Although light and made of cardboard core-flute, it does not fold down for transportation.

For more information or to book the exhibition during the available dates (it is not available between 29 Nov-11 Dec), call RSLWA on 9287 3799.



## Platinum and Life Members

Our greatest living treasures

**What other organisation in Australia (or the world) except the RSL, has people as members for 70 years or more?**

**Highgate RSL Sub-Branch is delighted to recognise our four extraordinary Platinum members (70 years+!): William Kynaston, Harry Lodge, John Pope and Edward White.**

**We also acknowledge with great pleasure and appreciation our Life members: Bob Mercer, Robert Elliot, Ken Bladen and Don Blair.**

## Federal grants to commemorate Armistice Centenary

The Australian Government is providing \$7.5 million in grant funding for community activities commemorating the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in 2018.

The Armistice Centenary Grants Program will provide \$50,000 to every electorate in Australia for communities to mark the centenary of the Armistice in a locally significant way.

Australia paid a heavy price for its involvement in the First World War in terms of lives lost and casualties; with more than 60,000 killed and 156,000 wounded, gassed, or taken prisoner.

The Armistice Centenary Grants Program will help ensure the memory of those who gave so much in defence of our values and freedom live on.

Each Federal Member of Parliament will be required to consult community organisations or create a community consultation committee to get views on how best to commemorate the centenary of the Armistice.

Applications will be assessed by the Department of Veterans' Affairs to ensure they meet grants eligibility and assessment criteria, and will open on 11 Nov 17 and close on 28 Feb 18. More information is available at [www.dva.gov.au](http://www.dva.gov.au) or by calling 1800 555 254.

## \$6 million research centre to support veterans with PTSD

A new Government-funded research centre into Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, launched on 15 Sep, should improve the lives of veterans and their families.

The \$6 million Centenary of Anzac Centre at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne is to be operated by Phoenix Australia – Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health; and is one of the most significant investments into research of military-related PTSD in Australia.

More than 30,000 Australian veterans have an accepted service-related disability for PTSD and the Department of Defence and DVA spend more than \$244 million a year providing mental health support and treatment to current and former ADF members.

In last year's budget, the Government made the treatment of PTSD free for anyone who has served one day or more in the full-time ADF and this has led to more veterans seeking and receiving help for their PTSD.

The Anzac Centre will undertake pioneering research and provide expert advice to practitioners nationwide who are supporting veterans with PTSD.

**Newsletter contributions are always welcome**  
Please send your material to the editor at [roger.buddrige@gmail.com](mailto:roger.buddrige@gmail.com)

## Assistance dogs for veterans with PTSD

The Government is working on a trial to evaluate the mental health benefits of assistance dogs for veterans with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Anyone who has had a dog knows they can be loyal friends and many veterans believe having a dog has been incredibly beneficial for their mental health.

The Government now wants to investigate whether this benefit can be supported by evidence from a trial, which is being planned to guarantee the safety of the human and animal participants, as well as the general public.

The Government recently approved a grant to study the value of service dogs for veterans with mental health conditions, under the new Supporting Younger Veterans Program.

### Alternate meanings for common words

**Coffee**, *n.* The person upon whom one coughs

**Flabbergasted**, *adj.* Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.

**Abdicate**, *v.* To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.

**Flatulence**, *n.* Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.

**Balderdash**, *n.* A rapidly receding hairline.

## 70th anniversary Australian Peacekeeping

A national service of commemoration, marking 70 years of Australia's involvement in international peacekeeping, was held on 14 Sep, and included dedication of the new Australian Peacekeeping Memorial on Anzac Parade in Canberra.

The memorial commemorates the courage, sacrifice and service of Australian peacekeepers and honours Australia's contribution to international peacekeeping missions since the first UN deployment in 1947.

The Peacekeepers' memorial takes its rightful place alongside the memorials honouring Australia's contribution in wars, as in doing their duty, Australian peacekeepers have put their lives on the line and sadly, 16 paid the ultimate price.

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Highgate RSL Sub-Branch  
September Luncheon at  
the Western Australian  
Club with guest, Associate  
Professor Mike Johnstone,  
speaking on cyber security