



# 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)

## From our President

Dear veterans and friends,

A royal commission-style inquiry in NSW has blasted the “*sheer ineptitude and cronyism*” that allowed a cover-up of expense abuse in the NSW RSL. The inquiry included an investigation of the cover-up of credit card abuse by former NSW State President Don Rowe, as well as the sharing of about \$2.5 million by former RSLNSW Councillors. The “*sharing*” was in the form of “*consulting fees*” from the League’s NSW aged-care arm.

Unlike the RSL in WA, the RSL in NSW is “*big business*”. In NSW the RSL has nearly \$2 billion in assets, including 200 properties.

The independent inquiry heard that Don Rowe spent \$475,000 on a corporate credit card during a six-year period, including \$213,000 in cash withdrawals.

This month the NSW Parliament enacted new laws to ensure greater transparency and prevent the widespread roting and misconduct that occurred in the NSW RSL.

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## IMPORTANT – NEW MEETING PLACE Our next meeting is on Monday 15 October at the Karrakatta Club (not the WA Club)

The **Karrakatta Club** is at the foot of 4 Sherwood Court, on the corner of The Esplanade. (Sherwood Court runs south off St Georges Terrace, directly opposite London Court)

### Monthly luncheon bookings

This monthly luncheon meeting is \$40 per person and held on the third Monday of the month. For catering reasons, your booking must be made no later than 1700 on the Wednesday prior to the luncheon, please.

### Three ways to book - Choose the best for you

1. **Via the Highgate RSL website** at <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> Click on *Next Luncheon*. Then click on *Luncheon Booking or Apology* and you’ll be transferred to our new booking sheet page. Electronic funds transfer details are also on the page.

Or...

2. **Go direct to our new luncheon booking sheet by pasting this into your browser:**  
<https://goo.gl/forms/nlaAfBlz2XTRbLJq2>

Via the new booking sheet, you can add guests, food intolerances, purchase raffle tickets, check friends; and also register a non-attendance apology. (If you book your luncheon via our website or direct, you will receive an email a couple of minutes later confirming your booking.

Or...

3. **Via Committee Member:** If you do not have internet access, please call Margot Harness on 9349 2847, or any Committee member, and they will help you book in.

## Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 15 October** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1130 for 1215 | **Mon 15 October** | Monthly Luncheon - Karrakatta Club

## Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection **ALL** our departed Members and ex-members. May they Rest In Peace



Issue 589 | October 2018  
ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

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## From our President

(continued from page 1)



Geoff Hourm

These laws will allow individual RSL members in NSW to directly vote for the appointment of directors (rather than the 325 Sub Branches). The laws will also ensure directors disclose all financial interests and make

RSLNSW submit its annual reports to the State Parliament.

The reforms will democratise the RSL in NSW and ensure it is accountable to both its members and the broader community.

The wounds inflicted by the wrongs of past RSL executives will be slow to heal. Worsening that situation is the ongoing governance problems being experienced by RSL Queensland, RSL South Australia and RSL National.

Regrettably, the reputation of the RSL for uprightness and trustworthiness has been affected in other parts of the country, simply by name-association.

The RSL in WA has recently undertaken great improvements in governance and accountability. Much of that has been driven by the requirements of the Australian Charities and Fund Raising Commission but RSLWA is to be applauded for working effectively to comply with those requirements.

Unfortunately, WA has not been immune to “*sheer ineptitude and cronyism*” in the past. The sale

of the RSL Retirement and Aged Care Association (RACA) in WA is a case in point. RACA was sold for a greatly undervalued price with the terms including the approval for the new owners to continue to use the term “RSL” in its name.

No rorting or misconduct is implied when stating that. It is a simple expression of fact.

A subsequent Board of Directors, thankfully, corrected the naming rights and undervaluation. It took a great deal of hard work to unravel the shortcomings of the earlier RSL executive.

The decision to sell RACA was made by a long-serving State President and Board of Directors who were not accountable annually to Sub Branches. That situation came about due to a series of constitutional changes that extended terms of office to three years. Previously, for over a century, the RSL had annual Congress elections for State office bearers.

I had cause to visit that particular long-serving State President on a matter unrelated to the RSL. At that stage he had been State President for more than a decade. We had a warm and friendly discussion that concluded with the State President escorting me to the lift in ANZAC House. On the way he took me to the Honour Board that displays the names of the WA State Presidents. He pointed out his name and commented that, after he was re-elected at the next Congress, he would be the longest serving RSL State President in WA.

It was an insightful comment and to me demonstrated that his motivation was ambition rather than the best interests of the organisation.

This and other events, including Don Rowe’s six years of misconduct in NSW, leads me to conclude that there is a powerful reason for the limiting of terms of office of State Presidents and Boards of Directors. I believe we should limit State Presidents and Boards of Directors to two consecutive terms and return to annual Congress elections.

A dedicated leader can make an impact to any organisation in two terms and they should then make way for others to make their contribution.

I know that many will oppose that idea; citing “the convenience of three year terms” and other reasons. In my view, however, there is no better time than now to return to our tried and tested system of annual accountability at Congress and to tighten our governance further. It would certainly diminish the possibilities of ineptitude and cronyism occurring here in WA.

In the Centenary of Armistice year, it is worth restating how the League evolved out of concern for the welfare of returned servicemen from the First World War.

In 1916, a conference recommended the formation of *The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia* (RSSILA), which included representation from Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania and Victoria. New South Wales was admitted to the League in 1917 and Western Australia in 1918.

The name of the League changed in 1940 to the *Returned Sailors’ Soldiers’ and Airmen’s Imperial League of Australia* (RSSAILA), and again in 1965 when it became the *Returned Services League of Australia* (RSL).

In 1990, the League became the *Returned and Services League of Australia Limited*.

Our own Sub Branch can trace its lineage back to 1922, when the West Perth Sub Branch formed.

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

### ***Some “Lexophile” Puns:***

*You can tune a piano, but you can’t tuna fish*

*To write with a broken pencil is pointless*

*A boiled egg is hard to beat.*

## Sub Warden Duties | 2018

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Sat 27 Oct 1230 for 1300hrs Ochi Day - Greek Community

Sun 11 Nov 1015 for 1045hrs Centenary of Armistice Remembrance Day



## 2018 NATIONAL COMMEMORATIONS

16 Oct	75th Anniversary of Australian work on Hell Fire Pass and completion of Thai Burma Railway	Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat
11 Nov	100th Anniversary of First World War Armistice ( <i>possible joint service with New Zealand</i> )	Australian National Memorial, Villers-Bretonneux, France

### Our Guest Speaker for October

**U.S. Consul General, Rachel Cooke, will be our honoured Guest this month, and will speak to us about U.S./ Australian relations.**

Rachel became U.S. Consul General in Perth on 11 August 2016 with responsibilities for Western Australia.



She has an eclectic background, holding a B.S. in Marine Biology, and Master degrees in both Environmental Management and Public Policy from Indiana University.

Prior to becoming a career Foreign Service Officer, she worked for the Environmental Protection Agency in the US and for NASA. She has also spent time as a Peace Corps volunteer in Thailand teaching fish farming.

Much of Rachel's Foreign Service has been spent in Middle and Far East postings which have included Malaysia, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, where she was Acting Public Affairs Officer during both the 2005 and 2010 revolutions.

Just prior to taking up her current posting in WA, Rachel led the Southeast Asia policy team in Washington, DC. Before that she spent more than four years in Afghanistan, engaged in developing educational opportunities, media liaison and leading joint civilian-military training.

Married to Martin, she enjoys surfing, and delights in WA's warm, sunny weather - perfect for someone who loves the sea!

### Our "new" discovery .....

Highgate's "Trial Run" at the **Karrakatta Club**, as our possible regular venue for Monthly Luncheons, seemed to make a very favourable impression on most, if not all, our members.

Indeed, the general consensus was one of genuine enthusiasm - and there is no doubt that the ladies who run that Club gave us a very warm welcome.

Tastefully furnished, the surroundings exuded comfort and style; the Bar area was convivial - judging from the background chat and laughter!; the meal was excellent (and, as some members were happy to delightedly report: "served hot!"). All up: it gets "the nod"!

### But there's more!.....

When speaking with the "host" ladies after the Lunch, we learned that the Karrakatta Club not only supplies catered Lunches - they have FOUR elegant and comfortable Double/twin bedrooms to offer overnight (or brief) stays in the CBD - much like a "boutique" small hotel.

Keenly priced at only \$120 per night (\$90 for a Single), it's a price that includes Breakfast as well!

They will also look after left luggage and laundry services can be arranged.

Each peaceful, charming room has an ensuite, TV, Wi-Fi and air conditioning, as well as being close to the river and Elizabeth Quay, and is convenient to public transport.

It's a gem: a quiet haven in the heart of the CBD - a perfect place to stay if wanting to attend the theatre or a long, relaxing Evening Dinner in the City, without having to worry about driving home.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Bookings:** 08 9325 8111

**Email:** [secretary@karrakattaclub.com.au](mailto:secretary@karrakattaclub.com.au)

**4 Sherwood Court, Perth.**  
[www.karrakattaclub.com.au](http://www.karrakattaclub.com.au)





## BIRTHDAYS

### Members celebrating their birthday in October include:

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

*Many Happy Returns to you ALL!*

## Extracts from the current RSLWA "Sub-Branch Signal"

In these months heading towards the Centenary of Armistice Remembrance Day, many commemorative events and special projects have been planned for Perth and regional WA, and are steadily coming to fruition.

In its "Sub-Branch Signal" sent by State RSL HQ to all WA Sub-Branched, these are some of the items that were noted in the issue sent out:

- \* Preparations for the 100th Anniversary of Armistice Day are well on track. In Perth, RSLWA is conducting a Commemorative Service (Perth Concert Hall); followed by a Community Picnic nearby in the City, and an hourly gun salute throughout the day.
- \* More than 50,000 Poppies have been knitted by a dedicated band of loyal RSL ladies, and will be placed in a 'Field of Poppies' - which will be a dramatic and moving sight to see. Many ladies have been diligently making this "labour of love" and it is envisaged that they will reach their target of 62,000 - a figure that represents the number of WW1 Australians who gave their lives for our nation.
- \* The Honour Avenues Group, comprised of our own Highgate volunteers, has presented RSLWA with a comprehensive WW2 database listing all the names on the State War Memorial and details of their service. Several HAG members cooperated together to compile this list. A "well done!" to all concerned.

### Victoria Cross Exhibition The Western Australian Story

#### Largest exhibition in Australia outside the Australian War Memorial

Wednesday - Sunday | 08 Aug - 11 Nov  
1030-1500 | Last entry 1300

**Australian Army Museum of WA**  
Artillery Barracks | Burt Street Fremantle

Six original Victoria Crosses on display, with story of their recipient and the action resulting in the award

Also on show are replica medal groups, photographs and citations of all West Australians awarded the Victoria Cross - from Frederick Bell in South Africa 1901 - to Ben Roberts-Smith in Afghanistan in 2010

Standard museum entry fees apply [www.armymuseumwa.com.au](http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au)

## BE PREPARED!!

Poppy Day will be on FRIDAY 9th November this year.

With the "Centenary of Armistice" being commemorated, it should be a very meaningful Day.

Highgate will be collecting at the usual TWO sites:

1. Elizabeth Quay - Bus Station AND railway.
2. Wellington St Busport/Yagan Square.

**\*\* and possibly Perth Railway Station which was not "covered" last year. Mike is investigating.**

As usual, Mike Harness will be calling for volunteers to help Rattle-a-Tin at the October Luncheon.

## Luncheon bookings How do I know who else is coming?

Some members have asked how they can see who also is coming to the current monthly luncheon.

Our luncheon software program guru, Ray Galliot, advises that a link is provided on the acknowledgment screen that pops up immediately after hitting the SUBMIT button when completing the form, but it isn't viewable retrospectively.

To assist further, Ray has therefore included the link on the second page of the registration form so members can have a peek, before confirming attendance or apology.

Additionally, when the confirmatory email sent to the member after submitting the registration form is received, the link will also appear on the form copy (on page 2 - Instructions).

## CONTACT Air, Land and Sea

is an excellent and free Australian military e-magazine published by Army Reservist, Brian Hartigan. Quality is extremely professional, lots of great stories and photographs, and candid viewpoints as well.

Check it out at [www.contactairlandandsea.com](http://www.contactairlandandsea.com)



**PLEASE BOOK IN SOON .....** This is a view of the gracious Dining Room at the Karrakatta Club. We are hoping for a **GOOD** turn-out of members to hear **Rachel Cooke** - the US Consul in WA, speak to us. **REMINDER: Bookings must be made by Wednesday, 10th October. DO come along!**



### **IMPORTANT: From our Secretary ...**

For members attempting to book for the Centenary lunch, the LINK published in the last Highgate Highlights appears corrupted. Please use the following LINK go to the Highgate webpage, click on the Centenary of Armistice Lunch under **Highgate Events**, then on **Centenary of Armistice Luncheon Booking**. *Greg Wilson*

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevDTqCITXNro95br0bOGAAmO7RCk9GgUwqcytWXBgi\\_WgH9g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSevDTqCITXNro95br0bOGAAmO7RCk9GgUwqcytWXBgi_WgH9g/viewform)

### **(Continued from Page 2) From our President:**

The objects of the League remain relatively unchanged from its first incorporation. It is therefore appropriate that Highgate is undertaking three important projects for the commemoration of the Centenary of Armistice.

These projects are:

1. the *Virtual Memorial Project*;
2. The *Remembrance Walk Project*; and the
3. *Centenary of Armistice Lunch*.

The *Virtual Memorial Project* now has over 580 data files publicly available to be viewed. The files consist of personnel lists identified by full name, service number, Roll of Honour location, or place of birth.

The State War Memorial (SWM) and most of the other war memorials in Kings Park have been completed. The project director is **Ian Petkoff** and Ian has been working tirelessly to achieve this.

Some of the Kings Park unit memorial files (HMAS Perth, 2/28 Bn, 2/4 MG Bn, 460 Sqn) also have returned POW lists. The '*POW Memorial File*' shows a list of all WWII POW lost in transit (not readily available anywhere else). Also added are Rolls of Honour where there are no dedicated individual memorials but where the units are listed on the SWM - 12, 28 (included in 2/28), 32, 44, 48 and 51 Battalions.

Synthesised Rolls of Honour (those created using AWM and DVA information) have been completed so that every WA-enlisted service member has a local Roll of Honour.

## **Our Luncheon Guest Speakers**

### **Welcome to Highgate RSL**

We have enjoyable luncheons on the third Monday of each month with fascinating guest speakers. In October, we will meet AGAIN in the **Karrakatta Club**, 4 Sherwood Court (at the bottom of the hill directly opposite London Court on St Georges Terrace) Booking information is provided on the first page of this newsletter.

### **A hearty "Welcome!" to a New Member**

A friendly "Hello" to **Ian Healy**, who recently joined Highgate as an Associate member. Hope you will enjoy your time with us Ian!

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Ian is now adding other memorials and is employing a Research Assistant to collect lists of names from Memorials, Honour Boards and Rolls of Honour in the wider metropolitan area and nearby regional areas.

The project work to date is available at: <http://highgate-rsl.org.au/wa/WarMemorialsandHonourBoards.html>

Please take the time to have a look.

The *Remembrance Walk Project* is also progressing steadily and

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## From our President (continued from Page 5)

will also be ready by Remembrance Day.

The histories of each of the 29 war memorials in Kings Park have now been completed, along with suggested walking routes between memorials.

**Steve Chamarette** is putting the finishing touches to the computer application that will show this information. This computer application will be publicly available to the six million annual visitors to Kings Park.

The Governor will launch both of these projects at the Centenary of Armistice Lunch on Remem-

brance Day 2018. **Leon Griffiths** is directing the Lunch Project and drawing on his experience of very successfully running many of our previous Remembrance Day lunches. He is working hard to ensure that this will be a very special commemorative event befitting the Centenary of Armistice.

If you have not yet booked for the Centenary of Armistice Lunch at the State Reception Centre on Remembrance Day 2018, please do so now.

With best wishes,

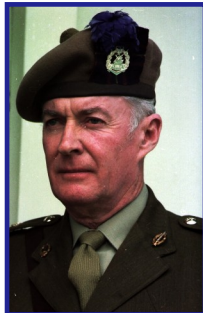
*Geoff Hourn*

## VALE - they may be gone, but won't be forgotten

**August was a sad month for Highgate, with the loss of three particularly well-regarded members:**

**Jim BOOT:** our good-natured Honorary auditor, recruited by our then-Treasurer: Richard Adams. Rest in Peace Jim.

**Ray MAWSON:** Few who have toiled in WA's Reservist ranks would not have known Ray, who served with distinction in every role and task he was ever called on to do. As well as a long, distinguished CMF/Reserves career, he was active in Rotary for years, his local All Saints' Church, and various ex-service bodies. With his wife, Hazel, beside him, they voluntarily ran two hospitals in Nepal for almost eight years, for an NGO called "United Mission". A wonderful couple. Now with Hazel, may both Rest in Peace.



**Bill JAMIESON:** Brigadier (Ret'd), he was well into his 90s when he died, so many current members probably would not have known him. Briefly, he was RA Inf and served in three wars: New Guinea in WWII, a Coy CO in Korea and CofS in Vietnam. Born, raised and educated in Melbourne, his last Army service was as Commander of Western Command - and Perth is where he decided to stay. Among his many achievements, he founded the WA Army Museum, became Patron of a raft of ex-service related associations, and served as Honorary Consul for Thailand in WA for approximately 30+ years. A remarkable, fine man. The final music his family organised at his funeral was "Goodbye Dolly Gray"; "There's Something about a Soldier"; and "Wish me Luck!" - each poignant and eminently suitable for such a fine soldier. R.I.P Bill.

### Temporary Editor's Note:

I met Brig Jamieson in late 1990, when he and I both worked with the Committee of the "Australian Vietnam War Veterans' Trust" (Bill was the "Appeals Tribunal"). He was a kindly soul - everyone always got a fair hearing. But I will always remember him best as a talented "raconteur" - with a gift for relating an amusing yarn.

One such was from his days as a Coy CO in Korea:

During the tense, uneasy "stand-off" weeks following the Korean "interim truce" - Bill's Company, "under canvas", were doing their best to stick to routines and maintaining battle readiness. But many, including Bill, knew that some of the troops were managing to slip away from camp at night, seeking some 'escapism'.

One morning, the British Military police (Red Caps) brought back an Australian soldier who'd been caught on a nearby hillside, '*en flagrante delicto*' with a young Korean woman. He was charged - the case to be heard ASAP. Bill's CSM was the diminutive, and quite famous WO2 "Ossie" Ostara. The two men quickly conferred. What to do for the best? How can we punish a man who's only real sin is being a 'dill' and getting caught - when everyone else is getting away with it?

Soon after, the accused: a lanky young Tasmanian, was marched into the tent - so tall he was forced to tilt his head sharply to fit under the tent canvas above. "Read the charge CSM!" Bill ordered.

"Contrary to good order and Military Discipline, Private 'TASSIE' was apprehended on HaiTor Hill where he was entertaining a female foreign national", intoned Ossie, in his Sar'-Major's voice..

Bill took a long pause: "Hmnnnn ...entertained, eh?" he said. Then: "what on earth does that word actually mean CSM?"

Like a flash, Ossie picked up a huge dictionary, and flipped to the already marked page.

"It says here Sir: "to divert; to interest; to amuse".

Bill: "How was he diverting the young lady CSM?"

Ossie: "His Platoon sergeant tells me he'd be unable to divert a wandering sheep Sir. Impossible.

Bill: "Then how was he interesting to the young lady?"

Ossie: (in bewilderment...) "It is a mystery Sir. His Platoon Commander says he is very boring".

Bill: "How was he amusing her then?"

Ossie: "I've spoken to the whole platoon Sir. Not one of them has ever heard him tell a joke".

"Well then. Not Guilty!", said Bill "CASE DISMISSED".

I'll bet his eyes were twinkling!

*Margot Harness*