



Website: <http://Highgate-rsl.org.au>

HIGHGATE NEWS

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The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia

President

Leon Griffiths

Tel: 9332 9039 - 0439 033 399

Email: leon.griffiths@highgate-rsl.org.au

Vice President

Peter Farrell

Tel: 9246 1367 - 0458 720 022

Email: peter.farrell@highgate-rsl.org.au

Junior Vice President

Steve Chamarette

Tel: 9242 1865

sunridge@it.net.au

Immediate Past President

Martyn Thompson

Tel: 9383 2681

Email: martyn.tyn.thompson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

Ray Galliot

27a Amaroo Place DUNCRAIG
WA 6023

Telephone: 0412 990 799

Email: raygalliot@gmail.com

Treasurer

Richard Adams

PO Box 3551

PERTH WA 6832

Telephone: 0411 737 723

Email: richard.adams@highgate-rsl.org.au

Editor

Margot Harness

Telephone: (H) 9293 1076

(M) 0438 936 405

Email: margot.harness@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions Officer

Jim Eayrs

Telephone: 9341 2979

Website

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Email: john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

MONTHLY LUNCHEON AND AGM

Monday 17 June 2013

Venue: Gallipoli Room

Time: 1130 hrs for 1215 hrs

GUEST SPEAKERS: TWO Speakers will be appearing to inform the Sub-Branch this month: Topic: "Israel Today - Past and Present". They are former MLA **Bob Kucera**; and **Sigi Cohen**. Welsh-born Bob, is a former long-serving police officer, who, in a highly distinguished career, rose to the rank of Assistant Commissioner, before entering politics. He acquitted himself in similar dynamic fashion in the State Parliament as a State Cabinet Minister, heading up various departments. Sigi Cohen is a lawyer with over 16 years as a practising solicitor. Sigi is a staunch believer that legal advice and services should be readily accessible to all citizens, and founded the Law Office: "Wills WA".

For the next Luncheon (17 June) **PLEASE** enter your name electronically on the **BOOK-IN SHEET** (by Friday 14 June). **GO TO the web-site.** Click on **JUNE LUNCHEON** under the photo of the Flame of Remembrance and the list will appear). **FOR THOSE WITHOUT email** please call **Bob Arnold: 9448 2757** (or any of the committee listed at left) to book in. Please note that the Book-In Sheet allows you to enter a "P" in Column 3 to indicate you are a **PERMANENT** booking.

***Please note: Margot Harness overseas until 12 August**

President's Report

In this edition I want to focus on the need to recruit new members into Highgate so we can continue to be a vital and progressive Sub-Branch.

The committee has spent a lot of time and energy in getting the essential housework done and trying to develop new ways to attract new members to our ranks. There is some light at the end of the tunnel with some recent progress in this area.

On Sunday, June 30, our eagerly anticipated and relaxing Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club function is coming up. This is the ideal venue and surroundings for prospective members to be invited to enjoy the occasion and meet everyone. It may need a bit of coaxing to achieve, but if everyone tried to invite someone along for the day, I am sure we would be pleasantly surprised at the result.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

LUNCHEON - 17 June 2013

(Committee: 10am same day)



Affiliates are also welcome to join us and I see this as an ideal way to encourage new membership. Of recent times, there has been more interest from wives and partners at our functions and it is great to see more guests turning up to our monthly luncheons. We can extend this invitation to friends in the Fire Brigade, Police, SES or even nurses and those in emergency services. The scope is as wide as you wish to think. The more our membership grows, the more we can explore exciting and adventurous get-togethers while still retaining traditional, well-received functions.

Lastly, our Sub-Branch finances are in a healthy state—thanks largely to our efficient Treasurer: Richard Adams. One reason for this is that we are able to offset expenses and unexpected charges with profits from our raffles.

To help maintain this situation, I ask that you all raid your cupboards and attic to look for any items you may have that could be donated as raffle prizes for the RFBYC Luncheon on June 30. Please bring along what you can on the day so we can hold a monster raffle. All prizes donated will be raffled *on the day* to ensure everyone goes home happy.

Thank you for your support in anticipation.

Yours in friendship. Leon.

A “Pun Can Be Fun” Corner

Some years ago, naturalist: David Attenborough, led a scientific expedition into the wilds of South America.

Quite early in the trip, one researcher picked up a small, scaly creature with bright, beady eyes. None of them could identify its species, so they decided to keep it with them as a pet. Within a week, the little creature had more than doubled in size - and to their amazement, seemed to not only understand what they were saying, but started speaking words.

With growing fascination for the strange little thing, the team dubbed it a “Rarey”. It continued to grow; so they had the bearers encase it in a wheeled crate. To their delight, it became increasingly talkative.

But after another 10 days had passed, the creature had become so long and heavy, the crate had had to be replaced. It had become obvious that it was impossible to keep it with them. Looking like a cross between a crocodile and a scaly buffalo though - they realised that if released, it could be very dangerous to them.

The sad decision was thus reluctantly (and secretly) reached, to drop the “rarey” over an approaching cliff-face.

Gathered at the cliff-edge, the guilt-riddled team got ready to smash the crate, and push the hapless creature over the precipice.

As they manoeuvred it to the edge, ready for the final shove, the creature sadly peered over and remarked: “It’s a long way to Tip a Rarey!”

Sub-Branch Snippets

Popular **Eli Quartermaine** continues to battle on with treatment in his usual gutsy style. Know that your many mates are solidly with you in this Eli!

Our entertaining member: **Peter Harries**, is having a ball in his new venture: a “Knight Klub Kabaret” in the Royal Thai Restaurant, every second Friday night. Suitable for the whole adult family, the jokes, singalongs, gags and dancing, plus the great food, are “wowing” a growing number of fans. Peter kindly donated a “Table-for-Four” raffle prize at our recent May Luncheon - gladly won by **Don Rae**. Next shows will be 8th and 22nd June. Royal Thai Restaurant, 370 Oxford St Leederville/Mt Hawthorn: Phone: **9446 1640** for booking. Full Menu and details on <http://peterharries.com.au/?p=218>

CALLING ALL YOU COMPUTER BUFFS:

How many of you have checked out the Highgate RSL web-site?? If you haven’t - why not take a peek? John Cleary has done a marvellous job putting it together. Check out your own photo and brief CV on the “Hall of Honour”: http://highgate-rsl.org.au/hall_honour3.php

There is also a direct LINK to the current Newsletter at any time (as well as accessing previous copies). Go to the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch web-site. The Link is: <http://highgate-rsl.org.au/documents/HighgateRSLJuly12.pdf>

NEED A LIFT TO ANZAC HOUSE TO ATTEND MONTHLY HIGHGATE LUNCHEONS?

If so please contact me personally on 9244 8072

Ken Bladen



SUB WARDENS DUTIES

Wreath Laying Services currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park

No bookings for June



HUMOUR IN UNIFORM

(Army)

(L) A couple of British “Tommies” hamming-it-up and having some fun.

Humour has its own inimitable value in raising and maintaining morale.

(Whatever the era, it's good to see, isn't it?!!)

“The Way We Were” Gallery Our Golden Oldies

It is almost six years since Jim Tippetts left Perth to live, with wife: Jo, in the south-west town of Denmark, but he came up for the OBE Luncheon in 2011, to mark his 90th year - and it was lovely to be re-united with this esteemed Life Member of Highgate.

Jim was born in Sydney in 1921, grew up in Camden, where his Dad ran a transport business, and enlisted for Air Crew Training with the RAAF in 1940. He saw active service as a wireless operator and navigator in Australia and the Pacific from 1941 until the war's end - mainly in Catalinas (out of Rose Bay NSW); later serving with the British Occupational Forces in Japan. He was demobbed, with the rank of Flying Officer in 1946, but remained a RAAF Reservist until 1960.

A long career of 30 years in the Public Service followed, where Jim, based in Canberra, worked for the Bureau of Census and Statistics. His speciality was working in the Consumer Price Index area, reaching the level of Assistant Director before his retirement in 1978. A lover of motor sport throughout his life, he became a navigator and rally driver with the Canberra Sporting Car Club (formed 1954); served as a Steward at Bathurst for many years; and was later appointed an International Steward and a Tribune by the Confederation of Australian Motor Sport. In between times, he served as a volunteer at the Australian War Memorial Museum in Canberra for many years, undertaking valuable archiving, cataloguing and research.

All manner of volunteering has characterised Jim Tippetts' strong and staunch devotion to “giving back to the community” - none more than his dedication to serving as a Legatee, caring for war widows and children for Legacy for a very long time. Other past associations are the Catalina Clubs, Victoria and WA, voluntary librarian duties at the WA State

Library and Joondalup Library (where he helped collate a considerable amount of memorabilia and set up ANZAC Day exhibitions in the library each year).

Jim has been married a remarkable 70+ years to his beloved “Jo” (Helene Josephine) whom he married in Sydney in 1942. They have a son and daughter, four grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Alas, Jim has not been in good health of late, and recently had to move into Bethel Lodge in Albany. Jo makes a round trip of over 100km each time she visits him.

Rest assured “Gentleman Jim” that you remain firmly held in high regard and affection by all your old mates in Highgate!



LAST POST

Brig Laurie Palmer AO Lewis Bedford

Lest We Forget





"Heave Ho" me heartties

Once again, the Sub-Branch issues an OPEN INVITATION to all members. Bring your wives, husbands, partners, family, friends & prospective new members to a casual **LUNCH BY THE SWAN** at **ROYAL FRESHWATER BAY YACHT CLUB** Keanes Point (off The Esplanade) Peppermint Grove

on **Sunday 30th June 2013**

at 11:30am for Noon — 3pm (meal—hot and cold dishes) available 1230-1430 hrs)

Pay at the door — \$30 per person **RSVP** by Sunday 23rd June 2013 (see below) **Dress: Neat Casual**

After the successful lunches at RFBYC the past two years why not make up a party and come down and enjoy the wonderful new extended ballroom (can seat 180) and the brilliant scenery, whilst dining on a delicious smorgasbord meal with a carvery, hot selections, salad selections with bakery basket, and dessert, tea/coffee.

Drinks to be purchased at the Cash Bar in the Ballroom.

Tea, coffee, soft drinks, water—FREE

No pre-payment is required, but to cooperate with our RFBYC "hosts", we DO need to get an idea BEFORE-HAND of numbers attending. So please advise attendance by Sunday 23rd June

- via Booking In on the web-site: www.highgate-rsl.org.au—scroll down to **Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club** (in Red lettering) - double click on it—the page will come up ; or, if you are not on-line
- Phone JVP: Steve Chamarette (Ph 9242 1865).

Indicate whether you are bringing a large number of guests/family—as a table for 8 or 10 can be Reserved for you. OTHERWISE, IT IS "FREE-SEATING".

Ample parking is available in the Lower Level Carpark and on the grassed areas, but NOT the Upper Level Carpark—which is reserved for Members Only. Disabled patrons may park in the couple of ACROD bays next to the Club House, otherwise they need to be set down at the Club House and their cars parked at the Lower Level. There is ramp access to the Club House.

A map of the location is available on website www.highgate-rsl.org

The next OBE Luncheon is coming up

Following a long tradition in Highgate, we devote the JULY Luncheon every year to celebrating all our members who have reached the venerable ages of 80 and 90 respectively, during the year. **It will be 16 July this year.**

Geoff Simpson has, once again, agreed to coordinate this noted annual function for 2013—so those of you who are "hitting" those milestones this year will be contacted by Geoff before long.

When he asks for your "CV", please feel free to also supply him with any particularly amusing anecdote from your service days you can recall, as these little stories go over very well with the audience.

I think everyone knows what the acronym: "OBE" stands for? "Over Bl** Eighty" of course!**

TUNE IN PLEASE - you "Texters"

Our dynamic Secretary: Ray Galliot, is devising a system of sending out "brief reminders" etc via SMS text to your Mobile phones. Ray ASKS all members who have a Mobile phone to send him a brief SMS, providing your name. As your calling number will show up, on HIS phone, he will then have your Mobile contact numbers for future needs.



The indefatigable Ray is on 0412 990 799. Please keep him happy and send him a little text, including your name! An acknowledgment message will be sent back to you once the database is set up.



WANTED

Sub-Wardens for the State War Memorial



Highgate Sub-Wardens on duty at the Fame of Remembrance

Deputy Warden of the SWM, Geoff Simpson, is calling for volunteers to bolster our dwindling "pool" of members who are Sub-Wardens. Wreath-laying ceremonies take place approximately two or three times a month through the year. Geoff seeks members who are willing to contribute their time to fulfil this important role. He asks for them to be punctual, smartly turned out and reliable. Ceremonies usually only take about 45 to 50 minutes including setting up beforehand.

Interested applicants should contact Geoff Simpson directly on 0408 925 432 or gsimpson001@optusnet.com.au

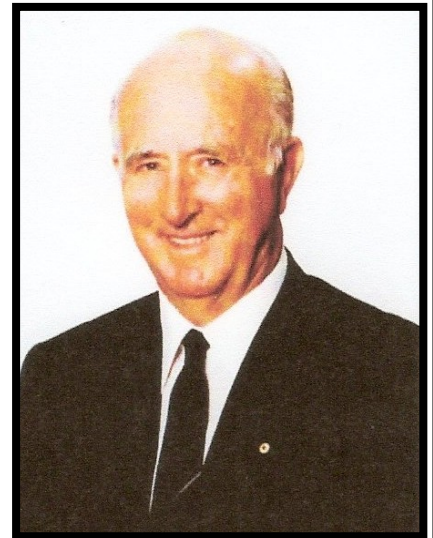
VALE - Laurie Palmer AO

Sadly, Highgate lost one of its most distinguished members on 3rd May. The late Ernest Lawrence Palmer - "Laurie" to all who knew him, was a man of multiple accomplishments and talents, not least, having achieved the unique distinction of holding every rank in the Australian Army from Private soldier to Brigadier (and Head of Corps), except WO1.

Always an approachable, unassuming man, Laurie's character was forged during the Depression, when he took on part-time employment at the age of 13 to help supplement the family income and help pay for his own violin lessons. Had WW2 not intervened, Laurie had been set to take up a scholarship to the London College of Music to further his violin studies (he scored a Pass Mark of 100%.)

Having worked as a storeman previously, he enlisted at age 18 and was allotted to the Australian Army Ordinance Service. He steadily moved through the ranks, as his leadership, management skills and innovative approach came to the fore. He served in PNG during WW2, and post-war was an integral part of planning, re-shaping and modernising the Ordinance Service. His last Army appointment was Director General of Supply (Army), head of RAAOC before retirement in 1978. Palmer Barracks at Guildford were named in his honour.

Laurie gave 39 years of faithful service to Legacy. He leaves his devoted wife of 67 years: Rosa, and three children. Respected and widely-loved, he will be greatly missed.



Brig (Retd) Laurie Palmer AO

6 Oct 1923 -

3 May 2013



Air Force: Sophisticated scooter, courtesy USAF

Some of today's service-personnel at play, whilst at work. 'Tis good to see that some things never change.



Navy: It's nice to swap a shower for a bath in a Zodiac sometimes

**VIETNAM VETERANS WITH A GRAND VISION AND PURPOSE!**

Several of the most heart-warming sights seen by husband-and-wife members: Mike and Margot Harness, on a recent trip to Vietnam, were several local schools in the region around Vung Tau, which have been constructed under the guidance and financial auspices of a special group of Australian Vietnam veterans. Some of these veterans met and married Vietnamese women, and stayed in the area.

There are several quite remarkable characteristics about this group, who started in an 'ad hoc' way - but have gradually become more organised and streamlined. The original impetus came from a 2006 cyclone which caused great damage and some loss of life in the Vung Tau area - and a small group of these "ex-pats" voluntarily took it on themselves to try to help the local community by repairing a badly damaged school, footing the bills themselves. They had observed earlier projects commissioned by Australian-based Non-Government Organisations, but noted that these had failed to prosper, primarily due to a lack of consultation with local Viet people - essentially to ask what THEY saw as their greatest needs. A further school has since been built, and another is under construction.

In October 2010, the group decided to officially form the VTVFCF: "Vung Tau Veterans and Friends Children's Fund", and slowly implemented their own ideas and a system they knew would be workable. The key goals that have underpinned the operation from the start are:

- All money raised (from donations etc) goes to the kids.
- Admin fees are met by the men from their own pockets.
- Consultation with local villages and communities living in them, to listen to what they want and need most.
- Making health and education the main priority.
- All materials sourced locally wherever practicable.
- Hiring local people to do the work - again, wherever practical.
- A commitment to provide ongoing maintenance.
- Consultation with the teachers to ascertain future improvements.

The proof is certainly in the pudding, as can be seen by the three photos at right, which show the BEFORE and AFTER shots of the first project carried out on the school at Nui Dat.

Two further projects were implemented later in the village of Da Bac: another completely renovated school; and the building of a Kindergarten.

It was a pleasure to speak with the various members of the group who are justly proud of the worthwhile contributions they are making. As all said: "So many of the farming communities around here have so little. It has been immensely rewarding to feel that we have made a difference".

Not surprisingly, ANY AND ALL **donations** to assist this valuable work would be gratefully welcomed and received: (to "Banking, Vung Tau Childrens Fund - Westpac Darwin; BSB 735 302 - A/C No: 602266". The web-site is <http://www.vtvfcf.com> . Please include your name)

Among the team leaders are "P.J" Peter J Taylor (5RAR), Garry Mosely (4RAR), Ern Marshall (Transport/RAAOC) ably assisted by many veterans and expats residing in Vung Tau. If you CAN donate, please e-mail "PJ" with your name: wasonthehill69@hotmail.com



*The damaged school at Nui Dat as it looked BEFORE repairs began
(workers' shed (R) foreground)*



Earthworks, foundations and the new classrooms taking shape



*The school AFTER renovations and new works completed including
productive vegetable gardens*

The continuing support of Hollywood Private Hospital and their generous assistance to RSL Highgate Sub-Branch is warmly and greatly appreciated.

HOLLYWOOD

PRIVATE HOSPITAL



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS PRINTED AS A SERVICE TO THE VETERAN COMMUNITY
BY THE OFFICE OF THE HON STEPHEN SMITH, MEMBER FOR PERTH**