



Highgate Highlights

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

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KINGS PARK KOREAN MEMORIAL TO PROCEED

By Bill Munro - Treasurer

Sub Wardens performing honour guard duties at the Korean Veterans Association annual commemoration on 27 July, received a welcome surprise when State Minister for Veterans, Peter Tinley AM, unexpectedly announced the State Government had decided to facilitate construction of a memorial in Kings Park dedicated to servicemen of the Korean campaign.

The Minister acknowledged there was a fair way to go in terms of funding, location and design, but the memorial would proceed.

The announcement was greeted with applause by Korean Veterans and Highgate members, some of whom had worked hard to gain approval from the Kings Park Board (BGPA), RSLWA and the State Government for the construction of a memorial.

Many people were involved in bringing about the Government's decision, with Highgate member Sunnly Kim providing contact with Jun-Kil Lee and James Lee from the Korean Veterans Association, together with WA Honorary Consul for Korea, Fay Duda, who has attended several Highgate lunches.

Early assistance and networking opportunities were provided by Tjorn Sibma MLC, Liberal member for North Metropolitan region and Opposition Spokesman on Veterans Affairs, who generated bipartisan support for the project.

Our recently recruited member, Peter Heeney, was involved in his role as President of the Royal Australian Regiment Association, while Senior Naval Officer for WA, Commodore Brett Dowsing RAN, supported the project during a meeting in Parliament House with Peter Heeney, Fay Duda and Bill Munro.

The Kings Park Korean Veterans memorial, dedicated to the thousands of Australian servicemen who served in Korea, will join similar places of remembrance in Canberra, Melbourne, Adelaide, and Glen Innes (NSW).

Honour Avenues Centenary commemorated

In presenting the main address for the Centenary of the Dedication of the Honour Avenues and first Memorial Plaques Service on 03 August 2019, the Honourable Kim Beazley AC, Governor of Western Australia, first acknowledged the traditional owners of the land – the Whadjuk Noongar people and paid respects to their Elders past, present and future.

ooOoo

Today marks the centenary of the opening of the State's first Honour Avenue on May Drive in Kings Park on 3rd August 1919, dedicated to West Australian Servicemen who lost their lives while serving for Australia in the Great War 1914–18.

It was the fifth anniversary of the declaration of World War I when WA Governor at that time, Sir William Ellison-Macartney, officially opened the May Drive Honour Avenue, here at May Circle.

Despite adverse weather conditions with driving rain and wind, around 2,000 people including Government Ministers attended this inaugural State and public dedication ceremony.



WA Governor Kim Beazley AC

Our sincere thanks to David Nicolson for his photographs used in this story

Continued on page 2

Our next Luncheon is on Monday 19 August at the Karrakatta Club in Sherwood Court Perth

Located at the foot of Sherwood Court, on the corner of The Esplanade in Perth CBD. (Sherwood Court runs south off St Georges Terrace, directly opposite London Court)

Monthly luncheon bookings

Our luncheon meetings are \$40 per person (plus \$5 per raffle ticket if wanted) at 1200 for 1230, usually on the third Monday of each month. For catering reasons, bookings must be made no later than the preceding Thursday, please.

Three ways to book - Choose the best for you

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

Or... 2. Go direct to the luncheon booking sheet by pasting this link into your browser: <https://forms.gle/aFm1FWHCMdKoWY5d6>

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

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

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 19 Aug** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 19 Aug** | Luncheon - Karrakatta Club
- 1100 | **Mon 16 Sep** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 16 Sep** | Luncheon - Karrakatta Club

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Members
Hon Neil Oliver RFD ED JP & Dick Cook AM RFD BDSc MDSc FICD
and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to their families and friends





Honour Avenues Centenary (cont.) Address by Governor Kim Beazley AC

It was a significant event at which the Governor read a message from Her Majesty Queen Mary, the Salvation Army Band performed and local Scouts and school students attended the formal proceedings to pay their respects.

The crowd witnessed the planting and dedication of 404 trees and memorial plaques to honour individual servicemen who had enlisted in Western Australia and died overseas in conflict. The trees were planted in unison on the day, after a single gunshot rang out to signal the coordinated plantings. Each plaque carried the rank, name, age, service unit, place and year of death of the soldiers, most of whom had lost their lives in the attack on Gallipoli or in warfare in France and Belgium.

Arthur Lovekin, a member of the Kings Park Board since 1895, raised the idea of the May Drive Honour Avenue in 1918, to honour the many West Australians who had fallen during the Great War. The Kings Park Board agreed that an avenue of oak seedlings would be planted, many of which had been grown from acorns sent to Lovekin by Queen Mary, collected from the Great Park at Windsor.

The planted avenue originally extended from the statue of Sir John Forrest through to Saw Avenue, and this was extended further to the southwest in 1920 to meet the demand for additional plaques. Unfortunately, the original oak trees failed to thrive and were replaced with Bangalay *Eucalyptus botryoides* in the 1940s, which proved to be a more robust species choice.

After World War II, a second Honour

Avenue was planted with Sugar Gums *Eucalyptus cladocalyx*, and dedicated in 1948 with plaques honouring those that had fallen during the Second World War. The demand for plaques continued over time to such an extent that a third Honour Avenue was established along Marri Walk off May Drive, planted with Marri trees *Corymbia calophylla*.

In addition, many of the trees along Lovekin and May Drives now host more than one plaque. More than 10,000 names of West Australian Service personnel who have lost their lives while serving this country are inscribed on the State War Memorial in Kings Park.

“Over 6,000 West Australian Servicemen lost their lives serving in World War I. Many were buried overseas or remain missing and have no known grave”

Currently, 1,810 of them are represented in the Kings Park Honour Avenues, as a poignant reminder to all who pass by of the unselfish

sacrifice they made in serving their country for the benefit of future generations.

The plaques bear witness to the youth of those who died and the circumstances of their deaths overseas and far from their homes. Some were killed in action, or wounded before later dying of wounds, others died as prisoners of war, or are missing and have no known grave.

The Kings Park Honour Avenues form a significant, living memorial that commemorates the lives, service and sacrifices of those who have fallen in military service for Australia.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden holds a special place in the hearts and minds of many West Australians, with ceremonial and commemorative services forming

Formation of the Honour Avenues Group

Following Governor Beazley's main address, Robin Slater, Chair of the Honour Avenues Group, provided additional information:

When the first Honour Avenue was dedicated in 1919, responsibility for maintenance and care of the trees and plaques fell to the families of the Servicemen and the then Kings Park staff.

In 1922, when West Perth Sub-Branch was formed, the Returned and Services League accepted responsibility for the maintenance and preservation of the plaques. That Sub-Branch was later renamed the Public Service/Press Sub-Branch and this later again merged with Highgate Sub-Branch.

An Honour Avenues Committee was originally formed to undertake management of the Honour Avenues plaques. However, in 1948 and some time after the dedication of over 300 World War II plaques in Lovekin Drive, Highgate Sub-Branch changed our name to the Honour Avenues Group.

The Group looks after each of the now 1,810 plaques placed in the three Avenues – May and Lovekin Drives and Marri Walk.

Continued on page 2

meaningful connections within the community and across generations.

The presence and prominence of the Avenues of Honour in Kings Park, along with the tradition of dedication services which commenced 100 years ago and continue today, will ensure that West Australians have the opportunity to pay their respects and honour those who have fallen.

We will remember them.





Formation of the Honour Avenues Group *(cont.)*

We conduct up to four dedication services each year, increasing the number of plaques by about 48 annually.

These plaques commemorate those men and women who joined the Services in WA, were killed or died overseas and have no grave in Australia. They include the fallen from conflicts subsequent to the Great War and up to the Indonesian Confrontation. The Fallen from later conflicts are now returned to Australia for interment.

The Honour Avenues Group maintains and refurbishes existing plaques and creates new ones when requested by families. We clean, repaint, refurbish or replace, including the Unit/Service colour patch and post. We also straighten, re-align and re-locate plaques in the Avenues, to allow better utilisation of space and placement.

In addition, we maintain a web site within the Kings Park facilities so the public can trace and research existing plaques.

In our research into eligibility and information about individuals for whom plaques have been requested, we access data from the National Archives, Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Australian War Memorial, World Wars 1 and 2 Nominal Rolls, and on-line Unit histories and records.

We can also identify and correct our information if factual errors are found relating to existing plaques, usually when plaques are being considered for replacement.

In the lead up to Anzac Day each year, we ensure all plaques are in place; and we are indebted to students and staff from Carine



Robin Slater
Honour Avenue Group

Senior High School who come in prior to Anzac Day and place a national flag and flower posy on each post. The school generously fundraises to purchase the flowers. They are represented here today and provided the honour guard.

I wish to also recognise volunteers from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and other groups who come prior to the Carine school group and wash each plaque and post to ensure its best appearance. That group is represented by its organiser, Ms Anook Van Dyke. Thank you, everyone. Your service is greatly appreciated.

Kings Park management and staff financially support us as well as provide an office for the detailed records of plaques, and workshop facilities for their care or replacement, as well as looking after the trees that form the backdrop to the Honour Avenues. We thank them for their generous assistance and excellent working relationship with us.

I also acknowledge the contribution to our work and in particular, the marvellous upgrade of May Circle, by Ken Jones and the late Norm Manners OAM, who conceived and fostered the concept through the planning and funding stages.

Additionally, we thank RSLWA, Kings Park Administration and the Friends of Kings Park Volunteer Group for their financial contribution to this upgrade, without which, it could not have happened.

Finally, we acknowledge the families who look upon the plaques and trees as a living place where they can both honour and remember the Service person named, often regarding it as a grave site and memorial, as the actual place of burial is somewhere beyond Australia, or there is no known grave.

The Honour Avenues Group is proud to maintain the memory of those named on the plaques in our care and indeed to respectfully honour all of the Fallen. **Lest we forget.**

NAIDOC Week | Acknowledging Indigenous Service Men and Women

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have made a valuable contribution to Australia's defence since the Boer War, and this year's NAIDOC Week celebrated their history, culture and achievements.

Indigenous Defence personnel have a long and continuing history of contributing to the defence of Australia, with nearly 160 Indigenous ADF personnel recruited in 2018-19.

The ADF has Indigenous community and cultural immersion programs including the Jawun Indigenous Community Placement Program for the Australian Public Service and ADF personnel, the Army Aboriginal Community Assistance Program, Navy and Army Indigenous Development Programs and the Indigenous Pre-Recruit Program.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has an established Indigenous Liaison Officer Network to assist Veterans in obtaining their entitlements and benefits.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the start of the Second World War, in which it is estimated as many as 6,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people gave service.

During the Second World War, Australia came under direct attack from Japan when northern Australia was bombed.

Australia's armed forces employed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in de facto units to carry out reconnaissance of the northern Australian coastline, where they assisted in locating Japanese and Allied aircraft crash sites.

During the first Japanese raid on Darwin in 1942, a Japanese airman crashed on Bathurst Island. Tiwi Man, Matthias Ulungura, took the Japanese pilot prisoner, the first enemy combatant captured on Australian soil.

As the war came to the top-end of Australia, the understanding and connection to country possessed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people proved of great benefit in the defence of Australia's mainland and islands.

The significant contribution to the Defence of Australia's north and north west by Indigenous service personnel continues to this day.

The Army's Regional Force Surveillance Group undertakes Border Protection Operations and supports the 'Closing the Gap' strategy via its efforts in Indigenous Engagement and Development.

Drawing on the proud heritage of Indigenous service in Australia's north during the Second World War, the Group has the highest rate of Indigenous participation of any formation in the ADF, providing capability for Australia's security, while also delivering ongoing opportunities for Indigenous Australians.

All Australians are encouraged to acknowledge Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Defence personnel as well as our Veterans, and stand together on the commitment to reconciliation and closing the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.





August Luncheon Speaker | **Dr Kylie Russell** | Andrew Russell Veteran Living program

Dr Kylie Russell is our Highgate Luncheon guest speaker on 19 August, and will tell us about the Andrew Russell Veteran Living program (ARVL), successfully implemented in South Australia.

Members may recall that Kylie was our guest at the Remembrance Day Service and Fraser's luncheon in 2012, and we keenly look forward to her joining us again on 19 August.

Through the success of the ARVL program, RSL Care (South Australia) is assisting contemporary homeless Veterans who are at risk and in need of transit accommodation while they get back on their feet.

The ARVL program is open to war Veterans and ex-Service personnel who are homeless or at risk of being homeless and who are willing to continue medical and psychological treatment as advised by practitioners; agreeable to participating in individual and peer-support activities; and willing to make a fresh start.

RSL Care SA has 38 affordable housing units for ex-Service personnel and their dependents in the ARVL housing portfolio. Another 10 units are used as transit/emergency accommodation for homeless or at-risk contemporary Veterans.

As well as providing heavily subsidised accommodation to residents, the ARVL program facilitates access to a range of additional services and support.

Andrew Russell Veteran Living (ARVL) is named after Kylie's husband, SAS Sergeant Andrew Russell, a South Australian soldier killed in Afghanistan in 2002 when his long range patrol vehicle struck an anti-vehicle mine.



Kylie is keen for RSL Sub-Branches in WA to endorse the program and encourage Veterans in need to reach out as part of their rehabilitation back into the

community. Support for the program can be with donations of furniture and other items to place in accommodation units. Additional assistance includes a roster of pension officers to help these Veterans gain entitlements they deserve, and providing practical support so they can generate positive accommodation outcomes

for themselves.

Dr Kylie Russell has an extraordinary military and medical background including:

Volunteering as an International Medical Corp registered nurse in East Timor in 2000, she worked closely with 3RAR to provide health clinics in remote communities, later receiving the Australian Government's Humanitarian Overseas Service Medal – East Timor for emergency humanitarian service overseas in hazardous circumstances

Serving as a Nursing Lieutenant in the Army Reserve Health Services Company (2000-02).

Working with SAS Association and local MP Graham Edwards reviewing national legislation regarding compensation for widows and injured ADF members (2003-05).

Campaigning the Australian War Memorial to add KIA names at the time of death, and not at the declared end of conflict/war

Meeting with WA RSL to have names added to the WA War Memorial

Serving as Special Forces representative on the DVA Younger Veterans Contemporary Needs Forum (2008-10)

Appointment as Commissioner on the National Commission for the ANZAC Centenary 2010-11

Appointment to the ANZAC Centenary Education and Curriculum Committee Implementation Group, following the Commission report (2011-12).

Kylie has also concentrated on her family and nursing career, along with working with RSL Care South Australia to develop the Andrew Russell Veteran Living program.

Dr Kylie Russell is currently Associate Professor at the School of Nursing and Midwifery, and Acting Director Medical Education, School of Medicine, at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle.

She has a Doctorate in Nursing (Education), Masters in Health Science (Education), a Bachelor of Nursing, a Graduate Certificate in Human Resource Management, and has also completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors Course and the Executive Ready program through Women and Leadership Australia.

With more than 20 years of experience in WA health as Clinical Nurse Manager, Staff Development Educator, Clinical Nurse Consultant, Human Resources Manager, and a member of the School of Medicine's Preclinical Team, Kylie has also held roles in the School of Nursing and Midwifery including Post-graduate Coordinator, Acting Associate Dean and Clinical Placement Coordinator. She currently supervises higher degree research students, facilitates school research projects, and promotes scholarship and research.

Productivity Commission Veterans report released

The Government has tabled in Parliament the final Productivity Commission report into Compensation and Rehabilitation for Veterans, following its commitment in March 2018 to undertake a thorough review of Veteran support services.

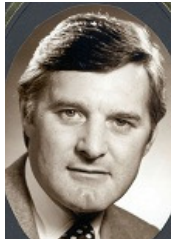
The Productivity Commission's report has listened to feedback from the Veteran community and changed the original draft, including removing the recommendation that DVA be abolished with an emphasis on the need for a stand-alone agency. There are also new sections focusing on mental health and Veteran advocacy.

The Productivity Commission report is available at www.pc.gov.au



Sub Warden Duties | 2019**Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park**POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Sat 31 Aug	1020 for 1100	Malaya Borneo Veterans - Merdeka Day Commemoration
Sat 07 Sep	1030 for 1100	Rhodesia at War Remembrance Service – Flame of Remembrance
Sun 08 Sep	0900 for 0930	Maltese Assoc
Sat 14 Sep	1030 for 1100	Army Cadets Exercise Southern Cross – TBC

**VALE | Colonel the Honourable
Oscar Neil Blackburne Oliver
JP ED RFD**


Neil Oliver, former Australian Army officer and respected member of the WA Parliament passed peacefully on 09 July 2019, aged 85.

Although born in Victoria, Neil and his lifelong loving partner, Margaret 'Joy' Oliver, made their home in Perth in 1963. He was educated at Caulfield Grammar and the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology.

According to the WA Parliament's Biographical Register, Neil Oliver was an Officer Cadet in the Australian Army 1952–54, receiving the National Service Commendation. He then served with the Citizen Military Forces 1954–1977, with the Regular Army in Malaysia in 1957 and in South Vietnam in 1968. He was appointed Captain in 1958, Major in 1961 and Lieutenant-Colonel in 1971. Neil was awarded the Efficiency Decoration (ED) 1968 and bar in 1973, and the Reserve Forces Decoration (RFD) in 1982. He retired from the Army on election to the WA Parliament in 1977, but served for 10 years as Honorary Regimental Colonel - Royal Australian Corps of Transport.

In his private life, Neil worked as a wool broker in Victoria, New Zealand and WA 1958–77, and was partner in a Hereford stud in Victoria. He also served as a company representative in North America in 1965 and in Eastern Europe and Beirut in 1966.

Neil was associated with many organisations, including the Australian Workers' Union Employers Federation, Confederation of WA Industry, President of the Housing Industry Association, Chairman Australian Government Desirable Levels of Housing and Construction Indicative Planning Council of WA board, Member Churchlands College of Advanced Education, Member Guildford Grammar School Foundation, President Multiple Sclerosis Society and national board member, and Vice President - WA Army Museum

Highgate RSL members extend sincere condolences to Neil's family and friends.

**VALE | LTCOL Richard (Dick)
Cook AM RFD BDSc MDSc FICD**

By Ray Galliot



Lieutenant Colonel Dick Cook passed away 29 July, aged 74.

Dick was a former Commanding Officer of 16 Battalion Royal Western Australia

Regiment and former Officer Commanding of 28 Independent Rifle Company. He was President of the Defence Reserves Association for many years, and President of the 28 (Swan Regiment) Association for 23 years, resigning from that position earlier this year after being diagnosed with cancer. He was awarded Life Membership at their last AGM.

Dick was a specialist orthodontist and lectured at the University of WA School of Dentistry.

He was awarded the Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1999 for services to dentistry.

Dick's military career started by accident - he was a conscientious objector while studying for his dentistry degree but won the National Service lottery which was deferred until May 1969.

He was posted to Western Command Personnel Depot before moving to the Officer Training Wing, School of Army Health, Healesville for his commissioning as a Specialist Service Officer in the Dental Corps.

Dick was posted to several Dental Units during his two years of National Service.

Surprisingly for a one-time conscientious objector, Dick signed on for a further two years of full time service, being then posted to the ANZUK Dental Unit in Singapore 1971-72.

Dick transferred to the Army Reserve in 1973 and was posted to the Royal Western Australia Regiment until 1979, following which he posted to Command and Staff Training Unit and then to the WA University Regiment in 1980.

He became Commanding Officer of 16 RWAR, followed by other postings, before retiring in 2001.

Highgate RSL members extend sincere condolences to Lyn, Greg, Anita and Stephanie, and families.

**18 August | Long Tan Day
Vietnam Veterans' Day**

Also known as Long Tan Day, Vietnam Veterans' Day is commemorated each 18 August, and this year marks the 53rd anniversary of the battle.

The Vietnam War was Australia's longest military engagement of the 20th century. Almost 60,000 Australians fought in the war and more than 500 lost their lives.

At the Battle of Long Tan on 18 August 1966, the heavily outnumbered 108 men of D Company, 6 Battalion Royal Australian Regiment fought fiercely against an estimated 2,500 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong troops in a rubber plantation, close to the village of Long Tan, in Phuoc Tuy Province.

It would become one of the most extraordinary chapters in Australia's military history.

In 1969, Veterans of 6RAR installed a memorial cross and held a service at Long Tan to commemorate the battle.

Over time, this day became synonymous with all those who served and died in Vietnam, and in 1987, Prime Minister Bob Hawke announced that Long Tan Day would now be known as Vietnam Veterans Day.

**NEW MOVIE NOW SCREENING
Danger Close: The Battle of
Long Tan**

In August 1966, in a Vietnamese rubber plantation called Long Tan, 108 young and inexperienced Australian and New Zealand soldiers were fighting for their lives against 2,500 North Vietnamese and Viet Cong soldiers.

Danger Close: The Battle of Long Tan is a 2019 Australian war film about the Battle of Long Tan during the Vietnam War. It is currently screening in Australian cinemas. See the trailer on Youtube at https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0441881/videooplayer/vi3150625817?ref=vi_nxt_ap



From our President



Geoff Hourn

The Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia (RSSILA) was formed in June 1916 by troops returning from World War One. The RSSILA evolved out of concern for the welfare of returning servicemen.

Their purpose was preservation of the spirit of mateship formed during the carnage and horror of battle, to honour the memory of the fallen, and to help each other whenever required.

Western Australia was admitted to the RSSILA in 1918 and it is from then that our earliest Sub-Branched began. Many of those early Sub-Branched still exist and are over 100 years old.

One is Greenbushes Sub-Branch, which celebrated its centenary on 19 and 20 August 2019. It was a great honour for me to attend the Greenbushes centenary celebrations and represent Highgate at such an important event.

For more than 100 years, the Greenbushes community has significantly contributed to Australia's economic wealth through agriculture, timber and mining, and that contribution continues to grow. Pro rata, Greenbushes has also made a significant contribution to national security and that is reflected by the many names on its war memorial.

While visiting, I discovered what a delightful, historic and welcoming Sub-Branch Greenbushes is! I also discovered former Highgate member Ron Adair – who moved from Greenwood to Greenbushes some years ago and has been active on the Greenbushes Sub-Branch committee.

The Bassendean (Eastern Regional) Sub-Branch is another celebrating its centenary. Our Warden and Immediate Past President, Steve Chamarette, along with former President and current Treasurer, Bill Munro, represented Highgate at the Bassendean centenary on 02 August.

And on 03 August, our very own Honour Avenues Group marked the centenary of the unveiling in Kings Park of the first plaques dedicated to fallen soldiers on 03 August 1919. We report on that centenary elsewhere in this edition but it is very appropriate on this special occasion for me, on behalf of all Highgate members, to congratulate the Honour Avenues Group for the great work they do.

The responsibility for maintaining the first 404 plaques in Kings Park was given to the West Perth Sub-Branch of the RSSILA.

Highgate member, Helen Birch, who is archivist for the Honour Avenues Group, has conclusively established by meticulous research that Highgate

Sub-Branch has direct antecedents to the West Perth Sub-Branch. Although no early records of the West Perth Sub-Branch survive, Helen first discovered that the West Perth Sub-Branch was formed in July 1921 by scrutinising past copies of Listening Post (especially the Listening Post of 21 July 1922).

This has now been verified, as the Charter for West Perth is held in the RSL Archives, and is dated 01 July 1921.

West Perth Sub-Branch continued successfully for several decades but at the Annual General Meeting on 17 August 1943, it was resolved to seek the approval of the State Executive to change the name to Public Service Sub-Branch (as reported in the Listening Post of September 1943). Subsequently, the name of the West Perth Sub-Branch was changed to the Public Service Sub-Branch on 16 November 1943, as recorded in the Listening Post of November 1943.

The Public Service Sub-Branch later amalgamated with the Press Sub-Branch (formed in 1927 on the suggestion of Lieutenant Colonel Fitzgerald, then working for the Sunday Times, and reported in the Listening Post of October 1950) and this occurred on 21 March 1973. Helen verified this from the newsletters and president's reports of the Public Service Sub-Branch, which are held in the Honour Avenues Group archives. The Charter of the Public Service and Press Sub-Branch was presented at a meeting in June 1973 and is held in the RSL Archives.

On 30 April 1974, the Public Service and Press Sub-Branch had 101 members but it was resolved at the May 1974 meeting, that if less than 15 members were present at three subsequent meetings, steps should be taken to amalgamate with Highgate Sub-Branch. At the August, September and October 1974 meetings, 19, 21 and 16 members respectively were present, and 25 members attended the 1974 Christmas luncheon.

However, the meetings of the Public Service and Press Sub-Branch in April, May and June 1975 had attendances of 12, 13 and 12 respectively and members were reminded of the motion concerning amalgamation, should numbers at three consecutive meetings fall below 15. Only nine members were present at the meeting in September 1975 and those attending were reported to be 'dissatisfied and upset' by poor attendance. It was then decided that immediate steps would be taken to effect an amalgamation.

The President of the Public Service and Press Sub-Branch was subsequently invited to a 13 October 1975 meeting of Highgate Sub-Branch, arranged especially to consider the matter of amalgamation. A motion to amalgamate with Highgate Sub-Branch was then put to a meeting of the Public Service and Press

Sub-Branch on 15 October 1975, and carried 20 to nil, with two Highgate members present as observers.

It was agreed the name of the new Sub-Branch should remain as 'Highgate' due mainly to the unwieldy title if 'Public Service and Press' were included. Felicitously, the name 'West Perth, Public Service, Press and Highgate Sub-Branch' does not appear to have been considered.

The last newsletter of the Public Service and Press Sub-Branch was issued in December 1975. Helen has been unable to find the exact date of amalgamation (it may have been 01 January 1976) but she is sure it is recorded somewhere, and that RSL Archives may have the Charter.

Veterans returning from World War II had established Highgate Sub-Branch and our Charter was presented in 1947. Unlike conventional Sub-Branch formats, the founding members specifically set up Highgate as a unique CBD-based 'luncheon club', with a committee delegated to handle all RSL business and to organise commemoration and monthly meetings. In that way, each monthly meeting could have interesting guest speakers and concentrate on fraternity.

Founding members included Frank Boan, and many of the early meetings were held in the boardroom or cafeteria of Boan's Department Store.

Although the Sub-Branch is called 'Highgate', it has always been a CBD based Sub-Branch. Highgate supports the schools, retirement homes and other community institutions in the suburb of Highgate but our Poppy Day collections, commemorative events and meetings have always been in the city. In addition, the close association with Kings Park we inherited from the West Perth, Public Service and Press Sub-Branched has always been greatly respected.

As far as I know, it is an unusual and somewhat unique model for RSL Sub-Branched, but it has been enduring and very successful.

Having now definitively traced the 98 year history of the West Perth, Public Service, Press and Highgate Sub-Branched, our Committee has determined it would be appropriate to mark that centenary in July 2021. Those celebrations will also mark the centenary of the link between Kings Park and the West Perth, Public Service, Press and Highgate Sub-Branched.

It has been the dedicated work of all our members over the years, including members like Helen Birch, which has enabled the RSL to honour the memory of the fallen and preserve the spirit of mateship for a century. That spirit has no geographic boundary and involves a concern for the welfare of returning Service personnel and their families and to help each other whenever required.



Update or add your Hall of Honour entry

Web Manager, Ian Petkoff, is continuing his brilliant work of upgrading our website, and is now revitalising the Hall of Honour, an alphabetical list of members' names and service on our website at <https://highgate-rsl.org.au/hall-of-honour/>

As well as providing a personal tribute to members for their service to the nation, the Hall is a very useful tool for family history research, as it has in one location a summary of each participating member's Service history, and may include some civilian information as well.

If not already in the Hall, all Highgate RSL Sub-Branch members, including Affiliates and Associates, are invited to send us their biodata for inclusion in the Hall of Honour.

Please also include a clear head/shoulders image of yourself, ideally in uniform and taken during your service years. However, if you need a photograph taken for this purpose, please ask Highgate Highlights editor and professional photographer, Roger Buddrige, prior to the start of one of our luncheons (between 1200-1220), and he will be pleased to oblige on the spot.

For consistency, we ask that you complete the Hall of Honour nomination form, downloadable at https://highgate-rsl.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/4-Member_Profile_example.pdf and email to website@highgate-rsl.org.au after completion, please.

Members without email will receive the form in the post with this edition of Highgate Highlights, and can send it back to Secretary Greg Wilson, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, Box 65 Hillarys 6923.

We would be grateful if you could complete your Hall of Honour entry before the end of September, please, so our website can be updated as soon as possible.

BIRTHDAYS

Highgate Members celebrating their birthday in August include:

Mike Radwell, John Dowson, John Thornton, Otto Pelczar, Ross Lightfoot, Phillip Clover, Peter Harries, Michael Page, Deann Raphael, Patricia Kailis, Louis Byrnes, Barry DeBruyn, Chris Adams and Jeremy Buxton.

OPEN ARMS
Veterans & Families
Counselling



24/7 support
1800 011 046
www.OpenArms.gov.au

Support for military families coping with trauma

Families of serving, transitioning, or ex-serving members of the ADF who are experiencing mental health concerns following trauma now have an additional new resource to help them – five free publications.

The booklets are for the partners, children and care-givers of serving, transitioning or ex-Serving members of the ADF who have been affected by trauma, and are titled: *Supporting Your Partner, Helping Your Children, When Your Parent is Having Problems, Supporting Your Son or Daughter, and What's Happening to My Family?* The five booklets are free to download via the *At Ease* website www.at-ease.dva.gov.au/resources/coping-trauma-military-family

Developed in partnership with Phoenix Australia (which has a long history in supporting the Defence and Veteran community through its research, advice and practical programs), the booklets will be an important resource for families.

They are designed to assist not only the ADF member, but also their loved ones in understanding the effects of trauma, and providing practical steps to enhance the wellbeing of their family members.

For those in need of immediate mental health support and counselling, Open Arms — Veterans and Family Counselling Service can

Thanks, Owen

Highgate Committee and Members thank **Owen Page** for his work with **Peter Garside** on our monthly luncheon reception desk, and welcome **Bob Campbell** to the role. This is an important facet of our lunches and the service by each of you is much appreciated.

Open Arms retains mental health accreditation

Veteran-specific lifeline, *Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling*, has retained its Mental Health Accreditation under the National Standards for Mental Health Services.

The Federal government has welcomed the recent decision as the service provides an invaluable counselling support service to Veterans and their families.

Accreditation followed a rigorous assessment process conducted by an independent, external assessing agency, with Open Arms meeting all requirements of the NSMHS.

Open Arms was commended for its many strengths and positive feedback from clients and stakeholders. Comments by Veterans and their families about Open Arms includes:

The help they gave me early on probably saved my life – now they're keeping me stable.

I feel it's safe because it's a public service organisation.

They understand military context – it makes the world of difference.

They were and are a lifesaver.

The staff are skilled and genuinely concerned about me and my family.

Helped me understand what my partner was going through with PTSD and why they acted the way they did.

I felt very validated and supported.

They have an understanding that we're constantly in fight mode...they get it and they understand that, it's respectful.

I find the service very easy to get to.

Any Veteran or their family member who are struggling with their mental health can reach out for support whenever it is needed with free and confidential help available through Open Arms 24/7, 365 days a year.

For more information, visit www.openarms.gov.au

KARRAKATTA CLUB - WHAT'S ON - AUGUST 2019

DAY	DATE	EVENT	TIME	PRESENTATION
Tuesday	20-Aug	\$10 Members \$17 Non-members (Complimentary morning tea) (Bookings essential)	11:30 am - Morning tea 12:00 pm - Presentation 1:00 pm - À la carte lunch	Dancing upon Earth: A creative exploration of Indigenous Australian and Indian classical dance. Presenter: Sidha Pandian, PhD Scholar, dancer and choreographer.
Tuesday	27-Aug	TRAVEL LYCEUM \$10 Members \$17 Non-members (Complimentary morning tea) (Bookings essential)	11:30 am - Morning tea 12:00 pm - Presentation 1:00 pm - À la carte lunch	Fitzgerald River National Park Presenter: Dr Allan H Burbidge, Principle Research Scientist in the Science and Conservation Division of the Department of Parks and Wildlife.
Friday	30-Aug	FRIDAY CLUB DINNER \$60.00 Members/guests \$75.00 Non-members (Bookings essential)	6:00 pm - Welcome drink 6:30 pm - Two course dinner Presentation between courses	Empowering Women: Making a Difference through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Presenter: Carol Hanlon, State President, Business & Professional Women WA (BPW WA)

Fliers with event information are available for download on www.karrakattaclub.com.au (select What's On - August Events).

Please note: Non-members may only attend a maximum of three times per calendar year as from 1 August 2019.



HONOUR AVENUES CENTENARY
Kings Park
03 August 2019
Photos by David Nicolson



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**This newsletter is printed
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