



Highgate Highlights

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

Issue 600 September 2019

ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

Hear Brigadier Jim Wallace AM This Monday on Capital Radio

Hosted by Tony Howes, **Brigadier Jim Wallace AM** features on *The Listening Post* on Capital Radio 101.7FM and Capital Digital on Mon 23 Sep, 1800-2000.

Jim studied at the Royal Military College Duntroon and the British Army Staff College. He served in the Australian Army for 32 years, including command of the Special Air Service Regiment (1988–1990), and reached the rank of Brigadier. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1984. Listen to Jim's story on Monday.

The program also features 'This Week In Our Military History', and reports from our forces' information bureaux, which keeps us up to date on past events and current news.

The Listening Post is for Service people past and present, their families and friends, each Monday night from Capital Radio. Tune in locally or on the internet at www.capitalcommunityradio.com.

September Guest Speaker Marty Kavanagh Honorary Consul of Ireland WA

Our September guest speaker, Marty Kavanagh, was appointed Honorary Consul of Ireland WA in 2013, and will speak about the ramifications for Ireland (and the United Kingdom) following Brexit, and what a No Deal Brexit means if that transpires. Given the extraordinary events currently affecting Great Britain's Parliament, this should provide us with a more in-depth understanding of the issues, options and outcomes.



Marty Kavanagh was born in Cork, Ireland and migrated to Australia in 1991. Educated at University College Cork, the University of Western Australia and Curtin University, he holds degrees in Commerce (Honours), Law, and a post-graduate Diploma in Journalism (Distinction); and has also tutored in ethics at Curtin University.

Marty has extensive senior industrial management experience in Europe and Australia. His approach to the law is empathetic, practical and results orientated, with a focus on property and children's matters, and Violence Restraining Orders. He writes the WA VRO professional commentary for *Dickey's Family Law*, and the legal commentary on WA Violence Restraining Order legislation for Thomson Reuters.

Highgate newsletter celebrates its Sexcentenary!

You've got 600 reasons to be sexcited! That's because you are reading the 600th Highgate RSL Newsletter which since August 1947, has provided Service-related information and interest to our members and friends during an extraordinary 72 years. And we're going to keep it up.

Naturally, it was not always produced monthly. But as an interesting computation, if an average of 10 monthly issues of the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch newsletter were produced annually, it would take 60 years to reach the 600th edition. (*This has to be close to a world record?*)

On page 6 of this issue, we have reproduced the original 1947 Highgate Sub-Branch Notice of Meeting, with a list of office bearers and foundation members, plus a subsequent list of our presidents to 2006, many of whom will be remembered by current members.

Interestingly, Highgate Sub-Branch has direct antecedents to the West Perth Sub-Branch which was formed in July 1921, so we will actually be able to celebrate our 100th anniversary year in 2021, just two years from now.

Celebration ideas for consideration are very welcome, so talk to your favourite Committee person soon, thanks.

Our next Luncheon is on Monday 23 September 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 (but this month on the fourth, to accommodate our guest speaker). 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/rM8spDtvfnLYGMHy5>

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

Important dates & events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 23 Sep** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 23 Sep** | Luncheon - Karrakatta Club
- 1100 | **Mon 21 Oct** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 21 Oct** | OBE/AGM Luncheon - Karrakatta Club

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our departed Member
Donald Henry Newman
and convey sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends





During our Kings Park Remembrance Day Commemoration & Luncheon | Sunday 10 November 2019

Book launch: *Remember - Lest We Forget*

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch is delighted to announce that a new book that helps educate children about our military history, will have its WA launch during our Remembrance Day Luncheon at Fraser's in Kings Park on Sun 10 November.

The Honourable Kerry Sanderson AC, former Governor of Western Australia and incoming Warden of the State War Memorial, will launch the book in the presence of the author, Ms Julie Miller, a young mother, teacher and now a writer, and who is also the daughter of a Vietnam Veteran.

The story is told from the perspective of a child at an ANZAC Day march.

The child ventures into the shoes and boots of those marching and muses as to where they have been, what they have seen, and what they have done.

The publication is endorsed by Prince Charles, Dr Brendan Nelson (Director of the Australian War Memorial), teachers and academics.

In writing the book, Julie launched a competition for the illustrations and some stunning art now fill its pages. Art came from the United Kingdom and all around, as well as from Ian Coate, a Perth artist, who completed several illustrations, including the cover. All book sales proceeds will be used to assist Veterans and their families.

Malaya and Borneo Veterans commemorated

Malaya and Borneo Veterans' Day, commemorated on 31 Aug, recognised the Australian military personnel who fought in the Malayan Emergency (1948–60) and the Indonesian Confrontation, or Konfrontasi (1962–66).

While the two post-Second World War conflicts might not be well-known in the Australian community, it is important we thank those who served in Malaya and on Borneo, and the families that supported them.

In 1948, a state of emergency was declared in Malaya after the Malayan Communist Party launched an insurgency against British colonial rule.

Australia's role in the Emergency started in 1950 and involved elements of Navy, Army and Air Force to bring the insurgency to an end.

While the Malayan government declared the Emergency over in 1960, Australian forces continued operations against communist forces in Malaya until 1963. Tragically, 39 Australians died during the Emergency.

The Indonesian Confrontation, a small undeclared war, started in 1962 when an Indonesian-backed coup was launched against the pro-British Sultanate of Brunei as well as Sabah and Sarawak (East Malaya).

Australian involvement in the Confrontation started in 1964 and in 1965, along with other Commonwealth troops, they conducted small-scale operations in the thickly-forested terrain of Borneo - an experience that would inform the conduct of operations in Vietnam.

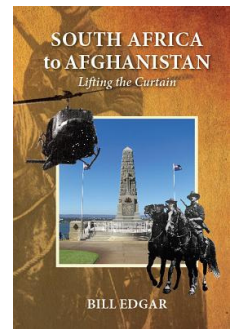
Although the situation had stabilised by the end of 1965, events within Indonesia led to an official end to the conflict in the following year when a treaty between Indonesia and Malaysia was signed. During Confrontation, more than 20 Australians died.

In Perth, the Merdeka (Independent) Commemoration at the State War Memorial honoured all Commonwealth Servicemen Auxiliary and civilian friends of all races, who either served or resided in Malaya, Borneo, Java, and the Timor region during WWII, or during the Malayan/Malaysian Emergency conflicts, the Confrontation in Borneo, and more recently, either served on the Thai Border or in East Timor Operations.

On a day dedicated to remembering their service during these conflicts, Australia reflected on those who paid the ultimate sacrifice and says thank you to all those who served.

Book launch | Army Museum *From South Africa to Afghanistan*

Members and friends are invited to attend the launch of the book *From South Africa to Afghanistan* at 1030 on 10 November at the Australian Army Museum, Burt St, Fremantle by Hon Graham Edwards AM, and MCd by Captain Wayne Gardiner OAM RFD.



The work comprises 14 chapters of personal stories transcribed largely from audio interviews conducted by Bill Edgar in the early 1980s.

"These are very personal 'dirt under the fingernails' accounts from Veterans of 10 Light Horse and the Western Front; then from World War II Veterans engaged in North Africa, Greece, Syria and on the Kokoda Track, and subsequently, the infamous battle for Gona Village. 'Yes We Have Passed Phar Lap' is Keith Pescod's recollections of three and a half years as a prisoner of war of the Japanese, and the challenges of adjusting to civilian life after the war.

Sadly, all these men have now passed on, but their intimate, vivid and often remarkable recollections add invaluable and sometimes controversial insights within the major theatres of two World Wars.

Four more accounts include *The VC That Wasn't*, an action fought between 30 Australians and 400 Boers on 09 February 1900 in the Upper Cape Colony of South Africa; *An Old Salt and a Bit of a Tear Arse* intimately details operations of 161 (Independent) Reconnaissance Flight at Vung Tae and Nui Dat 1965-67; *Just A Nobody?* relates Blue Burridge's fight against the Viet Cong in 1969 and his subsequent war with Canberra bureaucracy in the years that followed; and *Irrepressible* relates Sergeant Peter Rudland's 21 years of service in Cambodia, Iraq (three tours), Timor Leste (two tours) and Afghanistan, before a crippling helicopter accident challenged him all over again. RSVP to author Bill Edgar at tammar@westnet.com.au by 03 Nov.



From our President

Vietnam Veterans' Day was commemorated on 18 August throughout our nation.

For decades the Vietnam War was brought into the living rooms of families around the world. A vast number of citizens of the Allied nations supporting South Vietnam (the United States, South Korea, The Philippines, Australia and Thailand) experienced the war from their arm-chairs each day.

Relative to national populations and the World Wars, it was a gallant few who were actively engaged on the ground, at sea or in the air. However, the graphic and detailed media coverage of the Vietnam War had a profound effect on the opinion of millions of citizens of Western nations about the righteousness of the conflict.

It was not until the First Gulf War, more than 20 years after Vietnam, that graphic coverage of front line fighting was limited by media black-outs. During the Gulf War, the military build-up was largely cloaked in secrecy, and even rooftop reporters in Baghdad could only provide what was an almost detached view of precision targeting.

The relative shortness of the Gulf War also helped circumvent adverse public judgment, whereas the Vietnam War was a long, costly and divisive conflict.

Though the genesis of the war in Vietnam was the 1945 defeat of Japan in Indo China, the Vietnam War officially began on 01 Nov 1955 and lasted until the fall of Saigon on 30 Apr 1975. Australians fought in Vietnam from 1962 until 1972.

To my mind, the causes that Australia fought for in Vietnam were always righteous.

In simplistic terms, it was a fight against communism and the invasion of the South. Though both sides wanted a unified Vietnam, the Viet Minh wanted a nation modelled on other communist countries, while the South Vietnamese wanted a Vietnam with close economic and



Geoff Hourn

cultural ties to the West and to be, at least notionally, democratic.

Without doubt, the Vietnam War was intensified by the ongoing Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union. China and other communist allies also supported North Vietnam.

It was certainly seen as a fight against communism in the eyes of the Australian Government in 1962, and our commitment was in keeping with the policies of other nations to stem the spread of communism in Europe and Asia. The majority of Australians in the early 1960s also favoured Australia supporting South Vietnam.

Later, attempts were made by some to portray Australian sailors, soldiers and airmen who fought in Vietnam as 'victims' instead of patriots fighting for a free world. Such a depiction suited socialists and the opponents of conscription. It was a dastardly portrayal.

Despite fighting valiantly, many Vietnam Veterans felt shunned when they returned home.

By the late 1970s, there was a very strong sense among some Vietnam Veterans of government indifference. Some also felt the RSL had not properly accepted Vietnam Veterans and was not pursuing their concerns with the vigour they believed they warranted.

In particular, there was a perception that Agent Orange and other chemicals used during the Vietnam War caused problems for Veterans and Veteran's children. As a result, the Vietnam Veterans Action Association was formed in 1979.

This Association later transformed into the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia (VVAA) and has become a strong national organisation with branches in each state.

Regrettably, the VVAA and the RSL were initially opposed on many fronts. This was based on the VVAA impression that the RSL was unconcerned and did not properly embrace Vietnam Veterans, versus the more traditional RSL approach of quietly dealing with issues directly with Government Ministers.

Over the years, the relationship between the RSL and the VVAA has

matured into one of mutual respect and many Veterans enjoy membership of both organisations.

An important VVAA initiative was the national establishment of the very successful Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service. This Service provides a very well regarded treatment regime for people who have experienced traumatic events – not only Veterans but also survivors of traumatic events, such as the Port Arthur Massacre.

The Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service is supported by the Department of Veterans' Affairs and has recently changed its name to reflect a wider sphere of treatment. It is now known as *Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling*.

The home of the WA Branch of the VVAA is at ANZAC Cottage, 38 Kalgoorlie Street, Mount Hawthorn. The cottage has great historical significance to the Veteran and wider community as it was built in one day in 1916, by the Mount Hawthorn community, as a memorial to the ANZACs of World War I. If you have not been there, it is worth a visit.

Unfortunately, by the 1970s ANZAC Cottage had fallen into disrepair but was taken over and restored by the VVAA WA Branch in the 1980s. The cottage is now used to conduct monthly VVAA Committee meetings. There are also several events held each year, including a sunset service on ANZAC Day. The VVAA WA Branch also helps manage the Vietnam Veterans Pavilion in Kings Park where services are held each ANZAC Day and on the Sunday before Vietnam Veterans Day each year.

This year, 18 Aug fell on a Sunday and Highgate RSL Sub-Branch was represented at the Vietnam Memorial in Kings Park by our Warden (and Vietnam Veteran), Steve Chamarette.

On Saturday 17 Aug, I had the honour of laying a wreath on behalf of Highgate Sub-Branch at the Vietnam Veterans Day commemoration for RSL Sub-Branches in the South West. The card attached to our wreath simply said: *In loving memory of our fallen colleagues from the Vietnam War. And to honour all those who served in Vietnam.*

Continued next page



From our President *Continued*



Geoff Hourn

This year, the memorial service for the South West was held at the Collie War Memorial and hosted by the Collie-Cardiff Sub-Branch. It was a magnificent setting on a beautiful day and with a very large attendance.

The Collie Senior High School provided wonderful musical accompaniment throughout the service, Cadets mounted guard and pleasingly, there was a strong youth presence throughout.

Movingly, the names, ages and pre-Service occupations of the 18 soldiers killed in action at the Battle of Long Tan were read out. Families of young men from Collie who fought and died in Vietnam attended the service.

At the conclusion, many gathered in the magnificent facilities of the Collie-Cardiff Sub-Branch. The whole event was wonderfully organised and there was a very large RSL presence from around the South West. It was an honour to have been invited and Ray Ward was also there to represent Highgate and the Royal Australian Regiment Association.

This is the 600th edition of Highgate Highlights!

In acknowledging that milestone, I congratulate our Junior Vice President and Editor, Roger Buddrige, for the hard work he does in producing such a wonderfully informative journal. Highgate Highlights is now widely recognised around the State as a very polished production and I have lost count of the people outside our Highgate membership who have told me they enjoy reading each month's edition.

It is also appropriate to acknowledge all our previous editors. In recent years, they have included Margot Harness and Bob Arnold. Without their past dedication to the task, Highgate Sub-Branch would not have the spirit of community which we have enjoyed for decades.

To Roger and all our Editors over the years – thank you.

Regards - *Geoff Hourn*

World leaders mark 80th anniversary of WWII start

Shortly before 0500 on 01 Sep 1939, German battleship Schleswig-Holstein fired at a garrison of Polish soldiers stationed on the Westerplatte Peninsula, at what is now Polish Gdańsk. The attack marked the start of a war that would eventually kill millions and go down as the most appalling conflict in the history of humanity.

Two weeks after Germany invaded Poland, the Soviet Union invaded Poland from the east, with Adolf Hitler and Josef Stalin carving up Poland and the Baltic states, based on a secret protocol in the Molotov-Ribbentrop pact signed on 23 Aug 1939.

World leaders, including German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier and US Vice President Mike Pence, were in Poland on 01 Sep 2019 to mark the 80th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II.

The ceremonies started early in Wielun, the first city to be bombarded by the German Luftwaffe on 01 Sep 1939, with speeches by Polish President Andrzej Duda and his German counterpart, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. The presidents, local officials and residents - among them survivors of the bombings - observed a minute of silence in memory of an estimated 2,000 victims.

Polish President Duda thanked Steinmeier for his presence at the painful anniversary.

"Eighty years ago, at this very moment, all hell rained down on Wielun, fueled by German racist barbarity and the desire to annihilate," said Steinmeier.

The German president also asked for Polish forgiveness. "I bow before the Polish victims of German tyranny, and I ask for your forgiveness."

Minutes later, Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki and the deputy head of the European Commission, Frans Timmermans, led observances at Westerplatte Peninsula, on the Baltic coast, the site of the war's first battle as Polish troops put up resistance.

The main event in Warsaw included German Chancellor Angela Merkel, French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe, Belgian Prime Minister and President-elect of the European Council Charles Michel, as well as leaders from Croatia, the Czech Republic, Lithuania, Slovakia, Ukraine and Hungary.

Few places suffered the level of death and destruction seen in Poland during World War II. By war's end, it lost about a fifth of its population with nearly six million Polish citizens killed, three million of them Polish Jews who made up half of all the European Jews killed in the Holocaust.

The country remained under German occupation for more than five years. After the war, Poland had to rise again from ruins but it remained under Soviet domination until 1989.

Germany, one of Poland's biggest trade partners and a fellow member of the European Union and NATO, has repeated that all financial claims linked to World War II have been settled.

Our Merchant Mariners remembered

Australians have served onboard merchant vessels for more than a century, and on Merchant Navy Day earlier this month, we again thanked them for their service.

More than 800 Australian merchant mariners are estimated to have tragically died serving the Allied cause during the First and Second World Wars.

Unlike other war ships, they didn't have the same defensive capabilities, leaving themselves exposed to attack from the enemy, whether in foreign waters or closer to the Australian coastline.

Merchant Navy Day is commemorated each year on 03 Sep, the anniversary of the sinking of the first British merchant vessel during the war.

Australia says thank you for your service on the water and the legacy you and your fellow mariners have left us with today. We honour your memory.

Sub Warden Duties | 2019

Wreath Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



Sun 27 Oct

TBA

Ochi Day - Greek Community (TBC)



NEWMAN (Donald):
The President, Committee and Members of RSL Highgate Sub-Branch mourn the passing of our late esteemed member Donald Newman and express our sincere condolences and deepest sympathy to his family. Lest We Forget.



VALE

Highgate mourns the passing of our esteemed member 22308039

Donald Henry Newman,

aged 89, on

24 Aug 19 at Joondalup Hospital.

We convey our deepest sympathy to Paul, Nigel, Wayne, Heidy, Tracey, Susan and all other family and friends.

Pensions Report

By David MacLean

The pension portfolio has enjoyed some success for members, a number of frustrating delays, and absolute puzzlement for others.

There is little consistency in the Department's responses and sometimes it appears junior delegates knock back claims just to be on the safe side, knowing that you will get up in the Veterans Review Board.

The fate of your claim hangs on the delegate assigned to the case - some are excellent, others less so.

However, we generally enjoy a good working relationship with DVA, despite some disappointments from time to time.

There is a movement in Victoria to reduce the impact of poker machines and refocus sub-branch efforts on providing support for Veterans.

RSL Care (Vic) has been criticised for having about 30 empty accommodation units when there are homeless Veterans in need. Concern has been expressed that these units may be sold off and the property redeveloped.

There is more to come in this saga as more and more sub-branches become involved.

More support to former partners of Veterans

All recipients of the Partner Service Pension through the Department of Veterans' Affairs will now maintain access for at least 12 months after separating from their Veteran partner, regardless of their marital status, under legislative changes passed through Parliament on 17 Sep 19.

The Government is providing \$6.2 million to support changes to the Partner Service Pension, which previously allowed access to current partners and married partners only after they had separated from a Veteran.

The Government has listened to the views of the ex-Service community, in particular those raised through the Female Veterans and Veterans' Families policy forum, to remove the inequity between married and de-facto partners for the Partner Service Pension.

Where the Veteran has a mental health condition recognised by DVA and there was an unsafe or abusive domestic environment for the partner or their family prior to separation, former partners will remain eligible to receive the Partner Service Pension until they enter into a new relationship.

Families play a critical role supporting current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and it is vital all former partners of Veterans continue to have access to the assistance they need.

Former partners include de-facto partners of a Veteran, someone who was in a registered relationship with a Veteran and someone married to, or divorced from, a Veteran. For more information about the Partner Service Pension, visit the [DVA website](#).

Free and confidential help is available through Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, for current and former ADF personnel and their families. Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046.

Victory in the Pacific Day Remembering the end of WWII

Mid-August marked 74 years since the Second World War was officially declared over by then Prime Minister Ben Chifley, with Japan accepting the Allied nations' terms of surrender.

Nearly one million Australians served during the Second World War, and on what we now know as Victory in the Pacific Day, or VP Day, we remember and commemorate their efforts throughout the Pacific, including in Papua New Guinea, Malaya, Borneo, Bougainville, Singapore and New Britain.

Australia also commemorated all those who served in the war, in particular the 27,073 killed, including over 17,000 Service men and women who lost their lives fighting in the war against Japan. Wounded numbered 23,477 and 30,560 were taken prisoner of war.

The Second World War was also a significant occasion for Australia as it marked the first time we experienced attacks on our own soil.

Australia joined together with our allies in conflict overseas, throughout Europe and particularly in the Pacific. It was a time when people worked hard and pulled together to defend the nation.

VP Day is commemorated as a moment in time that will never be forgotten.

BIRTHDAYS

Members celebrating their birthday in September

include: Richard Jones, Darren Akerman, Barry Long, Basil Twine, Richard Bird, Jock Geldart, David Scott, Peter Gilkison, Donald King, Jeffrey Moorcroft, Eric McDonald, Wayne Gardiner, Geoff Hourn, James Shackleton, David Messer, Tony Howes and John Reidy-Crofts

OPEN ARMS
Veterans and Families Counselling



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



Highgate history Flashback



HIGHGATE

INAUGURAL MEETING 2 AUG 1947

PRESIDENT GORDON HACK
VICE PRESIDENT (1) BILL HUNT
VICE PRESIDENT (2) MICK HUNGERFORD
SECRETARY CHARLIE HUGALL
TREASURER JACK HERLIHY

COMMITTEE

ERNIE SHACKLOCK

BILL LUCAS

IAN BESSELL-BROWNE

NOEL ROYDHOUSE

FRANK BOAN

IT IS OF INTEREST THAT THE MEETING WAS HELD IN BOANS RECEPTION ROOM 4th FLOOR AT 2/6 PER MEMBER. THE SPEAKER FOR THE FOLLOWING MEETING WAS ANNOUNCED AS BEING MAJOR-GENERAL WHITELAW G.O.C. WESTERN COMMAND WHO WAS TO TALK ON THE RABAU TRIALS

Remembering the vital role of Australia's peacekeepers

The service of Australians on international peace operations was honoured on 14 Sep on National Peacekeeper and Peacemaker Day. About 65,000 Australian servicemen and women have been involved in over 50 peacekeeping operations worldwide since 1947.

Since Australia became involved in peacekeeping operations, we have made an outstanding contribution, but tragically we have seen 16 lives lost in service of our country. Peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved have lasted months, years or even decades, seeing deployments range from small groups to substantial forces.

Traditionally, peacekeepers serve in countries that have been destroyed by war but they have also been required to keep peace during times of election, and to clear and teach local authorities to clear landmines. Australian peacekeepers have often served in hostile and volatile environments, including Kashmir, Cyprus, the Middle East, East Timor, Cambodia, Rwanda and Bougainville.

HIGHGATE 1947 FOUNDATION MEMBERS

ALLEN DON	FLETCHER SIR NORMAN	LUCAS BILL
ARNOLD F.A.H.	GILL FRANK	MASKEILL C.R.
BAIRD NEIL	GILL G.F.	NEWBERY COLLIN
BARNARD E.	GODDEN S.W.	O'CALLAGHAN JERRY
BARRETT D.W.	GRIMBLY LES	PAGE-SMITH GORDON
BATE M.	HACK GORDON	PEARSON ALF
BESSELL-BROWNE IAN	HALL JIM	PEARSON PERCY
BINKS HECTOR	HANNEN J.B.	PINCHIN F.A.
BOAN FRANK	HANTKE TED	RODRIGUEZ PAT
BROWN A.H.	HEARTY DICK	ROWELL H.M.
BROWNE E.McD.	HERLIHY JACK	ROYDHOUSE NOEL
BROWNELL BROWNIE	HERTZ DICK	SANDS JACK
BURKE A.J.	HILL WALLY	SCAHILL ALLAN
BYFIELD H.W.	HOLLINGSWORTH NORM	SHACKLOCK ERNIE
CAMPBELL JOCK	HOWELL N.V.	SMART JOHN
CANE J.B.	HUGALL CHARLIE	SMITH WARREN
CARTER P.G.	HUNGERFORD MICK	STEWART A.L.
CHURCH MURRAY	HUNT BILL	TAYLOR S.A.
COHEN GEOFFREY	IRELAND RON	THOMAS PHIL
CONNELL J.R.	JEFFREY J.S.	WATT STAN
COTTON G.	JOHNSTON N.	WATT T.G.
DAVIDSON BOB	JONES R.A.	WILKINSON L.A.
EVANS KEITH	KENDRICK R.E.	WILLIAMS OLIVER
FABY L.	KINNANE BRIAN	WILLIAMS R.W.
FISHER ALF	LAMB LEX	WOLFE R.M.
FITZHARDINGE JOHN	LIGGINS CHARLES	WOOD BARNEY
FITZHARDINGE ROGER	LINTON ROBERT	ZECK CHARLES

HIGHGATE THE PRESIDENTS

INAUGURAL PRESIDENT GORDON HACK 1947

1950 PAT RODRIGUEZ
1952 JIM PLANK
1953 JOHN FITZHARDINGE
1955 MICK HUNGERFORD
1956 JIM BURNHAM
1957 DOUG DARGIE
1958 WALLY KNOX
1959 PERCY PEARSON

1971 EAN McDONALD
1973 BILL FITZHARDINGE
1975 PAT MEHAN
1976 BILL MUNRO
1978 KEN KIDD
1979 GEORGE LARKIN

1991 TOM FERRERO
1992 LESLIE LEE
1993 JOHN LOW
1994 BOB ELLIOT
1995 LES STEWART
1996 TOM SCULLY
1997 DON MEREDITH
1998 TOM HORTON
1999 ALAN SAVILLE

1960 CAM REDENBACH
1961 DICK DAWBARN
1962 RON STONE
1964 PHIL LOFFMAN
1965 KEN BROADHURST
1967 MORRIE CREWE
1969 VERN DAWE

1980 LEN IKIN
1982 JOHN SURRIDGE
1984 MAX BRICE
1986 GEOFF RUSSELL
1988 TED STEVENSON
1989 SAM DALLYWATER

2000 JOHN JACKSON
2002 DON BLAIR
2004 IAN (MO) MULHOLLAND
2006 NORM MANNERS

This year is the 20th anniversary of INTERFET in East Timor, Australia's largest peacekeeping commitment. The Australian Government and people of Australia commemorated this important milestone in partnership with the Government and people of Timor-Leste, with Defence supporting activities in Dili during this month.

Anzac Parade in Canberra is home to the memorial to Australian Peacekeepers. Inaugurated in 2017, it commemorates the service and sacrifice of all Australians who have served on peacekeeping or peacemaking missions around the world.



Australian Peacekeeping Memorial in Canberra

UPDATE | Australian Defence Force Retirees Association

By Jim Hislop - ADFRA

The Ombudsman has now posted an Update on his web site and you can click on this link to read it: <http://www.ombudsman.gov.au/how-we-can-help/australian-defence-force/dfdrdb>

On 25 July 2019, the President of the Defence Force Welfare Association issued a Report of Meeting with Minister for Veterans Affairs and Ombudsman, in which Kel Ryan indicates an incorporated ADSO should be the single point of contact between Ex-Service organisations and the Minister.

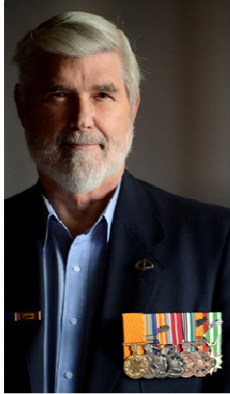
We are not happy with the position we have been placed in by DSO's collaboration on DFRDB with the Minister at the ESO Round Table (ESORT) and we will make those views known to our representatives in Parliament.

The charter for ESORT does not include Military Superannuation and is more akin to workers compensation and war graves, both being very worthy objectives. We believe there must be a dedicated representative group to take Military Superannuation issues to the Minister.



Vietnam - The War Australia Won | *Dave Sabben questions doubters*

“Australia won its war in Vietnam. We joined the war to help stop the fighting in South Vietnam. This mission was accomplished in 1972, after which Australian combat forces withdrew from the conflict.”



A Vietnam Veteran awarded the Medal of Gallantry for actions at Long Tan questions how some people can still to this day suggest that Australia lost the war, that we had been defeated, and that we didn't do the job.

Dave Sabben, Commander of 12 Platoon, Delta Company 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment during the Battle of Long Tan, says Australian forces entered Vietnam with a clear mission – to help stop the fighting in the South.

“We didn't go to Vietnam to invade the North. We didn't go to topple their government. We didn't go to remove Ho Chi Minh from power. We went to help stop the fighting in the South and we achieved this in Jan 1973 (when) the Allies forced the North to sign the Paris Peace Accord.

“The Accord agreed to a halt to all hostilities, withdrawal of all non-Vietnamese forces, exchange of POWs and importantly, that the North would honour their border with the South.”

In January 1973, then Governor General, Sir Paul Hasluck, told the Australian Parliament and people that *hostilities in Vietnam have ceased.*

“We had achieved our aim. The fighting in the South was stopped. We came home,” said Dave. “It was more than two years later, in March 1975, that the North broke the peace treaty. They invaded the South in a deliberate act of a new war.”

Dave, who has dedicated much of his post-war life to sharing the story of Vietnam and supporting recognition of the service of all Veterans, says the attack in 1975 by the North was not an extension of Australia's war.

The Battle of Long Tan is a clear and vivid memory for Dave Sabben. While not the biggest battle of Vietnam, it was perhaps the most desperate.

On that Thursday on 18 Aug 1966 in the rubber plantation near the village of Long Tan, Dave was in the thick of the battle as Commander of 12 Platoon, Delta Company 6th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment.

On the 50th anniversary, Dave said the battle, which saw 108 men in D Company pitted against upwards of 2,000 Vietnamese Regulars and Viet Cong in an against all odds fight for life, was fought by many more than those in the rubber plantation that day. For Dave, the first shot sent a ripple that reached into the spirit of Australian, New Zealand and American troops – all wanting to help the beleaguered D Coy.

“At around 4pm, 108 ANZACs (including three NZ artillery men) walked into that rubber plantation at Long Tan. Within minutes of the first shot, we called for artillery support – this first ripple reached 161 Battery, NZ Artillery, and six gun crews swung into action to support the blokes out there under fire, along with their HQ men, the gun plotters, the communications men, all their own support crews.

“Within an hour we called the first Regimental fire mission. Three more batteries joined in and we now had 24 guns firing for us – 24 gun crews, 4 Battery HQs – the ripples radiating out further”.

“At Task Force HQ and in the Fire Control Centre, dozens more men swung into action - command and control, liaison among units. What's to be done to help Delta Company? Halfway through the battle, with ammunition running low, we called for a resupply.

“Two RAAF choppers – four-man crews in each – flew to 6RAR to collect the ammo. A dozen men delivered it, and loaded it onto the choppers.”

“We were not at war with North Vietnam in 1975. We had had no troops in Vietnam for two years. In fact, we had a mission in Hanoi at the time and diplomatic relations with North Vietnam.”

Following the withdrawal of combat troops, a small number of Australians remained in Vietnam to staff the Saigon embassy until 1975, when RAAF humanitarian flights were called in to evacuate staff as North Vietnamese forces descended on the city.

While Australia's military combat involvement in the war ended in 1972 the official keeper of Australia's war record, the Australian War Memorial, records the war as 1962-1975.

Four 6RAR men climbed in. The choppers then flew through impossible weather to hover above us, under fire, and kick the ammo out right into the middle of our position. And we can include the blokes who service and supply the choppers and keep them in the air.”

At that point, Dave says the ripples from the first contact had reached at least a couple of hundred more soldiers. “At about the same time, 10 armoured personnel carriers (APCs) were sent to collect Alpha Company, 6RAR – that's 10 APCs with two crew each plus all the men who kept the APCs serviced and operational. Then add the 100-plus men of Alpha Company, now aboard the APCs, and racing to our help. The ripples now reached out to include maybe 500 men.”

Dave says men at the Task Force base could hear the guns firing continuously and dozens rushed to the artillery lines to help wherever and however they could– some carried ammunition to the guns, others cleared ammo boxes and spent shells from the gun positions, while others still made sandwiches and hot chocolate for the gun crews – all just helping – all in support.

And the ripples extended beyond Australian forces. The American 155mm gun battery joined the fight and American jets flew over the battlefield above the storm, looking for a break in the clouds so they could drop their bombs. There was no break, so they unloaded further away. Still more Americans looked to the resupply and transport of artillery ammunition to the guns.

Dave says there were women in support - the medical teams who saved the lives of the wounded.

“At Long Tan, Delta Company lost 17 dead with 23 wounded. One of the APC crew was also badly wounded and sadly, later died. Of the 23 wounded Delta Company sent to the hospitals – some with horrific wounds – the doctors, nurses, nursing aides and Red Cross workers all worked together and did a magnificent job. They didn't lose one of our wounded. Their tireless efforts saved the lives of many in Delta Company.”

Dave Sabben wants people to use the 50th anniversary year of Long Tan to remember all who served in Vietnam.

“Long Tan was only one afternoon's work. There were more ripples – more battles, hardships and feats of determination and courage for the almost 60,000 Australian forces who served in Vietnam.”

While the Battle of Long Tan was not the biggest battle Australians experienced in Vietnam it was perhaps the most desperate, and certainly critical to the Australian area of control surrounding Nui Dat. Each year, the date of this one battle is used to honour all who served.

Dave Sabben was awarded the Medal of Gallantry for his action in the Battle of Long Tan.



**Our August Guest
Kylie Russell
spoke about the
successful
Andrew Russell
Veteran Living
program in South
Australia**



Disclaimer Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove inappropriate content, and clarify or shorten where needed. Although normal tests for accuracy are undertaken, you should not rely on this material without carrying out your own validity checks. Opinions are not necessarily those of RSL Highgate Sub-Branch or RSLWA. **Newsletter contributions always welcome. Please send to the Editor roger.buddrige@highgate-rsl.org.au**

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

YOUR 2018-19 COMMITTEE

President

Geoff Hourn | 0414 063 707
geoff.hourn@highgate-rsl.org.au

Senior Vice President

John Cleary | 0417 955 864
john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

Junior Vice President & Editor - Highgate Highlights

Roger Buddrige | 0408 900 126
roger.buddrige@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Bill Munro | 0411 750 775
bill.munro@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

Greg Wilson
0412 095 201
Box 65 Hillarys 6923
greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Warden & Immediate Past President

Steve Chamarette
0490 257 469 | 9242 1865
steve.chamarette@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions & Veterans Affairs

David MacLean | 0418 917 982
david.maclea@highgate-rsl.org.au

Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Geoff Simpson
0408 925 432 | 6380 1014
geoff.simpson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Membership Officer

Howard Montagu
0417 956 621
howard.montagu@highgate-rsl.org.au

Hospitals & Welfare Officer

Bruce Taylor
0408 955 219
bruce.taylor@highgate-rsl.org.au

Honour Avenues Representative & Poppy Day Organiser

Mike Harness
0419 091 708
michaelharness1@bigpond.com

Web Manager

Ian Petkoff
0490 242 676
ian.petkoff@highgate-rsl.org.au

General Committee

Richard Adams
0411 737 723 | 9325 6387
rpads@westnet.com.au

Margot Harness

9349 2847
michaelharness1@bigpond.com

Leon Griffiths

0439 033 399
leon@leongriffiths.com

Allan Downs

0427 932 166
allan.downs@highgate-rsl.org.au

Front Desk

Peter Garside | 0413 441 855
artco@artco.net.au

Bob Campbell | 9279 3502