

# THE HIGHGATE R.S.L. NEWS

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## MONTHLY LUNCHEON.

There will be no luncheon in April: Instead you are requested to support the Anzac Day Breakfast. Further details inside the newsletter.

SPEAKER IN MARCH: Mr Rod Spencer, Manager Corporate Services, Customs Services, enlightened the eighty members present as to the vast area of responsibilities and duties performed by the Service. Being the second largest revenue raiser for the Commonwealth by way of Customs and Excise Duties, their staff of 5,000 personnel are spread over 90 official points of entry and departure from the country. The list of activities was endless and included - checking the safety of imports such as the level of mercury in fish products, the lead content in crockery, poaching by overseas fishing craft, fauna exports, illegal migrants, drugs and the dumping of overseas products on our markets. Reports from the public of suspicious activities

can help considerably in performing their duties. Les Stewart's vote of thanks was well supported by all present.

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ANZAC DAY 25 APRIL 1993: Deputy Warden Ron Stone would appreciate an extra special turn out of sub wardens for the Dawn Service. Parade 05.25 hours March on 05.40 hours. Service commences 06.00 hours. Afterwards breakfast in the restaurant of the W.A. Club 9th Floor 18 The Esplanade. Parking available in the car park at the rear of the premises.

(Enter fro the Esplanade). Sit down time for breakfast 07.30 hours. Cost \$20.00, to be collected as last year, during the breakfast. Only a few days left so if you have not already indicated your intention to come along please give either the sub branch secretary a ring (279 8626) or Ron Stone himself (Buss 321 4421). The club is pretty flexible so if circumstances do prevent you giving prior notice do not be deterred from joining in. Likewise cancellations would be appreciated. Forty eggs amongst Four diners is bad enough, but Four eggs amongst Forty diners is even worse.

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SUB WARDENS DUTIES: Further ceremonies to be held in April and May are  
SATURDAY 24 APRIL: 5.00pm for 5.15pm Lodge of Remembrance No 16 WAC.

(Please note Saturday not Anzac Day as in the past)

SUNDAY 25 APRIL: 5.25am for 5.40am, Anzac Day Dawn Service.

TUESDAY 27 APRIL: 1.15pm for 1.30pm RSL Women's Auxiliary.

SUNDAY 30 MAY: 2.15pm for 2.30pm Dunkirk Veterans Association.

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WELCOME: To two new members Henry Lodge and Ken Wetherell. Harry served with the RAAF, and Ken with RNVR. Ken is a rejoining member

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COMMITTEE MEETING: At the request of members Dr Alan King attended the last Meeting and gave details of the progress of integration of Hollywood Hospital into the State system, and answered questions raised by committee members. Firmer detail will probably be know after 14 April 1993. Also on the agenda, the question of which month should our AGM be held. Some members felt December was not suitable as the audited accounts are not available then. The meeting agreed that the AGM would continue to be held in December and the accounts to 31 December be confirmed in February after audit. To those who have complained about the poor reception of the PA System in the Gallipoli Room repairs are now in hand.

Letter from Peter Glover tending is apologies for non attendance from April until October as he will be living in Marble Bar. Peter continues to say any members visiting or passing through Marble Bar during that period would be most welcome to call on them (House in town opposite school).

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FUTURE LUNCHEONS: It has been suggested that the timings of our Monthly luncheon be brought forward a little, so that members attending can if they wish be away from the premises by 2pm. At the last few luncheons it has been apparent that the proceedings have tended to drag on a little, and that

those who have other engagements, or transport to catch have had excuse themselves whilst the guest speaker was in full cry. Therefore from the May Luncheon, fellowship will commence at 11.50am and the luncheon at 12.40 pm.

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SICK LIST: Leon Goldsworthy was in Hollywood before Christmas but is now resting at home, and his condition has stabilised. John Masterton had an eye operation, which apparently was not too successful and had to be re-done but is now progressing well. Comes from peering through to many bedroom keyholes when you were a young lad, John.

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LEGACY DAY: A letter from Torchbearers for Legacy requesting Highgate Members to support as usual their street collection. Traditionally Highgate covers the Wellington Street Station throughout the morning and they hope we can produce sufficient collectors again this year from 7.00am to 1.00pm. DATE Friday 23.4.93.

If you can help please ring Ken Birks (245 1546)

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ANOTHER ANECDOTE: At the December luncheon, one of the guests was a young man who in a comparatively short Military Career has worn the badges of no less than six different regiments. Here is one I think to beat it. The first allied troops to re-enter France on 6 June 1944 were nine members of the 22 Independent Parachute Company of the British 6th Airborne Division. They were dropped from the leading aircraft to mark the DZs and LZs for the main force arriving some four hours later. No 1 was Lieutenant Bobby De Latour, a member of a well known theatrical family who when war broke out had been in the chorus of a West End Musical Comedy. No 9 was a refugee from Austria. His name was Curt Mikson, then a private in the Parachute Regiment. The strange irony is the fact that when war broke out Mr Mikson was arrested as an enemy alien, shipped to Canada as a German prisoner where he met Dr Klaus Fuchs later to become a spy. Finally it was decided that Mr Mikson was no enemy and he was permitted to join the British Army albeit the Pioneer Corps, and returned to England. He then obtained a transfer to REME before volunteering for the Parachute Regiment - After he was demobbed Curt Mikson had served in two armies, Austrian and British, two air forces Austrian and German, three corps and one regiment of the British Army. He almost made three air forces. On 3 September 1939, the day war was declared he wrote to the RAF volunteering for flying duties as when Germany took over the Austrian Air Force, he was a pilot adorned with the Eagle and Swastika. He never did get a reply from the RAF.

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