

# THE HIGHGATE R.S.L. NEWS

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## MONTHLY LUNCHEON.

MONDAY 18 SEPTEMBER, 1995.

VENUE: GALLIPOLI ROOM, ANZAC HOUSE, ST. GEORGES TERRACE, PERTH.

TIME : FELLOWSHIP 1150 HOURS; LUNCHEON 1230 HOURS.

SPEAKER: MRS. GRETCHEN LUMSDEN, R.N. DIP. ED.

SUBJECT: "PROSTATE PROBLEMS - YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED"

Mrs. Lumsden is a State Registered Nurse, has a Diploma in Education and is a member of the Professional Speakers' Association. She has extensive experience working in the field of cancer support having been Manager, Education and Patient Services with the Cancer Foundation of Western Australia for eight years.

Gretchen was born in Northern Ireland and is married with two children. She has spent most of her life in Western Australia. After training as a nurse at Royal Perth Hospital (where she won a gold medal for excellence) she completed a midwifery course at St. John of God Hospital. After gaining her Diploma of Education she taught Nursing for many years.

With the arrival of her first child Gretchen decided to change her career path and became involved in cancer education and support services. She is, currently, Director of the Prostate Cancer Support Service for the Urological Research Centre (URC) and conducts her own Educational Consultancy specialising in cancer prevention and early detection.

**LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER:** Despite the vaunted improvements which have taken place in the Prison System over the years, the general feeling of those present at last month's Luncheon was that one is still better off by half on the "outside". Nick Carter's bright and witty talk of his (and the inmates') life in our corrective (?) institutions was well received. It was also highly illuminating to those of us whose sole brush with such places is an occasional visit to the (now abandoned) Fremantle Gaol. There can be no doubt that Nick has led a full and interesting life so far and we wish him luck in the completion and publication of his autobiography. Thank you Nick for a most enjoyable look into some of the events which have made up the fibre of your life!!

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A brief eulogy by Max Brice, Secretary, Honour Avenue Committee:

Arthur Todd (or Toddy as he was known to his friends - he had no enemies) passed away on 11 August, 1995.

During the 1939-45 War, todody was in the Air Force where he saw service in the Northern Territory and in the north of Western Australia as a mechanic.

He Joined the Public Service Sub-Branch in 1951 and was Secretary for several years.

The Public Service Sub-branch amalgamated with the Press Sub-branch in 1973 and with Highgate in 1976.

Toddy's main contribution to the RSL was as a member of the Kings Park Honour Avenue Committee for 41 years where he served for two terms as Chairman totalling sixteen years. He was an active worker in the Avenues where he painted plaques and posts until advancing years caught up with him.

When the Public Service Sub-branch was asked to provide Sub-Wardens for the State War Memorial in 1951 he was a ready volunteer. This service he continued in later years.

He was awarded the League's Certificate of Service in 1987.

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A 1942 MALTA CONVOY - from a submission by Alf Pearson.

In June, 1942 the island of Malta was in dire straits as a result of continued enemy attacks by sea and air and was being denied even the most basic supplies because of the blockade of the sea lanes by enemy naval and air patrols. For this reason, and because of the strategic position of Malta in the Mediterranean, the high command decided that some relief must be provided at all costs. To this end a plan was devised to use not one but two convoys in an effort to break the deadlock. One to sail from Gibraltar (codename "Harpoon") and the other from Alexandria (codename "Vigorous").

"Harpoon" sailed from the United Kingdom on 5 June and included the merchantmen "Troilus" (Blue Funnel Line) 7,500 tons; "Burwan" (Hain Line) 6,000 tons; "Chant" 5,000 tons; "Orari" (NZ Shipping Line) 10,500 tons; and "Tanimbar" (Dutch) 8,000 tons. The convoy was under the command of Vice Admiral ATB Curteis flying his flag aboard the cruiser "Kenya" accompanied by the cruiser "Liverpool" together with the destroyers "Onslow", "Middleton", Kuyawaik (Polish); "Escapade", "Bedouin", "Icarus" "Matchless", "Blankey", "Marne", and "Badsworth". These were to be joined at Gibraltar by the battleship "Malaya"\*, aircraft carriers "Eagle and "Argus", anti aircraft/cruisers "Cairo" and "Charybdis" as well as seven destroyers and four fleet mine sweepers, the tanker "Kentucky" (USA) and the minelayer "Welshman" which had been restocked and was carrying specialised stores joined the convoy at Gibraltar.

(\*Alf was a bridge watchkeeping officer and Officer of the Quarters of the main armanent aboard "Malaya" at the time.)

(cont. p 3)

**SUB-WARDENS' DUTIES**

Sunday	17 September	1500 hours for 1515	Royal Air Forces Assoc.
Wednesday	4 October	1730 hours for 1745	Naval Assoc. of Australia (WA)
Saturday	7 October	0845 hours for 0900	Atomic Survivors Assoc.

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We welcome new members: John Cutting RAN  
 George Oliver RAAF  
 Craig Eberhardt 16 RWAR

and look forward to enjoying their company at our luncheons and other functions.

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VALE: It is with deep regret that we advise the death of the following members:

A .J. Todd  
 R. E. Wade and  
 F. V. Ruddick

Our sincere sympathy is extended to their loved ones at this time of great loss. Where possible the Sub-branch was represented by members who were present at the funeral service.

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(cont. from p 2)

On 11 June when "Harpoon" arrived at Gibraltar, "Vigorous" sailed from Alexandria. Under the command of Admiral Vian flying his colours aboard the cruiser "Cleopatra" was accompanied by the cruisers "Dido", "Euryalus", "Hermione", "Arethusa", "Newcastle", "Birmingham" and the anti aircraft cruiser "Coventry" together with 26 destroyers, 4 corvettes and two minesweepers. Under their protection were the merchantmen : "City of Edinburgh", "Ajax", "City of Pretoria", "Elizabeth Bakke", "City of Lincoln", "Bhutan", "Potaro", "City of Calcutta", "Rembrandt", "Aagterkerk " and the tanker "Bulkoil". This convoy ran into immediate trouble with heavy attacks from enemy aircraft. "City of Calcutta" was hit and made for Torbruk. "Elizabeth Bakke" was hit and returned to Alexandria. "Hermione" was sunk with all hands and the destroyers "Hasty", "Grove" and "Airedale were lost as were merchantmen "Aagterkerk" and "Bhutan". The rest of the convoy was forced to return to Alexandria because there was no chance to reach Malta.

Meanwhile "Harpoon" was also in trouble. On leaving Gibraltar they were under constant attack by U-boats and aircraft from both the German and Italian air forces. only two of the six merchantmen which started out reached Malta, and one of these was damaged. "Bedouin" and "Kuyawiak" were also lost while "Liverpool", three other destroyers and a minesweeper were damaged. Of the seventeen merchantmen which had set out only two "Otari" and "Troilus" with 15,000 tons of cargo reached Malta.

So, from the "Harpoon" escort two destroyers were sunk, a cruiser, three destroyers and a minesweeper damaged. Having been attacked by some two hundred aircraft they destroyed twenty-nine of them. Of these thirteen were shot down by fighters from the escorting carriers.

On the enemy side the Italians lost the cruiser "Trento" which, having been disabled by

our Beauforts from Malaya, was subsequently torpedoed and sunk by one of our submarines.

Thus from the seventeen supply ships which set out to convey desperately needed food, fuel and ammunition to beleaguered Malta, only two got through.

(Historical detail was obtained from: "The Phantom Fleet" by A. Cecil Hampshire;  
"The Battle for the Mediterranean" by D. McIntyre;  
"The Battle of Malta" by Joseph Attard; and  
"Siege of Malta 1949-1943" by Ernle Bradford.)

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### FROM THE SECRETARY'S MAIL BAG.

**ALINTA GAS BUDGET CARD:** The easy way to help you pre-pay future gas accounts. Just 'phone 1800 - 677 - 912 and one will be sent to you. Then when you have some spare cash (?) just buy stamps from the Post Office, attach them to the card and present it with your account when payment is being made !!

**LIFE LINE VOLUNTEERS:** Volunteers are urgently needed by Life Line to help with their Recycled Fashion Shops. 'Phone John Roberts on 479 - 4949 for details.

**HINTS FOR WINTER SAFETY:** Pamphlets on this vital topic are available from the WA Fire Brigade. 'Phone (09) 323 - 9300 (Perth) or 1800 - 199 - 084 (Country)

**FORMER MEMBERS OF RAAF GROUND STAFF:** A book on the wartime experiences of both men and women who served in ground staff (RAAF & WAAAF) during World War II is being prepared. If you can help with reminiscences please call Pat Melican on (03) 9857 - 5902.

**AUSTRALIA'S FIRST PRIME MINISTERIAL LIBRARY:** A Prime Ministerial Library to honour John Curtin, Australia's World War II Prime Minister is to be established in Perth. Contributions in the way of anecdotes, souvenirs, photographs, etc. are needed. 'Phone Vicki Williamson on (09) 351 - 7549 for details.

**WORLD WAR I UNIFORMS AND FIELD EQUIPMENT:** A research project is being carried out into this subject by Peter Phillips a member of the RSL in Canberra. If you can help he can be reached on (06) 239 - 6759 outside business hours or (06) 263 - 3197 at work.

**VIETNAM VETERANS:** After hours counselling is now available by calling VETLINE on 1 - 800 - 011 - 046 for the price of a local call.

**VIDEOCASSETTES:** The following videocassettes are now available from ABC - TV Sales:-  
**THE FUNERAL OF SIR EDWARD (WEARY) DUNLOP:** - complete of the State funeral at St Paul's Cathedral followed by news coverage of the service at Hellfire Pass. (275 min)  
**1995 ANZAC DAY MARCH:** Live coverage of the march in Melbourne and the service at the Shrine of Remembrance. (111 min)  
**VIETNAM VETERAN'S MARCH:** Coverage of the "Vietnam Veterans' Welcome Home Parade" from the Sydney Cenotaph, Martin Place to the Town Hall - 1987. (109 min)  
**VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL PARADE & DEDICATION:** Live coverage of the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans' Memorial and March of Remembrance Canberra, October, 1992. (179 min)

**UNKNOWN SOLDIER:** Coverage from Canberra of the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial where the body of the unknown Australian Serviceman was interred with full military ceremony. (74 min)

(THE COST OF EACH OF THE ABOVE VIDEOCASSETTES IS \$65-00 INCLUDING PACKING AND POSTAGE. Ten Dollars (\$10-00) FROM EACH OF THE "WEARY" DUNLOP TAPES WILL BE DONATED TO THE "WEARY" DUNLOP STATUE APPEAL/MEDICAL FOUNDATION. ORDERS MAY BE PLACED BY MAIL TO:- ABC-TV SALES GPO BOX 9994 MELBOURNE 3001 OR BY CREDIT CARD BY TELEPHONING (03) 9524 - 2271).

**DEFENCE SERVICE HOMES INSURANCE COVER:** Effective 1 July, 1995 all eligible persons will now be able to insure their homes under the Defence Service Homes Insurance Scheme irrespective of whether or not they have received a DHS loan. For full details, including eligibility criteria 'phone (09) 366 - 8222 (Perth), 1 - 800 - 113304 - ext. 333 (Toll free) or call in to the DVA Office 12th floor AMP Building 140 St Georges Tce Perth.

**SENIORS WEEK 1995 - 15/21 OCTOBER:** The theme this year is "Life's for Living" Full details of programme and events may be obtained by 'phoning (09) 221 - 5377.

**MEDALS STOLEN:** The medals of Brig. J J Sheldon together with those of his father World War I and his greatgrandfather have been stolen from the Brigadier's home in Canberra. If you can help with any information please 'phone the State Office.

**CIVILIAN SERVICE MEDAL, CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION AND CONGRATULATORY MESSAGES:** The Federal government has decided to issue the above honours to Senior Citizens in respect of certain services rendered to our country. Detail of eligibility etc. from State Office.

**CHIROPRACTIC AND OSTEOPATHIC TREATMENT:** As from 1 September, 1995 Veterans and War Widows have access to chiropractic and osteopathic treatment. Eligibility will be established along the usual DVA guidelines. Any queries to: Ned Newcombe, 'phone (09) 366 - 8291 (Perth) or 008 -113 - 304 (Toll free).

**DISCOVERY TOURS:** Brochures have been received concerning the following tours:-  
7 days Exmouth Adventure (\$895 Twin share accommodation)  
3 days See Albany & South West (\$345 all inclusive twin share)  
Further details 'phone (09) 300 - 3836.

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## **A FITTING FINALE**

### **"THANKS FOR THE FREEDOM!" CAVALCADE**

As the "Australia Remembers" year draws to a close there will be a fantastic cavalcade held in the Perth Entertainment Centre on Remembrance Day, 11 November, 1995 at 1950 hours. Participating will be:- Royal Australian Navy Band; Australian Army Band; Central Band of the RAAF; Massed Pipes and Drum Bands of the Australian Army and the WA Police; Queen's Own Royal Gurkha Band; US Marine & Honor Guard; and members of the old 5th Military District Band. These will be supported by:- WA Symphony Orchestra; WA Youth Orchestra; Perth Oratorio Choir; WA Choral Society; I Vivoci Choir; WA Youth Jazz Orchestra; STEPS Youth Dance Company; Reminiscence Agelink Theatre Company; Shirley Farrell Dancers; Highland Dancers; the WA Callisthenics Association and much, much more!!

**PREFERENTIAL & CONCESSIONAL BOOKINGS CLOSE 30/9/95  
AND MAY BE MADE BY CONTACTING:**

War Veterans' Home, 51 Alexander Dr. Mt Lawley WA 6050.  
Brochures and further information from State Office - 'phone (09) 325 - 9799

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## Veterans' Affairs - News Update

### *VETERANS' HEALTH WEEK*

**Veterans' Health Week** is on again from 1 - 11 November 1995. The week will be launched in **Kings Park** by the **Hon Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Mr Con Sciacca**. Come along and join in a guided walk through Kings Park led by Mr Sciacca. While you are in Kings Park, play a game of horseshoes, knucklebones or crochet. For lunch, bring along your own picnic hamper or buy a BBQ pack from the kiosk.

Events planned include: botanic golf, a walk around Lake Joondalup, a craft exhibition, a gardening talk, golf and bowls tournaments, a tea dance, a health expo and much more. Hope you can come along and enjoy the day.

The week is open to all members of the veteran community and their family, friends and carers.

### **Relaxation & Stress Management Workshop**

For members who may be interested in a session on relaxation and stress management, a workshop is being held during Veterans' Health Week on 8 November, 1995. The details are given below and it is hoped you may be able to attend the informative presentation.

The Veterans' Health Week Activity is being presented for welfare officers and other volunteers within the veteran community.



**Wednesday 8 November 1995 at 9.30am - 12.30pm**

**AMP Building (14th Floor)  
Cnr St George's Terrace & William Street Perth**

*RSVP: 27 October 1995  
Telephone: Carole Gittens on 366 8344.*

### **VETERANS' ADVICE NETWORK (VAN)**

*The Veterans' Advice Network (VAN) is an information and advisory service for veterans, war widows and their family. To use VAN's services you do not need a DVA pension or health care entitlement. VAN staff will answer questions about benefits and services available through DVA. Van will also provide you with up to date information and advice about services available in your local community. You can contact VAN by telephoning the enquiry service on (09) 3668444 or by visiting the Department. DVA is now located in the AMP building on the corner of St George's Terrace and William Street, Perth. The VAN enquiry counter is on the 12th floor.*

### **Reminder**

*An invitation is extended to carers to register with the DVA Carer Support Program. The information service is available by contacting the Carer Support Adviser, Lynne McHale on (09) 366 8348*

### **Chiropractic and Osteopathic Treatment**

Following the recent Budget decision to allow Veterans and War Widows access to chiropractic and osteopathic treatment from 1 September 1995, the Department is proceeding with the implementation. A number of anticipated *questions* and *answers* which have been sent to the Secretary of all RSL Sub-Branches. If you have any questions, please make enquiries with your Sub-Branch or for further information, contact: Ned Newcombe (Health Provider Quality Care Officer) on (09) 366 8291

### **Telelink**

**Telelink is a friendship program which allows groups of up to nine people to talk to each other by telephone in the comfort of their own home. If you find either yourself restricted to stay at home more than you would like, or know of people who find themselves in the same situation, Telelink may be the way to keep in touch with others.**

**For further information, please contact: Carole on (09) 366 8344.**

*The Volunteer Support Program has been established to offer support to volunteers in both Ex-Service Organisations and other groups in the community who provide volunteer services to veterans and war widows.*

*If your organisation would like support for volunteers such as: organising workshops, planning events, fundraising ideas, assistance with funding applications, please contact the Co-ordinator Carole Gittens on (09) 3668344 or country callers 008113304 (ext 344).*