

THE HIGHGATE
RSL
NEWS

ACQUISITIONS BRANCH SER 40
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MAIL**

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AUSTRALIA**

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The official Newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-branch of the Returned and Services League
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20 JUL 1996

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON MONDAY 15 JULY, 1996.

VENUE: GALLIPOLI ROOM, ANZAC HOUSE, ST GEORGES TCE., PERTH.
TIME: FELLOWSHIP 1200 HOURS: LUNCHEON 1230 HOURS.
SPEAKER: MR ROGER SNELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HOLLYWOOD
PRIVATE HOSPITAL.
SUBJECT: "OUR" HOSPITAL

MR SNELL A SOUTH AFRICAN BORN ACCOUNTANT MOVED INTO HEALTH ADMINISTRATION IN 1974 JOINING THE RAMSAY MEDICAL GROUP IN 1983. HIS CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE INCLUDES A 1986 POSTING AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF RIVERWEST MEDICAL CENTRE IN LOUISIANA USA. HE ASSUMED HIS PRESENT POSITION AT THE END OF 1993.

LAST MONTH'S SPEAKER: The talk by Mrs Marie-Louise Wordsworth on the subject of Secession should have been of much interest to our significant numbers of "tothersiders" as well as those of us who grew up with the movement. Gold I suggest that you keep plenty of your "black swan/eagle cross on readiness at all times . i.e. plenty of Swan Gold in the 'fridge.

(Don Meredith)

Sub-branch Committee Meeting.
will be held in Anzac House
on Monday 5 August, 1996 at 1215 hours

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

An "Advocates Training Course" will be held, probably later in June or in July for those who are interested in appearing before the Veterans' Review Board as Advocates to assist other serving or former members of the forces in progressing claims under the Veterans' Entitlement Act and associated legislation. More advice on this later

As indicated in last month's "News" the date for the Sub-branch "Ladies Night" has now been fixed for 23 November, 1996. An application for places will appear in the September "News".

Lost lapel badge: after the June Luncheon a small lapel badge was handed in. Please see Alan Saville (or give him a 'phone call) to claim it if it's yours.

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WERE WE SO GUILTY

from The magazine of the RAF Prisoners of War Assoc.

Of war crimes? Trials such as that of Erich Priebke a captain in the SS who is accused of organising the massacre of 335 Italians in the Ardeatine caves near Rome in 1944 claims his action was "A legitimate reprisal for the murder by partisans of 33 German soldiers" - the usual German 10 to 1 ratio with a few extra to to make their numbers credible to Berlin.

It was official policy after Yalta to hand over Soviet nationals to ensure ensure the return of British prisoners of war "liberated" by the Red Army. Among those prisoners were thousands of RAF and Army men in Luckenwald, Barth and Muhlberg and other camps in the east. Writer Tim Rayment calls what follows "One of the most shameful episodes in British history". It is alleged that no difference was made between emigre Russians, anti-communists, non Soviet citizens or even women and children. Driven across the line, it is alleged that Cossack officers were murdered as soon as they were in Russian hands. Thousands of anti-communist Yugoslavs handed over to communist partisans suffered a similar fate. The Cossacks were forcibly repatriated over a few days around 20th May. The Russian convoy with the prisoners from Luckenwald left the camp on 26th May but according to my information the last prisoners flew out of Barth airfield on the 13th May. It does appear however that the Soviet authorities held back the repatriation of British prisoners until they had the Cossacks in their hands and then they promptly murdered them. One cannot help but wonder what would have happened to our men should the Cossacks not have been returned.

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WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:

DEEMED INCOME: Deemed Interest rate of 5% will be applied to cash or deposit earning interest at less than that rate including non-interest bearing deposits such as cheque accounts. In recognition of the fact that money used for day to day living expenses should be accessible the first \$2000 of cash deposits held will not have any deemed interest applied. For pensioner couples the first \$4000 will not have any deemed interest applied.

The following examples demonstrate the principle of deemed interest:-

This example assumes a single veteran.

ACCOUNTS AS HELD

INTEREST FOR SERVICE PENSION PURPOSES

\$6000 @ 9%

9%

\$1000 @ Nil. %

Nil. %

\$3000 @ 2.75%

\$1000 @ 2.75% - \$2000 @ 5%

\$1000 held in the non-interest bearing account and \$1000 in the next lowest interest bearing account is assessed at the actual rate received. The balance of all accounts is then assessed at 5% if the actual interest received is lower or the actual rate of interest where this is higher than 5%. Investments which attract interest at the rate of 5% or above will be held in the assessment at the actual rate of interest earned. (*N.B. The deemed or maximum interest rate will be varied from time to time. From 27 May, 1993 the deemed rate has been 4% and from 6 July, 1995 the deemed interest has been 5%.*)

(cont. p 4)

SUB-WARDENS' DUTIES.

Sunday 21 July 1045 hours for 1100 hours RYA Combatants "Draza Mihailovich", WA
 Sunday 21 July 1145 hours for 1200 hours Cyprian Council for WA
 Sunday 28 July 1115 hours for 1130 hours Macedonian Council of WA
 Sunday 9 August 1730 hours for 1745hours HMAS Canberra/HMAS Shropshire Assn.

HIGHGATE RSL LADIES' LUNCHEON.

THE MEMBERS OF HIGHGATE SUB-BRANCH TOGETHER WITH THEIR PARTNERS
 AND FRIENDS
 ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE HIGHGATE RSL LADIES LUNCHEON
 TO BE HELD ON
 WEDNESDAY 14 AUGUST, 1996

AT THE GRADUATE RESTAURANT, CARINE TAFE CAMPUS, ALMADINE DRIVE,
 CARINE COMMENCING AT 1130 HOURS FOR 1200 HOURS.

(SEATING HAS BEEN ARRANGED FOR SIXTY (60) AND WILL BE ALLOCATED ON A
 "FIRST COME - FIRST SERVED BASIS". THE COST IS TO BE FIFTEEN DOLLARS
 (\$15-00) PER PERSON AND WILL INCLUDE A THREE COURSE MEAL AND PRE-LUNCHEON
 AND TABLE DRINKS OF BEER WINES AND SOFT DRINKS. SPIRITS MAY BE PURCHASED
 SEPARATELY.) IF YOU WISH TO ATTEND COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND SEND
 IT, TOGETHER WITH YOUR CHEQUE TO ALAN SAVILLE, TO REACH HIM NO LATER THAN
 MONDAY 29 JULY, 1996.

 F A SAVILLE

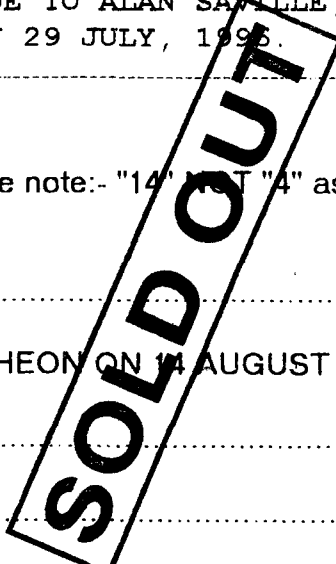
(please note:- "14" NOT "4" as shown in June issue)

NAME..... (PLEASE PRINT)

I WISH TO ATTEND THE LUNCHEON ON 14 AUGUST 1996.

I WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY.....

ENCLOSED IS MY CHEQUE FOR \$.....
 (\$15-00 PER PERSON.)



(from p. 2)

Any money loaned (including bonds and debentures and "interest free" loans) will be considered, for pension purposes as attracting the minimum interest rate of 5%. If the actual interest is higher then that will be the rate held in pension assessment.

EXEMPT INCOME: There are a number of income items which are considered to be exempt income and not included in service pension assessments. They are:

- disability pensions (except in the assessment of rent assistance);
- Social Security payments such as family allowance (but not age or invalid pensions or other benefits which are not payable at the same time as service pension);
- maintenance paid for foster children;
- health benefit payments;
- domiciliary care payments;
- public relief payments;
- reserve force payments;
- Austudy payments.

This is not an exhaustive list of exemptions; please contact DVA on 366-8222 (city) or 008-113304 (country) for more information.

(Bob Smith)
Welfare Officer

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FOUNDED
IN 1916

THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA LIMITED

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

A.C.N. 008 488 097

R2-25-1/DJ:jo
30 April 1996

To all sub-Branches of the Returned & Services League of Australia

Dear Sub-Branch President

I write to you, and through you to all members of the Returned & Services League to advise you of the serious decisions that we should be looking at now in respect to the long term future of the Returned & Services League of Australia.

By this I mean that, as you all know, the very large proportion of the Returned & Services League membership is made up of World War II servicemen, and of course, they are now of the average age of some 75 years and inevitably their numbers will deplete, and deplete quite rapidly over the next 10 to 15 years.

Some four or five years ago a very major decision was made to change the title and indeed membership of the League, by adding the word 'and' between Returned Services, enabling the League to accept for membership servicemen whose qualification was service in the armed forces of Australia, or allied armies, for a period of not less than 6 months, be it in regular or reserve employment. This has been a very wise decision, I believe, but we now need to look further for the future of our League.

By way of background, I think it is important to recognise that the League is a major and important element in Australian society, and I believe that all our members would agree with me that the League, and its importance, must be maintained well into the future.

I am of the belief that in general terms, the League has three roles. The first being to look after the veteran and his dependants. The second, as embodied in our motto 'The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance', is to lobby government to maintain a high quality defence force as a deterrent against war, and hopefully to prevent war. The third major objective of the League, I see, can be summed up in calling it 'Welfare of Australia'. By this I think we all understand that the League has felt since its origins, and it is policy, the need to speak up on major issues affecting the welfare of our nation. We have done this many times in regard to our attitudes towards immigration; our attitudes towards the family; our attitudes towards pornography, homosexuality and many other items that seriously affect the health of our nation.

LEST WE FORGET

G.P.O. BOX 303
CANBERRA
A.C.T. 2601
PH: (06) 248 7199
FAX: (06) 247 7637



THE PRICE OF LIBERTY IS ETERNAL VIGILANCE

Patron: Her Majesty the Queen

National President: MAJGEN W.B. James AO MBE MC
Deputy National President: Mr. R.C. Buxton OBE

National Treasurer: Mr P. Leeson
National Secretary: Mr D.J. Pugh

These three roles, I think, should be maintained for as long as our country survives. For I see the RSL, in fact I am convinced the RSL, with its broad based membership coming from every walk of life, all levels of education, all shades of political opinion, and all religious groups coming together to look after our men and women and families and defend our country; is perhaps the most representative groups of 'Australians' one could find. For this, I see it as vital that we must look at ways now to ensure our future viability by way of membership.

With this in mind I would ask you to seriously consider now before the various State Congresses so that you are able to debate this topic, and I would put the following points that perhaps should be considered as a way to assist the League and its future.

- Firstly, we should be aiming to increase our membership by the recruitment of Australian personnel who served in what used to be called the Citizen Military Force, now called the Army Reserve. I believe there are probably many many thousands in this category who would be very happy to become full members of the League, but we have not actively recruited them at the grass-roots level. I would ask you to seriously considering moving very actively in this regard, and promoting whatever activities are required to help that form of membership.
- Secondly, I believe we should seriously consider associate membership coming into the League, as presently happens in some of our states. This would allow people, who whilst they don't fulfil the requirements for our current membership, they do maintain and believe in the work of the RSL, our objects and aims. They can perhaps best be called friends of the League. In South Australia this is quite an active form of membership, and it is done at the sub-branch level. These members do not have voting rights in regard to League policy, but have voting rights and involvement in activities of the sub-branch. I think this concept has great value and could be improved and widened throughout the League.

An important element of this concept is the national Executive Motion 19 of 28 November 1995, which approved the establishment of a new by-law to the National Articles of Association for the formation of a 'Citizen's Auxiliary'. The article to read:

CITIZEN'S AUXILIARIES

1. Each State Branch may form within its jurisdiction such Citizen's Auxiliaries as it may consider necessary or desirable.
2. The Constitution and Rules of each Citizen's Auxiliaries shall not have effect until approved by the State Branch authorising its foundation and no alteration shall be made thereto unless the same shall have been approved in writing beforehand by that State Branch.

3. The Constitution and Rules of each Citizen's Auxiliary shall not be inconsistent with the Articles of the League or with the State Branch having jurisdiction over it.
 4. Each Citizen's Auxiliary shall carry out and further the objects of the League and be bound by its Standing Policy. In addition, it shall promote that Standing Policy within its jurisdiction.
- The other initiative I think we should be looking at, is looking at the membership of our RSL clubs, the majority of whom have membership in the clubs, but in fact are not members of the RSL, and under the present rules are probably not so entitled. It seems to me that we should be looking at that vast number around Australia who freely enjoy the camaraderie and facilities of the RSL and Services clubs, and presumably would agree in the ethic and attitudes of the RSL. It seems to me a vast number of people here could be invited to join the Citizen's Auxiliary.

One of my concerns is, and I speak for the National Executive in this case, that the membership of the clubs indeed seems, sadly, to be separate to the work of the League, and I think we should work hard to bring the two together. I don't have the solutions, but I think if we put our minds together we could well see ways around this.

I ask for you all to give serious consideration to this thorny problem, where as I said at the beginning, there is a great need to look now at the future of our League.

May I wish you every good wish in your service to the League and service to our nation. God bless you all.



WB 'Digger' JAMES
NATIONAL PRESIDENT