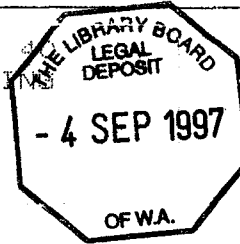




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September, 1997.

(The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia)

IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:- J HATELY

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MONTHLY LUNCHEON.

MONDAY, 15 SEPTEMBER, 1997.

VENUE: GALLIPOLI ROOM, ANZAC HOUSE, ST GEORGES TCE., PERTH.
TIME: 1150 HOURS FELLOWSHIP - 1230 LUNCHEON.
SPEAKER: S.H. (SYD) JOHNSON, DFC*
SUBJECT: RAAF PATHFINDERS

Flt/Lt Syd Johnson was born in Kalgoorlie in 1915. Educated at Cottesloe State School; Perth Modern School and the University of WA gaining an LLB degree in 1937.

He represented Western Australia in hockey as a centre forward and was champion of Claremont tennis club 1940. He was admitted to the Bar in 1941, then immediately joined the RAAF. Syd spent a year with Pathfinder Force, Bomber Command. He qualified for the top job as Visual Marker, Primary Blind Marker in the Master Bomber crew. After 55 bombing operations over Germany he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bar.

"It's Never Dark Above the Clouds" is a well authenticated account of actual experiences. Written by Syd Johnson, this book won a prize in the 1991 RAAF Heritage awards. It is an excellent read.

Syd spent 25 years in New Guinea where he was Crown Solicitor. He has given distinguished service to Legacy and is still hitting them well on the golf course.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS:

COMMITTEE: 1215 hours 6 October, 1997 Anzac House.

LUNCHEON: 1150 hours for 1230 hours 20 October, 1997 Anzac House.

ASSISTANT CASHIER FOR SEPTEMBER MEETING: BOB MERCER
If unable to attend please advise Brian King - Tel. 9318 - 8557 in time for him
to get a replacement.

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER "NEWS" FRIDAY 26 SEPTEMBER, 1997.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

For those 162 members who were fortunate to be present at our 50th Anniversary Luncheon on 18th August, it was a warm experience. There were numerous messages of goodwill and apology headed by our Governor, His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey; from members overseas and friends as far away as New York; from one of our founding members Jim Hall, who is, regrettably, far from well and to whom we send our best wishes; from Jack Sue, bravely battling the odds and gaining, in the Shenton Park Annexe, speaking on behalf of himself and "Z" Special Force; by Brigadier Gerry Warner on behalf of the Army and from numerous others unable to be present.

The inspiring eloquence of Sir Charles Court proposing the toast to our founding members, in his inimitable style; the simple but heartwarming experience of seeing Past President Len Iken cut the cake with a sword which he had brought back from hell after years of torment as an unwilling "guest" of an unspeakable regime and the humorous and sincere anecdotes and memories of our five principal guests, John and Roger Fitzhardinge, Ian Bessel-Browne, Alf Pearson, and Warren Smith all combined to make it a memorable occasion. Having briefed Sir Charles with the comments that Highgate was arguably the best sub-branch in Western Australia, he promptly wiped out the "arguably" and Roger Fitzhardinge the "Western". So with such authority behind me I can now claim that Highgate is the best sub-branch in Australia. Doesn't that give us all a challenge to live up to?

Much credit must go to your committee for organising the event. Phil Loffman with his history set the tone and provided so much background. Ian Blackshaw and his Anzac House team provided an excellent meal and friendly service as usual.

My particular thanks go to Senior Vice President Tom Horton for his strong support and contribution and I thank all those attending for their generous reception of our programme.

Our Secretary, Stan Chase, has been forced to resign due to pressures of his business engagements and I thank him for his efforts. I am glad to say that our old stalwart John Hatley is filling the breach on a temporary basis and for this I am more than grateful. I hope to be able to announce a new appointment in the very near future.

(DON MEREDITH)

PENSION/WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:

REMOVAL OF ANOMALIES IN VETERANS' ENTITLEMENT FOR SPECTACLES.

INITIATIVE: The initiative will address anomalies in the provision of spectacles which have been of long standing concern to the veteran community. This will involve: extending and improving the range of spectacle frames available to veterans and war widow(er)s under the Department of Veterans' Affairs optometrical scheme allowing veterans and war widow(er)s to obtain progressive power lenses instead of bifocals and trifocals on the basis of personal preference.

BACKGROUND: The range of spectacle frames currently available to eligible veterans and war widow(er)s is limited and has not been up-dated for some years. A consequence is that in order to obtain frames that look more fashionable many of those entitled to spectacles have chosen frames from outside the Department's range and paid the difference in cost. Since these frames have generally been priced at the full retail price this can mean that the veteran or war widow(er) is considerably out of pocket.

Until now veterans and war widow(er)s have only been able to obtain progressive power lenses (multifocals) in those rare circumstances where there is a demonstrated clinical need, except where they have chosen to pay the difference in cost between multifocals and bifocals or trifocals.

Before a decision can be made on how to bring about the desired improvements negotiations with the optometrical industry are necessary. The Department will then be in a position to assess what changes are required to the current arrangements.

Target date: 1 February, 1997.

SUB-WARDENS' DUTIES.

Sunday 7 September, 1997 0915 hours for 0950 hours 39'ers Association.

Sunday 14 September, 1997 1345 hours for 1415 hours Royal Air Forces Assoc. B of B Comm.

POPPY DAY: Poppy Day this year is on **Tuesday 11 November.**

Please mark this date in your Diary. Tuesday is usually a bad day for collecting, particularly among the younger community, so we must have at least 40 members selling to ensure a successful day.

“PEOPLE SELL POPPIES”

YOUR presence is urgently needed

(TOM HORTON)

JULY SPEAKERS: Messrs Kim Woods and Stan Crombie gave the 109 members present an excellent talk on the need to “Put Our Affairs in Order”.

Kim Woods of Kott Gunning, Barristers and Solicitors answered many questions on the need for all of us to have a correct legal will. He advised us that new recent laws could make our old wills invalid. Kim urged us to relook into our affairs and bring them up to date. Good humour sparkled through his answers which made his dry subject most interesting. Thanks Kim. Stan Crombie of Veterans' Affairs very clearly outlined the Department's current approach to veterans' problems. His talk on the modern policies stimulated great interest as was shown by the large number of members requesting copies of the offered literature. Thanks and well done Stan!

(TOM HORTON)

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WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: The following new members have joined the Sub-branch:

BERT TUDORI; ROBERT PROSSER; JOSEPH ROONEY; WILLIAM HARRIS;

GRAHAM REYNOLDS; WAYNE GARDINER; KENNETH ASHMAN;

JOHN LANCASTER; JOHN McROBERTS; ESMAEL MIR FAKRAI; AND TOM COX.

We bid them welcome and look forward to enjoying their company at forthcoming luncheons and other social and official events.

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Esmael Mir Fakrai was introduced by the State President, Mr Ken Murphy at the August luncheon. He served in the Persian army as a lieutenant in 1960. At present he is co-producer of the RSL programme on 6NR which goes to air each Wednesday at 1030 hours. Having gained a Master's degree in radio and telecommunication at the University of Illinois, USA he came to Australia on a working holiday and spent three months in Sydney. Esmael has been in Western Australia for 12 months and has applied for permanent residence. He is married but, as yet, has no family.

(DON MEREDITH)

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URGENT NOTICE:

The Sub-branch official history is completed and is being distributed. To ensure that the details therein are complete and correct please advise Phil Loffman or President Don by the luncheon meeting which will take place on Monday, 15 December, 1997 of any amendments or additions that you wish to have made!!

It was a pleasant surprise to receive an “email” letter from Ray Mawson with congratulations for our 50th Anniversary. It was especially good to know that he and Hazel are doing well in Nepal!

HOSPITAL VISITOR'S REPORT:

Popped in to Hollywood to see George Geddes (Ward 6) and Jack Callander (Murray Ward). Both are feeling rather poorly so if you're in the vicinity please drop in and say hello! I will be away during September and Warren Smith has kindly agreed to step into the breach.

(LES STEWART)

HIGHGATE SUB-BRANCH - BANK RECONCILIATION TO AUGUST
BANK STATEMENT

Previous balance:	4891-55
Add Deposits to 19/8/97:	12791-18
Sub total:	17682-73
Less payments and charges to 20/8/97:	13675-68
Sub total:	4007-05
Less deposit 20/8/97 (not on statement):	405-00
Outstanding cheques:	Nil
<u>Balance as per statement 20/8/97:</u>	<u>\$ 3602-05</u>

(BRIAN KING)

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1998 WILL BE DUE SHORTLY:

Please help the Treasurer and your Sub-branch by paying these subscriptions to Brian.

NOT repeat NOT to head office!!

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY RON STONE OF WALLACE'S JEWELLER, NOW A CONSULTANT TO SMALES JEWELLERS, PICCADILLY ARCADE. 'PHONE 9321 - 4421

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