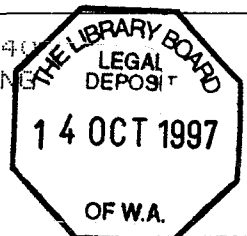




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No. 359 OCTOBER, 1997.

(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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TREASURER: B N (BRIAN) KING Tel. 9381 - 8557

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

MONDAY, 20 OCTOBER, 1997.

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

TIME: 1200 HOURS FELLOWSHIP - 1230 LUNCHEON.

SPEAKER: TREVOR K LLOYD, JP

SUBJECT: HMAS ASSAULT

Trevor Lloyd was born in 1925 and was educated at CBC Perth and Edith Cowan University. Having served with the Education Department from 1949 to 1965 he attended the Australian Staff College in 1970. Returning to the Education Department he was active in the State School Teachers' Union from 1976 to 1982.

A member of the RSL State Executive in 1992 and 1994-96, he was appointed a State Trustee of the League for three years in 1996.

Trevor was a foundation member of the Rockingham Branch of the Naval Men's Association of Australia (Inc.) (formerly the Ex-Naval Men's Association) having joined that association in 1946. He leads a busy life, not only as President of the HMAS Warramunga Veterans' Association, but also as a Life Member of Edith Cowan University, the Retired Teachers' Association and many other associations.

(TOM HORTON)

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER NEWS - FRIDAY 24 OCTOBER, 1997

ASSISTANT CASHIER FOR OCTOBER LUNCHEON - KEN BIRKS

If unable to attend please advise Brian King - Tel. 9318 - 8557 in time for him

to get a replacement

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I am sure that there are a few of our old mates and some new members who are not yet recorded in our 50 year record. Phil Loffman is standing by to add a page or two, as necessary, to complete the record. Time is running short and it is necessary that we have the information by 31 December, 1997 at the very latest. So please get cracking and search for information about those who should be included, so that our Book may be as complete as possible.

Ladies' Night is on Friday 28th November. Your attention is directed to the notice in this issue (p 3) about the forthcoming evening when we say "Thank you for being you and supporting us for yet another year". Please respond as soon as possible.

It gives me a great deal of pleasure to say that, over the next few months, we will see some younger faces on our committee. It is hoped that someone will emerge to relieve John Hatley of the temporary job as Secretary. As this notice goes out he is in Hollywood Hospital recovering from yet another operation and I am sitting on the end of his bed sorting out what needs to be done before going home and doing it. I'm sure that there has to be someone in our group of over 350 who will hold up his hand. My 'phone number is 9386 - 1171.

Finally I think comment is called for on the standard of meal provided at our last meeting. A number of calls from members on the afternoon of our September luncheon confirmed my own view that it was not acceptable. I have written to those responsible and expect that it will be better in October. Thank goodness the guest speaker gave us plenty to laugh about.

Could I suggest that those who don't know the words to the National Anthem, learn them before the next meeting. (see p. 8)

(DON MEREDITH)

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PENSION/WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Motor Neurome Disease:

What is Motor Neurome Disease?

Motor neurome disease (MND) is the name given to a group of diseases in which the nerve cells (neurones) controlling the muscles that enable us to move around, speak, breath and swallow fail to work normally.

With no nerves to activate them muscles gradually weaken and waste. The patterns of weakness vary from person to person.

What are the symptoms?

Early symptoms are mild and include stumbling due to weakness of the leg muscles, difficulty of holding objects due to the weakness of hand muscles, slurring of speech or swallowing difficulties due to weakness of the tongue and throat muscles. The effect of MND varies enormously in respect of initial symptoms rate, pattern of progression and survival time after diagnosis,

How is it diagnosed?

The diagnosis of MND is often clinically difficult and it sometimes is necessary to review patients for some time before diagnosis becomes relatively certain. The family doctor may suspect the neurological problem and confirmation of the diagnosis by a neurologist is desirable. The diagnosis can be assisted through a range of tests including some which eliminate other conditions. Often an electromyograph (EMG) is used, in which a needle is inserted into various muscles to measure their electrical activity. This can assist with both diagnosis and prognosis.

What remains unaffected?

In the majority of cases the intellect and memory are not affected nor are the senses of sight, hearing, taste, smell and sensation.

The bowels and the bladder are not affected by the disease, although diet and exercise should be carefully monitored.

Is there a cure for MND?

At present there is no cure but co-ordinated research is being carried out across the world and encouraging progress is being made. Costly and unproven therapies are sometimes recommended by well meaning people. Patients should seek professional advice before embarking on unproven therapies. You may hear through TV or other media of new advances. You should always check with your own doctor or caring team before trying these.

What can be done?

Support people include the family, friends, GPs, neurologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech pathologists, psychologists, home care nurses and social workers.

For more information in regards to this matter contact: Motor Neurone Disease, Telephone: 9325 - 3291.

(BOB SMITH)

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POPPY DAY 1997.

URGENT REQUEST!!

Poppy Day this year is on Tuesday, 11 November. Please mark this day in your diary. We MUST have at least 40 members selling poppies to ensure a successful day. Tuesday is a bad day for collection, particularly from the younger community.

REMEMBER "PEOPLE SELL POPPIES" AND YOUR ASSISTANCE IS URGENTLY NEEDED!!

HIGHGATE RSL LADIES' NIGHT

The members of Highgate Sub-branch together with their partners and friends are invited to attend the Highgate RSL Ladies' night to be held on

FRIDAY 28 NOVEMBER, 1997

at the WA Club 101, St Georges Terrace, Perth (opp. Bond Tower)

commencing at 1915 hours for 2000 hours

in the presence of His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC MC ,
Governor of Western Australia and Mrs Marlina Jeffrey.

Gentlemen and their partners are asked to arrive at the Club and be in position to greet His Excellency no later than 1925 hours. Please wear name badges for easy identification. Arrangements have been made to accommodate a group of one hundred (100) and allocation of places will be on a "first come - first served" basis. The cost is to be \$50-00 per person and the programme will be similar to that of previous years with pre-dinner drinks and wines with dinner. If you wish to attend complete the form below and send it, together with your cheque, to the Treasurer to reach him no later than Monday 24 November, 1997.

(NB Parking will be available at the 18 The Esplanade (previous address of the WA Club) and at Central Car Park, under the AMP Building. Entrance from William Street. (A charge may be made!)

Dress: Gentlemen - Mess kit, Dinner jacket or Dark lounge suit.

Ladies: After five. Please note - a floral spray will be presented to the ladies.

(Miniatures may be worn)

B King

Name..... (Please print)

I wish to attend the HIGHGATE LADIES NIGHT DINNER on Friday, 28 November, 1997.

I will be accompanied by
(Name/s for table place card/s)

Enclosed is my cheque for \$.....
(\$50-00 per person)

If possible I/ we would like to be seated with.....

SUB-WARDENS' DUTIES

Sunday	26 October, 1997	1130 hours for 1200 hours	Consulate of Greece
Wednesday	26 November, 1997	1615 hours for 1645 hours	Perth Legacy

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

*Is anybody happier
because you passed this way?
Does anyone remember that
you spoke to him today?*

*Is a single heart rejoicing
over what you did or said?
Does a man whose hopes are fading
now with courage look ahead?*

*Did you waste the day or lose it
was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness
or a scar of discontent?*

*As you close your eyes in slumber
do you think that God would say,
'You have earned one more tomorrow
for the way you lived today'*

(Author unknown)

1998 - ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS - 1998

B KING

Service No.....

Name.....
(Block letters please)

Address.....
.....

RSL SUBSCRIPTION	27-50
HIGHGATE SUB-BRANCH LEVY	<u>5-00</u>
SUB-TOTAL	\$32-50
DONATION
TOTAL

Please send or hand this slip together with your cheque to the Treasurer

Please do NOT repeat NOT send your subs to the State office

**Transcript of an address given by His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery,
AC MC at the "1997 Vietnam Veterans Day Remembrance Service"
Sunday, 17 August, 1997.**

No event in the history of this country has so greatly divided its people as the Vietnam war. Not one person living in this country was unchanged by the war, whether he or she served in Southeast Asia, protested the war on a stateside campus, or just watched it on television whilst going on with his or her normal life.

The Vietnam campaign was the longest war in modern history. It raised political passion and moral controversy throughout the western world and played an important part in shaping the political destiny of not only Southeast Asia, but of the whole world.

Like most veterans, I am proud of my service in Vietnam. My pride comes from the excellent job we did and a solid understanding of why we were there in the first place. Well why were we involved?

The end of World War II saw the start of the cold war, with Russia and China very much involved in supporting communist revolutions anywhere that they could. The West was first tested with the Berlin airlift in 1948 when it was denied access to West Berlin, then came Korea in 1950 which, had it been lost, would have been a tremendous threat to Japan, then followed the Hungarian revolution and the Cuban missile crisis.

Meanwhile in Indo China, the Geneva Conference of 1954 officially registered colonial France's defeat by the Vietminh, a strongly nationalist group led primarily by Ho Chi Minh's Indochinese Communist Party. The conference declared a demilitarised zone at the 17th parallel and agreements were signed in the vain hope of opening the way for internationally supported accords to peacefully resolve problems between the North and South.

During this period other countries in the region were being plagued with problems by communist agencies. In the early 1950s there had been the Korean war and the communist insurgency in Malaya. In the 1960s in Indonesia the communist PKI almost overthrew the government, while Thailand sat on the fence looking to see which way things would go. The situation was so serious, the Southeast Asia collective defence treaty and protocol (signed at Manila, September, 8, 1954) which became known as Seato, was formed to help other Asian countries from falling like "dominos" to communism. It was meant provide a cloak of protection for Cambodia and Laos against aggression from communist power and inhibit the Vietminh from establishing control over the rest of Vietnam.

However, North Vietnam left secret communist cadres in the south and later used neighbouring Cambodia quite improperly as a supply line for its regular military forces and the Vietcong, to support its operations in the south. These cadres provided a powerful guerilla network for intelligence, supply and terror when the French left. Over time, the insurgency movement then developed into outright invasion thus breaking the Geneva agreements.

Because of the totality of these and other factors, Washington was determined not to allow South Vietnam to go communist and in 1962, undertook a major build-up of forces in Vietnam. Australia at the request of the South Vietnamese government followed suit and its first military contribution was a small team of army officers and warrant officer advisers who arrived in July, 1962.

The Royal Australian Air Force made its first contribution to the Allied effort in Vietnam in August 1964, when an RAAF transport flight was established in South Vietnam with three Caribou aircraft. They were to do sterling work.

The Royal Australian Navy's guided missile destroyer, HMAS Hobart, was assigned in March, 1967 to duties with the US 7th Fleet in the South China Sea and in the gulf of Tonkin. In September, 1967 Hobart was relieved by her sister ship, HMAS Perth, and the two ships alternated in six monthly tours of duty in the Vietnam area until 1969 when HMAS Brisbane and then HMAS Vendetta carried out tours. Those ships provided invaluable gunfire support to our infantry battalions.

The RAN troop transport, HMAS Sydney made several trips each year to Vietnam with men and equipment to relieve the Australian Military Forces deployed there and assist later with the withdrawal of the force and what a great job she did.

Australia's commitment was more than 8000 Navy, Army and Air Force personnel annually by December, 1967. Integrated with the Australian units were our old friends, the New Zealand infantry and artillery.

In 1967 the battalion group was replaced by the 1st Australian Task Force and the 1st Australian Logistic support group, and given its own tactical area of responsibility in Phuoc Tuy Province, south-east of Saigon. Its headquarters was established in a rubber plantation at Nui Dat just north of the provincial capital Baria, about 35 miles south-west of Saigon.

In anticipation of the 1968 Tet offensive, the major part of the task force was deployed into Bien Hoa Province in late January of that year to cover the approaches to Long Binh, Bien Hoa and Saigon. Some of the heaviest fighting by the task force took place during the following five weeks, resulting in more than 220 enemy being killed. In Phuoc Tuy Province the relief of Baria after the capture of the town by Vietcong, did much to cement the relationship of the Australians with the people of the Province.

A vital component in winning the hearts and minds of the people, was the responsibility of the 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit, which was attached to the task force in mid-1967. It planned and supervised projects to improve the living conditions of the people ranging from classroom construction to the establishment of a concrete products industry at Long Tan. The Civil Affairs Unit did a very good job.

The Vietnam war, like any other war, was not pleasant. But we veterans should be proud of our achievements because we left behind a better Phuoc Tuy Province than the one we went into. It was one where physical security was vastly improved and more land was under cultivation, schools were running, as was government administration. The fact that we had to leave the Province to its final fate was not the fault of we servicemen.

But in retrospect, although we lost the battle, we didn't lose the war, because in the end, South Korea, Malaya and Indonesia, were saved from communism and as a result Thailand followed down the pro-west way. Vietnam of course is now rushing to embrace western technology, finance and trade.

About 47,00 Australians served in Vietnam. Of that number, 503 were killed in action and 2,398 wounded. Few of our casualties, unless they were mortally wounded, died because of the speed of evacuation and the dedication of volunteer doctors, surgeons and nurses. The helicopter provided unprecedented mobility flown by very brave RAAF and US pilots.

The courage of our servicemen can be gauged by the awards they received:

D Company of the 6th Battalion received the United States Presidential Citation for the battle of Long Tan in 1966 when on August 18, the Company was attacked by a regiment of North Vietnamese and Vietcong troops while on sweep operations in a rubber plantation. Although outnumbered by more than 10 to one, the Company held its position for more than three hours until a relief force from other companies arrived in armoured personnel carriers. The enemy fled, leaving 245 dead on the battlefield. D Company lost 17 killed in action and 21 wounded.

Numerous US commendations were also awarded to our ships, squadrons and combat units.

More than 1000 Australians won awards. Among them were four Victoria Crosses to members of the Australian Army Training Team, the most highly decorated Australian unit per capita of all time.

Behind these awards are stories of courage, service above self, professionalism and mateship. I would like to relate one small story about one of them.

In 1969/70 a rifle company of an Australian battalion was conducting search operations in Phuoc Tuy Province. Of the 120 soldiers, over half were National servicemen. They were highly trained, well equipped and good at their jobs.

As the company moved single file through heavy bamboo and jungle they came under fire from the rear. At the same time the leading scout detonated an M16 jumping jack anti-personal mine, which blew off his legs to the thighs and those of the soldier behind. His platoon commander, a fine young Duntroon graduate, was hit in the shoulder and had most of his jaw blown away from the same blast.

Without a moments hesitation, the Company Commander's orderly, a small, quiet and unassuming soldier, ran forward to the incident site and with no thought for his own personal safety, sprinted across what was an unmarked Vietcong anti-personal minefield, to where the stricken soldiers lay. He removed his own bootlaces, and with some spares, tied tourniquets to the shattered limbs of both soldiers, thus saving their lives.

In the meantime the rear platoon was in action and the middle platoon was busy constructing a helicopter landing zone to evacuate the casualties. Within 30 minutes the battlefield had been cleared and the helicopter arrived to winch up the casualties. A further 30 minutes later, they were on the landing pad at Vung Tau military hospital where highly skilled volunteer army reserve surgeons operated successfully on all three soldiers, on salaries about one fifth of what they would have been earning from their established practices in Australia.

Meanwhile back with the company at the incident site 117 young men moved forward once again; alert, non-complaining, a bit nervous, but determined to complete their mission to the best of their ability: typical of their attitude throughout 13 months of continuous operations, notwithstanding the anti-Vietnam war demonstrations back at home and the generally poor reception in Australia for returning war veterans.

One month later, back in Australia, the two amputees with their new legs, were meeting RAAF casualty aircraft flying out of Saigon to Sydney. There they would ham it up in front of the wounded soldiers, expressing not only good cheer, but showing their wounded mates that even after the loss of two legs, it was still possible to lead a useful and reasonably happy life.

In the heat, danger and physically punishing environment of Vietnam, I think we found the Anzac spirit very strong. Gone was the glitz of civilian life; money, power, fast cars big houses were of no concern. What was of concern was the need for absolute trust in one another at all times, mateship, family, teamwork, mail, total honesty; integrity; leadership; a sense of duty to the battalion and the nation: and that's what it was all about. Soldiers, sailors, airmen doing a hard job to the best of our ability.

The war is now 25 years gone and it is time to move on. Regrettably, there are still many veterans who need assistance because of their war experiences. Many still suffer from personal, health and relationship difficulties because of these experiences and, perhaps, an unsatisfactory homecoming. For them the Vietnam Veterans' Association offers a vital service and I am encouraging all veterans to support it.

As individuals, I strongly suggest also, getting right behind the RSL and where possible taking on positions of authority to keep a powerful tool for the good of all veterans and their families. The RSL needs leaders with vision and wisdom, who are capable of articulating the views of its members to governments. So join your local RSL branch and help to make a contribution, and if not the RSL, think about Legacy.

To conclude, today the 25th anniversary of the end of the war, we are gathered together in honour and remembrance of those who served their country in the conflict that was Vietnam. We honour all our Vietnam veterans; those who did not return, those who returned hurt in body and mind - none should ever be forgotten, none will be forgotten, nor indeed the families and loved ones who supported us.

Well done the veterans. Be proud of what you achieved; you can hold your heads high with the very best that we went away to serve our nation.

God bless you all. Thank you.

(Reproduced with the kind permission of His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffrey, AC MC Governor of Western Australia)

(TOM SCULLY, Editor)



ADVANCE AUSTRALIA FAIR

Australians all let us rejoice, for we are young and free;
We've golden soil and wealth for toil; our home is girt by sea;
Our land abounds in nature's gifts of beauty rich and rare;
In history's page, let every stage Advance Australia Fair.
In joyful strains then let us sing, Advance Australia Fair!

GOD SAVE OUR QUEEN

God save our gracious Queen; long live our noble Queen;
God save our Queen.
Send her victorious, happy and glorious, long to reign over us:
God save our Queen.

HONOUR AVENUE COMMITTEE REPORT:

The removal of dead and dying trees in the avenues is now complete. A detailed list of the 20 plaques affected by the work has been provided to King's Park Administration, the Information Kiosk, Justine Uhr (responsible for replanting of trees) and our workshop group.

Donations of \$100 were received from Subiaco and Wembley Floreat Sub-branches. Wembley Floreat also enclosed samples of cards and book plates they have had printed for use when donating a book to a local school in commemoration of the death of a sub-branch member. These may be examined by contacting our sub-branch Secretary. Another welcome donation of paint was also received from Dulux. All donations have been acknowledged by letter.

An application for a funding grant of \$3,000 has been made has been made through DVA from the Regional War Memorials Project. If the application is successful the replacement of the many sub-standard posts and plaques can be undertaken.

(CHRIS BROOKS)

It is with deep regret that we advise of the death of our esteemed member and former Treasurer
HARRY FENNELL.
and express our sincere sympathy to Daisy and family at this time of sorrow.
LEST WE FORGET.

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:-

RON STONE OF WALLACE'S JEWELLERS,
NOW A CONSULTANT TO SMALES JEWELLERS, PICCADILLY ARCADE. 'PHONE 9321 - 4421

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