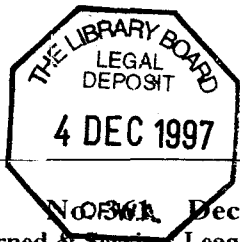




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**SURFACE
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Registered Publication No. PP602669/0033
 (The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia)
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PRESIDENT: S D (DON) MEREDITH, JP. Tel. 9386 - 1171
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: T L (TOM) SCULLY, JP. Tel. 9332 -6836
VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR: T W (TOM) HORTON Tel. 9390 - 9071
JUNIOR: F A (ALAN) SAVILLE Tel. 9386 - 1933
SECRETARY: O (OTTO) PELCZAR Tel. 9385 - 9848
TREASURER: B N (BRIAN) KING Tel. 9381 - 8557

MONTHLY LUNCHEON
MONDAY, 15 DECEMBER, 1997.

VENUE: GALLIPOLI ROOM, ANZAC HOUSE, ST GEORGES TCE., PERTH.
TIME: 1200 HOURS FELLOWSHIP - 1230 LUNCHEON.

As previously advised this will be the Annual General Meeting of the Sub-branch and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend to vote for and support those members who are elected to administer OUR Sub-branch in 1998. Your current committee has decided that stories of service experiences or suitable (clean) jokes may be told.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: 1215 hours - 2 February, 1998. Anzac House.
LUNCHEON: 1150 hours for 1230 hours - 16 February, 1998. Anzac House.

ASSISTANT CASHIER FOR THE DECEMBER LUNCHEON:-

John McKenzie

If unable to attend please 'phone Brian King - Tel. 9318-8557 in time for him to obtain a replacement.

HVO REPORT.

Rolly Cantwell is in the Axford Ward, bed 130 and is expected to be there for some time yet. He has his lovely wife, Glad, at his side most of the time and is in good spirits.
 Both Tom Horton and George Geddes have been in dock and are now back home. I wouldn't be surprised if Tom was asked to leave from the cheek he was giving to the nurses.
 Whereas George shared Rolly's room whilst he was there and both he and Rolly had a visit from President Don Meredith following our last luncheon meeting. Well done Don!

(LES STEWART)

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DEADLINE FOR FEBRUARY, 1998 NEWS - 23 JANUARY, 1998.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we reach the end of our Fiftieth Year, where do we stand in Highgate? Despite the regrettable but inevitable passing of older members we are still recruiting new members at a rate sufficient to have shown a slight increase in numbers for this year. So, our numerical strength is sound.

We have been successful in introducing a good level of "younger" blood into our committee and have a few more lined up. So the immediate future of our administration will be in good hands.

The outstanding success of our Poppy Day collection bringing a record total, well over \$7,000 as reported elsewhere, ensures financial stability.

The standard of our guest speakers has helped to maintain very good attendances at our luncheons.

The Honour Avenue has never been in better condition. A great credit to that sub-committee.

The sub-wardens continue to carry out their duties in rain, hail and shine and now have proper Australian "hats" which has been generally most favourably noted.

Your committee continues to work hard in the interests of the Sub-branch and I thank them most sincerely for their support.

So, after our first Fifty Years we are still in good shape rightly claiming to be the best Sub-branch in the RSL. With the outstanding collection, or should I say the collection of outstanding men who make up the membership it could not be otherwise. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your leader in 1997 and for your general support. It has been a rewarding experience, I'm sure that my successor will enjoy the same.

May you all enjoy the sort of Christmas you desire, hopefully in the bosom of your families and may 1998 bring us all peace and contentment.

(DON MEREDITH)

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COMMITTEE ELECTIONS for 1998. The following members have been nominated for the positions indicated for the ensuing year: President: Tom Horton; Senior Vice President: Alan Saville; Junior Vice President: Bob Mercer; Secretary: Otto Pelczar; Treasurer: Brian King; News Editor: Tom Scully; Committee: Ron Stone; Bob Elliot; Phil Loffman; Warren Smith; Bob Smith; Les Stewart; Brian Cooper; Tom Ferrero; John SurrIDGE; Ken Bladen; John Jackson; Michael Cole; Chris Brooks; Len Ikin; Ian Miller.

PENSION/WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:

NEW MEASURES: Resourcing ex-service organisations (ESO's) to enable the employment of additional advocates.

INITIATIVE: Funding will be given to ESO's to enable them to employ additional advocates to handle the backlog and anticipated increase in applications for review to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB). This initiative will cost \$1.7 million over four years.

BACKGROUND:

The initiative was developed to improve the quality of primary claims and to speed the handling of VRB appeals. One reason for the current delays in hearing of review applications by the VRB is the scarcity of trained ex-service organisation advocates capable of taking matters to either the Board or to the Department for Section 31 review. This initiative may include the provision of information technology equipment to ex-service organisations.

FUNERAL BENEFIT FOR TRANSPORTATION OF REMAINS:

INITIATIVE: This initiative allows entitlement to the cost of transportation of veteran's remains on the grounds of financial need. It corrects an anomaly as all other categories of eligibility for funeral benefits allow for an additional payment for the cost of transportation of remains. It is expected that the cost of this initiative will be \$32,000 over four years.

BACKGROUND: This extends eligibility for transportation of the remains of those who die away from home in financial need. It provides equity and also simplifies legislation by enabling all claims for funeral benefits to include this benefit where appropriate.

Q. To which veterans will this benefit apply?

A. A separate benefit for transportation of remains may be paid in all where a funeral benefit was paid on the grounds of indigence.

Q. Can this benefit be paid in respect to wives or widows?

A. No. A separate allowance for transportation of remains has always been for veterans only.

(BOB SMITH)

CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS - CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS - CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS!

Don't forget to come prepared to purchase your LEGACY CHRISTMAS PUDDING at the December Luncheon. They are great value @ \$7.00 for an 800 g pudding of excellent quality. They may be in short supply so, if you want to buy more than two or three, please give me a call on 9390 - 90.

(TOM HORTON)

POPPY DAY, 1997 - REPORT BY OIC.

This year we collected on Tuesday 11 November (Remembrance Day) which proved to be a resounding success in that our Sub-branch's gross tally was \$ 7,330-82 which I understand is a record! Our grateful thanks to those listed below who took the time and effort to "shake a tin" thereby ensuring a successful overall result:-

Wellington St:- Alan Saville; Bob Mercer; Otto Pelczar; John Lancaster; Les Stewart; John Harper-Nelson; John Surridge; Don Rae; Alf Till; Les Gordon; Basil Sprenger; Ted White; Ken Ingram; Peter Mulrennan; Ernst Baints; Dick Larsen; John Low; Wally Rippin; Geoff Smith; Wojciech Gorski; Ted Stephenson; Peter Smith; Nic Smith; and Keith Flanagan.

Westralia Square:- Bluey Arthurs; Geoff Smith; Noel Monks; Peter Anderson; Brian King; John Goldsmith; Wally de Bruyn; Ken Birks; Len Bird; Tom Horton; Bob Elliot; Graham Reynolds; Brian Cooper; Ron Bate; Warren Smith; Ted Thomas; Ken Woods; John McKenzie; Geoff Hutchison; Keith Howard; Richard James; Hugh Alexander; and Stephanie Bladen.

Special bouquets go to Tom Horton for his advice to me from past experience, to Alan Saville for being OIC Wellington St Bus Depot, to Don Hall who collected \$160-00 from the Army Museum, to those wonderful young stalwarts Phil Loffman and Tom Ferrero whose combined efforts (once again) accounted for \$800-00 and, finally, to Don Blair for his donation of \$100-00 which was gratefully accepted.

Well done Highgate, there's life in us yet!

(Ken Bladen).

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WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS: Geoff Vickridge; Malcolm Weatherhead; Merv Bennetts; Michael Ryan; and Ross Holland. We look forward to having the pleasure of their company at our luncheon meetings and other Sub-branch activities.

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VALE: It is with deep regret that we announce the death of the following members: Jim Rutherford; Sir Kenneth Townsing; Hugh Taylor and former Sub-branch member William John Finlayson (Batemans Bay NSW).

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FROM THE SECRETARY: The Minister for Veterans' Affairs has announced that interest rates on DSH loans will be reduced to around 5.63%. All those involved will be advised of these changes which are due to commence on 5 January, 1998

British Commonwealth Occupation Forces (BCOF) National Association will be dedicating a plaque to honour the forces which served in the occupation of Japan at a commemorative rally to be held at Rockingham, Queensland from the evening of Friday 24th to Sunday 26th July, 1998.

Any member visiting Tasmania between 15-17 May, 1998 may be interested in the 33rd anniversary celebrations of HMAS Sydney's first sailing to Vung Tau. Bookings through Rod Groombridge 1 Murlali Crt., Blackmans Bay, Tasmania. 7052.

(OTTO PELCZAR)

HAI KUAN- The Sea Gate by Christopher Briggs.

This is an autobiography by Highgate member Chris Briggs MBE from the period of his early childhood in England to the invasion of Hong Kong by Japanese forces in December, 1941, where he was based as a member of the Chinese Maritime Customs.

The book covers his two year cadetship at HMS Conway (1921-23) which trained young men entering Britain's mighty merchant marine service, followed by his sea going experiences in the cargo ships of the Ellerman Bucknell Line. This phase of his life was largely spent in the Far East and Africa, which called for long periods at sea before returning to Britain and is a marvellous account of seafaring in the 1920's and 30's.

Having seen service in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary Service (1928-32) his posting to Hong Kong opened new horizons when he was invited to join the Chinese Maritime Customs Service as a Captain on its various patrol boats which intercepted the considerable seaborne smuggling then taking place around the coast of China.

As a RN Reserve officer he volunteered for service on the outbreak of World War II and escaped from Hong Kong as a member of HMS Scout's crew when the Japanese attacked. He suffered the anguish of having to leave behind his wife who was interned in the notorious Stanley Internment camp. Fortunately she survived as did his daughter who was interned in Manila.

Anyone interested in life at sea during this period will enjoy this story which also describes Colonial social life in the last days of the British Empire.

(Peter Firkins)

Price \$25-00 plus postage from Chris Briggs.

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TREASURER'S REPORT:

Bank Reconciliation Statement 23/10/1997.

Balance as at 31/12 1996	4,891-55
Deposits to 24/10/1997	<u>21,493-88</u>
Sub-total	26,385-43
Less payments and charges	<u>19,209-04</u>
Cash Book Balance as at 24/10/1997	7,176-39
Less deposits 21/10 \$4270 and 24/10 \$815 (not on statement)	<u>5,085-00</u>
Sub-total	2,091-39
Plus outstanding cheques: 372 - \$506-40; 373 - \$45-60; 375 - \$1,306-50	<u>1,858-50</u>
Balance as per Bank Statement:	<u>\$ 3,949-89</u>

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NOTES:**Income:**

Subscriptions	3,258-50
Donations	780-00
Functions	4,710-00
Interest	61-28
Lunches	12,549-50
Sundries	139-60

Expenditure:

Capitation Fees	1,418-40
Functions	2,171-00
Interest	30-55
Lunches	10,715-26
Newsletter	811-00
Postage	1,069-42
Printing	489-55
Funeral Notices	185-51
Seminars/Conf.	273-00
Certificates	145-00
Sundries	1,900-26**

** Includes reund of expences to previous year office bearers,'donation to the Quiet Lion Appeal and nomination Dr Allan King to Constitution Ballot.

(BRIAN KING)
3/11/97.

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:-
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891 HAY STREET PERTH. 'PHONE 9401 - 0363; AND
1341 ALBANY HIGHWAY CANNINGTON. PHONE 9458 - 2833.

From a Monastery Notice Board: "Working for the Lord doesn't pay much -
but the rewards are out of this world"



atron: Sir Valston Hancock KBE CB DFC RAAF (Ret'd)

“A GATHERING OF EAGLES”

**A GRAND INTERNATIONAL REUNION FOR ALL WORLD WAR II ALLIED
AIRCREW (NAVY, ARMY AND AIR FORCE) AND FOR THOSE WHO TRAINED
FOR AIRCREW BETWEEN 3 SEPTEMBER, 1939 AND 3 SEPTEMBER, 1945
TO BE HELD IN
PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA
FROM 3 SEPTEMBER TO 10 SEPTEMBER, 2000.**

It is proposed to hold a grand international reunion of World War II Allied aircrew and those who were selected for aircrew training between 3 September, 1939 and 3 September, 1945 to commemorate the end of the war and the signing of the Peace Accords aboard the USS Missouri in Tokyo Harbour on 3 September, 1945. This is to alert all those who are qualified to attend the reunion and to obtain an estimate of the number who may be interested in being part of this “once-in-a-millennium” event. Irrespective of where you flew or trained you are assured that this will be one of the greatest reunions held anywhere in the world and we can thoroughly recommend your participation. If you are interested please complete the slip and/or send your particulars to the address below. Otherwise send your details to me at:-

Email: scully@opera.iinet.net.au

or

phone/fax: (08) 9332 - 6836

Thomas L. Scully, J.P.
Box 78
Air Force Memorial House
Bull Creek Drive
BULL CREEK WA 6149
AUSTRALIA.

Dear Tom,

AIRCREW 2000.

Please record my name as being interested in joining you for the Aircrew 2000 reunion. I understand that sending this information places me under no obligation and I look forward to receiving further details from you in due course.

NAME _____
(please print)

ADDRESS _____

