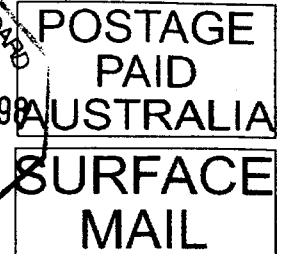
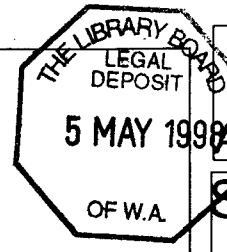




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Registered Publication No. PP602669/0033 No. 364 April, 1998
(The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia)
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ANZAC DAY BREAKFAST - 1998

(IN LIEU OF MONTHLY LUNCHEON MEETING

- THERE WILL BE NO LUNCHEON MEETING IN APRIL -)

VENUE: WESTERN AUSTRALIAN CLUB, 101 ST GEORGES TCE, PERTH WA
TIME: 0730 HOURS (FOLLOWING THE DAWN SERVICE)
COST: TWENTY DOLLARS (20-00) PER HEAD

PARKING: WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE FORMER CLUB PREMISES, 18 THE ESPLANADE AT THE VERY REASONABLE COST OF TWO DOLLARS (\$2-00) PER CAR. THE BREAKFAST FORMAT WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT ADOPTED IN PREVIOUS YEARS AND SENIOR VICE-PRESIDENT (ALAN SAVILLE) WILL BE IN CHARGE OF THE ENTERTAINMENT. SO - GET YOUR MEMORY WORKING AND SHARE YOUR BEST STORIES WITH YOUR COMRADES. PLEASE NOTE THAT STORIES MAY BE SUBTLE BUT NOT CRUDE. AFTER ALL THE LAST THING WE WANT TO DO IS TO OFFEND ANYONE, AND THERE MAY BE FEMALE STAFF ABOUT. FOR THOSE WHO WERE NOT AT THE MARCH MEETING AND/OR HAVE FAILED TO ADVISE THE PRESIDENT WHETHER OR NOT THEY WISH TO ATTEND THE BREAKFAST PLEASE GIVE TOM HORTON A CALL ON 9390 - 9071 AND LET HIM KNOW OF YOUR INTENTIONS **BEFORE 17 April, 1998**

(Alan Saville)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: 1215 hours, 4 May, 1998 Anzac House

LUNCHEON: 1150 hours for 1230 hours 18 May, 1998 Anzac House

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

DEADLINE FOR May, 1998 NEWS - 24 April, 1998



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

The March meeting was attended by 130 Members and 7 Guests. It was a great showing.

Congratulations to Bob Smith and John Jackson on completing the advocacy course with of Highgate's strength and loyalty, His Excellency the Governor Major- General Michael Jeffery AC MC stressed the need for the RSL to continue to be a major influence in the areas of Defence and Service for Western Australia. Let us continue to play our part.

Veteran Affairs Department. Highgate are indeed most fortunate to have Bob and John giving so freely their time to assist Veterans who urgently need help. Thank you Bob and John.

Mr Jim Dalton the Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Veteran Affairs was Guest of Highgate at the March Luncheon. Jim has served the Veteran Affairs Department for 14 years rising to the Senior Advisor to the Minister of Veteran Affairs of the previous Government. In Jim's 3 years as Deputy Commissioner in Western Australia he has directed many changes within the Department. It is great to hear from Veterans of a more friendly and approachable attitude towards all service Members who need advise and help. Jim Dalton is now in the Executive Ranks of Grandfathers, Congratulations Jim.

Dawn Service 1998 Saturday 25th April - 05:15 hours.

This year more than ever we need a strong roll up of all Members to show our strong support for the State RSL Branch. Lets all try and make it.

ANZAC Breakfast

WA Club 101 St Georges Terrace Perth. 0715 hours \$20.00 per head. This breakfast is accepted as a Member's only event. Should any Member be accompanied by a female Partner, breakfast can be served in the Clubs Cafe - cost \$20 per head.

Legacy Badge Day. Friday 17 April

Collectors URGENTLY needed. Please help - advise Legacy Terry Healy 9367 5799.

The 50th Anniversary Highgate 1947 -1997 Book by Philip Loffman was a wonderful success. The presentation was excellent and the sales fill the coffers of Highgate. Thanks to the great work by Phil and his financial strong man Bob Elliott.

(cont. p 12)



SUB-WARDENS' DUTIES.

Saturday 25 April 0515 hours for 0530 hours
Saturday 25 April 1700 hours for 1715 hours

Dawn Service
Lodge of Remembrance

SPECIAL INVITATION: A special invitation is extended to all Sub-branch members to be present at the Anzac Service at the Jewish memorial, King's Park at 1515 hours for 1530 hours on Saturday 24 April. This service will be attended by His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery AC MC, Governor of Western Australia.

EXTRACTS FROM THE SUB-BRANCH CIRCULAR:

- * A comprehensive package is available from Anzac House containing the history of ANZAC DAY & how to conduct an ANZAC DAY service etc., ideal for schools...\$5
- * A VETERAN'S RELATIVES DIVISION of immediate relatives of deceased veterans eg son, wife, daughter etc who wish to march & wear their deceased relative's medals may do so on ANZAC DAY. Location will be to the rear of the LEGACY CONTINGENT at the corner of St Georges Terrace & Barrack Street. Medals to be worn on the RIGHT BREAST.
- * Extra MARSHALLS are still required for ANZAC DAY. Please contact the State Secretary ASAP.
- * Life membership DRESS BADGES are now available at Anzac House ..cost \$4 each.
- * A Taxi Telephone is now available at Anzac House foyer with Taxis ON CALL.
- * Sales of RSL Vehicle Number Plates have slowed down so please promote the League and BUY A SET OF RSL NUMBER PLATES or get your family to do so for your birthday etc. Cost \$125. Please apply to Ms Judy Almond, Anzac House.
- * The PM has written that his Government is reviewing a possible extension of the "gold card" to veterans. It will be given careful consideration in the 1998/9 Budget.
- * Dept of Vets Affairs (DVA) has reassured the RSL that veterans still maintain a privileged position compared to their community counterparts with regard to medications under concessional arrangements.
- * DVA has announced that effective 1 January, 1998 dentists & pProthetists will receive higher fees for providing services for the veteran community. The new fees represent a 15% overall increase. This will bring fees into line with general market rates.
- * Your Committee unanimously passed the following motion (moved by yours truly) at the meeting held on 9 March, 1998: "As a token of solidarity & as a demonstration of loyalty & support for the Australian National Flag this C'ttee actively encourages the members of Highgate Sub-branch to pre-position (in as prominent a place as possible) three (3) hand held flags or more on the evening before ANZAC DAY 1998: one flag on each neighbour's side and one opposite the member's place of residence. Responsibility for the cost, if any, to be borne by individuals as a token of love".

(Ken Bladen)

HOSPITAL VISITING OFFICER'S REPORT:

Since last report the following have been in Hollywood Hospital:

23rd February - John Hobbs was in and out of hospital so quickly our visit missed him.

3rd and 9th March - a clean sheet.

16th & 23rd March - Both Archie Campbell and Len Ikin were visited. Archie is undergoing a series of tests on his back which will be followed by skin cancer work and attention to his knees so he looks like being a medium term resident. Len is having some running repairs but should be home before the end of March.

(Don Meredith)

HONOUR AVENUE COMMITTEE REPORT:

Work by our committee members in the Honour Avenues should ensure a high standard of presentation of posts and plaques in time for ANZAC DAY ceremonies. Over the past year two plaques that were stolen had to be replaced and two that were damaged by vehicles were repaired. Our thanks to Kings Park staff who frequently assist in caring for plaques which become casualties of vehicles and vandals and for performing minor corrective surgery on some plaques.

As usual a large number of posts have had to be replaced over the last year and, as many posts are deteriorating due to age and insects, increasing numbers will need renewal.

Special thanks also to State President, Ken Murphy, for being instrumental in the gaining of sales exemption on the cost of manufacturing memorial plaques, which has increased dramatically in recent times.

(Chris Brooks)

Proverb: "The man who has a dog and barks himself will become a little hoarse".



THE HIGHGATE SUB-BRANCH OF THE RETURNED AND SERVICES LEAGUE
OF AUSTRALIA MONTHLY LUNCHEON

ADDRESS BY

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL MICHAEL JEFFERY, A C M C
GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

MONDAY, 16 MARCH 1998

MR TOM HORTON, PRESIDENT
DISTINGUISHED GUESTS
GENTLEMEN

OVER THE PAST 50 YEARS, THE HIGHGATE RSL SUB BRANCH HAS MADE A TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE SUPPORT OF VETERANS, SERVICE PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES. I AM APPRECIATIVE OF THE WORK THAT THE SUB BRANCH DOES ABOVE ITS NORMAL RSL COMMITMENTS SUCH AS PROVIDING THE SUB WARDENS FOR CEREMONIES AT THE KINGS PARK WAR MEMORIAL AND TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE PLAQUES FOR THE FALLEN IN KINGS PARK. YOUR NEWSLETTER TOO IS INTERESTING, INFORMATIVE AND ENJOYABLE TO READ.

YOUR ACTIVITIES HELP CONVEY THE ANZAC MESSAGE ACROSS TO OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND I AM PLEASED TO SEE THE RSL AS A WHOLE LOOKING TO THE FUTURE THROUGH ITS EMPHASIS ON YOUTH, BY ACTIVELY PROMOTING SERVICE-BASED CADET ORGANISATIONS SUCH AS THE POLICE, ARMY, NAVY, AIR FORCE AND STATE EMERGENCY SERVICE CADETS. I WILL TALK MORE ON THIS SUBJECT SHORTLY AS I ADDRESS SOME OF THE PERSONAL PROJECTS THAT I HAVE HAD SOME INPUT INTO OVER RECENT YEARS. THESE ARE AREAS OF INTEREST ABOVE AND BEYOND MY NORMAL CONSTITUTIONAL, COMMUNITY AND CEREMONIAL FUNCTIONS AND WHEN I KEEP TALKING ABOUT "I" IN RESPECT OF THESE THINGS, IT IS NOT IN ANY SENSE OF SELF AGGRANDISEMENT BUT SIMPLY REFERRING TO MY PARTICULAR INTEREST AND INVOLVEMENT.



CADETS & LEADER SCHOOL

THROUGHOUT MY TERM, AND INDEED DURING MY MILITARY SERVICE, I HAVE TAKEN A GREAT INTEREST IN YOUTH AFFAIRS. RECENTLY I HAVE STRONGLY SUPPORTED GOVERNMENT MOVES FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF THE YOUTH CADET SCHEME, BY EXPANDING THIS SCHEME TO INCLUDE PILOT CADET SCHEMES IN 10 SCHOOLS IN 1996, 37 SCHOOLS IN 1997 AND 77 SCHOOLS IN 1998, ENCOMPASSING NOT JUST ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE CADETS, BUT ST. JOHN AMBULANCE, SES, POLICE CADETS AND SHORTLY ENVIRONMENTAL CADETS. IN MY VIEW, IF EVERY YOUNGSTER FROM 9-19 YEARS WAS STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE IN A WELL PROGRAMMED, WELL RESOURCED AND WELL-LEAD YOUTH GROUP, IT WOULD DO MUCH TO HELP IMPROVE SELF ESTEEM AND CONFIDENCE AND TO DEVELOP A STRONG ETHICAL BASE; NOT JUST IN WA, I MIGHT ADD, BUT AUSTRALIA WIDE. INDEED I NOTE WITH PLEASURE THAT VICTORIA AND QUEENSLAND ARE FOLLOWING SUIT, AND THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS MADE DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR PROVISION IN SUPPORTING THE STATES TO AROUND \$3 MILLION. IT IS OF INTEREST TO NOTE THAT A WELL TRAINED CADET COSTS ABOUT \$450 PER YEAR TO SUPPORT, WHEREAS A NATIONAL SERVICEMAN COST ABOUT \$35,000 AND A PRISONER ABOUT \$60,000. I THINK WE WILL HEAR SOME GOOD NEWS SHORTLY ON MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE CADET MOVEMENT IN W.A. TO ENCOMPASS A CADET UNIT IN EVERY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE STATE BY THE END OF 2000 AND TO INCLUDE GREATER SUPPORT FROM THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT INCLUDING DEFENCE.

ONE OF THE KEY INGREDIENTS TO ANY SUCCESSFUL YOUTH PROGRAMME, BESIDES AN INTERESTING SYLLABUS, IS SOUND LEADERSHIP, SO TO COMPLEMENT THESE YOUTH GROUPS, I HOPE TO SEE THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A YOUTH LEADER SCHOOL THIS YEAR, TO BE BASED AT THE OLD HEATHCOTE HOSPITAL.

THE YOUTH LEADER CONCEPT WILL TEACH YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN TO ORGANISE AND MANAGE A PROJECT INVOLVING AROUND 9-10 OF THEIR PEERS. THERE MAY ALSO BE A SHORT ADULT LEADERS COURSE DESIGNED TO ASSIST THOSE WHO HAVE TAKEN UP VOLUNTARY POSITIONS WITHIN VARIOUS YOUTH AND COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS BUT WHO HAVE HAD LITTLE OR NO PREPARATION FOR SUCH RESPONSIBILITIES.

IT IS INTENDED THAT THE COURSES WILL BE MATCHED TO APPROPRIATE QUALIFICATIONS IN AREAS SUCH AS DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS, ST. JOHN AMBULANCE CERTIFICATES ETC, AND SHOULD PROVIDE A GRADUATE WITH ENHANCED EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY.

COURSES WILL BE MOBILE TO CATER FOR COUNTRY AND REMOTE AREA STUDENTS AND THERE WOULD BE SKILL SPECIFIC COURSES RUN AS FOLLOWS IN SUCH AREAS AS INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNIQUES, PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT, SURVIVAL SKILLS AND SAFETY OFFICER TECHNIQUES.

BUT THE MAIN AIM WILL BE TO IMPART THE PRINCIPLES OF LEADERSHIP TO YOUNGSTERS WHO HAVE SHOWN SOME LEADER POTENTIAL, WITH A VIEW TO PRODUCING A GRADUATE WHO CAN INSTRUCT, ORGANISE AND CONTROL A GROUP ACTIVITY AND WHO HAS A SOUND UNDERSTANDING OF THE ETHICAL REQUIREMENTS OF BEING A LEADER. OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE WILL BE CONSULTATION AND LINKAGE WITH ABORIGINAL GROUPS TO SEE HOW BEST THEY CAN BE SUPPORTED WITH SUCH A SCHEME.

THE STATE GOVERNMENT ONLY LAST WEEK APPOINTED A DIRECTOR FOR THE PROPOSED LEADER CENTRE AND IT IS HOPED TO HAVE PILOT COURSES UNDERWAY SOON.



VALUES IN SCHOOLS

FOR MANY YEARS IN MANY WESTERN AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS, VALUES HAVE NOT BEEN TAUGHT COMPREHENSIVELY, PARTICULARLY THROUGHOUT OUR PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. THIS IS SOON TO CHANGE WITH THE PUBLISHING OF THE DRAFT COMMON CORE EDUCATION CURRICULA AND I WOULD HOPE THE RSL WOULD MAKE AN INPUT INTO THE VALUES COMPONENT.

I DEFINE VALUES AS A THOROUGH UNDERSTANDING OF CIVICS; OR HOW WE ARE GOVERNED AND HOW OUR INSTITUTIONS WORK; ETHICS, WHICH ESPOUSES THE PRINCIPLES AND CODES OF BEHAVIOUR BY WHICH WE LIVE AND RELATE TO ONE ANOTHER; AND THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION, INCLUDING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GREAT RELIGIONS OF THE WORLD AND THEIR BASIC TEACHINGS. I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT FAITH PLAYS A CRUCIAL ROLE IN ADDING MEANING AND PURPOSE TO OUR DAILY LIVES AND WE SHOULD NOT BE AFRAID TO GIVE DUE RECOGNITION TO THE CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY IN OUR SCHOOLS, BECAUSE WE ARE STILL A FUNDAMENTALLY CHRISTIAN COUNTRY, ALBEIT BEING FULLY TOLERANT AND ACCEPTING OF ALL OTHER RELIGIONS.

VALUES NEED TO BE TAUGHT IN A SUSTAINED AND PROPERLY THOUGHT THROUGH WAY FROM YEAR 1 TO 12 AND SHOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED THROUGH TAFE AND UNIVERSITY, WHERE MANY YOUNGSTERS ENTER THE EXPERIMENTAL STAGE OF LIFE, INCLUDING ALCOHOL, DRUG USAGE AND SEX.

IN DEVELOPING AN UNDERSTANDING OF VALUES AT SCHOOLS IT IS IMPORTANT TO BE LITERATE. WE NOW KNOW THAT IF A CHILD IS NOT LITERATE BY AGE 7 FOR WHATEVER REASON, THERE IS EVERY CHANCE HE OR SHE WILL FAIL TO ACHIEVE IN LATER YEARS, AND IS A POSSIBLE CANDIDATE FOR THE UNEMPLOYED LIST AND PERHAPS THE PRISON SYSTEM. THUS TO IDENTIFY THOSE WITH LITERACY PROBLEMS AT AN EARLY AGE AND TO PROVIDE THE REMEDIAL RESOURCES THROUGH MENTORS OR OTHER SPECIALISED ASSISTANCE IS IMPORTANT NOT JUST TO THE VALUES DEVELOPMENT OF THE CHILD, BUT TO HIS/HER WHOLE FUTURE LIFE.

CHAPLAINS

THE SCHOOL CHAPLAIN ALSO PLAYS A VITAL ROLE IN DEVELOPING YOUNG ATTITUDES, VALUES, SELF CONFIDENCE AND SELF ESTEEM. IT COSTS ABOUT \$40,000 A YEAR TO FINANCE A SCHOOL CHAPLAIN, YET WE HAVE ONLY 65 CHAPLAINS SERVICING THE STATE'S SCHOOLS, WITH FUNDING PROVIDED BY GOVERNMENT, CHURCHES, PARENTS AND CITIZENS GROUPS AND THE SCHOOLS. BUT IF JUST ONE PERSON A YEAR IS SAVED FROM GOING TO JAIL, WHERE IT COSTS ABOUT \$60,000 A YEAR TO KEEP AN OFFENDER, THE CHAPLAIN HAS MORE THAN PAID HIS WAY. YET PATENTLY A CHAPLAIN WOULD SAVE MANY MORE FROM SUCH A SITUATION THROUGH COUNSELLING, ADVICE AND A SHOULDER TO LEAN ON, AS WELL AS CARRYING OUT HIS TRADITIONAL PASTORAL DUTIES.

IN 1996, THE W.A. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT CONDUCTED A SURVEY AMONG HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS WHICH FOUND THAT MORE THAN 93% INDICATED THE CHAPLAIN'S WORK WAS IRREPLACEABLE IN THEIR SCHOOL'S ENVIRONMENT.



THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC ANALYSIS

ANOTHER AREA OF PERSONAL INTEREST RELATES TO THE SUBJECT OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S PARTICULAR CIRCUMSTANCES; INCLUDING ISOLATED, VULNERABLE AND RICH RESOURCE AREAS; A SMALL POPULATION AND OUR INDIAN OCEAN GEOGRAPHY.

FOR EXAMPLE, RECENTLY WE HAVE WITNESSED THE PROBLEMS OF BOUGANVILLE, PNG, THE ASIAN FINANCIAL MELTDOWN AND THE FLOODING OF THIS COUNTRY WITH HIGH GRADE HEROIN. FURTHER FROM HOME WE HAVE THE CONTINUING PROBLEMS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA AND THE BALKANS.

WHILST WE ARE NOT UNDER ANY OBVIOUS THREAT WE ARE LIVING IN A REGION WHICH IS RAPIDLY DEVELOPING, HAS HUGE POPULATIONS AND SOME PROBLEMS. IN 20-30 YEARS WE MAY SEE THE EMERGENCE OF TWO SUPER POWERS IN INDIA AND CHINA. IT SEEMS TO ME THEREFORE THAT WE NEED TO IMPROVE OUR KNOWLEDGE OF OUR REGION AND TO DEVELOP STRATEGIES AND SECURITY PHILOSOPHIES THAT ARE WELL THOUGHT THROUGH.

THUS, WITH THE PREMIER'S APPROVAL, I HELD DISCUSSIONS WITH OUR WEST AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLORS AND I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT CURTIN UNIVERSITY HAS ENGAGED THE SERVICES OF FORMER AMBASSADOR AND CAREER DIPLOMAT WALTER HANDMER TO CARRY OUT A FEASIBILITY STUDY INTO SETTING UP AN INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC ANALYSIS.

THE BROAD OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTE ARE:

- TO BE AN INDEPENDENT CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE ON THE WEST COAST FOR HIGH QUALITY ANALYSIS AND RESEARCH OF KEY STRATEGIC ISSUES OF CURRENT AND FUTURE NATIONAL IMPORTANCE TO AUSTRALIA'S SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT.

- TO DEVELOP A CLIENT BASE FOR ITS PRODUCT TO BE SUFFICIENT TO SUPPORT ITS INDEPENDENT RESEARCH ROLE;

- TO WORK IN A CO-OPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH APPROPRIATE CENTRES OF STRATEGIC RESEARCH IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS WITHIN AUSTRALIA, THE REGION, AND IN COUNTRIES SUCH AS SINGAPORE, THE UNITED STATES AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.

- TO CONTRIBUTE ACTIVELY TO AUSTRALIAN AND PARTICULARLY WEST AUSTRALIAN MEDIA AND PUBLIC AWARENESS AND UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT IN THE FULL SENSE OF THAT TERM.

I WOULD HOPE THAT THIS PROJECT WILL GET OFF THE GROUND THIS YEAR.

CONSTITUTIONAL BOOKLET

ON THE HOME FRONT, I HAVE A CONCERN THAT WESTERN AUSTRALIANS IN GENERAL DO NOT HAVE READY ACCESS TO A SIMPLE DOCUMENT EXPLAINING THE POLITICAL PROCESSES UNDER WHICH THEY ARE GOVERNED. AT A MEETING OF STATE GOVERNORS, I WAS VERY IMPRESSED BY A CONSTITUTIONAL BOOKLET PRODUCED IN VICTORIA BY A COMMITTEE UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF FORMER



VICTORIAN GOVERNOR, THE HONOURABLE RICHARD MCGARVIE. THIS BOOKLET EXPLAINS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE THE CONSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN VICTORIA AND HAS BEEN USED AS AN EDUCATIONAL TOOL IN SCHOOLS AND FOR THE PUBLIC AND HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED.

I DISCUSSED THIS CONCEPT WITH THE PREMIER, THE SOLICITOR GENERAL AND THE HON JUSTICE ROBERT NICHOLSON OF THE FEDERAL COURT OF AUSTRALIA AND I AM PLEASED TO REPORT THAT THE PREMIER HAS ENDORSED A SIMILAR PROJECT FOR WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

THIS BOOKLET WILL GIVE THE READER, INCLUDING STUDENTS A COMPREHENSIVE BUT NOT OVERALL DETAILED UNDERSTANDING OF HOW GOVERNMENT WORKS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND THE STATUTES AND CONVENTIONS UPON WHICH THESE WORKINGS ARE BASED.

WE HOPE TO SEE THE BOOKLET PRODUCED THIS YEAR, AND I WOULD LIKE PERSONALLY TO SEE IT PRESENTED TO EACH NEW AUSTRALIAN TAKING UP CITIZENSHIP.

GOVERNMENT HOUSE RESTORATION

ONE FEATURE OF THIS TERM OF OFFICE THAT MARLENE AND I SHARE WITH MANY PEOPLE IS HOME RENOVATION. THE RESTORATION OF GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND ITS GARDENS TO TRUE HERITAGE STANDARD HAS RECEIVED BIPARTISAN SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND OPPOSITION. DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS, MARLENE AND I, AND INDEED OUR WHOLE GOVERNMENT HOUSE "FAMILY" HAVE CARRIED OUT OUR DUTIES AMID THE DUST AND DISRUPTION WHICH ARE NOW ABOUT TWO THIRDS COMPLETED, WITH MOST OF GROUND FLOOR AND SOME OF THE TOP FLOOR OF THE HOUSE RESTORED.

DURING REFURBISHMENT, THE HOUSE HAS BEEN TAKEN BACK TO ITS ORIGINAL FORM AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. IN THE PROCESS WE HAVE FOUND HIDDEN DOORS AND FIREPLACES AND IDENTIFIED THE ORIGINAL COLOURS AND DESIGNS WHICH HAVE BEEN MATCHED WHERE BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE. SOME 60,000 CITIZENS HAVE VISITED GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON THE PUBLIC OPEN DAYS WE HOLD EACH YEAR.

THE REFURBISHMENT HAS MADE THE HOUSE A MUCH BETTER PLACE TO WORK AND LIVE, AS WELL AS TO WELCOME VISITORS. A FURTHER AIM IS TO RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE BALLROOM TO STATE RECEPTION ROOM STANDARD WHERE WESTERN AUSTRALIA CAN AT LAST HAVE A PLACE, OTHER THAN A HOTEL, TO OFFICIALLY WELCOME OVERSEAS DIGNITARIES, INCLUDING HEADS OF STATE. GOVERNMENT HOUSE BELONGS TO THE PEOPLE OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA AND ITS GARDENS ARE OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ALMOST EVERY TUESDAY BETWEEN NOON AND 2PM.

SUPPORTING GOVERNMENT HOUSE IN A WONDERFUL WAY IS THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOUNDATION, A COMMITTEE OF HIGHLY TALENTED AND HARD WORKING PEOPLE WORKING UNDER THE ABLE CHAIRMANSHIP OF MR BARRY MACKINNON. THE AIM OF THE FOUNDATION IS TO ENSURE THAT GOVERNMENT HOUSE IS FURNISHED WITH OBJETS D'ART AND WORKS OF ART OF A QUALITY BEFITTING THE STATUS OF THE



RESIDENCE. TO DO THIS IT ENCOURAGES BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS (TAX DEDUCTIBLE) AND IS DEVELOPING A SIZEABLE TRUST FUND TO PURCHASE PICTURES AND FURNITURE OF VERY HIGH QUALITY. MARLENA AND I ARE DEEPLY INDEBTED TO THE VOLUNTARY WORK OF THIS PUBLIC MINDED GROUP. CONCURRENTLY WITH THE REFURBISHMENT PROGRAMME IS THE DEVELOPMENT OF A LONG TERM PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE GARDENS. THIS IS AN EXCITING PROJECT AND WILL ENSURE THAT FUTURE PLANTINGS ETC ARE DONE IN ACCORDANCE WITH A PROPERLY THOUGHT THROUGH GARDEN PLAN.

LAND CARE

I AM FORTUNATE THAT MY POSITION AS GOVERNOR ALLOWS ME FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE OF WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMUNITY. I HAVE SEEN EXCITING DEVELOPMENTS IN THE AREA OF LAND CARE TO OVERCOME ACIDITY, SALINITY AND WATERLOGGING CONSTRAINTS, TO IMPROVE PASTURE PRODUCTIVITY THROUGH SUCH METHODS AS AGROFORESTRY, CONTOUR BANKS AND LIMING.

THE DRAFT STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT RELEASED LAST JULY BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION SHOWED THAT CONTINUED ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION TRENDS COULD LEAD TO BARREN SOILS, SALTY RIVERS, TOXIC AIR AND POLLUTED SEAS. IT ESTIMATED THAT ONLY 48% OF DIVERTIBLE RIVERINE WATER RESOURCES REMAIN FRESH IN THE SOUTH WEST OF WA.

LAND SALINISATION WAS REVEALED AS ONE OF WA'S MOST SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES WHICH HAS SEVERELY DAMAGED THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, AND REDUCED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTIVITY.

FIGURES FROM A REPORT OF THE LANDCARE REVIEW COMMITTEE TO THE WA PARLIAMENT SHOW: WATERLOGGING, 1.6 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; SALINITY, 1.6 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; WATER EROSION, 750,00 HECTARES AFFECTED; WIND EROSION, 50,000 HECTARES AFFECTED; SOIL STRUCTURE DECLINE, 3.5 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; SUB SOIL COMPACTION, 8.5 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; WATER REPELLENCE, 3-5 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; SOIL ACIDIFICATION, 4.7 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; VEGETATION DECLINE, RANGELANDS, 19.6 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED; WIND AND WATER EROSION, RANGELANDS, 7.3 MILLION HECTARES AFFECTED.

A GROWING MOVEMENT HAS EMERGED DURING THE PAST TWO DECADES TO QUESTION THE PRACTICES THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THESE PROBLEMS. TODAY THIS MOVEMENT FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE IS GARNERING INCREASING SUPPORT AND ACCEPTANCE WITHIN MAINSTREAM AGRICULTURE. HENCE WE SEE INNOVATIONS SUCH AS MINIMUM TILL FARMING, CONTOUR DAMMING AND MASSIVE TREE PLANTING TAKING PLACE IN OUR FARMING AREAS.

ONE GROUP THAT I STRONGLY SUPPORT AND WHICH IS DOING A VERY GOOD JOB IN THIS RESPECT IS THE 164 LAND CONSERVATION DISTRICTS NOW OPERATING ACROSS NEARLY ALL THE PASTORAL AND AGRICULTURAL AREAS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA. THESE GROUPS FOCUS ON CATCHMENT AND FARM PLANNING TO REACH THE ULTIMATE GOAL OF SUSTAINABLE LAND USE BY REVERSING LAND DEGRADATION.



HOWEVER, LANDCARE IS EVERYBODY'S PROBLEM AND I ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS, BOTH YOUNG AND OLD, CITY AND RURAL, TO BECOME INVOLVED WITH LANDCARE WORK.

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DRUGS

ANOTHER BIG PROBLEM WE HAVE TO TACKLE IS SUBSTANCE AND DRUG ABUSE. THIS YEAR THERE HAVE BEEN 13 HEROINE OVERDOSE DEATHS IN WA WHILE IN 1997 THERE WERE 83 SUSPECTED OVERDOSES. THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT RECENTLY TOOK THE UNUSUAL STEP OF ISSUING A WARNING OF HIGH-GRADE HEROIN BEING DISTRIBUTED ON THE STREETS OF PERTH.

THE STATISTICS OF DRUG USAGE ARE ALARMING ESPECIALLY AMONG THE 16 TO 24 AGE GROUP. LAST YEAR 12.4 % OF 12- YEAR-OLDS USED CANNABIS RISING TO A PEAK OF 61.1 % OF 17 YEAR OLDS BEFORE TAPERING OFF TO 46.9% OF 18-24 YEAR OLDS.

I AM SO CONCERNED ABOUT THIS PROBLEM THAT AT THE REQUEST OF THE MINISTER RHONDA PARKER, I HAVE FORMED THE LEADERS AGAINST DRUG ABUSE TEAM. THESE HIGH PROFILE COMMUNITY LEADERS WILL STRENGTHEN YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARENESS OF AND RESISTANCE TO THE EXTERNAL PRESSURES EXERTED BY FRIENDS AND OTHERS AND TO INTERNAL PRESSURES SUCH AS LOW SELF-ESTEEM THAT CAN LEAD YOUNG PEOPLE TO DRUG USE.

WHEN OUR YOUNG PEOPLE SEE A UNIFIED AND VISIBLE COMMITMENT BY PARENTS, TEACHERS, AND COMMUNITY LEADERS AGAINST DRUGS IT MAKES A POWERFUL, POSITIVE STATEMENT.

I HAVE ENCOURAGED THESE LEADERS TO LEND THEIR SUPPORT TO LOCAL DRUG ACTION GROUPS. THERE ARE ALREADY 32 ESTABLISHED AND ANOTHER HALF A DOZEN IN THE PIPELINE. WE SHOULD MEET THE TARGET OF 40 BY THE MIDDLE OF JUNE.



RSL

WITH THE PASSAGE OF TIME, THE RSL IS NOW DRAWING ON A MUCH SMALLER VETERAN MEMBERSHIP BASE, THUS IT IS VITAL THAT MEMBERS PLAY AN ACTIVE PART TO ENSURE IT REMAINS A POWERFUL ARTICULATOR OF NOT JUST THE NEEDS AND VIEWS OF VETERANS BUT ALSO TO MAKE A USEFUL CONTRIBUTION TO DEFENCE DEBATE.

THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT BECAUSE WE ARE NOW ENTERING A PERIOD IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY WHERE THE PACIFIC RIM AND THE INDIAN OCEAN ARE GOING TO BE CRITICAL TO OUR SECURITY.

THE COLLECTIVE WISDOM OF THE RSL CAN PROVIDE VALUABLE INPUT TO THE GOVERNMENT AND KEEP THE PUBLIC INTERESTED AND AWARE OF THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC DEBATE ON DEFENCE MATTERS.

THE RSL HAS ALWAYS BEEN A BACK STOP FOR MANY VETERANS AND SERVICE PEOPLE BUT IT NEEDS YOUR HELP INDIVIDUALLY AND COLLECTIVELY TO CARRY ON ITS GOOD WORK. FOR THE SURVIVAL OF ANY ORGANISATION IT IS VITAL TO KEEP THE LIFE-LINE AND HEART OF THE ORGANISATION ALIVE AND FUNCTIONING EFFECTIVELY AND EFFICIENTLY. THE LIFE-LINE IS THE MEMBERS, AND THE HEART IS THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT. SO GET BEHIND YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, OFFER YOUR SUPPORT - JOIN A SUB-COMMITTEE OR TAKE AN OFFICE. IT IS YOUR ASSOCIATION AND IT WILL ONLY BE AS GOOD AS THE MEMBERS WHO SUPPORT IT. I WOULD HOPE TOO THAT HIGHGATE WILL DO ITS BEST TO HELP THE STATE EXECUTIVE OVER ITS PROBLEMS.

TO CONCLUDE, THE PAST SUCCESS OF THE RSL HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY PEOPLE WITH STRONG BELIEFS AND EXTRAORDINARY COMMITMENT. BY WORKING TOGETHER YOU WILL MAINTAIN THE RSL'S POSITION AS A POWERFUL POLITICAL FORCE. THE RSL NEEDS LEADERS WITH VISION AND WISDOM, CAPABLE OF BEING ARTICULATE AND PRESENTING THE VIEWS OF ITS MEMBERS TO GOVERNMENTS.

YOUR ORGANISATION HAS ACHIEVED A LOT OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS AND ITS CREDIBILITY IS SECOND TO NONE IN THE VETERAN COMMUNITY.

WELL DONE ON YOUR MANY ACHIEVEMENTS AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

(Reproduced with the kind permission of His Excellency Major-General Michael Jeffery AC MC Governor of Western Australia.)

(Tom Scully).



PENSION/WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:
VETERANS' HOME LOAN RATES CUT:

Interest rates on Defence Service Home (DSH) loans will drop to 5.63 % pa the Minister for Veterans' Affairs announced on 3 September, 1997 at the National Congress of the RSL in Adelaide. The Government will achieve this through the introduction of a guaranteed minimum subsidy of 1.5% below the average standard variable loan rate, known as the benchmark.

Given the benchmark rate of 7.13% the interest rate on DSH loan will fall to 5.63% . In addition we will guarantee that borrowers will never pay an interest rate higher than 6.85% on their DSH loan.

KEY POINTS: *one single interest rate per loan;
 guaranteed minimum subsidy of 1.5%; and
 interest rate capped at 6.85%.*

ADDITIONAL ADVANCES:

The interest rates vary according to the amount borrowed and may be as high as 10% pa. The interest rate for these advances will be reduced to, and be capped at, 6.85% pa.

EXISTING BORROWERS:

existing borrower will pay any new or increased fees, nor will they pay a higher effective interest rate than they are currently paying. Borrowers will not be required to sign new mortgage documents. Monthly repayments will remain the same but borrowers always have the right to approach the bank to restructure their repayments.

NEW BORROWERS:

The principle of a 50% discount for all establishment fees will not change. However, monthly account maintenance fees, discounted by 50% will be introduced for new DSH loans.

DATE OF EFFECT:

Subject to the passage of amending legislation, it is planned to implement these changes on 5 January, 1998.

(Bob Smith)

(cont. from p. 2)

At our March Committee Meeting on receiving correct information from our Junior Vice President Bob Mercer of the Ethics Committee concerning the authority of the Central Executive to transfer unattached Members to Sub-branches without prior notice. This action is not consistent with the constitution of the RSL. It was passed by the Committee to direct the Secretary to write a letter expressing Highgate Sub-Branches concern. Now no person can become a Member of Highgate Sub-Branch until the Secretary inspected his application criteria and the committee has approved and passed the application as a Member. This is a considerable new step and it means when Members have Dinner Guests whom they hope will become Members they are to ensure the proposed Member fills in the RSL standard application and forwards the completed form to the Highgate Secretary. The Committee thanks Junior Vice President for his research and straight forward explanation of the above subject.

(Tom Horton)

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