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

MONDAY 18 MAY, 1998.

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

TIME: - 1200 HOURS FELLOWSHIP - 1230 LUNCHEON.

SPEAKER: Professor Leslie R Marchant BA Hons (UWA) MA(London) FRGS

SUBJECT: The Westminster System and its Critics.

Academic historian Professor Leslie Marchant has spent his working lifetime with records. He was born on 6 August, 1924. Before attending University he was a permanent official in the WA State Public Service where he learnt at first hand the nature and management of government records. After graduating from University he trained as a librarian-archivist at the Australian National Library's School of Librarianship after which he was employed in the National Library in Canberra where, for some time, he was Editor of the Australian Public Affairs Information Service; a subject index to articles in journals which was regularly published by the Library. He subsequently moved to Europe for 6 years to undertake higher degree studies. His field of research for that degree led him to research the influence of European political ideas and systems on China in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when it was transformed from a Confucian State into a modern constitutional monarchy and then a republic. Like Japan, which led the movement to modernisation, China looked to Westminster and Berlin for models to follow. Professor Marchant consequently had to thoroughly examine these political systems which became models for emergent governments in the Pacific, including Australasia.

(Alan Saville)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

COMMITTEE : 1215 HOURS 8 June, 1998 ANZAC HOUSE

LUNCHEON: 1200 HOURS FOR 1230 HOURS 15 June, 1998 ANZAC HOUSE

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

DEADLINE FOR JUNE NEWS- FRIDAY 29 May, 1998



PENSION/WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:

The DVA has developed a new system for the purchasing and delivery of community nursing services without making any changes to the current veteran entitlements. Underpinning the new system is the shift to an even greater focus in the delivery of quality care to the veteran community.

BACKGROUND:

DVA commenced a review of its purchasing and administrative arrangements for community nursing in September, 1996. The aims of the resulting Community Nursing Reforms Process were to:-

- continuing the effective support of the veteran community in improving their health;
- continuing the effective support of the veteran community in regaining and maintaining an optimal level of independence in their homes;
- ensure that the veteran community receives appropriate, quality community nursing services; and
- measure health outcomes, resulting in a clearer identification of the health needs of the veteran community.

CONSULTATION:

A central tenet of the Community Nursing Reforms Process was extensive consultation with current community nursing providers, the peak nursing organisations, made up of the Australian Council of Community Nursing Services, Australian Council of Deans of Nursing, Australian Nursing Federation, NSW College of Nursing and Royal College of Nursing Australia, and members of the veteran community.

The consultative process centred around two separate but complementary forums for provider and veteran input. The community nursing reforms workshops, held in each State during December, 1996, aimed to address the issues and requirements of community nursing providers and the veteran community in the provision of community nursing services. Written submissions on community nursing issues were also accepted from community service providers and members of the veteran community until the end of January, 1997. Members of the veteran community, nominated by the National Treatment Monitoring Committee member organisation, participated in the various workshops. The viewpoint of the veteran community, as the recipients of the community nursing services, was greatly appreciated by the community service providers and representatives of the peak nursing bodies who attended the various workshops.

Through the reform process the NTMC has been informed of its continuing progress including updates and discussions at each of its last four meetings. Members of the National Treatment Monitoring Committee (NTMC) were also given the opportunity to comment on the draft Service Agreement Guidelines which replace the current notes for for community nurses and clearly document DVA's administrative arrangements and expectations of its providers under the new system.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DVA AND COMMUNITY NURSING PROVIDERS:

DVA values its community nursing providers and the care that they deliver to the veteran community. One of the objectives of the reforms process has been the development of a more cooperative and collaborative relationship between DVA and its community nursing providers. To foster this cooperative and collaborative relationship DVA has, within the new system, streamlined its administrative requirements, clarified the roles and responsibilities of both DVA and the provider and compensated providers for actual care being provided, rather than the time taken to provide care.

CHANGES UNDER THE NEW SYSTEM:

The new system will be implemented on 4 May, 1998. The new Deed of Agreement being offered by DVA specifies the standards of nursing services that are to be provided to the veteran community to ensure the delivery of quality care. All current providers community nursing for the veteran community will be offered a Deed of Agreement to work under the new system. Community nursing providers who sign the Deed of Agreement and meet DVA's contractual arrangements will continue to deliver services to the same members of the veteran community as before. The change from the existing system will be invisible to the vast majority of veterans, war widow(ers) and their dependants who receive community nursing services.



If a veteran, war widow(er) or dependent's current provider does not enter into a contractual agreement with DVA arrangements have been made by each of the State offices to ensure that veterans will continue to receive nursing care in their own home. Under these arrangements a provider change will be quickly and carefully managed on a case by case basis, thereby ensuring minimal disruption and inconvenience.

DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION:

Veterans, war widow(ers) and their dependents who receive community nursing services are being informed of the Community Nursing Reform Process, and the changes that will result from it, through an article in the next issue of "Vet Affairs". Members of the veteran community who will be affected by the changes will be identified and informed personally by departmental staff. This is an integral part of each State office's arrangements to ensure that veterans will continue to be nursed in their own home and will be done with great sensitivity.

Members who have further questions should contact DVA on (08) 9366 8222.

(Bob Smith)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Anzac Day celebrations were of the usual excellence.

Dawn Service - the weather was fine resulting in a very large attendance again. It was notable that many young people were there.

The "Highgate" Breakfast at the WA Club was of the usual high standard. In attendance were the British Consul General Mr Michael Horne OBE and the USA Consul Mr Nicholas Sherwood. Nicholas has completed his WA duties and will be leaving us in June. We wish him well in his future postings. We also had the pleasure of the company of the Services.

Past President, Les Stewart was presented with a "Life Governor" Certificate of the Royal Australian Regiment Association by Mr Ken Barrington, State President. Ken Bladen, State Vice President presented Les with a letter of congratulation from His Excellency the Governor, Major-General Michael Jeffery AC MC.

Rear Admiral Phil Kennedy gave us a wonderful rendition of a poem by A B (Banjo) Paterson with anecdotes of our Australian flag.

It was great to see Ray Mawson, accompanied by his brother, in attendance. Welcome home Ray!

Thank you Acting Secretary (Senior Vice President) Alan Saville for your organisation of the club and agenda for another very successful breakfast.

The Honour Avenue committee is in need of helpers to carry on their wonderful work. Can any member spare some time? Please contact the Honour Avenue committee secretary, Chris Brooks on 9271 - 2811.

It was great to hear that highly esteemed member and Past President Len Iken is now out of hospital. "God speed", Len.

A big "thank you" to all members of Highgate who assisted with the Legacy badge day collections.

The initial Anzac Day Lord Mayor's reception was well attended by service personnel, Sub-branches, and people of Kindred Associations, accompanied by their partners. It was pleasing you see many Highgate members in the happy groups. Ken Bladen, representing the State RSL Executive responded in a very strong and positive manner to the acting Lord Mayor's address.

(Tom Horton).



SUB-WARDENS' DUTIES

Tuesday 26 May	1315 hours for 1330 hours	RSL Women's Auxiliary
Sunday 31 May	1415 hours for 1430 hours	Dunkirk Veterans
Sunday 31 May	1145 hours for 1200 hours	Greek Independence Day
Monday 8 June	0945 hours for 1000 hours	Labuan Landing

OUR FLAG - A SHORT HISTORY.

Surprisingly it was not until 1953 that our flag was proclaimed the Australian National Flag.

With Federation and the joining of all Australians under the "Commonwealth of Australia" there came a real need for a flag to unite the peoples of the six colonies.

In 1901 a world wide competition was held to find two new flags: one suitable for official and naval purposes and another suitable for the Merchant Navy Service. Over 30,000 designs were presented for displaying the Exhibition Building in Melbourne in September, 1901 and from these five were chosen. A flag embodying the five winning designs and very like the flag which became the Australian National Flag 52 years later was proudly flown over the Exhibition Building.

In the flag the Union Jack reflected our heritage, the large star indicated the unity of the States within the Commonwealth of Australia and the Southern Cross reflected Australia's in the universe. A flag showing our history, our unity and our independent position.

In 1903 King Edward VII approve designs for the flag of Australia and the flag of the Merchant Navy. These became known as the Commonwealth Blue Ensign and the Commonwealth Red Ensign.

In the early days of the Commonwealth the flying of ensigns was not encouraged, but a new body of thought developed through Prime Minister Menzies in 1941 and was supported by Prime Minister Chifley in 1947. The flying of the Commonwealth Blue Ensign was encouraged on shore provided that it was flown in a manner befitting the national emblem of our country.

In 1951 the Australian Government recommended that King George VI approve the Commonwealth Blue Ensign as our National Flag.

King George gave his approval and in 1953 the Flags Act proclaimed the Australian Blue Ensign as our National Flag and the Australian Red Ensign as the correct colours for Australian registered merchant ships.

We properly call these flags the Australian National Flag and the Australian Red Ensign.

The Royal Australian Navy has as its official ensign the Australian White Ensign and the Royal Australian Air Force has as its official ensign the ensign of the Royal Australian Air Force. The official flag of the Australian Army is the Australian National Flag.

All these flags are manufactured in red, white and blue with the Union Jack in the Upper Hoist, a large white seven pointed star directly below the centre of the Union Jack in the Lower Hoist and five white stars representing the Southern Cross in the Fly of the flag.

The Larger star in the Lower Hoist represents the States and Territories with its seven points as explained.

Four of the stars of the Southern Cross. Alpha, Beta, Gamma and Delta have seven points on the flag to uniform the design and for aesthetic appeal. Epsilon, the fifth star, is represented by a five pointed star because it is not as bright as the others in the constellation.

The length of the flag is always twice the width of the flag. For example a flag that is 6 feet or 183 cm long is always 3 feet or 91.5 cm wide.

(Taken from "I'm all Australian" produced by Carrol and Richardson, flag makers).

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS.

It is with considerable pleasure the we welcome the following new members:-

David Messer;

Vince Hart; and

Robin Slater (transferred from Central).

We look forward to having the pleasure of their company at our Luncheon meetings and other Sub-branch functions.

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:-

RON STONE OF WALLACE'S JEWELLERS

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