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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 15 June, 1998

VENUE: GALLIPOLI ROOM ANZAC HOUSE, ST GEORGES TCE., PERTH
TIME: 1200 Hours Fellowship - 1230 hours Luncheon
SPEAKER: The Hon. Michael Horne OBE, British Consul General, Western Australia and Northern Territory

Michael Horne was born on 29 May 1944. In 1961 he joined the Foreign Office and in 1965 was posted to Bucharest. Thereafter there followed appointments to Bannock, Accra, Kuala Lumpur and Libreville. In 1985 he was appointed to the Press Office, Prime Minister's Office and in 1987 was posted to the British Information Service, New York. Then in 1992 he was appointed Liaison with BBC 2's "True Brits" series. He was then posted to the Central European Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. After this he was appointed Head of Information World War II Commemorations Team, Minister of Defence. In 1995 he was appointed Press Secretary to the Deputy Prime Minister - which position he held until his current posting to Consul General for Western Australia and the Northern Territory. He is married and has a son and a daughter.

(Alan Saville)

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: 1215 hours, 6 July, 1998 Anzac House
LUNCHEON: 1150 hours for 1230 hours 15 June, 1998 Anzac House

It is with considerable regret that I have decided to step down from the position of Editor of the Highgate RSL News. The past three plus years have been most interesting and fulfilling and I wouldn't have missed them for all the tea in China. The good news is that Aircrew 2000 has burgeoned to the point where, to be fair, I will have to devote more of my time to that project. This, together with a need for a certain amount of rest and relaxation, has been the prime ingredients in my decision. My thanks go to all those members who have contributed to the continuing production of our newsletter, particularly Bob Smith whose items were always on time and complete. Thanks also to Ted Thomas' son Geoff who guided my stumbling steps during the embryonic period. President Tom Horton has told me that he has someone in mind to take over. To the incoming editor I offer my congratulations and all the help I can muster. I assure him that he will find the job most rewarding.

(Tom Scully)

DEADLINE FOR JULY NEWS - FRIDAY 26 JUNE, 1998



PENSION/WELFARE OFFICER'S REPORT:

Increase in war widows' and service pensions

War widows' pensions have been linked to the recently legislated benchmark 25% of the male total average weekly earnings.

As a result, war widows' pensions are to increase by \$6-80 to \$378-60 per fortnight.

Legislation was being drafted urgently to give effect to the increase from 26 March.

Almost 100,000 war widows and war widowers were due to receive their first increased pension payment on 9 April.

The pension is tax free and non-means tested. The linking of the war widows' pension goes beyond the

Government's previous decision to index age and service pensions at 25% of the MTAW.

In a statement on 26 March announcing the decision, the Prime Minister, Mr Howard, said it was in recognition that the war widows' pension is a "special compensation for the loss of the family bread winner". He added:

"Australia sent young soldiers overseas on service with the solemn undertaking that in the event of the war causing their death, their widow would be cared for.

That undertaking has been honoured since 1914 by the payment of war widows' pension".

From pay day 26 March 1998 all income support pensioners will have received a pension increase despite a negative Consumer Price Index (CPI) figure for the quarter.

The pension rise, of \$6-80 a fortnight for a single pensioner and \$5-70 each for couples, is a direct result of the Government's commitment to maintain income support pensions at 25% of the MTAW.

Future adjustments will now be linked to both the CPI and MTAW outcomes. This means that in a pension rate of 25% of the MTAW for income support and war widow(er) pensioners then the MTAW adjustment will apply.

Dementia care courses offer practical advice

The Department of Veterans' Affairs is providing free training in several locations around Australia for carers of people with dementia.

Any family member or friends who care for a veteran or war widow/widower with dementia can attend. Veterans or war widows who care for a friend or family member with dementia are also invited to attend.

The training is held over two days and covers such issues as medication, managing activities of daily living and stress management.

The Department produces a book *Dementia: A Practical Guide for Carers* which is distributed during training and is also available free by contacting the Department.

As the veteran population ages, there is an increase in the number of veterans suffering from dementia, one of the most common causes of which is Alzheimer's Disease.

Dementia affects memory, emotion, behavior and judgement. Because of this, it is a distressing condition for the person affected as well as family and friends who are involved in their care.

Ray, aged 73, a TPI and WW2 veteran whose wife Marceine was diagnosed six years ago with Alzheimer's Disease finds it difficult to respond to her changes in mood and the confusion caused by her increasing forgetfulness.

They were also introduced to local community services and explored

issues of stress management and dealing with changes and losses associated with the illness.

He feels that he has benefitted from the two day course he attended in Adelaide, where he and others in a similar position learned useful strategies of communication, as well as managing challenging behaviors and safety issues.

Respite can be provided to enable entitled veterans to attend the course.

For more information contact your local Department of Veterans' Affairs office.

The dates and times of the next round of courses in Western Australia can be obtained by phoning Lynne McHale on 9366 - 8348.

(supplied by Bob Smith)

SUB-WARDEN' DUTIES.

Monday	8 June	0945 hours for 1000 hours	Labuan
Saturday	13 June	1145 hours for 1200 hours	State Congress
Sunday	19 July	1145 hours for 1200 hours	Cyprian



HONOUR AVENUE REPORT 4 May, 1998:

On 16 April members of the committee, representatives of Kings Park and Botanic Gardens and invited guests were present at the unveiling of a memorial plaque dedicated to Max Brice. The plaque was mounted on a park bench overlooking the city and Swan River. After addresses by Bish Kwiecinski, Tom Horton, and Dr Steve Hopper of Kings Park, Mrs Patricia Brice unveiled the plaque. A morning tea followed the ceremony. The cost of the plaque was borne by Kings Park, such was the esteem in which Max was held by the Park management and staff.

The Sub-branch generously made a donation of \$200-00 to the committee. Also received were donations of \$500-00 from the Friends of Kings Park and \$200-00 from the National Bank. An article outlining the National Bank's long association with the Honour Avenues has been written for publication in their national magazine. The Bank dedicated 22 of the first plaques in 1919 and has long provided financial support to our committee. Thank you to all who support us in our efforts.

Painting and maintenance programmes in the Avenues were completed in time for Anzac Day ceremonies. Of note were the growing number of personal floral tributes laid at individual plaques commemorating servicemen from both World Wars. The practice of a flower being placed on each plaque by students of Carine Senior High School has continued and is appreciated.

(Chris Brooks)
Hon Secretary.

HONOUR AVENUE - A CALL FOR HELP.

Gentlemen, at the March luncheon I made a call for volunteers and in the May newsletter the Sub-branch President out a (very) short notice, but so far only two persons, both of the wrong "vintage", answered. At the luncheon there were some 120+ members present, but it may be that most of the present were not of the required "vintage".

The Honour Avenue is quite unique and admired by many visitors from interstate and from overseas. It is looked after by a small volunteer working committee (and the stress is on the word 'working'), most of the members being of World War II vintage. Only three are younger, our secretary - Chris Brooks being a Vietnam War veteran, while Les Stewart and Jock Geldart are retired professional soldiers. (Jock is presently on a leave of absence, his job as State Secretary takes too much of his time, well in excess of normal working hours.

We could use three chaps to help out - two for posts - and one for plaques painting. The job takes approximately 40 - 50 hours per year and you work in the time of your own choice. We do not want a casual stop-gap help nor do we look for chaps of my age - they won't last any longer than most of us will. In the past members of the committee were dedicated to the job kept it as long as they could and then retired. Our previous secretary, Max Brice, was on the job for 50 years and still working in spite of serious illness. He attended his 50th anniversary meeting as secretary and receive a small memento from us. He died not quite six weeks later. I have been working on the committee since 1972.

I do not want anybody to feel obliged to offer his services, nor do I wish to "twist anybody's arm" as the saying goes. From experience I know that such "volunteers" don't usually last. No - but if you genuinely feel the dedication and are prepared to spend some time every year, for years to come, working to help keeping the Avenue in such a shape that our State can be proud of it, or if you want more info, please give me a ring. The number is 9370 - 1579. I live alone but the "talk to the wall" contraption will take a message.

We would prefer to keep the committee within our Sub-branch but, in no suitable volunteers come forward, we will have to turn for assistance to other Sub-branches and that would be hard to justify, considering ours is the second-largest within the Metro area.

(Bish Kwiecinski)
Chairman

H V O REPORT:

Since last report Arch Campbell, Len Iken and Jim Hall have all recovered and returned home. As at 19/05/98 we have a "clean sheet"!

(Don Meredith)

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

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874 BEAUFORT ST INGLEWOOD. PHONE 9272 - 2933;
891 HAY ST PERTH. PHONE 9401 - 0463; AND
1341 ALBANY HIGHWAY CANNINGTON. PHONE 9458 - 2833.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

"LADIES NIGHT" - This is Highgate Sub-Branches major Social Event for the year. to be held late in November at the WA Club. This early notice may assist in booking babysitters and new frocking!! Further notice will appear in the "News" as time comes by.

Since last newsletter Len Iken has had another visit to Hollywood and should be home when this goes to print. Len, I'll bet home cookery never tasted so good. Take great care - we all need you.

News to hand, Les and Mary Stewart are off to the U.K and Europe. Have a wonderful, venturous holiday and safe return. No doubt Les is a suitable guest speaker of the future?

Don Blair has just arrived home from an extended tour of Gallipoli and the Gallipoli Dawn Service as well as the Battlefields then onto France. I hope in due course we hear about it!

Highgate Ladies luncheon on Wednesday August 12 at 1130am for 12noon - \$15 per head at the Graduate Restaurant, Carine TAFE Campus. It is a wonderful get together. Ring Bob Mercer, Junior Vice President (9364 2066) and book your seats.

The Annual State Congress will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 12th, 13th and 14th June 1998. Highgate has nominated 3 Members for the State Executive.

"Members please read and ponder"

We are all aware of the recent problems the State Executive have recently experienced. This may mean that the new Executive could take over and be on a recovery mission. All the incoming Executive will be under considerable tension to bring the State Branch back on course. These honorary jobs take many hours of hard work and devotion! It could mean that complex items may stretch their initiative to the limit. Some Executive Committees may wish to co-opt Members from the many RSL Sub Branches skilled in their particular problem to assist.

Highgate Members have particular professional skills in Medicine, Law, Finance, Defence, Building and Contracting and many others. If you are called to offer assistance could and would you make time? A strong State R.S.L. is very necessary today and for the future - It is just a thought.

(Tom Horton)

HIGHGATE LADIES' LUNCHEON

The members of Highgate Sub-branch together with their partners and friends are invited to attend the Highgate RSL Ladies Luncheon to be held on **Wednesday 12th AUGUST, 1998** at the Graduate Restaurant, Carine TAFE Campus, Almandine Drive, Carine WA commencing at 1130 hours for 1200 hours. (N.B. Seating has been arranged for sixty (60) and will be allocated on a "first come first served" basis. The cost is to be fifteen dollars (\$15-00) per person and will include a three course meal and pre-luncheon drinks of beer, wine and soft drinks. (Spirits may be purchased separately). If you wish to attend complete the form below and send it together with your cheque to **BOB MERCER no later than Monday 27 July, 1998**

ND (BOB) MERCER 27 JUL 98

NAME..... (PLEASE PRINT)

I WISH TO ATTEND THE LUNCHEON ON 12 August, 1998

I WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY.....

.....

ENCLOSED IS MY CHEQUE FOR \$.....

(\$15-00 PER PERSON)