



Registered Publication No. PP602669/0033

No. 367

July, 1998

(The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia)
IF UNDELIVERED PLEASE RETURN TO:- O PELCZAR

PRESIDENT: T W (TOM) HORTON Tel. 9390 - 9071

VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR: F A (ALAN) SAVILLE Tel. 9386 - 1933

JUNIOR: R D (BOB) MERCER AM RFD ED Tel. 9364 - 2066

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: S D (DON) MEREDITH, JP. Tel. 9386 - 1171

SECRETARY: O (OTTO) PELCZAR Tel. 9385 - 9848

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

NEWS EDITOR: T L (Tom) Scully Tel. 9332 - 6836

MONTHLY LUNCHEON

Monday 20th July, 1998

VENUE: GALLIPOLI ROOM ANZAC House, St George's Terrace, PERTH

TIME: 1200 Hours Fellowship - 1230 hours Luncheon

SPEAKER: Commodore G P (Paul) Kable - Commodore Fleet Bases

Commodore Paul Kable joined the Royal Australian Naval College in January 1963. Graduated July 1964 and then undertook training on board HMA Ships SYDNEY & PARRAMATTA. HMAS Parramatta was then patrolling Malaysian waters against Indonesian confrontation. In late 1965 he went to the UK for two years academic and professional training. Returned to Australia in 1976 and joined HMAS Sydney, then a troop transport, as Landing Craft Officer and Sub Lieutenant of the Gunroom. 1968/71 he served on HMAS Stuart as Navigating and Operations Officer. He then went to HMS Dryad for the long Navigation and Direction course. April '72 - May '74 he was Staff Navigation Officer to Captain Mine Counter Measures and Fishery Protection based in Scotland. On return to Australia he taught at the Navigation School HMAS Watson and there-after joined HMAS Perth as Navigating and Operations Officer. January '78 to December '79 he was Training Officer at the Naval College. In December '79 he was promoted to Commander and served as Head, Operational Design Group, Combat Data Systems Centre Canberra before attending the Australian Joint Services Staff College. He commanded HMAS Sydney from commissioning in Seattle January 1983 until her return to Australia. June '84 posted to Naval manpower Branch Canberra. November '85 promoted to Captain and joined the Military Staff Branch of the Strategic and International Policy Division in Department of Defence. January '88 until October '89 was Captain of HMAS Darwin. Then appointed Director Naval Programs, Naval Staff Canberra. Promoted to Commodore July '91 and appointed Head Australian Defence Staff and Defence Adviser London '92 to '95. Most recently was Director General Maritime Development at Defence Headquarters Canberra. Commodore Kable's new role based at HMAS Stirling WA puts him in overall command of Royal Australian Navy Fleet Bases, Communications Stations and support craft around the Nation. He also represents the Chief of the Defence Force in Western Australia.

The Commodore is descended from Henry Kable and Susannah Holmes both convicts in the First Fleet, 1788. He married Anne Kingston of Rosyth Scotland in 1973 and they have a son and a daughter.

JUNE SPEAKER: Our thanks to The Hon Michael Horne for his wide ranging address to us in June. The segment on World War II Commemorations touched a chord with many of our Members who participated in those services in London.

Alan Saville

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

COMMITTEE: 1215 hours, 3 August, 1998 ANZAC House

LUNCHEON: 1150 hours for 1230 hours 17 August, 1998 ANZAC House



President's Message

Highgate Newsletter is a very important communication.

WE NEED AN EDITOR!!!

All the layout and details are on computer floppy discs which minimise the work load.
Please volunteer - ring Tom Horton 9390 9071

Tom Scully has been our Editor for over 3 years and has done a remarkably excellent job. Tom has now a heavy workload organising an international reunion of all Allied Air Crew and those who trained as Air Crew during W.W.II to be held in Perth from 2nd - 9th September 2000.

June is a busy time for Highgate. With the State Congress on 12th, 13th and 14th June which was opened by the Governor Major General Jeffery AC MC. Highgate had 5 Delegates.

The National President Major General Peter Phillips OA MC presented a comprehensive address on national affairs.

The Congress was addressed by the Minister for Veteran Affairs the Hon Bruce Scott MP who explained the benefits to Veterans who will receive the gold card.

Mr Michael Kallis, State Memorial Warden, presented a sincere and emotional talk covering the many and varied duties of his important position.

MOST IMPORTANT NEWS

KEN BLADEN, Highgate Committeeman was elected **STATE PRESIDENT**. On behalf of all Highgate Members congratulations Ken. Well done. We offer you our every support.

Our Junior Vice President, Bob Mercer, has been elected Trustee for the State Branch.

R F Pickaid was elected to the State Executive Committee.

D C Hall elected as stand by to the Executive Committee.

The Congress elected Len J Turner State Senior Vice and R J Privilege Junior Vice Presidents.

URGENT

Highgate Ladies Luncheon on the 12th August. Please ring Bob Mercer, Vice President, on 9364 2066 and let him know if you are attending.

At our June Luncheon we had a very interesting and informative address by Michael Horne OBE, British Consul General to Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

It was great to have Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE (Mil) a 50 year plus Member of Highgate at our May Luncheon. During a brief discussion on ANZAC Day Services he mentioned he was asked to give the ANZAC address in Mandurah. I was very impressed when Sir Charles mentioned at the Dawn and General Services there were well over 5000 in attendance and many of them were young people. Well done Mandurah.

Sir Charles' theme was, I quote:

"The Spirit of ANZAC and how precious it is to the Australian Nation."

"The emphasis was on the importance of young and old understanding and embracing this spirit. It is not a spirit of War. It is a spirit of service, patriotism, loyalty, mateship and something to be embraced by all regardless of ethnic origin.

I also placed great emphasis on the importance of all who have a qualification to belong to the League including under the expanded criteria for League Membership.

Further, I made an appeal to the "oldies" to realise that time is marching on - in my own case, I was 33 when the War ended, I am now 86. Even anyone who was only 20 when the War ended is now 73.

The greatest thing we can do for the Spirit of ANZAC is to make sure that it goes on forever and the way to do this is to make sure that even the youngest children, through schools and other means, know what the Spirit of ANZAC is all about".

Thank you Sir Charles.



HOLLYWOOD HOSPITAL VISITS

Ivor Hanger has been in Murray Ward bed 250 recovering from an injury to his back. He is making progress and hopes to be returning home shortly.

Graham Chisolm has been in Rehabilitation Ward 14 and is expected to be there for some time.

Archie Campbell has been in and out a couple of times. He seemed in good heart when I saw him on the 16th and I would expect him to be going home this week.

Don Meredith

SUB-WARDEN'S DUTIES

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Sunday 19 July | 0945 hours for 1000 hours | Royal Yugoslavian Community Asce |
| Sunday 19 July | 1145 hours for 1200 hours | Cyprians |
| Sunday 9 August | 1045 hours for 1100 hours | Navy Canberra Shrop Shire Asce |
| Saturday 15 August | 1045 hours for 1100 hours | VJ DAY Remembrance |
| Saturday 15 August | 1345 hours for 1400 hours | British Commonwealth Occupational Forces Asce. Unveiling of Plaque. |

15th AUGUST VJ DAY AND END OF W W II

15th August like 11th November will rank amongst the most significant dates in World history this Century. The annual commemoration at the State War Memorial this year falls on a **Saturday** and commences at 1100 hours.

Make a note to come along with your family, friends and especially the young ones to join with the Governor and **ALL** Veterans in the act of Remembrance and Thanksgiving.

Sam Dallywater

HIGHGATE LADIES LUNCHEON: 1130 hours for 1200 hours 12 AUGUST 1998

THE GRADUATE RESTAURANT CARINE TAFE CAMPUS
Almandine Drive Carine WA
Bookings plus cheque to BOB MERCER (9364 2066) before
27 JULY 1998. \$15.00 per head.

PENSION/WELFARE REPORT OVERPAYMENTS

Our basic aim is to ensure that all pensioners have received or are receiving the correct amount of pension that they are entitled to receive as defined by the relevant legislation.

OMU "core business" is to investigate possible overpayment cases. These cases are identified by:

- referrals from income support and disability pension examiners
- data matching exercises
- denunciation (Dob-ins)

cases are investigated for breaches of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 (VEA).

The VEA gives us power to seek information to assist in our inquiries and information can be requested from any sources considered necessary. Investigation can take us back to when a possible breach occurred. This work can be lengthy and involved, especially where interstate or overseas information is required.

When a breach has been determined to have occurred, an overpayment is calculated, a debt is raised and this is recorded on our debt recording system known as "WINPORS" (Window based, Pension Overpayment Recording System). We advise the pensioner/s of the overpayment and how it occurred and seek to recover the relevant amount as soon as possible. Whilst it is preferable to recover a debt in a lump sum, this is not always possible due to individual circumstances. Various other options are available and allow us to offer alternative arrangements including deductions from their fortnightly pension.

PROSECUTIONS

During our investigation, a case is analysed to determine if any serious breaching of the VEA have occurred. This involves considerable investigation and may require interviews with pensioners, statements from relevant persons, collection of valid evidence from other parties including financial institutions, the Australian Taxation Office, accounts, DOLA etc. If after examining all the evidence it is considered appropriate, the Prosecutions Officer will present all case details to the Office of the DPP for their legal opinion as to whether a prosecution can be mounted. The DPP then take charge if it is considered by them that Court action is appropriate. Fortunately in this State Office, there have only been a small number of prosecutions to date.



DATA MATCHING

DVA compares its client records with two other departments. Regular data matching computer runs compare details of DVA clients with Centrelink (DSS) and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). This process is designed to ensure that a person is not receiving dual payments from another Government authority and is providing the appropriate income details for service pension assessment. Possible discrepancies are identified and forwarded to OMU for further investigation. An individuals income, as declared to ATO, is compared against that held by DVA in their service pension assessment. Where inconsistencies appear further investigation is made and this may result in a retrospective reassessment of service pension. This can mean an over payment is raised and recovery action taken by OMU. Other comparisons involve identity and tax file number checks which may require investigation and corrections.

LUMP SUM ADVANCE

Currently OMU has responsibility to process applications for Lump Sum Advance (LSA). LSA was introduced by the Government in 1996 to enable pensioners who may require an urgent sum of money to obtain an advance based on their service pension or Income Support Supplement.

A maximum of \$500.00 for single rate pensioners and \$455.00 each for married rate is available. The total amount of LSA payable is calculated on 6% of their annual service pension. The advance is usually paid to a bank account on the next available pay day or in urgent cases can be made by cheque payment. The advance must be repaid within six months and pensioners can receive only one advance per calendar year.

Bob Smith

M C COLE P O Box 38 UCKFIELD, EAST SUSSEX TN 22432A ENGLAND.

Dear Tom

I am writing formally to advise you of my intention to resign with immediate effect as a member of the Branch Sub-Committee and as a Member of Highgate. This decision has been taken as a result of my return permanently to live in England.

I very much enjoyed the years I spent as a Member of Highgate and would like to wish all Members of the Branch a happy and successful future.

Michael Cole

Highgate thanks Michael for the work he did for the Branch and we all enjoyed his friendly fellowship.

THIS PUBLICATION IS PROUDLY SUPPORTED BY:-

RON STONE OF WALLACE JEWELLERS

NOW A CONSULTANT TO SMALES JEWELLERS, PICCADILLY ARCADE. PHONE 9321 4421

AND

DON BLAIR OF KINGSIZE MENSWEAR

874 BEAUFORT ST INGLEWOOD PHONE 9272 2933

891 HAY ST PERTH PHONE 9401 0463 AND

1341 ALBANY HIGHWAY CANNINGTON PHONE 9458 2833