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

Monthly Luncheon 16 August 1999

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Venue: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House

Time: 1150 Hrs Fellowship, 1230 Hrs Luncheon

Speaker: Mr Kevin Cass-Ryall—Executive Director, Hollywood Private Hospital

Kevin Cass-Ryall is Hollywood's Executive Director and has been since August 1998. Between December 1994 and August 1998, Kevin held the position of Director of Corporate Services at Hollywood Hospital. Prior to joining Hollywood in December 1994, Kevin was the General Manager of the Armadale-Kelmscott Health Service, a position he had held since 1990. Prior to that Kevin held positions in administration and finance at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Kevin has been a senior manager within the health industry of Western Australia for more than 15 years. He holds a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting.

Last Month's Speaker

Sqn. Ldr. Peter Hayward, CO 25 Squadron RAAF, presented a very comprehensive report on the state of the Citizen Air Force, and in particular, the work of 25 Sqn. It was most interesting for our Members to have an update on the little publicised work, and the contribution that part time Airmen make towards our Defence commitment within Australia. Peter presented a very positive view and an enthusiastic outlook on the state of our air defences now, and in to the future. If the number of questions asked by our Members gave an indication of their interest in this subject, then one could say it was a very successful presentation. Thank you Peter.

Bob Mercer

Forthcoming Meetings

Luncheon: 1150 Hrs for 1230 Hrs Monday September 20th,
1999

Committee: 1215 Hrs Monday September 6th 1999

Assistant Cashier for August Luncheon—Ken Birks

If unable to attend, please ring Brian Martin (Tel. 9294 1915) in time for him to get a replacement. Please bring correct money—\$15.000

President's Report

Following a comprehensive study of Cadet Units conducted by Les Stewart, the Committee has decided to adopt the Carine High School Cadet Unit, in view of Carine's continuing assistance to the Honour Avenue Committee.

A second dedication of Memorial Plaques in the Walkway, May Drive, was held on Sunday August 1st in the presence of an estimated 200 relatives and friends. The dedication was conducted by

Honour Avenue Committee Chairman Ray Helpworth, assisted by Secretary Chris Brooks, and the Ode given by Ken Wood.

The annual accounts of Highgate Sub-branch, as enclosed with last month's Newsletter were adopted at the July General (luncheon) meeting.

Alan Saville

Hospital Visiting Officer's Report

During July the following members have been visited in Hollywood:

Sir Francis ("Red") Burt, will be home before this is printed;

Ivor Hanger, (now approaching 95 in October), recovering from 'flu and should leave shortly;

John Scott could be there for a while with a leg ulcer.

Keith Flanagan since gone home.

Alan King, about to go home.

Tom Ferrero, home after a tough trot.

Dominic ("Nic") Smith, now home, also after a worrying time.

Jim Hall, now home.

Len Bird, now home.

Bish Kwiezinski, regrettably died on 16th July

Don Meredith

Vale

It is with regret that we report the death of our member ZT (Bish) Kwiezinski, OAM.

Bish will be long remembered for his tireless service as a member of the State Executive and the Honour Avenue Committee

Honour Avenue Committee Report—2 August 1999

A dedication ceremony for twelve memorial plaques on Sunday August 1st, saw around 200 family and friends of those honoured gather in Kings Park on a glorious winter's day. Members of one family travelled from New Zealand for the occasion. A sizeable group of 2/4th Machine Gunners and families were also present.

After an address by Chairman Ray Helpworth, committee members in attendance assistance with the fixing of the plaques to the posts. Ken Wood delivered an emotion-filled rendition of Binyon's poem *Ode to the Fallen*, which proved to be a fitting finale to the ceremony.

Tuesday August 3rd was the 80th Anniversary of the first plaque dedication ceremony in 1919. RSL volunteers have continually maintained the plaques and posts since 1922. It has been reported that tireless committee member Basil Sprenger was at work painting posts soon after that inaugural event, and notably still maintains a very high standard of brush-work today.

The committee dutifully celebrated the anniversary with a luncheon at the Western Australia Club.

Chris Brooks—Hon. Secretary

Pension Report

Accommodation charge (for nursing home level care)

Services that meet set standards of care and accommodation can ask new residents entering nursing home level care to pay an accommodation charge, if they can afford to do so.

Users of respite care do not have to pay an accommodation charge.

How much is the accommodation charge?

The maximum accommodation charge is capped at \$12 a day (indexed), for a maximum of five years. This charge is calculated on a daily basis and is set on a sliding scale, depending on your assets. The amount of accommodation charge is agreed between the resident and the care service.

You cannot be asked to pay an accommodation charge unless you have signed an agreement, which sets out your rights and responsibilities. You generally have up to seven days after entering a service before you need to sign an agreement.

People with less than a minimum amount of assets, including the value of their house in certain circumstances, will not be required to pay this charge. The minimum threshold is detailed in the list of current fees and charges, inserted in the back of this booklet.

Is there a minimum accommodation charge?

No, there is no minimum level.

For how long will I pay an accommodation charge?

A maximum of five years, even if you move to another facility.

What are my payment options for the accommodation charge?

Residents who can afford to pay the accommodation charge have a number of payment options.

If you choose to pay by renting your former home, the income from rent will not affect your pension or nursing home fees and the home will not be counted under the pension assets test for up to five years (while you are paying the charge).

Residents can also agree with the provider to pay later on from their estate. Interest may be charged on this amount at the yield rate (at March 1998 it was 6 per cent pa).

Accommodation bonds (for hostel level care)

Accommodation Bonds were previously known as "entry contributions". The accommodation bond is an amount agreed between the resident and the care service. It is like an interest-free loan to the service which may deduct up to \$2,600 per annum, calculated monthly, for up to five years (a maximum of \$13,000).

Who must pay accommodation bonds?

New residents entering hostel level care may be asked to pay an accommodation bond.

Only residents who can afford to pay an accommodation bond may be asked to do so.

How much are the accommodation bonds?

There is no fixed amount for an accommodation bond. However, you cannot be charged an accommodation bond which would leave you with less than a set level of assets. The current minimum level of assets is detailed in the table of fees and charges inserted in the back of this booklet.

Most service providers will have a set range of charges, and will be prepared to discuss how much you can, or wish to pay.

Before you move in, you should ask the service provider how much it charges for an accommodation bond, decide if this is agreeable, then decide how you will make the payment.

When do I need to pay the accommodation bond?

After moving in, new residents have six months to pay their accommodation bond if they choose to pay as a lump sum. They need to agree the amount of their accommodation bond when they move in, and they may be charged interest on that amount from the time they enter the facility until it is fully paid.

Pension Report—continued

What are my payment options for a bond?

Accommodation bonds can be paid as:

- A lump sum
- Periodic (fortnightly or monthly) payment; or
- Combination of a lump sum and monthly payments.

What happens when I leave the service?

When you leave, your accommodation bond is refunded within two months, less an amount of up to \$2,600 a year for up to five years. That is, a maximum of

\$13,000 can by law be kept by the service towards improving the standard of accommodation. The refund will not include interest on this money. After five years, no further amount can be deducted.

How do the bonds affect pensions, residential care fees and tax?

Accommodation bond lump sums are counted as (non-financial) assets under the Department of Social Security and Veterans' Affairs pension asset tests, but no income is deemed from them.

Bob Smith

Sales Executive Liaison Officer's Report

Items arising from State Executive

State War Memorial—Flame of Remembrance— project stalled due to wariness of all stakeholders in respect of public liability exposure and associated public liability insurance costs. Negotiations continuing with State Government and Kings Park Board.

A farewell presentation is to be made to His Excellency, The Retiring Governor, at a Remembrance Day luncheon—11th November 1999.

Commodore David Orr has been appointed a Trustee of the League for the next three years, to fill the casual vacancy by the resignation of Mr Trevor Lloyd.

Advice has been received from the Hon Solicitor, that the instrument proposed to proscribe the rights, duties and obligations of the Board of the WVH is at variance with the rules of the WA Branch of the League, in that it cedes greater authority and autonomy than is permitted

under the rules. It cannot be considered again until assent or otherwise has been determined by the next State Congress.

Proposition by the Membership and Regionalisation Committee to advertise for new membership in the Perth metro Community Newspapers. A 10cm x 3 col advert to be included in 2 only consecutive issues for an all-up cost of approx \$5,000. Issue referred to Staff and Finance Committee for financial impact evaluation..

Interesting report from the Special Projects - Youth Affair Committee on their attempts to send 5 Western Australian cadets (from all services involved with cadets) and 3 chaperones to ANZAC Cove and then onto Villiers Bretonneux in time for ANZAC Day 2000. WA Government Office of Youth Affairs is being asked to put up most of the money.

Richard Carter

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