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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

15 October 2001

Venue: Gallipoli Room, Anzac House
Time: 1150 hrs Fellowship 1230hrs Luncheon
Speaker: Bill Gaynor (State President) OAM RFD
Topic: RSL – At the Crossroads?

Presidents Report

Well the good news in the veteran community this month is the Veterans Service Pension, Disability Pension and War Widow's Pensions all have increased following the latest round of indexation. See Page 4 for details.

When we reflect on the achievements of the **RSL WA Branch** over the last three years you become aware of the enormous contribution made to the league by the State immediate past President Mr Ken Bladen. During his time at the helm as State President Ken provided strong leadership and was instrumental in the instigation of many new initiatives. The more evident of these include the re-development project of the **RSL War Veterans Home** at Menora and the re-establishment of the **RSL in WA** as a credible voice in the community on matters of national concern such as; Defence, Commemoration, Veterans Affairs and Local Community Issues. The dedicated service that Ken has freely given over the three years is outstanding and in the highest traditions of the **RSL** and **Highgate Sub-branch**. On behalf of the committee and the members, congratulations to Ken well done.

We speak regularly about the need to increase membership and to inject new blood into **Highgate**. We have had limited success in this area during 2001, so I ask you all to invite a guest to lunch and try and tempt them to join **Highgate**, before the end of the year.

Poppy Day 9 November 2001. The day is drawing near and we still need volunteers to man the collections points, remember, "People Sell Poppies".

Take care John

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 1000 hrs Monday 5
November 2001

Luncheon: 1150 hrs for 1230 hrs,
19 November 2001

Assistant Cashier for October - TBA

Please bring correct money - \$20.00

Luncheon format for the better, say members

Many members have commented on how much better the luncheon format is; gathering downstairs for fellowship and then moving upstairs when given the 5-minute warning for lunch.

Members ensure you pay as you enter downstairs and collect your name badge and a visitors badge for any guest you may have.

Hospital Visits

Highgate personnel in Hollywood Hospital since last report:

Ron Adair	Jack McLaren	Tim Rutter
Eric Silbert	Joe Slattery	Tom Stenhouse*

* Regrettably Tom Stenhouse passed away during the Month. His funeral was well attended by 2/28th Bn and Highgate Colleagues.

Don Meredith – HVO

Sub Wardens Duties

Wreath laying ceremonies currently scheduled at the State War Memorial, Kings Park:

Sunday 28 Oct	11:45 hrs for 12 Noon	Consulate of Greece
Sunday 11 Nov	10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs	Remembrance Day
Wednesday 14 Nov	16:30 hrs for 16:45 hrs	Perth Legacy

Highgate Committee 2002

Any member who wishes to serve on the Highgate Sub-branch Committee in 2002, please have your nomination to the Secretary by the end of October 2001.

Please support our sponsor:

Kingsize Menswear, City, Inglewood and Cannington

RSL - At The Crossroads?

State President Bill Gaynor OAM RFD is to be our Guest Speaker at the October Meeting.

Bill was elected President last July and after just three months in the job his influence in initiating change is becoming evident.

His address will cover elements of those changes through an overview of the current state of the WA State Branch. He will also explore options for its future direction. Particular emphasis will be directed towards a corporate plan that will set out models for the future administration and operational activities of the Branch.

It is widely acknowledged that as an Australian icon the RSL has a major role in influencing defence, social and welfare policies and to achieve this it needs to be on a sound financial and administrative base. Bill has been a member of the RSL since 1978 and has held most offices in the Bellevue Sub Branch. His military career of some 33 years started in 1963 with enlistment into AA Psych Corp. He was commissioned into RAAMC in 1981 and served with WAUR, 11 IRC, 5 Trg Gp, 7 Fd Amb and APA-P before retiring at the rank of Major in 1996.

His other main interest covering some 45 years is Surf Lifesaving. As a Life Member of the City of Perth Club and the WA State Centre he was recognised for his services to that movement with the Award of the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1999.

In his other life he is an Education Administrator and is currently Principal of the West Beechboro Primary School.

September Speaker

Last month our own Dr Wojciech Gorski gave a well-informed talk about honours and awards. Wojciech has, I am sure you will all agree, a wealth of knowledge on medals etc. He is obviously a keen enthusiast and was delighted to be able to speak to members on a subject on which he has a great deal of knowledge.

Highgate Programme Diary Notes 2001

November 9 th	Poppy Day
November 23 rd	Ladies Dinner (Black Tie and Miniatures)
December 17 th	Annual General Meeting

Don Blair SVP

I therefore urge you to make a special effort to hear Lynne's address, on the awareness of carer services and financial allowances that can make a significant difference to veterans and their carers.

Don Blair SVP

Ladies Dining Night - Friday 23 November 2001

Once again this popular night is at the WA Club the timings are 7:15pm for 7:45pm at \$55 per head.

The evening is Black Tie with miniatures.

A Yellow Return was included in the September Newsletter please forward to the Treasurer with your cheque there is limit of 80.

Bookings via the return are essential there are no "door" sales.

Pensions and allowances rise.

Veterans' service pension, disability pension and war widow's pension have increased following the latest round of indexation adjustments. New rates of pension are effective from 20 September and will flow through on payday 4 October.

To calculate the new rates of service pension and war widow's pension, the Maximum Basic Rate is increased by 1.9 per cent, in line with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and then compared to 25 per cent of male total average weekly earnings (MTAWE) to see if it needs to rise further. New fortnightly pension rates are:

Service pension:

	Old rate	New rate	Increase
Single person:	\$402.00	\$410.50	\$8.50
Couples (each):	\$335.50	\$342.60	\$7.10

These amounts are the maximum rates and therefore may not be your payment.

War widow's pension:

	Old rate	New rate	Increase
	\$427.00	\$435.50	\$8.50

Income support supplement of up to \$124.90 may also be paid top of the war widow's rate.

Disability pension

Disability pensions are increased for CPI every six months, in March and September.

	Old rate	New rate	Increase
T&PI	\$708.50	\$722.00	\$13.50
EDA	\$403.05	\$410.70	\$7.65
100 per cent	\$268.70	\$273.80	\$5.10
10 per cent	\$26.87	\$27.38	\$0.51

Disability pension allowances have been increased in September in line with this year's indexation.

Pharmaceutical allowance is paid in addition to these amounts.

Updates to the values of shares and managed investments held by veterans are also done every March and September. This can alter the rate of payment of service pension for people with these types of investments.

The quarterly installment of Telephone Allowance will be paid on payday 20 September at the new rate of \$18.