

**President**  
John Jackson  
Tel. 9245 5015

**Senior Vice President**  
Don Blair  
Tel 9272 2933

**Junior Vice President &  
Pensions Officer**  
Jim Eayrs  
Tel. 9341 2979

**Immediate Past President**  
Alan Saville  
Tel. 9386 1933

**Secretary**  
Otto Pelczar  
Tel. 9385 9848

**Treasurer**  
Brian Martin  
78 Swanview Road  
GREENMOUNT WA 6056  
Tel. 9294 1915

**News Editor**  
Ian Mulholland  
Tel. 9572 2632

**Honour Avenue**  
Chris Brooks  
Tel. 9271 2811

## Monthly Luncheon 19 November 2001

**Venue:** Gallipoli Room, Anzac House  
**Time:** 1150 hrs Fellowship 1230hrs Luncheon  
**Speaker:** Professor Geoffrey Bolton  
**Topic:** WA – A Big Subject

### Presidents Report

#### **Our World**

The tragic events of September 11 and challenges to the integrity of our borders, have dominated locals news for the last two months. These issues became somewhat of a political football as we approached the election. Opinions have been expressed for and against the decision to support the USA in their fight against terrorism.

My concern is that the service men and women whom have been committed to operational service against the Taliban are not receiving the undivided moral support of the Australian public. It is too late to be arguing if we should send troops to Afghanistan or not, the decision has been made and service people committed.

The public is being confused by conflicting media reports and is apprehensive about acts of terrorism at home and abroad, exactly the scenario any terrorist organisation would hope to achieve. It is time for strong moral leadership and the RSL is one of the only non-political organisations with the experience to speak with authority, on what is expected of an Australian in time of conflict.

Therefore, it is incumbent on all members of the RSL to behave responsibly and oppose any negative comments about our operational commitment. We all remember, too well, the injustice done to our Vietnam Veterans and their families as a result of serving in an unpopular conflict. Our serving men and women are fighting under the same flag that you and I did so, let us learn from past experience and stand firmly behind these fine young Australians.

This is an issue that as members of the RSL we should stand strong and firm and certainly one that all of us can become involved, supporting our services.

#### **First Affiliate Member**

Congratulation to Mrs Stephanie Bladen our first Lady affiliate member, Highgate extends to you a most sincere welcome.

**Take care John**

### **FORTHCOMING MEETINGS**

Committee: 1000 hrs Monday 3  
December 2001

Luncheon: 1150 hrs for 1230 hrs,  
17 December 2001

**Assistant Cashier for Nov - TBA**  
Please bring correct money - **\$20.00**

**Hospital Visits**

October was a very good month as only two of our members had occasion to be hospitalized:

Jack McLaren & Jack Boon, both have since gone home.

**Don Meredith – HVO**

**Sub Wardens Duties**

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

Sunday 11 Nov            10:30 hrs for 11:00 hrs            Remembrance Day

Wednesday 14 Nov    16:30 hrs for 16:45 hrs            Perth Legacy

**Camp Butcher**

In late 1944 we were taken down river to Tamuan POW Camp where groups were being assembled to be taken to Japan. Having been rejected from the Japan Party; because I had malaria, so did everyone else, I was in a group of 200 sent up line to Konquita where we were engaged in railway maintenance. Major Hec Greiner, a Victorian, was I.C.

The work was relatively easy after Hintok but food was scarce. We had not seen meat for weeks and I jokingly said to Hec Greiner that it would be a great place to be Camp Butcher, meaning that one would have nothing to do. Now Hec was not noted for his sense of humour and in later years when I recounted this story to some of my Melbourne friends they nearly fell off their bar stools laughing.

About a week later Hec called me in and said, "You wanted to be Camp Butcher - well you are." The Japs had informed him that five "bullocks" would be arriving and a yard to hold them had to be built forthwith and I was told to get on and do it - single handedly- With an axe, shovel and parang and much sweat the job was done and the great day arrived. Five cows, like overgrown calves, arrived on a flat top rail truck. One was dead on arrival and the others were not far off. We revived the remaining four and carried them down to the yard and butchered the dead one for food. The ration for the camp was one "bullock" every 20 days.

The next meat to arrive was a pig in a cane basket, for the Japanese, and I was to butcher it. I asked for a helper and Charlie, a foreman slaughter man in civil life, was my assistant. The Japs told us they only wanted the meat so the head and hide were ours. I won't go into details of our butchering methods, but it did involve an axe; we cut the head off level with the shoulders and left two inches of fat on the hide. The head we sent to our cookhouse and we rendered the hide to about 12 gallons of fat along with the offal, which was also ours. We quartered the body at which point Charlie removed, with surgical skill, a complete rib from the fore quarters and we had a pork chop each.

We took the four pieces of the pig to the Jap cookhouse and were actually thanked with a cup of sugared tea. If they'd only know how many ribs a pig was supposed to have.

**Ken Wood**

Please support our sponsor:

## *Kingsize Menswear, City, Inglewood and Cannington*

### **This Month's Speaker is Professor Geoffrey Bolton**

Professor Bolton will speak on the Big Subject of Western Australia.

### **October Speaker - State President Bill Gaynor OAM RFD**

RSL – At the Crossroads. Bill's presentation was excellent; he gave a very clear picture of the challenges we are facing with the present structure and make-up of the State Executive and financial matters relating to the RSL Veteran's Homes.

As explained by Bill, the use of logic, having the correct balance of members on the Executive and the development of a sound business plan, are the key factors enabling us to take to the next step for our recovery into 2002 and beyond.

A very warm response given by the Highgate members to the Presidents speech was an excellent indication of their support.

### **Welcome to new members:**

Ray Galliot, Vic Hayes, Les Herbert and John Morriss, we hope you enjoy Highgate

### **Highgate Programme Diary Notes 2001**

November 23rd	Ladies Dinner (Black Tie and Miniatures) (Lounge suit permitted)
December 17 <sup>th</sup>	Annual General Meeting

### **Reminder Ladies Dining Night - Friday 23 November 2001**

This popular evening is again fully booked at the WA Club the timings are 7:15pm for 7:45pm.

The Governor Lt Gen John Sanderson and Mrs Sanderson are attending

**Don Blair SVP**

**Welfare Officers Seminar – DVA -**  
**19 September 2001**

The Seminar was well attended by representatives of a great many Sub-Branched from Carnarvon to Esperance. Several knowledgeable speakers addressed the gathering on a variety of subjects many of which were fairly well known to most. There were a number of contact telephone numbers of experts for a variety of subjects, which may be of use to members.

- Planning Ahead - A folder is available from VAN contact No. 9366 8444.
- Financial Planning - The Financial Planning Association 1800 626 393

It was stressed that members should use a Certified Financial Planner. A booklet, (Understanding Risks) is available, contact Kevin Pass - 9324 3322.

- Chiropractics: A presentation by Dr Lucia Wilkinson emphasised the importance of posture in relation to pressure on the spinal column. In particular the benefits of keeping the back straight especially whilst sleeping and strongly recommended sleeping on one's back with only one pillow. Dr Lucy (as she likes to be called) can be contacted at her Joondalup office - 9301 2300.
- Veterans Sons and Daughters Project the subject was introduced by Ms Val Vicich and dealt, in the main with mental health problems. Val can be contacted - 9481 1955.
- Hollywood Private Hospitals', Kevin Cass-Ryall gave an update on the progress being made not only in the restructuring of facilities but also in the progress being made in treatments, especially Total Knee Replacements, whereby a piece of the knee cartridge can be removed, sent to Norway, where it can be cultivated into healthy cartridge and reinserted, negating the need for major surgery. Age for this procedure is limited to 55 years (at this time).
- War Veterans Homes - Menora, Barry Standen gave an impressive overview of the forthcoming redevelopments at the WVH Menora. It is

- expected the project will take 21/2 years to completion.
- Military Compensation and Rehabilitation, this subject was discussed by a group from VAN and covered many aspects from Veteran Home Care to Respite and the various Acts by which the veteran community are covered. Anyone interested in the Veteran Home Care programme can contact 1300 550 450. When submitting claims members are advised to submit separate claims for each ailment/disability.

Conclusion: An informative Seminar.

PS: In his opening address Bill Gaynor laid to rest speculation that Anzac House was being considered for relocation.

**Les Stewart**

**SENIORS RADIO STATION SET TO BROADCAST.** Capital Community Radio in Perth is soon to receive a temporary broadcasting license. This will permit them to broadcast information and entertainment for senior listeners on 101.7FM. Programs should include items on health, insurance, legal and money matters, hobbies, travel, the arts etc. Plus plenty of music for the over 55 year olds. Studios and administration will be located at the offices of the Australian Pensioners League of WA who are the foundation sponsors.

This sounds like an interesting station, which will help us, keep up to date on a whole range of subjects pertinent to our age group.

**VETAFFAIRS September 2001**

DVA have a new general enquiry telephone number, which will enable callers to gain easier access to veteran information and services. It is 133 254. No matter where you are in Australia your call will be connected to the local DVA State office. By the way, it's easy to remember, as the last three digits are the ANZAC Day date, 25/4