

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

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Monthly Luncheon

18 August 2003

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon
Speaker: Det Sgt Steven Lawrence - WA Police
Topic: Operation Atone (Criminal Street Gangs)

Presidents Report

Letter From the Governor General Designate

As a result of a letter of congratulation from Highgate Sub Branch to Major General Michael Jeffery on his appointment to Governor General, in reply, His Excellency thanked us for our kindness in writing and stated that

"Marlena and he saw his appointment as very much a team effort and would do their best to meet the rightful expectation of the Australian people" and that

"It was always a special privilege to belong to Highgate Sub Branch; a wonderful group of members".

Positions of Senior and Junior Vice Presidents and Secretary

Your Sub Branch needs **your Services**; Highgate has vacancies in the above positions for next year. Barry Long is taking the position of newsletter editor from the incoming President elect Ian Mulholland and Mike Ruffin has vacated the JVP position. Should you wish to apply for any of these positions please advise any of the Committee or suggest to them, a member whom you consider may be interested.

Australians at War Film Archive

The above organisation is about to commence their second block of interviews and need your assistants to help locate veterans of all wars, conflicts, peacekeeping missions and military projects in which Australia has been involved, from WW11 onwards. I am convinced that all of you have many interesting experiences to tell.

So that we may share this experience please contact the above at **86 Bying Street Orange NSW Phone (02) 63637400 or aawfilmarchive@mullion.com.au**

Don Blair

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
1 September 2003
Luncheon: 11:30 hrs, Monday
15 September 2003

Assistant Cashier for August

Les Stewart

Members, please bring correct money \$25.00

Hospital Visits – July 2003

Ken Bladen has been under going some tests during the month and has been unable to visit Hollywood. Ken is unable to continue the visits; therefore, Committee Member Otto Pelczar will take over Hospital Visits. Otto can be contacted on: 9385 9848.

Sub Wardens Duties

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

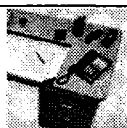
Friday 15 August	10:45 hrs for 11:00 hrs	Australian Vets & Defence Services (VJ Day)
Sunday 31 August	10:45 Hrs for 11:00 hrs	Z Special International (Inc)
Sunday 31 August	Noon for 12:15 hrs	Malaya & Borneo Veterans
Sunday 7 September	10:45 hrs for 11:00 hrs	Thirtyniners Association s
Sunday 7 September	11:45 hrs for Noon	Maltese Association

FROM THE PENSIONS OFFICER

The Minister For Veteran's Affairs has recently released the draft of the proposed new Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill. The new scheme is designed o provide a mix of rehabilitation and compensation to meet the needs of any ADF member who is injured in the course of their service and to their dependants where a member is killed. It draws on the Safe Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 enhanced with beneficial aspects of the Veterans Entitlement Act 1986. The minister aims to have the draft bill implemented by 1 July 2004. It should be noted that it only affects those members of the ADF who have service caused injuries/illness, or die from these, on or after that date. Former ADF members and their dependants already receiving benefits are not affected. Also, an injury, disease or death suffered prior to the commencement date of the new legislation must be claimed under the existing compensation or veteran's legislation. Any response by the government to the recent Clarke Committee of Enquiry in regard to recommendations on the Special Rate benefit will carry over to the new scheme.

After spending the odd hour or so reading the draft bill it does seem to have many areas, which are in my opinion of benefit to future ADF members. However, there are one or two issues which I believe need to be addressed.

A strange phrase called superannuation offsetting has crept into the new bill the proposal here is that future members becoming eligible for the special rate safety net payment and taking this instead of incapacity payments will also have their payment offset by their military superannuation at the rate of 60 cents in the dollar. It does seem very strange that just because a member has a military superannuation scheme that they should be penalised. It also seems that the payout of military superannuation to a war widow will affect the amount of compensation she receives as a result of the death of her husband due to war service. I think that there will be much said about these issues before the new scheme is enacted.



From the of the Senior Vice President

Guests Speaker for August - Detective Sergeant Steven Lawrence - WA Police Service

Steven Lawrence is a Detective Sergeant and Officer in Charge of Operation Atone, which was established in June 2002 to disrupt the criminal activity of street gangs. He has been a Police Officer for 22 years working in Covert Surveillance, the Armed Robbery Squad and the Major Fraud Squad.

Operation Atone was established after a series of street gang attacks created a high level of political, community and media concern. Steven was appointed to lead the operation, which has successfully investigated every major street gang attack resulting in the offenders being charged with Murder, Manslaughter and Arson offences.

Steven has led two gang style murder investigations including the murder of a Spider Boys street gang member at the January 2002 Chinese New Year Festival in Hyde Park and the murder of a Em-Bros gang member in December 2002 at The Church Nightclub, Northbridge resulting in 6 Spider Boys street gang members being charged with Murder.

Birthday Celebration

The Birthday Luncheon was indeed again another outstanding event; without doubt this celebration for our "Birthday Boys" has developed into a most important Luncheon on our calendar. The excellent attendance of over 100+ members and guests gave further credence to the wonderful spirit of our Sub Branch.

Phil & Betty Loffman for the preparation of the CV's, name badges and the delicious birthday cake.

Vicki and staff for providing a first class meal.

Sir Charles Court proposed the toast to the Birthday Boys and as usual was superb in his presentation, once again expressing the virtues of Highgate and it's members and acknowledging the accomplishments of the birthday boys for their exceptional Service to their country.

Ladies Luncheon

The annual Ladies Luncheon is to be held on **Thursday 18 September 2003** at the Carine TAFE, 11.30am for 12.00, the cost being \$20 per person (drinks not included). The seating is limited to 60. To avoid disappointment get your booking in early..

A blue Return is included in this Newsletter; please send the return and the money to the Treasurer.

Highgate Programme Diary Notes 2003

Thursday, 18 September	Ladies Luncheon - Venue Carine
Friday, 7 November	Poppy Day
Friday, 28 November	Ladies Dinner
Monday, 15 December	Election of Office Bearers for 2004
Monday, 16 February 2004	Annual General Meeting

Ian ("Mo") Mulholland
SVP

Veteran access to Hollywood

As you may be aware, the Federal Government announced in May that it is moving to increase the number of private hospitals in the metropolitan area where veterans can be treated.

This means that following due process; private hospitals outside a 20 kilometre radius from the Perth CBD can receive Tier 1 status under the Repatriation Private Patient Scheme.

These hospitals will then be able to admit eligible veterans for treatment without prior approval from the Department of Veterans' Affairs.

However, any entitled veteran or war widow/er is still eligible to come to Hollywood Private Hospital in Nedlands for treatment.

Hollywood's Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall said, "All veterans who want to come to Hollywood are still able to do so under this arrangement and will continue to receive free transport organised by the Department of Veterans' Affairs".

"Ramsay Health Care and Hollywood have been involved in the negotiations and are comfortable with the new arrangements."

"Hollywood has a strong connection with the veteran community, dating back over 60 years and we are committed to continuing to provide the highest standard of care and a extensive range of services to our veteran patients," he said.

If you have any queries or concerns regarding veteran access to Hollywood, please contact Executive Director Kevin Cass-Ryall on (08) 9346 6276.

New numbers for the Clinic

The Hollywood Clinic, Hollywood's 40-bed mental health unit, has a new phone and fax number.

You can contact the Clinic as follows:

Telephone: - (08) 9333 8000

Facsimile: - (08) 9333 8099.

Our Defence

RAAF Base Tindal is 17kms from Katherine and 320kms by road southeast of Darwin in the Northern Territory. Although the airfield was constructed in 1942, it is the Air Force's youngest operational base, excepting bare bases, and one of Australia's most important defence installations.

Originally known as Carson's airfield during World War II, over the years it has been upgraded and extended for commercial use. In 1984, the Government decided to establish an operational Air Force base at Tindal. The physical security it enjoys is due to its long distance from the coast and the unlikelihood of it coming under cyclone threat. Tindal officially opened on 1 October 1988 and is now the home of Nos. 322 Combat Support Wing (322CSW), 75 Squadron, 2 Control and Reporting Unit (2CRU), 1 Air Terminal Squadron (1ATS DET TDL), 1 Combat Logistics Squadron (1CLS) and 44 Wing Detachment. Army unit NORFORCE also has a detachment on the base.

RAAF Base Tindal is very much part of the Katherine Community. Katherine has a population of nearly 10,000 with RAAF Base Tindal (including the extended family units) making up almost 25% of the total population. RAAF Base Tindal's contribution to the local community includes such things as: Flood Relief, Defence Aid to the Civil Community and the use of some of the Base sporting facilities. Tindal personnel have always shown a keen interest in supporting town sporting communities, and they account for a large number of administration positions and competitors. The people of Katherine are also extremely supportive of the Base and its personnel and the close relationship is a feature of a posting to the area.