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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 September 2003

Venue: Gallipoli Room, ANZAC House
Time: 11:30 hrs Fellowship 12:30hrs Luncheon
Speaker: David Hawkes (former ABC presenter)
Topic: Golden Years of Radio

Presidents Report

British Ex Service Veterans

For members of Highgate whom are Ex British Veterans, a comprehensive coverage for pension entitlements is available on the Internet. Topics covered on the website are Veterans. Pensions, Claiming Pensions, Welfare, Veterans Issues, Service Records etc <http://www.veteransagency.mod.uk>

Ladies Luncheon

There are still fourteen (14) places available for the annual Ladies Luncheon at Carine TAFE, to be held on Thursday the 18th of September. If you wish to join us and spoil your Lady and or guest, at this most enjoyable event, please contact the Treasurer Brian Martin by phoning 9274 1915

Senior & Junior VP's and Secretary

Nominations for the above positions to the Highgate Committee requires your attention please. Should you wish to fill any of these positions please contact any member of the Committee or myself direct thank you.

Last Post

Since my last report it is with regret that I announce the loss of another highly respected member of Highgate J.A.T. (Tally) Hobbs.

Lest we Forget

Don Blair

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Committee: 10:00 hrs Monday
6 October 2003
Luncheon: 11:30 hrs, Monday
20 October 2003

Assistant Cashier for September

Alf Till

Members, please bring correct money \$25.00

Hospital Visits – August 2003	New Member
Tally Hobbs was visited in palliative care. Otto can be contacted on: 9385 9848.	On behalf of Highgate Sub Branch we extend a most sincere and warm welcome to our new associate member Eric Watts.

Sub Wardens Duties

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

Sunday 7 September	10:45 hrs for 11:00 hrs	Thirtyniners Association s
Sunday 7 September	11:45 hrs for Noon	Maltese Association

Remembrance – Poppy Day Lunch

The luncheon address will be by His Excellency the Governor of WA, Lt Gen John Sanderson AC.

Date: 12:15pm Tuesday, 11 November 2003
Venue: Novotel Langley Hotel, 221 Adelaide Terrace PERTH
Cost: \$40.00

If you wish to attend please contact the Chair for this year's event Mrs Barbara Clinton 9341 1983.

FROM THE PENSIONS OFFICER

The Veteran's Affairs Committee of the RSLWA have finalised their comments in regard to the new proposed Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill. The committee found more than sixty areas of comment and a copy of their report will be forwarded to the Minister. To me, there are three main areas of contention. The unseemly haste in the requirement to have comments to the Minister by 31 August. The inclusion in the Bill of a proposal to include a veteran's superannuation in the consideration for compensation and the decision for the Government to include elements of the recent Clarke Report into the Special Rate benefit. We will have to wait and see whether the Government will take any notice of us.

The issue of lumbar spondylosis as a service caused disability in our veterans is always a vexing issue and one that is often difficult to successfully put a case to the Department Of Veteran's Affairs. As with all disabilities, the veteran is constrained by the Statements of Principle issued by the Repatriation Commission. Quite often these are amended and a new factor can prove to be of assistance to the veteran community. One of the new factors included in the SOP for this disorder includes "being exposed whilst flying in an aircraft to positive G forces of two or more". In recent discussions with veteran air crew it seems to me that many were put into this situation. I was able to use this factor a month or so ago to successfully claim a disability pension on a veterans behalf. If anyone wishes to discuss the issues with myself or any of our other pension officers then please give me a call.

Best wishes from Jim Eayrs



From the of the Senior Vice President

Guest Speaker for September – David Hawkes former ABC personality

David Hawkes one of Australia's most experienced broadcasters. He has been "on air" for 46 years, working on radio and television for the ABC and commercial networks in New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia.

Over the last 30 years, during his time in the West, David has been seen as a television newsreader, interviewer, co-host of the successful "Two for the Pot", front man for the games show "FAIR GO!" anchor man for "State Wide" and in a variety of other presentation roles. In 1972 he took over from the legendary John Juan to present 6WF's Breakfast session. He has established a reputation as an "occasion" announcer, with imaginative and colourful commentaries for countless royal tours, ANZAC Day observances and other solemn or festive occasions.

In 1984 David joined the staff of the West Australian College of Advanced Education (now Edith Cowan University) to set up the Media Performance department, within the Academy of Performing Arts. Graduates from this, the first full time, tertiary training programme for radio and television presenters may be seen and heard on Radio and TV stations throughout Australia.

In 1987 David Hawkes returned to the staff of the ABC, where he was chiefly heard presenting Radio News. David retired from the ABC in June this year.

Last Month's Guest Speaker

Steve Lawrence proved to be a popular and knowledgeable speaker. His years in the police service have provided him with a wealth of knowledge of the crime areas within WA. Steven's work with his team has had a significant impact in bringing to justice the people involved in street gangs; robberies, drugs and murder.

Steven's team has been further enhanced with the melding into the Outlaw Motor Cycle Gangs (OMCG) to push the war on drugs even harder.

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). There are a few vacancies please get in touch with Brian Martin to secure your booking.

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

Hollywood Private Hospital nurses Helen Ryan (Charles Pope Ward) and Mignonne Carter (Assessment Centre, Coronary Care Unit) recently returned from the annual Weary Dunlop 'Quiet Lion' tour of Thailand.

The Quiet Lion Tour was named so in memory of Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop who was a Prisoner of War (POW) and camp surgeon on the Burma-Thailand Railway. He was also known as the 'Quiet Lion' because of his great heart, spirit and quiet nature.

The two nurses were part of a 44-strong tour group who spent ten days in Thailand on a pilgrimage to the area where Australian POWs worked on the 'death railway'.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the completion of the Burma-Thailand Railway, the 415 kilometre railway from Nong Pladuk in Thailand to Thanbyuzayat in Burma.

Four former POWs from WA - Bill Haskell, 83, Eric Roediger, 93, George Wiseman, 93, and Neil MacPherson, 83, who helped build the notorious railway, were part of the group.

"I was extremely privileged and proud to be in the company of four former POWs who shared with me so many anecdotes and stories, told with a sense of humour, respect and humility that I found sad and wonderful at the same time," Mignonne said.

"I had no family members involved with the railway, however. I now feel part of a family of incredibly courageous and humble men," she said.

Helen's father was a POW on the railway but during her childhood little was said of his time spent on the railway.

However, Bill Haskell and Eric Roediger, the tour's unofficial tour guides, were able to fill in much of the missing information.

"They were able to tell us what it was like surviving in the madness and suffering of the death railway, for what must have seemed like an eternity for those who managed to survive," Helen said.

Upon her return to Australia, Helen made a short visit to see her father in Adelaide to recount her trip and for the first time he was able to open up to her and tell her of his experiences during his time on the railway.

"I think I may have interested him enough to want to join the group next year, which knowing my father and his reluctance to travel is an achievement in itself," Helen said.

Both Helen and Mignonne said the dawn service at Hellfire Pass and the memorial services at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery on ANZAC day were a highlight of the tour.

"Bill Haskell was the guest speaker at the main ANZAC day service at Kanchanaburi War Cemetery and his speech was from the heart, he gave us all an idea of what he and his mates had suffered during the building of the railway," Mignonne said.

Helen and Mignonne will be giving a presentation to other Hollywood staff members to share their experiences.

"I learnt about the madness and hell of war, but my greatest lesson was about the human spirit, mateship, humility and the human need to survive no matter what the situation," Mignonne said.

Hollywood sponsors two nurses every year, to go on the tour, which honours WWII veterans and specifically the ex-POWs.

This is the sixth time the hospital has supported nurse participation on the tour.

This year the hospital also sponsored three Returned and Services League cadets (representing the Army, Navy and Air Force) to take part in the tour.

Last Post

Since our last Newsletter we regret to announce the passing of long time Highgate member:

John Athol Talbot (Tally) HOBBS.

Lest we forget