



Highgate Highlights

Official Newsletter of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch
Returned & Services League of Australia (WA)
www.highgate-rsl.org.au

Issue 609 | June 2020

ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

Vale | Lieutenant Colonel Dr Ian Sutherland

It is with deep regret and sadness we advise the passing on 29 May 20 of Highgate member Lieutenant Colonel Ian Sutherland, aged 78. Ian was well known in Army Reserve circles as a dentist and an assessor at Reserve Command and Staff College. We extend sincere condolences to wife, Raine, and family.

Vale | Commander John Mead RAN

Former Highgate and current Dongara Sub-Branch member, John Mead, passed away on 16 June 20. Towards the end of WWII, John served in the Royal Australian Navy on Fairmile boats operating out of Wewak, New Guinea, before returning to the Army as a maintenance officer in the Armoured Corp. He was then sent to Japan to bring back landing craft the Army had purchased for the Light Ship Squadron. When it was decided he needed heavy ship experience, John was sent by the Army to the Navy where he served as Marine Engineer Officer in HMAS *Queenborough* and aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne*. He did so well that the Navy offered him a position, so John transferred across from Army. Towards the end of his Navy days, John was Marine Engineer Officer on HMAS *Sydney* (also known as the Vung Tau Ferry), so probably took some of his former Army comrades to or from Vietnam. He retired from Navy with the rank of Commander. Post-Navy, John worked in the offshore oil industry and transferred from Highgate to Dongara RSL.

From our President

Hooray! Lunch is back at the Karrakatta Club

Monday, 20 July is the date of our next luncheon meeting at the Karrakatta Club (*booking details on page 2*)

What an eventful few months we have had under the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions. Many of us hibernated from March but we are now gradually getting back to some semblance of normality.

One item of interest to RSLWA members throughout WA was the elections for members of the Board: Eight positions were available: State President, State Vice-President, three metropolitan board members and three from regional WA.

Delegates overwhelmingly supported the existing board members, leaving Geoff Houn, myself and other members of our team to retire, regretting our loss. We have offered our congratulations to State President, Peter Aspinall and his team, saying we will support them.

Our committee was advised by the Karrakatta Club they would not be re-opening when restrictions were eased, and this required us to find an alternative venue for our lunches. Ray Galliot has been of considerable help as he tried out possible venues for us.

Our committee held its June meeting at the Metro Bar and Grill, adjacent to the Perth Convention Centre. Food was excellent but the room was not able to be set up for the Highgate style of lunch with a guest speaker, so it was back to the drawing board.

Then in mid-June, I received a message from the Karrakatta Club to the effect they had not completely closed down and with a slight rearrangement in staffing, they will be able to host us for at least our July and August meetings. Janice will be back looking after us, with some additional help from Weld Club staff.

Monday, 20 July is therefore the date of our next luncheon meeting at the Karrakatta Club. Booking details are on page 2.

It will be a welcome opportunity to get together again after a four-month break, and I look forward to a great turnout.

Vale | Dr Patrick Simon AO (*photo on page 2*)

Australia lost a true friend on 14 May 20 with the passing of Dr Patrick Simon AO. As Mayor of Villers-Bretonneux in Northern France, close to the memorial sites so significant for many Australians, Dr Simon continued the tradition established by former Mayors of holding commemorative activities in the town each year to mark Anzac Day. Dr Simon oversaw renovation of the Franco-Australian First World War Museum in Villers-Bretonneux, was a strong supporter and voice in the establishment of Australia's Sir John Monash Centre, and always extended a warm and hospitable welcome to Australian visitors.

Important events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 20 July** | Committee Meeting - Karrakatta Club
- 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 20 July** | Luncheon - Karrakatta Club

See page 5 for Wreath-Laying Services at the State War Memorial

Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and affection our esteemed Members and Friend **Dr Patrick Simon AO | LTCOL Dr Ian Sutherland | CDR John Mead RAN** and convey our sincere condolences and sympathy to their families and friends



In recognition of his continued efforts to strengthen the Franco-Australian relationship, Dr Simon was awarded an Order of Australia on 26 April 2015.

With his passion and commitment to Australia, he launched a fundraiser after seeing reports of the devastating bushfires across Australia earlier this year. "The idea came from my heart. Everyone here was talking about the fires, and we were all appalled," said Dr Simon. By late February, he had organised for about \$37,000 to be collected from the school children and residents of Villers-Bretonneux. Dr Simon will be greatly missed by all Australians who met and worked with him.



WE'RE BACK!



Join our next Luncheon on Monday 20 July at the Karrakatta Club in Sherwood Court Perth

Located at the foot of Sherwood Court, on the corner of The Esplanade in Perth CBD. (Sherwood Court runs south off St Georges Terrace, directly opposite London Court)

Monthly luncheon bookings

Our luncheon meetings are \$40 per person (plus \$5 per raffle ticket if wanted) at 1200 for 1230, usually on the third Monday of each month. For catering reasons, bookings must be made no later than the preceding Thursday, please.

How to book - Choose the best for you

1. Via the Highgate RSL website at <http://highgate-rsl.org.au> Click on *Next Luncheon*. Then click on *Luncheon Booking or Apology* and you'll be transferred to our booking sheet page. Electronic funds transfer details are also on the page.

Or... 2. Go direct to the luncheon booking sheet by pasting this link into your browser: (Note: A new link each month)

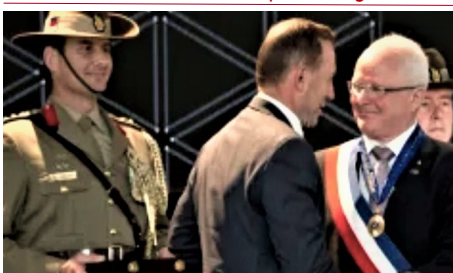
<https://forms.gle/US9YjB5jWfLd9D8w6>

Via the electronic booking sheet, you can add guests, food intolerances, purchase raffle tickets, check friends; and also register a non-attendance apology. If you book your luncheon via our website or direct, you will receive an email a couple of minutes later confirming your booking.

Or... 3. Via Committee Member: If you do not have internet access, please call Margot Harness on 9349 2847, or any Committee member, and they will help you book in.

AND if you want to check who is coming or to confirm your registration is listed, check here (read only, with a new link each month): <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/>

[d/12NfZfjLmEODzz67TyIKtBo5aJUMD-cD5bcOdSTvAGt8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/12NfZfjLmEODzz67TyIKtBo5aJUMD-cD5bcOdSTvAGt8/edit?usp=sharing)



Mayor of Villers-Bretonneux in Northern France, Dr Patrick Simon AO, receives an Order of Australia Award from Prime Minister Tony Abbott on 26 April 2015. (Story page 1)

Our Guest Speaker 20 July Major Greg Mawkes MBE

Greg Mawkes enlisted at 17 and served in the Australian Regular Army for 22 years. During that time, he served with the Special Air Service Regiment for 18 years and 1st Commando Regiment for three years. He served two tours of Vietnam with 1 SAS Squadron.

In 1982, Greg was acknowledged for establishing Australia's military domestic counter-terrorism capability with the award of Member of the British Empire.

He served a further 29 years in the Active Army Reserve with the SAS Regiment, finally retiring at age 69 in 2016. From 2000, he had been the Regiment's Unit History Officer, establishing its research centre which includes a comprehensive heritage collection.

After leaving the Regular Army, Greg was self-employed in the fitness, self-defence and security industries.

From 1993-2014, he was a member of the Veterans' Review Board; and throughout 2014, was coordinator for multiple events celebrating the SAS golden jubilee. Greg was elected chair of the SAS Historical Foundation in 2000 and continues in that appointment.



Highgate Members celebrating their birthday

MAY Abe Sher, Stephen Lucks, Christopher Brooks, Bob Colligan, William Wilson, Dean Smith, Thomas James, Les Herbert, John Blylevens, Neil Anderson, John Cleary and Peter Reed

JUNE Barry Campbell, Bruce Taylor, Bob Mummery, John Hollingshead, Robert Mercer, Jeff Astfalck, Ray Doust, Max Walters, Adrian Young, Jeremy Sher, Gerry Postmus, Tim Harrison, Stuart Henry, Noel Sivewright, Lou Halvorson, David MacLean, Helen Birch, Kevin Cass-Ryall, Bryan Taylor, Robyn Kerr, Murray Lampard, Ken Chapman and Peter Mack

Census 2021 to count Veterans

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has announced the next Census will be held on 10 August 2021, and will include a question about service in the ADF.

Historically, just because a person served in the ADF doesn't mean they required Services or support from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), thereby making it hard to give a definitive answer on how many Veterans are in Australia.

The census will therefore provide a better understanding of how many Veterans we have and where they live, allowing delivery of the right Services in the right areas to support their needs such as health, housing and employment.

Australia's oldest War Widow?

By Lee Webster, President, HMAS Canberra-Shropshire Association

Dora Scanlan of Attadale turned 102 on 03 June 20 and may be the oldest War Widow in Australia.

Dora's first husband was RAAF Flight Sergeant Vernon Harold Minchin and they were married in West Perth on 31 January 1942.

Enlisting in the RAAF, Vernon trained as a navigator and on 14 November 1943, was promoted Temporary Sergeant. Soon after, he sailed for the United Kingdom where on 11 May 1944, his rank was upgraded to Temporary Flight Sergeant.

Vernon joined No.50 RAF Squadron on 28 September 1944 flying in Avro Lancaster aircraft. Following the Allied invasion of France, the Germans moved their U-boat operations to an expanded facility in Bergen, Norway.

In October 1944, the British carried out a bombing raid seeking to destroy the facilities.

On 29 October 1944 Vernon and his crew participated in a second raid, with 244 aircraft.

Three planes were lost in this raid, Vernon's included, and sadly, his body was not recovered.

Dora and Vernon's son, Brian Minchin, also joined the RAAF, and has since passed away.





75th anniversary of end of World War Two commemorations

This year, we commemorate the 75th anniversaries of the end of World War Two in Europe and Victory in the Pacific. Almost one million Australians enlisted for service in WWII and of those, there are about 14,000 Veterans still alive today. On 15 August this year, we will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific, long referred to as the end of WWII, where we will again remember the service of those who served and the sacrifice of the 39,000 men and women who died protecting our nation.

Here are just some of those World War Two 75th anniversaries - Lest We Forget

Operation Oboe

08 May 20

marks 75 years since Operation Oboe 1, the first in a series of the most complex amphibious

assaults carried out by Australians during the Borneo Campaign in the Second World War.

The Tarakan Island operation, Oboe I, was the first in and around Borneo, and the second operation occurred at Labuan/Brunei Bay on 10 June 1945, with the final operation at Balikpapan on 1 July 1945.

The amphibious assault of Oboe I began on 1 May 1945, entrusted to the Australian troops of 26th Infantry Brigade, 9th Division, who were protected by American and Australian Navy and Air Force.

Japanese resistance was neutralised by heavy naval and air bombardment before the landing, and once ashore 9th Division fought hard and successfully secured the area.

The landing was accomplished with marked success and local people were liberated from the Japanese.

We remember and commemorate the service of those who supported the Oboe operations, especially the about 600 Australians who paid the ultimate sacrifice, and the many more wounded, in ensuring the success of these operations.

On 15 August 1945 the Japanese agreed to unconditional surrender, which marked the end of the Second World War and Victory in the Pacific.



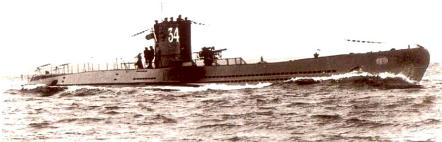
Battle of the Atlantic

08 May 20 marks 75 years since the end of the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest military campaign of WWII.

The Battle began in September 1939 and lasted for almost six years until the Germans surrendered on 08 May 1945, Victory in Europe Day, with Australians serving on naval and merchant vessels.

The battle was critical to the Allied victory and had we lost here, the war might have taken a very different course.

The German aim was to cut off Allied supply routes in the Atlantic Ocean which were critical to build up and maintain air forces and transport of food, medicine, equipment and troops in preparation for the invasion of continental Europe in 1944.



The Allies sunk nearly 100 German U-boats in the first five months of 1943. This was a decisive blow against the Germans, though not enough to end the battle.

German U-boats returned to the Atlantic, but never again posed the same threat, resulting in supply routes across the Atlantic being secured by the Allies.

During the war, about 5,000 British and Allied ships were sunk and about 65,000 Allied and merchant seamen were lost.



Australians reflect with gratitude and remembrance on the contribution of our servicemen and merchant seamen of the Battle of the Atlantic.

Our largest naval battle

04 May 20 is the 78th anniversary of the most significant sea battle in our history, the Battle of the Coral Sea, which ended the attempts by the Japanese to capture Port Moresby by seaborne invasion.

The Battle of the Coral Sea was a naval engagement by Australia and the USA against the Japanese and was fought to the north-east of Australia on 04-08 May 1942.

With the intention of cutting off Australia's supply lines from America, the Japanese despatched an invasion fleet from Rabaul, New Britain to take Port Moresby in Papua, New Guinea.

In response, three task forces were committed to stop the attack. Task Force 17 was built around USS *Yorktown* and included three heavy cruisers, six destroyers and one oil tanker. Task Force 11 comprised USS *Lexington*, two heavy cruisers and seven destroyers. Task Force 44 included HMAS *Australia* and HMAS *Hobart*.



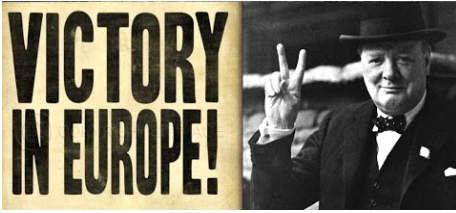
Ultimately, the task forces halted the Japanese during their advance southwards in the Pacific in what was the largest naval battle ever fought so close to Australia and was conducted entirely by aircraft attacking the ships.

Although no Australians were killed during the Battle of Coral Sea, tragically more than 650 Americans died and the aircraft carrier USS *Lexington* was sunk.

Those who fought during the Battle of the Coral Sea will always be remembered for helping end the Japanese threat to Australia.



75th Anniversary of World War Two commemorations (cont.)



08 May 20 marked 75 years since the unconditional surrender of Germany took effect, bringing to an end the war against Germany and her European allies during the Second World War.

On 07 May 1945, the German High Command authorised signing of an unconditional surrender on all fronts which would come into effect from midnight 08–09 May, with 08 May declared Victory in Europe Day.



For more than half a decade, Australian service men and women were operational in Europe, fighting and dying in Britain, north west Europe, the Atlantic and the Mediterranean, on land in North Africa, Greece and Crete and in the Middle East.

Tragically, more than 10,000 Australians died in the war against Germany and her allies in the European theatre, and nearly 10,000 more were wounded and almost 8,000 became prisoners of war.

Victory in Europe brought cause for great celebrations in Allied nations and saw liberation for the thousands of Australians who were prisoners of war in Germany or Eastern Europe.

While Australians serving overseas joined in the celebrations, and in major Australian cities, our people rejoiced, they were still aware that the war in the Pacific was yet to be won, and would ultimately continue until August the same year.



Thanking Military Nurses

12 May 20 marked International Nurses Day where we recognised and celebrated the important contribution nurses provide to the safety and prosperity of our country both during conflict and in peace.

For as long as Australians have served in combat, from the Boer War to the present day, nurses have been right there, caring for those in need and saving many lives.

More than 8,000 nurses served in the two World Wars in hospitals, on hospital ships and trains, or in casualty clearing stations closer to the front line. Sadly, 103 died across the two wars.

Many nurses experienced enemy action and became prisoners of war, with the most well-known nurse being Sister Vivian Bullwinkel (born in Kapunda SA and passing away in Perth on 03 July 2000).



In 1942, Vivian Bullwinkel survived the sinking of SS *Vyner Brooke* and became one of the few survivors of Bangka Island massacre, before becoming a prisoner of war for three and a half years, and demonstrating the courage and bravery of our military nurses.

Since the formation of the Australian Army Nursing Service in 1903, the Australian military has relied on nurses; with more than 800 currently serving in the ADF, either full-time or as Reservists.

Today, 26 military nurses are currently deployed to support the domestic healthcare effort to combat COVID19.

For more information on the role of nurses in Australia's military history visit the [Anzac Portal](#).

Capture of Wewak

15 May 20 marked the 75th anniversary of the conclusion of operations at Wewak, the final Australian campaign on mainland New Guinea during WWII.

In October 1944, Australian soldiers took over from U.S. troops stationed at Aitape, a small town 150 kilometres west of Wewak.

The Australians were tasked with mounting an offensive to cut off Japanese in the area from resupply points along the coast and force them inland where, without supplies and reinforcements, they would be weakened as a military force.



By late March 1945, they had advanced within 40 kilometres of Wewak, which saw some of the heaviest fighting of the campaign. The campaign came to a head when the Australians launched an amphibious assault, combined with an infantry advance along the coast from the west, capturing Wewak Point on 10 May and five days later, Wewak and the surrounding coastal area was in Australian hands.



The capture of Wewak was the culmination of seven months of hard work fought over difficult jungle terrain. It forced the Japanese to withdraw inland and break-up into smaller groups, though with 35,000 soldiers still present, fighting continued until the war ended in August. In the Wewak campaign, 440 Australian service-men died, while another 1,100 were wounded. About 9,000 Japanese troops lost their lives.

Sub Warden Duties | 2020

Wreath-Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



Sun 19 Jul	0830 for 0900	Movement of Serbian Chetniks Ravne Gore
Sun 19 Jul	1130 for 1200	Greek Cypriot Community of WA
Mon 27 Jul	0930 for 1000	Royal Australian Regiment Association - End of Korean War
Fri 31 Jul	0930 for 1000	Australian Army Training Team Vietnam Association

75th Anniversary of World War Two commemorations (cont.)

Remembering First Nations people who have served

National Reconciliation Week (27 May-03 June 20) provided an opportunity to reflect on the service of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their contribution to Australia's wartime history in every war and conflict since the Boer War of 1899-1902.

This year's theme for National Reconciliation Week, *In This Together*, was the perfect representation of how Indigenous men and women have served our nation alongside non-Indigenous men and women for over 120 years.



At least 1,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served during WWI, despite regulations that discouraged their enlistment. In WWII, more than 3,000 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people served.

Appallingly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were not even classed as Australian citizens until 1967, but that didn't stop them from serving their country with honour and distinction.

While wearing the uniform, Indigenous men and women were treated with respect and dignity.

Tragically, this was not the case in their civilian lives.

Today, the ADF has more than 1,800 full-time permanent members who identify as Indigenous, representing over three per cent of ADF members. Thank you for your service. Lest we forget.



United Nations Peacekeepers

29 May 20 is International Day of United Nations (UN) Peacekeepers, which provides an opportunity for all Australians to show their respect to those who have served and contributed to global peacekeeping.

Australian Defence Force personnel, police and civilians have been involved in more than 50 multinational peacekeeping operations for over 70 years, since 1947.



Australian soldiers in a M-113 armoured personnel carrier during a peacekeeping deployment to East Timor in 2002

In the Dutch East Indies (now Indonesia) they were part of the world's first-ever group of UN military observers.

Forty five Australians were eventually deployed as part of this commitment, which ended in 1951.

Sadly, 16 Australians have died while serving as peacekeepers.

Over the past 55 years, members of Australia's police services have also served in peacekeeping operations around the world.

Peacekeeping operations in which Australia has been involved have lasted months, years or even decades, and have seen small to large deployments, often at short notice.

In 1999, Australia's involvement in peacekeeping reached a new level when it took the lead in deploying a force that peaked at around 6,000 personnel, to East Timor during that country's emergence as an independent nation, before handing over to a UN-led mission in 2000;

Currently, Australians are deployed in South Sudan, Middle East and Cyprus. For more information, visit the [Anzac Portal](#).

75 stories in 75 days to mark Second World War 75 years on

01 June 20 marked the beginning of a 75-day countdown to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War on 15 August - also known as Victory in the Pacific Day.

This year, we have a unique opportunity to capture and share the stories of Australians who served and experienced the Second World War.

About one million Australians served in the Second World War and remarkably, about 14,000 Veterans are still with us today, each of whom has a unique story to tell.

From 01 June, in the lead-up to the 75th anniversary of the end of the Second World War, a radio and social media series *75 days, 75 stories* will share a story about the experiences of those impacted by the Second World War, from Veterans to widows and those on the home front.

Australians are encouraged to share these stories, those of their own loved ones' service, or perhaps events which you recall or have been passed down through the generations from WWII.

Together, we can all honour and remember those who served in the Second World War and protected Australia from a very real threat.

The radio segments are available upon request from the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) or can be found at *75 days, 75 stories*. A new segment will be made available each day.

To ensure we can share the stories of these great men and women as widely as possible, all Australians are encouraged to use hashtag [#OneInAMillion](#) in their social media posts.

Further information and announcements about commemorating the end of the Second World War on 15 August will be made available closer to the date.



70th anniversary of the Korean War beginning

This month, we remember it is now 70 years since Australia's involvement in the Korean War, when North Korea invaded the South on 25 June 1950.

Commonly referred to as 'the forgotten war', about 17,000 Australians served, with more than 340 losing their lives, and from where 1,500 returned to Australia wounded, while 29 became prisoners of war.

Australia's involvement was significant. Our nation formed part of the United Nations forces, defending South Korea against the combined North Korean and Chinese forces.

The Australian government called for 1,000 men who had prior military experience in World War II to enlist in the Army. These men were known as the Korean Force or K-Force.

In addition to fighting a determined enemy, our soldiers, sailors and airmen endured the hardships of extreme weather conditions, fighting in freezing temperatures during winter and in scorching heat in summer.

The Korean War commenced when troops from the Soviet-backed North Korean Army crossed the 38th parallel to begin a civil war with the South, advancing toward the South Korean capital of Seoul and capturing it within days of the commencement of hostilities.

They continued towards the port of Busan, where at the request of the United Nations Security Council, Australia contributed No.77 Squadron RAAF and 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, both of which at that time were stationed in Japan under the British Commonwealth Occupation Force.

When war broke out, No.77 Squadron was immediately despatched to Korea, where it became the first UN air unit to enter the war, primarily in ground support, combat air patrol, and escort missions.

Third Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment was rapidly committed as Australia's main land force forming part of the 27th Commonwealth Brigade.

It was one of three units to receive the U.S. Presidential Unit Citation after the Battle of Kapyong.

Three years of fighting finally led to a cease-fire on 27 July 1953, although Australia's presence in South Korea carried on into the post-armistice period (1953–57) providing support to a country ravaged by war.

Korean War Veterans Day will be commemorated in Australia on 27 July, marking the ceasefire agreement signed on that day in 1953

Update | Quest for WA Korean Memorial

It is surprising that no memorial exists in WA to commemorate our commitment to the war in Korea and in memory of the fallen, especially as the remains of deceased servicemen were not returned to Australia.

The optimum aim and result would be to have a memorial constructed in Kings Park, the metropolitan home of the majority of war memorials, but that seemed to be a huge task.

It was against this backdrop that Highgate RSL was approached to form a committee to see what could be done to remedy the situation.

As well as Highgate members, the committee enlisted the support of Fay Duda, Honorary WA Korean Consul, Commodore Brett Dowson (RAN) and Clive Robartson (RAAFA), giving Tri-Service

representation, with its first meeting in early 2019.

Enthusiastic encouragement was also received from State and Federal Government and Opposition members, from Ex-Service Organisations, RSL Sub-Branches and the WA Korean community.

The Board of RSLWA confirmed its support for the memorial, a mandatory prerequisite to any formal application to the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

After months of planning, meetings consultations and site visits, a comprehensive and formal submission was submitted to the Executive Director of BGPA, Alan Barrett, in April and we now await his response.

Grants support Veterans' health and wellbeing

Veterans and their families from across Australia will benefit from projects funded under the Veteran and Community Grants program aimed at ensuring their health and wellbeing.

The grants help local Ex-Service Organisations, Veterans' groups and community organisations deliver projects that promote a healthy and independent lifestyle.

DVA recognises the potential impact coronavirus may have on recipients completing their projects, with social distancing and other public health measures in place across the country.

While the grants will be available for the initial 12-month period, if the organisation requires more time to complete their project due to coronavirus, DVA will consider extending the length of the agreement on a case-by-case basis.

This flexibility will ensure organisations can deliver projects within a reasonable timeframe to support their local Veterans.

Grants for WA RSL Sub-Branches

Broome Sub-Branch - \$17,987 to upgrade kitchen facilities
Busselton Sub-Branch - \$8,200 to purchase computer equipment for the South West Veterans Centre, undertake bus excursions and conduct educational sessions
North Beach Sub-Branch - \$15,020 for a series of bus trips to reduce social isolation.

About Highgate RSL Sub-Branch



Formed in 1947, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch has long had responsibility for managing commemorative activities at the State War Memorial.

Our members also form the Honour Avenue Group which installs and maintains the commemorative tree plaques in Kings Park that memorialise West Australians who have fallen in service of their nation, but are not buried in WA.



Useful news from the Department of Veterans' Affairs

Family violence support for Veterans and their families

Veterans and their families affected by family and domestic violence will be better supported through the DVA Family and Domestic Violence Strategy 20-25 released last month.

Family and domestic violence can happen to anyone and we all have a responsibility to prevent it, call it out when we see it and provide support to those affected.

Family and domestic violence remains largely a hidden issue but violence, intimidation or disrespectful behaviour in the home, workplace or wider community is completely unacceptable.

This strategy provides the Veteran and Ex-Service community with appropriate tools and information to commit to continuous action and investment to stop violence before it starts, and support women and children where/when they need it.

The Fourth Action Plan is an integral part of the Australian Government's National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-22.

It outlines the support available for Veterans and their families from DVA and its external providers, such as financial assistance, counselling and crisis accommodation.

This includes the 2019 extension of the Partner Service Pension to former partners of Veterans (regardless of marital status), the creation of the Council for Women and Families United by Defence Service, and ongoing work to strengthen relationships with members from enlistment to transition.

The Council will be a key partner in implementation and ongoing performance of the Strategy, providing a strong voice on behalf of those who may feel unheard.

Council Chair, Gabby Costigan, said one woman is killed every nine days by a current or former partner and the rates of sexual violence increased by eight per cent across Australia between 2016 and 2017.

"Domestic and family violence and sexual assault must be stopped, and ending violence against women and their children starts with promoting equality between men and women, and respect for all," said Ms Costigan.

"The Council had a proactive role in developing the DVA Family and Domestic Violence Strategy 2020-25 with government to best help our Veterans and their families."

For information, support and counselling contact **1800RESPECT (1800 737 732)** or visit www.1800respect.org.au. This Service is free, confidential and open 24 hours a day.

Open Arms – Veterans and Families Counselling, provides support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families.

Free and confidential help is available 24/7.

Phone 1800 011 046 (international: +61 1800 011 046 or +61 8 8241 4546) or visit www.OpenArms.gov.au.

The *Department of Veterans' Affairs Family and Domestic Violence Strategy 2020-25* can be found at dva.gov.au.

Veterans' mental health & wellbeing at forefront

Reducing the risk of suicide and improving mental health and wellbeing of Australia's Veterans and their families is at the centre of a new four-year Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan released in mid-May.

For the vast majority of people, serving in the Australian Defence Force is an overwhelmingly positive experience. It's good for the individual, it's good for our community and it's in our national interest.

But like all Australians, there are times when Veterans and their families may require additional support for their mental health which is why DVA, ADF leaders, Ex-Service Organisations, medical professionals and the community are working to improve the mental health of Veterans and their families.

This includes introducing free, uncapped and life-long mental health treatment for Veterans, 24/7 access to personal mental health lifeline, Open Arms, and which is now also available to Veterans' families, making the transition process easier for those leaving the ADF, introducing an immediate payment for vulnerable Veterans while their claims are being processed, and making it quicker and easier for Veterans to process claims.

The Government has also funded PTSD assistance dogs for Veterans, and is completing six new Veteran Wellbeing Centres in Perth, Townsville, Darwin, Adelaide, Wodonga and Nowra.

The Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy and National Action Plan aims to drive a series of changes to enable a shift from an illness focus to a wellness focus.

The Government spends more than \$230 million each year on Veterans' mental health - which is uncapped and driven by demand - as part of an \$11 billion annual spend for services and support for Veterans and their families.

Veterans take their assistance dogs home

An important step in supporting Veterans and their families was reached with the first two dogs, Zuma and Leon, recently provided to Veterans under the Federal Government's Psychiatric Assistance Dogs program.

The Government has listened to Veterans, Ex-Service Organisations and the wider Ex-Service community about the role psychiatric assistance dogs can play in improving the lives of Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

The program is confidently expected to change and save lives and is available to eligible Veterans with a diagnosis of PTSD and forms part of their PTSD management plan, along with financial assistance from DVA for the upkeep of their dog.

For more information about DVA's Psychiatric Assistance Dog program, visit the DVA website.



What could go wrong? - More COVID19 Coffee-Spillers

You thought dogs were hard to train? Just look at all the humans who can't sit and stay.

Remember all those times when you wished the weekend would last forever? Well, wish granted. Happy now?

Child: "Mum, am I adopted?"

Mother: "Not yet, darling. I only put the advertisement in this morning."

Another Saturday night in the house, and I just realised the rubbish goes out more than me.

Having only some States lock down is like having a weeing corner in a swimming pool

If you believe all this will end and we will get back to normal once we reopen everything, raise your hand. Now slap yourself with it.

People are scared of getting fined for congregating in crowds. As if catching a deadly disease and dying a horrible death wasn't enough of a deterrent.

Wait! You're telling me that my best chance of surviving all this is directly linked to the common sense of others?

If these last few months have taught us anything, it's that stupidity travels faster than any virus on the planet.

When this virus thing is over, I still want some of you to stay away from me.

Is it too early to put up the Christmas tree? I've run out of things to do.

How long is this social distancing thing supposed to last? My husband keeps trying to come into the house.

So, let me get this straight. There's no cure for a virus that can be killed by sanitiser and hand soap?

New monthly budget: Petrol \$0, Entertainment \$0, Clothes \$0, Groceries \$2,799.

Breaking News: Wearing a mask inside your home is now highly recommended. Not so much to stop COVID19, but to stop eating.

When this quarantine is over, let's not tell some people.

Not to brag, but I haven't been late to anything in over six weeks.

It may take a village to raise a child but I swear its going to take a vineyard to home-school one.

I wanted zombies and anarchy. Instead we got working from home and toilet paper shortages.

You know those car commercials where there's only vehicle on the road – that doesn't seem so unrealistic these days.

They may open things up next month. However, I'm staying inside for another month just to see what happens to you all first.

Day 37: The garbage man placed an *Alcoholics Anonymous* flyer on my recycling bin.

The spread of Covid19 is based on two things:

1. How dense the population is.
2. How dense the population is.

Appropriate analogy: *The curve is flattening so we can start lifting restrictions now = The parachute has slowed our rate of descent, so we can take it off now.*

People keep asking, "Is coronavirus REALLY all that serious?" Listen, you lot. The churches and casinos are closed. When heaven and hell agree on the same thing, it's probably serious.

Never in a million years could I have imagined I would go up to a bank teller wearing a mask and ask for money.

Home school Day 1: I'm trying to figure out how I can get this kid transferred out of my class.

I'm putting a drink in each room of my house today and calling it a pub crawl.

Okay, the schools are closed. So do we drop the kids off at the teacher's house or what?

20/20 is considered perfect vision. Maybe God is using 2020 for us to see clearly that He's in charge and the only One who can help us.

It's been such a joy being home with my wife the past few weeks. We've caught up on all the things I've done wrong during the past 30 years.

So many coronavirus jokes out there, it's a pandemic.

Quotes by primary school teachers

Please don't snap Billy's mask in his face.

Your mask is not a necklace, bracelet, or any other form of jewellery.

You should not be using your mask as a slingshot. Please put it back on your face.

Please do not chew on your mask.

Your mask should be on your face, not on the back of your head

I'm sorry your mask is wet, but that's what happens when you lick the inside of it.

I'm sorry you sneezed. Here's a tissue. Wipe out the snot as well as you can.

No, you may not blow your nose in your mask.

Why is your mask soaking wet? You just came back from the toilet? And you put it back on your face after you dropped it?

I'm sorry you broke the elastic on your mask by seeing how far the band would stretch. Now you'll have to hold the mask on your face ... or use this duct tape.

Please take the mask off your eyes and watch where you're walking. I don't care if you have X-ray vision.

Please take the mask off of your pencil and stop twirling it.

I know the mask fits over your pants like a knee pad, but please take it off your leg and put it on your face.

What do you mean, you tried to eat your lunch through your mask?

Please don't share your mask or trade masks. I don't care if you like Ingrid's mask better than yours.

I'm sorry, but your mask is not school appropriate.

We're not comparing our masks to other kids' masks... everyone's mask is unique and special.

No, you may not decorate your mask instead of doing your work. I don't care if you have a Sharpie.

You're not a pirate, so please take your mask off your eye.

Try to get the gum off as much as you can. No, your mask doesn't make it harder to get your work done.

Why is there a shoe print on your mask?

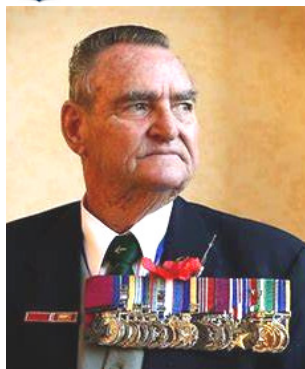
Your Mum will need to get you a new mask since you chewed a hole in that one.

We do not hit other kids in the face with balls. No, their masks don't make it not hurt. Please don't plug your nose holes with your mask.

Please take those biscuits out of your mask. No, you are not a squirrel.

I'm sorry your breath stinks in your mask. Maybe we should all try to brush better.

Please don't use your mask to pick your nose.



The legendary Keith Payne VC AM

Last month marked 51 years since Warrant Officer Keith Payne rescued his company's wounded from enemy

-held territory during a fierce action, ignoring his own wounds and under heavy fire.

WO Payne searched the area for three hours looking for isolated and wounded soldiers. He found about 40 wounded men, rescuing many himself, and organising the rescue of others.

This bravery and looking after his mates is something WO Payne carried on after leaving the ADF, becoming a strong advocate for his fellow Veterans.

Now aged 86, he is the last living Australian recipient of the original Imperial Victoria Cross.

Keith Payne was born in 1933 in Ingham, Queensland on 30 August 1933, joining the Australian Army in 1951, and was posted to 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment the following year and served with his unit in the Korean War.

Promoted corporal in 1955, he served in Malaya, and 10 years later, now a sergeant, he joined 5th Battalion. By 1965, and a Warrant Officer Class II, Payne was fieldcraft instructor on the staff of the Officer Training Unit, Scheyville, established to commission national servicemen.

Two years later, he posted to Papua New Guinea and 2nd Battalion, Pacific Islands Regiment. In 1969, he was posted to the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam.

In May 1969, he was commanding 212th Company of the 1st Mobile Strike Force Battalion when it was attacked by a strong People's Army of Vietnam force near Ben Het Camp. His company was isolated and, surrounded on three sides, WO Payne's Vietnamese troops began to fall back. Payne, by now wounded in the hands and arms and under heavy fire, covered the withdrawal before organising his troops into a defensive perimeter.

He then spent three hours scouring the scene of the day's fight for isolated and wounded soldiers, all while evading the enemy who kept up regular fire. He found about 40 wounded men, brought some in himself and organised the rescue of the others, leading the party back to base through enemy-dominated terrain.

Warrant Officer Payne's actions that night earned him the Victoria Cross, which was presented by Queen Elizabeth aboard the Royal Yacht Britannia, in Brisbane on 13 April 1970, while he was an instructor at the Royal Military College, Duntroon.

Keith Payne also received the Distinguished Service Cross, the Silver Star from the United States of America, and the Republic of Vietnam's Vietnam Gallantry Cross.

Keith Payne retired from the Australian Army in 1975.

After returning to Australia, he became active in the Veteran community, particularly in counselling sufferers of post-traumatic stress disorder.

In 2006, Keith Payne was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for his service to the Veteran community, before being advanced as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2015, recognising his *'significant service to Veterans and their families as an ambassador, patron, and as an advocate for Veterans' health and welfare'*.

Keith Payne VC AM SBS Documentary

The inspiring story of Warrant Officer Keith Payne VC AM from the Vietnam War has been told in a world-class documentary, just days after the 51st anniversary of the courageous actions which saw him awarded the Victoria Cross.

The documentary captures the life and war experiences of an ordinary man who did extraordinary things on the battlefield, and which earned him Australia's highest military honour for bravery. It also captures emotional reunions with fellow Veterans and tells the relatively untold story of Keith Payne.

The documentary can be viewed at [SBS On Demand](#).

Thank you to the Army Museum of WA for the following links

Visit the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia at <https://armymuseumwa.com.au/>
Discover the Tradition of Regimental Colours in the Australian Army <https://www.army.gov.au/our-history/traditions/colours-standards-guidons-and-banners>
Read headlines about the presentation of the Colours [https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/26303699?searchTerm=colours%20AND%20%22presentation%22%20AND%20\(parade\)&searchLimits=exactPhrase=presentation&anyWords=parade¬Words=&requestHandler=&dateFrom=1911-02-10&dateTo=1911-02-24&advstate=Western+Australia&word=ignore%7C*ignore*III-illustrated=ignore%7C*ignore*IIIsortby](https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/26303699?searchTerm=colours%20AND%20%22presentation%22%20AND%20(parade)&searchLimits=exactPhrase=presentation&anyWords=parade¬Words=&requestHandler=&dateFrom=1911-02-10&dateTo=1911-02-24&advstate=Western+Australia&word=ignore%7C*ignore*III-illustrated=ignore%7C*ignore*IIIsortby)
Did one of your ancestors serve in the Boer War? <http://members.iinet.net.au/~perthdps/military/bor-wa1.htm#wa1>
11 Battalion. Australian Imperial Force departing Fremantle in October 1914 <https://11btn.wags.org.au/index.php/indexes/11bn-embarkation>
Was 11 Battalion, AIF at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915? <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U51451>
Were soldiers from 2/11th Battalion captured at Crete in 1941? <https://www.awm.gov.au/collection/U56054>
Commemoration of action on 09 February 1900 at West Australian Hill, <https://www.boerwarwa.org.au/news/why-datasouth-has-embraced-concrete5-cms-development-new-websites>
Group portrait of the Australian 11th (Western Australia) Battalion, 3rd Infantry Brigade, Australian Imperial Force posing on the Great Pyramid of Giza on 10 January 1915. <https://11btn.wags.org.au/index.php/photo-id-grid>
Discover the story of Australian armour in the Middle East 1940-42 <https://www.Army.Gov.Au/Our-History/History-In-Focus/Australian-Armour-In-The-Middle-East-1940-To-1943>
Evacuation of 80,000 considered for wartime Perth https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/95182115?searchTerm=Gordon%20Bennett&searchLimits=exactPhrase&anyWords=¬Words=&requestHandler=&dateFrom=1943-01-01&dateTo=1943-12-31&advstate=Western+Australia&word=ignore%7C*ignore*IIIsortby
Get an overview of the battles for Buna, Gona and Sanananda <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/kokoda-track-1942-1943/events/japanese-besieged-battle-beachheads-buna-gona-sanananda>
Build your own 1/35th scale model of a Stuart tank <https://www.metrohobbies.com.au/products/tamiya-1-35-m3-stuart-late-production-tank>



What we've all been missing... You!



YOUR 2019-20 COMMITTEE

President

Bill Munro | 0411 750 775
bill.munro@highgate-rsl.org.au

Senior Vice President

Deputy Warden State War Memorial

Geoff Simpson

0408 925 432 | 6380 1014
geoff.simpson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Vice President &

Editor - Highgate Highlights

Roger Buddrige | 0408 900 126
roger.buddrige@highgate-rsl.org.au
editor@highgate-rsl.org.au

Secretary

Greg Wilson | 0412 095 201
Mail: Box 66 - Duncraig East 6023
greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au

Treasurer

Ray Ward | 0409 426 677
c42ward@bigpond.net.au

Warden & Immediate Past President

Geoff Hourn | 0414 063 707
geoff.hourn@highgate-rsl.org.au

Warden

Steve Chamarette
0490 257 469 | 9242 1865
steve.chamarette@highgate-rsl.org.au

Pensions & Veterans Affairs Advocate

David MacLean | 0418 917 982
david.maclean@highgate-rsl.org.au

Membership Officer

Howard Montagu | 0417 956 621
howard.montagu@highgate-rsl.org.au

Hospitals & Welfare Officer

Bruce Taylor | 0408 955 219
bruce.taylor@highgate-rsl.org.au

Honour Avenues Representative & Poppy Day Organiser

Mike Harness | 0419 091 708
michaelharness1@bigpond.com

Web Manager

Ian Petkoff | 0490 242 676
ian.petkoff@highgate-rsl.org.au

General Committee

Margot Harness | 9349 2847
michaelharness1@bigpond.com

Leon Griffiths | 0439 033 399
leon@leongriffiths.com

Allan Downs | 0427 932 166
allan.downs@highgate-rsl.org.au

Greg Smith | 0458 204 538
sm1th.gregory12@gmail.com

Front Desk

Bob Campbell | 9279 3502
Helen Birch | hbirch@inet.net.au

Tune in to *The Listening Post* every Monday 1800-2000, Perth's only radio program specially for Defence personnel, past and present, their families and friends | Capital Radio 101.7 FM, Capital Digital and from anywhere on earth via www.capitalcommunityradio.com

Disclaimer Highgate Highlights source material is edited to remove inappropriate content, and clarify, shorten or standardise where needed. Although normal tests for accuracy are undertaken, you should not rely on any of this material without carrying out your own validity checks. Opinions are not necessarily those of RSL Highgate Sub-Branch or RSLWA.

Newsletter contributions are always welcome. Please send to editor@highgate-rsl.org.au

This newsletter is printed as a service to the Veterans Community by Patrick Gorman MP Federal Member for Perth