



# Highgate Highlights

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

## October lunch is at the GROSVENOR HOTEL corner Hay and Hill Streets, opposite Perth Mint

Our next lunch will be on **Monday 19 October** at 1200 for 1230 at the Grosvenor Hotel, corner Hay and Hill Streets. Luncheon is \$40 plus \$5 if you wish to purchase a raffle ticket. Due to the closure of the Karrakatta Club and non-availability of the ANZAC Club, **our venue is the Grosvenor Hotel**, a stately Victorian building with a stylish dining room which can cater for up to 70 members. It opens at 1100, so **plan to arrive after 1100**. (Committee has earlier access for its meeting.)

The Grosvenor has been a supporter of Highgate Sub-Branch, providing dining vouchers for our raffles. It is also home to several Royal Australian Regiment and Battalion Associations.

The Grosvenor can be reached on the free Red CAT bus which runs past the door, or free on any bus heading east on St Georges Terrace from William St, alighting before Hill Street (same for return). There is a Council car park nearby on Goderich Street.

### Three ways 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:** <https://forms.gle/mnUxBpwJnyqj6wB3A>

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. Attendees can be seen here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PBySjeo67PM23OKmvPsJxpLajqCbgX1JXK2OMhA4qKQ/edit?usp=sharing>.

**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.

## EARLY NOTICE | Our November meeting is our ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AND LUNCHEON from 1130 on Sunday 08 November at the State War Memorial & Fraser's Restaurant

Private wreaths can be laid after the official wreaths

*Gentlemen: Jacket and tie | Ladies: Day dress | With medals as appropriate*

The service and luncheon **REPLACES** our monthly luncheon at the Grosvenor Hotel. Book at <https://forms.gle/ZBY3PUN2qzTg2xiJ6> or telephone any Committee member to register. The cost of the Fraser's luncheon, including beer, wine and soft drink, is \$80 per person. Tables of 10 may be booked and you are encouraged to bring friends. Our commemoration at the State War Memorial will be hosted by the Warden of the Memorial, former Governor of Western Australia, Hon Kerry Sanderson AC CVO, who will also be the luncheon speaker. Her term as Warden has been extended by twelve months. The cut-off date for bookings is Friday 30 October.

### Important events | please diarise now

- 1100 | **Mon 19 Oct** | Committee Meeting - **Grosvenor Hotel**
  - 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 19 Oct** | Monthly Luncheon - **Grosvenor Hotel**
  - 1130 | **Sun 08 Nov** | Kings Park Remembrance Day Service and Fraser's Luncheon
  - 1030 | **Wed 11 Nov** | RSL Kings Park Remembrance Day Service
  - **Mon 14 Dec** | Christmas Luncheon - Speaker Dr Craig Challen SC OAM - Thai Rescue
- 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 departed Members and convey our sincere condolences and sympathy to their families and friends

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## From our President

**T**he COVID19 pandemic has caused many of us to change our behaviours, but perhaps not so much in WA other than the restrictions on interstate and overseas travel and the two square-metre rule. Let's face it: You wouldn't really be wanting to live anywhere else at this time.



Bill Munro

There's some interesting research (*Consumer Health Forum Survey 2020*) being done by the medical profession, notably GPs, pathologists and specialists, who have found 52% of people are delaying or avoiding healthcare appointments. Of those, 36% were concerned about the COVID19 risks involved in taking public transport, while 59% were concerned they would be around people potentially suffering from COVID19 at the medical practice.

With a typical male attitude, 55% of respondents felt it was safe to defer appointments if nothing had changed and they felt okay.

Reading these statistics, you are probably thinking they apply to the east coast and we are safe in WA because of our border security and lockdowns.

But the WA figures show there is a marked reduction in people using healthcare facilities, compared to the same time last year.

So, the message is simple! Get back to your scheduled visits to your GP. Your continued good health is important to you and your family and friends. Don't let the fear of COVID19 be an obstacle to your treatment.

***Don't wait, Mate...***

### Highgate member speaks up for contemporary Veterans

Having heard the courageous and harrowing experiences in Afghanistan of last month's guest speaker, SAS Patrol Commander Troy Simmonds, a recent letter to the editor in a prominent newspaper elicited a response the next day from Highgate member, Jeremy Buxton, who wrote: "How sad that your correspondent tries to dismiss SAS service in Afghanistan as nothing more than 'a job'. Would he regard combat death and injury as workplace accidents? Veterans of our savage wars of peace deserve the same respect as our older Veterans. It is a mistake to play the man in political point scoring."



## RSLWA Annual Congress

Highgate's three Sub-Branch delegates, Bill Munro, Ian Petkoff and Leon Griffiths, attended RSLWA Annual Congress on 26 September.

Congress was originally to be held at the newly-constructed ANZAC House, but fit-out delays caused a last-minute change of venue to the Pan Pacific Hotel.

Although State Governor Kim Beazley AC was unable to be present to open Congress, Federal and State politicians, and DVA Deputy Commissioner Peter King, all confirmed their commitment to RSLWA and its aims.

The second session was significant for Highgate because it was here that the 2020 awards were presented. We were extremely proud when the *ANZAC of the Year Award* was presented to Highgate member and State War Memorial Sub Warden, David Scott.

This was followed by Highgate members Geoff Simpson and Steve Chamarette being honoured with Life Membership awards.

During the break, all three were warmly congratulated by delegates from other Sub-Branches.

The third session formally opened the Annual General Meeting and annual report presentation, which can be found on the RSLWA website, and this was passed without comment or questions. The meeting then reappointed RSLWA Trustees, Philip Orchard, and Highgate stalwarts, Wayne Tarr and Don Blair - we congratulate you both.

There were nine motions for debate with the first a proposed amendment to the Veterans Entitlement Act 1986 which sought to widen the range of medical conditions acceptable under the Act. This is a difficult motion to explain concisely, but as it potentially provided greater benefits to Veterans, it sailed through without objection.

The second motion indirectly affected Highgate. As members would be aware, Highgate provides the Deputy Warden and the majority of Sub Wardens of the State War Memorial. The Board of Directors of RSLWA appoint the Deputy Warden each year and he is responsible for recruiting and organising the Sub Wardens for the commemorative services at the SWM.

## Report by Bill Munro - Highgate President

The motion from Northam Sub-Branch sought to remove that responsibility from the Deputy Warden and give it to the RSLWA's Commemorative Committee. We spoke strongly against this motion and were pleased to see it defeated.

Port Kennedy Sub-Branch proposed that elections of RSLWA Board Members should be by plebiscite – that all Life and Service Members of the League have a vote, rather than the existing system where only the Sub-Branch delegates vote.

The motion was popular, but as it was a change to the RSLWA Constitution, it needed a 75% majority, which was not achieved.

Motion 4 sought to encourage the State President to re-introduce six-monthly meetings with Sub-Branch presidents to improve two-way communication between Sub-Branches and RSLWA headquarters. This motion passed without comment.

Of the remaining motions, the most unusual was Motion 8 entitled *Duties of Sub-Branch Treasurer*. It sounded innocuous until one read a little further. The proposal moved by Bunbury Sub-Branch was that building insurances, contents insurance and public liability insurance of Sub-Branch premises be the responsibility of RSLWA.

How it came under the Sub-Branch Treasurer duties was an amendment to the By-Laws that would require the Treasurer to send invoices for insurances to RSLWA for payment.

Bunbury's explanation of this was that the costs of insurances were constantly rising and having to pay insurance costs detracted from funding for renovations and maintenance.

There's no interest like self-interest, so a majority of Sub-Branch delegates voted in favour of the motion.

Highgate delegate, Ian Petkoff raised the point during General Business that under the Associations Incorporation Act, a meeting cannot direct a board or committee to spend money.

We expect the Board of RSLWA will take Ian's comments onboard when they review the decisions of Congress.

## Pensions & DVA Report

By David MacLean

Negotiations continue with the Department of Veterans' Affairs over introduction of a new form, *D9215 Authority to Act*, a complex three-page document replacing a simple one pager.

The unheralded and unloved D9215 was produced by Services Australia and is a victory for bureaucracy over common sense.

Members will be kept apprised on developments in this fascinating diversion.

Highgate Sub-Branch has a number of Defence-Related Claims Act claims under way. Members are reminded of the need to support claims with firm medical evidence, both historical (Defence records) and contemporary. It is difficult, nay impossible, to sustain a claim without medical evidence.

## Poppy Day Report

By Mike Harness

In a change from the usual Friday before Remembrance Day, Poppy Day will now be held on Monday 09 November.

Please contact Highgate Organiser, Mike Harness, on 0419 091 708 or [michaelharness1@bigpond.com](mailto:michaelharness1@bigpond.com) for more information, or to volunteer your assistance as a collector on that morning in the CBD. Mike will also canvass for collectors at our October luncheon.

## Honour Avenues Group Report

By Mike Harness

Seven new Honour Avenue plaques will be dedicated from 1000 on Saturday 14 November, at May Circle in Kings Park. All members and families are very welcome.

The placements will bring to 1,837 the total number of plaques commemorating the service of personnel who enlisted in WA, served and died overseas, are listed on the State War Memorial, and whose remains have not been repatriated.

*"Over 6,000 West Australian Servicemen lost their lives serving in World War I.*

*Many were buried overseas or remain missing and have no known grave"*

## Useful news from the Department of Veterans' Affairs

### Supporting Veterans' mental health and employment

The Federal Budget has provided **\$101.7 million** over four years to further bolster Veterans mental health support. It includes:

**\$94.3 million** to improve mental health outcomes and ensure high quality care for older Veterans and their families, and to better support transition to civilian life by increasing fees paid to mental health, social work and community nursing providers.

**\$2.4 million** to expand eligibility for the Coordinated Veterans' Care program, which provides GP-led team-based care for White Card holders with an accepted mental health condition.

**\$5.0 million** to expand the 24/7 Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling (Open Arms), especially in regional and remote areas.

The Government has long recognised the transition from leaving the ADF and re-entering civilian life, including finding meaningful employment, is a crucial step. Building on successful initiatives to date, the Budget will invest **\$23.7 million** for increased transition and employment support.

This funding includes **\$17.7 million** over four years to establish a Joint Transition Authority (JTA) in Defence, which will ensure all transition services and supports are working together for ADF members and their families during this critical phase.

While most ADF personnel experience a smooth transition and go on to contribute to the community in their civilian lives, this period can be quite challenging for some and the JTA will give all transitioning ADF members the best opportunity for success.

In addition, the Government is continuing its investment in Veteran employment with **\$6 million** to increase civilian employment opportunities for Veterans and provide training, advice and resources for ADF personnel considering starting their own business.

The Budget also includes responses to the Independent Review into the Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI) Payment by David Tune AO PSM.

Responding to identified issues in the report the Government is providing **\$25.9 million** over four years to deliver additional assistance, including increased support for TPI Veterans living in rented accommodation.

Another Budget response is to the Productivity Commission's report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans* with an interim response to be tabled in Parliament that includes an assurance that recommendations relating to the Gold Card will not be accepted by the Government, providing certainty to the Ex-Service community.

### DVA White Card

All members who have served one day or more in the ADF are entitled to a DVA white card which allows the bearer to seek mental health assistance external to Defence while still serving, as this may be less daunting for some members.

The application process is simple. Just log into MyGov and create a DVA account. Then click the Apply button.

Any entitlements will be automatically determined and the card will be mailed to the elected address. The MyGov website provides information on eligibility.

### National Emergency medal nominations

ADF personnel and Australian Public Service employees who provided service during either Tropical Cyclone Debbie (2017) and/or the North Queensland Floods (2019) are invited to nominate for the National Emergency Medal, no later than 30 October 2020. More information can be found at Defence Honours and Awards site and Defence personnel should refer to DEFGRAM 314/2020 to ensure they meet eligibility criteria.

#### More information

Navy

[navy.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au](mailto:navy.honoursandawards@defence.gov.au)

Army

[army.ceremonial@defence.gov.au](mailto:army.ceremonial@defence.gov.au)

Air Force

[afhq.h&a@defence.gov.au](mailto:afhq.h&a@defence.gov.au)

### Interim response to Productivity Commission report and findings from the TPI review

The Ex-Service community has been assured of the Government's commitment to putting Veterans and their families first with an interim response to the Productivity Commission report, *A Better Way to Support Veterans*, tabled in Parliament on 08 October addressing 25 of the report's 69 recommendations, with a particular focus on mental health, wellbeing, employment support and transition.

Priority is being given to initiatives that bolster access to mental health support, improve the transition to civilian life and increase access to employment.

The Government recognises the importance of the Veteran Gold Card in supporting Veterans and their families to access treatment, and has therefore rejected the recommended changes to the Gold Card outlined in the Productivity Commission report, providing clarity and certainty to Veterans and their families.

Seventeen of the 25 recommendations have already been implemented, are under way, or will be delivered by DVA or Defence using existing resources.

The remaining eight include the two Gold Card recommendations that have been rejected, and six recommendations addressed in the 2020–21 Budget.

The Government will also respond to the recommendations from the Joint Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Inquiry into transition from the Australian Defence Force and the Veterans' Advocacy and Support Services Scoping Study in the 2021–22 Budget.

The full detail of the Government's 2020–21 Budget package in response to the report, as well as the KPMG Review, Tune Report, and Productivity Commission report are all available on the Department of Veterans' Affairs website.



## Report gives more understanding of Defence and Veteran suicide

**Every year, too many Australians are taken from us by suicide and sadly, our ADF personnel and Veterans are not immune.**

The latest report on incidence of suicide among current and ex-serving ADF personnel was released on 09 October by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, revealing 33 deaths by suicide in 2018.

Addressing this tragedy is a national priority for the Government and while the annual figure in the report is lower than 2017, there is still work to do to eliminate this tragic loss of life.

All acknowledge there are many factors that can affect someone's mental health, the current pandemic included, and where a person's service in the Navy, Army or Air Force is the cause of poor mental health, there is absolute commitment to ensuring they are supported.

This is why in 2017 access to free mental health treatment was expanded to include any mental health condition, regardless of whether or not the condition is linked to a Veteran's service. This has uncapped funding, so where there is a need, it is met.

Veterans can access financial support where they have a compensation claim for a mental health condition being processed by DVA, and progress has been made in ensuring ADF members have the support to succeed in civilian employment, with the skills and experience they bring to the civilian workforce highlighted and celebrated.

The transition process from Defence has been improved, making support needs-based, improving the communication between DVA and Defence, and ensuring those most at risk have the support they need, when they need it.

This transition focus is why the Joint Transition Authority has been established as announced in the Federal Budget, to ensure all transition services are working together for the best possible outcome for ADF members, Veterans and their families.

The Budget prioritised further investment in mental health, transition and employment support, providing more

than \$100 million to provide a once-only fee increase for psychiatrists, allied mental health, social workers and community nursing providers; to train psychiatry registrars in Veteran and military mental health, provide GP-led care coordination for Veterans with mental health conditions accepted as Service-related, and expanding the Open Arms - Veterans and Families Counselling) Community and Peer Support program.

There is always more to do and this is where the enduring focus of the National Commissioner for Defence and Veteran Suicide Prevention will play an important role, with this helping everyone understand the factors and systemic issues that may contribute to suicide risk and provide recommendations to improve prevention efforts.

Mental health and suicide prevention is everyone's business and we all have a part to play - check in on a mate, ask them if they are okay, have a conversation and help them get the support they need. Help is available so please reach out.

Open Arms provides 24/7 counselling and support to current and former ADF members and their families. They also offer face-to-face and video counselling, online or in-person group treatment programs, suicide prevention programs and crisis accommodation support.

**Open Arms can be reached  
24/7 on 1800 011 046**

## Korean University scholarships for War Veterans' descendants

The Republic of Korea's Ministry of Patriots and Veterans Affairs invites descendants of Korean War Veterans to apply for scholarships at the highly-regarded Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

The scholarship program provides higher education in Korea for descendants of UN Korean War Veterans to help recompense their sacrifices and to strengthen international friendships.

Degree courses are available in Bachelor, Master and Doctoral programs, and are all preceded by a one-year intensive Korean language course in Yongin City, South Korea. For a copy of the prospectus, please email [editor@highgate-rsl.org.au](mailto:editor@highgate-rsl.org.au)

## Veteran Family Advocate appointed

In a significant step towards promoting better outcomes for Veterans' families, Gwen Cherne has been appointed as the first-ever Veteran Family Advocate, representing their perspectives in ongoing policy and decision-making across Government.

Ms Cherne has an impressive resume in roles relating to Defence personnel and Veterans' families at both national and international level, and brings a range of experience as a Defence spouse, a war widow, and the mother of a current serving ADF member.

By directly engaging with the families of Veterans of all generations, Ms Cherne will draw on their advice to help shape the design of programs, policy and services, building on understanding factors that can enhance or detract from the mental health of Veterans and their families, particularly during transition from service.

The establishment of the Veteran Family Advocate has been undertaken through the existing Repatriation Commission structure enshrined in the Veterans' Affairs legislation, so it can be established immediately.

Ms Cherne said that as a single mother with two young children at home, and having lost her husband to suicide, she was acutely aware of some of the challenges faced by Defence families.

"The Department of Veteran Affairs has made significant and positive changes for Veterans and their families, and I am very aware of the responsibility I have to ensure this work continues and that the voices of Veterans' families are heard."

Ms Cherne's background includes service to the Veteran community as a board member on the NSW War Widow's Guild, as an Ambassador for the Commando Welfare Trust, and working with DVA on issues facing widows and families through her appointment to the Council for Women and Families United by Defence Service.

In recent years, she has also served on the Council of the Australian War Memorial and as an ambassador for the 2018 Invictus Games.



## Sub Warden Duties | 2020

### Wreath-Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD  
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



<b>Sun 25 Oct</b>	1200 for 1230	Greek Ochi Day
<b>Sun 08 Nov</b>	1100 for 1130	Highgate Remembrance Ceremony
<b>Wed 11 Nov</b>	1000 for 1030	Remembrance Day
<b>Wed 11 Nov</b>	1800 for 1830	Venture Scouts

## Australians recognise our Fallen on Remembrance Day

In the lead-up to Remembrance Day 2020, schools and community groups across the country are being provided with free resources to assist them in teaching our next generation about the importance of the day, as well as promoting its observance on 11 November to commemorate all those who have died in service to the nation.

More than 102,000 Australians who served our nation in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations and made the ultimate sacrifice will be specially remembered at the 11th hour, on the 11th day of the 11th month, as we pause for a minute of solemn and silent reflection in their memory.

To assist schools and community groups commemorate Remembrance Day in a dignified and respectful manner, the mail-out includes posters, educational activities and other resources that tell the story of our wartime history. It includes material that looks back at the Second World War, which ended 75 years ago this year; and recognises the important roles families and communities played in supporting the war effort on the home front.

The mail-out will go to more than 17,000 recipients across Australia and overseas and this year's Remembrance Day posters feature Australians celebrating the declaration of peace at the end of the Second World War on 15 August 1945, as well as Royal Australian Air Force personnel receiving official news of Japan's surrender on the same day.

Due to coronavirus, this year aged care facilities will only receive a letter from the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, and Victorian schools will receive a digital version of the mail-out.

Mail-out resources are available for free download on the Anzac Portal or by emailing [education@dva.gov.au](mailto:education@dva.gov.au).

## Japanese surrender ends World War Two

This year's 75th anniversary of Victory in the Pacific was important because it might be one of the last opportunities we had to formally recognise the occasion with our World War II Veterans.

Although Nazi Germany surrendered on 07 May 1945, the true end to World War II didn't come until 14 August, when Japan accepted the Allies' demand for unconditional surrender.

The following day is now known as Victory in the Pacific Day, when the surrender of Imperial Japan was announced by Emperor Hirohito on 15 August and formally signed on 02 September 1945, bringing World War II to a close.

By 1945, the Japanese had suffered a string of defeats for nearly two years in the South West Pacific, the Marianas, and the Philippines.

In July 1944, following the loss of Saipan, the Japanese lost the Philippines, and the Allies captured the islands of Iwo Jima and Okinawa.

At the end of July 1945, the Imperial Japanese Navy had become incapable of conducting major operations and an Allied invasion of Japan was imminent. Okinawa was to be a staging area for Operation Downfall, the Allied invasion of the Japanese Home Islands.

Together with the British Empire and China, the United States called for the unconditional surrender of the Japanese armed forces in the Potsdam Declaration on 26 July 1945 - the alternative being 'prompt and utter destruction'.

With few natural resources, Japan was dependent on raw materials, particularly oil, imported from Manchuria and other parts of the East Asian mainland, and from the conquered territory in the Dutch East Indies. However, the Allied submarine campaign and mining of Japanese coastal waters had largely destroyed the Japanese merchant fleet. Combined with the strategic bombing of Japanese

industry, its war economy was wrecked, with production of coal, iron, steel, rubber and other vital supplies now only a fraction of that before the war.

As a result of its losses, the Imperial Japanese Navy had ceased to be an effective fighting force. Following a series of raids on the Japanese shipyard at Kure, the only major warships in fighting order were six aircraft carriers, four cruisers, and one battleship, none of which could be fuelled adequately. Although 19 destroyers and 38 submarines were still operational, their use was also limited by lack of fuel.

Faced with the prospect of an invasion of the Home Islands of Japan, starting with Kyūshū, and the prospect of a Soviet invasion of Manchuria - Japan's last source of natural resources - the War Journal of the Imperial Headquarters concluded in 1944: *We can no longer direct the war with any hope of success. The only course left is for Japan's one hundred million people to sacrifice their lives by charging the enemy to make them lose the will to fight.*

As a final attempt to stop the Allied advances, the Japanese Imperial High Command planned an all-out defence of Kyūshū. This was to be a radical departure from the defence plans used in the invasions of Peleliu, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa. Instead, everything was staked on the beachhead.

More than 3,000 kamikazes would be sent to attack the amphibious transports before troops and cargo were disembarked on the beach. If this did not drive the Allies away, they planned to send another 3,500 kamikazes along with 5,000 Shin'yō suicide motorboats and the last of the Navy's destroyers and submarines to the beach.

If the Allies had fought through this and successfully landed on Kyūshū, 3,000 planes would have been left to defend the remaining islands, although Kyūshū would be 'defended to the last' regardless.

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## Japanese surrender ends World War Two *(continued from previous page)*

However, at 0815 local time on 06 August 1945, the US detonated an atomic bomb over the Japanese city of Hiroshima. Sixteen hours later, American President Harry S Truman called again for Japan's surrender, warning them to "expect a rain of ruin from the air, the like of which has never been seen on this earth". Hours later, the US dropped a second atomic bomb, this time on Nagasaki. Emperor Hirohito then ordered the Supreme Council for the Direction of the War to accept the terms for ending the war the Allies had set down in the Potsdam Declaration.

News of the Japanese acceptance of the surrender terms was announced on 14 August, sparking massive celebrations, with Allied civilians and Service men and women everywhere rejoicing at news of the end of the war.

The surrender ceremony was held at 0900 on 02 September aboard USS Missouri, at which the Japanese government formally signed the Instrument of Surrender, thereby ending the hostilities. Japanese Foreign Minister Shigemitsu signed for the Japanese government, while General Umezu signed for the Japanese armed forces.

However, isolated soldiers and personnel from Japan's far-flung forces throughout Asia and the Pacific refused to surrender for months and years afterwards, some even refusing into the 1970s.

Some Japanese holdouts, especially on small Pacific Islands, refused to surrender at all, believing the declaration to be propaganda or considering surrender against their code. Others may never have heard it. Teruo Nakamura, the last known holdout, emerged from his hidden retreat in Indonesia in December 1974, while two other Japanese soldiers who had joined Communist guerrillas at the end of the war, fought in southern Thailand until 1991.

General Douglas MacArthur arrived in Tokyo on 30 August, and immediately decreed several laws: No Allied personnel were to assault Japanese people. No Allied personnel were to eat the scarce Japanese food. Flying the Rising Sun flag was severely restricted.

After the formal surrender, investigations into Japanese war crimes quickly began. However, at a meeting with the Emperor later in September, General MacArthur assured him he needed his help to govern Japan and so Hirohito was never tried. Legal procedures for the International Military Tribunal for the Far East were issued on 19 January, 1946, without any member of the imperial family being prosecuted.

Following the signing of the instrument of surrender, many further surrender ceremonies took place across Japan's remaining holdings in the Pacific.

The surrender of the Carolines was held on 02 September onboard USS *Portland* at Truk Atoll. Japanese forces in South East Asia surrendered on the same day in Penang, and on 10 September in Labuan, 11 September in Sarawak and 12 September in Singapore. The Chinese Nationalist Party took over administration of Taiwan on 25 October.

However, it was not until 1947 that all Japanese prisoners held by America and Britain were repatriated. As late as April 1949, China still held more than 60,000 with some not repatriated until the late 1950s.

The logistical demands of the surrender were formidable. After Japan's capitulation, more than 5,400,000 Japanese soldiers and 1,800,000 Japanese sailors were taken prisoner by the Allies. The damage done to Japan's infrastructure, combined with a severe famine in 1946, further complicated the Allied efforts to feed the Japanese POWs and civilians.

The state of war between most of the Allies and Japan officially ended when the Treaty of San Francisco took effect on 28 April 1952. Japan and the Soviet Union formally made peace four years later, when they signed the Soviet-Japanese Joint Declaration of 1956.

## VP Day and Australian POWs

One of the consequences of the sudden surrender of Japan was the distance of Allied forces from the numerous prisoner of war camps scattered across the various regions of South East Asia.

The day of liberation that all prisoners had lived and longed for, came late and without drama in most camps. Where the Australians had radios, they knew that the war was over, but had to wait for a reaction from the Japanese.

At Nakom Paton in Thailand, Weary Dunlop feared the Japanese might kill all the prisoners in the event of an invasion or other crisis. But on 16 August, the Japanese admitted there was an 'armistice', and the men were no longer to be considered prisoners.

At Kuching, Japanese officers kept the news to themselves and the guards made no admissions, although they suddenly supplied Red Cross parcels and medicines.

Even after Allied aircraft littered the camp with leaflets announcing the end of the war, the Japanese remained silent and even more sullen for another five days before a parade was called and on 24 August, the prisoners were told they would soon be free.

The nurses on Sumatra also learned the war was over on 24 August, but no Australians knew where they were until 07 September when Dutch soldiers parachuted in, with the first Australian troops arriving four days later. It was over a month after the war ended before the nurses were flown to Singapore.

In Japan, most prisoners quickly learned the war had ended. Their guards disappeared and the men cautiously left camp, venturing a little further each day. No Allied forces were ready to occupy Japan, but as the camps were identified with painted signs on their roofs, the 'biscuit bombers'

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## Long Tan Bursary | Check if you're eligible

The Long Tan Bursary awards eligible descendants of Vietnam Veterans with up to \$12,000 over three years of continuous full-time study, assisting them to follow their dreams.

Applications for the 2021 Long Tan Bursary opened on 18 August 2020, and to find out if you are eligible, and to apply, visit [dva.gov.au](http://dva.gov.au).



## VP Day and Australian POWs *(continued)*

found them, and stores were parachuted in. It was 29 August before the prisoners from Zentsuji were found in Hokkaido. Even in the prison camps close to Australia - Ambon and Rabaul - it was weeks before the men were located and liberated.

As Supreme Commander of the Allied Powers, General MacArthur had issued directions that no separate surrender was to be taken by subordinate formations, until after the signing onboard USN *Missouri* in Tokyo Bay on 02 September.

Some Japanese Commanders hesitated to enter into any surrender negotiations until they received direct instructions from Tokyo.

On 06 September, Japanese General Imamura and Vice Admiral Kusaka boarded aircraft carrier HMS *Glory* which was riding in St George's Channel, between New Britain and New Ireland. At a ceremony on the flight deck, the Japanese officers signed a document surrendering about 139,000 Japanese to Lieutenant General Vernon Ashton Hobart Sturdee CB CBE DSO, General Officer Commanding 1st Australian Army.

On 09 September 1945 at Morotai, General Blamey, Commander-in-Chief of the Australian Military Forces, accepted from Lieutenant General Fusataro Teshima, commanding the Japanese Second Army, the surrender of all enemy forces remaining in Borneo and the Netherlands East Indies east of Lombok Island.

Blamey delegated to Lieutenant General Vernon Sturdee the task of

accepting the surrender of the Japanese 1st Army Area of Command, in New Britain, New Ireland, the Solomons, New Guinea, Ocean Island and Nauru. Major General Wootten accepted the surrender in British Borneo, General Milford in Dutch Borneo, Brigadier Dyke in Timor and Major General Robertson at Wewak.

As a result of leaflets dropped by the RAAF over Sapong Estate on mainland of Borneo, contact was made with Lieutenant General Maso Baba, Supreme Commander of Japanese forces in Borneo. He was instructed to fly to Labuan and surrender to Major General George Frederick Wootten CB CBE DSO, General Officer Commanding 9th Australian Division.

Japanese Lieutenant General Hatazō Adachi, commander in chief of the 18th Army on Rabaul and the north coast of New Guinea from 1942–1945, surrendered to the Australian 6th Division at Cape Wom, near Wewak, New Guinea on 13 September 1945.

Detailed news of the prisoners came slowly - then suddenly - to Australia. On 30 August it was announced there might be 17,500 Australian prisoners of war coming home. That figure was soon found to be optimistic.

From 01 September, Australian newspapers were full of stories of atrocities, appalling cruelty and horror after horror.

It was not 17,500 who came home - it was just 14,000. More than 8,000 prisoners of war and many hundreds of civilian internees had died.

## NOT TO BE MISSED...

### Our Christmas Luncheon Thai Caves Rescuer DR CRAIG CHALLEN SC OAM From 1200 on 14 December 2020

Our Christmas Luncheon will be a real treat this year, as we welcome special guest speaker, Dr Craig Challen SC OAM.



Dr Craig Challen SC OAM

Along with South Australia's Dr Richard Harris, SC OAM, Craig received the Star of Courage, the Medal of the Order of Australia, and both were jointly named the 2019 Australians of the Year for their unwavering and selfless bravery as part of an international rescue mission to save 12 boys and their soccer coach from flooded caves in Chiang Rai, Thailand, in July 2018.

For their outstanding courage and skills, Craig and Richard were also awarded the Knight Grand Cross (First Class) of the Most Admirable Order of the Direkgunabhorn, by His Majesty, the King of Thailand.

Craig was about to undertake a caving holiday on the Nullarbor Plains when called on to help the rescue mission with his technical expertise. Working 10-12 hours a day in extremely dangerous conditions, he repeatedly risked his life as the children were swum, one by one, through the dark and narrow flooded caves.

One of Australia's leading technical divers, Craig has dived many deep wrecks and set diving depth records. He was awarded Technical Diver of the Year in 2009.

Craig has explored caves throughout Australia, New Zealand, China, Thailand, Vanuatu and the Cook Islands.

In addition, Craig has an avid interest in shipwreck diving, exploring sites throughout South East Asia and Oceania.

A retired veterinary surgeon and former CEO of Australian Animal Hospitals, Craig is also a helicopter and aircraft pilot.



**Highgate Members celebrating their September birthday**  
**Members celebrating this month include**  
**Richard Jones,**  
**Darren Akerman,**

**Lindsay Morrison, Tony Howes,**  
**Basil Twine, Richard Bird,**  
**John Reidy-Crofts, David Scott,**  
**Jock Geldart, Peter Gilkison,**  
**Jeffrey Moorcroft, Eric McDonald,**  
**Wayne Gardiner, Geoff Hourn,**  
**James Shackleton, Guy Burton,**  
**Donald King and Barry Long**

## ANZAC Portal

*Look through the ANZAC Portal to uncover the experiences of the men and women who have served Australia in wars, conflicts and peacekeeping operations, and those they leave behind.*

**ANZAC Portal** tells the history of Australians serving in our Defence Forces through our Veterans' experiences at  
<https://ANZACportal.dva.gov.au/>

## 105 years ago **BATTLES AT LONE PINE & THE NEK** *Details you may never have read before*

**The 105th anniversary of the Battle of Lone Pine at Gallipoli on 06 August 1915 commemorated one of the most intense battles in our ANZAC history during the First World War.**

The attack at Lone Pine was a diversion to assist the main assault by New Zealand and British troops against the Sari Bair Range at Gallipoli, by drawing Turkish reserves away from the attacks against Hill 971, Hill Q and Chunuk Bair.

The goal of the attack at Lone Pine was to assist with the capture of the heights, which would have enabled a break out from the ANZAC area. After a preliminary artillery bombardment, Australian infantry charged the enemy trench-line.

The Australian troops showed immense courage in the face of fierce resistance, with the main Turkish trench taken within 20 minutes. However, the fighting continued for days as the Turks mounted several counter-attacks in attempts to recapture the position. To hold on to what they had gained, the Australians fought with resilience and resolve, using bombs and bayonets, and engaging in hand-to-hand combat.

During the four-day battle, there were more than 2,000 Australian casualties. Seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross for their bravery, a testament to the ferocity of the action and the courage shown by the ANZACs.

The service and sacrifice of these brave men should never be forgotten.

### **Large diversionary attack**

Lone Pine was planned as a diversion to keep Turkish reserves from the main Allied attack, an attempt to break out of the ANZAC perimeter and capture the heights of Chunuk Bair and Hill 971.

An Australian artillery barrage of Ottoman trenches preceded the attack.

At 5:30pm on 6 August 1915, the attack began. With the evening sun slanting down into Turkish eyes, the Australians rose from their trenches and charged, with their objectives to take and hold the Turkish line and draw Turkish reserves away from action on the Sari Bair range

When the Australians reached the Ottoman line, they found timber roofs covered many of the trenches. At this point, they split up and fired, bombed and bayoneted from above, made their way inside the trenches, charged past to the open communications and support trenches behind, and advanced as far as The Cup (about 20 metres behind the Turkish front line). Within minutes, the Australians had seized the first Turkish trenches and were into the communication trenches beyond.

By nightfall, the Australians had taken over most of the enemy front line and established outposts in former Ottoman communication trenches.

Then the real battle began. Private John Gammage of 1st Battalion wrote: *The wounded bodies of both Turks and ANZACs were piled up three and four deep ... the bombs simply poured in but as fast as our men went down another would take his place.*

From nightfall on 06 August to the night of 09 August, fierce fighting took place underground in a complex maze of Ottoman tunnels. Australian Engineers dug a safe passage across no-man's-land so that reinforcements could enter the captured positions without being exposed to enemy fire. The Turks desperately tried to eject the attacking force, but the Australians held on.

Tewfik Bey, commander of the Turkish 47th Regiment was held responsible for the loss of Lone Pine. He led a subsequent counter-attack and was killed. Despite the ANZAC victory, the overall August Offensive failed. A stalemate developed around Lone Pine and lasted until the evacuation of Australian troops in December 1915.

When the battle was over, some 2,300 men were killed or wounded across six Australian battalions, and over 6,000 Turks had been killed or wounded.

From the action at Lone Pine, seven Australians were awarded the Victoria Cross, the highest British Empire bravery decoration. It was the highest number ever awarded to an Australian Division for one action.

**On 07 August 1915 at Gallipoli, the Battle of the Nek was a brave, tragic assault by the dismounted 3rd Light Horse Brigade.**

The charge aimed to attract Turks to The Nek while New Zealand troops seized the heights of Chunuk Bair as part of the August Offensive. The Allies hoped this would distract the enemy at the critical moment, making the Turks who held the trenches at The Nek think Allied soldiers might be coming down the slopes behind them. However, this didn't happen as planned.

The Light Horsemen rose from their trenches and met a hail of bullets. Within 45 minutes, three waves of Australians and part of a fourth wave were cut down. Most men fell before they got near the Turkish lines.

The Nek was an important location on Gallipoli for the Allies. On the northern end of the ANZAC front, this narrow bridge of land stretched between the landmarks of Russell's Top and Baby 700. The Turks occupied trenches on the slopes of Baby 700 and dominated the Australian positions below.

Naval gunfire and shore-based artillery shelled the Ottoman positions. The bombardment was intended to provide cover for the Australians during the attack. Unfortunately, the barrage ended seven minutes too early, but the Light Horse officers at The Nek did not adapt their plans. They held back their men until the appointed time for the charge.

The delay gave the Turks enough time to set up their machine guns. They were ready for the assault. The plan was for the New Zealanders to move down from Chunuk Bair and attack when the Light Horse did. But the New Zealanders hadn't taken Chunuk Bair as intended, so their support did not come. The first wave of Light Horsemen was immediately shot down. The second and third line of troops suffered the same fate. Men on the right of the fourth wave also went over before the attack could be cancelled.

The casualties of the action were devastating. Of the 600 Australian troops involved, 234 were killed and 138 wounded.



## Coffee-Spillers, Eye-Rollers and Warm Fuzzies

### Student receives 0% in exam

*Even though each answer is grammatically correct...*

**Q1: How can you drop a raw egg onto a concrete floor without cracking it?** A: Any way you want, as concrete floors are very hard to crack

**Q2: Where was the American Declaration of Independence signed?** A: At the bottom of the page

**Q3: The Swan River flows in which state?** A: Liquid

**Q4: What is the main reason for divorce?** A: Marriage

**Q5: What is the main reason for failure?** A: Exams

**Q6: What can you never eat for breakfast?** A: Lunch and dinner

**Q7: What looks like half an apple?**

A: The other half

**Q8: If you throw a red stone into the blue sea, what will it become?**

A: Wet

**Q9: How can a man go eight days without sleeping?** A: No problem. He sleeps at night

**Q10: How can you lift an elephant with one hand?** A: You will never find an elephant that has one hand

**Q11: If it took eight men 10 hours to build a wall, how long would it take four men to build it?** A: No time at all as the wall is already built

*Hi, Max. This is Richard, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt and hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me. Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. - Richard.*

*Max, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Richard dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the lounge. Max then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from Richard: Hi, Max.*

*Richard here again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned spellcheck had changed 'wi-fi' to 'wife'. Technology, huh? It'll be the death of us all.*

### EYES FRONT! - From the RSM

Don't get sloppy. Don't slide on the little things. If you do, you'll only be contributing to the society of fat, lazy, stupid, unproductive, unambitious morons I see surrounding me every day. People now are too tolerant of themselves. Make your kid clean his room. Make your daughter earn that set of designer jeans. Stop sweating bullets to do for others what they're capable of doing for themselves. Demand excellence, not just from them, but from yourself. Associate with people who want the best for you, and cut yourself off from those that suck you dry of your energy, time and resources. The enemy may be disguised as someone you know. Find the time vampires in your life and throw garlic at them. Refuse to let them have control of your most valuable asset - your time. Fight for your life. Stop shrugging off things that seem too hard. Care, fight, demand excellence, rise to victory. And, when you must, you have my permission to lose your temper.

- Chris Tate, *The Trading Game* newsletter

### Lockdown Psychosis

I was just talking to the microwave and the toaster while drinking my coffee, and we all agreed that things are getting bad. I didn't mention any of this to the washing machine, because she puts a different spin on everything. Certainly couldn't share with the fridge, cause he's been acting cold and distant. In the end, the iron straightened me out. She said the situation isn't all that pressing and all the wrinkles will soon get ironed out. The vacuum, however, was very unsympathetic... told me to just suck it up. But the fan was very optimistic and gave me hope that it will all blow over soon. The toilet looked a bit flushed but didn't say anything when I asked its opinion, but the front door said I was becoming unhinged and the doorknob told me to get a grip. And then the curtains told me to pull myself together.

**Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts**

Winston Churchill

I've been self-distancing most of my life – it's called golf.

**Interviewer on ABC TV's 'The Drum':** *Are you practising social distancing in Western Australia?*

**WA interviewee:** *In WA, we've been practicing social distancing since Federation in 1901.*

*I'm giving up drinking for a month. Sorry, bad punctuation. I'm giving up. Drinking for a month.*

**All of us stuck at home should call random numbers in India and ask them if they want solar rebates.**

*Went to the toilet at a restaurant. Washed my hands. Opened the door with my elbow. Lifted the seat with my foot. Operated the flush through a hand-held tissue. Washed my hands. Used another tissue to turn off the tap. Elbowed out the door back to my seat. Realised I'd forgotten to pull my pants up.*

**It's wonderful to see how Australians are obeying social distancing rules. When I go out with my favourite shopping bag (issued as a souvenir by Princess Cruises), people not only give me 1.5 metres but cross the road and run way...**

**Male interviewer:** *We're looking for someone who can do the work of six men.*

**Female interviewee:** *That's a shame. I was looking for a full-time job.*

**My local pub is six minutes walk from my house, yet the return journey takes 56 minutes. The difference is staggering.**

Oo0oo

**An invisible man married an invisible woman. Their kids were nothing to look at either.**

**I didn't think the chiropractor could improve my posture. But I stand corrected.**

**My cross-eyed wife and I just got a divorce. I found out she was seeing someone on the side.**

**What did the surgeon say to the patient who insisted on closing up his own incision? Suture self.**

**I used to date a girl with one leg who worked at a brewery. She was in charge of the hops.**

**My wife claims I'm the cheapest person she's ever met. I'm not buying it.**

**Did you know that a raven has 17 rigid feathers called pinions, while a crow only has 16. So the difference between a raven and a crow is just a matter of a pinion.**





Former SAS Patrol Commander Troy Simmonds speaks about his involvement in the Afghanistan fire-fight that resulted in CPL Mark Donaldson receiving the Victoria Cross.



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