



# 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)

Issue 614 | December 2020  
ISSN 2206-7345 (print) ISSN 2206-7353 (online)

## Our January Speaker **MATT MORAN** Defence West



Matt is Executive Director of Defence West, an Australian Army Afghanistan Veteran and a Walkley Award winner.

He joined Channel Ten's Perth newsroom in 2004 and before starting in television, was a rural reporter with the ABC in Esperance.

He deployed to Afghanistan as a public affairs officer in 2009 and East Timor in 2007.

A Federal political reporter for Network Ten 2011-15, he's won numerous accolades including a Walkley Award, the Paul Lyneham Award and two UN Association of Australia Media Awards. Matt was shortlisted for the 2011 Graham Perkin Australian Journalist of the Year Award and is a Logie finalist. He was a Walkley Award judge in 2012.

He left Network Ten in 2015 and joined former Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's office as a media adviser.

After the 2016 Federal election, Matt joined the Minister for Defence Industry's office as a policy adviser, promoted to senior adviser in 2017, and worked on Defence's most complex and expensive projects.

In August 2018, he was appointed as a senior adviser to the Minister for Defence.

After the 2019 Federal election, Matt was appointed Executive Director of Defence West.

## Highgate's Abe Sher now 103!

*Abe's grandson, Jeremy writes:*

Born on 09 May 1918, just six months before the end of World War 1, my Grandfather, Abe Sher, is fine in his 103rd year. He has naturally slowed down a little and his hearing is quite poor now. His highlight of course is that he sees his great-grandchildren on a weekly basis (COVID-permitting). The eldest ones are now old enough to speak and interact with him. My grandfather tells me his neighbour in his new aged care home in Sydney is a Russian World War 2 Veteran, and Grandad reminded me he was liberated from the Germans by the Russians. He then spent 10 days riding on a T-34 tank across the Czech Republic and eastern Germany so he could be handed back to the Americans. He has asked me to send his best wishes to all his friends in Highgate RSL. He greatly appreciates your thoughts for his health and happiness!

*Read Abe's extraordinary life story, written by Margot Harness in 2013, on page 3*



Bill Munro

## From our President

**H**appy new year and welcome to 2021, during which we will celebrate our Centenary. Yes, Highgate RSL Sub-Branch, with its antecedents, turns 100 this year!

We have much to be thankful for and like me, I'm sure you do not take your health and situation for granted, as we see so much sadness around the nation and around the world, especially with regards to the often out-of-control pandemic stretching physical and economic resources to the limit in so many places.

Of particular sadness to all at Highgate RSL was to learn of the passing of our outstanding former soldier, WA Governor and Governor-General, Major General the Honourable Philip Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC, who was a senior Australian Army officer and Vice-Regal representative. He was 28th Governor of Western Australia from 1993 to 2000, and the 24th Governor-General of Australia, serving from 2003 to 2008.

Born in Wiluna WA on 12 December 1937, MAJGEN Jeffery was educated at Kent Street Senior High School. After graduating from the Royal Military College, Duntroon in 1958, he began his extraordinary career, serving in junior positions before being posted to Malaya in 1962 for operational service. From 1966 to 1969, he served in Papua New Guinea, and during this posting, married Marlena Kerr of Sydney, with whom he had three sons and a daughter.

*Continued page 2*

## Join our next Luncheon on Monday 18 January at the Grosvenor Hotel, Hay Street Perth

Our next lunch will be on **Monday 18 January** at 1200 for 1230 at the Grosvenor Hotel, corner Hay and Hill Streets (opposite Perth Mint). Luncheon is \$40 plus \$5 if you wish to purchase a raffle ticket. It opens at 1100.

### 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/8EGY9rh8NuCnSica6>** (Note: A new link each month) 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/1FaWgkOL\\_rhCEqrV0F3stHolqzdBHBCtnRgdktlxlbWE/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1FaWgkOL_rhCEqrV0F3stHolqzdBHBCtnRgdktlxlbWE/edit?usp=sharing)

## Important events | please diarise now

- ° 1100 | **Mon 18 Jan** | Committee Meeting - Grosvenor Hotel
- ° 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 18 Jan** | Monthly Luncheon - Grosvenor Hotel

**See page 4 for Wreath-Laying Services at the State War Memorial**

## Last Post | Lest We Forget

We remember with deep sadness and high regard

**Major General The Honourable Philip Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC**  
and convey our sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends

## From our President

**VALE / MAJGEN Michael Jeffery**  
*continued from page 1*

This was followed by a tour of duty in the Vietnam War, during which he was awarded the Military Cross.

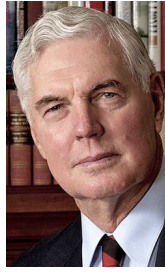
In 1972, he was promoted Lieutenant Colonel, commanding the 2nd Battalion of the Pacific Islands Regiment from 1974 to 1975. He assumed command of the Special Air Service Regiment in Perth from 07 January 1976 until 22 October 1977, and was then promoted to Colonel as first Director of Army's Special Action Forces in 1979.

From 1982 to 1983, he headed Australia's national counter-terrorist coordination authority.

In 1985 he was promoted to Major General and appointed to command the 1st Division the following year. In 1990, he became Deputy Chief of the General Staff and in 1991, was appointed Assistant Chief of the General Staff for Materiel.

MAJGEN Jeffery retired from Army in 1993 and was appointed to the ceremonial position of Honorary Colonel of the SAS Regiment.

In November 1993, he was appointed Governor of WA and in June 1996 made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). He became a Commander of the Royal Victorian Order (CVO) on 01 April 2000.



Major General  
The Honourable  
Philip Michael Jeffery  
AC CVO MC

MAJGEN Jeffery was formally appointed Governor-General by Elizabeth

II, Queen of Australia, and sworn in on 11 August 2003, the first Australian career soldier to become Governor-General.

In 2007, while in this position, His Excellency was appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Australian Army Medical Corps, succeeding the previous Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother. He was also Chief Scout of Australia.

On 23 October 2012, at the National Farmers' Federation Congress in Canberra, Prime Minister Julia Gillard appointed MAJGEN Jeffery as Australia's first Advocate for Soil Health, noting that as Governor-General, he had a passion for regional development and the future of our rural industries.

Eight years later, due to illness, he stepped down from this role in June 2020, before passing away on 18 December, at the age of 83.

Sir, we thank you for your outstanding service to the nation, and we convey our sadness and condolences to Marlena, family and friends.

- Bill Munro

## Pensions & DVA Report By David MacLean | Pensions & DVA Liaison

### The end of a year which has offered us much to forget.

A steady stream of members lodged claims throughout the year, some successful, some very successful, some ongoing. Some, like COVID19, are best forgotten.

It is essential for claims to have a clear link to service, especially if there has been a considerable time lapse between the claim and eligible service.

The Advocacy Training and Development Program (ATDP) has been a complete 'no show' since February. Many volunteers have undertaken training in WA during 2020, but due to the top heavy NSW-centric structure of ATDP (The gold standard?), no assessments have taken place in WA in Quarters 2, 3 or 4.

Dealing with DVA at a local level remains a pleasure. DVA has established a Complex Claims Unit which takes on very difficult claims and attempts to treat them on a priority basis.

This has worked well, but is being slowly overtaken by the sheer number of claims being deemed complex. However, dealing with routine claims is an entirely different matter. Most delegates are working from home. All correspondence contains an office contact telephone number - which is unattended. You're humble advocate's tinnitus has been replaced by a constant ring tone.

WA Senator Dean Smith has been pursuing DVA over delays to claims processing. He is very persistent and will not be fobbed off.

Some levels in DVA have formed (and articulated) a view that once the 'bubble' of Korean and Vietnam claims subsides, claim numbers will lessen and DVA staff numbers can be reduced. These worthies have apparently missed the peace-keeping, monitoring, island insurgencies, anti-piracy operations, Iraq and Afghanistan post-1972, which have not yet come to their attention.

## Great military speeches

*For as long as wars have been fought, great military leaders have been able to use the power of words to motivate their troops. Here are excerpts from some of the best orations given to key audiences during history's crucial pivot points:*

### GENERAL SIR BERNARD MONTGOMERY

speaking to his demoralised troops before defeating Rommel's Afrika Corps, 13 August 1942:  
*"Here we will stand and fight. There will be no further withdrawal. I have ordered that all plans and instructions dealing with further withdrawal are to be burned, and at once. We will stand and fight here. If we can't stay here alive, then let us stay here dead."*

### GENERAL DOUGLAS MACARTHUR

West Point, 1962:  
*"Let civilian voices argue the merits or demerits of our processes of government: whether our strength is being sapped by deficit financing, indulged in too long, by federal paternalism grown too mighty, grown too rampant, by morals grown too low, by taxes grown too high, by extremists grown too violent. These great national problems are not for your professional participation or military solution. Your guidepost stands out like a ten-fold beacon in the night: Duty, Honour, Country."*

### PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

166th Ohio Regiment, August 1864:  
*"The importance of success in this contest is not merely for today, but for all time to come that we should perpetuate for our children's children this great and free government, which we have enjoyed all our lives. I beg you to remember this, not merely for my sake, but for yours. The nation is worth fighting for, to secure such an inestimable jewel."*



## Highgate Members celebrated their December birthday

Shalom Coleman,  
Peter Heeney,  
John Fisher,  
Ray Galliot, Greg Lakeman,  
Michael Galvin, Barry Cooke,  
Damien Quirk, Jim Irving,  
Michael Harness, Duncan Warren,  
Richard Albury, Kevin Graham,  
Robin Slater, John Adeney,  
Robert Elliot and William Kynaston

From page 1

**Biodata | ABE SHER** | By Margot Harness | From Highgate News March 2013

**A**be Sher is known to most of us as a modest, quiet, ex-South African chap who served in WW2. But I wonder how many know he was captured at Tobruk in June 1942 and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of the Italians and Germans?



Abe Sher – now 103

And that pre-war he was a Native Commissioner? And that after WW2, he became a solicitor, and then, for about 18 years in total, a municipal Councillor and Mayor - in which role he negotiated with the South African government to construct a well-built nuclear power station in his municipality?

Abe joined the 2nd Natal Mounted Rifles in April 1940, with several postings before appointment to 3rd Field Regiment of Transvaal Horse Artillery in North Africa in 1941.

Shortly after Rommel's breakthrough at Bir Hakim and the Allied defeat at Fort Acroma, Abe's troop formed part of the composite force to strengthen the perimeter of Tobruk.

Alas, they were cut off and captured, as was his brother, Bennett, who was with the Capetown Highlanders. Abe was sent to Italy, initially near Lucca, but shortly afterwards as a field labourer in Susegana in the Italian Alps, where regular Red Cross parcels made life easier.

At that point, Abe's captivity generally wasn't too bad. But in mid-1942, word came through ordering all Jewish POWs to another camp, which was, said Abe: 'disconcerting'.

Despite various rail journeys (once in cattle trucks) and several long forced marches, the POWs were fairly well treated by the Italians. In hindsight, Abe believes the Italian authorities did what they could to protect Jewish POWs from Nazis.

However, it wasn't to last, and Abe ended up at Camp Tschausch in Bohemia (Czech Republic) as a forced labourer at the Reichswerke Hermann Goering petrochemical works which used brown coal to produce petrol the Germans needed for the Russian front. In the heart of a huge industrial region, sustained Allied night and day bombing was a regular hazard.

In about May 1944, working with a mostly British gang excavating brown coal, he witnessed an extraordinary, nearby daylight raid by about 1,000 US bombers. The 45-minute raid set the whole benzine complex so ablaze it would be three months before it could resume making fuel.

The risks from 'friendly bombing' were ever-present with the camp barracks hit twice, including a near-miss for Abe.

On 08 May 1945, Camp Tschausch was liberated by the advancing Russian Army and Abe

was taken to Rheims (France) before being flown to the UK in a Lancaster Bomber. Offered two university courses in Scotland, he accepted both - International Affairs at St Andrews and Agriculture at Aberdeen.

In the meantime, Abe's brother, Bennett, detained in different camps, escaped and was recaptured three times, but eventually escaped and lived for months behind the German lines, leading a group of other ex-POW escapees. For his bravery and ingenuity, he was awarded the Military Medal.

On his return to South Africa, Abe resumed his civil occupation for a while, before marrying, becoming a solicitor, and then later, being elected as a Councillor near Capetown. He and his wife eventually decided to migrate to Australia, and on his departure, a written testimony from a senior colleague stated in part:

*Your service to the community constitutes an absolute beacon which is characterised by commitment, fairness and a gentle touch as only you know how....It has been a great pleasure for us to know Abe Sher, the gentleman.*



## **Blast from the past | REMEMBERING FRANK TYDEMAN** By Geoff Hourn

The tragic event in Beirut on 04 August 2020 appears to be one of the greatest accidental port explosions in history.

Others of note were in Halifax, Nova Scotia in 1917, Bombay (now Mumbai) in 1944, and Galveston Texas, on 14 April 1947.

The Bombay explosion occurred on 14 April 1944 in the Victoria Dock of Bombay. A freighter carrying a mixed cargo of cotton bales, gold and 1,400 tons of explosives (mainly ammunition) caught fire and was destroyed in two giant blasts.

These explosions scattered debris over several kilometres, sank surrounding ships and set fire to the area. Between 800 and 1,300 people were killed, including 71 firemen, and 80,000 people were made homeless.

Of interest to Highgate is that one of our members, Frank Tydeman, controlled the clean-up and restoration of Bombay Harbour.

Frank William Edward Tydeman was born in 1901 and passed away on 8 May 1995. In later life he was General Manager of the Fremantle Port Authority.

Frank served as a Royal Engineer in the British Army and was tasked to organise 14,000 troops to rebuild Bombay Harbour. Experts at the time thought it could take 10 years but Frank succeeded in rebuilding the harbour in six months.

He oversaw the removal of 27 sunken ships, many of which were refloated, to clear the clogged harbour.

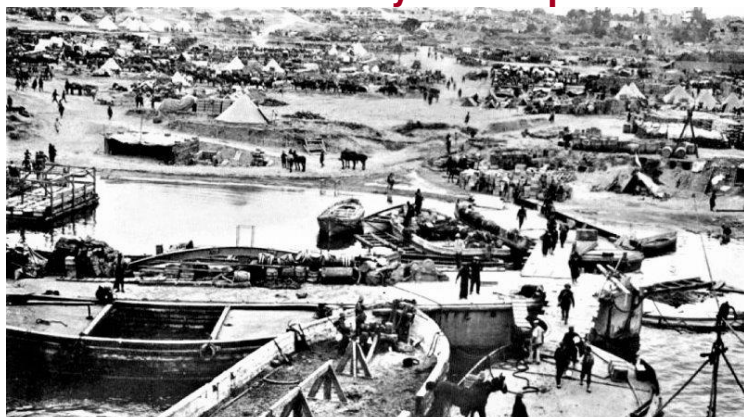
A gold bar was dredged from the harbour as recently as 2011.

*There is much to be found in the Highgate Hall of Honour on our website and it is commended to you for some interesting history.*





## 105th anniversary of Gallipoli evacuation



**O**n 20 December, Australia commemorated 105 years since the last Australian troops evacuated the Gallipoli Peninsula, site of one of the most well-known campaigns of the First World War.

On 25 April 1915, the ANZACs set out to seize the ridges running off the Sari Bair Range to cut off the Turks defending the Gallipoli Peninsula. However, the objectives were not taken and the campaign to take Turkey out of the war soon became a stalemate that turned into an eight-month battle of attrition.

The campaign, that will forever form a key part of our nation's history and identity, ended with the strategic evacuation of troops, the planning for which began from 22 November 1915.

The withdrawal was conducted silently through the evenings and early mornings of the designated days, and troops were moved gradually, to avoid arousing the suspicions of the Turks. The last Australian troops were withdrawn in the early hours of 20 December.

During the evacuation, 'silent stunts' were used to deceive the Turks about the allied troops' imminent departure. In one attempt to distract the Turks, a cricket game on Shell Green was arranged and artillery shells passed overhead

while the game was in progress.

With hardly a casualty during the evacuation, the ANZACs left Gallipoli, and the ANZAC and

Suvla areas were left to the Turks. On the night of 8/9 January 1916, the French and British evacuated Cape Helles.

The Gallipoli campaign was over. The campaign involved about 800,000 men on both sides. The heaviest losses were among the Turkish forces who suffered more than 251,000 casualties, of whom 87,000 died.

This was a gruelling campaign which ended with both sides suffering great hardships and heavy casualties.

We remember the service of all those who fought in this campaign and we honour the more than 26,000 Australian casualties.

The impact of this campaign was not only felt by those who lost their comrades, but also throughout the Australian community, as many family members and friends would never return home.

The Gallipoli campaign will forever remain etched into our military history, and the ANZAC legacy will continue to inspire generations of Australians to come.

For their service and their sacrifice, we again say, Thank you.



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

C01621

## The Battle of Bardia - 80 years on

On 03 January, our nation commemorated the 80th anniversary of the Battle of Bardia in Libya, the first land battle of the Second World War to be planned and fought predominantly by Australians.

The efforts of the 6th Australian Division in the Battle of Bardia was widely praised at the time. Australian soldiers in what was then known as the 2nd Australian Imperial Force, launched a two-pronged attack against the Italian stronghold at Bardia, early in the morning of 03 January 1941 – one being a diversionary assault – with British tanks in support.

No.17 Brigade created a diversion in the south, while 16 Brigade attacked the western side of the Italian defences, blowing holes through wire obstacles and breaching the perimeter.

Demonstrating resilience and stamina, the Australian infantry took the town of Bardia after two days of intense fighting, along with about 40,000 Italian prisoners, weapons, supplies and equipment.

The troops wore their greatcoats to keep out the intense cold of the desert. During the two-day battle, about 130 Australian soldiers lost their lives and 320 were wounded.

After the success at Bardia, Australian and British units came together and during January and February, pushed the Italian army back across Libya.

In April 1941, the 6th Division was withdrawn to defend Greece and elements of the 7th and 9th Divisions took over defensive duties in Libya where they would become involved in the Siege of Tobruk, which took place between April and November 1941 against Italian and German forces.

Eighty years on from this historic battle, we remember those who served, and the families who made sacrifices to support them.

*Learn more about the Battle of Bardia and the important role of all those who served during the Second World War by visiting the Anzac Portal.*



## New Open Arms office in Rockingham

Veterans and their families in Rockingham will benefit from the support of a new permanent Open Arms – Veterans & Families Counselling office at Goddard House, 18 Goddard Street, which opened in December.

Open Arms is Australia's leading provider of mental health counselling and support services for Australian Veterans and their families, and having an office near HMAS *Stirling* should be of great benefit.

Service in the Australian Defence Force is an overwhelmingly positive experience for most, but the unique nature of military service can have an impact on the mental health of our current and former ADF personnel and their families.

Progress has been made in reducing the stigma around seeking help, and current ADF members, Veterans or their families who may need assistance are encouraged to reach out.

Open Arms provides many important services including confidential counselling, training programs and peer support, relationship retreats, group treatment programs and suicide prevention courses.

Veterans and their families will also benefit from having a team of community and peer workers, a first for Rockingham, who offer support based on their own experiences of military life, transition and mental health recovery.

The life-saving service will be available to almost 10,000 current and former ADF personnel and their families in the area.

It is a great addition to local services, especially with some 4,400 ADF members and their families living near Garden Island, along with about 4,700 Veterans and their families also resident in the region.

The new office has modern, well equipped, and easily accessible facilities, as well as capacity for an increased workforce to assist in meeting the mental health and wellbeing needs of current and former ADF members and their families.

Open Arms is Australia's leading provider of mental health counselling and support services for Australian Veterans and their families, and any Veteran, or Veteran family member who may be struggling or in need of additional support can call them on 1800 011 046.

**Open Arms was founded by Australia's Vietnam Veterans and is part of their enduring legacy to ensure all Australian Veterans and their families can access free mental health support for life**

## Open Arms Group Programs for 2021

### MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Practical skills to help your family or friend experiencing mental health problems

**Perth** | Wed 3-4 Feb | 0900-1700

**Rockingham** | Wed 23-24 Jun | 0900-1700  
*Two Day Workshop*

### UNDERSTANDING ANXIETY

Strategies and skills to help you reduce anxiety and associated stress

**Floreat** | Tue 09 Feb-16 Mar | 1300-1500

*Six Week Program*

**Rockingham** | Thu 29-30 Apr | 0930-1630  
*Two Day Program*

### OPERATION LIFE: SAFETALK

How to become more alert to suicide prevention and offer help

**Perth** | Wed 10 Feb | 0900-1230

*Half Day Workshop*

**Regional** | Fri 12 Mar 0900-1230

*Half Day Workshop*

**Regional** | Fri 16 Apr | 1000-1330

*Half Day Workshop*

**Rockingham** | Wed 09 Jun | 0900-1230

*Half Day Workshop*

### RELAXATION & STRESS MANAGEMENT

Practical, every-day skills to de-stress via mindfulness techniques

**Perth** | Wed 24 Feb | 0930-1630

*One Day Program*

**Rockingham** | Wed 02 Jun | 0930-1630

*One Day Program*

### OPERATION LIFE: ASSIST

Helps you see, hear and respond to suicide signals, preparing you to work with at-risk people to increase their immediate safety and to get more help

**Perth** | Thu 25-26 Feb | 0900-1700

*Two Day Workshop*

**Rockingham** | Wed 12-13 May | 0900-1700

*Two Day Workshop*

### STEPPING OUT

For ADF members and their partners about to, or who have recently separated from the military

**Rockingham** | Wed 17-18 Feb | 0930-1630

*Two Day Workshop*

**Perth** | Tue 29-30 Jun | 0930-1630

*Two Day Workshop*

### DOING ANGER DIFFERENTLY

Helps you understand anger and manage it more effectively so it doesn't negatively impact on yours or other lives

**Perth** | Wed 03-04 Mar | 0930-1630

*Two Day Program*

### RECOVERY FROM TRAUMA

Helps you understand possible impacts of trauma and gives you strategies and skills to manage it

**Rockingham** | Wed 17-18 Mar | 0930-1630

*Two Day Program*

**Perth** | Tue 04-08 May | 1300-1500

*Six Week Program*

### SLEEPING BETTER

Educational and skills-based group program to help you manage disturbed sleep

**Perth** | Wed 24 Mar & 31 Mar | 0930-1230

*Two Half Day Program*

### MANAGING PAIN

Learn about pain and strategies and skills for effective pain management

**Perth** | Wed 21-22 Apr | 0930-1630

*Two Day Program*

### BEATING THE BLUES

Helps you understand situations and thinking patterns contributing to depression, and identifies strategies to help manage symptoms

**Perth** | Tue 25-26 May | 0930-1630

*Two Day Program*



## *More useful news from the Department of Veterans' Affairs*

### **Better transition outcomes for Veterans**

ADF personnel transitioning from military to civilian life will be better supported with \$17.7 million provided for the establishment of the Joint Transition Authority (JTA) as announced in the 2020–21 Budget.

Since 2017, Defence has significantly improved transition and now all ADF members with at least one day of permanent service can access comprehensive support for up to 24 months after they leave.

Support is based on individual needs, and additional support is provided to younger, at-risk members and those transitioning medically with complex needs.

The Department of Veterans' Affairs also has Veterans Support Officers located on more than 55 Defence bases across Australia, offering face-to-face, personalised advice to support members with their transition to civilian life, including assistance in registering with DVA or advice on available pathways, to additional support or help with entitlements. Since 2016, ADF personnel who have joined or transitioned from Defence are

automatically registered with DVA and provided with a Veteran White Card, providing access to a fully-funded comprehensive health assessment every year for five years, and access to free mental health care for the rest of their lives. The Joint Transition Authority will build on these improvements to ensure all transition services and support mechanisms are working together for the benefit of transitioning ADF personnel and their families.

It will operate within the Department of Defence and partner with DVA and the Commonwealth Superannuation Corporation. Over the coming months, the transition system will be reviewed to identify where improvements can be made, including opportunities to better integrate services and share information.

Brigadier Wade Stothart DSC AM CSC is Director General, Joint Transition Authority and leads the consultation process. He has significant operational and personnel staff experience, having

overseen the Army workforce generation systems, including transitions and employability classifications. The authority will work closely with groups, including Ex-Service Organisations that deliver transition support services to Veterans. This will include input into the review of the transition system.

The funding provides for the JTA to:

- Improve service delivery and transition, including connection with medical professionals in civilian life
- Enhance programs which can be accessed by individuals when they need them
- Through a whole-of-system approach, deliver a more connected transition for ADF members and their families, catering to their individual needs
- Identify opportunities, address gaps, integrate existing services and influence new ones as they are developed
- Undertake stakeholder consultation on the final functions and design of the JTA.

### **Minister promises to continue better outcomes for ADF families**

Reappointed Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Darren Chester said on 18 December 2020 that continuing to deliver and promote better outcomes for ADF families remains his primary focus.

He said he was honoured to remain in the roles he has held since March 2018 and would focus on changing the public commentary surrounding issues impacting Defence personnel.

"We have a world-class Defence Force and a world-class system to support our Veterans and their families.

"It's not perfect, and work is being done to improve both, but if we want to keep attracting a fair share of Australia's brightest talent to serve in uniform, it's important we stop talking down our military community.

"Throughout history, more than two million Australians have worn with pride the uniforms of Navy, Army and Air Force and the overwhelming majority have served with distinction. They are the first people our nation turns to for national security, or when a natural disaster becomes too big for State authorities.

"If we keep feeding our military community a media diet of hopelessness and helplessness, we can hardly be surprised when they struggle to find a pathway to better health and mental wellbeing.

"Throughout the remainder of this term in government, I will be doing everything I can to change that public commentary and demonstrate the respect our government has for ADF personnel, Veterans and their families."

Mr Chester said he was confident and optimistic the reforms made by government over the past five years were heading in the right direction and delivering results.

"I will keep standing up for the interests of our Service men and women, our Veterans and their families."

"Despite travel restrictions imposed by the coronavirus, I've met with hundreds of Veterans and Defence persons this year, and listened to their ideas on additional ways the government can support our Veterans and families, particularly during the transition phase to civilian life.

"We are continuing to work in partnership to transform DVA and focus on the wellbeing of our Veterans and their families."

"As a nation, we are indebted to the men and women who serve in uniform. Our government is investing heavily in equipment, resources and the Defence Estate to ensure we have a highly capable Defence Force but it is the men and women in uniform who make the biggest difference.

"My role as Minister for Defence Personnel is to ensure they continue to be well prepared for their task, they are respected by our community, and properly supported during their military service.

"The ADF needs to keep attracting its share of the best and brightest young Australians and we will do that by looking after our serving men and women throughout their careers, and when they transition to civilian life."

# Army reorganises again

*By Graham McKenzie-Smith in the Official Newsletter of the Royal Australian Artillery Association of WA, RAA Historical Society of WA in Dec 20*

**The 2020 Defence Strategic Update and 2020 Force Structure Plan, released 01 July 2020, outlined a new strategy for Defence and the capability investments to deliver it.**

The Strategic Update set out the challenges in Australia's strategic environment and their implications for Defence planning. It provided a new strategic policy framework to ensure Australia is able – and is understood as willing – to deploy military power to shape our environment, deter actions against our interests and when required, respond with military force.

The Australian Army will undergo a massive reorganisation in the next eight years with additional combat brigades, a rocket artillery and missile brigade, an existing brigade refocused to digital warfare and the Army Reserve structure completely reconfigured with units equipped with next generation weapons and situational awareness capabilities.

The new expanded 21st Century Order of Battle is revealed in the Land Operational Concept Document which outlines Army's plans for a 2028 Army Objective Force.

No.8 Brigade, which currently controls the Army's training units, will be re-roled as 8 (Joint Fires) Brigade to control the incoming NASAMS 2 Ground Based Air Defence System entering service next year (Project Land 19 Phase 7B), the Long Range Fires Rocket Artillery and Long Range Missile capabilities to be acquired under Project Land 8113 and the Land Based (Anti Ship/Strike) Missile System to be acquired under Project Sea 4100.

The three existing Combat Brigades will expand to four, with major re-rolling of entire brigades and the raising of a fifth high-readiness Total Work Force (integrated Reserve) combat brigade with substantial combat power in WA to finally redress the ground combat imbalance in the western third of the nation.

Major changes include splitting the Palmerston NT/Edinburgh SA-based 1 Brigade into two separate brigades with substantial re-rolling of individual units. Under the proposed 2028 Army Objective Force, 1 Brigade will remain in Darwin and re-role as an

amphibious/littoral/light combat manoeuvre element with the existing 5 RAR, 8/12 Regiment RAA, 1 CE Regiment, 1 CS Regiment and 1 CSS Battalion, but be augmented with a re-raised 4 RAR (Amphibious) Pre-Landing Force configuration.

The Army's 10 Force Support Battalion will re-equip with new Littoral Manoeuvre Light vessels to replace the in-service LCM8 and eventually field the Littoral Manoeuvre - Heavy amphibious platforms which will be concentrated at Larrakeyah Barracks in Darwin, with a detachment operating from the unit's existing Ross Island Barracks in Townsville.

Former 1 Brigade units at Edinburgh Defence Precinct (SA), 7 RAR(Mech) and 1 Armoured Cavalry Regiment will form the foundation of a fourth combat brigade designated 9 Brigade, re-roled as a heavy armoured combat manoeuvre element.

---

## 21st century Order of Battle revealed in Land Operational Concept Document

---

Augmenting 7 RAR (Mech) and 1 Armoured Cavalry Regiment at 9 Brigade will be 9 Regiment (RAA), (the former warehouse for the Army Reserve's 81mm mortar-equipped light batteries) which will become regular and re-equip with the next generation 155/52L AS9 Self Propelled Howitzer and its supporting AS10 Armoured Ammunition Resupply Vehicle and 9 Field Squadron RAE which will be equipped with the next generation Heavy Armoured Capability Systems (assault support).

The current Army Reserve 9 CSS Battalion logistics unit and 144 Signals Squadron will be augmented with significant full time personnel to support 9 Brigade operations.

Tasmania-based 12/40 Battalion will be re-roled as a Regional Force Surveillance Unit specialising in

lower latitude operations and presumably, the Army Reserve 10/27 Battalion and 3 Field Squadron will find roles within the Brigade.

Both Townsville-based 3 Brigade and Brisbane-based 7 Brigade will retain their current order of battle, but re-equip with new weapons, situational awareness and sensor systems as they enter service. No.2 RAR (Amphibious) will retain its current role as a pre-landing force, but may be returned to 3 Brigade for administration purposes.

**WA-based 13 Brigade will be almost completely transformed with a single infantry unit (will it be called 11/16/28/44 Battalion?), 13 Field Squadron which will expand to have a construction troop, an ISR element (A Squadron, 10 Light Horse Regiment) equipped with Hawkei Protected Mobility Vehicles - Light and a 155mm artillery battery equipped with M777A2 Lightweight Towed Artillery (so 3 Light Battery get their guns back) and the usual support units. All units will have increased ARA staff.**

Other major changes in the proposed 2028 Army Objective Force are the complete reorganisation of the existing regular 6 Combat Support Brigade which will be re-roled as a digital warfare brigade focused on Information warfare, signals Intelligence, multi-spectrum Intelligence.

An entire regiment of the cryptically designated '9358' 6 CS Brigade will see its existing 16 Air Land Regiment (Ground Based Air Defence) transfer to the redesignated 8 (Joint Fires) Brigade and 20 Surveillance and Target Acquisition Regiment will be transferred to 16 Aviation Brigade.

Special Operations Command will group its units in a new configuration designated Special Operations Brigade with the same structure (minus 2 Squadron SASR) with an additional Army Reserve commando company being raised in South East Queensland within 1 Commando Regiment structure.

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

### COVID19 – they just keep coming

Due to COVID19, we are asking rioters to work from home and destroy their own property

Paranoia has reached an absurd level. I sneezed in front of my laptop and the anti-virus started a scan on its own

2020 was like looking both ways before crossing the street, and then getting hit by an aircraft

In other news, the Seven Dwarves have been advised today they can only meet in groups of six. One of them isn't Happy.

### On getting older...

Health advice from a woman aged 105: "For better digestion, I drink beer. For appetite loss – white wine. Low blood pressure – red wine. High blood pressure – Scotch. And when I have a cold, I drink schnapps." "When do you drink water?" "I've never been that sick."

"When I'm old, I'm going to leave bottles of water and snacks in little bags on the floor all over the house in case I fall down."

Age is merely the number of years the world has been enjoying you.

At age 65, my Grandma started walking five miles a day. She's 92 now, and we have no idea where she is.

If you haven't grown up by age 50, you don't have to.

I remember being able to get up without making sound effects. Good times.

Age gets better with wine.

Unlike those old people who complain about walking five miles to school through a foot of snow or 105 Fahrenheit in the waterbag, I also remember when I had to walk through a foot of shag carpet to turn the television on or off and to change channels and volume.

### Alternative meanings

Bacteria = back door to cafeteria

Caesarean section = a neighbourhood in Rome

Cat scan = searching for kitty

Terminal illness = getting sick at the airport

Labour pain = getting hurt at work

Nitrates = rates of pay for working at night

When I see lovers' names carved in a tree, I don't think it's sweet. I think it's surprising how many people bring a knife on a date.

A man said to his wife, "I don't know how you can be so stupid and so beautiful all at the same time." The wife responded, "Allow me to explain. God made me beautiful so you would be attracted to me; God made me stupid so I would be attracted to you".

Hospitality is making your guests feel as if they are at home, particularly when you wish they actually were

### EYES FRONT! - From the RSM

**"I can't go out because of the virus," sounds weak, whiney and boring. Try instead, "I've sworn an oath of solitude until the pestilence is purged from the lands".**

**This sounds more valiant and heroic; and people might even think you are carrying a sword.**

### Is your computer male or female?

#### Five reasons to believe computers are female

1. No one but their Creator understands their internal logic.
2. The language they use to communicate with other computers is incomprehensible to everyone else.
3. The message *Bad command or file name* is about as informative as: *If you don't know why I'm mad at you, then I'm certainly not going to tell you.*
4. Even your smallest mistakes are stored in long-term memory for later retrieval.
5. As soon as you make a commitment to one, you find yourself spending half your pay on accessories for it.

#### Five reasons to believe computers are male

1. They have a lot of data but are still clueless
2. They are supposed to help you solve problems but half the time, they are the problem.
3. As soon as you commit to one, you realise that if you waited a little longer, you could have obtained a better model.
4. In order to get their attention, you have to turn them on.
5. Big power surges knock them out for the rest of the night.

If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong

War does not determine who is right, only who is left

We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public

I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you

A clear conscience is usually a sign of bad memory

Some cause happiness wherever they go, others whenever they go

Money can't buy happiness but it certainly makes misery a lot easier to live with

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit

Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad

The evening news is where they begin with 'Good evening' and then proceed to tell you why it isn't

**At 12:01 am on 01 January, and for the first time ever, hindsight was actually 2020**

I asked God for a bike but I know He doesn't work that way. So I stole a bike and asked for forgiveness instead.

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car

### Spell Czech

(...and why your editor doesn't use it)

Eye halve a spelling chequer. It came with my pea sea.

It plainly marques four my revue miss steaks eye kin knot sea.

Eye strike a key and type a word and weight for it two say

Weather eye am wrong oar write. It shows me strait a weigh.

As soon as a mist ache is maid, it nose bee fore to long

And eye can put the error rite. Its rarely ever wrong.

Eye have run this poem threw it, eye am shore your pleased two no.

Its letter perfect in it's weigh. My chequer tolled me sew.

I talked with a homeless man this morning and asked him how he ended up this way.

He said, "Up until last week, I still had it all. I had plenty to eat, my clothes were washed and pressed, I had a roof over my head, I had HDTV and Internet, and I went to the gym, the pool, and the library. I was working on my MBA on-line. I had no bills and no debt. I even had full medical benefits coverage."

I felt sorry for him, so I asked, "What happened? Drugs? Alcohol? Divorce?" Oh no, nothing like that," he said. "Because of corona virus, I was unexpectedly paroled".

### Tools explained

**WIRE WHEEL** Cleans paint off bolts and then throws them somewhere under the workbench at the speed of light. Also removes fingerprints and hard-earned callouses from fingers in about the time it takes you to say, 'AAAAHHH!'

**DROP SAW** A portable cutting tool used to make timber too short.

**BELT SANDER** An electric sanding tool commonly used to convert minor touch-up jobs into major refinishing jobs.

**HACKSAW** One of a family of cutting tools built on the Ouija board principle... It transforms human energy into a crooked, unpredictable motion, and the more you attempt to influence its course, the more dismal your future becomes.

**VICE-GRIPS** Generally used after pliers to completely round off bolt heads. They can also be used to transfer intense welding heat to the palm of your hand.



**Remembrance Day Luncheon**  
Fraser's - Kings Park



**Guest speaker: Craig Challen**  
**Thai Cave Rescuer**



## 2020-21 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

sunridge@tpg.com.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

**John Cleary** | 0417 955 864

john.cleary@highgate-rsl.org.au

**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

**Peter Garside** | 0413 441 855

artco@artco.net.au



Hon Consul Fay Duda presents David MacLean with a Korean Government Service Award on behalf of his Father

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](http://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](mailto:editor@highgate-rsl.org.au)

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