



Highgate Highlights

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

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VALE | Leslie Coy

It is with deep regret we advise the passing of our esteemed member, Leslie Coy, on 06 February 2021.

Les, a member of Highgate since 2006, was 92 years old. He joined the Merchant Navy in 1949 as a Junior Engineer Officer before being commissioned in the RAN Reserve in 1955.

Les served in the Strategic Reserve Malaysian Emergency and reverted to the RAN Reserve from 1960 to 1976, retiring as a Lieutenant Commander.

Highgate RSL conveys sincere condolences and sympathy to the family and friends of Les Coy.



Bill Munro

From our President

Recently, I was able to visit the R&R Veterans Transition Centre in Jarrahdale. The Centre is set on a magnificent 42-acre property about five kilometres from the Jarrahdale town centre.

It has been established to assist Veterans transition into civilian life by helping them avoid the growing challenges of mental health and other issues associated after a long career in the military, which often involved arduous training, active service and exposure to trauma.

The challenges facing ex-serving Defence personnel are well documented, with about 25,000 contemporary Veterans in WA.

A group of ex-serving members and business people teamed up in 2018 to establish the R & R Centre to assist ex-ADF personnel with a support and transition program that would enable them to better adjust to civilian life after leaving the military.

Current chairman of the Board is Highgate member and SAS-Veteran, Tony Wills. He is supported by a team of ex-SAS and ADF members, together with civilians with a wide range of expertise.

The Centre was in a state of disrepair when acquired by the group but a tremendous amount of work has been done by volunteers and groups including Men's Sheds, Austal Ships and Karnet Prison Farm, to bring the centre back to a modern standard.

Continued page 2

Join our next Luncheon on Monday 15 March at the ANZAC House St Georges Terrace Perth

Our next lunch will be on **Monday 15 March** 1200 for 1230 on Level 5 at ANZAC House RSL Veteran Central, St Georges Terrace (opposite Government House). Luncheon is \$40 plus \$5 if you wish to purchase a raffle ticket.

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/gmtCD8A4ydzRiu4UA> (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/1o9WWuK-2ree0TKc0YRSHvo3xYDVRBbNbcnmjDSnOpU/edit?usp=sharing>

Important events | please diarise now

- ° 1100 | **Mon 15 Mar** | Committee Meeting - Level 5 ANZAC House
- ° 1200 for 1230 | **Mon 15 Mar** | Monthly Luncheon - Level 5 ANZAC House
- ° 0700 for 0730 | **Sun 25 Apr** | ANZAC Day Gunfire Breakfast - Weld Club
(CBD ANZAC Day commemoration details on page 3 | No Committee meeting)

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 our esteemed member
Leslie Coy

and convey our sincere condolences and sympathy to his family and friends

Green light for ANZAC Day commemorations

RSLWA's traditional ANZAC Day commemoration will go ahead this year, with only one change - retention of last year's highly successful Driveway Dawn Service.

Barring another COVID breakout in WA, traditional Dawn Services, Highgate's Gunfire Breakfast, the Perth CBD ANZAC Day March followed by the Perth Concert Hall Commemorative Service, will all return this year.

RSLWA decided to include the Driveway Dawn Service for the benefit of those who wish to commemorate at home. *Full CBD details on page 3*

Kings Park Honour Avenues now home to 1,846 commemorative plaques

Nine new plaques were dedicated before family and friends at the Honour Avenues in Kings Park on 13 February, bringing the total of commemorative plaques in Kings Park to 1,846.

The plaques honour the memory of Servicemen who enlisted in WA, died on active service overseas but whose remains have not been able to be repatriated.

Recognising the great significance to relatives and the wider community, the plaques were formally presented to families by Mark Webb, Director General of the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions, and Alan Barrett, Chief Executive of the Botanical Gardens and Parks Authority.

In the presence of each of the families, the plaques were then affixed in front of memorial trees along the Honour Avenues by members of the Honour Avenues Group.



From our President *cont.*

In 2020, the R&R Centre entered into an arrangement with RSLWA under which the League purchased the property and leased it back to the Centre at a peppercorn rental.

Ex-Service people have an enormous amount to offer. However, adjusting from a long military career to living and working in civilian life can be extremely challenging for both the individual and their families. There are many organisations which treat PTSD and other issues, however, the major focus of the R&R Centre is on proactive prevention and avoidance through positive action and interaction.

All R & R programs, including the Transition Program, are run on a bottom-up philosophy of listening, involving, responding to and being guided by the participants while ensuring top-level governance, professionalism and financial management. It is all about building on the foundation set during a military career and focusing upwards rather than allowing Veterans to slide backwards.

The Centre provides introductions to a full suite of services such as counselling, training, development and vocational guidance, as well as providing a safe house for any ex-Service person needing support at any time.

— Bill Munro

New Highgate luncheon arrangements at ANZAC House Veteran Central

RSL Highgate luncheons are now held from 1200 on the third Monday of each month in the ANZAC House Veteran Central fifth floor function room, overlooking Government House and the Swan River. Pre-luncheon and luncheon drinks (beer, glasses of wine, bottled wine) can be purchased from the bar on the fifth floor and members are encouraged to do this with card or cash. Members can also use the first floor ANZAC Club bar for pre and post-luncheon drinks but will not be able to take drinks from this bar upstairs for consumption at lunch, due to liquor licence restrictions. Members who have not pre-paid their meal are encouraged to use Highgate's EFT card facility on arrival to pay for lunch in lieu of cash.



BIRTHDAYS

January



Chris Chapple, Barry Gravelle, Ken Ashman, Alan Shephard, Kevin Campbell, Leon Griffiths, Annette Newell, John Spatcher, John Harper-Nelson, Phil Sumner, Frank LeFaucheur, Bernard Clarke, John Stephens, Frank Taylor, Annette Buddrige, Tom Arnautovic, Stephen Sinclair, Barry Eather, Rod Willox, Jamie Holloway, Don Blair and Trevor Boag

February

Edward White, Errol Smith, Mick Coyle, David Grace, Owen Page, Greg Smith, Jinkil Lee, Ruth Shean, Kevin Whiting, Don Rae, Jan Klein and Lenore Fairfield

March

Geoff Simpson, Tony Wills, Rodney Halcombe, Robert Mitchell, Frederick Brown, Robert Arnold, Henry Lodge, Geoff Stooke, John Pope, William Ritchie, Michael Bradford, Richard Adams, Tony McKay, Ian McGuckin, Doug Webb, Shane Edmonds, R.E. Mees, Norman Coleman, Sarah Freeman, Ronnie Leigh, John Farrell and John Maltas

RSLWA DUE DATES Honours and Awards 2021

Meritorious Medal & Life Membership

Nominations to be received by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) no later than 31 March. Nominees will be advised by post/email of their nomination, prior to State Congress.

50, 60 & 75-Year Certificates

Nominations to be received by the Chief Executive Officer no later than 31 March each year. Nominees will be advised by post/email of their nomination, prior to State Congress.

All forms to admin@rslwa.org.au or Box Z5424 St Georges Terrace Perth WA 6831

Affiliate fees should be paid to your Sub-Branch

Affiliate members should pay their annual fee to their Sub-Branch, and not to RSLWA headquarters, which will instead refer you back to your Sub-Branch.

Australian Army Museum of WA presents

A NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM

Friday 16 April 2021 and Saturday 17 April 2021
Artillery Barracks, Burt St, Fremantle
6pm - 10pm

Army Museum

Artillery Barracks

Burt Street Fremantle

For the first time, Australian Army Museum of WA is open for special evening viewings 16-17 April

See demonstrations, amazing objects, visit the Victoria Cross Gallery and military displays, participate in hands-on activities, and enjoy the Army Band.

The museum has six galleries showcasing Army and its people in WA from and colonial period through to the present. Also featured are static vehicle displays and other military hardware on the parade ground and in adjacent buildings, plus a wide range of photographs, letters, general correspondence and other significant items for you to examine.

Adults \$15 | Family (2+3) \$35 | Concession \$10 | Age 6-17 \$10 Tickets at <https://www.trybooking.com/book/search> or at the Museum when open.

More information at <https://armymuseumwa.com.au>, or contact Julianne Mackay (0437 057 388), Richard Bennett (0421 601 995) or David Baker (0414 462 193).



ANZAC DAY

PERTH CBD EVENT GUIDE

Sunset Service 1700 | Sat 24 April

At Flame of Remembrance in Kings Park for those unable to attend the Dawn Service. This year's theme is *Flying Into A New Era: 100 Years of Air Force* and includes a wreath-laying ceremony.

Dawn Service from 0400 | 25 April

At State War Memorial Kings Park. Lights will go out at 0550 for 0600 commencement

Community Gunfire Breakfast

0700-0900 | 25 April

Community breakfast in Government House Gardens. Gold coin donation. Organised by Rotary Club of Perth with catering for up to 2,000. RSLWA providing tables and chairs.

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Gunfire Breakfast

0700 for 0730-0900 | 25 April

Weld Club, Barrack Street.

For invited Highgate members and guests. Member booking details will be emailed by our Secretary.

Veteran fellowship

ANZAC House Veteran Central

0700 onwards | 25 April

Food, beverages and mateship. Four outside bars with barbecue in Irwin Street. Rum-Fire Breakfast on Level 6 before the March. Luncheons from 1230: Two-courses on Level 6.

Three-courses with two-hour drinks in ANZAC Club. Lunch bookings at ANZACclub.org.au or 9287 3777

Perth CBD ANZAC Day March

0900 onwards | 25 April

Celebrating its 100th anniversary, Air Force will lead the march this year, stepping off from corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace at 0900. Followed by Veteran-carrying vehicles and military jeeps and Ex-Services Units, Corps and Regimental Associations. March will move east along St Georges Tce taking official salutes halfway, before turning right down Victoria Avenue with dispersal in Langley Park.

Commemorative Service

Perth Concert Hall | 1100

Now in its third year, the ANZAC Day Commemorative Service in Perth Concert Hall will start at 1100 and be broadcast live by the ABC. Program includes the Salvation Army Perth Fortress Band and the ANZAC Day Choir, brought together from

ANZAC Day spirit to continue in 2021

ANZAC Day, the most sacred day of commemoration in Australia, allows us all to remember and reflect on the service and sacrifice of our past and current Service personnel, as well as honour the more than 102,000 Australians who have given their lives in service of our nation.

On the health advice of Australian authorities due to the ongoing threat of COVID19, ANZAC Day services overseas will not go ahead as normal in 2021. This includes the Australian and New Zealand-led ANZAC Day services in Turkey and the Australian services in France. The day will still be recognised in these countries however, with locally-based officials holding private commemorations to honour all those who have served our country, and those who died in service.

This decision was made in the national interest for the protection of all Australians, at home and abroad, and on the advice of Australian health authorities, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and in consultation with host nations.

The Government has also considered the welfare of Australians and other visitors travelling to ANZAC Day services, the views of host nations regarding visitors and large gatherings, as well as the impact on health systems of overseas nations.

On ANZAC Day every year in Australia, we pause and say 'thank you for your service' to our current and former serving personnel. Despite some limitations on numbers and events to ensure things are done in a COVID-safe way, we can again gather together to commemorate the day this year.

A COVID-safe national service will be held at the Australian War Memorial and broadcast nationally, with all Australians encouraged to tune in and watch on the day. Around Australia, commemorative activities will be planned, managed and delivered by the RSL, Ex-Service Organisations and community groups, in line with public health guidance in each State and Territory.

The Australian Defence Force will provide personnel to support as many services as possible around the country again this year.

Last year, Australians came together like never before to mark ANZAC Day during the onset of the coronavirus pandemic. And this year, whether it's attending a local service or standing in your driveway and lighting up the dawn, all Australians are encouraged to continue the tradition of honouring our Service personnel in a way that is solemn and respectful.

Perth Modern School Chamber Choirs and Perth Modern School Alumni Singers. A free community event, but tickets are essential. Tickets from www.rslwa.org.au or by contacting 9287 3799 or eventsmanager@rslwa.org.au.

Veteran Collection Service

If unable to march but wanting to participate, RSLWA offers a Veteran collection service. A driver will pick you up from your home and bring you to the March form-up area, through the March and then back home afterwards. Applicants for this free service must stay until after the Commemorative Service, which ends at noon. For more information and to register, contact Cassandra Brennan on 0402 845 459, or cassandra@monarchevents.com.au

Motorcycles in the March

For the second time, Military Motorcycle Clubs members will conclude the Perth ANZAC Day March. The contingent will consist of members of

military motorcycle clubs and other ex-Serving members. Riders are required to meet at the Fraser Point car park, Riverside Drive, at 0800 for 0830 departure to Sherwood Court for the March. Form-up at Sherwood Court, exiting along Terrace Road from Langley Park. Register with Gary Scott 0417 974 994 or scottgm@bigpond.net.au

Public Transport - Rail & Bus

Travel on Transperth services on ANZAC Day is free for all current and past-serving personnel, with special-event train and free shuttle bus services (departing from Perth Busport) to Kings Park in time for the Dawn Service. A shuttle service (Route 621) in Kings Park will operate between the coach terminus near Wadjuk Way and the Vietnam War Memorial in May Drive. More information at transperth.wa.gov.au or call 13 62 13 closer to the event. Hearing or speech impaired? Call NRS 133 677 and ask for 13 62 13.



Sub Warden Duties | 2020

Wreath-Laying Services | State War Memorial Kings Park

POC: Geoff Simpson OAM RFD
Deputy Warden State War Memorial



Sun 28 Mar	1200 for 1230	Greek Independence Day - 200th Anniversary
Sat 24 Apr	1630 for 1700	ANZAC Sunset Ceremony
Sun 25 Apr	0515 for 0545	ANZAC Dawn Service

Commemorations

03 Jan Battle of Bardia
13 Feb National Servicemen's Day
19 Feb Bombing of Darwin Day
28 Feb Operation Desert Storm
06 Apr Greek Campaign
11 Apr Siege of Tobruk begins
24 Apr Kapyong Day (Korean War)
25 Apr ANZAC Day

Greek Independence Day 2021

Celebrated around the world, Greece's National Day commemorates 200 years since Greece's War of Independence. In 1821, the Greeks rose up against the Ottoman Empire which had occupied Greece for almost 400 years. Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting the Peloponnese to rise against the oppressors.

For Country, For Nation An Australian War Memorial Touring Exhibition

From now until 27 March 2021
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have a long-standing tradition of fighting for Country and continue to serve with honour among our military forces.

For Country, For Nation brings their moving stories and voices to life with art, objects, dance and music. Wanneroo Gallery, Wanneroo Library and Cultural Centre
3 Rocca Way Wanneroo
Wednesday-Friday, 10am-4pm
Saturday, 10am-1pm | Closed
Sundays and public holidays

Highgate Speaker Diary 2021

March Andrew Ogden, Managing Director, Western Irrigation

April ANZAC Day Gunfire

Breakfast Commander Angela Bond, Warden of the Fremantle War Memorial. Weld Club 0700 for 0730 to 0900 \$50

May Jason Craig Chief Marketing Officer, CBH

June Geoffrey Thomas, Aviation Writer

July Dr Gabriel Maluga, Honorary Consul, Federal Republic of Germany

Book and EFT online | Cash and EFT payment available at luncheon

National Service Day honours compulsory service

National Servicemen's Day, held this year on 13 February, honoured the importance of those who served our nation through compulsory military service and recognised the special nature of their service and sacrifice.

The more than 280,000 National Servicemen who served between 1951-1972 are affectionately known as the Nashos. It's now 55 years since the first National Servicemen arrived in Vietnam.

The service of all Nashos was remembered this year during the Last Post Ceremony at the Australian War Memorial where the National Servicemen's Association laid a wreath, with a second wreath laid on behalf of widows.

Australia has a long tradition of national service in the military, with four separate national service schemes dating back to the early years of the 20th century.

The First National Service

Scheme began in January 1911, involving boys aged 12 through to men in their mid-20s. The young boys were trained at school, the older boys trained throughout the year, and the men were enrolled in the Citizen Military Forces. This scheme lasted through the First World War and until 1929.

The Second National Service

Scheme was revived in 1939, after the beginning of the Second World War, with unmarried men turning 21 in the year ending 30 June being called up for three months' military training. While not deployed overseas, national service was performed within Australia, which included New Guinea and nearby islands and after 1943, as far north as the equator.

In 1951, the Third National

Service Scheme required all men aged 18 to register and undertake various training obligations, depending on which Force they served in. When training was completed, National Servicemen were required to remain in the Reserves for five years, with some

33,000 men trained annually for the scheme's first six years. Those called up under this scheme did not see active service. In 1957, the universal obligation for national service ended and a selective system of training was introduced. This lasted until the scheme ended in 1959.

The Fourth National Service Scheme

was introduced in 1964 when conflicts in South East Asia raised fears about Australia's security. The National Service Bill became law in late 1964, with conscripts liable for overseas service from 1965. Selection for military service was based on a birthday ballot. Between 1964-72, more than 804,000 men registered for national service, with more than 63,000 serving in Army where many were integrated into regular units sent to Vietnam. The Australian Government announced the withdrawal of troops from Vietnam in 1971, followed by termination of the scheme in December 1972.

National Service numbers

First scheme 1911-29

636,000 during the first four years

Second scheme 1939-45

In 1942, about 290,000 were in the militia

Third scheme 1951-59

More than 220,000

Fourth scheme 1964-72

More than 63,000

Places served

Australia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Borneo and Papua New Guinea

Deaths

During the Vietnam War, more than 200 National Servicemen died and over 1,200 were wounded on active service.

Medals

National servicemen who completed their obligation under the third and fourth schemes are eligible for the Anniversary of National Service 1951-72 Medal.



Useful news from the Department of Veterans' Affairs

DVA grants support our military history

Applications for 2021–22 *Saluting Their Service* Commemorative Grants are now open with organisations encouraged to apply for funding to support commemorative projects and activities. Now in its 25th year, the program, has supported thousands of projects nationally, but there are more projects across the nation still to be done.

The program helps preserve Australia's wartime heritage; involves people around the country in a wide range of projects and activities that highlight the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations; and promotes appreciation and understanding of service and the roles played in shaping the nation.

The grants continue to provide the extra assistance needed in order to remember local wartime history and Service personnel.

Projects and activities supported include developing digital databases of Australians who have served, restoring commemorative sites of significance, and producing resources that will keep the stories of our Veterans alive for generations to come.

Grant Opportunity Guidelines have been revised, with minor changes made following consultation with Ex-Service Organisations, with coronavirus support, and new opening and closing dates.

Two categories of grants available: **Community Grants** to a maximum of \$10,000 for local, community-based projects and activities.

Major Grants between \$10,001 and \$150,000 for major commemorative projects and activities significant from a national, State, Territory and/or regional perspective.

If your project involves restoring or changing a memorial, there may be heritage considerations so check first with your State or Territory government heritage body,

Guidelines and applications from Community Grants Hub at www.communitygrants.gov.au/grants/saluting-service. Applications close next year on 08 February 2022

Over \$1 million funding honours military history

Seventy-nine community groups and organisations from across the country will receive funding under the *Saluting Their Service* Commemorative Grants Program for projects that help preserve Australia's military history. More than \$1 million is being provided to assist successful applicants complete projects and activities that commemorate our Service personnel.

Australia has a rich military history and many Australians have a grandparent, parent, sibling or relative who have served in our Defence Forces and played a role in helping preserve and shape the nation.

By funding projects that safeguard our nation's wartime heritage, we ensure generations to come have the opportunity to learn and connect with this service and sacrifice.

WA grant recipients:

Perth Modernian Society Museum Association - *Enable stage two of a digital honour board project* - \$3,000

City of Greater Geraldton - *Host an event to commemorate the 80th anniversary since the loss of HMAS Sydney II* - \$71,000

Jurien Bay RSL Sub-Branch -

Construct new cenotaph at Cervantes Memorial Park to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel - \$4,008

Shire of Northampton - *Restore Kalbarri war memorial* - \$10,000

St Joseph's Primary School, Bunbury - *Construct a commemorative garden at the school to commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australia's service personnel* - \$5,000

Shire of Boyup Brook - *Upgrade Sandakan Park by extending and restoring the existing Boyup Brook Sandakan memorial* - \$10,000

Shire of Wagin - *Install two commemorative seats at the Wagin War Memorial* - \$10,000

Be the person your dog thinks you are

ANZAC Day schools' awards ask important question

The **2021 ANZAC Day Schools' Awards** are now open for all schools across Australia, encouraging students to learn about Veteran service and Australian wartime history by asking the question, *What does commemoration look like in your community?*

The awards seek to honour the service and sacrifice of Service men and women across a range of conflicts and peacekeeping operations and encourage students to find out more about our military history.

The ANZAC Day Schools' Awards encourage the next generation of Australians to study and gain a deeper understanding of Australia's wartime history - from the First World War to modern day conflicts and peacekeeping operations, so they grow up recognising and respecting the sacrifice of all who have served in the protection of our country and way of life.

This year, students are being asked to look at the importance of commemoration to local communities and how that has changed over time in our society.

With the cancellation of many ANZAC Day services around Australia and overseas last year, the Australian community adapted and commemorated ANZAC Day at home — painting poppies and placing them in windows of houses, school children writing letters to our elderly Veterans in aged care facilities, music tributes, current serving members calling Veterans to check in, and solitary driveway tributes.

The national winner's school will receive \$5,000, a trophy and a certificate. There will also be State and Territory winners, with the schools receiving \$3,000 and a certificate. Winners in the special categories will receive \$2,000 and a certificate.

Entries for the awards close 30 June 2021. Award categories, judging, criteria and how to apply at ANZAC Portal website - <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/research-education/competitions/anzac-day-schools-awards>

Former Governor-General Michael Jeffery farewelled as 'warrior king'

Michael Jeffery, the long-serving soldier who became Western Australian Governor, Australia's Governor-General and later, a fierce advocate for land and environmental rights, was remembered as a warrior king and a truly humble man at his State funeral in the ANZAC Memorial Chapel of St Paul, Duntroon ACT, following his passing on 18 December 2020.

Major General The Honourable (Philip) Michael Jeffery AC AO (Mil) CVO MC (Retd) 1937 - 2020 contributed more than 60 years of dedicated service to his country including as Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia (2003-2008); Governor of Western Australia (1993-2000); and a distinguished career in the Australian Army (1953-1992).

Major General Jeffery was the first career soldier to rise to the position of Governor-General, and had a lifelong passion for the land and the role farmers and Indigenous Australians played in caring for it.

In retirement, he was appointed Australia's first National Soils Advocate, stepping down only due to ill health.

He was a man of great energy, faith, integrity and community who always put his country first.

His legacy will continue to touch the lives of many especially through the leadership he gave in the fields of youth, education, civics, the natural environment and recognition of the contribution made by migrants.

Born in 1937, Major General Jeffery lived a happy, though austere childhood in mining town Wiluna in WA, before his family moved to Perth during World War II.

After leaving home at 16 to attend Royal Military College, Duntroon, he served in Malaya and Papua New Guinea and completed a tour of duty in the Vietnam War, before assuming command of the Special Air Service Regiment.

He was promoted major general in 1985, and appointed to command the 1st Division in 1986.

At his funeral, Brigadier Chris Roberts noted Major General Jeffery had commanded at every combat

level in the Australian Army and was a "well-loved, compassionate and fair" leader."

He was one of those rare people who not only had a vision of what needed to be done, but who grasped the nettle and led the way," said Brigadier Roberts, who also said that as word of the Major General's death spread through the ADF, "there was this great sense that we had lost a warrior king".

After 35 years in the army, Major General Jeffery left service in 1993 to become Governor of Western Australia.

In 2003, he was appointed by then Prime Minister John Howard, as 24th Governor-General of Australia, a position he served in until 2008.

As Governor and later Governor-General, Brigadier Roberts said Major General Jeffery lobbied fiercely as an advocate for regional development and for the living conditions of Veterans and their families, with his efforts helping establish the Defence Housing Association for ADF members.

But he was most recently known for his advocacy for soil health, and was appointed in 2012 by then-Prime Minister Julia Gillard as the country's first national advocate for soil health.

After more than a decade of work, his recommendation to adopt a national objective to restore soil health to ensure future food security was committed to by Prime Minister Scott Morrison.

Michael Jeffery's granddaughter, Zoe, said he was most fiercely dedicated to his family, and remained committed to his wife, children and grandchildren throughout his life.

"Despite his capacity to walk with kings, the humbleness of the boy from Wiluna never really left him," she said.

"In his final months, Papa spent much of his time outside in our Grandmother's beautiful garden.

"As his words failed him, he would still



gesture around at the flowers and the trees and the nature which he saw as the handiwork of the God he so faithfully believed in, and he would say, 'Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful'."

Brigadier Roberts said Major General Jeffery would be sadly missed.

"When Michael walked into the Great Hall of Valhalla on 18 December, he was given a guard of honour by his soldiers who had gone before him, and the great captains of history gave him a standing ovation," he said.

"Here comes a warrior king. You dared to win, and win you did."

Highgate RSL note: Juniper Elimatta Retirement Village in Menora WA flew the Australian flag at half-mast on the death of Major-General Jeffery and also for his State funeral.

On each occasion ANZAC of the Year, resident and Highgate member, David Scott, played The Last Post on the bugle for the raising and lowering of the flag.



Welcome to new members

We cordially welcome new members to Highgate RSL

Christopher Atturo is a Lieutenant in the Royal Australian Navy, currently serving on HMAS *Arunta*. Christopher has been in Navy for 12 years, with decorations recognising his service in Afghanistan with NATO and US Forces.

Sandra Cross JP served with Australian Army at Enoggera 1966-67 and has been a member with RSL Ballajura and Mount Lawley-Inglewood since 2005. Sandra is also a member of the WA Branch of Partners of Veterans Association Australia.

Ken Munyard served with the Royal Australian Navy Reserve 1967-70 and has been a member with RSL City of Perth and Mount Lawley-Inglewood since 2005.

Clive Smith served as a former Army Reserve Sergeant in A Squadron, 10th Light Horse, 1980-87

Shona Allan has transferred from Mount Lawley-Inglewood Sub-Branch.

Peter Lawrence is an Army Reserve Artillery Lieutenant with 11 years of service, and is rejoining Highgate after being with us during the 1990s.

Pensions & DVA Report

By David MacLean | Pensions & DVA Liaison

Pensions work continued at a slower pace during the summer holidays. DVA responses were muted, with working from home definitely slowing the process. However, Departmental responses to the few urgent cases over the break were first-class, proving there remain some very good people in DVA, anchors who hold the place together. About 50% of DVA staff returned to their offices early in the new year. Last year was successful for Highgate members, with some very pleasing outcomes.

Free commemoration resources at ANZACportal.dva.gov

The Department of Veterans' Affairs has a range of free resources available online for communities and individuals, to help them plan a commemorative service in their local area or at home. Check out ANZACportal.dva.gov.

New book: *Next Door's Dog Is A Veteran's Dog*

South Australian author, Gina Dawson, has written what may be the only book of its type, describing Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome (PTSD) in ways that allow children to understand the condition.

Next Door's Dog Is A Veteran's Dog will be released on 01 April, and joins a series of Gina's books about Assistance Dogs, including *Next Door's Dog Has A Job*, which deals with invisible disability, and *Next Door's Dog Is A Therapy Dog*, about a dog that helps people feel better.

Next Door's Dog Is A Veteran's Dog is a sensitively written, unique children's book with many messages, including educating children about PTSD and anxiety, invisible disability, the work of Veterans and first responders, correct behaviour around Assistance Dogs, and most of all, about the unique bond between a man and his dog, and how they look out for each other.

Written in a way that shows compassion and respect, this book is educational and relevant in a time where PTSD, anxiety and mental health issues are becoming more prevalent, particularly in Veterans and First responders.

"I chose a Veteran for this book because PTSD is disproportionately prevalent in Military Personnel and First Responders," said Gina.

"However, it can affect anyone who has had exposure to traumatic experiences. Although difficult concepts to explain to children because we can't see them, most children understand the feeling of feeling scared or threatened, and wanting to run, fight or hide. People with PTSD often feel in danger and may live in states of high alert and depression, and therefore may result in a person wanting to isolate to feel safer, thereby affecting all aspects of life.

"The benefits of being able to re-join society can be life-changing for the entire family," said Gina.

Her latest book, *Next Door's Dog Is A Veteran's Dog* costs \$22.99, but is available direct from Gina for \$19.50 plus freight at cost, depending on number, and she is happy to sell directly. Books can be posted singly to customers, or delivered as a bulk order to one address to save postage.

Pre-orders are now being taken and you can contact Gina at gina@ginadawson.com or purchase through www.ginadawson.com which contains more information on the books and author.

Commemorating Australia's service in the Gulf War

On 28 February, Australia commemorated the 30th anniversary of the United States-led coalition declaring victory in 'Operation Desert Storm', marking the official end of the First Gulf War, and we honour the sacrifices of those who served to liberate Kuwait.

Following Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990, the international community responded quickly, with the United Nations Security Council imposing sanctions on Iraq, giving them until 15 January 1991 to withdraw from Kuwait.

Operation Desert Storm, the combat phase of the Gulf War, began when it became clear Iraqi forces had no intention of withdrawing, and Australia was quick to support this global effort.

Australia's involvement included

providing escort and logistics support during combat operations, which continued long after the ceasefire in February 1991, as Australians remained in the region to assist with humanitarian efforts.

More than 1,800 ADF personnel from the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force deployed to the Gulf from August 1990 to September 1991. The war saw the first RAN women serve in combat-related roles in warlike service as part of the crew on the replenishment ship HMAS *Westralia*.

While all our Service men and women arrived home safely, our coalition partners did lose members of their armed forces, who we remember today.

More information at <https://anzacportal.dva.gov.au/wars-and-missions/gulf-war> and www.awm.gov.au/articles/gulf-war

Get the ANZAC word out - and promote your Sub-Branch

This year is ripe with opportunities to build stronger public understanding of Veteran issues, the ANZAC message and the incredible work and people driving Sub-Branches.

Maxine at RSLWA is creating a media pack to ensure WA's messaging is strong and proud, with national reach where possible, for ANZAC Day and during the 100th year of Air Force.

But she can't do this without Veterans with strong stories willing to let her write a feature story about them, and/or be interviewed by the media.

She'd love to hear of the incredible people on your committees and within your membership who can help RSLWA achieve this aim.

Members need to be willing to be profiled by her (*see an example that generated national interest for VP Day: <https://www.rslwa.org.au/how-living-treasure-jack-le-cras-witnessed-one-of-the-great-moments-in-military-history/>*) and/or the media. These stories help RSLWA with messaging, and promote Sub-Branches, too, potentially boosting membership.

Air Force 100th birthday

RSLWA is looking for gripping yarns to help commemorate Air Force's 100th birthday this year. If your experiences serving in Air Force were packed full of adventure, historic moments or broke new ground, please get in touch with RSLWA's Maxine at comms@rslwa.org.au. She will especially welcome Veterans aged at or nearing 100, Veterans with culturally diverse or Indigenous backgrounds, and women. Help preserve your stories for posterity. Lest we forget.

Significant milestone birthday or Vale?

If your Sub-Branch has a member about to celebrate a significant birthday milestone, such as their 100th, or you learn of a Service friend's passing, why not pay tribute to them via RSLWA channels? For birthday tributes, please email a past Service and a recent photo, with accompanying relevant information, to Maxine comms@rslwa.org.au BEFORE the birthday, for publication on RSLWA's social media channels. For the recently deceased, please email an obituary of 750-1,000 words (with accompanying photos of over 1Mb) to the same address for inclusion in *The Listening Post*.

Can you help with any of the following?

- All Sub-Branch members with strong stories relating to Air Force service, including adventures from WWII through to recent operations, making history (especially women - any lady pilots out there?), stories of enduring mateship, or even finding their life partner in Service
- Veterans with strong family ANZAC stories, or multiple generations who have served
- Older Veterans with a strong history of ANZAC Day service/attendance (*eg: never missed a dawn service from infancy/childhood after being raised in a Veteran's family*)
- Veterans who, for health or other reasons, will commemorate from their driveways again this year
- Older Veterans keen to attend their Dawn Service and March again this year – and the camaraderie and stories that follow – tell Maxine your stories!
- Colourful characters who will participate in the March this year
- Veterans with tales of resilience after service, to remind the community of why our fundraising efforts are ongoing and health/wellness programs are essential
- Are there any 100-year-old Air Force Veterans out there?
- Young Veterans with children, grandparents with grandchildren, willing to be photographed for ongoing communications.
- Any touching ANZAC tales
- Enduring Australian/New Zealand mateship stories

If you know someone willing to step up – while also raising the profile of your Sub-Branch – let Maxine know by emailing comms@rslwa.org.au.

To ensure she has the facts right and the Veteran is comfortable with how they are portrayed, Maxine prints nothing without the Veteran first reading what she has written.

Aim high, and consider yourself worthy of great things

Veteran mental health providers receive \$94.3M boost

Mental health providers, social workers and community nursing providers who provide high quality vital services to our Veteran community have received a four-year, \$94.3 million Federal Government fees boost, effective 01 February.

Maintaining competitive fees for these mental health and community support providers will enable better outcomes for our Veterans and their families, and encourage providers to continue to offer services to support members of the Veteran community through challenging times.

Veterans who may be struggling are encouraged to reach out for help, as support is always available.

For support, Open Arms Veterans & Families Counselling provides free and confidential support for current and ex-serving ADF personnel and their families.

Help is available 24/7 on 1800 011 046 or www.OpenArms.gov.au. More information on mental health support available through DVA at dva.gov.au.

Bombing of Darwin Day First air raids on Australia

Bombing of Darwin Day was remembered on 19 February, commemorating the lives lost and the impact of the air raids on the Australian mainland during WWII.

The war arrived in Australia for the first time on 19 February 1942, when Japanese aircraft attacked Darwin, the location of a major Allied base.

Enemy aircraft bombed and strafed Darwin for about 40 minutes, resulting in eight of the 47 ships in the harbour being sunk, with one ship's cargo of 200 depth charges exploding alongside the Darwin wharf. During this attack, USS *Peary* was sunk, killing 88 American sailors and wounding 13 — the greatest single loss of life on any ship attacked that day.

About 80 minutes later, a second wave of bombers continued the attack, this time concentrating on the Royal Australian Air Force station inland.

During the two raids, more than 250 people were killed in and around Darwin.

The attacks were only the beginning, with 64 raids being made on Darwin between February 1942 and November 1943. Overall, 97 air attacks were carried out on Darwin and northern Australia.

Coffee-Spillers, Eye-Rollers and Warm Fuzzies

COVID19

I'm getting tired of being part of a major historical event.

At what point can we just start using 2020 as profanity? As in: *"That's a load of 2020,"* or *"What in the 2020,"* or *"abso-2020-lutely."*

Coronacoaster: noun; the ups and downs of a pandemic.

When you said life would get back to normal after July, Julyed

If 2020 was a math word-problem: *If you're going down a river at 10kph and your canoe loses a wheel, how much pancake mix would you need to re-tile your roof?*

The location of your letterbox shows you how far from your house you can be in your lockdown pyjamas, before you start looking like a mental patient.

Healthy living

My goal for 2020-21 was to lose 10 kilograms. Only 14 to go.

Ate salad for dinner. Mostly croutons and tomatoes. Really, just one big round crouton covered with tomato sauce, and cheese.

FINE, it was a pizza... Okay, I ate a pizza! Are you happy now?

I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web.

I don't mean to brag, but I finished my 14-day diet food supply in 3 hours 20 minutes.

A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it.

I thought my clothes were getting tight because of the dryer. I discovered it's because of the refrigerator.

Age

I intend to live forever... So far, so good I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out.

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented.... I forgot where I was going with this.

I love approaching 80; I learn something new every day and forget five other things.

Just remember, once you're over the hill, you begin to pick up speed

Having plans sounds like a good idea until you have to put on clothes and leave the house.

It's weird being the same age as old people. When I was a kid, I wanted to be older. This is not what I expected.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

Where there's a will, I want to be in it. You're never too old to learn something stupid.

I used to be indecisive. Now I'm not so sure.

EYES FRONT!

From the Highgate RSM

People are illogical, unreasonable and self-centred (including me). Love them anyway.

If you do good, people will accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. Do good anyway.

If you are successful, you win false friends and true enemies. Succeed anyway.

The good you do today will be forgotten tomorrow. Do good anyway.

Honesty and frankness make you vulnerable. Be honest and frank anyway.

The biggest people with the biggest ideas can be shot down by the littlest people with the littlest ideas. Think big anyway.

People favour underdogs, but only follow top dogs. Fight for a few underdogs anyway.

What you spend years building may be destroyed overnight. Build anyway.

People really need help, but may attack you if you do help them. Help them anyway.

Give the world the best you have and you will get kicked in the teeth. Give the best you have anyway.

Food

There's nothing like a little tomato soup to soothe the soul. Even if it's cold, over ice, with a celery stalk...and vodka.

Nothing tops a plain pizza

One day you're loving your bubble, doing work outs, baking banana bread and going for long walks; and the next day you're crying, drinking gin for breakfast and missing people you don't even like.

I pick fresh vegetables every day. I feed them to my pig and he converts them into bacon.

We all get heavier as we get older because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Marriage

My wife wore mini skirts, go-go boots, drove a Holden Monaro, listened to the Beatles, Rolling Stones and Elvis Presley...

Kids today will never be as cool as she was!

Behind every successful man is a woman.

Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

It's my wife's birthday tomorrow. She's been leaving jewellery catalogues all over the house, so I've bought her a magazine rack.

Marriage counsellor: *Your wife says you never buy her flowers. Is that true?* Me: *To be honest, I never knew she sold flowers.*

Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut...and still think they are sexy.

The speed in which a woman says, "Nothing" when asked "What's wrong?" is inversely proportional to the severity of the storm that's coming.

Work and study

Did you know a piranha can devour a small child down to the bone in less than 30 seconds? Anyway, I lost my job at the aquarium today...

I thought I wanted a career. Turns out, I just wanted pay packets.

In filling out an application, where it says, 'In case of emergency, notify:' I put 'DOCTOR'

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.

If a tree falls in the forest and no one hears it, then my illegal logging business is doing well!

Hard work pays off in the future. Laziness pays off now.

If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried.

A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

If everything seems to be going well, you have obviously overlooked something.

When everything is coming your way, you're in the wrong lane.

Ambition is a poor excuse for not having enough sense to be lazy.

The sooner you fall behind, the more time you'll have to catch up.

"Oh, Master Yogi. How did you reach the age of 150 years without having a job, a house or a big family?" "The answer is in the question, my friend..."

Other people

I almost had a psychic girlfriend, but she left me before we met.

How can a man who can hit a rifle target at 250 metres keep missing the toilet?

Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

A thief broke into my house last night. He started searching for money, so I got up and searched with him.

If you can't think of a word, say, "I forgot the English word for it." That way people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

Don't be worried about your smartphone or TV spying on you. Your vacuum cleaner has been collecting dirt on you for years.

If I make you breakfast in bed, a simple "Thank you" is all I need.....not all this, "How did you get in my house?" business!

The pharmacist asked me my birthday again today....Pretty sure she's going to get me something.

I think it's really cool how Chinese people made a language entirely out of tattoos.

Everyone has a photographic memory; some just don't have film or an SD card.

I send flowers with a card marked, *Love from Steve*, to my neighbour's wife every Friday night. Then I watch the fight from my lounge room window, while eating popcorn...

2020 was bad, but 1914-18 and 1939-45 were worse. Lest we forget.



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Brigadier Craig Challon RWAR on Army's WA future

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

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