



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

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Highgate Happenings August 2021



A LITTLE HIGHGATE HISTORY- MEMBER'S GRAVE DISCOVERED

Immediate Past President Geoff Hourn holidayed in June on the Cocos Islands. Whilst exploring West Island Geoff came across the grave (pictured left) of Commodore Robert Percy CBE, a former member of Highgate

He joined the RAN in 1943 and graduated from the RAN College in 1946. Bob served on HMAS Vendetta and Parramatta and captained HMAS Perth. He also served in Perth and on Cocos Islands,

as well as Naval Attaché Washington 1973 -75 and Naval Officer in Command WA 1979 – 1982. He retired with the rank of Commodore in 1982 and was appointed a Commander (Military) of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) on 13 June 1981. He was also awarded an Indian Ocean Bronze Medal (Saving a Life at Sea) in 1956.

The main cemetery on Cocos is located on the north end of Home Island, the location of the former Clunies-Ross plantation and the principal Cocos-Malay settlement. West Island is the location of the airport and government facilities. Bob's grave is in a small cemetery on West Island. Geoff Hourn is still researching how Bob came to be buried there.

PAST PREMIER TO ADDRESS AUGUST LUNCH

The Hon Richard Court AC will be the guest speaker at our lunch on 16 August. He served as Premier of Western Australia from 1993 to 2001 and as Australian Ambassador to Japan from 2017 to 2020. A member of the Liberal Party, he represented the Perth-area electorate of Nedlands in the Western Australian Legislative Assembly from 1982 to 2001. His father, Sir Charles Court AK KCMG OBE, a Highgate member, served as State Premier 1974 – 1982.

Richard has been asked to speak on his time as Australian Ambassador to Japan. An interesting question is whether, whilst there, he met any of the 69,000 Japanese whose surrender his father took on Rabaul.



Happy Birthday to members celebrating in August including Jeremy Buxton, Barry De Bruyn, John Dowson, Joan Gravelle, Neville Gale, Dr Peter Harries, John Hardwick, James Lee, Ross Lightfoot, Graham Mathieson, Shirly Mooney, David Noble, Michael Page, Mike Radwell, Paul Salpietro, John Thornton, Glenn Williams

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with RSLWA By-law 5, notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch will take place at 1230h on Monday, 20 September 2021, at The Anzac Club.

All positions become vacant. Nominations are called for the following positions:

President; Senior Vice President; Vice President and newsletter editor, Treasurer, Secretary, Warden (up to two); Membership Officer; SWM Liaison Officer* (*Deputy Warden appointed by RSLWA); Honour Avenue Group Liaison Officer; Pension and Veterans Affairs Officer (relevant qualifications required); Hospital and Welfare Officer; Website Administration Officer; Committee Members x 3.

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary and will also be available prior to the AGM.



FOR YOUR DIARY

Lunch 16 August Cost \$40, plus \$5 for a raffle ticket. Book online or through Margot Harness or Secretary Greg Wilson.

CENTENARY DINING IN NIGHT

AS members are aware, this year Highgate and its predecessors have achieved 100 years since charter. A celebratory **formal dining in night** is planned to be held on **Friday 10 September**, partners welcome. Venue and cost TBA.

A booking sheet will be forwarded to members shortly. Members unable to access email can book through Margot Harness or the Secretary. It is requested that payment be made prior to the event.

2021 LUNCH DATES

20 September; AGM followed by the OBE/OBN lunch at the Anzac Club.

18 October, lunch at The Anzac Club.

Guest speaker Professor Stephen Smith LL.M, former MHR and ex variously Minister of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Defence, now Professor of Public International Law UWA.



REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCH

A highlight of the Highgate calendar, this year's Remembrance Day lunch will be on **Sunday 7 November** at Frasers Restaurant, Kings Park. The lunch will be preceded by a short memorial service at The Flame at 1130am, followed by lunch at 1200 for 1230. Cost \$80 all inclusive. Guest speaker Captain (RAN) Angela Bond, a former Commanding Officer of HMAS Stirling, and current Warden of the Fremantle War Memorial. Note there will be no lunch at The Anzac Club in November.

A booking sheet will be available in late September, with bookings closing on 30 October.

13 December. Lunch will be on the **second Monday of December** instead of the third, due to Christmas week. Location will be the Anzac Club, further details to follow.

GUEST SPEAKERS. Thank you to John Cleary for your efforts in organising guest speakers at each lunch. It is thanks to John that we have had such quality speakers this year. John has some very interesting guests lined up already for 2022 and members will be advised of these shortly. If you have an idea for a speaker, please contact John.

100 YEARS OF SERVICE TO VETERANS