



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

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Highgate Happenings JANUARY 2022

Welcome to a New Year at Highgate Sub-Branch.

Whilst the new year may be one with many challenges, we look forward to some great lunches with Vice President John Cleary organising a spectacular line-up of high calibre guest speakers for us. Congratulations John on a great December lunch, the entertainment was tops.



Margaret Simpson and the Sub-Branch Trio getting among the gum trees at December lunch.

Photo G. Simpson

Our **January lunch** is on **Monday 17 January** at The Anzac Club, 1200 for 1230h. Cost is \$40 plus \$5 for a raffle ticket if you wish to participate. Member's guests very welcome. Profits from the raffle help offset the cost of a meal for the guest speaker.

You can book for lunch online at <https://forms.gle/8cXyS4EbRuaDcHwY6>

The attendance list can be viewed at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1zyFTOJgcJBEqbO-2LVD-mAMzGvooBvRXjp2G1jCHMPVg/edit?usp=sharing>

Our guest speaker Dr Andrew Robertson CSC PSM, Chief Health Officer of Western Australia.



Dr Andrew (Andy) Robertson is the Assistant Director General and Chief Health Officer within the Public and Aboriginal Health Division in the Western Australia Department of Health (WA Health). With specialist qualifications in Public Health Medicine and Medical Administration, he served with the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) from 1984 until 2003, including completing three tours to Iraq as a Biological Weapons Chief Inspector with the United Nations Special Commission in 1996 and 1997. He remains in the RAN's Active Reserve, and was promoted to Commodore and undertook the role of Director General Navy Health Reserves from July 2015 until December 2019. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross in 1999 for outstanding achievement

in the field of Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defence while serving with the Office of the Surgeon General.

In October 2003, he took up the position of the Director, Disaster Preparedness and Management in WA Health. In December 2004, he led the Australian Medical Relief team into the Maldives post tsunami, managed WA Health's response to the 2005 Bali Bombing, led the WA Health team into Indonesia after the Yogyakarta earthquakes in June 2006, worked as the Radiation Health Adviser to the Australian Embassy after the Fukushima nuclear incident in 2011 and conducted the AUSMAT needs assessment in Nepal after the Nepal earthquake in 2015. Since 2008, as Director, Disaster Management and Deputy Chief Health Officer, he has coordinated the WA Health disaster and public health responses to the Ashmore Reef incident, the H1N1 2009 pandemic, the 2011 CHOGM meeting and the 2015 Ebola preparations, and acted as the Chief Information Officer and the Chief Medical Officer. He has been undertaking the current role since June 2018, including leading the WA Health response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

RSLWA PRESIDENT

As members are aware, Peter Aspinall AM resigned as President of RSLWA due ill health in early December.

Since then, RSLWA has commenced procedures to replace him.

Nominations open on 6 January and close on 20 January. Voting closes on 17 February, with the result being declared at an EGM on 26 February.

At time of publication two RSLWA members have indicated they will stand, Royce Spencer, an RSLWA Board member, and Commodore Brett Dowsing (Retd).

Highgate has three votes in the election. Delegates will be appointed at the January Sub-Branch meeting.

FOR YOUR DIARY

Other guest speakers for the first half of 2022 are:

21 February 2022 – Basil Zempilis, the Rt Hon the Lord Mayor of Perth. (Basil is the 18th person to occupy the position).

21 March 2022 - Mr. David J. Gainer U.S. Consul General Perth.

Anzac Day breakfast – Nigel Rogers, President WA Chapter Naval Historical Society of Australia.

16 May 22 – Brendan Cook, President of the Boer War Memorial Society of WA and author of the history of the Australian Army Pay Corps in World War.



Welcome to new Members Paul Conti JP and Dr Alan Pritchard RFD.

Paul Conti is the Chairman of Sheffield Estates, commercial and residential property managers. He is a former national service officer commissioned after training at Scheyville.

Dr Alan Pritchard RFD served in the Army Reserve from 1971 to 1990 as an infantry officer. The highlight of his career was CO 16 RWAR. He's a past Regimental Colonel RWAR, and past Honorary Colonel of Cadets 5MD. In civilian life he spent over 50 years in education, as a school principal, university lecturer and consultant. He led UNESCO teams in curriculum innovation and parental involvement.

He was also a PhD supervisor.

And a final word from President Geoff Simpson OAM...

All the best for 2022. All our meetings are planned to go ahead, barring government or Anzac Club restrictions. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, we have a great line-up of speakers for the new year, so have your booster and come along. Meetings third Monday of the month except April and November.
Geoff

Happy Birthday to members who celebrate in **January** including:

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

A special Happy Birthday to John Harper-Nelson who turns 100 on 13 January