



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

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Highgate Happenings FEBRUARY 2022

Welcome the 18th Lord Mayor of Perth

Our February guest speaker is Basil Zempilas, the 18th Lord Mayor of the City of Perth.



Basil is a television and radio presenter, sports commentator and politician. He began his career at the Seven Network in February 1994 as a cadet sports reporter. Basil presents sport on *Seven News Perth*, and from January 2014 until 11 December 2020 co-hosted 6PR's breakfast program with Steve Mills. He is also a member of the Seven Network's AFL football commentary team. He has commentated on the Olympics and several other major sporting events. In 2020, Basil was elected the eighteenth Lord Mayor of Perth, de-

feating six other candidates.

Following his appointment as Lord Mayor of Perth, Zempilas has been criticised for having a “very strong conflict of interest” with his ongoing media commitments and also some controversial remarks made at various times since the election.

He starts the day with his radio program, then attends Council House before heading to Channel 7 late in the afternoon to present the sports segment on the evening news. At the conclusion of that, it's off to any official functions he may be required to attend.

As Zempilas juggles family and work-life, the challenges faced by the city are many. Zempilas has met several of his election promises with the rest in-various stages of progress. Foot traffic and retail spend has been on the increase compared to 2020 and Zempilas has had some wins including the city running its own AFL parade when the sporting body would not organise one itself for the 2021 Grand Final. The 'People's Parade' was the biggest CBD Friday crowd in two years.

We welcome Basil to Highgate for what we hope will be a very interesting visit.

If you wish to attend our next lunch at **The Anzac Club on Monday 21 February** at 1200 for 1230h, you can book online at <https://forms.gle/fFc9YqgmCaUnB6uf8> or by contacting the Secretary or Margot Harness. **\$40 per person**, plus \$5 for an optional raffle ticket. Pay by EFT or at the door.

NO PROOF – NO PASS

Please note that WA Government COVID restrictions apply. At this time the following restrictions apply to accessing the four public levels at Anzac House. Any person within ANZAC House or who are external visitors must provide Proof of Vaccination to enter these four levels. This is strictly enforced by RSLWA staff as Penalties for non-compliance range in fines of up to \$20,000 for individuals and \$100,000 for owners



Anzac Club Hours

The ANZAC Club has introduced new opening hours. You can now visit the Club from Tuesday to Friday, from 11am-4pm, with lunch service until 2pm. The Club will no longer be open on Mondays. (This does not affect Highgate lunches).

Mike Harness Retires

After many years as a member of Honour Avenue Group and a Highgate Committee member, Mike Harness last month announced his retirement from the Committee and his duties of organising Poppy Day and monthly birthdays. A unanimous vote of thanks to Mike was made at the January Committee meeting.

With Mike's retirement we urgently need a Highgate member to take on the responsibility of **organising Poppy Day**. This includes ordering supplies, organising collectors at our two locations and finalising the collection. We also require a member to take on the onerous duty of organising the birthday bubbly each month for our birthday girls and boys.

Please advise President Geoff, Secretary Greg or Mike if you can take over these jobs.



Happy Birthday to members who celebrate in **February** including: Errol Smith, Mick Coyle OAM JP, David Grace, John Forward, Owen Page, Alan Pritchard, Greg Smith, Henry Atturo JP, Jin-Kil Lee, Ruth Shean, Kevin Whiting, Don Rae AM RFD, John Klein, Lenore Fairfield.

Last month we wished **John Harper-Nelson** a Happy 100th Birthday. It was great to receive a thank you note from him. John, great to hear from you in Carnarvon. Take care, best wishes from the President and members of Highgate.



This happened yesterday and is important information for our age group (over 65?).

A friend from another Sub-Branch, had his 3rd dose of the vaccine at the vaccination centre after which he began to have blurred vision on the way home. When he got home, he called the vaccination centre for advice and to ask if he should go see a doctor, or be hospitalized. He was told NOT to go to a doctor or a hospital, but just return to the vaccination centre immediately and pick up his glasses.



Picture D. Nicholson

Honour Avenues Group- Help Wanted

The Honour Avenues Group are a small but committed team of volunteers who meticulously maintain almost two thousand plaques in Kings Park on behalf of the Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority.

Kings Park and Botanic Garden in Perth has more honour avenues, memorials and statues than any other park in Australia. These important places of remembrance require significant upkeep every year to ensure that they receive the care and respect that they deserve.

Due to a number of retirements from the group, HAG is seeking 5 new members for 1 or more of the following; management, secretarial, finance, workshop and field.

HAG meets in Kings Park each Tuesday from 7am to 11am.

If you would like to be involved in this sub-committee of Highgate, please contact the Secretary or Ian Petkoff who will forward your interest to HAG. HAG will contact you direct to arrange an interview.

STOP PRESS: Our 21 March lunch Guest Speaker is Mr David J. Gainer, U.S. Consul-General Perth. Details next month.

RSLWA PRESIDENT ELECTION

As members are aware an election is currently underway for a new President of RSLWA.

Nominations closed on 20 January and four service members have nominated. For the information of members, I have summarised the candidate resumes accompanying the ballot papers.

The four candidates are, in alphabetical order:

Duncan Anderson. Duncan is a younger veteran who served for 15 years in the ARA and is currently serving in the Army Reserve. He has completed operational tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and assisted in the ADF response to COVID. Duncan is State Vice-President and has served on the RSLWA Board for three years. He is the former Managing Director of a TAFE, a position he held for six years.

He is looking to increase engagement with veterans, with a focus on younger veterans.

Brett Dowsing. He spent 51 years as a RAN Officer. Primarily operations focused, he also completed several senior military diplomacy postings, and commanded at all commissioned rank levels, including Senior Naval Officer WA.

Post retirement he completed the AICD Company Directors Course and serves as a Board member on two veterans not for profits. He is a practicing JP and President/VP of several naval associations. Brett aims to bring strategic leadership, absolute integrity and authentic transparency to RSLWA in pursuit of excellence in service and support to veterans.

Andrew Robertson. Andrew is President of Eastern Regional RSL Sub-Branch. He is an Army veteran serving six years with 1 RAR. This included a deployment to Somalia in 1992/3. He has served a total of nine years ARA and Ares and ten years in the SES.

He has served Overwatch Australia as National Coordinator for all Overwatch groups for over five years and Vice President for three. Andrew stands that RSL nationally needs to rediscover its roots and become again a place where veterans can be veterans without fear or favour.

Royce Spencer. Royce has been an active, committed member of the RSLWA Board since 2017 and chairs the Finance & Investment Committee overseeing a portfolio of more than \$70 million.

Royce had 28 years in the RAN. After retiring from the Navy, he established a marine services company providing pilotage and training services to commercial shipping in the Northwest. He has over four decades of experience in the corporate, maritime and not for profit sectors.

Royce believes he has the skills, experience and drive to modernise RSLWA and ensure it continues its growth by supporting Sub-Branches, veterans and families across WA.

With nominations having closed, the WA Electoral Commission is forwarding postal votes to nominated Sub-Branch delegates. Voting closes on 17 February, with the results declared at an EGM on Saturday 26 February at Anzac House.

A PUBLIC INVITATION

80th Anniversary of the SS VYNER BROOKE Sinking



A Commemorative Service for the Nurses who tragically died during the bombing of the SS VYNER BROOKE off Bangka Island, and in military action in WW2

WHEN: Sunday 13th February at 10:30am

WHERE: The Nurses' Memorial, Point Walter Reserve, Honour Avenue, Bicton WA 6157

Parking available. Tea, coffee & biscuits served after the service

Please RSVP to Craig (0418-936-221) by January 31st 2022



RSLWA

HMAS VOYAGER 58th Anniversary Commemorative Service

Survivors, next of kin, former ship's company, friends and members of the greater naval family are invited to a memorial service to mark the 58th anniversary of the loss of *HMAS Voyager* to be conducted at the *Voyager Chair*, May Drive (near Saw Ave), Kings Park, on **10 February at 1100h**. As this is a "bare site", bring folding chairs, hats, sunscreen etc. COVID restrictions apply. Contact David MacLean 0418 917 982 or davidmaclean@iinet.net.au