



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

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Highgate Happenings APRIL 2022

Korean Ambassador for Peace Medal



At the March lunch, Republic of Korea Honorary Consul, Fay Duda, presented Highgate member Errol Smith with the Ambassador for Peace Medal awarded to her late husband Robert (Bob), a Korean veteran. Bob, a former Highgate Committee member, who passed away in 2000, served in Korea with 3 RAR in 1953 – 54. He also served two tours with the AATTV in Vietnam in 1966 – 67 and 1969 – 70. He was the recipient of the South Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry and the US Meritorious Unit Citation Vietnam. Further details of Bob's service are available in the Highgate Hall of Honour.

It was also planned to present the medal at the lunch to Stephanie Lloyd, widow of the late member BRIG Russell Lloyd OBE MC. Unfortunately, due to family issues, Stephanie was unable to attend. A presentation will be made to her later.

The Ambassador for Peace Medal and Certificate is presented to all eligible veterans as an expression of appreciation from the Korean government to allied service men and women who served in country during the Korean War from June 25, 1950 to July 27, 1953.

Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast

Highgate Sub-Branch Anzac Day **Gunfire Breakfast** will be held in the Members Dining Room (capacity limited to 80) at the Weld Club, 3 Barrack St, Perth. Cost \$50. Timing 0700 for 0730h, finish 0900h.

The booking link is on page 2. *(Please note that WA Government COVID restrictions apply).*

Note: No monies or online payments will be accepted at the Gunfire Breakfast. Please pay by EFT or bank transfer prior to Anzac Day. Any problems please contact the Treasurer

Guest speaker is Nigel Rogers is President of the Naval Historical Society of Australia - WA Chapter. He is also the 'resident' military historian on Capital Community Radio in Perth. As well as being a member of various organisations in Perth, he is a member of the Order of St John of Jerusalem - Knights Hospitaller, who are involved in supporting homeless people in Perth.



Nigel spent his early life living in many countries around the world. Most of his career was spent working internationally for a Global US Bank, before moving and retiring to Perth in December 2012 from the UK.

Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast Booking

The link for the Booking Sheet is:

<https://forms.gle/wa3pmuYNjddXu9RTA>

The Response Sheet (VIEW only) is:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1louSmotC-DZ-vrTmz6m2e_HA4Eyxqug3TTwsn0N3-f0/edit?usp=sharing



Happy Birthday to members celebrating in April, including Steve Chamarette, Ian Petkoff, Jim Eayrs, Les Castle, Malcolm Weatherhead, John Dwyer, Peter Garside, Derek Scott, Brian Copping, Robert Pickard, Robert Somerville, John O'Halloran, Bob Trotter, Ken Barton, Sean Collopy, Roy Stacey, Gerry Warner, Phillip White, Elliott Nielsen, Cecil Walkley, Wayne Tarr.

Defence and Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS)

is a free, independent and trauma-informed legal service available to current and ex-serving ADF members, as well as their family members, carers and supporters. DAVLS provides legal advice and support to anyone seeking to share their experiences with the Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide.

Is the Royal Commission relevant to members?

The Royal Commission wants to hear about the impact that ADF service has had on a serving member's mental health and wellbeing. In particular, what they experienced during their service, the influence of ADF culture, the process of adjusting to civilian life post-transition, difficulties in obtaining veteran entitlements, and lived experience of suicide.

It is really important for people to tell the Royal Commission their story and to point out any systemic issues within the ADF or veteran support services so that there can be effective change.

How can the Defence and Veterans Legal Service help?

- Provide legal advice about a person's legal rights and protections when engaging with the Royal Commission.
- Support people to share their experiences safely (and anonymously if needed) through a submission or private session.
- If a person has not written a submission before, or would like help, DAVLS can give practical assistance to ensure that their story and message are communicated as effectively as possible.
- Connect people with other services, such as counselling, advocacy and other legal support for matters that are not related to the Royal Commission.

How do members find out more?

Members can visit the DAVLS website at <https://defenceveteranslegalservice.org.au> where there are fact sheets and other useful information about DAVLS and the Royal Commission. For a more in-depth discussion and the opportunity to ask questions, DAVLS can conduct an in-person or virtual presentation for your members.

Who can members speak to in WA?

The DAVLS solicitor for Western Australia is Mitchell Caubo, whose office is located at Veteran Central on Level 2 of ANZAC House. Mitch will be regularly available at ANZAC House on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, but can otherwise arrange in-person visits outside the Perth metropolitan area (subject to COVID-19 restrictions) to deliver presentations or meet with clients.

To arrange an appointment, please call **1800 33 1800**.

Highgate's own: "Who's that?"

..... **SOoooo**



"LET'S GET TO KNOW": BILL MUNRO

Bill Munro's first experience of military life was as a cadet in the St Patrick's College Cadet Unit in East Melbourne. Friday nights would see him standing on a Melbourne tram, holding on to a strap with one hand and with his .303 in the other. The only rule was that the bolt had to be out of the rifle and in your kit bag. Life was certainly different back in 1960.

Bill was 19 when the Menzies Government introduced National Service in November 1964. He registered; his birthday number was called out; and he duly presented himself at Victoria Barracks in April 1966, about to become a "Nasho"

Basic training at Puckapunyal and Infantry Corps training at Singleton was followed by a posting to 2RAR which was doing pre-Vietnam training before embarkation. Bill survived the mud and blank rounds of Canungra and the ticks and route marches at Shoalwater Bay and was pronounced fit to depart on the HMAS Sydney for a 5-day cruise before being choppered to the Battalion's home for the next twelve months at Nui Dat.

Ten months later with the end of his two years of National Service coming to an end, Bill's group saw Saigon for the first time as they flew over on their way to Ton Son Nhut airbase where Qantas was waiting to return to Sydney. They arrived at 0300 and after clearing customs, headed up to Kings Cross for a meat pie and a milkshake, two things that had been missed while in-country.

Where Are They??

Members haven't seen Lynn Lovell-Durant for several years as she has been a Full-time carer for her ex-WW2 Commando husband, Harold (2/5th Independent Company) – but she and Harold recently celebrated his 100th Birthday – complete with messages from the Queen, Governor General, PM Morrison, Governor of WA and our Premier: Mark McGowan.

Margot Harness

After discharge, Bill returned to his merchant banking job in Melbourne, but was restless; he felt older and more mature than his mates who hadn't been called up, and when the opportunity came up to transfer to Perth where the company was establishing a new operation, he jumped at the chance. He brought with him a letter of introduction to the State President of the RSL, Percy Pearson, who immediately signed him up to Highgate sub-branch.

Three years later, Bill was elected President of Highgate for a two-year term and that was followed by two years on the State Executive of

RSLWA during which he was appointed as the ex-service representative on the Board of Homewest, a position he held for ten years.

Bill married Nicky in 1994 and they have a 26-year-old daughter, Stephanie. Now retired, Bill is Immediate Past President of Highgate, Chairman of the Perth Korean War Memorial Foundation, State Chairman and National Director of the Prostate Cancer Foundation and Chairman of a Formula 2 Racing Team.

Another of Bill's services as an active member of Highgate has endured for many years – that of a dutiful Sub-warden at State War Memorial ceremonies. *(Author Margot Harness)*

CHUCKLE CORNER *(thanks Margot)*



It was a practical session in the psychology class. The professor showed up brandishing a large cage with a male rat in it. The rat was in the middle of the cage. The professor then put a piece of cake on one side and placed a female rat on the other side. The male rat ran towards the cake and gobbled it up.

Next, the professor placed some bread where the cake had been. Again, the male rat went for the food, not the female. This experiment went on for some time, the professor alternating the cake and bread each time.

Every single time, the male rat ran towards the food item and never towards the female rat. The Professor then addressed the students: "This experiment seems to show that **food** has the greater strength and attraction, do you agree?"

There was a general consensus until one of the students from the back rows said: "Sir, why don't you change the female rat? Maybe this one is his wife!"

The professor pointed straight at the student and said: "You've got yourself an A!"

A Drill Sergeant had just chewed out one of his cadets, and as he was walking away, he turned to the cadet and said: "I guess when I die, you'll come and dance on my grave."

The cadet replied: "Not me, Sarge...no sir!"

"I promised myself that when I got out of the Army I'd never stand in another line."

Two crows were flying along slowly minding their own business enjoying the scenery, when all of a sudden out of the blue an F/A-18E/F Super Hornet goes screaming past, barely missing the now somersaulting, and wildly flapping crows.

"Oh my God!" exclaims one crow in surprise. "He was sure moving!"

The other crow replies: "I reckon you would be too if you had two backsides and both of them were alight!"

The Australian Army Museum WA Family Day scheduled for Saturday 9 April 2022 and publicised in the last newsletter has been postponed due to COVID restrictions.

ANZAC DAY 2022 – Please keep abreast of the conduct of Anzac Day 2022 activities through your local news media and RSLWA website.