



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

President: Geoff Simpson OAM Secretary Greg Wilson
Mobile 0412 095 201 Email greg.wilson@highgate-rsl.org.au
All correspondence to PO Box 66 Duncraig East 6023



Highgate Happenings JULY 2022

Congratulations Queens Birthday Honours Recipients

At our June luncheon the President Geoff Simpson OAM offered heartiest congratulations to the two Highgate Sub-Branch members honoured in the 2022 Queens Birthday Honours List.



Dr Ruth Shean was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for distinguished service to public administration, and to not-for-profit community health organisations. Dr Shean has received Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for her work in public administration, non-for-profit and community organisations.

Ruth worked with the WA Government for 18 years as Director General of the Department of Training and Workforce Development, (where she was current RSLWA President Duncan Armstrong's boss at one stage), the Disability Services Commission and the Department for Community Development. She was Commissioner for Public Sector Standards, the government watchdog which oversaw standards within the public sector and assisted with the appointment of government CEOs.

Prior to joining government, she was CEO of the Cerebral Palsy Association of WA and Executive Officer of the Australian Council on Smoking and Health. Ruth has held leadership positions on reviews and committees for both state and federal government. She has experience in university governance, having been on governing councils of both Curtin and Murdoch Universities, where she was Pro Chancellor. Ruth has a Master's Degree and a Doctorate of Philosophy from the University of Western Australia. She is a Fellow of the Governance Institute of Australia and the Australian Institute of Company Directors, and is Chair of the National Centre for Vocational Education Research. In November 2019, Ruth was elected as Chairperson of the Cancer Council WA Board and CCWA's President. Ruth is also a Board member of Cancer Council Australia. She is a Life Member of both the Cerebral Palsy Association and Australian Council on Smoking and Health.

Ruth was the Warden of the State War Memorial in 2011, following in the footsteps of her father Max, who was Warden in 2000.



Mr Geoffrey Stooke was raised to Member of the Order of Australia (AM), for services to rugby union, to sports administration, to business, and to the community. Geoff had previously received an OAM in 1999.

Geoff has been the Managing Director of Standard Wool Investments since 1996. He has held senior positions in the fishing, food and resources industries. His early career was as a commissioned officer in the Australian Regular Army, including service in Australia and overseas.

He holds several directorships including chairman positions. Previous directorships include chair of Rugby WA for 23 years, director of the Australian Rugby Union for over five years, director of the Australian Sports Commission for three years, and director of the Australian Wool Exchange for nine years. Geoff is a recipient of the Australian Sports Medal, Centenary Medal, and was 2006 WA Citizen of the Year in the category of Sport.

Sincere congratulations to you both.

July Lunch and a Tale of Wadjemup

Thank you to Ray Ward, Bob Campbell and Peter Garside for your organisation and assistance at a great June Lunch with the Premier Mark McGowan. 124 members and guests attended. Anzac Club staff again fed and watered us with a minimum of fuss.



Our next lunch is on Monday 18 July, 1200h for 1230h at The Anzac Club. Cost \$40 plus \$5 for a raffle ticket.

This month our guest speaker is **Professor Alexandra Ludewig**, Head of the School of Humanities at The University of Western Australia. She is a scholar of German and European Studies.

Her teaching and research focus on issues of identity and 'Heimat*' and she has published extensively in both German and English on these topics.

Among her recent publications are three monographs: *Screening Nostalgia. 100 Years of German Heimat Film*, published by Transcript Verlag in 2011, *Born German. Re-Born in Western Australia* by UWA Publishing in 2016, and *War Time on Wadjemup. A Social History of the Rottneest Island Internment Camp* by UWAP 2019. Her Festschrift, *More than Gold and Honey*, by UWAP 2021, was recently launched by WA's Premier, Mark McGowan.

*(a German word translating to "home" or "homeland". The word has connotations specific to German culture, German society.)

Professor Dr Ludewig will relaunch her book "War Time on Wadjemup – a Social History of the Rottneest Island Internment Camp" and share with us the 150-year history of Rottneest Island with insights of the unique communities that have lived on the island, in particular the internees during WW 1. A general outline of her subject was published in last month's Highgate Highlights. The German Consul General Dr Gabriele Maluga will also be in attendance and present a complimentary copy of the book to all lunch attendees.

Bookings can be made at <https://forms.gle/6yPGYr8NsjKSJha47>

Responses can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PBEn-IOOyyVvmYg0qfvNWC_NaEiz-hLXWaXFRwOmc9Tk/edit?usp=sharing



Happy birthday to members celebrating this month, particularly our new **Centenarian, Brian Walley**, who was **100** on 2 July. Brian now becomes our fourth living OBH, joining Rabbi Shalom Coleman, Abe Sher and John Harper-Nelson with this honour.

Also celebrating in July are David Watson, Hugh Ritchie, Rosa Palmer, Robert Campbell, Graham Horne, Ian Warner, Jim Patterson, John Homer,

Barry Standen, Robert Caldera, Ray Ward, Graeme Stewart, Rhogan Aitken, Greg Wilson, Damien Lambert, Rod Webb, Gerald York. Ian Conaghan and Lynette Durant-Lovell.

Apologies if you have been omitted from the list, direct your complaint to the Secretary.

Thank you for your service,

Advocate and Pensions Officer David MacLean, who retired from the position on 30 June 22 after more than 20 years as an Advocate. In 2016 he was presented with an RSLWA Certificate of Service whilst at Kalamunda Sub-Branch for 20 years as member and advocate.

David will join the ranks of OBEs at our September lunch.

Welcome New Members and Transfers:

Peter Bevilacqua (ex WO1 RAAMC), John Arco (ex WO2 RAAOC), Peter Velterop (from Central S-B, RAN ADC to the State Governor), Roy Chase (from York S-B), Nigel Earnshaw (transfer from Queensland).

VALE

Commander Otto Pelczar RFD RD. Otto passed away on 15 June 2022 aged 87. Otto joined the RAN in 1956 and served on HMAS Fremantle during the Monte Bello atomic tests. He was commissioned in the RANR in 1958. He commanded HMAS Acute at various times between 1968 and 1978. He was head of Naval Intelligence Department (WA RANR). Perth City Councillor, then a Town of Cambridge Councillor. He was a Past Vice President RUSI.

Lest We Forget

Highgate Calendar

August – Subject to confirmation, our guest will be His Excellency YAMAGAMI Shingo, Ambassador of Japan to Australia. The Ambassador has an engagement in Broome that week and to meet his commitments our meeting has moved to **Wednesday 24 August**. The Anzac Club has been booked for that day. If the Ambassador becomes unavailable, the Consul-General Mr Suzuki, will be his replacement.

19 September – AGM and OBE/OBN lunch.

17 October – CMDRE Ivan Ingham AM RAN Senior ADF Officer WA.

Friday 11 November – Poppy Day – coordinator Ray Ward.

Sunday 13 November – Remembrance Day lunch Frasers, Guest speaker MAJGEN Barry Nunn AO RFD ED, Warden of the State War Memorial.

12 December (second Monday) – Christmas lunch with the 2UP Bush Band.

Vice President John Cleary is lining up a great selection of guest speakers for 2023 which will be announced in the next couple of months.

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, 17 September 2022, at The Anzac Club.

All positions become vacant. Nominations will be called for at the August meeting.



What happens to an illegally parked frog? It gets toad away.

My psychiatrist said to me, you're not fat, you're just... easier to see. I feel so much better now!

Courtesy P. Heeney

KOREAN WAR SERVICE

The Korea Veterans Association and RAR Association extend an invitation to members to attend the 69th anniversary of the Korean Armistice Day ceremony at the State War Memorial Kings Park on Wednesday 27 July 2022. The ceremony is from 1000-1100 am at the Flame of Remembrance.

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

SOoooo : "LET'S GET TO KNOW" :

BARRY COOKE

It didn't take long for gregarious, affable Barry Cooke to meld smoothly into the Highgate Sub-Branch – which led to him quickly being "snaffled" (a nicer word than "coerced"!) into becoming our Membership Officer. He has already demonstrated he "has the chops" – managing to bring in a number of new members already.



Born in 1950, Barry spent his childhood in the Floreat area, attending Floreat Park PS, where he met fellow luminaries Greg Wilson and Alan Shephard, who – like him, would later be snapped up into the ranks of both the Army and Highgate!

Barry's Dad was a coach-builder with the WA Railways, who later bought a newsagency shop; then a "round". He had two older sisters. Floreat in those days still had large swathes of surrounding bushland, and with the beach not too far away, it sounds like young Baz enjoyed a pretty idyllic youth. An early interest in rugby manifested, which has never waned; and he has always enjoyed playing tennis and sailing. He still 'crews' regularly for mates at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

As he got older, he attended Churchlands SHS, followed by UWA where he gained a Bachelor of Psychology and later a Dip Ed. Why drawn to psychology? "Well, I was unsure of what I wanted to do and thought it would be pretty easy ..."

Barry was called up for National Service in mid-1971 and among the lucky "1 in 10" selected for the Officer Training Unit at Scheyville. A taste of Army life didn't deter him after NS, and 25 years in the Reserves followed – key career highlights being his time as CO of 11/28 Battalion; and Commandant Regional Training Centre. Other units have included 6 Sig Regt; 15 Psych Unit; 16 RWAR; OC 28 IRC; Chief Instructor Reserve Command Staff College and Director Army Personnel Agency. He reached the rank of Colonel.

In his civvy life Barry held various positions as a psychologist, mainly in schools: for some-time he was the Principal of Duncraig Education Support Centre. Then, as now, this role was 'challenging'. This period was followed by years as a Psychologist for Defence Force Recruiting. He only fully retired two years ago.

Barry is a devoted family man. He met his Sydney-born wife, Michelle, in Minsky's pub during her midwifery training and the couple moved on to now have four daughters and two grandsons. The couple love to travel: Asia, Europe, UK: everywhere has its charms. One special highlight for Barry was a magical swim with the whale sharks in Exmouth. On a visit to Vienna, the couple sought out a famous café, reputedly once the "coffee stop" in earlier eras of such individuals as Trotsky, Lenin, Stalin and others, including the "father" of psychology: Sigmund Freud. "Where did Sigmund used to sit?" asked Baz, our intrepid "trick cyclist". "Why, right here Sir", said the obliging duty barista. Barry went along with it, but thinking: "I'll bet every visitor just gets shown to any random empty chair! but what the heck Adding: I noticed Hitler wasn't mentioned!".

That's Barry – sharp!

(Story Margot Harness)

1981 and 2005 – Two Interesting Years

Interesting Year 1981

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died

Interesting Year 2005

1. Prince Charles got married
2. Liverpool crowned soccer Champions of Europe.
3. Australia lost the Ashes.
4. The Pope died.

Lesson to be learned – The next time Prince Charles gets married, someone should warn the Pope

July in Military History (Courtesy AWM)

1 July 1916 First Battle of the Somme, the worst single day in the history of the British Army with 60,000 casualties.

1 July 1942 Sinking of the Montevideo Maru, Australia's worst maritime disaster. It carried more than 1050 Australian POW captured on New Britain and Ireland. The ship was sunk by submarine USS Sturgeon. No POW survived.

2 July 1950 No. 77 Squadron, the first Australian unit committed to Korea, flies its first combat mission.

4 July 1918 Battle of Hamel planned and conducted by LTGEN John Monash.

4 July 1918 LCPL T.L. Axford, 16 Battalion, wins the Victoria Cross at Vaire and Hamel Woods, France.

4 July 1941 Acting Wing Commander H. Edwards, 105 Sqn, RAAF, wins the Victoria Cross in a raid on Bremen.

5 July 1945 PM John Curtin dies in office.

6 July 1943 Darwin bombed 64 times during WW2.

10 July 1911 Formation of the RAN, which consisted of the battlecruiser Australia and several cruisers.

16 July 1940 HMA Ships Waterhen and Stuart on screen at the bombardment of Bardia.

19 July 1916 Battle of Fromelles. 5,533 Australians wounded or KIA.

19 July 1940 HMAS Sydney sinks the Italian cruiser Bartolomeo in battle of Cape Spada off Crete.

22 July 1917 Four members of the Australian Army Nursing Service awarded the Military Medal for rescuing patients trapped in a burning casualty clearing station at Trois Arbes, France.

22 July 1942 Beginning of the Battle of the Kokoda Trail.

22 July 1942 PTE A.S. Gurney, 2/48 Battalion, originally from Day Dawn, WA, wins Victoria Cross at Tel el Eisa, Egypt.

23 July 1916 Battle of Pozieres begins. Scene of several major attacks by Australian forces between 23 July and 5 August More than 12,000 Australians became casualties fighting at Pozieres.

24 July 1927 Opening of the Menin Gate Memorial to the missing, which records the names of over 56,000 allied soldiers, including 6,176 Australians missing in battles around Ypres.

26 July 1940 Formation of the RAAF Nursing Service. Membership expanded from 45 in December 1940 to 616 in December 1945. Service disbanded at the end of the war, re-established in 1948.

26 July 1950 Australian ground forces committed to Korea.

27 July 1942 Japanese capture Kokoda.

27 July 1942 Fighting at Ruin Ridge, Egypt. 2/28 Battalion in disastrous action against German troops.

27 July 1953 Ceasefire signed in Panmunjom, Korea, bringing hostilities to an end.

31 July 1962 Advance party of Australian Army Training Team, Vietnam (AATTV), led by Colonel Ted Sarong, arrives in South Vietnam.

31 July 2009 Australian combat troops cease operational role in Iraq.

CHUCKLE CORNER *(from Margot)*



A couple thought they would try out a new Chinese restaurant, and as a first course, selected “Chicken Surprise”. The waiter brought out the meal, served in a lidded cast iron pot. Just as the wife was about to serve herself, the lid of the pot rose slightly and she briefly saw two beady little eyes looking around before the lid dropped down.

“Good grief – did you see that?” she asked her husband. He hadn’t – so she asked him to check out the pot. He too reached for it, just as the lid rose again, and he saw two little eyes looking around before the lid softly closed again.

Both of them now perturbed, the husband called the waiter over, describing what was happening and demanding an explanation. “Please Sir”, says the waiter, “What you order?” The husband replies: “Chicken Surprise”.

“Oh ... so sorry, so sorry”, says the waiter; “I bring you Peeking Duck!”.

RESEARCHERS PARTICIPANTS REQUIRED

The number of women in the Australian Defence Force is increasing; however, there is limited understanding of women’s experiences once they leave the defence force and transition to civilian life.

This study is focused on the experiences of women veterans accessing suitable health, mental health and other well-being services whilst transitioning from the ADF to civilian life.



The proposed study aims to explore the suitability of existing services and any gaps in service provision for women veterans.

The research will contribute to addressing gaps, and improving the suitability of existing health, mental health and wellbeing services for women veterans.

What	60 min interview
Who	If you are a woman who has transitioned from the ADF in the past 15 years. You have experience of accessing health, mental health and wellbeing services after transitioning from the ADF. You are aged over 18 years old
Where	Either at Curtin University (WA) Online via Teams App Telephone

This research is being conducted by Bronwyn Tierney-Power, a social work Honours student at Curtin University, under the supervision of Dr Lynelle Watts, Paula Clough and Sophie Ridley. For further information please contact bronwyn.power@student.curtin.edu.au or Dr Lynelle Watts - lynelle.watts@curtin.edu.au

Curtin University Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) has approved this study (HRE2022-0246)