



## THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

[www.highgate-rsl.org.au](http://www.highgate-rsl.org.au)

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# Highgate Happenings **SEPTEMBER 2022**



Highgate President Geoff Simpson presents the Japanese Ambassador Mr Yamagami with a Highgate pen as thanks for his attendance.

## COME CELEBRATE OUR OBEs and OBNs

Last month ninety members and guests were entertained by the Japanese Ambassador Mr YAMAGAMI Shingo, who spoke at length on the security issues confronting his country, the Japan-Australia alliance and co-operation between our two nations in IT and robotics development. He also noted that all arms of the Japanese Defence Force were currently exercising with Australian and US forces in the Top End.

Mr Yamagami's attendance was thanks to the tireless efforts of Vice President John Cleary, who worked for several months to

achieve this coup. Thank you, John!

**This month** we don't have a guest speaker at lunch. Instead, we celebrate members who attain the age of eighty (OBE) or ninety (OBN) this year. Unfortunately, we don't have any members achieving a century in 2022. The lunch, to be held on **Monday 19 September**, will be preceded by our Annual General Meeting at 1230h. As has been previously publicised, nominations are called for all Committee positions. A copy of the nomination Form is on Page 5.

Lunch bookings (\$40 per person, raffle tickets \$5), can be made here:

<https://forms.gle/5ZQM7bJdz6LUwRkM8>

You can see who is attending here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CfWG0GwQE0sfmTxCfrBIGAU\\_X5Q4Yx-3V604bb6aXw/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1CfWG0GwQE0sfmTxCfrBIGAU_X5Q4Yx-3V604bb6aXw/edit?usp=sharing)

**Treasurer, Ray Ward**, is currently on a six-week trip in Europe – part of which is a tour in the footsteps of the Duke of Wellington (through Spain etc) before he took on Napoleon at Waterloo. He is also visiting Gibraltar and Malta. Ray is an apology for the AGM.

## Interim Report of Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide

Thanks to Bill Munro, the Secretary has a copy of this report. As the report is large (the summary of findings is six pages) please contact the Secretary for a copy (6.5mb).

**Welcome** Joan Daghish, Ned Robinson

## Happy Birthday

Richard Jones, Barry Long, Basil Twine, Richard Bird, Jock Geldart, Kim Doherty, David Scott, Peter Gilkison, Jeff Moorcroft, Eric McDonald, Bob Farrelly, Wayne Gardiner, Geoff Hourn, James Shackleton, Clive Smith, Guy Burton, Tony Howes, Lindsay Morrison, John Reidy-Crofts.

## Vale

Les Herbert, Deane Leighton Hill; Donald King (nee Pearson), Abe Sher (104).

## What's on the Events Radar

Monday 19 September 22 - AGM and OBE/OBN

Monday 17 October 22 - CDRE Ivan Ingham SADFO WA

**Friday 4 November 22 - Poppy Day. More details and roster next month**

**Sunday 13 November 22 Memorial Lunch** - Barry Nunn AO RFD ED. NOTE: No Monday lunch in November.

Monday 12 December 22 (second Monday) - 2UP Bush Band.

Monday 16 January 23 - Allan Downs

Monday 20 February 23- Ian McMillan COO Austal Ships

Monday 20 March 23 - Professor Dr Alexandra Ludewig, Head of School of Humanities UWA (rescheduled from July 22.)

**Tuesday 25 April – Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast, Weld Club.**

## Key statistics from 2021 census

- More than half a million Australians (581,139) have served, or are currently serving, in the ADF.
- There are 84,865 current serving members and 496,276 former serving members.
- One in twenty (5.3 per cent) of Australian households reported at least one person who had served or is serving in the ADF.
- 3,159 (3.7 per cent) of currently serving Australian Defence Force members, and 11,610 (2.3 per cent) of previously served, identify as having Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin.

Service in the Australian Defence Force(a) by state and territory(b), 2021 Census

	Currently serving in the regular service	Currently serving in the reserves	Previously served and not currently serving(c)	Total ever served(d)
New South Wales	18,007	6,506	127,657	152,170
Victoria	6,866	3,973	94,393	105,234
Queensland	16,803	6,339	139,973	163,112
South Australia	3,940	2,053	41,861	47,852
Western Australia	4,496	2,413	55,507	62,417
Tasmania	290	670	17,515	18,473
Northern Territory	3,874	547	5,110	9,534
Australian Capital Territory	5,977	2,084	14,164	22,220
Australia(e)	60,286	24,581	496,276	581,139

# 2021/22 Presidents Report

I present the President's report to the members of Highgate Sub-Branch of RSLWA for the year to June 30, 2022.

The past year has had some exceptional highlights and I will mention a few:

1. The formal Dining-In night held last September at the Weld Club to celebrate our centennial. Who could forget the magnificent oration by Geoff Horn, nor the great hospitality of the Weld Club thanks to Bill Munro and Ray Ward.
2. The exceptional speakers organised by John Cleary for our lunches, including Stephen Smith; the Lord Mayor, Basil Zempilas; the Chief Health Officer, Dr Andy Robertson; the Premier, Mark McGowan and only last month, the Japanese Ambassador.
3. Highgate has been the driving force behind The Korean War Memorial project for the past three years. With an approved design and funding in place, it is hoped that next year's commemoration will be at the new memorial. Congratulation to Bill Munro and his team.

The Honour Avenues Group of fifteen volunteers under the Chairmanship of Robin Slater continue to meet weekly to maintain the existing plaques in Kings Park and to prepare new plaques for dedication. HAG held three ceremonies during the year adding a further 28 plaques. Discussions continue with RSLWA and BGPA to resolve the disquiet amongst some members of both HAG and Highgate.

Our dedicated group of sub-wardens continue to provide ceremonial duties at the State War Memorial commemorations. My thanks go to our parade marshal, Mick Coyle, and bugler David Scott. The Hon. Kerry Sanderson AC, CVO completed her second year of duties as the Warden of the State War Memorial and was replaced by Maj-Gen Barry Nunn AO, RFD, ED – the 20<sup>th</sup> member of Highgate to be appointed to this exalted post.

Highgate continues to sponsor "The Listening Post", presented by Highgate member Tony Howes on Capital Community Radio at 6.00 pm every Monday. The program remembers snippets of war-time history, the best of military music, and interviews with a wide range of people having military backgrounds. He is ably assisted by Allan Downs as research officer. Allan remains on the search for a willing body to take on this rewarding task.

Membership continues to grow, despite 8 members being called to higher service. Mainly due to the untiring efforts of Barry Cooke we were able to recruit 24 new members, bringing numbers up to 235 members.

Poppy Day was again a success, raising over \$10,800. Many thanks to our coordinator Mike Harness and his able helpers. I hope we can attract more support from members this coming November.

My report would not be complete without extending my grateful thanks to the Highgate committee, each of whom does an outstanding job. Of special note has been our very efficient secretary, Greg Wilson, and our retiring Pensions Officer David MacLean.

I would also like to thank those who make the running of our monthly meetings go so smoothly – Bob Campbell and Peter Garside on the front desk, Peter Heeney and Ray Galliot, and of course the excellent staff of the ANZAC Club.

Let us hope 2023 is just as successful. Thank you all for your support.

Geoff Simpson OAM RFD

## September in Australian Military History

**4 September 1942:** - Japanese evacuation of Milne Bay, New Guinea begins. The fighting at Milne Bay resulted in the first defeat of a Japanese amphibious landing in the Second World War.

**4 September 1943:** - 9th Division land at Lae, New Guinea. Lae was the focus of a major land, sea, and air operation by Australian and American forces. Fighting lasted until 16 September, when the encircled Japanese garrison were either killed, captured, or escaped.

**6 September 1951:** - HMAS Anzac bombs targets near Haeju, Korea. The HMAS Anzac was detached from HMS Glory's screen to bombard targets near Haeju, Korea. The Anzac was one of 11 Australian ships to serve in Korea.

**8 September 1951:** - Peace treaty (Second World War) signed with Japan. The peace treaty signalled the formal end of hostilities with Japan, though the fighting had ended some six years before

**11 September 1914:** - The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landed at Rabaul and went into action at Bitapaka. This was the only major New Guinea action of the First World War.

**12 September 1955:** - 2nd Battalion, The Royal Australian Regiment, advance party arrive in Penang, Malaya. Australian forces served in Malaya as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve. Their primary role was to deter external communist aggression against south-east Asia and their secondary role was to assist in the suppression of the communist insurrection in Malaya.

**14 September 1914:** - HMA Submarine AE1 lost off New Guinea. The AE1 and AE2 were the first submarines to serve with the Royal Australian Navy. The AE1 disappeared without trace during operations for the capture of German New Guinea. The wreck was located in 2017 off the Duke of York island group.

**16 September 1942:** - Japanese advance in Owen Stanley Ranges stopped at Ioribaiwa. The Japanese were too ill-equipped and their supply lines too extended over forbidding terrain to enable them to reach their objective – Port Moresby.

**16 September 1943:** - Japanese abandon Lae after heavy fighting. Lae was the focus of a major land, sea, and air operation by Australian and American forces. Fighting lasted until 16 September when the encircled Japanese garrison were either killed, captured, or escaped.

**17 September 1944:** - Academy award-winning, Australian cameraman Damien Parer killed while filming American troops on Peleliu in the Pacific. Parer's documentary, Front-line Kokoda, won an Oscar for best documentary in 1943. Having filmed Australians in action during the early years of the war, Parer accepted a job with the American film company, Paramount, to film Americans in action in the Pacific.

**20 September 1912:** - Official approval given for the establishment of a military Central Flying School. Official formation of the Australian Flying Corps. The Australian Flying Corps went on to serve in Mesopotamia, the Middle East, and the Western Front and was the forerunner of the RAAF.

**21 September 1971:** - Battle of Nui Le, South Vietnam. Soldiers of B Company and D Company, 4RAR/NZ, fought an intense battle against a large enemy force from 33 North Vietnamese Army Regiment in the north of Phuoc Tuy province. The enemy defended their well-constructed bunker systems and then attacked D Company for several hours. Five Australians were killed in action, and 24 were wounded in this battle, which was part of Operation Ivanhoe. This was the last battle fought by Australians in South Vietnam, before the final withdrawal of the task force in early December 1971.

**25 September 1918:** - ANZAC Mounted Division capture Amman. The capture of Amman came during the final days of the fighting in Palestine, as British Empire troops routed the Turkish armies and won a series of decisive victories

**25 September 1942:** - HMAS Voyager grounded and destroyed at Betano Bay, Timor. The HMAS Voyager brought the 2/4th Independent Company to Timor to reinforce Australian troops already on the island. The ship came close in shore to land the troops but ran aground. The Australians were left with no option but to destroy it.

## Highgate's own: "Who's that?" ..... SOoooo : "LET'S GET TO KNOW Arthur HUTCHISON



Most members would have seen the occasional BHP ads on TV – proclaiming that their personnel are Australia's "Quiet Achievers". On occasions your lowly scribe has seen this ad and the name: "Arthur Hutchison" has sprung to mind. It's a *sobriquet* that exemplifies much about this modest man, who is content to 'fly under the radar', but has quietly notched up many, varied contributions to the WA community over many years - especially up in "the Perth Hills" area.

A quick 'overview' of his impressive community-based volunteering and service reveals

- CMF/Army Reserve service – over 33 years;
- 24 years (so far) with the State Emergency Service (SES) in Kalamunda; holding various training and leadership roles as he steadily rose to his current position of "Section Leader Operations";
- Cub Scout Leader in Kalamunda Scout Group –11 years.

Married, and helping to raise a son and daughter, ALL of these roles were being simultaneously maintained whilst, as a qualified welder, he bought, maintained, worked and managed his own steel fabrication business – with four employees. All over this city are bespoke steel staircases; atrium girders; exquisitely detailed wrought iron balustrades; strongly built car-parks etc – all produced by Arthur's "Antron Engineering" firm, which he ran for 26 years before retirement in 2008. It speaks volumes about not only Arthur's willing heart and practical capabilities that he could coordinate and juggle so many roles at once; he must have also been one helluva time-manager!

Since retirement, Arthur has been active in the RSL – serving as both a Sub-Warden at the State War Memorial and on the Honours Avenues Group at Kings Park, whenever his ongoing responsibilities at the SES allow.

He was always a hard worker. Born in 1942 (soon to be recognised as one of our "OBE" boys!) – he was the eldest of five children who grew up on an orchard in Piesse Brook. There were few opportunities for sports as a youth – his parents expected help to manage 10 acres of approximately 1000 citrus trees of various kinds. He attended the local Primary school and achieved his HSC at Kent Street High in Victoria Park. From there, he was apprenticed as a welder, commencing in 1958. He worked in various workshops, including as a foreman, before moving into his own steel-manufacturing business.

Arthur joined the CMF on 17 June 1964 and was allocated to 16 RWAR Infantry unit. He rose through the ranks to WO2, becoming the CSM of HQ Company for five years; followed by another five years as CSM Admin Company at 16 RWAR – retiring (reluctantly!) at age 55: the then compulsory age.

Arthur married Wendy in March 1973 and they were happily married for 39 years before, within weeks of being diagnosed, she passed away with cancer on 5 April 2012. On retirement, the couple had taken to "caravanning" with gusto. Both loved sight-seeing – and delighted in travelling through much of Australia. They joined "the Bi-Tone Caravan Club" in 1988 – and ... yet another string to Arthur's 'bow' – he currently serves as Club President (his second term). Wendy always staunchly supported Arthur's CMF activities and both his RSL and local volunteering, recognising how integral these interests are in his life. Their son, Trevor, lives in Melbourne, and Arthur periodically takes off in the van to cross the continent to visit him and his family – most recently, in June this year. Their daughter, Sandra, is also married but fortunately lives in Perth. She has a teenage son.

Storms in the Kalamunda district have often tested the resources of the much-appreciated, local "SES". Branches and trees get blown over or down; unpredictable "willy-willy" winds can loosen roofing on homes and sheds; unroofed houses being deluged by rain are not unheard of. At any time, day or night ("usually night" Arthur has joked!) this band of men can be called out to come to the aid of the dismayed, affected residents. If you are ever in the Hills and see a valiant soul, aloft on a ladder, stretching a blue

tarpaulin over a gaping roof against a stiff wind, spare an admiring thought – because it could well be “our” rather wonderful, Arthur!

*Thanks to Margot Harness*

### **CHUCKLE CORNER:**



Paddy was a youthful and hard-working Irishman at a Donegal coastal village. Daily he would pole a heavy old punt out to sea then work a heavy iron grapple to bring up the sand oysters which he sold to the local ice-works.

He was a man of regular habits – leaving and arriving home each day at the same times.

Sadly, Paddy did not realise that the heavy grappling was taking a toll on a faulty heart.

One day he failed to come home; so his wife contacted the Garda (Police) and asked them to investigate her missing husband.

They rowed out and found Paddy dead in the punt. Beside him, was a huge grapple, full of oysters he had tried to hoist aboard.

The headline in the next day’s “Irish Times” Newspaper read: - “Oysters Kilpatrick!”

*I struggle with Roman numerals until I get to 159, then it just CLIX.*

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### **Attention All Members**

**In accordance with RSLWA By-law 5, notice is given that the Highgate RSL Sub-Branch Annual General Meeting will be conducted at the Anzac Club from 1230h on Monday 19 September 2022.**

All positions become vacant.

A Nomination Form is provided below, and must be lodged with the Secretary by 1100h on 19 September 2022.

Additional forms are available from the Secretary.

G. F. Wilson  
Secretary  
28 August 2022

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### **NOMINATION FOR COMMITTEE & SUB-COMMITTEES 2022-2023**

We hereby nominate: \_\_\_\_\_

For the position of: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_

Secunder: \_\_\_\_\_

Acceptance by Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2/16 Battalion AIF Celebrations

The 2/16 Battalion AIF Association would like to formally extend an invitation to attend the 2022 Brigadier Arnold Potts Oration, in commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the Kokoda Campaign. The Oration will be presented by Brigadier Brett Chaloner CSC, Commander 13 Brigade, on Friday 16 September at 6.30pm.

The association will be hosting three events over the course of a weekend in September, including the Oration, to commemorate and celebrate the Veterans of the Kokoda campaign, and raise funds to continue our work in supporting the families of those Veterans, as well as the serving persons and their families of 16 RWAR.

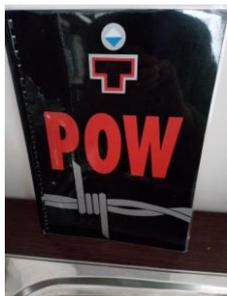
2/16 BATTALION AIF ASSOCIATION EXTENDS AN INVITATION  
TO ALL ASSOCIATION MEMBERS, FRIENDS & FAMILY

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF THE 1942 KOKODA CAMPAIGN

COMMEMORATIVE EVENTS

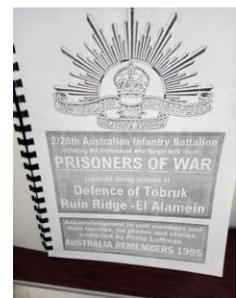
BRIGADIER ARNOLD POTTS ORATION FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER PERTH CONVENTION & EXHIBITION CENTRE \$95 PER TICKET TICKETS VIA <a href="https://trybooking.com/CBHLZ">TRYBOOKING.COM/CBHLZ</a>	ARMY BAND CONCERT & AFTERNOON TEA SATURDAY 17 SEPTEMBER GOVERNMENT HOUSE \$10 PER TICKET TICKETS VIA <a href="https://trybooking.com/CBISO">TRYBOOKING.COM/CBISO</a>	WREATH LAYING SERVICE & COMMEMORATION SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER FLAME OF REMEMBRANCE KINGS PARK FREE TO ATTEND
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FOR FURTHER DETAILS  
WWW.2ND16ASSOC.COM.AU      216ASSOC@GMAIL.COM



### CAN YOU HELP??

Anne Le Fevre, and others, are re-booting The Rats of Tobruk Association. Anne's father, himself a Rat, was secretary of the earlier Association until he passed away. Our late member and former Rat, Phil Loffman, produced a book on the history of the Rats. (Front and back covers produced here.



Anne has a photocopy, but is seeking a printed edition.

If you know where the Association can access a copy, Please contact Alan Downs or the Highgate Secretary.



Australian Army Museum of Western Australia

# BACK TO THE BARRACKS

Lecture Series



## DR LEIGH STRAW

Leigh Straw is an academic, historian and writer. Leigh was the joint winner of the 2018 Margaret Medcalf Award for her book *After the War: Returned Soldiers and the Mental and Physical Scars of World War I*. She is Associate Professor in History at The University of Notre Dame Australia.

'Of the 32,000 West Australian men who enlisted in World War I, 23,700 returned from the war. War receded from immediate view as these men readjusted to civilian life, but its impacts endured. Many returned with disabilities, mental health problems, and a lowered sense of self-worth that led some to take their own lives.'

**Wednesday 5th October, from 7pm**

The Lecture Room  
Artillery Barracks  
6 Burt Street Fremantle

**Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/CCGTZ](http://www.trybooking.com/CCGTZ)**

Please see our website [www.armymuseumwa.com.au](http://www.armymuseumwa.com.au) for more details.

