



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: gregfw@iinet.net.au
All correspondence to PO Box 66 Duncraig East 6023



Highgate Happenings **OCTOBER 2022**



Celebrating joining the ranks of OBE/OBN are Arthur Hutchison, Michael Harness, Allan Downs, Eric MacDonald and Malcolm Weatherhead wielding the Brigadier Dosoo Gimi sword. Unfortunately, a number of new OBE/OBN were apologies and missed an excellent lunch.

SADFO WA OCTOBER GUEST SPEAKER

Our October guest speaker is the Senior ADF Officer (SADFO) Western Australia, Commodore Ivan Ingham AM.

Date for the lunch is Monday 17 October 22, 1200 for 1230h. Cost the usual \$40, plus \$5 for a raffle ticket.

Ivan Ingham AM- Started his Navy career in the UK, he served in many Royal Navy ships including a Minehunter, a Hong Kong Patrol Vessel, two Frigates, five Destroyers and the Aircraft Carrier, HMS ILLUSTRIOUS. During his 20-year RN career he experienced repeated operational deployments to the South Atlantic, Mediterranean, Adriatic, Middle East and

Asia before transferring to the Royal Australian Navy in 2001.

In the second phase of his career, he served in the Gulf during the Iraq War (2003) and has been privileged to deploy on operations during his three RAN sea commands. As CO HMAS TOWNSVILLE (05-06), he conducted government directed Border Protection operations. Later, in HMAS TOOWOOMBA (09-10), he commanded the RAN's first deployment to the Middle East for Counter-Terrorism and Counter-Piracy operations which resulted in thwarting a Somali piracy attack in the Gulf of Aden. As Captain HMAS PERTH (14-16), he was responsible for the success of the first operational deployment and employment of the RAN's ASMD and MH60R helicopter capabilities in the Middle East Region.



As Commodore Warfare (COMWAR) and subsequently as Commodore Flotillas (COMFLOT) (17-19) he was responsible for generating and certifying Navy's warfighting capabilities as well as acting as Navy's deployable Commander (TF/TG) and Maritime Component Commander (MCC). During this period he developed the Fleet Warfare Plan, the Warfighting Campaign Plan and established the Maritime Task Group (MTG) Staff. In his role as the deployable MCC, he commanded Task Force 176 as the Expeditionary Strike Group Commander for RIMPAC18 and commanded all maritime forces in TALISMAN SABRE 19. He was also the Deputy Commander of Australia's Deployable Joint Force HQ (DJFHQ).

He was educated and trained at Britannia Royal Naval College (BRNC) Dartmouth and the Royal Naval College Greenwich. He is a graduate of the US Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island and Salve Regina University. He was awarded a Commendation for Distinguished Service for his role bombarding targets on the Al Faw Peninsula (Iraq War 2003). In 2011 he was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Appointed Senior Australian Defence Force Officer Western Australia November 21.

The link to the October Booking Sheet is: <https://forms.gle/E18cS5Tp39pErxaW7>

The VIEW only link to the Response Sheet is:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/15ECcd17D7_Ry9--Q3nNHtTWQ2yyN1qwWoZKkCSAKKVw/edit?usp=sharing

The Crown Upon the RSL Badge

Contrary to popular theory, there is no male or female crown. They are family crowns, such as Tudor (single surmounting arch) and St Edwards (surmounting paired half-arches).

For the Crowning itself, His Majesty King Charles will likely keep tradition and wear the **St Edwards Crown**. It is then locked away in the Tower of London. The St Edwards Crown is the one you see used on the RSL Australia badge.



As His Majesty leaves Westminster Abbey after the Coronation, he will likely wear the **Imperial (Tudor) State Crown** (left). Queen Elizabeth changed this from the high single arch design we saw when King George VI reigned to one with a lower arch. It is also worn for the opening of Parliament.

The Coronation will likely not be for a few months, and His Majesty is not allowed to wear any crown until then.

This is information to the best of our understanding, and the RSL will follow the government's direction regarding Royal protocols and what depiction of the crown will be used. For the time being, the RSL will continue to acknowledge the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II during the National period of Mourning.

DAVID BRIDGFOOT

Ceremonial and Commemorations Officer, RSL Australia



Vale Abe Sher

9 May 1918 – 29 August 2022

Born in Cape Town, South Africa, Abe served in the South African forces during the Second World War. He joined the 2nd Natal Mounted Rifles in April 1940, before appointment to the 3rd Field Regiment of the Transvaal Horse Artillery, in North Africa in 1941.



Photo courtesy Roger Buddrige

Shortly after Rommel's breakthrough at Bir Hakim and the Allied defeat at Fort Acroma, Abe's troop formed part of the composite force to strengthen the perimeter of Tobruk. They were cut off and captured, as was his brother, Bennett, who was with the Capetown Highlanders. Abe was sent to Italy; initially near Lucca, but shortly afterwards he found himself as a field labourer at Susegana in the Italian Alps, where regular Red

Cross parcels made life easier. In mid-1942 all Jewish POWs were moved to another camp, which was, to quote Abe: “disconcerting”. Despite various rail journeys and several long-forced marches, the POWs were fairly well treated by the Italians. Indeed, in hindsight, Abe believed that the Italian authorities did what they could to protect Jewish POWs from the Nazis. He ended up at Camp Tschausch in Bohemia (Czech Republic), as a forced labourer at the Hermann Goring Petro-chemical works which used brown coal to produce the petrol. In the heart of a huge industrial region, sustained bombing was a regular hazard, night and day. In May 1944, working with a mostly British gang, excavating at the brown coal site, he witnessed an extraordinary raid in broad daylight. After Pathfinders had laid out the target area (the nearby benzine factory), using four white phosphorus smoke pointers, around 1,000 US Liberators and Flying Fortress bombers, in formation, came over and dropped their bombs. The raid lasted a full 45 minutes, setting the whole Benzine complex so ablaze, it would be three months before it could resume operation. On 8 May 1945, Camp Tschausch was liberated by the advancing Russian Army. Abe was repatriated to the U.K. Offered two university courses in Scotland, he accepted both; ‘International Affairs’ at St Andrews and ‘Agriculture’ at Aberdeen.

At the same time, his brother, Bennett, detained in different camps, escaped and was recaptured three times, but eventually escaped and lived for months behind the German lines—leading a group of other ex-POW escapees. For his bravery and ingenuity, he was awarded the Military Medal.

On his return to South Africa, Abe resumed his civil occupation, before marrying and became a solicitor. He was elected as a Councillor in a new local authority near Capetown. As Mayor he negotiated with the South African government to construct a nuclear power station at Koeberg in his municipality.

In 1998, Abe embarked on his next adventure, migration to Perth. He quickly discovered the men and women of the RSL. Grandson Jeremy Sher advised that his grandfather took enormous joy from the camaraderie, fellowship and understanding of his fellow veterans. Indeed, the monthly lunches were of great importance to him. “My grandfather often told me of the experiences of the people that he met at these lunches. He particularly appreciated meeting the occasional Anzac that had served in North Africa. Each year, I was honoured to accompany him to the Anzac Day and Remembrance Day ceremonies. He kept attending the ceremonies, including this year. When he put on a suit, my grandfather always wore his “zig zag” artillery tie and RSL badge with immense pride.”

Abe can be summed up by a written testimony from a senior colleague when he departed South Africa, which stated in part: “Your service to the community constitutes an absolute beacon which is characterised by commitment, fairness and a gentle touch as only you know how. It has been a great pleasure for us to know Abe Sher the man and Abe Sher the gentleman.”

Adapted from Margot Harness article initially published Highgate News in 2013 and grandson Jeremy Sher's notice to Highgate on Abe's passing.



Congratulations to members celebrating October birthdays:

Leon Newman, Mike Wadsworth, Ken Jones, John Morriss, Arthur Hutchison, Peter Rowles, Phillip Skelton, Colin Taylor, Margot Harness, John Lindsay, Shirly Mooney, Bill Munro, Paul Brabazon, Stan Stewart, Glen Darlington, Tania Aitken, Ian “Mo” Mulholland, Howard Montagu, Roger Buddrige, Michael Sutherland, Chris Atturo, Ian Healy, John Barnes, Jack Suriano.

What's Happening

Monday 17 October 22 - CDRE
Ivan Ingham SADFO WA

**Friday 4 November 22 - Poppy
Day.**

Sunday 13 November 22

Memorial Lunch – Guest Speaker
Barry Nunn AO RFD ED, retiring
Warden, State War Memorial.

Location: Fraser's Kings Park, cost
\$80 per person. Bookings open 7
October.

NOTE: No Monday lunch in No-
vember.

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 (re-
scheduled from July 22.)

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



This year's **Poppy Appeal** will be held
on **Friday 4 November 2022**.

RSLWA's largest annual fundraising
event for the year is the Poppy Appeal.
Created in 1921, this is our longest-run-
ning fundraiser as well. The Poppy Ap-
peal runs alongside Remembrance Day, where poppies are

given in return for a donation; all of these donations go di-
rectly into assisting veterans in need; whether that be with
financial matters, mental and physical health issues and/or
transitioning into the civilian world.

Highgate Coord, Ray Ward, is seeking members to "Rattle
a Tin" and advises:

Collection sites are AS USUAL: Elizabeth Quay Train AND
Bus stations AND Perth Bus-port in Wellington Street.

VOLUNTEERS ("The more the merrier") ARE needed – and
can register at the OCTOBER Luncheon or contact Ray
Ward Ph. 0409 426 677 or c42ward@bigpond.net.au

PEAK COLLECTION TIME: 0630h to 0930h or any part
thereof. Please help for a while if you can.

DRESS: Smart – tie optional; hat preferred; medals should
be worn.

PREFERRED COLLECTION LOCATION AND TIME:
Optional, but please specify BOTH

The Sub-Branch has a number of SQUARE readers to re-
ceive donations electronically.

HIGHGATE REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCH

Sunday 13 November at Frasers Restaurant, Kings Park.

The lunch will be preceded by a short memorial service at

The Flame at 1130am, followed by lunch at 1200 for 1230. Cost \$80 all inclusive, Guest Speaker
Barry Nunn AO RFD ED, retiring Warden, State War Memorial. Note there will be no lunch at The
Anzac Club in November. Booking sheet out shortly. Partners and guests welcome.

OUTCOME OF AGM HELD ON 19 SEPTEMBER 2022

Congratulations to our new President and committee:

Committee: **President** Geoff Simpson OAM, **Senior Vice President** John Cleary, **Vice President**
Bruce Taylor, **Treasurer** Ray Ward, **Secretary** Greg Wilson, **Membership Officer** Barry Cooke, **Pen-
sions & Veterans Affairs Officer** vacant, **Hospital & Welfare** Howard Montagu, **Committee Mem-
bers** Paul Salpietro, Margot Harness, Steve Chamarette. **Wardens** Bill Munro JP and Geoff Hourn
AM.

Just Joking: A Cessna with a Barbados registration number lands on the biggest U.S. Navy nuclear
aircraft carrier. The pilot is taken into custody and brought before the admiral. "How dare you
land on a U.S. nuclear aircraft carrier?!!!" barks the admiral. "Sorry, sir, an honest mistake. It
looks just like one of ours."