



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

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Highgate Happenings DECEMBER 2022

HIGHGATE REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE AND LUNCH



His Excellency Chris Dawson displays the replacement plaque memorialising his uncle, flanked by Robin Slater (left) and President Geoff.

Sunday 13 November saw over 100 members and guests attend the Sub-Branch Remembrance Day service at the Court of Contemplation, followed by an excellent lunch at Frasers. Thank you to Leon Griffiths, John Cleary, President Geoff Simpson and others who made the day a pleasant one.

At the lunch the outgoing Warden, Barry Nunn gave a short address before welcoming his replacement, Brett Dowsing. Ian Petkoff then spoke on the history of Honour Avenue. A query about the location of an uncle's plaque several years ago from the now Governor, His Excellency Chris Dawson APM, led to an audit of Honour Avenue plaques. Five were found to be missing. Four replacements were dedicated

on 12 November, the fifth, honouring His Excellency's uncle, 597 Captain Frank Smith MC, was presented to the Governor by Robin Slater, Chairman of the Honour Avenue Group and Highgate President Geoff Simpson.

His Excellency gave a brief history of Captain Smith, an original member of E Company, 11 Battalion, who landed at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915. He rose through the ranks and transferred to 51 Battalion when it was created from 11 Battalion. He was killed at Villers-Bretonneux on 25 April 1918, aged 27 and is buried in Adelaide Cemetery, Villers-Bretonneux. His brother was also a casualty of the war. Captain Smith's plaque will be co-located with the one honouring his brother in the Kings Park Honour Avenue.

Happy Birthday

Celebrating December birthdays are:

Peter Heeney, Ron Packer, Peter Lawrance, John Fisher, Ray Galliot, Greg Lakeman, Douglas Melville, Barry Cooke, Tony Fragomini, Robert Dickson, Damien Quirk, Jim Irving, Michael Harness, Derek Ladyman, Duncan Warren, Dick Albury, Kevin Graham, Robin Slater, John Adeney, Ross Cable, Bob Elliott, William Kynaston.

A particular shout out to Rabbi Shalom Coleman AM CBE JP, celebrating his 104th birthday this month. See page 5



HONORARY MEMBERSHIP CONFERRED

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch welcomes Dr Gabrielle Maluga, Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany as an Honorary Member. Dr Maluga's appointment was ratified by the Board of RSLWA in early November and Highgate President Geoff Simpson presented her with her honorary member certificate at our Remembrance Day lunch. Dr Maluga has been a great friend of our Sub-Branch over the last twelve months, supporting and

sponsoring a number of activities.

This honour also recognises the close defence relationship between Germany and the ADF. The ADF has purchased hardware from Germany over many years starting with Mercedes-Benz Unimogs and Leopard tanks. Recent purchases include the G Wagon multi-purpose light vehicle, Rheinmetall MAN medium and heavy protected vehicles and trailers, Airbus Tiger and MRH 90 Helicopters and various special light arms.

Germany was one of the main contributors of troops to coalition operations in Afghanistan and suffered 62 deaths. The Bundeswehr withdrew from that country at the same time as the ADF.



DECEMBER LUNCH

Our next lunch will be held on **Monday 12 December** at the Anzac Club, 1200h for 1230h. Cost \$40, raffle tickets \$5 if one wishes to indulge. Note this is the **SECOND** Monday of the month. Ties optional.

The links for the December luncheon are:

a. Booking Form: <https://forms.gle/FYvmj2sHue4s9urF7>

b. Response Sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1leLwnXYa_-OFuZxs4LD_9Q1sAc-bSHyawX4vwt5_TrCs/edit?usp=sharing

There is no guest speaker, but Vice President John Cleary has yet again arranged entertainment for us all, with the return of the Three Up Bush Band. Three Up Bush Band perform all-time favourites such as Waltzing Matilda and Click Go the Shears, using a creative combination of guitar, banjo, fiddle (or accordion) and 2 vocals, plus clarinet/trombone for a few jazzy tunes. They also perform Irish songs/jigs & reels, C&W, early R&R, folk, novelty, some comedy & a few bush dances. John advises that only two of the entertainers are able to make it, so it will be the Three Up Bush Band minus one, or the Two-Up Band.

Just Joking:

Me: "I'm an expert at identifying birds."

My friend: "Ok, what are those flying in a group over the tuart tree?"

Me: "Birds. All of them."

What's Happening

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

Monday 16 January 23 – Tony Howes interviews Allan Downs

Although the Anzac Club is closed throughout January, they will still cater functions and our lunch will still be at the Anzac Club.

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.

Highgate's own: "Who's that?" SOoooo : "LET'S GET TO KNOW" David MacLEAN

Some people are just 'gems'. Without any fanfare, they calmly project decency, good-naturedness and quiet capabilities in spades. Like Professor Julius Sumner Miller (remember him?) used to ask on his TV classes on physics: "WHY is it so"??

Good question. But it's pretty clear that this South Perth-raised lad came from

a happy home. Born in 1942, he was the eldest child of four, with two sisters and one brother (deceased). David's early schooling was at Christian Brothers College (St Francis' – Vic Park) – and then on to secondary level at CBC in Perth city. Activities he enjoyed as a young man revolved mainly around Aussie rules football and hockey.



Keen to join the RAN, he briefly became a shop assistant until old enough to enlist. David declared the Oath of Allegiance as a 'rookie' Navy Communicator on 27 June 1959, undergoing training at HMAS "Cerberus" (better known as Flinders Naval Depot in those days), to qualify as a Radio Operator. He was posted to HMAS "Voyager" (1960-1962); followed by a short stint on the "Queenborough" in that same year; and ended up at HMAS "Harman" (between Canberra and Queanbeyan).

By February 1963 however, he saw better long-term prospects lay with the-then Dept of Civil Aviation, so applied for discharge and took up a job as a Communications Officer in Papua New Guinea, serving at Port Moresby, Lae and Madang airfields until 1966. During 1963-64, the lure of khaki must have struck, and he became a Private (Rifleman/Sig) in the Communications Platoon of "D" Company, 11 Battalion, PNG Volunteer Rifles. Few people would have had *that* experience!



1966 was a milestone year. On leave, he attended someone's 21st Birthday party, and 'Kismet' struck, with a vengeance! – he met his beloved Jean – a Nursing Sister who had just graduated from training at Fremantle Hospital. Her plans to take up a job in Sydney were short-circuited by this romance and marriage, with David's DCA job taking them from WA up to Darwin for three years before PNG beckoned once more. A real highlight for David during this time was his selection to become an Air traffic Controller, in 1971. The couple remained in PNG until 1976 before returning to Perth; where David's Air Traffic Control job continued until he retired in 1994.

They have three sons, ALL of whom are lawyers: one a District Court Judge; another a Magistrate; and one a senior corporate lawyer here in Perth. Clearly, David and Jean have raised a uniquely distinguished family.

Along the way, David spent 17 active years as a volunteer with the Kalamunda Unit of the WA State Emergency Service; and has worked tirelessly – more than 20 years - as a much-respected voluntary advocate for ex-ADF and veterans - in both wellbeing and compensation matters. He has tried to “retire” from advocacy – but, ever soft-hearted: he keeps getting cajoled to “take on one more case”! He and Jean have been married for 56 years and as well as their three married sons, have 10 grandchildren. To cap things off, this year he is one of Highgate’s highly valued “OBEs”.

A kind and generous heart; great capabilities ... the man is a ‘gem’ alright: a diamond!
(David was interviewed by Margot Harness)

December in Australian Military History *(courtesy AWM)*

1 December 1942 HMAS Armidale sunk. HMAS Armidale was sunk by Japanese aircraft near Timor. As the Armidale sank Able Seaman Teddy Sheean fired at attacking bombers until he was lost with his ship.

1 December 1951 Air battle over Sunchon, North Korea. In this, the largest air-to-air battle fought by the RAAF during the Korean war, twelve 77 Squadron Meteors met between 40-50 Chinese Mig-15s. The fight precipitated a change from an air interception to a ground attack role for No. 77 Squadron.

3 December 1914. First AIF disembarked in Egypt. Though many had expected to go to Britain, after Turkey's entry into the war, the first Australian troops were sent to Egypt to protect the vital Suez Canal.

4 December 1990 Royal Australian Navy involvement in the Persian Gulf approved, Approval given by the Australian Government for the Royal Australian Navy's involvement in the Persian Gulf. Ultimately eight Australian ships served in the Gulf.

5 December 1939. First official RAAF operation of the Second World War. A Sunderland aircraft of No. 10 Squadron RAAF, flew on the first official RAAF operation of the Second World War. This was the beginning of six years of war for 10 Squadron, which flew as part of RAF Coastal Command continuously against U-boats in the battle of the Atlantic.

7 December 1915. Evacuation of Anzac Forces from Gallipoli begins. Though the Gallipoli campaign had failed British empire forces at least planned and executed the evacuation without loss. The evacuation was completed on 20 December. The evacuation of Gallipoli, largely planned by Brigadier General C.B.B. White, was a triumph of careful planning and bold execution.

9 December 1917. Jerusalem occupied by the Desert Mounted Corps. The capture of Jerusalem, a city significant for Christians, Jews and Muslims, was one of the triumphs for British empire forces in the Middle East in 1917.

9 December 1942. Australians occupy Gona, New Guinea. The Japanese withdrawal from the Kokoda Trail enabled the allies to plan the encirclement of important Japanese positions in the Buna, Sanananda and Gona beachhead. Gona was the first of the three to fall to the allies after weeks of heavy fighting.

11 December 1952. Operation Fauna, Korea. The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment begins Operation Fauna in Korea, its objective is to capture prisoners and destroy enemy defences.

Operation Fauna was a major trench raid on Chinese positions near Hill 355 to snatch a prisoner. Although no prisoners were taken, Chinese dispositions near Hill 355 were seriously disrupted.

17 December 1967. HMAS Perth comes under fire off Dong Hoi, Vietnam.

24 December 1941. Benghazi recaptured. Benghazi changed hands five times as the North African campaign ebbed and flowed along the Mediterranean coast.

31 December 1914. The second convoy of the 1st AIF departs Albany. Volunteers for the AIF enlisted so readily that a second convoy left within two months of the first. Many of those on board landed on Gallipoli on 25 April 1915.

Happy 104th Birthday Shalom Coleman

Shalom Coleman was conscripted in 1939 and became a Royal Air Force Gunner/Wireless Operator with 107 Boston Squadron, operating over Western Europe. From 1947 – 1960 he was a Padre (Rabbi) with the South African Forces. In 1966 he migrated to Perth and became Chief Rabbi Perth Hebrew Congregation until 1985. He was also Chairman Perth Beth Brin 1966 – 1985. In 1966 he became Chaplain 5th Military District (Captain), served as Padre to Z Special Unit, and a number of other ex-service associations, including the Fleet Air Arm Association. He was appointed a JP in 1967.

He was a member of the Murdoch University Senate, Vice Chairman of the Save the Children Fund in 1967, Chairman Committee of National Pride in Schools 1981 -1991, Committee on Religious Studies in Schools 1983 -85, a Trustee of both the Karrakatta Cemetery Board and Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, Chairman Perth Dental Hospital Board. Rabbi Coleman was also a member of RSLWA state Executive from 1985 to 1987.

In 1977 received the Queen's Coronation Medal and Awarded the Order of the British Empire – Commander (Civil) (Imperial) in recognition of service to youth, education and Jewish community in 1980. In 1990 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of service to religion and the community.

A life of exception service to his religion and his community. Happy Birthday Shalom.

CHUCKLE CORNER:

Morrie's Mobile "dinged" – an SMS from the neighbour next door.....

"Hi, Morrie. This is Jim, next door. I've been riddled with guilt for a few months and have been trying to get up the courage to tell you face-to-face. When you're not around, I've been sharing your wife, day and night, probably much more than you. I haven't been getting it at home recently. I know that's no excuse. The temptation was just too great. I can't live with the guilt and hope you'll accept my sincere apology and forgive me.

Please suggest a fee for usage and I'll pay you. - Jim "

So, Morrie, feeling enraged and betrayed, grabbed his gun, went next door, and shot Jim dead. He returned home, shot his wife, poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. Morrie then looked at his phone and discovered a second text message from next-door:

SECOND TEXT MESSAGE:

"Hi, Morrie. Jim again. Sorry about the typo on my last text. I assume you figured it out and noticed that the darned Spell-Check had changed "wi-fi" to "wife." Technology, eh? It'll be the death of us".