



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 FEBRUARY 2023

ANNIVERSARY MARKS THE START OF COMMEMORATIVE YEAR FOR VIETNAM VETERANS

11 January marked 50 years since the 1973 proclamation of the end of Australian involvement in the Vietnam War.

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Matt Keogh said 11 January also marked the beginning of the official **Vietnam 50** commemorations for 2023.

"More than 60,000 Australians served in Vietnam, over 3,000 were wounded and 523 lost their lives in the longest conflict Australia was involved in during the 20th Century," Minister Keogh said.

"This was a war that was at times contentious at home, and for some veterans their service not recognised as it should have been.

"In December we marked the 50th anniversary of the Whitlam Labor Government's end to the last National Service scheme in Australia and the anniversary of the withdrawal of the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam.

"The Australian Government is honouring those who served, and throughout this commemorative year will specifically recognise and honour the service and sacrifice of Vietnam veterans and their families," Minister Keogh said.

All Vietnam Veterans and National Servicemen, even if they were not deployed, are eligible to claim through the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) and entitled to a White Card that includes mental health support.

DVA will recognise this significant anniversary through a broad awareness campaign throughout 2023 including a documentary series to be screened on the ABC, and providing historical and educational resources to schools, ex-service organisations and community groups.

This will culminate in a national commemorative service on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August 2023, at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial on Anzac Parade, in Canberra, recognising the service of all Australians who served in the Vietnam War and honouring the sacrifices that they and their families made. The service will be broadcast Australia wide by the ABC.

If you are planning an event or project to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, you might like to consider applying for a grant under the Saluting Their Service Commemorative Grants Program (STS). STS provides funding for projects that commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian service personnel in wars, conflicts and peace operations. The current batch is open for applications, and closes on 7 February 2023. For more information about what is eligible, grant guidelines, and the application form, please visit [Grant Connect](#)

For more information about acknowledging the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War, visit the DVA website: www.dva.gov.au/VietnamCommemorativeService (Reproduced from VeteranWeb)

FEBRUARY LUNCH

Our next lunch will be held on **Monday, 20 February**, at the Anzac Club, 1200h for 1230h. Cost \$40, raffle tickets \$5 if one wishes to indulge. Ties optional. Guest speaker is Ian McMillan, Chief Operating Officer of Austal Australia,

The links for the February luncheon are:

a. Booking Form: <https://forms.gle/TtYd5FqnaxGYuTPU8>

b. Response Sheet: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EA6kJqeGPMYQvIFtu-SE6BUUbcqDHODO_GEq5S8d19U/edit?usp=sharing



Ian McMillan was appointed Chief Operating Officer of Austal Australia, effective January 2021, following the transition by Patrick Gregg to Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director in the new year.

Austal's Chief Operating Officer, based in Henderson, Western Australia and has responsibility for Australia, Philippines and Vietnam shipbuilding and sustainment operations, as well as management of Austal's interests in the Aulong commercial shipbuilding joint-venture in China.

Ian McMillan joined Austal from BAE Systems Australia, where he has held several senior executive roles since 2013, including Director of Shipbuilding and General Manager, Shipyards Western Australia. In his most recent role as Director, Maritime Sustainment, Ian was responsible for leading BAE Systems Australia's national sustainment business comprising more than 1,000 employees across 5 locations around Australia, supporting multiple vessel classes for the Royal Australian Navy.

Ian McMillan's 36-year depth of experience in the Australian and international defence industries, particularly in naval shipbuilding and sustainment, has added great value to Austal's Australasian operations.

Austal Limited (Austal) announced in November that Austal Australia has delivered the third of eight Evolved Cape-class Patrol Boats (ECCPB's) to the Royal Australian Navy.

The vessel, ADV Cape Naturaliste, was officially accepted by the Commonwealth of Australia.

"Austal has now delivered three Evolved Capes to the Royal Australian Navy since the contract was signed in May 2020. Our productivity has improved with each new vessel, to the point where Austal is launching a new Evolved Cape after just 12 months construction.

The fourth vessel, the future ADV Cape Capricorn, is alongside now and we have four more Evolved Capes at various stages of production, here in Henderson.

"With the continued support of our trusted supply chain partners, the Austal shipbuilding team is well on track to deliver all eight Evolved Cape-class Patrol Boats to the Navy by mid-2024, on schedule.

What's Happening

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.

Monday 15 May 23 - Dr Karen Filbee-Dexter; Marine Ecologist, School of Biological Sciences, UWA

Monday 19 June 23 - Hon Mia Davies MLA Former WA Leader of the Opposition*

17/7/23 - Consul-General of India (to be confirmed)

**Please note that due to her unavailability in July, the former Leader of the Opposition will now be our guest in June.*

Vale WF91197 Rosa Palmer (nee Luck), aged 99 years. Rosa served in RAAOC from 16 June 1943 to 22 September 1945 at 7th Australian Advance Ordnance Depot, Nungarin. She was the wife of the late BRIG Laurie Palmer AO.



Lunch Raffles Prizes Wanted

Raffle co-ordinator Leon Griffiths is requesting for donations for the raffle.

Unwanted Christmas presents or any alcohol the doctor won't let a member drink?

Can donate vouchers if they wish.

We need some contributions.

Maybe someone owns a pub or vineyard?

Appreciated.

Thank you.

Regards. Leon



Australian Navy – On the Gun-line

A short documentary on the guided missile destroyer HMAS Perth (II) was filmed during

her second deployment to Vietnam between September 1968 and April 1969.

Check out the link to the You Tube video at <https://veteranweb.asn.au/news/australian-navy-on-the-gunline/>

Australia to buy long-range HIMARS missile system

Australia's Army will have an unprecedented long-range strike capability with the purchase of the US-made High

Mobility Artillery Rocket (HIMARS) system, which Ukraine has praised for its devastating effectiveness against invading Russian forces.

The Albanese government has finalised a deal to buy 20 of the truck-mounted rocket launchers by 2026, while signing another deal to acquire the Norwegian-made Naval Strike Missiles (NSM) for Australian warships next year.

Precise costs of the purchases are being kept

secret for security reasons, but the government has confirmed to the ABC the overall figure is "between one and two billion dollars".





Defence Industry Minister Pat Conroy said during an October visit to the United States he held “productive discussions” with the Army and Lockheed Martin on how Australia could start producing the rockets used in HIMARS.

On New Year’s Day, a Ukrainian strike using the US-donated HIMARS system killed dozens, possibly even hundreds of Russian soldiers in the Donetsk region.

Mr Conroy said the deadly precision of HIMARS in Ukraine has confirmed why Australia should acquire

the technology.

“We’ll have an Army ground launched missile that can reach targets up to 300 kilometres away and we’re part of developmental program in the United States called the precision strike missile that’ll allow Army to hit targets in excess of 499 kilometres.” *(Courtesy VeteranWeb)*

February in Australian Military History *(Courtesy AWM)*

2 February 1968 - Baria recaptured The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, recaptured Baria after the Tet offensive. The effects of the Tet Offensive were felt most acutely by the Australians when the Viet Cong attacked targets around Phuoc Tuy's provincial capital, Baria. The attacks were repulsed with few Australian casualties, though the Communists suffered heavy losses.

13 February 1965 - First Australian SAS Squadron advance party departs for Borneo The SAS served in Borneo during Confrontation to gather intelligence, conduct reconnaissance patrols and collect information on topography.

18 February 1943 9th Division arrives in Fremantle Having served in North Africa the 9th Division was ordered back to help defend Australia against the Japanese.

19 February 1942 First Japanese air raid on Darwin. The city was bombed 64 times between February 1942 and November 1943.

21 February 1956 Australian and British aircraft bomb Kluang, Malaya The raid was staged against the jungle base of the 7th Independent Platoon, Malayan Races Liberation Army in Central Johore and was carried out by Lincolns of No. 1 Squadron RAAF and Canberras of No. 12 Squadron RAF. It wiped out the camp and was regarded as the most successful of the 4,000 sorties flown by the Australians in Malaya.

23 February 1967 Major P.J. Badcoe, VC, Australian Army Training Team Vietnam, originally of Adelaide, South Australia, leads an attack against Viet Cong troops - it was the first of three acts of bravery between February and April 1967 for which he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

28 February 1991 Gulf War ends. With Iraqi forces having been driven from Kuwait and defeated in the field the coalition forces called a halt to the fighting.

Happy Birthday to our February Birthday members – Errol Smith, Peter Velterop, Mick Coyle, David Grace, John Forward, Owen Page, Alan Pritchard, Greg Smith, Henry Atturo, Jin Kil Lee, Ruth Shean, Kevin Whiting, Don Rae, Lenore Fairfield.

“Getting to Know Annette NEWELL”



This month’s focus is on Annette Newell - one of our very few Highgate female Service members. Delving into the background of this quiet lady has been a bit like peeling back layers of a surprise parcel: many unexpected facets were revealed of her varied life and long career as a dedicated and somewhat intrepid Nursing Sister.

Born in 1948, Annette grew up around Hurlstone Park and Marrickville in Sydney, the third of five siblings: three brothers and a sister. She attended primary and secondary schools in Marrickville and Canterbury. Even as a small girl, she kept busy: enjoying Brownies, Girl Guides (awarded the Queen’s Guide Badge), and youth fellowship at her local church. Caring for others manifested early too – from the age of 10 she did the shopping for a lady she knew with bad arthritis. From age 12, there were part-time jobs during Saturdays and school holidays. Her great ambition however, *always*: was to be a nurse – and at 17, she commenced her “on-the-job” training at the grand old Sydney Hospital – where she toiled under strict Matrons throughout 1965 – 1968; graduating as a Registered Nurse.

After graduation, she left for London with several friends, obtaining various hospital and agency positions including a spell in the ICU at St Thomas’ Hospital. During summers, the group took camping trips through Scandinavia, much of Europe, the UK, Ireland and Morocco. She returned to Sydney in 1971, completing Midwifery at King George V hospital (1973) and a job in the Psychiatric Ward at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, before WA beckoned and she accepted a position at Beverly District Hospital for 15 months.

Annette then moved to Perth, where she was appointed to be a Clinical Instructor on the surgical wards at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. She later became the Charge Nurse on the Urology and General Surgery wards; and a Nursing Supervisor.

Annette enlisted in the Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Nursing Officer in 1981, in a part-time capacity (7 Field Ambulance); but in 1986, decided to transfer to the ARA – and was posted to Puckapunyal (3 Camp Hospital). She has since served in multiple Army units over the years, steadily acquiring further seniority; increasingly responsible and instructional positions; and achieving the rank of Major. But very special career highlights for her were a deployment to Bougainville for two months; and a six months deployment to East Timor.

During her Reservist days, ever on the look-out for a chance to travel to faraway places, she undertook short term missions in Uganda, vaccinating children; and on two occasions, conducted health checks on children in Cambodia. She has also travelled widely overseas for leisure trips and holidays. The Army holds a special place in her heart, and she looks back on her time with great fondness, especially the Dining-In Nights, humorous anecdotes shared and lasting friendships made.

Never one to twiddle her thumbs, Annette in retirement indulges her hobbies of researching her family history, patchwork quilting, actively maintaining her numerous social networks, music and reading.

Army nurses have a grand tradition, that began with Florence Nightingale herself! It’s clear that Annette, in her own way, has upheld her profession – not just the compassion, comfort and caring, but topped off with lashings of love and laughter. *(Written by Margot Harness)*



THE 100 DAY

COUNT

DOWN

IS ON!

Volunteer Applications Now Open!

We are excited to announce that applications are now officially open and you are able to submit your application for your chosen location.

The Legacy Centenary Torch Relay 2023, presented by Defence Health is a six-month campaign, with satellite events (relays), travelling from Pozieres France on April 23 2023, through to the city of London, before returning home to Australia, landing in Perth, Western Australia on the 6th of May, when a community day will be held at Wellington Square for all to come to celebrate the organisation and the veterans' families they serve. The Torch will continue its journey throughout Australia, concluding in Melbourne in October 2023.

You could be part of history by volunteering your time to this once in a lifetime event when it arrives in your area in 2023.

For further information and to apply to be a volunteer please visit www.legacytorchrelay.com.au/volunteers. Applications close 28 February 2023.