



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 APRIL 2023

Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast

Highgate Sub-Branch Anzac Day Gunfire Breakfast will be held in the Members Dining Room at the Weld Club, 3 Barrack St, Perth. Cost \$50. Timing 0700 for 0730h, finish 0900h. Maximum capacity 80 persons. Dress coat and tie with medals, ladies equivalent.

Note: No monies or online payments will be accepted at the Gunfire Breakfast. Please pay by EFT or bank transfer prior to Anzac Day. Any problems please contact the Treasurer.



Guest speaker is Warden of the State War Memorial, Commodore (Retd) Brett Dowsing JP.

After serving full time in the RAN from 1969 to 2016, including a posting as CO HMAS Stirling, he served as a reserve officer and Senior Navy Officer WA until retirement in 2020. He is a Director of the Bravery Trust, a Director of RAAFA WA and a member of the Veterans Review Board.

Book here:

<https://forms.gle/ZEYASfhDZ8zZAcNA>

Response Sheet

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1DhqJbz_LAJe-aN2UxIHvmOGKvu-cMTe-MUCJaAl44aW0/edit?usp=sharing

Bookings close Thursday 20 April.

Anzac Day Arrangements

All-Inclusive Sunset Service

Monday, 24 April 2023 5:00pm to 5:30pm

For 2023, RSLWA are planning an all-inclusive Sunset Service where facilities such as audio description, wheelchair access, auslan and low sensory facilities are available for those who wish to attend on April 25 but otherwise wouldn't due to large crowds and other special needs. This new format will need to be booked prior and the service is to be held at the Flame of Remembrance. RSLWA look forward to encouraging participants of all needs to attend ANZAC Day services. Tickets are available through the RSLWA Website.

What's Happening

**Tuesday 25 April – Anzac Day
Gunfire Breakfast, Weld Club.
Guest speaker CDRE Brett Dowsing JP.**

0700 for 0730, cost \$50. Limited to maximum 80 guests.

Saturday 13 May 23 - Honour Avenue Plaque Dedication, 1000h, May Drive, Kings Park.

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 July 23 - Ashley Morrison, international sports commentator, author, and documentary film maker.

21 August 23 – AGM

Happy Birthday to

Steve Chamarette, Ian Petkoff, Jim Eayrs, Les Castle, Malcolm Weatherhead, John Dwyer; Peter Garside, Derek Scott, Brian Copping, Robert Pickard, Robert Somerville, John O'Halloran, Bob Trotter, Ken Barton, Sean Collopy, Roy Stacey, Gerry Warner, Phil White, Cecil Walkley, Elliott Nielsen, Wayne Tarr.

Get Well soon-

Veronica Connaughton, nursing a broken ankle after a surfing accident.

State War Memorial Dawn Service

Tuesday, 25 April 2023 5.50am to 7.00am

The ANZAC Day Dawn Service at the State War Memorial in Kings Park at 06:00 on Tuesday 25 April 2023. RSLWA recommends that participants arrive from 04:00 onwards. Please note that at 05:50, the lights will go out and all will be quiet as the Service begins. Additional screens and infrastructure have been organised to cater for this year's event. The Service will be broadcast live throughout Perth and regional areas in partnership with Radio 94.5 and Radio Triple M.

For members who do not wish to attend Highgate Sub-Branch's Gunfire Breakfast, a free event has been organised at Government House Gardens on St Georges Terrace, from 7 am to 9 am. The breakfast is open to everyone to enjoy camaraderie with the Veteran community. Entry is a gold coin donation to share the Spirit of ANZAC Day. The breakfast BBQ is organised and prepared by the Rotary Club of Perth.

Anzac Day Parade Perth CBD

Starting at 9.00am. March participants will step off from the corner of Barrack Street and St Georges Terrace at 9.00 am. The Parade will proceed along St Georges Terrace, passing the saluting dais before turning right into Victoria Avenue and dispersing at Langley Park.

A sausage sizzle will be provided by The Salvation Army at Langley Park for participants and observers. The Parade will be telecast live by ABC TV.

Commemorative Service Perth Concert Hall

from 11 am to midday This is a free community event, but tickets are required for entry. The program will include the Salvation Army Perth Fortress Band and the ANZAC Day Choir, brought together by the Perth Modern School Chamber Choir and Perth Modern School Alumni Singers.

Tickets are now available and can be booked at;
<https://bit.ly/3TkMdEG>

ANZAC House Events Tuesday, 25 April 2023

ANZAC House is open 7am - 5pm.

This ANZAC Day, enjoy fellowship and comradery with your mates at the ANZAC Club. Bars will be open from 7am-5pm on Mateship Lane (Irwin St), and Levels 1, 6 & 7 of the venue.

“Getting to Know



Tony HOWES”

Most Highgate members would be familiar with the mellifluous voice of Tony Howes – who is a well-known broadcaster for “Capitol Radio” – FM101.7 and features prominently several times each week across Perth’s airwaves. Tony has a wide-ranging network of friends and contacts in the local “Arts” and theatre scene; and his accomplished talents as a compere and interviewer on various programmes emanating from the Ardross studios are well-known.

For ex-servicemen and women in the Perth Metro area, Tony has for nine years ably produced – and presented - the popular weekly radio programme” “The Listening Post” for members of the Forces – past and present. It’s a great show – and he has a phenomenal knowledge of military bands and their music.

Though Tony has not personally served in the Australian Armed Forces himself, his pedigree – and links to “service” are strong. His father was the late Major A O HOWES, MBE JP, who was the founding superintendent of the RSL War Veterans; Home in Mt Lawley; and was a member of the Highgate Sub Branch. Major Howes served in Egypt, Crete and the Middle East in WW2 and was Registrar of Hollywood Repat Hospital.

As a young man, Tony led the War Veterans’ Home ANZAC Eve service for many years. After taking up employment with the ABC, he was appointed director of the WA AFOF (Army) entertainment troupe in the late 60s; the youngest person ever to be appointed to that task – and visited SVN with troupe members in 1968.

In recent times, he has been associated with fund-raising for the veteran homeless, via the Andrew Russell Foundation – working alongside SAS personnel and other veterans.

Tony has been involved with multiple broadcasting events of special services honouring particular ships and anniversaries over the years; and has strong links with the RAAFA Museum.

(Thanks to Margot Harness for this article)

Just Joking:

*As I get older I can’t but help but think about the people I have lost along the way
Sometimes I also wonder if being a tour guide was a poor career choice.*

*What’s green, fuzzy, and will kill you if it falls out of a tree and lands on you? A pool table
I know a bunch of good jokes about umbrellas, but they usually go over people’s heads.*

HIGHGATE NAME BADGES

New to Highgate or just need a replacement badge?

Highgate Sub-Branch Name badges can be ordered at the front desk each luncheon. See John Arco for an order form. Cost is \$25. Badges are then ordered by Ray Ward, Sub-Branch Treasurer for collection the following month.



A tribute to the Anzacs from the Wheatbelt

Thanks to the Kondinin Community Recreation Council together with the Kondinin Artists' Group and Shire of Kondinin for making this happen.

The mural was painted on a custom-built canvas, fixed onto the water tank at Yeerakine Rock, a place where Kondinin holds their annual Anzac Dawn service.

The painting sits alongside a Light Horse monument, that was erected in 2015 and commemorates the 10th Light Horse Regiment who was primarily raised in the Wheatbelt and had strong connections to a number of families in the region.

The mural depicts one of the many brave men who had to leave their wives and children behind during the disastrous drought of 1914, which ruined early farming progress and communities.

The soldier sails from Fremantle, goes to the Great War, and after experiencing its horrors, expresses the pointlessness of it all in a letter. The soldier was one of the fortunate ones who was able to return to his family.

Special thanks to Hannah and Gary Repacholi who helped steer the direction of the artwork and introduced me to the song 'Green Fields of France' referenced in the soldier's letter and plays throughout this video.

CLICK LINK to watch the video.

<https://fb.watch/jqwqBfQNr3/>

(Courtesy VeteranWeb)

Australian Army establishes first dedicated health brigade.

By Robert Dougherty

The Australian Army has formed a dedicated health brigade for the first time in its 122-year history.

The 2nd Health Brigade was officially commemorated with a transfer of authority parade at Victoria Barracks in Sydney and an announcement on 3 March.

It brings together the Army's four health battalions – Darwin, Brisbane, Adelaide, and Townsville – and includes almost 1,700 trained medical and non-clinical personnel under one formation.

The new brigade will act as a deployable health capability ready to support future operations and training domestically and internationally.

Chief of Army, Lieutenant General Simon Stuart said the consolidation of the health battalions under the command of the 2nd Health Brigade was a key component of the Australian Army's modernisation.

“The dedicated health brigade will enhance Army’s ability to raise, train, and sustain health assets ready to deliver multi-disciplined health support to operations and training, both at home and overseas,” LTGEN Stuart said.

The 2nd Health Brigade will supply independently deployable surgical elements, combat health support, mental health support, increased aeromedical evacuation capacity, and allied health support for the Australian Army.

Second Health Brigade’s inaugural commander, Brigadier Jocelyn King, said the health battalions had been structured to offer a greater mix of deployable health capability in each region, with their members drawn from Army’s full and part-time workforces.

“Building teams within units that draw on both our full-time and part-time workforce will enable the entire health workforce to benefit from the specialist skills and experience resident within Army’s part-time health workforce,” BRIG King said.

“The integrated workforce model across the entire brigade also provides greater opportunity for Army’s part-time health workforce to participate in operations and training, and to apply their professional skills in a military context.”

Almost half of the 2nd Health Brigade workforce is part-time and is able to bring specialist skills from the civilian health system. *(Courtesy VeteranWeb)*

An Abbreviated Australian Military History in April (AWM)

5 April 1951 - 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, involved in Operation Rugged, 45 kilometres north of Seoul.

6 April 1952. - 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, arrives in Korea. The battalion remained in Korea until September 1953.

9 April 1942. HMAS Vampire sunk. The destroyer HMAS Vampire and the aircraft carrier HMS Hermes were sunk by Japanese bombers off Colombo in the Bay of Bengal.

9 April 1968. HMAS Sydney arrived at Vung Tau. The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, disembarked and the 7th Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, embarked. Sydney made 24 voyages to Vietnam during the war.

11 April 1951. General MacArthur was dismissed from his command in Korea for the perception in Washington that he was too intemperate and likely to escalate the war.

11 April 1970. HMAS Vendetta returns to Sydney. HMAS Vendetta was the only one of three Australian Daring class destroyers to serve on the gunline in Vietnamese waters. The ship served one tour.

15 April 1917. Lieutenant C. Pope, 11th Battalion, AIF, originally from London, wins the Victoria Cross at Louverval, France. It was a posthumous award.

18 April 1943. Admiral Yamamoto, Imperial Japanese Navy, killed. American Intelligence decoded signals that provided the timetable for Yamamoto's flight. His aircraft was intercepted and shot down near Bougainville by American Lightnings from Guadalcanal. Yamamoto, Commander of the Japanese Combined Fleet, was the architect of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

20 April 1915. First half-flight, Australian Flying Corps, sailed for the Baghdad expedition. This was the first use of Australian aircraft and aircrew in war.

23 April 1918. Ostend and Zeebrugge, Belgium, raided. Eleven volunteers from HMAS Australia took part in a raid that aimed to prevent the Germans using these Belgian ports as a bases for their submarines.

23 April 1951. Battle of Kapyong. The most well-known Australian action of the Korean War, Kapyong involved the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment (3RAR). The fighting at Kapyong blunted the Chinese advance on Seoul during the 1951 Spring Offensive and prevented a Communist breakthrough on the United Nations central front. 3RAR was awarded a United States Presidential citation for their part in the battle.

24/25 April 1918. Lieutenant C.W.K. Sadler, 51st Battalion, AIF, originally from Camberwell, Vic., wins the Victoria Cross at Villers Bretonneux.

25 April 1901. Naval contingent returns to Sydney from China. Sailors from New South Wales, South Australia and Victoria were sent to China to assist in quelling an anti-western rebellion by Chinese secret societies. Although it arrived too late to see any significant fighting, the Australian colonial force suffered six fatalities, none from combat.

26 April 1953. Ceasefire talks resume in Panmunjong. Warring sides try to bring an end to the fighting in Korea.

29 April 1915. HMA Submarine AE2 sunk in the Sea of Marmara. AE2 was the first submarine to penetrate the Dardanelles. For five days the AE2 carried out orders to disrupt Turkish shipping. When her torpedoes were exhausted and she was attacked by Turkish gunboats the submarine was scuttled and her crew captured.



Support needed for Special Forces Veteran

Support needed for Special Forces Veteran

By Herston Russell

It is a national shame and absolute disgrace the way that too many people in positions of power have treated and now abandoned our service men after sending them to do what they would and could not do themselves.

Our role in Afghanistan was not comfortable, nor was it easily conducted with the clarity of the armchair opinions that now seek to slander what they can and will never understand first hand.

Our roles in Special Forces require us to embark upon actions that bring real dangers to ourselves and those we love back home. This is why all Special Forces personnel are supposed to be afforded 'Protected Identity Status' – the ability to keep our identities out of the Australian media – especially at a time when Afghanistan is back under Taliban control and knowing all too well the real evil that is out there in the world.

Instead, over the last few years, outlets and certain journalists have taken it upon their righteous selves to publish the names, pictures and other personal details of our Special Forces Veterans for the benefit of their own media agendas. This has to stop!

It's time to step up and support those who have served and sacrificed so much for this nation. We must take action to make legislation that protects those we have a moral obligation to still support – so they can be afforded due process and the presumption of innocence – to be decided

in the courts of law in this land, not the media circus that now destroys the lives of our Veterans and their families before any trial.

Child sex offenders in Australia have more rights to protect their identities under current legislation than our Veterans who have served in the Special Forces.

Please use the template below to email your elected Member of Parliament and the Senators in your State or Territory – you can find all their details at https://www.aph.gov.au/Senators_and_Members

People taking action together – United with purpose is how we do what needs to be done. Please take action today and support those who have and continue to serve.

If you can – please donate towards the organisation stepping up while so many more are keeping silent. Please donate to the fighting fund at VSF.org.au so we can keep acting fast when it is needed.

TEMPLATE

Dear Elected Representative,

I write to you in your professional capacity.

On 20 March 2023, a member of the Special Air Service (SAS) was charged by the Australian Federal Police (AFP) on allegations of war crimes. I do not know the full details of the combat operations conducted by our Special Forces in Afghanistan, nor have these been made public.

I do not propose to speak to the former SAS members' conduct, as I was not present in Afghanistan in 2012. However, I wish to raise my serious concerns for him and his family following his full name and age being reported by ABC on 20 February 2023.

In circumstances where members of the SAS and the Special Forces community have undertaken high-value and high-risk counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism operations in Afghanistan, it ought to be reasonably apparent there would be reprisal action against their families and persons if their identities were known. Indeed, for this reason, members of the SAS do not openly use social media.

Given the above, I seek your intervention to ensure any further members of the Special Forces community remain unnamed until they are convicted. This protective measure has the benefit of ensuring the proper administration of justice while also ensuring the Court's processes are not prejudiced or in any way hindered by contrived news articles which do not provide the full particulars of an event. It is likely that once the former SAS member appears before a Court there will be a suppression order in place. However, there should be no reporting until it is appropriate to do so.

Our Soldier's conduct overseas deserves our respect and, at minimum, has earned them the right to privacy during whatever Court proceedings they are subjected to. Given this, I request you write to the Attorney-General of Australia to seek members of the Special Forces community to maintain their protected identity status.

Kind regards,

AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE FESTIVAL

ARMY MUSEUM OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA



Heritage Festival Launch and Guided Tour of the Barracks

Sunday 16 April 2023 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Celebrate the launch of the 2023 Heritage Festival at the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia with a guided tour of Artillery Barracks followed by light refreshments. The tour will include access to historical elements of the Federation-era barracks not accessible during regular Museum visits. Some visit elements will not support universal access.

To Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1010814>

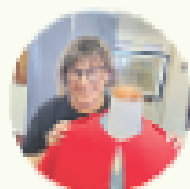


Remembering Their Service Anzac Commemoration

Thursday 20 April 2023 - Sunday 23 April 2023

Experience the origins of Anzac Day and the evolution of our traditions of commemoration through a tour of the Honour Boards and Memorials at the Australian Army Museum of Western Australia. Join us for a talk, tour, and light refreshments.

To Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1010820>



Strutting on Parade - Textiles and Tailoring

Sunday 7 May 2023 10:30 AM - 12:30 PM

Explore the uniforms and accoutrements of the Army in Western Australia from 1836 to the present through a hands-on experience with the assistance of curators, conservators, and textile experts, followed by light refreshments.

To Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1011049>



Remembering World War Two in the lead up to VE Day

Wednesday 10 May 2023 - Friday 12 May 2023

Experience World War Two, the Home Front, and the excitement of VE Day through a focused gallery tour and hands on opportunities.

To Book: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1011061>



Artillery Barracks Burt St,
Fremantle WA 6160, Australia
Check the website

www.armymuseumwa.com.au
or call 9430 2535 for further details.



AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE
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