



## 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 JULY 2023

**JULY LUNCH** - Highgate Sub-Branch is privileged to welcome the Korean Ambassador to Australia, His Excellency Kim Wan-joong, as our lunch guest speaker. Note, to fit in with the Ambassador's schedule, this month's lunch will be on **WEDNESDAY 26 JULY** instead of Monday 17th. Venue Anzac House, cost is \$40, plus \$5 for a raffle ticket.

Bookings can be made at <https://forms.gle/NXvQhHEs5nMfpSWZA>

Attendance List can be viewed at [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w3nbYk0-OvqCt53nluGGxM1Cn-FVJPJrcxL3UUOQW\\_o/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1w3nbYk0-OvqCt53nluGGxM1Cn-FVJPJrcxL3UUOQW_o/edit?usp=sharing)

Note for catering purposes, no bookings accepted after COB on Friday 21 July.

## KOREA – THE FORGOTTEN WAR -BUT NOT FOR



## MUCH LONGER

The Korean War was initially called the "Forgotten War" because it came so soon following World War 2 and before the Vietnam War. It was technically not a war because the United Nations could not declare war, but the US at the behest of the UN Security Council, could, and the Korean War commenced on June 25, 1950, and lasted until the Deed of Armistice was

signed on July 25, 1953.

The conflict was certainly not forgotten by the more than 17,000 Australian servicemen and nurses who served between 1951 and 1953 of which there were 1,916 West Australians. It was also not forgotten by the families of the 34 West Australian who died and the countless men who returned with mental and physical injuries,

The war in Korea was forgotten in Western Australia. Memorials existed in other cities in Australia but not in Perth, apart from a memorial plaque in the Rose Garden of Pinjarra RSL. It was in that scenario that Highgate RSL was approached by the Honorary Consul in Western Australia for the Republic of Korea with a challenge: Could Highgate manage to construct a memorial to Western Australian veterans of the Korean War and have it built in Kings Park?

Highgate has a history of rising to challenges, and we had a head start because of our involvement in Kings Park through the Deputy Wardens and Sub-Wardens at the State War Memorial, and with the Honour Avenues Group responsible for the plaques on May and Lovekin Drives.

Bill Munro, Highgate's president at the time, put together a team of Peter Heeney, Duncan Warren, James Lee, Jin Kil Lee (all members of Highgate) and Korean Consul to WA, Fay Duda, and later Brett Dowsing and Nigel Earnshaw (now Highgate members); Clive Robartson from RAAFAWA and James Rhee, a prominent Korean Australian businessman and Jack Hwang. There had been an earlier Korean committee but had they not been successful in progressing the project.

The first task in 2018 was to get RSLWA to support the concept of the memorial. The Board and Management of Kings Park (BGPA) placed the authority for memorials with RSLWA, and if they didn't approve it, then Kings Park would refuse. It took a while, but the RSLWA Board eventually approved the proposal with the committee receiving great bipartisan support from Peter Tinley MLA, who was the Minister for Veterans Interests at the time and the Opposition spokesman, Tjorn Sibma MLC.

With the letter of approval in hand, we sought an appointment and marched up to the Kings Park offices to present our case. We must have presented a strong argument, because they were very helpful with the best advice being the recommendation that we use the services of Plan E, the landscape architects that were consultants to Kings Park.

The committee worked harmoniously with Plan E over the following 18 months, although a casual observer may not have agreed. Designs were submitted, amended then discarded, until we agreed on a final concept plan. In very broad terms, there are commemorative walls with brass plaques and stories of the services and nurses; badges of the three services and the UN emblem, an Australian and Korean Flag; the Ode in English and Korean and an Honour Roll. We have even bronze plaques listing all those West Australians who served in the Korean War together with a detailed bronze map of the Korean Peninsula.

The paving of the base of the memorial contains an illustration of the Korean floral emblem, the rose of Sharon, the national flower of Korea which represents determination, politeness, and endurance and also expresses Koreans' feelings in the best way.



The highlight of the design came from the work of Jin Kil Lee. One of the most recognised battles of the Korean War was the Battle of Kapyong (or Gapyeong in Korean.) The battle is widely acknowledged in Korea because it was there that 3 Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, together with the 2nd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry and supported by 16 Fd Regt of the Royal Regiment of New Zealand Artillery held back about 6,000 North Korean troops supported by Chinese warriors. The significance of this holding back by the foreign troops, was that it was the turning point of the 1951 spring offensive, Seoul was not overrun and South Korea went on to become the prosperous trading nation it is today.

The Council of the County of Gapyeong acknowledge the importance of their valley and has donated about 70 pieces of granite and quartz rock to be part of memorials around the world. The rock that was gifted to the Perth Memorial is nothing but incredible. If one stands at the floor of the Gapyeong valley and looks upwards at the mountains silhouetted against the sky, the rock replicates part of the skyline. In Perth's morning sunshine, the quartz in the rock glistens and shines, almost like a beacon, drawing your attention to it.

Jin Kil Lee conducted negotiations with the council of Gaapyeong which selected the rock and paid all the shipping and customs costs. In looking at other Korean memorials around the world that incorporate stone from Gapyeong, I believe this is one of the best, as it symbolises the terrain of Korea in the memorial.

## What's Happening

Future Lunches and Activities

17/7/23 – meeting cancelled.  
Changed to **WEDNESDAY 26 July**.  
Guest speaker Korean Ambassador.

27/7/23 – Official dedication of the Korean War Memorial by Premier of WA, the Honourable Roger Cook MLA and the Korean Ambassador.

21/8/23 – AGM, OBE/OBN lunch

18/9/23 - John Van Den Hurk  
Head of Asset Planning at Water Corporation (TBC)

9 October 23 (second Monday) Dr Andrew Miller (note his availability is only 9th October).

12/11/23 – Highgate Remembrance Day service and lunch, Frasers Restaurant. Further details TBA.

The Botanic Gardens and Parks Authority (BGPA) selected the Tobruk Memorial precinct at the corner of Saw Avenue and May Drive as the location for the Korean Memorial. The precinct was already the location for the Prisoner of War Memorial and the 2/28<sup>th</sup> Battalion Memorials and the Eastern end of the precinct was available.

The negotiations with BGPA included a requirement that the committee make a community contribution in return for the Authority making the land for the memorial available. As a result, the committee committed to constructing a 2-metre pathway separating the bush from the grassed area of the precinct. In addition, the committee would construct a sound shell and pavilion on the other side of May Drive – a huge undertaking.

Now, as we approach the 70th Anniversary of the Armistice on July 27, the Memorial is almost complete and the plans for the pavilion are in the final drawing stages. By the time the memorial, the pathway and the pavilion are complete, it will have been a six-year project. A fitting tribute to the soldiers of the forgotten war, no longer forgotten. *Bill Munro*

### JULY LUNCH GUEST SPEAKER -

His Excellency Kim Wan-joong is currently serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea in Canberra. Ambassador Kim Wan-joong was presented with his letter of

credentials by the Republic of Korea's President, Mr Yoon Suk Yeol on December 26, 2022.



Prior to arriving in Australia, Ambassador Kim Wan-joong served as the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles. Ambassador Kim Wan-joong joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1990 serving thereafter at various diplomatic posts including Japan, Singapore, New York and Peru.

Before going to Los Angeles, he served as Director General for Overseas Koreans and Consular Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He also worked as Director for the East Asian Trade Bureau of the Ministry during 2007 to 2009 and Director for the Strategic Planning

of the National Security Council in 2005.

Ambassador Kim Wan-joong holds a Bachelor of Arts in English Language from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, 1989. In 2017 he was honoured with the Best Diplomat Award voted by his peers at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Ambassador Kim Wan-joong is married and has two sons, he is a big fan of ball games such as baseball, soccer and tennis and an avid reader of history books.

He has been South Korea's Ambassador Australia since January 2023.

**At 1045h, Thursday 27 July, the Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA and the Ambassador will dedicate the new Korean War Memorial in Kings Park (May Drive, near Saw Avenue, adjacent to the POW Memorial.). All Highgate members are invited to attend.**

## Happy Birthday July babies:

Rhogan Aitken, Robert Caldera, Robert Campbell, Ian Conaghan, Lynn Lovell, John Homer, Graham Horne, Damien Lambert, Hugh Ritchie, Barry Standen, Graeme Stewart, Brian Walley (101), Ray Ward, Ian Warner, David Watson, Rod Webb, Greg Wilson, Jim Patterson.

Not listed, email the Secretary. Apologies to those members omitted in the June HH.

## Welcome to new member:

Kym MacCormac, transferred from Central Branch. Kym was the architect for Anzac House. Welcome Kym.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to **Kim Doherty** on his appointment to the State Branch Tribunal.



Congratulations to Affiliate Member **Tony Howes**, on being awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in the Kings Birthday Honours List. Tony was awarded an OAM for services to the community through a range of organisations. Tony is a member of the management committee of Community Radio (from 2015), the creator and presenter of Listening Post Radio. He has also been heavily involved in many school and community arts organisations.

Tony's citation for the award can be viewed at <https://www.gg.gov.au/sites/default/files/2023-06/KB23%20-%20Media%20notes%20-%20OAM%20F-L.pdf>

## ***On the Battlefield*** (thanks to member Harvey Pearce)

The General lent across to his Major alongside and whispered in a gravelly voice, "We go over the top at 0800 hours. Pass it on."

"Sir," responded the major with a salute, turned to the Lieutenant alongside, and repeated the message, "We go over the top at 0800 hours. Pass it on."

"Sir," was the reply, and repeated the message to the soldier alongside.

This went all the way down the line, all in hushed tones, until the last in line, a private, asked, "How far away is the enemy?"

The response, "I don't know. I'll ask."

In turn he posed the question, which was repeated all the way up the line until it reached the Major. When the General received the request he replied, "100 yards. Pass it on."

Back down the line it went until it reached the Private on the end.

After some thought, he asked, "If the enemy is 100 yards away, why are we whispering?"

The response from next to him was, "I don't know. I'll ask."

Back up the line it went, for the Major to ask it of the General.

The ACO's reply was, "Well I don't know about the rest of you, but I've got a terrible dose of laryngitis!"





# AUSTRALIAN INTELLIGENCE SERVICE MEDAL

By Chris Taylor (*Reprinted from VeteranWeb*)

Do you recall the 'Garage Girls' from this year's Australia Day honours? Joyce Grace, Coral Hinds and Ailsa Hale were recognised for their pioneering service during World War II with Central Bureau, a joint US–Australian signals intelligence organisation. The three Australians worked at the bureau's Brisbane headquarters—in a garage annex that gave them their nickname—collecting and decoding Japanese signals and sending and receiving encrypted Allied communications. The ABC also highlighted their work in a documentary that aired recently, *Breaking the code: cyber secrets exposed*.

Grace, Hinds and Hale made an outstanding contribution to Australia that went unacknowledged publicly for decades. It was the institution of a specific honour for distinguished achievement in the field of intelligence—the Australian Intelligence Medal—that allowed for their recognition.

When the medal was introduced to the Australian honours system in 2020, it provided the first specific recognition by Australia of individuals' intelligence work. Before that point, such recognition had occurred only through some other honour, such as a medal for military service, the Order of Australia or the Public Service Medal.

The Australian Intelligence Medal recognises members of the national intelligence community who have 'given distinguished service that directly contributed to national intelligence priorities, requirements or capabilities.' It also entitles the recipient to use the postnominal 'AIM'.

The medal itself features the federation star within which is a decagon representing Australia's 10 intelligence agencies. The surrounding indented border represents the 24-hour-a-day nature of intelligence duties. A sprig of wattle provides a quintessentially Australian touch.

The Australian honours database lists 26 recipients of the AIM, more than half of whom are identified only by their first name and an initial. But from the available entries, one can discern the nature of their achievements, including leading contributions to analytical tradecraft, combating serious and organised crime, counterterrorism, mental health support, subject-matter and language expertise, financial intelligence and capability development. For those whose achievements have been withheld, we can only guess at the exemplary and courageous service they have rendered to Australia in the shadows.

As with other Australian honours, the AIM can also be awarded to a non-citizen in recognition of an exceptional contribution to Australia. In 2022, for instance, the medal was awarded to Shigeru Kitamura, a former director of cabinet intelligence and national security adviser to the Japanese government, for his contributions to the Japan–Australia intelligence relationship.



## Australians at War - July (Courtesy AWM)

2 July 1993. Death of Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop. Sir Edward "Weary" Dunlop gained fame for the medical services he rendered to his fellow prisoners of the Japanese on the Burma-Thailand railway during the Second World War.

6 July 1943. Darwin bombed. Darwin was bombed 64 times during the Second World War.

9 July 1943. Nos. 3 and 450 Squadrons, RAAF, and eight RAN corvettes involved in the allied invasion of Sicily. Known as Operation Husky the invasion of Sicily was the second largest undertaken in Europe during the Second World War, Overlord being the largest. The operation involved 180,000 troops and 2,590 ships.

10 July 1951. Negotiations between the United Nations Command and the Communists begin at Kaesong. Negotiations between the opposing sides in the Korean War continued for two years before an armistice was finally declared.

13 July 1953. HMAS Tobruk begins a two-week patrol of the northern part of Korea's east coast. This was the Tobruk's last patrol before the war in Korea ended in late July 1953.

20 July 1943. HMAS Hobart torpedoed. HMAS Hobart torpedoed off San Cristobal, Solomon Islands. Seven officers and six ratings were killed in the attack. Though badly damaged the Hobart was able to reach Espiritu Santo the next day.

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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with RSLWA By-law 5, notice is given that the Annual General Meeting of Highgate RSL Sub-Branch will take place at 1230h on Monday, 21 August 2023, at The Anzac Club.

All positions become vacant. Nominations are called for the following positions:

**President; Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Warden (up to two); Membership Officer; SWM Liaison Officer\* (\*Deputy Warden appointed by RSLWA); Honour Avenue Group Liaison Officer; Pension and Veterans Affairs Officer; Hospital and Welfare Officer; Website Administration Officer; Committee Members x 3.**

Nomination forms are available from the Secretary. If you are interested in joining the Committee, please contact Vice President John Cleary or the Secretary.

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## 50th Anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War.

The Australian Government will mark the 50th anniversary of the end of Australia's involvement in the Vietnam War with a service at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial in Canberra on 18 August 2023 from 10:00am.

The service and other supporting activities have been developed in conjunction with a national stakeholder consultative group, including Vietnam veterans and representatives of the wider veteran community. The service will be broadcast live across Australia by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and streamed online.

All attendees planning to attend the service on 18 August 2023 are required to register for an attendance pass. Entry to the service will not be permitted without an attendance pass.

To book your ticket to attend the service and to apply for a commemorative medallion and certificate of recognition, visit [www.dva.gov.au/vietnam50](http://www.dva.gov.au/vietnam50)