



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

President: Geoff Simpson OAM Secretary Greg Wilson RFD
Mobile 0412 095 201 Email: highgate.secretary@sb.rslwa.org.au
All correspondence to PO Box 66 Duncraig East 6023



Highgate Happenings AUGUST 2023



VIPs led by the Premier and Korean Ambassador cut the ribbon to open the Memorial Stone.

CONGRATULATIONS KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Thursday 27 July saw the culmination of several years hard work by a committee led by Highgate Immediate Past President, Bill Munro, with the unveiling and consecration of the Korean War Memorial in Kings Park.

The memorial was unveiled by the WA Premier, Hon Roger Cook MLA and the Korean Ambassador to Australia, Kim Wan-Joong, in the presence of over 500 people, including Korean veterans, widows, family and friends.

Following the unveiling a celebration lunch was conducted.

Heartiest congratulations to the organising committee led by Bill and comprising Peter Heeney, Duncan Warren, James Lee, Jin Kil Lee, Korean Consul to WA, Fay Duda, (all members of Highgate), and later Brett Dowsing and Nigel Earnshaw (now Highgate members); Clive Robartson from RAAFAWA, James Rhee, a prominent Korean Australian businessman and Jack Hwang, on a very successful project outcome.

21 AUGUST LUNCH BOOKING DETAILS SEE PAGE 4

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; 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. Nominations close 14 August.

Highgate Sub Branch Membership Report 2023

Current total service members: 207 (inc. Life & Platinum), unfinancial 25;

Total financial service 182.

Our hard-working Secretary Greg Wilson, is liaising with membership RSLWA re unfinancial members. There have been 4 different membership officers at RSLWA this year, hopefully there will be some stability in the coming year.

Since last AGM Transfers in: 8;

New Service Members: 8; New Affiliate Members: 3; Honorary Members: 2.

Members who left: 3 deceased; 1 resigned.

Current affiliates: 19, Associates 4.

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful efforts with respect to membership of our Secretary Greg Wilson and our Treasurer Ray Ward.

Barry Cooke
Membership Officer
Highgate Sub Branch

What's Happening

21 August 23 – AGM, OBE/OBN lunch

18 September 23 - John Van Den Hurk Head of Asset Planning at Water Corporation

Please note the change of day for OCTOBER:

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

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

11 December 23 (**second Monday**) – Christmas Lunch, entertainment by Rick Steele



Korean War Memorial Centre piece after the opening. Behind the stone is a bronze map of the battlefields created by Dr Ross Bastiaan AM, who has provided works at Australian battle sites around the world.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE AGM 2023

I present the President's report to the members of Highgate Sub-Branch of RSLWA for the year to July 2023.

The past year has had some exceptional highlights and I will mention a few:

1. Our annual memorial luncheon held last November at Frasers Restaurant, once again organised by Leon Griffiths with help from Roger Buddrige and Ray Galliot. An excellent speech by the retiring State War Memorial Warden, Maj-Gen Barry Nunn, followed by the presentation of a replacement Honour Avenues Plaque for Captain Frank Smith MC to his uncle, His Excellency the Honourable Chris Dawson, Governor of Western Australia, and Ian Petkoff presented a review of 100years of volunteering in Kings Park.
2. The exceptional speakers organised by John Cleary for our lunches including the Japanese Ambassador, the Korean Ambassador, the Senior Defence Force Officer WA, Commodore Ivan Ingham and Ian McMillan from Austral Ships.
3. Highgate members, under the leadership of Bill Munro, have been the driving force behind the Korean War Memorial project for the past five years and it all came to fruition last month with a magnificent dedication ceremony and celebratory luncheon. Congratulations to all involved.

The Honour Avenues Group of fifteen volunteers under the Chairmanship of Robin Slater continue to meet weekly to maintain the existing plaques in Kings Park and to prepare new plaques for dedication. HAG held two ceremonies during the year adding a further 21 plaques. Discussions continue with RSLWA and BGPA to complete an MOU between these parties to ensure continuity of the service provided by HAG.

Our dedicated group of sub-wardens continue to provide ceremonial duties at the State War Memorial commemorations. My thanks go to our parade marshal, Mick Coyle, and bugler David Scott.

Maj-Gen Barry Nunn AO, RFD, ED completed his term as Warden and was replaced by Commodore Brett Dowsing - the 21st member of Highgate to be appointed to this exalted post.

Membership continues to grow, despite 3 members being called to higher service. Mainly due to the untiring efforts of Barry Cooke we were able to recruit 21 new members.

Poppy Day was again a success, raising over \$9,800. Many thanks to our coordinator Ray Ward and his able helpers. I hope we can attract more support from members this coming November.

My report would not be complete without extending my grateful thanks to the Highgate committee, each of whom does an outstanding job. Of special note has been our very efficient secretary, Greg Wilson, and our Treasurer Ray Ward.

I would also like to thank those who make the running of our monthly meetings go so smoothly – Bob Campbell, John Arco and Peter Garside on the front desk, Peter Heeney and Ray Galliot, and of course the excellent staff of the ANZAC Club.

I am confident of what the future holds for Highgate under the capable leadership and enthusiasm of John Cleary and I wish him well as our new President. Thank you all for your support.

Happy Birthday August babies:

John Hardwick, Graham Mathieson, Mike Radwell, Jin Woo (James) Lee, Glenn Williams, John Dowson, Paul Salpietro, David Noble, Ross Lightfoot, Peter Harries, Michael Page, Barry De Bruyn, John Thornton, Neville Gale, Jeremy Buxton, Joan Gravelle. Not listed, email the Secretary.

Welcome to new members:

Elizabeth Jeal, Andrew Whitehead, Cliff Moores, Richard Williams, Fay Duda (Affiliate), Richard Offen (Affiliate), Ron Mitchell (transfer from Riverton), Trent Mongan (transfer from Central).

AUGUST LUNCH MONDAY 21 AUGUST

The day will commence with the Annual General Meeting at 1230pm. This will be followed by our regular lunch including the celebration of those members becoming OBE (over bloody eighty) or OBN (over bloody ninety). At time of printing only one of these members will be in attendance.

We welcome New Highgate member and well-known Historian Richard Offen as the guest speaker. Richard's subject will be "Western Australia – An Historical Boast." Richard's bio is below.

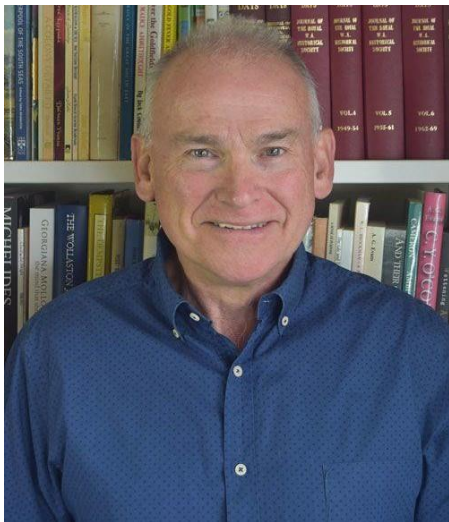
Venue Anzac House, cost is \$40, plus \$5 for a raffle ticket.

Bookings can be made at <https://forms.gle/ncDX9z5DZmaSwgFZ8>

Attendance List can be viewed at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1ZpAf_uF5bOs-nwI6Chd0FzEZHuA8dx8Hwo2Ff88nivCI/edit?usp=sharing

Note for catering purposes, no bookings accepted after COB on Thursday 17 August.

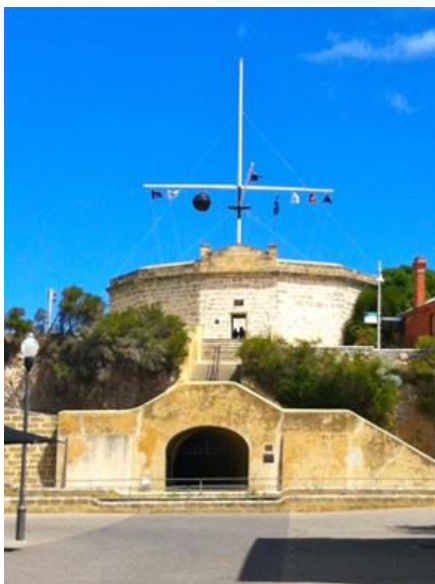
Richard Offen retired in 2017 after 13 years as executive director of Heritage Perth. During that time, he was able to immerse himself in the history of Perth and Western Australia and has helped to dispel the urban myth "Perth has no history". In retirement, he writes, still takes walking tours of the city's historic sites and is a popular lecturer on the subject.



Richard also remains a regular broadcaster on both radio and television. He was the co-author of the National Trust book *The Living Coast* and penned the captions for a book of aerial photographs of the British coast entitled *Coastline UK*.

In his spare time, Richard is on the Board of the Anglican Schools Commission, Deputy Chairman of the Swan Bells Foundation, on the Board of the Young Australia League, Secretary of the Sharpe Trust and a Churchwarden at Christ Church, Claremont.

Western Australia – An Historical Boast



Western Australians do not seem keen to boast about the history of their State. In fact few residents realise some of the human endeavour that is on their own doorsteps. The oldest evidence of life starting with some fossils in the Pilbara and some of the earliest evidence of Aboriginal communal living, to the remains of a fort on the Abrolhos Islands'

Richard Offen's talk will give a virtual tour of some of the places that give Western Australian a very special status in the world's history.

Add to this some of the early buildings of the Swan River Colony, set up in 1829, and Richard will comprehensively debunk the myth that Western Australia has no history or heritage!



Australian Government
Department of Veterans' Affairs

"Have your say - Draft Defence and Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy"

The Department of Defence (Defence) and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) are working together to develop a new joint *Defence and Veteran Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy* (the Strategy). The Strategy will inform our joint approach to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of Defence personnel and the veteran community over the next five years. Hearing directly from members of our veteran community is a critical part of the development of the Strategy.

The purpose of this survey is to seek your insights to inform the development of the Strategy. It is an opportunity for you to have a say in what matters to you and help ensure the Strategy reflects the needs, priorities, and aspirations of the veteran community.

The survey should take approximately 5-10 minutes to complete. It will close at midnight AEST on **28 August 2023**. Further information on who can participate, consent, confidentiality and privacy is available in the link below and will be displayed prior to survey completion.

Please follow the link to complete the survey here: https://dva.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_70t-QgezOcSCLCqW

If you have questions about the survey please email MENTALHEALTHSTRATEGY@dva.gov.au. Please share the survey with your networks.

Jo Maclean

Community Support Advisor

Lived Experience and Community Strategy

Mental and Social Health Programs Branch / Mental Health & Wellbeing Services Division

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Ph: 08 9366 8339 / Extension: 488339

Email : joanne.maclean@dva.gov.au

DVA General Enquiries 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372)

To support those who serve or have served in the defence of our nation and commemorate their service and sacrifice.



DEFENCE & VETERANS
LEGAL SERVICE

Free | Independent | Confidential

Tell your mates: Royal Commission deadline is fast approaching

People now have fewer than 100 days to lodge a submission with the Royal Commission examining the treatment of veterans and serving ADF members.

Submissions must be lodged by Friday October 13.

But there's good news: lawyers from the Defence and Veterans Legal Service are providing free assistance with the preparation of submissions to that enquiry.

This legal service has specialist lawyers in all states and territories, and it also assists the families of current and ex-serving people.

Importantly, its legal support is confidential and completely independent of all agencies - including ADF, DVA and the Defence Department.

The Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide represents a major opportunity. It aims to right past wrongs and improve the treatment of current and future veterans and ADF personnel.

If you'd like to know more, call the Defence and Veterans Legal Service on 1800 33 1800 to chat about your options. You can remain anonymous if you wish to. All its services are free.

Gerry Stapleton | Solicitor

Defence and Veterans Legal Service (DAVLS)

T: (02) 9219 5000

(02) 6393 7325

DefenceVeteransLegalService.org.au

Information Line: 1800 33 1800





Australians at War - August (Courtesy AWM)

2 August 1941 – Last action involving Australians at Tobruk. After its capture Tobruk was garrisoned by the 9th Division, elements of the 7th Division and other Allied units. The town was surrounded on three sides by the German Afrika Korps in April and remained besieged, but able to be re-supplied by sea, until December. Most Australians, however, left Tobruk between August and October

2 August 1990 – Iraq invades Kuwait. The invasion began the series of events that led to the Gulf War of 1991

3 August 1916 – Battle of Romani. The Australian Light Horse was involved in the battle of Romani, Egypt. The battle signalled the end of the defence of the Suez Canal and the beginning of a bolder offensive strategy against the Turks in the Middle East

5 August 1953 - Australian prisoners of war of the Korean War released at Panmunjom. Thirty Australians were taken prisoner in Korea; one of these died while in captivity.

8 August 1918 - Lieutenant A.E. Gaby, 28th Battalion, originally from Springfield, Tasmania, wins the Victoria Cross at Villers-Bretonneux. It was a posthumous award.

9 August 1942 - HMAS Canberra was sunk in the battle of Savo Island. The Canberra was among a fleet of US and Australian warships supporting the US Marines' landings on Guadalcanal.

9 – 12 August 1916 - Private M. O'Meara, 16th Battalion, originally from County Tipperary, Ireland, wins the Victoria Cross at Pozieres.

19 August 1914 - The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force departed Sydney on 19 August 1914; its mission was to capture German possessions in the Western Pacific and in German New Guinea.

23 August 1918 - Lieutenant L.D. McCarthy, 16th Battalion, originally from York, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at Madame Wood, France

Just Joking



A combined BBQ & Beer Cooler

This, surely, is Aussie engineering at its very best!

When you're finished barbequing and the ice has melted, just pull the handle and the fire goes out.

OMG ... is this a great country, or what?



Presents the
Australian Army Band Perth

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCE BY FORMER
AUSTRALIAN IDOL STAR AND WA MUSIC
MAESTRO, CHRIS MURPHY"**



GUEST PERFORMANCE BY RICK STEELE

Scarborough Sports & Community Club

75 Deanmore Road Scarborough

Saturday September 9th

Doors open 6.30pm show 7-10pm

Tickets 9341 6000 or 0417 559 973

\$35