



THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

www.highgate-rsl.org.au

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Highgate Happenings OCTOBER 2023

Book Your Lunch Appointment with the Doctor

Highgate RSL Sub-Branch has a guest speaker appointment with Dr Andrew Miller on Monday 9 October (SECOND Monday) at our next lunch at 1200h for 1230h. Cost \$40, plus \$5 for a raffle ticket if you wish to indulge. Dress jacket and tie, ladies equivalent.

You can make your appointment at <https://forms.gle/y6fPHKogM6z2jVjw5>

You can see who else is coming at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XMu0-qFFBD6V8Ggd9ELPepSZDNUdyOA-TeTXPKBYKqU/edit?usp=sharing>



Andrew Miller is an Australian anaesthetist who was the president of the Australian Medical Association (WA).

He was educated at the University of Western Australia, Pennsylvania State University and Macquarie University. Along with his medical education, he has a legal degree, which has led him to be involved in the administration of not-for-profit organisations.

Miller was first elected to be president of the AMA (WA) in June 2016, having been vice-president for the previous two years. The following year, he did not put himself up for re-election. In July 2019, he was elected president of the AMA (WA) again, and was re-elected the following year.

As AMA (WA) president, Miller praised the Western Australian Government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic and criticised the government for failing to learn from hotel quarantine breaches in other states, which had led to breaches in Western Australia.

He is President, Australian Society of Anaesthetists, a Newspaper Columnist for The West Australian, Chairman OzSAGE (an incorporated not for profit charity with the aim of public health promotion), Non-executive Director MDA National (medical indemnity insurer) and a Board member, Anaesthetist Board. He has volunteered as an Anaesthetist on surgical missions to Tanzania since 2012 and Vientiane, Laos, since 2017.

Thank you to our raffle supporters:



GROVENOR HOTEL

Hay Street, East Perth



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President's Reach-Out:



At our meeting on the 18th September 2023, your committee conducted a business review including an overview of the committee structure, roles and established agreed targets to be achieved by AGM 2024. As we are focussed on attracting young working members both into the Sub-Branch and onto committee, we utilised MS Teams successfully to enable two committee members working out of Perth to virtually attend the committee meeting. We discussed creative ideas to manage and minimise the increasing function costs we are/will be confronted with due to current inflation and pending new labour legislation.

We looked at the six service offerings that Highgate provides:

- Mateship
- Membership
- Advocacy (formally Pensions and Veteran's Affairs)
- Welfare (formally Hospitals and Welfare)
- Commemorations (State War Memorial, Honour Avenues Group and Memorials)
- Finance

Mateship - mateship embraces our functions and events. Our monthly lunches will continue as this is the best opportunity for members to come together with their mates and enjoy the camaraderie. We will continue to attract high calibre guest speakers to provide incentive for members to attend lunches. In addition to our traditional lunches and Gunfire Breakfast, we will also create other opportunities for mateship in the form of theatre outings and other events which Secretary Greg Wilson and VP Ray Galliot will elaborate on in future Highgate Happenings. Committee member Lindsay Morrison will assist Ray in the organising of events.

The annual Memorial Lunch at Fraser Restaurant is planned for 12th November 2023. To keep the event within everyone's financial reach, Highgate will subsidise part of the cost charged by Fraser's and keep it at \$90 per person; appreciate a slight increase from last year. The lunch will be all-inclusive of a 2-course meal, bread roll, tea and coffee AND beer, wine and soft drink. We will fund that subsidy from the proceeds of a raffle. The prize will be a brand-new Military sword valued at around **\$1500** and very generously donated by Highgate member Leon Griffiths. We thank Leon for his extreme generosity. More details on the Memorial Lunch and the raffle will be provided by Greg Wilson and Ray Galliot.

Highgate media such as Highgate Happenings edited by Greg Wilson and Highgate Website managed by Highgate member Ian Petkoff continue to be part of our tool kit to promote Highgate and its functions.

Membership – Barry Cooke retains Membership and we have nominated committee member Greg Smith, a current serving ADF Member, to assist Barry. Greg is strategically placed to encourage other serving members to join Highgate. However, we expect all members of Highgate to be on the lookout for new members and refer them to the application form on our website, or either to Greg or Barry.

Advocacy - we have changed the name of this service offering from Pensions and Veterans Affairs to simply Advocacy to conform with RSLWA nomenclature. Committee member Veronica Connaughton is appointed the Advocacy Liaison Officer and I encourage any of our Members with Advocacy issues to reach out to Veronica.

Welfare - formerly Hospitals and Welfare we have simplified the title to Welfare. Howard Montagu retains his role as the Welfare Officer for Highgate. He will be supported by committee member Alan Shephard. We will run with our R U OK initiative - It is our intention to reach out, by way of a phone call, to every member of Highgate and who we do not see at our lunches at least once before the next AGM with an R U OK enquiry?

Commemoration - this offering includes:

- State War Memorial (SWM) services and Highgate's provision of sub-wardens.
- Honour Avenues Group (HAG)
- Memorials (various initiatives still ongoing)

SWM – Committee member Geoff Simpson remains Deputy Warden for the SWM (appointed by RSLWA) in addition to being one of two Highgate Wardens.

HAG - It is our intention to bring HAG and Highgate closer together. We will achieve that by understanding each group's concerns and needs going forward and working together.

Memorials – we still have some unfinished work associated with previous initiatives on memorial bar codes which will be undertaken by committee member Bill Munro in addition to his role as Warden.

Finance - sustaining costs in an inflationary environment in addition to new labour legislation will be challenging going forward. Through creative initiatives such as raffles and potential corporate sponsorships we will attempt to keep costs to our members down. Lindsay Morrison will assist Bill Munro, Bruce Taylor and myself identify and approach companies for corporate sponsorship. Highgate Treasurer Ray Ward will report on income relating to any donations and if appropriate establish a separate bank account for donations to ring fence that funding for reporting purposes.

Targets – for each of our service offerings, we have set ourselves targets. Not aware if it has been done by previous committees but we are sticking our neck out and publishing what we are aiming to achieve by next AGM.

We are following the management principle of "if it can't be measured it can't be managed".

Agreed targets are:

ACTIVITY	TARGET BY AGM AUGUST 2024
Mateship – lunch attendees, includes Gunfire Breakfast & Memorial Lunch	720 persons total in attendance over the period up and until AGM (stretch 840)
Membership - new members	20 new Highgate members (stretch 25)
Advocacy	report number of referrals to RSLWA
Welfare – member contacts made – R U OK?	150 attempted calls to members (stretch 200)
Finance - additional income raffles /sponsorship. Excludes Red Poppy proceeds.	\$7,000 (stretch \$8,000)

We will report our progress periodically at Highgate Lunches.

John Cleary
President



Happy Birthday October babies

Leon Newman, Mike Wadsworth, Ken Jones, John Morriss, Phillip Skelton, Arthur Hutchison, Peter Rowles, Colin Taylor, Margo Harness, John Lindsay, Shirley Mooney, Ron Mitchell, Bill Munro, Stan Stewart, Tania Aitken, Ian Mulholland, Howard Montagu, Roger Buddrige, Michael Sutherland, Chris Atturo, Ian Healy, John Barnes, Jack Suriano.

Apologies to anyone accidentally omitted

What's Happening

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. CAPT Ken Burleigh ADC RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling has been invited to be guest speaker. Cost \$90 pp. See page 7 for booking link

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

2024 – January meeting subject to opening date of Anzac Club

19 February – speaker TBA.

Proposed speakers in 2024 include Brian Haggerty, Director Energy, Technology & Transition GAICD, Dr Jonathon Langer, Chiropractor & Soft Tissue Therapy.



Poppy Day Friday 3 November

RSLWA's largest annual fundraising event for the year is the Poppy Appeal. Created in 1921, this is our longest-running fundraiser as well. The

Poppy Appeal runs alongside Remembrance Day, where poppies are given in return for a donation; all of these donations go directly into assisting veterans in need; whether that be with financial matters, mental and physical health issues and/or transitioning into the civilian world.

Highgate Coordinator, Ray Ward, is seeking members to "Rattle a Tin" and advises:

Collection sites are AS USUAL: Elizabeth Quay Train AND Bus stations AND Perth Bus-port in Wellington Street. We also have a new collection point, Murray St entrance to Perth Underground Station.

VOLUNTEERS ("*The more the merrier*") ARE needed – and can register at the OCTOBER Luncheon or contact Ray Ward Ph. 0409 426 677 or c42ward@bigpond.net.au

PEAK COLLECTION TIME: 0630h to 0930h or any part thereof. Please help for a while if you can.

DRESS: Smart – tie optional; hat preferred; medals should be worn.

PREFERRED COLLECTION LOCATION AND TIME: Optional, but please specify BOTH

The Sub-Branch has a number of SQUARE readers to receive donations electronically.

Wanted – SWM Sub-Wardens.

Each year Sub-Wardens provided by Highgate Sub-Branch assist in the conduct of up to 30 services at the State War Memorial. Their numbers are dwindling and we are looking for members who may wish to join this group and participate in these important occasions.

Please contact Geoff Simpson phone 0408 925 432. email gsimpson001@optusnet.com.au to express your interest. RSLWA members from any Sub-Branch welcome.



Australians at War – October

(Courtesy AWM)

1 October 1918 - The Light Horse advances into Damascus, the Syrian capital, at the end of the long and victorious advance that ended the First World War in the Middle East

2 October 1943 - 9th Division captures Finschhafen. Finschhafen, in New Guinea, subsequently becomes the base for the protracted Huon Peninsula campaign, 1943-44.

3 October 1992 - Dedication, Australian Vietnam Veterans' National Memorial. The Vietnam Veterans' National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra, was opened by the Prime Minister, the Hon. Paul Keating, MP, and honours those Australians who served and died in the war in Vietnam

3 – 8 October 1951 – Battle of Maryang-San, Korea. The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, made a successful assault against Chinese positions on Hill 317 (Maryang-San) and held the important feature in the face of fierce counter-attacks.

5 October 1951 - The commencement of the aircraft carrier, HMAS *Sydney's*, first patrol off Korea's west coast made Australia the third country (after the USA and Britain) to operate a carrier in the Korean War. The carrier operated Firefly and Sea Fury aircraft (both types can be seen in the Memorial's Aircraft Hall).

6 October 1971 – HMAS *Sydney* at Vung Tau. The carrier embarked the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, as Australia's participation in the Vietnam war wound down.

8 October 1942 - 25th Brigade, 7th Division, contacts Japanese rear-guard at Tempelton's Crossing. The pursuit of the Japanese retreating along the Kokoda Trail involved hard fights. Tempelton's Crossing was named after an officer of the 39th Battalion, lost without trace in the retreat from Kokoda.

16 October 1967 – Royal Australian Navy helicopters deploy to Vietnam. An RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV '67) joins the US Army's 135th Aviation Company at Vung Tau, supporting American troops in South Vietnam.

18 October 1967 - HMAS *Perth* struck by return fire near Cape Lai, Vietnam, while on the United States 7th Fleet 'gunline'. This was the only occasion on which an Australian warship suffered casualties from enemy fire during the Vietnam War

19 October 1945 – War Widows Guild of Australia founded. The guild's first president was Mrs Jessie Vasey, widow of Major General G.A. Vasey. It is still an active organisation today. Major General Vasey was killed in an aircraft accident near Cairns while returning to operational service.

25 – 26 October 1942 - Private P.E. Gratwick, 2/48th Battalion, originally from Katanning, Western Australia, wins the Victoria Cross at El Alamein, Egypt

28 October 1916 – First Conscription Referendum. Dismayed by heavy losses at Fromelles and Pozières on the Western Front, Prime Minister W.M. Hughes proposed that conscription be introduced for overseas service. The proposal was defeated

29 – 30 October 1950 - Australian troops of the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, reach Chongju, the most northerly point of their advance into North Korea. In two days fierce fighting against determined North Korean opposition the Australians clear Chongju and the surrounding ridges.



The 80th Anniversary of Operation Jaywick: A Daring WWII Covert Mission

26 September commemorated the 80th anniversary of a pivotal event during World War II – Operation Jaywick. Orchestrated by the Z Special Unit, a joint venture between Australian and British special forces, this covert mission's primary objective was to sabotage Japanese shipping activities in Singapore Harbour. Its success not only highlighted the potency of guerrilla warfare but also dealt a severe blow to the Japanese war effort, simultaneously elevating the spirits of the Allied forces.

Journey to the Heart of the Enemy Territory

Under the leadership of Major Ivor Lyon, the team embarked on a perilous journey from Western Australia towards Singapore. Their choice of transportation was an ingeniously captured boat, which they renamed the MV Krait to blend seamlessly into the local scenario. Disguised as Malay fishermen, the group sailed with the dual purpose of maintaining cover and avoiding unwanted attention.

Their journey led them to Subor Island, located a mere 11 kilometres from Singapore. Here, they prepared for the mission's most critical phase.

The Night That Shifted the Tide of War

On the fateful night of 26th September 1943, the team, equipped with folding kayaks, silently infiltrated the Japanese-occupied Singapore Harbour. Their mission was simple yet audacious: place limpet mines on the Japanese ships without getting caught. After completing their treacherous task, they faced yet another challenge – paddling an arduous 80 kilometres to meet the MV Krait, their rendezvous point, which took them six days.

The result of their bravery became evident a few days later. The detonation of the limpet mines caused catastrophic damage. Seven enemy vessels, crucial to the Japanese naval operations, either sank or suffered grievous damages.

Homeward Bound: The Heroes Return

After successfully completing one of the most daring missions of World War II, the team rendezvoused with the Krait. Exhausted but triumphant, they embarked on their journey back home. The Krait, carrying its brave canoeists, made its way back to Australian shores, reaching Exmouth on 19th October 1943.

Legacy of Operation Jaywick

The audaciousness of Operation Jaywick remains a testament to the effectiveness of unconventional warfare. This mission not only demonstrated the strategic brilliance and courage of the Allied forces but also delivered a significant blow to the Japanese, disrupting their naval capabilities. Moreover, the news of the operation's success spread rapidly among the Allies, serving as a morale booster during challenging times.

Today, as we remember and honour the heroes of Operation Jaywick, their legacy stands as a reminder of the indomitable human spirit and the lengths brave souls will go to ensure victory and freedom.



September signals Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

September is Prostate Cancer Awareness Month and is a timely reminder to have important conversations about men's health.

If you are a male, aged 60 or over, there is a strong possibility you, or one of your mates, has or will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point in their life.

Prostate Cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australia. It affects men in older age groups and is rare in men under 50 years. Research published by the Cancer Council shows by the age of 85 one in six males will have been diagnosed with prostate cancer.

However, it's not all doom and gloom. 90% of people are diagnosed early and survival is good. Depending on the type and stage, some people don't need treatment and will be closely monitored instead.

If you've been diagnosed by your doctor with prostate cancer and hold a Veteran White Card you might be eligible to receive fully funded cancer treatment under Non-Liability Health Care (NLHC).

Cancer treatment covered under NLHC may include allied health, GP care and specialist care, scans and blood tests, as well as treatment options such as chemotherapy, radiation therapy, surgery or hormone therapy.

Prostate cancer can cause symptoms such as blood in your urine, a weak or interrupted stream, needing to urinate often, pain while urinating, incontinence, pain in the back, or weak legs or feet. These symptoms may have other causes. Talk to your doctor if you have any of these symptoms.

There is no single or simple test for prostate cancer. If you don't have symptoms, talk to your doctor the pros and cons of the tests available in your individual circumstances. Your doctor or health professional can help you to make an informed decision about being tested.

For more information about prostate cancer testing and treatment see [The Prostate Cancer Foundation](#). For more information about funded prostate cancer treatment, including eligibility call us on [1800 VETERAN \(1800 838 372\)](#) or visit [Free treatment for cancer and pulmonary tuberculosis | Department of Veterans' Affairs](#)

HIGHGATE REMEMBRANCE DAY LUNCH

Sunday 12 November 23 is the date for this year's Highgate Remembrance Day service and lunch at Frasers Restaurant. Guest speaker is CAPT Ken Burleigh ADC RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Stirling. Cost \$90 pp for two course lunch and drinks. Payment must be made prior to the event. Note in order to keep the price at an affordable level, the lunch is being subsidised from Sub-Branch funds. A raffle is to be conducted in the New Year to replace this subsidy. First prize is a new sword valued at \$1500, donated by Leon Griffiths. Further details on this next month.

Bookings for the Remembrance Day lunch can be made at <https://forms.gle/y6fPHKogM6z2iVjw5>. The Response Form can be viewed at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1XMu0-qFFBD6V8Ggd9ELPepSZDNUdyOA-TeTXPKBYKqU/edit?usp=sharing>



THEATRE DISCOUNTS

As announced by President John Cleary at the September luncheon, your committee is planning additional activities for members' enjoyment including theatre, movie and bus excursions. The first offer for members is as follows:

Theatre Show - Mary Poppins

When: Saturday 14th October 2024

Where: Crown Theatre Perth

Time: 1.30 pm

Cost: Normally \$170 pp but discounted for Highgate members to \$132 pp.

Limited number of tickets for this initial show.

To book your tickets, please click the link in the flyer above or

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdhd3PqUyz9KsJwc9tFds8Y4aRHHU-PEnUJD5ldHhWbgJRG6bw/viewform>

This show is receiving exceptional reviews for its artistry, stage scenery and presentation.

Vale 53742 Jim Eayres PSM

Born 5 April 1941, passed away 23 September 2023. Australian Regular Army 1959, posted to Kapooka then Royal Australian Signals – Electronic Technician; Overseas Service – Vietnam 1968-69 ; PNG Defence Corp 1982-84; 25 Years Service retired as a Major. Awarded the Public Service Medal (PSM) – For outstanding public service through his contribution to the WA State Emergency Services: 11 June 1996. Former State War Memorial Sub-Warden.

Lest We Forget