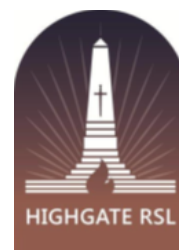




## THE RETURNED & SERVICES LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA HIGHGATE SUB BRANCH

[www.highgate-rsl.org.au](http://www.highgate-rsl.org.au)

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# Highgate Happenings DECEMBER 2023

## CHRISTMAS IS A COMING



Highgate's December lunch will be conducted on Monday 11 December. This is the SECOND Monday of December.

Cost will be \$40 for lunch, plus \$5 if you wish to indulge in the raffle. Entertainment by Rick Steele\*.

Formal dress is OUT, Christmas attire is in. See the flyer on the back page for lunch details.

The booking sheet link is:

<https://forms.gle/u3iYTdhsT8SJU8Di6>

The Response Sheet link is (view only):

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dXGLjFtNv7pTI0xtWEw2Sv1n3QYaVfrdAdYlwN-FipVE/edit?usp=sharing>



\*Rick Steele was born in Auckland NZ. As a twelve-year-old, and armed with a new/old guitar self-financed, he was off to boarding school while a group from Liverpool began to alter music history. Five years and many songs later Auckland Teacher Training College beckoned, and during the two-year course a group was formed and during three years of primary school teaching, 'The Vision' recorded and had a minor hit.

In 1971 Rick arrived in Perth and began a two-year stint teaching grade 4/5 at Eden Hill Primary School. Though songwriting beckoned and a recording contract was offered in NZ. With a new bride, the offer was too good to refuse and thus started four years of touring and performing on television and big festivals alongside groups such as Split Enz, Dragon and even Oz supergroup Little River Band.

Along the way, two boys were born and in 1981 the family returned to Perth. Rick's journalism career started in the 80s for a magazine called Girl About Town. Before moving on a short stint at Xpress Magazine where he interviewed pretend rock stars. Joining the Have a Go family in 2015 with his regular column he hasn't stopped with his love of music and performing.

**Thank you to our raffle supporters:**



**GROVENOR HOTEL**

Hay Street, East Perth



**Spudshed**

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## President's Reach-Out:



Dear members, sadly since my last communique with you, we have lost an Associate of Highgate, Brigadier Rodney Gerard Curtis AM, MC (ret'd). Rodney was 83 years old. He was born in Perth in 1940 and passed away October 19, 2023 in Perth, Western Australia.

We also note the passing of Highgate member Owen Page RFD ED, in early November aged 93 years. Owen served in the CMF for 29 years from 1956 to 1985 in the Royal Australian Army Service Corps, retiring with the rank of Captain. Postings included 10 Company RAASC, HQ 2 Task Force, HQ 5 Military District. In 1971 he saw service in South Vietnam with 26 Company RAASC. A private family funeral was conducted.

*Lest we forget*

As I write this message to you, sadly I advise that our very esteemed Highgate member, Korean War veteran and former RAN Fleet Air Arm observer Jack Suriano, is currently in the St John of God Hospice, Murdoch. When I visited Jack a few days ago (16th November), he was in high spirits, still telling yarns but appeared prepared for the inevitable. A number of his Fleet Air Arm mates hosted a BBQ last Sunday for him, which was much appreciated by Jack. Our thoughts are with Jack, wife Shirley and family at this stressful time for them.

**Poppy Day** - Ray Ward our Poppy Day coordinator did another splendid job with his organisation of the activity this year. Ray's team collected just over \$9,000 a fantastic result albeit with a disappointingly small number of volunteers. A standout performance was by Life Member Oliver Lovelle JP, who alone collected over \$1,000 from the various centrally located Police Stations. We are aiming for a better result next year by encouraging more of our members to collect. Many, if not most, of our collectors this year were well in their 80's and we invite our younger members to give up 3 hours of their time to collect next year. Remember that 50% of the collections go straight into our Welfare Account to help our Highgate members.

**Memorial Service and Lunch** – on 12th November the Sub-Branch conducted its Memorial Service at the Flame of Remembrance. A special thank you to Deputy Warden and Highgate member Geoff Simpson and his team of Sub Wardens for supporting the service. I wish to also thank Highgate member Fr Jeff Astfalck for his well delivered and appropriate message for the service and grace at the lunch. I also wish to thank Piper Mick Coyle and Bugler David Scott for making the day memorable.

The Memorial lunch followed the service with 136 attendees, a great result. Lunch coordinator and Highgate member Leon Griffiths deserves a special thank you for making the lunch happen. Over several months, Leon worked hard behind the scenes and produced a great event complemented with a colourful lunch program. Roger Buddrige assisted Leon with the print media, and I thank Roger for that. Bob Mummery, Peter Heeney, Howard Montagu, Adrian Young and Richard Adams also assisted behind the scenes to make the event enjoyable.

Our guest speaker at the Memorial lunch was CAPT Ken Burleigh, CO HMAS Stirling. Ken provided an excellent and informative outline of the future of HMAS Stirling which all present, I am sure, found quite enlightening. Ken also offered a guided tour of Stirling which we will arrange for those members interested in the New Year. More to follow on the tour.

**Next Lunch Meeting** – on the 11th December (note it's the 2nd Monday in December) we will conduct our Christmas Lunch with entertainer **Rick Steele**. We guarantee a special lunch menu which

Ray Galliot has planned. Please bring your partner and enjoy the day in your special Christmas attire!

**Affiliates and Associates** – Your member fees are due by 1 January. Expect an invoice from the Secretary shortly.

There will be a price increase to the lunches in 2024 program because of increased costs at the ANZAC Club. However, following the good work of our lunch committee, Ray Galliot, Ray Ward and Bill Munro, we have successfully kept the increases to a minimum and further, have offset the increases with a better menu. More details to follow once discussed by Highgate committee.

I take this opportunity to wish all our members and their families a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year. Don't forget our mates who maybe home alone over Christmas. Why not invite someone home alone around to your home for Christmas and for some mateship! Best wishes.

John Cleary

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## Happy Birthday December babies



Peter Heeney, Peter Lawrance, Nigel Earnshaw, John Fisher, Ray Galliot, Greg Lakeman, Douglas Melville, Barry Cooke, Tony Fragomini, Cliff Moores, Damien Quirk, Jim Irving, Michael Harness, Derek Ladyman, Duncan Warren, Kevin Graham, Robin Slater, John Adeney, Ross Cable, Robert Elliott, William Kynaston, Veronica Connaughton. Apologies to any member omitted.

## Happy 105th Birthday Shalom Coleman

A big Happy Birthday to Rabbi Shalom Coleman who turns 105 on 5 December. As they say in Yiddish זאלסט זיך מערן אין פריידן "zaltsu zikh meren in freyden" (may you increase in years with joy).

Shalom Coleman was conscripted in 1939 and became a Royal Air Force Gunner/Wireless Operator with 107 Boston Squadron, operating over Western Europe. From 1947 – 1960 he was a Padre (Rabbi) with the South African Forces. In 1966 he migrated to Perth and became Chief Rabbi Perth Hebrew Congregation until 1985. He was also Chairman Perth Beth Brin 1966 – 1985. In 1966 he became Chaplain 5th Military District (Captain), served as Padre to Z Special Unit, and a number of other ex-service associations, including the Fleet Air Arm Association. He was appointed a JP in 1967.

He was a member of the Murdoch University Senate, Vice Chairman of the Save the Children Fund in 1967, Chairman Committee of National Pride in Schools 1981 -1991, Committee on Religious Studies in Schools 1983 -85, a Trustee of both the Karrakatta Cemetery Board and Pinnaroo Valley Memorial Park, Chairman Perth Dental Hospital Board. Rabbi Coleman was also a member of RSLWA state Executive from 1985 to 1987.

In 1977 he received the Queen's Coronation Medal and was Awarded the Order of the British Empire – Commander (Civil) (Imperial) in recognition of service to youth, education and Jewish community in 1980. In 1990 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in recognition of service to religion and the community.

A life of exceptional service to his religion and his community. Happy Birthday Shalom.

Thanks to Leon Griffiths efforts we welcome Woolworths as a raffle prize sponsor



## What's Happening

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

15 January 24 – Member Richard Offen. Further details and costs to be advised.

19 February – Ashley Morrison, freelance broadcaster and commentator.

18 March 24 – Jonathon Langer - Chiropractic and Soft Tissue Therapist.

25 April 24 – Anzac Day Gun-fire Breakfast at The Weld Club. Cost and guest speaker to be advised.

20 May - Brian Haggarty, alternative fuels.

## A Grace from the Past by Rev Tim

It was great to see Rev Tim Harrison in attendance at our August meeting and we welcome him again this month. He is famous for his Grace at the start of our meetings.

Below is the Last Grace he presented at our last meeting in the old Anzac House on 19 December 2016, prior to its demolition.

*Heavenly Father, as we gather in this room for the final time before it's demolition, we give You thanks for our memories of the past.*

*Especially we will be forever grateful for the friendship we valued of those members who have gone before us and are now in your keeping.*

*Grant to us, being so inspired by their good example of steadfastness and loyalty to this Sub-branch.*

*Despite the uncertainties of the future, we will never be deterred from its commitment to the wellbeing of past and present members of our defence force.*

*As we lunch this day Good Lord, whilst many are not getting any thinner, and certainly showing signs of wear and tear, please may we enjoy our festival dinner with its Christmas fare.*

AMEN

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## Just Joking



On Christmas Eve, Nathan thought it would be nice to buy his wife a little gift for the next day. Always short of money, he thought long and hard about what that present might be.

Unable to decide, Nathan entered a large department store and, in the cosmetics section, he asked the girl, 'How about some perfume?' She showed him a bottle costing \$150.

'Too expensive,' muttered Nathan.

The young lady returned with a smaller bottle for \$50. 'Oh dear,' Nathan groused, 'still far too much.'

Growing rather annoyed at Nathan's meanness, the sales girl brought out a tiny \$10 bottle and offered it to him.

Nathan became really agitated, 'What I mean', he whined, 'is I'd like to see something really cheap.'

So the sales girl handed him a mirror.



## Australians at War – December

1 December 1942. HMAS Armidale was sunk by Japanese aircraft near Timor. As the Armidale sank Able Seaman Teddy Sheean fired at attacking bombers until he was lost with his ship.

1 December 1951. Air battle over Sunchon, North Korea. In this, the largest air-to-air battle fought by the RAAF during the Korean war, twelve 77 Squadron Meteors met between 40-50 Chinese Mig-15s. The fight precipitated a change from an air interception to a ground attack role for No. 77 Squadron.

3 December 1914. First AIF disembarked in Egypt. Though many had expected to go to Britain, after Turkey's entry into the war the first Australian troops were sent to Egypt to protect the vital Suez Canal.

3 December 1954 No. 77 Squadron RAAF returns from Korea. 77 Squadron achieved a high level of operational performance throughout the war, flying Mustangs and then Meteors.

4 December 1990 Approval given by the Australian Government for the Royal Australian Navy's involvement in the Persian Gulf. Ultimately eight Australian ships served in the Gulf.

5 December 1939. First official RAAF operation of the Second World War. A Sunderland aircraft of No. 10 Squadron RAAF, flew on the first official RAAF operation of the Second World War. This was the beginning of six years of war for 10 Squadron, which flew as part of RAF Coastal Command continuously against U-boats in the battle of the Atlantic.

5 December 1950. Evacuation of Chinnampo, Korea. HMA Ships Bataan and Warramunga took part in evacuating Chinnampo, which involved operating in the very shallow waters of the Taedong River estuary at night.

6 December 1951 HMAS Sydney begins its second patrol off Korea. Sydney's aircraft were used to protect South Korean-held islands on Korea's north-west coast.

7 December 1915 Evacuation of ANZAC forces from Gallipoli begins. Though the Gallipoli campaign had failed British empire forces at least planned and executed the evacuation without loss.

8 December 1941. Australia announces that it is at war with Japan. Some 17,000 Australians would die in the three-and-a-half-year war against Japan, 8,000 as prisoners of war.

9 December 1917 Jerusalem occupied by the Desert Mounted Corps. The capture of Jerusalem, a city significant for Christians, Jews and Muslims, was one of the triumphs for British empire forces in the Middle East in 1917.

9 December 1942. Australians occupy Gona, New Guinea. The Japanese withdrawal from the Kokoda Trail enabled the allies to plan the encirclement of important Japanese positions in the Buna, Sanananda and Gona beachhead. Gona was the first of the three to fall to the allies after weeks of heavy fighting.

11 December 1952 Operation Fauna, Korea. The 1st Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment begins Operation Fauna in Korea, its objective is to capture prisoners and destroy enemy defences. Operation Fauna was a major trench raid on Chinese positions near Hill 355 to snatch a prisoner. Although no prisoners were taken, Chinese dispositions near Hill 355 were seriously disrupted.

12 December 1917. The battle cruiser HMAS Australia damaged in a collision with the battle cruiser HMS Repulse.

17 December 1967. HMAS Perth comes under fire off Dong Hoi, Vietnam.

19 December 1951 HMAS Sydney completes a tour of operations off Korea's west coast. Aircraft from Sydney left no operable railway lines in its area of operations, significantly disrupting enemy supply routes.

20 December 1915. Last Australian troops evacuated from Gallipoli. The evacuation of Gallipoli, largely planned by Brigadier General C.B.B. White, was a triumph of careful planning and bold execution.

22 December 1941. First United States troops arrive in Australia. Australia soon became a major base for US forces in the war against Japan. They were warmly welcomed as representing a defence for Australia.

23 December 1916 Battle of Magdhaba, northern Sinai. The capture of Magdhaba by Chauvel's Mounted Brigade and the Imperial Camel Corps helped open the way for the successful Allied campaign in Palestine.

27 December 1943 7th Division capture 'The Pimple', Shaggy Ridge, New Guinea. The four-month battle for Shaggy Ridge culminated with the capture of this Japanese position on the ridge's summit.

29 December 1860. Action at Matarikoriko, New Zealand. Sailors from the Victorian Colonial warship, Victoria, take part in the action at Matarikoriko, New Zealand. The Victoria's service in New Zealand waters during the second Anglo-Maori war, represents the first overseas military operation by an Australian unit, the beginning of Australia's overseas war history.

31 December 1967. 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment arrives in South Vietnam. The 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment, sailed to Vietnam on HMAS Sydney.

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## A Dose of Christmas Cheer

Three men died on Christmas Eve and were met by Saint Peter at the pearly gates.

"In honour of this holy season," Saint Peter said, "You must each possess something that symbolises Christmas to get into heaven."

The first man fumbled through his pockets and pulled out a lighter. He flicked it on. "It represents a candle," he said. "You may pass through the pearly gates," Saint Peter said.

The second man reached into his pocket and pulled out a set of keys. He shook them and said, "They're bells." Saint Peter said, "You may pass through the pearly gates."

The third man started searching desperately through his pockets and finally pulled out a pair of women's glasses. Saint Peter looked at the man with a raised eyebrow and asked, "And just what do those symbolise?" The man replied, "They're Carol's."

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Morris, an 82-year-old man, went to the doctor to get a physical check-up.

A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young woman on his arm.

A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, 'You're really doing great, aren't you? '

Morris replied, 'Just doing what you said, Doc: 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful. '

'The doctor said, 'I didn't say that. I said, 'You've got a heart murmur; be careful.'



RSL HIGHGATE  
PRESENTS

# Our Christmas LUNCHEON

DEC 11

11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## MENU

Warm Bread Rolls & Butter

## Mains

Roast Turkey, Potato,  
Broccolini, Maple Glazed  
Carrots, Bacon, Red Cranberry  
Wine Jus

## Dessert

Christmas Pudding, Cherry  
Compote, Vanilla Anglaise .  
Tea, Coffee, After Dinner Mints

• Entertainment by Ric Steele.

• Dress: Casual - prize  
awarded for the best  
'Chrissy' dressed member/  
couple!

• Normal raffle prizes.

• Cash bar for beer, wine and  
soft drinks.

• Guests welcome.



Cost: \$40 per person  
(\$45 with raffle ticket).

Partners/Carers Most Welcome

At The Anzac Club, 28 St Georges Tce,  
Perth.

RSVP 6 DEC 2023

To book, click the link on page 1 or  
contact Ray Galliot (9243 7453).

Xmas Dress!!  
Prizes awarded for  
the best dressed  
"Chrissy" member/  
couple!!