



# HIGHGATE



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## NEWS

The official newsletter of the Highgate (WA) Sub-Branch of the Returned & Services League of Australia

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## GUNFIRE BREAKFAST—Saturday 25th April 2009

**Venue:** W.A. Club, 101 St Georges Terrace, Perth

**Time:** 0700 hrs for 0730 hrs

**Guest Speaker:** John Tick The Guest Speaker at this year's Gunfire Breakfast is a Highgate Member. He is a talented and versatile member of our community. John took his unit to Vietnam and he has been occupied with the army and teaching matters military for some years, particularly in SE Asia. His last military appointment was as Chief Engineer 5th Military District. Since retiring to his home state he has been involved with many and several engineering projects. Until about a year ago he was the President of the Army Museum in Fremantle; however last week he retired. We're sure there will be another chapter!!!

**Topic:** The RSL and ANZAC Day

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### ANZAC DAY – 56<sup>th</sup> Gunfire Breakfast

Members please ensure you book for the Gunfire Breakfast and pay the Treasurer to avoid any disappointment on the morning. Seating is allocated so that mates can sit together and this is done as returns are received.

Manning the registration point again this year will be our Secretary Bob Bunney. Bob together with other Committee Members will also be selling tickets for the raffle, which this year features two bottles of liqueur, captured by SVP Bob Norris whilst overseas and two books on the Gallipoli campaign.

Doors of the Western Australia Club will open at 07:00 hrs for Coffee and Rum with breakfast commencing at 07:30 hrs and the programme concluding at 08:50 hrs, so that all can join their units in time for the march. Those who wish may stay on and enjoy what's left of the Coffee and Rum.

There are a little under thirty seats left for this always popular occasion so I suggest you get your reply slip in now and state with whom you wish to be seated.

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## FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

**Committee:** 4 May 09

**Monthly Luncheon:** 18 May 09



## EMAIL DISTRIBUTION OF HIGHGATE NEWS

The Email addresses held for several members are wrong or for some other reason have been rejected when the newsletter has been forwarded to the recorded address.

Should you, in the past, have received your issue by email and note that the last two copies have been sent through the post please let me know your current email address. Or, if you have to date received the newsletter by post and would now like to receive it via email also please let me have your address.

*Editor*



## HIGHGATE RSL SUB-BRANCH HONOUR AVENUES GROUP - DEDICATION OF PLAQUES SATURDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2009

At 0930 on a clear summer's morning members of the Honour Avenues Group were joined by relatives and friends of nine servicemen who were to be honoured with the dedication of plaques carrying their rank, name, service and where and how they died in the service of their country.

The ceremony was carried out at May Circle, May Drive, Kings Park.

It was at this location in 1919 that the first dedication of plaques to WA war dead was carried out by the Governor of Western Australia.

Their ages ranged from 19 to 29 years of age and they died at Heilly Station in 1918, Villers Bretonneux in 1917 and 1918, Passchendaele in 1917, Borneo in 1945, Sandakan 1942 and Bochum in 1945.

Private Clive L Garlick was killed in action on the 21 September 1918 at Villers Bretonneux, while serving with 1 Machine Gun Battalion. He was 24.

His brother, Private Carl E Garlick of the 8 Battalion, was killed at Heilly Station on the 20 December 1918. He was 19.

Another set of brothers were Private Frederick Taylor of the 51 Battalion KIA France

7 July 1916 aged 20, with Private John R Taylor, also of the 51 Battalion, KIA Passchendaele 12 October 1917 aged 25.

The third set of brothers were Private Harold Crellin of 28 Battalion KIA 28 March 1917 at Villers Bretonneux aged 25 and his brother Walter, of 16 Battalion, was KIA also at Villers Bretonneux two weeks later aged 27.

The service was conducted by the members of the Honour Avenue Group, with prayers and dedication of plaques conducted by the Chaplain of 16 Battalion,

Capt. Kate Wilmot, a bugler, from the Australian Army Band sounded The Last Post and Reveille.

A nominated recipient from the families involved came forward as the serviceman's life history was read out and the plaque handed to the Next-of Kin or relative. A member of the Honour Avenues then escorted them to the allocated tree and post within the Honour Avenue and the attachment was then carried out.

With some 1,340 plaques within the three Honour Avenues the Group has run out of trees hence the practice of now placing two to three plaques on trees where they are suitable such as two or three brothers, father and son or coppers from the same Battalion, Regiment or Unit. These plaques and white posts are their crosses, wherever they rest and together they continue to share an undying comradeship in this place of peace - **Lest We Forget**.



## The Annual General Meeting of the Highgate RSL Honour Avenues Group

was held on Tuesday 24 March at The Lodge in Kings Park.

Highgate Treasurer, Richard Adams, took the chair for the election of officers, which resulted in the following appointments:

Chairman: **Norman Manners**

Deputy Chairman & Treasurer: **Alfred Till**

Secretary: **Ken Jones**

Assistant Secretary: **Robin Slater**

The Chairman, in his report to the members, congratulated them for their effort over the last 12 months which resulted in the group reaching all of the objectives set and in several areas even exceeding the target.

He said:

"The successful completion of this year's tasks is a direct result of your consistent input, either in the workshop in the field or, in the accurate planning and direction by the Executive team."

And in closing he stated:

"The comradeship, which only a person who has proudly worn the uniform of the Australian Defence Force can understand, welds us together in a common cause; To keep faith with our war dead in the Avenues of Honour and to enjoy the good companionship within the group — **Lest We Forget**"



## SUB WARDENS DUTIES

### **Wreath Laying Services currently scheduled at the State War Memorial Kings Park**

Saturday 25 April 2009 0530 hrs for 0548 hrs - ANZAC Day Dawn Service - (Bus 0500 hrs  
 Monday 11 May 2009 1030 hrs for 1100 hrs - Australian American Association (Battle of the  
 Coral Sea )  
 Saturday 16 May 2009 1530 hrs for 1600 hrs - 1 RAR Battle Group Re-union

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### **President's Report (continued)**

#### **Remember May Luncheon you will need to book**

Because we must have a more accurate count of members attending future Luncheons we request you signify your attendance at Luncheons by sending an email or telephoning either Bob or Ian (details in May Newsletter). If you get an answering machine just leave your name so we know you will be attending **we need your RSVP by NOON on the Wednesday prior to the Luncheon for May that is Wednesday 13th** The Luncheon is Monday 18 May.

#### **June Luncheon – the Speaker will be the Governor of WA**

Dr Ken Michael AC is a distinguished engineer in his own right, but is better known for his tireless and respected contribution to many aspects of government, business and community activity within Western Australia spanning more than 40 years. Further details will be published later.

### **KING'S PARK**

*Having received, as a gift for my 80th birthday, a book published in 1929 by the Government Printer Perth WA titled "A Story of 100 years - Western Australia 1829 - 1929" I was very interested to read a little on Kings Park and as this issue features the work of the Honour Avenues Group I considered that it may be of interest to members. It is repeated below:*

"For the needs of its present inhabitants Perth is reasonably endowed with parks and reserves. Chief amongst these is King's Park of over 1,000 acres on the top of Mt Eliza, overlooking the river and the city. Much of its charm lies in the fact that a great deal of the native bush has been left undisturbed. The old trees remain and in the spring the entire park is a blaze of wild flowers, of endless variety and exquisite beauty. Good roads have been made for the motor car. Bordering the main drive is an avenue of flowering gums - natives of the south west corner of the state - which in the early summer present an enchanting picture of many hues and colours.

***Along the Princess May Drive - named after Her Majesty the Queen who opened it during her visit to Australia in 1901 are oaks grown from acorns obtained from the Home Park at Windsor, and these are combined with plain trees to form an Avenue of Honour to sons of Western Australia who gave their lives in The Great War.***

The Park is an asset of incalculable value to the citizens and to the state, and for its preservation and improvement credit is chiefly due to Sir Malcolm Fraser, who as Surveyor General set the land apart for public purposes, and to the three men who in succession have occupied the office of President of the Board of Control: Lord Forrest, Sir Winthrop Hackett, and the Hon. Arthur Lovekin, MLC, the present President".

### **MAN'S BEST FRIEND**

**I**t's a winter's morning in Carnarvon. The year is 1935 and we are standing in the morning sun, enjoying a beer outside the back bar of the Gascoyne Hotel. At the rear of the yard behind a cyclone wire fence there are a few chooks, scratching away at the scraps from the breakfast table. The yardman is poking a fire in which he is burning some rubbish and there's a very dusty old International ute parked on the gravel at the side of the pub.

And, to add to the scene two station hands are arguing the merits of their respective dogs.

"My old Bluey is a real bright dawg, better than any in the district. "Gawn" says the other "There's not a dawg in the whole of the North West that can outsmart Ginger"

We are all starting to get pretty interested in all this banter and one bright spark suggested that they have a competition to prove the better of the two dogs. It's on.

Bluey's owner says, "Bluey see the big rooster in the chook pen. Bring him to me"

Bluey trots off, jumps the fence, singles out the rooster, grabs him by the scruff of the neck and drops him at his boss's feet.

"Wow" we all mutter "That's something".

Ginger's owner, smugly mumbles,

"I'm hungry"

Ginger with a querulous look on his face thinks for a while and then, like a shot runs down to the chook pen, jumps the fence, pushes a fowl off a nest, grabs an egg and back to the ute. Puts the egg on the ground, jumps onto the ute drags out

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## OPERATION RAINBOW AUSTRALIA

(With thanks to Katherine Filippi - Hollywood Private Hospital)

Hollywood Private Hospital surgeon Dr Tim Hewitt and his colleagues have given their time to work with the organisation Operation Rainbow Australia, a group supporting free surgical procedures for craniofacial deformities in the Philippines. It is estimated that about 60,000 babies are born in the Philippines each year with cleft lips and palate deformities. With the majority of people unable to pay for necessary corrective surgery, many of these conditions go untreated. In response to this, Perth-based Operation Rainbow Australia has been sending skilled oral and plastic surgeons, anaesthetists and nurses on medical missions to treat these cases.

Dr Tim Hewitt is one of the directors of this extraordinary organisation. Tim is a plastic surgeon who regularly operates at Hollywood Private Hospital. He is also one of Perth's leading craniofacial surgeons at Princess Margaret Hospital, where around 50 cleft lip and palate repairs are performed annually on children. Tim travels to the Philippines once or twice a year for about a week, during which time the team performs 50 to 60 cleft and lip palate operations on children and young adults. All the surgery performed is free of charge to patients.

Tim became involved in Operation Rainbow Australia about five years ago. "After my first trip I was very keen to get more involved." He said. "I have gone away with the team every year since. This organisation is incredibly efficient, and they get a lot of work done, very safely, to an extremely high standard." Having worked as a volunteer for

other charities, Tim felt that Operation Rainbow differs because it is not bogged down by the administrative issues that plague many other organisations. A team is made up of twelve people, all donating their time and expertise. They take all their own equipment but use the facilities of Malvar Hospital in Quezon City.

Their strong affiliation with the hospital has lasted eight years and provides them with the opportunity to perform follow-ups on patients. "We are extremely fortunate to have this relationship with Malvar as many of these children are suffering from complex conditions that require staged procedures," Tim explained. "One year we can treat a child's cleft lip and the following year we can address their cleft palate." Next year the team will return to Malvar and also operate surgeries in a new hospital in a different part of the Philippines, extending their reach.

Operation Rainbow also has a strong educational element to its program. "We are very inclusive and keen to get local nursing staff and doctors involved, teaching these professionals our techniques," Tim explained. This non-profit organisation is run by a team of very dedicated individuals who raise funds locally. Tim humbly expresses his gratitude to these individuals. "In some ways I have the easy job. I come in and perform the surgery but these people raise the money again and again," he explained. "There is also an incredible group of nurses who help to make this a great organisation."

Wilma Dunne is the President of Operation Rainbow Australia. In 2004 she was awarded

the Order of Australia for her volunteer work with the group. Her commitment to promoting Operation Rainbow Australia and to raising the necessary funds for missions has helped to build a solid organisation. Each trip costs around \$40,000 to fund, which works out to be around \$500 a child. All the money donated to Operation Rainbow Australia directly funds the surgical teams and their medical missions. As there are no administrative costs for the organisation all funds obtained go to helping the children. Although Rainbow has regular donors who contribute to these missions, the organisation always needs more funds.

If you would like to donate to this worthwhile initiative cheques can be made to: Operation Rainbow Australia PO Box 2536 Warwick WA 6024



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a billy can into which he adds the egg.

With this between his teeth he trots off to a tap and after putting the billy under the tap turns it on. He then, with the billy, trots down to the fire on which the yardman had been working. He puts the billy on the fire and after a three minute boil takes it back to his master and empties the can including the egg at his feet.

He then stands on his head.

We are all absolutely amazed. But one asks the obvious,

"Why is he standing on his bloody head?"

Gingers proud master says,

"He knows I haven't got an egg cup".