

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter 32 Small Ship Squadron Association Incorporating RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K L Duncan (RL)

President's Message



Another ANZAC Day has come and gone and I would like to thank the committee for their efforts with the organisation of the day. Again the raffle of the barometer and clocks attracted a lot of support - thank you to all those who participated.

It was very pleasing to see Mick Priest return from the United Kingdom and celebrate the day with a couple of Monash shipmates being Graham Berry and Bruce Davenport. Charles Dean made the pilgrimage for the first time from Western Australia and was joined by Fred Hartnack who has now confirmed that he will not miss an ANZAC Day in the future if at all possible. Fred enjoyed seeing a number of old crew mates especially his second mate Ian (Frank) Johnston from AV Harry Chauvel. Another member to attend the luncheon for the first time was Ken Hull who enjoyed the company of Bruce Riley and Norm Mason (ex Clive Steel 1966 Vietnam) over a few beers.

The Association thanks Marcus Blackmore for the donation of the framed picture of Sir Cyril Brudenell Bingham White. This is an authentic photograph framed by the War Memorial with a genuine signature block enclosed.

Peter and Ken would like to thank those who purchased a copy of the Squadron history. Due to our newsletter being sent to other Associations enquiries have been made in regard to purchasing copies for other Sapper and Associated Units.

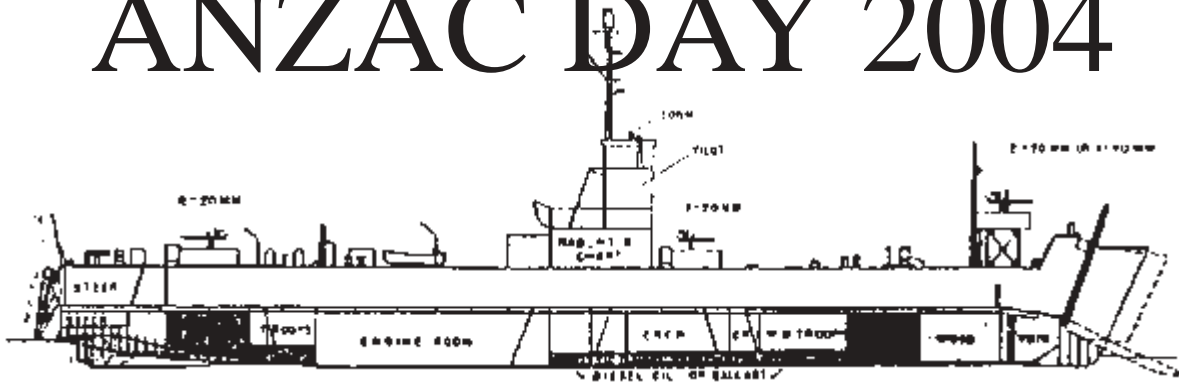
The Association sends its best wishes to all ex-members and their partners and their special guests, Brigadier and Mrs. P.G. Greville on the occasion of celebrating the 40th anniversary of 2 Troop AV1353 Harry Chauvel and 3 Troop AV1355 Vernon Sturdee's involvement in Operation Granite North Borneo (Sabah) on 16th July at the Sergeants' Mess SME, Steele Barracks, Moorebank

On a less happy note I was disappointed with the attendance at the A.G.M. of only a small number of members.

I would like to finish off by thanking the Patron for his support and encouragement and also our Hon. Auditor for his commitment in keeping the Association accountable.

Ocka

ANZAC DAY 2004



DE - BRIEF

Chowder Bay - Dawn Service

This year we had over 1000 people attending the service. It gets more popular each year and is now a community event that has overtaken the "military family" theme when the Maritime School was at Chowder Bay. Alas, there is no longer an Army existence here or at Georges Heights - apart from 1 Commando Company. Headquarters Training Command was located on the old WRAAC School site until last year when it moved to Victoria Barracks.

As usual, Colonel Ken Duncan, our Patron and Custodian of the Army Mariners Memorial, coordinated the service. He continues to attract excellent guest speakers and this year was no exception. Major General R. J. Sharpe, AO, RFD, ED (Rtd) gave the address, outlining the history and progress of Army Mariners and watercraft. It was a stirring speech, and well received. Ken Shannon laid a wreath for our Association. The Catafalque Party was provided by 1 Commando Company and prayers were given by Reverend Richard McCracken from the Scots Kirk, Mosman and Army Chaplain Greg Flynn of Training Command. The Mosman Lions Club put on a Gunfire Breakfast, assisted by Mosman RSL and our Association. As stated earlier it was very much a community service, with many children in attendance, and a much larger participation than it had when it started nearly 30 years with about a dozen soldiers involved.

Lunch - Hunters Hill

Sydney has put on perfect weather for about the last five ANZAC Days and this year was no exception. Over 50 people enjoyed the sunny afternoon at Hunters Hill. As usual the caterers provided an excellent lunch with assistance from Kaye Shannon and Lyn Northey. Roger MacDonald kept our glasses full and all in all it was a great day. Again, it was good to see the ladies attend as well as a number of people who travelled long distances to be with us. Some of these were Jim Brown, Dennis and Heather Lutton, and of course John Purcell - all from Queensland. Charles Deans and his wife, Iris came from Western Australia along with Fred Hartnack from Tasmania. Charlie hasn't changed much; he's even retained his broad Scots accent! See the attached list of those who made it a great afternoon.

Once again the raffle was a great success and the winners were :

1st Prize of a 6" ships barometer went to **Alan White** of Concord, NSW.

2nd Prize of a 6" ships clock went to **Les Muras** of Baulkham Hills, NSW.

3rd Prize of a 3"ships clock went to **Geoff Gallagher** of Coombabah, Qld.

The prizes are made of solid brass and mounted on a polished timber backing, courtesy of Ocka's son, Anthony. Congratulations to the winners, and more importantly, many thanks to everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Your support is very much appreciated.

School of Military Engineering - Dawn Service

This service was held at the 1 Field Squadron Memorial at Holsworthy until a few years ago when the unit was relocated to Darwin. It is now held at SME and like Chowder Bay, it attracts more participants each year. This year saw over 2000 in attendance. Allan Reading laid a wreath on behalf of our Association. He reported an exceptional service with the Guard and Catafalque Party provided by SME, assisted by the Army cadet band - Sydney. Lieutenant Colonel Harry Jarvie, the Acting Commander Land Command Engineers, gave the address. After the service everyone adjourned to the Peeler Club for the traditional Gunfire Breakfast. This was followed by an Engineer rugby match. Apparently SME won.

Tweed Heads NSW - March

Dave Thomas reported that the ANZAC Day activities at Tweed Heads were most successful. There was a big turnout on the march which included a small but significant contingent of our Association consisting of Dave, Bob Modystack, Daz Graney, Bungy Waters, Bob Bailey and Doug Bennett. After the march light refreshments were taken at the Twin Towns RSL. Dave also said that Bob Modystack entertained the contingent at dinner at Bob's house on ANZAC eve, and that this must have been a huge night because he doesn't remember most of it.

Thanks

to Bob Modystack for the photo below of a couple of old Portsea Boys

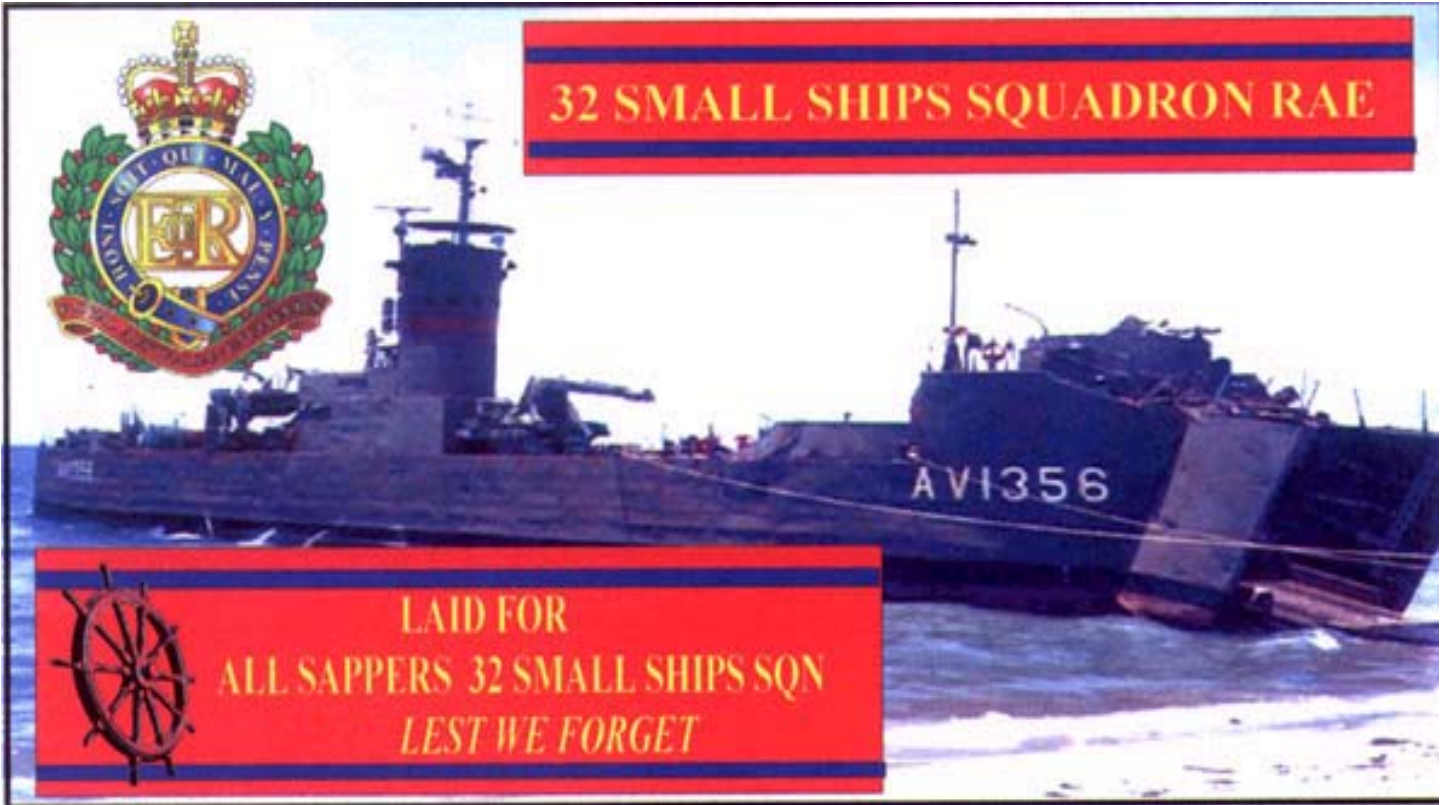


Bill Tindale, Bob Modystack and Tim Bale

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
2004
19th OCTOBER
2000 Hrs HUNTERS HILL RSL HALL

13 Field Squadron - Dawn Service and March

As usual there was a very large turnout at Karrakatta, WA for the Engineers Dawn Service. Mick Ryan, President of the RAE Association WA, reported an attendance of around 500 people. Charles Deans would normally lay a wreath at "our anchor" during the service but he was AWOL in Sydney this year and the honour went to Bernie Pollard. The Engineer contingent had one of the largest Corps groups during the march through Perth. The salute was taken by Lieutenant General John Sanderson who was Chief of Army a few years ago and now the Governor of WA, and a Sapper. The oldest Sapper on parade was WW1 veteran, Sapper Peter Casserley who is 106. Mick reports that members of our Association marched behind the Australian Water Transport Association banner. After the march everyone returned to Karrakatta for lunch and rehydration.



The wreath card laid at Karrakatta ANZAC DAY 2004



Shirley Bannister with son Steven wearing his late fathers (MIKE) medals and Bruce Davenport.

Geraldton WA - March

As well as Charlie Deans going AWOL on ANZAC Day, Colin Symons and a few others did the same by going to Geraldton. Col said that there was a big turnout for the Dawn Service held at the Geraldton RSL and the march through town. The Association was represented by Col, John Lalor, Alan Smith, Dave Perham, Bob Gunn (both a long way from home), Paul Green, Sam Sturniolo, George Lambert and Ross Davies. Bob Gunn laid a wreath on behalf of members of the Squadron. After the march they adjourned to lunch at the RSL

Thanks Col for the report and photograph.



Preparing to step off for the
2004 ANZAC DAY March
SYDNEY

OVERSEAS REPORT (Dave Clarke)

G'day all, just thought I would drop a quick line to let you know I'm still alive and well. Had a really good Anzac day.

Gae, Byfern(daughter) and I attended the dawn service at "Hellfire Pass" and subsequent memorial and wreath laying ceremony at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery which contains the remains of many of those who died on the Thai-burma railway. My guess is in excess of 300 attended the dawn service and over 400 the 11 am service. Dignitaries in attendance apart from me included Senator Amanda Vanstone, Ambassadors from Australia, U.S., Brittan, The Netherlands, Military attaches and countless Thai Generals and Gov't reps. Kanchanaburi is about 180 km N.W of Bangkok and Hellfire pass is about another 80 km North. Kanchanaburi is the main city of the province of the same name and both it and hellfire pass are on the infamous Thai-Burms railway. In total 2,710 Australians, 5 New Zealanders perished on the railway construction. Additionally of course many other nations besides Anzacs lost lives. 6,540 British, 2,830 Dutch, 220 Malayan, 2 Canadian, 2 Burmese, 149 Unknown. U.S lost 133 but their remains were repatriated to U.S. soil. Apart from the Americans, most of the others lie buried in Kanchanaburi which is the largest of three cemeteries containing the dead. About 1/2 the Australians are buried here (1,362) with the remainder buried at Thanbyuzayat at the Burmese end of the railway. Our journey began in Bangkok at about 12 noon on Anzac Eve after a last minute decision to go after about three days of me being as crook as Rookwood with some dreaded lurgie. Anyway the antibiotics kicked in and the trip was back on. We drove up, via Kanchanaburi, to a hotel only 10km from Hellfire Pass to make travel to the dawn service easy. Recommended by the embassy as one of the better places to stay there were plenty of Aussies. We booked in and as I'm always so organised did a quick "recce" to Hellfire Pass in the daylight to ensure we could find it in the dark. All went beautifully. Dinner a couple of beers over looking the fast flowing River Kwai. Dragged myself away for an early night. 4.15 reveille ensured arrival at the Hellfire pass museum at 5.05 am. A leisurely stroll down to the memorial with time to spare for the 5.30 service. The memorial was dedicated in 1987 and the address given back then by the late "Weary" Dunlop. In accordance with his wishes his ashes are now interred at the memorial site.

After the service Gae and I visited the Museum at leisure, which was excellent, then back to the hotel for Breakfast and checkout.

70 km back to Kanchanaburi for 11 am service. Catafalque party by 4 RAR and 1 RAAF. After the service we visited a museum adjacent to the cemetery which in my understanding is owned and operated by an Aussie who is also responsible for the cemetery maintenance. Excellent and a must for any interested visitor.

We decided we needed another day so booked into a remote resort on the River Kwai and the following day visited the famed "Bridge on the River Kwai" which looks absolutely nothing like the one built by the great Sir Alec Guinness. Then sadly back to Bangkok after what had been a couple of very moving days. Got hopelessly lost getting thru Bangkok but that's another story.

I trust your Anzac day was as much to you as mine was to me.

David

SPECIAL THANKS

Lance and Lynne Northey both of whom have decided to step down from active service with the Association. Lance has been our long serving Social Member on the Committee (ANY VOLUNTEERS ?).

Lynne who has been responsible with (Kay Shannon) for organising our wonderful ANZAC DAY luncheons has decided to hand in her apron.

The Association thanks both of you for your tremendous efforts over the past years.

ANZAC DAY ATTENDEES

Jim Brown, Runaway Bay Qld
Warren Barsley, Duffy ACT
Bob Clarke, Glenorie NSW
Sid Cheeseman, Carlingford NSW
Judy Cosis, Leumeah NSW
Iris Deans, Joondalup WA
George Fisher, Eastwood NSW
Fred Hartnack, Beauty Point TAS
Ian Johnston, St Marys NSW
Dennis Lutton, Logan Village QLD
Heather Lutton, Logan Village QLD
Les Muras, Baulkham Hills NSW
Ray Mazurek, Forster NSW
John McGregor, North Avoca, NSW
Lance Northey, North Rocks NSW
Murray Neville, Frenchs forest NSW
John Purcell, Bayview Heights, QLD
Al Parry, Browns Plains QLD
George Reynolds, Ballina NSW
Margaret Davidson, Engadine NSW
Kaye Shannon, Carlingford NSW
Geoff Summergreene, Mosman NSW
Garry Smyth, Westleigh NSW
Neal Vansleve, North Rocks NSW
Brian Waites, Yarramundi NSW

Jeff Beach, Winston Hills NSW
Paul Baker, Mosman NSW
Ken Hull, Carlingford NSW
George Cosis, Leumeah NSW
Charles Deans, Joondalup WA
Ken Duncan, Cremorne NSW
Don Grace, The Entrance NSW
Eric Hale, Mt Pritchard NSW
Len Martin, Bateau Bay NSW
Roger MacDonald, Frenchs Forest NSW
Ross McMurray, West Pymble NSW
Juliet Muras, Baulkham Hills NSW
Graham Murray, Castle Hill NSW
Norm Mason, Woronora, NSW
Lyn Northey, North Rocks NSW
Jack Norman, Hazelbrook NSW
Mike Priest, Chelmsford UK
Bruce Reilly, Narellan NSW
Allan Reading, Engadine NSW
Ken Shannon, Carlingford NSW
Martial Story, Maroubra, NSW
Jacqueline Hardy, Mosman NSW
Peter Tierney, Saratoga NSW
Arie Van Arkel, Oak Flats NSW
Val Waites, Yarramundi NSW



Norm Mason
Bruce Reilly and
Ken Hull



Graham Murray, Warren Barsley, Charles Deans & Fred Hartnack



Raffle Prizes and Framed Donation of Brudenell White courtesy of Marcus Blackmore



Graham Berry and Miike Priest (all the way from the UK)



Our Patron Col. Ken Duncan and Arie Van Arkel



Margret and Al Reading with Lt. Col. Dave Bromley



Fred Hartnack and John Purcell

VIETNAM VETERANS and ASSOCIATED FORCES MEMORIAL DAY 2004

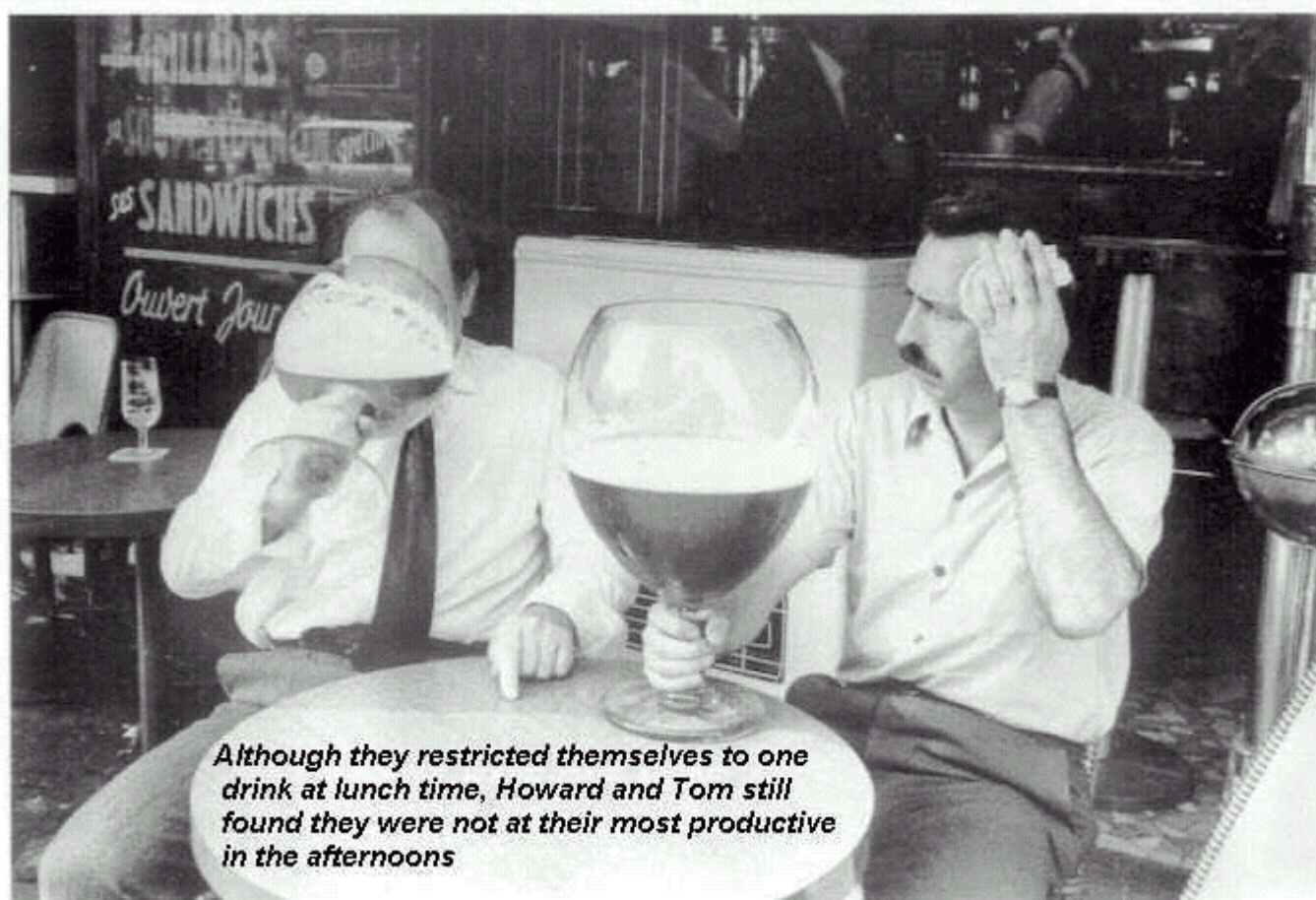
The annual march at Springwood NSW to commemorate Vietnam Veterans Day will take place on **Sunday 15th August 2004**, Meet at the ROYAL HOTEL at **1000 hrs.**

This event is held each year on the Sunday closest to 18th August, the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan in 1966.

After the Ceremony we have lunch and a couple of quiet ones at David Younan's Royal Hotel in Macquarie Street Springwood.

Bring the family and make a day of it!

JUST FOR LAUGHS



I think this was taken on ANZAC DAY 1975

Committee Members

President	Graham Murray
Vice President	Ken Shannon
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Tierney
Property Member	Ken Shannon
Committee	Ross McMurray
	Ian Johnston BEM
	Roger MacDonald
Hon. Auditor	Lt. Col. Phil Cameron

Disclaimer

Thoughts expressed in this newsletter are those held by the writers and contributors and are NOT necessarily those of the editor or the Association Committee or members.

Property for sale

Ties.....\$18.00
32 Small Ship Sqn. Book.....\$30.00
Assc. Aniversary Plaque.....\$25.00
Assc. Patches.....\$8.00
LSM Badges\$12.00

LSM Badge.....\$12.00
Collar Badges.....\$6.00
Flag Army Afloat.....\$50.00
Ass. Caps (navy).....\$12.00
Assc. Polo Shirts, White, Red
And Navy To Order. \$25.00



Bob and Sue Clarke
at the Hunters Hill
luncheon

Do you have an email address ?
Let Ross McMurray know at
rmcmurray@ozemail.com.au
and receive your NOTICE TO MARINERS by email.