

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter 32 Small Ship Squadron Association Incorporating RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K L Duncan (RL)

President's Message



In one's life you hope to meet and speak with a hero or heroine. I have met and spoken with Nancy Wake. On 22 April at the ANZAC Memorial Service arranged by the Hunters Hill Council in conjunction with the Hunters Hill R.S.L. Sub-Branch I met Dr. Rowley Richard, Knight of the Order of St. John, MBE, OAM, MID, ED former gunnery officer, rank of Captain posted to the 2/15 Field Regiment AIF as the RMO.

This dapper little gentleman's ANZAC address held all those present in awe. Rowley, unfortunately, was a POW as a result of the fall of Singapore and spent time in Changi, on the notorious Burma-Siam Railway, transported from Bangkok to Phnom Penh then on to Saigon back to Singapore. In September 1944 he embarked on a journey to Japan on the Rakuyo Maru. On 12 September after six days at sea the vessel was torpedoed by a U.S. submarine. The Rakuyo Maru displayed no red cross or other sign that POW's were on board. After three days in an open leaking lifeboat he and some of the survivors were picked up by a Japanese frigate then transferred to a converted whaling mother ship, the Kibitsu Maru. On 28 September they finally docked in the Japanese harbour of Moji. His final camp was at Sakata, a harbour town on the far north-west coast of Honshu directly opposite Siberia where the outside temperature during the winter would dive as low as minus 30 to 40 degrees Celsius.

The years as POW's had taken their toll on many of his men – almost too much for any man to endure. He believed there would have been more deaths in the regiment if it was not for the dedication of medical orderlies.

While in Sakata he befriended two Japanese civilians, Matsumoto a doctor and Takahashi the local butcher in charge of the town's abattoir. Both men were prepared to take enormous personal risks to help him and his men.

In 1959 accompanied by his wife, Beth, Rowley returned to Japan to visit his friends. Beth returned to Australia unaccompanied while Rowley became RMO for Krait Two and sailed home on AV1354 Brudenell White with Jim Wilson, Ken Duncan and crew.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE Continued

After the ANZAC Remembrance Service back at the Sub-Branch Memorial Hall Colonel Ken spoke informally to all present about meeting Rowley in Japan and his voyage home on an LSM. As a fitting tribute to the evening I presented Dr. Rowley Richards with an Association tie.

A few words on the Dawn Service at Chowder Bay – congratulations Patron on a wonderful guest speaker, Rt.Hon. Sir Ninian Stephen. It was a pleasure to be introduced and to have a brief conversation with him after the service at the Mariners' Memorial. The attendance at the service must have exceeded 1000 people.

I am pleased to inform you that The Director of the Australian War Memorial, Major General S. Gower AO has approved the Association's submission to participate in the Memorials Plaque Dedication Program. The Plaque Dedication Ceremony in the Western Courtyard Australian War Memorial is proposed for Thursday 6 April 2006. The reason for this date is that it will be forty years since the Squadron's commitment to Operation Hardihood (deployment of the task force to Vietnam) and the Squadron's continual service in the theatre of Vietnam.

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE

Ocka

CHOWDER BAY – ANZAC DAWN SERVICE

Again, the turnout for this service was in excess of 1000 people. Colonel Ken Duncan, our Patron and Custodian of the Army Mariners' Memorial, coordinated a service that featured guest speaker former Governor General of Australia, Sir Ninian Stephen. He gave a detailed and sometimes humorous account of his training at Chowder Bay prior to serving with landing craft units in New Guinea, the Solomons and Borneo during World War II. He mentioned fond memories of his days here and "...the occasional terrors our navigational skills inspired on the part of other innocent users of Sydney Harbour. It was said that all Sydney ferries in those days kept well clear of Chowder Bay..."

He concluded by saying Australian Army's small have served their nation century and will, I know, What once was the 'knee deep sailors came pride...' It was quite a one that will be come.

As usual the Catalflaque Commando Company, Richard McCracken of and Monsignor Eugene ex- Army padre. The provided the Gunfire our Association and were laid by many service and organisations.



Ken Duncan, Sir Ninian Stephen and Ocka Murray.

"...the men of the ships and landing craft for well over half a long continue to do so. contemptuous title of to be borne by us with remarkable address, and remembered for years to

Party was provided by 1 prayers by the Reverend the Scots Kirk, Mosman Harley our well known Mosman Lions Club Breakfast, assisted by Mosman RSL. Wreaths representatives from community



SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING – ANZAC DAWN SERVICE AND OPENING OF THE RAE VIETNAM MEMORIAL.

I don't know how many attended this service, but it would have to be over 1500. A very moving address was given by Colonel Peter Sansom, Commander Regional Training Centre, Sydney. Allan Reading laid a wreath on behalf of our Association. After the service a Gunfire Breakfast was served at the ORs Mess. This turned out to be a huge logistic and catering challenge but surprisingly it all came together in the end. Perhaps this was because the cooks overestimated the crowd number by about two hundred per cent.

Following the breakfast the newly completed RAE Vietnam Memorial was opened by Major General Ken Gillespie, a Sapper and the Land Commander, Australia. He gave a very moving speech, spoken from the heart, and identified **all** engineer units and detachments that served in Vietnam, and explained in detail the many and varied tasks and responsibilities conducted by these units. He concluded his address with the following statement:

“We open this Royal Australian Engineers Vietnam Memorial today. May it remind us of the sacrifice made by members of the Royal Australian Engineers in conflict. May this Memorial be a sign of our duty to our country and an inspiration to those who may visit this spot”.

He then hung a slouch hat over a bronze plaque that simply stated that it was opened by a Sapper. (as it should be – no names, no pack drill). As far as opening ceremonies go, this one was up there with the best of them. About 200 people attended and Association members included Jack and Carole Peel, Allan Reading and Margaret Davidson, Ross, Jenny and Kate McMurray, George and Judith Cosis, John McGregor and Keith Devine. A lot of old faces were there and it was pleasing to see younger members of the Corps, and many who served in East Timor, Bougainville, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Allan Reading, Jack Peel, Ross McMurray and George Cosis at the opening of the RAE Vietnam Memorial.



The opening of the RAE Vietnam Memorial, SME on ANZAC Day 2005, by Major General Ken Gillespie, AO, DSC, CSM. Ken was recently promoted to Lieutenant General and is now the Vice Chief of the Defence Force.



ANZAC DAY MARCH – SYDNEY

It was a pleasant morning for marching through the streets of Sydney. Anthony Murray and his mate Peter Ward set up a makeshift bar with milk crates at the top of the steps on the front landing of the Legal & General building. The Association banner was unfurled and as members arrived at the assembly area they were invited to participate in a toddy of Bundy in memory of our old shipmate Jack Norman.

This year the Association banner was carried by two well dressed young cadets (thanks to Jeff Beach) with the assistance of Bruce Devonport, Graham Berry and Ian Johnson, Ron Cavell and Ken Shannon carried the RAE Afloat Army ensign. Those members noted on parade were Jack Peel (right marker), Martial Story, Wally Blumenfeld, Bungy Waters, Dave Thomas, Mick McIvor, Peter Tierney, George Cosis, Gary Smyth, Ray Mazurek, David Clarke (on a short visit from Thailand), Fred Hartnack, George Fisher, Kerry Stuart, Jim Patterson, Blue McClymont, Mike O'Haire, Hans Kumpel, Mike McCartney-Lees, Lance Northey, Eric Hale, Gary Everitt, Bob Smith, John Pulis, Warren Farmer and Norm Mason. Due to a nasty fall and hospitalization Bruce Reilly, not looking too crash hot, arrived in a wheel chair and both Allen White and Geoff Summergreene took turns in propelling him along the parade route. I wish to thank Jim Brown for accepting the position of parade 2IC.

On passing the Town Hall Murray Neville stood down from his post as a marshal and joined us for the final leg of the march.

At the conclusion of the march a cold refreshing beer or two is what one needs. For a number of years now many of us have stopped at the Sir John Young Hotel on the corner of George and Liverpool Streets before catching a taxi to the reunion luncheon. We wish to thank our forward scout, none other than John Purcell, who was unable to march but decided to carry out a reconnaissance on the front bar of the hotel an hour or two before our arrival.

My apologies to any member I may have missed.

Ocka



Norm Mason, Ocka Murray, Bruce Davenport, Alan White (carrying out grease and oil change to Bruce Reilly's wheel chair), Bruce Reilly, Geoff Summergreene, Graham Berry and Gary Smyth.



HUNTERS HILL REUNION AND LUNCH

Once again the weather was kind to us on ANZAC Day. The caterers did an excellent job as usual, assisted by Kaye Shannon, and Roger MacDonald kept our glasses full. What more could you ask for? There were many regular faces along with some new ones and a few that we hadn't seen for some time. Bungy Waters and Dave Thomas turned up after being AWOL for a number of years. Also good to see Garry McIvor after a long break. Herb Draper was there after missing out last year due to a bad fall. Laurie Graham couldn't make it because of recent surgery. All the best Laurie – make a full recovery and we'll see you next year. Bruce Reilly is also recovering from a fall he had a few weeks ago. He actually fell through a roof and made an undignified landing onto a concrete floor. He suffered multiple fractures and it will be some months before he's back up on the roof again. Although he's wheelchair bound it didn't stop him attending. Norm Mason brought him to the reunion in his ute.

We would still like to see more ladies attend, although there were a few that managed to make it. Again, it was good to see our interstate friends turn up, including Jim Brown, Arthur Jackson, John Purcell and Mike McCartney-Lees from Queensland, Wally Blumenfeld from ACT, Brian Morley from WA, Fred Hartnack (now a regular) from Tasmania and Dave 'Tsunami' Clarke from Thailand. Graham Berry was also there after a long absence. Does anyone know his address? I've mislaid it.

A highlight of the afternoon was the donation by Sid Cheeseman of a painting of HMAS Sydney, along with all the RAN ships that served in Vietnam including an LSM. It will make a welcome addition to our collection. Thanks Sid.

The raffle was a great success and the winners were:

1st Prize – A ships barometer went to Les Muras

2nd Prize – A ships clock went to Shirley Bannister.

3rd Prize - A book, 'Voyages to Vietnam' went to ???? (We have forgotten who won it).

Shirley sent us a nice letter, congratulating us on the choice of prizes. She has had it mounted in her lounge room among other mementos of her late husband, Mike who died in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart yacht race. Mike was a national serviceman and served in Vietnam on AV 1356 Clive Steele.

The barometer and clock are made of solid brass and mounted on polished timber, courtesy of Oeka's son, Anthony. Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets. Your support is much appreciated.

Below are
Norm Mason , George Cosis, Alan White and Bruce Reilly.



Above are Eric Hale and Martial Story.



ANZAC DAY LUNCH ATTENDEES - HUNTERS HILL

Jim Brown, Runaway Bay QLD	Charlie Bawden, Howlong NSW
Graham Berry, ???	Wally Blumenfeld, Holt ACT
Dave Clarke, Thailand	Sid Cheeseman, Carlingford NSW
George Cosis, Leumeah NSW	Judith Cosis, Leumeah NSW
Bruce Davenport, Mosman NSW	Ken Duncan, Cremorne NSW
Herb Draper, Loftus NSW	Gary Everitt, Wangi Wangi NSW
George Fisher, Carlingford NSW	Brian Goodes, Hunters Hill NSW
John Gerber, North Rocks NSW	Lyn Gerber, North Rocks NSW
Ken Hull, Carlingford NSW	Fred Hartnack, Yorktown TAS
Eric Hale, Mount Pritchard NSW	Ian (Frank) Johnston, St Marys NSW
Arthur Jackson, Moorooka QLD	Garry McIvor, Enmore NSW
Ray Mazurak, Forster NSW	John McGregor, North Avoca NSW
Graham Murray, Castle Hill NSW	Roger MacDonald, Frenchs Forest NSW
Ross McMurray, West Pymble NSW	Les Muras, Baulkham Hills NSW
Norm Mason, Woronora NSW	Brian Morley, Bedford WA
Murray Neville, Frenchs Forest NSW	John Purcell, Bayview Heights QLD
Jim Patterson, Georges Hall NSW	Allan Reading, Engadine NSW
Margaret Davidson, Engadine NSW	Bruce Reilly, Narellan NSW
Joyce Reilly, Narellan NSW	Maurie Roberts, Stockton NSW
Maurie's son (forgot name), Stockton	Martial Story, Maroubra NSW
Ken Shannon, Carlingford NSW	Kaye Shannon, Carlingford NSW
Garry Smyth, Westleigh NSW	Geoff Summergreene, Mosman NSW
Jacqueline Hardie, Mosman NSW	Bob Smith, Empire Bay NSW
Dave Thomas, Bellingen NSW	Peter Tierney, Saratoga NSW
Bungy Waters, Singleton NSW	Brian Waites, Yarramundi, NSW
Val Waites, Yarramundi NSW	Alan White, Kingscliff NSW
Bill Williams, Erskinvilla, NSW	Mike McCartney-Lees, Jimboomba, QLD

NEW MEMBERS

We would like to welcome aboard the following new members:

Derek Smith – served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on the Clive Steele and John Monash in Vietnam. He also served with 34 Water Transport Squadron, 7 Field Squadron, two tours to Vietnam with 1 Field Squadron, 1 Field Engineer Regiment, 3 Field Engineer Regiment, 17 Construction Squadron, 2 Training Group, HQ Training Command and the School of Military Engineering. Derek has now retired (I reckon he should have retired years ago after serving with all these units) and now lives in Townsville Qld.

Phillip Philpot – served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on the John Monash, doing two trips to Vietnam and one to Tasmania. Phil now lives at Cannonvale, Qld.

Warren Farmer – no service details as yet. Warren lives at Walgett NSW.

Robert Worrell – again, no details. Robert lives at Parkwood Qld.

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following members who made donations throughout the year: Bill Bott, Phil Cameron, Mal Campbell, Ken Duncan, Jerry Davey, Bruce Mansfield, Mike Priest and Noel Norton. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.



WATER TRANSPORT MEMORIAL – CHOWDER BAY

In 1975 an ANZAC Dawn Service was conducted on the verandah of the Sergeants' Mess at Chowder Bay with about twelve people present. The service was continued in various forms until about 1985, when the then OC, Major Ralph Pridmore, constructed the present Memorial.

When the Army left the area in 1997, our Patron, Colonel Ken Duncan, was appointed the "Official Custodian" of the Memorial, charged with the responsibility for the future conduct of the Dawn Service. From about that time, although the military attendance decreased the civilian attendees increased, with schools, scout groups and the like becoming involved. Attendance over the last couple of years has been in the vicinity of about 1000 people and safety and security concerns have been expressed by police and other authorities.

Now, after thirty years at Chowder Bay the service is to move to the site of a new Memorial on the high ground, overlooking the old "landship" and 1 Port Command areas at Georges Heights. Although not as "nostalgic" or as "intimate" as the present location, the ease of parking and access, combined with views to both North and South Heads, and a new memorial to be constructed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, ensure that our service will continue to be one of the most unique and moving Dawn Services conducted anywhere in the world.

It may be of interest to our members who were either posted to, or at least passed through the School at Chowder Bay to learn that the whole area has been refurbished for use as a commercial operation. A university Marine Science Facility is to occupy the workshops area on the bottom deck, while a diving school and boat builders are mooted to arrive shortly. The old Sergeant Majors Cottage on A Deck has been leased as a café, and walking tracks now go through almost the whole of the Middle Head and Chowder Bay areas. It is well worth a visit if only to see what has been done to the area that many of us knew so well.

The two mines adjacent to the memorial on A Deck are about to be removed to undergo a technical conservation process. Research has indicated that these mines are the **only** such mines in existence in Australia and perhaps the world. If anyone has any advice or knowledge that could add to this, the conservators at the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, or our Patron, would be delighted to hear from you.

VIETNAM AND ASSOCIATED FORCES DAY 2005 – SPRINGWOOD NSW

The annual ceremony at Springwood NSW to commemorate **Vietnam Veterans' Day** will take place on **Sunday 21 August 2005**. The parade will commence at 1130 hrs along Macquarie Road, ending with a service at the War Memorial. We usually get about 15 starters in our group so why not come and participate in this significant service. The weather is always sunny and mild in the Blue Mountains at this time of the year (except when it's snowing). After the parade we usually adjourn to the Royal Hotel in Macquarie Street for lunch and a couple of quiet ones with mine host and fellow member, David Younan.

We would appreciate any reports and photos of any other Vietnam Day ceremonies throughout Australia. So go on fellas, write a few lines and take a couple of snaps with the Kodak.



30 TERMINAL SQUADRON REUNION 11 – 13 NOVEMBER 2005

WO2 Greg Collins, SSM 30 Terminal Squadron, Townsville, has issued an invitation to past and present members of the squadron to a reunion to be held over the weekend 11 – 13 November 2005 at the Mosman, Middle Head, Georges Heights and Chowder Bay areas. Greg advises background and details of the event, as follows:

“10 Terminal Regiment has been disbanded these past seven years, which in itself was the end of an era. The regiment being struck from the Order of Battle hastened the demise of many professional acquaintances and in fact friendships which were lost in passing. I am left in no doubt that many ex-serving soldiers were not and probably are still not aware of the demise of the unit, or the relocation of the Terminal Trade to Townsville. Along with the new locality came a new name, Cargo Specialist, as well as a new unit name, 30 / 35 Water Transport and Terminal Squadron, under 10 Force Support Battalion which further eroded the already precarious links with ex-serving members. Further to these changes the Naval Amphibious role increased with the acquisition of two additional HMA Ships in the LPA class. The only unchanged element of this fundamental transformation is that we still call ourselves “Termites”.

Time and the restructure have weakened an already fragile link with past members of the trade, consequently the time to hold a Termite reunion is now with us. The ability to reach out and bring together fellow Termites of the past and present in an atmosphere of camaraderie and “Esprit de Corps” will serve to readily re-establish past acquaintances and friendships.

The reunion will be held over the weekend of 11 – 13 November 2005 which includes the Friday night. All personnel who were posted to 30 Terminal Squadron in Sydney are cordially invited to attend. The Friday evening will be a meet and greet at the Buena Vista Hotel commencing at 1800 hrs. At 1000 hrs on Saturday there will be a walk around with a great amount of reminiscing over the old unit sites, namely 30 Terminal Squadron, (Lower Georges Heights), 10 Terminal Regiment (Middle Head) and Army Maritime School (Chowder Bay). A dinner will be held on Saturday night commencing at 1800 hrs, with the Mosman RSL as the venue. On Sunday an opportunity exists for a morning tea or a get together to finalise any detail for past and present members, at a venue yet to be identified, at around 1000 hrs to bring a closure to the weekend. The RSL has been booked and a booking fee paid, so this is now formally a function.”

Ex 30 Terminal Squadron members who wish to attend this reunion, or want more details, please contact Greg on (07) 4753 6305 or fax (07) 4753 6322. His email address is gregory.collins@defence.gov.au

ANYONE VISITING CANBERRA?

Association member, Wal Beckhouse recently sent this letter to us, giving a bit of his background as a National Serviceman and later as a CMF soldier. Wal is the President of the Canberra and Districts Branch of the National Service and Combined Forces Association of Australia.

“I was a 1953 Nasho with 19 Infantry Battalion, Holsworthy, but because I lived at Mosman I was posted to the then 1 Terminal Squadron at Georges Heights, later to become 33 Small Ship Squadron. I continued service there as a CMF soldier for a further six years and reached the exalted rank of Sergeant, serving with some well known and respected men like Cliff Morris, Mick Wendon, Mike Askey, Peter Tranter, Bob Greig, Harry Tompsitt, Barrie Smart, Len Cargill and Mike Schultz. Some of these fellas have since passed away but they are certainly not forgotten.

My wife, Pam, and I with two girls, moved to Canberra in 1965 and kept contact through the 33 Squadrons RAE / RACT Newsletter, thanks to Mike Schultz and Mike Askey. Now the ex 33ers rely on your magazine for news.

Cont'd P 9



ANYONE VISITING CANBERRA? (Cont'd)

I accepted the position above four years back to get the Association established in Canberra, which has now been done but I'm still in the chair. Maybe someone will put up their hand soon.

ANZAC Day this year was marvellous, the War Memorial looked spectacular and the weather was very kind to us all. Our branch of the Association unveiled a memorial to "THOSE WHO SERVED" from Canberra and District, last month. It's on the shore of Lake Tuggeranong and I take this opportunity to invite any member visiting Canberra to drop me a line or give me a call and we will pick you up and escort you to see it.

It would be great to catch up with any ex member that comes to the Nation's Capital, so please pass the word around."

Thanks Wal for that interesting piece of information. It's always good to get some feedback from member's experiences. Perhaps a few others may share their stories. If anyone visiting Canberra and wishes to take up Wals kind offer, you can contact him on (02) 6292 3964, mobile 0404 062 756 or fax (02) 6292 9008.

VALE – BARBARA MILLS

The funeral service of Barbara Mills at Old Bar NSW on 24 June 2005 was attended by a strong representation of Association members as a mark of respect and gratitude for her long connection with the Association. Barbara died on 16 June 2005. Her husband, Laurie, was for many years our Vice President, and long time friends joined with him and family members to farewell his partner and wife of 42 years.

Many family and friends attended the service, including Ken and Kaye Shannon, Bruce and Joyce Reilly, Geoff Summergreene and Jacqueline Hardie, Ian and Eileen Henderson, Bob and Heather Bruce, Geoff Morley, Geoff Freeland and their wives.

We join with Barbara's many friends to mourn her loss, and to express our sympathy to Laurie, Adam, Wendy and their partners and families.

Thanks to Ken Shannon for these details.

VALE – WO1 BILL JONES (Rtd)

The RAE lost one its favourite sons with the death of WO1 Bill Jones (rtd) on 23 June 2005. After he retired from the Army many years ago he was instrumental in establishing the RAE Vietnam Memorial at 1 Field Squadron at Gallipoli Lines, Holsworthy. He also cared for and maintained it for the long period it was there, prior to the unit being relocated to Darwin. He also worked with the RAE Heritage Society at SME, contributing a lot of time and effort in refurbishing, repairing and obtaining various pieces of equipment and memorabilia for the RAE Heritage Precinct and Museum. Unfortunately, his illness prevented him from attending the opening of the new RAE Vietnam Memorial at SME on ANZAC Day. Once again, he worked tirelessly over the last two years to ensure it was completed, and on time.

Bill graduated from the Army Apprentices School in 1960 as a vehicle mechanic. He served with the RAE in Australia, Papua New Guinea, Malaya, Thailand and South Vietnam. Even though he wasn't fortunate enough to serve with Water Transport units he had a lot of time for the Transportation Service, and was well known and respected by many of us.

His funeral service was held at the RAE Chapel, SME on 30 June 2005. Over 100 people attended. Ross McMurray represented our Association. Our sympathy goes to Bill's wife, Lorraine and her family.



NEW BRIDGING BOATS

A Dedication and Launching Ceremony was held at SME on 26 July 2005 for the new Bridge Erection and Propulsion Boats (BEPB) that will replace the current Boat, Bridge Erection (BBE) which has been in service since 1969 and is probably worn out by now. The ceremony dedicated and named three boats, which were named WATSON, BOWTELL and ANDY. WATSON was named after Lieutenant Stan Watson, MC, who constructed the first substantive wharf (called Watson's Pier) at Gallipoli in 1915. The BOWTELL was named after Corporal Bob Bowtell who, in 1966, was the first Australian Sapper killed in action in South Vietnam. ANDY was named after Sergeant Andy Russell who was killed in action in Afghanistan in 2004 whilst serving with the Special Air Service Regiment. He was previously a Sapper in 1 Field Squadron.

A total of 24 boats will be delivered; five each to Combat Engineer Regiments in Darwin, Townsville and Brisbane and the remainder to SME for training purposes. One of the boats will be called CLIVE STEELE.

The primary function of the BEPB is to provide propulsion and thrust anchorage for the in-service Floating Support Bridge (FSB). As a secondary roll it can operate as a general purpose watercraft.

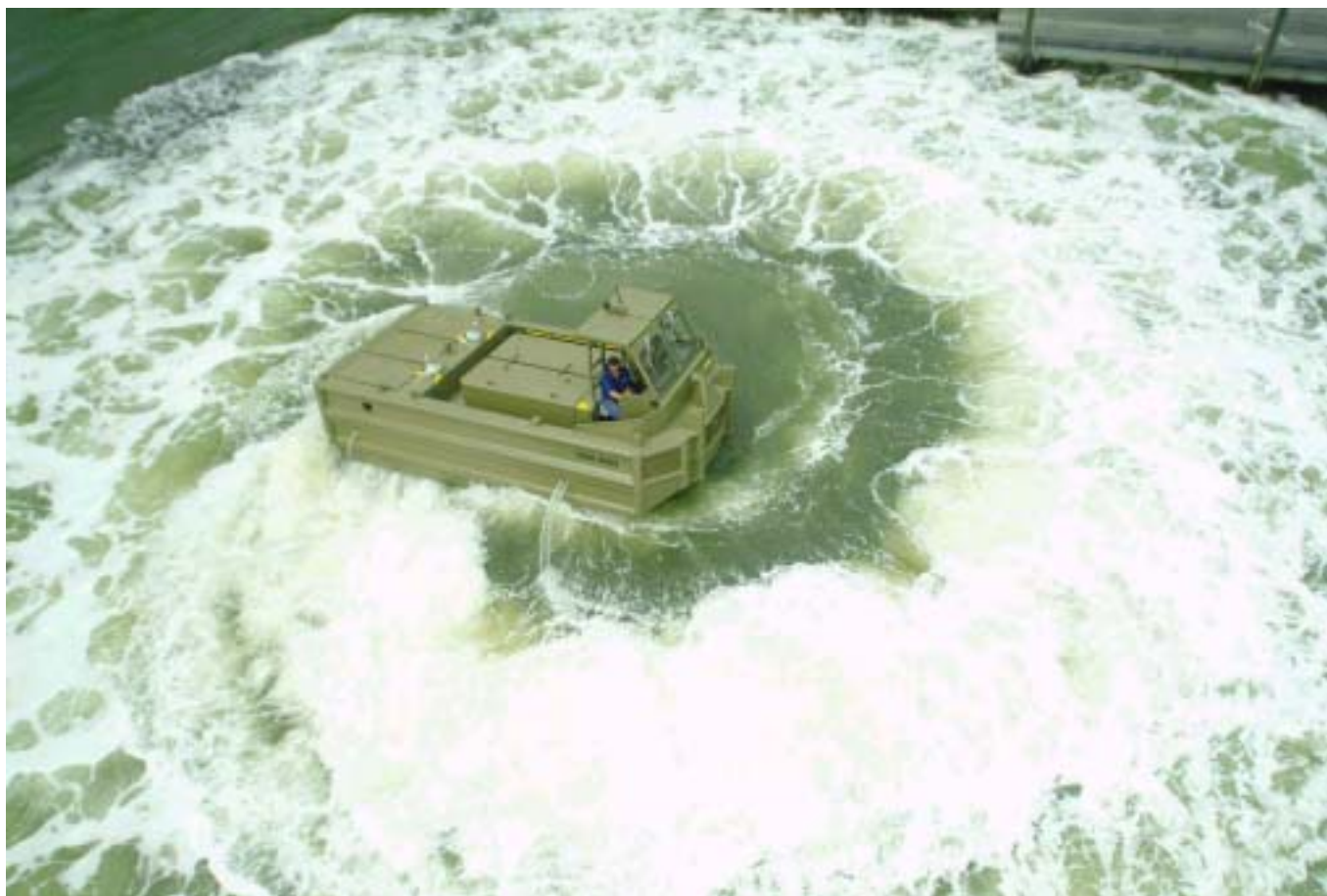
It is made of aluminium alloy, is 6.87 m long with a beam of 3.25 m. It weighs 5.8 tonnes and has a speed of 11 knots and has a two man crew. It is powered by two Cummins 6BT-5.9 diesels, each rated at 210 hp at 2600 rpm. Instead of propellers it has two Schottel SP J55MR jet pumps which make the boat extremely versatile and manoeuvrable.

They were built by Birdon Marine at Port Macquarie NSW. In keeping with historic Army design specifications for watercraft over the years it has no bow or stern - just a blunt end and a blunter end. In fact, it looks like a large green bathtub. However, it is quite suitable for the job it was designed for and meets all performance requirements of the FSB and has been designed to eliminate known flaws of the old BBE such as power, weight, draft and launch and recovery problems.

The accompanying photos show some of its characteristics.

Ross McMurray attended the ceremony at SME on behalf of the Association.





A group photo of relatives of Stan Watson, Bob Bowtell and Andy Russell with the boats on their Launch and Recovery Vehicles. Left to right is Bill Watson, grandson of Stan. Bob Bowtell's children, Michael, Susan and Peter. Andy Russell's wife, Kylie.

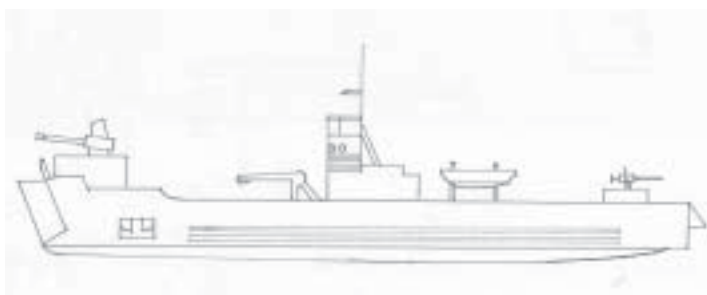


MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Subscriptions for 2005/06 were due on 25 April 2005. There are quite a few members who have not been financial for a number of years and it is to these people we are directing this message. Your membership is important to us, as it should be to you. You are a vital part of our community and we would appreciate your continued support. Your Association attempts to publish four Newsletters per year, and it takes a fair bit of time, effort and money to do this. Time and effort don't cost much but the production and mailing of the Newsletter does. Your subscription payment ensures that we can continue to do this.

If you do not wish to remain a member would you please advise the Treasurer so that our membership ledger can be adjusted. If you still want to be one of us could you kindly remit your subscription to him. It's only \$10.00 per year which is pretty good value for money – and you can keep up to date with all the latest news and gossip. If there is a subscription form attached to this Newsletter it means you are behind in payment – or at least our records indicate this. If you think you **are** financial please contact us and we'll sort it out. It's not practical to attach a form to those members with email so we'll post them one too.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter (and get yer bloody money in).



WAR MEMORIAL – AUSTRALIAN PLAQUE DEDICATION PROGRAM

The Australian War Memorial (AWM) has a Unit Plaque Dedication Program in which units that were deployed on active service can have a bronze plaque installed and dedicated at a ceremony there. It is intended that our Association participates in the program, and the AWM has given approval for it to take place on Thursday 6 April 2006.

This will be a good opportunity to have our Association's history immortalised at the AWM. Many unit associations have taken advantage of this offer, and we also would like the opportunity to have a permanent symbol dedicated to the hundreds of men who served in the unit from 1959 to 1971. Also, we plan to have a dinner that evening to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the deployment of 32 Small Ship Squadron to South Vietnam. The function will be mixed and guests would be most welcome. We are currently negotiating a venue for the dinner and looking at accommodation options. We are aware that it may not be convenient for some members to visit Canberra on a Thursday but it was the only day suitable for the AWM at that time of the year. As far as we know, there are no major activities in Canberra during this period and no school holidays. This means we should be able to get accommodation at reasonable prices. Also, the weather is usually quite pleasant in April, so for interstate members who are planning to visit the area in 2006 why not include this event in your itinerary.

Attached is a short questionnaire (Page 15) for those who think they might be able to attend the ceremony and/or the dinner. We don't want confirmation of attendance just yet, but early in the New Year we will ask for firm intentions. Please give it some thought. For those with email , please email your response to.....
rossmcmurray@optusnet.com.au



ANZAC DAY 2005



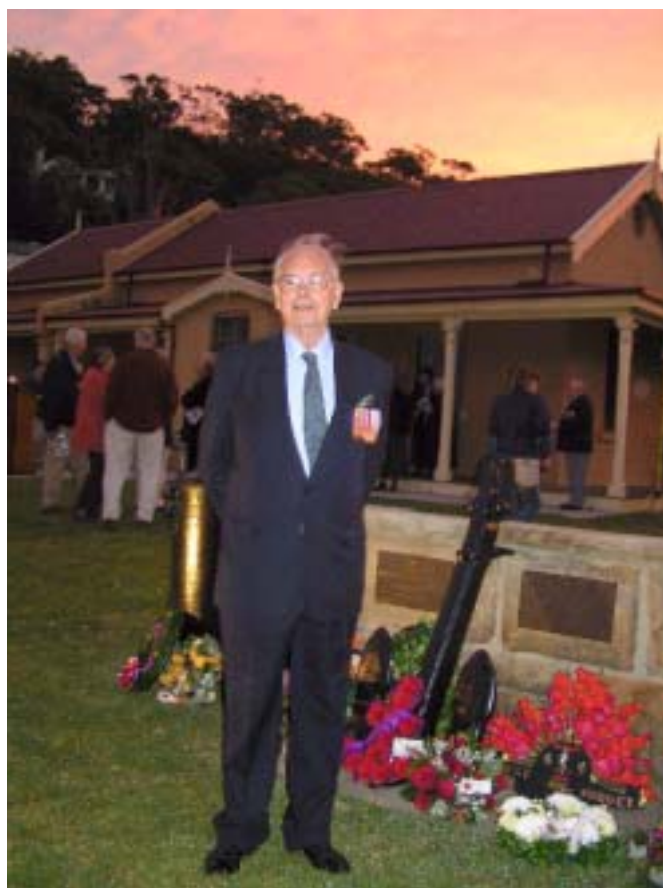
Ian Johnston, Ron Cavell and Norm Mason at the march in Sydney.

Simone Frankel, daughter of John (Slim) Frankel who passed away in October 2004. With her is her nephew, Tobias and Harry Mimi, ex 1RAR who led the ANZAC Day March in Rockhampton



Sunrise at Chowder Bay.

Sir Ninian Stephen.





Ocka Murray and Lance Northey.

Ross McMurray, Gary McIvor,
John McGregor, Les Muras
with Mike McCartney-Lees
at the rear.



Lance Northey, Dave Clarke, Eric Hale, John Pulis and George Fisher.



**PLAQUE DEDICATION AND DINNER – AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL CANBERRA.
THURSDAY 6 APRIL 2006**

Name.....

Please circle your appropriate answer. Note that this is only to get an idea of how many would attend. We will call for confirmation in early 2006.

Attendance at Dedication Ceremony at AWM

Yes No Maybe

Attendance at Dinner

Yes No Maybe

Number of guests at Dinner

Dress

Dress for the Dedication Ceremony would be coat, tie and medals. Please indicate your preference for dress at the dinner. (Note that this will be a fairly formal occasion.)

Black Tie Lounge Suit Coat and Tie

Comments

Any comments or questions?.....

.....
.....
.....

Thank you for your participation. Please return this questionnaire in the envelope provided to:

Ross McMurray
14 Hillary St.
West Pymble NSW 2073
or email your response to rossmcmurray@optusnet.com.au



ATTENTION !!!!

Any member who receives their Notice To Mariners by email and would also like a hard copy please contact Ocka Murray to be placed on the mailing list. Back copies are also available. Changed your email address ? Let Ross McMurray know.

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.

Committee Members

This committee of the Association meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Hunters Hill R.S.L. Memorial Hall at 8 pm.

President	Graham Murray	(02) 9634 375	mossaust@bigpond.net au
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