

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 committee for their efforts with the must go to Kaye Shannon for her co-present such an enjoyable luncheon.

Thanks also to Anthony Murray for his timbers for the marine clocks/

Last but not least thank you to those the ANZAC Day functions especially overseas.



gone and I would like to thank the organisation of the day. A special thanks ordination with Diamonds catering to

continued effort in fabricating the backing barometers for the ANZAC Day raffle

members, family and friends who attended those who traveled from interstate or

For many years your committee has supported Vietnam Veterans' and Associated Forces Memorial Day held at Springwood New South Wales on the Sunday closest to or on 18 August for the anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan organised by the Blue Mountains Vietnam Veteran' and Associated Forces Inc.

Last year many of us attended the 40th anniversary dinner of the deployment of units of the Royal Australian Engineers to South Vietnam which coincided the following day with Vietnam Veterans' Day commemorated at the RAE Vietnam Memorial, The School of Military Engineering Steele Barracks. This commemoration service will again be held on 18 August being the 41st Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan organised by the RAE Vietnam Memorial Committee chaired by Jack Peel with support from his committee with Ross McMurray and Ian Johnston being members. Your committee would appreciate your support with family and friends to attend this commemoration and stay for the barbeque lunch.

Congratulations to Dave Perham for his undertaking in tackling a project of such magnitude in producing a photographic history book titled 'Rolling through 32'. This project was mentioned in the last issue of NTM. Since then drafts have been printed and copies forwarded to various members for comment co-ordinated by Ross McMurray. This is a major project to produce and the committee is seeking sponsorship and financial backing from any organisation who will listen. Members will be kept advised of the progress.

For those members who are interested in military history the 50th Anniversary of the Special Air Service will be commemorated by Australia Post producing first day covers on 4 September. The Company became a Regiment on 4 September 1964 and in 1965 saw action in Borneo. The SAS has also been deployed in Cambodia and Rwanda and is the forefront of Australia's counter-terrorism effort.

Ocka

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE



ANZAC DAY MARCH – SYDNEY

On arriving in the city accompanied by my son Anthony we made our way to the Legal & General building carrying the Association banner, ensign and rum (Bundy and Negrita). A makeshift bar was set up using milk crates and toddies were dispensed to members on their arrival. The banner was unfurled and displayed in a position for all to see. Unfortunately the weather was very unsettled and it looked as if we could be in for a wet parade. With members arriving it was pleasing to see the expressions on their faces as greetings and handshakes were exchanged.

This year the Banner Party was supplied by 8 Combat Engineer Regiment with six well dressed Sappers being Domenic Tabeta, Alex Rodriguez, Mathew Musson, David Cheung, Evan Hughes and Ben Choi.

Those members noted on parade were – John Bryant, James Brown, Jeff Beach, Paddy Butterworth, Ron Cavell, John Gerber, George Fisher, Ken Hull, Fred Hartnack, Jamie Hartnack, Eric Hale, Ian Johnston, Norm Mason, John McGregor, Mike McCartney-Lees, Les McFadzen, Lance Northey, Hans Kumpel, Bruce Reilly, Ken Shannon carried the RAE Afloat Army Ensign, Garry Smyth (right marker), Stephen Bannister (it was nice to see Shirley looking on), Arie van Arkel, a very impressively dressed Dick van Leeuwen (a stand-in for the Sopranos) and our United Kingdom representative Mick Priest with a message from HRH.

I wish to thank Wally Blumenfeld for leading the Association due to the condition of my knees and Jack Peel for accepting the position of parade 2IC. Unfortunately for all the rain came before step off and many of us were a little damp.

My apologies to any member I may have missed.

Ocka



Bruce Reilly, Ken Hull, Les McFadzen and President Ocka Murray





Stephen and Shirley Bannister - son and wife of Mike Bannister

Garry Smyth and Norm Mason





Arie van Arkel, Dick van Leeuwen and Hans Kumpel

Garry Smyth, Jeff Beach with.....?





John Bryant, Fred and Jamie Hartnack with Wally Blumenfeld

**John Gerber,
Fred and
Jamie
Hartnack, John
Bryant, Bob Tait,
and Mike
McCartney -
Lees**



HUNTERS HILL REUNION AND LUNCHEON

ANZAC Day in Sydney was pretty wet and cool. However, that didn't dampen the spirits of those who attended the function at Hunters Hill Memorial Hall. Roger MacDonald (recovering from his medical scare a year ago) manned the bar as usual, assisted by Anthony Murray, while Kaye Shannon helped the caterers who again put on a superb spread for lunch. Numbers were up a bit from last year and it was good to see some new faces such as Ralph Pridmore, Phil Cameron, Dave Jupp, Les McFadzen, Dick van Leeuwen, Bob Tait and Arthur Jackson who was cracking jokes with anyone who would listen to him, after a three year absence.

Again it was good to see an increase in the numbers of ladies attending the lunch. In fact Norm Mason brought his whole family! So next year why not encourage the better half to join us, and remember that guests are more than welcome.

A highlight of the afternoon was the unveiling of Ian (Frank) Johnston's model of AV1354 Brudenell White. What an achievement! It is 1/72 scale which makes it just under a metre long. See the photo. Ian's attention to detail is spot on. He used photos, plans and an LSM Manual (a copy of one that wasn't destroyed in the Great Fire of Woolwich which ensured that nearly all of our records were lost forever) to ensure that the model is a true replica of the ship.

He said that when he started the construction he used a fibreglass model kit and plans for a US Navy LSM but had to abandon that idea because trying to convert it to an Australian LSM was hopeless, as was the quality of the kit itself. He started work on it in August last year and only just completed it for viewing on ANZAC Day. The Association asked him to produce another one; AV1356 Clive Steele for presentation to the RAE Museum or the Australian War Memorial. Ian looked a bit startled when this was put to him as he's still recovering from his first effort. We'll ask him again in a few months time.

To help him do this he is asking help from members. If you still have some photos of the "Steele" (or any LSM) that you haven't yet given to Dave Perham for his book, Ian would like to borrow them. He would like photos and scale drawings of all or any part of an LSM. He would especially like details of the C.A.P. crane and dory.

Another highlight of the afternoon was the drawing of the raffle. Olga Bell (wife of the late Paddy Bell) drew the winners who were:

First: 3" brass marine clock and barometer mounted on a solid teak backing went to **John Reimers**.

Second: 6" brass marine clock mounted on a solid Tasmanian oak backing went to **Allan Hyde**

Third: 3" brass marine clock mounted on a Tasmanian oak backing went to **Doug Reeves**.

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets.



ATTENDANCE AT ANZAC LUNCH – HUNTERS HILL

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| John Bryant, Newport Beach NSW | James Brown, Runaway bay, QLD |
| Jeff Beach, Winston Hills NSW | Paddy Butterworth, Winston Hills NSW |
| Wally Blumenfeld, Holt ACT | Olga Bell, Balgowlah NSW |
| Warren Barsley, Duffy ACT | David Clarke, Bangkok Thailand |
| Grant Clarke, Sydney NSW | Bob Clarke, Glenorie NSW |
| Phil Cameron, Bayview NSW | Sid Cheeseman, North Parramatta NSW |
| Jerry Davey, Mill Park VIC | Les Dennis, Toongabbie NSW |
| Ken Duncan, Cremorne N | George Fisher, Epping NSW |
| John Gerber, North Rocks NSW | Lyn Gerber, North Rocks NSW |
| Brian Goodes, Hunters Hill NSW | Ken Hull, Noraville NSW |
| Fred Hartnack, Yorktown TAS | Jamie Hartnack, Yorktown TAS |
| Eric Hale, Bellbird NSW | Ian Johnston, St Marys NSW |
| Dave Jupp, Richlands QLD | Arthur Jackson, Moorooka QLD |
| Norm Mason, Woronora NSW | Joan Mason, Woronora NSW |
| Peter McFarlane, Woronora NSW | Belinda McFarlane, Woronora NSW |
| Luke McFarlane, Woronora NSW | Ross McMurray, West Pymble NSW |
| John McGregor, North Avoca NSW | Iain McGregor, Darwin NT |
| Mike McCartney-Lees, Willaura VIC | Ellen McCartney-Lees, Willaura VIC |
| Roger MacDonald, Frenchs Forest NSW | Graham Murray, Castle Hill NSW |
| Les McFadzen, Alexandra Hills QLD | Amy McFadzen, Alexandra Hills QLD |
| Les Muras, Dural NSW | Murray Neville, Frenchs Forest NSW |
| Ralph Pridmore, Turramurra NSW | Bruce Reilly, Narellan NSW |
| Maurie Roberts, Stockton NSW | Stephanie Roberts, Stockton NSW |
| Adam Roberts, Stockton NSW | Gail MacDonald, Frenchs Forest NSW |
| Martial Story, Maroubra NSW | Bob Smith, Empire Bay NSW |
| Ken Shannon, Carlingford NSW | Kaye Shannon, Carlingford NSW |
| Garry Smyth, Westleigh NSW | Peter Tierney, Saratoga NSW |
| Bob Tait, Kellyville NSW | Jeanette Tait, Kellyville NSW |
| Arie van Arkel, Oak Flats NSW | Dick van Leeuwen, West Moonah TAS |
| Brian Waites, Yarramundi NSW | Val Waites, Yarramundie NSW |
| Sue Low, Glenorie NSW | Beth Murray, Castle Hill NSW |
| Mike Priest, Chelmsford, UK | Yoko Roberts, Stockton NSW |

My apologies if I have left someone out or misspelt names or places. Please advise any errors.

DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following members who made donations throughout the year:

Bill Bott, Ken Burchill, Brian Clulow, Jim Cable, Ron Cavell, Ken Duncan, Les Hockings, Mal Campbell, Charles Gillman-Wells, Jim Moriarty, Geoffrey Miles, Noel Norton, Jim Patterson, Col Wright, Gary Smith, David Gray, Dave Perham, Speedie Sahariv and Terry Zajer. Well done fellas and thank you for your generosity.





above...Wally Blumenfeld,Fred Hartnack and John Bryant



Warren Barsley with James Brown





**Dick van Leeuwen, Dave Jupp and Arie van Arkel
below..... Mike Priest and Olga Bell (Mike Lives in the UK)**





Ian Johnston's model of AV 1354 Brudenell white

below.....Ken Duncan, Warren Barsley with Phil Cameron





Our barman Roger MacDonald



Stephanie and Maurie Roberts





Mike and Ellen McCartney-Lees with James Brown



**Ian Johnston
and Les
Dennis**





**Treasurer Peter Tierney at the front door of Hunters Hill RSL hall
below.....Eric Hale, Dave Jupp and Ian Johnston**



SICK PARADE

Laurie Graham is not in the best of health. He has had both knees replaced and he's also shortly going to hospital to have an operation to replace his left hip. Hopefully this will relieve most of the pain he's going through. No doubt all these problems were caused by his seven years on 'AV1379 Tarra'. All the best, Laurie. Hang in there. Ian Johnston has been looking in on him and advising progress.

Brian Willcock advised that he is slowly recovering from a hernia operation he had recently. He has been living in Perth for the last eight years or so (not that this was the cause of it but you never know). Good to hear from you, Brian and take care.

John Boot Is not travelling well. He has lymphoma and is currently undergoing tests and chemotherapy. His wife, Margaret is looking after him. All the best John.

UPDATE ON DAVE PERHAM'S BOOK

Since the last newsletter Dave has been working tirelessly on his book which will be a pictorial history of 32 Small Ship Squadron RAE. It will mainly revolve around memories, memorabilia and anecdotes of the crews of the four LSMs and the John Monash with plenty of good quality photos. There has been a fair bit documented already on the "official" side of the unit, so this book will concentrate on more personal aspects of serving in a unique unit such as 32, and life on board Army ships.

He has named the book, "Rolling Through 32" which may sound a little strange at first, but as we know, in a big swell with a 30 knot wind slightly off the bow, curling the wave-tops and slamming into the fo'c'sle (think Coral Sea) the ships rolled about 60 degrees. Very unpleasant indeed, and as Dave says in his introduction, "...an LSM could roll either way in a rough beam sea at an angle that would be of serious concern to most other vessels..." For those of us fortunate enough to be in the engine room during these periods the ships probably did a bit of rolling but for those on the bridge it was a different kettle of fish. The deckies would have a different name for the book. More like "Whipping through 32".

So far Dave has about 150 pages completed and hopes to have about 180 done by the time it's finished later this year (hopefully!). He has asked me to pass on his thanks to the many people who have contributed to the book. He has lots of fine photos and stories that will bring back memories (some good – some bad) to all of us.

About the only hurdle in front of him is the cost of publishing it. It is intended that it will be of high quality, glossy and with many coloured photos. He intends to keep the purchase price as low as possible – no higher than \$40 if he can help it. However, to do this he will need some assistance to offset the costs. Current indications are that it will cost in excess of \$20,000 to produce. We will ask for grants from various sources, including government and maritime organisations. If anyone has any ideas, suggestions or recommendations on how to raise funds please let me know. Naturally the Association will be a major supporter. In fact donations from members would be gratefully accepted. Also, towards the end of the year and we know all the details and the final cost we may ask for advance subscriptions from those wishing to purchase it.

VALE – WO2 Des Thomas

Desmond Thomas passed away on 28 June 2007. He enlisted in 1949 as an infantryman, and then transferred to RAE Tn in Movement Control. He retired in 1979 as a WO2. We don't have any details of his passing, but if anyone has any information on him, including his service, please let us know.





WHERE'S WALLY?

During the recent flooding of the Hunter and Central Coast regions in NSW the local emergency services were stretched to the limit. To overcome this problem many rural fire, police, SES (even Army) etc personnel responded to the disaster. This photo shows Wally Blumenfeld of the Belconnen Unit of the ACT State Emergency Service doing some good work in Newcastle. Wally said that his accommodation up there was a bit rough to start with. Ten to a room in double bunks with only one shower and toilet.

He goes on to say, "This was our accommodation for the first night. I thought I'd finished with bunks after leaving the sea. I slept in the top bunk as the other bloke reckoned he couldn't make it! The next day we built a sandbag wall (stretchers and headers) to stop Maitland being flooded, and that night all of Maitland was evacuated. Luckily the river didn't peak where it was forecast and Maitland was saved!"

Well done, Wally. He assured us that like all good Sappers, the sandbags were turned inside out, three quarters filled and the necks tied off securely with the attached string. It goes without saying that the wall was built on a slope of 4:1 (as it should be).

It's nice to know that people like Wally Blumenfeld are still serving their country, and at an age where most of us are starting to take it easy. Perhaps more of us should follow his example and do a bit of volunteer work.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard the following new members to the Association:

Ernest Bader served in Korea (yes, the Korean War) and later in the late 1950s and early 1960s was posted to Chowder Bay where he was a crew member on various vessels, but mostly on Fairmiles. He now lives at Rockingham WA.

Ken Small served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on AV1356 Clive Steele in Vietnam. He now lives at Kallangur QLD.

Don Saillard served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on AV1353 Harry Chauvel in Vietnam as the Orderly Room Sergeant. He also served in Vietnam with 1 Field Squadron and 55 Advanced Engineer Support Squadron, and in Borneo with 1 Field Squadron. Other units he served in were: SME, Chief Engineers Branch HQ Eastern Command and HQ 6 Construction Group. Don lives at Fingal VIC.

David Fletcher served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on AV1356 Clive Steele in Vietnam. He now lives at Mount Pleasant SA.



EVEN MORE NEWS ABOUT THE 'JOE MANN'

AT2700 Joe Mann being launched by Mrs C.E.Long, wife of the then Commander Central Command. She was built (the tug, not Mrs Long) by Adelaide Ship Construction Pty Ltd at Birkenhead SA and entered service in March 1963. The photo was provided by Phil Hurren of the RAE Museum.



VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY

A Vietnam Veterans' Day Commemoration Service will be conducted at the RAE Vietnam Memorial at the School of Military Engineering, Steele Barracks, on Saturday 18 August 2007 commencing at 1100 hrs. This invitation is for all members of the public, the Association and their guests. It is requested that a lounge suit or a coat and tie be worn by the gentlemen. Medals, if issued, (big ones) should be worn. Please assemble at 1045hrs at the RAE Vietnam Memorial which is located on Bircross Road. Show your driver's licence to the guard at the front gate, turn right at the first intersection and follow the signs to the car park. During the service an address will be given by the Head of Corps RAE, Brigadier Wayne Budd, CSC. Jack Peel is Chairman of the RAE Vietnam Memorial committee and members include Ross McMurray and Ian Johnston.

Following the service a barbeque lunch will be served at the Sportsman's Club for \$15.00 per head. A cash bar will be operating. This will also be a good opportunity to visit the various displays in the Heritage Precinct including the Museum and Corps Shop in the vicinity of the Memorial. If you can attend this ceremony please fill out the form below. If you just wish to attend the ceremony and not stay for lunch there will obviously be no cost.



Yes, I will attend the Commemoration Ceremony and Lunch on 18 August 2007.

NAME:..... \$15.00

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE NO:.....

GUESTS NAMES\$.00

Total \$.00

Please make cheques and money orders out to: **RAE Vietnam Memorial** and post to:

Ross McMurray
RAE Vietnam Memorial
14 Hillary Street
WEST PYMBLE NSW 2073



SICK PARADE

Bob Freeman reported that **Fred Turnbull** was not the best. He has been diagnosed with cancer. He was a National Serviceman and served in 32 Small Ship Squadron in 1969/70 on AV1356 Clive Steele in Vietnam. He now lives at Logan Village in Queensland. It would be appreciated if former shipmates or anyone who knew him and wish to offer support call him on 07 5546 8467 or Email turnbull@tadaust.org.au

30 TERMINAL SQUADRON VEHICLE STICKER

Richard McKenzie an ex-SQMS 30 Terminal Squadron writes:

“I have attended both 30 Terminal Squadron’s reunions at Chowder Bay, Georges Heights and Middle Head in 2005 and Townsville in 2006. I am pleased to report that the reunion at Townsville was very enjoyable and as the only ex-Sapper in attendance members of 30 Terminal and 35 Water Transport Squadrons treated me very well indeed.

“When 30 Port Squadron changed its name to 30 Terminal Squadron a commemorative shield was produced. I had one and also had some vehicle stickers made up a year or so ago (see below). If any ex-Termites would like one or two they can have them for \$2.00 each.”

Thanks for that, Richard. I’m sure that some of the old hands of the Squadron will take you up on your offer. His contact details are:

Richard McKenzie
31 Mandfield Way
PARMELIA WA 6167 Telephone: 08 9419 3003



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2007 Annual General Meeting will take place at **1100 hrs On Tuesday 21 August 2007 at the North Ryde RSL Community Club, Corner Magdala and Pittwater Roads North Ryde NSW.** After the meeting why not stay and have lunch at one of the bistros. Normally the AGM is held in the evening at Hunters Hill RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Hall but some members have suggested that it would be easier for them to have it in the day-time and in more comfortable surroundings. Anyway, we'll see how it goes. Hope to see you there.

******* NOTE the NEW TIME and Address *******

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN REUNION TREK

As advised in the last newsletter, John Purcell is organising in a "lap of Australia" in getting to the WA Reunion in Perth in October. It will be a sort of a loose convoy with the aim of travelling from home (where you live) up to North Queensland, over the Top End and then down the WA coast. He's got about ten starters and no doubt he'll get a few more. It is a great way to see some parts of Australia that you may not have been to, and in good company. John recently advised progress on the trek, as follows:

"Depending on your individual requirements, a leisurely trip to Cairns should take about two weeks, allowing time to call on friends and sight-see. This could be reduced to a week if time is a limiting factor.

"For those who have not done the tourist thing in Cairns, there are some fantastic points of interest which should be seen and could be covered in a week to ten days. I will provide details of caravan parks etc if required. We would also be welcome to visit 30 Terminal Squadron and 35 Water Transport Squadron in Townsville on the way through.

"Cairns to Perth is estimated to be a comfortable two weeks, keeping driving to about four hours per day with breaks at popular stopover points.

"Please confirm your interest and agreement or suggested alternatives to the ideas above. Remember, you can peel off / rejoin at any point or we can meet along the way for those wishing to go slower or faster, or develop their own itinerary."

OK. That's it. Time to get cracking. This could be a once in a lifetime opportunity to do this great trek, especially if you had doubts about tackling this remote area by yourself. This way you can have the security and confidence to do it, and good company to boot. For those wishing more information please contact John at:

John Purcell
9 Maynard Close
MT SHERIDAN QLD 4868

Telephone: 07 4036 3026
Mobile: 0408 772 506
Email: purcellj@bigpond.net.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.

| | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
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| | Reverend Richard McCracken | | |

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Property for Sale

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| Ties.....\$18.00 | LSM Badge.....\$12.00 |
| 32 Small Ship Sq. Book.....\$30.00 | Collar Badges.....\$6.00 |
| Assc. Aniversary Plaque.....\$25.00 | Flag Army Afloat..... \$50.00 |
| Assc. Patches.....\$8.00 | Ass. Caps (navy).....\$12.00 |
| LSM Badges\$12.00 | Assc. Polo Shirts, White, Red |
| | And Navy To Order. \$25.00 |

Contact Ken Shannon 02 9871 466

