



NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter 32 Small Ship Squadron Association Incorporating RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K L Duncan (RL)

President's Message

As a result of the Annual 2007 the Association now This position had been been filled in an ad hoc manner Ross.



General Meeting on Tuesday 21 August has a new Secretary, Ross McMurray. vacant for a number of years and has between Ross and myself. Thank you

I would also like to welcome to the committee two new faces being John Bryant and Bruce Reilly. Thank you both for coming on board!

I believe that every ex-member of the Squadron should consider purchasing at least one copy of Dave Perham's book "Rolling Through 32". This has been a tremendous effort by Dave with the committee's assistance, especially Ross, once published will kindle fond memories of our lives at sea in most likely the most unique unit of the Australian Army.

There has been a great deal of support financially from DVA, the RAE Foundation the RAE Corps Committee and personal donations from Association members which are greatly appreciated. I hope members, together with their families, will consider attending the book launch in April 2008.

For those of you who attended this years ANZAC Day luncheon and witnessed the unveiling of Ian (Frank) Johnston's LSM model (scale 1:72) we are now hoping his next model (scale 1:48) will be unveiled next ANZAC Day. Ian has particularly sourced more accurate detail through photos and drawings for his new model. He is such a perfectionist!

May I thank those new members who have recently joined the Association and also all those members who have continued their membership.

On behalf of the Patron and committee I wish all members and their families a Merry Christmas and a happy new year.

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE

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**VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY – SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING****18 AUGUST 2007**

On Saturday 18 August 2007 a ceremony for Vietnam Veterans' Day was held at the RAE Vietnam Memorial at the School of Military Engineering. It was a bright, sunny morning and it was attended by over 80 veterans, families, friends and guests. The service was conducted by the RSM of SME, WO1 Wayne Schoer and SMEs Chaplain Steve Cloudsdale. SME also provided the Catafalque Party and Flag Orderly. The bugler was from the Australian Army Band – Sydney, and the piper was from Ingleburn RSL Pipes and Drums.

The Guest Speaker was WO1 Harry Buckley (Rtd) who is a well known identity within the Corps (and to most of us) where he served for over 30 years. He eloquently spoke about the RAE units which served in Vietnam and what the Corps has achieved in operational deployments since then.

After the service the Heritage Precinct, including the Museum and the Corps Shop, were opened and various displays were visited. A barbeque lunch was served at the Sportsman's Club where we could meet old friends over a couple of quiet ones. It is intended that this service will be conducted annually at the RAE Vietnam Memorial on 18 August, so why not mark it on next years diary and bring the family along

Members and guests of our Association who attended were: Graham and Beth Murray, Ken Duncan, Cec Weekes (Secretary AWTA), Al and Kay Parry with their son, Nathan, Peter and Sue Tierney with their neighbours, Roy and Margaret Garner, and an American exchange student, Maria Cerven, Ross and Jenny McMurray, Speedie Sahariv with mates from 55 EWPS, Bert Hagel and Ray Seymour, Bruce Reilly, George and Judith Cosis, Brian and Val Waites, Ian Johnston and Jack Peel who is the Chairman of the RAE Vietnam Memorial Committee.

Full marks to SME who made a big effort to ensure that that all present had an enjoyable day. Well done!



Left to Right: Brian Waites, Ross McMurray, Al Parry, Bruce Reilly, Jack Peel, George Cosis, Cec Weekes, Ken Duncan, Ocka Murray, Speedie Sahariv and Peter Tierney.





This letter was recently received. Our Association has made a small donation to the Museum. If you are ever near Phillip Island in Victoria why not drop in and have a look at it. It's quite impressive.

An open letter to all Vietnam Veterans

THE NATIONAL VIETNAM VETERANS MUSEUM: YOUR MUSEUM

Dear Fellow Vietnam Veteran:

The vision for the National Vietnam Veterans Museum is that it will be a spiritual home and a source of healing, understanding and education for ALL Vietnam Veterans.

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum has come about because of years of hard work and the vision of the VVAA Victoria Museum Sub-Branch. Financial assistance has been provided by the Federal and Victorian Governments, various sponsors and Victorian Vietnam Veterans.

Despite best endeavours to advertise and explain the status of the museum, it is apparent that the message has not reached all Vietnam Veterans, particularly those Veterans residing outside Victoria. Some Veterans are not aware of the status of the museum or that they are able to have their service recorded at the museum.

The National Museum is above ESO rivalries, real or imagined. Though created largely by the efforts of VVAA Victoria, the museum IS NOT a VVAA facility; it is the National Museum for ALL Vietnam Veterans and families, it is YOUR museum. ALL Vietnam Veterans and their families are welcome at the museum.

At present, the museum is operated by an interim management committee. In time, the responsibility for operating the museum and preserving the museum for future generations will pass to a board of trustees, chosen from the ex-service community.

Through "Buy a Brick" campaigns and direct donations, some Vietnam Veterans have financially supported the museum and have had their service permanently recorded on the walls of the museum. It is regrettable that for whatever reason, ALL Vietnam Veterans have not had the opportunity to be part of the initial campaign. However, opportunities still exist for Veterans, unit associations and families to participate in similar campaigns in the future.

If you are a member of an ESO and you are unaware of the museum and what it stands for, may I suggest that you ask your ESO to provide you with information? Alternatively, if you don't belong to an ESO or wish to make a personal enquiry, you can contact the museum. Telephone 03 5956 6400, or email vvmuseum@nex.net.au

The National Vietnam Veterans Museum at Phillip Island, Victoria, is YOUR Museum, dedicated to preserving and faithfully recording Vietnam War history for future generations. I encourage you to support The National Vietnam Veterans Museum and to ensure that YOUR story is told.

Regards,
Bob Elworthy





In our last Newsletter we published this ANZAC Day photo but didn't know the identity of the gentleman on the right. Of course it's Rob Weiman. Thank you to the 18 members who pointed this out to us!

Please note our NEW mailing address

**Secretary
32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association
Box 33 12 Philip Mall
West Pymble
NSW 2073**





THE PERTH REUNION OCTOBER 2007



Perth Reunion..... L to R Bill Culbertson, Dave Gray, Alan White and Barry Woods





32 SMALL SHIP SQUADRON.
AV1353 ARMY LANDING SHIP MEDIUM 'HARRY CHAUVEL'.
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS.

In the city of Bondi Beach and Kings Cross on a balmy sunny morning in Lane Cove, circa 1960s aboard jungle green coloured Australian Army Landing Ship [RAE] "Harry Chauvel" [Ex USNavy] 200ft long and a 1000 tons of fighting Steel [with battle pock marks on her hull from WW2 to prove it] the intrepid crew prepared for a 5 months deployment to Brisbane, New Guinea and all points North.

A Severe Tropical Cyclone is coming down the Queensland Coast.

Communication staff are responsible for receiving, delivering to designated personnel all comms and displaying Weather Reports on the Ship's Notice Board. We were hoping and expecting to spend another weekend in Sydney. However, 24 hours before sailing time, Skipper John Towers said to us, "Sergeant I've made a Decision !! [Big smiles all around] DO NOT display any more Weather Reports on the Notice Board - We are sailing as ordered" [Big Smiles disappear]. Nevertheless, - We like the Skipper. We like to sail with him. He is a very competent Seaman. He is Merchant Marine [Army].

Departure minus 2 hours. I call up Coastal Common [HMAS Kuttabul Naval Radio Control Shore Station Garden Island], confirm 'Intend to Sail Signal.', check we have the latest 'Notices to Mariners' and carry out tests on MY recently installed emergency Land Rover FFW Baseplate and Whip Aerial [scrounged from 1 Bde Sigs] which I have had welded onto the outside of the conning tower.

Departure minus 1 hour. I check flags and Bridge 12 inch Search/Signalling lights. Close down Coastal Common, switch to "Bells Auto morse Broadcast" on the B40 receiver. [HMAS Harman Naval Radio Control Station Canberra Southwest Pacific Area. TxS-Rxs antennas located at Belconnen hence "Bells".] Radio Check call on "Bells" Ship/Shore, OK. Receive latest East Aust Coast Area Weather forecast which I deliver to the Skipper. Check Notice Board on way back - Yep, still blank. All set.

On time - as ordered, "The Shovel", all flags flying sails north, under the Coathanger, past the waving Opera House and down into the beautiful harbour of the Emerald City. It is at it's Picture Postcard best. Bright sunshine with light breezes ruffling the azure water and cooling our faces. Busy ferries are navigating their way through meandering family boats, luxury cruisers and multi coloured yachts - and a leisurely afternoon tea is served on the Bridge. Later - with the seagulls still screeching, the Dee Why and the Curl Curl passengers waving us goodbye, we slip through the Heads and sail out to sea.





The next day the salt laden wind freshens, heightening the senses of excitement and apprehension. The sea responds, and white caps appear. Later - Seas rising to Moderate and the odd Greeny sneaks over the Port Bow for a quick look. We're lucky we have no cargo - especially 'tanks.' Still later - Moderate turns to rough. It starts to rain. The LSM reduces speed, closes up and secures it's weather deck hatches, tops up it's forward ballast tanks, settles lower into the water and sails on. The Greenies are getting bigger and bigger and many more are coming over the sides to join the party.

The " Navy " arrives !! - behind 20ft bow waves, sleek and grey, board stiff White ensign flying, HMAS Swan, [Ex RoyalNavy North Sea Frigate - eats Force 5,6,7, Gales for breakfast] comes up astern and flashes ' Challenges.' I reply, " Army Ship Harry Chauvel bound Brisbane ."

He replies " Warship Swan diverting to Ballina ." I tell the Skipper, [hopefully he will follow him in]. Instead he says, " Bloody Chicken ." [M.M A. dislike Navy] and we sail on.

Later, it gets worse. We meet ' the Cyclone.' We are in a Giant Clothes Washing Machine. The wind Howls, Screams, Shrieks and Moans. The rain is heavier. The demeanour on the bridge is of benign nonchalance. They've been here before. Sometimes it's worse. Talk is tight. Brief quips and repartees are appreciated. Smiling is compulsory. The " Stiff upper lip " rules.

The waves are getting bigger and the troughs are getting longer. The LSM rises slowly to meet the oncoming wave, the duty watch tense their bodies, grip whitening their knuckles - rising - rising - steeper - steeper - higher - higher - until finally crashing through the wave crest - out - out - until it is hanging over like a giant green surfboard - then - plunges - down - down - down -

" BOO-O-O-M-M-M " hundreds of tons of flat steel hits the angry sea. The LSM staggers - shudders - trembles - boiling green water cascades over the bows. The wave passing underneath makes the LSM vibrate - shaking like a dog shedding water - it settles, then, it rises slowly to meet the oncoming wave and sails on.

Later - a huge rogue monster wave lurches over the Starboard Bow, devours the ' Ship's boat ' regurgitates it and spews it into the Well Deck all battered and broken. Later, with a deafening metallic scream one ' Bow Door Shoe ' is torn loose and hangs out like a broken tooth. Later, the ' Ship's Radio's Wyndham aerial' strung from Masthead to Ship's Bow post ' explodes ' and showers the Bridge Watch with lengths of copper wire, shattered ceramic insulators - staywires and all - frightening the shit out of everyone - then crashes to the Well Deck 30ft below.

" Bells" Broadcast Bandslip goes silent. Bridge calls - " Radio - have we still got comms ? " - I reply - " Switching to emergency antenna and calling ' Harman 'now Sir ." - I Switch the C11/R210 over and call ' Harman.' - ' Harman ' replies, - " QSA 3 QRK 3 Maintaining listening watch this frequency ." - I call Bridge - " Comms with ' Harman ' and they are maintaining listening watch Sir " - Bridge reply - " Roger ." - 'Bells' starts chirping on the B40.





The waves dwarf our conning tower. If the LSM lists more than 60 degrees, we'll turn turtle like many before. It doesn't and the cyclone goes on and on like a bad dream.

Finally it's over - the rain gone, the cyclone gone, we enter Moreton Bay and sight the winking shoreline of the Redcliffe peninsula in the early morning darkness. The ambience of stilled winds and calm waters send a sense of relief - but we are still weaving on our sea legs - we are quiet and we are tired.

Later again, we arrive at Bulimba Army base in the Brisbane River and tie up. The Officer in charge of the waiting Loading Work Party - with a big grin, shouts, "Where ya bin." The Skipper acknowledges with a wry smile and "It was a bit lumpy." then turns to me and says, "Resume displaying Weather Reports Sergeant."

Footnote 1. The Captain's Name has been substituted. All events stated are true.

Footnote 2. Australian Army LSM Clive Steele was severely disabled and almost founded [sank] during a tropical cyclone in the South China Sea during the Vietnam War.

P.P.S. Op-Sigs did many different "Odd Jobs". This was one of the good ones.

This article was sent to us by Jack Peel. It was given to him by ex-Sergeant Brian Boreland, RASIGS who served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in the early 1960s. Jack says he was on the Normanton Mining trip (whatever that was) with Captain Ron Tanner and also did a number of trips to Papua New Guinea on Pacific Island Regiment recruiting patrols. These articles will be published in upcoming newsletters. A pretty good story, don't you think?

BOOK PROGRESS

Dave Perham advised that he's nearing completion of his book, "Rolling Through 32". It has increased in size to 230 pages with over 700 photographs and about 160 stories from ex-crew members. Nearly 200 advance subscriptions have been received. Monies received from this will be helpful in defraying up-front production costs.

Most of the subscribers requested just their names be printed in the book, as suggested on the Advance Subscription Form. However a number of people requested regimental numbers, ranks, Corps, names of ships, dates, etc. Unfortunately there is not enough space to do this. The list of subscribers is three columns per page which leaves little opportunity to insert much more than a name (and even then some middle names were too long to insert), so to be fair to all, only names will be shown.

The book launch on ANZAC Day 2008 is on track and it will be on sale at Hunters Hill RSL. Actually we may have to have it a bigger venue because of the expected increase in attendees. We will advise details of this in the February 2008 newsletter. The following members made donations when they paid their advance subscriptions to assist in producing the book:

Wally Blumenfeld, Marcus Blackmore, John Bryant, Jeff Beach, Brian Clulow, Les Dennis, Keith Ford, Allen Fairhall, David Gray, Ian Johnston, Bill Maddocks, Bruce Reilly, Pat Scott, David Tooës, Douglas Whitwam, Bruce Wiltshire, Brian Willcock, Speedie Sahariv and Doug Wyness. Thank you to all these people for your valued contributions.

Very generous donations were made by Wally Blumenfeld, John Bryant, Brian Clulow and David Gray. Very, very generous donations were made by Marcus Blackmore and Bruce Reilly. Many thanks to you all. If I've missed anyone please let me know and I'll fix it in the next edition along with others who paid after this edition was printed.





WATER TRANSPORT REUNION – PERTH

As outlined in the last newsletter, the Water Transport Reunion was held in Perth during 12 – 14 October 2007. Dave Perham sent the following report and photos:

“The fourth informal water transport reunion was held in Perth over three days from Friday 12 October. With over 150 participants the occasion was well attended. Friday night saw a get-together in the city. Saturday, a dinner was held at the old RAAF Base at Bull Creek and Sunday, a final BBQ in the beautiful grounds of Kings Park., Perth. All round the weekend was a great success and a credit to the organizers, Bob and Rosina Saunders, and Sam and Rita Sturniolo.

Special guests at the dinner were two of Lieutenant Colonel Jim Wilson’s daughters, Rhona and Patricia. These wonderful ladies enjoyed the night and meeting with many of their fathers old crew. A bronze plaque commemorating Colonel Wilson was displayed at the dinner (see attached photo). This plaque had its beginning at John and Pat Lalor’s farm at Irwin, WA where a group of ex Small Ships types, Tony Harris, Bob Gunn, Dave Perham and Ross Davies together with John (Slack) Lalor sat around the fire and sketched up the details needed. Ross Davies did the legwork for the manufacture of two plaques; a larger one for permanent display at the Army Mariners Memorial at Chowder Bay and a small one to be fixed to the Water Transport Memorial at 13 Field Squadron, Karrakatta WA. The costs for the project were covered by passing the hat around over the Perth weekend and by donation from 32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association.

As we get older it is wonderful to meet occasionally with old friends, catch up on the latest and reminisce. You can do this at home by yourself though when it comes to a good argument on Small Ship matters it’s much better with the mob.

The next reunion is to be held in Albury NSW with Kev and Lynn Morley as hosts”.

Thanks, Dave. I’m sure it was a great event, and why wouldn’t it be with that turnout? I’m sure everyone is looking forward to meeting at Albury in 2009.



Peter Caskey, Max Lockwood and Charlie Deans at the Perth Reunion





NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard the following new members to the Association:

Des McDonald served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* and also served at HQ 1 Terminal Group, Army Maritime Wing and 10 Terminal Regiment. He lives at Grabben Gullen NSW.

Brian Hart served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1354 Brudenell White*, *AV1356 Clive Steele*, *AS3051 John Monash*, *AV1379 Tarra* and later on *L126 Balikpapan*. Other units he served in were 34 and 35 Water Transport squadrons, Army Maritime Wing and HQ Northern Territory Command. He lives at Woy Woy NSW.

Phillip McLeod served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele*. He now lives at Wreck Bay, NSW.

Doug Whitwam served with the Australian Logistics Support Company in Vietnam in 1965 as part of the 1 RAR Battalion Group. He later served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1354 Brudenell White* and *AV135 Vernon Sturdee*. Doug now lives at Gorokan NSW.

Michael Cowell served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam. He now lives at Frankston VIC.

Peter Nodin served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* and *AS 3051 John Monash* in Vietnam. He now lives at Emerald VIC.

John McMahon served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam aboard *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* and *AV1356 Clive Steele*. He now lives at Yarram VIC.

Jim Conroy served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam on *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* and later on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*. Jim lives at Berwick VIC.

Michael Cowell served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam on board *AV1356 Clive Steele*. He lives at Frankston VIC.

Dennis Wynne served with 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam as a signaller on *AV1354 Brudenell White*, *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AS3051 John Monash*. Other units he served with were 1 Sig Regt, 4 Sig Regt, 5 Sig Regt, 9 ANZUK Sig Regt, 104 Sig Sqn, 130 Sig Sqn, Headquarters Field Force Command and the School of Signals. Dennis lives at Oxenford, QLD

Timothy Gay served with 32 Small Ship Squadron on board *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*, *AV1354 Brudenell White* and *AS3051 John Monash*. Tim lives at Point Vernon QLD

Athol Budgen served with 32 Small Ship Squadron (at Colmslie QLD) and on *AV1343 Brudenell White* and *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*, and also with 34 Water Transport Squadron at Kangaroo Point. Athol lives at Manly QLD.

DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following members who recently made donations to the Association: Brian Hart, Des McDonald, Doug Reeves.





MALAYSIAN SERVICE MEDAL (Pingat Jasa Malaysia)

In 2004 the Malaysian Government approved the Malaysian Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Malaysia). It is a special medal of service to eligible service personnel who served from independence until the end of Confrontation in the security of Malaysia, with the Commonwealth Far East Strategic Reserve, during the period 31 August 1957 and 31 December 1966.

Both *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* and *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* were deployed to Borneo in 1964. Crew members were eligible for the General Service Medal 1962. Many of these then applied for the Pingat Jasa Malaysia. Some were awarded the medal but others were deemed not eligible because of the number of days service that they accrued on operational service. Obviously this situation has caused confusion. Jack Peel would like to hear from crew members who have been awarded the medal and has some information that may be helpful where applications have been refused. Contact Jack on (02) 4446 1044 or email him at jackpeel@gmail.com.au.

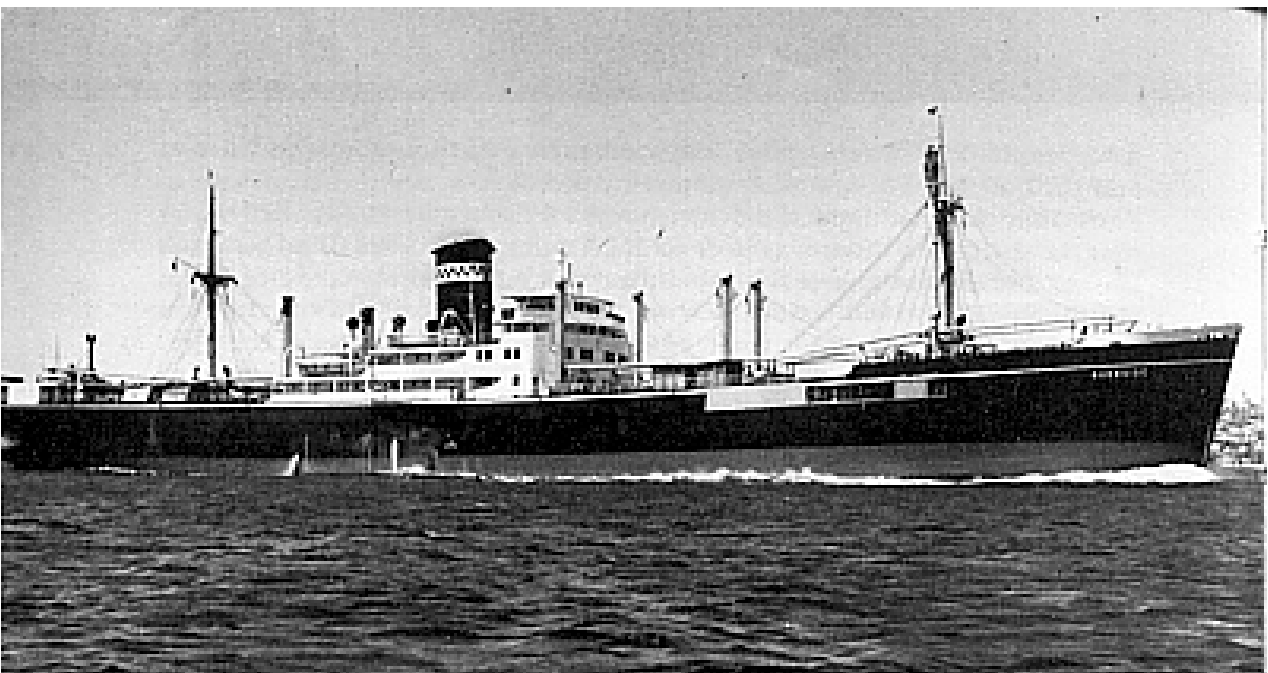
MERCHANT NAVY MEDALS

The Australian Merchant Navy Awards Council has established three awards for those who served in the Merchant Navy in both peace and war. They are:

- * **The Australian Merchant Navy Service Cross**, for 15 years bona-fide service in the Australian Merchant Navy,
- * **The Australian Merchant Navy Meritorious Medal**, for personal contribution to the Merchant Navy, and
- * **The Commendation for Achievement**, for contribution in any sphere of maritime related activity.

These descriptions are pretty vague except for the first one which stipulates 15 years service. It appears that the others would be awarded by recommendation by a superior (not by you!). Quite a few members served in the Australian Merchant Navy after (or before) their Army service so they may be eligible. For further details contact Roger MacDonald on (02) 9451 6488 or email him at aliceandborice@optusnet.com.au or contact:

The Registrar
Australian Merchant Navy Awards Council
GPO Box 1920
HOBART TAS 7001



Burns Phillip SS BURNSIDE





NEW COMMITTEE

(Only joking) At the Annual General Meeting held on 21 August 2007 the committee increased by two. The new committee elected are:

President: Graham Murray

Vice President: Ken Shannon

Secretary: Ross McMurray

Assistant Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Peter Tierney

Assistant Treasurer: Vacant

Welfare Officer: George Fisher

Property Member: Ken Shannon

Committee Members: Roger MacDonald
Ian Johnston, BEM
John Bryant
Bruce Reilly

Many thanks to all the committee, especially to our new members, John Bryant and Bruce Reilly. They will bring a good deal of knowledge and experience to the team.

NEW ADDRESS

Seeing how we've got a new committee we thought we would also get a new address. We did this because lately we haven't been going to Hunters Hill for committee meetings, and it was taking a long time for mail to be redirected. Our new address is:

32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association
Box 33
12 Philip Mall
WEST PYMBLE NSW 2073

Oh, and we've also got a new email address: editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au should anyone wish to communicate electronically. So, put it in your address book.





SICK PARADE

Jim Patterson has not been well for the last few months. He has cancer of the pelvic bone and is undergoing rigorous treatment. All the best Jim. We'll keep in touch.

Laurie Graham (reported on in the last newsletter) is still not out of the woods. He has to have a left hip replacement in February 2008. He already had his knees and right hip done so hopefully this one may be the end of his discomfort and reduced mobility. A lot of his joint problems were caused by his service on *AV1379 Tarra* due to the fact that crew members were often called upon to carry out "ammo dumps" at sea. On numerous occasions they had to lift by hand 6 inch shells weighing over 120 lbs and dispose of them over the side. It's a pity OH&S were not around in those days, (but having said that we would not have left Woolwich if they were!). Anyway, hang in there Laurie, we're thinking of you.

John Boot (also reported on in the last newsletter) has improved somewhat. He has lymphoma and underwent a lot of chemotherapy which didn't seem to do much good. He has now stopped this and his health has improved. He said he's not yet in remission but hopefully he will be after he has a few more tests. In fact since he ceased chemotherapy he is much more comfortable and is pretty mobile and can still drive his 4WD. To demonstrate this he drove from Brisbane to Cairns and then accompanied John Purcell around the Top-End to go to the Perth Reunion in October. What a fantastic journey. The only problem they had for the trip was a front tyre blow out in the Kimberly. I'm sure that the main reason for his stability and positive outlook is his wife, Margaret who keeps a good eye on him.

Kevin Morley reports that **Charlie Bawden** still seems OK but has his ups and downs. He remains in hospital. All the best for Christmas, Charlie.

VALE – BERYCE MERRICK

Beryce Merrick, wife of Lieutenant Colonel John Merrick, died on 20 October 2007 after a long illness. Her funeral was held at the RMC Chapel, Duntroon and attended by a number of Association members including our Patron, Colonel Ken Duncan with Warren Barsley, Frank Poole and Wally Blumenfeld. Major General Bill Crews, the National President of the RSL, also attended. Our condolences to John and family.

VALE – ANN FREELAND

We were also saddened to learn of the passing of Ann Freeland, wife of Geoff Freeland. Ann died on 27 November 2007 after a long illness. She was interred at Old Bar Crematorium, NSW with a large gathering of family and friends. We join with Ann's many friends to offer sympathy to Geoff and his family.





A CENTURION AT VUNG TAU

In the December 2005 issue of Notice to Mariners we showed this photo of a Centurion tank disembarking from AV1356 *Clive Steele* at Vung Tau. We asked members if they could give some details of the photo and if they remembered the circumstances surrounding it. We had two responses; one from Wally Blumenfeld and the other from George Stubbs. They both agreed it was one of the twelve tanks that had recently arrived from Australia on the *Jeparit* and delivered to Cam Ranh Bay where they were unloaded onto the *Clive Steele* and transported to Vung Tau.

So far, so good. However, George Stubbs recently wrote to us and said that he had a re-think about it and now thinks it is a tank that was blown up with a mine on operations in early 1969 and it was being back loaded at Cam Ranh Bay for return to Australia. Sadly, the driver was killed in the blast. George says his death was caused by the compartment drain plug being blown out. It had been screwed in from the inside instead of the outside as required where the plugs safety flange was designed to stop this happening. Apparently the tank was the one displayed outside the Australian War Memorial, but has since been relocated elsewhere. Did it go inside with the Vietnam collection? Maybe one of our Canberra based members could check it out.

The story was also taken up by the Senior Curator Heraldry and Military Technology at the AWM who thinks that it is not a new tank arriving from Australia via Cam Ranh Bay (ie, disembarking from the LSM). It is actually a tank driving onto the LSM after its tour in Vietnam. He thinks that the 23B call sign on the 100gallon fuel tank is likely to be a tank which hit a mine on 29 December 1969. He would like a copy of the original photo so he can identify the ARN of the tank. He would then confirm it and send us its story and a photo of the tank actually hitting the mine. We will chase it up and see if we can get some more history about it. An interesting story isn't it?





Here's a shot of Sergeant Doug Whitwam holding up a nice catch he caught from AV1354 Brudenell White in the Gulf of Carpentaria. Looks like a decent size Spanish Mackerel. Marvellous what you do with a roll of sash cord, a spoon for a lure and a length of bronze welding rod for a hook. The fish, by the way, is on the right. We don't remember the name of the other bloke but he looks hungry.



Wishing everyone a
MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a safe and prosperous
NEW YEAR.





WEBSITE

About a third of our members are on the net and communicate with each other and receive Notice to Mariners electronically. Many associations such as ours have a website which allows access to their organisation and members. John Leishman, one of our members in Darwin, thought it was time we were dragged kicking and screaming into the 21st Century and decided to introduce us to the world of information technology.

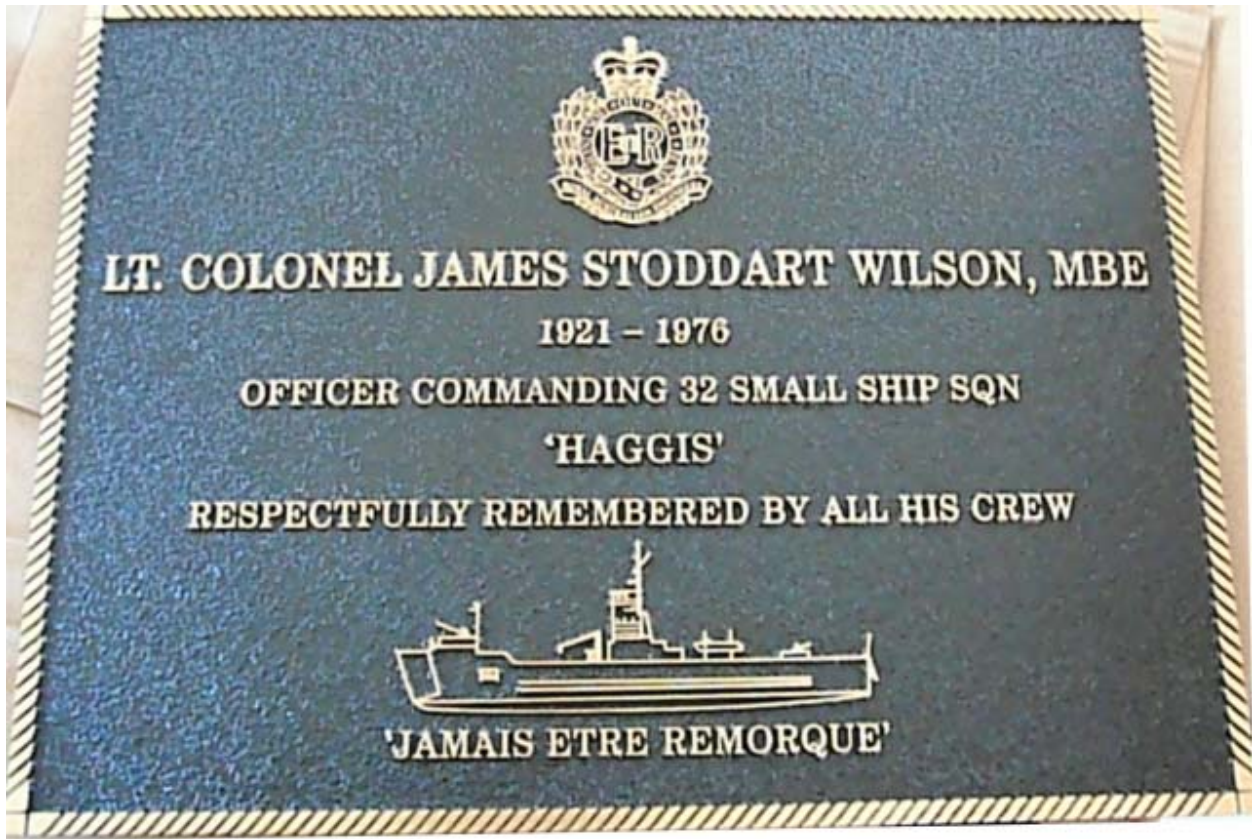
John runs a company called Interserve Pty Ltd which specialises in Domain Registration, Website Development, Webmaster Services and Systems Specifications. Look at his website at www.interserve.com.au. Perhaps he may be able to assist you in developing these aspects.

The website is not yet up and running but we are hoping it will be operational within a month or so. There are a number of things that can be put on the website, among them are:

- History of units that form our Association,
- Details of Army ships and watercraft,
- Constitution,
- Photo Galleries,
- Past Issues of Newsletter,
- Order Forms for Dave Perham's Book, Association Stock and the Corps Shop, etc,
- Upcoming Events,
- Names of Association Members
- Links to Other organisations

Obviously the list is not exhaustive and we would like to hear from members who can contribute ideas, articles, photos, etc. If you wish to comment about the website please use our new postal address or email us at editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au We would like to hear from you.





The Lt Col. WILSON commemorative plaque. Unveiled at the Perth Reunion.



Promotion course at Chowder Bay 1967/68 ?

Back row L-R Don Grace, Dave Jupp, Al Reading, ..., ..., ... Roger MacDonald,,Charley Bawden?,
..., ..., ..., Tony Stafford, John Gadd.

Front row L-R ..., Yorkie Haigh, Bob Metcalfe, ...,.,Bill Bungate, Jack Peel





AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL SERVICE 2ND INTAKE
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN ENGINEERS
CASULLA. N.S.W DEC 1965 - MAR 1966

29E/65 5 TROOP

REAR ROW: Sprs HILL, BAYLIS, WILLIAMS P., BOWEN, THOMASON, RICHARDSON,
WHEATLEY, JOHNSON, BROANDA, HAMANN, MOONEY, GRAY,
ROGERS, WATT, EKBERG, REED, SCARFE.

CENTRE: Sprs CLARK, JONES, DUNLOP, GOULD, FORD, DRADDY, BRADSHAW,
CAMPBELL, HOPE, KEDGLEY, TAYLOR, COCKRAN, HANNEBERY,
ROBERTS, MURTAGH, WILLIAMS E.,

FRONT ROW: Sprs KEECH, STRATTON, GRAY I.D., BUCK, TURNBULL, SMITH,
BREADSELL, Cpl CLARK, Lt BROWN, Sgt FRANCIS, Sprs
ZABAJNIK, GUY, STODDART, WYNESS, CREIGHTON, TERLE.

Here's a blast from the past. The photo was sent in by Keith Ford and has a few Tn blokes in it . Recognise anyone?

I like the way they spelled 'Casula'. It must have been the Lieutenant...





ANZAC DAY 2008

Next year ANZAC Day in Sydney is shaping up to be not only a day for commemorative services and remembrance but also a great literary event! Yes, Dave Perham's book, "Rolling Through 32" will be officially launched.

We usually get around 60 people at the Reunion Luncheon at Hunters Hill RSL Memorial Hall after the Sydney march, but we may have to look for a larger venue if numbers are significantly increased. With this in mind it is important to get an indication of how many would attend. If you intend to join us for the lunch and book-launch would you please complete the questionnaire below and return it to the Secretary by 31 December 2007. If you prefer, you can reply by email.

Of course you may bring any number of guests; the more the merrier. From the information received we can determine the venue and catering arrangements. Don't worry; the information you give will be for planning purposes only. In the February newsletter we will ask for firm commitments, and provide all the details.

The Secretary
32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association
Box 33
12 Philip Mall
WEST PYMBLE NSW 2073

Yes, at this stage I intend to be at the 2008 Sydney ANZAC Day Reunion Lunch and Book-Launch.

I intend to bring _____ guests.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS: _____





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.

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Property for Sale

Ties.....\$18.00	LSM Badge.....\$12.00
32 Small Ship Sqn. 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

