

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter of 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE Association Incorporating RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K.L. Duncan (Rtd)

President's Message

On 19 February 2012 some wives attended a Commemorative Church, Sydney for the Australian AIF. Lunch followed at the Hero of About 60 AWTA members and their afternoon. It was organised by Cec



committee members and their Church Service at the Garrison Water Transport Association RAE Waterloo Hotel at The Rocks. wives had a very enjoyable Weekes, President of the AWTA.

Les McFadzen recently reported the who was born in Gordonvale, North died in Brisbane on 12 February 2012. His funeral was attended by many relatives and friends including Les, and Bill Jeffers (who served on *AV1354 Brudenell White* in Papua New Guinea in 1965).

passing of Patrick Hugh Murray Queensland on 17 May 1923 and

Les pointed out an unusual achievement for Pat in that he served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. He enlisted in the AIF in January 1943 and served in 41 Australian Port landing Craft Company in New Guinea. He then served in Korea as a WO2 and then Vietnam as a Captain, RAAOC. He retired from the Army as a Major. He served on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* on its 1959 delivery voyage from Japan. A good innings.

Ian Henderson, a past President of our Association, and his wife Eileen, were named Mosman Citizens of the Year at an Australia Day ceremony held appropriately in the Mosman Drill Hall. They received the honour for their volunteer work as members and office bearers of the Mosman RSL Sub-Branch and for helping to train guide dogs. Ian said it was a great honour and a joy to do what he and Eileen do together. He said that the best thing was to go out and see one of their pups graduate and to know they are going to help people who don't have the ability to see clearly or move around unaided. They have spent the last ten years raising nine guide dog puppies.

They have their hands full at the moment training two eight month old labrador pups. The dogs stay with them for 12 months from eight weeks old before they undergo intensive training at Guide Dog bootcamp, from where they graduate.

Well done Ian and Eileen on achieving this award!

Our thanks to the "Mosman Daily" for kindly allowing us to reprint this article.

Ocka

Jamais Etre Remorque



Mar 2012 Notice to Mariners

ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES – WEDNESDAY 25 APRIL 2012

I'm sure members will check the details of ANZAC Day dawn services and marches in their own area so I'll just put in details for Sydney for those who are visiting or attending.

DAWN SERVICE – SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING

A Gunfire Breakfast will commence at 0450 hrs in the vicinity of the RAE Monument. The Catafalque Party will mount at 0510 hrs and the service will commence shortly after. On completion of the service a breakfast will be available at the Other Ranks Mess followed by traditional ANZAC Day activities at the Peeler VC Club.

Note that this service is very popular so if you are attending please try and get there by 0430 hrs. Ample car parking is available.

DAWN SERVICE – GEORGES HEIGHTS

The service will be conducted on the parade ground of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust precinct commencing at 0530 hrs. Following the service there will be the traditional Gunfire Breakfast for those who require to be fortified by a beverage manufactured in Bundaberg, and also a light breakfast will be provided by the Mosman Lions Club for a nominal charge. Parking is available under the control of the SES.

ANZAC DAY MARCH – SYDNEY

Assemble on the corner of Phillip and Bent Streets in front of the Legal and General building by 1000 hrs. Step off time is usually around 1100 hrs which will give us time to renew acquaintances and take refreshment before the long march to Hyde Park. The Banner Party has been appointed in advance, and after it has formed up we will assemble behind it. Coat, tie and medals please.

ANZAC DAY REUNION AND LUNCHEON – SYDNEY

As usual the reunion will be held at the Hunters Hill RSL Sub-Branch Memorial Hall on the corner of Alexander and Ady Streets, Hunters Hill. A high quality spit roast lunch with vegetables and salads, desserts and fruit platters will be served at 1400 hrs. Again we have managed to keep the cost down to \$50.00 per head which includes drinks (beer, soft, spirits and wine). To put it on at this low price we need to know early the numbers attending, so please submit your return slip as soon as possible. **Those who turn up unannounced the cost will be \$70.00 a head.**

ANZAC DAY RAFFLE

The raffle is on again and your tickets are enclosed or will be posted. The prizes are:

First Prize: 3" ships clock and barometer.

Second Prize: 6" ships porthole clock.

Third Prize: 3" ships porthole barometer.

These popular prizes are made of solid brass and mounted on polished hardwood. The tickets are still only \$1.00 each or ten for \$10.00.



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Three desperados. From left, Don Saillard, Darryl Crilley and Speedie Sahariv.

They were at a 55 AESS / EPWS (Advanced Engineer Stores Squadron / Engineer Workshop and Park Squadron) reunion at Victor Harbour SA. Speedie said that about 130 members and families attended and all had a great time. The weekend activities included a trip on a paddle steamer to the mouth of the Murray River. Don, Darryl and Speedie are members of our Association. Great blokes all (dunno about Speedie though...).

Actually, Speedie is preparing a slide show video project which will incorporate the current 32 Small Ship Squadron Utube video of the LSMs and *John Monash's* Vietnam service. It will be part of an ongoing task which will include a video slide show of all RAE units that served in Vietnam. 3 Field Troop RAE has already been completed.

Any such photos can be sent via electronic mail to soney1@bigpond.com or conventional mail to John Sahariv, 10 Lendon Place, MacGregor ACT 2615. Hard copies will be returned by registered mail.



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard **Raymond Drummond** who served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1354 Brudenell White* in Vietnam. Ray lives in Quorn SA.

John Lalor served in 32 Small Ship Squadron aboard *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* in Vietnam. He also served on board *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* and *AV1354 Brudenell White*. John lives at Dongara WA.

Ralph Dyke served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AS3051 John Monash* in Vietnam. he lives at Carramar WA.

Robert Comollatti served in 32 Small Ship squadron on *AS3051 John Monash* and *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* in Vietnam. He lives at Alton Downs QLD

Vince Gardner served in 32 Small Ship Squadron aboard *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam. He also served on *AS3051 John Monash* and *AV1354 Brudenell White*. Vince was a cook and worked with Stan McLain and Paddy Adams. He was known as "Tarzan" (I don't know why he was called that, but I'll let that one go through to the keeper).

Terry Hinch, a member of 16 Light Anti Aircraft Regiment served with 32 Small Ship Squadron as a gunner on board *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam.

LOST (AND FOUND) MEDALS

A set of medals belonging to 218534 Sapper Roger Kenneth Smith have been found. Roger served in Vietnam with 30 Terminal Squadron and 17 Construction Squadron. If anyone knows his whereabouts could you or he contact me on 02 9403 1456 or secretary@32smallshipsqn.org.au. We would like to return the medals to him.

DUBBO DASH WEEKEND

In our last newsletter we discussed the Dubbo Dash Weekend during 26 - 28 October 2012. Bob Freeman and Ray Bailey report that so far they have 90 people indicating their attendance. It's still not too late to join in, so give either of them a call. Contact details are:

Bob Freeman 02 6882 2864 (after 6.00pm)

Ray Bailey 02 6882 5078 (after 6.00pm) or email paddlecat@bigpond.com.au

THE FORGOTTEN FLEET

Peter Bayliss's book the 'Forgotten Fleet' is now on the Association's Web Page under 'Histories'. Prior to Peter's premature passing he wrote this long publication for his family's history and to tell others just what it was like "To be on Army Ships". By the next issue of NTM it is hoped to have this writing available for download. (The Web-master has to bone up on how to do this!).

Peter's son David has generously given the Association permission to publish this work.



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Corporal John "Slim" Frankel, the skipper of 56 ft tug *AT2701 The Luke* entertains the tug's namesake, Brigadier L.C. Lucas, DSO, OBE, MC, VD on the Brisbane River. The Brigadier was a much respected Sapper officer and former Representative Colonel Commandant of RAE. Lucas Heights, a Sydney suburb, is named after him. He died in 1973. Slim Frankel served in 32 Small Ship Squadron in Vietnam aboard *AS3051 John Monash*, also with 30 Terminal Squadron and 1st Australian Civil Affairs Unit. He died in 2004. The photo was provided by Slim's son, Mark.

On the next two pages is some doctrine that Brigadier "The Luke" Lucas wrote over 70 years ago to teach his officers about man management, leadership and their relationship with their diggers. I think that they would still hold true today. It was kindly provided by Mick Ryan.



MAN MANAGEMENT



THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

A course of tabloid lectures on the art of supervision and management.

Author: Brigadier L.C. LUCAS DSO OBE MC VD

“For I am a man set under authority, having men under me; and I say unto this one ‘Go!’ and he goeth.....and to that one ‘Do this!’ and he doeth it”.
St Luke 7:8

"There are no bad soldiers; only bad Generals"..... Napoleon Bonaparte



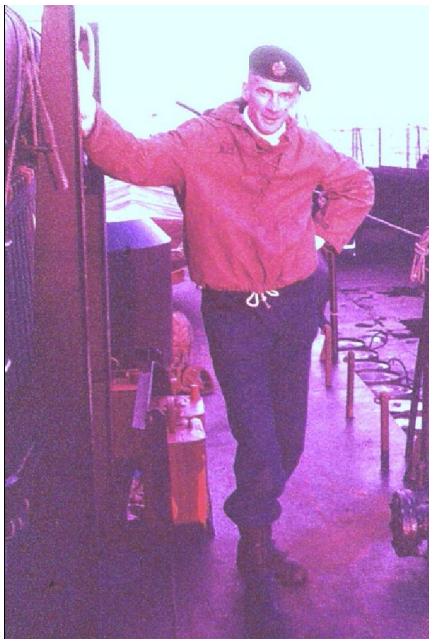
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1. You are handling men - not children, nor slaves, nor robots. Each man can do at least one thing better than you can: each has some knowledge that you lack
2. Your men are your judges from whom there is no appeal. There is no higher court.
3. Know what you have to do, how to do it – do it!
4. Have a plan but don't let it choke you. An hour of preparation can save weeks of wasted effort.
5. Any decision is better than no decision.
7. Firm and just, hard and honest – that's acceptable; weakness and bellyaching are not!
8. When you throw a 'King Hit', don't miss!
9. Be your age! Importance is not important – it's a laugh.
10. Pigs are preferred to prigs.
11. Don't piss in pockets – they leak!
12. The earth is good – keep your feet on it!
13. An ugly dial split by a grin cuts more ice than beauty with a smell under its nose.
14. His friends daren't tell him – nor yours, you.
15. OK, you're good – but keep it under your hat.
16. Keep out of the kennel and give the pups a fair go.
17. Unpunctuality is the prerogative of snobs and morons – synonymous terms.
18. Parsimony is not economy – neither is prodigality.
19. Procrastination is a thief of time – and money.
20. You like to know where you are going – so does your boss.
21. Editors pay for words – your boss does not.
22. By the way, your boss is human too.
23. Bill likes his grog, Joe prefers women, Ted plays the ponies – so what? They are all in the team.
24. It doesn't require an atom bomb to kill one cat.
25. If a fiver will do it, don't spend a tenner – its not yours anyhow.
26. Do your block and do 'sweet fanny adams' at the double.
27. You don't bake bread in a pig sty.
28. Don't be pig headed – we'll help, we may need yours.
29. They have rules down at the 'swi' game – we have 'em too.
30. You can't pull off a double if you don't give it a flutter.
31. Policy is like a head – we must have one if only to hang a hat on it.
32. Sooner or later that spade will pat the soil over your face: you won't know – so why have ulcers?





Sapper Brice Rowe on the left with Sapper Roy Rea, two fine, young engineers aboard *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam in 1970.



Here's a shot of our Patron, a young Captain on *AV1354 Brudenell White*, off the coast of Japan early in its delivery voyage to Sydney in 1959. He was Second Mate to Major Jimmy Wilson and also on the voyage as trainees were the student members of the Long Transportation Course including Robin Vickery, John Merrick, Bruce Herron and the late John Hughes, MC.



REPLACING AUSTRALIA'S HEAVY LANDING CRAFT

This article is from "Australian Warship" magazine. Permission to reprint it was kindly given by its editor, Ross Gillett.

Considering our options

Some of the RAN's most versatile and active fleet units have been the six *Balikpapan* class heavy landing craft or LCHs, as they have been known for over forty years.

A decision to select a replacement LCH can be expected in the years ahead with the contract for such a new amphibious vessel hopefully to be signed in the 2016-2018 timeframe. Suitable designs are few and far between for the size and capability required. Taking a quick look around the current worlds' navies, one can identify a couple of older vessels (now all out of production) and a few new designs that may meet the criteria of a *Balikpapan* class replacement.

This new version of the venerable LCH must be able to operate in conjunction with the larger *Canberra* class LHDs, as well as the medium level deployments, alone or in conjunction with her sister vessels, just like the older *Balikapans* have achieved through their many decades of service. Two American designs, the US Navy's landing craft air cushion (LCAC) and the US Army's landing craft utility (LCU) have been proving their value to America's amphibious forces for 27 years and 20 years respectively. Replacement LCACs are in the pipeline, but like the current class, can be considered too small for extended operations. A programme to build replacement LCUs for the USN was cancelled in mid decade, with the Army stating no current replacement plans.

From Thailand

One more modern replacement design for the *Balikpapan* class can be identified with the recently completed Royal Thai Navy's *Mattapon* and *Rawi*, with both craft entering service in late 2010. The builder, Marsun, delivered the pair of landing craft utility (LCU) on 8 December 2010 in a contract originally awarded during September of 2008.

Designed in-house at Marsun, each of the new LCUs features deckhouses separated into port and starboard areas, with the starboard featuring the wheelhouse, radio room, accommodation, wardroom and access to the engine room and crew mess. The port deckhouse consists of the stores area and workshops. To assist the vessels to adjust their list and trim efficiently, ballast tanks are divided into port tanks and starboard tanks.

A four tonne stern winch operates the anchor and can pull the vessels off after a beaching exercise. The deck area for both *Mattapon* and *Rawi* is 245 square metres, sufficient for 12 HUMVEEs or five five-tonne trucks to be transported at sea. Hydraulic ramps are fitted at the bow and stern, with the vehicle deck running the full length, with the deckhouses set to port and starboard for a drive-through passage. The arrangement of the deckhouses is similar to the Second World War LSMs operated by the Australian Army between 1959 and 1971.

Operations

Builder's yard numbers 226-227 were allotted to the Royal Thai Navy's 650 tonne steel vessels. Overall their length is 55 metres, with a beam of 11 metres and depth of just three metres.



Their top speed of 12 knots is provided by twin MAN marine diesel engines. For maximum range, the cruising speed is 10 knots. Fuel capacity is 33 cubic metres with a fuel consumption of 10.8 litres at 10 knots. Engine exhausts are expelled from two ‘stacks’, one on each beam. In Thai service, *Mattapon* and *Rawi* carry a crew of 33, comprising four officers, two CPOs and 27 ratings, with additional space for 18 troops. An enclosed bridge is fitted, with a basic radar fit. This structure is mounted high to ensure a good all round visibility. For self defence, six gun mounts have been provided around the Thai LCU, with light machine guns mounted amidships (port and starboard) and heavier calibre weapons on each quarter. The LCU also carries a RHIB, offloaded from abaft of the starboard deckhouse by a small derrick.

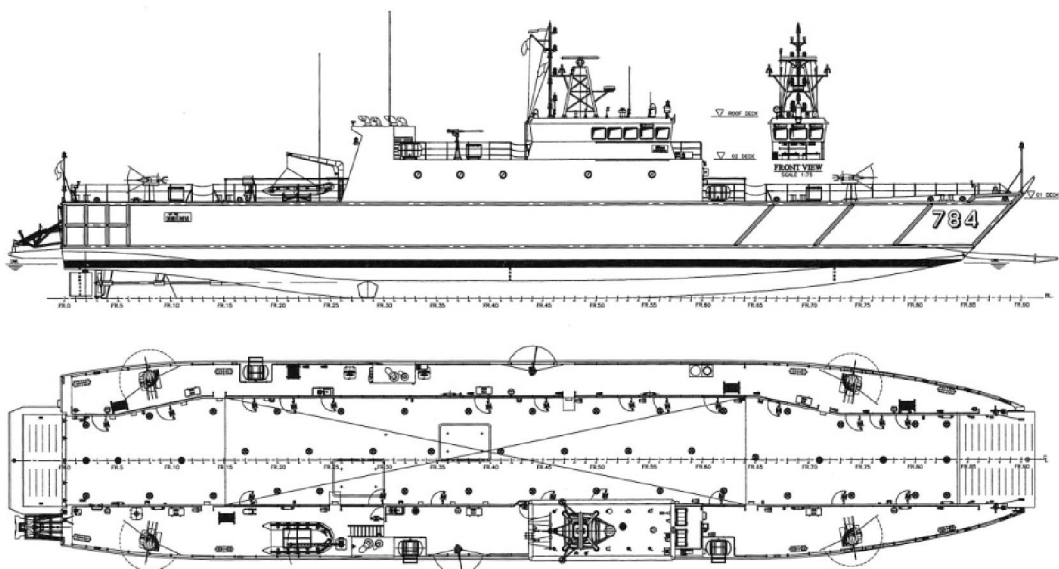
A Correct Choice?

The RAN would not be ‘far-off’ course to consider this indigenous Thai design. Some drawbacks would be the higher crew numbers than the existing *Balikpapan* class and only a slightly higher operational speed (if a much higher speed is now required).

Whatever design is ultimately chosen, questions as to whether the craft could be built in Australia and within the required timeframe are other questions that would need to be answered.

Comparison table:

Data:	LSM	<i>Balikpapan</i>	<i>Mattapon</i>
Tonnes:	912 (tons) full load	509 full load	650 tonnes
Length:	62.03 metres	44.5 metres	55 metres
Beam:	10.37 metres	10.1 metres	11 metres
Speed:	14 knots	10 knots	12 knots
Crew:	40	16	33
Load:	12 2.5 ton vehicles	13 APCs	12 HUMVEEs



VALE – SANDY McHUTCHISON

11 June 1928 – 3 January 2012

WO1 Theo Alexander (Sandy) McHutchison, RAEME, passed away on 3 January 2012 in Brisbane after a long illness. He had not been in good health for some time and he and his wife, Lucy, moved to Brisbane from Sydney about a year ago to be closer to their children.

Sandy was born at Jerilderie in the Riverina of NSW and after finishing school his family moved to Sydney where he was apprenticed as a fitter and turner. He enlisted in the Army in 1952 and allocated to RAEME.

Most of the engine room crews would have known Sandy at various times at Woolwich. He was an Artificer Sergeant Major (ASM) with 1 Watercraft Workshop which was then based at Victoria Barracks (it later moved to Woolwich). This unit looked after all the mechanical and electrical repairs and maintenance on watercraft that had to be contracted out to civilian organizations. This included the slipping of all vessels.

Sandy was well liked and very well respected. Nothing was too hard for him. He often worked long hours to make sure repairs were carried out efficiently and on time. Also, he went out of his way to give guidance and advice to young engineers who were not knowledgeable on the RAEME trade repair process. In fact on one occasion he took a young engineer and ‘walked through’ the repair system with him; from submitting a repair requisition (called an AFG 1045) for costing and approval to Victoria Barracks, then taking a damaged engine part (a blower from an LSM diesel generator) to a engineering workshop at Taren Point. A week later they collected the repaired item, took it back to Woolwich, fitted it back on the engine and took the completed paperwork back to Victoria Barracks. Although he didn’t have to, he took his time to do this to enable us to be familiar with this process. That’s the sort of bloke he was – always helpful and to top it off, he had a good sense of humour. He was always bright and cheerful even when things weren't going well, which was often when dealing with an LSM.

Sandy's funeral service was held at Holland Park, Brisbane on 6 January 2012. Many family members attended as did ex-service members. Les McFadzen who represented our Association said that the large turnout by ex-servicemen reflected the high regard Sandy was held in by his Corps and the Army generally. Eulogies were given by Sandy's son, Mike, Dudley 'Dinga' Bell who served under Sandy in Malaya, and Paul Martyn-Jones, a colleague of Sandy at 1 Watercraft Workshop. Paul is also the Secretary of the RAEME Association NSW.

Our condolences go to Sandy's wife, Lucy and their sons, Mike and Greg, and daughters Michelle and Leanne.



Mar 2012 Notice to Mariners

WOOLWICH DOCK REVISITED

This article was written by WO1 Sandy McHutchison and published in an early edition of Notice to Mariners.

"I believe that fate has a lot to do with one's life. If I had not decided to visit a relative in Hunters Hill Private Hospital and ended up on the road which leads down to Woolwich I would not be writing this report. Succumbing to nostalgia I continued on to Woolwich Dock, which in the 1960s and 1970s was the home of 32 Small Ship Squadron, 1 Watercraft Workshop, 4 Water Transport Troop, and later 35 Water Transport Squadron.

The whole place looked the same, but did not have the same feel about it. Not a ship or craft to be seen. The area was deserted except for a piquet on the front gate doing security on a couple of LARCs which were leaving the following morning. All the buildings were empty and locked. The cook house and all the Messes silent. Could this be the same place I knew? I felt a lump rise in my throat and a sadness come over me. The quietness was eerie.

Then it all came back, the aroma of cooking food in the kitchen, the rattle of plates, cutlery and pans; the creaking and banging of flyscreen doors; the chatter of voices from the Messes; the hum of ships' generators; the throb of main engines; the gurgle and splash of overboard discharges; the slapping of water against hulls; the mooring ropes groaning on the bollards; gang planks rattling; a lone chipping hammer tapping; the workshop compressor cutting in and out; the burbling of the small craft; craft engines; and the ever present smell of diesel fuel, fresh paint and salt air.

I felt their presence around me, they were all there in their hundreds for their last look. Some faces were prominent, everyone knew them, others I recognised but couldn't put names to - Colonel Haggis Wilson, Jack Spry, Jim Curtis, Peter Klien, Taffy Maggs, Don Hewson, Doug Iffla, Brian Stapleton, Bert Burrows, Bob Penfold, Bruce Murray, Riley, Blue Campbell, Smokey Bob Campbell, Mal Campbell, Phi Cannane, Bob Billet, Dutchy Hese, Ken Jones, Ocka Murray, Andy Laidlaw, Bill Shonk, Dave Clarke, Major Chapman, Gabby Hayes, Pat Scott, Ian Craig, Sid Cheeseman, Dazz Graney, Bill Amos, Dinga Bell, Barry Stokes, Bob Bennett, John Nolan, Allan Punch, Laurie Hardare, Kev and Max Lockwood, Fred Moody, Bungy Waters, John Bagnell, Jack Peel, Joe Pioli, Ross McMurray, George Flint, Brian Willcock, Norm Holsworth, Laurie Graham, Ray Blackburn, Les Dennis, Bob Herbert, Dave McPhee, Eric Lingren, Don Grace, Ross Bland, Dick van Leeuwen, Blue Atkinson, Dave Perham and many others.

On the 28th November 1997 the Woolwich gates were locked and the place was left to its fate - a new phase of life! Woolwich will always be in the memories of all who served there - the start and finish place of all their sailings, the goodbye and welcome home, and a greeting place.

No one will ever forget Woolwich for the summer star sprinkled sky, your loved ones on your arm, a beautiful harbour view, a cold drink in your hand and friends all around you. It does not get any better than that!

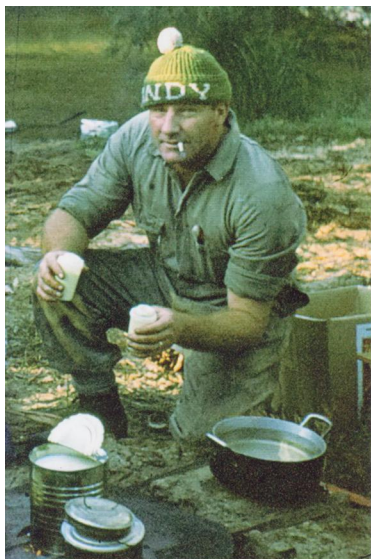


I, for some reason, was destined to be at Woolwich on its last day in Army service, i.e. on its discharge. Why me? Perhaps because I loved the place, the ships and the people there, or maybe because I would pass on its last day to you all.

Farewell dear Woolwich and God bless.

Sandy McHutchison
WO1
Artificer Sergeant Major
ex-1 Watercraft Workshop

27 November 1997



Sandy in the bush. WO1 Sandy McHutchison being presented with the Long Service and Good Conduct Medal in 1972 from Lieutenant General Sir Mervyn Brogan, KBE, CB, then Chief of the General Staff (and a former RAE officer).



THE VIETNAM VETERANS' COMMEMORATIVE WALK

The Victorian branch of the Vietnam Veterans' Association of Australia is planning to construct a Commemorative Walk in Seymour Vic. Its aim is to be a place of remembrance and reflection for Vietnam veterans and their families.

At this stage they have constructed a replica of Luscombe Bowl, used as an interpretive centre, and a memorial cairn will be set in engraved pavers in the forecourt. Walls with names of veterans will be placed within this precinct.

A Centurion tank has been secured and it is planned to have M2A2 Howitzers, and an Iroquois helicopter set in the area. Spotted gums and grasses will be planted to represent rubber plantations and rice paddies.

The Commemorative Walk Project Group is at the stage of putting out tenders for the design and construction of walls with names of all who served in Vietnam. The Department of Veterans' Affairs are giving the group access to the Nominal Roll.

One of the conditions placed on the Group is to make sure that there is no one on the Roll who doesn't want his or her name inscribed on the walls. The walls will have an inscription indicating that the information contained on them is accurate as at 30 April 2012 and any alterations will be acknowledged as an addendum at a future date.

If you don't want your name placed on a wall please advise Ross Gregson on (03) 5792 3227 or 0417 973 573 or email vvaamitchell@westnet.com.au

TERMINAL SQUADRON ANNIVERSARY

30 Terminal Squadron is hosting a celebration of the 70th Anniversary of terminal trades in the Australian Defence Force. This activity will be held over period 9 - 11 November 2012 in the Middle Head / Georges Heights areas. It will start with a meet and greet evening on Friday at the Buena Vista Hotel in Mosman at 6.00pm. Saturday will be a walk around the old Squadron areas followed by a dinner at the Mosman RSL at 6.30pm. At the moment Sunday is free but no doubt some activity will take place. We will keep you advised as how it's going to turn out.

All ex - 30 / 33 Port / Terminal Squadron members including those who served only in Townsville are welcome to attend. The war cemetery at Adelaide River has many graves of soldiers from the Dock Operating Companies killed in action in 1942 during the bombing of Darwin. These men died at their posts, loading ships to support the Australians in the Pacific. Three Companies were established in April 1942 to carry out stevedoring duties in operational port areas and continue to this day.

For more details contact Craig Ingram at craigingram@westnet.com.au or 0407 173 321.



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Property for sale

Ties	\$25.00	LSM Lapel Badge	\$12.00
Association Book	\$30.00	Collar Badge	\$6.00
Association Woven Patch	\$8.00	Association Cap Navy Blue	\$15.00
Car sticker	\$5.00		
Association Polo Shirt (navy blue only) made to order: \$30.00			

Please contact Ken Shannon 02 9871 4667 or property@32smallshipsqn.org.au

Disclaimer

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE Association Incorporating RAE Tn.

Contributions

Contributions are welcome from members and their families of anything that is of interest of members. So, if you would like to contribute it doesn't have to be typed or in electronic form (although that helps). Just send it to the editor at

editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au
or to

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

Email and Postal Addresses

Please let the Association know if you get a new email address or change your current one. The same goes for your postal address. Remember, we want to keep in touch with you!



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