

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter 32 Small Ship Squadron Association Incorporating RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K.L. Duncan (Rtd)

President's Message

Sandra Beach, the wife of our Hills, received the Making a National Breast Cancer 2012 Patron's Awards.

The annual ceremony has Cancer Foundation's premier to acknowledge the efforts from across Australia to the Sandra decided to volunteer at

own battle with breast cancer and has continued to do so once a week for the past eight years: assisting with Global Illumination and other community fundraising activities as well as supporting people who choose to make individual donations. 'Sandra is a valued member of the NBCF team' Foundation Chief Executive Officer Carole Renouf said.



late shipmate Jeff, of Winston Difference Award by the Foundation (NBCF) at the

been the National Breast event since 2004 and is held and contributions of people breast cancer research cause. NBCF after going through her

The award, which recognises an exceptional commitment to fostering NBCF's mission, vision and values through volunteering, was presented by Patron of the National Breast Cancer Foundation, Sarah Murdoch and Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of N.S.W. at Government House, Sydney. 'Our work can only continue because of the support from people like Sandra and the thousands more like her who are dedicated to helping us fund the most impactful breast cancer research in Australia.'

(Extract from Hills Shire Times, Tuesday 26 February 2013)

The Head of Corps, RAE, Brigadier Wayne Budd, CSC, recently toured the construction site for the relocation of the School of Military Engineering. He advised that work has commenced at Holsworthy and the School will definitely move. The envisaged facilities will be world class and give the Corps the opportunity to deliver better training outcomes. The move of the School is also looking after Corps heritage with Memorials and the historical collection (including the Water Transport collection) being sensitively and appropriately incorporated into the future Corps home. The target date for the move is early 2015 and the contract staff are focussed and give confidence on the plan for a new beginning at Holsworthy.

Ocka

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE



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SYDNEY MARCH AND HUNTERS HILL REUNION AND LUNCH

Once again we had perfect weather for the march and lunch. Dave Clarke and Garry Smyth led the march assisted by sappers of 6 Field Squadron, RAE who provided the Banner Party and kept everyone in step. Not a big turnout this year - about 30 though which isn't too bad.

Earlier in the day Allan Reading laid a wreath on behalf of the Association at the SME Dawn Service. As usual it was standing room only with over a thousand people attending.

The reunion lunch was attended by 40 people. Again, the numbers were down a bit but everyone who was there enjoyed the food, drink and the company. Anthony Murray and Matt Cordon attended the bar and as usual, Kaye Shannon and the caterers put on a fine spit roast lunch topped off with some great dessert in the form of king prawns organised by Ocka.

It was good to see a few interstaters there including John Purcell from Cairns, Arthur Jackson from Brisbane, Jim Brown from the Gold Coast and Warren Barsley and Wally Blumenfeld from Canberra.

A special thanks to Norm and Joan Mason who collected the ships' flags (that adorn the ceiling of the hall on ANZAC day) from the store room a couple of weeks before ANZAC Day, took them home and washed and ironed them! They haven't had a wash for over 50 years (if ever) so they really looked good. We'll store them carefully from now on.

The raffle was a great success and the winners were:

1st Prize - Solid brass 6" Ships Clock won by Bruce Mansfield. Ticket No 3178

2nd Prize - Solid brass 5" Ships Clock won by Jim Moriarty. Ticket No 2693

3rd Prize - Solid brass 3" Ships Clock won by Keith Devine. Ticket No 159

Congratulations to the winners and many thanks to everyone who purchased tickets. Your support is very much appreciated.

A NOTE FROM THE DAUGHTER OF ALLAN PUNCH

"Members of 32 Small Ships,

My name is Dawn Heidrich and I am the daughter of the late WO1 Allan Punch. My 12 year old son, Ethan and I came to Sydney this year for the Dawn Service and ANZAC March and were delighted to catch up with a few of the guys that dad had worked with. Ethan has been interested in the Army since he has been able to understand about it and at the suggestion of coming down from our home in Central



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Queensland he was beside himself with excitement at the chance to attend. He was so happy to have been given the opportunity to be involved in the march and represent his grandfather. He is so proud and honoured to have been able to march with the veterans from dad's squadron and to be given this memory to treasure forever".

Footnote: WO1 Allan Punch, RAE was a first intake Army Apprentice electrical mechanic.. He served in various postings in the Corps and spent a lot of time with Water Transport. As a member of 32 Small Ship Squadron he served as Second Engineer on *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* In Vietnam in 1967. Thanks, Dawn for coming such a long way with Ethan for the ANZAC Day services. Allan would have been proud of you both. Well done.



Garry Smyth and Dave Clarke leading the Association at the Sydney march followed by 11 Movement Control Group, RAE. Bruce Reilly bears the Australian flag. The Banner Party was provided by 6 Field Squadron. Actually, this photo was of the 2011 march - the pictures for this year were a bit out of focus. We'll try harder next year. Who's the bloke in the kilt talking to Geoff Summergreene?



ATTENDANCE AT ANZAC DAY LUNCH AT HUNTERS HILL

Peter Tierney, Saratoga NSW	Kerry Stuart, Lawson NSW
Graham Murray, Castle Hill NSW	Anthony Murray, Silverdale NSW
Mathew Cordon, Glenmore Park NSW	Ross McMurray, West Pymble NSW
Bob Tait, Kellyville NSW	Jeanette Tait, Kellyville NSW
Gary Carne, Ropes Creek NSW	Ian Johnstone, St Marys NSW
Garry Smyth, Baulkham Hills, NSW	John Bryant, Newport NSW
David Clarke, Ashfield NSW	Grant Clarke, Manly NSW
Les Dennis, Toongabbie NSW	Ray Mazurek, Forster NSW
John McGregor, North Avoca NSW	Wally Blumenfeld, Holt ACT
Bruce Reilly, Camden Park NSW	Rina Ross, Camden Park NSW
Brian Waites, Yarramundi NSW	Val Waites, Yarramundi NSW
Jim Brown, Runaway Bay QLD	Warren Barsley, Duffy ACT
Sid Cheeseman, North Parramatta NSW	Ken Duncan, Cremorne NSW
Brian Hart, Bunyah NSW	Allan Reading, Engadine NSW
Arthur Jackson, Moorooka QLD	Fred Seidenkamp, St Clair NSW
Lois Hungerford, Lemon Tree Passage	Colin Hungerford, Lemon Tree Passage
John Purcell, Mt Sheridan QLD	Les Muras, Lemon Tree Passage NSW
Norm Mason, Woronora NSW	Joan Mason, Woronora NSW
Charles Watson, Dungog NSW	Margaret Watson, Dungog NSW
Geoff Summergreene, Mosman NSW	Jackie Hardie, Mosman NSW
Mike Priest, Chelmsford, Essex UK	Mark Priest, Chelmsford, Essex UK
Kaye Shannon, North Rocks NSW	Ralph Pridmore, Turramurra NSW

DONATIONS

Many thanks to the following members who added a bit more with their annual subscriptions:

George Fisher, Mal Campbell, Gary Carne, Fred Seidencamp, Michael Schultz, John Bryant, Ron Cavell, Richard Cains, Les Dennis, Len Ramsay, Rodger Seaward, Pat Scott, Bill Bott, Ken Burchill, Charles Bednarczyk, Jock Balfour, Phil Cameron, Bob Clarke, Jerry Davey, Keith Ford, Ken Duncan, Gerry Dunn, Mike Priest, Mark Priest, Tom Gilchrist, Ross Hayes, Barry Greenberger, Angus McKinnon, Noel Norton, Garry Ogden, Don Saillard, Ian Wilson, Dave Walker, Ray Winter, Terry Zajer, Wally Blumenfeld, Brian Clulow, Bob Madgwick, Terry Radford, Tich Freeman, Don Weimer, Kevin Brann, Fred Marshall and John Gerber. Well done! Your generosity is very much appreciated. If I've missed anyone could you let me know and I'll rectify it in the next newsletter.

MISSING MEMBERS - AWOL

We seemed to have mislaid a couple of our members. Does anyone know the whereabouts of Graham Berry (used to live at Bondi Junction NSW), Gordon Coulter (Holbrook NSW), Bill Maddocks (Upwey VIC) and Ernest Bader (Rockingham WA)? If you know of them could you let me know please? Thanks.



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Photos from the ANZAC Day luncheon



Bruce Reilly and Warren Barsley



Charles Watson and Dave Clarke



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Three Amigos - Fred Seidenkamp, Gary Carne and Ray Mazurek



John Purcell and James Brown from Queensland



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Les Dennis and Ian Johnston



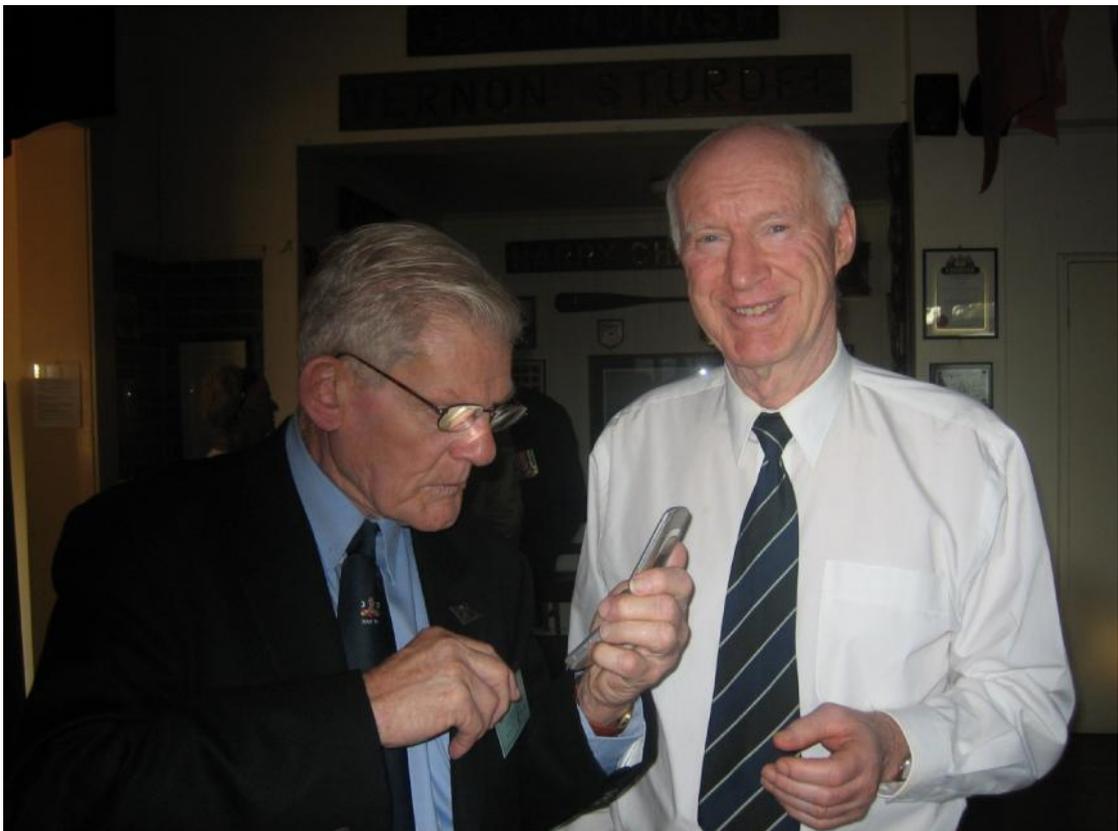
Mark Priest, Kerry Stuart and Mike Priest. Mark is Mike's son and they live in Essex UK.



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Wally Blumenfeld and Norm Mason in front of Ian Johnston's model of AV1354 Brudenell White.



Les Dennis phoning his bookmaker, and Ralph Pridmore.



BACK TO MIDDLE HEAD REUNION

Owing to the popularity of last year's Back to Middle Head Reunion it has been decided to run another one this year. It will be over the week-end of 15 - 17 November 2013.

It will be open to all personnel who served in the Middle head area, and includes all termites who have served in Townsville only. Of course partners are particularly welcome.

The program will be as follows:

Meet and Greet at the Buena Vista Hotel, Mosman on Friday 15 November.

Starting at around 1000 hrs on Saturday 16 November there will be a walk around Middle Head area. That evening a dinner will be held at the Mosman RSL.

On Sunday something else will happen. Details will be furnished in the next newsletter.

For further information please contact Craig Ingram at craingram@westnet.com.au

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard the following new members:

Ron Woods served with 32 Small Ship Squadron aboard *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam. He lives at Hermit Park, Queensland.

George Begg served with 30 Terminal Squadron. He lives at Taree NSW.

Pam Courtney is the daughter of Sergeant Dave Briggs who passed away in 1967 after contracting a blood disorder during service in Vietnam aboard *AV1356 Clive Steele*. Pam lives at Sorrento QLD.

SICK PARADE

Peter Allen has not been well for a couple of years. He has chronic emphysema and is on oxygen most of the time. He keeps in contact with a few old mates, such as Jack Peel, Bob Modystack and Bob Gunn.

Alan (Lofty) Rix has been ill for some time with lung cancer. He was admitted to Hobart Hospital in May and was in the intensive care unit for a week. His condition has improved and he's now undergoing rehabilitation and with a bit of luck he'll be home soon. He was recently visited by Dick van Leeuwen and Terry Radford, who was in Hobart from Canada for a conference.

Ian Johnston will have both shoulder joints replaced in the near future. We wish him well.



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Vale Jim Gallagher

Dick van Leeuwen recently reported the passing of Sergeant James (Jock) Gallagher, RAAMC, in December 2012. Jim served in 32 Small Ship Squadron as a medical orderly on *AS3051 John Monash* and *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam and Papua New Guinea, on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel*, *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* in Papua New Guinea and also on *AV1354 Brudenell White* in New Zealand.

Jim enlisted in 1958 and elected discharge in 1979. He also served in the following units: School of Army Health, 2 Field Ambulance, HQ Tasmania Command, 2 Army General Hospital, 32 Small Ship Squadron, 3 Camp Hospital, 2 Military Hospital, HQ 1 Terminal Group, HQ 10 Terminal Group, B Squadron 1 Armoured Regiment and HQ 1 Armoured Regiment.

He died just before Christmas in Hobart aged 88 years. He was a very proud member of 32 and after he retired he wouldn't hesitate to explain the unit's exploits to anyone who cared (or not) to listen.

HISTORY OF 1 FIELD SQUADRON

An important chapter in the Corps history is about to be opened. The official launch of the history of 1 Field Squadron is scheduled for 18 August 2013 at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance at 1030. This will be followed by a further launch at a 1 Field Squadron reunion at Tweed Heads a few days later. This milestone represents over 15 years research by a former OC of the squadron, Colonel Brian Florence, MC with assistance from a former 2IC of the squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Paddy Martin. The book covers every operation undertaken by the squadron. It includes a number of personal anecdotes and lots of photos. Publication of the book has been sponsored by the RAE Corps Committee which enabled the cost of the book to be kept down to \$50.00 a copy (plus postage and packaging). This is reasonable for a book of 450 pages and 250 photos, many in colour. There is an initial print run of 500 copies.

If you wish to purchase a copy please contact me and I'll put you in touch with a state representative. Also details will be published in the next newsletter.

UPDATE ON THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DEPLOYMENT TO BORNEO

In the last newsletter it was advised that this activity, organised by Bob Modystack, would be held in May 2014. It has now been put back to probably August 2014. There are a number of reasons for this, but it was thought it would be too close to ANZAC Day and too soon after the Townsville Tie-Up. This event will be combined with a Water Transport Reunion. When everything is finalised we will give the details, hopefully in the next newsletter.



OLD MATES

In early June one of our overseas members visited Australia for the first time in 30 years (to the day). Terry Radford and his wife, Brenda, came here for a conference in Hobart. Terry is the Grand Representative of The United Grand Chapter of Australia in Quebec which I think is part of the Order of the Eastern Star, a Masonic organization.

Graham Murray, Allan Reading, John Marsden and Ross McMurray met up with Terry and Brenda for lunch at the Criterion Hotel in Sydney. It was certainly a long lunch with a vast array of stories to be told. Terry's military career is interesting. Here's some of it that I managed to remember before Ocka bought another bottle of red:

He started off as a plant fitter in the Royal Engineers in 1950. He requested to join the Australian Army and came to Sydney in 1952 where he was posted to 17 Construction Squadron at Randwick. He then did four years at Puckapunyal as an instructor with the National Service Recruit Training Battalion. After this he had postings to 23 Construction Squadron in Adelaide and then back to 17 Construction Squadron (both as a plant fitter). In 1961 he went to the Pacific Island Regiment in Vanimo, PNG for two years where he was in charge of the area power station. He was then posted to 30 Terminal Squadron for two years as a mechanical supervisor, followed by a posting to 32 Small Ship Squadron as a marine engineer. He then went to 821 Water Transport Troop (renamed PNG Transportation Squadron) in Port Moresby and in 1968 he was posted back to 32 Small Ship Squadron where he remained until he retired in 1973.

In 1983 he decided to live in Quebec where he had relatives, and a few years later met and married Brenda. Well, it was certainly good to catch up with them and we wish them well for the remainder of their time here, and a safe journey home.



Graham Murray, Brenda Radford, Terry Radford, John Marsden and Allan Reading.



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 Moorebank, on Sunday 18 August 2013 commencing at 1100 hrs. This invitation is for all members of the public, Sappers, ex-Sappers and their guests. It is requested that a lounge suit or a coat, tie and medals (if appropriate) be worn. Please assemble at 1045 hrs 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 Lieutenant Colonel John Pritchard (Rtd) who was a crew commander of a carrier whilst serving with Support Troop, 1 APC Squadron RAAC in Vietnam in 1966/67 , and also A Squadron, 3 Cavalry Regiment RAAC in 1967. After graduating from OCS he was appointed into RAE and served with 1 Field Squadron as a Troop Officer and Administration Officer in Vietnam during 1970/71.

Following the service a lunch will be served at the Sportsman's Club at \$20.00 per head. A cash bar will also be operating. This will also be a good opportunity to visit the various displays in the Heritage Precinct in the vicinity of the Memorial. If you can attend this ceremony and stay for lunch please fill out the form below. If you just wish to attend the ceremony there will obviously be no cost, but please return the form anyway to enable you to gain access to Steele Barracks because of the enhanced security requirements.

Yes, I will attend the Commemoration Ceremony / Lunch on 18 August 2013

NAME:..... \$20.00

ADDRESS:.....

PHONE NO:.....

GUESTS NAMES\$.00

Total \$.00

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

**RAE Vietnam Veterans' Day
PO Box 165
MOOREBANK NSW 1875**

**NOTE: FOR CATERING PURPOSES RETURNS ARE REQUIRED BY 9
AUGUST 2013**



CHOWDER BAY PHOTO

Merv Ballans sent us this photo of students on a course at the Transportation Training Centre. It was probably taken in the mid 1960s. We can't identify the course - there appears to be a mixture of seamen, engine room personnel and at least one officer. There are a lot of "Unknowns" in it. If anyone can identify the name of the course and some "Unknowns" we would appreciate it. Maybe it was a firefighter's course? Any ideas?



BOOK REQUEST

Eric Hubbard is looking for a copy of "Rolling Through 32". Anyone who has a copy available please contact Eric on 0438 116 876. He will pay all costs for the book.

SKIN CANCER

As we all get a bit older it is time to remember that we were doubly exposed to the sun. Both from direct sunlight and then reflection from the water. Doesn't matter if you are fair or dark skinned we are all at risk of this creeping disease. So next time you are at the doctor ask him or her to have a good look at your skin and if anything is suspicious get off to a specialist – pronto.



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TOWNSVILLE TIE-UP - 5th to 8th SEPTEMBER 2013

This is the last newsletter prior to the Reunion so please consider the reminders /actions required before or on arrival Townsville

Reception

On arrival, please report to the reception point in the BBQ area at Rowes Bay, opposite the Rowes Bay Caravan Park. The reception point (RP) will be manned from 6th September. If you arrive earlier, John Purcell or someone you know will be either at the RP or in the Caravan Park with mobile phone. You will be provided with information relating to venues, weekend activities, coach transport and accommodation.

Function Venues

Because of numbers and the logistic task of Army support staff, both the formal dinner and the Friday BBQ will be held at Ross Is. It is still to be decided where the Sunday night BBQ will be held, Rowes Bay or Ross Is. Barracks

Coaches

Coaches will provide transport from accommodation centres to Ross Is. for the Saturday dinner. 32 Small Ship SQN (RAE) Association has generously agreed to fund this expense. Further funding has been requested to take members to the capability display on 6th Sep, which will be followed by the BBQ and then return to accommodation. If funding is not forthcoming, have some cash ready (about \$5 per head) to pay as you enter the coach. A similar payment will be required if the Sunday BBQ is held at Ross Is.

Saturday Activities

Many of you have ticked all boxes for the activities on Saturday 7th Sep. Magnetic Is. is an all day trip and will not allow attendance at any other activities that day. There is a large number wishing to attend and we should be able to arrange a hefty discount.

Last Minute Accommodation

A few stragglers can still be fitted in but accommodation may be a problem. There is a wine and food festival on that same weekend in Townsville. John will be in Townsville at the end of July and if anyone is still without a place to stay, email him at johnpurcell2@dodo.com.au with your requirements and he will seek it while he is there.

The Journey to Townsville

Most of you will be travelling long distances by road. Allow yourselves a few days R & R along the way and enjoy the journey. There is no point arriving exhausted for a weekend of frolic. Those days have long passed us by. Popular stopover destinations are Hervey Bay, Mackay/Sarina beaches, Airlie Beach and a little known caravan park on a beautiful setting at Horseshoe Bay, adjacent to Bowen and about two hours drive from Townville. Please take advantage of those stopovers and please drive safely. We don't want our weekend spoiled by bad news.

Mobile Phone: 0408772506



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ANZAC DAY ON THE HIGH SEAS

We recently received this note from Les McFadzen who spent ANZAC Day on board a ship:

"Ross,

I received your email and it reminded me of our recent visit to Japan. Amy and I joined my brother, Ian and his wife in Hong Kong for the last leg of their Sun Princess voyage from Sydney to Yokohama. Ian was an 18th intake Army Apprentice electrical fitter and was posted to RAEME Watercraft Workshops before going to aviation (161 Reconnaissance Flight). We had time in port in Xiamen, China, then Kochi and Osaka in Japan.

I had arranged to meet Graeme Inglis (17th intake electrical mechanic and served on most of 32s vessels) in Osaka on 24 April as he has lived in Kobe for 30 years or so. He is now the 2nd Engineer on a Scandinavian freighter that operates out of Kobe which is only about 20 minutes from Osaka. He looked after us for the day, although we spent most of it chatting over lunch or coffee.

Ian and some other ex-service blokes on the ship were allocated an unused bar on board to meet in the afternoon. They formed a committee and the ship's Master allocated an officer to represent the Princess Line and they organised ANZAC Day services for the 25th which was a sea day. It started with a Dawn Service complete with bugler for the Last Post and Reveille and a pianist for the National Anthem and hymns. They had picked up a wreath in Osaka and the ship produced a service booklet for the occasion as well as advertising it in the ship's newsletter. There would have been about 300 people present at the main service.

The services were conducted by a C of E minister who was a passenger, and MC'd by a Vietnam veteran, with the main speech by a recently retired Colonel, both RAAC. Another bloke, not out of place, was a young serving RAAF pilot on his honeymoon.

An RSL club back home couldn't have done a better job - but I hope to be in Sydney for the next one!

Regards,

Les"

Thanks Les for that interesting story. I hope it gives some ideas to others who will spend ANZAC Day away from home. A few words and a picture or two would be good.





Les and Amy McFadzen prior to attending a formal dinner



Graeme Inglis, Amy McFadzen, Mary and Ian McFadzen

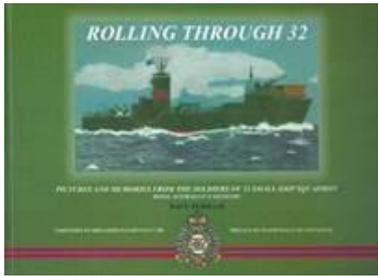


BOOK REVIEW

Here is an excellent book review on "Rolling Through 32" by Elizabeth Sandeman-Gay who reviewed the book for "Megaphone", the newsletter of the "Company of Master Mariners Australia - Sydney Branch". She kindly gave us permission to reproduce it

She said, "I loved Dave for his wonderful sense of humour and writing ability. We loved getting letters from him when he was on leave because they were always full of witty wisecracks and funny fairytales or oddball stories of what he and Merle were getting up to . We miss him terribly and think of him often".

Thanks Elizabeth, you said it all.



Title: ROLLING THROUGH 32

Author: Dave Perham, 2008

Publisher 32 Small Ship Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers Association Incorporating RAE Tn,

ISBN: 978-0-646-48551-5

Pages: 218, Hardback

Rolling Through 32 is sub-titled *Pictures and Memories From The Soldiers of 32 Small Ship Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers*. It is a very important book, yet it was only published as a run of 600 copies, all of which have been sold. The way to access this wonderful down-to-earth book is by locating it in libraries. You'll notice, then, that it's a heavy coffee-table-read rather than a take-to-bed book.

The importance of the book becomes obvious when you note the uniqueness of the Squadron and the work it did in its eleven year life: moved men, vehicles, equipment and stores to remote places; supported army survey parties, construction squadrons at Wewak in PNG and Pacific Island Regiment recruiting tours; penetrated further up the mighty Sepik River than any vessel ... During the Vietnam War they made a major contribution to moving the Australian force to Vietnam, then met urgent logistical needs of the Americans as well.

Brigadier Greville introduces the book with an explanation: "Centurion tanks were introduced into the Australian Army in the latter half of 1952 and immediately their movement around Australia became a problem. The Director of Transportation ...suggested that an LCT8 be purchased for moving the tanks by sea. Fortunately [a new Director] persuaded the government to purchase from the US two Landing Ship Medium (LSM), later changed to four ships." He goes on to say "This book, by the use of many photographs and a crisp script, gives the reader a clear view of the harsh conditions aboard that were endured with stoicism and good humour by a bunch of young Australians." The photos and memories are contributed by sappers.

Walter Blumenfield, who wrote the Preface, joined 32 Small Ship Squadron 1964 straight from the Merchant Navy and was with LSMs for five years, skippering. He later joined the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. He tells the reader that tracked and wheeled vehicles and general cargo could be discharged via the bow ramp and driven ashore. The LSM were powered to cruise, theoretically, at twelve knots, but usually "it was more like ten at the most with a following sea!" He says "Dave Perham is to be commended on this pictorial history of how soldiers of this unique unit described their memories of things that happened over 40 years ago".



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Dave Perham, himself, explains that “For the uninitiated the title of this pictorial refers in part, to the angle an LSM could roll either way in a rough beam sea, an angle that would be of serious concern in most other vessels”. “The Squadron acquitted itself admirably during its brief but highly useful and eventful life [and] gave the Army unprecedented mobility and support by sea in both peace and war.” LSMs visited Borneo, Malaya, Singapore, Korea, Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and contributions have been arranged as much as possible accordingly. However, Perham warns, “Most of the photos are not of high quality. I was reluctant to discard any images.”

From the early 1990s, Dave Perham was the Chief Engineer on PNG Steamship vessels with Captain R J Sandeman-Gay on the Fly River running copper concentrate to Port Kembla and to mother ships in the Coral Sea. Dave was one of the most proficient fixer-uppers – he fixed the air conditioning units, the equipment on the bridge and in the engine room and even the electric toothbrush in your cabin’s bathroom. And he was one of the most cheerful men you could have around you. It was a very sad day when asbestosis took him from us in 2010. His book is a wonderful legacy and its profits go to Legacy at his express wish. **Reviewed by:** [Elizabeth Sandeman-Gay](#)

ASBESTOS SCREENING PROGRAM

The Defence Asbestos Exposure Evaluation Scheme (DAESS) is operated by the Department of Defence. I know we keep banging about this topic but it's done for a good reason: It may eliminate any concerns you have about asbestos related diseases. Most of us in our Association have been directly or indirectly exposed to asbestos. Here's a quick run-down on the process.

1. **Eligibility.** All Ex-Australian Defence Force personnel. (that is you).
2. **Screening.** Call the Defence Service Centre on 1800 333 362 to register your details. You will be given an asbestos registration number during the call. You will need to quote this number to Medibank Health Solutions (MHS) staff when making an appointment for assessment.
3. **Process of DAESS.** When you register with the DAESS you will be sent a letter providing details of how to arrange an assessment with the MHS office, quoting your asbestos registration number. The letter will include details of the MHS office in your area.
4. You should make an appointment for an asbestos review examination with the MHS office, quoting your asbestos registration number.
5. MHS will send you a questionnaire for you to complete and bring to the assessment and then attend the MHS appointment at the time and location advised for an asbestos review examination.
6. You will be counselled by MHS medical staff and you may be transferred to a respiratory physician for further testing (depending on your medical condition), or advised to have a follow up examination in two to ten years.
7. You will receive an examination report that will include your questionnaire, medical assessment results, assessment category and, if necessary, a treatment plan.
8. If you travel more than 50 kms to your appointment, you are entitled to reimbursement for travel by the Department of Defence.

There you go. It's not very complicated and the staff will walk you through the process. Don't put it off - give yourself some piece of mind.



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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	Car Stickers	\$5.00
Association Cap Navy Blue	\$15.00		
Association Polo Shirt (navy blue only) made to order			\$30.00

Items may be purchased through the web site at www.32smallshipsqn.org.au and click on Q Store. Alternatively, please contact Ken or Kaye Shannon on 02 9871 4667 or email them at 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 to members. So, if you would like to contribute please have it typed on MSWord and send it to:

editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au

or to:

**32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association
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! An email to the Secretary or a note to the above address would be appreciated.



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