

# NOTICE TO MARINERS

*Newsletter 32 Small Ship Squadron Association Incorporating RAE Tn*

*Patron: Colonel K.L. Duncan (Rtd)*

## President's Message

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the deployment to Vietnam by ships of the Squadron.

of the deployment to Vietnam

On 11 April 1966 AS3051 Captain Warren Barsley and command of Captain John Bonnett Operation Hardihood (the Vietnam). The ships sailed via Philippines and arrived in Vung 1966.



John Monash under command of AV1355 Vernon Sturdee under departed Sydney in support of deployment of the Task Force to Manus Island, TPNG, Subic Bay Tau South Vietnam on 5 May

The John Monash discharged its cargo of engineer equipment and on 10 May departed Vung Tau for Saigon. Alongside at Newport, Saigon the personal equipment of members of 1RAR who had been stationed in Bien Hoa and were returning home after 12 months of duty was loaded for return to Australia.

John Monash departed Saigon on 13 May via Vung Tau for the voyage back to Sydney while Vernon Sturdee remained in the theatre to assist in the unloading of HMAS Sydney and ferrying supplies from Saigon to Vung Tau to assist in the establishment of the Task Force.

### AS3051 John Monash first SVN trip –Nominal Roll – 11 April-9 June

Warren Barsley	Jim Hogg	John Bryant	Doug Iffla
Norm Sullivan	Bob Bennett	Norm Holdsworth	Frank Affleck
Arthur Jackson	Kilworth Robinson	Jim Wiseman	Ron Haddow
Bill Christie	Frank Thom	Don Elphick	Derick Smith
Terry Evans	Dick Groundwater	Barney Fitzsimmons	Bob Bailey
Dave Perham	Trevor Cox	Ocka Murray	Kevin Morley
John Nolan	John Rogers	Trevor Scott	Arthur Foster
Peter Swanson	Frank Pilkington	Gunter Sellentin	Graham Reeve
Kevin Abrahamson			

Unfortunately, many shipmates listed above are no longer with us – **LEST WE FORGET**

The committee is hoping as many members together with their wives/partners/families as possible will attend the ANZAC Day luncheon to reminisce.

Ocka

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE



## ANZAC DAY ACTIVITIES

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.

### **ANZAC EVE CEREMONY - HUNTERS HILL TOWN HALL FRIDAY 22 APRIL 2016**

Every year an ANZAC Eve Ceremony is conducted on the Friday evening before ANZAC Day. In fact, this year will be its 93rd year in a row that it has been held. It is sponsored jointly by the Hunters Hill Council and the Hunters Hill RSL Sub-Branch. Many citizens including schoolchildren from the area attend this event.

This year the Guest Speaker is our Patron, Colonel Ken Duncan who will focus his presentation on Army Water Transport and in particular 32 Small Ship Squadron. Some of our Sydney members usually attend so if you are in the area why not come along and take part in this event. It doesn't cost anything and refreshments are provided in the RSL Hall afterwards. If you can come, please let me know so I can tell the caterers (02 9403 1456 or [secretary@32smallshipsqn.org.au](mailto:secretary@32smallshipsqn.org.au)). Try to arrive at the hall by 1845. Guests are most welcome. The dress is coat, tie and medals. The evening starts at 1900 with a dedication of a ceremonial Wall at the RSL Hall, then march to Hunters Hill Town Hall - a couple of hundred meters. If you can't march a few ex-Army Jeeps and Land Rovers are available to transport you.

### **DAWN SERVICE – SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING**

This service will be held at SME's new location at Holsworthy. Enter off the roundabout at the Voyager Point turnoff on Heathcote Road. The Catafalque Party will mount at 0510 hrs and the service will commence shortly after. On completion of the service a breakfast may be available at the All Ranks Mess. Note that this service is very popular so if you are attending please try and get there by 0430 hrs. Car parking will be available. Also be aware of the strict security requirements. You will need to have photo ID (drivers licence is OK) to gain access to Holsworthy / SME.



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### **DAWN SERVICE – GEORGES HEIGHTS**

The service will be conducted on the parade ground of the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust precinct commencing at 0530 hrs. The ANZAC Address will be given by the Executive Officer of HMAS Penguin, Lieutenant Commander Wendy Duffy RAN. A light breakfast will be provided by the Mosman Lions Club at a nominal cost. Parking will be controlled by SES.

### **ANZAC DAY MARCH – SYDNEY**

**NOTE NEW FORM UP POSITION.** There will be a fair amount of confusion this year because of George Street being closed to make way for the light rail project. Assemble at the north corner of Bent and Young Streets behind 17 Construction Squadron Association between 0930 and 1000 hrs. Step off time will be around 1030 hrs which will give us time to renew acquaintances and take refreshment before the long march to Hyde Park. The 8 Engineer Regiment Banner Party will lead the way, and after it has formed up we will assemble behind it and follow the young sappers. Coat, tie and medals please.

The march itself will commence at the intersection of Martin Place and Elizabeth Street, travel south on Elizabeth Street past Hyde Park to Liverpool Street where marchers will wheel left for dispersal.

### **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. This year, being the 50th anniversary of the ships going to Vietnam, Lieutenant Colonel Warren Barsley, the skipper of *AS3051 John Monash* and Lieutenant Colonel John Bonnett, the skipper of *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee*, will give a presentation about their experiences on that first trip. A high quality smorgasbord lunch will be served at 1315 hrs. Please try and be there by then. 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. **For 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: 150mm Ships Radio Room Clock.  
Second Prize: 150mm Ships Radio Room Clock.  
Third Prize: 150mm Ships Radio Room Clock

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

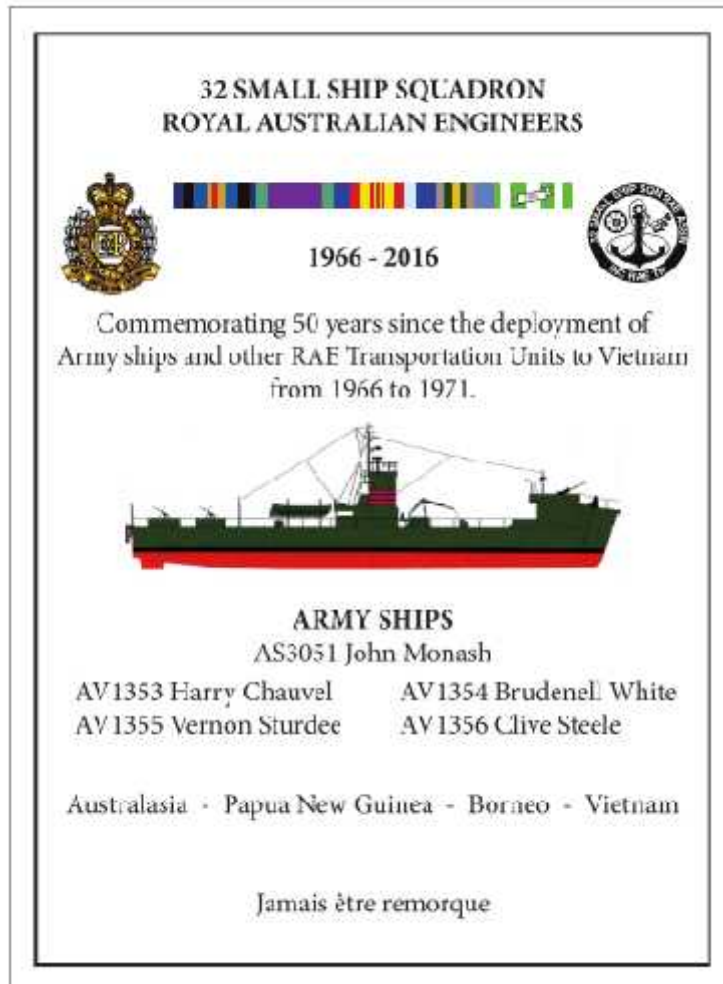


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## ANNIVERSARY PLAQUE

This year is the 50th anniversary of the deployment of the first two ships of the Squadron to Vietnam. *AS3051 John Monash* skippered by Warren Barsley and *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee*, skippered by John Bonnett sailed into the war zone in April / May 1966.

To mark this occasion high quality anniversary plaques have been produced, as depicted below. They are 165mm x 215mm (half an A4 page) and is silver coloured on a burgundy coloured timber backing. The price of the plaque is \$40.00 plus \$9.00 postage. This cost has been considerably subsidized in order to keep costs down. We have only produced 50 to start with but will quickly get more if the demand is there. To get them please contact Kaye Shannon or order through the web site, but be quick. They will also be on sale at Hunters Hill on ANZAC Day.



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## HMAS SYDNEY AND AV1356 CLIVE STEELE AT VUNG TAU



Here's an interesting picture of the *Sydney* and the *Clive Steele* at Vung Tau, with a landing craft full of infantrymen. Were they just arriving or returning home after their tour? Sam Ramage sent the picture. Looks like an Army Pilatus Porter on *Sydney's* flight deck. Returning...one soldier has a box with a Vietnamese Doll and they are all looking at HMAS Sydney, not to the land

### SICK PARADE

**Mal Campbell** is still having a rough trot with his leukaemia. Barbara has advised that although he's in good spirits he's not doing well, and he's now been taken off chemotherapy and is relying on blood transfusions. Our thoughts are with you mate.

**Phil McLeod** is currently in hospital waiting for treatment for blocked arteries. He also has diabetes, is on dialysis and had his right leg amputated about six months ago.

**Graham Berry** had a stroke about six years ago which left him unable to read and partially blind. To make matters worse he was bitten by a white tailed spider, which almost resulted in his leg being amputated. He's had some hard times lately but he's now picking up.

### GUNNA DO GERO

Ross Davies is organising this years water transport reunion at Geraldton WA during 2 - 4 September. More information will be given in the next newsletter. Looks good.



### Woolwich Dock

Probably 1968; as the ALC 50 was to be converted to a Workshop for 35 Water Tpt Sqn but was in poor condition on its eventual arrival from PNG that it was promptly sold at auction for scrap.



Ken Duncan sent us this picture of Woolwich Dock. Looks like the *Vernon Sturdee* or *Harry Chauvel* (the LSM has Borneo and Vietnam ribbons under the bridge). Behind it there is an ALC50, some LCM8s and the tug, *Joe Mann* at the back.



AS3051 *John Monash* in Fitzroy Dock, Cockatoo Island in 1972. Michael Shultz provided the picture.



**VALE - JOE BYRNE**  
**1937 - 2015**

Wayne Rush recently advised the death of Corporal Joseph Malcolm Byrne RAE/RASigs. He died on 24 August 2015. He was 78. Since returning from the Philippines in 1998 to live in Sydney he had been on dialysis.

Wayne said he first met Joe in 1964 when they were both on an Operator Keyboard and Radio course at the School of Signals when it was then at Balcombe, Victoria. Joe had already done about four years in the Army and was posted to 2 Signals Regiment at Watsonia, Victoria. He lost track of him for a few years but they met up again at 32 Small Ship Squadron, and Joe had changed Corps to RAE. After Wayne retired from the Army he lived in the Philippines and met up again there with Joe.

Joe's funeral service was held at the Eastern Suburbs Crematorium Botany, NSW on 31 August 2015.

Joe's 18 years of service included postings to the following units: 1 Recruit Training Battalion, School of Signals, 1 Division Signal Regiment, 208 (Commonwealth Signal Squadron (Infantry brigade Group), Singapore, 1 Signal Project Squadron, 3 Lines of Communication Signal Regiment, 2 Signal Regiment. He then left the Army in 1965 and rejoined in 1968 and had to do recruit training again at 1 Recruit Training Battalion followed by Corps training at the School of Military Engineering and Transportation Centre at Chowder Bay followed by postings to: 35 Water Transport Squadron, 32 Small Ship Squadron, 1 Terminal Group, 40 Water Transport Squadron (Heavy), 10 Terminal Group and 70 Water Transport Troop. He elected discharge in 1977.

He served in Vietnam with 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AS3051 John Monash*, *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* and *AV1356 Clive Steele*.

**VALE - CHRIS BUCKLEY**  
**1949 - 2015**

Ellen McCartney-Lees and Colin Coakes advised the passing of Corporal Christopher Martin Buckley, RAE. He died on or about 28 November 2015 and his funeral was held at Greenacre, Queensland on 2 December 2015.

Chris served with 11 Movement Control Group in Vietnam in 1971/72.

**VALE - BARRIE GREENBURGER**  
**1939 - 2015**

It is believed that Staff Sergeant Barrie Noel Greenberger, RAE has passed away. He served with 11 Movement Control Group in Vietnam during 1970/71. Attempts to contact his family have been unsuccessful. If anyone has details about this could you please let me know.



**VALE - ALAN JONES**

**1945 - 2015**

The RSL has advised the death of Private Alan Jones, AACC on 23 May 2015. He was a member of 32 Small Ship Squadron and served on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam in 1969.

**VALE - SAM RAMAGE**

**1945 - 2015**

Sapper Sam Ramage, RAE died on 22 July 2015 from asbestosis. His funeral was held at Newhaven Crematorium, Stapleton Qld. The local RSL Sub-Branch conducted a poppy service. His wife died many years ago, and Sam's partner, Rosemarre has been with him for the past 33 years. He has two daughters, Toni and Karen, and son Adam, and Rosemarre has a son, Stephen and daughters Christine and Diane, and four grandchildren by his previous marriage and six grandchildren with Rosemarre. They lived at Mt Warren Park, a suburb of Beenleigh. Sam worked in the area as a fitter for most of his working life.



Sam Ramage

**VALE - DOUG HOLMES**

**1946 - 2016**

The RSL recently reported the death of Sapper Douglas George Holmes, RAE. It is not known when he passed away and no other details were given. Doug was a member of 32 Small Ship Squadron and served on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam in 1968.

**VALE - MARY CAMERON**

Mary Cameron, wife of our esteemed member and honorary auditor Lieutenant Colonel Phil Cameron OAM, passed away on 23 January 2016. Our condolences to Phil and his children Tracey and Sharon and their families.



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**VALE - WAYNE RUSH**  
**1947 - 2016**

Peter Atkinson sent the following details:

It is with sadness that I bring the news of the passing of Sergeant Wayne Rush, RASigs, at approximately 23:30h on Friday evening, 19 February 2016 at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne, Victoria.

Wayne had experienced an uncomfortable time over the last few months and had endured three operations in St Vincent's in the days prior to his passing last night. Wayne has been on dialysis for many years. In 2013 he received that magic phone call and a quick ride from Shepparton to Melbourne found him joined to a new kidney. Unfortunately, there were complications and after a short time, he was back on dialysis

Wayne (Bullrush) served in Vietnam in 1966/67 with 103 Signal Squadron. He later transferred to 32 Small Ship Squadron where he completed a further four tours of Vietnam as a Signaller on board the following Army ships:

AV1356 Clive Steele Jan 1968 – Aug 1968  
AS3051 John Monash Dec 1968 – Jan 1969  
AS3051 John Monash Feb 1969 – Mar 1969  
AV1356 Clive Steele Jul 1969 – Aug 1969  
AS3051 John Monash Aug 1972 – Aug 1972

He also served on *L126 Balikpapan*, the Landing Craft Heavy in 1973.

During his 20-year service in the Army his postings were:

1 Recruit Training Battalion, School of Signals, 1 Signal Regiment, 103 Signals Squadron, 139 Signals Squadron, 32 Small Ship Squadron, 1 Terminal Group, 40 Water Transport Squadron (Heavy), 10 Terminal Group, 5 Signal Regiment and 6 Signal Regiment.

Wayne was born in Mitchell Qld on the 20 March 1947 and he died just a youngster, a month prior to his 70th birthday.

Wayne is survived by his wife Amy, son Warren and daughter Cindy.

The funeral service was held at Shepparton on 29 February 2016. Peter Atkinson, George Scorgie and Kevin and Lyn Morley of 32 were there to see Wayne off. Peter stayed on for a few days afterwards to assist Amy with DVA and DFRDB matters.





Here's an article from the Brisbane Courier Mail about Wayne. The caption reads:

"Brisbane primary school students were give an insight into the nature of School of the Air today when they joined the class for a day. The link-up at the Sherwood State Primary School was the idea of teacher Mrs Barbara Edwards, who wanted to give her students a practical demonstration of how outback children received their education. The Charleville School of the Air, staffed by 10 teachers, broadcasts lessons by radio to about 150 students in grades 1 - 7 in remote areas of Queensland. Soldiers from the 139th Signals Squadron, based at Enoggera Barracks, set up a radio sub-station at Sherwood. Natalie Garnett, 10, of Redbank Plains, is talking on School of the Air, assisted by Sergeant Wayne Rush."



At Wayne's funeral: left to right Brian McEnnemy (Shepparton RSL), Peter Atkinson, Amy, Cindy, George Scorgie, Kevin and Lyn Morley and RSL Members.



## VALE - MICK EDSTEIN

One of our members, Eddie Edstein, recently advised the Sappers Association of Queensland that his brother, Mick had passed away. Mick was a well-known identity throughout the RAE and would be known to many of our members. This is Eddie's transcript: "Eddie Edstein here, Micks brother and formerly RAE, RAE (Tn). This is to advise that Mick passed away today, 1 February 2016 at approx 1600hs.

Mick served the corps for some 35 years. His service included 14 Works and Park Company in Japan as part of British Commonwealth Occupation Forces. In all he served in Japan for some 7 1/2 years excluding a period in Korea.

He married a Japanese girl, Emiko and had two sons. One is / was a Lieutenant Colonel in RAAMC and is a world authority on malaria.

Mick returned to Australia in 1953 and was posted to 17 Construction Squadron at Randwick. He then moved to 24 Construction Squadron in Brisbane, then to 32 Small Ship Squadron at Kangaroo Point before transferring to the Directorate of Engineers at Army Headquarters where he served from 1964 to 1970. He then left to attend successfully an Administrative and Technical officer's qualifying course.

He was posted to 9 Field Squadron RAE in Singapore. He then returned to Army Office in many positions until his discharge in approximately 1980.

He championed the conditions of enlisted men with regard to pay throughout the services. I am of the belief that he was responsible for the introduction of the Australian Coat of Arms in lieu of the previous badge of the British Coat of Arms for Warrant Officers Class 1. There will be a private family funeral for Mick next week."

## CONSTITUTION

Our Constitution has not been reviewed since 1995. In fact, I'm sure most of us have not even seen a copy of it. Well, Sid Cheeseman looked at it a few years ago and spent a lot of time amending it with a red pen. Our Committee has since refined it further and has come up with a reasonable 'plain English' version. There are quite a few minor changes but only major changes are regarding membership. It is enclosed. so have a look at it and see what you think. Because we all seem to be getting older we thought we could entice some young blood into the fold. So we've opened up the Associate membership to include relatives of members or deceased members. Maybe wives, sons, daughters, cousins, aunties etc may wish to join us.

We currently have three Associate members: Stephen Bannister, the son of Mike Bannister, Pam Courtney, daughter of Dave Briggs and Kaye Shannon, wife of Ken Shannon. If anyone else would like to join us, please contact me or get an Application Form from our web site.



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## Dry Docking by Jack Madden

The photo of John Monash in Fitzroy Dock at Cockatoo Island brought back memories.

In late 1969 I was on John Monash and we went into the same dock for a haircut and shave (bottom scrape and repaint for the non-nautical readers). Well, everybody was threatened with dire consequences if anything was allowed to be discharged into the dock. Everybody? They forgot to tell the cook that stayed behind with the security picquet and I believe he emptied the contents of a large Army tea pot into the sink in the ships galley.

To the Painters and Dockers that looked enough like body wastes and they promptly went on strike for 48 hours and demanded a compensation payment. 1 Watercraft Wksps RAEME, who organised and paid for the dry docking were somewhat upset about this incident. But on the other hand, apart from the security picquet the rest of the crew had another 48 hours ashore in Sydney.

To us 'non engine room' types ...we always enjoyed going into dry dock. Then there was the time when John Monash had to go into the dry dock in Singapore. I think it was the Empire Dock at Telok Ayer Basin, just down the road from Collyer Quay and Change Alley. Only a tri-shaw ride to Bugis Street and other places that do not need to be mentioned. That area along the waterfront is now all high-rise expensive apartments. Collyer Quay is almost a kilometer inland; most of Bukit Timah hill has now been used as landfill and what used to be the Britannia Club (NAAFI) on the waterfront is now kilometers inland. Don't know why we went into dock as the engine-room personnel were usually in a bad mood at this time and weren't open to stupid questions.

Then there was the time we broke down just as we entered the Western Roads in Singapore (we had a backload of 20 pound armour piercing for the Centurion tanks in Vietnam [why AP shells were sent there is another mystery]). The rubber O Ring on the De-Laval fuel oil separator was broken and the only replacement was from McAllisters in Ipoh, Malaysia. Bob Madgwick and I were the only NCOs with a passport so we tossed up a coin and Bob won. Ahah...off to Malaysia for a couple of days for him!

Then some smart thinking marine engineer decided that a new o-ring could be made simply and our dreams of a three-day trip to Malaysia evaporated in minutes. Well that was life. At least we picked up rations in Singapore and the majority of the food was British origin. After the American canned turkey, ham and chicken and what they called bread from Subic Bay and Vietnam it was a pleasure to get some decent English tea, fresh eggs and fresh vegetables.

The last time I saw John Monash she was in Sembawang Shipyards on the north side of Singapore. She was in for a minor refit after picking up the Russian tank in Da



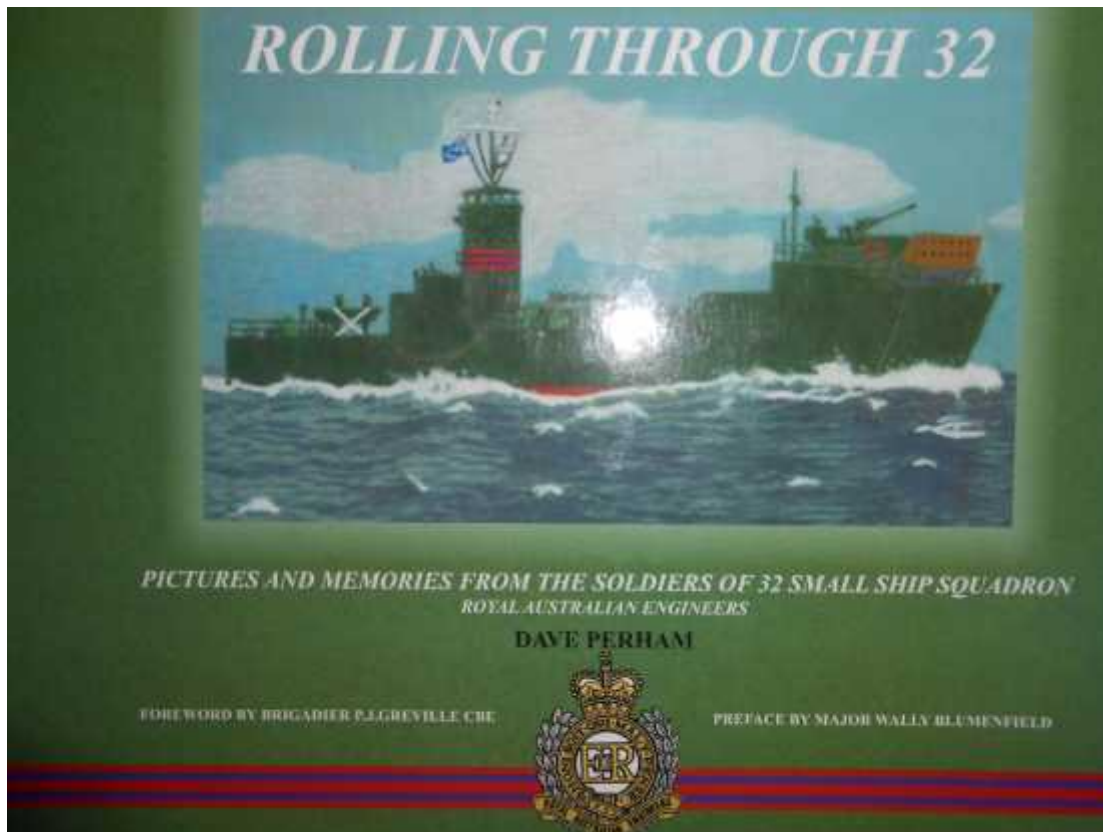
Nang. I wished I asked more questions about that trip as this was well into 1973 and the ship's crew would have been the last Unit to serve in Vietnam. At least the crew was introduced to the delights of the Sembawang strip. But it was never the same after the British Navy pulled out of Singapore.

By this time, 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE had been disbanded and I was lucky enough to be posted to Singapore as the SQMS of 28 ANZUK Fd Sqn, RAE . Problem was my job was to close down the unit and return all the equipment to Australia but I managed to stretch it out over two years.

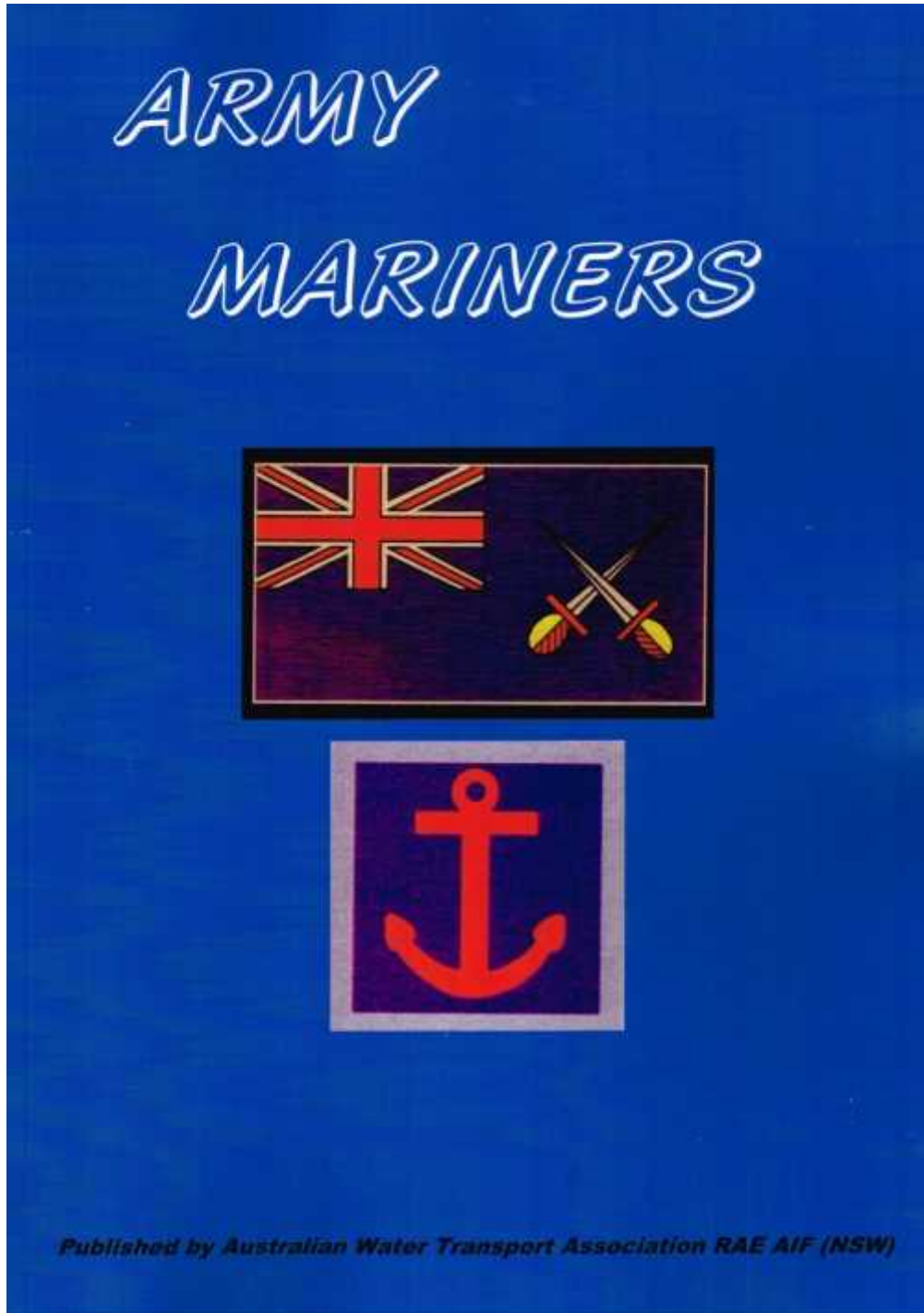
### ROLLING THROUGH 32 REPRINT

Dave Perham launched his book, "Rolling Through 32" on ANZAC Day 2008. 600 copies were printed and they sold pretty quickly. Since then many people have asked if it is to be reprinted. Well, it is and we have now reprinted more copies. The only difference is that the new one has a semi soft cover but the pictures are clearer than the previous one. It is also much cheaper.

Sadly, Dave has passed on but he would have been pleased to know that more copies of the book have been printed. They can be purchased for \$25.00 each plus \$15.00 postage. Order through the web site or contact Kaye Shannon. They will also be on sale at Hunters Hill on ANZAC Day.



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### ARMY MARINERS BOOK

We still have a few copies of this book so if you want to have one please use the web site order form or contact Kaye Shannon. It's a good read, lots of pictures and tells the story of Army Water Transport from World War II to the present. They will cost you \$45 each plus \$15 postage - a total of \$60.



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## Property for sale

Ties	\$25.00	LSM Lapel Badge	\$12.00
Association Book by Wade Morris	\$30.00	Collar Badge	\$6.00
Association Woven Patch	\$8.00	Car Stickers	\$5.00
Association Cap Navy Blue	\$15.00		
Association 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Plaque	\$40 plus \$9 P & H		
Book "Rolling through 32"	\$25 plus \$15 P & H		
Association Polo Shirt (navy blue only) made to order			\$30.00

Please contact Kaye Shannon 02 9871 4667 or [property@32smallshipsqn.org.au](mailto:property@32smallshipsqn.org.au) or through the 'Q Store' on the Association Web page ([www.32smallshipsqn.org.au](http://www.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 please email it to:

[editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au](mailto:editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au)

or to

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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!



**April 2016 NOTICE TO MARINERS**

## Committee Members

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