

Biographies - Yankee Surnames

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Yarred, Mick

Having left school in WA at the end of Year 10 in November 1979 and having absolutely no idea of what I wanted to do with my life, I recalled someone mentioning the Navy and Junior Recruits. So I took myself into the Defence Recruiting Centre in the old CAGA building in Perth and made some enquiries....well a few months later after a couple of medicals and a psych test to make sure I had some sense of sanity and wasn't completely loopy, I was successful in getting entry into HMAS Leeuwin as a 15 ½ year old JR in the 73rd Intake (Ramsay), 7th October 1980.



For the 9 months that we actually spent at Leeuwin I am sure that 80% of us hated it, doubling everywhere, getting balled out for someone else's stuff ups, the endless kit musters, PT shake ups, shits and top shits nights, blanket bashings (couldn't have them these days – apparently that is now referred to as bastardisation!!!) the torture just never seemed to end. However when we left, I think the vast majority of us looked back and thought.....hang on we really bloody enjoyed that and made some great mates! Not to the extent that we would want to do it all again, but it was a great way of getting a group of young blokes to 'man up' pretty quickly!

So after Leeuwin if was off to 'sunny' Cerberus for completion of the Basic Writer Course No: 8/81 with Instructor POWRWTR Hillary Rushton. The course didn't seem to difficult and I even managed to survive the dreaded NBCD course including the requirement to run around inside a sealed hut until you were breathing fairly heavily and then having the instructor let loose a Tear Gas canister, just so that you could have the pleasure of coughing your guts up and trying to claw your own eyes out!! Not sure if they still do that these days either.....most likely banned under WHS rules!

During the last week of our Scribes course we were all advised of our initial postings, some to Harman (Navy Office), some to establishments in Sydney, one to

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birdie world at Albatross and me to a place called Creswell.....unfortunately none of us had ever heard of Creswell so I really had no idea where I was actually going, other than it involved an overnight train trip from Melbourne to Sydney and then a further 3 to 4 hours on a rickety old train kindly referred to as the Red Rattler from Sydney down to Nowra (Bomaderry).

On arrival at Nowra there was a duty driver from Albatross there to collect another new scribe posted there, but alas no one heading for Creswell. So I recall having to get in contact with the OOD at Creswell and ask very politely if someone could come and retrieve me....Please Sir!! After about an hours wait a WRAN truckie arrived and off we went. The trip seemed to take an eternity as we drove further away from civilisation (Jervis Bay Road was really no more than a sealed track in the early 80's) and I was starting to feel a little concerned for my own safety!! We then came to a section of road looking down on Creswell itself.....what a sight, a huge bay of calm blue water (Jervis Bay) surrounded by pristine white sandy beaches.....I said a silent thank you to DSP for this posting!!!

My 18 months or so at Creswell was fantastic, but it was over all far too quickly and my first sea posting was promulgated....off to the mighty warship Vampire (Life's Fun on Double One!). Ray Hamilton was the CPOWTR, the infamous Pat McGeown the POWTR and Rick Berry was the LSWTR. I also recall Terry Stickler and Graham Campbell were there for a short period when I first joined her, and then there was myself, Ice Coolegum and Zorro Zubcic as ABWTR's, with Gavin Locke replacing Ice after he left (Disciplinary reasons if memory serves me right – had probably gone AWOL again to attend another VFL match) . We only did one up-top trip during my time on-board with the bulk of our sea time spent conducting Midshipman Navigation Training in and amongst the Whitsunday Islands.....that was hard to take!!

From Vampire, I posted to Albatross (PSO Nowra) for a 2 year stint starting in Nov of 84, with POWTR Geoff Nesbitt doing Removals. It was there that I learnt that Birdies don't get posted around much....back then it was Albatross or a SQN to CAG on Melbourne and then back to TROSS again. I recall having one crusty WOATWO coming in enquiring about his final discharge removal after 20 odd years of service.....'Just go through it slowly Son' he said 'this is my first removal!!!' Say what???? He apparently moved into his current MQ back in 1969 and have never moved since.... Blew me away!!



From there it was off to Canberra in DEC 86 for a short (and cold) stint at Navy Office working in DGNPS. Really didn't like Canberra first time around and was itching to get back to the West, so my POWTR (Pat Dummett) had a contact or two in DSP and arranged a swap posting (but luckily for me at Defence expense) between myself and a SWRWTR at Stirling who wanted to come east with her Stoker boyfriend. So after only 9 months in the nation's capital, it was off to Stirling.

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I worked under the supervision of CPOWTR Trevor Sweeney in the Personnel / Registry office who pushed and pushed me to get my Parts 1 and 2 for promotion completed.....finally caved in and did them and about 6 months later was promoted to LSWTR. I then volunteered for and was successful in getting the LSWTR's position at CPSO(WA) working alongside POWTR Julie Mudry. I really enjoyed my time there, a good mix of people and also some very interesting work.

In **November 1992** I was posted back to Stirling (Accounts Office) for a stint, prior to joining Derwent in **July 1993**. I was briefly loaned back to Cerberus to complete the Petty Officers Management **and Staff Skills** Course and Advanced Writer Course No 161993 with CPOWTR Angus as our Instructor. On returning to Derwent **we** completed her decommissioning cruise, to various destinations including the Andaman Islands.

December 1994 after taking a 2 month LSL break I was posted back to Albatross (817SQN) as the Squadron Regulatorprobably from my perspective the worst posting of my career, however the birdies thought it was brilliant to have someone who could do their paperwork, calculate their allowances for when they went on course or leave etc etc. Prior to my posting into the SQN the Reggies position had been filled on an ad hoc basis by a long list of MAB sailors waiting for discharge etc so I guess having someone in the role 'long term' was a bonus for them.

I didn't mind the admin / personnel side etc, it was the fact that the Reggie was also the SQN OH&S Rep and Unit Safety Officer and umpteen other subsidiary roles.....except for the bleeding obvious (like those big spinning blades on top and slightly smaller ones at the back) I had no idea what the dangers were of working in hangar full of Sea King helicopters.....incorrectly placed oil drip trays, wrong tool for the job, not correctly completing Maintenance Logs etc....I had absolutely no interest in any of that!!

So it was with great relief that I finally received another posting in November 1996 back to Navy Office as Staff Officer DNSC. That posting didn't last too long as in 1997 they amalgamated the 3 Service Conditions sections (1 for each Service) into one DSC directorate. So I sat around in Building K at Russell Offices for a couple of months doing not a great deal of anything!!! In July 1997 I got snaffled to run the Services Allocation Module (SAM) Help desk. This was the application used by Defence around the country for the allocation of Married Quarters to entitled ADF members. I enjoyed this and in March 1998 I was for want of a better term 'seconded' to the Defence Housing Australia (DHA) office in Barton to work alongside the 2 staff there who were running the DHA Help desk. I was heavily involved in the design and testing of the new software application that was being developed to replace SAM (it was non Y2K complaint!!). Then in July of 1999 a posting came out in the LSP for me to go back to Russell Offices to the DSCM File Registry.....Ugh!!

However the then CIO at DHA (ex CPOWTR Bruce Lockyer) asked if I'd be interested in leaving the Navy and joining DHA as a full time Help desk Analyst.....so in Oct 99 I discharged at own request, and it is there that I have

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been ever since. DHA is now undergoing some fairly significant changes in the way they do their business and to that end my position has been made redundant effective 1 October. Fortunately the timing (for me at least) could not have been better, I get to have a couple of months at home relaxing and waiting for my wife to take 2015 off work – when we are going to do a lap around Oz as trainee Grey Nomads!!

Yastreb, Debra (Nee Elton)



W116604. “Joined WRANS 12th May 1975, incorporating Recruit training and Writer training at Cerberus. Harman was next November 1975-77 and 78-80 (DSP). A brief posting to Penguin 1977 to 1978. Promoted LWR 1979 just short of 4 years, next onto Albatross June 1980 to March 1981 AJASS where I went to NZ for 10 days, up to Sydney, and 9 hours at sea onboard Otama thanks to CMDR M Dunne, discharged and came home to WA.

I did go to Indonesia for 2 weeks as part of a group of trainee teachers. I rejoined April 1983 and posted to Albatross in the Accounts Office. Kuttabul 1984 to 1987 CPSO and finally came home to Stirling November 1987 to April 1991, first Captain's Office, then down to Accounts and last but not least to Pay Office after attending computer Pay Course at Cerberus for 2 weeks June 90.”

Yeomans, James Fulton

Passed away 2004. Mobilised for service 5th March 1941. Whilst serving his postings were Rushcutter and Cerberus before joining Shropshire 15/10/1942 in England. He posted out 29th April 1945 (Promoted LS 1/10/1943) to Penguin where he stayed until being demobbed 21st March 1946.

Young, Terry ‘Brigham’



Joined in 1962 as a Junior Recruit. Progressed to CPOWTR, despite risking all badges gold as a PO on a couple of occasions. Subsequently promoted to SD and then later transferred to the General List. Resigned in 1983 when serving as Secretary to the then Fleet Commander Mike Hudson as a LCDR. Career highlights:

All up served from 1962 – 1983 & again on full time reserve service as Sec to NOICJB from 1986-87. Career highlights;

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- Entering as a JR and subsequently becoming a Writer, very proud to have been both.
- Posting to ANRUK staff in 1964. The first single Writer sailor to be so posted – think I wrecked it for the others forever. Had a ball and eventually married my English sweetheart Carol.
- Representing Navy in inter-service cricket, soccer, rugby union, tennis.
- Punishment posting to Albatross as a POWTR (had the cheek to tell the Navy Office turks what I thought of their posting policy or lack of). Actually enjoyed birdie land.
- Rehabilitation posting to HUON as Recruiting CPO, great job had a terrific time, mainly playing soccer in the State League.
- Writing the Manual of Administration for the PNG Defence Force on a Joint Service Working Party.
- Spithead Deployment on BRISBANE as LEUT – all work and very little play.
- Serving with the Trinity (CDRE McInerney DGNPS as his Staff Officer); before
 - Another punishment posting this time to Cerberus (upset CNS), which again backfired for them coming out smelling of roses with a CNS's Commendation (new CNS). Despite numerous run-ins with my old mate CMDR SDSU W Tug Wilson including a significant physical altercation in the Wardroom which he won't remember but the XO does.
 - Final deployment as Supply Officer of the fluffy duck HMAS SWAN covering around 27 ports in six months.
 - Sea time on YARRA (WTR 2), DUCHESS (POWTR), BRISBANE (LEUT), SWAN (LEUT/LCDR). Great times, great ships, great Writers, great crews.



Came across a lot of characters with some top mentors, particularly Ray Bragge, George Higgins, John Gamble, Bulldog Drummond & Don Swindells (in UK), Ron Dalgleish, Gubby Allan, Jack Markham, etc, etc and some great friends/companions/runners like Eric Okely, Lew Horsfield, Beachball Sharman, Rocky Wells, Neil Churches, Ron Thompson, Marty Grogan, Pat & Mick Scully, Bouncer Wiseman, John Nash, Frank Carville, Graeme Quinn, Les Roberts, Peter Jones and many others. Plus many more acquaintances and young Writers on staff like Kev Whiteway etc who have all added to life's rich pageant and for which I am very thankful. etc who have all added to life's rich pageant and for which I am very thankful. All in all many great memories, very much needed as you get old.

Young, Christine (nee Stuart)

W109349. Joined the RAN at Cerberus in January, 1970. She served at Cerberus, Harman (NO), Penguin, Kuttabul (Recruiting) and Leeuwin (Recruiting). Christine completed her service in the Perth Recruiting Office in September, 1976 as Ex SWRWTR and paid off to have her first child. She married ex CPOWTR Peter Young in 1973.

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Young, Frank

Joined the Navy as a RCTWTR on 24/3/1949. Shore postings were Albatross, Lonsdale, Penguin. I was posted to Australia (Retinue) on 31/8/1950 and Sydney (Retinue) on 25/6/1952. Promoted LS in 1952 and joined Sydney on 28/2/1953. Posted to Australia on 16/8/1953. I proceeded overseas to Naval Depot London on 22/11/1953, and joined Victoria Barracks Portsmouth on 6/1/1954, then HMS Hawke at Dartmouth on 28/1/1954. I was promoted to ASBLT on 1/5/1954.

On 31/8/1951 I joined Australia alongside at Garden Island as a Shorthand Writer on the Admiral's staff (fresh from a three-month Shorthand/Typing course at Stott's Commercial College in Melbourne). I was met at the brow by WTR 'Bomber' Atkinson who, despite my burden of hammock and kit bag, insisted on taking me first to the Pay Office. With a flourish and a great deal of pride, Bomber said "I'll bet you never expected you'd see anything like this in a warship!" 'This' was a machine about the size, weight and shape of four house bricks. It was an adding machine, operated by the cranking of a lever. From memory, its only functions were to add and subtract and to give the operator possibly the first recorded case of 'Repetitive Strain Injury'. However, as a leap in technology, it was mind blowing and made one think that even putting a man on the moon was now feasible!

Young, Peter James

R94767 Joined the RAN at Leeuwin as a Junior Recruit in 1965. Shore establishments included Albatross, Harman (NO-EDP), Tarangau, Cerberus, Kuttabal, Leeuwin and Platypus. Sea service in Melbourne (twice, as ORDWTR and LSWTR), Anzac, Hobart, Moresby and Supply. He paid off in January 1985 as CPOWTR. Peter married ex SWRWTR Christine Stuart in 1973.