



Edition No 43 - April 1st 2013

E-Newsletter

Australia Day Medallions



The following Writers were awarded the Australia Day 2013 Medallion in recognition of their contribution and service to Defence:

AB Jason Thomsen - currently serving onboard HMAS Melbourne.

AB Matthew Murphy - currently additional to the Office of COMAUSFLT

Who Served on Swan?

Here is a list of those that we know served on Swan can you fill in the gaps for us?

	Commissioned: 20/1/1970				
	Decommissioned: 13/9/1996				
	Surname	First Name	Date commenced	Date completed	Rank
	Perkins	Clive 'Polly' RANR	02/04/1973	16/04/1973	LS
	Carville	Frank	06/1973	04/1975	CPO
	Crothers	Austin 'Aussie'	04/1975	11/1975	CPO
	Arro	John	12/11/1975	02/05/1975	CPO
	Churches	Neil	27/04/1977	20/11/1978	CPO
	Smith	Kenneth	04/1981	1982	AB
	Whelan	Dave	6/1982	11/1983	CPO
	Dummett	Alan	6/1982	9/1984	AB
	Crossley	Bill	13/02/1984	22/10/1984	PO
	Plymin	Trevor	10/1984	06/1986	CPO
	Stone	Peter	11/12/1995	28/10/1996	CPO

About Desmond Bright 'China'

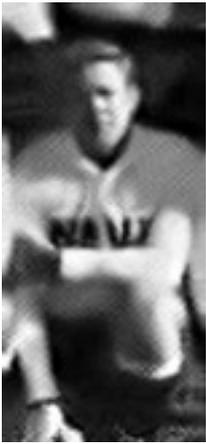
Joined RAN 18th August 1948. He was previously in the Royal Navy and served as Boy Writer 1945, and then Writer before transferring to the RAN. Discharged 17th August 1954.

He is reported whilst at Nowra, to have won a competition as to who could wear the same night clothing the longest.

He wore the shirt for 6 weeks! Did he wash it and wear it again ? Or throw it away? We don't know.

John 'Bluey' Guild Passed away date not known. R50162.

Joined 20th September 1954. His promotions were LS 1959 and disrated in 1961. Subsequently restored 1962, PO 1964, CPO 1968.



A mention was made in the Navy News in 1961 that 'L/WTR John Gild (Watson) Aged 24, 5ft 9 1/2 in., 11.7. A fullback from Katherine (NT), he entered the RAN in 1954. Played for Navy last year and this year has shown solid form with Watson. Was in the team that retained the 1961 Inter service Rugby Union Trophy.'

In Salty Eckel's Navy news article 1998 he said "Sad news is that of the passing of Navy and ASRU champion and ASRU champion rugby full-back and centre, Blue Guild, A great player with a temperament to match, Blue was a chief scribe. He also repped Navy in the interservice golf and rumour has it that an oval at ALBATROSS will be named after him."

If you have any further information you can add please let us know including the date he deceased.

A bunch of Writers from **MELBOURNE** on the "beach" at Manus Is. in May 1969 whilst on the way to the Philippines.

In the picture, from L – R are Ray Kennedy, Kerry Small, Trevor Barnes, David Robertson, Alan Robinson, Alan Axford.



Writer Class 10 – 1950's

Thanks to Glen Jones, in providing this photo of the 10th Writer class and Frank Gribble confirming the details.



Inset Glen Jones L-R back Margaret (Peg) Fuller, Kelvin Presland, Thomas Crawford, Alex Goodieson, Franki Graham, Dot Baker (obscured) (Deceased), Kim McGrory, Meg McCormack. Middle: Brenda Barker, John Kindness, Ursula Uren, Lofty Langworthy (Deceased), Ron 'Paddy' Hall (Deceased) Front: Garth McNamara, Frank Gribble, Bill Monaghan, Maxwell Gillies (Deceased), Joe Tierney.

We have lost track of most of these ex Writers. If you could tell us where they are or what happened to them please let us know.

We heard from **Bill Beazley** ex Stores Branch. He says "Your site is interesting to me as I knew many of the scribes in it even though I was in the Stores Branch. Because we were then the Supply and Secretariat Division comprised of Stores, Writers, Cooks, Stewards and Butchers we messed together in most ships and establishments in those days. Some of the writers I knew were Jack Banner, Keith Hook, Bill Ronan, Googa Gent, Laurie Kenny, Lindsay Gordon (Tug) Wilson, Brian Rae, Reg Gilbert, Bill Monaghan etc. I was on the Australia with Googa Gent. I was a Leading Stores Assistant. Googa used to carry a trumpet mouthpiece that he would "lip" occasion-

ally to stay in practice. I believe he played the trumpet in the Warrnambool ? band before he joined.

I joined at age 17 as a Probationary Stores Assistant Grade 2 (you can't get any lower than that) and arrived at FND in March 1946. I was a 12 year man. The next draft in April were 2 year men. After training in seamanship, marching, gunnery and bayonetting a chaff bag I was drafted to Penguin in June 1946. The Supply School did not exist then so I did not receive any formal Branch training then, or in the rest of my 12 years and 8 months service. It was "monkey see monkey do".

With respect to "at sea photos" on the site One shows a caption "1952 HMAS Australia off Queensland " I am the blonde head in the middle rank near Bill Ronan. We were doing National Service training. We picked Bob Menzies up at Brisbane and sailed that night to continue training duties up the Barrier Reef. Bob was on board that night and the next and the following day was landed at Hayman Island, off Bowen. The photo was taken at Divisions the day after he boarded. We fell out and were mustered on the quarterdeck where Bob gave a speech. That night there was a Mess Dinner in the Wardroom and the Naval Store Office was directly under the Wardroom. I was trying to post the Naval Store ledgers, frequently distracted by the stamping of feet and thumping of the table above my head as Bob gave one of his renowned orations to the assembled officers.

We anchored off Hayman Island and the Admiral's barge landed Bob at the wharf. Libertymen was piped. The crew stood fast; knowing you wouldn't get to Hayman while Bob was there, but the nashos mustered aft and were taken to a sand spit with a stunted tree on it some 300 metres from the wharf.

Bill sent this photo of the wet canteen Tarangau 1953. Laurie Kenny (Ldg. Writer) is right in white shirt. Next to him is Keith Hook (Ldg. Writer). Back to the wall with blonde hair is Bill Beazley (Ldg, Stores Asst (s) and left is Roger Wood (Leading Stores Asst (V).

Laurie was not part of Tarangau's complement. He was the Commandant's secretary in the Japanese War Criminal's compound which was a separate organisation. Keith Hook and I served at Tarangau when it was at Finschhafen in 1947/8 and at Los Negros (Manus) in 1952/3. Athol Rose was the Base Supply Officer at Finschhafen when I was there. Being the small world that it is, Athol's brother Jack is a member of my bowling club.



Manus Island - For those that have not served at Manus -
Thanks to Bill Beazley -who wrote this article.



Most people have heard of Manus Island because news media says illegal immigrants are currently being held there; but few people know of the military history that happened at Manus and Los Negros, during and after WW2, particularly with regard to the Royal Australian Navy (R.A.N.).

There are two islands; Manus and Los Negros, that are joined by a road bridge. The town of Lorengau on Manus has always been the civil administration centre. Illegal immigrants are actually held on Los Negros. Until WW2 there was nothing on Los Negros except some coconut plantations.

History timeline is:

1942 - Japanese forces bombed Lorengau and established a military base there and on Los Negros.

1944 - United States forces vanquished Japanese forces and quickly established major Naval and Air Bases on Los Negros. HMAS Australia was damaged by a Kamikaze bomber in the Coral Sea Battle and received temporary repairs at Los Negros.

1950 - January - HMAS TARANGAU was commissioned at Lombrum Point on Los Negros. In addition to its normal Naval functions it was tasked with setting up and administering a prison compound for up to 190 Japanese war criminals (normally a job for the Army).

1950 - At Los Negros the Australian War Crimes Tribunal commenced the trials of Japanese war criminals. Depending on the nature of the war crime, the Tribunal could impose sentences of death by hanging; death by shooting or a prison term up to life.

1951 - The Australian War Crimes Tribunal sentenced five Japanese war criminals to death by hanging for murdering Australian and Allied prisoners of war (by beheading in most cases). The sentences were carried out at Los Negros.

1952 - Whilst Japan had surrendered in 1945, a peace treaty between Japan and each of the Allied powers was not signed until 1952. This occurred at San Francisco, U.S.A.

1953 - July - Japanese war criminals imprisoned at HMAS TARANGAU were repatriated on the Hakuryu Maru to Japan to serve out their sentences.