

# E NEWS

## R O Y A L A U S T R A L I A N N A V Y W R I T E R S A S S O C I A T I O N

### On our web site:.

We have produced a list of **Warrant Officers** in the RAN from the 1900's to 2014- please have a look and let us know if we have missed anybody on that list.

The link is:

<http://www.ranwriters.com/rollcall.html>

We are trying to gather a picture of everybody that served in the navy as a Scribe (that includes Writers and ML-P) - if you are missing we would appreciate a photo of you to build our historical library up.

We also have included a list if old photos which include old photos we have of scribes in the RAN.

<http://www.ranwriters.com/PeoplePhotos/OldPhotos.pdf>



On the 16th July - **Stew Merrilees** - birthday also saw his retirement from the RANR having racked up 48 Years service in the PNF and Reserves. Well done Stew.



Top picture Stew today and Stew in 1966.

One of our ex Scribes **Bruce Hambour** sent us a number of pictures whilst he was serving in the RAN. The pictures shown here are 1966 as a JR, as an ORD on Duchess, 1972 as PO. And 2014 with his wife Penny.



### **Ex PO Michael Ernest McDONALD R62287**

His daughter is looking for any information on her father and especially any photos during his service. If you can assist us with any further details of his service and photos please contact us.

Michael served after initial training at Cerberus and then Watson, Kuttabul and Albatross. He served on Anzac in 1966/67 as an ABWTR.

**Gary 'Gus' Russell** reports on his trip in April 2014:



“Wednesday second of April I commenced my trip from Brisbane to Florida.

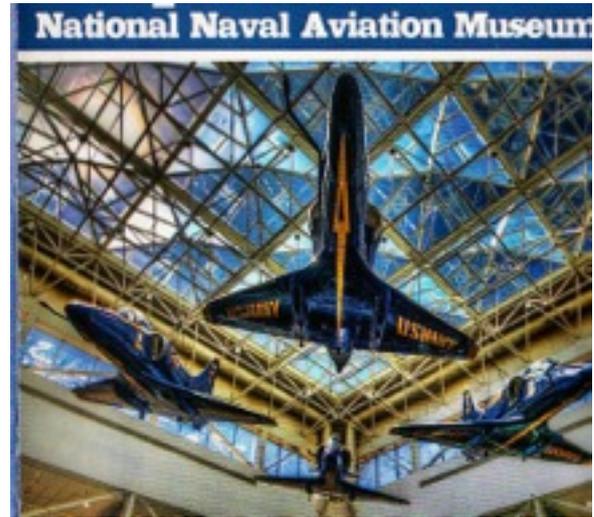
I had the privilege of visiting the National naval Aviation

Museum at the Naval Air Station Pensacola Florida and was overwhelmed at the 150 aircraft exhibits dating pre World War II through the modern era. Witnessed two retirement ceremonies for US naval personnel which were conducted with dignity and ceremonial grandeur. Having served at Albatross as a young scribe during 1966 – 67, I would recommend this base and museum on the bucket list of must see if visiting Florida.

I stayed mainly in Panama City which is in the Florida Panhandle and home to Tyndall Air Force Base and the area in general has 144 churches this is part of the Bible belt. Flew to Midland Texas 16th of April with friends who have a ranch near Harper. Spent a day at a Corvettes & classic car show Boerne, Texas. There were 400 to 500 Corvettes there varying models and only four which were not Texas plated. During my extensive road travel through Texas I did not encounter any goat tracks, sub-standard roads which are abundant in Australia. On closing here are some pertinent facts:

In Texas a licensed driver is notified six months in advance via mail re renewal A 6 year licence costs \$25 which includes state tax. Vehicle registration for a Ford PS350 truck costs \$66 per year. Next time your drivers license is due for renewal or your vehicle registration is due, bare a thought for how we are taken

to the cleaners here in Australia regardless of state or territory in which you reside.”



### **Lest We Forget**

#### **Margaret Hilda Cox (Nee Inman)**

Passed away early 2014. W909. Joined 22<sup>nd</sup> March 1943 and discharged 25<sup>th</sup> February 1946. Served at Penguin and Kuttabul.

#### **Rowan Stanley Saunders**

Passed away 15<sup>th</sup> April 2014 at the Canberra Hospice. Joined 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1966 and served for 12 years. R95344. Originally joined as a communicator and transferred to Writer in 1968. Served at Leeuwin, Cerberus, Platypus. Service at sea as Comms Yarra and as a Writer Perth 1969/70.

## 2014 Sir David Martin Foundation (SDMF) Charity Day

The Naval Golf Association is proud to host the 24th Anniversary of the SDMF Charity Gold Day: Wednesday 24th September 2014 at the Coast GC, Little Bay, NSW. Cost: \$100 per player.

This includes: 18 holes of golf; Pre match Breakfast and lunch; prizes.

All proceeds from the golf day go directly to SDMF.

Open to all defence staff, and the general public. Format: 2 person Ambrose.

Nominate early. Further information contact WO Hart 02 9926 2602 or [alan.hart@defence.gov.au](mailto:alan.hart@defence.gov.au)

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## 2014 Annual Writers Luncheon in Sydney

The annual Writers luncheon and the Writers Association AGM will be held at the usual venue on the 3rd October 2014.

Please make a note in your diary for that date - we hope to see as many Scribes (which includes Writers and ML-P's)

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We heard that **Romilly Blain 'Rom' Whitbread** passed away 2010. He joined in November 1964 as an EM and was recategorised to WTR early 1965. He was discharged PUNS 28<sup>th</sup> May 1969. He served at Cerberus and Kuttabul. Sea service was Stuart 1965 and Melbourne 1968/69

## By the Secretary - Annual General Meeting 3rd October 2014.

Nominations are called for from



members of the Association who would like to serve on the Committee. All positions are normally declared vacant annually.

There are 7 positions on the committee,

President, Vice, Treasurer, Secretary and 3 committee. If you are interested in nominating please advise the Secretary, Geoff Hardwick via email to [scribes@ranwriters.com](mailto:scribes@ranwriters.com) or by phone 0411241821.

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## HMAS Sydney and the Army

We came across a recent article which was printed in the Army News in 1964 reporting on life onboard HMAS Sydney when the Army was being deployed to Vietnam. Written by a Maj Hal Richardson. Interesting reading and can be downloaded at this link:

<http://www.ranwriters.com/CourseandStories/HMASSydneyArmyNewspaper1964.pdf>

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## Sea Service

We are endeavouring to capturing all of the ships that scribes have served on and the dates they were on that ship. It would be appreciated if you make sure your sea time is shown. <http://www.ranwriters.com/seaservice.html>

If not fill in the form on that page and we will update your service on the ship.

**Peter Charles Simpson** writes his bio

“I joined in Brisbane, although at the time living in Lismore. Out of Brisbane & down to Sydney, all day at Penguin, and then back on the train to Melbourne, and then train to Cerberus. There were I think 120 in the intake from all over Australia. I ended up in 'Getting' Division. I remember my first pay day, and there was a stuff up, 2 of us had the same number. Oops.

A posting to Stuart in 1964, that is where I first met Dave Robertson. Then I was posted back to Cerberus for WTR course, and then on completion Kuttabul (FOCAF), where I stayed, until they needed a volunteer to assist then LCDR Peter Harrington James with Exercise Sea Dog.

Being involved with that won me the trip on Melbourne (1967) up top. The exercise was being run from Sangley Point Naval Air Station. A lot of air traffic over to Vietnam day & night. We spent about 7 days there, including getting interviewed on the services radio.

To get to Bangkok where the exercise debrief was being held, we had to fly via Hong Kong (the old airport), during the Water Crisis (when water to the island was cut off from the mainland at night), made it interesting trying to shower.

Down to Manila, and then back onto the Melbourne for the trip home, and then back to FOCAF. Somewhere in amongst all this, I played some Rugby games, and also swam in the Inter Service carnival.

Next posted to Duchess (1967-69). I cannot remember who was there on arrival, but Terry Young, Rocky Wells, Marty Grogan, Kev Whiteway & myself were there for the trip up top, which included the trip with Sydney to Vietnam. Promoted to LSWTR whilst on this trip.

Back to FOCAF, and in 1970 down to Canberra for EDP training, and stayed in EDP centre until I think late 71 or early 72, then to Waterhen, promoted to POWTR, and off to Kuttabul EDP, where I met up with Dave Robertson again.

Whilst on leave in Oct 72 in SA, my Father in law was killed in an accident. I called in to Canberra on way back to Sydney and said I was putting in for a FREE. By the time I got back, Canberra was wanting to know where my application was. Talk about the Writers being efficient. I think it was 2 days after putting in my application, I got the word. Out into the big bad world.

Sitting in Rundle Mall (Adelaide) just before the SA reunion, watching the world go by, Ajax Axford saw me by chance, and we had a good chat.

During the warmer months the local pool is open, and whilst talking to one of the others talk about the Navy came up, and he mentioned that he had a brother who had been in the Navy, his name was Brian Tucker. I nearly fell over, as BJ had been my first

boss at FOCAF. Contact was made with BJ, and since then I have been attending the very enjoyable 'refreshment afternoons', on a regular basis, and managed to get to the God Coast reunion.

I was married in 68, have 3 children and 3 grand children. Living quietly in Strathalbyn SA. Am heavily involved SA Country Fire Service, both in local stuff, and Incident Management, and in the training of it. I enjoyed my time, (despite what we all say when in), and am actually recommending to young ones in the community to think of the services, particularly the Navy, to get a good background in life, if they can withstand the first few months.



**Recent Vampire Reunion at Mildura**

We saw a few Writers and spouses at the Vampire reunion recently. In the photo here l-r are Pauline Rickard, Lew Horsfield, Dave Rickard, Sandra and Trevor Atkins.



**Ships Bell - Coonawarra**



Recently an old communicator WO Gary 'Tiny' Kopp contacted us with a view to gaining access to the Coonawarra bell. His wife(Maureen) and daughter (Tanya) who was christened in Coonawarra wished to look at the inscription on the bell.

We contacted Jeannie Roberts in Darwin. Jeannie advised that after her initial investigation, it revealed there are two Ship's bells for COONAWARRA.

This stems from when they were at Berrimah and then moved to Larrakeyah. One is hanging at the base and used for sunset and colours ceremonies.(above)

The other is used for christenings. So she took a photo of the first bell and then went searching for the other. Finally found it with the local Chaplain. (right)

Jeannie welcomed the two girls to the base on the 1st August and gave them a tour of the base and to view and take pictures of the bells. We wish to thank Jeannie Roberts for all her efforts.



## Reunion 2015 - Nowra - Initial Registration

If you are attending we urge you to put in your initial registration. The cost is only \$20 per person and this amount can be deducted from the final cost. It is refundable if you decide not to attend.

You can pay either by:

(a) Bank deposit ADCU BSB: 642-170 Account Number: 100113636 In the reference field provide your last name; or

(b) Credit card online for Visa/MasterCard go to the link below and choose the payment required.

Please complete the online form to indicate that you are attending

Scribes that have paid in the last month are: Peter and Kathleen Harlow, Frank and Alannah Brown, Trevor and Sandra Atkins and Janelle Hermann.

To register or pay via credit card go to this page:

<http://www.ranwriters.com/initialregistra1.html>

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We wish to advise that the Patron of the Association - **Commodore Andrew J M Smith, AM, RAN Director General Logistics** - Navy will be attending the dinner on Saturday night.

### Travel Options from Sydney

Premier Motor Service – Twice Daily Service – Pensioner Concessions

<https://www.premierms.com.au/>

PHONE: 13 34 10

ETD Bay 17, 490 Pitt Street (Outside Central Railway) - 0915 and 1515

ETD Domestic Airport Terminal (Coach Bay at far end of terminal 2) - 0930 and 1530

ETA Nowra - 1230 and 1840

Premier Motor Service also has services that depart Melbourne, Cairns and Brisbane daily.

South Coast Rail To Bombaderry - Pension Concessions

<http://www.transportnsw.info/>

PHONE: 131 500

ETD Central Railway - 0927, 1123, 1323, 1423, 1522 and 1624

ETA Bomaderry (Nowra) - around 2 1/2 hours later

Change trains at Kiama

Nowra Taxis 4421 0333 OR 131 008