

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

ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Nominations are called for from financial members of the association who would like to serve on the committee.

All positions are normally declared vacant annually at the Annual General Meeting.

There are seven [7] positions on the committee: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three [3] committee. At present the Secretary's position is still vacant due to the passing of Geoffrey Hardwick.

We are hoping that the named position of Webmaster will now be ex-officio and not a member of the committee.

If you are interested in nominating please advise President Lew Horsfield or Treasurer Knocker White, nominating the position you are interested in via email to scribes@ranwriters.com or by phone 0412001636.

Nominations will close on 15th September 2015.

ASSOCIATION'S NAME BADGES

At each gathering of the association a reasonable amount of time and effort goes into organising our name badges as per the copy above.

I would like to remind you all, if you have not already got one, or you want to alter yours in some way, then now is the time to do it. This will save us a bit of work at the organising period.

The badges cost \$17 each. Members get them for the discount price of \$10. Alterations/new badge will cost the \$17.

You can have 2 lines of info on the badge. Name and surname top row, and nickname or your "navy name" second row.

Email your details and payment to the association or PO BOX 5020 CHISHOLM, ACT 2905

THE LATE GEOFFREY [BRITISH] HARDWICK

You are all aware of the amount of work Geoff did for the association. It was suggested to me that it might be timely to report to the members the amount of community work that Geoff did. This is a belated biography of his aid to community organisations and the Writers' Association whilst serving and after his service time.

Joined the RAN on 22 August 1963, retired on 14 September 1986.

Worked Department of Defence from 1986 to 2004 [public servant]

In 1993 he was awarded the Australian Day Medallion for service to the Department of Defence.

1998 he set about organising the RAN Writer Association. Starting off with about 30 names in the Canberra area. By 2014, the association had amassed a total of 2,500 names and addresses of retired and serving members.

In 2003 he commenced and produced the Writers' Association web site for members use, and a quarterly newsletter. In 2011 he introduced the monthly eNews, as well as the quarterly newsletter to those whom we did not have an email address on.

In 2005 he along with another ex-scribe produced a book of biographies of people who served in the Royal Australian Navy as Writers. The book included veterans of all conflicts since WW2. Included in the book is a section on the history of Writers, which dates back to Lord Nelson's time.

All this work continued even though he was undergoing chemo and radiation treatment, over a period of 18 months. He never once asked for a relief while undergoing his treatment.

Other organisations – 1985 – 1990 Chairman of Richardson Neighbourhood Watch

1988–1992 – Committee and President of Erindale Little Athletics Association

1991–1995 – Tuggeranong RSL Sub-branch – held positions of President, Secretary and Treasurer.

1986–2014 – National Seniors Association as Committee, Secretary, Vice President, Secretary of Zone 116 since 2010

Since 2002 held various Committee, including President, Vice President, Webmaster and newsletter editor of RAPlink

2004–2006 member of ACTEWAGL Consumer Council

2004–2006 COTA/NS Policy Council

1997–2002 ACT Home and Community Care Advisory Committee

1998–2003 Member of the Council Act Aged Care Standards Agency Council

Kept himself busy didn't he!

There was a lot of talk going around that we should name this or that the Geoffrey Hardwick award. While nothing was said from the committee end, we would like to let all members know that we did do something for Geoff. We nominated him for an award through the Australian honours and awards list approximately 12 months before he passed away. Just before the Queen's Birthday list was promulgated I received a letter from the Honours and Awards Committee that stated:

"The council was pleased to receive the nomination, but after consideration did not recommend an award. The council recognises and values all types of service however, not all nominations can result in awards."

We will continue to pursue some recognition within the association to recognise Geoff's services to the association.

EX CPOWTR KEVIN HENRY SIMPSON [SIMMO]

It is with much sorrow that I inform members of the passing of one of the true icons of the writer branch. Kev passed away on Wednesday 17th June 2015, at the nursing home he resided in for the past few years.

Ex CPOWTR R29880. Joined the RAN on 12/3/1946. Ships and establishments he served in (in alphabetical order) are; Albatross, Anzac, Cerberus, Lonsdale, Melbourne, Melville, Nirimba, Penguin, Quickmatch, Sydney and Vengeance. He was discharged on 17/12/1968 with the rank of CPOWTR.

Kevin was awarded the AASM with Clasp Malaya, NGSM with clasp Malaya, UNSM Korea, ASM with clasps Korea and FESR, LS&GCM and the RAS Badge.

After discharge, he became Office Manager and later CEO of Naval Health Benefits from 16/1/1969 to 4/8/1988. He was Adelaide (as at 2007) and was an Honorary Member for Life of the RAN Writers Association.

Ex POWTR Chris Bales

It is also with much regret that we announce the passing of ex POWTR Chris Bales. Chris passed away in a London hospital. Regrettably we do not have a bio on Chris, but have asked his family for one. It will be in the next edition of the scribbler and eNews.

If we do not have a bio on you please compose one and get it to us.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

38th ANNUAL SYDNEY WRITERS LUNCHEON

11 Peter Wilson Street,
GLENWOOD NSW 2768

Telephone: 02 9359 4505 (WK) 0407 782 731 (M)

Planning is well underway for the Sydney Annual Luncheon. This is the 38th such event will again, after a couple of false starts, be held in the Illusions Bar, 2nd floor City of Sydney RSL Club on George Street on Friday 30th October, 2015 commencing at 1130. Partners are, as always, most welcome to attend.

We will host the Annual General Meeting of the RAN Writers Association at this gathering. This takes only a few minutes and provides an opportunity for our Sydney-based scribes to be part of what is happening in our National organisation. The luncheon will commence on conclusion.

A change of caterers at the RSL has seen a fair bit of looking for alternatives both food wise and cost wise. I have decided to stay with the RSL even though I must reluctantly raise the price this year to \$40.00 per head. This price will, as usual, include the meal, bread rolls, coffee, wine and orange juice when served at the luncheon table. The meals will, also as usual, be from a set menu served to alternate seats. The menu for this year is:

Mains: Pork Roast with chips and salad with Apple sauce and Gravy on side.

Alternate: Chicken schnitzel with chips and salad with Gravy on side.

And for dessert: Apple Berry Crumble

Please advise me of your intention to attend by calling me on one of the numbers listed above at any time, drop me a line or send an email. Owing to the need to secure firm catering arrangements with the caterer, we need payment no later than 25th October. Cheques or Money Orders can be made payable to the 'Sydney Writers Luncheon' and sent to the address above or an electronic transfer can be made to our Australian Defence Credit Union account BSB 642 170 our Account number is 667972. If this "bounces" use the alternative account number 100065517. Please don't forget to put your name in the comments box so that I know who it's from. Mark

Mark.Mobley1@defence.gov.au

markmobley@isp.net.au

GREAT SOUTHERN RAILWAYS

Advice has been received through the TPI Association that Great Southern Rail is in the process of being sold by its UK based owners, Serco Group PLC, to Australian owned Allegro Funds. The business of Great Southern Rail will continue to be developed with the change of ownership and specifically, no change to the entitlements of concession holders, including TPI's, will result from the change in ownership.

Also of note is the statement in the 2014 Federal Budget announcing that the funding for concessions on Great Southern Rail journeys will cease from 1 July 2016. This impact of the cessation of this concession beyond that date is still being assessed. All relevant stakeholders will be advised of the outcome once the impact for concession holders has been determined.

The TPI Association have further advised that this issue will be discussed at its next Committee meeting – more to follow!!

Hint – those planning to travel via Great Southern Rail to either Perth or Darwin may well need to do so before 1st July 2016.

DVA MEDICAL TREATMENT WHILST ON OVERSEAS TRAVEL

This article contains some relevant information and is not intended to be a complete guide. As it is a requirement to notify DVA of your intention to travel overseas. Before you leave you should seek their assistance and advise on benefits etc.

Q. Will DVA pay for medical treatment while I am overseas and what treatment expenses can be refunded by DVA ?

A. While you are overseas you will be eligible for treatment at DVA expense for your accepted disabilities only. The treatment needs to be the same as, or similar to, treatment and cost considered appropriate in Australia. Please contact DVA if you are unsure of your accepted disabilities.

Q. Can I still use my Gold or White Card when I am overseas?

A. No, your Gold or White Card can only be used within Australia. These cards are not accepted by health providers outside Australia.

Q. What happens if I cannot pay for my treatment while overseas?

A. If you cannot pay for treatment of an accepted disability whilst overseas contact the Australian High Commission, Embassy or Consulate in that country. Australian officials can contact DVA to arrange payment.

Q. Will DVA pay for my overseas vaccinations before I travel overseas?

A. DVA will pay for overseas travel vaccinations provided within Australia for Gold Card holders. It is important that you discuss your overseas travel plans with an approved medical practitioner to find out if any vaccinations are required prior to travelling overseas. Your doctor will need to seek prior approval for these vaccinations.

Q. Do I need to notify DVA before I go overseas?

A. Yes, it is a requirement to notify DVA of your intention to travel overseas before you leave so the Department can advise you of the arrangements for receiving medical treatment at DVA expense. Some DVA payments cease if you are out side Australia currently for more than 13 weeks and 6 weeks from 1 January 2013.

Q. Do I need overseas travel insurance?

A. This is a recommended private decision not a DVA requirement. Recent feedback has been that Tour Operators and overseas Hospitals have little or no idea of Australian Overseas arrangements with Health care in some European Countries. It is most essential that you take out travel insurance to cover you for treatment of non service related conditions should the need arise whilst you are overseas. While you are overseas, DVA only refunds for medical treatment for accepted disabilities. (Claim through Medical Expenses Privately Incurred)

Q. Do I need to advise the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade when I go overseas? (Again this is a recommended private decision not a DVA requirement)

A Yes, it is a good idea as the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) provide consular assistance to more than 20,000 Australian in difficulty overseas each year. Information from DFAT can be found at web www.smartraveller.gov.au or phone 1300 555 135 within Australia or 61 6261 3305 from overseas.

Q. Who else should I contact before going overseas?

A. Contact Medicare Australia to find out about the health care arrangements that are available to all Australians in other countries. The website is: www.medicareaustralia.gov.au

ATTENTION ALL GOLDEN SPARROW CREW:

It has been suggested to have a reunion of the Yarra crews in 2017. That gives us about 1.5 years to plan and organise it. Just as a suggestion we could have a duel Yarra III and Yarra IV reunions at the same time.

Anzac Day is on the Tuesday in 2017. The following could be a suggestion format:

Saturday – lunch meet and greet

Sunday – midday; GID visit including under the dry dock and Building 8 museum, PM; harbour Cruise for drinks/dinner

Monday – maybe Navy base visit(s) eg Watson, Waterhen, Penguin

Tuesday – Anzac Day March as/with Yarra association and then off to the Strand Hotel for our divisional meeting as per normal routine with city pub crawl after????

A highlight of the tours could be a tour over the current Yarra IV who I have been informed has a great crew and they are keeping up with her predecessors as being an achiever in the true Yarra reputation/name.

Well it is now being put out there I know myself it would be great to catch up with the blokes I served with and to meet those others who were before me and also to meet the Yarra Crew and the previous crews.

We do have a lot to celebrate being a foundation Ship of the RAN and a Ship carrying the name Yarra is the only RAN Ship to be presented with the Unit Citation of Gallantry.

Please let me know if you're interested so that we can get things moving

Ray Vidler

President

HMAS Yarra Association

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Mobile 0409 304 442

www.hmasyarra.org.au/

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