

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

IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO ALL MEMBERS

On Wednesday 26th August, the Treasurer [Knocker White] and myself had a very constructive meeting with ex-POWTR Matt Regan about the set-up and administration of the web site. The meeting went off very well with Matt showing us some of the web sites he has set up for various other organisations. I am happy to report that by the end of the year we will have a new look and user friendly web site to handle all our needs.

ANNUAL ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

Nominations are called for from all financial members of the association who would be willing to serve on the committee. All positions are normally declared vacant prior to the AGM. Nominations will be accepted up to Sunday 20th September 2015. The actual voting will take place from Monday 28th September and close on Friday 16th October 2015.

There are seven [7] positions on the committee: President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary and three [3] Committee persons. At present the Secretary's position is vacant due to the passing of Geoffrey Hardwick. We are hoping that the named position of web master will now be ex-officio and not a member of the committee.

If you are interested in nominating please email Shelagh Bell, at rasmbell@bigpond.net.au nominating the position you are interested in. General questions about the elections can be forwarded to Lew on 0412001636, or scribes@ranwriters.com. Shelagh Bell has volunteered to be the adjudicator for the election. All voting slips will be sent directly to her, NOT to the Association's Committee. Only the final result will be forwarded to the present committee after the voting closes. Nominations will close on 20th September 2015.

LOST SCRIBES

One of our old scribes came across these two ladies searching through old copies of navy news; Maureen Johnson and Jan Bartaska. Both were in the inter-service swim team for Navy. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of these two ladies we would be glad to receive the information.

Also making contact with us this month is Penny Bronar. Penny served from May 1989 to January 1994. Penny now resides in western NSW.

VALE

Ex-CPOWTR ROD WYMOND

Rod passed away in the west after a long illness. No further information is available as we do not have a bio on him.

EX-CPOWTR JOHN [JACK] CUMMINS R36548

Jack passed away on Thursday 20th August 2015. His bio is as below:

John was on Melbourne on the night of 10th February, 1964, the night of the collision with Voyager. John joined 9th September 1948. After Cerberus training he stayed at Cerberus until a posting 14th May 1952 to Sydney. He was promoted LS 1/7/1952 and two years later PO 1/7/1954 before posting to shore Kuttabal 22/8/1954. Followed by postings to Cerberus 18/10/1954, Lonsdale 26/4/1955 and then a sea posting Melbourne 11/10/1957. On the 22nd September 1958 saw him back in Lonsdale, and he was promoted to CPO 12th August 1960. A posting to Harman ensued 18/2/1961 until a sea posting to Melbourne 9/9/1963 eventuated. One year later saw him at Harman (4/9/1964) for two years until he was posted to Penguin (for Bangkok) 2/2/1966. Returned to Penguin 22/3/1967 and then to Harman 14/6/1967 before he discharged 8th September 1968.

Have we got your bio?

2017 SCRIBES REUNION - Melbourne

I have been informed by the Vice President, Marty Grogan, the organisation for the 2017 reunion is well in place. The final costings etc will be published in the new year, both through the web site and the Scribbler.

He confirmed to me that the reunion will be held in Melbourne "town" area. Due to the new security requirements that have been put in place in military establishments, including HMAS CERBERUS, it would be very [r] very difficult to organise for a group of people for any visit to CERBERUS.

Hopefully we will have the programme and costings in place early in the new year. The costings will also include accommodation options and costs.

ALL NAVY REUNION

Plans are underway for all Past and Present R.A.N. personnel to attend an ALL NAVY REUNION at Maroochydore QLD in October 2016. You are asked to express your interest in attending the event which will be hosted by the Naval Association of Australia's Maroochy Waters Sub Section. Events include a MEET and GREET, REMEMBRANCE DINNER, B-B-Q etc.

For further information please contact Sue Meehan email:
sue.meehan@me.com or Bill Hayward bloggshayward@yahoo.com

BRUCE HAMBOUR HELPS THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES WITH HUMANITARIAN WORK.

Hi guys, I have been out of action for some time. On 7th July I did one of my regular trips to the Philippines facilitating our church mission projects there where I conduct church leadership training; we feed over 2000 children every week, assist around 500 to attend school, run a children's home, and help set up micro businesses. We have a rice farm, 2 chicken farms, a pig farm and now looking at a goat farm. (Any goats interested). Unfortunately, on this last trip I picked up a gastric bug *Campylobacter Bacterial* that hit me the day I got home, which set off Guillain Barre Syndrome that damages the nervous system and attacks the body's immune and nervous system. As I became paralysed up to my upper chest and lungs I spent some time in Intensive care, just avoiding induced coma by hours when I stabilised. Presently still unable to stand but recovering slowly at Hamstead Rehabilitation Hospital and hope to be up and about in a few weeks. I have had plenty of time to focus on how valuable life is and how we should cherish every minute, our loved ones, and the good people we meet on our journey though life here on earth. God bless and I hope to join with you soon for a cold beer or two.

Bruce

I congratulate Bruce, on behalf of the association, on his humanitarian work. We hope he recovers quickly. Note to the SA crew - take it easy on him - well to start with anyway.

Bruce: I know you did not send this item in for fame or glory. [In fact you did not even send it to me!] I found it too good to pass up the chance to give you a B.Z. Congratulations, LEW

ANNOUNCEMENTS

In recognition of the service and sacrifice of members of the Far East Strategic Reserve Navy Association, Tuesday 13 October 2015, Western Courtyard Australian War Memorial

Commemorative address will be given by Vice Admiral Ray Griggs

FESR Navy Association (Australia) Inc.
(Far East Strategic Reserve)

“For Freedom We Served”

Royal Australian Navy - Post WW11 Malaya 1955-60 Malaysia 1964-66



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PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY TUESDAY 13TH OCTOBER 2015
AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL – CANBERRA, ACT.

Programme

Time: 1000 to 1200.

Meet at the War Memorial for a tour and viewing of the most recent FESR additions to the Honour Roll. If sufficient numbers register, a guide may be arranged. The AWM exhibits are constantly changing so unless you have been in the last two months then there should be something new for you to see.

Time: 1200 - Lunch at the café at own cost.

On completion - continue touring.

Time: 1350 - Assemble in the Western Courtyard for the Dedication.

Exact location will be confirmed in the coming months.

Time: 1400 - Dedication Ceremony

The precise format for this dedication ceremony is a work in progress by the AWM and full details will be provided when advised.

Time: 1440 - 1530 (approx)

On conclusion of Dedication Ceremony move to the Function Centre for refreshments and snacks (no cost). Please make yourself known to VIPs attending.

On completion of the Dedication Ceremony and refreshments members are invited to assemble and join together for camaraderie and friendship with their family and friends at the Ainslie Football Club from 1730 for drinks and a meal at own cost.

Where: Ainslie Football Club - 5 Angus Street Ainslie

Time: 1730

A MESSAGE FROM A WRITER WHO CAN ACTUALLY WRITE!

The following article by Dave Rickard recently appeared in the Vampire Association's quarterly newsletter and is re-printed here, partially because of its vague connection with a few of our Association members. As some of you would know, Dave's history in the RAN began ignominiously as an OD Stoker. His first sea posting to Vampire began with a trip Up Top. (The ship's office staff at the time included our President, Lew Horsfield, Bob Baird, Ian Dalglish and Ralf Dingle). Even though the voyage was enough to turn Dave off any aspirations of becoming a permanent member of the stokers branch, coming off watch each day, he often passed the open door of the ship's office. In doing so, he took note of the calm atmosphere within, especially observing chilled-out scribes Lew and Bob, diligently going about their tasks. That was it. There was no comparison between the scribbly world and a hot, noisy boiler room. Dave successfully changed branches and the rest is history as they say!"

The Duty-Free Dimple

It was way back in April, 1965. ORDSMN Dave Rickard was sitting in 2Echo Mess, filling out a chit to order his allowance of duty-free grog, prior to Vampire sailing for a deployment Up Top. At the time, three bottles was each individual's entitlement and one of Dave's selections was a Haig's Dimple Scotch Whisky. It wasn't that the 18-year-old was particularly partial to a nice drop of scotch. More importantly, the Dimple was the most expensive, so offered by far the biggest duty-free discount!

Dave's initial part-of-ship on this, his first sea draft, was Vampire's Quarterdeck. His first supervisor, A/POUW Mike Butler. Following two months of operations in SE Asia waters, the ship returned home and the purchases were duly issued to the sailors when they left the vessel on leave. Years passed by and both individuals' careers moved on, with Dave eventually retiring as a Petty Officer and Mike, a Lieutenant Commander.

As for the Dimple, fifty long years was about to roll by and the precious bottle of scotch still remained un-opened. It stood on the shelf without a special occasion arising; one that Dave thought would be appropriate to sample the aging drop. Eventually, its ancient age meant that it was now essential the scotch should not be opened until a very significant anniversary came up.

By 2015, the bottle of Dimple was fifty years old. In May, it was arranged that Dave, Mike and their spouses (and of course, the well-aged scotch) should get-together for a weekend in Mount Gambier. 'The Mount' is situated roughly halfway between Adelaide and Melbourne, cities where both, respectively, "swallowed the anchor," following their navy days. As it turned out, it was also around the time when Dave was expecting the arrival of two new grandchildren in the South Oz regional town. Consequently, there was no further excuse needed to finally open the bottle of scotch.

Significantly, it was that particular May weekend back in 1965, according to a journal Dave happened to have kept, that saw Vampire in the Philippines, anchored in hot, steamy Manila harbour. The journal recorded that on the day of the ship's arrival, Dave and Mike were part of Duty Watch. ORDSMN Rickard spent most of his watch helping to wash down and paint the ship's side from Vampire's whaler. PO Butler on the other hand, found himself coxswain and learning to drive a landing craft, borrowed from the US Navy, to ferry liberty-men back and forth between the ship and Manila.

So, appropriately, it was on the same weekend, exactly fifty years on, that the Haig's Dimple Scotch Whisky finally had its seal removed and received its first breath of fresh air. A hearty toast was made by all in attendance to a pair of new grandchildren and in particular, an old Daring class destroyer, to be eternally held in fond regard by both ex-matelots.

And as for the scotch - a smooth, superb drop it turned out to be as well.....

One undeniably worth the absurdly drawn-out wait.



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