

The Scribbler

Volume 1, Issue 1

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www.ranwriters.com

The Web Site

The web site has been running for over two years now and the amount of items on the web site is building up.

For those without internet access, why not try your local library or friends that have access – we are sure you will appreciate the site.

What's on the site?

A brief list of items on the site is as follows:

- a. The latest newsletter
- b. Roll call – list of all known writers, living, deceased and missing. If you have information on anybody please let us know.
- c. Writers index – A biography for Writers. We are attempting to build up a biography of writers services. If you would like to provide us with a brief history of your service please send it to us. This will make interesting reading in years to come.
- d. Photo Gallery – Photos received from Writers which might bring back memories.
- e. Canberra Reunion – Photos galore of Writers that attended the reunion and more to come.
- f. Adelaide reunion – we will be updating this site as more information comes to hand from the Adelaide committee.
- g. Writers Classes – we have been able to build up a list of initial writers classes and advanced writers courses over the years. If you have any interesting items for the web site – please send it to us either via email to: scribes@ranwriters.com
or to: PO Box 5020 Chisholm ACT 2905

The National Writers Committee:

Now the first National Writers reunion is over, the Canberra reunion committee has reorganised itself to become the RAN Writers Central committee. We have set up this committee to provide help, both moral and monetary for future National and local area reunions.

We will continue to update the web page, send out newsletters and maintain a central database of Writers.

The committee consists of: Lew Horsfield Shelagh Bell Terry McHarry Denis Lyons Gerry Anesbury

Writers Reunion An Outstanding Success

By Lew Horsfield. Ex – CPOWTR.
Chairman of Organising Committee, RAN Writers Reunion 2002.

To sum up – To all those who missed it – You missed the event of the year. Not only was the reunion 'Great', Canberra turned on its best weather for weeks.

Friday 4th October 2002 – Registration was not due to start until 1800 hours, but so keen were those who were attending to get together we had to commence proceedings at 1600. By 1800 over 400 brave souls had assembled at the Rydges Lakeside Hotel, and the Gab Fest Began. Thank God for Name Badges!

It was wonderful to see so many Scribes assemble for this their first, and I hope of many to come, National reunions. The Gab Fest proved to be a very

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popular event, as it allowed people to mix and renew friendships, some of which had been in limbo for periods of 10 to 20 years. Thus the remark "Thank God for Name Badges", as I am sure I had not changed all that much but some of my old friends had. – Why is that so? One partner of an ex-Writer who never had anything to do with the Navy before, made the remark "How come you people who have not seen each other for so many years – can pick up and have a conversation with each other like you had been in touch with each other only last week.

It would appear that Rydges had underestimated what they would need for a "Sailors" event as they only put on three Barmen behind one bar, at 1600. By 1800 the house was running two bars and a staff of about ten Barmen. We managed to these people hopping until about 2200, when the more adventurous of those who could still talk straight, or were using the age old language of "Left Handed Braille" proceeded to one of the other bars, where they, according to reports received, kept the people occupied until 0230.

Saturday the main event was the Dinner Dance, at which RADM K Scarce and Mrs. Scarce were guests of honor. The RAN Band from Victoria provided the music for the night and as usual they really showed the attendees just how professional the RAN Band has become in all aspects of entertainment. This was the first time quite a few of those attending have had the opportunity to hear what the "Modern" RAN Band has achieved. All agreed it was the highlight of the weekend.

An ex Writer well known for his "off beat" and 'clever" sense of humor had agreed to be Emcee for the night – Mr. Pat McGeown, and he certainly kept everyone amused whenever the band took their break

On Sunday, at 1015 a good turn up of the "Fitter" members attended the Navy Memorial Service at the Navy Memorial on Anzac

Parade, Canberra. By "fitter" members I must say that fifteen of those were ex Wran Writers, including one aged 70 plus a few years, who showed she could still put the left foot forward in time to the drum beat. A Wreath was laid on behalf of all departed Writers by Mr. Keith Smith – representing WW2 Veterans, Mr. Brian Cairns – representing Korean Veterans, Mr. John Robinson representing Gulf War Veterans and my self representing "Confrontation" and Vietnam Veterans.

After the Memorial Service the venue to "Be Seen At" was the BBQ at the HMAS HARMAN Junior Sailors Social Club. Once again the weather was perfect, and lots of stories again came to the front reliving memories of days gone by in the Club. Quite a few Ex Wrans were able to visit their "Old" Cabins thus making the trip back to HARMAN even more memorable.

To all Serving Members – please come onboard and support us. In some ways I was a bit disappointed with the response from those in Uniform. This is not just a lot of oldies getting together, we are trying to get a real Organisation together, so when your time comes to make the break from the Service you will have at least one group that will be around for you to keep in contact with and meet up with old friends that possibly you have not seen for years.

The next reunion is scheduled for October 2005, and the venue will be South Australia. Keep an eye on the Web Page – <http://www.ranwriters.com> for further information, as there is sure to be quite a few "local" events before the next National Reunion.

For Sale:
Key rings from the Canberra reunion which are available for purchase at \$3.00 inc postage.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

IF YOU ARE HOLDING A LOCAL WRITERS REUNION – OR ANY NAVY REUNION - LET US KNOW AND WE WILL PUBLISH THE DETAILS

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE: CANBERRA

TIME: FEBRUARY 2002

ACT Writers and family - BBQ

SPECIAL EVENT

PLACE: ADELAIDE

TIME: 2005

National writer's reunion – Start planning now to attend.

Treasurers Report: - Terry McHarry

At the reunion, and later on in emails and on the “Notice Board” section of the web site, there were many comments saying “I don’t know how they did it for \$60 per head”. I must admit there were many occasions when I believed we had seriously underestimated our financial expectations and thought we might run into some trouble.

Fortunately we had anticipated we might have some problems and hoped we had overcome the ‘problem’ when stipulating that all original \$10.00 deposits would be non-refundable. Hindsight is a wonderful teacher, and I would recommend that any future function be not run on such a ‘tight’ budget.

In summary we received income from Sponsorships, Memorabilia & Attendees at the reunion.

The total income was \$34596.77

The outgoings included

Dinner/dance etc. \$15029.00, BBQ \$4995.00, Purchase of memorabilia items/prizes \$10928.65, plus

Other incidental items such as stationery, stamps and other postage, website maintenance, deposit to “Adelaide reunion 2005” and bank charges brought our total outgoings to \$32780.79

Accounts still to be completed total approximately \$919.00 which leaves the newly named “RAN Writers Central Committee” with working funds of \$896.98.

There is also some stock on hand – Keyrings, Wine & Spirit Glasses & Shoe Bags – which are all available for sale.

Terry McHarry Honorary Treasurer

Snippets

We have been receiving a number of old photos that are being scanned and placed on the web site.

For instance last week Les Roberts provided an old photo of the scribes course 22 July 1965. On that course were De Bakker, Gleaves, Fuller, Benfield, Rice, Roberts, Venaglia, and now departed Graham Parry.

Heard from Jamie Paterson who on the Writers ‘40’ course. He transferred over to UCSM and paid off in 1995

Pat McGeown, says when he was in DSP he put a little (1) on the EDP form which meant that Dino Dowling came out on the posting note as POWTRSM. It was a great little joke. Little did I realize it effected everything else. In time Dino came out as number 1 on the roster for CPOWTRSM - and was the only one on it. - he felt quite proud of it though.

VALE

EX- CPOWTR GRAHAM AUSTIN PARRY

6th April 1944 – 10th November 2002

On Friday 15th November, Les Roberts [Ex Classmate], Vic Venaglia [Ex Classmate] and Wife, Denis ‘Tiger’ Lyons [Best man for his wedding to Margaret] and wife Susan, Paddy O’Brien, Geoffrey Hardwick, Don Spender and Lew Horsfield attended the Thanksgiving and Remembrance Service for Graham, at the Goulburn Police Academy Chapel

It was quite a large crowd, and he was accorded full police honors at the Service, which included an escort of a cross section of the members of the Academy and muffled drums as the cortège moved off. The Goulburn RSL Club Sub Branch conducted a RSL Service during the Service. We passed to them the “Sailors Ode”, which they read.

Lew Horsfield was invited to be one of the Pall Bearers for Graham, which he accepted on behalf of all members of the Writer Branch. We also sent a Floral Arrangement on behalf of all of us.

Although we were not lucky enough to have Graham at the Reunion in October, Lew can still vividly remember the last words he said about 3 weeks before the Reunion. “Lew – I suppose I should give the 4 wheel drive club outing a miss on the long weekend and come to the Writers

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