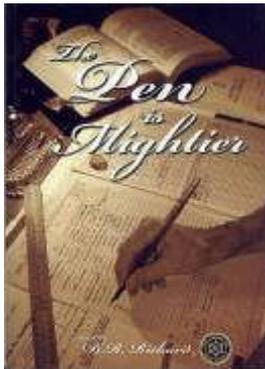


The Scribbler

August 2008 Issue 20
RAN Writers Association - PO Box 5020 Chisholm ACT 2905
Email: scribes@ranwriters.com
Our web site: www.ranwriters.com
Patron: Commodore Robert Wayne Richards, RAN
RAN Head of Navy Supply Community



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We heard from **Jurgen Brandner**, he married **Tracey Ann Dalton**, 27 years ago and is still married to Tracey. They live in a small town called Narrogin in WA and welcome any visitors.

This issue contains shortened versions of biographies received from 'Scribes'. The full version can be found on our web site under biographies.

31st Annual Sydney Writers Reunion Luncheon

When: Friday 19th September, 2008 Starting 11.30am

Where: Illusions Bar, 2nd floor Club City Central (formerly known as City of Sydney RSL Club) on George Street.

The luncheon will commence at approximately 1300 and partners are welcome to attend. The cost is \$30.00 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.



If you are attending please advise by calling Mark Mobley on one of these numbers: 02 9624 4842 (H)0407 782 731 (M) 02 9359 2912 (W) Or email Mark at: Mark.Mobley1@defence.gov.au or markmobley@isp.net.au

Owing to the need to secure firm catering arrangements, we need payment no later than 12th September. Cheque or Money Order can be made payable to the 'Sydney Writer's Reunion' and sent to: 22 Maughan Street, Lalor Park NSW 2147: or Electronic transfer to ADCU BSB 802 397 AC/No 667972. Please put your name in the comments box to identify payment.

Leonard Arthur "Len" Hoffmann died 24 May 2008. Len joined



the RAN on the 18th December 1950. P/N 39757. He went to *Cerberus* for his Wtr training. On 6th October 1951 he was posted to *Harman* and promoted LSWTR 1st July 1954. Posting to *Sydney* on 23rd August 1954. Moreton 12th October 1955. Back to *Cerberus* 8th November 1956 where he was promoted POWTR 10th May 1957. The following year he was posted to *Quickmatch* (1st July 1958) and had subsequent postings to *Penguin* (26/3/59), *Harman* (27/6/59) and then *Anzac* 23rd June 1961 where he was promoted to CPOWTR 9th February 1962. He posted to *Kuttabul* 1st February 1963 and then *Moreton* 10th August 1964. Len was promoted to SBLT 5th February 1966 and was *Cerberus* bound for the Officer indoctrination course. He had subsequent postings to *Melbourne* (14/3/67), *Albatross* (30/1/67) and *Lonsdale* for DMD. He was promoted to LEUT 1st April 1969.

Andrew Murray Shannon contacted us and advised his P/N was R50871 and he joined the RAN in 13 March 1955 in Sydney for six years then carried on through the RAFR, RANER and RANR. Rank on discharge POWTR.

Stephen Daws' writes With an interest in ships and trains, I joined the Navy from Adelaide in January 69 and travelled to Perth by train to join the 26th JR intake at LEEUWIN Throughout 12 months recruit training, bonding with colleagues was critical to survival. Made it to CPOWTR then LCDR before paying off after 23 years in '91.



Some reflections: LEEUWIN - Proof that adversity breeds character. MELBOURNE (aircraft carrier) - Sea training. Visited 6 countries during a South East Asian (SEA) deployment aged 17 - matured quickly, but didn't like live testing of gas masks on the Hong Kong wharf. CERBERUS - Best Cerberus postings were Accounts (LS) and Supply School (SBLT). VAMPIRE - Recommissioning crew in '71. Deployed to NZ and SEA. In frigid conditions, I discovered that 3 mouthfuls of pussers curry soup thoroughly eliminates chills. ENCOUNTER - Recruiting at home in Adelaide was my happiest posting. HARMAN -POWTR in Science & Technology was interesting and then PERSO at HARMAN was magic. Final posting was Integrated Logistic Support Manager for the Seahawk project when the aircraft flew in the first Gulf War, and we couldn't get spares out of the USA. Inspires creativity. DERWENT - Being a CPO at sea is the ultimate. Sailing the Indian Ocean with 21 bags of quick drying cement stuck to the hull is unsettling. WATERHEN - Small establishments with small boats is personable. Was OOD when WOLLONGONG ran aground, with worried relatives to pacify. CANBERRA - DSO, deployed again and liked being a helicopter control officer. CRESWELL - Heaven on earth. Spent 3 years as DSO and College staff.

Loban, Frances Lorraine

W86431. Deceased 16/6/2008 in Cairns. Aged 58.
Joined 4/11/1966 for 4 years and posted *Cerberus* on entry.
Posted *Penguin* 19/8/1967, *Harman* 26/9/1967, *Kuttambul*
5/10/1967 and *Penguin* 17/1/1969.

Russell Wayne Houston says I enlisted as a recruit writer on the 28th July 1976. My first posting as a writer was to HMAS



LONDSDALE in 1977 to work with a young POWTR Brian Eagles. I believe that I am responsible for Brian's demeanor as I recall vividly an episode with the Commanding Officer and myself. Brian said that I could call him Brian in the office whilst working together. One day in 1977 I was taking some files to the CO and he asked where the Sec. was. I

replied that Brian was not in the office at the moment. The CO (CMDR McGowan) said when Brian returned to the office would he be so kind as to see him. I passed this on to Brian when he returned to the office. Brian went to see the CO and a few minutes later my life changed forever. Brian returned from the CO and briefed me on the etiquette of rank and privilege. Needless to say I always referred to Brian via his rank from then on.

In 1982 I made my way to NO Canberra for the Record and Training Employment Office. Later in 82 I was transferred to the Personal Services Offices Canberra and worked for CPOWTR Terry Wigney. Lunch time was a haze then as I discovered Manny's underground tavern only steps away from the PSO. Needless to say I never drove the work car in the afternoon. 1983 joined *Kimbla*. Great little ship, wore no uniform and only had eight hours sleep a day, what I got at night was extra. The skipper of the KIMBLA was a gentleman by the name of Allan Vidler (LCDR) known as whispers Vidler. I thought this odd as he was an old time gunnery officer. The skipper loved to tell jokes from his chair on the bridge however his voice would drop off during the joke to a whisper. During one of these story times I remember listening to the Skipper's story on the bridge and laughing at the punch line, problem was he had not finished the tale and had only taken a breath before delivering the punch line. Moral of the story is to wait till the Skipper starts laughing before you do.

1987 and I was promoted to POWTR and posted to the Directorate of Naval Supply Services (DNSS) and worked with the likes of LEUT Andy Hamilton and former WOWTR Paddy O'Brien. In July 89 I was fortunate to return to my home town Geelong in the Recruiting Office. This was a fun job involving lots of country travel and hotel stays

Promoted to CPOWTR in March 1993 and had a short stint as the Chief Clerk for the ADF war room. During 1994 I was asked to restructure the Writer's Branch from a peak of over 500 billets to around 270 overnight. Not a popular job however I did manage to disestablish my own billet in January 1996 and subsequently posted additional to Recruiting Geelong prior to my discharge in July 1996 and stayed as an active reservist.



Rusty Houston on a mountain top overlooking DILI in front of local children.

Christmas 1999 I had the opportunity for active service with Operation Warden (INTERFET). I had to complete styer rifle training with RAAF in DARWIN. After two days of training the RAAF chapies decided to change the combination of the armoury safe. With all our army rifles from Robertson sitting in the armoury the RAFFies closed the safe door and changed the combination. You guessed correctly, it did not open. No matter, I went back to Robertson Barracks without my rifle. I went to the Pre-departure training office, stood at the counter and with a strong loud voice stated that I no longer had my rifle. Well there was screaming and swearing, banging of furniture, red faced army types all around me. I quietly stated that the RAAF have my rifle and won't give it back as they have locked it away and could not open the armoury door. All good writers know that you change the combination of a safe with the door open.



Brian Gorrige recently informed us that he was awarded the AM back in 1999 – we have include him in our 'Hall of Fame' web page. His citation reads: "For exceptional service to the Royal Australian Navy and to the Australian Defence Force as the Naval Officer Commanding South Australia/Commanding Officer HMAS ENCOUNTER. and as the Director of Foreign Military Liaison and Visits, Defence Corporate Support." Full details of his citation are on the web site.

If your name is not on the web site send us a copy of your award and we will publish it.

Bruce D. Campbell Enlisted in Brisbane 25 January 1951 as a



Recruit Clerical, by train to Melbourne with about thirty other recruits, then bus to CERBERUS. The Women's Royal Australian Navy Service had been re-activated a few months earlier and our class was the first that included WRANS.

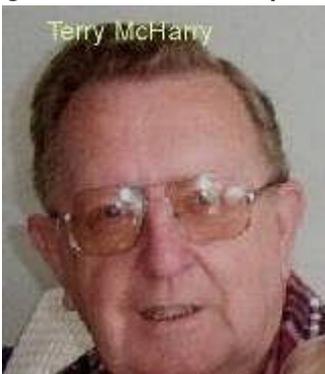
On completion of the course advanced to Writer II and drafted to CERBERUS (so much for joining the Navy and seeing the world) in the Captain's Office, Chris "Bernie" Sanders was the PO WTR. In June 1952 drafted to PENGUIN (Pay Office) - the good old days of ledgers. Fair ledger keeper to Jack Banner and later "Lofty" Bower, both POWTR's. In June 1953 for some inexplicable reason I was drafted to MORETON. There was no accommodation at MORETON, I had to find my own board and lodging for which I received the magnanimous amount of an extra five shillings a day. Advanced to Acting Leading Writer May 1954 and finally received a seagoing draft to ANZAC. One good thing out of my time in Brisbane was meeting a young lady who later became my wife - but that's another story.

Joined ANZAC in Sydney as a "B..A.. K.." thrown in at the deep end as Captain's Secretary to Commander G.J.B. Crabb, a very fast learning curve. LCDR O.G. Streeter was the Supply Officer and Jack Banner and John Pateena ran the pay and accounts. The ship was to sail for duty in Korean waters in October relieving ARUNTA, but this was cancelled ten days before our departure date due to a change in Government policy - there went the "qualifying service". The ship did visit Noumea, Singapore and Manila but prior to the formation of the FESR.

Joined RUSHCUTTER in August 1955 and WATSON April 1956, Captain's Office with Harry Bird as POWTR and Derek Smith LDGWTR. Advanced to A/POWTR February 1957. Drafted to MELBOURNE August 1958 (Pay Office) Reg Riddett CPOWTR, Nick Carter DSO and Lyn Betts SOCash. Strategic Reserve Service in 1959 (Woggie Watson's water buffalo incident) and back to RUSHCUTTER in July 1959. Drafted to *Albatross* in March 1960, and back into the Captain's Office. Myself and 'Haji' Barber and over a thousand Service Certificates. LCDR Reg Matthews was Captain's Secretary, Lindsay Webb CPOWTR. CDR Alan Lochland was the Supply Officer, often accompanied by his pet wombat. Supply and Secretariat Division won the Grand Final of the Depot Rugby competition in 1961. I was in the team and had a try disallowed. I never played again. Great celebrations in the Junior Rates "Wets" that night.

Advancement to CPOWTR in August 1961 and KUTTBUL in September 1961 as Captain's Secretary, relieving Neil Phillips. Charlie Bardwell, Gus Harris and Paddy O'Brien made up the staff. Drafted DERWENT 5 April 1964. LCDR Barry West was the Supply Officer and he insisted that I ran the pay and accounts section with Kevin Morris as my offsider. CDR R.C. Swan was in command and LDGWTR Alan Robinson handled the secretariat side, though I handled Requestmen and defaulters at the Captain's table. We were despatched in November 1964 at short notice (3 weeks) to join the Strategic Reserve in Singapore. DUCHESS was scheduled for this deployment but suffered exploding boilers. This was during the Indonesian Confrontation and the ship's company received the magic "qualifying service" - this was well before service with the FESR was recognised. On return drafted to CERBERUS June 1965, again Captain's Office.

Several weeks later when on a Friday afternoon I received a phone call from "Blue" Finlay asking if I would be interested in a draft to Navy Office in the Drafting Office. : "Yes please" was the reply I joined 17 September 1965. I relieved Phil Harris after a solid



turnover - Electrical, Communications and Bandies drafting. Terry McHarry(Left) was my very knowledgeable assistant. It was during this period that E.D.P. was being introduced with two forms, most used by our branch, AS161a and AS161b, replaced by twenty six forms - that's progress. At the same time ratings became sailors, rates became ranks and the term "draft or drafting" was changed to posting, and horror

of horrors, officers had a number attached to their name, and there weren't such terms as ABWTR or LSMNWTR (Bruce paid off in 1971 - and his history from 65 onwards is on the web site.)

Sadly my wife died in 1988 and for some years now I have been living with my daughter and family in my own semi detached unit. I have been a member of the Naval Association of Australia - Brisbane Sub Section - since 1996 and Secretary since 2001 and in March this year was elected State Secretary of the Queensland State Section of the Naval Association of Australia.

Did you know the words "Cross-dressing" refers to
"A Writer in action coveralls"

From "JACKSPEAK, A Guide to British Naval Slang and Usage" by Rick Jolly

HMAS SYDNEY WRITERS

With the recent finding of HMAS Sydney we thought that we would mention the Writers that perished on the 20th November 1941. Some of the Writers had served for a number of years and some just a few years.

CPOWTR Lionel William Whitfield DOB 2/9/1906 P/N 13438

Lionel joined as a Tingaria Boy II on the 23/2/1922 until 31/7/1923. He joined Cerberus as a Boy Writer 1/8/1923 until 3/9/1923. He then joined the RAN 2/9/1924. He joined HMAS Geranium (first RAN survey ship) on 4/9/1923 – 27/2/1925. Further service as follows: Penguin 28/2/1925 – 29/7/1926. Platypus 30/7/1927 – 15/8/1929. Penguin 16/8/1929 – 9/9/1929. Cerberus 10/9/1929 – 21/11/1930. Penguin 22/11/1930 – 13/11/1932. Cerberus 14/11/1932 – 19/10/1933. Canberra 9/9/1934 – 18/11/1935. Penguin 19/11/1935 – 19/4/1938. Cerberus 20/4/1938 – 1/09/1941. Sydney 2/9/1941 – 20/11/1941. He was promoted LDGWTR 2/3/1927. PO 9/9/1930 and CPO 9/9/1934.

POWTR Francis Xavier Mordaunt.

Francis joined Cerberus 15/4/1935 – 24/9/1935. Posted Penguin 25/9/1935 – 26/1/1939. Canberra 27/1/1939 – 12/5/1939. Australia 18/5/1939 – 19/6/1941. Sydney 20/6/1941 – 20/11/1941. He was promoted LDGWTR 1/2/1939 and PO 14/11/1939.

AB William Farcourt Stuart PM 212. DOB 17/8/1919

Joined 16/10/1939. Cerberus 16/10/1939 – 29/7/1941. Sydney 30/7/1941 – 20/11/1941

George Percival Reed PM 319 DOB 10/7/1921

Joined 28/11/1940. Lonsdale 28/11/1940 – 28/2/1941. Cerberus 01/3/1941 – 4/11/1941. Sydney 5/11/1941 – 20/11/1941

George Johnston W338 DOB 19/10/1908

Lonsdale 23/9/1940 – 19/10/1940. Cerberus 21/10/1941 9/9/1941. Sydney 10/9/1941 – 20/11/1941

Honorary Life Memberships - The Association does not have any criteria for nominating members for Honorary Life Membership. The committee have now approved a draft "Criteria and Procedures for Nominating Members for Life Membership" This can be found on our web site and we are requesting members for comment. This proposal will be put to the AGM in November for ratification.

Henderson, David Charles 'Chick' R44098. Deceased 21/6/2008. Chick joined the RAN 21/12/1950 at *Cerberus*. After initial training he was posted to *Cerberus* and then Warrego 11/5/1954, *Albatross* 9/5/1955 and was discharged 20/12/1956 DEE. He re-entered the RAN 22/3/1958 and posted *Cerberus* for WTR training and joined the *Melbourne* 28/7/1958 (Strategic Reserve time 28/3/1959 to 24/5/1959). He was posted to *Lonsdale* 18/8/1959, *Cerberus* 25/7/1960, *Melville* 23/8/1961, *Leeuwin* 1/12/1963 and *Moresby* 21/2/1964. *Albatross* 14/3/1966, *Tarangau* 8/1/1968 and *Penguin* 25/11/1969. He joined Stuart in 1972 and in approx 1975 joined FHQ in the Fleet Legal Office. He was Penguin canteen manager for some years. Promoted LSWTR 22/11/1956 on re-entry. POWTR 12/2/1960 and CPO 4/2/1966. WOWTR in the 70's.

Lindsay Lake says " I dropped in for a beer with **CPOWTR5 Paul "Blue" Walters** at *Penguin* on the 10 July 08, where Blue is currently serving as the Personnel Officer, for the Lunch time raffles. Harrison, my grandson (ABWTR Lynzey Lake's son), pulled out my raffle ticket for a six pack of Coopers stubbies. Blue won a nice looking meat tray also. Blue is moving into the CPOWTRs billet in the Pay/Accounts office in DEFPLAZA in Pitt Street in August 08. I spoke via email to **CPOWTR5 Stew Merrilies** (HMAS Melbourne) and he has finished his CFTS and has gone back home to Nanango, QLD with a bag full of Dollars for a well earned rest with his ball & chain."

45th REUNION OF NOVEMBER 63 MORAN DIVISION

To be held in Sydney Friday 28th November 2008. For details contact: Marty Grogan mgro4420@bigpond.net.au or mobile: 0417 377 763.

HMAS VENDETTA REUNION. An 'all crews' reunion for all who served on HMAS VENDETTA will be held in Brisbane from 24th to 26th April 2009. For further information contact: Bill Krause Phone: 07.3288.1702. Mobile: 0417.700.531 or send an email to: mkrause@bigpond.net.au

10th JRTE HMAS LEEUWIN INTAKE January 1965. Intend compiling a contact list for this intake, and, having an informal get together in Sydney later this year (2008). Point of contact is Dave Sutherland (ex - CPOSY 1965-1987.)

E-mail address: da.si.sutherland@bigpond.com

CPOWTR DAVID HANCOCK 1972 - 1993



Joined 28 August 1972 from Townsville and Eric Okley (POWTR) was the Recruiting Officer. I posted in 1973 to *Stuart* as an ORD and then to *Cerberus* for the WTR course and Woggie Watson was the instructor. In 1976 posted to *Vendetta* and worked with Charlie Sugden, Pete Sanders (& Best Man – later), Stew Merrilles, Paul Longley. SOs Darryl Sexton & Montgomery. We had six month deployment in South East Asia. Later in 1977 sent to *Brisbane* and joined the likes of Steve Rogers & Buck Buchanan, Frank Dekoning, Andy Seigman. 1978 saw me in *Harman* (NO) with John Halpin, Lindsay Lake, Deno, Saltmarsh, Dutchy – SO infamous Bernie Herringberg.

I married in 1980 to Gloria Hamilton (civilian). Sent to *Cairns* in 1981 at the old Base in Grafton Street and then commissioning the new patrol boat base with Geoff Locke, Paul Ferris, SO'S Les Roberts & Pete Jacobsen. 1983 HMAS LONSDALE – RMIT.

1984 to *Tobruk* with Andy Seigman, Paul Chilton (dropped the Pay Office keys overboard – accidentally) and SO Shalders. I was in NO in 1986 with Lindsay Lake and back to *Cairns* in 1988 I was the first Senior Sailor Cash Officer able to (and did) carry a float of > \$100K. Also with Tony Pearce's support to initiate direct deposit of pays (using *Flinders* as trial) – shortly afterwards, introduced into all Fremantle Class Patrol Boats and then all fleet seagoing sailors pay. 1991 *Penguin* and final posting and a most rewarding job. 1993 Decommissioned.

EX POWTR STEPHEN MACQUARIE FRIEND – R132212



I joined as a just 16yo JR on 6 Oct 82 to run away from school. After completing JR school (and my HSC in 9 months), I went to sunny *Cerberus* for WTR school and then to *Nirimba* for my 1st posting in Sep 82. After 2 years there being trained in all aspects of writing by the likes of McAndrews, Eagles, Russell, McAndie, Irwin & Biddle to name a few, I posted to SUCCESS Standby Crew working in exotic places like Zetland and Co-Dock.

After 6 months of setting up the ship's stores and initial registry, I swap posted onto COOK as the Pay / Accounts WTR for 14 months. This was my 1st sea posting and the 1st time the ship crossed the line. What a blast!! I then got sentenced to 18 months in Navy

Office and did penance in DNMP, DNOP and a little time at HARMAN. The opportunity presented itself for a posting to COONAWARRA in Aug 87 and how could you say no!!! In those days COONAWARRA was the "Gold" posting and the 2 years there were some of the best days in the mob.

Upon promotion to LSWTR in Aug 89, I left the then "Jewel in the Navy's Crown" and did 6 months at Kuttabul before being crash posted to TOBRUK. This was not a bad thing as I got to do the 75th Anniversary Gallipoli trip. What a run, the Seychelles, Egypt, Turkey, Greece and more, although I still think we still could have missed Karachi!!! Leaving TOBRUK in Jul 91, I ended up at WATSON under the guidance of James Cornell O'naca – a time I will never forget!!! Just short of 2 years doing the Gosford – Wato Bay treck daily, saw me win the job at the ADFWC at RAAF Williamstown. This was a tri-service unit which was an eye opener, but what a fun time. This gig ran for almost 3 years.

Promoted to POWTR out of ADFWC, I spent the next 3 ½ years at ALBATROSS doing time in both HS816 Sqn where I played Admino for 2 years and PSO Nowra where I did removals. Back to sea (of sorts) in May 99, when I went to KANIMBLA. It took until Dec 00 for the ship to let go the head rope, but the 14 nights I did at sea on it in the 20 months I were there were grand!!! Finally after 12 log years it was back to COONAWARRA where I was Perso until Jun 02, when the DFRDB thing won over and I paid off to go stay with defence, as a Public Servant in Darwin. I am still married to Michelle after 19 years and we have 4 lovely children.



We had a letter from **John Kindness** who says "he ran into Rocky Stone up in Qld a few weeks ago visiting his family. The biographies are a great source of enjoyment. You don't realise the history of these people. Even though you know them you don't realise the story behind them. I remember John Sherwood, we were together in the old Platypus. I can just picture him making that remark about Derek Smith. (John Sherwood told Derek, when he was about to sit an exam for Leading Writer, "Leading Writer? You? You'll never be a Leading Writer as long as your arse points to the ground!")"

It looks like Derek followed me to the Anzac – those bofors he speaks about were noisy. I now have 40% pension for hearing because of them!

Goodieson, Alex R47198



Joined the RAN on 17/03/1952 from the small country town of Red Cliffs in North West Victoria. Following basic training I joined Writers Course No. 10 with CPOWTR Shamus O'Brien as our instructor. Other members of the class were Bill Monaghan, Max Gillies, John Kindness, Frank Gribble, Ross Tilney, Brenda Barker and others. On completion of the course was posted to *Cerberus* (Accounts Office) and remained there until posted to *Nirimba* in July 1953.

Nirimba was then the Fleet Air Arm maintenance depot RANAMEB and my billet was fair ledger keeper to POWTR Tom Bourke. RANAMEB was transferred back to Nowra on 01/03/1955 (*Nirimba* decommissioned and subsequently recommissioned as the Apprentice Training Establishment), so it was back to *Cerberus* as a Writer in the Captain's Office for a short stint until posted to *Sydney* (Carrier) in June 1955 as the offsider to a true gentleman, Eddie Stokes, LTSDW, in the Personnel Office.

As a LWTR in Central Registry worked with POWTR Doug Pyers and WRAN WTR Cynthia Gregory. It was during this time I met and began courting my wife to be, WRAN WTR Esther Robertson who worked in the new recruits Service Certificate Office (Captain's Office 2) with LWTR Peter Samuels (Sammy). (1958 – 1966 can be read on the web site)

On promotion to Chief on 4/02/1966 took charge of the Section until 30/10/1966 when posted to *Melbourne* (Aircraft Carrier) in charge of the Pay Office.



Melbourne visited the usual Far East Asian ports and Japan and took part in the RIMPAC Exercise in Hawaii. Also before leaving *Melbourne* in December 1967 the ship went to the USA to collect the Navy's new Skyhawk and Tracker

aircraft and various munitions. It was hard work with all hands on deck while the stores were being loaded and secured, but the crew was adequately compensated with generous leave in the ports of San Diego, Norfolk Island, Los Angeles, San Francisco,

Vancouver (Canada) and Hawaii on the way home. My crew in



the Pay Office included such notables as POWTR Barry Clements and WTR's Mick Scully and Wog Watson. (left)

On 5/12/1967 I was back in my old seat in charge of the S & S Posting Section (we also still had the Fleet Air Arm, Medico's and Bandies) and remained until 17/10/1971. During this period there were several significant changes within the RAN. Service records of members were computerised.

About July 1971, being due for sea service, was asked if I would like to go to *Vampire* as the Captain's Secretary when the ship recommissioned later in the year, following her mid-life modernisation. The Secretary billet in the *Daring's* had been redesignated as a WOWTR billet in the planning arrangements and it was known that I would be promoted on the reintroduction of WO's into the RAN. Naturally the chance to serve in a *Daring* Class Destroyer again was quickly accepted.. Captain Geoffrey Woolrych, was the Captain designate and he subsequently proved to be an exceptional CO to work to. Joined *Lonsdale* on 18/10/1971 then *Vampire* on recommissioning 17 November and promoted to WO on 17/12/1971.

On 1/01/1972 it was a surprised to learn I had been awarded the British Empire Medal in the New Years Honours List. The citation read 'For outstanding service in the Royal Australian Navy particularly in the Sailors Posting Section in Navy Office.' While it was deeply humbling to receive the award I was well aware that ones success in almost any endeavour very much depended on the qualities and skills of the people around and assisting you. I remain forever indebted to all those who had worked with me as I consider their contribution over the years was instrumental in me receiving the award.

All was proceeding well in *Vampire* until April 1972. Advice was received that on further consideration in Navy Office, on the final allotments of WO billets. *Vampire* lost both her WO's, the Secretary and the WOCOYN. CPOWTR Brian Tucker was my replacement. In the latter part of 1972 was offered a 3 year secondment to the Dept of Defence to fill a billet in the newly established Defence Force Industrial Branch (DFIB). DFIB was

established by the Government of the day accepting recommendations of the Kerr/Woodward Inquiry, that such a branch be instituted and staffed jointly by officers at various rank levels from the three services on an equal basis with civilian officers, tasked with the responsibility of formulating Pay, Allowances and Conditions policy covering the three Armed Services.



I tendered my resignation 30/04/1976. I worked as a Parliamentary Officer in the House of Representatives for 15 years eventually retiring in 1991. In retirement much of Australia has been explored by 4WD and caravan, but with old

age telling this has been curtailed in the last few years. My greatest activity these days is playing lawn bowls which I enjoy. As a hobby I build radio controlled scale model ships and boats. This is my attempt at replicating the Daring Class Destroyer HMAS Vampire (as she was configured following modernisation in 1971).

Humphrey, Peter John Frederick

R 40821. Born 6/1/1926 Deceased 19/6/2008. John the Royal Navy on the 18/3/1943 and served until in the RN until the 25th July 1950 when he transferred to the RAN and joined the *Sydney*. John was a seaman. He joined *Leeuwin* 28/11/1950 an the *Warramunga* 11/12/1951, transferred to the *Arunta* 12/11/1952, *Penguin* 6/1/1953, *Leeuwin* 23/6/1953 and discharged BNPS 13/7/1953.

He re-entered the RAN as a Writer at *Leeuwin* 2/9/1956 and was posted to *Cerberus* for the Writer Cse 6/9/1956. Posted *Watson* 4/9/1956, *Fremantle* 26/7/1957, *Albatross* 15/10/1958, *Queenborough* 5/1/1959. From there he was posted to *Rushcutter* 21/3/1962, *Kuttabul* 5/12/1962, *Cerberus* 4/4/1963, *Huon* 2/7/1963, *Leeuwin* 25/7/1964, *Terror* 9/1/1966, *Penguin* 4/3/1967 and *Yarra* 28/12/1968. Retired 1974. Promoted ABWTR 1/2/1057, LSWTR 9/11/1958, PO 9/2/1962 and CPO 19/10/1966.

Old Ship HMAS Stalwart - Building 215

On 3 May 1990, in a ceremony held onboard, the ex-HMAS STALWART was handed over to her new owners, Sea Royal Ferries of Nicosia, at a sale price of \$A5.25 million. In a first for the RAN, STALWART was sold in a fully operational "as is, where is" condition, with the proceeds of the sale being returned to the Navy for future use. STALWART, now renamed Her Majesty



M, was used by her new owners, mainly in Mediterranean waters. On 19 February 2003 a ship named TARA II (formerly Her Majesty M) arrived at the ship breakers at Alang in India. This last voyage ended the life of an escort maintenance ship launched at Cockatoo Island in Sydney on 7 October 1966, and commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy as HMAS STALWART on 9 February 1968.



HMAS Moresby- Canberra Reunion – September 2009

" Junior" Allan J Watt Ex stoker is looking at having a reunion in Canberra next year. If you are interested in attending a *Moresby* reunion, contact Junior on 0266868324 or Mobile: 0428286405.

His email address is:

jakknco@bigpond.net.au

By editor: From our files we know some Writers that served on the *Moresby* and they may wish to contact 'Junior' if they are interested: BJ Tucker, Ollie Twist, Mike Boyd, Geoff Sinden, British Hardwick, John Blatchford, Phil Bottaro, Bert Kisnorbo, Rob McNeill, Andy Siegman, Lew Smith and Peter Young.

Contributions Required. We have over 1800 scribes on our books and we have published some 300 biographies. So if you have not sent yours in yet – how about putting pen to paper? Also any interesting anecdotes much appreciated – and don't forget those photos in the bottom drawer. How about you serving scribes with stories to tell and photos to publish?

David Keig When the call came from the Adelaide RSO to tell me that I was going in the First Intake of JR's in 1960 I couldn't imagine I would have his job some 13 years later!



Left - David's wedding day December 2007 with Judith and grand-daughter, Sienna.

Then came the long train ride across the Nullabor, sleeping in a luggage rack and learning the rudiments of poker from another future Scribe, John Trafford.

Leeuwin in 1960 was thought of by most of the JR's as a Stalag or POW camp - seemingly endless and senseless group punishments (doubling around the parade ground with rifle over head during the so called silent hours) that would never be accepted today, one miserable offender actually drummed out of the Service (he had a still built under his locker) with ribbons and flashes physically cut off his uniform by a Master-at-Arms at Divisions and muffled drums to accompany the slow march to the main gate. So the transition to a hammock at Cerberus and then the Supply School in the Winter of '61 was a mere walk in the park.

Warship *Diamantina* was the next step with a year spent on Indian Ocean transits to Singapore - a real eye opener for a rawbone seeing RN Cruisers at first hand, the finals of the heavyweight boxing championship of the Far East Fleet with Ron Coridas and Ray Lemon boxing, visiting the atomic bomb test site at Monte Bello and an Oceanographic Survey in what seemed to us like Antarctic waters. Being overflown by Indonesian MIG aircraft was scary as was eating the asbestos dust that accompanied any firing of the main "armament". Years later the system awarded an ASM and clasp FESR for this particular operation.

Postings to *Harman*, *Navy Office*, *Cerberus*, *Melville*, *Lonsdale*, *Cerberus* (again) and then Victoria Barracks in Melbourne were accompanied by promotion to Leading Writer in '64 and PO in '66 and facilitated the experience of working with some of the characters (& rogues) of the Branch - Snow Faulkner, Leo Kenshole, Boots Brittain, Wettex of football fame, Les Whelan, Kevin Simpson and the never to be forgotten Horsfield.

President Lew distinguished himself by falling asleep driving to Albury/Wodonga whilst at the wheel of his VW which promptly rolled over on the highway, waking his passenger (me) violently. I recall we put it back on its wheels and drove slowly but perhaps the story has dimmed in my memory! Promoted to Acting Sub Lieutenant SD SU W at the beginning of 1969.

And who could forget the introduction of Group Pay - the Victorian CIB advised that the Cerberus payroll was to be stolen by armed robbers and the pay office quadrangle was sandbagged and the Gunnery School provided machine guns and armed sentries for a couple of days. Not much fun doing rounds there at midnight I recall. A freezing (sailor) sentry with a weapon is a scary thought, especially in the depths of winter in country Victoria.

Melbourne was the next posting and once the Fleet Air Arm Squadrons were embarked, multi national (RIMPAC) exercises were conducted off Hawaii. A highlight of this posting was a unique fleet anchorage in Seeadler Harbour (Feb. '72) prior to going to Subic. Back to Cerberus and the Supply School, this time in a student seat for the Supply Charge Course before joining *Swan* as Supply Officer for some 18 months - a fabulous posting. *Swan* was deployed to Darwin as part of a Naval Task Force standing-by in the lead-up to the Indonesian invasion of East Timor and the ensuing massacre of Australian journalists in Balibo (Operation "LONGWISE"). After a transit to Singapore, *Swan* then took part in a combined RAN / RN fleet operation Exercise "SWIFT SWING" en route to Australia.

A posting to the staff of the Australian Naval Attache in Washington, DC as the FFG project was getting underway and ANA's staff looked after the ships companies undertaking training, many accompanied by their families.

ILS training, promotion to Lieutenant Commander & NO beckoned but after a short while, the potential for a new career outside of the military was appealing and eventually a role in admin. and logistics with oil & gas company SANTOS was secured. Some years later, handed out a shingle as a management consultant.

Service in HMAS Ships - We get numerous requests about service in ships/Yr/Rank. We are now compiling these details.. Our web site now has a section called 'Service'. We need your assistance: We need briefly your name: ship - date in - date out - rank whilst serving on that ship.

Robertson Harold Nelson ("Robbie") – ex-CPOWTR R17414.

Robbie enlisted in the RAN in 1926 figuring that since the "Great War" was over he would be a peace-time sailor and it would be a good career. Previously a farm hand in northern NSW, he enlisted from Nambucca Heads where his family was established. (His mother was a member of a prominent Nambucca Heads family).

Completing his initial training at *Cerberus* he completed 6 months training as an ORDWTR in MELBOURNE before returning to *Cerberus* where he was duly promoted to Writer in June 1927.



Posted to the RAN College he was promoted LWTR in December 1929 before taking up his posting in AUSTRALIA in mid 1930, after which he was returned to *Cerberus* before being promoted POWTR in April 1935.

He served in HMA Ships YARRA and SYDNEY prior to returning to shore at PENGUIN. In February 1939 he was standing by AUSTRALIA

and joined the ship in August 1939, where he stayed until September 1939 – being posted ashore on his promotion to CPOWTR. He then transferred to Darwin. He was there until April 1942, surviving the Japanese bombing of the port town and the general chaos which followed it.

After almost a year at LONSDALE he took passage to the UK to stand by SHROPSHIRE, soon to be commissioned into the RAN to replace the lost CANBERRA. He served in SHROPSHIRE until June 1944, leaving the ship in a maintenance period in Sydney after her active service in the Atlantic, Mediterranean, and Indian Ocean areas, and then in the South Pacific with Task Force 77 in the northern New Guinea and New Britain operations, including the seizure of the Admiralty Islands.

After service in other establishments, posted to *Torrens* in Port Adelaide and then in the Adelaide recruiting office, where he paid off August 1956. He settled in Adelaide and entered employment with the Bank of Adelaide (now a part of the ANZ Banking group), and retired from there some 15 years later. Robbie died in Adelaide in August 1986. Next edition we will have David Robertson's biography – Harold's son!

WRANS REUNION 2009

In 2009, the WRANS Sub-Section in South Australia will be hosting a reunion for all ex-WRANS and RAN Women from Thursday 23rd to Sunday 26th April. For more information send your details to wrans.reunion2009@yahoo.com.au



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The Scribbler



Stalwart in late 1989 probably on the way to Singapore. From left to right back row is: LSWTR Cunningham, POWTR Knocker White, LSWTR Smack Cokayne, LSWTR Pete Schultz, ABWTR Paddy O'Loughlin, ABWTR Yogie Whitehead, ABWTR Wilkinson. Front row left to right ABWTR John Richards, ABWTR B.J Shorter, ABWTR Ozzie Holzheimer.

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