

The Scribbler

November 2008 Issue 21
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Patron: Commodore Robert Wayne Richards, RAN
RAN Head of Navy Supply Community



Annual General Meeting and Annual Luncheon **Southern Cross Yacht Club Canberra**

We will be holding our Annual General Meeting followed by a luncheon on **Wednesday 19th November 2008**. All Writers serving or retired, and partners are invited to attend.

The AGM to commence at 1130 and will be completed by 1200. At midday, finger food will be served and the luncheon will commence at 12:30 PM.

Our Patron Commodore Robert Wayne Richards, RAN - Head of Supply Community will be attending the luncheon and has been invited to talk on current Supply issues in the RAN.

The cost is \$43 per person. Payment must be made prior the event. Payment may be made by cheque, money order, online transfer to our bank, Visa and MasterCard online (on our AGM page). If you have a query contact the Secretary Geoff (British) Hardwick on 0411 241 821.



Andrew Beales – His story

- Joined the RAN on 10 February 1981 and passed out of Supply School in August 1981 (instructor POWTR Mick Scully). First posting Penguin Pay Office (grew to hate Pay Office Summaries) with Craig Culshaw (LS) John Wade (AB) and Toni Lawrence (SWR) and Kim Beattie was

his first CPOWTR, after there posted to the mighty BAT (Vampire) after 12 months sent to HMAS COONAWARRA served with such

notables as Dutchy & Sue Van Wetering (maid of honour at my wedding), Wally Bowring, Rudi Suckhow, Scratch Boyd to name a few. After 3 years in Darwin he was then posted to the Bicentennial Directorate got promoted to LSWTR (1987) and joined the Accounts Office at HMAS PLATYPUS and had the pleasure of working for Morrie Jeppesson and then joined HMAS DARWIN (Jan 88) with CPOWTR Geoff Locke as COSEC.

Seatime completed he was forced to serve in HMAS MORETON (again with CPOWTR Geoff Locke and POWTR Angela Hillis) from Jan 90 to Jul 92. Jul92 to Oct95 saw both himself and family living and working in Papua New Guinea with the Australian Defence Staff-PNG whilst there he was provisionally promoted to POWTR in Dec93 substantively in Mar96. On returning from PNG posted to HMAS KUTTABUL Assistant PERSO with CPOWTR Brett Quinn (COSEC), WOWTR Ron Giveen (PERSO), POWTR Terry Hunter (PAY) and CPOWTR Kev Mus (ACCOUNTS). From KUTTABUL it was back to sea for the first time as COSEC onboard TOBRUK (Oct96-Jun98) with that finished he was posted to Harold E Holt and took the reins from CPOWTR Fiona Kearney (served with LSWTR Gayle McIntyre & POWTR Craig Grundy then both only ABWTR's).

Whilst in Exmouth had the misfortune of being there when Severe Tropical Cyclone Vance hit on 22 Mar 99 - the township was totally devastated (Craig Grundy has some excellent live footage). After spending 2 a half years in Exmouth he was posted to Cairns and relieved POWTR Terry Hunter(PERSO). Whilst in Cairns he did a stint in East Timor (actually relieved Terry Hunter in Dili who relieved him in Cairns - long story) in the ASNCE HQ and was present for the Independence Day Celebrations held throughout the country. Returned to Cairns and in Mar04 posted to the commissioning crew of HMAS BALLARAT (Andy Maskell as LSWTR) promoted to CPOWTR in Sep04. He left BALLARAT after spending nearly 3 years onboard which included a Gulf Deployment and was posted back to HMAS CAIRNS as PERSO (Jan07) relieving POWTR Keith McCrorie who in fact had relieved him when he was posted to BALLARAT.

Ex LSWTR Matthew Berry passed away on the 8 April 08. Matthew joined the Navy as a JR at Leeuwin in 1983, joined HMAS Kuttabal pay office then Canberra Office at Campbell Park in 1984 to mid 86 where he joined HMAS Sydney. 1989 worked at HMAS Huon in Hobart returned to Canberra in DSP for 1990-93 when he left the Navy and returned to Hobart Tasmania.

ABWTR Christopher McLennan onboard HMAS SIRIUS

currently working in Pay, Accounts & Personnel, Super SMET and FLIGHT DECK HERO says" When I told everyone at Fleet Support Unit-Perth that I was posting onto HMAS



SIRIUS," Are you Serious (pronounced SIRIUS)" was the standard reply. This seems to be the fleet joke, everyone knows it. Everyone knows SIRIUS too, the big grey ship that provides fuel to the rest of the fleet.



The 7th of July came around, and I was ready for my first posting to sea as a writer. My previous sea postings were as a pussers cook. I was used to tankers having served onboard the Ex-WESTRALIA for two years. Being a minimum manned ship, with a crew of 60, there are only two writers onboard. The POWTR's time is mainly taken up with COSEC duties. The ABWTR looks after pay, accounts and personnel. This is not as hard as it sounds; the Pay is managed by the ABWTR but is administered by HMAS STIRLING. Paperwork for accounts is compiled onboard but Leeuwin Barracks administers this for the ship. Everything for pay is scanned and emailed to the relevant personnel at STIRLING. Accounts are sent fleet mail to LEEUWIN.

The ABWTR also has other ancillary duties. I am getting ready for Replenishment at sea (Liquid) a four hour job. I am also one of the four SMETS onboard as well as Flight Deck Team. One minute you could be in the office and the next at a damage control exercise with multiple casualties, then off to the flight deck for a vertrep, quickly followed by RAS (L).

The accommodation onboard is, I would say, the best in the fleet. The most number of people in one mess is 8. The Senior Sailors have two berth cabins, the juniors either six or eight berth cabins. There is a TV in each mess, hooked up to the ships video system, two heads and showers, seats, and the new 'L' shaped rack. There is ample storage for all your uniforms and civvies. Even though I will only be onboard for 12 months, I am having the time of my life.



Jim (Gus) Harris is living at Unit 2, Norfolk Gdns, 113 Tuross Bvlde, Tuross Heads and his telephone number is 02 4473 9603. He welcomes anybody to pop in and see him or just give him a call and have chat with him.

Peter Sutton (below) sends us this story



“When I was a young ORDSMN (WTR) doing seetime in SUPPLY ('64/65) we were berthed at GI. In my cabin was Bruce Pollock and one ORDSMN (L) Slim Peters. In the cabin aft of us were three other ORDs one of whom was another ORD (Greenie) - Tug Wilson. For some reason Tug and Slim had been ashore having a good go at the demon drink and while coming back onboard by taxi, somehow got involved in an

argument with someone standing at the traffic lights around the corner from The Bells hotel in Woolloomooloo.

Something stuck in Slim's craw over the exchange and after he had collected his short leave card from the QM on SUPPLY he decided he was going to go back ashore and leap out the bod he had been arguing with. Tug tried to talk him out of it but to no avail.

So Tug had a brainwave. He would tap Slim on the shoulder and when Slim turned around, Tug would hang a bunch of fives on him, render him unfit for anything but sleep and Tug would then carry Slim down to his cabin, put him to bed and in the morning Slim would thank him.

The execution of this brilliant plan was like the best laid plans of mice and men. Tug taps Slim on the shoulder, Slim turns around. Tug clocks Slim but misses the mark, hitting Slim full in the mouth, smashing his front teeth. Bruce and I were woken by this screaming madman (Slim) trying to kick in the door to Tug's cabin. Tug had pushed his locker and other things behind his cabin door, so Slim could not get it open. Slim had been chasing Tug all over the ship screaming revenge (with much profanities) until Tug had gained the sanctuary of his cabin. We (Bruce and I) eventually got Slim to bed where he sobbed himself to sleep with pain and frustration. Their relationship was pretty frosty after that.”



After **Len Hoffman's** death, Linda Lee his daughter wrote us a letter and part of the letter says "As a result of the email that you sent to all your members, my Mum has had many phone calls from all around Australia and overseas. She has received letters from around the world from people who had served with Dad over the years. The letters were full of 'Navy' stories, fond memories and kind words. Dad was so proud of his navy days and would be tickled pink' to think that so many people remembered him. (What a pity he wasn't here to read the letters and receive the phone calls himself!!) He had a very good memory and was forever telling the Grandchildren all about the Navy.

Had dad have known about your Association, website and the 'Scribbler' I'm sure he would have

taken a keen interest. I have been visiting your website with interest and I think it's fantastic. Even though Dad was very sick over the past few years, those navy stories kept on coming. He loved reminiscing about the past."

Kathryn Spurling's new book entitled *Cruel Conflict: the triumph and tragedy of HMAS Perth I.* is now available in bookshops. The *New Holland* RRP is \$24.95. Kathryn would be happy to have any feedback at kspurling@grapevine.net.au.

John Kindness found the list of Writer Class 10 – Jun-Oct 1952. To some readers these names might bring back memories. Alex Goodieson, Max Gillies (deceased), Bill Monaghan, Frank Gribble, Ron Hall, Garth Crawford, Glen Jones, Joe Tierney, Bill Baker, Kel Presland and John Kindness. On this course were the following WRANS: Kim McGory, Frankie Graham, Brenda Barker, Ursula Uren, Meg McCormack and Dot Baker. There were four more females that he cannot recall.

The instructors on this course were CPOWTR E J Langworthy who was promoted and his place taken by CPOWTR S O'Brien.

Those underlined we don't know where they are. If you know of their whereabouts please let us know.



Robert John (Bob) Hardy passed away 14th September 2008 at Yass. Had been battling complications arising from liver cirrhosis for a number of months.

Lew's (The Pres) Report for November 2008.

I have now visited all mainland states on this trip to the Reunion and back to B.D.T.J. We learnt that the locals of WA like to tell you the W.A. stands for Wait Awhile.

In company with Denis Benfield and Trevor Plymin I attended both services for Anzac Day in Busselton. Most enjoyable day, with the locals telling us it was the biggest crowds for both events [Dawn Service and the march] for years. Beer O'clock did not come around until 1600.

Have managed to catch up with a few old Scribes on the trip so far; these include Geoff Curran in Mandurah, tried to make contact



with Brian 'Scruff' Williams, but he was out working, Lan Jenkins in Capel, and Bruce Kelman in Esperance where I presented Bruce with a certificate of appreciation for the work he had done for the Perth reunion. Also met Lew Farkas in Wycliffe Well [The UFO Sighting Capital of Australia]. Lew has

a very nice Van and Cabin park at Wycliffe Well, and if you are passing that area, drop in and say G'day. He has a lot of material that you can read about UFO's. In Townsville I caught up with Big Judy Eagles, Lindsay Klem and Dave Hancock. Rockhampton it was Peter Swindell and Scott Mackie. Bundaberg I caught up with Ken Sinnamon, and Graham and Marilyn Dennis. Beachmere it was Neil Churches. Murwillumbah it was Brian Wedlock's turn

If you can help out in any way with the past history of members, that have passed away, so we can publish it please forward the information to us. We are trying to build this information up.

I am a bit disappointed with the numbers attending our organised functions. As I have said on many occasions, our strength lies in your hands. The Sydney Lunch was attended by 8 who live in Sydney. The rest 12, were members who traveled from "out of town"

John Gill joined as a JR in July 1977. He completed Basic Writer Course Oct 1978, promoted ABWTR Oct 1979, LSWTR Apr 1982, POWTR Sep 1987, SBLT Jun 1994, LEUT Jun 1997 and transferred to RANR Oct 1998. Promoted LCDR RANR Jan 2008. Served on *Flinders* (1980-82) and *Tobruk* (1986-87) Shore postings *Leeuwin* (1977-78), *Cerberus* (1978, 1988, 1995), *Harman* (1978-79, 1982-84, 1987-88, 1992-98), *Watson* (1979-80), *Creswell* (1980, 1994), *Albatross* (1984-86, 1991), DRFC BRISBANE (1988-90).

Probably best known as a Scribe for having been posted to DSP/DSCM Promotion Cell as SMNWTR, LSWTR and POWTR.

More infamous as Manager - Navy Uniforms (as RAN, RANR and APS) for the last 13 years. Married to Sharon for last 13 years, have a daughter and son (twins); Lachlan and Riley, now 9 years old.

After changing over to officer in 1994, found himself working in the Navy Uniforms Section as a spare hand and then was posted there in 1995 as a SBLT. In 1998 was invited by (then CAPT, now RADM) Boyd Robinson to pay off and apply for the newly created APS position. Sometimes you get what you ask for and I'm still here, although He is now looking to do some CFTS this year!

Kenneth Leslie Smith 125442



*"Provided for the guidance of wise men and
the blind obedience of fools . . ."
. . . (an early version of JSP(AS)102)*

I remember visiting the Melbourne Recruiting Office in 1978 as a 15 year old, and speaking with POWTR Crossley about joining the Navy. He asked me what sort of job I wanted, to which I replied, "well . . . your job would be good". He wrote 'Writer' on my application form. Well, 22 years of service and I never actually made it to a Recruiting Office despite ticking that box on my PE42 on every occasion.

I am a Whelan-trained Writer, along with the famous Rod St. George, Wayne Riordan, fellow JRs Dale Wiese, Damien Roberts, and others. We were released to practise our Writer wizardry in March 1980 I think it was, and my first posting was DSP. I worked for Sue Finch and Norm Leaney in the Communicators Cell (section 6). It was a good first posting for me – I learned a lot. Poor old Norm though, Sue and I both smoked and Norm was such a health

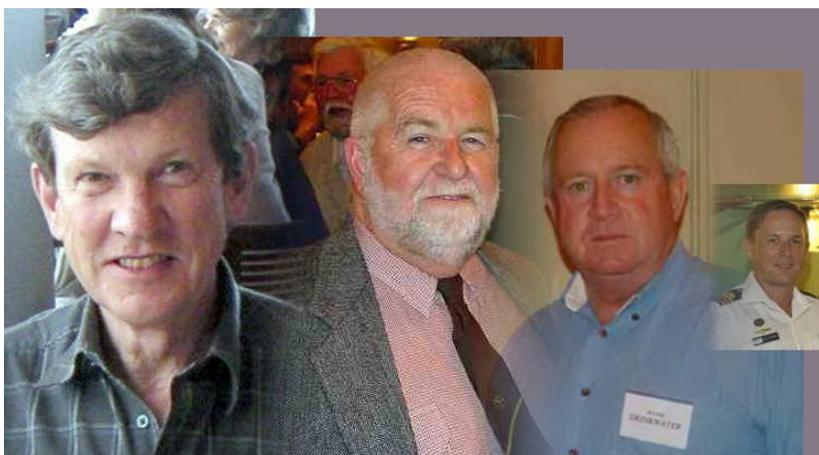
fanatic. He really didn't like the smoke filled cubicle (it was a rather small office), but it was fairly common in those days. There were quite a few good scribes there in 1980 – in no particular order – the living legend Pat McGeown of course, Mick Devenish, Terry Wigney, Casper Healey, Kevin Radnidge, Graeme Campbell, Amanda Parkinson (what a hunny), and many others of course. Pat McGeown asked me where I wanted to be posted to after DSP – I asked for LONSDALE, and blow me down if I didn't find myself at LONSDALE. Young SMNWTR Smith posted to relieve the then LSWTR Steve Salmon in the Pay Office. Great job – great team. Col Bray, Andy Thomas, Rus Houston, Mick Boyd, and Kipper Houghton (he was in town somewhere - RTF?) I wasn't there very long, but long enough to become reasonably proficient in the newly introduced Interim Navy Pay System (INPS). So when I joined SWAN in April 1981, JJ Nash put me in the Pay seat. Pete Johnston was my LSWTR and Steve Flockton was the other AB. Later, Steve left and Bill Tannock joined us. Did some great trips in SWAN – had a ball – all before my 20th birthday. Actually, one of the funniest things to have happened to me was in 1982 while in Hawaii. Along with JJ Nash, and Jonno (I think Bill Tannock may have been there too), I was caught climbing the fence between Pearl Naval Base and Hickham Airforce Base. You see to go from one to the other is a rather long taxi ride, but if you just climb the fence, they're real close. Well, we had been shopping at the Hickham PX and then got caught literally 'mid-fence'. The MPs confiscated our ID cards and drove us back to our ship (saved a taxi fare I guess). The next day, our ID Cards were given to the QM in an envelope addressed 'Commanding Officer HMAS SWAN', and promptly delivered by the Bosuns Mate to the Ship's Office. Inside the envelope was a letter explaining how we had been bad boys, and our ID Cards. Of course JJ just opened up the envelope, read the letter, threw it in the bin and dealt out the ID cards. "It's nice being the Secretary" he said, and of course this had nothing to do with the Captain.

After SWAN, I headed north to COONAWARRA, where I met up again with Kipper (once again, he was in town somewhere – Naval Headquarters?) I worked for Rocky Rochford (right) in Pay and Accounts, and I recall the first day in the office. I was looking out of the Pay Office windows admiring the gardens and just taking in my new surrounds. Referring to the tropically clad gardeners,



with their casual attire and wide brim straw hats, I casually commented, "That's the life hey". Rocky, as quick as a flash, responded, "Well, we will see how you shape up – you might join them yet". Well, I didn't so I guess I met Rocky's standard. Also in Darwin I met and had some pretty good times with Rudi Suckow, Radar (Dave) Ryan, Ned Sparkes, Andy Beales, Daryl Branford, Steve Manley, Danny Colgan, Swampy (Shane) Marsh, Kathy Leonard and others. I was promoted to LS while at CONAWARRA and I also attended and passed an officer selection board. I left Darwin in August 1984 bound for life as a Midshipman at the Naval College. A couple of other fellow scribes were at the College also – Ken Gardiner, and Angie Klumpp. Angie and I were of about the same seniority, so with our Non Reduction Allowance, we were equal second highest paid MIDs at the College, and we used to make sure they all knew it ...haha

My career as an officer added another 16 years to my 6 years as a Writer. Obviously as a Supply Officer I came across many more Writers who looked after me as I progressed my career. How can I ever forget Wally Bowring? My Writer onboard FLINDERS – nearly lost Wally!! He was dripping wet in his overalls, been treading water for about 8 hours. It had just gone sunset, and Wally says to me "I heard you have some typing for me to do Sir". What does one say to that? I just said "It's OK Wally, I'll do it, you can have the rest of the night off". Angie Hillis, and Wayne Swadling while I was at MORETON, Mark Worrall at DNSC helped me a lot, John Cadman at MNLS, Dawn Kearn and Petra Fry at DSUP-N, Tony Palmer and Brad Golder were absolute professionals while onboard HOBART, and were a pleasure to work with. All of



these people assisted me and were very supportive. I also came across many ex Writers like Les Roberts, Paddy O'Brien Kev Drinkwater, Kel Turner, (All left) Dave Speight, Brian Eagles, Phil Griffiths, Paul Breen, , Ted Brown,

Ian Kelly, and Ken Wanklyn, who had either retired from the Navy or transferred to officer. Many of them also assisted me in one way or another. I officially retired in 2001 as a LCDR GLSU Q+, although I actually walked out the door in 1999. My final posting was as Supply Officer HMAS HOBART, and my retirement

present was the Supply Department winning, not only the coveted Silver Platter Award for culinary excellence, but also the Supply Excellence Award, for overall Supply proficiency. I believe it was the very first time in history, that a ship had received both awards in the same year. It was a nice way to leave the Service.

Immediately upon leaving the Navy, I took up employment within my own IT Company in Canberra. After three years building that business, I moved to Queensland and established a small citrus farm, and wholesale Palm Nursery – tree change time. I really loved it, but unfortunately, even though my wife had initiated the move, she didn't enjoy it, so our marriage of 20 years ended (as they sometimes do). I thought to myself, how can a man live on his \$750 a fortnight Navy Pension? It took me a couple of years to work it out, but I finally came up with a solution that seems to work well. I found myself a young Filipino beauty and moved to the Philippines. I moved there in 2007 and I quite like it. My \$1600 a month is well above the national average (for information, 25% of the nation receives less than \$1.50 a week . . .) So I live quite luxuriously, have an unbelievable wife who keeps me busy, ride a motor bike (must get a license one day), and I'm actually doing things I want to do.

Fifty years of Junior Recruits.

A group of like-minded men have taken up the challenge and formed a committee to ensure that a reunion is held at Leeuwin Barracks (HMAS Leeuwin) in the West, to recognise this major occasion :-

The 50th Anniversary of the commencement of Junior Recruits Training Scheme (13th July 1960). This invitation is extended to JR's of all Intakes, Divisional Staff, Academic Instructors and Office Staff. We are starting this project now to give everyone plenty of time to organise and plan their holidays around this very special and once in a lifetime event. We are all now part of a special group of men in Naval history and the Committee invites you to share in this celebration. We have a website so please log in. The address is: - www.jrsreunion.org

The survivors of HMAS VOYAGER are holding a reunion to mark the 45th anniversary of the sinking on the weekend of 6th-8th February 2009 at Huskisson NSW. ALL WELCOME
For further information contact: Brenda Hannay phone: 02.9649.5477 or email: brenjohn@tpg.com.au

We heard from **Jo Free (nee Pfeifer)** who paid off in August 1997 and would love to hear from anyone that remembers her and would like to make contact. (Email/mail the association and we will forward the mail on to her).

She says joined the RAN in Sept 86 (GE27), and did the Basic Writers Course in Jan-May 87 (Writers 18). Went to Navy Office where I started at DNMP (Naval Manning Policy), then moved across to CNS and worked for VADM MacDougall. Promoted to LS and moved downstairs to Accounts. Moved to Albatross in Jan 93 and worked in Accounts again, then ran the Admin Office at AWSC (Air Warfare Systems Centre) where I had lots of goes on the helicopter simulators - lots of fun. Moved up to Coonawarra in 1996, did Advanced Writer training and was promoted to PO, worked in Facilities at Coonawarra. Went on mat leave and paid off in August 97.

Weekly Pay Scales 1965 – For those that remember £ s d
In 1967 we converted to \$'s.

The exchange rate was 1 pound (£) = 2 dollars. Thus, 10 shillings (s) became 1 dollar and 1 shilling became 10 cents. There were 12 pennies to a shilling which equaled 10 cents and 1p = 1cent 2p=2c 3p=2c 4p=4c 5p=5c 6p=5c 7p=6c 8p=7c 9 & 10p = 8c 11p =9c.

For instance a CPO 'living out married' with 8 yr increment received \$68.80 a fortnight in 1965 or \$1,793 per annum (Before Tax). Compare this with today's rates on the next page.

	Living in Unmarried	Living out Unmarried	Living in or out Married
	£ s p	£ s p	£ s p
Ordinary Rate	16 16 0	20 7 9	22 11 6
Able Seaman	18 18 0	22 9 9	24 13 6
After 2 years	19 1 6	22 13 3	24 17 0
After 4 years	19 4 5	22 16 2	24 19 11
After 6 years	19 7 11	22 19 8	25 3 5
After 8 years	19 10 10	23 2 7	25 6 4
Leading Seaman	21 9 4	25 1 1	27 4 10
After 2 years	21 14 7	25 6 4	27 10 1
After 4 years	21 19 10	25 11 7	27 15 4
Petty Officer	24 5 4	27 17 1	30 0 10
After 2 years	24 10 7	28 2 4	30 6 1
After 4 years	24 15 10	28 7 7	30 11 4
After 6 years	25 1 1	28 12 10	30 16 7
Chief Petty Officer	27 11 3	31 3 0	33 6 9
After 2 years	27 16 6	31 8 3	33 12 0
After 4 years	28 1 9	31 13 6	33 17 3
After 6 years	28 7 0	31 18 9	34 2 6
After 8 years	28 12 3	32 4 0	34 7 9

TODAY. The Writers are paid in a pay grade. **To achieve this pay grade you must have completed the following:**

Grade 1	Sailors who have successfully completed Initial Writer Course.
Grade 2	Sailors who have completed work experience journal (ABs).
Grade 3	Sailors who have completed work experience journal (LS).
Grade 4	Sailors who have successfully completed Professional Qualification for PO.
	Sailors who have completed LSWTR PDP1—Pay Administration.
	Sailors who have completed LSWTR PDP2—Financial conditions of Service.
	Sailors who have completed LSWTR PDP3—Personal Administration.
Grade 5	Sailors who have successfully completed Commanding Officer's Secretary PJT
After you have digested the above then look at the current pay rates below	

Annual salary rate for pay group (August 2008)

Navy	Incre- ment	1	2	3	4	5
Chief Petty Officer	2	\$57,921	\$59,409	\$60,308	\$62,510	\$64,713
	1	\$57,346	\$58,822	\$59,707	\$61,909	\$64,112
	0	\$56,201	\$57,648	\$58,520	\$60,722	\$62,924
Petty Officer	2	\$49,082	\$50,358	\$51,632	\$53,834	\$56,037
	1	\$48,600	\$49,861	\$51,124	\$53,326	\$55,528
	0	\$47,630	\$48,863	\$50,102	\$52,305	\$54,507
Leading Seaman	2	\$42,751	\$44,457	\$46,165	\$48,368	\$50,570
	1	\$42,327	\$44,020	\$45,707	\$47,909	\$50,112
	0	\$41,481	\$43,139	\$44,798	\$47,000	\$49,203
Able Seaman	0	\$37,379	\$39,423	\$41,467	\$43,669	\$45,871
Seaman	0	\$36,658	\$38,662	\$40,666	\$42,869	\$45,071

Missing Writers: We have recently added some 200 names to the missing list. These were obtained from Course Lists. A lot of the names we have are SURNAMENES only, now we need first names, or Christian names. We would appreciate YOUR help. If you can supply the Christian names of your fellow Course members, and or whereabouts of them we would appreciate that. Please check the missing list on our web site.



The following verse written by **Geoff Carden** on 4th May 1942 whilst serving in PNG is published in recognition of his services in the war and as a Writer. He was awarded the DSM. You can read more on his career on the web site.

The War Comes To Moresby

You've heard of our heaven in Moresby,
Of the slashing good times we have had,
But now you will hear the long story,
Of Hirosho Bushido the Cad.

We all got up nice bright and early
With dehore to greet the new day,
When the B.B.C. Bloke did inform us
That the Blighter was well on the way.

The Government said with decision,
The women and children go first,
But we being not in the fashion,
Just developed a hell of a thirst.

So they came from the Eastward and Westward,
With offspring and gee gaws and such,
In fact there was such a commotion,
That the general said "this is Tobruch".

And H.C.R. said in the panic,
I say! Oh dear me! Bad show what!
While the boys all dug trenches with gusto,
And even drank beer while 'twas hot.

Now Rexy the Rascal heaved sandbags
And tied himself up in a knot,
While through the long days and the evenings,
We grumbled and groaned "Lieber Gott".

The Coders grew all hot and bothered,
The old man developed a stoop,
The General grew grim and forbidding,
Whilst the R.A.A.F. did a ground spin and loop.

Then a bloke, one Serisier Major,
Did decree that as such was the case,
Everyone in the place must do service,
Unless he's a medical case.

So they caught all the civvies in irons
And lee bowed the lot in one tack,
So that try as they might to escape it,
They all got well caught and hauled back.

The Bloke who is known as Ivan,
(He's now a Sub Lieut of some fame),
Gave his velocity pede to the master,
Never expecting to see it again.

But the Master held views somewhat different,
But he knew not what fate had in store,
For whilst working ensconced in his office
It was pinched from the jolly front door.

And he cried out in anger - so frothy
"No.1 this is too much for me",
He used a bad word it was "bloody",
And we laughed - how we laughed - Oh dear me.

Then he sat down and wrote out a signal,
-Breathing fire - indeed he was hot -
To the R.A.A.F. and the dear Major General
Though its results weren't a terrible lot.

For he sighted his car the next morning,
In the hands of a young Army Lieut,
Who claimed it belonged to his corporal,
But methinks it was some of his loot.

But the highlight of all was the salvage
Of two hundred odd cases of beer,
The Army said "dump it and finish",
But with wisdom we said "no damn fear".

So we loaded and loaded and loaded,
And against a long thirst did ensure,
While the Army have learnt to their sorrow,
That they leapt without looking before.

For this Major aforesaid Serisier,
Declared "I can't see the why
We shouldn't get more guns and no beer"
And that's how the Army went dry.

For a teetotaller staunch was this Major,
And he just didn't give a slight jot,
If the boys worked from sunrise till sunset,
And went to bed minus their pot.

Then the bright little Jap got quite cheeky,
And came over to put on a show,
We got dragged out of bed in bright moonlight,
And at us their bombs they did throw.

Now one of the boys was non compis,
As drunk as a lord - boy was he
But when he came out of his burrow,
None would know he had been on a spree.

Then some bright spark wrote in a paper,
They certainly told the lies well,
That we cheered and stood outside to watch it.
Did we? Like Blue Blazing Hell.

So the Office was moved out to "Wonga",
Away from the front line you know,
But we savvied too much and misjudged it
And now have front stalls for the show.

So now we live out in the country,
Our heaven has gone with the wind,
But we still see the side that is funny,
And are still nice and staunch on our pins.

CPOWTR Wes Intihar - I joined the Navy from Geelong on 20/09/1983 at the age of 17. After completing my Recruit training



I commenced my Initial Writers course in Jan 84 with POWTR Steve Salmon as my instructor. At the beginning of 86, I was posted to NOPO and initially worked in the Accounts Office with POWTR Morrie Johnston and LSWTR Robert 'Bomber' Browne.

I joined *Darwin* in Dec 86 to commence my first see draft under CPOWTR J.J. 'Bomber' Atkinson and later CPOWTR Geoff Locke. My Leading Writers during my time onboard were Pete Liversley and Andy Beales with my partner in crime, ABWTR Gavin Calderwood. On promotion to

LSWTR in Jul 88 I remained on *Darwin* for a further three months before joining MHQ Registry. Joined *Parramatta* (DE46) in Mar 89 under CPOWTR Mark Bartolo. My favourite posting. Spent 15 months out of 20 months 'Up Top', decommissioned *Parramatta* in Jan 91 and remained for a further three months as part of the unfortunately named 'Retard Party'. I still suffer to this day in being in this poorly named group.

In Apr 91 I joined *Waterhen* working for CPOWTR Liz Budek and later CPOWTR Ron Giveen, and POWTR Derek Pratt. I also met my wife, ABWTR Ann-Maree Paterson (nee Carter) during this period. On promotion to POWTR in Aug 93, I was posted to *Watson* and in Oct 94 back to *Cerberus* as a Recruit School instructor. After three years at Recruit School, moved to the Personnel Office and worked with WOWTRs Leigh Doak and Geoff Kenley.

Jan 2000 saw me posted to *Warramunga* as the commissioning COSEC. I also had the good fortune of having LSWTR Marc Henderson and ABWTR Andy Maskell as my Writer staff. On Jul 02, I returned *Cerberus* as a category school instructor at the Supply School teaching Initial Writers the finer art of being writers. It was during my time at the School that I completed 20 years in the RAN, and Steve Salmon was still on hand to tell me to get my hands out of my pockets. On promotion to CPOWTR, I took up the position of Staff Officer Personnel at *Cerberus* in Jan 04. In Nov 04 I was posted to *Anzac* prior to it commencing Operation Northern Trident 05 which saw the ship travel to the Mediterranean, Gallipoli for 90th anniversary, Europe and South Africa. In Jul 06, I returned to Supply School as the Course Implementation Officer at Writer Training.

Robertson, David ("Robbo") – ex-POWTR R93575.



Joined JRTE (*Leeuwin*) in the 4th intake of JR's, January 1962. I was selected in the first group of Topmen to undertake further educational studies as a prelude to possible officer selection and training. That went OK for a few months, but somewhere along the way I realised that this wasn't for me. Not long after that I was sprung writing my own leave passes and that was the end of that. Removed from the course and sent to *Cerberus* to do my Writer course in August 1963.

On completion of that was posted to *Harman*, where I stayed until April 1964 before joining *Stuart* – then in refit at Cockatoo

Island Dockyard in Sydney. At that time *Stuart* was engaged in Ikara trials and when we did get back to sea we had a full complement of boffins on board to evaluate and maintain the Ikara systems. Known as the "grey ghost of the east coast" the ship was up and down the east coast of Australia, calling in to places as exotic as Eden and the mouth of the Hawkesbury, and a host of other places where the last thing the locals would expect to see in their bay was a warship.

We eventually had to actually test the missile so off to Fairfax Island Queensland we sailed. After some firings and shock and vibration trials headed back to Sydney for a period of maintenance, and my next posting – Fleet Headquarters on Garden Island. What a place that was! Old building at the end of the island, people crammed in where-ever there was space to spare. I remember the communications room was in the basement, and could only be accessed by leaving the building by the back door and re-entering via the basement door. The troops' locker room was down there too.

After MELBOURNE, the next step was the Garden Island EDP terminal, with Andy Hamilton, Russ Leavy, Alan Axford, Gary Cheney, Al Fraser, et al. LEUT Harry Watson, a communicator, was the Area EDP Officer at that time. Paid off 1973.

Since then I have done a few things – joined the WA Police Force in 1975 while I was studying for my computing degree at what is now Curtin University of Technology. Having finished my studies, resigned from the Police and pursued a career in computing, where I stayed until only a few years ago. Still working, but will retire about 2011 and hopefully find some part-time or volunteer work to keep the mind and body active (apart from having to do all the neglected chores around the house!).

Grahame Stewart says "I joined *Leeuwin* 6th January 1969, the 26th Intake of JR's In those days, we got \$10.00 fortnight "payment" and the rest was banked for us. I remember quite distinctly leaving Adelaide railway station, parents tearfully waving goodbye.

Having served my time in *Leeuwin*, when it came time to be categorized, the board said I was useless as an electrician, and even worse at mechanics, so they gave me my first request "Writer" second preference Survey Recorder...vast difference.

I joined *Sydney* in Garden Island, and learnt how to sling a hammock for the first time. As with a lot of ex JR's we went

on a quick trip up north , then I was posted to *Cerberus* for Writer training. From *Cerberus*, I was posted to the Pay Office *Albatross*. I remember a young Suby called Wally Walzac,. From *Albatross*, I joined *Torrens* (under punishment) on a Sunday night, and sailed for JB for two weeks, then on to Hawaii for Rimpac.

From *Torrens*, I was posted to *Lonsdale*, and after a quick stint in the Pay Office was posted to Vic Barracks for the NHBS. I was promoted to LSWTR, and subsequently posted to *Parramatta*, in dry dock Williamstown, then after a work up we set sail up north. During this time I was promoted to P/POWTR and when my time was up, was posted to *Cerberus*, where I did my advanced WTR course. I was then transferred to the Old Supply School, whilst the new one was being built. I remember the day of commissioning the new school, we were told we had to attend. "Accompanied" and if we did not have a wife, one would be provided for us.

Unfortunately my demise come rather quickly. I drank too much too often, and was discharged "Unsuitable by Temperament" in August 1979. Something I have regretted to this day. I have not included any names that I very remember, at the risk of missing someone out. But for those who knew me, I remember you all fondly. I really enjoyed my short years in the branch.

I started at GM as a store person, and went to night school, and now part of the supply management team. I am married and have 8 kids, and am expecting my 10th grandchild next month. So if anyone who reads these bios and ever wondered what happened to me, I am alive, well, sober, and looking forward to retirement

Edward Charles (Ned) STEVENS passed away 15.10.2008

Ned was in the RANR. He was mobilised for service and reported for duty on 23 June 1941 as a writer with seniority 31 May 1941. He joined Rushcutter on entry until 1st December 1942 joining Penguin. On 1st January 1943 he was posted to Kuttabul, and then Platypus on 18th March 1943. Promoted LSWTR 1st June 1944. Further postings were Kuttabul 19 January 1945, Penguin 6 October 1945 and then Morton 10 October 1945. Joined Manoora 20 October 1945 until 25 June 1946 when he posted to Rushcutter for discharge on 10 July 1946. O/N S5620.

We heard that **Kevin Whiteway** is now in Kenya. "Kenya" Kev has accepted a 2 year contract as General Manager of South Africa rail and is trying to fix up an ailing rail system.

Sea Service: Our web site is building up a list of who served at sea whilst they served – we have found some 71 ships that Writers served on. We would like your assistance in filling in many gaps, check the web site out. Writers we know that served on the following two ships are below, if you served and your name is missing let us know:

HMAS Stuart II

DE 48 Commissioned: 28/6/1963 - Decommissioned: 26/7/1991

Name	Date Joined	Date Departed	Rank
Dawe, Ron	12/03/1965	27/09/1965	ORD
Geiger, John	22/05/1966	13/02/1967	CPO
Wilson, Kevin	08/02/1967	06/09/1967	ORD
Hardwick, Geoff	16/5/1968	8/11/1969	LS
Henderson, 'Chick'	1972	1975	CPO
Plymin, Trevor	12/1973	06/1975	LS
Kinnear, Greg	14/07/1975	01/01/1977	AB

HMAS Perth II - D38

Commissioned: 17/07/1965 Decommissioned: 15/10/1999

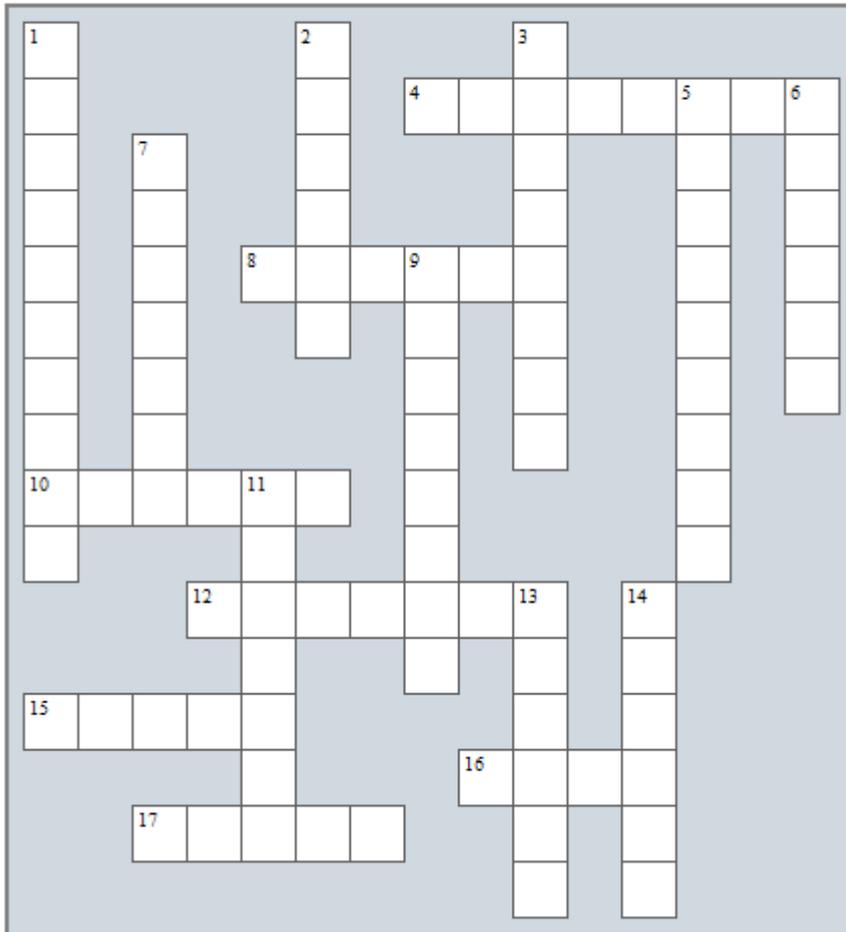
Name	Date Joined	Date Departed	Rank
Dalglish, Ron	10/07/1966	30/07/1967	PO
Moy, John	27/07/1967	10/07/1969	PO
Merrilees, Stewart	11/04/1968	20/06/1968	ORD

"The Pen is Mightier" The Biography is now on sale. Price \$29 inc Postage. Collection of autobiographies, biographies of the RAN Writers from the time prior to WWII to the present day.

Please supply copy of "The Pen is Mightier" @ \$29 Inc p&p		
Full Name		
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State	Post Code	
(Please make cheque/money order payable to RAN Writers Association		
If paying by MasterCard or Visa complete the following details		
Please charge my Credit Card: <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa		
Card Number:		
Cardholder Name:		Expiry Date:
Signature		
Forward to P.O. Box 5020 Chisholm ACT 2905		

The Crossword

Scribbler Issue 21



All the answers can be found in this issue.

Across

4. Head of the Supply Community 2008
8. Bruce was awarded a certificate of appreciation recently
10. Ex CPO living in Tuross Heads
12. Served on Manoora 1945
15. Only did 6 years as WTR before promotion to Officer
16. Works as Manager Navy Uniforms
17. Passed away recently in Hobart

Down

1. Instructor of the Writer 10 Course 1952
2. Only WTR to be awarded the DSM
3. Was a pussers cook before becoming a WTR
5. Joined Stuart in 1964 prior to refit in Cockatoo
6. ORDWTR that did seetime HMAS Supply 1964-65
7. Jo Free's maiden name
9. The Pen is ?
11. Joined the Navy from Geelong
13. The serious ship
14. Served in HMAS Moreton 1990-92