



From the Supply Community Bulletin

At the latest SAC meeting, LCDR Craig and LCDR Thompson presented an overview of the WTR Category Review including the proposed role and responsibilities for the WTR Category.

The WTR Category Review was undertaken to identify the needs of the uniformed WTR category to determine how it could best meet the Navy and the ADF requirements to 2018. The Review took into account the future operational environments and known, emerging and speculative technologies and trends such as distant support that may influence capabilities, platforms and processes used by Defence beyond 2010.

The WTR specialisation currently delivers most of the functional and transactional elements of personnel administration at sea. Increased automation, improvements to connectivity at sea and the empowerment of the individual customer will reduce the amount of routine personnel administration expected to be undertaken. However there is a requirement for the maintenance of the human interface at the Unit level and an enduring requirement for a unit level subject matter expert able to provide advice, particularly with regards to the more complex Personnel issues.

Three options were presented to the SAC with the preferred option having WTRs become HR and personnel management specialists by removing the lower level transactional processes. This involves increasing automation and distance support for MFUs by eliminating, transforming or moving ashore some administrative and personnel transactions. This option provides capacity for MFU WTRs to develop higher personnel management skills and provide greater levels of support and advice to the CO and customer service to members.

This new direction is also consistent with the Strategic Reform Program (SRP) and New Generation Navy (NGN).

It is envisaged that the future WTR will require skills and knowledge in many of the traditional personnel administration and management functional areas, however tailored to meet Navy requirements.

Future WTRs will be more focused on:

- Advising Command on complex matters of personnel management and administrative law;
- Advising and providing information to the sailor and CO as decision maker;
- Researching and interpreting personnel policies and regulations, conditions of service determinations, entitlements policies etc;
- Auditing and quality assurance of data;
- Maintaining and interrogating HR and administrative ICT systems and producing reports to support the CO's command personnel responsibilities;
- Providing a shopfront customer service function for members as the first contact outside of the divisional chain for personnel issues;
- Assisting members to understand policies and entitlements;
- Being the SME on policies, processes and systems for most personnel management and administration functions, entitlements and conditions of service; and
- Being the reach-back point of contact onboard for the CO and member by tracking and coordinating personnel related queries, actions and approvals and liaising with shore support agencies.

A project team led by CMDR Tim French. RANR has been established to develop a project plan and commence implementation.

Writer Category – Statistics

Early this year there were 15 Writers on CFTS in a range of sea and shore positions. In addition there were also 11 other CFTS Writers employed in non Writer positions. These reserve sailors are undertaking very important tasks in filling positions that otherwise could not be filled.

We heard from:

Gus de Bakker who would like to make contact with scribes from his era. He can be contacted on 0417679725.

Tom Hardie says whilst **Dave Jordan** and I were at Albatross I was Commander (S)'s driver and he had a FC Holden allocated to him. I had to pick him up at the Wardroom each weekday morning and then drop him off there each night. Once when I was travelling down to the Pay Office without Commander (S) I spied Dave walking down to the Pay Office and pulled up and offered him a lift. I said "Jump in the front" Dave said "No I'll jump in the back and take the salutes" If my memory serves me right Dave got at least some salutes during the short journey. Dave always had a dry sense of humour.

Terry Thomas (stoker) looking for an old writer shipmate of his named Max Sharples. Last time he saw him was in 1965 on the Sydney. It was rumoured he may have been in a car crash some years ago. If anybody has information please contact us.

Judith McMullen (Ex LWRWTR) had postings from 1975 to 1985 at *Huon* where she started and then a posting to Navy Office (DDNPS), *Huon* recruiting to *Penguin*, Navy Office, CPSO Perth, SPDO at Darwin, *Penguin* again as pusser to CPSO and then *Albatross* when she paid off as a LSWTR. Served 10 years and says she had a ball. She would love to hear from anyone who has heard of her, especially from the Writers from her time including 'Megee' who adopted her black cat. Her email address is: judymcmullen@bigpond.com

We heard that **Hillary Rushton** (nee Williams) Ex – CPOWTR is now living in NSW. She joined the WRANS on 11NOV74 and discharged on 09AUG98. Completed Basis Wran Writers course – 1975, Advanced Writer course – 1980 and was the Basic Writers' Course Instructor - in 1980, 1981, 1985 & 1986.

Jenelle Close (Nee Hyland) who served from 1990-1995. Completed Writers course 45 in April 1990.

Leigh Clenton (Nee Duncan) Joined the WRANS on 15 March 1982 and was on the category course with Kathy Leonard. Leigh now lives in Cairns, QLD.

We were advised that **Alexis Anne Burley** was married in 2001 with her subsequently adopting the revised handle of Alexis (Alex) Anne Radnidge, Calwell ACT.

Chief Writer sounds Bugle Calls at Naval and other Ceremonial occasions!!.

Before enlisting in the RAN in 1949, Gordon (Googa) Gent played the Comet in the Warmambool City Band, (not too well he says).

However, with diligent practice he attained a level of competency which enabled him to be invited to sound the appropriate Bugle Calls



at several Naval Ceremonial occasions including — Admiral's Inspection, *Kuttabul*, in 1955, - sounding the Alert and Carry On upon the visit of an RN Cruiser in June/July, 1955. Sounding the Last Post and Reveille at the Australian and New Zealand Consulates on Anzac Day, 1970, in Saigon, South Vietnam. As CPOWTR (picture left) he sounded the Last Post and Reveille at a ceremony conducted at a War Cemetery at Ambon, Indonesia, on Anzac Day, 1975, during an operational visit to the area by *Duchess*.

Gordon's efforts in 1955 prompted Commander Brian Wiggles to recommend payment of Bugler's Allowance to him, alas the recommendation was not approved I'm

sad to report thus consigning Gordon to forever blowing his own Trumpet (Bugle) for the remainder of his service without any monetary reward. Reliable sources advise that he did this quite well too!!

Steve Greenhow - Now living Albany, West Australia. Joined October 1972 in the 41st Junior Recruit intake. Postings were *Leeuwin, Anzac, Cerberus, Nirimba, Parramatta* (RIMPAC75), *Leeuwin*. Then a crash draft to *Diamantina*, followed by *Leeuwin, Perth* (Indian Ocean Deployment with CAPT Adrian Cummings), Harman (NO) then to CDT3 (SASR Swanbourne) and finally discharged PUNS in 1985 after exciting three years at Swanbourne. Now a TPI. Looking through the scribes website, I see a whole lot of people who I shared some great times with. I now enjoy sailing with family and friends off our great coast.

Margaret Cresswell (nee Wallis) Joined the Navy in 1987 at the age of 19. First posting was to Navy Office in Canberra working in Defence Security. From there I was posted to Sydney where I worked in Defence Recruiting and lived firstly at the WRAN's Quarters in Bondi (before they were turned into accommodation just for Senior Sailors) and was then moved to accommodation at Coogee.

Was then posted to the Pay Office at Nirimba and served there for a year before moving to Canberra where I worked at Defence Material at Campbell Park.

It was during this posting that I felt it was time to move on and after putting in my request for discharge was granted a place to study Public Relations and Marketing full time at the University of Canberra. This was a great experience but also a bit of a shock after eight years in Defence. It took about 12 months to reintegrate into civilian life, but after that it was all good. I was lucky enough to win a scholarship in my second year to study international public relations in Thailand and so lived abroad for four months. Also made some great friends and saw a different side to life.

I graduated in 1997 with a degree in Communication and obtained a job in the public service as a Communications and Special Events Manager. This role gradually changed into a policy position and after about 3 years I decided I was ready for another change and left the public service to start my own Public Relations agency.

We called the boutique agency Rave Communication and after a few challenging months setting up and making contacts we won some great clients and the business was on its way. About four years into this venture my husband and I decided to start a family and after the birth of our first son, Alexander, in 2003 I sold the business to my associate and took some time out of the workforce to concentrate on motherhood.

My second son, Nicholas, was born in 2006 and I now work as an independent communication consultant to allow flexibility with my boys and other interests I've taken up.

I took myself back to university while I was pregnant with Nicholas, to fulfill a longstanding interest in the law, and I obtained my Masters in International Law from the ANU, graduating in December 2008.

Professionally, I now consult to a range of clients in myriad areas of communication, specialising in writing of all types, policy work,

mentoring and coaching and communication training. Personally, I enjoy being with the family, gardening, cooking, reading, skiing, sailing and getting to the Coast when we can (we live in the Canberra region). I also love to write for myself and my long term goal is to write a book - not sure what about yet - still working on that. **Margie.**

Strachan, Lewis

ex-WOWTR paid off January 1984. Joined Navy 8th Intake of JRs January 1964. On completion of JR training was posted to sea on the 'grey ghost of the West Coast' - *Diamantina* until late 1965 when posted to *Cerberus* for Writer Category training. On successful completion then posted to *Lonsdale* then back to sea on *ANZAC* where I was promoted LSWTR.



From there posted to *Harman* (NO) for a couple of years then to *Albatross*, back to sea on *Stuart*. Promoted A/POWTR and posted to *Sydney*. Spent 3 years at sea on *Sydney* after being posted as the Canteen Manager until she was paid off and I was posted to *Penguin* for a short period before being posted to ANZUK SINGAPORE for about 18 months until that was disbanded.

Then to *Cerberus* for a short period before being banished to the 'Apple Isle' to serve at *Huon* in 1975 while the Tasman Bridge was down. From there back to *Harman* (NO) where I was promoted CPOWTR and posted over to the West at *Leeuwin* in charge of the Pay Office. From there to the 'Top End' as Captains Sec at *Coonawarra*.

From there back to sea on *Supply* as Captains Sec then to *Kuttabul* for a short time before heading South to *Cerberus* and a promotion to WOWTR before being posted to *Lonsdale*(NO) at the Navy Pay Accounting Centre to bring in the dreaded so called computerised pay system where I eventually 'pulled the pin' on completion of 20 years service.

Since 1992 I have been living in Perth and growing older gracefully.....

Lest we Forget

Andrew Barker (ex-LSWTR R127175) (known as Woofer) passed away on 4th April 2009 at the age of 51. Woofer joined in May 1980 and discharged August 1992. He served in HMA Ships *Melbourne* (aircraft carrier), *Jervis Bay*, *Stalwart*, *Cook and Stuart* (DE). Land depots were *Moreton*, *Cairns*, *Kuttabul* (MHQ), *Harman* (NO) and *Penguin*.



Peter Denhame Gibson passed away on the 1st October 2009. Born 4th September 1926 in Malvern Victoria. Peter was in the Reserves and joined the Permanent Naval Forces 9th January 1945. His official number was PM 7913. He underwent training at *Cerberus* and then posted to *Moreton*. On the 22nd April he joined *Magnetic* and then transferred to *Madang* the base in New Guinea. Joined MSL 705 on 23/11/1945 and early January 1946 USS ATTU before joining *Lonsdale* where he stayed until he was demobbed 10th January 1947. He was paid £22.1.0 for 30 days re-establishment leave and also £13.4.0 in lieu of 18 days leave.

Peter's naval record was read out by the RSL Representative, Errol Driver Peter's Recollection of War Service: As with most veterans Peter seemed to remember the lighter incidents of war and the importance of connections with home.

Once crewing his own ships boat, they unexpectedly encountered a small Japanese party in a boat up a river and gave chase but without success as the Japs had a better turn of speed - no damage done to either side!!

However there was better success one night watching outdoor movies on a beach - noticed 2 extra pairs of eyes watching from rear - Peters crew subsequently captured 2 Japanese soldiers who were probably trying to steal food - not watch the film.

Peter served on 2 US Navy ships and experienced better rations than Australian. As good food was important it's possible obsolete RAN

stores were traded for American rations in the true Aussie Serviceman's tradition of scrounging.

The family recall Peter's real highlight was receiving care packages from Loyce - beautiful big boiled fruit cakes with very thick icing - which Peter shared with his shipmates using his bayonet to cut through the icing. (About Loyce: In 1943 though, at just 17 years of age, whilst trying to drive a hard bargain with some bloke to buy a set of skates at St Moritz ice skating rink in St Kilda, Gibbo who played ice hockey, had the most amazing stroke of luck, he was introduced to a figure skater named Loyce Turpin. That was the first meeting that began a relationship that was to last more than 66 years. Loyce wrote to him every week while he was in the Navy.)

When the war ended, Gibbo returned to Australia and after spending time at Heidelberg Repat overcoming malaria he had contracted in New Guinea, he began work as a clerk at Radio Corp. Awarded the Pacific Star War Medal.



Claude Douglas Matthews passed away 23rd October 2009.

Joined 18th May 1956 and promoted LSWTR 12th August 1960. R51987.

He had a number of postings including Penguin 25/2/1957, Queenborough 28/6/58, Albatross 11/6/1959, Nirimba 12/3/1961,

Melbourne 30/6/1961 and discharged 7th October 1962. Arranged for a floral tribute from all members.

The Hobart Reunion – Update - 2011

On the 1st November 2009, it was 496 days to the next reunion. We hope as many of you can make this reunion. Make a note in your diary for 2011 and plan to attend. Quite a few of us are registering interest to attend and the following scribes since the last newsletter have indicated they will attend: Kevin 'Bones' Morris and his wife Jackie from the UK. Peter and Vicki Charlton from Port Macquarie. Ron and Bev Giveen from Dee Why. Geoff and Colleen Hardwick Canberra. Dennis and Suzanne Lyons Canberra. Denis and Denise Benfield from Grafton. Malcolm and Pauline Ritchie, Goulburn.

Lindsay Gordon Wilson



(always known as Tug), joined the RAN on 4th March 1946 in the weird rating of Probationary Writer (R29946) and spent 3 months at Cerberus training in seamanship, boat work and general naval Lore. No Writer training was forthcoming (no Supply School), so P/Wtr Wilson was posted to *Penguin* and immediately employed in a very large Pay Office as a Ledger Keeper.

His first sea posting was in early 1948 in the Assault Landing Ship *Kanimbla* to the UK to stand by commissioning of *Sydney*, our first Aircraft Carrier. Thereafter he served in HMS Glory and HMA Ships *Sydney*, *Arunta*, *Condamine*, *Melbourne*, *Yarra* and *Vampire*.

Promoted LdgWtr, POWtr and CPOWtr in the late 1940's and 1950's, he was promoted to Sub Lieutenant in 1958 (New P/N 01747), to Lieutenant in 1963, Lieut. Commander in 1969 and finally to Commander in 1973. After his first sea charge posting in *Yarra*, Tug Wilson served in charge postings including as OIC RAN Supply School, in *Vampire*, *Nirimba* twice and *Platypus* as Submarine Squadron Supply Officer until his final discharge in August 1986.

In 1972 while serving as Supply Officer of *Yarra* he was awarded the Honour of Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) and the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal in 1978 while serving as Supply Officer of *Vampire*.

Tug Wilson has five sons, all of whom are veterans of the Australian Army and Navy. His 4th son David served with him in *Vampire* in 1976 when David was an ABUC. They went to the United States in *Vampire* for the US 200th Anniversary. David was later to become the Warrant Officer of the Navy (WO (N)) in the years 2000-2002. His two other Navy sons were Peter — QMG and Matthew — RO. Matthew is now a Barrister and a Major serving in the Australian Army.

Lindsay Wilson compiled and published the history of HMAS Cerberus titled 'Cradle of the Navy' in 1981. This publication is in the process of update to cover the years from 1981 to date. He also compiled and published the history of HMAS *Nirimba* - titled 'Skilled Hands at Sea' in 1984. Although Lindsay Wilson ceded copyright to the Naval Historical Society, interested persons may view the publication on the Internet by entering the words "Skilled Hands at Sea". Several Writers are mentioned in the book including Graham Smith, Graham Darcy, Bob Brimson, John McCosker, Wiggy Bennett, Ron Giveen, Gary

Russell, Salty Eckel and many more. He also set up Naval Museums at Cerberus, Nirimba and Platypus.

Reverting to the First Person I must tell you that I set out to note the names of my many Writer Shipmates whose company I enjoyed in my forty years service from 1946 to 1986, but when I had listed those in the alphabetical letters A-C it was obvious that they are legion and too many to record here.

However to all my great Writer shipmates over those many years of great times I send you my kindest regards and best wishes. My E-mail address is Lindell19@bigpond.com.au

I left the Navy for 18 months in 1978/79 when I was employed as Associate to District Court Judge Alistair Cameron Smith in the Sydney District Court. I re-entered on the RANEM List in 1979 and served as OIC RAN Supply School *Cerberus* and later as Supply Officer *Nirimba* until final discharge on 10 August 1986. Awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia 13th June 2005 citation reads "for service to veterans and their families and to the community through contributions to museums recording naval history"

Cheers, Tug Wilson – 2009

Writer Category - 2009 Employment by location

	WO	CPO	PO	LS	AB	Total	%
Sea	0	4	13	17	35	69	30
Navy Command Pers	1	9	7	11	13	41	18
DSG	0	2	3	14	19	50	22
Navy/ADF HQ	2	15	13	21	16	67	30
Total	3	39	36	63	83	227	100



**Above – Lew at
Recruit School 1959**

Low Horsfield - Presidents Report For Year Ending - 30TH JUNE 2009.

Members of the Royal Australian Navy Writers Association, it is with pleasure that I present to you the members, my annual report for the year ending 30th June 2009. I am pleased to see more members in attendance than last years AGM.

The year has once again been a busy time for the members of the National Executive Committee. All core functions of the association have been attended to for the benefit of the members. Administrative wise it is estimated the secretary and I handle over 100 items of correspondence per month, so the work is ongoing.

We were pleased to be able, for the first time, to March under our own banner at this year's Anzac Day Service in Canberra. The March was attended by some 30 plus Scribes, which included Retired and Serving members.

- The Scribes of Brisbane, are moving forward and the Sub Committee under the guidance of Rod Pope have had several get togethers, which were well attended.
- The Annual Sydney Luncheon, for 2008, was once again a success, although light on in numbers.
- The Scribes in Darwin have been busy with several social get togethers under the leadership of Jeannie Roberts.
- The Adelaide Scribes mustered for their quarterly "Pie Floater" Lunches.
- The Canberra Scribes had to cancel their Christmas Lunch which was a disappointment for the Committee
- The Committee conducted three electronic meetings.
- The Executive Committee held three electronic meetings
- Arrangements for the 2011 Reunion, to be held in Hobart are well in hand.
- Trophies have been purchased, and are in place for the 2 new residential courses of the Writer Branch. The Secretary and myself will be talking with the OIC Supply Facility this month when we visit Cerberus.

The Committee has been pleased with the increase in membership of the association. We have over 2000 known Writers on our data base,

and another 500 odd made up of Missing and deceased. The increase in actual membership is due in some way, to the fact that we have had to restrict the print copy of the newsletter to members only. The only drop in membership appears to be because of Members Crossing the Bar, which is sad to hear about. The association requires the ongoing support of all Writers, both serving and retired to contribute to our growth and stability. The set up of Sub Committees in various states and areas, where sufficient numbers exist, is proceeding well. They are assisting the Executive Committee keep track of people and in the long run , you, the members of the association.

The Secretary Geoffrey Hardwick and Treasurer Leonard White continue to fulfilled their duties in a truly professional manner. Our Vice President, Marty Grogan is maintaining strong contact with the Writer Training School in HMAS CERBERUS, and is a source of history for the branch since he has taken over the Museum. The new committee Member for South Australia Alan Axford has kept the interest alive in that state, enabling us to expand our areas for the association. On behalf of all of you I extend our warmest thanks to them.

The Editor of the Scribbler and Web Master, Geoffrey Hardwick has continued to excel in his duties. The Newsletter continues to receive high praise for its content. Through this medium we disseminate information to all members in a timely manner. I also would like to encourage all members to help this continue through the submission of articles for the Newsletter.

We have lost a lot of good friends throughout the year, some were expected, some were very sudden, and quite un-expected. Some members who were listed as 'missing' have been confirmed as Crossing the Bar. LEST WE FORGET.

As you see from the Treasurer's report the Association is in a sound financial position. We are now in a position to return some of these funds to our members through various ways. This strong financial position is due to the excellent management skills of the treasurer. We are always open to offers from any Member who is in business, and thinks they can obtain a business gain from advertising in our Newsletter. The Web Master can give interested parties a breakdown of the number of "hits" on the web site.

We look forward to a bigger and better year for the Association in the 2009/2010 reporting year.

NAVY WRITERS REUNION HOBART 2011 - REGISTRATION REQUEST

Fri 11 March to Mon 14 March 2011

NAMES

First name		Aka		Surname	
First Name		Aka		Surname	
Street		City			
State		Post Code			
Telephone		Email			

Registrations must be accompanied by a non – refundable deposit of \$25.00 per attendee. This deposit of \$25 per attendee is required in the first instance to offset administration costs but will be part of the final payment.

How to pay “Navy Writers Reunion”:

Method	How to Pay:	Amount enclosed/paid	Please indicate method below
Cheque/Money order	Cheque/Money Order		
BSB: 802 397 Account No: 398002 Account name Navy Writers Reunion Reference: Your “last name and Initials”	Direct deposit		
	Date Deposited:		
	Reference details:		

Events – Please indicate the items which you interested in. Approx costs are shown but final costs will not be known until late 2010. You are under no obligation when completing this form, the information below provides us with a guide to numbers that may attend. Drinks are not included in price.

Item	Description	Approx Cost	No people attending
Meet and Greet	1800 - 2330 Friday 11 March	\$15	
Dinner / Dance	1830 - 2330 Saturday 12 March	\$75	
BBQ	1300 Sunday 13 March	\$35	
Port Arthur Bus Tour	Leave 0900 return 1700 Monday 14 th March	\$110	
Ladies Luncheon	A ladies luncheon probably the 11 th March 2011	\$25	
Polo Shirt	Hobart reunion polo shirt	\$40	

Please forward Applications of Registration to the Treasurer (Frank Brown)

Treasurer Frank Brown
Navy Writers Reunion Hobart 2011
'Victory Place'
116 Preston Road,
Gawler, Tas, 7315

Or email (If you are doing direct deposit) this completed page to:

scribes@ranwriters.com

Ray Kennedy – R57566 – Served 13JAN61 to 12JAN81. On joining the Navy there were 2 RCTWTRs who had to wait for me to join before starting the Writers Course. One RCTWTR Griffiths changed his rating to RCTCK and the other RCTWTR Boucher was given a Medical Discharge before completing the course.



On completion of the course 27JUN61, I was posted to the Movements Office, Main Gate *Cerberus* until posted to *Quickmatch* on 25NOV61 until 11DEC62 having served with some memorable

characters such as Peter (Shaky) Samuels, Peter Donkin & "Woggie" Watson.

Having served at *Watson* in the interim, was posted on 15JUL63 to *Rushcutter* working on Service Documents for RANR Records and correspondence until 05FEB64.

After *Rushcutter*, I was posted as THE Writer on *Diamantina* on 06FEB64 – on seeing my posting I rang Navy Office to find out why I had been sent to *Diamantina* in WA and was promptly told "Your have a further 10 months sea time to serve and as you come from Bunbury, WA you were posted to *Diamantina*" "Huh, I come from BUNDABERG QLD"

"To bad you have already been posted". Needless to say I spent 11 months until 08JAN65 before being posted to *Albatross*

With the establishment of the RAN Trials Assessing Unit at the Gunnery Centre Woolloomooloo on 25OCT66, I was posted as Captain's Secretary and when the unit moved to *Rushcutter* I became the Librarian – responsible for the upkeep of all Books of Reference and official publications – a position I held for 5 months and was posted to *Melbourne* on 28OCT68.

On 24th May 1971 I was posted to the staff of the Directorate of Naval Personal Services to assist in the formulation and administration of conditions of Service and all matters related to the well being of Naval personnel – also established the "Umbrella" social workers office in Civic Centre with 2 Social Workers, Doug Kennedy, a WRWTR as receptionist and a WRMTD. After being there for nearly 4 years I asked LT Frank Shugg how long I have to serve there for & he told me 3 years and when I said I'd been there longer than that he had me

posted to *Brisbane*. Having been out of the Branch for so long I asked to be posted to *Kuttabul* for 5 months to refresh my writer's duties.



Although I spent a fair bit of my Service outside the main stream, I am still proud to say I was a Writer in the RAN. Now divorced but have 3 children, 10 grandchildren, 3 step grandchildren and 3 great grand children. Should anyone wish to contact me my email address is ray1942@bigpond.com

Australia's Federation Guard by POWTR Brodie Wootten

Australia's Federation Guard – lots of drill and ceros – great place for a dibble scribe.

Shortly after leaving the permanent Navy early in 2008, DSCM called with a unique opportunity to undertake a CFTS contract for two years at AFG. After discussions about the pros and cons with my now wife and with the impending birth of our first child fast approaching, I conducted a frantic search of the garage for ceremonials and one or two phone calls later the scene was set for a POWTR to start running an Army Orderly Room.



I had always enjoyed working in ships offices – being in small teams and being able to assist the ships company with their HR requirements, so the attraction of working with members of the other services and learning the Army and RAAF way of life was a natural progression. The basics of the Orderly Room are very similar to our Ships Offices but I had to make some minor readjustments when the troops started calling me, "Chief". (After finding out that I was 'in the Army now' so my name was now "Chief Clark" not "PO", I stopped hoping for a promotion.)

There's a big misconception out in the Fleet that the Federation Guard is all marching and no play. Certainly there is a lot of standing out on the drill square and perfecting moves for the next ceremonial commitment in front of a head of state, but in the down time, there is a lot of effort put into making it a posting to remember.

In the little over 15 months that I have been at the Guard, members of Navy Division have undertaken their PADI open water dive tickets in anticipation of diving on the wreck of HMAS PERTH. (The term PADI refers to "Professional Association of Diving Instructors", it is a certified course that you need to undertake in order to be a scuba diver.) A group of 14 sailors competed in 'Bicycle Queensland' which involved 10 days of cycling through the Darling Downs to raise funds for various charities, some have done caving, others sailing and skiing. By the time you are reading this, I shall be part of a contingent selected to retrace the diggers' footsteps along the Kokoda Track.

The ceremonial events themselves have taken me to Brunei and Singapore (WWII memorials), London, France (Villers-Brettoneux on ANZAC Day) and to all the major capitals around Australia. On some of these occasions I was physically required for the ceremonial commitment but on others, I was the sole person responsible for the safe transit of our Self Loading Rifles across the globe. When your French is less than perfect trying to talk your way through customs can be a little tricky.

The work back in the Orderly Room with my team of three is what allows the majority of AFG to tend to our primary focus – ceremonial commitments. We organise the visas and passports, liaise with consular officials for weapons/ammunition export/import and of course all the usual HR functions and personal administration of the unit.

The differences between the services has taken a little getting used to and I have certainly had to do a lot reading of Army and RAAF regulations but in essence each soldier, sailor and airmen are very much alike just with a different uniform.

Upon completion of my contract in 2010 my position will be filled by a member of the RAAF but I hope to have left an indelible mark on the Orderly Room and the AFG as a whole. Overall the AFG is a fantastic lifestyle that gives you respite from sea going life when it's your time to come ashore.

About the AFG:

When fully manned the AFG consists of 163 personnel, however we generally only have around 140 odd at any given time. At present there are 49 Navy people at AFG with a rough breakdown being 1 x LEUT, 1 X PO, 7 x LS and 40 X AB/SMN



The photo is of members of AFG preparing for the Dawn Service in the town of Villers Brettenoux in northern France.

Postscript: Our most recent ceremonial commitment was on Friday 16 Oct 09 where the entire Navy contingent performed a Ceremonial Sunset in Brisbane for the culmination of the Navy Week festivities. We were then invited to Town Hall for a Civic Reception hosted by the Deputy Lord Mayor where our people enjoyed the hospitality to the utmost.

Writer Category – Statistics

In March this year the Writer category comprised 60% females. They were in the following ranks:

- a. CPO 27%
- b. PO 48%
- c. LS 74%
- d. AB 65%

The Writer category has a shortfall of 10% with major shortages at the PO and AB level.

We heard that Petra Easthope (Nee Buggleshiem) works at the Medical Centre Garden Island NSW

Rail Travel in NSW for members that hold a DVA card

If you are an Australian and New Zealand ex-members of the Defence Forces who has a service related disabilities for which you receive a disability pension from the Department of Veteran Affairs (DVA); and live permanently in NSW or ACT you are entitled to free rail travel. The following illustrates your entitlements:

Entitlements at a glance

Mode	Operator	Area	LEVEL OF CONCESSION		
			Half fare	Excursion tickets	Free travel
Rail	CityRail	Suburban and Intercity network	✗	✗	✓
	AirportLink	AirportLink stations	✓ *	✗	✗
	Light rail and Monorail	Inner Sydney	✗	✗	✗
	CountryLink	All NSW routes	✗	✗	✓ **
	Great Southern Rail	Sydney - Broken Hill route	✗	✗	✗
Buses	Government operated	Metropolitan and Outer Metropolitan	✗	✗	✓
	Privately operated	Metropolitan and Outer Metropolitan	✗	✗	✓
	Privately operated	Rural / Regional	✗	✗	✓ ***
Ferries	Government operated	Metropolitan and Outer Metropolitan	✗	✗	✓
	Privately operated	Metropolitan and Outer Metropolitan	✗	✗	✗
	Privately operated	Rural / Regional	✗	✗	✗

Note: Concession entitlements are not available on special or premium services, charter, special event or tourism services.

* A concession station access fee is payable.

** Holders who reside outside the Sydney and Newcastle CityRail suburban areas may receive, on application to RailCorp Passes and Concessions office, 3 free return trips (or 6 free single trips) annually. No booking fee applies.

*** Local services only.

If you have not yet applied for the card then complete the form on the next page and forward as directed.

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APPLICATION FOR EX-DEFENCE FORCE TRAVEL PASS

All NEW applications must have a copy of your disability determination
(Sent to you by the Department of Veteran Affairs) enclosed before application will be processed.

PLEASE USE CAPITAL LETTERS AND MARK WITH AN 'X' WHERE APPLICABLE

- New Application (No Payment Required)
- Replace Ticket Machine Damaged Pass (No Payment Required - Pass must be attached)

For all other replacements, please indicate reason

- Lost Stolen Damaged Confiscated

Do you receive a Disability Pension from the Department of Veteran Affairs? Yes No

Please specify your disability rate %

Served as a member of the Australian or New Zealand Defence Forces? Yes No

Blinded Soldier? Yes No

D.V.A. File number:

Applicant Details

Surname / Family Name

Given Name/s

Unit Number

Street Number

 /

Street Name

Suburb

State

Postcode

Contact Phone Number

Date of Birth (dd / mm / yyyy)

I certify that all information I have provided is true and correct. I undertake to adhere with the conditions of use associated with this travel pass.

Applicants Signature

Date Signed (dd / mm / yyyy)

Send completed forms by one of the following methods;

<u>In Person</u>	<u>By Mail</u>	<u>Facsimile</u>
Passes & Concessions Office 490 Pitt Street Sydney NSW 2000	RailCorp Passes & Concessions PO BOX K349 Haymarket NSW 1238	(02) 9379 4449
☎ Telephone: Toll Free 1300 302 130 or (02) 9379 4441		
☎ Hours of Business: Monday to Friday - 8:30am to 4:00pm		



THE SCRIBBLER

Ships we served in – Our web site provides a list of ships and who served on them. We have a lot of gaps to fill in and we would appreciate your help.



For instance the following is the crew of HMAS SWAN III- DE 50.
 Commissioned on 20/1/1970
 Decommissioned: 13/9/1996.

Scribes that we know that served on the Swan are :

Smith, Kenneth	04/1981	1982	AB
Whelan Dave	6/1982	11/1983	
Crossley, Bill	13/02/1984	22/10/1984	PO
Plymin, Trevor	10/1984	06/1986	CPO

If you served on this ship send us the details.

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