



THE SCRIBBLER



Annual General Meeting 21st October 2011

The following members were elected to the committee for 2011/12:

Lewis Horsfield President - Marty Grogan Vice President

Geoffrey Hardwick Secretary & Web Master - Leonard White Treasurer

Committee Members Frank Carville - Denis Benfield - Alan Axford

Our Patron retires: Patron of the RAN Writers Association Commodore Robert 'Bob' Richards, RAN Head of Navy Supply Community will be taking leave from October 2011 and then retirement - we wish him well in his retirement.



The new Head of the Navy Supply Community will be Commodore Clint Thomas.

Presidents Report (Full text of the Annual Report on web site):

Members of the Royal Australian Navy Writers Association, it is with pleasure that I present to you the members, my report for the year ending June 2011.

The year, as per the past five years, has 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.

- The Annual Sydney Luncheon was once again a success.
- The Scribes in Darwin have continued to hold Luncheons.





- The Adelaide Scribes continue their "Pie Floater" Lunches.
- The Victorian Chapter had a visit to the Cerberus Museum.
- The Brisbane Chapter are organising their get togethers.
- The 2011 Reunion, held in Hobart was an outstanding success. Our sincere thanks go out to Frank Brown and Dick Gottschalk.
- 18 Scribes, serving and retired, together with their partners attended a dinner in Cairns.
- 3 Scribes, got together for a dinner in Townsville.
- The National Committee conducted 5 electronic meetings, during the reporting period, and one Face to Face meeting in Hobart.
- The Committee agreed to reduce the periods between Reunions from Three to Two years.

The Secretary and I were honoured with the award of Life Membership to the Association whilst attending the Hobart Reunion. To say it was a surprise would be an understatement. The event was organised by the Vice President Marty Grogan, and from what we are led to believe, readily agreed to by the rest of the Committee.

Our Secretary Geoffrey Hardwick and Treasurer Leonard White – who cannot attend today's AGM, because of work, continue to fulfilled their duties in a truly professional manner. Our Vice President, Martin Grogan represents us well at the Supply School, presenting awards and speaking at Morning Brew Breaks . On behalf of all members I extend your thanks to them for their behind the scenes work.

The Editor of the Scribbler and Web Master, Geoffrey Hardwick has again excelled in his duties. The Newsletter continues to receive high praise for its content. I believe this medium is our most valuable tool in which we are able to disseminate information to all members in a timely manner. With the advent of the E-newsletter every fortnight, we are getting news out even quicker to members. If you are not subscriber to the E-newsletter I can recommend that you register as soon as possible.

We have lost a lot of good friends throughout the year, some were expected, some were very un-expected. Some of the members who were listed as Missing have now been confirmed as Crossing the Bar.



Between the 2008 and 2011 reunions, we lost some 42 ex-Scribes from the association. This is another good reason why you should ensure we have your photo and bio so we can do justice to you.

As you see from the Treasurer's report the Association is in a sound financial position. This is through the excellent management skills of the treasurer. We are always open to offers from any Member who is in business, and think they can obtain a business gain from advertising in our Newsletter. The distribution of the Scribbler reaches out to over 2000 members three times a year, and is available via the website all year.

National WTR Reunion Gold Coast 4-6 April 2013
Registration Form

Registration is limited to Members of the Association and their partners until 1/3/2012

First name		Aka		Surname	
First Name		Aka		Surname	
Street		City			
State		Post Code			
Telephone		Email			
Registration fee \$25 per head.			Total fees payable: \$		
There are two options available, choose the most convenient and follow the instructions below.					
Option 1: Funds Transfer to the Australian Defence Credit Union : BSB - 802 397 Account No - 100 113 636 Account Name - Navy Writers Reunion <u>In the reference field please provide your Last Name</u> Then fill in the form on the web site to advise that you have deposited money. The form can be found under the icon '2013'					
Option 2: Payment by cheque made out to " <u>Navy Writers Reunion</u> " and send your completed registration form posted to : WTR's Reunion 2013 PO Box 5020 Chisholm ACT 2905.					
Your registration fee will be refunded if your circumstances change and you cannot attend.					

***We currently have 43 registered for this event already.
So make sure you don't miss out.
Maximum for the dinner 200.***



Lest we Forget

Keith Stanley Hook

Born 15th April 1928 and passed away 15th July 2011. Keith joined the RAN 15th April 1946, R29666. After completing his training he was posted to *Kuttabul* 23rd July 1946 and promoted to LS 1st July 1947. He has a subsequent posting to *Tarangau* 10th October 1947 until he returned to *Rushcutter* 14th November 1948. He joined *Australia* 25th May 1950 and served until a posting to *Lonsdale* eventuated 7th September 1951- *Cerberus* 7th July 1952 and returned to *Tarangau* 30th April 1953 where he was promoted to PO 17th July 1953. A variety of postings then *Penguin* 21/5/1954, *Platypus* 27/2/1956, *Barcoo* 9/11/1956 *Warramunga* 1/2/1957 *Albatross* 29/11/1957 where he was promoted CPO 8/5/1959.. He was posted to *Kuttabul* 31st August 1959 and spent most of his time there until his promotion to Supply Sub Lieutenant (W) 1st March 1962 at Huon. (O/N 0.2068) He has only just arrived to undertake recruiting duties.

After his promotion he joined *Sydney* on commissioning 18th June 1962. He spent some time at *Penguin* for duty with SM4 (Leut 26/6/1964) before joining *Melbourne* as Supply Officer Cash (TY) 14/8/1967 until he joined Navy office for DPS 11th December 1967 and later DGOS staff. He was posted to *Melville* 18/12/1967. Promoted LCDR 19th January 1970. Service after this date not known.

Trevor Roy Ross

Passed away 21st July 2011. Trevor joined 25th May 1959 as a Seaman FC rate. He subsequently transferred to the Writer Category 14th February 1964. On completion of training he joined *Kuttabul* until his first sea posting as a Writer - *Stuart* 7th April 1965 and on 6th November he joined *Sydney*. His final shore posting was *Kuttabul* 26th February 1967 until his DEE 25th May 1968.

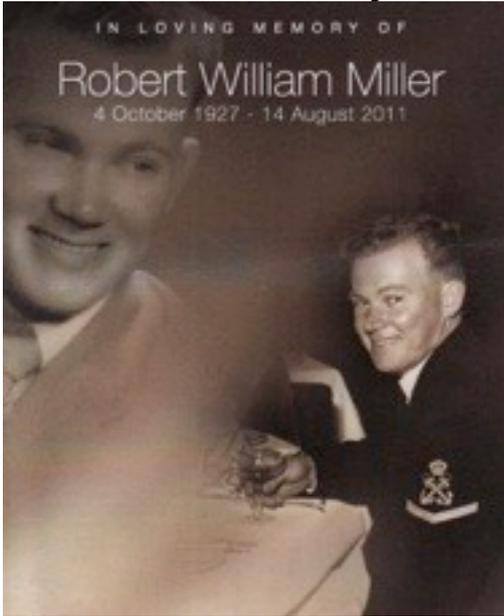
Monsignor Francis 'Tiger' Lyons passed away 4th September 2011.

Tiger was appointed as Chaplain in the RANR February 1957 and transferred to the RAN 23rd June 1958. He served for 21 years and retired as a principal Chaplain (RC). His career included service in *Lonsdale*, *Albatross*, *Cerberus*, *Penguin*, *Creswell*, *Kuttabul*, *Watson*, *Leeuwin*, *Melbourne*, *Sydney*, *Supply* and *Stalwart*. Also served on Fleet staff of Fleet Commander and NSC.

I am sure many Scribes would have known Tiger.



Robert William 'Dusty' Miller



Passed away 14th August 2011 aged 83 years. Official Number R30585.

The funeral was held in Canberra and the following members attended: Alex Goodieson, Les Roberts, Ray Walters, Jack Cummins, Terry McHarry and Graeme Quinn.

Dusty joined the Navy 26th April 1946 after after training joined *Kuttabul* 1/8/1946. He was promoted LS 1 year later (1/7/1947) Posted to *Melville* 15/1/1946, *Penguin* 8/4/1958 and discharged 7th May 1948.

He rejoined the Navy 8th September 1949 as an AB, promoted to LS the next day. Posted Sydney 5/1/1950, *Australia* 21/4/1950, *Sydney* 20/2/51, *Australia* 14/6/51 and then promoted PO 1/10/1951. He joined *Cerberus* 20/12/1951 and he stayed there until he joined *Bataan* 25/9/1953, *Penguin* 28/10/1954 where he was promoted to CPO (2/8/57) thereby gaining a posting to *Morerton* 8/10/1957. He went to sea on the *Melbourne* 4/10/1960 and *Penguin* 31/10/61.

His next posting to *Harman* was his last as a Writer on 27/11/1962. Promotion to Supply Sub (W) occurred 5/3/1963 and he was promoted to LEUT in 1965. His postings as an Officer were to Navy Office DMT and DSP and also FOCEA.



Frederick Stanley Jones passed away 2011. Fred served from 1946-1948 at *Kuttabul*.

B M Punshon passed away 2011. She served as a Wran Writer. WR2755.

Interesting to note that we have lost 17 Writers since the last Sydney Luncheon in October 2010.



Geoffrey Howard Sinden passed away 3rd July 2011. DOB 13/4/1939. He joined the RAN 13th April 1956 as a RCTWTR although his time in the RAN in those days was not counted until you were 18, therefore he had to wait another year before his service counted.

After a brief period on *Sydney* of 2 weeks he stayed at *Cerberus* until 24/4/1957 when he posted to *Lonsdale*. His first sea posting was *Melbourne* 29/7/1959 briefly until he joined *Albatross* 19/8/1959 and *Harman* 30/11/1959. (LS 12/8/60) He joined *Sydney* 28/10/1963.

After a year he posted to *Harman* 3/8/1964 for 3 years. (PO 5/2/65) Posting to *Moresby* 16/8/1967 until 7/1/1969 when he joined *Harman*. Promoted CPO 1/8/1969. Service after this not known.

Navy News Article March 15 1991

Cool hand Kate's medal

LWRWTR Kate Walker, an accomplished sportswoman and squash 'rep', has received an Australia Day medalion for her contributions to HMAS Kuttabul.

Described by our correspondent as 'tall, slender, pretty, blue-eyed and blonde.

Kate joined the RAN in 1985 and Kuttabul 2 years later. Her duties have included:

- The POWTR's billet in removals for six months in 1990.
- Responsibility for IJJO personnel at KUTTABUL (20 cases a week)
- Far exceeding the requirements expected of her for rank and experience.
- General service' to the KUTTABUL naval community.



"Her likable, easy-going personalty never changes, even under stress, " our correspondent adds. Well done. Kate!



Biographies

Ross Wiseman 1961-1974 ex POWtr



Joined 6 Jul 61 – 3rd Intake of JRs at *Leeuwin*. After Supply School in 1962 under Frank Shugg, first posting was to *Kuttatul* (Charlie's Place) Pay Office that included Chief Lennie Hoffmann, POs Graham Cleverly & Wriggles Gardiner, Kellicks Gus Harris, Dave Jordan, Spencer Mansfield & in Captains Office Charlie Bardwell, Bones Lillicrap, Ron Blowes & Spanish-Joe Carroll at RTO .

Apr 63 to FOCAF typing pool with Jon Hammond in *Sydney* before she refitted as a troop transport, with PO BJ Tucker and kellicks Hardy, Collins, Skipworth, Darcy. During Exercise Carbine off the Barrier Reef, involved in typing the proceedings of an Inquiry into 4 Middies and a SbLt who drowned after going missing in a whaler off Hayman Island – late 63. Then moved to SYDNEY's pay office with Graham Darcy, Geoff Sinden & Rocky Wells before her first trip as a troop transport to Borneo, Singers & Malaya.

Mid 64 drafted to pay office *Nirimba* with CdrS Trouty Lachlan (famous for his morning nature lessons), with young RN Exchg Lt Appleton pinching himself in disbelief. CPO Neil 'Filthy' Phillips always added much hilarity to the proceedings for self and Dennis Sweet. 1965 – 2 year posting to NOIC QLD office in Brisbane (directly opposite Port Office Hotel) again with Lennie Hoffmann. Towards the end of this stretch, *Moreton* (New Farm) established its own pay office for teams supporting construction of patrol boats , dragging me down to *Moreton* for half weeks. Memories of unbelievable nights at *Moreton* Ships Coy wets.

Oct 66 – back to the 'new' *Kuttatul* as a kellick in Capt.'s Office with Frank Shugg (I pay homage to him as my mentor) & Johnnie Biggs, Writers Bevis & JJ Nash. Jack Markham ruled over the pay office with Marty Grogan, Ronnie Coon, Ron Thompson, John Halpin, Kev Wilson to name a few. In 68-69 – 12 months FESR in DERWENT (with DUCHESS & Terry Young onboard) when you still went up top to get your rabbits. Shared the Ship's Office with CPO Ron 'Nuff Nuff' Woolnough & Stoney Burke. Picked up my POs & got my active service in escorts for SYDNEY to Vung Tau. Loved my *Derwent* time.



Aug 69 – Feb 70 spent 6 months crisscrossing Gulf of Carpentaria in *Moresby* & 4 patrol Boats – first oceanographic survey of the gulf since Matthew Flinders. Great fun working with skipper Mick Calder – the born droogie. Prepared reports of Collision / Grounding (AS222Z) on 4 separate occasions. Plenty of troppo time & overnight banyans on local islands while erecting Lambda masts for fixing bearings. Also the ‘incident’ where MORESBY’s Scout chopper participated in Cairns Fun-in-the-Sun Festival with a PO Birdie dangling on the winch over crowd the on main street of Cairns clobbered as a witch discharging rescue flares to provide red smoke emanating from his after quarters. My memory says that while this made page 1 of The Courier Mail, there were those ‘down south’ who weren’t amused.

70-71 – RANAS Nowra as MQ Billeting Officer (back again with Graham Darcy, Charlie Bardwell & Terry Young), before a blissful 2 years in Recruiting Office Melbourne, having many ‘makers’ when the Vietnam protestors came around regularly flour-bombing the front entrance. Paid off as 3 badge PO in 74 after a final 6 months as Captain’s Sec to Nature’s gentleman Cmdr Geoff ‘Snow’ Harle, at LONSDALE, and working with LCdr (SD) Freddie Grace (Nature’s Gentleman Mk2) , Ted Hase (Mk3) and Dave Whelan (Mk4).

Did a 360° turn and completed social work training post pussers, and have spent 35 years challenging myself working in community development and community housing projects around Queensland. Still thoroughly enjoy my involvement in activities supporting the personal development of men.

Mateship Is Not Forgotten

I would like to publicly acknowledge two ex Scribes who showed that they were only too willing to go the extra mile to help out another ex Scribe who needed help.

Bob McGrath was required to move from Queensland to Victoria for medical reasons and was unable to prepare and carry out the move.

Without any hesitation Max Bronson, and Olly Twist got in touch with Bob and TOLD him they are coming to help him with the shift.

On behalf of the Association I have sent a letter of thanks to both ex Scribes.

Lew Horsfield - President

**LDG. WTR. Edward *Ted'Wallace NORWOOD** Official Number 13512

A gentleman from years past. Ted was born at Albert Park, Victoria on 15th January, 1907 he joined the Royal Australian Navy in Melbourne on 19th June, 1922 for 12 years.

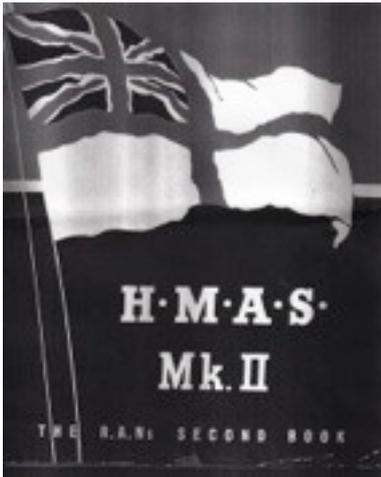
However, his 'actual' engagement did not commence until 15 January 1925 which was his 18th birthday. Service under 18 years of age was known as "Boys Time" and did not count.

Ted passed away December 1971.

His service details are as follows:

Ship	Rank	Date served
HMAS TINGIRA	Boy Second Class	19JUN22 - 27NOY22
HMAS TINGIRA	Boy First Class	28NOV22 - 4MAY23
HMAS TINGIRA	Boy Writer	5MAY23 - 28AUG23
HMAS CERBERUS	Boy Writer	29AUG23 - 24JAN24
HMAS PLATYPUS	Boy Writer	25JAN24 - 14JUL24
HMAS PLATYPUS	Acting Writer	15JUL24 - 19SEP24
HMAS MELBOURNE	Acting Writer	20SEP24 - 28SEP24
HMAS SYDNEY	Acting Writer	29SEP24 - 19OCT24
HMAS CERBERUS	Acting Writer	20 OCT24 - 14JAN25
HMAS CERBERUS	Writer	15JAN25 - 14JUL27
HMAS CERBERUS	Acting Leading Writer	15JUL27 - 1DEC27
HMAS SYDNEY	Acting Leading Writer	2DEC27 - 14JAN28
HMAS SYDNEY	Leading Writer	15JAN28 - 8MAY28
HMAS CERBERUS	Leading Writer	9MAY28 - 17 JUL29
<p>He was discharged FREE 17th July 1929. However during World War II he joined the Royal Australian Fleet Reserve at Cerberus on 24th June 1940 and allocated a new Personal number M1121. His service is detailed below. He was demobbed from Rushcutter, at own request, 18th March 1946.</p>		
HMAS CERBERUS	Leading Writer	24JUN40 - 21APR41
HMAS MORESBY	Leading Writer	22APR41 - 17MAR44
HMAS CERBERUS	Leading Writer	18MAR44 - 12DEC44
HMAS RUSHCUTTER	Leading Writer	13DEC44 - 18MAR46

Ted was known for his writing and the next few pages details a story of the 'Old White Lady' which he served on April 1941 - March 1944. An interesting story. Another of Ted's stories will be published in the next issue as well.



HMAS MK II BY Leading Writer Edward Norwood Old White Lady

There was a time when she was not painted white, and there came a time when no longer was she resplendent in white, buff funnel and decorative band of maroon along her slim straight sides; but to those that know and love her she is always the "Old White Lady of the North"

She is not particularly beautiful as ships go, but a certain charm exists in her

wide flared bow and the cocked-up perkiness of her unusual pointed stern. She is a brave ship and a staunch ship, and we that love her know that somewhere deep down beats a strong heart that has carried her through twenty-seven years of active service. She has a soul too, a courageous soul that we can feel, and that feels for us, as well we know who have been with her in the perils of storm and war. She has a zest for living, and a vast liking for the tropic waters of the north. Many times she has fought against the wheel when her reluctant head has been forced to take a southward course; she shudders and baulks and throws the white spray over her bridge; rolling and staggering, willfully and wickedly she indicates her objection.

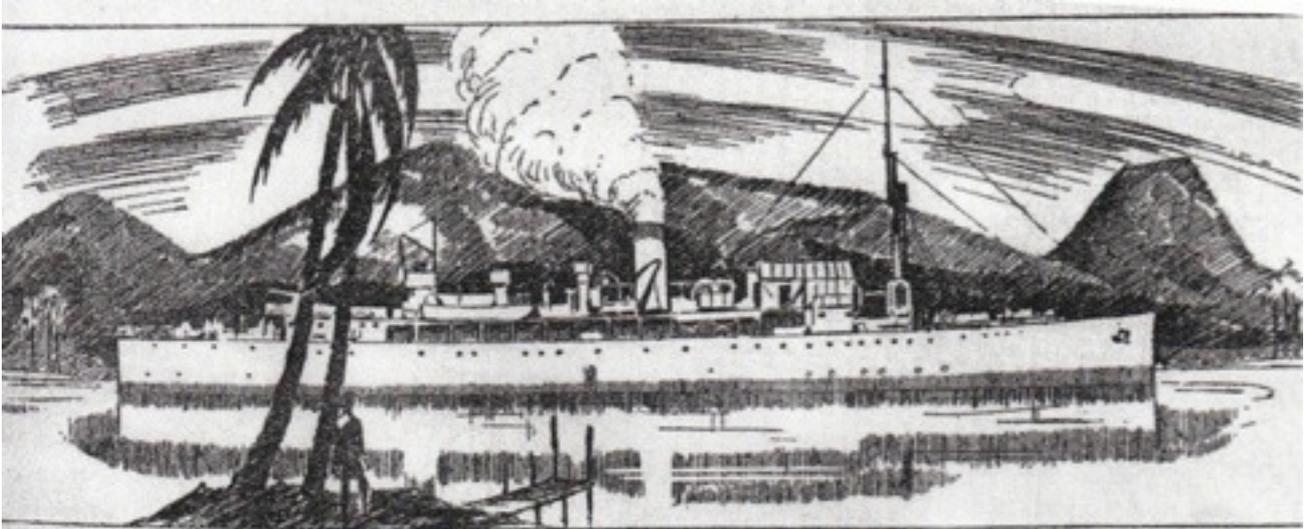
A different tale, however, is the story of her northern voyages. Here she is a perfect lady. Her pistons beat with a measured rhythm, the screw bites smoothly, powerfully, and the long hull, swaying slowly and easily, caresses the blues and greens of the seas of her choice.

The "Old White Lady" is old as steel ships measure their working lives. Laid down in an English dockyard in 1917, she was designed as a unit of the anti-submarine fleet in that life-and-death struggle when waging against German U-boats. One of the famous "Q" ships, she was hastily put together, reputedly by women, as her small rivets and the large number of them show. We know that despite the haste they built truly and well, and it is fitting that this 1600-ton midget in the fleets of the Mistress of the Seas should have been fashioned by women. Who better could give life to this staunch veteran, which is now capping off long and honorable service in this latest and greatest of wars?

At the end of the First World War, she, with some others of her class, was converted to the Surveying Service, entering what perhaps may be described as the most important of the peace-time activities of the Royal Navy --the efficient charting of the manifold invisible perils of the oceans of the world' Those that go down to the sea in ships, and those that consign their goods



from the four corners of the earth, owe to the surveying ships that safe guarding of their lives and trade. The findings of this service are available, through the Hydrographer to the Navy, to all that use the seas.



In 1925, on loan from the Royal Navy, she came to Australia, and has operated ever since under the aegis of the Royal Australian Navy, to the orders of the Hydrographic Branch of that Service. Australia's contribution to the charts of the world has been very great, and of the total of the "Old Lady" has, with her highly trained personnel of Officers and men, performed the greater task. Other ships there have been, and other ships there are today, but none has laboured so long, and to such good purpose, as the veteran of them all.

On the outbreak of World War II, the need for anti-submarine vessels on the Australian seas soon became apparent. Hastily re-converted to her original purpose, and painted grey from funnel to waterline, the old ship began an almost increasing vigil along the east coast, until in December 1940 a greater need arose for the services of a surveying vessel to chart the locations of the extensive minefields that were to be laid as protective measures in various parts of the Australian, Papuan, and New Guinea coasts. For twelve months she worked her lonely way through and around the mysterious passes of the Barrier Reef, Torres Strait, Port Moresby and Rabaul. Poorly armed - she had no room for really offensive weapons - she ignored the sudden annihilation that would have come to her from armed raiders and submarines.

Several times she was lucky to be not quite within an area of menace. This work was continued until the entry of Japan into the war forced her to flee at top speed to the comparative safety of Sydney Harbour. She had just left Rabaul at the time. We knew not what perils awaited us as we made our way south. That was one occasion in which no tantrums marred a southern course. The ship arrived back in record time.



Another conversion to A/S duties was the next move, and for four months south Australian waters were her venue, whilst the Australian Sixth and Seventh Divisions, and the first of the American troops, were safely convoyed in Adelaide. Still clothed in battleship grey, the old ship lay in Antechamber Bay near Backstairs passage, venturing forth every time a convoy approached. These were met many miles out at sea after the approaches had been thoroughly investigated for hidden submarines. No ship was lost during this period.

Then commenced a long, weary, heart-breaking vigil along the east coast of the continent, and extending down Bass strait to the vicinity of Cape Liptrap. Those were days of endless watchfulness, endless listening for submarines of the Son of Heaven; endless strain, and when one allowed oneself to think, cold awareness of the sudden end of all things that would come at the warhead of a racing, lighting-fast torpedo. It is the unknown and the unseen that jag men's nerves, Day after day - sometimes seventy to eighty days passed without a break in harbour of more than a few hours each week for fuel and stores - the work went on for sixteen months. Five more times the "Old Lady" participated in attacks on the enemy, or was attacked by them. One ship, in convoy, was lost, with the sudden death of most of her crew - we picked up ten survivors out of the forty-four men on board. Another ship was torpedoed, but fortunately beached and eventually salvaged. We claim we put paid to the account of two of Toko's slinking undersea craft.

Two great storms, that forced bigger craft to flee for shelter, were safely weathered in that period. Our stout-hearted ship, despite her age, survived an easterly cyclone that put two freighters on the beach. She was hove to for thirty-six hours, struggling gamely that her men might live, for in those seas none would have survived her sinking. That was the occasion when all men not necessarily required below were ordered to don "Mae Wests" and keep to the upper deck whilst a perilous change of course was made to gather together the scattered remnants of the convoy. Well, may you have read this know how we respected the old ship's guts, and loved her for the lady she is.

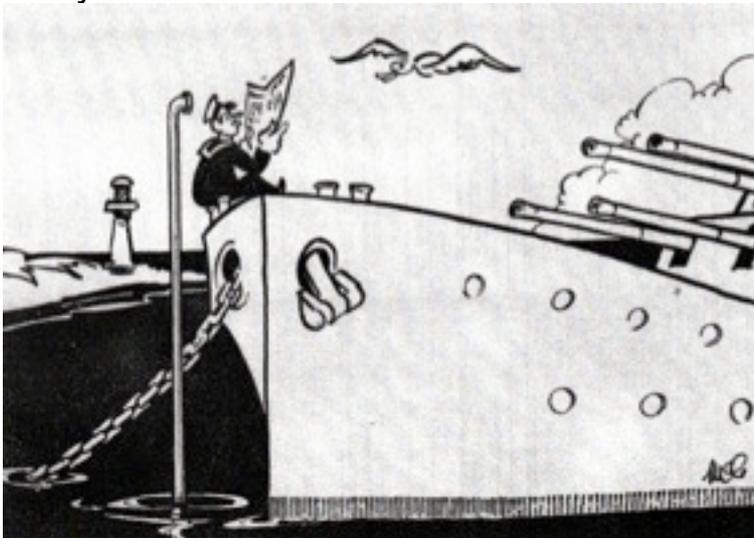
With the decline of the submarine menace, late in 1943 the "Old White Lady", now painted Chicago blue, but with her small boats painted bright green, again returned to surveying. Fighting in New Guinea had made it necessary that many uncharted and poorly charted waters should be surveyed so that troops and stores could be landed where they were needed. This oftentimes was dangerous work, but the luck of the old ship held. An augmented fleet of surveying vessels undertook the task, and we assumed command of them all.

The waters of Papua and New Guinea, all the way from Mile Bay to Hollandia



and the Admiralty Islands, were charted. The work still goes on and will continue until Japan is forced to her knees. Without the surveying vessels that task would be much harder than it is. Lives and valuable equipment would be lost in treacherous waters before they could be landed. Battles would be lost for lack of essential reinforcements, ammunition and stores. The Surveying Service has played a big part in the war of the Pacific.

This has been a brief sketching of the story of a "Q".ship; a mystery ship of world War I. Today, in a silent Navy, the work of this ship has been carried out in a silence even more pronounced than that generally accepted as the silence of the Secret Service. She has been a mystery to the men of even many of her sisters-in-arms.



How many times have we heard the remark: 'That old tub is still here! What the hell does she do?' She is unique in her appearance, and seen swinging around the buoy on an occasion, and again months later, the idea is held that she has been there all the time.

The fact is that since the outbreak of the war the "Old White Lady of the North", one

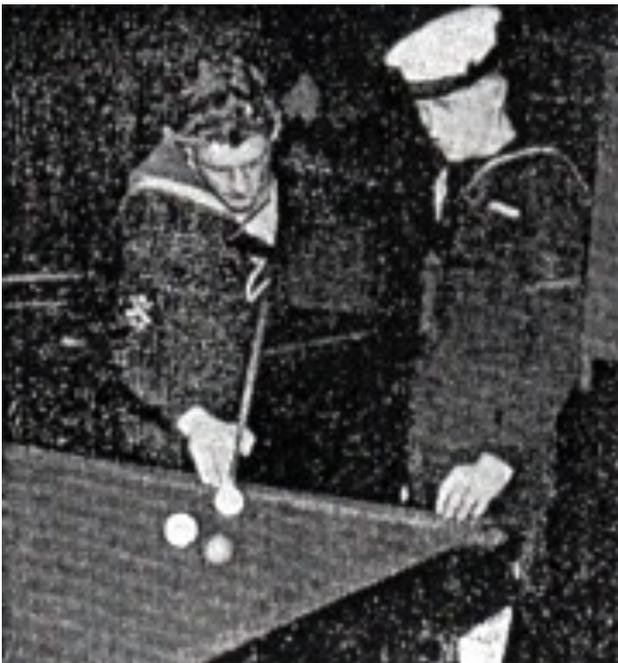
time H.M.S. Silvio, and since 1925 H.M.A.S. Moresby, has probably spent more time at sea, away from the amenities of civilisation, than any other ship in the R.A.N. - Leading Writer E.W.N



The White Ensign Club.

Many will remember this club in Melbourne

On the next 2 pages of this newsletter we reproduce the flyer that was available to let you know what was available.



Members can spend many happy hours in the Club's recreation rooms. Billiards, snooker, table tennis, quoits and darts are popular pastimes with the boys.



Any Bourke Street tram takes you to your Club open 24 hours a day.... 7 days a week. Tel.: 34 4766 - 34 3533.



The busy snack bar is a favourite with all Sailors.

Here they can gather to enjoy light refreshments and play their own choice of the latest records on the clubs juke boxes.



In 1952, Sir Kenneth Luke, CMG, and Admiral Buchanan, CBE, D.O, together with a group of Melbourne citizens, founded the White Ensign Club to provide a comfortable home for all R.A.N. Ratings on shore leave in Melbourne.

Every RAN. Rating is eligible to enjoy the privileges of membership of this non-profit-making Club for the duration of his naval service on payment of 1 pound 5 shillings only.

Honorary membership is conferred on ratings of visiting naval ships of other nations. The aim of this brochure is to promote the Sailor's interest in his Club and to 'stimulate pride of membership.

Pictures produced herein, readily show some of the excellent amenities and facilities provided at the Club.

Other amenities include:

1. Commonwealth Savings Bank Agency open every day of each week.
2. Safe Custody for valuables
3. Lockers for monthly rental, for clothing, etc.
4. Cloakroom service at all hours.
5. Ironing facilities provided free of charge.
6. Towels for hire and Washroom facilities always available free of charge,
7. Daily papers provided free of charge,
8. "Shake" service, for residents who desire to be awakened early.
9. Public telephones available.
10. Writing facilities available



The entrance foyer.



James Carroll being awarded his 6th Clasp to Defence Long Service Medal by CMDR Wendy Bullen, Commanding Officer, HMAS CAIRNS, and James writes the following article on the DID Program.

RAN Writers in Defence Indigenous Development Program North Queensland

By CPOWTR James Carroll

The Defence Indigenous Development Program (DIDP) has been developed in order to address the needs of northern Australia's remote indigenous people. The program provides young indigenous adults with the education, training, life skills and confidence - and as a result the opportunities - to secure and sustain continuous employment of their choice and to be role models within their communities. The North Queensland program is open to young indigenous people from the Torres Strait down to Rockhampton and west to the Northern Territory border. The North Queensland program is run by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). The Australian Army runs the program in the Northern Territory.

DIDP is provided through a partnership between the Department of Defence, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) and the NT / QLD Department of Education and Training (DET).

The DIDP slogan of **....Your Opportunity - Your Choice - Your Future....** is what we are all about. The program's aim is to help 'close the gap' for the indigenous youth of the region by providing them with education, life skills, self confidence and the belief in themselves that they can achieve their dreams and find the employment of their choice. As role models they can show other young people in their communities that opportunities and choices are within their grasp.



The program commenced in North Queensland in 2010 with 28 trainees graduating in November 2010. Of these, 11 subsequently were enlisted in the RAN with 8 graduating from the RAN Recruit School, HMAS CERBERUS in April 2011. Last year the live in program was in a dormitory situation at a remote locality at Djarragun College Wilderness Centre near Gordonvale, south of Cairns.

This year the trainees live three and four to a room in a motel near inner Cairns. This year the program commenced with 50 trainees but after medical and aptitude testing the numbers were reduced to 30 for the commencement of Phase 2 training. Another difference this year is that the trainees have been enlisted into the Army Reserve for pay and discipline purposes. Also, this year the trainees undertook Army Reserve Recruit training prior to commencing Phase 2 training.

Last year there were two RAN Writers involved in the program. POWTR Shane Firth (Reservist on Continuous Full Time Service) as an Instructor and myself (Reservist on days) as a Duty Overnight Military Member (DOMM). This year we have been joined by POWTR Terry Hunter (Reservist on days) as a DOMM. The DOMM is required for overnight duty one or two nights a week depending on rosters and the presence of trainees at the facility. Trainees are absent from the facility during the program for leave, a stint at the RAN Recruit School, HMAS CERBERUS for familiarization and a training cruise on sailing ship TS YOUNG ENDEAVOUR.

The DOMM is like the Officer of the Day but also mentoring trainees. They commence duty at 1645 and finish at 0800 the next morning or when the day staff arrive at the facility. They conduct evening rounds of trainee accommodation and other rounds of the premises through the night and ensuring that all trainees are in bed by lights out – pipe down at 2200. Also the DOMM attends the dining room at meal times to ensure quality of meals. Wakey Wakey is around 0545 followed by 40 minutes PT. A log is maintained to record all incidents.

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HMAS PARRAMATTA I

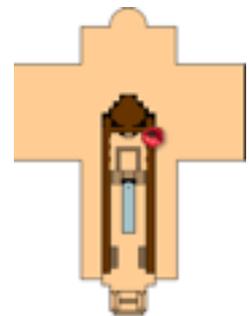
On 27 November 1941, *Parramatta* was escorting transports resupplying the Allied garrison at Tobruk, when she was hit by a single torpedo from U-559. The damage was so significant that the sloop's captain only had time to order 'abandon ship' before *Parramatta* rolled to starboard and sank at [32°20'N 24°35'E](#). Only 24 aboard survived, with 138 killed.

The sloop's wartime service was later recognised by the battle honour "Libya 1941"

History - Edward Geoffrey Purtell

Passed away 27/11/1941 at the Battle of Crete on the *Parramatta*. Sunk by U559 off Tobruk on that day. Awarded the Imperial DSM for service during this encounter. Born 2nd February 1906 and joined the Navy as a Boy II 27th January 1921. At that stage joined the *Tingara*, and was promoted to Boy I and Boy Writer whilst serving on *Tingara*. Served from early 1922 at *Penguin and Platypus* before a posting to *Sydney* 10/10/1922 - 14 April 1923 when he joined *Brisbane* until 14/6/1923. Service in *Cerberus* and *Penguin* followed before joining the Sloop *Mallow* 5/9/1924 to 31/12/1924. (He actually joined the RAN 2/2/1924) Back to shore *Penguin*, *Cerberus* and London depot before he joined the *Moresby* 30/6/1925 - 10/9/1925 when further shore time ensue. He joined another Sloop *Marguerite* 2/8/1927 until 19/2/1929 when he moved to the RAN college (Promoted PO 2/2/1930 and CPO 2/2/1934) until he rejoined *Moresby* 19/2/1937 - 1/2/1939. He joined *Parramatta* 15/6/1940 and stayed onboard until the ship was sunk in 1941.

Geoffrey's name is located at panel 4 in the area at the Australian War Memorial as indicated by the poppy on the plan right.





Stanley Edward Whear

Was another Writer that served on Parramatta. He was born 4/1/1917 and joined the RAN 1/9/1939. After Cerberus he joined Yarra 2/9/1939 until 4/9/1939 when he had a brief stay at Penguin before joining Parramatta. 25/5/1940. Promoted LS 1/1/1941. He was posted 7th October 1941 just prior to its sinking to the London depot. He was 'Mentioned in Despatches' for good service in the battle of Crete.

Whilst at the London depot he was promoted PO 1/4/1942. He joined Shropshire 25/6/1943 and served until 27/10/1943 when he was posted to Cerberus/Lonsdale until his discharge 26th May 1946.

NavyNews Article 1st February 1991.

Our Best 1990 recruit

WRWTR Fiona McAlpine has won the 1990 Emil Christensen prize for 'best general entry recruit' passing out of Recruit at HMAS CERBERUS.

The award, a wallet and cheque for \$250, is sponsored by the estate of the late Mr Christensen, an ex HNAS TINGIRA Boy Seaman.

Our CERBERUS correspondent said WRWTR McAlpine who joined the Navy from Boolaroo, NSW had displayed a willingness to assume extra duties and responsibilities, and gained the respect of superiors and peers alike with her forthright manner, sense of humour and leadership qualities.

These qualities resulted in her promotion to Leading Recruit Wran and she subsequently was awarded Recruit of the Intake.

Fiona also achieved excellent academic results and was awarded the prize for academic excellence. Her overall result for the recruit course was 96%.



WRWTR McAlpine receiving her award from Captain C J Elsmore.



THE SCRIBBLER



Our victorious WA softballers.

We're tops at WA softball

The WA women's inter-Service softball 1991 series, contested at RAAF base PEARCE, has been won by NAVY.

The long-awaited and deserved win in the series saw NAVY defeat AIR FORCE 27-2 and ARMY 19-7, both in convincing style.

Our WA correspondent LSPT Tina Ayling reports that NAVY produced two of the best all-round team performances seen in WA inter-Service softball in many years to gain the I-S shield for only the third time since its inception in 1981.

The girls thanked the PT staff for their invaluable time and effort given during the extensive training

Eight NAVY team members gained selection in the WA Combined Services squad.

They were: LWRMTD "Deb" Irwin (player/coach), LWRWTR "Trudy" Elder, SWRMTD "JJ" Johnson, SWRDEN "Tracy" Smith, SWRWTR "Tash" Lankester, SWRWTR "Leah" Middleton, SWRWTR "Mellisa" Mathers and POPT "Spud" Murphy (bat boy).

This is a 1991 photo when the WA Softball team won.

Details from the Navy News article are at the left - can you tell us who the Wran Writers are in the photo ?