

Queensland Inc Annual Report Activities and Events for 2010 - 2011

During the previous 12 months Queensland has continued to be quite active in the border community so as to promote the Branch, its members and submarines.

Events such as the major book launch of Captain George Hunt, our Patron, and his story "Diving Stations" and the ULTOR was once in a lifetime activity as over 500 were in attendance for the launch. Feature follow up articles appeared in the Courier Mail and the Brisbane News magazine to honor Captain George Hunt DSO* DSC* RN Rtd.

We were successful in obtaining grants from Saluting Your Service and BEST to help build and construct our display wall for our submarine memorabilia. The wall in the Galaxy Room of the Coorparoo RSL features those items we in Queensland have collected over past years. Several other projects are about to be launched when the next funds become available.

The recognition of the 1978/92 "mystery boat missions" finally came through in last years budget thanks to the work of a dedicated few, especially Mr Les Dwyer the President of the NAA and Rob Woolrych. Since the announcement in that Federal Budget SAA Qld with the assistance of the NAA has helped several submariners who were lost in the DVA system to obtain the recognition they deserve.

Unofficial information we have received indicates that the Nature of Service criteria for the ADF has been rewritten to include "Special Operations". It is our understanding that specific activities such as those conducted in the 1978/92 period will be recognized with the ASM (Specops) and such an award will attract "qualifying service". At this time it is not believed the award of the AASM is considered appropriate.

As an Association we have been invited to attend formal functions such as:

- A. The Naval Association of Australia and talk about life on a submarine,
- B. St Mary's Memorial Wall Launch and the Centenary of the RAN,
- C. Luncheon to meet the new Commanding Officer (Submariner) at Bulimba,
- D. Laying of plaques in New Farm for the United States of America USS PETO with the Governor, Lord Mayor and members of both State/ Federal Parliaments',
- E. Laying of wreaths at St John's Cathedral Mission for Seafarer's and lost mariners, Anzac Day, Remembrance Day at Coorparoo RSL, Darra RSL, Goodna RSL, Redlands RSL, Beenleigh RSL, Bribie RSL, Pine Rivers RSL, Caboolture RSL and Cooroy RSL,
- F. The Brisbane City Council to discuss the Naming of the area in New Farm to honor Submariners from WW2,
- G. Wondai RSL has requested Submariners to take part in the Reserve Forces Day march and to lay a wreath,
- H. AE1 Inc meeting at Coorparoo RSL,
- I. Navy Week Bundamba wreath laying service,
- J. Navy Week Reception hosted by the Brisbane City Council,
- K. Navy Week Memorial Church Service - Gold Coast Navy Foundation,
- L. Sunshine Coast Flotilla ANC Week Ceremonial Colours and Sunset Memorial at Alexandra Headlands,
- M. Serving Australia Since Federation, Brisbane and
- N. The Perth Mint and Royal Australian Navy.

SAA Qld Inc held 3 home meetings and one away meeting in Toowoomba. On average 42 have attended each meeting and the committee has meet on 4 other occasions to discuss and plan our social activities, working bees and various submissions as requested.

Liaison with Councilor of Frazer Coast of Bundaberg to offer advice with planning of new Memorial Garden for lost Seaman (including Submariners) in Frazer Coast, Burnett Heads continues as a result of last years meeting re XE Craft Submarines' in Bundaberg.

Visiting submariners when in hospital and assisting or attending three members' funerals brings home we are ageing and our welfare liaison officer is continually sorting out various claims for our members.

The good work carried out at the Coorparoo RSL Galaxy Room where our Submarine memorabilia on permanent display is a 'living wall' that has seen many comments made not only to the RSL but to the Branch.

Our Branch continues to be regular attendees of various other organizations' in particular the DFWA, St Marys Church and Reserve Force Day.

The Brisbane floods saw countless Submariners with in the Branch helping out wherever necessary in all types of capacity. Our communications via the telephone, email and visits confirmed we communicate effectively as a Branch as many responses thanked us for staying in touch during the crisis.

Don Currell

President
SAA Qld Inc

31 May 2011