



In Depth

The newsletter of the Submarines Association Australia

Volume 30, Issue 2

March 2011

Inside this issue:

Obituaries	2 & 3
Welcome Aboard	2
Buddies of the Month	2
Veteran's Affairs	3
Branch News	4
Dits	
Defence News	
Branch Contacts	10
Events	10

EDITORIAL:

The policy on the distribution of In Depth is that Members with access to a computer will not receive hard copy.

Those requiring hard copy are requested to advise the secretary who will include you in our mailing list.

If you are on the net and receive hard copy, please let us know. The problem is usually created as a result of us having outdated contact information.

Do we have YOUR current details?

DISCLAIMER:

The opinions expressed in "In Depth" are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, the National and State Committees of SAA or the RAN.



This edition of In Depth sponsored by ASC Pty Ltd

From the President

The natural disasters that have wrought destruction and despair upon Australia and Australians over the last few months have seen us all looking to our mates in the affected areas.

The feedback that was received indicates that our Members were, in the main, spared from major damage and destruction. I continue to pray that all remain safe and well and they and their families and friends can recover quickly and their lives return (as much as possible) to normal.

On another note I would like to thank those branches who have provided the National Executive with updated Constitutions and/or amendments for review. Unfortunately we have not made the progress that we had hoped for, but we will continue to try and get this put to rest

Finally, I intend to stand again for the position of National President in 2011. I want to keep going, get better at this and make some more changes that will be to the benefit of all.

Yours Aye

Darren Thompson
National President



Secretary's Report

I was a bit disappointed when I received a post written by an Ex CPOSN Ron Gibson, the ex skimmer CPO of an ex submariner. It said "I ran into him some years ago, he was living at Studio Village on the Gold Coast but was badly affected from his time on the Submarines where he and a couple of others sailors got gassed. I hope he has recovered or at least his health has improved."

I was then asked "Do you blokes look after your own or just discard them?"

This statement annoyed me, the sailor in question is amongst the many that, once they leave pusser, want nothing to do with it. He went deep and quiet after getting out and I have had no reports on him having problems. If I had done we would have investigated it.

We have a strong communications network, I have 1300 submariners on my database and regularly seek out more.

We try to offer assistance when needed, we have a Welfare Fund that gives grants in time of need as well as DVA advocates. But for this to be of any use we have to be made aware of any problems before we can solve them. You cannot 'look after your own' If your own don't let you know they have a problem.

Letters went out in February to Members that are due to pay their 2011 subscriptions. This year we ask that payment be made as early as possible as the task of trying to collect them is time consuming and sometimes requires several reminders before all are collected.

Last year over 40 Members did NOT renew, a sad state of affairs. A number of these did not renew as they may not have received their notices, having moved and not advised us of a change of address. If you know of anyone that has moved please ask them if we were advised.

Victoria is gearing up for SUBCON and I am sure that it is going to be a great event. Although being held in the heart of Melbourne the Branch is doing all it can to minimise costs and they are expected to be in line with recent SUBCONs.

Norm Williams
Acting Secretary

We are here to help....

Keeping members current with Health and Welfare matters is an important function of the Association. We have a National Coordinator and DVA trained Pensions and Welfare Officers to provide free assistance in welfare and compensation matters.

The claims process, although it may appear simple, has many pitfalls and many a claim is rejected on technicalities. It is important that you seek advice when considering a claim, there is a saying in legal circles; the person that represents has a fool as his lawyer.

ETERNAL PATROL

The following Members embarked on their final patrol in February and March.

Harold (Bill) George Budd

Queensland member Harold (Bill) George Budd passed away in Brisbane on Tuesday, 15 February 2011.

Harold, know to his peers as Bill or Billy after his well known surname. Bill served in the Coastguard from 1939 - 1942 and also had a stint in the RNZAF in 1942. In England, Bill volunteered for submarines in 1943 and on completing his initial submarine training in November 1943 joined HMS Upshot .

In July 1944, Bill was drafted to HMS Upstart, a billet he held until August 1945 when he joined HMS Tiptoe at Fremantle after her last patrol in the south-west Pacific area.

Bill had attained the rank of Petty Officer Telegraphist. Bill joined the Association in Queensland in January 1996 after migrating from New Zealand.

Of the six medals Bill was awarded it is noticed that he had earned among them the Atlantic Star, Home Defence and Russian Convoy medals

The submarine community offers its prayers and condolences to Bill's widow Lauren and family.

Peter Smith - SAA Historian

Vale - Josiane Davies

It was with great sadness that we were informed of the death of Josiane Davies on Wednesday night after a long illness. Many of you will know her, and for those who do not, Josiane was the wife of Commodore Steve Davies. CDRE Davies retired late last year to spend more time with Josiane and their two daughters.

When one submariner cries, we all cry.

WELCOME ABOARD

The following new members signed on with the SAA in February and March.

ex CPOMTP3*SM John **Culnane**. Served on HMS Taciturn, HMS Token, HMS Porpoise, HMS Valiant, HMS Resolution, HMS Finwhale, HMS Cachalot and HMAS Otway.

ex ABRPSM John 'Shorty' **Winn**. Served on HMAS Ovens HMAS Oxley and HMAS Otway '78

ex LSUCSM Paul **Cleary**. Served on HMAS Oxley and HMAS Onslow.

ex WO AWASM Steven **Burgess**. Served on HMAS Otama, HMAS Otway, HMAS Collins and HMAS Farncomb.

LSNPCSM James **Palmer**. Served on HMAS Rankin and HMAS Farncomb

LEUT Peter **Moore** RAN (Rtd). Served on HMS Osiris and HMAS Otway

Join the SAA - Deep down you know it makes sense

BRANCH NEWS

ACT Branch

The ACT Branch had its first social event for the year; on Sunday 20 Feb we held a BYOE picnic in the National Botanic Gardens. It was a beautiful sunny day which was well attended by a rough looking bunch of blokes and a bevy of good looking women.



The gardens provided a great setting for the day with an abundance of bird life and the occasional water dragon coming for a feed, luckily there were no cox'ns there so we had plenty of food for everyone. It was a pleasant experience to just sit around under the shade of the trees and enjoy each others company, have a chat, a drink or three and some victuals.

The next outing for the ACT Branch will be the ANZAC Day lunch which will be held at Keith & Janice Bateman's home in Queanbeyan, why not try and be there.

Geoff Burns JP

Secretary, ACT Branch
0427 435 314

Queensland Branch

Our January meeting was cancelled due to the weather conditions prevailing at the time. However your Committee met a week or so later and all members got "Notes" of what was discussed at that Committee Meeting and believe me there was a lot covered.

We cannot emphasise too much that if there are any submariners visiting Brisbane at that time we would love to see you at our meetings.

Any submariners be they old or young, that are residents of, or are visiting Queensland on the Weekend of 30th & 31st of July 2011, are invited to come and join us for our Biennial Dinner Dance and Annual General Meeting. For further info visit the SAA Events calendar or the SAA QLD website.

Graeme Caesar

Secretary, Queensland Branch
Phone: 0418 449 528

West Australia Branch

At the 20 February 2011 General Meeting Sid Czabotar and Peter O'Donohue were confirmed as President and Vice President respectively of the SAA WA Branch. Former President Perry Holland had to resign at short notice due to work commitments.

(Continued from page 2)

There has been some interest from members regarding training for Welfare and Pensions officers and the TIP Training Program has been disseminated. We look forward to increasing the numbers of trained personnel to assist members in claims with DVA

This year for Anzac Day the branch will be split into 2 groups with about 12 or so members and partners going to Albany for the dedication of the AE2 Plaque on 24th April. They will also attend Dawn Service and Anzac Day March on 25th April. The Branch is hosting a cocktail party for City of Albany Officials on the evening of 23rd April. Remainder of the Branch members will attend the Dawn service and March in Fremantle.

Sid Czabotar and Lloyd Blake will go to Istanbul in May to invite the ISC to hold their 2014 Congress in WA to coincide with the SAA SUBCON 2014. The Submarine Institute of Australia and SAA WA Branch have provided a travel subsidy which was appreciated. Sid and Lloyd recently met with the Perth Convention Bureau who assist in the promotion of overseas conferences in WA.



Paul Meakin

Secretary, West Australia Branch
0412 314 361

North Queensland Branch

The first few months of 2011 have been a trying time for North Queensland and in fact Queensland as a whole. Hardest hit of course has been the area between Ingham and Innisfail. These areas have been flooded twice with Cyclone Yasi lobbing in between the flooding events. Fortunately, there appears to have been none of our members impacted upon. However I don't know of anyone that hasn't been involved in some way with the clean up afterwards.

The Branch will be marching in Cairns this Anzac Day. I have been in contact with the organizing committee and have forwarded our requirements. However, they haven't finalised their organization yet, so when advised by Cairns City Council, details will be passed on to the membership. There is a reasonable contingent heading north from Townsville and it is hoped that we will be able to coax a few Cairns natives to attend.

Planning is well underway for Subcon 2013 and the branch should have a website up and running in the not too distant future. However help is desperately needed. Anyone that can get involved, especially in the Townsville region, will be warmly welcomed.

Garth Schmidt

Secretary, Northern Queensland Branch
07 4788 0884

Victorian Branch

The usual arrangements are in place for Anzac Day this year - although I believe the march has been altered somewhat. We will still march behind our banner. I am yet to hear from Anzac House as to transport for our 'ail and hearty', but I will work on it.

Assemble in Flinders Street about 100 metres up toward the old Herald-Sun building, kick off will be approx. 0900, so make sure you arrive around 0830.

Anzac Day this year falls on Easter Monday so attendances may well be down. If you are in two minds about attending, please come along and keep our numbers up. We will also be seeking support from HMAS Cerberus in regard to submariners down there.

Ian Tanner

Secretary, Victorian Branch
0450 642 835

South Australia Branch

ANZAC Day March muster will be at the London Tavern Nth Terrace and then assemble in eastern side of Pulteney Street (south from North Terrace to Rundle Street) behind the Fleet Air Arm GROUP 9 (A). Post March – Metropolitan Hotel, 46 Grote Street, Adelaide. (Gold coin donation for bus)

Allen 'Connie' Francis

Secretary, South Australia Branch
0402 078 959

New South Wales Branch

On Sunday 27 Feb 11, the SAA NSW held a very successful BBQ on Spectacle Island. 12 Submariners and guests (Total 56) and 16 members of the Sydney Hash (31 Total) enjoyed a beautiful day on Sydney Harbour with a BBQ lunch provided by the Committee and Hash. Ned Kelly was given the opportunity to repeat his youth and down a beer in record time. All enjoyed the opportunity to view the Museum and Naval Collection under the expert Guidance of Peter Smith. Why not join us next time?

The Branch will march under the SAA Banner and Harbour Stations are at Castlereagh St South near corner of King St at 8.45 for a 9am (approx) march step off time. Afterwards refreshments etc. have been arranged at the Stattons Hotel, 249 Castlereagh St, upstairs lounge as usual.

Hope to see you all there for the obligatory TOT.

Geoff Anderson

President, NSW Branch
0413 980 091

Tasmanian Branch

The Branch will muster in the usual spot at Franklin Square, Hobart at 1030-1045. The Parade will fall in at 1100 and march off along Macquarie St. for the commemorative ceremony at the Cenotaph. On completion of the main service we will reassemble at the Hobart Navy Club for refreshments, two-up and warrie spinning. Please turn up and support your local branch. Contact David Byrne (or 0438 349 239) for details.

David Byrne

Secretary, Tasmania Branch
0438 349 239

BOOK LAUNCH - DIVING STATIONS

Queensland Branch President Don Currell stated that he was very proud to have been alongside their Patron, Captain George Hunt DSO* DSC* RN (Rtd), and be amongst so many Branch members to witness the book launch of "DIVING STATIONS". Don added;

The organizing committee, Loriol Williamson, Rob Woolrych, Ian Roberts including the Brisbane Boys College Pipers and staff all need to be congratulated on a splendid job.

To have nearly 550 present made this a marvellous event. Messages came from many senior naval officers, including 2 former Flag Officer Submarines plus our own SAA Patron VADM I.D.G. MacDougall, along with many ex service organizations. It was truly a very special day indeed.

I do not believe we as an Association will ever be part of such an event where we are able to salute one of the Submarine Arms' true heroes. To have such a remarkable man, as George, as Patron of SAA Qld Inc makes me so proud and I know that probably one of the greatest submariners ever is our Patron and this should make you all justifiably proud to be part of an organization such as ours.

George spoke from the heart, of his past recollections and of the many trials he and his ships company faced in ULTOR and was most adamant that everything he achieved was only done because he had a very professional and supportive Ships Company. His recollections and the deeds undertaken in his war left an everlasting imprint on all guests' minds. At nearly 95 he delivered his speech superbly and strongly emphasized that the job of Command of ULTOR was easy because he had crew of 36 who were volunteers and very good men and wonderful submariners.

Many photographs were taken and are available on the Branch web site. Enjoy reading 'Diving Stations', it will make you realize that George is even more special than you ever imagined.

CONGRATULATIONS - SUBMARINER OF THE YEAR 2010

At the SUBFOR end of year Forum in December last year the Submariner of the Year award was presented to LCDR Dave Reid by CDRE Steve Davies. SAA President CPO Darren Thompson was able to congratulate Dave personally and presented him with a memento from the SAA.



A THANK YOU

It is good to see people that you worked or serve with do well, it is even better when they acknowledge the assistance they were given to reach their potential. One such acknowledgement came from Mark Layton, ASC's Continuous Improvement Manager. He wrote the following to those that helped him.



"It was with great excitement I recently attended my graduation from Edith Cowan University in WA after completing my Degree in Training and Organisational Development. I began studying 4 years ago with the initial goal of simply graduating. After considerable effort over the years I was awarded membership to the "Golden Key organisation" ranking me in the top 15% of university students from all around the globe. Last week I was granted access to the Executive Deans honour list, placing my results in the top 5% of all Business & Law graduates at ECU.

Many of these achievements would not have been possible without the help of ASC and it's staff. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those people who have given me some great assistance along this journey. By providing financial assistance, allowing me the time to attend exams and giving guidance when needed, I've completed a journey that I never thought possible. Special thankyou's to those working at the Submarine School both past and present who were instrumental in providing this assistance.

To ASC as a whole, thankyou for providing the resources and support the organisation requires for people to realise a dream."

Congratulations Mark. When I joined ASC in 1987 I did not know what a roller coaster ride that I was getting on, but am I glad I did. In my time at ASC I was given support and encouragement that exceeded my expectations. Although lacking formal qualifications this support resulted in me becoming the Training Manager at the submarine school (STSC as some like to call it) and working with some of the most dedicated and professional people (skimmers included) that you would ever want to meet. I was proud to work with ASC and these people and I am very pleased to see that many are still there after all these years. ASC are strong supporters of the Association. NW

AROUND THE TRAPS

Garth Schmidt reports that things have not been going well for Colin Watts, who has been battling cancer for some time now. Garth wrote "Colin has been hospitalized for the last couple of weeks and almost lost the battle. However, Spanner is made of stern stuff and is, at this moment, once more recovering. An email of support to Spanner I believe would be very much appreciated."

Garth also reported that "Rob Roberts is still doing well in the Blue Haven nursing home in Ingham, however his sight has now deteriorated to the extent that makes reading, something that he loves, impossible. I know that Derek Lilliman rings Claude on a regular basis, which he really appreciates."

I received an email from Ted Creswell and I was surprised to hear he lives in Canada. My question "Why" received this re-

sponse. "Here is the short version. I got out of boats '81 and had an auto transmission business till 89, then I went to a small mining town called Kimberley in British Columbia for a ski holiday where I met a lot of new people but made a bunch of new friends. I have been here ever since, 22 years now. I have been a ski guide here now for 15 years, I remarried 12 years ago to a Canadian girl, Virginia, and all going well." Ted has a house in Hervey Bay and returns to Australia twice a year.

Ray and Robyn Kemp have returned from their OS jolly and report "We are back in Adelaide for the night, out to tea with the boys. Arrived home at 1:30 and head off to Thailand at 12:15 tomorrow for a wedding. Spent the night in Sydney. Caught up with a couple that flew LAN home they left 3 hours before us and arrived in Sydney 13 hours later. What can I say about Antarctica, AWESOME."

A Man is sitting at home on the verandah with his wife and he says, "I love you." She asks, "Is that you or the beer talking?" He replies, "It's me..... talking to my beer."

ACT Branch Member Keith Bateman (now a Squadron Leader in the RAAF) is not having a good trot; he recently lost his father to cancer and Keith has been in hospital several times undergoing surgery. Keith is a solid supporter of the Association and we all offer our condolences on the loss of his father and wish him well with his health.

Dave 'Goldie' Horne wrote "I am very envious of Ken and Jan Chilvers sailing from Sydney to Southampton on the Queen Elizabeth. They are going long haul. We also join Queen Elizabeth (short haul) from Singapore to Dubai via Malaysia, India and Oman, the added bonus is that we are retuning Singapore Airlines Business Class, got a good deal."

Who said submariners did not have a sense of adventure! We have several ex submariners with helicopter licences and soon to get another. In a recent email WA member Brett Campy reported "Still working in aviation and nearly finished my commercial helicopter license. Already working for Heliwest Jandakot who I'm also doing my training with."

AEI Incorporated has been very active of late with Michael White at the helm, and you can expect to hear more about the Association in coming months.. James Palmer is the incoming Honorary Secretary to Association. James served over 10 years with the RAN most of which within the squadron and he served on HMAS Rankin and HMAS Farncomb. He started a Law degree in 2009 and is looking at finishing that up in mid 2013. James, his partner Jane and their little baby girl Violet live in Brisbane. He is planning on moving on from the RAN in August this year to pursue a legal career.



Graham Atkinson (ACT) has got in early with his apology.... "I know it is a bit early but could you note my apology for SUBCON. Although I tried (remember I was an ossifer) to coordinate things to attend and have my long overdue holiday just after, this was not possible and I will be doing the Kimberley Expedition on MV Orion (Darwin - Broome) at the same time - at least I chose a ship with a submarine name eh Goldie!!"

There is a life after boats as many submariners find after being promoted and posted back to the grey funnel line. After a period deep WO Jodi Bonney sent the following; "Just a quick note to let you know of my contact details. As you can see I am now SWO on HMAS Toowoomba after a two year stint on HMAS Anzac as SWO. I was fortunate enough to get a third term and that has helped me decide what I want to be when I grow up !! I have decided to apply for commission mid year to SMN Officer and go back to boats! Skimmers are a nice place to visit, however, boats are where I am most comfortable." Targets loss is boats gain.

The missus was watching a cooking program the other day. I said, "What you watching that for? You can't cook." She said, "You watch porn."

SAA president CPO Darren Thompson and Treasurer John Rana attended the launch of the Australian Navy's 100yr Commemorative Coin onboard HMAS Perth last week. They were joined by Ian Sinclair (Qld Branch). Also present was the WA Branch Patron CDRE Bob Trotter, COMSUB, Mr Joe Francis (ex SM Officer) member for Jandakot and WOAWASM Scott Brown.

The SAA was presented with one of the coins along with the RSL and Naval Association. The coin set can be seen on the Perth Mint website. Darren said "You will notice that John is wearing a skimmer's ball cap and doesn't he look nice in it! I think that is worth a few beers." That will be a red letter day when John shouts.....



Ken and Jan Chilvers are another couple that have joined the SKIing fraternity. Ken wrote "Just to let you all know that Jean and I won't be around for a while. After Jean's surgery I had a rush of blood to the head and booked a trip to the UK on the Queen Elizabeth. We are unable to make Subcon 2011 in Melbourne, which is a bit of a bummer, we will make sure we make it for 2012."

And the 'Holland's' are heading off to the USA and Mexico. Dave Holland wrote "We are meeting up in Vegas with our eldest and youngest son's and their families to celebrate their 40th and 26th Birthdays for a week (what happens in Vegas!!) and then off to Chicago for a couple of weeks before heading off to Mexico (Cancun resort - fully inclusive, could be dangerous!!) for a week in the sun (to thaw out) before heading back to LA and then home and back to work."

New SAA Member, John Winn wrote "Thanks for the warm welcome back into the Association, still have my original FASSC badge from back in 1975. Since finding the Association's web site, and looking at Buddies in Boats, the memories of the good and not so good come to surface."

Tony Vine reports "Just back from a reunion of my NIRIMBA intake (30th) in Kuala Lumpur. We had about 20 of the intake there including eight of the 15 Malays in our intake. Submariners included: Myself, Ross "Little Nobby" Clarke, Brian Mateer, Gus Mellon, Mark "Windy" Gale (Ex POETWSM), Trevor "Tug" Wilson, and a ring in from the 31st intake: Mike (Henry Higgins). Unfortunately my flash appears to have been bung but hopefully I will get a decent photo to send on from somebody else."

WA Branch secretary Paul Meakin reports that Submarine Ovens is getting much need maintenance and repair support with the aid of the local TAFE, Submarine Guides and Museum Staff. He notes "A Project Team has formed which includes, Museum Staff, Submarine Squadron Staff and ex Submariners such as Bob Trotter, Peter Horobin, Sid Czabotar and Lloyd Blake. The initial task of this project team is to determine what needs to be done in the future to maintain the integrity of the submarine and its safe access."

Graham 'GJ' Smith is about to learn the facts of life, country style. "I've retired and moved to country Victoria, nice town very friendly people, people actually say hello when passing on the street! Only downer is getting a tradesman, I have to get some windows fitted it's taken 2 months to get a quote and probably another 2 months to get done there are extenuating reasons, all the builders and tradies have their hands full after the floods! Well nearly time to go to the RSL for a couple of lites and listen to conversations about people I don't know!"

BUDDIES OF THE MONTH

Name: CMDR GLEX SM† Allan **James** RAN (Rtd)

Partner: Robyn

Lives at: ACT

Served on: HMAS Oxley, HMAS Ovens and HMAS Otway

Comments: What can I say , it was fun, fun, fun



Name: ex LSUCSM Robert **Lee**

Partner: Susan

Lives at: Diddillibah Qld.

Served on: HMAS Otway, HMAS Oxley and HMAS Onslow .

Comments: 9 of the greatest years of my life. Met some weird and wonderful people along the way. Loved the life, loved the camaraderie, ended up with many unforgettable friends. Lost touch with a few too many.

The correct way to treat a good wine...

Open the bottle to allow it to breathe. If it doesn't look like it's breathing, give it mouth-to-mouth resuscitation.



VALE - REAR ADMIRAL SAM SALT CB RN RTD

Rear-Admiral Sam Salt, who died on December 3 aged 69, commanded the first British warship to be sunk by enemy action after the Second World War. As skipper of HMS Sheffield during the Falklands confrontation his ship was taken out by an air launched Exocet anti ship missile and subsequently sank in the south Atlantic whilst under tow...

The 69-year-old died after a long battle with cancer, and tributes have been paid by the sailors who served with him.

Chris Purcell, on starboard watch on the Sheffield when she was hit by an Argentine exocet missile in 1982, said: 'I and several other members of the crew are in a state of shock. 'He was the best officer I ever served with, we were fiercely loyal to him and he was loyal in return.'

Rear Admiral Salt joined the navy in 1958 and specialised in submarines before switching to the surface fleet.

Salt was educated at Wellington college, Berkshire, and at the Dartmouth Royal Naval College (1958-59) in Devon. He served in the far east, the Mediterranean and the south Atlantic before, in 1969, taking a two-year command of his first submarine, HMS/m Finwhale. He was soon promoted to Britain's nuclear fleet, serving as second-in-command of the Polaris missile submarine Resolution (1973-74), and commander of the nuclear-powered attack submarine Dreadnought (1978-79).

Immediately after the Falklands war, he was given command of another type-42 destroyer, HMS Southampton.

WA Member John Culnane wrote ""He was my commanding officer (LtCdr at the time) on HMS/m Finwhale attached to the 7th S/m Sdrn Singapore 1969 - 1971, and visited Fremantle during this period for exercises with the RAN... Sammy Salt was one of the finest naval officers I had the pleasure to serve with & always looked after his crew no matter what the problem & on one occasion was locked up with members of "Finwhale" in a Hong Kong military police gaol for being in a restricted area (Red Light) of "Kowloon", which was off limits to all military personnel during the Vietnam War as Hong Kong was being used for R & R by the US armed forces...

NAVY FALLING SHORT ON SUBMARINE WORK-FORCE TARGET

(Canberra Times 2/21/11) The navy is still one submarine crew short of the Australian Defence Force's manpower target for the subsensible fleet, a Defence spokesman says.

While the situation has improved markedly since the period from June to October 2009, when only one submarine could put to sea, the navy currently only has crews for three of the six Collins Class boats.

"Navy's submarine target is four submarines crewed and in various stages of their routine operating, maintenance and training cycles," a Defence spokesman said.

"This allows navy to meet its training and operational preparedness requirements." Asked how many boats were currently ready for sea, Defence declined to provide a specific answer for security reasons. "Three submarines are fully crewed in Western Australia. Submarine programs are prioritized and the submarine force continues to meet scheduled commitments." Asked if the capability gap with the submarine fleet was as

serious as that with the sea lift ships, Defence said the challenges should not be underestimated. "However, navy and the DMO are working closely to improve submarine platform availability," the spokesman said.

"For the period January 1 to June 30, 2010, HMAS Collins, Waller and Dechaineux were fully operational with a full crew complement and capable of completing unit ready days." Manpower issues were being addressed. "The submarine workforce is also growing due to reforms introduced through the Submarine Work-force Sustainability Program.

AWARD OF VICTORIA CROSS TO PAST HEROES

Defence is set to refer the vexed issue of awarding Victoria Cross medals retrospectively to a specialist tribunal that considers medal anomalies. An inquiry by the independent Defence Honours and Awards Tribunal would be the most comprehensive assessment yet of an issue which has surfaced routinely for decades.

Recently, defence force chief Angus Houston undertook to consider why no VC had ever being awarded to an Australian sailor. "As a situation such as this has not been reviewed in the past, it is not possible to determine how long the process will take," he said. "As the Victoria Cross is the nation's highest award, it is important that the review has time to properly consider these matters."

Over the years, there's been considerable agitation to award the VC to Private John Simpson, killed on Gallipoli after transporting numerous wounded soldiers to safety on his donkey.

Liberal senator Guy Barnett raised the issue in a Senate estimates hearing, asking why not one of Australia's 97 VC medals had gone to a sailor.

His candidates for a retrospective VC include Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheehan, lost on HMAS Armidale in December 1942, Captain Hec Waller, lost on HMAS Perth in March 1942, Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin, lost on HMAS Yarra in March 1942 and Captain Henry Stoker, commander of the submarine AE-2 which penetrated the Dardanelles at the start of the Gallipoli campaign in 1915.

In the case of Sheehan, Waller and Rankin, the navy named Collins class submarines in their honour. Stoker is less well known but Royal Navy submariner Commander Norman Holbrook who performed a very similar feat did receive the VC.

Up to 1991, all Australian military honours were awarded through the imperial system, with Britain reluctant to countenance retrospective awards.

BUDGET FIGHT COULD MEAN SMALLER FLEET OF US SUBMARINES

The aging USN attack submarines built during the Cold War are retiring faster than new submarines are being built to take their place.

China has the fastest-growing navy in the world today. Iran launched four new submarines last year. Yet the U.S. Navy cannot start buying more submarines from Electric Boat be-

cause the House and Senate cannot agree on a federal budget.

At this rate, the number of attack submarines could eventually drop below the 48 vessels the Navy says it must have to cover all areas of interest around the world, potentially to as low as 40 submarines, Thompson said.

Last year the Navy bought one Virginia-class submarine from Electric Boat for \$1.96 billion. This year it is supposed to buy two for \$3.44 billion. "If we don't fully fund two subs a year before the end of this year, then obviously it's a math equation," said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District. "You end up with one sub, and that spills over to the following year."

The end result, Courtney said, could be a smaller fleet of submarines and "downstream that would affect our naval superiority." "The continued health of the Virginia program will directly support the Navy's continued ability to meet worldwide demands of combatant commanders," she said.

Japanese scientists have now created a digital camera with such a fast speed that it's now possible to take a photograph of a woman with her gob shut.

WHY DO WE PLACE OUR RIGHT ARM ON OUR LEFT BREAST?

It will be noticed at any Remembrance Service or when passing a Cenotaph Veterans will place their Right Hand over their "Left Side" many may believe that they are placing their "Hand over their Heart" in Respect or Remembrance of their Fallen Comrades"; - this is not so.

The Veterans Salute to their "Fallen Comrades" originated in London on Armistice Day in 1920, during the ceremony to unveil and dedicate the Cenotaph in Whitehall at the same time a funeral procession accompanying the remains of the "Unknown Soldier" halted at the Cenotaph during the ceremony before proceeding to Westminster Abbey for internment. Those present included the senior Soldier, sailor and many Victoria Cross winners.

The ceremony concluded with a march past. The Regimental Sergeant Major of the Guard Regiment conducting the ceremony, faced with a gathering of highly decorated and high ranking military men (including many Victoria Cross winners), all wearing rows of medals, decreed that all would salute the Cenotaph as they marched past by placing their hand over their medals, signifying that "No matter what honours we may have been awarded they are nothing compared with the honour due to those who paid the supreme sacrifice".

Forty grey nomads, all ex submariners, arrive at the Pearly Gates in their Transit vans and caravans. St Peter goes into the gatehouse and phones up GOD, saying: 'I've got 40 travellers here. Can I let them in?'

GOD replies 'We are over our quota on grey nomads. Go back out to the Pearly Gates and tell them to choose among them which are the 12 most worthy, and I will let just the dozen in.'

Less than a minute later St Peter is on the phone again. 'They've gone', he tells GOD.

'What?' says GOD, 'All 40 of them?'

'No, the Pearly Gates'.

MEET THE U212A

It is almost totally silent, radiates virtually no heat and is constructed entirely from non-magnetic metals. Meet the U212A - an ultra-advanced non-nuclear sub developed by German naval shipyard Howaldtswerke Deutsche Werft, who claim it to be "the peak of German submarine technology."

And few would argue. The super-stealth vessel is the first of its kind to be powered by a revolutionary hydrogen fuel cell that lets it cruise the deep blue without giving off noise or exhaust heat. That's important, because according to Bernd Arjes, a captain in the German Navy, silence keeps submariners alive. "We operate in coastal waters around Europe and this submarine is specially designed for finding submarines. If you want to find other submarines of course you have to be quiet," he said.

With this latest technology, he added, "the boat is virtually undetectable." If you want to find other submarines of course you have to be quiet.

But being indistinguishable is not the only thing that sets the U212A apart. Unlike conventional subs, which need air to combust diesel, the fuel cell doesn't require oxygen to operate. This means it can remain submerged for many weeks -- holding its breath many times longer than its gas-guzzling cousins.

You'd expect a boat like this to pack a punch, and you'd be right. The 212A is armed with 12 heavyweight wire guided torpedoes, each capable of destroying a war ship or disabling an aircraft carrier.

Germany, which has no nuclear weapons or nuclear-powered ships of its own, is the world's third largest exporter of defense goods. HDW began developing the technology for the U212A in 1994, with the first vessels reaching market in 2003. Export editions have already been sold to the navies of Greece, Portugal and South Korea.

ROYAL NAVY TO AXE 'FUKUSHIMA TYPE' NUCLEAR REACTORS FROM SUBMARINES

Trident submarines based at Faslane, Scotland, and six Trafalgar-class subs have reactors similar to the ones involved in Japan's nuclear crisis. The Royal Navy is to drop a dangerous type of reactor used in its existing nuclear submarines because it fails to meet modern safety standards, defence ministers have disclosed.

A safer type of reactor is expected to be used in the submarines that will replace the Trident fleet, as the existing design shares very similar features to the nuclear reactors involved in the Fukushima Daiichi disaster in Japan.

Liam Fox, the defence secretary, told MPs there was a "very clear-cut" case to use the new type of reactor because it has "improved nuclear safety" and would give "a better safety outlook".

A heavily censored Ministry of Defence report disclosed earlier this month by the Guardian and Channel 4 News said the current reactors are "potentially vulnerable" to fatal accidents, which could cause "multiple fatalities" among submarine crews. The report, written by a senior MoD nuclear safety ex-

pert, Commodore Andrew McFarlane, said the existing type compared "poorly" with those in the most modern nuclear power stations because it relied on a vulnerable type of cooling system, falling "significantly short" of modern best practice for nuclear reactors.

VETERANS LINE

1800 011 046 - Veterans Line is a national after-hours crisis counselling service, which complements the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service. Those eligible for the service include: Australian service personnel from all wars and conflicts: WWII, Malaya, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War, Rwanda, Peacekeepers.

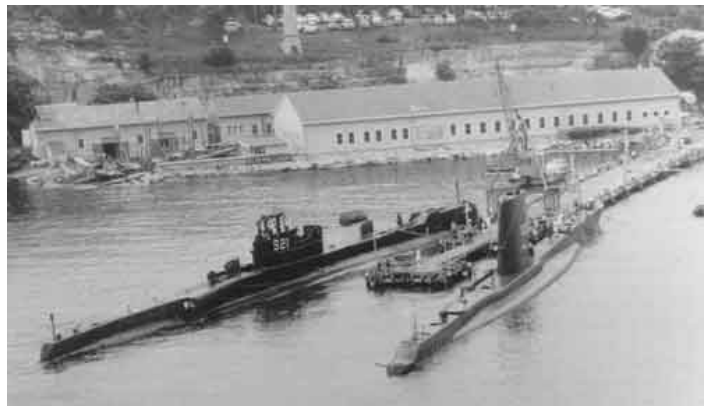
Eligibility extends to immediate family members experiencing social/psychological distress as a consequence of the veterans period of service as follows: wives/partners, ex-wives/ex-partners (five years), war widows, children of Vietnam veterans (any age) and children of other veterans up to the age of 26 years.

FUTURE CABINET PAPERS

Future cabinet papers will be released after 20 years, instead of 30 years, following legislation by federal parliament last year. The National Archives is phasing in the change by releasing two years' documents each year for the next 10 years. The cabinet records are on the National Archives website www.naa.gov.au. Click on the 'collection' tab the 'explore' then 'cabinet'. The website will post selected documents from 1981 during this year.

THE FOURTH SUBMARINE SQUADRON IN AUSTRALIA

The RN's 4th Submarine Squadron based at HMAS Penguin was established under the command of Commander S/M (later Vice Admiral) I.L.M. McGeoch CB DSO, DSM RN in 1949 and consisted of HMS THOROUGH, HMS TELEMACHUS and HMS TACTIAN.



Until 18 August 1967 the Squadron had been part of the Royal Navy under government agreement between Great Britain and Australia.

HMS TELEMACHUS arrived in Sydney in December 1949 followed in January 1950 by HMS THOROUGH and in July 1950 HMS TACTIAN arrived. These three submarines served until 1957 being refitted in Singapore during their service in Australia.

(Continued from page 8)

They were replaced by three "A" class submarines HMS AUROCHS, HMS ANDREW and HMS ANCHORITE during the period 1957-1960. HMS ANDREW was the submarine used in the original film "On the Beach".

These boats were replaced by a streamlined HMS TAPIR in 1960 and three "T" class conversions. HMS TABARD 1961, HMS TRUMP and HMS TACITURN in 1962. The "T" conversions had an extra 20 foot section added, and were the test bed for the later "P" and "O" class boats. They refitted at Cockatoo Island Dockyard commencing with HMS TABARD in 1960

A total of ten submarines were stationed in Sydney during the years 1949 to 1969. The flotilla usually comprised three or four boats, but, from 1963, was gradually reduced in numbers. Three submarines were in service in 1966 and two during 1967-68. HMS TRUMP served into 1969 before leaving for Britain on 10th of January.

On 18 August 1967 the first Australian Submarine Squadron was formed under the command of Commander SM (later Captain) W.I. OWEN RN. With the commissioning of HMAS PLATYPUS at Neutral Bay, as the RAN's submarine base to support the Squadron, consisting of HMAS OXLEY, HMS TABARD and HMS TRUMP.

After the arrival of HMAS OXLEY, Australia had her first submarine for 36 years. The commissioning of PLATYPUS replaced the RN's Fourth Submarine Squadron, but the submarines HMS TRUMP and HMS TABARD continued to serve in Australia under RAN operational control. These were gradually replaced by the RAN Oberons.

Two more Oberons were ordered for the RAN in 1971 and from the Period December 1972 to May 1975 the RN submarine HMS ODIN was loaned to the Australian Submarine Squadron to maintain force levels during the refit of OXLEY

On commissioning of HMAS PLATYPUS on 18 August 1967, Royal Australian Navy Submarine Squadron was established. It consisted of HMAS OXLEY, HMS TABARD and HMS TRUMP and replaced the Royal Navy's Fourth Submarine Squadron (SM4).



HMS Amphion in Sydney Harbour

Peter Smith - SAA Historian

AROUND THE TRAPS (continued)



I received the following from Annette Kiff. "I have come across your site and found my father's name (Michael 'Jan' Kiff) under the 'Buddies' section - but noticed there is not a picture of him. Would it be possible to put this photo in for us (his family) and also other members that still may have remembered him. Unfortunately my father passed away 4 years ago. We all still miss him dearly. He served on HMS Tactician, Thorough and HMS Telemachus. I am searching the net to find more photos of him - so wish me luck."

Kevin O'Brien (Norway) laments that he is going to miss SUBCON "Its times like these (SUBCON) that I would have loved to be in Australia. Never mind. I lasted as a pensioner out of the oil business for just on fourteen months. I started training last week as a cargo inspector at a local petrochemical refinery. Bloody mad of course, but nice to be back at work again." Kevin was standby crew of Ovens during build in Scotland, married a Norwegian lass Kari and stayed there.

Congratulations to Angad Singh (formerly LSMTPSM John 'Buck' Buckley). I nearly fell out of bed when I read "Mate, who ever said you cant teach an old dog new tricks, this one has married the teacher. Her name is Fatima (Mini Mouse)." I asked Buck for his address and he replied "There is no address as such here on the Island of Bohol". A quick Google identified Bohol as an Island in the Philippines.



VALE - CAPT C.A. (COLIN) BUCHANAN RN (RTD)

The Dolphin branch of the Submariners Association has informed members that one of their branch members, Captain C.A. (Colin) Buchanan RN (Rtd) has "Crossed the Bar" on his Last Patrol" aged 69.

Colin saw submarine service 1957-82 and served on HMS Taciturn (2), HMS Porpoise, HMS Opportune, HMS Tabard, HMS Cachalot and HMS Courageous.

Paddy was driving down the street in a sweat because he had an important meeting and couldn't find a parking place. Looking up to heaven he said, 'Lord take pity on me. If you find me a parking place I will go to Mass every Sunday for the rest of me life and give up me Irish Whiskey!' Miraculously, a parking place appeared.

Paddy looked up again and said, 'Never mind, I found one.'

BRANCH CONTACTS

Ken Norris Secretary SAA NSW 4 Rajola Place, North Rocks NSW 2151 02 9872 1831	Ian Tanner Secretary SAA Victoria Inc 14/22 Eildon Road ST. Kilda, VIC 3182 0450 642 835
David Byrne Secretary SAA Tasmania 54 Woodcutters Road Tolmans Hill TAS 7007 03 6223 5880 - 0438 349 239 Fax: 03 6235 1342	Geoff Burns JP Secretary SAA ACT Inc Belungarie Field 420 Cullulla Road Tarago NSW 2580 02 4849 4330 - 0427 435 314
Garth Schmidt Secretary SAA Northern Queensland 1 Luke Court Bushland Beach 4818 QLD 07 4788 0884	Paul Meakin Secretary SAA Western Australia Inc 26 Grayswood Retreat Erskine WA 6210 08 9586 9375 - 041 231 4361
Allen Francis Secretary SAA South Australia 25 Osborne Road North Haven SA 5018 0402 078 959	Graeme Caesar Secretary SAA Queensland Inc PO Box 4082 Elanora QLD 4221 0418 449 528

SUBCON 2011

The date of SUBCON 2011 is getting closer. I am pleased to be able to share with you that the organising committee (Bill Rostron, Alan Cooper, Robert Wilson and yours truly) have all event reservations in place, the catering arrangements and printing are well in hand and the Ladies Auxiliary have organised the Show Bags and the goodies to go in those bags. In other words, it is all go now and a great weekend will (we hope) be the result.

The important things to happen now are for any remaining attendees that have not registered: register NOW, and ensure you deposit appropriate monies to cover all and any events you and your partner/guests will be attending.

Do not forget that there is a really valuable mystery prize on offer for those of you who make full event payment before and by ANZAC Day 2011. Lots of members/attendees have already made their payments; they are assured of being in the special prize draw! That draw will take place during the Sunday Cruise, the winner (if not in attendance) will be notified and the prize shipped to them. I will repeat that the prize on offer is a real 'must have' and is well worth winning.

You will have no doubt received SUBCON 2011 raffle tickets the in the snail mail; please, either purchase your tickets or return them per the enclosed instruction sheet. This Grand raffle is limited issue draw, you do not have to be present when the draw is made during the Sunday cruise to be a winner. All winners will be notified and arrangement made to deliver prizes and full list of winners names will also be published in The Log.



A question was asked re "why do I have to register if I am only intending to attend the AGM". The answer reason is nothing more than a reflection of the times we live in. Irrespective of individual opinion, venues now have to comply with stringent fire and safety regulations (the dreaded OH&S laws). Crown merely asks that they know the total number expected to be attending all private functions held in their premises so as to comply with OH&S requirements relating to security and fire safety.

So, get your registration in if you have not already done so.

Mike Bennett – President SAA VIC Branch Inc.

For bookings at the discount rate contact Crown Promenade Reservations via telephone on 03 9292 6688 (please quote Submarine Association SUBCON 2011 Conference).

Friday 10 June 2011

1900 to 2300: Meet and Greet

Catch up and renew acquaintances in the luxurious surroundings of the Crown Promenade Atrium. Continual wines, beer, soft drinks bar and finger food service

Saturday 11 June 2011

Gala Formal Ball – Crown Palladium Ballroom

1900: Pre dinner drinks

1930 to 2300: Three course set dinner, individual table service supplying wines, beer and soft drinks

Sunday 12 June 2011

Morning - Submarine Australia Association – AGM in the Crown Promenade Meeting Room.

On completion AGM - Transfer to Pier 9 Docklands - Trot 1 1200 hands to harbour stations. Onboard 'Victoria Star' - all Afternoon Cruise on Port Phillip Bay – Buffet lunch and continual self serve bar service. 1730 alongside Trot 1 at Pier 9

Monday 13 June 2011

Farewell Luncheon – A BBQ at the Mates Rate Bar – NMC / ESU South Yarra.

This edition of In Depth has been printed by ASC Pty Ltd and we thank them for this support.

