



In Depth

The newsletter of the Submarines Association Australia

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Christmas Issue

November 2010

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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 The problem is usually created as a result of us having outdated contact information.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?

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From the President

The year is drawing to a close and some are saying 'good riddance' - it has been a hard one for many. The GFC's impact on retirement savings, the health problems facing many of us and our friends, poor employment opportunities are just a few of the hurdles that have had to be faced.

But there have been some positives including the recognition of "Qualifying Service" that 890 submariners are now entitled to, thanks to the persistence of Rob Woolrych and the support provided by Les Dwyer, National President of the Naval Association Australia and of course members of the submarine community.

It is also pleasing to hear that the availability and manpower problems that have had a major impact on the RAN's SM operational capability are improving. This is the result of a lot of hard work on the part of many in the RAN, Defence and Industry.

The news within the Association is mixed. Some Branches have tried really hard to improve communications, both within and outside the SAA. BZ to the Presidents and Committees for your efforts. However, others still have a way to go. The Branches that have communicated with their Members have shown that it works with increasing numbers attending meetings and social events.

The relevance of organisations such as ours is sometimes questioned, but feedback from many of our Members proves that we are an important part of the submarine community. It has helped many to re-establish contact with long lost mates, assisted with DVA claims, provided support in times of need and financial assistance through the Welfare Foundation.

I would like to thank all Members for the support that you have given to State and National Executives and hope that more of you can become involved in Association activities next year. I know distance and health can be a bar to attendance, but what about the remainder of you turning up for at least one event.

Now, with the Christmas break looming, I hope we will enjoy family and friends and to top up our batteries for 2011.

However, I ask you to take time to think about your mates in the coming weeks, especially those that are in poor health. A call or a card to say g'day is easy to do and brings great comfort and joy.

My wishes to you all for Christmas and the Holiday Season ahead. Till next " Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Darren Thompson
President

Secretary's Report

Where did the year go? Suddenly it is December.....AGAIN - and we realize that with giant strides we started in January and within a blink of an eye, 2010 is almost over!

The ageing process has taken it's toll this year and we have seen many of our good friends sail on Eternal Patrol - gone but not forgotten. We know that death is inevitable but it still shocks and saddens us all when it occurs.

Now that I am back as Acting Secretary I am trying to catch up on some tasks that I started and did not finish, such as tracking down members for updated contact details and chasing up the 50 Members that forgot to renew their membership in 2010.

I have to apologise for is missing an issue of In Depth, I hope that this does not happen again. Although In Depth is compiled from items taken from the website, 98 members are not online and rely on the printed copy. Thanks to Michael Dunne, Greville Knight (ASC) and Lindsay Peck (Austral Business Machines) who all kindly offered to print future editions in colour.

A big "Thank You" for your friendship, mateship, laughs, memories and support during 2010. Without you, I'm sure that 2010 would have been extremely boring.

I wish you all a Christmas filled with Loving Wishes and Beautiful Thoughts.

Norm Williams
Acting Secretary



ETERNAL PATROL

The following Members embarked on their final patrol in October and November.

Ex CPOMTP3*SM Ken **Warden**
 Ex POUWSM Ernest Robert "Dutchy" **Holland**
 Ex CPORSSM Peter Ronald 'Possum' **Adams**
 Ex WORSSM Brian **Coultas** BEM
 Ex WONPCSM Len **Meakin**

LCDR Robert **Sykes** RAN (Rtd) died in Canberra on the 2nd December of a heart attack

VALE

It is with much sadness that I report the death in WA of Karen White, the beloved wife of Graham. Annette died of a heart attack on 4th December.

When one submariner cries, we all cry.

WELCOME ABOARD

The following new members signed on with the SAA in October and November:

ex LSMTPSM Graham **Newey**, Mount Nasura WA - served on HMAS Otway and HMAS Onslow
 ex ABUCSM Malcolm 'Blue' **Lewis**, West Beach SA - served on HMAS Otway.
 ex CPOMTP4SM Michael **Baldock**, Miranda NSW - served on HMAS Ovens, HMAS Otway, HMAS Oxley, HMAS Otama and HMAS Orion.
 ex ABUWSM Mark **O'Neill**, Huntingwood NSW - served on HMAS Orion 76/79 (Commissioning crew).

Join the SAA - Deep down you know it makes sense

BUDDIES OF THE MONTH

Name: ex CPOMTSM Ashley **Buhlman**

Partner: Joy

Lives at: Brahma Lodge SA 5109.

Served on: HMAS Oxley, HMAS Otway, HMAS Onslow, HMAS Ovens, HMAS Orion, HMAS Dechaineux & HMAS Farncomb.

Comments: Joined Plats in 82, paid off Feb 03 for a cushy job with ASC. Gave the kidneys a hell of a time at Plats thanks to most of you older fellas that made me drink. Pity we haven't got a setup like Plats these days, I really miss the porn and prawns and lunch time tots!



Name: ex POUWSM Graeme **Caesar**

Partner: Wendy

Lives at: Brisbane, QLD.

Served on: HMS Talent, HMS Grampus and HMAS Ovens.

Comments: I have now retired and am based in SE Queensland from where Wendy and I travel around Australia in our 4WD with all of the other grey nomads.



You don't stop laughing because you grow old. You grow old because you stop laughing.



CPOMTP3*SM Ken Warden

Kenneth (Ken) Maxwell Warden died in Queensland on 23 October 2010.

Ken was one of the first Stokers to volunteer for submarines, he was in the one of the first intakes to travel to the UK to undertake training at HMS Dolphin in 1963.

In 1964, on completion of his initial training, Ken was drafted to HMS Alderley to undertake his Part Three training. His next boat was HMS Token in 1965. The following year, 1966, he spent time in HMS Talent. In 1967, Ken was drafted to HMS Opportune. On completion of his time in Opportune, Ken returned to Australia.

When he returned in 1968, HMAS Platypus was already established. Ken found himself drafted to HMAS Oxley the first boat in the in the new Squadron. Oxley was the last submarine that Ken served in. Ken joined the Association in October 1985.

Peter Smith, SAA Historian

POUWSM Eric Holland

Eric "Dutchy" Holland had been very ill for a long time and died on the 11th October, only with wife Rose's wonderful care did he make it this far.

"Dutchy" served on HMAS Sydney in Vietnam and then served in the RAN in Submarines.



Greg Shimmen and Vic Borg attended his service with over a hundred relatives and friends. About a dozen RSL members from Nollarma branch formed an honour guard and the Navy Chaplain said the prayers and hymns.

CPORSSM Peter Ronald 'Possum' Adams

One of the Squadron's characters Peter Ronald Adams, better known to all his peers as "Possum" died in Queensland on Thursday, 18 November 2010.

Peter first came in contact with submarines when he was drafted to HMAS Platypus as a skimmer RO in July 1973, his draft lasted until March 1976, it was then that he saw the light and volunteered for submarines. He was posted to HMS Dolphin in November 1976.

On his return to Australia, Peter was sent to HMAS Oxley for Part 3 training. On receiving his Dolphins, Peter was posted inboard in August 1977 and later promoted to Petty Officer RO.

Between January 1979 to January 1985 he served on HMAS Orion, HMAS Otway, HMAS Otama and HMAS Onslow. Sometime during this time Peter had been promoted to Chief RSSM.



Peter left the RAN as a Chief on 18 October 1986. He joined the Association in October 2006.

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Possum wrote the following of his time in submarines:

"How do I love thee – let me count the waves!!! Enjoyed my entire career (except the final stages) But my time in boats was, without question, the most outstanding of my life and would do it all again in the blink of an eye- with one exception!!!"

David Holland writes "In the Otama cruise book Micky Dunne mentioned in the introduction - 'Possum was the emotional type' - we all knew him and as a submariner 'mate' and will always do so."

WORSSM Brian Coultas BEM

ex WORSSM Brian Coultas BEM passed away in Canberra Hospital on the 16th November.

Brian joined the RN in September 1953 and later joined the RAN in October 1965. He was commissioning crew of HMAS Oxley and was on HMAS Otway when it rescued the crew of the yacht "One and All".

Sid Czabotar wrote "I first met Brian in 1971 when I was doing my Part 3, for memory he was one of the few RS's who actually did some planning on the OMC. The most I remember about Brian is when we went sea in October 1971 departing from Brisbane with two thirds of our crew to search for the crew of the yacht "One and All" which had sunk off Middleton Reef 600 km from Coffs Harbour. Brian was rewarded for his timeless stint in the WT Office from the time we left Brisbane until we returned to Sydney with the rescued crew."

WONPCSM Len Meakins

Len Meakins passed away peacefully in Toowoomba early on 16th November.

Len first Joined RAN in Sep 1945 and paid off in November 1957 but re-entered the RAN in June 1961 and paid off on the 31st December 1981.

Len qualified as a G.I. in May 1955 and on re-entry qualified as Cox'n and later changed branch to Submarines, later qualifying as a SM Cox'n and Escape Instructor. On the 1st March 1967 Len was involved in the ceremony surrounding the unveiling of the new RAN Ensign in London.

He left submarines in 1969 and returned to general service changing to Naval Police in January 1970. He paid off in December 1981 as a Warrant Officer. Total Service in RAN 32 and 3/4 years.

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS

The travel bug seems to have bitten many of our Members so I have taken the following information from the DVA Factsheet HSV65 Receiving Medical Treatment while Overseas, make sure you are aware of your requirements before setting sail....

DVA have produced a Factsheet that outlines the arrangements for receiving medical treatment whilst travelling or residing overseas.

It provides information on:

- what arrangements you should make before going overseas;
- how to seek a refund for eligible treatment received overseas, and
- what happens if you cannot pay for your treatment whilst overseas.



While you are overseas you will be eligible for treatment at DVA expense for your accepted service related disabilities only. Contact DVA if you are unsure of your accepted service related disabilities.

Your Gold or White Card can only be used within Australia and are not accepted by health providers outside Australia.

It is important that you consider taking out travel insurance to cover you for treatment of any non service related conditions should the need arise whilst you are overseas.

You need to notify DVA of your intention to travel overseas before you leave so the Department can advise you of the arrangements for receiving medical treatment at DVA expense. If you do not notify DVA, you may not be aware of the treatment expenses that can be refunded and payment for any treatment while you are overseas cannot be guaranteed.

Once you notify DVA of your intention to travel overseas you will be provided with information relating to:

- your entitlement to treatment while overseas,
- DVA's prior financial authorisation requirements and limits that apply to some services,
- DVA's treatment agreements with overseas Governments,
- procedures for claiming a refund of treatment expenses direct contact details for the DVA officers who will be your point of contact whilst overseas.

Veterans are entitled to treatment of accepted service related disabilities, the same as, or similar to, treatment and cost that would be considered appropriate in Australia.

DVA does not refund expenses incurred for:

- health care services that are not generally available to eligible veterans in Australia (eg cosmetic surgery, acupuncture, massage therapy, herbal treatments, iridology, etc);

- treatment where a significant reason for overseas travel was/is to obtain treatment; or
- travelling expenses outside Australia or to return to Australia to obtain treatment.

If you cannot pay for treatment of an accepted service related disability whilst overseas contact the Australian High Commission, Embassy or Consulate in that country. Australian officials can contact DVA to arrange payment.

Before going overseas contact Medicare Australia to find out about the health care arrangements that are available to all Australian in other countries.

If you need more information about this topic or need to contact DVA or check out the Factsheet. All DVA Factsheets are available from DVA offices, and on the DVA website.

You can phone DVA for the cost of a local call on 133 254 or 1800 555 254 for country callers. Use a normal landline phone if you can. Mobile phone calls may cost you more.

SAA’s Pensions and Welfare Officers

A full list of the Association’s Pensions and Welfare Officers is online at http://submarinesaustralia.com/contact_dva.htm or call your Branch Secretary for details.



BRANCH NEWS

Queensland Branch

December has rapidly caught up with us and it is a timely reminder that Santa will be calling on us in no time at all.

There are those who have been unwell and we wish you all the very best for a speedy recovery. For the loved ones who do not have their partners with them at Christmas time my deepest condolences go out to you.

Thank you to all that have supported SAA Qld Inc at our many meetings and functions throughout the year and also to those who have sent personal messages of support and encouragement of what we do. I find this rewarding as it suggests we are doing what the members like and the reason why we respect your input and views.

The success we share in is evident that your committee has been working hard during the year. They have your interest at heart that ensures members are being “entertained” and informed where ever possible. One major notable event this year was the “Qualifying Service” that 890 submariners are now entitled to, thanks to persistent efforts of Rob Woolrych.

Whatever you are doing over the festive season, Wendy and I wish everyone a safe, happy & joyful Christmas with friends/family and loved ones as your Association looks forward to rekindling the friendship with you again somewhere in 2011.

Holidays are times of tradition, times of celebrations. They are the perfect opportunity to reach out to loved ones. May the spirit of the Christmas season fill you with joy.

Don Currell
President



New South Wales Branch

The final meeting of the year was held at the City of Sydney RSL on 14 November 2010. A small number of members attended and participated in the Christmas drinks offered and it is rumoured that some staggered out around 4pm after setting the world right. Sounds like a standard Friday afternoon at Plats.

Next Function is the Spectacle Island Annual BBQ on Sunday 27 February 2011. Submarine Museum will be open for the nostalgic All Round Look. Boat to depart from Drummoyne sailing Club, 2 St Georges Crescent, Drummoyne. Invitations open to Members and guests so come along and enjoy a great day. Please notify Secretary if you are going advise if you can help with preparations. (Dolphin 67E)

The K13 Memorial Service which is organised by the RN submariners, will be held on Sunday 30th January at Carlingford.

Next General Meeting is scheduled for the 20th March 2011 at City Sydney RSL.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year. But it is also a time to reflect and think about our mates that are ill, or the families of those that have lost a loved one, and we ask you to include them in your Christmas wishes. See you in 2011.



Geoff Anderson
President

Tasmania Branch

Well, another year has almost gone and the summer weather is back with us again. Time for more barbecues, salads and cold beers as we gather with friends and family and reminisce on the year that been.

Our AGM was held in October which was followed with a barbecue (to test the weather gods). A couple of changes to the office bearers shows the following line up of ‘volunteers’ for the next year:

President - Kerry Bolton
Vice President (North) - Grant Beswick
Vice President (South) / Social Secretary - Mike Crellin
Secretary/Treasurer -David Byrne

Saturday, 6 December saw members of the Branch gather in Hobart for a yum cha lunch at an award winning restaurant called Mee Wah in Sandy Bay. The food was great and the company better still – well, what’s not to like about a bunch of submariners on their best behaviour in public!!?

More social activities are planned and if you find yourself in Tasmania at any time feel free to give the Secretary a call or send him an email to check what’s going on and maybe score yourself an invitation to join us for an enjoyable occasion.

The President, Officers and Members of the Tasmanian Branch would like to extend warmest Christmas greetings to you and yours and to wish you a very happy and prosperous New Year in 2011.

David Byrne
Secretary



South Australia Branch

On Sunday 28th November, members of the Branch celebrated an "early" Christmas with a very long lunch at our ANZAC Day reunion watering hole The Metropolitan in Grote Street, Adelaide.

Numerous raffles were held throughout a delightful three-course lunch, with numerous prizes raffled. "Biff the Tiff" Mills won the Welfare Fund Raffle – The proceeds (\$200) of which goes to the Submarines Association Welfare Fund.

A special "Thank You" to our special guest on the day, Anne Currie, who donated most of the raffle prizes. Thanks also to Mick Allinson for his prize donation.

Great to see some new faces in Des (Dick) Petty and Geoff Harvey. A surprise visitor was "Jimmy" Durante, and Terry (Jorgy) Jorgenssen dropped in for a beer with his family.

On behalf of the President, Committee and Members of the South Australian Branch, we wish all of our Ex Submarine Comrades interstate and overseas a very happy festive season, and a prosperous New Year.

Allen 'Connie' Francis
Secretary

Welfare Fund

At this time of the year when we are thinking of festive celebrations, and Submarine Association get-togethers, please think also of our Comrades who are not doing so well, especially those of our older members who are perhaps ill or infirm, and even our younger members who are maybe doing it tough!

Remember also the Submarine Association Welfare Fund, which has helped scores of members over the years.

Perhaps at your next Association get-together, you might like to run a special raffle and donate the proceeds to the SAWF.

At a recent South Australian Branch luncheon, a raffle donated \$200 to the fund, in addition to personal donations. That were made.

The Trustees of the SAWF, Tim Duchesne, Sid Czabotar and Dave Bryant, thank all those who have generously supported the fund over the last year, and we wish all SAA members a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous, safe and healthy 2011.

David Bryant
Trustee



Paddy goes to the vet with his goldfish. "I tink it's got epilepsy" he tells the vet.

The Vet takes a look and says "It seems calm enough to me". Paddy replies, "I haven't taken it out of the bowl yet".

In 1979 HMAS Onslow conducted a Training Patrol to the North of Australia over a period of 2-3 weeks. Geoff Anderson is seeking to make contact with all crew members who were on the trip and requests that you contact him on 0413 980 091.



HEALTH MATTERS

Don't ignore lumps and bumps..... I now know of three (including me) that ignored 'lumps' on their body. These all eventually escalated into cancer as the 'lumps' were Lymphatic Sarcomas that unless treated early - can result in lung and liver cancer.

When my 'lump' was identified a decision to take my arm off at the shoulder was an option, but in the end the surgeon (one of the top specialists in Brisbane) gave me the option of removing the sarcoma. This meant major surgery - opening up the full length of my forearm resulting in a hand that works when it wants to (I have plenty of broken plates that confirms this).

Unfortunately the cancer appeared in my lungs a short time later but I am happy to say it is responding to treatment. There is no sign of any further spreading at the moment and the surgeon thinks all may be well. We will know if I the treatment has been successful if I survive for 5 years. So gents, if you have any lumps, get them looked at and removed. Early detection may save your life.

Paddy was driving home, drunk as a skunk, suddenly he has to swerve to avoid a tree, then another, then another.

A cop car pulls him over as he veers about all over the road. Paddy tells the cop about all the trees in the road. The cop says "For gods sake Paddy, that's your air freshener swinging about!"



AROUND THE TRAPS

Bundy the blue heeler biker dogs' charity fund raising days could be over after his owner was booked yesterday under new RTA laws. Sydney police charged former submariner, Tex O'Grady, on his way home from a charity event for allowing his dog Bundy to ride on the petrol tank of his motorbike. The negligent driving charge has angered members of the Australian biker community who have thrown their support behind the pair.



Tex has clocked up more than 600,000km in the past eight years, riding across Australia to raise funds for many causes, including CanTeen, The Children's Hospital at Westmead and the Variety Club.

Tex is seeking an exemption from the RTA and has pleaded for a rewording of the law. He said Bundy was just as safe riding on a motorcycle as he was riding in a car. When on the bike, Bundy wears a leather jacket, goggles and a dog car harness.

Allan Mooney arrived home on the 11th November after a 2 months trip around the world. He met up with Dave and Julie Luck for a pub lunch at Dave's local at the beginning of September.

Al received an email from Dave this week. "Hello Alan, glad you're home safe and sound. Getting a bit chilly now, weather has been mild for the last couple of weeks, but it was only



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the calm before the storm. The forecast is for heavy snow with overnight temperatures down to minus 8 and no more than 1 during the day. Central heating is working overtime !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Anyway mate, take care and the very best to you both for the festive season."

Another jet setter, Peter 'Shorty' Carter, wrote; "Hi Norm Lyn and I have been in Indonesia for the last week. Spent a few days in Jakarta and had a luncheon with 3 of the most senior remaining retired ex-submarine Admirals and their families.



We visited the submarine monument in Surabaya. Fred Butcher, Paul Green and I have seen this submarine in pieces at PT Pal and at the site where the monument now stands. Fred and I have seen it just after it was assembled but

I was interested to see how it has held up over the last 12 years. The submarine itself is an excellent exhibit with air conditioning in all compartments something it would not have had in it's working life as an active unit."

Ever seen North Head this close?? This photo was taken on-board HMAS Kanimbla. Not sure about you but I can't ever remember being that close on leaving Harbour. Maybe the fire that they had onboard may have contributed to the navigation problem.

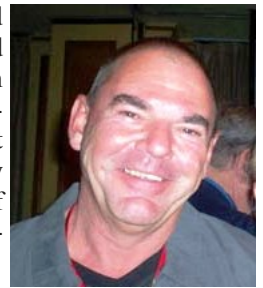


SAA Historian Peter Smith is another with the travel bug! "I will be out of the country until 28 November and I will not have access to a computer so I will not be doing any Historical work. We are touring Egypt and Jordan with a large part of it on a ship in the Red Sea. Can't have Goldie being the only submariner to do sea time in our retirement.

The curse has struck again, I was upset when I received an email from Stephen 'Slinga' Woods with a note asking if I could post it both as a wake up call and a thank you to all that have been in touch expressing their concern.

He wrote "At the beginning of this year I had some symptoms that drove me down the direction of getting a Colonoscopy. My

symptoms were two years of bad bowel control with occasional blood showing. For a while I put this down to some personal stress in was suffering but eventually I was convinced it may not be stress related. Many scans were conducted and by end of August it was confirmed that secondary cancers were in the liver."



"I have just completed six weeks of radiation and chemo treatments and am currently sitting in hospital post bowel and liver surgery with news from doctors that all is good, they got it all is what they tell me. Another couple of days in here and the shortly to start chemo again for six months and all will be over."

"It's been a bit tough but with support from Buster Keating for DVA paperwork and of course DVA support itself. Friends and family support, my employer support etc, has made it less stressful than what it could have been."

In this world of hi-tech, I have noticed that many who send text messages and email have forgotten the "art" of capitalization, i.e. using capital letter when it's appropriate and required. Those of you, who fall into this category, please take note of the statement below. I cannot stress enough that grammar is important: Capitalization is the difference between helping your Uncle Jack off a horse and helping your uncle jack off a horse.



Sandy Freeleagus commented "Saw in Up Periscope that work is starting on part demolition of Platypus. They had better be careful when they walk into the old Greenie workshop as every Captain's Rounds, we used to scrub the deck with an almost neat caustic soda solution. It got rid of the grease stains really well, but we were always expecting to fall through the deck into Sydney Oggin any day."

"As I remember, we were dressed in accordance of the Workplace Health and Safety requirements of the day - Pussers overalls and steamin' bats and sloshed this stuff around in gay abandon with hard and soft bristled brooms. Kidding it didn't wreck your overies - but not as good as a session down the batteries."

"It always puzzled me how a seaman could get a replacement issue of overalls if he got too much black paint on them, no questions asked - yet as a Greenie after a session down the batteries when your overies literally disintegrated on you, you had to BUY a replacement pair??? Just one of the little idiosyncrasies that made me wonder about the Squadron so much."

Nothing wrong with the economy - I have enough money to last me the rest of my life. (unless I buy something)

Lady Fieldhouse

I have been informed that Lady Fieldhouse, is convalescing in Tudor Lodge, Newgate Lane, Fareham. The Association wishes her a speedy recovery.

Lady Fieldhouse is the widow of former FOSM and Admiral of the Fleet, Lord Fieldhouse, who was Commander-in-Chief Fleet at the time of the Falklands conflict. The responsibility for every last fighting man in the Falklands rested squarely on his shoulders.

For Lady Fieldhouse, the Falklands conflict was 'an on-going nightmare'. While her husband discussed strategy with defence chiefs, she ran several charities, entertained the military's top brass and tried hard to maintain a semblance of normality.

It was also her unofficial job to sustain and comfort servicemen's wives. 'We had to make sure when people lost their husbands they didn't get newspaper people on their door. We tried to send somebody over there before the press heard but it was very difficult.



"I've never forgotten one young mum who had a 17-year-old son who had died two hours before the ceasefire." 'She kept saying, "Was it worth it?" You just have to say the Falklanders certainly thought it was. We did have some people who said, "My son didn't join to be killed". But you can't join a service because you like the uniform and the pay's good.'

When the Falklands were recaptured, Lady Fieldhouse, a former WREN Officer at HMS Daedalus, visited the sick and wounded in hospital. The jokes she heard there still make her laugh. 'One of them had lost his right leg and I said, "Oh, that's awful," and he said, "Yes, it had my very expensive tattoo on it".'

For others, the scars were not so obvious. Sir John, who became Chief of Defence Staff in 1985 and was made a life peer in 1990, had no war wounds. But his wife believes the stress of the campaign contributed to his death in 1992. He was recovering from a major heart operation in Southampton General when he caught an infection and died at the age of 63.

Lady Fieldhouse, a warm, approachable woman, does not romanticise the Falklands war. Four visits to the Argentinian cemeteries - three with her husband and one with Lady Thatcher - have made that an impossibility. But she retains a patriotic pride for Britain's victory.

WA Submariners wanted to volunteer as guides on Ovens

Become a Volunteer Guide for a couple of days a month. Relive the halcyon days of your youth. Remember the fun of your Part 3. How much do you remember about Oberon Systems. Can you find your way from the fore ends to the aft ends and back.



Here is your chance to put something back to the community. The Maritime Museum is seeking additional volunteer guides for Submarine Ovens. Become a Volunteer Guide for a couple of days a month. If you wish to volunteer or have any queries please contact Roy Cridge at the WAMM on 9431 8325.

Dedication of Memorial Plaques

On the 3rd October SA Branch President David Bryant and Geoff Anderson, the President of the NSW Branch, attended a Dedication of Memorial Plaques which had been organized by the Ex-JR Leeuwin Organisation (The five plaques dedicated were all ex JRs from the 1963 intake).

Amongst those dedicated was LSROSM James Vincent Michael (Dasher) Dansey, R94001, who served 1963-1979.

Dasher died in 1994, aged 46. David said "It was an honour to be at the ceremony, and represent the Submarines Association, especially as I served with Dasher in Ovens and Orion."

Dave added "For those who have never seen the Naval Chapel at FBE, it is well worth a visit, as is the Naval Museum. The part of the island where the chapel and museum is situated is accessible to the public, and can be reached by ferry from Circular Quay (One doesn't have to enter FBE via the Gangway)."

Our man in the USA

CMDR Ian 'Donkey' Bray has been quiet for a while and now I know why. He writes: "Greetings from the "Land of the Free ...and the Home of the Brays" Vicki and I have been in Newport, Rhode Island since June.



"I have posted to the Naval Undersea Warfare Center (NUWC), just a tiny organization of 2500. It's like working with a cross between RAN Test & Trials and DSTO! Engineers AND Boffins together! God help me."

"There is also a NUWC Keyport near Seattle (only 1500 staff at that one) which I also visited as part of my famil with the organization. NUWC Newport does a lot of R&D for naval systems and equipment like the BYG-1 combat system and the MK48 Mod 7 torpedo fitted to the COLLINS. Both the US sub fleet and the RAN sub force share the same combat system and heavyweight torpedo. Hence why I am here."

"NUWC Keyport does all the maintenance and assembly for the torpedoes. There are five Aussies here, myself, a LCDR SM WEEO, two DSTO Boffins and a DMO engineer. The work is interesting and I have had the opportunity to interact with the US Sub Force at Groton, Connecticut on a regular basis and I travel to Washington DC when work requires."

"I also lecture at the US Navy Surface Warfare School every six weeks on the Diesel Boat threat. Most of the US Navy's surface schools are based in Newport. I did not realize what a large role the USN played in Newport. Up until the 70s, Newport was home to the USN Atlantic destroyer fleet. It's a BIG Navy town, but all of us back home know it for the America's Cup races. So yes, it is also a BIG yachting town."

"Of particular note is that between about 1870 and up to 1930, the 400 most wealthy Yanks had holiday homes here called

(Continued from page 7)

'cottages'. These so called 'cottages' are in fact huge mansion houses lined up along a beautiful, long street called Bellevue Avenue. Families like the Vanderbilt's, Rockefeller's, Morgan's, Kennedy's, Astor's and the Duke's (Woolworths) all had homes here. Just Google: Newport Mansions and take a look! Most are now open to the public. Truly amazing homes. As such, this place is crawling with bloody tourists in the summer (says the Aussie). But it is a beautiful place and the entire New England area has plenty to offer. So yes mate, Vicki and I are doing it tough."

"On a closing note, we recently had a Chili Cook-Off at work, so I decided to take the Yanks on at their own game. I won Third Prize. Not too shabby for a new boy. I will try and do better next year."

"Take care Norm and my very best to all my Submariner mates, may you all have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New year."

I have heard a rumour that not all of the estates are open to tourists, with the strength of the aussie dollar and the excessive rent assistance given by the RAN the Bray's have taken up residence in the Vanderbilt mansion..

Ramon Lawrence writes "I am heading off on a number of trips starting this Friday doing my martial arts. I am heading to Melbourne on Friday to do a series of fundraising seminars for the "Fight for Life" cancer campaign one of my students is running."

"I get back home on Monday 8 November and head to Japan on Tuesday 9th November for a series of sword training seminars to prepare me for my attempt at 7th Dan in November 2011. I get back from there on 21st November and head to Adelaide 26-28 November before coming home for a few more days and then off to Brisbane 3-5 Dec and then to Noumea as the Chief Instructor/Examiner from 5-13 Dec to help them advance the French connection of my swordsmanship - first trip to Noumea too."



"Still only got the 41 Black Belts (starting to slow down at 65 yrs) and my eldest son Russell is slowly catching up with just gaining his 29th Black belt. He is now running the Australian Jodo (Stick) Board as he took it over from me about 18 months ago as I start retiring from some senior positions in Australia to let the young blokes take over.

"I am still running all my businesses (four) and a senior active Director in another one. I am too scared to stop in case I can't get the body to start up again! Keep well and continue doing

the great job you do for our association. As I am currently the President/Chairman of 14 National & International organisations (all unpaid) I fully understand the commitment of a few people who look after many." " Sounds OK mate, but what do you do in your spare time?"



Rod and Pat Peters have returned from their latest OS jaunt and report "We have returned from our trip to Hawaii. Pat and I had a great week with Stumpy Taggart (ex Master Chief) and his wife Louise. They both send their regards and greetings to all that they know here in Australia which is quite a few people. Pat and I then went on a cruise on the Pride of America which is the only American flagged cruise ship in the world at the moment, this is a great way to see the other Islands."

"The saddest part of the trip was visiting the Sub/Navy base it is like a ghost town, there were only 2 rather scruffy looking boats along side, 4 ships in the naval base and 2 of them were Japanese destroyers. Barbers Point Naval air station is gone and has been handed back to the civilian authorities. Most off the EM's clubs and Chiefs clubs, including Beamans, are closed. Lockwood Hall Officers club is closed, everything is fenced off and has civvy security guards around 24/7. No more Marines on the gates."

"However the one good thing about the base is the new Exchange it is the second biggest in the world and you can still shop there if you have a military ID of some description, so if anyone is going to visit the islands I would advise them to get an ex member of the defence force ID before they go, enquire at your nearest military establishment and they will fix it up all you need is a photo ID Drivers licence and discharge certificate.

Also a visit to the mighty Mo, USS Missouri and the Pearl Harbour avenger USS Bowfin are really a must."

VALE

Jack Bennett

It is with deep regret that I advise you of the death of Jack Bennett. After a distinguished career in the RAN during WWII including Service in the Scrap Iron Flotilla in the Med and later in South East Asia, Jack joined the Naval Association and commenced work associated with the Anzac Day March in Sydney in 1948.

Jack was a Founding Member of the Federation of Naval Ship Associations and was their Representative on the RSL NSW Anzac Day Organising Committee since 1954. He has been HEAVILY involved in planning the Navy Order of March for

every Anzac Day for the past 56 years including next year's March in 2011.

CMDR Roy Christie RAN (Rtd)

Former Supply Officer of HMAS Platypus Roy Christie (ex ABSTD), known to many Submariners as a good friend, passed away on October. Ron fought a determined but unwinnable battle against Mesothelioma (Asbestosis). Beloved husband of Robyn. Much loved father of Jenelle, father-in-law of Kevin and dearly loved poppa of Max, Timothy, Roy and Sophia. Loved brother, uncle and godfather. Ron ged 68 years.

CMDR John Foster OAM, RAN (Rtd)

John Foster served for 30 years in the Australian Navy and spent his retirement searching for answers to one of this nation's great maritime mysteries - the fate of the submarine AE1, which disappeared near Rabaul in 1914.

While serving in PNG, John learnt of the loss of Australia's first submarine, AE1 and subsequently made a number of trips back to the Rabaul area and gathered a substantial amount of information about its waters, currents, islets, reefs and native knowledge of wrecks in the area. In 2003, with the Western Australian Maritime Museum and the ABC, Foster led an expedition to look for AE1 and the ABC made a documentary about the search.

John then formed a group of mostly former military officers, under the banner "PROJECT AE1". In 2006, Foster published a book about the search, AE1: Entombed but Not Forgotten. In April last year, Foster and some AE1 project team members made another, privately funded, expedition to Rabaul, without success. Also last year, Foster was awarded an Order of Australia Medal.

BRANCH NEWS (Cont)

Victoria Branch

To one and all "A very Happy, Healthy and Prosperous 2011". Please give a thought to those in our community that may not be able fully enjoy the Christmas and New Year festivities, due to illness. Get well soon to all; with a special wish to our own Dick Seear.

And we offer a special thought for the families of Members that are no longer with us, they will not be forgotten.

A really big 'thank you' to the ladies of the Victoria Branch Ladies Auxiliary for their excellent and continued support (along with the branch social committee) for organising the virtualling at our meetings and especially for the banquet they arranged for the 2010 VP/VJ Day commemoration, for which an attendant gathering of some 80 members and guests enjoyed.

I look forward to seeing you all at the branch meeting and events during the coming year, please remember that: It is your SAA and success can only be gained through combined and willing efforts of all members.

Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas and Prosperous and Healthy New Year

Mike Bennett
President .



North Queensland Branch

The Branch had a small but very enjoyable general meeting last weekend at the Herbert River RSL in Ingham.

It was a shame that Claude Roberts was unable to attend the meeting. Undeterred, the meeting went to Claude at the Blue Haven nursing home, where he was presented with a life membership of the North Queensland Branch of the Association.

It was great to see Cole and Jan Klease, who had travelled 8 hours each way from Emerald to attend the meeting. Also good to see Col (Spanner) Watts and his wife Sandra attend the meeting. Col is looking much better, but still tires quickly. We all wish him well for his continued recovery.

One of the features of the meeting, was a presentation to the meeting by Robyn Needham on progress made by the SUB-CON 2013 steering committee. Planning is well underway for a conference that should prove to be both novel and memorable. Robyn is to be congratulated for the time and effort she is devoting to this task.

From the President and Committee we wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New year.

Garth Schmidt
Secretary



Western Australia Branch

We wish all members of the SAA a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year and encourage us all to keep in touch with our mates particularly those who are not well at this time.

Paul Meakin
Secretary



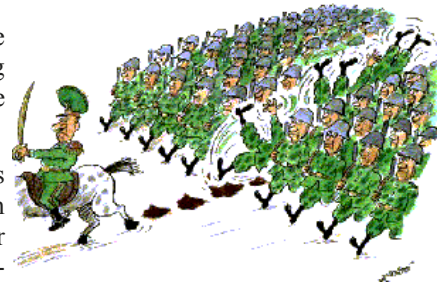
HomeFront

Falls are not an inevitable part of ageing. Most falls can be prevented. A range of actions have been found to be effective in reducing falls, and injuries from falls.

One in three people aged 65 and over report falling at least once each year. One quarter of these people sustain significant injuries and 5% sustain a fracture (usually humerus, wrist, hip or pelvis). Strength and balance exercise has shown to reduce falls by older people.

Falls and accidents are a key factor in causing otherwise avoidable admissions to hospital.

HomeFront is a falls and accident prevention program available for all Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) gold and white card holders. A free HomeFront assessment is available each year and the department makes a financial contribution towards the cost of recommended items and modifications.



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HomeFront (Cont)

Following the home assessment, DVA will make a financial contribution, currently \$203, towards the cost of recommended aids and minor home modifications that will reduce the risk of falls and accidents. The recommended minor home modifications and/or aids and appliances are generally low cost items such as the provision of non slip treatment on steps or floors or extra lighting.

The HomeFront assessor also provides information about local community and Government services that are available to assist veterans and war widows to remain living in their own home for as long as possible.

HomeFront assessment can be arranged by telephoning 1800 80 1945. There are currently around 272 000 Australian veterans that are eligible for the HomeFront program.

SLOPS VAN

The following are just some of the items that are available from the Slops Van. Items can be ordered online, by calling 0419 863 558 or send an order to: PO Box 63, Bauple 4650.

Beret with SAA Logo \$25 - Cap \$15
- SM Squadron tie only \$27.50 - Pin on SAA blazer badge only \$30.
New, extra large coffee mugs only \$10 plus postage.



Marriage is like a deck of cards. In the beginning all you need is two hearts and a diamond. By the end you'll wish you had a club and a spade.....

SUBCON 2011

SUBCON 2011 is fast approaching and the Victorian 2011 Committee is working hard to ensure the event is one all attendees will enjoy, following the true tradition of previous SAA SUBCON gatherings.



SAA Members are asked to assist by registering your interest in attending NOW – We will not be seeking deposits and firm commitments until early in 2011 but your registering now assists in planning event requirements. Readers of In Depth will receive a hard copy handout soon.

ASC Celebrates 25 Years of Excellence

From humble beginnings in 1985 to building six world class submarines, securing the role of shipbuilder in the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) project in 2005, and now being just four years away from delivering, with our AWD Alliance partners, HMAS Hobart to the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), ASC has truly come a long way in the last 25 years.



ASC Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Steve Ludlam said it was an honour to work in a company with such a rich history. "In the last 25 years, we have delivered six world class submarines to the RAN, won the contract to maintain the submarines through-life and won the contract to build the three air warfare destroyers.

ASC currently employs 1,700 people across three sites - ASC North and ASC South in South Australia and ASC West in Western Australia.

Wrens could serve on RN submarines for first time

Women could serve on Royal Navy submarines for the first time after concerns over health risks were dismissed. Defence chiefs are considering changing rules that date back more than 100 years to allow Wrens to join the crews of the Navy's "silent service".

Women have been barred from subs until now partly because of concerns that mixed crews could cause tension on vessels that spends months underwater and concerns about a woman's reproductive organs.

The Ministry of Defence is now reviewing it's policy of excluding women as submariners with one Navy source suggesting the ban could be lifted as early as next year.