

## SAA Victoria Branch Inc Annual Report Activities and Events for 2009 - 2010

During the last 12 months the Victoria Branch has seen involvement in numerous social and Welfare projects. Rather than mention an exhaustive list, I will indicate the 'milestone' events and activities.

1. Report to Members in attendance of the AGM and National Committee Meeting held in Fremantle as part of SUBCON 2009.
2. The Victoria Branch Annual VP – VJ Day Commemoration was held one week later than normal (on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2009) due the unavailability of the ESU premises. However, and despite the change in date, the event was once again very well attended. A total of 82 members and guests were present.

Attendance figures for the branch VP Day Commemoration have actually grown in the last two years, but of course our WWII Veterans are in normal decline, not that you would think so when you look at who is first in the line to draw their tot as soon as 'Up Spirits' has been piped!

3. October saw a well attended function by the Branch at the Submarine Museum in Holbrook. We joined up with our mates from the ACT Branch, and the museum to attend a formal function. The (genuine) WWII Jolly Roger that had been left in the charge of the Victoria Branch has been permanently loaned to the museum where it is now proudly displayed in a manner befitting it's importance, rather than being hidden from sight.
4. December meant the round of Christmas Parties, and the Branch function was again a roaring success – Santa Clause was in attendance as usual, I wonder why Werner always disappears when Santa arrives? Perhaps he is on the 'Naughty list'!
5. The February meeting, as in previous years, was held at Lorraine and Allan Cooper's home. We dined el fresco, drank el mucho and Moonie passed his annual swimming test! A very big thanks to Lorraine and Allan for their generosity as 'Mine Hosts'.
6. March was the Branch AGM. It was a sad occasion as our long standing (and suffering!) Treasurer, Joan Jones decided to 'stand down'. Joan has been a pillar of the branch for many years, is an untiring worker and the branch has prospered because of her diligence. However, things must go-on and so we welcomed Steve

Gray to the role of Branch Treasurer, Joan will continue to assist Steve as is required.

Boot continues to be the Branch Secretary, and Gerry France has now clocked up 19 years continual service on the branch executive. Phew!

As always, the success of the branch functions is very much due to the tireless efforts of the Victoria Branch Ladies Auxiliary and to the members of the Branch Social Committee. Catering, arranging and organising the branch functions is not an easy task, the Branch recognises and appreciates those who constantly give so much for (sometimes) very little recognition.

7. ANZAC Day 2010 was very well attended, and once again a Submariner won the raffle (a metre of Full and ready to consume VB Cans – The Skimmers reckon we had the draw rigged...Never!!
8. Since the later part of last year the SUBCON 2011 committee has been steadily working away – All will be revealed during the 2010 AGM in Coffs Harbour.

Yours Aye

Mike Bennett  
President SSA Victoria Branch Inc