



The Bosun's Call



Vol 18 No 10

Each for All—All for Each

November 2013



International Fleet Review

Photos RAN



HMA Ships Sydney, Darwin, Perth, Parramatta, Bundaberg, Gascoyne and Diamantina sail into Sydney Harbour for the International Fleet Review 2013.



Her Excellency, the Honourable Quentin Bryce, AC, CVO, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia received a Royal Salute from the 37 warships berthed around Sydney Harbour. His Royal Highness Prince Henry of Wales joined the Governor-General onboard reviewing ship HMAS Leeuwin for the official inspection of the ships. Both are accompanied by CN VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN

Events coming up

- 27 Oct Fish n Chips—Canberra Yacht Club grounds 1700
- 22 Nov Picnic in Joce's Park 1200 at 30 Marsden Street Dickson
- 5 Dec Lunch Lakes Golf Club Gungahlin 1200



Newsletter of the ACT Section of the
Naval Association of Australia

Hardcopy printed by CopyQik Civic

Naval Association of Australia ACT Section

Patron The Hon Sir William Deane AC KBE

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General Meeting Dates and Locations Revised Programme

7 Nov Erindale Vikings Football Club	1330
5 Dec Lunch Gungahlin Lakes Golf Club	1200
2014	
6 Feb AGM North side location to be advised	
6 Mar South Side Location to be advised	
3 Apr North side	
1 May South side	
5 Jun North side	
3 Jul Lunch	
7 Aug South Side	

Tables are booked for drinks and lunch in the host club from 1200 prior to the meeting.

If you need assistance getting to the meeting and/or functions, call Alan Masters on 6281 5630 who will try to organise transport for you.

President's Note

I hope all those who attended the International Fleet Review enjoyed themselves and enjoyed the entertainment that was put on by the Royal Australian Navy. A special edition book has been produced call "Navy – Outlook – International Fleet Review Sydney 2013". A copy is to be provided to each member of the Section. Our Vice President, Peter Cooke-Russell, has received delivery of the books and will arrange for delivery to the members as soon as he can.

You may recall my concern at the ACT Government's suggestion that there may be a change to the Canberra Coat of Arms. I spoke to the Opposition Leader, Jeremy Hanson, at the WRANS Memorial Service and he confirmed that this is no longer the case. The Government may look at introducing a Coat of Arms for the ACT but they will not be changing the Canberra Coat of Arms. It appears that the Government was not aware of the tradition and heritage of the current Coat of Arms and this has now been rectified.

I thank Peter Cooke-Russell for the supporting letter to the Chief Minister on this subject.

I attended the NAA National Council meeting in HMAS *Cerberus* last weekend and I will produce a report for the next General Meeting which will be reproduced in the next issue of Bosun's Call.

At the WRANS Memorial Service a new book was released to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of the commissioning of HMAS *Harman*. The book is called "HMAS Harman 1943-2013" and is written by LCDR Annette Nelson, RAN. If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the book can you email or phone me and I will attempt to get it for you.

Pat McCabe

**Committee meeting
 Kaleen Sports Club
 1130 Thursday
 3 October 2013**

VETERAN PENSION RATE RISE ON 20 SEPTEMBER

(Thursday 19 September 2013 VA001)

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, announced new pension and income support payment rates for some 290,000 veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia would apply from tomorrow, 20 September.

The first full pension payments at the new rates will be on 17 October 2013.

The table below highlights the key changes to fortnightly rates.

¹ – These are the maximum rates of payment and include any clean energy supplement payable.

Pensions are indexed twice a year in March and September taking account of changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) and Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE).

A full list of pension rates are available on www.dva.gov.au or by calling 133 254 or 1800 555 254 from regional Australia.

VETERAN PENSION RATE RISE ON 20 SEPTEMBER 2013

Pension	Old Rate ¹ (per fortnight)	New Rate ¹ (per fortnight)	Increase
Service Pension - single	\$808.40	\$827.20	\$18.70
Service Pension - couples	\$1,218.80 couple \$609.40 each	\$1,246.80 couple \$623.40 each	\$28.00 \$14.00
War Widow/ers Pension	\$820.70	\$840.20	\$19.50
Income Support Supplement	\$241.50	\$247.60	\$6.10
Special Rate (TPI) of Disability Pension	\$1,238.20	\$1,269.00	\$30.80
Intermediate Rate of Disability Pension	\$840.40	\$861.30	\$20.90
Extreme Disablement Adjustment	\$683.70	\$700.70	\$17.00
100% General Rate of Disability Pension	\$440.00	\$451.00	\$11.00

SUICIDE AWARENESS SUPPORT FOR VETERANS NOW ONLINE

Saturday, 24 August 2013 VA069

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Warren Snowdon, announced today that a new website, Operation *Life* Online, has been launched to assist veterans, Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and their families in learning about suicide prevention.

The website is the latest addition to Operation *Life*, the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) suicide prevention and mental health resource.

Operation *Life* Online provides advice and resources for the veteran and defence communities, and is designed to raise awareness of suicide, from recognising warning signs and risk factors to learning ways to help in times of crisis.

Mr Snowdon said that Operation *Life* Online will offer advice to people in need of immediate assistance, regardless of the time of day or their location.

"It is a tool to build resilience and to provide a direct channel to help when needed," he said.

Operation *Life* workshops are also available for people who are concerned about family, friends, mates or others in the veteran community. Attendance is free and people can register through the Veterans and Veterans Families Counselling Service (VVCS).

Tragically, suicide is the leading cause of death in Australia for men under 44 years and women under 34, and current and former serving members of the ADF are not immune from this loss. However, support is available and awareness of suicide risk, could help save a life.

Mr Snowdon reminded the veteran community that free mental health treatment is available for eligible veterans without the need to lodge a DVA compensation claim, they just need to contact DVA on 133 254.

Access to Operation *Life* Online is via DVA's At Ease mental health portal www.at-ease.dva.gov.au.

Veterans and their families can access 24-hour counselling and support through the VVCS on 1800 011 046. In the event of an emergency, call 000.

Cold War exploits of secret subs

How Australia's silent service tracked and filmed the Soviet nuclear fleet

by

Geoffrey Barker

From

The Weekend Australian 19-20 October 2013

On February 20, 1986, six senior naval officers came to the cabinet room in Canberra to brief prime minister Bob Hawke on Australia's secret Cold War submarine operations in Asia.

Defence minister Kim Beazley had invited them to explain to Hawke what the navy's ageing Oberon class submarines were capable of, and what they'd achieved on dangerous, clandestine missions to Vietnam and China. Beazley wanted to lock in Hawke's support for the costly and contentious plan to build six Collins-class subs in Australia.

The large and genial defence minister understood the strategic value of submarines as offensive and defensive weapons. When Hawke arrived, he looked like thunder and his crabbed body language signalled he wanted to be anywhere but hearing a presentation from the navy.

That was soon to change. Commander Kim Pitt began explaining he had been on patrol in HMAS Orion in the South China Sea from September 17 until November 9 the previous year; the focus of that patrol was Cam Ranh Bay on the east coast of Vietnam, then the largest Soviet naval base outside the USSR.

Pitt began a video that grabbed Hawke's attention and immediately transformed his mood. The PM appeared transfixed as he watched dramatic and brilliantly clear footage taken by HMAS Orion as it slipped in behind and beneath a surfaced Soviet Charlie class nuclear submarine heading into the Vietnamese port.

The video began with distant pictures of the Soviet submarine motoring towards the harbour well outside the 12-nautical mile (22.2km) Vietnamese territory limit. The video was shot through a camera in Orion's periscope as the submarine loitered, barely submerged in the choppy sea.

Then Pitt took the Orion deep, ran in close behind the Soviet boat and came up to periscope depth again. Now the video showed the Soviet submarine's wake boiling and bubbling on the surface. Hawke watched, startled, as a clear image of the turning propeller appeared on the screen just above and ahead of Orion.

Pitt ran beneath the Soviet submarine, filming sonar and other fittings mounted along its hull. The

remarkably clear picture: exposed the underwater secrets of Charlie-class technology. The only other way to get them would be for a western spy to penetrate dry-docks in the Soviet Union.

Pitt positioned Orion ahead of and beneath the Soviet submarine, slowed almost to a stop, and then allowed the Soviet boat to pass him while he filmed the other side of its hull.

Hawke grasped intuitively that this video intelligence would add immensely to Australia's prestige in the US. It could be used to Australia's advantage in negotiations with Washington and gave Australia a seat at the top table in the global Cold War intelligence collection game. For 45 minutes, Hawke asked questions about how the patrols were organised; their duration, their frequency, their success. He was told how the submarines recorded radio transmissions to deliver vital intelligence to the Western effort to track and identify the Soviet fleet.

The officers put up a photograph of a Soviet Kirov-class nuclear-powered cruiser, much admired by Western navies. US spy satellites had picked up the cruiser leaving its base in Murmansk and tracked it around the Cape of Good Hope and into the Indian Ocean.

The RAN sent the guided missile frigate HMAS Canberra to intercept the cruiser off Sri Lanka and follow it through the Strait of Malacca and up towards Cam Ranh Bay. The frigate took vital photographs and monitored the cruiser's communications until it approached Vietnam.

Pitt, in HMAS Orion, was waiting, submerged outside Cam Ranh Bay with the submarine's communications masts deployed to record the cruiser's arrival. He recorded its procedures and protocols, which deepened Western understanding of Soviet naval communications and command and control systems, meaning the West might be able to jam them in the event of hostilities.

The cautious admiral Mike Hudson, chief of the naval staff, dismayed the submariners by telling Hawke that while the operation was professional and produced good intelligence, it was very hazardous. A submarine might be detected and possibly captured, with serious international consequences. "As we do more and more patrols, the likelihood of this happening will increase," Hudson said.

Hawke rounded on him. "No, you are wrong," he replied. "I've got a degree in statistics and I can tell you that the probability of detection does not increase as the number of patrols increase. They are discrete, one-off events and the probability of detection is constant."

Beazley was delighted with the meeting. Hawke's support for new submarines was locked in. The submarine officers were also triumphant. They had put together a show that had convinced Hawke, converting him from curmudgeon to champion.

They did not tell Hawke that Pitt had also videotaped a submerged conventional Soviet submarine going into Cam Ranh Bay. It was brilliant submarine seamanship, but some of his colleagues regarded it as dangerous and unnecessary and Pitt as "a bit of a pirate". He later became director of submarine warfare.

The mystery boat operations were shrouded in secrecy as the submarines collected intelligence on the Soviet nuclear submarine and surface fleets and reinforced the US-Australia alliance. They also won Australian submariners their spurs in the Cold War's global espionage game, as they showed uncommon bravery, dash and initiative on about 20 patrols between 1977 and 1992.

Their success ensured the Collins-class submarines were built and secured the future of Australia's submarine service.

But the last patrol in the series proved a dangerous failure, with HMAS Orion at grave risk of detection and capture.

On October 22, 1992, she left Sydney Harbour and headed for Shanghai to gather intelligence on the Chinese navy, especially its new submarines. Orion's CO was commander Rick Shalders, who later commanded Australia's Collins-class submarine fleet.

The Americans wanted better intelligence on the Chinese navy, but US nuclear submarines were too big to be sent into the shallow waters of the East China Sea. Australia's smaller O-boats were ideal for the task.

Shanghai was China's biggest mainland harbour at the wide mouth of the Yangtse river; the water was shallow and murky, and busy with non-military shipping, including the local fishing fleet and ferries. The shoreline was heavily urbanised.

It would not be easy to stay unseen and undetected while barely submerged and trying to collect intelligence, and the consequences of detection could be grave for the submarine's crew and for Australia-China relations.

Shalders's trip to the area of operations was uneventful and the submariners were looking forward to getting their work done and getting back to the relatively safety of the open sea. Orion was equipped with the best photographic and electronic intelligence collection equipment; civilian language specialists were on board to translate Chinese navy transmissions.

But the patrol proved a nightmare, with the harbour crowded with fishing boats, many trailing long fishing lines and nets.

Shalders had to raise his periscope periodically to check the intelligence-collection aerials.

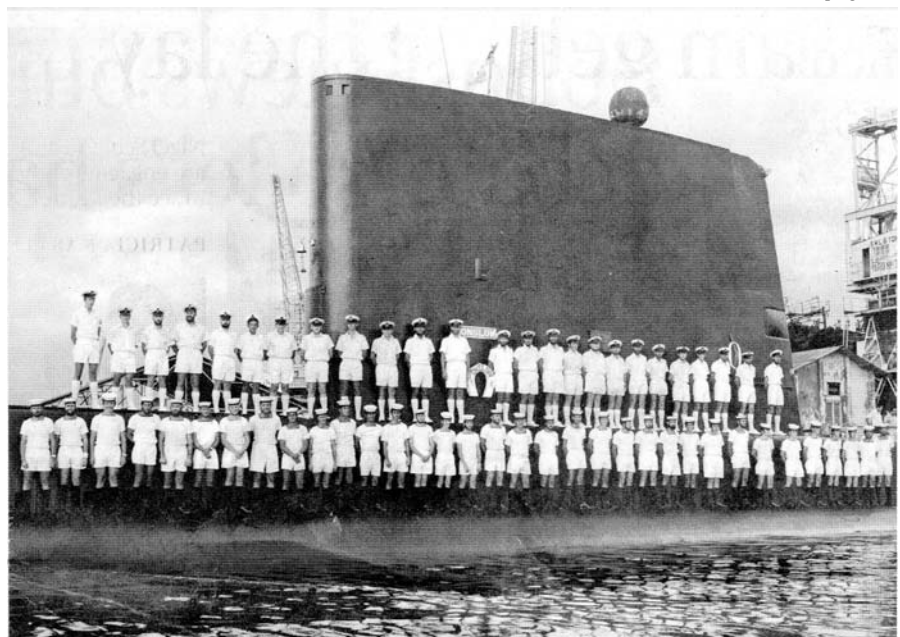
The fishermen constantly watched for signs of fish and could not miss minor disturbances made by Orion's equipment and by the presence of the submarine not far below the surface.

They followed Orion around the harbour. Shalders could not surface and could not risk moving quickly away from the danger.

Things started to get desperate when Orion fouled the fishing lines and nets. One fishing boat started to sink by its bow as its net became entangled with the submarine. The fisherman saved himself by cutting away the net from the boat with an axe.

By now Shalders knew he was facing possible disaster. It was only a matter of time before the Peoples' Liberation Navy became aware something was seriously amiss and investigated what was going on in the shallow water. Shalders and his crew faced the real prospect of detection, surrender, capture, imprisonment, trial and possible execution as spies. Relations between Australia and

(Continued on page 6)



HMAS Onslow's Ship's Company at Singapore Naval Base 1974

Australian Maritime Museum

Cold War exploits of secret subs

(Continued from page 5)

China would be in tatters. Shalders decided he had no choice but to abandon the operation.

Summoning all his skills, he took the submarine out of the harbour and into the relative safety of the East China Sea. The Australians returned home with nothing to show for their hair-raising experience.

The then chief of the naval staff, admiral Ian McDougall, a former submarine commander, told defence minister Robert Ray the O-boats were reaching the limits of their service lives and the patrols should be stopped because of the growing danger.

The submarine service was incandescent. It saw the patrols as invaluable for its reputation at home and abroad, and for continuing access to funding. The submariners wanted to preserve the skills they had developed.

The Defence Intelligence Organisation argued that despite the Soviet collapse there was an acute need to collect intelligence on the military activities of other countries, especially China, India and Indonesia, and that submarines were the most effective means. But Ray accepted McDougall's advice and ordered an end to the patrols.

A senior submariner, commander John Dikkenberg, met Hawke's successor as PM, Paul Keating, to argue for reinstatement of the patrols. Keating listened carefully, but would not over-rule his defence minister.

Four years later, when Ian McLachlan was appointed John Howard's first defence minister, he asked to be briefed on the cancelled patrols. The navy urged their resumption and was given the OK for a carefully controlled and limited mission off Indonesia to re-establish intelligence-collecting skills.

Bronwyn Bishop, then minister for defence science and technology, also accepted that skills were being lost and gave her blessing to resumed patrols. Six more patrols were undertaken, mainly monitoring Indonesian military communications around Indonesia and East Timor. The Howard government wanted more information on Indonesian military activities in Timor, where Fretilin guerillas were still fighting for independence.

The new Abbott government is considering whether to acquire a fleet of 12 new submarines, which would represent Australia's largest defence project. If it does, the proud Cold War history of the O-boats will have helped persuade decision-makers that submarines, despite their daunting cost, can be very good value indeed for taxpayers' dollars.

SOCIAL PROGRAMME 2013

27 Oct	Fish & Chips at the Yacht Club
7 Nov	Lunch then meeting at "The Vikings" Erindale
24 Nov	BYO Picnic at "The Joce's" in Dickson
1 Dec	Fish & Chips at the Yacht Club
5 Dec	Lunch at The Lakes Golf Club in Gungahlin
29 Dec	Fish & Chips at the Yacht Club

Tables have been booked for drinks and lunch at 12 noon in the host club prior to the meetings at 1.30 pm. *(yes I know that should read 1330)*

If anyone has a fresh idea for a social outing please mention it to Bev or Pat and we will investigate.

Bev Joce for the Committee

HEARING SERVICES

Recently there seems to have been a spate of people interested in improving their hearing ability. Unfortunately, it has taken some time for people to get 'in the line' as you will need a voucher issued by the Department of Health before you can access the services.

As it usually takes some weeks for vouchers to be produced, the form for those interested may be accessed on "Hearing Services Voucher_application.pdf – Adobe Reader", in order to receive the necessary voucher and authority to access hearing services.

If you are having hearing problems, it is strongly recommend that you complete the form, get the voucher and get on with improving your hearing.

Right: HMAS Sydney leading the Fleet into Port Jackson 4 October 2013

Below: The Australian White Ensign over Sydney Harbour Bridge



Below HMS Daring leads HMNZS Te Mana and INS Sahyadri into Sydney Harbour for the International Fleet Review 2013.

Bottom Right; Royal Marine on parade at CN's Sydney Opera House Reception 5 October 2013



Photos

RAN

Right

HMAS Sydney rounding Bradleys Head on 4 Oct 13

HMAS Sydney's mast at Bradleys Head has been restored, and grounds updated



NAA ACT Section

Nomination Form

2014 Committee Elections

Position

Nominee

Proposer: Name (Block Letters)

Signature

Seconder: Name (Block Letters)

Signature.....

Date:.....

Endorsement by Nominee

Nominations are to be delivered to

The Secretary,
NAA ACT Section

not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the Annual General Meeting to take place; ie by 1.30 pm Thursday 30 January 2014

Subscription and Records Update 2014

Annual Subscription for 2014 \$35.00 (Due now)

Surname.....

Given Names

Signature

Please complete any of the following details if there has been a change in the last 12 months

Preferred Title.....Post Nominals.....

Home Address.....

Town/Suburb.....State/Territory.....

Post Code.....

Telephoner (H)

Fax

Email

Spouse/Partner Given Name

Note

When completed please return this form together with your payment to; The Membership Registrar, either at a General meeting or by post to

3 Peake Place, CURTIN ACT 2605 or pay via the ebanking system to **Naval Association of Australia ACT Section BSB 062 919 Account Number 00904792**



Joce Park

Picnic

*30 Marsden Street
Dickson*

24 November 2013

Time 1200

Bring your own picnic lunch and refreshments

Sailors march into history



October 11, 2013

More than 3,000 sailors marched into the hearts and minds of the Australian public when they conducted a Combined Navy parade through Sydney yesterday, bringing down the curtain on the spectacular International Fleet Review (IFR) celebrations.

The parade was one of the biggest military parades in Sydney since the WWII victory celebrations in 1945.

The parade started at The Rocks, with the Royal Australian Navy Band setting the pace with a range of ceremonial music.

The parade was led by Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, in his capacity as the Commander of the Australian Fleet.

More than 25,000 people lined the street to applaud the men and women marching.

The Fleet units and participating foreign navies saluted Reviewing Officer, the Governor-General Her Excellency Quentin Bryce, as they passed Sydney's Town Hall.

A feature of the parade was the Governor General receiving a Royal Salute from the Royal Guard, which carried The Queen's Colour, a silk Australian White Ensign embroidered with the Royal Cipher.

The parade was another highlight for the sailors and officers from the 20 RAN and international warships who

(Continued on page 10)



IFR Commemoration Book

Dear all,

The Chief of Navy has presented Naval Association members with a book commemorating the Naval Review held in Port Jackson recently. Due to the weight of the book, postage out to our members is not attractive financially. It is just short of 300 pages of quality paper.

The book will be available for collection at the 7 November meeting at the Vikings Sports Club Erindale from 1230 to completion of the meeting" at Joco's Park Picnic on 24 November from 1200 and again at the Lakes Golf Club Gungahlin on 5 December from 1200 at the Xmas luncheon starting at 1200.

For those who cannot make any of those rendezvous, please arrange with a person who can attend to collect your book or ring me at 02 6223 2364 or 0412 757 505 to make alternative arrangements to receive the book. If you are near Melba or passing by, drop in to my place, 4 McEachern Crescent Melba to pick up a copy. Please ring beforehand to make sure that I am at home at the time you think that you can call in.

Regards

Peter Cooke-Russell

ACT Section VP

Ph 02 6223 2364 or 0412 757 505

Sailors march into history

(Continued from page 9)

participated in the spectacular Fleet Entry centenary celebrations on October 4 and the Fleet Review in Sydney Harbour on October 5.

The RAN participants in the combined Navy Parade included the ship's companies of HMA Ships *Darwin*, *Perth*, *Parramatta*, *Bundaberg*, *Diamantina*, *Gascoyne*, *Stuart*, *Huon*, *Tobruk*, *Success*, *Leeuwibn Yarra* and Australian Clearance Diving Team One, and the ship's companies from HMAS *Albatross*, *Creswell*, *Harman*, *Penguin*, *Watson* and *Waterhen*.

The international participants included sailors from NNS *Thunder*, FNS *Vendemaire*, SPS *Cantabria*, HMNZS *Te Mana*, INS *Sahyadri*, RMS *KD Jebat*, KBDDarulaman, RSS *Endeavour*, HTMS *Krabi*, KRI *Sultan Iskandar Muda*, JDS *Makinami*, HMS *Daring*, and USS *Chosin*.

Imagery is available on the Royal Australian Navy Media Library at <http://images.navy.gov.au/IFR13027>.



Taking the Salute, CN, GG and Lord Mayor of Sydney

RAN

FIVE MINUTE QUIZ

1. What is Alfred Nobel most famous for inventing?
2. An alopecia sufferer suffers from the loss of what?
3. What is a feather used for writing called?
4. What is the only type of bird that can fly backwards?
5. The fabric muslin originated in what country?
6. Where in the human body would you find the sclera and the fovea?
7. Ichthyology is the study of what?
8. What does a herpetologist study or collect?
9. How is the number 800 represented in Roman numerals?
10. Farinaceous refers to which food ingredient?

Answers on page 11

Reunions

National Cooks Reunion 2014

7-10 March 2014

**Full Registration Fee \$160
Includes all function and
Venues for 4 days**

Contact

http://rancooksonline.org/2014_main-page_31.html

Reunion Postal Address:

**2014 RAN Cook Reunion
PO Box 645
HEATHMONT VIC 3135**

ITEMS FOR SALE

NAA Ties	\$15.00
NAA Name Badges	\$15.00
NAA Key Ring	\$ 5.00
RAN Key Ring	\$ 5.00
See Secretary Alan on 02 6281 5630	



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**A Happy Birthday to you all
in November**

Tim HAYDEN,
Viv LITTLEWOOD,
Graeme QUINN,
Patricia ROBINSON,
Brian COURTIER,
Geoff CANNON,
Maurice TIFFEN and
Ray WALTERS

Answers to Five Minute Quiz:

1. Dynamite; 2. Hair; 3. Quill; 4. Humming bird; 5. Then India
(now Bangladesh); 6. Eye; 7. Fish; 8. Reptiles and am-
phibians; 9. DCCC; 10. Flour



Reunion November 2016

Your names and numbers attending would be appreciated

email to kweaver@outlook.com

Snail Mail;

The Secretary RANCBA (ACT)

30 Woollum Crescent

RIVETT ACT 2611

(email—peterguy@webone.com.au)

Ph 02 6288 0828—Mobile 0417 407



WRANS REUNION—Hobart 2014

There will be a WRANS reunion over the weekend of 28-30 March 2014, held at the Hobart Wrest Point Hotel-Casino.

Formal registrations and a payment in full (including a \$50 registration fee) will be required before the end of August 2013. Expressions of interest and queries may be emailed to

wrans.reunion2014@hotmail.com or posted to:

Cindy Gallagher
1 Vernon Avenue
Montrose TAS 7010

HMAS LEEUWIN 8th Intake

January 1964

(The Mighty Eighth)

will be holding a reunion to celebrate (?) 50 years since joining.

**The reunion will be held in
Wollongong NSW between
23 and 26 April 2014.**

For expressions of interest please contact
Bob Green on 02 4283 5201 or
robertmcgreen@optusnet.com.au or Rick
Warkins on 02 4256 2620 or
rick.w2@bigopind.com