

'DOWN UNDER' Newsletter

January 2015

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AUSTRALIA BRANCH

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Monthly General Meeting January 14th 2015

President opened the meeting with our usual toast to Absent Friends,

Attendees: *John Harrison, Alan Thomas, Mick Hanlon, Tom Oates, Karl Campbell, Peter Treen, Ted Manning, Eoin Douglas-Smith, Mick Hannah, Geoff Arnold, Ned Newcombe, Dennis Williams, Alan Jameson, Peter Ray, Pete Greenfield & John Keating.*

Apologies: *Jim Appleton, Steve Dyer, Alf Jobson, Dan Jordan, Bill Lee, Jim Major, Paul Meakin, John Meek, Bob Pitman, Kath Pouleris, Ken Read, John Reeve, Peter Shield, Roy Stedman, Rick Tallowin & Roy Widgington.*

Secretary's Report

Discussed December's Newsletter; everybody seems to be receiving this and there were no outstanding items.

Correspondence In: Christmas greetings from various Submariners branches.

Correspondence Out: Christmas greetings to various Submariners branches.

Treasurer's Report

Welfare Account \$1,422.50 General Account \$2,348.74 Investment Deposit Account \$6,000.00

Total Assets January 14th 2015 \$9,771.24

Acceptance. Proposer: Alan Jameson Seconder: Peter Treen for acceptance of Treasurers Report.

President's Report

Thankfully it's been very quiet since our last meeting, with very little to report; I hope that you all enjoyed the festive season; my sister Liz is now back home in Northern Ireland (poor bugger)!!

Sadly **John Meek** was unable to use the Association's mobility scooter & it has been recently been transferred over to **Rick Tallowin** with thanks to **Tom Oates** & his son; BZ.

On Thurs 15 Jan, we cleared the late **David Gilberton's** RAAFA Unit, at Erskine, thanks to **Alan Thomas's son**, along with **Alan Thomas, Ted Manning** & myself; O/C, we handed back the keys to the RAAFA Admin office & the unit will be sold IAW his instructions. Available for use by members & families, from David's unit is a 'nearly new' electronically controlled reclining chair (that also assists in standing), a shower seat & a raised 'over the toilet' seat.

Our **UK Subs** (2 Pound per full member), will become due shortly, so members are encouraged to renew their membership ASAP; \$30ea for all members attending meetings & \$15ea for Country & Inter-State members & those unable to attend meetings (Life Members are exempt). At the Jan MGM, I incorrectly stated that our Associate Members pay \$15, I have since checked with our previous Treasurer, Geoff Arnold & he said that they pay \$30; my apologies for the error!!

Fees can also be paid via our Bank A/C, as follows:

A/C Name **Submariners Association** BSB - 066-003 A/C No - 00903165

Please ensure that you include your name with the payment.

I have booked Fremantle's Memorial Hill, for Sun 18 Oct, for our **Annual Periscope Memorial Service**, commencing at 1100; we will be assisted by our Affiliated RAN Cadet unit, TS ANZAC, under its CO Leut **Ian Fryer** SCC; we will also attempt to get the RAN WA Volunteer Band for the occasion. O/C, we retire to the Fremantle Navy Club, for Lunch, 'Up Spirits' & Raffles.

Social Secretary's Report

Allan wanted to show our appreciation for the Raffle Ticket sellers, at our Christmas Lunch, as follows, **Pat Hanlon, Pat Thomas, Alan Jameson's partner, Anna Marike & Seton Douglas-Smith**; all involved were given a warm round of applause, for a job well done: BZ!!

Whilst on the topic, a very grateful thank you to all those that brought Raffle prizes to the Lunch; BZ!! At the Lunch, **Geoff Arnold's wife Jenny**, had won the Pussers Rum Raffle, which included the Pussers Rum Cake; sadly Geoff had to report that the Rum Cake must have gone past its 'use by date' & although it was previously unopened, it didn't taste the best!!

Allan Thomas proposed that we hold a Games afternoon, at the Fremantle Navy Club, against the 'Bootnicks' (Royal Marines) Association, at a date to be announced, sometime in February.

Coming Events

Sunday March 22nd @ 1200 End of Summer BBQ, Kings Park. At our usual venue, first BBQ area on the right after entering Kings Park Drive. Remember this is a family affair so children & grandchildren are welcome. We will have our usual 'Up Spirits' & Pussers Rum Raffle; there will probably be a quiz competition as well.

Saturday April 25th ANZAC Day Parade, Fremantle. We'll be back in Fremantle this year & we'll form up in our usual position on the Esplanade, prior to stepping off. O/C, we have a table booked for lunch at Rosie O'Grady's Hotel, with our 'Up Spirits' & Rum Raffle.

Welfare Report

I spoke to **Bill Lee's son Adrian** & he said that Bill was well & about to/or recently got a new hearing aid.

Amendment to the WA Telephone Tree, **Jim Appleton's** new Ph No 9344 1213, at his Nursing Home: James Brown House, Room 11, 171 Albert Street, Osborne Park, WA 6017 (Newsletter address). Jim has memory issues and is looking frail. Jim will be 90 in April. Thank-you **Ken Read**.

Kath Poularis (as relayed from **Dennis Williams**) Kath has fleeting recognition of her daughter Regina. Reggie is concerned this may not last

There was a long general discussion about getting **Power of Attorney** sorted out, especially for some of our older members, who are on their own; it is vitally important to do this sooner than later, the alternative is to have all your affairs placed in the hands of the Public Trustee. **Alan Jameson** then revealed the problems he suffered at their hands; I have also had dealings with them over a chap that I had known, as a Voluntary Advocate for an Ex-Service Organisation.

When you have granted **Power of Attorney** to someone and if it is likely that one day that person will be signing documents to sell your real estate, it is essential that you, as soon as possible, take the Power of Attorney documents to Landgate and instruct them to **register this on the Certificate of Title** for the property or properties. To do this all parties have to still be legally capable of signing documents so don't leave it until it is too late. If a Power of Attorney is more than 12 months old before you register it on the Certificate of Title be prepared to jump through a few hoops at Landgate!

General Business

I have had several orders for the Cold War & Poppy SM Pins (**Roy Widginton** both) & **Peter Treen** (CW Pin only) & these are enroute from the NI Branch; I have ordered 6ea, same price as before \$10ea (I will pass the remainder onto Ted for his Slops bag).

Karl Campbell warned members who are planning to drive Inter-State, to ensure that your Roadside Assistance or Vehicle Breakdown Cover/Insurance, is covered in other States; recently Karl's Daughter, Son-in-Law (a serving Senior Sailor in the RAN), along with their daughter, were driving to a new posting in QLD & broke down in that State & discovered that the car they were driving was not covered for Breakdown recovery. To be doubly sure, members are advised to check with their Insurer & Motor organisation prior to driving Inter-State. I rang my Insurer/Motor organisation, RAC-WA & they assured me that my nominated vehicle is covered for Roadside Breakdown Assistance & Insurance, anywhere in Australia.

Mick Hanlon is Splicing the Mainbrace, along with **Karl Campbell** & **Peter Treen**, all 3 were celebrating their birthdays late last year; BZ!! **Geoff Arnold, Allan Jameson** & **John Reeve** all celebrated birthdays in January, but will probably 'Splice the Mainbrace', at our Feb MGM.

Rum Raffle won by; **Eoin Douglas-Smith** (this is the first win for Eoin, since joining our Association 7yrs ago)!!

That's all for now! Regards Buster.

Crossed The Bar

Obituary/CTB - RN Navy News Jan 2015:

Cdr **Toby Weston** DSO DSC - Entered Dartmouth in 1937; later served in HMS CORNWALL (H/C) & RAMILLIES (B/S), in the Med & NORFOLK (H/C), in the Norwegian campaign, before volunteering for SM's in Sept 1940. His first SM was OTWAY, by P34 (ULTIMATUM), in the famous 10th Flotilla, at Malta; he then became 1st Leut of UNA, prior to their withdrawal Malta, to Alexandria in May 1942. During July that year they were forced to withdraw from Alexandria, to Haifa; around this time Leut Weston was suffering from 'Sand Fly' fever & he was subsequently sent home to UK.

He successfully completed his Perisher in late 1942 & took command of H28 in Oct that year. However within hours of assuming command, H28 ran aground on the Irish Free State side of the River Foyle, in Northern Ireland; this was compounded by their collision with an RN destroyer, whilst returning to Derry; Leut Weston was later Court Martialled, but was acquitted on all counts.

Leut Weston suffered a re-occurrence of the 'Sand Fly' condition & left H28 in Feb 1943, but he quickly recovered & then became CO of the new SATYR (commissioned in Feb 43) & completed a working-up patrol off Iceland, before joining the 9th Flotilla at Dundee. Over the next 18 months, Leut Weston & SATYR completed 7 war patrols off Norway, in which they took part in the rehearsals for the Midget/X Craft submarine raid on the German B/S TIRPITZ & ran aground when navigating past a Norwegian fishing fleet.

On 19 Dec 43, Weston was on patrol off Stadtlandet, when he saw a German seaplane-carrier escorted by 2 destroyers & fired 5 torpedoes at 2,800yds; they were promptly & heavily D/C'd. Flooded aft, the boat began to sink by the stern & despite frantic bailing, struck the rocky bottom at 350ft; Weston sent everyone to their bunks to rest & conserve oxygen; they sat on the seabed until he heard the sound of the counter-attack drawing away.

When he ordered the main ballast tanks to be blown, however, SATYR shot to the surface, where it was attacked by enemy A/C & shore batteries; Weston ordered SATYR to dive & they again hit the bottom. He made a 3rd attempt to rise before he could take control of the sub & level off; it was an hour & a half before Weston was able to withdraw slowly towards Lerwick. Weston later described this episode as "a little contretemps"; he was later awarded a DSC.

On June 13 1944, SATYR was a patrol, dived in the Norwegian Sea, some 25nm west of the Lofotens, when they sighted a U-boat on the surface; Leut Weston was unable to get into an attacking position, so surfaced & gave chase, but soon realised that they could not overtake. Two days later the same thing happened, but when they sighted a 3rd U-boat, again on the surface in broad daylight, Weston closed to 3,000yds & fired a full salvo of 6 torpedoes; the first 2 exploded prematurely, but 2 hits were scored & through the periscope Weston saw U-987 CO OL H Schreyer, break in half & sink!!

There were no survivors, all 52 crew were killed; unsurprisingly as they were caught on the surface in broad daylight, it was this SM's first war patrol!! Shortly afterwards SATYR sighted a 4th U-boat, but her crew had not had time to reload their torpedo tubes & it had a lucky escape; Weston was later awarded a DSO.

Post-war LCdr Weston commanded the SM AENEAS; other appointments after his promotion to Cdr, included 2 I/C of the L/C KENYA & Staff Officer Submarines on the British Joint Services Mission in Washington, DC.

Weston retired in 1959 & joined the hospital equipment manufacturer Nesbitt-Evans, where he became managing director; under his leadership the company became the only one to produce a hospital bed which met a new standardised "King's Fund" specification & by 1974 Nesbitt-Evans was selling 10,000 beds a year, or about half the NHS's annual requirement. He retired aged 65, but 5yrs later returned to buy out his old company; Toby Weston married, in 1953, Beryl Charlotte Carter, a Wren whom he had met in Malta; she survives him with their 2 sons.

Cdr **Toby Weston** DSO DSC RN, born April 10 1919, died Sept 28, aged 95.

Leut **Robert Aitken** RNVR - The son of a Norwich Doctor, Robert was born on 1 Jan 1923 & educated at Oundle, after which he was Articled as an Accountant; as soon as he was able he joined the RN as a Seaman. He passed out of HMS KING ALFRED as top of his class in 1942, as a S/Lt; he volunteered for Special Duties & was later told that he volunteered to be a Charioteer (2 man human torpedo), but he was then persuaded by an offer of leave to transfer to the larger Midget/X Craft (4 man crew).

Aitken was one of the 2 Divers from X7 CO Leut Godfrey Place RN, that were involved in Operation SOURCE, the attack against the German B/S TIRPITZ, at Kaafjord, in Northern Norway, on 22 Sept 1943 (a complete Obituary for Leut Aitken, is reported in the Dec 2014 edition of the 'In Depth' newsletter).

Post-war, Robert Aitken completed his Articles & joined a firm in London; in the 1950's he moved to R Hunt & Co, his wife's family's agricultural engineering firm at Earls Colne in Essex, where he became managing director. Robert Aitken married Anne Hunt in 1951; she died in 1992 & he is survived by a son & 3 daughters.

Lieutenant **Robert Aitken** DSO RNVR, died 22 Oct, aged 91.

Members of Submariners Association:

Mead, Richard (Jan) WO MEA Barrow Branch. Otus, Cachalot, Sovereign, Sceptre, Victorious, Vengeance. Aged 64

Rainer, Charles Lt Cdr CWO Dolphin Branch Meteorite (ex U1407 Type XVIIIB) Talent, Trump, Tally Ho, Scythian
Aged 89

Wilkie, Brian Mech Barrow Branch Valiant Aged 82

Allen, George AB LTO Middlesex Spiteful, Anchorite, Alcide Aged 87

Hillyard, Stan Taunton Branch, Truant, Trusty, Sceptre Aged 95

Swift, Peter MEM Blackpool/Fylde Walrus, Sealion Porpoise, Oracle Aged 68

Kimmitt, Tom CPO MEM Scotland N.E. Revenge, Repulse, Renown

Non Members:

Davidson, William (Bill) CPO ME Sanguine, Sea Devil, Alliance, Oracle

Braidwood, Brian Lt Cdr Excalibur, Orpheus, Alliance

Gallagher, John F/C ME Resolution, Ambush, Warspite

Young, Ken CPO EA Repulse

Association of RN Officers:

Leut **Norman 'Jim' Enoksen** WESM - Joined HMS ST VINCENT in 1958, aged 15 (11 Entry, DUNCAN 112) & served in HMS DUNCAN, LOCH LOMOND, LOCH ALVIE & ARETHUSA; he then joined SM's & served in SEALION, OTUS & ONSLAUGHT, before retiring in 1993. Member of HMS ST VINCENT, DUNKIRK, ARETHUSA & Weapons Mech Associations, also Diesel Boat Submariners, SM Officers Life Members Association & Association of RN Officers; died on 17 Oct, aged 71.

Meeting shut at 1305.

END OF JANUARY MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING

The next meeting will be at *The Flying Angel*, Fremantle on

Wednesday February 11th commencing at 1200.

RN Navy News, January 2015

Centenary saluted

THE Australian Submarine Service have celebrated their centenary – including their close ties with the Royal Navy.

The programme culminated in a series of events in November – ‘Submarine Week’ – in which the Submarines Association Australia and members of the Submariners Association Australia branch, based in Fremantle, played their part.

The Australian Submarine Arm traces its origins to February 1914 and the arrival of the British-built submarines HMAS AE1 and AE2, complete with a complement of RN officers and crew, along with some Australian trainee submariners.

The latter served with distinction in World War 1, being the first Allied submarine to break through the Dardanelles during the Gallipoli campaign (earning the soubriquet ‘the silent Anzac’).

HMAS AE2 was scuttled in the Sea of Marmara after mechanical problems on April 30 1915.

Later British-built former RN boats included six J-class from 1919, followed by Oxley and

Orway in the late 1920s.

Australia bought six new Oberon-class boats from the UK in the 1960s, reinforcing the close connection with the RN Silent Service, with personnel on exchange in both countries and former RN personnel coming to Australia to serve in the RAN.

Thirty years on the RAN commissioned HMS Collins as the lead boat of the Type 471 class, designed by Swedish firm Kockums, to replace the ageing Oberons.

These six boats were built at

Port Adelaide, in South Australia, and the new class of boat also had a new base – the RAN Submarine HQ moved from HMAS Platypus, in Sydney, to HMAS Stirling, at Rockingham, south of Perth, in Western Australia.

“Also based at Stirling are the Submarine Training and Systems Centre and the Escape Training Facility, so our Association is in the perfect location,” said S/M John Keating, president of the Submariners Association Australia branch.

“We have a great relationship

with our brothers in the Submarines Association Australia, which has branches in each state – some of our members belong to both associations, having also served in RAN submarines) & the Submarine Institute of Australia, which is also based in WA.”

S/M Keating added: “Hats off to Sid Czabator, President of the SAA WA Branch & his organising committee, for all their great work over Subweek.

“Everything went brilliantly – BZ!”



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