



Members' Newsletter



November/December 2019

As I sit here writing this short note, I am reminded of our need to be aware that sometimes things do not work out how they should, nor indeed does what we have come to expect from others. Even the best of intentions get side-tracked, and who are we to question why something we have come to rely on is no longer there?

Our prime method of communication over the years has been the GFL. Going back to the early 1990's, we have had just over 130 volumes of this publication to enjoy. (I have nearly every copy, even going back to when I used to have it reproduced at my school for one cent a page.) But because we have become so used to receiving the GFL - on a regular basis - it comes as a bit of a let-down when we do not receive what we have come

to expect. Quite often, very little thought is given to the circumstances behind this delay.

This current letter is merely a stopgap measure. It is designed to maintain contact with our members. It is not meant as a replacement for the GFL. Members can also be assured that, dealing with issues concerning their welfare and entitlements goes on.



PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Regarding contaminated water was sent on 23 October 2019, the text of this appears in the September issue of this newsletter. This Petition was sent, by post, to Mr Alan Tudge, MHR, via his Electorate Office, and

his Parliamentary Office in Canberra. To date, I have not received a response from either Mr Tudge, or those that vet Petitions at Parliament House before they are presented to the House for comment.

SHIPP DIVISION PRESENTATION

Was carried out on 16 October to just over 160 new Recruits. My sincere thanks to Association stalwarts Gary Taylor and Haydn Whitfield, and to my Army friend of many years standing, Rob Edgell. We were later informed by both the DO Lt. Andrea

Lock, and the CO of Recruit school Cmdr Andrew Hough, that the presentation was well received by all concerned. Such was the response that there are now feelers out from Recruit School for us to give a suitable presentation to one of the other Divisions.



Cdre York CSC RAN conversing with Chaplains, Denis Mcmillan and his colleague who sang each hymn as a duet.



Laura Benney reciting 'Crossing the Bar'



Willie Beattie, Steve Mika, and HMAS Sydney Banner, with floral tributes to both Sydney 2 and Sydney 3 while Cdre York addresses those assembled.



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SYDNEY-EMDEN COMMEMORATIVE DINNER

Was held in the HMAS Cerberus Wardroom on 8 November. The Association received four invitations to this event. This was mainly due to a lack of space at this unique venue. Those attending with me were David Dwyer, Chris Thompson, and Gary Taylor. It was quite an enjoyable evening, with John Perryman from Sea Power Center as guest speaker. John gave a very sound account of the circumstances leading up to and the battle between HMAS Sydney and HSK Emden. Later in the evening I was able to have a conversation with John, as I have a long standing professional relationship with him. His advice and contacts have proven invaluable over the years.

On Sunday 17 November, the planned Commemorative Service and Dedication was carried out at the HMAS Sydney Tree (F24). This is where the refurbished and re-sited Plaque commemorating the service of HMAS Sydney 2 was unveiled, and where the Plaque commemorating the service of HMAS Sydney 3 was also unveiled.

The service was attended by SNO (Vic) Commodore Greg Yorke, CSC, RAN, representing Chief of Navy (CN), who was reported to be at sea on the day and could not attend. Also present was Shrine of Remembrance Governor, Group Captain Annette Holian. Annette was the person who gave the Address at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service, 2018. Annette is also an Orthopaedic Surgeon and a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS).

Of course nothing would be the same at such occasions without our very own 'Sin Bosun' Salvation Army Chaplain, Denis Mcmillin, who brought along a colleague so they could sing the hymns as a duet. The duties of Master of Ceremonies was carried out by Association stalwart Lee 'Dutchy' Andrews, who carried his part off with due diligence and a dash of aplomb. Thanks also to Chris Thompson for reciting the Naval Ode, and the Ode, to all assembled.

There were approximately 30 members in

attendance, which included Laura Benney and her family. They had made the effort to travel all the way from Ballarat to attend. Laura recited Lord Tennyson's Crossing the Bar as part of the Dedication Service. She also recited the Dedication to HMAS Sydney as part of the Commemoration Service. Laura also laid a wreath in her capacity as a direct descendant of one who served in Sydney 2. Laura is in her second year of a four year Bachelor of Education (B Ed) degree, studying in the Humanities Faculty - specialising in English and History - at Ballarat University.

Thanks must also go to David Dwyer for organising the finer points of the service and providing the refreshments afterwards. Thanks also to William Beattie and Steve Mika for their fortitude in holding our banner throughout the entire service. Thanks also to the small detachment from HMAS Cerberus made up of a Petty Officer, Able Seaman Musician, and two Ordinary Seamen, who provided the essential service presence on such an occasion. The bugler could not be faulted. BZ Cerberus.

MR JOHN PERRYMAN

John Perryman joined the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in January 1980 as a 16 year old Junior Recruit. During a career spanning 25 years he attained the rank of Warrant Officer Signals Yeoman and later commissioned as a Lieutenant. Throughout his service he saw much of the world and



participated in numerous exercises and operations that included operational deployments to Somalia, Bougainville and East Timor.

John transferred to the Naval Reserve

in November 2004 when he took up the position in the Australian Public Service as the Director of Strategic and Historical Studies at the Sea Power Centre – Australia. He is the co-author of Australia's Navy in Vietnam and author of Kit Muster, Uniforms Badges & Categories of the Australian Navy 1865-1953. He has also made numerous written contributions to a wide range of historical publications.

OUT OF SIGHT, OUT OF MIND

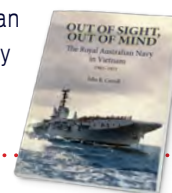
Second edition is now available for sale at a reduced rate through the Association Hon. Secretary, David Dwyer. David has described the book in one word, **WOW!**

The Second edition of Out of Sight, Out of Mind has been reviewed by Dr Tim Coyle of the Australian Naval Institute. In summarising his review, Dr Coyle has

written: 'This book provides a balanced and important contribution to the historiography of Australian participation in the Vietnam War, particularly by detailing the hardships and dangers faced by the ships' companies engaged in logistic support to the Australian Army Task Force.' The complete review may be found at the following address: <https://navalinstitute.com.au/ran-in-vietnam/>



In closing, the Committee and I wish everyone a happy and safe Christmas and wish you all the very best for a healthy and prosperous New Year.



*Sincerely
Dr John Carroll*



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