

This was the Year That Was 2014-2015

As your President, I feel that it is my responsibility to keep you the members informed of my activities for the year 2014-2015. Please find below a short but concise listing of these.

Keeping members informed via both forms of media. Can't disenfranchise 50% of members and expect to retain their support. You now have access to both the website and the association's newsletter, *the Grey Funnel Line*

Statistics show that the vast proportion of members are those with Vietnam service, therefore their interests/problems should take some priority.

Issues affecting members include potable water factors in certain SOPs. Turn-around-times for at least 3 voyages of *Sydney*, deaths in transit not recognised, and other non-specific issues.

Invited as guest speaker VVAA OEVVAA Boronia, Long Tan Day 2014.

Sudden illness/loss of member Bill Eggins - visit to Hobart - met with Stan Davis, son of LS Stan Davis *Sydney 2*, Associate member, taking over *Sydney 2* commemoration proceedings following the loss of Bob Gibbs.

Attended Shipp Division Graduation with Lee Andrews, Fred Mcleod-Dryden & Gary Taylor, 23rd Oct. 2014.

Attended HMAS *Sydney 1* 100th anniversary commemorative service, assisted in writing the service in conjunction with Major Dennis McMillin.

Attended HMAS *Cerberus Sydney/Emden* dinner.

Attended HMAS *Sydney 2* commemorative service, assisted in writing the service in conjunction with Major Dennis McMillin.

Research provided to DVA Nominal Rolls team sees 150 members of the Fleet Air Arm recognised as members of HMAS *Sydney* flight Vietnam, where there had originally only been one. Assoc. retains the complete *Sydney* crew list.

Research provided to several members sees them recognised as having served in *Sydney*, or having the possibility of having their illness recognised under current SOPs.

Four SOPs submitted to RMA. Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia, Diabetes, Ischemic Heart Disease & Parkinson Disease, based upon research, and that the US National Academy of Sciences – Institute of Medicine recognise these diseases as being related to exposure to Agent Orange. Supported by Russell Pettis, National President NAA.

Book Royalties totalling \$3,250 paid to the E J Whitten Foundation. Receipts retained by Hon. Sec.

Attended Shipp Division graduation with David Dwyer, 6th March 2015.

Did life expectancy research with assistance from Steve Mika. Life expectancy for men aged 65 in 2010 could expect to live another 19 years (84). 59 of our members went way before their time at average age of 66.

Writeway Research Service. Issues of false and misleading information being used in their research. Members alerted to this.

ANZAC DAY ABC Commentary Team as requested by RSL, 2014-2015.

Member of the VVAA Ed Team, attended several school visits throughout 2014-2015

Attended Shipp Division graduation with 3 members of the VVAA Ed Team 12 June 2015.

Made dovetailed box for 50th Anniversary.

Made sword case for Sir William Rooke Creswell's sword. Rosemary Creswell, daughter of Sir Roy Dowling, first CO of HMAS *Sydney* 3, invited to join as an Honorary Member.

Attended HTAV conference at Flemington racecourse as member of the VVAA Ed Team. 23rd July.

Invited as guest speaker VVAA Hastings RSL, 15th August 2015.

Item of historical interest: *Vung Tau remains the most vulnerable harbour in the Republic of Vietnam*. (COMNAVFORV Monthly Historical Summary, October 1971).

Dr John R Carroll

President 2014/2015