

President's Report – July – August 2016

Plaque of Dedication. It has been mooted at Committee that we commission a Plaque of Dedication to those who have been lost while on Operational Service during the Vietnam War. The two Officers involved are Lt. E G Kennell and Lt. Cdr. K A Ferguson, both who died whilst in transit to Vietnam. The often cited reason given for their non-recognition is that they never reached the operational area. However, the logic of that argument fails to impress when the ship or ships in which they were serving *was allotted for service from the last port of call to the first port of call upon return.*

National Academy of Sciences – Institute of Medicine. Veterans and Agent Orange. The latest volume of this publication was released late June 2016. This is the 10th volume in the series which dates back to 1994. The National Academy of Sciences – Institute of Medicine celebrated its 150th anniversary in 2014 so it's been around for quite a while. Foremost amongst its pages are the 18 diseases, illnesses or syndromes which may be attributed to exposure to Agent Orange. Compare this if you will with the Seven (7) diseases, illnesses or syndromes the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) in Australia recognise at the moment. It would appear that the RMA have done nothing further towards addressing this obvious problem since 2006, despite our best efforts.

History Teachers Association Conference. As part of my involvement with the VVAA Education Team I attended the History Teachers Association Conference at Flemington Racecourse on 20 July. The Education Team put on a presentation at the conference titled *We Were There*. 25 teachers attended our session which was interrupted by a false alarm and subsequent evacuation of the whole site. Feedback of the day was generally positive. We could have done without the break in proceedings, as it did nothing for continuity and retention.

Laura Benney. This young lady continues to impress. Her efforts were recently rewarded with a trip to the ACT to participate in the National Commemoration of Long Tan. Her essay, which covered both the Australian Army Training Team Vietnam (AATTV) and Clearance Diving Team Three (CDT3) should appear on the HMAS Sydney web site and in the GFL for all members to enjoy.

Sydney 2 Plaque – Hobart. On a recent visit to Hobart my wife and I made a point of visiting the Sydney 2 Plaque sited prominently at the water's edge at Hobart. I can report that the Plaque itself is in good repair, however the photograph of the Sydney is faded almost to the point where it's almost indiscernible. I am suggesting here that we may need to replace same with an etching which would resist the elements a lot better. Hobart suffers from the

[illegible]

Shipp Division Passing Out. On Friday 19 August, David Dwyer, Gary Taylor and I, along with three representative of the South Vietnamese Naval Association, Cong Minh Nguyen, Tan Van Huynh, & Loi Duong, attended Shipp Division passing out Parade. As usual, the Division was well presented and was a credit to themselves, their instructors, and the RAN in general. The weather was typical of *Cerberus*, and several rather gruff renditions of *you'll be wet, homesick and frightened* were heard to emanate from within those assembled

The prize for **Leadership Potential** went to Recruit BM **Cameron Sayner**



The prize for **Academic Excellence** went to Recruit MT **Christopher Petersen**

The prize for **Recruit of the Intake** went to Recruit ML - P **Elsbeth Gamble**

The prize for **Sports Person of the Intake** went to Recruit ET **Daniel McAllister**

The prize for **Most Improved Physical Fitness** went to Recruit ML - SC **Georgia Joseph**

The prize for **Top Shot of the Intake** went to Recruit ML - C **Su Jin Lee**

The **WO-N Excellence Award** went to Rct ML - P **Leah Croker**

NB: BM = Bosuns Mate; MT = Marine Technician; ML = Maritime Logistics – Personnel, (Writer) C = Cook; ET = Electronics Technician;

Regards to all.

Dr John Carroll