

President's Report – July/August 2017

Shipp Division – Graduation 21 July. Another class of Shipp Division graduated on this day in the presence of their proud families and loved ones. As has been the case in years past, several members of this Association were invited and I had the privilege of presenting a prize for Leadership Potential on behalf of the Association. On this occasion, the prize went to Recruit Med. Jasmin **Edgar**.

Prizes were also awarded for, and to the following:

Academic Excellence:
Recruit MTSM Brent John **Gardner**

Recruit of the Intake: Recruit
ML-C Jarrad John **Dalby**

Sports Person of the Intake:
Recruit CIS Claudia Ella **Ryan**

Most Improved Physical
Fitness: Recruit MT Benjamin C B **Marlow**

Top Shot: Recruit ET Emma Louise **Kennedy**

WO-N Excellence Award: Recruit CSO Damon Wallace **Jackson**.

The CO of Recruit School, Commander Luke Ryan, has written to me that: *The presence of the members of the HMAS Sydney and VLSV Assoc. adds to the occasion, providing a practical example of the culture of service that the Recruits must aspire to as the newest sailors of the RAN. I also appreciated you accepting the invitation to present the award for Leadership Potential. – Thank you again for your continued support of Shipp Division.*



Shipp Division - pre URE Presentation 23 August. As I may have explained previously, the CO of Recruit School, Cdr Luke Ryan, and more specifically, the DO of Shipp Division, Lt. Jeff Thornton, have, over the past few intakes, asked that members of the HMAS Sydney

& VLSV Assoc., and members of the VVAA Education Team, give a presentation to the new Recruits at the end of week three of their training, which is just before their Unit Readiness Evaluation (URE). As requested, and in conjunction with Lt. Thornton, another successful presentation was carried out. As part of this occasion, we present the new class with the RAN in Vietnam Banner, which is given into their custody until graduation.

At the July Graduation, mentioned above, there were several of that intake who approached members of the presentation team independently, and made very similar comments regarding the value of the pre-URE experience. For example, they all stated, in general terms that: *At that stage of their training, if it hadn't been for the presentation we gave, they were seriously considering the wisdom of their career choices.*



Hobart - 24 - 28 August: As part of a pre-planned excursion to the Apple Isle, both my wife and I made our way down to the Hobart waterfront, and inspected the Commemorative Plaque, dedicated to the Tasmanian Casualties from HMAS Sydney 2. Despite a small amount of residue left behind by a recalcitrant seagull, the Plaque appears to be in good repair. This is a permanent legacy to those

from Tasmania who served in the ship, and well worth a visit when you are next in Hobart.

Shipp Division – Graduation 12 October: This is the last Shipp Division pass-out for 2017. Also of some significance, the graduating class will participate in a Ceremonial Sunset. Members of this Association wanting to avail themselves of the opportunity to witness this occasion, need to advise either myself, or our Hon. Secretary, David Dwyer, as there are security matters that need to be addressed before arrival at *Cerberus*. Reviewing Officer - DCN, Rear Admiral M Noonan.

Royal Australian Naval Bridging Train (RANBT): A new Plaque has been produced to commemorate the service of the RANBT at *Kangaroo Beach*, Suvla Bay, Gallipoli, from early August to late December 1915. The existing Plaque - complete with the AIF symbol - is to remain - as an artefact - at the RANBT Commemorative Tree. Members are invited to attend a short commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Saturday, 24 February at 10:00 am. The Commanding Officer of HMAS *Cerberus*, Captain Tim Standen,

will also be in attendance, representing the RAN. Further details regarding this occasion will be promulgated closer to the day.

The significance of the date chosen is to align as close as possible to the date that approval was given for the formation of the RANBT, by the then Naval Board, some 102 years ago. Also, worthy of mention is that the knoll now occupied by the Shrine of Remembrance, was the original training campsite of the RANBT.

Fred McLeod-Dryden Bequest: The Bequest to the Shrine of Remembrance in Fred's name, will be presented to the Shrine CEO, at a date to be fixed, over the September-October school holiday period. Fred's eldest son Douglas works as a teacher, and this will allow him the opportunity to be present. To the best of my knowledge and belief, members of the Association who contributed to this worthy cause, have been acknowledged elsewhere. Details of the donor citation in Fred's name will be made available when known.

Lt. Cdr Peter Cumming RAN (Rtd): Those who have read the Lt. Cdr Peter Cumming Report on our website, and elsewhere, are advised that Peter's son Max, in New Zealand, has also read the Report. He has sent the enclosed note and photograph in response. Vale, Peter Maxwell Cumming.

Dear Sirs,

*I was doing some research on my father's amazing life and came across your excellent piece on his Vietnam report.
http://hmassydney.com/library/sydney3/LCDR_Cumming_Report.html*

Sadly I have to inform you the Peter passed away last year on the 4th July aged 86. He was

in pretty good shape until the last year. He always told me

he didn't mind dying he just didn't want to ever 'lose his marbles'. He was an extremely intelligent and eloquent man and this would have naturally been his greatest fear. I guess those qualities showed up early when he was awarded the RAN's Kings Medal in 1947!

Anyway good to see you have kept the HMAS Sydney's mess room running. I'm sure Dad would approve.

Kind regards,

Max



This was the last Anzac Day Dad attended. That's me and my Mum, Alwyn, with Peter.

General Call: Any member of the HMAS *Sydney* & VLSV Assoc. wishing to attend graduating ceremonies of Shipp Division, any time in the future, need to be fully aware that their personal details and their vehicle registration number need to be recorded for security purposes, prior to the occasion. These can be forwarded to either myself, or to our Hon. Secretary David Dwyer, for subsequent transmission to the naval authorities at HMAS *Cerberus*. Members also need to be aware that what we knew (with some trepidation) as the West Gate, is now the main entry point to the establishment.

SOP's Resubmission: As advised to those who attended the AGM, the four original SOP's submitted to the Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) have been resurrected by scanning the hard copies I had in my possession. Many thanks must go to association stalwart, Steve Mika, for a job well-done.

I hope the above proves informative.

Kind regards to all.

Dr John Carroll

Saturday 09 September 2017.