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EDITORIAL:

The policy on the distribution of In Depth is that Members with access to a computer will not receive hard copy.

Those requiring hard copy are requested to advise the secretary who will include you in our mailing list.

If you are on the net and receive hard copy, please let us know.

Do we have YOUR current details?

The problem is usually created as a result of us having outdated contact information.

DISCLAIMER:

The opinions expressed in "In Depth" are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editor, the National and State Committees of SAA or the RAN.

From the President

The year is drawing to a close and we are all asking ourselves, where has it gone? This year there have been many challenges for many of us to face, but with the Christmas break looming, we will hopefully have time to enjoy our family and friends and to top up our batteries.

I would like to thank all Members of the Association for the support that you have given to State and National Executives and hope that more of you can become involved in Association activities next year.

I also ask that you think about your mates in the coming weeks, especially those that are in poor health. A call or a card to say g'day is easy to do and brings great comfort and joy.

My wishes to you all for Christmas and the Holiday Season ahead.

Till next time..... Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Secretary's Report

This is the last edition of In Depth for 2009 and I wish to take this opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

It has not been an easy year for many, the list of Members that are on Sick Parade continues to grow and we have also lost some great mates, a real loss to the submarine community.

The number of new Members this year was pleasing but I am disappointed with the number of Members that did not renew in 2009. My priority for 2010 is to get them back, or at least find out why, so if you are one of them, start working on an excuse now!

Preparations for SUBCON 2010, being hosted by NSW in Coffs Harbour, are well underway and I hope to see many of you there.

Till next year.....

SAA Welfare Fund

One of the benefits of SAA membership is the ability for the family of Members to access the SAA Welfare Fund in times of need. Tim Everard, the Fund's Treasurer reports "We started this year with \$49037.52 in the fund and we have received donations etc of \$4444.86. We have assisted members to the tune of \$5500.00, so we are down about 10% for the year to date. Treasurers' always like to see money in rather than out and donations, our only source of revenue, are always welcome."

The Welfare Fund has existed for more than thirty years and is designed to assist submariners or their families in financial difficulties. It is quite a strong fund at present, but a stronger membership of the association will ensure its availability in the long term. Support from the SAA Welfare fund is only available to financial SAA members as specified in the SAA Constitution.

The demand on the Fund can only increase as we age and all submariners are requested to either give a small annual donation to the fund, or, make a small consideration in your Will.

The address for donations is: Tim Everard, 2/2A Cambridge Street, Cammeray NSW 2062.



ETERNAL PATROL

The following members of the submarine community passed away since the September edition of In Depth. Our thoughts and condolences go out to the families and friends.

WOCOXNSM JIM REDWOOD

Life Member James (Jim) Albert Redwood died from the effects of a subdural hematoma on Tuesday, 13 October 2009.



Jim was one of the first sailors from the RAN to volunteer for submarines and went to England in 1963 to undertake the original courses at the submarine school based at HMS Dolphin. On completion Jim was drafted to HMS Tiptoe in January 1964 to complete his Part Three Training, he left this boat in April of the same year to join HMS Truncheon.

Jim's next position was as a SETT instructor at the Tank at HMS Dolphin, this position he took up after leaving Truncheon and served there until May 1966.

In May 66, Jim now a Chief Petty Officer Coxswain left Dolphin and travelled up to Greenock in Scotland to join as the Commissioning Coxswain of HMAS Oxley and brought the submarine on its delivery voyage to the newly formed squadron at HMAS Platypus. Jim held the position of Coxswain until April 1969.

In April 1969 Jim returned to England and was the SETT instructor at HMS Dolphin until March 1972, he then returned to HMAS Platypus where he took up the position of Escape Coxswain on the base until March 1974.

With promotion to Warrant Officer in March, Jim took up the position of Regulating Coxswain of HMAS Platypus the position he upheld until February 1978

Jim was one of several submariners whose service was recognized with the presentation of the Queen's Silver Jubilee Medal.

Jim left the Navy as a Warrant Officer Coxswain and took up a position with the Western Australian Fire Brigade.

Jim joined the Association in July 1990, he with several other submariners in the West were integrators for forming a Branch of the SAA in that state (circa August 1990). Jim was voted into the executive position of Secretary Treasurer, which he held until December 1991 when he stood down from the Branch executive and resigned from the fire brigade and moved to Albany where he and his wife Anne purchased a supermarket and ran it, a case of "once a grocer always a grocer".

Jim and Anne decided to move back to the east coast and settle in Holbrook, NSW. With the purchase of the fin and casing from the decommissioned HMAS Otway, Jim and Anne were very much involved in forming the memorial and museum in Holbrook.

As a former submarine coxswain, Jim used his medical knowledge and undertook the DVA advocate courses so as to help members in the southern part of NSW and northern Victoria with their DVA claims.

At the AGM held in Melbourne, sponsored by the Victorian Branch in June 2005, Jim was made a Life Member in recognition for his contribution to the SAA which included the formation of the WA Branch, the promotion of Association through his participation with the Otway relics and its adjoining museum and as a Pension and Welfare Officer.

CPOEWASM GEOFF 'KNOCKER' WHITE

Geoff "Knocker" White died in October in the company of family and friends in the Hollywood Hospital in Perth. He had been battling cancer over the last 5-6 years.

Knocker was an ex CPOEWASM and paid-off in the early 2000s after 21 years service. He was highly regarded by all that served with him.

Unfortunately Geoff was not an SAA Member and little information is held.



SICK PARADE

The following are some of our Members doing it tough at the moment. If you know anyone that is not listed please let me know. A phone call in times of need is always welcome and better than an Aspirin.

Contact details can be obtained from Norm Williams (secretary@submarinesaustralia.com) or on 0419 863 558

Dave Holland, Norm Williams, Trevor Lewis, Bob Bobilak, Graeme Porzucek, Malcolm Campbell, Mike Barnes, Eric Armstrong, Merv Kidd, John Curry, Ken Mills, Bill Burgess, Pat Cullum and Mike Shepherd and many more.

WELCOME ABOARD

The following new members have signed on with the SAA since the September edition of In Depth.

WOUWSM Mark Howard - Newport, NSW 2106. Partner Uschi. Served on HMAS Otway and HMAS Onslow.

ex ABRPSM Garry 'Bart' Cummings - Blackstone Heights, Tasmania 7250. Served on HMAS Onslow 1978/9

Join the SAA—Deep down you know it makes sense

American Medical Association researchers have found that patients needing blood transfusions may benefit from receiving chicken blood rather than human blood. It tends to make the men cocky and the women lay better. Just thought you'd like to know...

BUDDIES OF THE MONTH

Name: John 'Tid' Currie
 DOB: 2 December 1939
 Partner: Anne
 Served on: HMS Alaric, HMAS Oxley and HMAS Otway
 Lives in: Hope Valley, SA



Comments: Joined boats Dec 63. Great times on Alaric with Ian MacDougall, Darkie Henwood and Mick Corran. Will never forget joining Oxley in Pearl Harbor on maiden voyage home, what a crew, magic days. Paid off from Otway late 69.

Name: **Graham Collins** - WOUCSM
 DOB: 23 August 1947
 Served on: HMS Alliance, HMS Artemis, HMAS Otway, HMAS Ovens, HMAS Onslow and HMAS Otama
 Lives in: Jaspers Brush, NSW



Comments: A great life that I would not never want to change. I know there were 'whinging' times but I now only remember the great runs ashore, good mates and the humorous times both at sea and ashore. It is not until these 'twilight' years that you really appreciate the people, camaraderie, life long friends and good fortune that we were able to be part of submarine history. It was a privilege to know so many great people. Thank you. Great to see some of you at Subcons etc.

FROM THE PENSIONS AND WELFARE COORDINATOR

With the introduction of CLIK on line and associated access to relevant data (in particular for Pension Officers) I will explain the procedure to enable anyone to research CLIK and Fact Sheets through the DVA web site, to determine entitlements to compensation benefits under any of the three Acts, the Veteran Entitlement Act (VEA) Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (SRCA-Workers compensation) and Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act (MRCA).

CLIK is the Consolidated Library of information and Knowledge available as a disc and issued to Sub Branch and ESO's (ex service organizations) Pension Officers through the RSL in NSW.

CLIK is administered by the Internal communication & publishing services Parliamentary and Communication division Department of Veteran Affairs (that's a mouth full) and updated every 6 months approximately. With the introduction of CLIK on line, as mentioned, I expect the future of the CLIK disc is limited. The department issue around 1500 each time, quite an expensive exercise.

CLIK contains six libraries that cover all legislations, entitlements to benefits, health issues, Income support matters such as defense housing, and the service pension, plus a history Library that contains all military history for conflicts in which Australia has been involved.

All sub Branches should have access to CLIK either by contacting DVA or State RSL Office and be added to the distribution list. I repeat this disc is out of date the day after it is

issued, on line the information is updated every week.

How do I get CLIK on line??

Go to www.dva.gov.au Look under Quick Links open Fact Sheets select Topic choose whichever topic you wish. Also under Quick Links is Consolidated Library of information and knowledge, to open this library, scroll DOWN to launch CLIK, open launch CLIK under the WEB Interface page go to trouble shooting options and select End detection process ignore Detect Clients, after the detection process ignore unable to detect appropriate client software and open CLIK the program will run through CITRIX and open CLIK to the home page.

I should also mention Windows VISTA and CLIK, Go to Launch CLIK scroll DOWN to CLIK Help and follow the prompts to Load CLIK onto Vista. Have fun, if you get stuck, as usual give me a call.

Max Hardy

National Pensions and Welfare Coordinator
 H: 02 4774 0542 W: 02 9264 8188
 Email: welfare@submarinesaustralia.com

A full list of the Association's Pensions and Welfare Officers is online at http://submarinesaustralia.com/contact_dva.htm or call Max for details.

CHANGES TO DVA CARDS

All Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Repatriation Health Cards (DVA Cards) are due to expire during 2010. From March 2010 DVA will begin reissuing all cards. As part of this reissue there will be some improvements made to DVA cards. All eligible veterans, war widows/widowers and dependants will be issued with a new card.

Changes to DVA Cards will not reduce or change current eligibility to hold a DVA Card. The changes being made to the cards are to increase:

- veteran access to services;
- provider satisfaction; and
- security of the cards.

The magnetic stripe on the cards will contain the following information:

- full name;
- file number;
- card Type; and
- expiry date.

This change is expected to improve provider satisfaction, as this will enable providers to swipe DVA cards in the same way Medicare or Private Health Fund Cards are currently utilised. By improving the claiming experience for the providers it increases the likelihood of providers accepting DVA cards.

All eligible clients living overseas will, for the first time, be issued with a DVA card. This will remove the need for veterans to contact DVA to receive a "letter of authority" when receiving medical treatment within Australia. Entitlement to treatment overseas is limited to veterans that have an accepted disability/disabilities and DVA funds treatment of

those accepted disabilities only. This process for receiving treatment while overseas will not change.

All DVA cards will have microprinting and a DVA registered hologram added as security features. The microprinting and hologram are added security features to ensure non entitled persons cannot reproduce a card.

The reissue of all cards is due to commence in March 2010, this process is expected to take 6 weeks to complete

NSW BRANCH NEWS

The SUBCON 2010 web page is online and taking registration of interest for those wishing to attend. It can be viewed at www.submarinesaustralia.com/subcon.

If you not online but are interested in attending and want more information see the SUBCON item on the back page or contact the secretary. Coffs is shaping up to be a big weekend and one hell of a run. See you there!



Geoffrey Anderson,
President,
NSW Branch - 0413 980 091

WESTERN AUSTRALIAN BRANCH NEWS

Since SUBCON 2009, WA branch activity has been fairly quiet. Commodore Bob Trotter OAM, RAN Rtd accepted our request for him to become the Patron of our Branch and we welcomed him to the position at our General Meeting, held at the Swan Yacht Club, 25th October.

As a branch we mourn the loss of a Life Member, Jim Redwood and members have attended the funeral of CPOEWSM Geoff White, who unfortunately while having been a submariner, was not a member.

Our RN contemporaries lost their long serving Vice President, WW2 submariner, Doctor Colin Douglas-Smith and I represented our Association at his funeral. To cap a long week off members joined with the family of past WOMTSM Shaun Haggerty, when his ashes were scattered from the casing of HMAS Farncomb.



On Sunday 1st November we joined our RN contemporaries at the annual Periscope Service in Fremantle and they reciprocated, joining us alongside OVENS for our Remembrance Day Service on Sunday, 8th November. It was a beautiful day but I was somewhat saddened at the small turn out from our members. On completion attendees retired to the old

Orient Hotel for lunch and refreshments.

Reflecting on recent events where we have mourned members passing and the importance of being a member of the Association, I agree with the position our National Secretary has taken in the last issue of Up Periscope. It is my aim to try and encourage greater membership here in the West and I ask all members to try to recruit a new Buddy.

On behalf of the WA membership may I wish all in the Association a safe and happy Festive Season and 2010.

Fred Lawrence
President
SAA WA Branch Inc - 0419 930 914

QUEENSLAND BRANCH NEWS

Well, we now that we have our own website www.saaqld.org and we hope you look in to see what Queensland is up to..

Graeme Caesar
Secretary,
Queensland Branch - 0418 449 528

VICTORIAN BRANCH

Just reporting back from our sortey up to Holbrook for the presentation of the 'Jolly Roger' and opening of the museum's hologram.

It was a great weekend, plenty of laughs, good mates and sunshine. The guys up at Holbrook have done an astounding job on the museum and should be congratulated heartily. It's such a pity that Jim was not able to be there, however, Roger Cooper did an admirable job and a minutes' silence was observed on Sunday for Jim.

There were about 40 members rocked up from Victoria and members from ACT, ably led by Andrew Galley, also attended. A measure of the trip was that we were kicked out of the RSL on Saturday night - I think the locals wanted to go to bed. "Butch" Urquhart and Werner Pelka adjourned to the pub after proceedings and had a great night with the locals apparently.

The display at the museum is fantastic and attracted many accolades, it certainly enhances the exhibition there. It was fascinating to see the amount of memorabilia they have collected there - an exhibit which I am sure will expand in the future. The control room (although being a couple of inches too high) really gets the general public in - the only thing missing is the smell. We had in-depth discussions on how to achieve this, but I think once we got down to blowing the heads we lost the curator!! The hologram was fascinating, and actually brought tears to some peoples' faces. It was very, very well done. All in all a great weekend.

Keith "Boot" Hatfield
Secretary
Victoria Branch Inc - 0408 051 085

Details of future SAA Events are available on the last page of this newsletter, please support your Committees and try and attend at least one meeting/function a year.

THE DITTY BOX

Garry Coombes sent in this little ditty.

I was appointed Captain's driver when the boat was alongside Yokosuka in Japan, and motored around the base with the Captain in a gleaming black Rambler American. As the speed limit throughout the base was a sedate twenty miles per hour, and the American Shore Patrolmen policed the limit with an aggressive vigour, life rolled along in the slow lane.



On one occasion the CO had me drop him off at the base wardroom, where he was to meet with Admiral Samuel Graveley, Commander Third Fleet, with strict instructions to collect him at 1300 "on the nose." It was only 1030 and so I decided to head to the PX at nearby Iwakuni, which was reputed to be the best PX in Asia. Unfortunately Iwakuni is quite some distance from Yokosuka and it was perilously close to 1300 as I eased the big car through the base at the ridiculously low speed limit. I turned into the road leading to the wardroom as the clock on the dash ticked over to 1305 and so I decided, as the road was quite secluded with no shore patrol in sight, I could increase the speed by a few more miles per hour. I pressed on the gas pedal but nothing happened so I shoved my foot to the floor.

In an instant I was rocketing along the road at a speed approaching warp factor nine and was vaguely aware of the entrance to the wardroom flashing past on my left. The car careened around a left hand bend and then, before I know it, the road swung at ninety degrees to the left. There was no time to react and I punched a hole in the roadside hedge and found myself bouncing across a baseball diamond with people scattering in all directions.

I regained a bit of sense and swung the steering wheel to the right, paused a fraction of a second and then swung it to the left, and executed a perfect Williamson Turn! The car rocketed back through the hole in the hedge and I slowed the beast as we roared around the bend, turned into the wardroom driveway and pulled up inches behind a gleaming black sedan flying an admiral's flag. I raced up the steps into the foyer of the wardroom where I almost collided with the admiral's driver.

"No need to rush" he explained, I have already signed us in at 1300." Evidently the arrival time of drivers had to be logged. I stepped outside and, to my horror, saw a shore patrol vehicle roll to a stop behind my Rambler. My heart sank, I would get three days in front of the firing squad for this.

A patrolman stepped out of the vehicle and crooked a finger, beckoning me. I adopted an innocent look and mouthed "who me?" "YES YOU!" he bellowed, and I stumbled towards him.

Just then Admiral Graveley walked out of the wardroom and

asked what was going on here. The shore patrolman explained that someone had driven a car across a nearby baseball diamond and I was the prime suspect.

"When did this happen?" asked the Admiral.

"About five minutes ago" responded the patrolman.

Admiral Graveley looked at his watch and noted it was now 1315. He shook his head. "Could not be this man" he said. "He was logged in to the wardroom at 1300." The patrolman glared at me and I smiled weakly as he saluted the admiral, entered his car, and drove away slowly.

The Admiral was about to step into his car when he suddenly turned and said to me "Get that brush out of the front fender before you leave here." I pulled the bits of hedge from out of the bumper and then the CO appeared. I was never more pleased that he was late.

CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION

The Submarines Association Australia congratulates Captain B.S. Ogrizek RAN on his promotion to Commodore on the 1st January 2010 and for his appointment as Director General Submarines from that date. Bronko is the smaller of the two in the photo on the left, taken while onboard Ovens in 1986.



A well earned promotion and a big challenge, but those that know Bronko will agree he is a good pick for the job.

AROUND THE TRAPS

Forbes Peters said "I read with interest Diesel Dan's article on his 'trip' on a skimmer in the last edition of In Depth. Bloody funny, it is because of blokes like Dan that I joined boats.

I was on Torrens in 1988 for a 5 week searide and they were a strange bunch of blokes. Cumberbunds at dinner etc, lucky the pusser was a reasonable character - LCDR John Goss, along with the MEO and CO (all Submariners) I worked out that boats was the way to go.

I fired the MK48 that sank DE 53 in 1999, it was a good learning experience. Like I say to the Navy Cadets I talk to, it is cool because it means I have sunk every skimmer I have ever served on."

Forbes continued "His medivac story also reminded me of when I got medivac'd off Farncomb by Seaking - bloody shitfight, thank God we had CPOMED Ben Stock onboard - he realised that my nuts probably should be smaller than the average sized tennis ball and he convinced the CAPT to call the birdies.

Thanks for keeping the log up to date Norm, and great work by Joel Garner to take on the SSGT history job - good stuff."

Why do they call it an asteroid when it's outside the hemisphere, but call it a hemorrhoid when it's in your ass ?

Kevin 'Woolly' Hayton reports "A couple of week ago Garry (Bendy Toy) Bax and myself attended the second 'National Digger's Bowls Carnival' at Dubbo and although we were part of a team from Zone 7 RSL Bowls we did fly the 'Submariner Flag' with the usual plumb and decorum fitting a submariner (and I didn't have to carry Bendy Once).



The event attracted over 180 bowlers from all services with teams consisting of blokes who had served together in the varying regiments, ships or squadrons which got me thinking that maybe we could put together a team of submariners (or two or three) for next years carnival.

The format is 3 bowls triples and is played over three days (Tues, Wed & Thursday) in the second or third week in September. There is some decent prize money for the top sixteen plus consolation money for the also-rans. Anyone interested can contact me for more info."

Now that would have been interesting to watch..... two old men playing an old man's game!!! I wonder if it was the white uniform that got them interested? NW

Phil Solomon has been in contact after a period deep "Just finished silly season here with Meridien Marina's Race Week, Hamilton Island Race Week and, my favourite, The Airlie Beach Fun Race. I picked up Ken Williams and his better half at Proserpine Airport and took them to the ferry to Hamilton Island where young Ken was crewing this year. Nope, he hasn't got any better looking with age. Didn't have much time together but managed a few coldies at the Sailing Club and scaring the locals with two submariners spinning warries at the same time.

Also have had various visitors staying with us for a month solid with, at best, one night changeover before the next ones arrived. The eldest birdie of the family popped in for a couple of days and helped me christen the new Tiki Bar I've built in the back garden.

Attached is photo of my parrot, Captain Ron, doing some promotion of Submarine recruiting for us.

A bloody good day as usual and lots of fun at the finish line with the traditional Miss Figure-head contest gracing the bows of most boats. Airlie Beach must be only place left in Oz where this could happen!! Won't include any photos here as it is a family website a lot of old fart stokers with dicky hearts!!!!



the and

Doing my bit to solve the Global Financial Crisis by just completing a month at the marina doing much needed maintenance on my yacht. The economy should be pumping along now with the smaller nation's GDP I have just spent on her Bloody Boats!! After new sheets and halyards, genoa cars, batteries, battery isolator switches, alternator,

wiring, new mainsail, and several hundred hours of the sweat pouring out of my finely tuned body, I have decided to recoup the outlay by printing t-shirts with "We Hate Boats" on the front. Should be a big seller if all the swearing from other boat owners around me at the marina are any indication. Anyway Norm, that's it from the Whitsundays for now.

Ray and Robyn Kemp's 10 week Skiing (Spending the Kids Inheritance) to UK, Europe and Ireland is nearly over. He reports "If anything, the things that have been a highlight is that it is bloody expensive and the Poms keep running into me in car parks.

We started off leaving home on the 1st August flying via Singapore. We arrived fresh and ready to rock and roll, after getting lost getting out of Heathrow it was off to Dover to pick up a Great Britain Heritage pass (well worth the money). We did Dover, Canterbury, visited Robyn's ancestral home town of Westfield and then to Pompy via the town of 1066."

"Day 2 we did Arundel Castle, a Roman ruin and then the Victory. A thing to note I used my DVA white card and we both got in for nothing save us \$50. I have used it in heaps of places and saved heaps.



Spent the week touring England before having a week in Scotland, visited my old house in Greenock and did the Tattoo. Week 3 off to London for 6 days. Weeks 4 to 7 was a 31 day tour of Europe doing 14 countries. Had a great time, spent heaps. The Eastern block countries of Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria were the cheapest, they were also very dirty and polluted.

The standard of Hotel was better for the price also. Along the roads were heaps of prostitutes serving the truckles. Once we left those countries the standard of food at hotels and rooms dropped. We have spent the last 2 weeks driving Ireland doing family research and just having a good time. We also visited the locations of one of my favorite movies the Quiet Man.

For the last week we are based in Nottinghamshire on a canal boat. Today it is wet and windy. Will be back home next Saturday then off to work so as to raise funds for the next trip."

SLOPS VAN

The following are just some of the items that are available from the Slops Van. Items can be ordered online, by calling 0419 863 558 or send an order to: PO Box 63, Bauple 4650.

- Beret with SAA Logo only \$25
- Cap with SAA Logo only \$17.50
- SM Squadron tie only \$27.50
- Pin on blazer badge with SAA Logo only \$30



Had my first Gig as a stand up comedian at an old people's home last night. They didn't get any of my jokes but they still pissed themselves.

UK visitor to the site, Tony Farrant, writes "I am an ex-submariner, a member of the Gatwick Branch in the UK. In January 2010 I am visiting Australia for a two-week holiday with family, staying with relatives, and wondered if you could put me in touch with someone in the local branch for Sydney - maybe an email address and whether there is likely to be a branch meeting during my visit etc."

I have passed this on to the NSW Branch but if anyone out there knows Tony and wants to catch up, send him an email at lynnfarrant@yahoo.com

CONGRATULATIONS ON GETTING YOUR DOLPHINS

ABCISSM B Davidian - HMAS Collins 13NOV09
LSAWASM P Ingall - HMAS Farncomb 28OCT09
ABCISSM N Houston - HMAS Farncomb 28OCT09
ABMTSM RL Mitchell - HMAS Collins 30OCT09
ABMTSM M.J Smith - HMAS Collins 30OCT09

In a recent survey Victorians have proved to be the most likely to have had sex in the shower! In the survey, carried out for him, by a leading toiletries firm, a huge majority, 86% of Victorian men, said that they have enjoyed sex in the shower. The other 14% said they hadn't been to prison yet.

We have quite a few ex submariners still in uniform, police uniform that is. Another to surface is Shane Wyatt, Ex POUWSM, (Otama, Onslow, Otway) who wrote to advise me that I could take him off our list of unclaimed ASMs. He wrote "Just surfing the internet and got onto Up Periscope. Was reading a list about members not having collected their ASM. Just wanted to let you know I got mine a long time ago. Now serving as an Acting Sergeant in the Vic Police."

An interesting thing about Lindsay Irwin is that he qualified in a US Boat (Diesel) as a USN submariner (not sure about Oberons though). Anchor faced Lindsay surprised me with "On the eve of my departure from the PNF after 36 years I think it time I joined the Association. I will be moving to Emmaville, near Glen Innes to be a farmer and to work 6 times a hard for a 10th of the wage. I have to get out before the administration error is discovered and someone notices they accidentally made me an ossifer." Farm life will never be the same.....

Knowing Lindsay he will be a bit like Ian Hill who is trying life as a civilian again.... "Last Friday I hauled down the flag for the second and last time; preparatory to a 3 month break and taking the 'good Doctor' for her sabbatical.

Next year when we get back it will be part time work only; exactly what remains to be seen. The only guaranteed task, apart from fixing up the house (a continual chore) is to complete my Master of Law (IP) - 4 subjects to go." Ian has had more farewells than most aging pop stars!

Holbrook Hologram Opened

The Holbrook Submarine Display Centre's Hologram opened on the 18th of October according to Roger Cooper. Special guests that attended included: Mayor Denise Osborne, Andy Galley (President SAA ACT), Mike Bennett (President SAA VIC), Major General Steve Gower AO (Director of the Australian War Memorial), CAPT Gregory Sammut CSC (representing NCOS), Rear Admiral Ken Doolan AO (National President RSL), Greg Aplin MP (Member for Albury), LCDR Frank Owen (The Submarine Institute of Australia) and Mrs Jane Waters representing Mrs Gundula Holbrook.

A large contingent from the Victorian Branch of the Association had driven up from Melbourne by coach and were joined by other submariners from various states. The night before the opening just over fifty Submariners and wives joined locals for a welcoming dinner.

The opening started with Andy Galley and Geoff Burns, representing the ACT Branch of the SAA, presenting the Museum with the Banner from 1997 Submariners Freedom of entry march through Holbrook. This was followed by Mike Bennett who, on behalf of the Victorian Branch of the SAA, presented the hand made "Jolly Roger" from HMS/M Unsparring to join a model of a U boat the RN captured and refitted and started back under the White Ensign that had previously been donated by the Branch.

This was followed by the opening ceremony, after which Roger Cooper, with some local school students, made a symbolic hand over (on loan) of Commander Holbrook's VC and other medals to Major General Steve Gower who accepted on behalf of the Australian War Memorial.

Roger added "We have had a steady flow of ex submariners donating artefacts and photos of late some of the more notable ones were from my old skipper Terry Roach with 2 large gold framed displays on McTaggart Scotts supplying parts for the J Boats with photos and descriptions also an ex engineer who worked on the electric motors for the J Class managed to procure a set of large working drawings of the design of these artefacts like these are priceless thanks to both for their generosity.

Plans for a building twice the size are on the agenda for 2010 along with a long awaited AE11 display. We are also putting together a display of Dolphins (submarine badges from around the world) if you have any out there collecting dust post them to The Curator Holbrook Submarine Museum NSW 2644."

DEFENCE NEWS ITEMS

Submarine maintenance recovery

Australian submarine and shipbuilding company, ASC, confirmed today that it is on track to meet the Government's requirements for the Collins Class submarines. Under a shake-up commenced in May with the departure of the previous CEO, ASC has responded to the need to improve submarine availability and reduce the cost of maintenance. Act-

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

ing Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Graeme Bulmer acknowledged the Government's concerns and said that the company was acting decisively to address the issues.

"ASC has made a number of substantial changes to the submarine within a resource constrained environment to achieve this." "business to improve the level of submarine availability and reduce the cost of maintenance," he said. "We are working closely with the Government to implement world's best maintenance and efficiency practices to ensure that the war-fighter's needs are being met.

"Our expectation, and that of our customer, is that we will meet the Government's requirements and we are certainly doing everything possible

The unique Collins Class submarines, which were designed in the 1980s and much of the equipment purchased over 20 years ago, are Australia's most complex weapons system with over 1.5 million parts. The submarines are now entering the second half of their service lives with the oldest submarine now more than 15 years old.

The company is negotiating a new long-term performance-based submarine maintenance contract with the Government which will focus on submarine safety, availability, reliability and reducing the cost of maintenance. Mr Bulmer said that comments about ASC's performance did not reflect the current situation as 2009 has been a year of significant change and refocus for the company in addressing performance concerns.

Australia's Next-Generation Submarines

In its 2009 White Paper, Australia's Department of Defence and Labor Party government looked at the progress being made in anti-shipping surveillance-strike complexes, and the need to defend large sea lanes, and dropped something of a surprise. They proposed increasing Australia's submarine fleet to 12 boats by 2030-2040, all of which would be successors to Australia's a current fleet of advanced Collins class submarines.

The Collins class was designed with the strong cooperation of ThyssenKrupp's Swedish Kockums subsidiary, and built in Australia by state-owned ASC.

The class has encountered a number of issues, including significant difficulties with its combat systems, issues with acoustic signature, major cost growth to A\$ 5+ billion, and schedule slippage.

Worse still, reports indicated that the RAN can only staff 2 of its 6 submarines put a huge crimp in the fleet's usefulness. High-level attention led to 29 recommendations aimed at improving conditions and staffing on Australia's submarines, and those are now being implemented. Their long term effect remains to be seen.

So, too, does the nature of Australia's future submarine project – and its eventual cost...

SM Organisational structure changes - again.....

The establishment of the Submarine Capability Development Branch in the Navy Strategic Command will result in a restructuring of the organisation of the submarine community.

In a major reform to improve the availability of the Collins class and to provide a solid foundation for the Future Submarine Force (FSM) CN has directed the establishment of a Submarine Capability Development Branch (SMCB) with a staff of ten in Canberra from February 2010. SMCB will be led by Director General Submarine Capability (DGSMC).

DGSMC will be responsible to CN for the overall delivery of future submarine capability. Fleet Command will retain responsibility for force generation of the current submarine fleet.

The change will mean that Commodore Submarines will relocate from Fleet Base West. Captain submarines will become Commander Subforce (COMSUBFOR) and Captain of HMAS Stirling will become Senior Naval officer - WA.

China salvaged British submarine HMS Poseidon

China has admitted secretly salvaging a British submarine sunk in an accident in 1931, but claimed there was no sign of the remains or personal effects of the 18 men who were entombed in HMS Poseidon when it went down off the former naval base of Weihai. Beijing has only confirmed that it raised and scrapped the Poseidon in 1972 after its fate was reported by The Daily Telegraph shortly after the anniversary of the sinking on June 9.

But China's claim that the hull of the vessel contained no human remains, identity tags, watches, rings or other personal items has provoked anger among relatives of the men who died. "It was a shock to discover the Chinese authorities' claims and I'm deeply upset and disappointed," said Penny Lewis, whose grandfather, Able Seaman Frederick Tolliday, died in the accident. "And that is not only for myself, but especially on behalf of my father and grandmother who were both still alive in 1972 when the Poseidon was recovered," she said.

"The Royal Navy has always maintained that a large number of the crew never escaped from the vessel, including my grandfather, but this conflicts with the Chinese saying no remains or personal effects were discovered. Who is telling the truth?" said Mrs Lewis, 51, from Stevenage, Herts.

In a statement, the Ministry of Defence said it "takes very seriously the issue of the sovereignty of United Kingdom maritime graves."

Chinese authorities informed the ministry that "due to the long time that has passed and the lack of effective record keeping during that turbulent period of Chinese history, they have no more information that that which appears on the Shanghai Salvage Bureau's web site."

It was this brief reference to the raising of the Poseidon during the Cultural Revolution that caught the attention of

American maritime historian Steven Schwankert. Subsequent inquiries led to evidence that the Chinese salvaged the vessel without informing London in order to test the skills of their naval special forces and newly formed underwater recovery units, as well as to clear a fishing area of a hazard that had been damaging fishermen's nets for four decades.

And while it is accepted that little more can be done to protest the raising of the vessel, there are hopes that China might be encouraged to conduct a new investigation into the remains of the crew, which experts believe would have been recovered.

After all, they point out, the CSS Hunley, one of the first submarines ever built and sunk in 1864 during the American Civil War, contained eight skeletons that had been almost perfectly preserved when it was recovered from Charleston harbour in April 2004. "There is no doubt in my mind that there would have been human remains on board, and that means that either the people who raised the submarine lied to the Chinese government, or they are lying to us," said David Clarke, whose grandfather survived the sinking.

Petty Officer Reginald Clarke spent more than three hours inside the submarine before managing to escape using the then-new Davis Submerged Escape Apparatus, a rudimentary underwater breathing system designed to lift sailors to the surface. Eight men managed to leave a bow section compartment, although two failed to reach the surface and another died later. "The answer the families have been given from the Chinese is completely unsatisfactory and not at all believable," Mr Clarke added.

The question of the fate of the crew of the Poseidon was raised in Parliament in June by Dr Julian Lewis, the shadow defence minister, who believes that an opportunity still remains for both the families and the Chinese naval authorities to benefit from the situation. "It is understandable that the Chinese authorities are sensitive about any remains that may have been discovered, but I do hope that they will check their records a little more thoroughly," he said.

"This is because they have a real opportunity to do something positive, by reaching out from their modern navy to the descendants of sailors in our inter-war navy, to strengthen bonds and perhaps even invite the relatives to an appropriate ceremony in Weihai to rebury any remains they have found," he added.

New CEO for ASC

Australia's Chief Government Weapons Purchaser, Stephen Gumley, has announced the appointment of former UK-based Rolls-Royce submarine division chief, Steve Ludlum as the new CEO of Adelaide-based, government-owned ASC (formerly the Australian Submarine Corporation).

In addition to Mr Ludlum's appointment, Dr Gumley has also appointed former Austal executive and general manager of systems, Kim Gillis, as the manager of the Collins-class submarine programme.

Mr Gillis will lead the Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) in negotiations with ASC for a new through life support contract for the aging Collins-class submarines.

According to the Australian Financial Review, the appointment of Mr Gillis follows Defence Materiel Minister Greg Combet's elevation of the Collins-class submarines support contracts to the government's "number one defence project of concern".

Mr Combet said that ASC would need to get the maintenance of the Collins submarines right before it could expect to win part of the next generation submarine project.

ASC has a US\$2.8 billion long-term through life support contract for the Collins-class submarines. The Australian Government last week announced the US\$33.5 billion price tag for the twelve new large conventional submarines.

A frustrated wife buys a pair of crutch less knickers in an attempt to spice up her dead sex-life. She puts them on, together with a short skirt and sits on the lounge opposite her husband. At strategic moments she crosses her legs enough times till her husband says.....

"Are you wearing crutch less knickers?"

"Y-e-s," she answers with a seductive smile.

"Thank Christ for that..... I thought the stuffing was coming out of the lounge suite."

VETERANS URGED TO RETHINK THE NEXT DRINK

Veterans have new tools to manage alcohol consumption with the updated The Right Mix — Your Health and Alcohol package, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Alan Griffin announced today. "As the spring racing calendar and festive season is upon us, it is timely to reinforce the message that a healthier life involves the right mix of sensible alcohol use, good nutrition and exercise," Mr Griffin said.

"There is an estimated 12,300 Australian veterans with drug or alcohol dependence or abuse, and alcohol has been a major contributor to both mental and physical health problems in the veteran community. "The Right Mix program can help veterans, and the wider

The Right Mix — Your Health and Alcohol includes a website www.therightmix.gov.au and resources such as fact sheets, questionnaires and practical tips to moderate drinking. "Understanding the effects of alcohol on the body and how it can interact with certain medications will help veterans make sensible choices about their drinking," Mr Griffin said. "By moderating their consumption, veterans can avoid the problems associated with heavy drinking

The Right Mix was originally launched in 2001 as part of a project to reduce alcohol-related harm in the veteran community and address these issues in an integrated way with other physical and mental health conditions. It has been updated to reflect the recently published Australian Guidelines to Reduce Health Risks from Drinking Alcohol. "My Department's update of The Right Mix involved consultation with veterans and members of the ex-service and Australian Defence Force communities, with the aim of making it more relevant and appealing to these groups,"

Mr Griffin said updated resources are available." Veterans are encouraged to access The Right Mix website and use the interactive tools to assess their drinking behaviour.

Date & Time	State	Event	Remarks
4/5th December 2009	NQLD	Christmas Social	Our Christmas function will be held at the Ingham RSL club with a meet & greet at 1700 on Friday 4 December and the meeting and Christmas function at 1400 on Saturday 5 December. Contact Garth Schmidt for details
5th December 2009	QLD	Cruise and BYO Picnic	The Picnic is a BYO. Let us know ASAP if you will be joining us on the day
6th December 2009	VIC	Christmas Function	Christmas Dinner. ESU from noon on. 0408 051 085 for more information.
13th December 2009 1100	SA	Christmas Function	Christmas Get Together – Bonython Park.

Contact your Branch Secretary for details of all social events.

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SUBMARINERS - THE DVD

Get up close and personal with HMAS Rankin, one of Australia's controversial Collins Class submarines, in this intriguing new documentary series, as she undertakes a journey from the West Australian coast to the waters of Korea, Japan and Hawaii.

Granted unprecedented access, SUBMARINERS takes you deep inside the belly of the HMAS Rankin, exposing the lives and pressures faced by her crew, both men and woman, as they live and work within the claustrophobic corridors and isolation of a submarine.

2 DVD set only \$25- contact Norm on 0419 863 558

START PLANNING NOW!!!

SM Friendly Coffs Harbour

11th - 14th June 2010

A gathering of the Australian submarine community and the
AGM of the
Submarines Association Australia



The response to registration for SUBCON 2010 has been great and you are assured of a great weekend with great mates. The weekend's events are;

Friday 11 June 2010- Registration and 'Meet & Greet'
Our weekend starts with SUBCON 2010 Registration at the Coffs Harbour Ex Services Club.

The Meet and Greet is your opportunity to start to unwind and meet up with old mates in an informal atmosphere.

Saturday 12 June 2010—Dinner Dance at the Coff's Harbour Ex Services Club

The formal event of the week-end, the Dinner Dance, is the ladies treat, a chance to show that 'they still have it'.

Sunday 13 June 2010 - Lunch - Coff's Harbour Racing Club

Monday 14 June 2010 - Farewell barbecue

Members that cannot get online to register can confirm attendance by sending a Deposit of \$50 per person and a list of events (and number attending) that you wish to attend to;

SAA NSW Treasurer

73 Welling Drive

Narellan Vale, New South Wales, 2567

IF YOU HAVE ALREADY REGISTERED PLEASE PAY YOUR DEPOSIT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Kevin Hayton (02) 6653 4146 - Program & information

Geoff Anderson 0413 980 091 - Sponsorship

Ken Norris (02) 9872 1831- Registration

Email: subcon2010@submarinesaustralia.com