



E-Newsletter

Edition No 33 - June 11th 2012

Reunion 2013

Read all about the reunion costs and accommodation on our web site.

Birthdays 11th June 2012 to 8th July 2012

June

11th Kristy Hubbard (nee Rindfleish), 15th Frederick 'Fred' Griffiths and Margaret 'Meg' Mason, 16th Robert 'Rob' Hayes, 17th Brett Saunders and Brian 'BJ' Tucker, 18th Rodman 'Rod' Lambie, 19th Joyce Warren (nee Horn) and Gregory 'FJ' Holden, 20th Peter Harlow and Andrew 'Murray' Shannon, 23rd Charlie 'Chas' Bardwell and Debra 'Debbie' Yastreb (nee Elton), 26th Dean 'Dino' Dowling, 28th Cecil 'Cec' Snape and Kristi Archbold.

July

1st John Maddock, 2nd Ken Sowden, and Paul Sheehan, 3rd Ada Warren (nee Vardon), 5th Georgie Dansey (nee Lowrey), 8th Janelle White and Ashleigh 'Ash' Vardanega

THE REUNION 2013

Full details of the reunion, registration form, accommodation etc can be found in our Reunion Newsletter on our home page:

www.ranwriters.com

Get your registration in now and pay for the events in advance.

Frank 'Gubby' Allen - we published a number of articles about Frank in the last newsletter and we follow up with this short note from Arthur Skene (Pic Right):



“Frank Allen was a keen walker and frequently took part in walks for fund raisers around his home area in Victoria. While he was the BSO at TARANGAU and I was the CPOWTR in charge of the Pay and Accounts Office, he and I, as the two oldest members of the Writers Branch took part together in a fun run/walk to raise money for the local Manus Island Scouts participation in a forthcoming Jamboree. The run/walk was from the Naval Base at Lombrum to Lorengau the Manus District (now Province) Administrative Centre, a distance of about fifteen and a half miles.

Sandy, Frank’s good wife, drove the BSO’s vehicle and at every mile provided Frank with a “refresher” beer and me with a lemonade. The result was that while one of the PNG Division sailors came in first as a runner, Frank and I had the distinction of being the first two walkers to finish the course.

From memory, I think we did the walk in just under three and a half hours, which was pretty good considering our ages and not being particularly fit as neither of us were active sportsmen, and even with the help of the fluids incentive, the road was not flat, nor sealed, being a crushed coral base and went up and down many hills along the way.

Frank was a great boss, and well liked by all in the Navy community.”

We heard that.....

LSWTR **Lynzey Lake** was awarded by the *Ballarat* Supply Officer (Anthony Green - former Writer), the Supply Department Sailor for the month of May 2012.

Ballarat was in Posan, South Korea end of May 2012.

There are 4 females serving onboard *Ballarat* and all are mums. The CO (CMDR J.P. Earley) invited all of them to his day cabin for a special Mother's Day Luncheon on 13 May 2012.

Former LSWTR **Mark McConnell** has just been just given 2 & 3/4 years CFTS as a Temporary Commander in Fleet HQs effective from 01 May 2012.

Photo wanted: We are looking for a photo of Frank 'Gubby' Allen - if you have one please scan and email it to us or post and we will return same.

Before rum was abolished in the RN, this article appeared in our Navy News 1960:

IT'S A DOG'S LIFE



Yes it IS absolutely true! Tho liquid being poured over the side of the Royal Navy Frigate HMS ST. BRIDES BAY is Jamaican RUM.

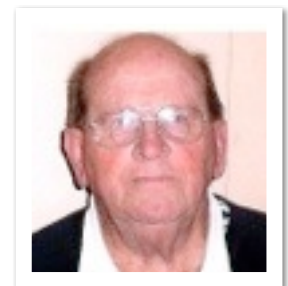
In the RN, when "Up Spirits" is piped, all members of the ship's company entitled to do so draw their tot of rum. On completion of the issue, the rum left in the bottom of the barrel must by regulation, be poured "Into the drink".

Bosun, the stateless dog born at sea nine weeks ago, does not seem at all worried about the waste. However, Lieut. Martin Griffiths, RN, and SPO (V) Lesson appear a trifle upset about the situation.

Perhaps when he grows up, Bosun may learn to handle the surplus. .

We received a letter recently from **John Kindness** (Pic right) who was saddened to read of the passing of **Stainless Steele**.

He says "Stainless and I served on the Anzac together. He had a habit of talking to himself. If he was not sure that he was correct in what he was doing he would argue with himself.



'I am right you know' 'No your not' He would carry on till he worked out the right solution. It took a while to recognise when he was talking to you or himself!

He told us a story, when he had a party at his house, he was having trouble announcing 'Supper is being served'. He could not be heard over the noise made by talking and music. Eventually he went in to the bedroom to get his double barreled shotgun. He came back lent out the window discharged both barrels. When it all went silent he calmly said 'Supper is being served'

We worked out one day that Stainless had opened and raised my service Certificate. So now when I view my S/C, I will think of Stainless.

Rest in peace shipmate.

1975 Navy News



POWRWTR Sue Finch with (left to right) Anastasia Spooner and Sharyn Casella

A luncheon-barbaque was held by CPSO at the Garden Island Hill area recently for wives and mothers of HMAS Swan and Perth personnel.

Here is Sue Finch from CPSO looking after two young ones.

Adelaide Scribes had drinks 25th May at the Strathie Hotel - and it appears everybody enjoyed themselves.





Crewman's appeal for recognition 48 years on **By Jemima Stagg**

PEACETIME in the military can be just as dangerous as wartime, which was highlighted nearly 48 years when two navy ships collided in the night.

Frank Brown, of Gawler, wants people to spare a moment and remember the crew of HMAS Voyager on February 10, the 48th anniversary of the sinking.

"I want to bring this to the fore and try to get proper wartime recognition for what

we do in the peacetime," he said.

HMAS Voyager sank after colliding with HMAS Melbourne, claiming the lives of 82 people.

At the time Mr Brown was fresh from military training and had been at sea on HMAS Melbourne just 10 days when the accident took place.

"I remember it as clearly as I ever could," he said "I was in my pyjamas and thongs and was about to get into bed when there was a huge bang. It all happened so fast"

Mr Brown wants the public to recognise the risks military personnel take even in peacetime.

With only a few crew members from the HMAS Voyager and HMAS Melbourne remaining, Mr Brown is concerned that soon no-one will be around to remember the accident.

"Many people aren't aware of the danger these people go through every single day," he said.

"Their loss and devotion to duty and the RAN should not go unmarked in history."

The Tasmanian ‘Advocate’ January 2012

Peacetime Disaster

ON FEBRUARY 10, 1964, HMAS Voyager and aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne were carrying out a night flying exercise off the coast of Jervis Bay, New South Wales.

It was a peacetime training exercise.

As HMAS Voyager was changing course, about 9pm, it ended up in front of HMAS Melbourne and cut in half near the bridge.

The bow section sank immediately due to the weight of gun mounts and was underwater in minutes.

The stern remained afloat for about three hours.

Eighty-two people died in the tragedy, which remains the Royal Australian Navy's greatest peacetime disaster.

It took two Royal Commissions to determine the cause of the accident and many years for survivors and victims to receive compensation, with the last claim settled 45 years after the accident.



HMAS Voyager before the collision with HMAS Melbourne during night flying exercises off the NSW coast.

The damage to the bow of HMAS Melbourne after the collision with HMAS Voyager.

