

# E-Newsletter

Edition No 35 -  
August 1st 2012

## Reunion 2013

If you are coming but don't wish to pay the full amount - then send us the \$25 registration fee to indicate your intention to attend. The form can be found on our front page of the web site. 100 registered - 80 places left.

## Birthdays

Can be found the last page of each issue. If you have a birthday and you are not shown then make sure we have your birthday details (month and day only) and a photo.

## Membership

If you are not a member why not join up. If you are a serving or retired scribe just go to membership and complete your details and remit some monies to us. It is not expensive to be a member.

## Contact Us

On our web page is an icon 'contact us' - why not drop us a line every so often and let us know what is happening in your world - whether you are retired or serving.

## We heard....



WOWTR **Phil Robertson** is returning to Russell Office after serving at *Kuttabul*.



**Kenny Stevenson** (former CPOWTR left) has been promoted to CMDR.

**Billy Tannock** (former WOWTR) has been promoted to LCDR

**Anthony "Irish" Vickers** "Thought I'd just let you know that I have returned to Ireland, for a short while (about 18mths), to be closer to family. Am living on a horse riding centre and stud in the midlands. If anyone is ever over this way ( I live about 40 minutes from Dublin) more than welcome to come and stay for a visit and will gladly show them the sights. Have visited Chris Bales in UK and hope to visit him sometime again in not too distant future. He is doing ok but finding it more difficult to get around as he has to use a wheelchair. Can still hold his grog though!!!"



## **Andy Baldwin** (ex POWTR)

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I served from 12th January 1982 until 31st March 1999, finishing as a POWTR discharging and living in Canberra. I am a "man of leisure" currently and have only recently gone "on line". One thing I really miss is losing touch with people once getting out. So if anybody remember's me (or wants to!), please drop me a line on the above email ad-



dress.

Cheers! Andy Baldwin

**Robert John Bird**

Joined 10MAR62 as RCT SMN SR, after basic training posted to *Warrego* for SR training July 1962. It was pretty interesting surveying the channel for the bauxite carriers from Cape York to Weipa, however was granted change of branch to WTR and spent sometime in the Ships office with Ron Herrick and Charlie Sugden. February 1963 to *Cerberus* for WTR course then Watson.

Joined *Voyager* January 1964 as Technical Office Writer. Billy Grundy and myself were looking forward to the 10 months ahead up top, the rest of course is history. (he was a survivor of the *Voyager* sinking) Then *Quiberon* and *Sydney* to complete a messy 12 months seetime. Both Bill and I were posted to *Albatross*, but Bill must have won the toss and he was off to the USA for the DDG programme.

Was just getting settled in *Albatross* in the billeting office with Bluey Guild when it was off to *Leeuwin* in May 1965. Pay Office *Leeuwin* was great, Ray See was Chief, Boots Britain was there to, I will always remember Boots complaining about the bars on the windows keeping him from sticking his head out for some fresh air on those mornings he was feeling unwell. *Diamantina* was off to the near East for some oceanographic work and as PAC keeper was posted to Mull of Kintyre via *Diamantina*, I think Peter Humphrey was POWTR and Kev Morris and Vic Venaglia were there to, after 3 months back on the *Diamantina* and *Leeuwin*.

January 1968 *Tarangau* in Capt's Office with John Deitrich, he was promoted Chief the same time as I was promoted to PO. Jan 1969 to Jan 1970 *Cerberus* good times with John Biggs, Marty Grogan, Chris Watkins. January 1970 to March 1971 (DEE) at *Leeuwin* Captains Office. A great 9 years spent with some great people, sad to see some have passed on, it was an honour to have served with them.



**Jim (Gus) Harris** has been a member of the Association for a few years and he finally sent his biography after much prodding.

“Few will know that I started my service career undergoing National Service training in the Army at Wacol outside Brisbane in 1957 (Mortar Platoon). Like many others in those times I needed to escape an unhappy family situation, so I applied to join the Air Force (to join a mate), but they gave me the run around. I walked next door and joined the RAN on 20th February 1959 from Maryborough, QLD.

Had no idea what was ahead of me. After 6 months in *Cerberus* I was posted to Kuttabul (Charlemont) Sep 1959, Captains Office and Pay Office. Supply Officer was Athol Rose now nearing 100 and in Dalmeny Retirement Home on NSW South coast. Worked with Charlie Bardwell, Paddy O'Brien, Brian Wedlock, Bill Monaghan, Neil Phillips (good mate),

Bruce Campbell, Jack Markham, Len Hoffman, Jack McCosker and Bluey Guild to name a few.

Posted to Barcoo (Surveying) January 1962 for 12 months. Back to Kuttabul, promoted to LWTR and posted to Rushcutter. Ray Walters (also good mate) was Capt Sec and talked me into volunteering for Maralinga. Sent to Maralinga May 1964 for 16 months; promoted POWTR August 1965 and Kuttabul and PO Leadership Course shortly afterward.

Joined Sydney April 1966 worked in ORDS training and Captains Office. Two Trips to Vung Tau and then Waterhen January 1967 (Wog Watson was my LWTR). Posted to FOCEA Staff in July 1968. My boss was LCDR L G (Tug) Wilson - a top bloke. He organised a posting to Navy Office so I could buy a Govt house - set me up for life financially. Joined Manpower Planning in January 1969 - staff of 3 (look at it now)

Posted to Perth April 1971 the day it arrived in Sydney from Vietnam tour. Hoped for next tour, but change of Govt policy saw me in dry dock for nearly 12 months - not impressed! Did work up Perth and was pulled off before Indian Ocean Cruise to accept posting back to Navy Office (Personnel Services), as I still needed more Canberra time to qualify for purchase of Govt Home. Also had to programme my promotion prospects as all CPO Billets in Navy Office were tied up by the 'old and bold'. Some of these eventually approached retirement, so I became qualified and was promoted to CPO in December 1974. Moved to Promotions Section under Ray Walters (again) and was liaising with EDP at the time of running the promotions system in parallel with the manual system.



Approached by D/DSP that esteemed gentleman Francis Roy Donald Shugg (left) to take over the Seaman's Postings from Jerry Lewis. So I became the first 'outsider' to take on a posting section. Many more were to follow including Glen MacAndrews who took on S & S postings.

Some top blokes worked in Navy Office: Jerry Lewis, Fred Curbishley, Laurie Dillon, Wriggles Gardiner, Alex Goodieson, Barney Barnett, Frank Brown, Jock Haughey, Tiger Lyons, Ron Woolnough, Helmut Piedad (almost family), Mick Gleaves, Crash Kennedy and Brian Parke to name but a few.

About March 1977, Frank Shugg came and parked his butt on my desk and said 'I have been posted to Supply as Supply Officer' this was a great feather in his cap and I said how pleased I was for him. He smiled and said 'and you're coming with me'. This was a feather in my cap that Frank had chosen me as his Chief.



So off to Supply (left) in August 1977 - what a wonderful posting - with LSWTR Ralph Swanson and ABWTR Tony Stanway. What absolute rippers they were. And then to get the late DJ Martin as my Skipper - I was in heaven.

Walker over the brow at Garden Island for the last time on 24th November 1978. Never

regretted one day of my 20 years: fond memories and wonderful friends of whom still keep in touch.

I was lucky enough to land a job as Canberra area Manager for greyhound Coaches in January 1979 and lasted 6 years. Loved meeting and helping people, and still keep many testimonials of thanks from grateful tourists, many from overseas. I could see uncertainty in the coach industry, so found a cushy job in foreign affairs to take me to retirement at 55. Sold up in Canberra (Ray Walters was my real estate agent) and moved to Moruya on the south coast to go fishing - still fishing - better than sex - nearly.

Unfortunately my marriage broke up some 5 years ago and I am now on my own (not completely) living in Tuross Head.

To my old mates (far too many to mention) I take this opportunity to thank them for their mateship and goodwill. I consider it a privilege to have served with so many wonderful people. Best wishes to all Gus.

PS - Somewhere along the lines I became friends with Lew and British - who are they going to harass now I've put pen to paper.

PPS - See a photo of Gary Brazier in the E News - holy crap! has he been in a good paddock!

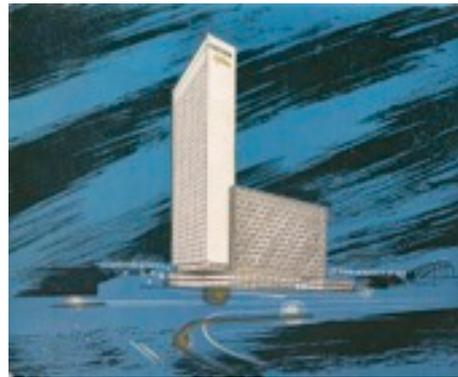
PPPS - This is not an obituary (I Hope)



**Congratulations to Stu O'Brien on his promotion to Warrant Officer with effect 13th September 2012.**

Stu is posted to Kuttabul to the Perso position 17th September 2012.

**The Chevron 1963 - Thanks to Bob Bird for the photo and memories**



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*Jim van Wyck*

In the 1960's you would often get your photo taken at the Chevron. If you bought the photo you get it framed in a card. Top left the front cover - top right the back. Inside cover - about the Chevron and signatures of those in the photo and the photo below.

From left: Doug Cannan, Tim Van Wyck, Ron Coon, Ann Fraser (Now Taylor), Kevin Morris, Bob Bird, Jan Gilbert, Ross Tilney, Peter Donkin, Jack Connellan and Aussie Carruthers.

The photo was taken 7th October 1963.



**Congratulations to those August Birthdays**



And also these scribes who we don't have a photo of: 9th John Wearn, 11th Tracey Martin (nee Monson), 12th Graham Bartlett, 15th Denis McNamara, 19th John Andrews, 19th Tracey Potts (nee Braiden and Hampstead), 24th Miriam Whitbread, 26th Catherine 'Kate' Smith (nee Triffitt).

And... if you are not on this list we don't know your birthday - so why not update your details on our web site under the icon 'Home' - we only need your date and month.