

E-Newsletter

Edition No 39 -
December 1st 2012

*Less than 4 months to the Gold Coast reunion - so register now if you intend to go.
All details on our web site under 'reunion'*

Lest we Forget - Malcolm McGregor - 28th November 2012

Ex LSWTR and Naval Policeman.

Mal was having surgery at the time and died on the operating table. He leaves a wife, Linda, and two grown children Kristie and Anthony from a previous marriage and one grandchild. Mal joined the RAN in 1973 as an Aviation sailor, transferring to Writer in 1975. He completed Writer training in course 2/75 from February to May. Mal re-entered the Naval Police in 1979 - 80 and left the Navy in 1991.

Peter Charlton

Felicity his daughter has advised that Peter has been declared blind in recent months. As a result he has moved into the Bupa Care Services, Stoneleagh Crt. Dural NSW.

In early November, he had a fall which resulted in him having a fractured eye socket, skull and bleeding on the brain. He is now back at the Bupa Care Nursing Home. His direct number is 02 9653 7939

Tammy Moonie - Marty Grogan is trying to help his widow (Lauren) obtain a pension. We are seeking any information of Tammy being a Bantam Weight Boxer during service in the FESR possible about 1958-1968. If you can provide any info relating to this please contact Marty at grevillethedevil@gmail.com.

Sydney Collision with Yarra 1984 - Brian O'Neil, Advocate/Pensions Officer would like you to contact him if you served on Yarra in about 1984, or more importantly, if they were on board when Sydney collided with her on 20 August 1984. Contact details: RSL Brunswick Heads/Billinudgel
0428118388 BrunsRSL@bigpond.net.au .

Launch Of Defence Magazine APP 1 - A free Defence magazine app is now available on smart phones and tablet devices, meaning each edition can be downloaded at any time, anywhere. The iPhone/iPad app can be downloaded from the Apple App Store by searching for 'Defence magazine'. Likewise, Android users can search for 'Defence magazine' in the Android Play Store. People who no longer receive hard copies but still wish to read the magazine can download the app or visit the magazine's redeveloped website at

<http://www.defence.gov.au/defencemagazine>.

We heard from:**Alan Perkins**

Ex CPOWTR R114176. Joined the RAN on 9/10/72 as a Junior Recruit and was a member of Howden Division *Leeuwin* Oct 72 to Sep 73 with CPOWTR Al Hardie. I was originally categorised as a Steward and undertook training at *Cerberus* reaching the dizzy heights of Steward Second Class on 3/12/72.

First posting after training was *Albatross* for one month. On a Friday afternoon my Divisional Officer asked me “would I like to go to sea”. I said yes, and he said “pack your bags the ship leaves for South East

Asia on Monday”. Joined *Vendetta* the following Monday and spent the next very memorable 6 months Up Top.

I came to the realisation very early that Stewarding wasn't for me, so I requested a change to Writer and subsequently commenced my Writer course in Jan 1975 with Graham Rankin, Ian Hatton, Pete Spalding, Dave Sutherland, Col Hanley and Pete McQuire. POWTR Lew Smith was my instructor, and apologies to Lew for my disruptive behaviour. On completion of Writer training I spent a few months in the pay office at *Cerberus*.

Later that year I was posted to *Platypus* and worked in the Personnel Office with POWTR Ian Millard. In Jul 1976 I spent a few months on *Melbourne* doing mess-deck work before going to *Hobart* in Nov 1976 returning to the Pay Office at *Cerberus* in Dec 1977. I enjoyed my time in the *Cerberus* Pay Office. Played plenty of Volleyball and I recall CPOWTR Sid Nolan and POWTR Al Curtin as legends of the Branch, and volleyball court.

From Jan 1979 to Jun 1981 I was posted to *Stirling* and *NOCWA*. Worked in the Personnel Office with WOWTR Carruthers and ABWTR Bruce Whitaker (R.I.P), then later in Pay and Accounts with POWTR Rod Laycock and LSWTR Ollie Twist. Great group of Writers and really enjoyed my time in the West. Promoted to POWTR in Apr 1981

Between Jul 1981 and Jan 1983 I spent time at *CPSO* in *Melbourne* and *Frankston*, before being posted to *Perth* as COSEC and then returned to *Cerberus* as a Supply School Instructor at the end of 1984. I spent three years at the Supply School training young scribes and enjoyed the opportunity to pass on knowledge and work with a great bunch of people – LEUT Phil Griffiths (R.I.P), CPOWTR's Al Hardie, Jim Tester and Steve Salmon, POWTR's Shane Tatnell (R.I.P), Jeannie Brennan, Andy Thomas, Hilary Rushton, Al Curtin and Phil Meiklejohn. It was also good to read the Bio's of some of my trainees who have done well in their Navy careers.

Instructing and Recruiting were my two favourite postings. In Mar 1988 I was posted to Navy Recruiting in Perth and initially worked in the Field Recruiting Team and then later in

Administration and Officer Recruiting. WOWTR John Southon (very funny man) was the boss and also had the opportunity to work with LSWTR Bob Raymount . I paid off after 20 years in Oct 1992.

After leaving the RAN I stayed in Perth and went into business – Grinners Catering Perth. We sold the business after 14 years in Jun 2007 and went caravanning around Australia for a while. I currently work full time for Grinners Catering, and I am happily married to my wife of 36 years – Dell.

This months contacts form from our web site included:

1. **Eddie 'Shiner' Wright** who says “Hi, I am trying to locate Mick Devenish, who was a scribe in Canberra during the 70's and 80's. His wifes name was Ann. I was in the RAN 1970 to 1982 and left as a POWTR.” *(Mick is now in touch with Shiner)*
2. **George DeMoel** “British, I was the Chief on Supply in 84 along with Leading Writer Geoff Hunter, Writers Lyle Vosper and John ? and the Supply Officer was Gary Phillips. Regards George” *(We will update the ships service with this info)*
3. **David Sutherland** “What has happened to the 'rouges' gallery? Have you just hidden somewhere that I don't seem to be able to discover? I have tried just about everywhere on the menu bar. Yours aye, Dave Sutherland” *(We are currently updating all the photos in the database before republishing)*

Why not use the ‘contact’ facility and lets us know what you are doing or any other input for the web site.

Navy News Article 8th December 1961

This is an article about Reg Gilbert - who has now passed away - but the article is interesting reading for all.

NAVY SPORTSMAN



Chief Petty Officer Writer Reg Gilbert, has some sound advice for ‘up and coming’ Navy sportsmen. He says: "Learn the rules and enjoy the game." His view is backed up by experience in many fields of sport.

Now in England, CPO Gilbert says: “ All types of sport including the many codes of football provide entertainment for me. I am inclined to think that bi-ased opinions heard in the service regarding sport, particular the different football codes, is generally caused through a lack of knowledge of the rules of that particular game by the individual”.

Born at Goodiwindi Queensland in 1927 Reg found his early interest boxing and he became schoolboy boxing champion of Southwest Queensland being undefeated in 22 amateur contests. He turned professional at the age of 16 years and won 16 successive bouts at the Brisbane Stadium before suffering first defeat of the hands of Mickey Hill in a 10 round contest. This was in March 1945.

Reg join the Navy as a Stoker in April 1946 and represented Navy in Victoria Rugby union competition. He also continued boxing and was undefeated in six service boxing bouts during 1946. While 'Up North' he represented both *Shropshire* and *Australian* at Rugby Union against the Australian and New Zealand occupation forces in Japan and against the Royal Navy in Hong Kong.

In February 1948 he won the lightweight division of the boxing competition between RAN and the US Task Force 48 at Sydney Stadium. He visited Hobart for the regatta and then the goodwill tour to New Zealand in Australia before being discharged April 1948. Reg missed the comradeship of service life and re-entered in the Writer branch in February 1949.

A Knee injury forced early retirement from competitive football. He boxed three times at Melbourne Stadium during 1949 losing narrowly on points to highly rated featherweight Wally Driver and winning the other two. While Secretary of the Seaford Australian Rules club he saw the club win three premierships in five years in the Mornington Peninsula league.

Reg continued his boxing at Manus Island fought a stirring draw with the middleweight Champion of New Guinea, after giving away one half stone in weight. This proved to be his final boxing bout and finished with the impressive record of 51 wins, three losses and three draws and an undefeated record in the services.

After two years with Manning Department Navy Office, Melbourne, he was drafted to *Sydney* in November 1955 and visited SEATO exercises during September October November 1956.

Reg was drafted to the RAN Air station Nowra early 1957, and the family liked the district so much that they build their home there. He is a vice president of the Sydney-Navy Rules club, and as a talent scout for that team has signed many stars including Col Mason, Bernie Jeffrey, Nobby Clarke and Bill Snell.

During two years at *Albatross* he was for a time trainer to leading Navy Boxer Brian Smith and on Lieut Ray Lemon being appointed to FND, relieved him as referee in the charity promoted boxing bills at the Air Station. Whilst at *Albatross* he was coach of the Navy tug-o-war team and Chief second to the Navy boxing team inter-service sports.

He served in the cadet training frigate *Swan* during 1959 early in 1960 was drafted to the staff of RANLO London.

Writing to 'Navy News' he names these Navy men as top sportsmen he has known during his 15 year service:

Best All rounder: PTI Laurie Johnson; Rugby union CPO Ray 'Snow' Walker; Tennis PO John Fletcher; Cricket Stoker Clem Hill; Golf SPOS PB 'Wingy' O'Shea and Tel Norm Brown; Swimming AB Ron Hogan; Soccer Stoker PO Blue Hollis; Australian Rules LWTR Ron Battams, NA Ralph Turner and Painter Bert Dickson.



CERBERUS MESS DINNER November 2012

Left to right: WOWTR Jo JORDAN - Recruit School Warrant Officer
Ex LSWTR Peter TANNER, Principal, Tanner Executive Search
WOWTR Marty GROGAN - Manager, Museum of HMAS CERBERUS
CPOWTR Karyn RAVAILLION - Senior Personnel Officer, HMAS CERBERUS.

Note: Peter Tanner was recently appointed to the Victorian Veterans Council, the first enlisted man to have been so honored. He took the place of RADM John LORD, AM, RAN, RTD.

WOMEN'S ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY CLASS OF 83

A reunion is planned for those that joined Cerberus 26th October 1963.

At: Manly NSW Dates (Friday 25th, Saturday 26th, Sunday 27th, Monday 28th October 2013.)

Accommodation can be found at: Manly National Apartments, Plaza Beach Apartments Manly, Manly Waterside Apartments. Bookings to be made direct.

For further information please contact Unita Connelly "Skeet"
sthelens@live.com.au.