

# WESTERN OUTPOST NEWS



**WINTER 2018 ISSUE**

St Mary's Outpost the  
'Train of Knowledge'

## St Marys Veterans Centre

St Marys Outpost - VVAA  
and St Marys RSL Sub-Branch



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Various places throughout the 'News'

### Front Cover:

ANZAC Day - Dawn Service at the "Guns"

#### **DEADLINES FOR PUBLICATION**

Spring 2018..... 17 August 2018

Summer 2018..... 9 November 2018

Autumn 2019..... 16 February 2018

Winter 2019..... 14 May 2019

Articles of a general nature may be submitted at anytime, please send to:  
john.davison@optusnet.com.au

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**Google: St Marys RSL Sub Branch**

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# ST MARYS VIETNAM VETERANS OUTPOST

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Awareness - Awareness - Awareness

You have heard me pushing awareness on many occasion during the last couple of years, getting our message out to veterans is now more important than ever, messages like the following “**Help for Veterans**” that appeared recently in the **Hawkesbury Gazette** will be submitted to local newspapers periodically, we also need your personal **Help** in spreading the word so we can give **Help**.

**HELP FOR VETERANS:** Free, confidential help is available to veterans of all conflicts at the Veterans Welfare Centre, The Train, corner Mamre Road and Hall Street, St Marys. Drop in and chat about your needs or concerns, 9am-1pm, Monday to Friday. Trained consultants can assist with DVA application forms. Details: 9833 4700 or [www.vvaastmarys.com.au](http://www.vvaastmarys.com.au).

If you have any idea's that can promote our cause, please share your thoughts.

We also welcome any person who feels they would like to assist in our pension's office; if you can operate a computer, we can train you to become a qualified pension officer. Enquire Now!

Anzac day 2018 at the Train was very successful, good weather conditions and an extremely large crowd; members of the Train were busy in the run up attending many school and nursing home ceremonies.

Once again our dedicated Train Washers did a great job in preparing the grounds for this special occasion. “Well Done and Thank You”.

I have been made aware of a web site that would be of special interest to all Vietnam Veterans, it is an interactive map of important daily operations, events and contacts, this can be found at <https://vietnam.unsw.adfa.edu.au/>

The upcoming Vietnam Veterans Day Commemoration Service has been slightly modified to allow for time constraints due to the 18<sup>th</sup> falling on a Saturday. The Vietnam Veterans Day service will be held outside at the Guns, weather permitting; the alternate venue will be the RSL Club Auditorium. In either case a buffet dinner will be served from 6:30 pm until 7:30 pm. At 8:00 pm the RSL Clubs scheduled Saturday Night entertainment will commence. Whilst adults are at liberty to stay on and enjoy the club's scheduled entertainment, I would ask that we all respect the time constraints being applied. To help speed up the dinner, it has been decided to forego the usual raffle, however, it is proposed to have a lucky door prize draw, tickets will be issued at no charge upon entry.

In conclusion, I want you to know, that I am extremely proud to be the President of the St Marys Outpost, and, that I am mindful of the dedication of the committees, the workers, the private and corporate sponsors and the individual members delegated to various but no less important tasks.

My sincere thanks to all involved BIG JOB – WELL DONE.

Tony Mullavey  
President



## LONG TAN BURSARY



The Long Tan Bursary scheme was established to help eligible children of Vietnam veterans meet the cost of post-secondary education. Fifty bursaries, worth \$12,000 for each recipient and paid over three years, are awarded each year to successful applicants from each state and territory. The scheme is administered by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust on behalf of DVA.

### Who can apply?

To be eligible for a Long Tan Bursary, you must:

- be the child of an Australian Vietnam Veteran who served in the Vietnam War during the period 31 July 1962 to 30 April 1975
- have Australian residency status
- be planning to enrol, or be enrolled, in post education in Australia, in an approved course of one or more academic years' duration
- be in disadvantaged circumstances such as financial need, health or other family and personal circumstances where these could prevent you from undertaking post-secondary education without the bursary
- not be a previous recipient of a bursary.

### How to apply

Applications for the Long Tan Bursary open annually on Vietnam Veterans' Day, 18 August each year, and close on 31 October. Application forms are available from the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust on (02) 9213 7999. In your application you will need to include:

- information about yourself and the Vietnam veteran you are related to
- your academic background and referee reports
- the means test and details about your family situation.

You will also need to write a statement on why you feel you should be awarded a Long Tan Bursary. All applications are treated in the strictest of confidence.

### How are applicants assessed?

Applications are collected and assessed by the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust and are treated in the strictest of confidence. Applicants for the Long Tan Bursary are assessed against specific criteria, including:

- personal circumstances that could prevent an applicant from undertaking post-secondary education without the bursary, such as financial need, health, family and other circumstances; and
- academic record and the applicant's prospects of successfully completing their first year of post-secondary study. Within the eligibility criteria, those selected are to be the most deserving applicants on merit as assessed.

Consideration will be given to applicants who require a second degree to complete their course of study and enable them to enter the workforce (provided they have not previously received a bursary). Those seeking to achieve a Masters Degree or Doctorate will also be

considered where a bursary has not previously been awarded. However, they will have a lower priority to those seeking to achieve a base-level qualification which will allow them to enter the workforce in their chosen career. Each course must be of a standard approved by the administrator and will generally be one where Commonwealth educational support benefits are payable.

***How am I notified about my application?*** Successful applicants will be notified early in the New Year – generally mid to late February or early March. The \$9,000 Bursary will be paid to recipients in instalments and can be used to help cover costs such as enrolment, course fees and textbooks.

***More information*** - If you would like to find out more about the Long Tan Bursary, contact the Australian Veterans' Children Assistance Trust:

**Phone:** (02) 9213 7999    **Fax:** (02) 9213 7307    **Email:** [avcat@dva.gov.au](mailto:avcat@dva.gov.au)

**Address:** PO Box K978 HAYMARKET NSW 1240

Please note: Although the Department of Veterans' Affairs host the Trust's email service, departmental staff cannot and do not access the Trust's email correspondence. Email communication with the Trust is entirely confidential.



### **Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club**

Blacktown and Districts TPI Social and Welfare Club meets on the First Thursday of each month (except January) at the Blacktown RSL Club. Meetings start at 1:00 pm

The Club is open to all TPI Veterans (including Veterans under the MRC receiving the Special Rate of Disability Pension), and welcomes their Carers and Friends.

To join the Club a Veteran must be a subscribing member of the TPI Association of NSW Ltd.

Apart from the Monthly Meetings the Club arranges at subsidised cost, a function, generally each month, which could be a Bus Trip, Luncheon, BBQ.

The Club's Welfare Officers also keep in contact through Hospital and Home visits to those who cannot make the Meetings.

A Newsletter is also distributed to all members, either by email or by 'snail mail'

For further Information, please contact the Hon Secretary: John Davison at  
mobile: 0411737446 or email: [john.davison@optusnet.com.au](mailto:john.davison@optusnet.com.au)



## ST MARYS RSL SUB-BRANCH

### PRESIDENTS REPORT FOR 2017

To start this report, I must say February and March were pretty quiet with only a couple of things to report, beginning with Lesley Ayres, Tony Fryer, Frank Lawton and Myself, gather every month at Penrith's CBD offices for the combined St Marys, Penrith and Glenbrook RSL's Armistice Day Service committee.

**20<sup>th</sup> February** - The ANZAC Day Planning Committee meet to finalize the format for this year's services.

**6<sup>th</sup> March** - 15 sub branch members travelled to Randwick Army Barracks to help pack 2,000 care packages for services personnel serving overseas, thanks to all who volunteered.

**15<sup>th</sup> March** - A joint Executive and School representatives meeting was held to select this year's subjects for the Colin Shephard Scholarships, the result being, this year's students have a wide range of topics to choose from.

**7<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> April** - Sam Veechio and the Social Guild team organized a great weekend away to Bundanoon's Brigadoon, after staying overnight at Peeper's Resort. The next morning, we made our way to Thirlmere Train Museum, after a great day, we made our way home, Thanks Sam

**13<sup>th</sup> April** - Sadly we farewelled sub-Branch member, Lawrence John Porter. John Foeken, Jimmy Reardon, George Perrin and I conducted the RSL Tribute at Pinegrove.

**22<sup>nd</sup> April** - We conducted our ANZAC Sunday Community March and Service. While the march from Coachman's Park was smaller than recent years, around 500 participated in the service at Victoria Park where our sub-Branch member, Maj Jaymi Mathews delivered an inspiring address. Once again, we thank Charlie Sharpe for his vintage car to get some marchers to the park; to Peter Merity for walking his horse in front of the marching group; to Kings School Marching Band, the St Marys Pipes and Drums and to Erskine Park Concert Band for the tremendous support throughout. Thank you to His Worship the Mayor of Penrith, Cr John Thain and Ms Prue Car MP, State Member for Londonderry, who joined me to collect the last soil sample to go into the new additions at ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park.

Our ANZAC Dawn Service for 2018 was conducted on a clear but cool morning with around 6,000 in attendance, thus maintaining the strong interest that has evolved in recent years. Since our focus for this service was to acknowledge the growing numbers of women taking critical and combat roles across our military, most participant roles in the service were by female sub- Branch members, both serving and ex-serving, we thank them for the splendid job they did.

The ANZAC address was delivered by Lt Col Renee Kidson (Commanding Officer, 5 Engineer Regiment) and was well received. Tomas Hamilton's poem was most appropriate for the service. To complete the tribute ceremony, Jessie Currie on his Digeridoo, the St Clair Comets Rugby League boys with their HAKA made a valuable contribution, thank you to both.



While on the thank you's I must congratulate the Train Washers for the area preparation (magnificent as usual) and all those who assisted with the event on the day, especially the traffic marshalls and the Ladies who served out the breakfast.

**30 April - 1<sup>st</sup> May** - The Executive meet to discuss the 42 motions that will be voted on at this year's NSW RSL State Congress. The motion recommendations on how this sub-Branch should vote was presented to the members at the May 9<sup>th</sup> General Meeting, the members voted to agree with the executive's recommendations.

**3<sup>rd</sup> May** - Ted Fish, Tony Fryer, Tony Mullavey, Sam Veechio and I meet for 2 hours with NSW RSL State President James Brown and James Wagner, this was to discuss the uniqueness of our two ESO's working together, after a joint presentation, we showed them the Corridor of Honour and the Train's layout, where Tony M and Sam showed them the activities and services that are available to veteran's. I believe we got our point across, before leaving they asked for a copy of our presentation, hopefully they can utilize the information given.

**4<sup>th</sup> May** - We gathered to farewell sub-Branch Associate Member John Holmes, his RSL tribute was carried out by Castle Hill RSL sub-Branch, in attendance from St Marys was Tony Mullavey, Sam Veechio, John Foeken, Uwe Schoenherr, Reno Ciantar, Paul Pono and myself.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who made themselves available by going to local schools, nursing homes and rehabilitation hospitals to give talks at ANZAC Services and to all those who accompanied them.

Ron Blakely  
President



# SUNSET STATION SINGERS

## SINGERS HIT A HIGH NOTE FOR OTHERS

Sunset Station Singers brighten the days of sick and elderly

Article by Lauren Suttie

*[Extract from the The Western Weekender; June 22 2018]*

Whether you've got a natural born talent for it or prefer to keep it to the confines of your shower, there is no denying that singing has an enormous power in bringing joy to people's lives. Upgrading their singing from the shower and shed, to spread some of that joy through hospitals and nursing homes is local choir group, the Sunset Station Singers. Choir Master, Rick Stratten, said he loved meeting with others who had a shared interest in singing.



The Sunset Singers

*photo Melinda Jane*

"The group has a common denominator and that is they all love singing," Mr Stratten said. "But most of all they also come for a laugh and a chat." Originally started by Vietnam veteran Frances Edwards, the group has been meeting up every week for the past 11 years and currently has 18 members ranging in age from their 50s to late 80s. "It was known that Frances had a way to recruit members, as most of the people he approached said that they couldn't sing," Mr Stratten said. "His recruitment phrase was 'if you can talk, you can sing' and so the group started to grow."

Covering songs from the 40s through to 70s and 80s, the Sunset Station Singers also doubles as a support group with the majority of its members veterans, their families and friends. "Our members are mainly veterans and have gone through a lot," he said. "Being a part of the group is like therapy as the singing is relaxing and calming and is also a lot of fun." But despite this, Mr Stratten said that anyone and everyone was more than welcome to join. Join the Sunset Station Singers every Monday at St Marys RSL in the Northern Room from 7.30pm. For more information, call Mr Stratten on 0425 223 113.



# MICHAEL JOHN FITZGERALDSOLICITOR

Level 8  
65 York Street Sydney 2000

Phone: 9283 2500 or 0419 440 990  
FAX: 9283 2600.  
ABN 18095746334



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# VVAA ST MARYS OUTPOST

## EDUCATION PROGRAM REPORT

ANZAC Day 2018 has come and gone with all the usual school, community, service organisation, state and commonwealth remembrance and commemoration services across our towns and cities. it could be argued that ANZAC Day is really our Australia Day, an opinion shared by many citizens and service personnel.

Responding to invitations from schools and communities across the ANZAC period for these commemorative services was, as always, an honour and privilege. School services continue to impress particularly because they often deviate from the time honoured programs of remembrance with their own particular focus.

The following memories from 2018 School/College/Community ANZAC programs are worthy of comment.

- ♦ A huddle of most reverent and respectful Kindergarten children laying class made wreaths composed of beautifully coloured in poppies under the watchful eye of their proud teachers. Invaluable lessons for the many ANZAC programs these children will attend across their lives - continuing the ANZAC Spirit.
- ♦ A Year 10 Drama Group depicting a young soldier leaving home bound for the Western Front - his mother bidding him a tearful farewell. Later she receives the dreaded telegram. The closing action showed the terrible grief within the family. Very moving performances.
- ♦ A primary school Anzac Service conducted wholly by the Year 6 students. Absolutely beautifully done!
- ♦ A Year 5 student playing the Last Post and Reveille on a bugle - magnificent. What a future this young lad has!
- ♦ Year 7 students conducting the ANZAC Service along with delivering well researched biographies of local soldiers who were killed in action across WW1.
- ♦ Students with a family member on overseas service invited to sit at the front of the ANZAC Assembly.



A local WW1 soldier researched and commemorated at a School Anzac Service



Crosses at War Widows' Guild 67th Annual Anzac Field of Remembrance Service St Andrews Cathedral

- ♦ Students with a family member on overseas service, or peace keeping, invited to place a military head dress (slouch hat, cap, beret etc) on a special table to acknowledge community understanding of family concern when loved ones are in harms way.
- ♦ Seeing War Widows from across the ages, WW1 to todays conflicts placing small crosses for their loved ones at the War Widows' Guild 67th Annual ANZAC Field of Remembrance Service at St Andrews Cathedral. Noting Contemporary War Widows from recent conflicts with preschool and young children is in stark contrast to gatherings of elderly widows still grieving lost husbands, and a reminder that conflict continues in our world.

- ♦ A group of very senior war widows and some rather elderly WW2 ex-sericemen from Rowland RSL Village singing a couple of WW1 songs at a High School service. The school audience (Year 7 to 12) was captivated as these 'old fogies' entertained them.
- ♦ An ANZAC Service Address at the Head Office of the Department of School Education by Mr Jim Haynes OAM, ex-teacher, poet, author, historian etc on Australia's first actions of WW1 by our (first) two gallant submarines - AE1 and AE2. A fascinating and engaging address. For the uninformed consult Google for the stories of these two submarines. Their actions pre-date the Gallipoli landings.

Sincere thanks to all Outpost members who participated in or gave addresses at School ANZAC Services. School children are our future citizens and will be the ones to carry on our ANZAC traditions. Being mindful of the above mentioned ANZAC Service activities the future of ANZAC Day is assured.

Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral at the Australian Vietnam Forces National Memorial, Anzac Parade, Canberra, 13 May 2018. (A very sad Mothers' Day for 11 Mums back in 1968.)

A large gathering of veterans and their loved ones from all Units and Services involved in the Battle of Coral-Balmoral, together with the general public, assembled at the Memorial under a sunny sky. A 10 Gun Salute commenced the program. The march past and presentation of colours of the Units to be recognised at the service was a proud occasion for the ageing veterans and their families.

The Call to Remembrance was given by the Chief of Army Lieutenant General Angus J Campbell OA DSC. The exploits of our troops at Coral-Balmoral have been well documented, though unrecognised, across the years.

Finally for their actions on Operation Toan Thang (1968) 1RAR, 3RAR, A Squadron 3rd Cavalry Regiment, C Squadron 1st Armoured Regiment, 12 Field Regiment Artillery, and 1 Field Squadron Engineers collectively referred to as 1st Australian Task Force (Forward) were awarded the Unit Citation for Gallantry. This award was for all participants in the Battle of Coral-Balmoral.

The Roll of Honour of those 26 men who died on operations around Coral-Balmoral shows twenty two infantry, two 12 Field Regiment, one 104 Signal Squadron



Veterans, families and officials gather around AWM Pool of Reflection - Last Post Closing Ceremony



Federation Guard and Colours - Hall of Memory AWM



and one 161 Independent Reconnaissance Flight. With an average age of 22 years these 26 gallant men comprised 15 National Servicemen and 11 Australian Regular Army.

It should also be noted that men from other units and services were involved in this historic battle ie. Engineers, Signal Corps, Aviation, Catering, Medical, Ordnance, RAEME, Military Police, Chaplain's Department, Intelligence, Service, Royal Australian Air Force and the NZ Artillery Corps. Elements of the US Forces were also involved.

(Ed Note: Additional photos of the Coral-Balmoral, see the back page.)

Following the Commemoration Service a reception was held at the National Convention Centre with a light lunch and non-alcoholic drinks served.

Later in the day veterans, families and general public assembled at the Australian War Memorial for the Last Post Closing Ceremony honouring Corporal Robert Bernard Hickey, KIA 13 May 1968. Robert was a Section Commander Mortar Platoon and was killed during the first minutes of the first assault wave of the main enemy assault.

Dr Brendan Nelson AO gave a most informative address along with the impressive mounting of the catafalque party and parade of the unit colours from the mornings' Commemorative Service. A beautiful and memorable occasion.

### **Long Tan Cross Update.**

Currently the Long Tan Cross, Roll of Gallantry for the 18 personnel KIA and selected photos from across the battle along with an AV display overlooking the 18 individual soldiers is located temporarily in the Reg Saunders Gallery.

AWM staff informed visitors that the Long Tan Cross will be permanently located in the Vietnam Gallery along with relevant information come Vietnam Veterans Day 2018.

Visitors to the AWM are delighted to see 'poppies' adorning everything on display. For those who haven't been to the AWM for some time, please plan a visit. The Spirit of the Anzacs is alive and well at the AWM.

Vin Cosgrove OAM JP

VVAA Outpost Education Program



Wreaths laid at the Service



A individual tribute -  
Private Ian James Thomson 3RAR.





Trooping the Colours after Unit Citation awarded.



Dismounting the Catafalque Party

**ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB**  
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**ST MARYS RSL YOUTH CLUB**  
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# DARWIN AND RETURN APRIL – MAY 2017

## PART 5

*An adventure by Ross Pearson, known to you all as a member of the Veterans Outpost,*

There was no rush the next morning, we had only 120km to go to Darwin and we didn't think we would get in our unit before 1400.

When Richard tried to start his bike the starter motor sounded terrible and the motor wouldn't fire up. Then the battery runs down. We tried to push start it, but no go. Ken came to the rescue with a power pack. When connected and the starter button pushed it fired and idled like it should.



The run into Darwin was uneventful, but we lost Richard somewhere as we entered the outskirts of Darwin. Ken and I found the apartment that was in McMinn Street, easy to find. Richard rang and said he was at the BMW Workshop and could I come and get him and his trailer. They would start work on it later that day and would ring him to let him know what the problem was. Labour costs would be \$154 an hour.

After I went and picked up Richard, we returned to our apartment. Don had been in contact with me and said he and Col should be in Darwin by Friday and could I rebook his room, which I did. The unit had a washing machine and dryer, so in turns we caught up with cleaning our used clothes.

Richard and I went for a walk around town in the afternoon while Ken went shopping. The workshop rang later that afternoon saying it was the starter motor was the problem and that it couldn't be dismantled and that the cost of a new one would be \$1030. Richard gave the go ahead to order a new starter motor. I rang Sydney later and checked on the price, it was correct.

That night we had sausages, tomato eggs and onions with gravy for tea. Ken had bought the groceries and also volunteered to do the cooking. He wasn't too bad at cooking as it was a good meal and a lot cheaper than buying a meal and eating out.

The next morning, Thursday 27th April, we were up at 0700. No need to, but I suppose you get used to rising early. Ken walked over to the Shell Garage across the road and bought us a coffee. Shell like 711 Garages has coffee machines and it is made from freshly ground beans. Weet-Bix for breakfast.

Richard had friends from Newcastle also staying at the apartments. They had hired a car while in Darwin and I went with them into town, 4 blocks away. They bought breakfast at one of the cafes, I had a cappuccino. We then walked around the shops.

That afternoon we sat around in our apartment watching TV. We had found a channel, 41, that screened old TV shows. We watched Bonanza, Rawhide and The Lone Ranger, among others.

That night we were going to go to the Mindil Markets, but a storm had been predicted and they were cancelled. That night Richard went with his friends to Fannie Bay for tea. Ken did another cook up, we had sausages tomato egg and some peas which I had brought in my supplies.

We ended up that night watching a Clint Eastwood movie, Tightrope. We had a late night going to our rooms about 2300.

Richard was up early on the Friday morning, he had booked a tour to Litchfield National Park. Ken and I had been there before so weren't interested in going.

We rode to the Charles Darwin National Park in Darwin. An interesting place, it was here that the munitions were kept after the bombing of Darwin in 1941. The old bunkers are still there, one is open to the public and has a lot of information about the park and also about Darwin during WW11.

From there we went back into town and then to Darwin wharf where we had a coffee overlooking the harbour. When we got back to our apartment Don was there, so we caught up with what had happened to him and how he worked on his bike. Col turned up some time later, he had met his daughter and her partner at Katherine, so was running a bit behind Don. We booked another night for our apartment; Monday 1st would be a public holiday in the NT, May Day. Richard's parts hadn't turned up so we did it as a precaution. That night we watched more old westerns and the start of the Alfred Hitchcock movie Psycho.

Friday evening Ken wanted to go to the Casino for tea, he'd heard there were cheap good meals there. We rode there as it was about 2 kilometres from where we were staying. After finding a place to tie our bikes up, it was like everyone in Darwin was there, and going into the Casino, we found there was no Bistro or any cheap places to have a meal. We ended up riding to Darwin Wharf and had fish and chips. While we were there we watched the departure of the cruise ship Voyager of the Seas.

Saturday morning Richard, Don and I were up by 0600. One of the reasons we did the trip to Darwin was so Richard could go in the Park Run there. Park Runs are held on Saturday mornings in most towns in Australia and a lot of the cities' suburbs. Don does the one at Casuarina; Richard does the one in Newcastle. I went along just to watch and take some photos. I doubt whether I would be able to do 5 kilometres, either running or walking. Richard's friends were also doing the run, that is why they were staying at the apartments.

Back at base Don and I went for a dip in the pool, it was turning out to be another hot day. Not unusual for Darwin. We all spent a lazy afternoon, in and out of the pool. Col's daughter had turned up, they were travelling around Australia, so he spent time with them.

That evening Richard's friends wanted us all to have dinner together. At 1700 Ken and I rode to the Wharf again, Col had arranged for his daughter and partner to be there also, so it ended up with 8 of us there, I ended up having fish and chips again. It was a good evening sitting there talking to them all and watching small boats on the harbour. When we got back home we started to watch the movie, The Alamo, but we didn't see the ending, it had been a long day so went to bed fairly early.

Part 6 in the next issue ....

#### JUST IMAGINE.

If you had bought \$1000 worth of Qantas shares one year ago you would have made \$49.00 today.

If you had bought \$1000 worth of AIG shares one year ago you would have made \$33.00 today.

If you had bought \$1000 worth of Lehman Brothers Shares one year ago you would have made \$0.00 today.

BUT .... If you purchased \$1000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all the beer then returned the cans for recycling, you would have made \$214.00 today.

So based on above the best current investment plan is to drink heavily and recycle!



## UNTAMED FLOWERS

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*Credit Cards Welcome*

One day the pilot of a Cherokee 180 was told by the tower to hold short of the active runway while a DC-8 landed. The DC-8 landed, rolled out turned around, and taxied back past the Cherokee. Some quick-witted comedian in the DC-8 crew got on the radio and said, "What a cute little plane. Did you make it all by yourself?" The Cherokee pilot, not about to let the insult go by, came back with a real zinger: "I made it out of DC-8 parts. Another landing like yours and I'll have enough parts for another one."





## THE SEAFARERS



The expectancy of a cruise aboard the P&O's Pacific Eden appeared in its majestic grandeur before us as our taxi driver pulled up at the over-seas terminal where we were greeted by a myriad of similar seafarers with the same anticipation as we four.

After the formalities, which is expected when manoeuvring and jostling to get into the right line to get onto the ship first but as usual we joined the longest line (isn't it always). Our first step on board was greeted by "Welcome" and ushered along to the lift to take us down to our cabin. A 14 deck ship with elevators was like the David Jones Store, the lift announcing each deck number. It was never ending. Our deck (5) was announced which I thought would require aqualungs. I now know what a submariner must have gone through a feeling of claustrophobia. But it passed as we opened the door to our cabin for the eleven day cruise. It was well appointed and spacious with sufficient draws and a wardrobe including a bath and a shower. It will be pleasant spending the night after an eventful time experiencing the day's activities.

As it was almost lunch time my offsider Tony, who accompanied me on a previous cruise was anxious to taste the cuisine and without a by-your leave he was gone. So with Sam and John and I we took the elevator to the 11<sup>th</sup> deck where we were directed to the restaurant. There was Tony his appetite aroused at the gastronomic delights set out before him. It was his forte and he was spoilt for choice. We joined him and sampled the fare presented to us arranged to satisfy the most fastidious dinner. We were not disappointed. If this is what was to be expected for the next ten days we will certainly require the gym on our return. How about it John? After breakfast, Tony and I took advantage of the gym for half an hour a day and also walked around deck six. With all that food available we had to do something to prevent us gaining too much weight.

Well there is always one in every group isn't there and he was in ours. On return to our cabins our suit cases had been delivered, except one, wouldn't it? But Sam was summoned to the 'Ships Security' with trepidation off he went to be confronted by two blokes. "Can you explain the toys you have in your case Sir", "Toys", I don't have any toys was the reply." "Well what is that", pointing to the object; "Oh that, that's my picker upper?" So he gave a demonstration of how the toy worked. He completely satisfied the Security, with a sigh of relief he was on his merry way and returned to the cabin. We settled in and look forward what was to be an eventful voyage.

We had an entrepreneur in our midst a whiz of a man he would arrange our dining itinerary. He booked our dining evenings in several restaurants where we could peruse the menu to our satisfaction. It was an extensive choice and took us some time to decide. The waiters with their culinary expertise would recommend or suggested what we might enjoy, which made it easier for us we were not disappointed with the result. And a suitable red wine complimented the meal. This was to be the mode each evening.

Tours were also arranged when we arrived at each port. This would be most convenient for us. There was no hesitation and done in military style. The tenders would come along side to ferry the passengers ashore.

This would be somewhat difficult for the not so young and people with a disability. Navigating the gangway or the steps was of concern to some passengers, but the crew were able to assist those in need and ease them on to the tender. We were checked on and off the ship by security a little inconvenience at times but necessary. The tour of 'The Isle of Pines' discovered by Captain James Cook in 1774 on his second voyage to New Zealand. He never stepped ashore, but named them because of the quantity of tall Pines. It was aptly named. The coach seated about 60 plus people of all nationalities, with cameras at the ready for the opportunity to take and record their visit. There were many such opportunities.

Tony had other talents too he proved quite versatile with the ping pong bat would you say multitalented, yes I think you would. He challenged all comers male and female alike many would succumb to his dexterity. He did win some trophies. Good on you.

John conspicuous by his mode of transport, was it a walk a gait or shuffle but he navigated the rolling pool deck like an old salt as he traversed his way to the Pantry where an array of food awaited him. He had a craving for the exotic, the hot and spicy the better, he shared it with his mates as the aroma (Odour) wafted its way to the nostrils of those close by, but undaunted John would devour what was on his plate as though his stomach had no conscience but the satisfaction showed all over his face. It would have done his mother proud. A glass of juice completed his brekkie and he would be off to his cabin for a rest and read his book. John loved the carefree style of cruising and he said who wants to get dressed up. However there were occasions when one had to put on a pair of slacks to go to the restaurant. We don't want to look like slob; we should set an example well that's what I think.

Sam sampled the food from his homeland and would take his time deciding what he should choose, he always came to the table with two plates, and then he would get stuck in. What he didn't eat John would be there to assist him, how is that for a mate. John had no compunction to stretch across the table and help his mate. What are mates for? Then they would adjourn to the cabin for a rest, and contemplate what the night's agenda would be. We sat down for dinner at 6:00 pm and quaffed a red. We had good food and at times stimulating conversation as we solved the world's problems.

Despite the array of cutlery there is nothing like bread-roll, Tony was an exponent what the fork wouldn't pick up the roll would. The plate was clean and the satisfaction on his face said it all. As soon as he finished he went to the show, John would vacate his chair for his cabin and Sam and I would venture up to deck 7 where all the activity was. The colourful lights and engaging music from the Casino would lure Sam to investigate. He would choose a Poker machine that looked promising. He sat down on the chair made him-self comfortable and started to caress the numbers as would a concert pianist stroke the keys of his piano before he commenced his repertoire. Sam was also talented, he was no mug. He surveyed the many poker machines at his disposal. The machine would entice the money as Sam took it out of his wallet, no instructions were necessary the machine did it all just follow the flashing light that exposed the slot for the notes to slide through. Sam was a fan of the Pokies with a wealth of knowledge how they worked. The tantalising free spin and a few pays encouraged Sam to feed the ever hungry machine. I left Sam to his devices and his affair with his machine.

There was a multitude of entertainment available, nothing was left to chance. It catered for every-one Trivia, Bingo, Whiskey tasting Dancing (I forgot my dancing shoes) Name that tune, you name it was all there.

The night of the Great Gatsby extravaganza, it was on for the kids the young at heart and the elderly. It was a fantastic sight to see the participants, dressed in the finery of yesteryear, the

ladies dresses, men in their suits, together with white shoes and trilby. The children too looked the part it was a sight to behold. Sam and I put on our jacket and tie and shirt and enticed a few of the fairer sex to join us for a photo shoot, how could they resist I mean! The photographers Backdrop was there so we took advantage and snapped a few pics. The photographer wasn't pleased, but Sam set him right. It ended up a great night.

The day we left the Isle of Pines the captain addressed the passengers to inform us that we were heading in to heavy weather I could hardly wait, being an old Matelot I yearned for heavy seas. A little later he announced it was worse than anticipated and cautioned every-one to be careful when walking around the ship. He said we would encounter waves up to four metres and said he would reduced speed and at the same time said our arrival time in Sydney would depend on weather conditions.

We were notified to pack our cases and have them out-side our cabin door about 5:00 pm that day to be collected by the cabin crew. In my haste I inadvertently threw my passport holder into the case, thinking I had put my passport in my carry-on bag. No stupid me - they shouldn't let me out on my own. Panic stations I contacted the cabin steward who was very helpful and my case was retrieved and brought back to my cabin. All's well that ends well and I was so relieved.

We were notified of what time and deck we where to assemble. It was like a stampede bodies everywhere. Eventually we arrived at the right deck and were there for about 45 minutes. Unfortunately the ship was about seven hours behind schedule. It must have been a worry for those passengers who had made flight arrangements. Things happen.

Summing up:

It was a terrific and action-packed cruise. Sam did a good job of organising it. Thanks Sam. And also to Tony for arranging the shows, the dining and the picture times and the shore tours

We were individuals with our idiosyncrasies the ten days together were memorable. We found out so much about each other but we still got on well. I would venture to say that we look forward to our next cruise.

Yours Aye

A promotional graphic for Western Hire Cars. The top left features the company name 'WESTERN HIRE CARS' in bold, with 'WESTERN' in black and 'HIRE CARS' in red. Below this, on a blue background, are the service descriptions: 'Chauffeur Drive Service', 'Friendly & Reliable Service', and 'Experienced Local Drivers'. A list of services follows: '• MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS', '• AIRPORT', and '• CRUISE SHIP TRANSFERS'. Below the list, it states 'We Accept All Major Credit Cards' and shows logos for 'efpos' and 'Cardcharge'. The bottom left contains the email 'westernhirecars@bigpond.com'. The right side of the graphic shows a photograph of a white sedan parked on a street, with two men in suits standing on either side of it. The bottom right corner has a yellow banner with the text 'CALL NORM 0412 673100' and 'LOCALLY OWNED' in black.

# ST MARYS RSL CLUB



Corner Mamre Road and Hall Street St Marys  
Ph 9623 6555 [www.stmarysrsll.com.au](http://www.stmarysrsll.com.au)



Like us on Facebook

**Members' Courtesy Bus** - *Friday From 6 pm and Saturday From 1.30 pm*

Ring Reception for details.

**DINING at ST MARYS RSL –**

## TERRACE CAFE

Open Daily for Lunch and Dinner

Mon - Fri 12-3 pm \$12 Lunch Specials

Check Board for Specials

## FORTUNA Chinese Restaurant

Open for Lunch at Noon and Dinner at 5 pm (Closed Mondays)

## TAB FACILITIES

Sports Bet

FOX Sport

SKY Channel

## **WHAT'S ON .....**

### **MONDAY**

- Rock and Roll Dancing 7-10 pm

### **TUESDAY**

- Bingo 7.00 pm (electronic pads available)

### **WEDNESDAY**

- Monthly Raffle 7pm 2nd Wed of Month

### **THURSDAY**

- Bingo 11.30 am

- Texas Hold'em Poker 7 pm

- **MEMBER'S Badge Draw** \$3000-\$5000 from 7 pm

### **FRIDAY**

- Bingo 11.30 am

- CLUB BRASHS—Playing Retro Music 8 pm-12 am

### **SATURDAY**

- Meat Run RAFFLE 4-6 pm

- Rock'n'Roll Bands, Shows and Lounge Music 7.30 pm - Midnight

\*\*\*\* Check "WHAT'S ON BOARD" for Details \*\*\*\*

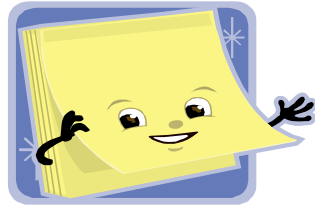
Is gambling a problem for you? G-Line (NSW) is a confidential anonymous and free counselling service  
FREECALL 188 633 635

O'Hare Approach Control to a 747: "United 329 heavy, your traffic is a Fokker, one o'clock, three miles, Eastbound."

United 239: "Approach, I've always wanted to say this. I've got the little Fokker in sight."







### **IMPORTANT MESSAGE REGARDING DAYS OF OPERATION FOR PENSIONS AT THE ST MARYS VETERANS CENTRE**

Pension claims at the 'Train' are now carried out on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday between the hours of 9:00 am to 1:00 pm, however, these timings are flexible depending on availability of Pension Officers.

Anyone wishing to see a particular Officer should phone the office first to ensure they will be in attendance.

Veterans attending the 'Train' for the first time to start a claim should allow for at least two hours for the interview as initial interviews can be time consuming.

**Interviews are carried out on a 'first in first served' basis**



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Phone: 9623 6656  
Mobile: 0418 250 242

Office address:  
196 Queen Street  
ST. MARYS  
(Directly Opposite Library)



## Nepean Wives of Vietnam Veterans, Women's Support Group Winter Report

**President:** Maree Johnson

**Phone:** (02) 96237126

Registered Office  
C/O VVAA St Marys Outpost  
Cnr Mamre Road and Hall Street  
St Marys NSW 2760  
**(All Mail To the PO Box)**

**Secretary:** Maureen Clements  
**Treasurer:** Kay Hibbard

**Phone:** (02) 96753998  
**Phone:** (02) 98323562

It's that time of year again with the ANZAC services behind us. I was thrilled to be part of the presentation of this year's Dawn Service, along with currently serving members. I represented the Nepean wives group at each of the memorial services and laid a wreath on their behalf.

### ***Quilt from Craft Group***

Our craft group made a beautiful quilt, which was raffled off and drawn at the morning tea. Each member of the craft group had sewn a strip and it was sent away to be quilted, this cost was covered by our group. The winner was a lady from Legacy. \$488.00 was raised from this raffle.

### ***Morning tea for Cancer***

The much planned and cooked for Morning Tea for cancer, was a huge success this year, with \$4286.25 raised for oncology services in the Nepean Area. Thank you to everyone that contributed. This total includes the raffle and the entry fees.

Knitted turbans for the Nepean Cancer Centre, will be presented to them at our earliest convenience.

All our funds raised on the day, are given to local cancer services, as these are the ones that assist the people in our community. We purchase items that are not available through the health system, such as a chair for Nepean Palliative Care, which can also be used as a bed for relatives. Outdoor setting in the pergola so families can meet for tea or a picnic. A special mention to Cheryl, Maureen, Sue and Carol for their knitted beanies, turbans and scarves.

The train washes again assisted with setting up the tables and chairs. We really appreciate the help they give us. Reno has always made himself and his crew available to assist us on the day. While I'm on the subject of thank you, our scone making Ken Ward, a big thanks, they always go down well.

### ***Christmas Boxes for deployed Defence Members***

Members have decided to send our parcels to the troops for Christmas in July, as it seems that many other organisations send theirs in December. We will be knitting more beanies, though we're still using wool that was donated by the Sub-Branch, St Marys RSL., and individual members. It was decided that the committee will go to Costco to purchase items and donations are welcome.

### ***Social Outings***

The monthly dinners are very well attended, it's always a good chance to catch up and chat. We haven't been asked to leave yet, though the laughter is sometimes over the top. We also had lunch on the Nepean Belle. Calm waters and sunshine made it a very enjoyable day. We call this our Mother's Day outing and like to celebrate it each year. It was great to see some Blacktown members join us as well. Your always welcome ladies.

### ***Christmas in July***

We are returning to Berowra Waters for Christmas in July. The bus will leave the hall at 11am. Roland Storm will be the entertainment on the day.

### ***Vietnam Veterans Day***

Vietnam Veterans Day will again be commemorated on the 18th of August. We would love to see more of our members attend and bring their husband along. They always put on a great day, don't forget your coats as its usually very cold.

### ***Retreats***

Some of our members went on a retreat to 'BULLWARRA' resort at Terrigal, in February. They had a great time with wonderful weather and fantastic company. Sadly they have reported back that the management are looking to closing the resort, through lack of interest. Please think about spending a few days at BULLWARRA, it overlooks the water and a 5 minute walk to the beach. The only criteria to stay there at a very reasonable cost, it that you are connected to a current or ex-service person. They have two self-contained cottages and many units to rent, an Olympic size swimming pool and 5 minute walk to the Terrigal Hotel. You need only to take your clothes and food if you not eating out.

Names have been taken for our Winter Retreat to Leura. A lovely house is rented out for the week and we're always hoping for snow. The log fire burns all day and its really cosy. I'm looking forward to a great week of laughter, shopping, drinking and eating!

That just about covers all the news, we have a special event for next year, though more about that in our next report.

Keep on, keeping on

Cheers

Maree Johnson JP.



### **COMPUTER TRAINING CLASSES**

Computer Classes are conducted at the Vietnam Veterans Train situated at the St Marys RSL Club in Mamre Road St Marys as follows:

Tuesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Wednesday: 9:00 am - 12:00 pm (LadiesClass)

Thursday: 9:00 am - 11:00 am

Thursday classes teach Digital Photo manipulation using Photoshop Elements 5, only 5 students at a time **Bookings essential.**

The Tuesday and Wednesday classes are informal and we teach mixed classes from the 'beginner' to the more experienced and retired seniors wanting to familiarise with current software and learn to use the Internet to send E-Mails and carry out research and other technology related issues.

**For more info call Keith 9833 4700 or  
email [vietvet@tpg.com.au](mailto:vietvet@tpg.com.au)**

A DC-10 had come in a little fast and thus had an exceedingly long roll out after touching down. San Jose Tower Noted: "American 751, make a hard right turn at the end of the runway, if you are able. If you are not able, take the Guadalupe exit off Highway 101, make a right at the lights and return to the airport."



## ST MARYS RSL BOWLERS CLUB

The bowlers club invites all members and visitors to utilize the excellent facilities available with our two greens, spacious bowls lounge and function room. We have a great social bowls programme and free coaching for those interested in starting out. Bowls are available from the club, so there is no cost outlay to start your new pastime.

We also have a strong representation in both male and female pennant teams (representative) which is available to any member to enter. You don't have to be a champion bowler to play pennants. So come along and join in the fun.

### Social Bowls Programme

Tuesday	Any Pairs	9.30am Start
Wednesday	Any Pairs	10.30am Start
Thursday	Ladies Bowls	9.30am Start
Friday	Mens Pairs	1.00pm Start
Saturday	<u>Free Coaching</u>	10.00am – 12 noon
Saturday	Any Pairs	1.00pm Start
Sunday	Turkey Trots (mixed Bowls)	9.30am Start

Contact the Bowls Office via Club Reception on 9623 6555



A Ukrainian immigrant goes to the Motor Vehicles Registry to apply for a driver's licence. He has to take an eye test.

The clerk shows him a card with the letters: C Z W I X N O S T A C Z

"Can you read this?" the clerk asks.

"Read it?" the Ukrainian replies, "I know the guy."





# THE MYSTERY BOATS

Author: Geoffrey Barker Date: 28/11/2003 Publication: Australian Financial Review Section: Magazine Page: 16 Source: AFR.

It's the great untold story of Australian naval history. Throughout the last decade of the cold war, Australian Oberon-class submarines conducted perilous intelligence-gathering operations off the coasts of Vietnam, Indonesia, China and India as part of a global effort to check the Soviet Navy's formidable fleet. Shrouded in secrecy until now, their exposure would have had the power to bring down the government of the day.



DEEP BELOW the choppy surface of the South China Sea, they waited in silence. Inside a black, barnacled metal cigar, 90 metres long and 8.7 metres wide, the stench of diesel fuel and the sour sweat of the crowded 75 men pervaded the humid heat, but nobody noticed. On the surface above, a new Soviet frigate was heading into Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay at a gentle five to six knots.

Seeing an opportunity for what submariners call an 'underwater look', the O-boat Commanding Officer (CO) positioned himself about 1,000 yards (914 metres) behind the frigate to check its speed and course. Then he dived deep and closed quickly to about 200 yards behind the frigate to calculate the depth at which he could photograph its hull shape, propellers, weapons systems and sonar. How close he came would depend on the sea, the keel depth of the frigate and the height of the submarine.

With these calculations in mind, the CO slowed the submarine to about a half-knot above the frigate's speed and listened to course and direction readings from his sonar operators. "Red two getting louder ... Green three softer ... right ahead," the sonar operators called, indicating how many degrees to port or starboard, or how directly, the two vessels were aligned. When the submarine was just 50 yards behind the frigate, the CO raised his periscope. Now, finally, he could see the wake of the frigate. It was his first close visual sighting.

He brought the submarine to within six feet (1.8 metres) of the frigate's hull and passed silently along one side. The O-boat's cameras and hydrophones recorded the images and sounds of the Soviet vessel. Once past the frigate, the CO altered course slightly, slowed down, and allowed the unsuspecting surface vessel to overtake the submarine on the opposite side. Again, the cameras and hydrophones were recording. "If you got it right the first time, it generally took about 30 minutes to complete the maneuver," retired RearAdmiral Peter Clarke tells The AFR Magazine, 20 years later. "But it was a very full-on thing. You were driving several thousand tons of submarine to within feet of a vessel that you could not see."

Rear-Admiral Clarke commanded the British O-boat HMS Oberon and the nuclear submarine HMS Tireless before transferring to the RAN 10 years ago. A former RAN submarine squadron commander and force element group leader, he adds: "You had to have a three-dimensional picture in your head of what was happening in the water. If you were taking an underwater look at a submarine, you were always concerned that it might dive onto you."

An underwater look was particularly perilous in the warm and turbid water of the South China Sea where visibility is poor. "If we'd raised our periscope, we would have punctured the surface ship's hull," another former O-boat commander recalls. But the risks of collision and death, or of the humiliation of discovery and capture, were worth taking for the intelligence rewards. A successful underwater look would give Western Navies complete and accurate knowledge of the defensive and offensive performance capabilities of a potential Soviet adversary. In the event of hostilities, this would be an important combat edge.

WHAT EXACTLY the O-boats did from the end of the 1970s until the early 1990s has been one of the great untold stories of Australian Naval history - until now. A decade after the end of the patrols, and nearly five years after the last O-boat was replaced by the Australian-built Collins class submarines, the Navy is still extremely reluctant to discuss the patrols.



Many former O-boat commanders say their work and achievements are still too sensitive to disclose. But they want their story to be told and acknowledged. One reason their freedom to speak openly is still restricted by security regulations is that the Collins class submarines are now engaged in sensitive intelligence-collection activities. "We don't want to spook the neighborhood," one knowledgeable political figure says.

But some lips have been loosened by the publication of books on the Cold War activities of the US and British submarine forces. *Blind Man's Bluff: The Untold Story of American Submarine Espionage*, by Sherry Sontag and Christopher Drew (Public Affairs, 1998), tells the American story. *We Come Unseen* by Jim Ring (John Murray, 2001) tells the British story.

Against the background of these publications, some Australian politicians, public servants and submariners have been prepared to give *The AFR Magazine* a glimpse into the secret and silent Cold War world of the O-boats, albeit usually on condition of anonymity. Quite apart from revealing a remarkable chapter of Australian maritime history for the first time, the story of the O-boat patrols shows just how diligently Australia has, down the decades and under successive governments, pursued the US alliance.

The Australian O-boat patrols were a response to increasing concerns about the expansion of the Soviet Pacific Fleet under Admiral Sergei Gorshkov from the early 1970s. "It was the second biggest fleet after the Northern Fleet based at Murmansk," a former intelligence officer recalls. "By the late 1980s, Cam Ranh Bay on Vietnam's east coast had become a highly significant Soviet base. There were at least 15 surface ships, some submarines, 30 bomber aircraft, a SIGINT [signal intelligence] station, missile-handling facilities and 10,000 Soviet troops," he says.

From Cam Ranh Bay, Soviet ships would go into the Pacific to target the West Coast of the US. And they were only a few days' travel from Australia's vital sea lines of communications. So the US and Australia shared concerns about the strategic implications of the big Soviet presence. Ironically, the Cam Ranh Bay base had been built by the Americans during the Vietnam war, but was leased by Vietnam to the Soviet Union in 1979. (In May last year, Russia agreed to hand it back to Vietnam.)

Australia's secret O-boat patrols started in 1978 and ended in 1992. They were cancelled by the then Defence Minister in the Keating Labor government, Senator Robert Ray, who, according to senior Submariners, panicked when told that one of the O-boats had come dangerously close to being detected. "We paid a high price with that cancellation, both in terms of the body of knowledge we were developing, and in terms of maintenance of the capability," says one Veteran of the patrols.

There were, in all, 16 patrols during those 14 years, meaning that one O-boat was out collecting intelligence continuously for part of each year. Two of the six O-boats - Orion and Otama - were the RAN's designated 'mystery boats' and were specially fitted for intelligence collection. They made most of the patrols, but Otway and Oxley also made secret patrols. Onslow and Ovens were not involved, but were deployed to track Soviet submarines moving into the Arabian Gulf from Vladivostok via the Coral Sea, south of Tasmania, across the Great Australian Bight and past Cape Leeuwin in WA. The Soviet subs took this route in an effort to avoid detection, but Onslow and Ovens kept an eye on them.

The men primarily responsible for the patrols were former O-boat CO (Otama, Onslow and Otway) Commander Peter Horobin, who was deputy director of submarine policy, and the electronics expert James Armstrong, director of Navy Electronic Warfare. Horobin was a quiet and utterly determined Australian; Armstrong a brilliant English boffin who shocked his colleagues when he announced one day that his uncle was Donald Maclean, the notorious Soviet spy.

It is still not clear exactly why the RAN started the patrols. Some former O-boat commanders believe Australia felt it had to contribute high-quality intelligence to the US and UK to establish the RAN's credentials and credibility at what was then the sharp end of the global Cold War submarine contest. Former intelligence officers say the patrols started at the request of the US. What is certain is that the Australian submarine arm won its spurs in these perilous days of the Cold War.

This was partly because the large US nuclear-powered deep ocean attack submarines were less suited to close-in intelligence-collection patrols in relatively shallow coastal waters. Moreover, the US and British nuclear submarine fleets were fully occupied tracking Soviet submarine activity from their submarine bases on the icy Kola Peninsula in the Barents Sea and at Petropavlovsk on the Kamchatka peninsula below the Sea of Okhotsk. US boats were also watching Soviet Pacific Fleet headquarters at Vladivostok on the Sea of Japan.

In the Northern waters, especially in the Arctic region, British Oberon class submarines were conducting electronic surveillance, acoustic signature recording and underwater looks. So it fell to the Australian O-boats to target Cam Ranh Bay and the South China Sea. They also, inevitably, took the opportunity to look over, and

listen in to, places of interest en route on the coasts of China and India, which had close defence relations with the Soviet Union. "Conventional submarines are much better than nuclear submarines at littoral surveillance," a political figure familiar with the secret patrols says. "They can get into harbours for a decent look. They can get close to boats and have a useful capacity to listen to their emissions and look at their sonar and propulsion systems." "If they get close to the coast they also have a capacity to hear what else is around. By getting close to a facility or to a city you can identify a considerable amount of what is being emitted. And that is useful for targeting purposes," he says.

The men who drove the O-boats were among the most remarkable Australian seafarers of their generation. Former commanding officers remember their training at the famous British Perisher submarine command course and their patrols as the most intensely lived moments of their lives. They included the legendary Commander Bob Woolrych, now an avocado farmer in Queensland, and retired Rear-Admiral Peter Briggs, who ended a distinguished Naval career in charge of the Collins class submarine repair operation. Others remain in sensitive Naval and intelligence posts.

See the next issue of Western Outpost News for the rest of this fascinating article....

## **IF YOU, OR A VETERAN YOU KNOW, IS FEELING**



**THEN IT'S TIME FOR A CHAT WITH OUR WELFARE OFFICERS  
VISIT THE VETERANS CENTRE, LOCATED IN**

**“THAT TRAIN”**

**CNR MAMRE ROAD and HALL STREET ST MARYS**



## **THE BEST TIME TO ACT IS NOW!**

## MONOPOLY - AN INTERESTING STORY BEHIND THIS GAME

(You'll never look at the game the same way again!)

Starting in 1941, an increasing number of British Airmen found themselves as the involuntary guests of the Third Reich, and the Crown was casting about for ways and means to facilitate their escape.

Now obviously, one of the most helpful aids to that end is a useful and accurate map, one showing not only where stuff was, but also showing the locations of 'safe houses' where a POW on-the-lam could go for food and shelter. Paper maps had some real drawbacks ~ they make a lot of noise when you open and fold them, they wear out rapidly and if they get wet, they turn into mush. Someone in MI-5 (similar to America's OSS) got the idea of printing escape maps on silk. It's durable, can be scrunched-up into tiny wads and unfolded as many times as needed, and makes no noise whatsoever. At that time, there was only one manufacturer in Great Britain that had perfected the technology of printing on silk and that was John Waddington, Ltd. When approached by the government, the firm was only too happy to do its bit for the war effort.

By pure coincidence, Waddington was also the UK Licensee for the popular American board game, Monopoly. As it happened, 'games and pastimes' was a category of item qualified for insertion into 'CARE packages', dispatched by the International Red Cross to prisoners of war.

Under the strictest of secrecy, in a securely guarded and inaccessible old workshop on the grounds of Waddington's, a group of sworn-to-secrecy employees began mass-producing escape maps, keyed to each region of Germany or Italy where Allied POW camps were regional system). When processed, these maps could be folded into such tiny dots that they would actually fit inside a Monopoly playing piece. As long as they were at it, the clever workmen at Waddington's also managed to add:

- 1 A playing token, containing a small magnetic compass
- 2 A two-part metal file that could easily be screwed together
- 3 Useful amounts of genuine high-denomination German, Italian, and French currency, hidden within the piles of Monopoly money!

British and American air crews were advised, before taking off on their first mission, how to identify a 'rigged' Monopoly set - by means of a tiny red dot, one cleverly rigged to look like an ordinary printing glitch, located in the corner of the Free Parking square. Of the estimated 35,000 Allied POWs who successfully escaped, an estimated one-third were aided in their flight by the rigged Monopoly sets. Everyone who did so was sworn to secrecy indefinitely, since the British Government might want to use this highly successful ruse in still another, future war.

The story wasn't declassified until 2007, when the surviving craftsmen from Waddington's, as well as the firm itself, were finally honored in a public ceremony.

Check it out on SNOPEs - it is true!! ..... <http://www.snopes.com/military/monopoly.asp>

The gist of this account about maps (and other items useful for escape efforts) being smuggled to Allied POWs during World War II by cleverly hiding them in Monopoly game sets is true, although some of the finer details in this particular account may be inaccurate.

The general outline of the scheme to smuggle escape aids to POWs through specially manufactured Monopoly kits is recounted (among other places) in *The Game Makers*, a 2004 history of the Parker Brothers game company:




When Allied airman began to risk their lives flying missions over Europe, Parker Brothers' English partner found a way to use the Monopoly game to come to the aid of those captured by the Germans. The British War Office worked with a select group of Waddington staffers to modify Monopoly Boards for insertion in games that the Red Cross would deliver to Allied Prisoners-of-War. These workers carved out precise depressions in the unfinished game boards and, before applying their labels, filled them with low-profile compasses, files, and maps that depicted escape routes from each prison camp where each game was to be sent. (The maps were printed on silk, because silk did not rustle when opened. Waddingtons had perfected this process to such an extent that virtually all British flyers climbed into their warplanes with a Waddington's map secreted in the heel of one of their boots.) Hidden among the games' play money was real currency – German, Italian, or Austrian. It is not known how many airman escaped thanks to these Monopoly games.

Regardless of when it may have been officially declassified, information about the rigged Monopoly kits was openly acknowledged and discussed long before 2007. A 1985 Associated Press article, for example, reported that:



"Waddingtons, which received the license to distribute Monopoly in Britain in 1935 from Parker Brothers in the United States, got involved in aiding the Prisoners-of-War because of its printing expertise. It printed maps for the military on durable silk."





## ALLAN DUNCAN REALTY

*"Giving back to the Community"*

Allan Duncan is a retired detective sergeant and qualified negotiator with 23 years experience in the NSW Police Force. He is also the co-founder and present councillor of the Hawkesbury Police and Emergency Services post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) support group. Having been a resident of the Hawkesbury for 45 years, Allan is familiar with the local area and since entering real estate has sold millions of dollars worth of real estate. He recently achieving equal first in a major sales competition in NSW.

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Principal

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A Pan Am 727 flight waiting for start clearance in Munich overheard the following:  
 Lufthansa (in German): "Ground, what is our start clearance time?"  
 Ground (in English): "If you want an answer you must speak in English."  
 Lufthansa (in English): "I am a German, flying a German airplane, in Germany. Why must I speak English?"  
 Unknown voice from another plane (in a beautiful British accent):  
 "Because you lost the bloody war."



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**St Marys RSL Sub-Branch**  
**Corner Mamre Road and Hall St.**

The RSL Sub-Branch monthly meeting is held the second Wednesday of each month at 6.30 pm in the auditorium, refreshments provided. The office is open most mornings between 10.00am-12noon and can be contacted on **9623 6555**.

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This newsletter is produced and printed at the VVAA St Mary's Outpost in association with the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch. it is provided free of charge to members of both Associations. Views and statements made within the magazine are not necessarily the views of the St Mary's RSL Sub-Branch or the VVAA St Mary's; the Editor and the organisations are not giving legal, accounting or other professional advice and therefore do not accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the opinions or information contained in the magazine. We believe that the sources are accurate at the time of publication. Care should be exercised by readers who attempt to use this publication as a source of reference material for any purpose other than its intended use, which is light informative reading on topics of interest for the Veterans of both associations.

John Davison - Editor

## Roll of Honour

Australian soldiers who died on operations around Five Support Bases Coral and Balnoral

Number	Rank	Name	Unit	Service	Age	Date of death
279511	Pvt	R. J. Baker	5/6th	AAA	27	17 May 1965
117731	Cpl	R. B. Baker	5/6th	AAA	35	18 May 1965
43421	Sgt	P. J. Carey	7/8th	AAA	26	18 May 1965
76754	Pvt	R. J. McFady	5/6th	AAA	26	18 May 1965
176136	Pvt	J. A. D. Brown	5/6th	AAA	19	18 May 1965
128475	Capt	C. J. Russell	5/6th Regt	AAA	35	18 May 1965
271126	Capt	H. Smith	5/6th Regt	AAA	31	18 May 1965
196036	Sgt	L. G. Sheppard	5/6th	AAA	30	18 May 1965
176136	Pvt	R. M. Franklin	5/6th	AAA	19	18 May 1965
36491	Pvt	R. C. L. Sweeney	5/6th	AAA	30	18 May 1965
311552	Cpl	D. M. Williams	5/6th	AAA	38	18 May 1965
255601	Cpl	C. G. Williams	5/6th	AAA	35	18 May 1965
126238	Pvt	L. B. Baker	5/6th	AAA	30	18 May 1965
176461	Cpl	D. E. Parker	5/6th	AAA	30	18 May 1965
173361	Cpl	M. W. Adams	5/6th	AAA	32	18 May 1965
196120	Pvt	A. J. Taylor	5/6th	AAA	31	18 May 1965
255600	Pvt	H. W. White	5/6th	AAA	32	18 May 1965
272388	Sgt	A. H. Young	49th Regt	AAA	21	18 May 1965
171880	Pvt	R. F. Young	12th	AAA	31	18 May 1965
255175	Maj	G. A. Davidson	4th Light Horse Bn	AAA	31	18 May 1965
196038	Pvt	L. B. Baker	5/6th	AAA	30	18 May 1965
441573	Pvt	A. J. Taylor	5/6th	AAA	30	18 May 1965
176461	Pvt	M. W. Adams	5/6th	AAA	32	18 May 1965
474841	Pvt	R. M. Franklin	5/6th	AAA	19	18 May 1965
176136	Pvt	R. M. Franklin	5/6th	AAA	19	18 May 1965
255601	Pvt	C. G. Williams	5/6th	AAA	35	18 May 1965

[AAA=5th Australian Armoured Brigade (Armoured) Service]

