

Mushroom News.

The official Newsletter of the Ops Room Association of Australia Inc.

PATRONS:

Dr David Shackleton, AO
Vice Admiral RAN (Retired)
Raydon Gates, AO CSM
Rear Admiral RAN (Retired)



PRESIDENT:

Gordon Lowe.

SECRETARY/TREASURER:

Chris Mitchell.

Email : [Secretary](mailto:Secretary@opsroomassociation.org.au)

<https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>

From the President:

Dear Members and Partners,

Welcome to this edition of the Spring Newsletter, shortly we will gather in Western Australia for the 2024 Reunion. This is your opportunity as an ORA Member to elect the 2024-2026 Committee to manage the Association until the next AGM in 2026.

We will be forwarding by email documents for both the AGM and the GM, so keep an eye out for them around the 15th September.

On a final note, please ensure that we are kind to one another! It takes so little effort to smile or to say THANK YOU.

Kindest Regards,
Gordon Lowe—President.

From the Secretary/Treasurer:

Dear Members,

Thanks Raydon for your interesting naval career.

The reunion is nearly upon us with many stories to be relived. If you are unable to attend please forward your apology to me.

The AGM is being held for election of the Executive and Committee members for the next 2 years. If interested please fill out a nomination form that will be sent out in early to mid September.

Items for the agenda for the **GM** meeting being held after **AGM**, please forward to me by 15 October 2024. I will be travelling to WA by car from 7 October, so I may not be able to provide ORA administrative details or banking details. Depending on the internet and mobile phone coverage.

I look forward to a chat in Perth.

Regards, Mitch

Email Secretary: secretary@opsroomassociation.org.au



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POINTS OF INTEREST:

- RADM Gates - Reflection.
- 2024 Reunion News.
- ORA Rabbits .
- Photos various
- DVA Assistance.
- “Much Given” By Mark Kelly
- “Dits” from the Past.

2024 ORA Reunion News—Western Australia

18th—20th October 2024

Visit the **Members Area** of our website to view more information and things to do over the reunion weekend and your visit to Western Australia.

Hi Everyone,

Excitement is Building! Under 2 Months to Go Until Perth in October 2024!

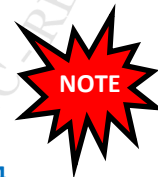
We can't wait to welcome you to the historic port of Fremantle for a weekend of catching up and sharing stories.

Don't forget to complete your registrations and make your payments to ensure you don't miss out on this wonderful weekend.

Secure your accommodation soon—whether at the Esplanade or another nearby venue.

We hope for beautiful weather as always and encourage you to explore other regions of our stunning Western Australian paradise while you're here. Looking forward to seeing you in just 6 weeks! Check out the website...for more information.

Nicola Carson & the WA Reunion Committee Team



REGISTRATIONS & RABBITS CLOSE : 30th September 2024

Reasons:

Hotel requires final numbers by 1st October & the Rabbits need time for orders to be completed and posted.

THE ESPLANADE HOTEL: THE REUNION VENUE

The Esplanade Hotel, is part of the Rydges Group and provides discounts on accommodation via their Priority Guest Rewards program. This program provides:

- Discounts of their best accommodation rates online.
- Discounts of food and drinks.
- Earn and Redeem points, and VIP Benefits & extras.

Join online at: <https://www.rydges.com/priority-guest-rewards/>



If you have a preferred accommodation website, please compare prices before you book.

2024 ORA Reunion News—Western Australia

ORA 2024 REUNION NEWS – FREMANTLE WA

This reunion is open to ALL Past & Present RDF, RP & CSO Personnel.

Dates: 18th - 20th October 2024.
Venue: Esplanade Hotel Fremantle - Refer Page 2 for rewards program.

The ORA Program & Information:

Friday Night - 18 OCT 24 **MEET & GREET** : Sirius Room—REGISTRATION OPENS FROM 1300
 Function Starts: 1900 to 2300.
 Includes: Canapes & 2 drinks on arrival... then cash bar.
 Dress Code: Smart casual

Saturday Morning - 19 OCT 24 **AGM:** 1000 to 1200.

Saturday Evening - 19 OCT 24 **FORMAL DINNER:** 1900 to 2300.
 Includes: Buffet style Dinner & Drinks Package.
 Dress Code: Smart Casual with Jacket-After 5/Cocktail Wear
 —Medals optional

Sunday (All day) - 20 OCT 24 Own Arrangements for Individual Day Trips and Tours.
 Refer Members area of the website for detailed list.

Sunday Afternoon - 20 OCT 24 **CLOSING DRINKS** - Venue & Times TBA closer to the Reunion.
 Buy your own drinks. (BYOD)

Dress Codes: Friday Night & Saturday Morning – Smart Casual.
 Saturday Evening: Ladies & Gentlemen Smart Casual
 With Jacket after 5 / Cocktail wear.

Travel to Reunion: Own Arrangements – Airlines, Trains, Driving, Shanks’s Pony.

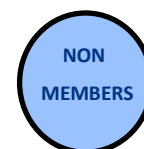
Accommodation: Own Arrangements : - Lists of various accommodations will be posted on our website closer to the reunion dates.

Costings Per Person:

ORA Financial Members:	\$310
Partner of Member:	\$310
Friday & Saturday Nights	
NON-ORA Members:	\$350
Partner of NON-ORA Member:	\$350
Friday & Saturday Nights	

REUNION REGISTRATIONS:

Please click the buttons below to register for the Reunion.



REGISTRATIONS CLOSE:
30th September 2024

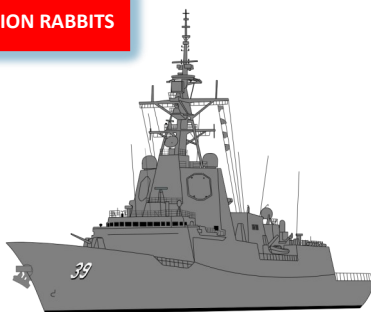


ORA REUNION RABBITS :

THE WA REUNION RABBITS SHOP

- Polo Shirts
- Quench Master Water Bottles
- Jubilant Sip insulated Water Bottles
- Gleam Elegance Insulated Wine Glass
- Silver Bottle Opener Keychain
- Bottle Opener USB 3.0 8gb
- Mousepads
- Slim Black Retractable stylus Ball Pen

Please go to the Members website to view the Reunion Rabbits.



ORDER FROM MEMBERS AREA UNDER REUNION RABBITS

A Reflection A REFLECTION



After my fellow Patron, David Shackleton, was cajoled by Bill Furey into writing a piece on life in the Bat Cave for the Mushroom News I suspected that it would not be long before Bill came looking for me – I was right! So, to start I reread Shacks' story and thought I could just say "ditto". As I write you will see how often our careers intertwined.

I am a born and raised Sandgroper, who grew up in the eastern suburbs of Perth far from the sea. I didn't really have any particular career in mind so after I matriculated, as I was a Queen Scout and liked the outdoors, Dad said I should join the Forestry, so I did. I quickly realised that even though they gave me a very sharp axe I was not cut out (pun intended) to be a Forester, so I joined the Navy! I like to say that I actually worked for a living before I signed up. Levity aside, my father served in the RAAF for 33 years spending more than half his time in the Air Force proudly wearing the rank of Warrant Officer. I was always impressed with his love of service, his devotion to his team and dedication to our Nation. So really, I think I was always destined for a career in the Armed Services. In the end the lure of overseas travel attracted me to the Navy. Of course, as it turned out Dad, being in Signal Operations, had three postings to Hong Kong and one to Singapore. He would write letters to me from Hong Kong extolling the virtues of overseas travel while I was bouncing (repeatedly) around the coast of Australia!

I graduated from the Royal Australian Navy College in 1974 (my classmates and I are well into the planning for our 50th reunion) having spent the majority of my Midshipman's sea time onboard the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE (the real MELBOURNE I like to call it). That was my introduction to aircraft and air control, and naturally the Bat Cave. It was also my introduction to the many characters that the Bat Cave and working in the gloom seem to attract. I had the 'joy' of serving with David Shackleton, Paul Boddington and 'Bopper' Swain, just to name a few. Our Training Officer was Tim O'Sullivan, who taught us about being a team. After a couple of Midshipman failed the Dummy Board, he decided ALL of us should have our leave stopped so that we could all work together to ensure none of us failed the real Board. It worked, as we all passed, but an 'interesting' leadership style I thought! The hard part was not the stoppage of leave but paying our Mess Bills after two weeks onboard alongside!

David mentioned in his story that the indomitable Guy Griffiths was our Captain at this time. As a Midshipman standing watches on the Bridge (being watched over by the Assistant Officer of the Watch, who was being watched over by the real Officer of the Watch) being able to observe a WWII veteran and 'living legend' was awe inspiring. Even more so when he actually spoke to you, usually things like "Mid, what the hell do you think you are doing!". David also mentioned the A4 Skyhawk cold shot. As the Midshipman's Grot was full, I and another classmate were accommodated in a six-berth cabin – luxury! Our fellow cabin mates were four Sub Lieutenant A4 pilots. It was great as the cabin was dark all the time as our cabinmates worked ridiculously hard on the adage "that pilots must have eight hours of sleep a day and any at night is a bonus!" Naturally we could only agree.



Rear: Air Force Instructors.

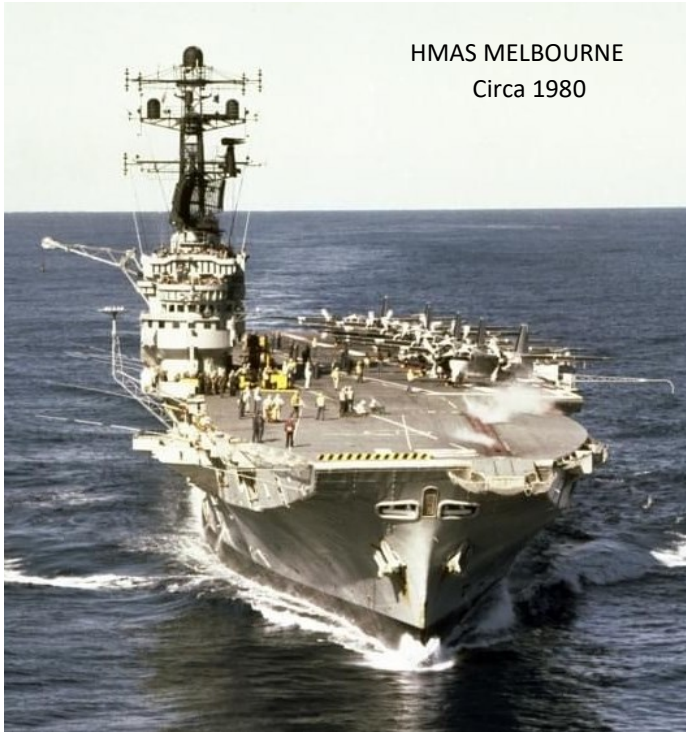
Seated L: R Bill Thorpe, Richard McMillan, Paul Gomm, Simon Woolrych, Mark Proctor & Raydon Gates

One of our cabin mates, Barry Jones, was the unfortunate (and incredibly lucky) pilot subject to the cold shot. From going off the bow to being dropped back on the flight deck by the 'Pedro' crew was all of two minutes! That night in the Wardroom, after being cleared by the Sick Bay, Barry was presented with Submariner and Clearance Diver category badges! Barry went on to have a successful career flying for Cathay Pacific based out of Hong Kong.

After our graduation parade from the RANC we were posted to six months of Operations and Weapons courses in the United Kingdom. We were the last RANC class to go to the UK and have that experience with the Royal Navy. I recall the currency exchange rate was most favourable and even with the exalted rank of Acting Sub Lieutenant we were well paid compared to our RN brethren. So, with inquisitive minds, adventurous spirit and a pocketful of personality we thoroughly enjoyed our time in OI' Blighty. We even passed our course exams!

Back home, it was down to real work gaining a Watchkeeping certificate in HMAS STUART under the expert eye of Commander Chris Hole. The highlight of the posting was the 'America 200' deployment to the United States to be part of their Bicentennial celebrations. We were in San Francisco for the 4th of July 1976 and duly sailed with other naval vessels in a smart line astern formation around the harbour not seeing anything or been seen by anybody – the entire day was an absolute 'peasouper' fog!

Eventually after a number of OOW postings to various ships and the obligatory time in Patrol Boats I did achieve my wish in 1978 to be posted to an Air Interceptor Controller's course at the aptly named Duck Hole at RAAF Base Williamtown. As you can see in the attached photo Petty Officer Bill Thorpe had the unenviable task trying to keep us all in check and on track, which he achieved admirably as we all passed.



HMAS MELBOURNE
Circa 1980

For me it was back to the old girl HMAS MELBOURNE where I was posted as D6! I think Bopper Swain was the D with David Oliver, Greg Clancy, Warren Smith, Paul Gomm and I rounding out the Direction Officer's team.

This was a great posting (even though I think I was in the same cabin that David mentioned immediately under number 2 arrestor wire) putting into practice all I had learnt and learning more and more every day. Especially as the opportunity of having the Carrier Air Group embarked meant that you received immediate feedback on the sortie soon after the A4's landed back on – some of it even good. It was also a great posting as David Martin was the captain; a real gentleman who taught me a lot about leadership and treating people with respect. It was a tough posting for him as we had a number of safety related issues: a tow line snap of the quarterdeck which hospitalised a

number of the quarterdeck party; an A4 go over the side as the arrestor wire ran out (pilot ejected safely); on the same day a Sea King lost its tail rotor, hit the side of ship and sunk (all crew rescued); and as David mentioned in his piece, an A4 went over the side with the maintainer in the cockpit; plus LWO2 literally fell overboard, thankfully it fell to seaward rather onto the flight deck where aircraft were arranged. Throughout it all, despite the pressure, especially from the media who were pushing the "jinxed ship" line again, Commodore Martin retained his composure and kept all of us in the crew focussed on the task at hand, the upcoming RIMPAC deployment.

After MELBOURNE I was posted as the AIC to HMAS HOBART where the D was one David Shackleton. This was a steep learning curve for me coming to grips with NCDS and controlling 'remotely' without prior or post briefings from the pilots. Also being the only AIC onboard, it was 'watch on stop on' while jets were airborne. CPORP Barry Conroy was an excellent, and patient, instructor on NCDS. I learnt fast. I was also a Bridge watchkeeper and again it was an excellent opportunity to gain experience from another accomplished captain, Tony Horton.

I was fortunate to be selected early for Principal Warfare Officer course so in November 1980 it was back to HMS DRYAD in the UK for nine months of warfare training. Again it was a privilege, and a lot of fun, to be back training with the RN. As expected, our training was very much Cold War focussed and yet as often happens in history, nothing goes as expected thus my British classmates were at war less than two years after graduation, but against Argentina! Thankfully all returned home safely, despite one being in a destroyer that was hit by an Exocet missile and subsequently sunk.



LEUT Raydon Gates
HMAS Perth 1982



For me it was straight home after PWO course, on to more NCDS training at CDSC and then joining HMAS PERTH as the PWO D.

As was the case with the DDGs at the time we were fully complemented with four PWOs and a fully qualified Navigator. Don Chalmers, who was the first Commander to command a DDG, thought as I was the D and therefore spent most/all of my time in the Ops room I should be the Operations Officer. This was a novel thought for the other three PWOs, who were all LCDRs, to have the LEUT as the Ops Officer.

However, it all worked out as we had a great team in the Wardroom, which was a blessing as we were soon on our way in early 1982 to the North West Indian Ocean and a six-month deployment working with two United States Navy Battle Groups. If not quite warfare, we were kept on our toes with daily operations within the Battle Group, regular over-flights by Russian surveillance aircraft, Russian submarine activity and almost constant AGI presence.

Again, a strong learning experience. The Bat Cave team lead by CPORP 'Ocker' O'Connell and ably supported by the likes of Terry Butler, 'Spy' Moon, Brian Mansell, Hans Tench, 'Jimbo' Denton, 'Bomber' Brown and Steve Bowater just to name a few, were kept very busy with the above-mentioned activities, but they assured me that they were enjoying it!

It was a welcome homecoming, some leave, much maintenance and a crew changeover before PERTH was deploying again, this time to the Southwest Pacific. Commander Ian Pfennigwerth was now our captain, plus we had a new XO, you guessed it, David Shackleton.

On return from that most enjoyable deployment I was posted to the RAN Tactical School at HMAS WATSON, my first 'real' shore posting that was not a gap filler or training course. With an AIO bent I had always enjoyed my time at WATSON, this posting was to be no different.

During my time at RANTACS we had three Directors, Commanders Jessuren, Chalmers and Youll. All with assorted styles of leadership but excellent to work with and the team of warfare officers of all disciplines enjoyed the challenges and experiences of working at RANTACS.

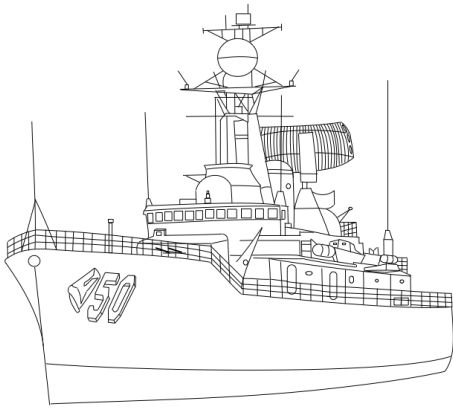
What we all did learn very early was that the person who really ran the day-to-day happenings was one Leading Wran RP Barb Jeffreys; she ran a tight ship!



RANTACS STAFF 1983/4

Back Row - L:R LCDR Raydon Gates, LCDR Tony Lanigan, LWRRP Barb Jeffreys, LCDR Geoff Smith, LEUT Allen Oliver.
Front Row - L:R Librarian Heather Parry, Scientist Dr Ralph Neumann, CMDR Steve Youll, Typist - unknown.

As for most of us, a posting to Canberra soon loomed, so in late 1984 my wife Alison and I packed up and reluctantly headed south from Sydney. This was to be the first of a number of postings for me in the personnel world, as I became the PWO poster within the Directorate of Naval Officer's Postings. I learnt very quickly that when you are the poster you suddenly have many more friends than you knew!



Then back to sea as XO of HMAS SWAN running out of HMAS STIRLING. While only one year, this was a terrific posting with a great crew and Wardroom. Many of the ratbag Sub Lieutenants from those days went on to become fine senior officers, much to my amazement.

All too soon it was back to Canberra for Joint Service Staff College and then a posting within Defence Headquarters. Then a real surprise; I was selected as the first to undertake study for a Master of Business Administration through Monash University. Going back to full-time study was a real shock but it was a terrific opportunity and a mind-expanding experience.

Then finally, Command! The day I joined HMAS CANBERRA was the first time I had stepped aboard an FFG. I had to be escorted to the CO's cabin! The ship was coming out of an Assisted Maintenance Period thus there was a major crew changeout however, we all learnt together, survived work up and with a little trepidation sailed for RIMPAC. This was a vastly different RIMPAC in that the BLUE Force sailed from San Diego and 'attacked' Hawaii rather than defend it. As the junior ship we had the 'privilege' of sailing early as the forward deployed picket – 1,000 nm forward deployed! This meant that we sailed three days before the rest of the Force; that went down really well with the crew!

It was while we were at RIMPAC that we were informed that CANBERRA was to be next ship operationally deployed to the North Red Sea in what would be Operation DAMASK VI. So, it was home for a month and then again six months deployed. DAMASK VI was an incredible deployment, both operationally and professionally rewarding, with the whole crew serving out the entire deployment. In fact, the team is having a DAMASK VI reunion later this year in Hobart. No doubt the likes of Shady Lane, Box Brennan, Ocker Collins and Whiz Wheeler will be present to liven things up with reminiscences, some of which may be true!

After 11 months deployed over the past 12 months a shore posting even looked attractive, and so it occurred, this time to Maritime Headquarters.

But thankfully promotion happened after a while, and it was back to sea in command of HMAS ADELAIDE.

The nearly two years of command was again rewarding and sometimes just plain fun, especially when 'up top'. The most important event of this command was the posting of a full mess deck of women to ADELAIDE. I found this a most enlightening experience that changed the dynamics of the ship for the better.

Everyone onboard just got on with it as if it was no big deal; I was immensely proud of the whole crew.

With all good things there is always an end. In my mind it was all too soon and it was back to Canberra for two more personnel related postings before surprise of surprises I was selected for promotion to 2* by Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Shackleton! First, I was the inaugural Commander of the new Australian Defence College and then the plumb job for a Seaman Officer in my opinion, Maritime Commander Australia. The weight of responsibility of that position was soon realised when the Government determined that Australia would have a maritime presence in the Arabian Gulf for the Iraq War of 2003. Preparing the crews and saying farewell as they sailed to the conflict zone was a testing time for all. Especially the families waving to their loved ones from the wharf as the ships departed.

That experience reinforced my belief that it is always about the people. I strongly agree with David who said in his article that the heart and soul of the ship are the senior sailors. With their experience they often determine how well the whole crew, officers included, perform and achieve the tasking set. However, I have always felt the 'mood' of the ship can be read from the Leading Seaman. I consider this the hardest rank in the Navy as you are promoted to more responsibility and yet your environment, i.e. the messdeck, does not change. Whenever I visited a ship as MCAUST I would try to have a private session with the Leading Seaman with only myself and my Command Warrant Officer, Dave Baker, present. Some of the CO's were uncomfortable with this, but hey, I was the Admiral and that is what I wanted. I learnt a lot from those sessions!

My last posting in the Navy was incredibly special; four years serving in the Embassy in Washington DC as the Head of Australian Defence Staff and as the Defence Attaché. It was an incredible experience and a wonderful way for both Alison and I to conclude 37 years of service in our Royal Australian Navy.

Post Navy I became involved in Defence Industry as the Chief Executive of Lockheed Martin (LM) Australia and New Zealand. It was an illuminating experience to be on the other side of the acquisition process, at times challenging and at times rewarding. We were constantly reminded by the senior executive team in the Headquarters in the US that in LM we serve those who serve. We tried our hardest to live to that guidance - plus make a profit! I retired from LM and full-time work in 2017; now it is a few Boards and a little pro-bono work, plus plenty of travel. It has been a fortunate and fulfilling career, but as I constantly remind myself, it is always about the people! And those folk working in the darkness of the Bat Cave were some of the best with which I had the privilege to serve.



HMAS Perth Radar Crew 1982

Photos: VARIOUS

LCSOAC Ali Scarfone, Ops Room—HMAS Newcastle 2005



LEUT Aaron Norley (ex LCSO), Unknown Civvie, CPOCSM Jock Campbell.

ANZAC DAY 2015



ABRP Trevor Norley (RIP)
HMAS Brisbane 1995

Photos Compliments Jock Campbell

Photos: COURSES

Back: FFLT Steve Petts, LEUT Wayne Haynes, UNK, SBLT Andy Mayne, UNK.

Front: LEUT Steve Hamilton, LWRRP Pauline McCormick, LCDR Ken Clements, SWRRP Chris Pearce, SBLT Dennis Gribble



L-R Rear SMNRP's—Darrell Milburn (RIP) , Mark O'Flanagan, Mick Sherwood, Dave Tunney, Bruce Mironow, Tony Onesti.

L-R Front SMNRP's Pricky Reed, WORP Norm Heyhorn, PORP Paul "Fuzz" Fernyhough, SMNRP Ed Sheils.

Photos: THE PAST



L:R Trev Corrigan (RIP) & Rod Smith 1978 HMAS Vampire

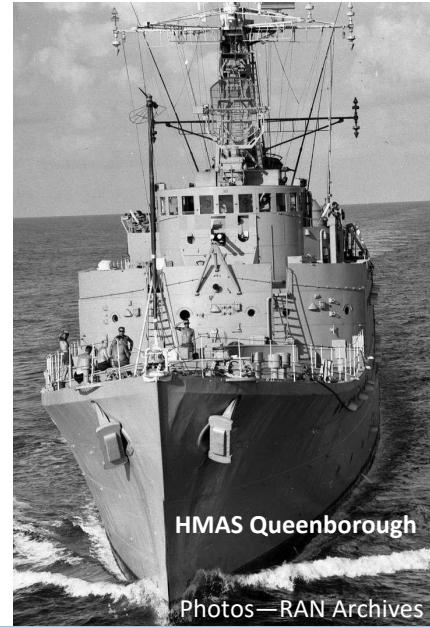


L:R Johno Johnston & Rod Smith
Loss of the S2's

Photos compliments of Rod Smith

Photos: SHIPS

HMAS Vengeance: On Loan to the R.A.N. from November 1952 until June of 1955. Photo—RAN Archives



“Have you any old Radar & Navy related photos, laying around in your shit hot drawers? Then send them in...for the website. Lets keep them for posterity.”



RFA Tidepool conducting a RAS with HMAS Derwent 1971 South China Sea
Photo—Webmaster

Photos: WRANS



Wrans Class 10 — HMAS Cerberus 3rd July 1968—Photo from HMAS Cerberus



“Have you any old Radar & Navy related photos, laying around in your shit hot drawers? Then send them in...for the website. Lets keep them for posterity”

Back Row L:R Unk, Unk, Unk, Unk, Unk.
Front Row L:R PO Jan Allen, Kaye Morgan, Unk , Unk.



VALE: PHILLIP LEONARD CHAPMAN



L to R : Kaye Morgan, Barb Jeffreys, Michele Chapman, Liz Grimes, Christine Cameron.



Michele & Liz

Attending Phil Chapman's Funeral on the 14th June 2024 in Brisbane

Our President Gordon Lowe represented the ORA at the funeral of our member Michele Chapman (ex CPORP and retired Lieutenant) of her husband Phillip Leonard Chapman (ex LCDR RAN and RANR – Gunnery Officer.)

At the funeral, the Queensland Naval Associations (WRANS – Christine Cameron, Kaye Morgan, Michele Chapman, Barb Jeffreys and Liz Grimes) plus Perry White and Gordon Lowe formed a guard of honour, a fitting tribute to a past Naval Member and his spouse - Michele Chapman a Member of the ORA.

RIP Phillip Chapman—Your duties are done, we now have the watch.

Photos compliments Gordon Lowe & Michele Chapman

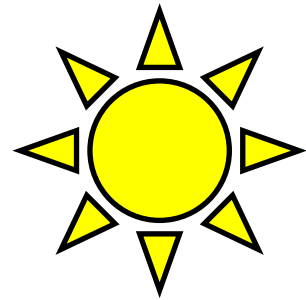
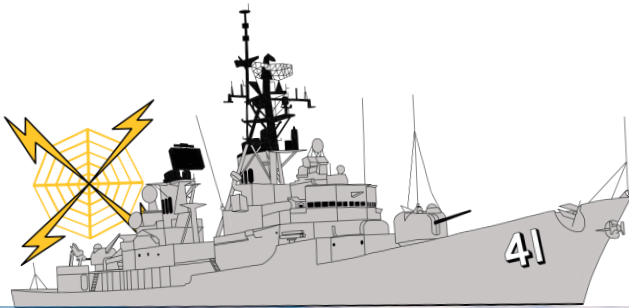


Members recently joined our Association:

**John Rynbout - Ross Heazlewood - Greg Reinke - Peter Eveille
Artie Lavender - Mike Gidley - Mark Kelly - Darryl Dunlop**

Welcome and we hope you enjoy being part of the Ops Room Association of Australia.
All Members, if you have any fresh ideas for improvement in any area, please don't hesitate to contact us.

If anyone would like to contact fellow Members of the Association, please get in touch with the Webmaster to make it happen. Permissions will be sought first, with all parties concerned.
A "Name List", of all Financial Members is listed in the members only area of the website.



DONATIONS & SPONSORS:

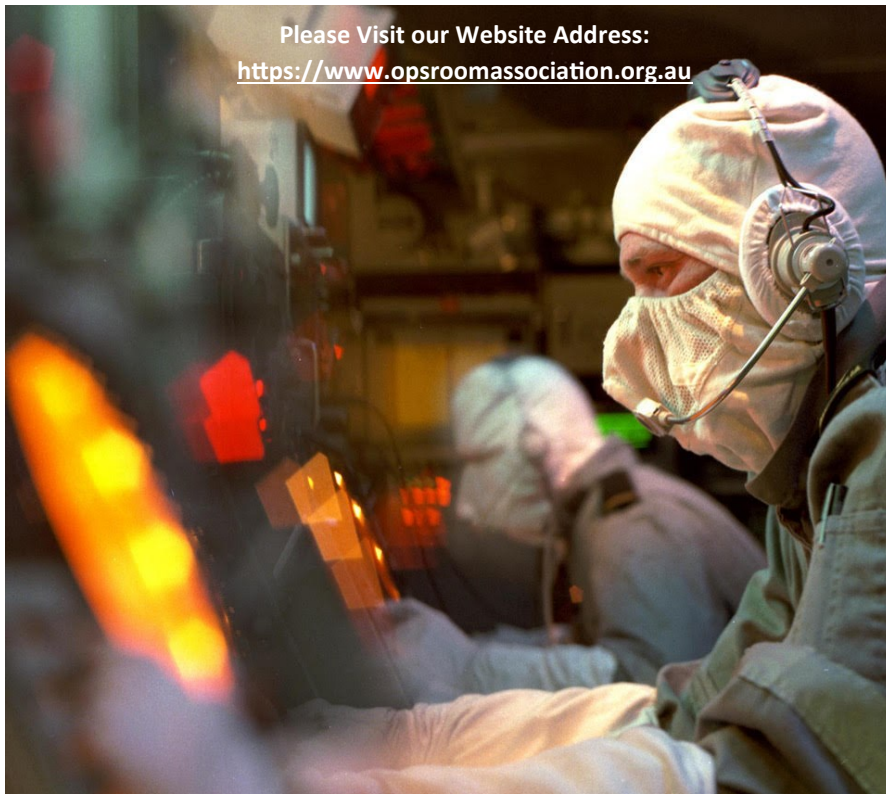


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Bexley NSW 2207
ph 9502 1966
www.bexleyrsl.com.au
info@bexleyrsl.com.au
ABN 86 001 062 380

A BIG thank you to the Bexley RSL & Community Club, for their generous \$300 Donation to the Ops Room Association. If any Member is in the area, why not drop in and pay them a visit. Their Support is gratefully accepted and will go to very good use, within our Association.

Regards ORA President: Gordon Lowe.

Please Visit our Website Address:
<https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>



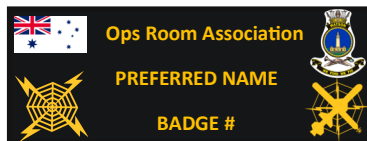
WEBSITE NEWS:



Please click on the buttons above to Join, Renew or Request Access to the Members Area.

The easiest way to find out your Membership status, is to go to the members area and check out the Members List...it gives you the information required.

ORA Name Badges:



If you require a new ORA Name Badge—please complete the application.
Pay \$50 to the account on the application form.
Your new badge will then be sent to your nominated postal address when we have enough orders.

[Click Here](#)



PRICE INCREASE: Effective immediately.

Please be aware that replacement Name Badges and the Membership Initial joining fee, has increased to \$50.

This is all due to increasing postage prices, apologies in advance.

Chris Mitchell—Secretary

ORA MEMBERSHIP:

Members are reminded that ORA Membership renewals are due on 30 June on any given year.

Membership costs only \$10 a year and you can pay for a max of 5 years for only \$45.

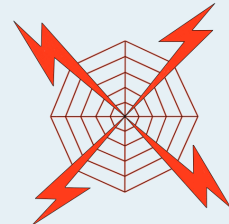
A list of ORA Members can be found in the Members Only section of our website. This list clearly indicates your Membership status.

Reminders are also sent out to all members...if you are unsure of your financials, please refer to the website or contact the webmaster.

The Joining Fee and lost badge replacement for Members is \$50.

Thank you.

Chris Mitchell—Secretary/Treasurer



ORA DONATIONS:

We have placed a link on our website for anyone who may wish to donate to the Ops Room Association...

The Donation Form is on the front page of the public website.

Instructions are on the Donation form :

Thank you in advance, for considering to donate to our Association.

[ORA Donation Form](#)

ORA SHOP

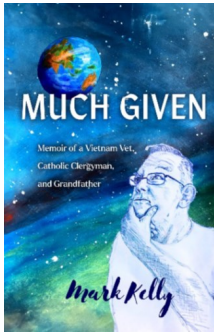


Please note that the ORA normal Shop on the members website has closed, until after the WA Reunion is finished.

Mitch, has all the products in WA for sale to Members.

“Much Given” by Mark

Memoir of a Vietnam Vet, Catholic Clergyman and Grandfather



My family's service tradition ranges from the Boer War, WW1 where we served and died on the Somme and at Beersheba, WW2 where we served and survived Syria, New Guinea and the Southwest Pacific, Vietnam where my, relatively minor, RAN service as an ABRP occurred and the Persian Gulf and Solomons where my son served as a Naval Officer.

This book explores how I got to be who I am and recounts some of the fun along the way.

As a Christian I have wrestled with the issue of war. I am in awe at a fair dinkum total Pacifists, but I can't go there myself. If we are prepared to defend our family, our neighbors, our town, our country, other countries in peril, then we have an obligation to defend to the best of our abilities. That is going to mean strong well-prepared armed forces and so all of us share an obligation with our politicians to make sure our service people remain the best of the best in our search for lasting and just peace for all.

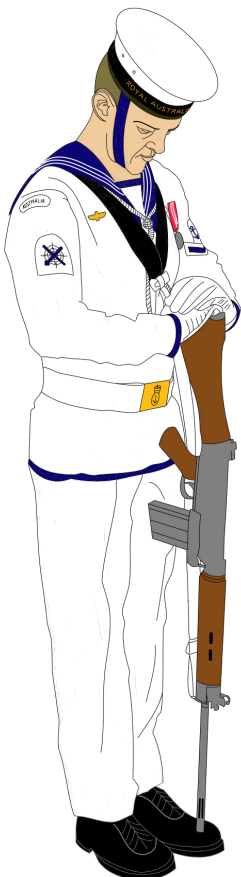
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Address by email: (mkelly@mscw.vic.edu.au)

“Please visit the Commemorative Wall in the members Area of our Website.”



ORA Commemorative Wall:

Recently Crossed the Bar: -



LSRP P D Sefton
R47620
NON MEMBER

ABRP Darryl Milburn
Unknown
NON MEMBER

WORPAC Ian Peters
Unknown
NON MEMBER

They have no grave but the cruel sea
No flowers lay at their head
A rusting hulk is their tombstone
A fast on the ocean bed.

They shall grow not old,
as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them,
nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun
and in the morning
We will remember them.

Lest We Forget

To view all our lists of who have crossed the bar.
Please visit the our Commemorative Pages in the
Members Area.

**If you know of any other of our Radar family,
who don't appear on our Memorial Walls, don't
hesitate to contact us.**

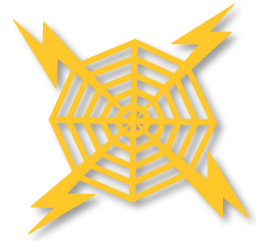
To Contact Us.

**If Possible: Please list... Full Names,
Ranks, Official Numbers,
Age & Date Crossed the Bar.**

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE.



“Dits” from the Past: By Bob Thomas



This is NO SHIT

The P Boat Incident – HMAS Hobart ‘72

Somewhere off Bradley’s Head (Sydney Harbour) in Hobart’s P Boat. Crew consisted of LS Jock Fisher coxswain, (later LCDR Fisher, later CEO of Raytheon Australia), AB Jimmy Legge bowman and AB me stern sheets. Suddenly we lost steering and as P Boats were single screw, all attempts to steer by engine were futile. There we were off Bradley’s Head going around in circles until we devised a plan to use a bucket tied to a rope over the side to offset the torque of the propeller. By now it was around lunchtime and we were lucky to be making any way against the tide. Fortunately, we were holding our own and not drifting toward the shore or out to sea. After what seemed a lifetime (probably closer to an hour of trying to hold the bucket without it pulling my arms off), we were rescued by a work boat from Garden Island. When we finally recovered the P Boat back onboard (after missing lunch), it became apparent that the rudder had fallen off while we were cruising past Bradley’s.

The 20 cent Goffas – HMAS Melbourne Mediterranean Sea 77

There were 12 of us POs berthed in 3 Delta Starboard inner mess. The mix was mostly RPs as well as two QMGs, a WM, a UW and a UC. There were four sets of bunks stacked four high but as there were only 12 of us, we only slept in the lower three using the top layer of bunks for stowage. Prior to sailing for the UK, we all pitched in and stocked up on goffas to ensure we had enough for the deployment. These we sold back to ourselves for 20 cents each. After months away, the ship’s canteen had exhausted their supply of goffas. We had departed Naples and were sailing through the Western Mediterranean on our way home. Word must have got out that we still had a supply of goffas as one day we were greeted with a knock on the door from the PO Dental Mechanic asking if he could purchase some from us. Without batting an eyelid, Bob MacGregor replies “yes mate, they’re 20 cents each or four for a dollar”. On hearing this, the Dental Mech replied “oh great, I’ll take four thanks”.

Sick Bay:

None in Sickbay to report

We are thinking of all our fellow crew members whilst in sickbay.

“Get well soon”.

OUR ORGANISATION:

The Association is a formation or gathering of former and serving personnel of the Royal Australian Navy or other Navies, who have completed Radio Direction Find (RDF), Radar Plotters (RP) & Combat System Operators (CSO) Basic Course or equivalent Course. Former Special Duty Plot Radar (SDPR), Operations Room Officers (ORO) / Principal Warfare Officers (PWO [D]) Direction Officers (D) and Air Intercept Controllers (AIC) Radar Plot Air Control (RPAC) having served in naval ops room billets or in training and support roles of naval ops rooms; and other individuals who have an interest in naval operation rooms and the Fleet.

ORA COMMITTEE:

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Barney Hanson (TAS)

Rory Munn (VIC)

David Tyrell-Clark (WA) - Deceased RIP

Webmaster:

Bill Furey (VIC)



DVA Assistance:

If members are needing assistance regarding dealing with DVA, entitlements, lump sum compensation, White to Gold Card, or just wanting to know where to start.

Alan Birkenhead a former RP has retired from RSL QLD as a Service Delivery Manager, but is still available to help out our members for DVA assistance. See the Website for contact details.

DVA HOT TOPICS

State Concessions with DVA:

[Click Here](#)

Latest News from the DVA Minister:

[Click Here](#)

Veterans' Legislation Reform Consultation Pathway:

[Click Here](#)

Veterans Covenant:

How to apply

Apply for your Lapel Pin and Oath on [MyService](#).

The easiest way to submit and track claims is to use MyService. Go to www.dva.gov.au/myservice to create an account or sign in to your existing one. In MyService, select 'Veterans' Covenant' and follow the prompts to apply.

Alternatively, you can:

- call DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372),
- or [visit a DVA office](#) to talk to someone in person



Annual General Meeting.

Date: To be held on Saturday 19th October 2024 at 1000

Venue: Esplanade Hotel Fremantle

Followed by a "General Meeting".

Secretary to send Agenda's by email approximately 15th September.

If any member has any items for inclusion in the Mushroom News, please email the secretary or webmaster. The opinions expressed in this Newsletter, are not necessarily those of the Association's Executive Committee. Articles and items are from many sources including the internet, various publications, and personal files and where possible will be acknowledged. The editors of the Mushroom News — Chris Mitchell and Bill Furey.