

Western Australian
Committee

'DOWN UNDER' Newsletter

Eastern States
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June 2011



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Monthly General Meeting June 8th 2011

Meeting opened at 1210 with our usual toast to 'Absent Friends'.

Due to unavoidable absence of President Buster, Alan Jameson kindly stepped in to fill the breach (vice President John Boycott being overseas).

Attendance: Alan JAMESON, Geoff ARNOLD, Bob PITMAN, Roy STEDMAN, Mick HANLON, Alan THOMAS, Peter RAY, Dennis WILLIAMS. Mick HANNAH, David GILBERTSON, Brian VINE, Ned NEWCOMBE, Jim MAJOR, John REEVE, Ted MANNING, Paul MEAKIN, Ken READ, Tom OATES, Pete GREENFIELD, Rick TALLOWIN, Eoin DOUGLAS-SMITH, Kath POULERIS

Apologies: Buster KEATING, Karl, CAMPBELL, Ron MCKENZIE, Bill LEE, Roy WIDGINGTON, John BOYCOTT, John MEEK, Ivor CHARLICK

Treasurer: Welfare Fund \$2458.66 General Account \$1930.97 Total Assets 8th June 2011: \$4389.63

Accepted: 1. Alan Thomas 2. Mick Hanlon

Secretary's Report: Minutes of MGM held on 11th May 2011 accepted. There was no correspondence in or out.

'Any Other Business'

Acting President stated that situation in the Eastern States had resolved itself but **Pat CULLUM** had resigned from his position as Events Coordinator.

Annual luncheon June 26th Bull Creek - numbers attending required ASAP.

Member **Dan JORDAN**, having macular degeneration that precludes him from driving, requested transport assistance to get to meetings. **Mick HANNAH** stated that he would pick him up from home at Stratton and accompany him on train from Midland to Flying Angel Club.

Application for membership **Stuart PRIGMORE** Eastern States (Lismore) already sent fees to treasurer; accepted.

Mick HANNAH gave report on his recent trip to UK - attended the **HMS DREADNOUGHT** reunion at Market Bosworth. Mick was presented with a book for the branch. He was unable to contact **Jim McMASTER** due to his absence on other engagements.

Paul MEAKIN reported on his visit to the Northern Ireland Branch meeting with the president, **Jack ERSKINE and Dave BARLOW**. Paul also said that the Branch banner was paraded before the dinner held on this occasion. (**Alan JAMESON** suggested that it could be a good thing if we could do likewise at the coming luncheon). Paul obtained a book "**WE COME UNSEEN**" which he had brought back for the branch.

Ken READ stated it would, perhaps, be of advantage if members provided a history of their service life for inclusion in a future eulogy on 'sailing on last patrol'. Ken said it could be distressing for N.O.K. to be contacted for details at their time of loss. **Paul MEAKIN** said that he had a proforma which he would make available (hopefully at the next MGM)

Alan THOMAS reported on recent visit to Istanbul for the International Submarine Convention. Alan stated that it was a wonderful experience and they were all kept entertained from dawn to dusk.

(N.B. Next convention will be hosted by Greece in 2014). *Also see full report in this newsletter.*

At the recent highly successful visit to Albany to attend the "**2011 US SUBMARINERS MEMORIAL SERVICE**" those attending were entertained royally. **TS ANZAC** was presented with the Branch's crest. *Also see full report in this newsletter.*

Rick TALLOWIN was congratulated on celebrating his forthcoming birthday on June 10th (shares his day with Prince Philip - wonder if he is the same age!!!!!!)

President's Report

Firstly I must apologise for my absence at our June MGM, but Charlotte & I had to make a rapid dash to Ellenbrook, to look after 2 of our Grandchildren, as our Daughter-in-law, Natalie had to take our Granddaughter Abbey (aged 3), to Princess Margaret's Children's hospital, to sort out a replica coin she had swallowed!!

I have found a home for the old Branch desktop computer & accessories (formerly used by our long time Secretary Mike Pearson); my opposite number with the SAA-WA, Sid Czabator and others, in our local RC Parish Church, '**Star of the Sea**', Rockingham, including a Timorese born Parish Priest, have helped fund & build a school in the mountains of East Timor; so I think that it's going to a good home.

May was a busy month for the Branch, with some of our members taking part in events spread all over the Globe, from the **US SUBVETS Memorial, at Albany**, to the **International SM Convention**, at Istanbul, Turkey, to **SM Association Branch** meetings & dinners, in Northern Ireland (**Paul Meakin**) & possibly the last ever meeting of the **DREADNOUGHT Association**, in England (**Mick Hannah**).

Our Eastern States Sub-Branch held a meeting on 26 May (Minutes attached) & I note with some sadness that Life Member **Pat Cullum** has resigned from their Committee; I think that I can speak from all of us in the West, when I thank Pat for all his past efforts & wish him a full & speedy recovery from his recent illness.

Our **Annual Luncheon is booked at the RAAF Club**, Bullcreek, 1130 for 1200 on Sun 26 June, at \$30ea (you can pay on the day); don't forget that this year's recipient of the **Charles Costeur Trophy** will be announced at the luncheon & please remember to bring raffle prizes; several of our Widows will be attending as our guests.

I think that's about it! Regards, **John Keating**.

Crossed The Bar

Regret to report that L/Sea **D. R. Clarke** UC2 aged 75 who was not a member of the Association crossed the bar 9/6/11. He served in **Alcide, Totem and Tudor**.

J.A.C. KIFF (Jan) OEMN1 SM service 57-78 in **AURIGA, GRAMPUS, RESOLUTION, SWIFTSURE**. Exeter Branch aged 72. His novel "**The Barents Incident**" is to be published this [northern] summer.

Steve BOTTRILLERA SM service 51-56 in **ALLIANCE**. Portsmouth Branch.

R (Bob) PETFIELD W.O. SM service 82-96 in **OTTER, ODIN, OCELOT, and ORACLE**. Aged 63.

G. CHRISTIE Lt Cdr RNR DSC SM service 41-46 in **P.612, MURATRAIS, NEEPJSKA, THRASHER, STUBBORN, H.50, and U.2529** Dolphin Branch Aged 91.

Ian CLIFTONS/Lt RNVR in **X Craft** WW2. (From his son John Clifton). This is just to let anybody know who may be interested that my father, Ian Clifton, died (in May) of a heart attack at home, aged 87. He served as a Sub-Lieutenant RNVR in the Navy in WWII on the **Electo** and the **Kite**. He then moved to submarines and trained on **X-Craft** with, amongst many others, **Ian 'Titch' Fraser** VC, **Jimmy Benson** ('Above Us the Waves') and **Fred 'Titch' Ainslie**, with whom he kept in touch until his death. His funeral (was on) June 7th in Plymouth.

Robert MacDONALD. It is with great sadness that we learn belatedly of the death of Robert MacDonald in March aged 59 from Heart Attack. Robert was the **son of 'Bob' MacDonald**; an early **President of the then SOCA (WA)**. Robert regularly attended the annual periscope service in October laying a flower in memory of his father. His widow Lynette has noted the date and hopes to be able to continue the family tradition this year.

Winifred (Win) BIBB (nee Bradley). The Association is again saddened by the death of Win on 12 May 2011 aged 89. Win was the widow of our late member **Harry BIBB** whom she met when she served as a Signal Wren in **HMS FORTH** (submarine depot ship) in Scottish waters during WW2.

Win was in the 1945 film "**Perfect Strangers**" (starring Robert Donat, Deborah Kerr and Glynis Johns) but her part was only for a couple of seconds in a group of Wrens marching past, and was very excited to meet the leading players later. She was a member of the **WRNS Association (UK)** and the **WRANS Association in W.A.**

Win's funeral service was conducted at Purslowe's Albany Highway on 19th May with family, friends, WRANS, and our **President John KEATING, Ken & Sonja READ** attending. A private cremation service was to follow.

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During May 2011, three of our members with their wives and partners, attended the **48th International Submariners Association Congress in Istanbul, Turkey.**

Mick & Pat Hanlon, Allan & Pat Thomas, Ron McKenzie & Rochelle Bishop, were warmly welcomed by the I.S.A. Turkish Submarine fraternity, to celebrate 125 years of the Turkish Submarine Service, and to commemorate the launch of the first underwater torpedo firing (1886).

Many nationalities of Submariners from all over the world also attended, totaling 320 Ex-Submariners & serving Submariners. It was great to catch up with members previously met at the San Diego Congress.

Daily and evening Functions were organized including Istanbul sight-seeing of ancient monuments, the Evening Dinner/Dance Cruise on the Bosphorous, a great hit, needless to say, the wine and food was flowing quite freely on all occasions.

During the Congress a wreath laying ceremony was organized by the Turkish Submarine Service at their Sub Base at Golcuk, to commemorate the loss of all Submariners in war and in peace time, followed by a tour on a Turkish diesel submarine.

The four days were quite hectic and we were glad of the stop-over in Dubai, on the way back to Australia to recuperate, leaving Ron & Rochelle to cruise the Med, for another week.

*(Thank-you to **Alan Thomas** for kindly supplying the above report to 'Down Under')*

City of Albany. US SubVets Memorial Service. Memorial Service & Boats-mates Reunion. 27th-29th May 2011.

David Gilbertson and I drove down to Albany Friday afternoon arriving a tour preferred billet 'The le Grande Motel' for the 'Meet & Greet' at 1830, we then proceeded to **T.S.Vancouver** and were given the grand tour of the unit by the OIC and XO and introduced to the cadets on parade, we then presented them with our Branch Crest and a framed Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their ceremonial services to honour the SubVets. We then returned to billet to finish a convivial evening with our boats-mates and their partners.

Saturday we took it easy doing the rounds of Albany and prepared for the **Reunion Dinner**, a splendid meal in the company of the **Mayor of Albany.** The SubVets widows, **June Hodgson**, Cdr USN detachment and his family, USN Logistics Officer, CO **HMAS Farncombe**, Senior USN Chief **Craig Werley** his partner and his merry band of three SAA President **Darren Thompson** and his wife, SAA WA POD & **Alison O'Donague.** 22 happy diners!

Sunday, the **Memorial Service** was very well attended by the local populace, dignitaries **Ivor Charlick** and the submariners community, **David Gilbertson** laid our wreath on behalf of the Association, a heart moving service officiated by our chaplain **Bob Pitman**. We were then treated to a hearty lunch courtesy of the City of Albany.

The customary wash-up at **The Earl Spencer** was a bit of a washout as David and I were the only ones to turn up and after ten minutes, the only patrons in the pub, they only had curry on the menu but shut the kitchen early for lack of custom, apart from that the weather throughout the weekend was great and the scenic drive most enjoyable.

*(Thank-you to **Tom Oates** for kindly supplying the above report to 'Down Under')*

Coming Events

Sun 26th June: Branch Annual Luncheon, at the **RAAF Club, Bullcreek**; the Charles Costeur (our original Branch Secretary), Trophy, (to the most valuable member over the last 12 months), will be awarded at this event; voting took place at our 11 May monthly meeting. If you were unable to attend, email your vote to the Secretary, Pete Greenfield charredham@gmail.com.

Sept - (Date to be confirmed) Eastern States Sub-Branch Reunion & Luncheon at HMAS PENGUIN.

Oct 3rd – 17th “The reason for contacting you is that I am trying to let the Australian Submariners know about an event in the autumn out there in OZ. I am an ex Coxswain in the RN, 1972-2003 and am the Submarine Technical Advisor for a stage play. It’s called “**Kursk**” and is about a British Submarine in the vicinity of the Kursk when the tragedy happened. It’s been on in London, twice and toured the UK including the Edinburgh Festival. It’s had rave reviews & **Admiral Sir Mark Stanhope**, a submariner & present 1st Sea Lord is amongst loads of submariners who have seen it. It will be out in **Sydney from 3-17 October at the Sydney Opera House**. Following week possibly in Melbourne, venue to be confirmed. So if possible would you advertise it to all submariners? Hope to be out there to see it and Australia”. Yours Aye, **Bob Nunn**.

Sun 23 Oct - 1100 Annual Periscope Memorial Service, at Monument Hill, Fremantle; O/C, refreshments (finger food) & bar service, with our usual raffles, at the Flying Angel Club, in Fremantle.

Meeting closed at 1250

END OF JUNE MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING



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MINUTES
Extraordinary meeting called of the "Submariners Eastern States"
Thursday 26 May 2011 1140hrs Combined Services Club
Chair: Derek Walsh

1. ATTENDANCE:

As per attendance register

Apologies:

Alan Beasley, Alex Laird, Tim Duchesne, David Onslow, Roger Downs, Tom McCammont, Huw Gethin-Jones, Barry Nobes.

2. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Minutes were accepted; moved Mick Hannigan seconded Taff Renshaw

3. STANDING AGENDA ITEMS:

Treasurer's Report:

The treasurer was not in attendance at the meeting. Last balance from the "Submariners account" on the 24th May 2011 was \$ 611.88.

General Business:

Pat Cullum informed meeting that he was resigning from the position as Events Convenor, and wants no further participation. He also informed the meeting he had donated \$500 from the "Submariners" account to the Westpac Helicopter Rescue Fund. This donation was made without any authority from the members.

- Pat Cullum was asked if he had made any commitments to the K13 Memorial service to be held January 2012. He replied no commitments had been made. Reunion at HMAS Penquin; the cost and dates are to be investigated by Jeff Westwood.
- It was moved Phil Collins that the Naval Cottage booked for the reunion is cancelled and a refund sort, seconded by Tony Maddock.
- Moved by Phil Collins seconded by Jeff Westwood that the account "Submariners" at the National Bank Narrabri be closed and a new account be opened in the Sydney area. This new account to be called "Submariners Eastern States" with the President Tom McCammont of 2/117 Charles Kay Drive Terrigal NSW.2260 as one signature and the Secretary John Cross of 55 Browns Road Kurrajong NSW 2758 be the second signature. The motion was carried.
- A new Event Convenor will be voted on at the next meeting. At this time member Alan Ward proposed a motion of thanks be extended to Pat Cullum for his efforts in organising events during previous years. Seconded Tony Maddock, motion carried.

Welfare Report:

- **Fred Bottrell (Vic)** – Fred's wife Iris had a nasty fall a couple of months ago and is still in hospital. She is hoping to be improved enough to be able to get into Re-Hab soon.
- **David Aylmer** tells me he is improving (albeit slowly) after his operation, and is still keeping the medical profession rich. He hopes to be able to get out and about more very soon and is looking forward to catching up with us all again.
- **Hugh Gethin-Jones** - I am advised that Hugh is wearing a heavy track between Seaforth and the RNS 3 times a week for his treatment, but is still his positive lively self. Keep up the good work Hugh, and get well soon, we are all thinking of you.
- **Jumbo Pearse (Lithgow)** - Jumbo's just had six weeks in Westmead Hospital for a big op, but is now back home and on the mend, and looking forward to getting back to normal. Good luck with the results in August.
- **Lew Dodds** - Lew (who is now back in Sydney) had a recent visit to the UK and finished up with a really bad knee infection (must have been the "Ganges" tucker) which required an operation and a week in hospital to get him fit enough to fly home – now having local treatment and hopes to be getting around normally very soon
- **Tony Platt** - Spoke to Tony who is suffering with chest problems and "wobbly" legs and is not traveling too well just now and at present is waiting to be re-assessed by his local Hospital, keep your chin up Tony

If you know of anyone of the crew out there who is either on the sick list or in sick bay, please let me know so I can spread the buzz (unless of course you don't want me to), it's always nice to get a phone call or someone to talk to – we're here to look after each other.

Business without notice:

Jeff Westwood informed meeting he was donating several framed submarine photographs, to be raffled at our functions and the proceeds go to the "Submariners Eastern States" account. The members thanked Jeff for his generous donation.

There being no more business the meeting closed at 1300hrs. Next meeting will be held on Thursday 7th July 2011 at the Combined Services Club Sydney 1130hrs.

Other Goings On!

Email from Tim McClement

Sent: Fri, 27 May 2011 10:51

Subject: HMS ALLIANCE APPEAL - UPDATE

I am delighted to inform you that the Trustees of the **Heritage Lottery Fund** have just announced their approval of our application for a grant of £3.4M for the project to restore **HMS Alliance**. This successful outcome reflects the quality of the bid we submitted and the HLF Trustees' view of the significance of the project.

The announcement is also the green light for the work on **HMS Alliance** to begin this summer, as we had planned. The award is subject to a news embargo until Monday 30th May, so I would be grateful if you would treat the information with discretion.

Together with the £2.6M raised through the **Alliance Appeal**, the HLF grant will enable us to meet the estimated £6.05m cost of the project, that is eligible for HLF support. However, there are a number of costs which are ineligible for HLF support but which nonetheless must be met for the project to succeed.

These additional costs, estimated at £750k, need to be met over the two and a half year lifetime of the project. Fundraising therefore continues apace and I can already report progress in this regard having raised approximately £70k towards this total in the last 3 months.

Finally, I am pleased to say that last month I was appointed Chairman of the Trustees of the **Royal Navy Submarine Museum** for the next 5 years, so I will be involved with the **Alliance Project** until its completion. Many thanks for the generous and continuing support from the '**Submarine Association**', without which we would not have achieved this exciting result.



Above: HMS Alliance on display at Royal Navy Submarine Museum.

To make a donation to the HMS Alliance Fund Appeal visit

www.justgiving.com/submarine-museum/Donate

For all enquiries about the HMS Alliance Project email

rosie.munns@submarine-museum.co.uk

Return of the Triumph: With the skull and crossbones flying defiantly at its mast, submarine that launched Tomahawk attack on Gaddafi comes home.



Above: Symbol of success; Commander Rob Dunn (centre) and senior crew under HMS Triumph's Jolly Roger, decorated with Tomahawks.

She is a creature of subtlety and guile, patrolling the world's waters invisible to friend and enemy alike. Usually no one knows where she is: **Colonel Gaddafi** certainly didn't.

But yesterday **HMS Triumph**, fresh from her frontline role launching Tomahawk cruise missiles against Gaddafi's military machine, surfaced to celebrate her return to **HM Naval Base Devonport**, Plymouth. As she sailed in, the nuclear-powered fast-attack submarine showed her true colours: she flew the Jolly Roger from her mast.

We guessed she'd do it – it is her right as a sub which has successfully completed a combat mission. But nothing can quite prepare you for the sight of a Royal Navy vessel decked in the flag so beloved of corsairs and steeped in marine banditry.

The flag was made by the submariners' wives and sent out to Triumph as she made the voyage home.

There was little doubt before, but with the skull and crossbones fluttering alongside the White Ensign in a stiff sea breeze, HMS Triumph made it abundantly clear she'd routed her desert foe in **Operation Ellamy**. The submarine's deadly accurate surprise strikes in the opening moments of the anti-Gaddafi campaign – pictures captured on front pages around the world two weeks ago – left loyalists and rebels alike in no doubt as to the coalition's intent.

Her image was emblematic of Britain's role in the assault and her battle honours include flattening a three-storey command building within Gaddafi's presidential compound.

She had unleashed multiple missiles. And last night she celebrated her achievement in the best way – by coming safely home.

It was six o'clock when the 280ft Trafalgar Class submarine sliced up the River Tamar beneath the spring sun. Flanked by tugs Careful and Faithful, she was led up river by a pilot boat as Ministry of Defence Police Ribs (rigid inflatable boats) patrolled watchfully.

On the bridge stood **Commander Rob Dunn**, his second-in-command, HMS Triumph's navigator and an Admiralty pilot. It had been a three-and-a-half-week voyage and doubtless the rest of the submarine's 130 crew were looking forward to joyful reunions with loved ones waiting at the naval base.



Above: HMS Triumph returns to Devonport, Plymouth after firing six Tomahawk cruise missiles during the conflict.

HMS Triumph is thought to have surfaced earlier in the afternoon in the Western Approaches.

The questions of just how long she had been in position off the Libyan coast awaiting her orders, and if she was operating alone or alongside a sister submarine which has covertly remained on duty, are yet to be answered. It took a little over quarter of an hour for the sub – speedy underwater but difficult to manoeuvre on the surface – to be gently nudged into position.

Under the watchful eye of Commander Dunn, linesmen secured her with thick coils of rope.

As the sub neared the dockside and her **Jolly Roger** danced in the wind, it became apparent that the flag also bore the motif of six tomahawks. This represented the precise number of Tomahawk cruise missiles fired from HMS Triumph at Libya. In all, she has eight of the missiles.

Commander Dunn, who followed in his grandfather's footsteps to become a submariner, was the man with his finger on the missile button.

Like all commanders he qualified on the Perisher course, known as one of the toughest command courses in the world with a one-in-four failure rate. Those who have not passed it are told only when a boat arrives to collect them, whereupon they are presented with their packed kit and a bottle of whisky as scant consolation.

Previously Dunn commanded the surface ships **HMS Smiter** and **HMS Glasgow**, Triumph's sister sub **HMS Turbulent** and the Royal Navy Submarine School. He is, clearly, a good man to have in a tight spot, with the right amount of academic cool – he has a Masters in Defence Studies – to temper any operational bravura.

He took control of HMS Triumph in 2009 after she'd had a comprehensive refit. This was her biggest mission to date. Last night Commander Dunn revealed that Triumph had been in position a full 48 hours before the order to attack was given. He said: 'We did what submariners do – moved quickly with extreme stealth. We did not know what was happening or what we were going to do. It was a big task and my crew performed extremely well.'

To witness her return under her pirate flag was a moving moment that smacked not of vainglory or triumphalism but of a job well done. But then HMS Triumph has been here before. In 2002 she successfully launched cruise missiles against Al Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan during Operation Veritas. Back then she also returned to port bearing the submarine's symbol of success – the skull and crossbones emblazoned with crossed tomahawks.

By Sarah Oliver 'The Daily Mail'

Read more: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1372804/Return-Triumph-With-skull-crossbones-flying-defiantly-mast-submarine-launched-attack-Gaddafi-comes-home.html#ixzz1P2nHYem>

The next meeting will be at The Flying Angel, Fremantle on
Wednesday July 14th commencing at 12noon.

Hope to see you all there!

