

HMAS CANBERRA HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association WA Division

**ODE**



**Minutes of Committee Meeting conducted 1100 on 16 Mar 13**

1. **Location**

The monthly meeting of the HMAS CANBERRA HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association WA Division was held at NAA Sub Section, High St, Fremantle, WA.

1. **Meeting opened: 1100**
2. **Apologies**
3. The following personnel were unable to attend the meeting:

Ray Graham

Teresa Blackman

Wade Green

Bill Kynaston

Jack Gallagher

1. **‘Vale” – Lest We Forget**

Greg Earle (CPOSTD) FFG 02 82/84 – Brisbane 13 Mar 2013

1. **M.I.D (Members In Distress)**

Michael Lee (ABSTD) FFG 02, 92/93 - Hospitalised

Nick Payne (Navigating Officer) FFG 02 – Hospitalised

* 4. **Attendance**
* The following personnel attended the Meeting:
  + - * 1. Ernie Rudland
  1. Dave Shine
  2. Lee Webster
     1. Greg Brumby
  3. Wayne Faulkner
  4. Mark Bohle
  5. Damion Lamont
  6. Allister Daish
  7. Tony Robinson
* 4. **Meeting Agenda**
* **General Business**

* **Minutes from previous meeting 16 Feb 2013**

Accepted: Tony Robinson

Seconded: Mark Bohle

* **Membership update**

20 paid up Ordinary Members

1 Social Member

Further membership applications are out there, the Assn is waiting for returns.

* **Financial Status (monies in/monies out/balances).**

Expenses incurred for set up costs $670 (personal loan to Assn from Member # 004). This loan is currently outstanding

To date, all applications received have paid the application fee (20 x 50, 1 x 30).

Bank balance (cash in hand) = $1030

* **LHD 02 Naming Ceremony**. Lee Webster gave a brief to the meeting on the very successful gathering of National Association Members at Williamstown Naval Dockyard for the Naming Ceremony of LHD 02 on 15 Feb 2013. It is an impressive and VERY LARGE ship. There was a big contingent of ex-crew members from the cruisers Canberra and Shropshire and the frigate Canberra. The Distinguished Guests on gave excellent speeches and the ship was named HMAS Canberra. The Honourable Julia Gillard, PM, made a point of **welcoming the members of the HMAS Canberra – Shropshire Assn to the ceremony** and made a very notable comment that ‘**NO HMAS CANBERRA (and by inference, the crew of SHROPSHIRE) HAD EVER LET AUSTRALIA DOWN**!’ After a short look at the interior of the ship, the members retired to the BAE VIP’s tent for a ‘sherbet’ and an excellent feed followed by a short walk to Sam’s Boat Shed in Williamstown for further libation.

**Attendance**

HMAS CANBERRA 1

Mr Arthur Gould - Victoria

Mr Roy Stephens - Victoria

Mr Darby Munro-Victoria

Mr Henry Hall - NSW

Mr Ray Knucky- Victoria

Mr Norrie McKelvie- Victoria

Mr Desmond Jones- Victoria

Mr Alan Hines- Victoria

Mr Ernie Rudland-WA

HMAS CANBERRA 2

Mr John Findlay- Queensland

Mr Scott Miles - NSW

Mr Mick Horsburgh- Queensland

Mr Lee Webster - WA

Mr David Shine-WA

Mr Phillip McDonald-ACT

Mr Lindsay McDonald - Victoria

Mr Brian Brennan – ACT

Partners and friends of the above personnel also attended

The Pres gave an update on the plans for the HMAS CANBERRA-HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association 2014 Reunion.

**The HMAS CANBERRA-HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association 2014 Reunion** is currently being planned. It will be held on the weekend of the Commissioning of HMAS CANBERRA 3 in Sydney, NSW.

The date of the Commissioning has yet to be confirmed; however it will be in the first quarter of 2014 most likely in January.

The Reunion is open to all members of the Ships Company of HMAS CANBERRA 1-2-3, HMAS SHROPSHIRE, members of HMAS CANBERRA-HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association and guests.

This Survey will assist in determining the interest and potential numbers of personnel wishing to attend the Commissioning Ceremony and the Reunion events.

The Navy Events Cell will be liaising with the Association for the Commissioning Ceremony, numbers of personnel that will be able to attend the Commissioning has not yet been determined.

Registration for the Reunion is on the Association Website

<http://www.hmascanberrashropshire.asn.au/news/2014Reunion.html>

Tentative Program

Fri: Commissioning Ceremony HMAS CANBERRA 3

Sat: Association Function (Reunion)

Sun: Memorial Service - HMAS CANBERRA- HMAS SHROPSHIRE

Sun: Farewell Lunch

* The Pres. Gave an update on two other **new sub sections**. The Queensland sub-section (Andrew Black - driving force in Qld) is in its infancy and is growing. The will be marching on Anzac Day under their own banner. The ACT sub-section (Brian ‘Box’ Brennan - chairing the development) is up and running. In both areas, there have been many ex-crew members that have come out of the woodwork showing interest. We wish them well and offer support in their endeavors.
* Sec. gave a short rundown on the results of the **Executive Meeting held on 13 Mar 2013.** The meeting was called by the President to review previous Exec and Committee Meeting minutes and clarify the status of outstanding business or close out minuted items that have been finalized. The Minutes for that meeting was tabled for all tat the Committee Meeting to see
* **Carry over of business from previous meetings and items raised at the Executive Meeting held on 13 Mar 2013.**
* Anzac day 2013 arrangements were discussed and points of consideration were decided
  + 1. **Admin requirements**. The Pres and Sec will attend to RSL administrative requirements
    2. **Recruiting of as many attendees as possible** – The Committee agreed that a loose criteria be adopted for ex-servicemen and their families to march under our banner, e.g. lost or single ex servicemen, disbanded unit members, grand children, etc. For n.o.k and absentee representatives, the wearing of medals (of the person represented) on the right breast is encouraged.
    3. **Dawn Service** **and muster point**. Fremantle War Memorial, cnr Knutsford and High St. meet 30 minutes before dawn at the memorial.
    4. **Gun fire breakfast** at Freemantle Navy Club cnr High and Pakenham St’s. Gold coin donation per person for breakfast. BYO libation.
    5. **Anzac March.** Muster at 0900, cnr St Georges Tce and William St. The march route is the same as last year

**Banner Holders.** Volunteers are requested to step forward and notify the Pres or Trsr prior to the march **(preferably a week before to enable a short biography to be submitted to the ABC)** Mark Bohle, Tony Robinson and Wayne Faulkners daughters.

* + 1. **Infirm attendees** – People in need of assistance to attend are welcomed. Arrangements can be made if the ASSN is informed early. Please contact the Pres, (0431 547 527) or Trsr (0437 157 536)
    2. **Social gathering** – on completion of the march, it has been suggested that the group retire first to ANZAC House RSL, St Georges Tce (near the Duxton), followed by the Lucky Shag (Perth Port) and finally Navy Club, Fremantle (being the first Australian port of call for the cruiser HMAS Canberra 1 in 1929 )
    3. **Getting home –** Please (at this time) make your own arrangements
* **The ATO requirements** for reporting (BAS) and paying taxes (GST or other) will be clarified and reported to the Committee at the next C’tee Meerting on the 20th April.
* **Personal Loan**. Lee Webster has loaned a large sum of money (approx. $670) to the Association to cover set up costs and enable the group to become an entity.

1. It is recommended that the sum be reconciled and when clarified, repaid to him in a method to be decided at a future date as funds and the Association becomes more established. Examples of potential methods could be 4 x 2 mthly payments, a 1 off payment or some other method.
2. It was further recommended by a member that the sum should be paid back in its entirety if possible prior to the next AGM (Oct 2013), dependent on the financial situation of the Assn. at that time.
3. The Pres and Trsr will investigate the possibility of a DVA Grant that covers re-imbursement of set up costs
4. The Pres is to supply a reconciled account to the Trsr prior to the C’te Meeting to be held on 20th April 2013. This will allow the committee time to plan the re-imbursement.
5. Note: the Assn will reimburse any authorized reasonable costs incurred by a member in pursuit of the goals of the Assn. A receipt will normally be required
6. The Committee endorses this plan.

* **A Welcome Package** containing the Ode, Constitution, Assn objectives will be emailed/mailed out to all new members and in retrospect to members already financial.
* The Trsr gave a brief on the status of the **Assn. bank account.** This account has been finally established at Bankwest High St Fremantle. To operate the account, it requires four Executive Committee signatories to run it efficiently. They are:
  + 1. President
    2. Vice president
    3. Treasurer
    4. Secretary

1. One signature is required for deposits
2. Two signatures required for withdrawals. The Treasurer will draw up a proforma letter of authority for withdrawals
3. The trsr has developed an Association letterhead receipt that will be used to acknowledge receipt of overseas member payments
4. A Bankwest statement will act as a receipt for Australian resident members.
5. There is a fallback manual receipt book that is used primarily to give a member a Membership Number upon receipt of that persons dues.

Exec C’tee can approach Bankwest and ask for a statement or operate the account at any bank during business hours provided the above criteria is satisfied and identification is provided.

* **Pres and Trsr will meet with DVA** on Wednesday 20 Mar 2013 to establish contact with a single person or department (if possible), to impart and gain information and if possible, commence formalities for applying for grants and assistance in further establishing the Assn. The Pres will brief the committee on the result of this meeting on 20th April 2013.
* Pres announces ‘**Ride To Conquer Cancer October 2013’**, a major bike ride over 270km. The intention is to represent the Assn. and raise $2500 as a minimum to donate to the Cancer Foundation. Alternative charity events were discussed such as. ’Walk for Cancer, Run for Cancer’ and others. No decision was made on the alternatives at this time. Lee has committed to the Ride and is on the lookout for other volunteers to join him as support team and/or as relief riders. There will be an overnight camp (mid ride) in Mandurah. Interested personnel should contact Lee 0431 547 527 for detail.
* **Membership currency** is from AGM to AGM. Themajority of members paid their initial fees in Oct 2012. The AGM is scheduled for Oct 2013. The Committee endorses this position
* **HMAS Canberra 02 Banner**. Allistair Daish has offered his services and contacts to further progress the acquisition of a banner to represent FFG 02. A quote will be supplied and hopefully acted upon at the next Exec C’tee Meeting on 20 A progress report to the members will be made at the next C’tee Mtg on the 20th April. It is hoped to be in place for the forthcoming ANZAC Parade
* **A Schedule of Events** calendar for 2013 has been sent out to all members – volunteers will be called for to assist in major events
* The Pres gave an update on progress of **cataloging artefacts and memorabilia** given to the Association for display and safekeeping. The rate of material held in trust has overwhelmed the Pres . and a solution is sought from the C’tee
* **New Business**
* **Artefacts and memorabilia** continue to arrive at the meetings. Wayne Faulkner produced several fascinating items at this meeting and offered them on loan on behalf of his family to the Assn for display and safekeeping. These items consisted of:

1. An embroided dilly/ditty bag stitched by his Father while on watch in the 4” gundirector
2. A black deflated rubber bladder life vest with inflation mouthpiece and tube which when inflated and tied, sits on the chest. It was worn by his Father when the cruiser Canberra was sunk. It would be an early fore runner to the Pattern 50N Co2 inflatable life vest.
3. From another bag, Wayne produced his Fathers WW11 AGR (Anti Gas Respirator) in pristine condition
4. Next from the bag, what appeared to be a brass course and depth setting gyroscope (with Japanese characters inscribed) from a Japanese torpedo. Mr. Faulkner took this from a munitions stockpile in the tunnels under the fortifications at Rabaul Harbour after the capture of the position.
5. Finally Wayne produced what appeared to be the brass impeller from the detonating device on the nose of a torpedo. (It may also be the arming device for a falling aerial bomb). The propeller still smoothly wound the firing pin down to the armed position. This also came from Rabaul

It was decided that Wayne should keep the items until proper arrangements can be made to display and safe keep the items

* **Wayne Faulkner** has shown passion and exuberance in the history and display of memorabilia. The Committee offered a position of **“Assn. Museum Curator”** to relieve a burden from the Pres. Wayne accepted the position.

1. All members are encouraged to provide information on any artefacts they may hold. Wayne will photograph the items, catalog them and detail the history. The Assn will retain this information. If the owner wants to retain ownership at his home or if loaned, the item will be displayed at the Navy Club in Fremantle.
2. Cataloging has the side benefit of providing information to Police or Insurance Companies if the article is lost, destroyed or stolen. Once cataloged it is intended to place a photograph and description of the items on the Canberra-Shropshire web site.
3. The location of the item will not be made public
4. The ‘Curator’ has links with an outlet that has display cabinets available ata minimal low cost. The current items need to be cataloged and space be made available at the Navy Club before an informed decision can be made. More information is requested from Wayne for the next C’tee meeting

* A 3 Draw filing cabinet to store Assn. material in has been found. Lee Webster will make arrangements to deliver it to the Navy Club.
* **Defence Family Pin:** The Prime Minister, the Honourable Julia Gillard MP launched the DFP on 3rd November 2012. The press release was stumbled on by a member who informed the C’tee at this meeting.

The DFP is an impressive **medal/coin shaped device** that appears to be the size of a 20/50 cent coin. It aims to recognize and say thanks for the support provided by the families of ADF members deployed on operations and the difficulties they may face at these times. It is to be worn by immediate family members.

It will be distributed by the National Welfare Coordination Centre to families of all members currently deployed on ops and for future ops.

Here is how you get them. **If a member or family representative of a current serving member wishes to obtain a pin for a previous deployment or extended absence, they are able to contact the NWCC 1800 801 026 who will ask for the Defence members details. It is understood that they are issuing up to 4 pins to a family and more where justified on written request (larger families can apply for more to suit the family numbers.). It is further understood that they are also releasing the pin for ex service members families.**

* **DVA Support**. Members are reminded that DVA support is available for many different reasons that cannot be summarized here. Many of these reasons are very personal. The Commonwealth and the ADF do not seek out the ex-serviceman/woman or the serving member for resolution to problems or assistance.

Each individual must make the initial approach,. The NAA and the RSL have dedicated DVA Advocates who will assist and do battle for you. But **you must make the first move.** **You must contact the Advocate and ask for a meeting**.

**Your advocate at the Navy Club in Fremantle is**;

**Jeff Wake**

**Ph. or fax: 9336 3752**

**Email:** [**jeffwake@westnet.com.au**](mailto:jeffwake@westnet.com.au)

* **Mistreatment at HMAS Leeuwin**. A taskforce has been set up to investigate violence and bullying at HMAS Leeuwin JRTE. An interim report was given to the Minister of Defence on the 11th March 2013 by a **legal firm DLA Piper**. 1100 claims have been submitted and 524 cases have been handed over to the taskforce. The submission date for these cases closed some time ago. HOWEVER, there is an average of 15 new cases arriving each week and the **Government s been forced to extend the time for another 6 months.** Those in doubt of their treatment at HMAS Leeuwin or subsequent Ordinary Seaman (Ords) time up to the age of 18 years old are encouraged to **contact the legal firm DLA Piper** and open the door for further discussion.

This may also apply to ‘Boy’ Apprentices at HMAS Nirimba.

Those of you who have read the book ‘Voices from the Voyager’ or have served on the Daring class destroyers will know some of the horror the trapped men suffered as the front end was sinking and the horror the survivors in the water experienced hearing the trapped men dying. The Commonwealth refused to acknowledge the survivors problems for thirty years. For many, it was too late to help them or their families.

1. The **next Association Committee Meeting** is scheduled for **20 Apr 2013**
2. There being no further business arising**, Meeting closed** at 1450

Yours Aye,

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Lee Webster

President

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HMAS CANBERRA - HMAS SHROPSHIRE Association

WA Division Inc