

NOTICE TO MARINERS

Newsletter of 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE Association Incorporating RAE Tn

Patron: Colonel K.L. Duncan (Rtd)

President's Message

On Tuesday 20 October 2009 with their wives/partners supported Branch, together with their wives the delivery of the Landing Ships

A morning ceremony was held at the included a plaque poppy laying no. 97) in the Sculpture Garden at the Tomb of the Unknown

There were two wreaths jointly laid – Peter Gratton AC, OBE (Rtd), former Chief of the Defence Force, and myself. The second wreath was laid for AWTA NSW Branch by Colonel Ken Duncan (Rtd), Patron of AWTA NSW Branch and 32 Small Ship Squadron RAE Association and Mr Cec Weekes, President AWTA Association RAE and RACT NSW Branch.

After pre-dinner drinks General Peter Gratton and his wife Ann were escorted by Mr Ian Johnston BEM to view his model of *AV1354 Brudenell White* and to their table to the strains of the RAE Corps song 'Wings'.

The Pavilion chef, galley and table service staff must be congratulated as the dinner was superb.

Following dessert and after the Loyal Toast General Gratton proposed a toast to the Squadron and thanked the Association for giving him and Ann the honour of being official guests on this day. The evening concluded with a farewell from Colonel Ken Duncan.

The success of the day goes to those members, their wives/partners and friends of the Association who participated in this commemorative 50th anniversary. Special thanks to Ross McMurray for his co-ordination with Martin Hanson, AWM Events and Ceremonies, my wife Beth for her total support and help, Colonel Ken Duncan and John Bryant for being on the commemorative sub-committee, Jenni Stevens, Functions and Events Co-Ordinator at Pavilion for her attention to detail and flexibility, Major Geoff Gray CSM, Officer Commanding and Music Director of the Band of the Royal Military College, Duntroon and Sergeant Norman (Smokie) Dawson and his fellow musicians.

My best wishes to all members and their families for a Happy Christmas and a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Ocka

JAMAIS ETRE REMORQUE



December 2009 Notice to Mariners

VIETNAM VETERANS' DAY – SCHOOL OF MILITARY ENGINEERING 18 AUGUST 2009

On Tuesday 18 August 2009 the RAE Vietnam Memorial Committee commemorated the 43rd anniversary of the battle of Long Tan at a moving ceremony at SME. Once again the weather was perfect – warm and sunny which was a marked difference from last year's wintry conditions. SME provided the Chaplain and Catafalque Party, the bugler from the Australian Army Band – Sydney and the piper from Ingleburn RSL Pipes and Drums. Wattle Grove Primary School provided an excellent choir.



Pipe Sergeant Peter Jakobsson & Wattle Grove Primary School Choir

The Guest Speaker was Major John Leane (Rtd) who, as a Staff Sergeant Clerk of Works, was deployed to Vietnam in 1965 as part of the RAE Detachment with the Australian Logistic Support Company attached to the 1 RAR Group. He gave an interesting talk about the difficulties and successes the detachment had when it was providing Scale A accommodation for 1 RAR and at the same time doing some small tasks helping out the US Army and US Air Force at the same time with very limited resources, personnel and equipment. However, like nearly all challenges Sappers have faced, the required outcomes were met. An interesting and informative speech.

On completion of the service the 80 attendees were invited to inspect the Heritage Precinct which included the Museum and Corps Shop. The Water Transport collection in the Museum is growing steadily and is quite impressive thanks to the efforts of Ken Duncan and Cec Weekes. An excellent lunch was served at the Peeler Club and was well attended.

Members of our Association who attended were: Graham and Anthony Murray, Peter Tierney, Jack Peel, Brian and Val Waites, Bruce Reilly, Lance Northey, Ross McMurray, Ken Duncan and Cec Weekes (President AWTA AIF).



NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard the following new members:

Fraser Hethorn served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* and *AV1356 Clive Steele*. He also served in 30 Terminal Squadron. Fraser lives at Bilinga Queensland.

Fred Seidenkamp served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* in Vietnam. He also served on *AV1354 Brudenell White*, *AV1355 Vernon Sturdee* and *AS3051 John Monash*. Fred lives at St Clair NSW.

Kevin Austwick served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam, and on *AV1353 Brudenell White* in PNG, New Zealand and South Australia. He lives at Forster NSW.

Graham Drewett served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam, and on *AV1354 Brudenell White* in PNG. Graham lives at Karuah NSW

Bob McLeod served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AS3051 John Monash* in Vietnam and also served in 1 Watercraft Workshop. He lives at Dorrigo NSW.

Graeme McKenzie served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in Vietnam and also on *AV1354 Brudenell White*. He also served with 17 and 23 Construction Squadrons, 3 Field Engineer Regiment, 19 Chief Engineer Works, Garrison Engineer Adelaide and Regional Engineer Sydney. Graeme lives at Epping NSW.

Terry Radford served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1354 Brudenell White* and *AS3051 John Monash* in Vietnam and *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* in Borneo. He also served with 17 and 23 Construction Squadrons, Pacific Islands Regiment (Vanimo), PNG Training Squadron, 821 Water Transport Troop, 30 Terminal Squadron, 20 National Service Training Battalion and the Transportation Training Centre. Terry lives at Brassard, Quebec, Canada.

Ted Younger served in 32 Small Ship Squadron on *AV1356 Clive Steele* and *AV1353 Harry Chauvel* in Vietnam, *AV1354 Brudenell White* in PNG and *AS3051 John Monash* on various trips around the Australian coast. He also served with 1 Signal Regiment, 139 Signal Squadron, PNGDF Signal Squadron, 126 Signal Squadron (SF), School of Signals, Headquarters DSG Puckapunyal, Headquarters Logistic Command, Command and Staff College, Land Warfare Centre and Headquarters Australian Defence Force. Ted lives at Budawang NSW.

Ross Bland served as the OC of 1 Watercraft Workshop at Woolwich. His appointment coincided with the disbandment of 32 Small Ship Squadron and he inherited all the stores from *AS3051 John Monash* as well as many of her crew. He also served with the Army Apprentices School, 2 Base Workshops, Puckapunyal Area Workshops, 101 Field Workshop, 1 Field Regiment LAD, 1 Signal Regiment LAD, Army Headquarters, RAEME Training Centre, 12 Field Regiment LAD in Vietnam, 21 Supply Battalion and 2 EME Services Group. Ross lives at Umina NSW.



SICK PARADE

Bill Henshaw has not been too well lately. He's been in Tamworth Hospital with cancer but fortunately that has been well treated and he's now clear. He's also had some back problems and has about 20 metal screws and braces in his spine to straighten it. Also, he can barely move his left arm due to a severed nerve. Apart from that he reckons he's in pretty good shape, ably supported by his wife Beryl. All the best to you, Bill. Good to see your positive outlook.

Don Grace has not been well of late but Les Dennis reports that he is sounding positive. He has a few medical issues but they are under control at the moment.

Joe Laxton had a leg removed six months ago but unfortunately the other one was also recently removed. Les Dennis has been in touch with WO1 Alan Harwood in SA who is keeping a good eye on Joe. He said that Joe was coming to terms with it and is now fairly stable. He has been relocated to a nursing home which, according to Alan, is very good and the staff are always making him feel comfortable. It must be very frustrating for Joe as he has always been very independent, but he is still very mentally alert and will try to cope with this setback. However, he is not well and it is doubtful if he will ever leave the nursing home. If you wish to send a message or card to Joe (and he would very much appreciate it) his address is:

Southern Cross Nursing Home
Room 126 Buckland House
333 Marion Road
NORTH PLYMPTON SA 5037

DONATIONS

Many thanks to Doug Wyness, Jim Mulligan and Bob McLeod who made donations to the Association recently.

FOR SALE – NEW

Ian Johnston has designed and produced this great car sticker. It will be given free of charge to financial members in the present issue. You can also purchase them from the Property Member through the Associations Web Page (www.32smallshipsqn.org.au) for \$5 plus \$1 postage. It is in high quality colour and measures 255mm x 75mm with an adhesive backing. They proved to be popular at the Albury Ambush where Kaye Shannon sold over 70 of them. We've only got a limited stock so if you would like one please order quickly. A copy is shown below.

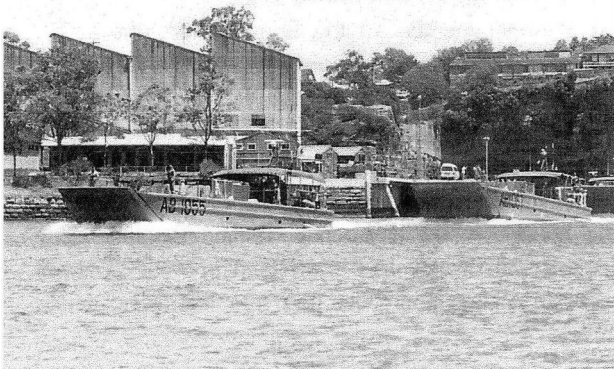


BLAST FROM THE PAST

This is an extract from the January – March 1998 edition of *The Navy*. It shows seven LCM8s from 35 Water Transport Squadron departing Woolwich for their new base at Ross Island, Townsville on 11 November 1997. The voyage took twelve days.

Note that the top photo shows LSM *AV1356 Clive Steele* with its bow doors missing. This was probably the result of the pounding it took in very heavy seas when returning from an ill fated voyage to Vietnam in March 1971. She lost the port bow door off Fraser Island and the starboard door was removed in Brisbane. You can read all about it in an article by Roger Seward in Dave Perham's book, "Rolling Through 32".

Permission to reproduce this page was kindly given by Graham Harris, the Federal President of The Navy League of Australia.



Departing for the final time. LCM8s 1055, 1067, 1058, 1050, 1066, 1061 and 1060 sail for Townsville on 11 November, 1997.
(Photo – Brian Morrison)



On 11 November, seven landing craft (LCM8s) from the Woolwich based 35 Water Transport Squadron sailed from their home base of the last 40 years. This 1975 view of the Woolwich Dock, depicts Army Medium landing Ships, smaller LCM8s and the cargo ship *JOHN MONASH*
(Photo – Ross Gillett)



ALBURY AMBUSH

The Albury Ambush, held over the week-end 16 – 18 October 2009, was a huge success. 236 people from every state and territory attended at various functions starting with the meet and greet at the Lake Hume Resort on Friday afternoon. The big advantage of having it there was that it was self contained with motel and cabin accommodation and a caravan park adjacent to it. Over 30 caravans from the reunion attendees used the park.

On Saturday morning there was a tour through the northern Victorian wineries where everyone enjoyed themselves and made many purchases. About 100 people went on the tour on three buses which stopped at quite a few vineyards including the well known ones of Morris and Mount Prior.

The main function on Saturday night at the Conference Centre was a great occasion. There was plenty of music, raffles, good food and drink and the staff went out of their way to ensure everyone had a great time. A highlight of the evening was a presentation by Bob Modystack of a timber plaque in the form of an LSM, showing the organizers names and places of previous Water Transport reunions. It will be kept in trust by Kevin and Lynne Morley, this years organizers, and will be presented to the organizers of the next one.

On Sunday morning about 20 people went to Wodonga and visited the gravesite of Charlie Bawden, a well loved stalwart of the Water Transport community. Charlie passed away on 13 January 2008. After that a barbeque was ignited back at the resort to farewell the participants.

Kevin and Lynne are to be congratulated for the large amount of time and effort they put in to make sure the reunion was the success that it was. Well done to the both of you! Kevin said it was great to see everyone enjoying themselves and to see many new faces, especially those from units other than 32 Small Ship Squadron, as well as the regulars. He would like to thank everyone that helped out over the three days. He suggested that there will be an even larger attendance at the next one. We don't know about that, mate. Dick and Doug will have to work hard to match your efforts, but I'm sure it will also be a great event.

Yes, the next reunion will be held at Glenorchy, Tasmania in 2011 and will be organized by Dick van Leeuwen and Doug Richardson. As you are all aware, Glenorchy is a Northern suburb of Hobart. Details will be provided as they come to hand.



Frank Pilkington



Alf Mathews





Bob Gunn and Lynne Morley



Colin and Sue Coakes



Jack Peel, Blue Atkinson and Geoff Freeland



Janet Barrett, Bob Modystack, Eunice and Robert Ekberg

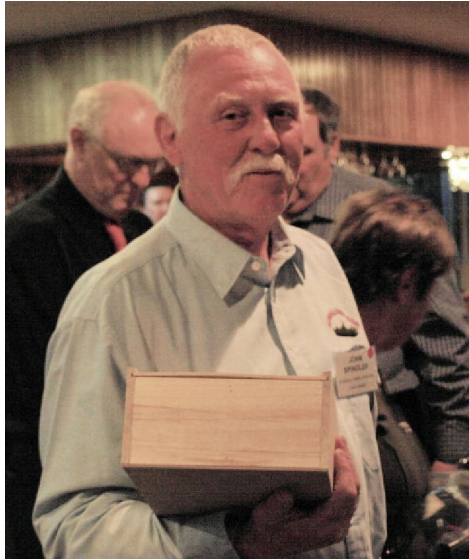


Jenny and Jim Conroy



Top L to R: John Purcell, Annette Telling, Bob Rose
Bottom L to R Adele Purcell, Carolyn Malani, Graham Stenner





John Spindler



Kevin and Lynne Morley



Top Row L to R: Lynne and Lance Northey, Robert Flack,
Mick Pignatelli.
Bottom Row L to R: Tony and Linda Kube, Helen Pignatelli,
Marlene Preston



Lucy and Peter Scott



Lynne Morley and Peter Tierney



Peter and Elaine Newell, Audrey and Bruce Pattison



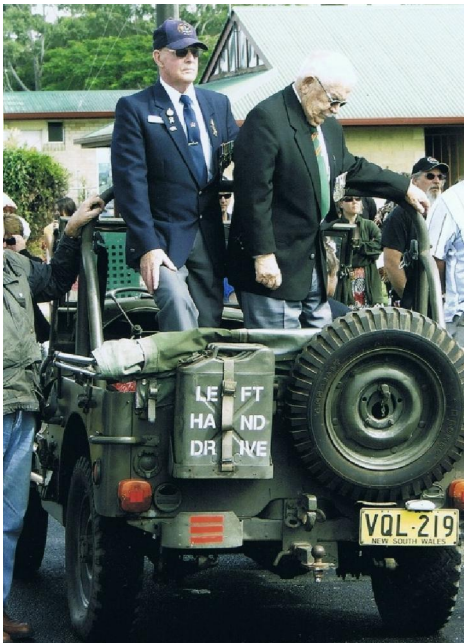


Robbie Robinson and Lynne Morley



Phil Cannane and Cindylou Campbell

MORE FROM ANZAC DAY 2009



Helping Hand for an Old Mate. Jim Mulligan (left) helping his mate, Mathew Mealing climb out of a Jeep during the 2009 ANZAC Day Parade at Evans Head, NSW. Older members may remember Mathew who was the SQMS of 1 Commando Company at Georges Heights in the early 1960s. He also ran the canoe store at Chowder Bay

Jim Mulligan and Mathew Mealing



MISSING PERSON – MONTY BOND

Bill Bond, the son of Monty Bond would like to hear from anyone who knew his father. George Montague (Monty) Bond served on *AV1379 Tarra* between 1958 and 1960.

Monty enlisted in the AIF in 1939 and served with 5th Fortress Engineers in WA. In 1942 until 1945 he was with 19th Fortress Engineers and New Guinea Fortress Engineers, then to Master General of Ordnance (Design Division), LHQ in 1945. He then went to 78 Water Transport Squadron, WA Fixed Defences in 1946/47 and then to 3 Tn Squadron until 1957. In 1958 until his discharge in Brisbane in 1960 he served on the *Tarra*.

If you knew Monty or remember anything about him could you please contact the Secretary who will pass on any information to his family.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

At our last AGM it was proposed that our subscription rate be increased from \$10 to \$20 per year. The proposal was discussed at length and it was decided to keep the rate at \$10 but review it periodically. It was acknowledged that to produce and post our newsletters \$10 barely covers the costs. Yes, we have many members on the net who we email them to, and this considerably reduces costs but we are still just breaking even. Having said that (and probably shooting myself in the foot) we are posting this issue to everyone. Two reasons: firstly it is too big to email – we have included a lot of photos with the articles about the 50th Anniversary and the Albury Ambush. Secondly, we can include the car sticker for financial members with the newsletter and thus save on postage costs.

This brings me to the next point. There are still a number of members who have let their subscription lapse. We think \$10 is very reasonable, and is less than **all** other Army associations' rates. Our Association is unique and the envy of many others. We have a strong, close-knit membership (over 300) and want to keep it that way. So if you get a note with this newsletter asking you to pay your arrears please send a cheque or money order to our Treasurer, Peter Tierney. Thanks!

DAVE PERHAM'S BOOK

“Rolling Through 32” has been a huge success and Dave is to be congratulated for making it so. You will be pleased to know that we recently sent a cheque for \$500 to Legacy based on the profits to date. More will follow. Costs were kept to a minimum thanks to your advanced subscriptions, individual donations and very generous donations from people such as Bruce Reilly, Marcus Blackmore, the RAE Foundation and RAE Corps Committee. An outstanding achievement all round. Out of the original print run of 600 copies we only have 45 left! So if you want another book, get in quick. They are still only \$45 including postage and can be ordered through our web page (www.32smallshipsqn.org.au)



Photos from the Australian War Memorial and Dinner



Maj Gen Peter Gratton and Association President Graham Murray



Group photo at the Australian War Memorial





VIPs at the Australian War Memorial

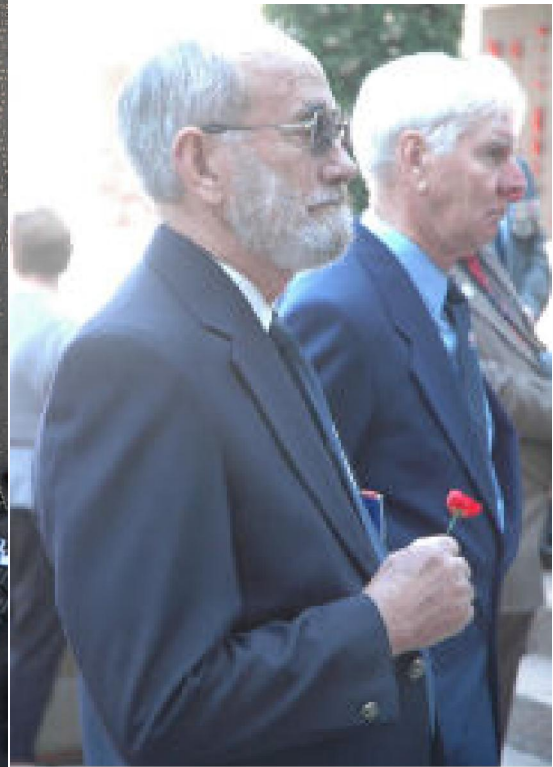


Association Patron Ken Duncan at the Australian War Memorial





Bruce Reilly and Rina Ross



Ian Johnston and Alan White



Pat Scott and Ken Duncan



John (Speedie) Sahariv and Derek Smith





Beth and Graham Murray



Dave and Helen Gray



Maj Gen Peter Gratton



Maj Gen Peter Gratton and wife Ann





John and Kathy Bonnett with Margaret and Derek Smith



Kevin Morley with Rhonda and Derek Smith





John Bryant



Mike and Val Heal



Pat and Mrs Scott



Ian Johnston

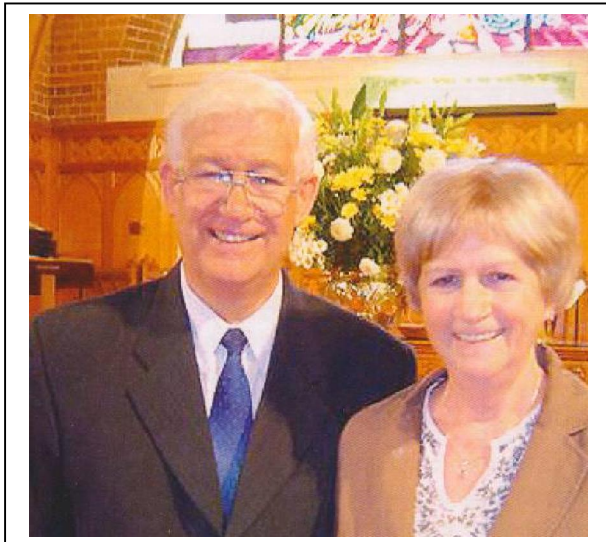


RICHARD McCracken – HONORARY CHAPLAIN

Until 2005 an ANZAC Day Dawn Service was conducted at the Army Mariners' Memorial at Chowder Bay. The service was coordinated by the Official Custodian of the Memorial, Colonel Ken Duncan and assisted by Phil Cannane. The officiating Padres at the service were Monsignor Eugene Harley, the former well known Army Chaplain, and Reverend Richard McCracken of the Scots Kirk, Mosman. Although both padres have been Honorary Chaplains to our Association for five years it has been remiss of us not to introduce them to you. So...here is Reverend Richard McCracken's background. We'll give you Monsignor Harley's history in the next issue.

Richard McCracken was born in Belfast, Northern Island and, after Elementary School and Teachers College, he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Trinity College, Dublin. He spent several years working with an Irish Linen firm, before entering The Presbyterian College, Belfast for his Theological training.

On being ordained, Richard served in the Belfast area for some years, including being the Chaplain to a Borstal Institution for boys aged from 16 to 21 years, as well as marrying his beloved Audrey, who has been his constant companion and supporter.



In 1972, they moved to Perth, Western Australia to commence a new life with their three sons and it was here that he was appointed to look after two congregations in two different centres. A difficult and taxing time for a "new arrival"

It was also while in Perth that he began his Military Chaplaincy duties, being appointed to the Air force Reserve as a Chaplain at the Pearce RAAF Base. In 1976 Richard became the Minister at Scots Kirk, Mosman NSW and at the same time he transferred his Air force Chaplaincy duties to NSW, serving at RAAF Glenbrook and at 2 Stores Depot until reaching retirement age in 1995. He was awarded the Reserve Forces Decoration for this long and efficient Chaplaincy service to the RAAF.

In the late 1990's our Patron, Colonel Ken Duncan was appointed the "Custodian of The Mariners' Memorial" at Chowder Bay, on the departure of all Army units from the area. The conduct of the Anzac Dawn Service then became his responsibility and so Richard, in conjunction with our other Association Chaplain, Monsignor Eugene Harley became the Officiating Chaplains for this Service.

In addition to his normal Pastoral Duties in and around Mosman, Richard served on several Presbyterian Assembly and Presbytery Committees and was elected Moderator of the New South Wales General Assembly in 1992-1993.

In mid-2005, Richard McCracken retired from Scots Kirk at Mosman to their home at Kanwal, on the Central Coast of NSW. He remained active in The Ministry and was regularly invited to preach at several Churches in the region, before leaving his retirement and being inducted into St Andrews Presbyterian Church at The Entrance as their Parish Minister.

Additional to his role as Honorary Chaplain of the 32 Small Ship Squadron Association RAE, Richard is Chaplain to the NSW Branch of the National Servicemen's Association of NSW.



VALE – ROBERT CATHER
18 September 1946 – 15 September 2009

Bob Freeman recently reported the death of Bob Cather a National Serviceman who served in Vietnam on *AV1356 Clive Steele* in 1968. Bob lived at Taren Point NSW. He had inoperable prostate cancer for the last three years and died at home with his family on 15 September 2009.

Bob was a colourful identity within the Squadron.



Bob Cather on M60 aboard Clive Steele SVN 1968

He had a wonderful sense of humour and he worked and played hard. When he was discharged after completing his National Service obligation he continued with his introduction to maritime life and joined the Merchant Navy where he sailed on various bulk ore carriers between Australia and Asia. He retired in 1994.

He will long be remembered for an incident at Woolwich shortly after he returned from Vietnam. We were told one afternoon that the OC, Major Jim “Haggis” Wilson was to address us on parade. After we formed up Haggis stated that he had just been advised that he was to be awarded the medal of the Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). He went on to say that although he was to receive the medal it was not for his efforts alone but every member of the Squadron should take pride in the achievement and share the honour with him. At this point Sapper Cather asked him if he could borrow the medal next Saturday as he was taking his girlfriend to the movies and wanted to impress her. Haggis suggested that Sapper Cather should see him in his office after the parade. Needless to say he didn’t get to go to the movies.

Bob’s ashes will be placed in a memorial wall with those other ex-soldiers in a park on Bribie Island, Queensland. We offer our condolences to his wife, Cathy and sons, David and Brad.

VALE – PHILLIP PHILPOTT
26 November 1936 – 16 May 2009

It is with regret we advise that Phillip Philpott passed away on 16 May 2009 from a ruptured aneurism. He served in Vietnam on *AS3051 John Monash* in 1968/69. After leaving the Army he carried out security work and then joined the NSW Police Force. On retirement he and his family moved to Cannonvale, Qld where he built a house and lived there for the past thirteen years.

We offer our condolences to his wife, Elaine and son, Luke.



FOR SALE

(Can be now ordered through the Association Web Page)

Ties (new stock now arrived)	\$25.00	LSM Lapel Badge	\$12.00
Association Book	\$30.00	Collar Badge	\$6.00
25th Anniversary Plaque	\$25.00	Association Woven Patch	\$8.00
Association Cap Navy Blue	\$15.00	Car Sticker	\$5.00
Association Polo Shirt (navy blue only) made to order			\$30.00
Book "Rolling Through 32" (includes postage)			\$45.00

Please contact Ken Shannon 02 9871 4667 or property@32smallshipsqn.org.au

Disclaimer

Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Committee of 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE Association Incorporating RAE Tn.

Contributions

Contributions are welcome from members and their families of anything that is of interest of members. So, if you would like to contribute please send in an electronic format (preferred) or a typed version. Just send it to the editor at

editor@32smallshipsqn.org.au

or to

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Box 33

12 Philip Mall

WEST PYMBLE NSW 2073

Email and Postal Addresses

Please let the Association know if you get a new email address or change your current one. The same goes for your postal address. Remember, we want to keep in touch with you!



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