

# 'DOWN UNDER' Newsletter

## March 2020

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John Harrison



## Secretary's Scribbles

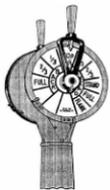
Fellow Submariners and Friends,

For those not aware I, **Dave Barlow**, was elected as the branch secretary at the March meeting and I will retain the duties of the Membership Secretary too. As the new boy on the block I will be relying heavily on the committee and senior members of the branch for advice whilst learning more about how the branch operates and also the Australian culture which I find fascinating.

Although I have been a member for just five months having emigrated out here last October, I have been visiting my daughter and family annually for the last five years so I have got to know many of you. Please bear with me if I forget a name as I am hopeless on that score.

So, you will all be aware of the **Corona Virus Outbreak**. If not, you must have been locked in a pub somewhere. Anyway, how is it affecting us as a branch? I have mentioned in the minutes about the National Reunion and conference being postponed. But what else? Well the **ANZAC Dawn Service and Parades have been cancelled** and also that we have received notice from the City of Albany that this year's **US Memorial Day Service has also been cancelled in May**. I was really looking forward to that trip too as the furthest I have travelled south so far is Dunsborough.

Later in this newsletter I have penned a brief profile, so you know a bit more about me. That's all for now



### *Finished with Engines*

*Coxn - Pipe leave to the stokers only, standfast fore-endies to store ship.*

### **STOP PRESS**

Due to the dreaded Coronavirus the government is being forced to change how we live almost daily. At the moment all pubs, clubs, restaurants etc are shut so even if we wanted to we would have nowhere to meet. On top of that we must all be 2 metres from each other so unless we found an empty beach somewhere, we are stumped.

**THE BOTTOM LINE IS, THAT THERE WILL BE NO MORE MEETINGS OF THE SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA BRANCH UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. AS NEWS FILTERS THROUGH I WILL CONTACT YOU ALL.**

## **Monthly General Meeting March 11<sup>th</sup> 2020**

***NOTE: This meeting is designated an Emergency General Meeting to allow voting for a new President and Secretary.***

The President, **Alan Jameson**, opened the Meeting @ 12:00 and after welcoming the members, visitors and our ladies Raised a Toast to Absent Friends.

**Apologies:** Jim Dandie, Bob Pitman, Alan Thomas, Pat Thomas, Barry Grace, Jim Major, Barry Morgan, Paul Meakin, Frank Wilson, John Reeve, Ian Mackenzie, Mick Hannah, Dennis Williams, Eoin Douglas-Smith

**Attendees:** Alan Jameson, Bob Wood, John Harrison Mick Hanlon, John Keating Dave Barlow, John Manning, Roy Stedman, Richard Drain, Peter Treen, Tom Oates, Karl Campbell, Tony Richards, Ned Newcombe

**Ladies:** Pat Hanlon, Charlotte Keating

**Guests:** Lee Stedman (Roy Stedman's Son)

**Rum Raffle Winner:** This month's Winner was **Alan Jameson**, a worthy winner and a nice touch being his last meeting as President.

## Elections

**President:** **Bob Wood** stated that as **Alan Jameson** is standing down as our President a new President needs to be elected. He asked for volunteers and **Mick Hanlon** was the only member responding. After a vote Mick was elected with the Votes being **For 10, Against 0 Abstentions 2.**

Mick was duly elected and after thanking the branch generally, thanked Alan Jameson the outgoing president personally for all his work and dedication to the branch over many years.

**Secretary:** **Bob Wood** stated that as he was standing down as branch secretary due to personal reasons a new Secretary needs to be elected. He asked for volunteers and **Dave Barlow** was the only volunteer. After a vote Dave was elected with the votes being: **For 12, Against 0 Abstentions 2.** Dave was duly elected.

**NOTE:** This means the position of **Vice President** is now vacant, so we really need a volunteer to fill this post. Also, we still need a **Social Secretary** so if anyone out there can help then please come forward. Be assured that the committee will assist so you won't be on your own.

## Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, **John Harrison**, gave a breakdown of the branch finances. They were proposed as correct by **Buster Keating** and seconded by **Tom Oates** and carried unanimously. John was thanked for managing our finances in an exemplary manner.

*Regards,  
John Harrison, Treasurer Australia Branch R.N.S.A.*

## Secretary's Report

**Bob Wood** asked **Dave Barlow** to take the meeting to go through the **National Conference** items which we need to vote on. It was apparent that many members thought that due to our remoteness from the UK and the National HQ that it doesn't apply to us. Having explained that we are a member branch of the National Association and any decisions taken by the elected committee could impact us so should be our concern too.

On this basis Dave was allowed to continue. I don't want to minute our voting results as these go into the public domain. We voted for our choice of National Chairman and the four members of the NMC. However, if any member wishes to know how we voted then he can just give me a call or email and I will tell him. I also arranged for a Barrow Branch member to be our proxy delegate for the proposals to be debated at the conference, but this aspect of the conference has been postponed until whenever the conference is held which is anyone's guess.

*Regards, Dave Barlow, Secretary Australia Branch R.N.S.A.*

## Membership Report

Although I am still rationalising the information passed across from **Mick Hannah** and **Bob Wood** the latest figure is:

Full Members (Paying subs)	30	
Full Life Members	9	
Associate Members	4	
Affiliate Member	1	(A Full Member but pays national subscription at another branch)
TOTAL	44	

*Regards, Dave Barlow, Membership Secretary Australia Branch R.N.S.A.*

## Welfare

I received an Email from **Dennis Williams** to say that he was unable to attend & going through the usual barrage of blood tests, etc, with his GP & he sent his regards to the meeting.

**Ken Read's** funeral service was held at Pinnaroo Cemetery, Whitfords at 1000 on Fri 21 Feb & was well attend by our members & others from the HMS GANGES Association (some of us are members of both Associations); several of us from the Rockingham area, went up by train to Whitfords, where we were picked up by GANGES members who lived locally & taken to Pinnaroo.

After the family's Eulogy, **Tony Richards** gave an outline of Ken's long RN service & he was followed by our President **Allan Jameson**, on his long history with our SA - Australia Branch (formerly SOCA-WA); Ken was a highly respected Associate Life member. O/C, of the funeral service we retired to the lounge, for tea & coffee, etc; thoughtfully some 'Pussers' had been brought along to toast Ken in our traditional fashion; we later received a heartfelt thank you from Ken's son Nigel.

I had a recent discussion with the **CO of TS ANZAC** (our affiliated Cadet unit), **Lt Robyn Brennan** SCC, WRT our Annual Periscope Memorial service, at Fremantle's Monument hill; the Cadets from TS ANZAC provide the Catafalque party for this service. At the recent meeting with Lt Brennan, she informed me that in future the Cadets of TS ANZAC were only going to parade with their arms (rifles), on ANZAC Day & Remembrance Day services; I inquired why our Periscope Service was not included but did not receive a reason why.

I explained that our SA would be querying this omission with the Sea Cadet authorities & would keep her informed of developments (I did ask for her Email, but she did not provide one). The meeting then requested that I asked approval from the committee & members to pursue this matter & was told to go ahead; to contact **Lt Cdr Robert Hughes** SCC (former CO of TS MARMION) and now the National Sea Cadet Corps National Liaison Officer with our query & we are awaiting his response.

**Regards, John "Buster" Keating, Welfare Officer, Australia Branch R.N.S.A.**

## AOB

**Dave Barlow** stated that the proposed visit to Upstream Solutions last week to present them with our branch crest had to be cancelled due to a lack of numbers. He asked for volunteers to attend on Friday 20 March. Six members volunteered which is about the right number and this was subsequently agreed with Upstream Solutions.

*PMN: Due to coronavirus outbreak the firm subsequently came back to me saying that they felt we should postpone the event until a later date. The Director did say how much they were looking forward to our visit and that they wanted to become more involved in the branch in the future.*

## **Communication between Buster Keating and Lt Cdr Hughes**

Robert,

G'Day; my name is John Keating & I am the main POC between our RN Submarines Association (SA) - Australia Branch (formerly SM Old Comrades Association-WA - SOCA-WA), based here at Fremantle in WA; Les Simmons & I are both members of our WA Division of the HMS GANGES Association & he gave me your contact details.

Our affiliation with TS-ANZAC goes back over many years, when some of our members were volunteer instructors with TS-ANZAC & the late former Lt (E) Peter Shield RN (Rtd), was a former OIC of TS-ANZAC; he later bequeathed his RN ceremonial sword to the unit.

The Cadets at TS-ANZAC perform a Catafalque Party, around our WW2 Periscope Memorial, at Fremantle's Monument Hill, on the nearest Sunday to Trafalgar Day, every year; last year they were unable to bring their weapons to the ceremony & we were

informed by the OIC that this was part of an Australia wide ban; this had occurred previously & our SA bought some cutlasses & presented them to the unit for the occasions that they were not allowed to use their weapons (they told us that they were not allowed to use these either)!

O/C, of the Periscope service we take the Cadets & family members to lunch at the Fremantle Navy club.

Recently in at an awards presentation at TS-ANZAC, I noticed that their Guard were again using their old white painted rifles (SLR's) & during a discussion with the units OIC, Leut Robyn Brennan SCC, she mentioned that they were waiting to be issued a newer type of weapon; however they were only going to be used at ANZAC Day & Remembrance Day services!

I queried why they were not going to be used for our Annual Periscope Memorial service, but Lt Brennan seemed reluctant to press that matter with the Sea Cadet authorities & I informed her that our SA would be pressing the Sea Cadet authorities on this matter; in a later phone conversation I again informed her that we would be pressing the matter & offered to send her a copy of this Email; I asked for her Email address but she declined to provide it.

Our SA had our Monthly General Meeting (MGM), at the Flying Angel in Fremantle (our normal venue), on Wed 11 Mar & I informed the members of what had transpired & sought the meetings approval to approach you on this matter & I received approval to pursue the matter.

Our only other event with TS ANZAC, is in December every year, when family members of our late esteemed Life member, Ivor Charlick (a WW2 RN ERA SM Veteran), present the Ivor Charlick Memorial trophy (a model of a WW2 RN 'T' class SM), to a Cadet selected by the unit; the winning cadet has their name added to the trophy, plus receive an engraved Plaque from our SA & a prize of \$100 cash (last year the unit 'forgot' to inform us of the date of this event, so we did it in February this year)!!

#### **Reply from Lt Cdr Hughes**

Thank you for your email regarding the present situation regarding your Association and TS Anzac; I have read thoroughly what you have mentioned and I felt that I had to use the correct Chain-of-Command within the ANC so I have passed on your information and details to the state Flotilla Commander (CMDR Spike Jones) and the National Director of Flotilla's (CMDR Richard Trigg) for further consideration and action.

I hope the action I have taken goes some way into improving a more positive communication link with TS Anzac? I can only thank you personally for the wonderful support that you and your members give to TS Anzac and the ANC as a whole. Please contact me again if I can be of any further assistance.

Kind regards Bob

LCDR R J Hughes ANC

International Liaison Officer

**Dave Barlow** thanked the branch for their confidence in electing him as the branch secretary even though he has only been in the branch for 5 months and said he hoped that he will carry out his duties to the best of his ability and hopefully to the satisfaction of the membership. He also thanked the outgoing secretary for the great job he has done during his tenure and hopes that he will still be able to enjoy our comradeship on his return from his UK holiday.

A collection was made and presented to the young lady who looks after us at the **Flying Angel Club** as she is leaving for pastures new.

**Meeting shut at approx: 13:15**

**END OF MARCH MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING**

**Due to the corona virus outbreak, Monthly General Meetings will be suspended until further notice.**

## Crossed The Bar

RN SM Association - CTB's for Mar 20 'Down Under' (from UK)					
Date/Name:	Rank (if known):	SM Service:	SM's Served On;	Branch/Age:	
18 Feb - Tim Marshall	CE Mech	NN	VALIANT (1st commission) & SCEPTRE (1st commission)	NM; Age NN	
20 Feb - JM 'Jan' Serdecki	LRO	1964 - 70	AENEAS (65/68)	Lincoln; Age 78	
28 Feb - Anthony 'Tony' J Marvin	CPO R Mech	1965 - 76	RENOWN (S) (1st Commission Nov 68 - May 73 & Sept 74 - Jan 75) & REVENGE (Nov 73 - Sept 74), NEPTUNE & DOLPHIN	NM; Age 85	
Mar 20 - George Maries	CPO Mech	Feb 1951 - May 59	SEADEVIL, THERMOPYLAE, TIPTOE, TALLY HO, SANGUINE, EXPLORER (also attached to the USN SM Service)	Ex-DOLPHIN Branch; Age 90	
Mar 20 - Michael (Micky) John Dack	OEA (O)	Sep 1967 - Dec 76	REPULSE	Barrow; Age 83	
Mar 20 - George Spencer	Sto Mech	1953/4	TURPIN	East Kent; Age 92	
Mar 20 - Toby Frere KCB	V/Admiral	1960 - 84	ASTUTE, OCELOT, TRUMP, ANDREW, ODIN, REVENGE & FOSM 1991 - 94	Ex-DOLPHIN; Age 81	
Mar 20 - John RW Cooper	A/LREM	1971 - 75	RENOWN & OSIRIS	Ex-Sussex; Age 68	
18 Mar - Kevin East	AB	1980's	S' class SSN's	NM; Age 52	
19 Mar - Stephan Arthur Vidak	CCWEA	1976 - 98	DREADNOUGHT & others	NM; Age 68	
Mar 20 - Christopher J 'Nobby' Bunch	CPOWEA	June 1967 - Sept 85	TIPTOE (67/69), FINWHALE, SEALION (70/72), OPPORTUNE (72), ONSLAUGHT (72/74) & RENOWN (77/81)	Ex-Gosport; Age 74	
Mar 20 - E 'Edward' GR Hancox	Tel	1943 - 48	FFS NARVAL, VULPINE & TIPTOE	Burton on Trent; Age 96	
<b>Mar 20 Edition of RN Navy News:</b>					
24 Jan - Roger Chapman CBE	Leut	NN	NEPTUNE, WALRUS & RORQUAL	NN; Age NN	
<b>NOTE: There were 11 CTB's in the SA section, but we had covered them all in our Feb 20 Newsletter!</b>					

*Regards, John "Buster" Keating, Welfare Officer Australia Branch R.N.S.A.*

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## DAVID BARLOW IEng IMarEng MIMarEST SUBMARINERS ASSOCIATION

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I joined the Royal Navy in 1963 as an ERA Apprentice. On completion of my training, I spent a number of years in General Service, serving in HMS WHITBY, HMS BARNARD (Coal Burner), HMS TENBY, was rated ERA1 (CPO); and immediately volunteered for submarines which had been my long-term aim. I was drafted to HMS DOLPHIN in November 1970 for Submarine training followed by the Nuclear Propulsion Long Course, at HMS SULTAN and VULCAN. I then served in HMS VALIANT until Sept 1974 during which time I achieved Nuclear Chief of the Watch, 18 months in the Nuclear Repair Section in HMS DEFIANCE, and Maneuvering Room Simulator before leaving the Royal Navy in August 1979.

I was a Senior Commissioning Engineer in Power Stations in both UK and South Africa for 5 years before returning to the Submarine business. Initially at Yarrow Research and Development Ltd in Glasgow where I

met my good friend Pete Treen, then as a Contract Control Manager at Rosyth Royal Dockyard. I carried out various submarine refits, essential dockings and nuclear submarine decommissioning before heading south to Barrow in 2002 where I was employed on the Astute Class Project.

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A founder member of the Scottish Branch of SOCA (Submarine Old Comrades' Association) in 1979, I enjoyed a number of junior offices before becoming the Branch Secretary for 16 years.

I was voted on to the National Committee in 1997, followed by Vice Chairman before being elected as National Chairman in 2003 the position I held until 2012 when I decided to stand down. I was also Chairman of the Barrow Branch until 2018.

I was instrumental in pushing through the name change to the "Submariners Association" in 2000, resurrected and subsequently edited the national newsletter "In Depth" and coordinated the production of a booklet depicting the history of the Association, the development of a DVD showing a year in the life of the Association and in 2011 a poetry book of submarine related poems, many written by submariners themselves.

On retiring as National Chairman I was made an Honorary Vice President of the Association and awarded the Patron's Commendation for services rendered.

My wife and I decided to emigrate to Australia after visiting my daughter and family annually for the last five years and have grown to love Australia. This came to fruition last October and so far have not looked back. I will have been married to Fiona for 50 years later this year; and have a son and daughter who have given me five lovely grandchildren.

I enjoyed playing Rugby, Cricket, Hockey, Water Polo in my younger days and Flat Green Bowls but I am now restricted to armchair or boundary viewing. I have actually joined the WACA as a full member. It will be interesting when the Ashes come around again. My main hobby outside the Submariners Association is Model Engineering. I have joined a local club and enjoy driving the public on the miniature railway as well as building my own 5" gauge steam locomotive.



***Regards, Dave Barlow, Secretary and Membership Secretary Australia Branch R.N.S.A.***

