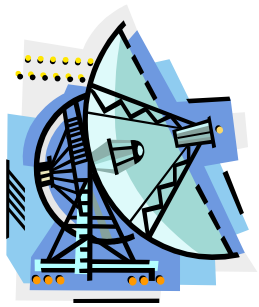
NEWSLETTER OF RANCBA VICTORIA

Patron

CMDR GEOFF HARLE M.B.E. R.A.N. (RET)

Date 07/April/2008

Autumn Edition



BASEGRAM

RANCBA ANZAC DAY

A Wreath Laying ceremony will be conducted prior to the Dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance.

Due to the large numbers attending the Dawn service, a central meeting point has been established at the statue depicting Simpson and his Donkey (located near the Shrines visitors entrance) at 5.30am.

Following the Dawn Service all Victorian members together with those attending the National Reunion RANCBA will form up for the ANZAC Day March in Flinders Street outside Flinders Street station.

Lookout for the RANCBA Banner and if your having trouble finding it look for around 300 blokes with blue hats on , where no doubt you will recognise many familiar faces.

Fall in will be called at approximately 0830, “By the right quick march” will occur shortly after 0900 so make sure your kit is up to scratch, walking sticks are at the ready, and finally make sure your not on the mismusters list especially for this one.

Any queries please contact the Secretary Graham Linton or myself.

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Belconnen National Communications Museum?

The Department of Defence is considering a proposal to transform its Belconnen naval site into a national communications museum and wildlife education park

If the concept is accepted by Defence, the 143ha site at the centre of Canberra's kangaroo cull controversy would remain Commonwealth land and its combined attractions could raise millions of dollars as a tourism venue.

Tiga Williams' plan to combine the site's naval history and wildlife population states that Canberra could have a unique tourism attraction that would be an international drawcard.

Williams said her parents and other family members had worked at the heritage-listed naval transmission station and she had grown up "listening to incredible stories about its role in military communications.

"I was told it was in communication with the HMAS Sydney before it engaged with the Kormoran. It played such an important role in Australia's war history that it deserves to be better known. Tourists might not drive out there just for that alone, but if you could go there and learn about Australia's wildlife, that would make it really special."

Williams said she had approached contacts at Defence with her idea and was encouraged to draw up a proposal to submit to Defence Minister Joel Fitzgibbon.

Excerpt from the Canberra Times 2nd April by Rosslyn Beeby Science and Environment Reporter

Comments, queries or if you have a story you would like included contact

IAN HOGARTH

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The Secrets of Chesterville Road Moorabbin

One of Moorabbin's great untold stories concerns the wartime wireless receiving station in Chesterville Road.

This unprepossessing establishment was set up in 1942 in a series of makeshift buildings amid the market gardens, and in an area that was then the 'backblocks' of Moorabbin.

Declassified defence records from World War 11 show that this unlikely encampment was concerned with some of the war's most sensitive secrets and its operations contributed significantly to changing the course of the conflict in the Pacific.

The station was established in March 1942, when sections of market garden properties owned by Arthur McKittrick, Peter Briggs and William and Roy Sullivan were abruptly requisitioned by the Australian Government on behalf of the Director of Naval Works.

The acquisition was made under Section 54 of the National Security Regulations, which allowed the Commonwealth sweeping powers in wartime.

The properties – a total of 6 acres of land on the north corner of Chesterville and Keys roads, opposite the junction with Wickham Road – appeared to have had little to commend them to the cause of national defence.

The area is today the site of some of Moorabbin's important industrial enterprises, but in 1942 it was all rustic open spaces, largely used for market gardening activities, and some sand extraction.

There were two houses associated with the site – the McKittrick home, a weatherboard building with wrap-around verandah, and a smaller brick cottage on the western side of Chesterville Road, owned by Peter Briggs.

Both dwellings were characteristic of the very basic market gardeners' homes in the area at the time, and were without electricity or sewerage.

Ed Note *There was the Neill's waterhole, on the southern side of Wickham Road which gives a good reference for those interested in looking the site up*

Within days of the formal acquisition by the Navy, a team of workmen arrived to erect radio installations – eight 25-metre wooden masts arrayed in a rhomboid pattern at the rear of the site, and set back from Chesterville Road

The first personnel to arrive were a number of WRANS (Women's Royal Australian Navy) and a larger contingent of US Navy servicemen.

The uniformed Americans were an unexpected presence in this rural, out-of-the-way setting. They were also relatively numerous for there were to be a total of 35 US Navy servicemen employed at the base. Most were deeply tanned, indicating prior service in the more tropical regions to the north.

The Americans gave the appearance of being open and friendly towards their new neighbors, but were reticent about the reason for their somewhat incongruous presence amid Moorabbin's market gardens.

Gladys Stott, who was then Gladys Marriott, a young girl working on her family's property nearby, remembers the Americans and the station well.

One of her daily tasks was to take the family's cows to graze in fields adjoining the base.

"We probably did think at first that it was a little strange to see them there, but it was wartime, and you didn't ask questions," she says. "I think we were told later that messages from shipping were handled through the base."

This impression had a basis of truth. The radio station, which could receive but not transmit, was a Navy listening station, it was not concerned with the business of Allied shipping, but with some of the most secret transmissions of the Japanese who were then advancing rapidly through the Pacific and threatening an invasion of Australia.

The ramshackle radio operation dealt with the interception of Japanese coded communications, and the gathering of information critical to the Allied fortunes in the war.

(Continued next issue)

The Fleetwork Trainer

The Fleetwork Trainer (FWT) and components were used at the Communications School, HMAS Cerberus from 1970 until 1993. There were three known Fleetwork Trainer installations in the world, two at HMS Mercury ("Royal School of Maritime operations" located at Leydene, Petersfield, Hants, U.K.) and one at HMAS Cerberus in Victoria, Australia. The FWT installed at HMAS Cerberus is based on the installation at HMS Mercury which was designed by Research Engineers Ltd., (of Shoreditch, UK) in collaboration with the Admiralty Surface Weapons Establishment in 1963.

The Fleetwork Trainer was used to simulate real world scenarios of conflict and convoy maneuvers. The basic course run on the FWT qualified seaman for progression to participation on Royal Australian Navy (RAN) vessels. Other courses were designed to train a range of Navy personnel from signalman to petty officer to yeoman and refresher training for potential officers and commanders of vessels.

Simulated Fleetwork was accomplished in eight 'ship' cubicles within the trainer. These cubicles contained a pupil control unit which enabled the pupil to control the course and speed of their particular vessel. The control unit was fitted with two microphones, one simulated a tactical UHF voice circuit, the other was an intercom to the command cubicle.

The FWT room that housed the cubicles would be blacked-out during sessions, each cubicle had local light sources, was sound proof and faced a projection screen onto which the ships were projected as small colored shapes.

The Fleetwork Trainer was used predominantly by signals personnel. Time spent in the trainer was the culmination of a signalman's training.

In the Trainer the signalman would draw on all aspects of of their training and perform all of the functions of signals sailor at sea including - encoding and decoding tactical signals from the maneuvering book, attend the UHF tactical circuit, interpret and act on tactical signals, plot the formation or screen, and most importantly brief the command on the current tactical situation.

Through the correct execution of maneuvers with the virtual vessel on screen a pupil was able to demonstrate their understanding and purport of tactical signals.

Projected symbols representing vessels were colour coded to differentiate participants. The trainer was also capable of projecting a 'spiders web' which was used when ships were allocated sectors within a screen.

Threatening scenarios were played out - a map of a coastal or other region (these locations were usually the port of Sydney or Jervis Bay) would be projected onto the screen and the simulation would be imposed upon this.

Example scenario: In an anti-submarine scenario the object of the exercise was to protect the main body, or high value unit (HVU) from submarine attack. A screen would be formed around the HVU actively and aggressively searching for the submarine. Once a submarine was located, several ships would be ordered to prosecute the submarine while the HVU was turned away from the threat. The remaining ships would then be re-arranged within the screen to afford the best measure of protection for the HVU as it made good its escape.

Continued next edition

Thanks to the Research Author Mr Campbell Bickerstaff Powerhouse Museum and source Mr. John Perryman Naval Historical Officer Seapower Centre Canberra .

Ensign (Flag) Is taken directly from the old Norman language “enseigne”.

The Anglo Saxon word “Segne” means flag.

Signum in Latin means Sign And Signal comes from the same root word.

Project SEA1442 Phase 4.

Overview - Phase 4 will be a major step towards the Australian Defence Force Network Centric Warfare (NCW) concept in the maritime environment.

The Project will contribute towards the goal of high capacity and high quality voice and data connectivity for the warfighter at sea to facilitate a greater level of situational awareness and decision superiority.

SEA 1442 Phase 4 will provide increased level of communication systems integration within ships and with other platforms. (see ed note below)

This may include provision of integrated communications planning and configuration, distributed network management, and replacement radios, switches, and voice communication systems.

The Maritime Tactical Wide Area Network implemented in Phase 3 will be also be upgraded.

Phase 4 is in capability definition stage of the project life-cycle. The platforms to be upgraded and the level of upgrade within each platform will be determined during this stage.

Schedule – The key milestone target dates for Phase 4 are:

- First Pass Approval – 2008
- Second Pass Approval – 2010
-

These dates are subject to change.

Estimated Expenditure – The estimated budget for Phase 4 is $200m - $250m.

Editors note.

Ships involved the 8 x ANZAC Class Frigates and the FFG's.

Systems include:

The internal communications systems
The Communications Planning System, the Network Management and Control System
The Shore Gateway System
Upgrading the Network Operations System
Upgrading the existing HF Network and the Radio Frequency System including infrastructure eg radio, antenna, RF Distribution sub-systems
Red/Black Switching System includes data,/video/voice switching subsystems
Cryptographic Systems

Also includes enhancements to Phase 3 deliverables

The design goal of the project is to maximise use of IP utilising converged voice and data (eg IP packet switching, VoIP), use multi-band software definable radio, utilising embedded crypto/modems and multi level security technologies (eg thin clients)

Source Mr Bob Greg Technical Manager DMO and SEA 1442 Phase 4 Project Manager

The first 90% of a project takes 90% of the time

The last 10% takes another 110%.

Editor

CIS243—Graduation 6th March 2008 HMAS Cerberus

I had the pleasure of attending the Graduation Ceremony at the new Communications school HMAS Cerberus however today it is officially known as the Defence Force School of Signals—Maritime CIS Wing. The OIC is fellow RANCBA member LCDR Ian Broadsmith.

The Reviewing Officer for the parade was CMDR R.J. Withers RAN who coincidentally was my Yeoman onboard HMAS Brisbane in the late 70's.

I arrived well before the scheduled start as should be the custom fearing at one stage on the drive down that I may have to front and centre for being adrift. However, on arrival I was made to feel welcome and very much at home by LCDR Broadsmith's very capable staff.

The ceremony started at 1500 with both the Graduating class and those still under instruction marching onto the parade ground (note the entire parade was conducted via Signals Flag Hoist).

It was interesting to see the invited friends and family watching their kith and kin march on to the parade ground and no doubt that put that little bit of extra spring into their step as they marched on.

The Chaplain then delivered a short prayer, which was a nice touch, and this was followed with the OIC LCDR Ian Broadsmith introducing the Reviewing Officer CMDR R. Withers who then inspected the parade and delivered a short but rather pertinent speech.

This which was followed by my introduction and then the presentation of awards and certificates by the reviewing officer after which my part in the proceeding began in awarding each of the graduating class with their Warfare medallion with a few words of encouragement.

Just as a matter of interest the subjects studied now by the graduating class include Radio Theory, Portable Radio Equipment, Message Processing, Visual Signaling, Flag Ceremonial, Voice Procedure, Cryptographic Equipment, Tactical Data Systems, Computer Applications and the ubiquitous – typing! (I forgot to check if they still use the same typing exercises we all systematically had to work our way through)

This was then followed by a closing ceremony and the graduating class with their family, friends, staff and invited guests retired for afternoon tea and refreshments and before I knew it I was back on the freeway towards in Melbourne having thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Reflecting on the days events I sent the following message to LCDR Broadsmith who must take a great deal of credit for the professional manner in which both he and his staff continue to instill the traditional values and practices we are all familiar with in future RANCBA members.

To LCDR Broadsmith:-
The officers, serving men and women together with graduating class whom I had the pleasure of meeting today provided me with the very specific impression that their conduct and deportment is a credit to themselves the Navy and the country they serve.

The graduation ceremony was not dissimilar to some excellent speeches I have had the honor of attending. It had an excellent beginning and a good end, with both being not too far apart thereby reflecting highly on the punctuality of the service itself and the importance time has for all of us.

Having a bit of form has always been important in any Naval ceremony, however I did note another quality on display today, that being substance!.
Bravo Zulu to all concerned.

Editors Note I
For those members who would like to volunteer to present the medallion from the old and the bold to those who will now continue the tradition please contact the Editor as per details on Page 1.

Presidents Report on the RANCBA Reunion 2008

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Dear Fellow Communicator,

Welcome to the fifth national reunion. Gathering in Melbourne, and in particular HMAS CERBERUS, brings us all back to that place which is common to all communicators, the genesis of our various careers. In keeping with the developing tradition for these national reunions, I am hoping that we have organised an event that you will find memorable.

The programme we have put together for the 2008 National Reunion is:

· **Registration** – Thursday 24th April from 1000 to 1600 in the Bellarine Room at the Melbourne Exhibition and Convention Centre (MECC) (cnr Flinders and Spencer Street, Melbourne). At the registration you will confirm your attendance, indicate if you wish to attend the Dawn Service, collect the memorabilia you have purchased and also those items included in your registration fee.

Concurrent with registration we have organised a meeting place in the adjacent hotel (Crowne Plaza Hotel). The venue provides an ideal opportunity to catch up with old friends before we get into the serious parts of the reunion programme. Drinks will be at your own expense.

· **Cocktail Party** – Thursday 24th April from 1800 to 2100 in the Bellarine Room at the MECC. The cost of the Cocktail Party covers drinks for two hours and finger food. Drinks include beer (light and heavy), wine (red and white) and soft drink. Dress for this event is smart casual.

· **ANZAC Day Dawn Service** - Friday 25th April at Melbourne Cenotaph (Shrine). The dawn service is generally attended by thousands of people, which makes the Cenotaph very crowded and difficult to meet and assemble as an organized group. When you register on Thursday please take time to indicate whether you wish to attend the Dawn Service. Details of the meeting place will be outlined in the Reunion Booklet, which will be in your welcome kit.

· **ANZAC Day March** – Friday 25th April. Assemble in Flinders Street outside Flinders Street station (lookout for the RANCBA Banner). Fall in at approximately 0830 for a step off at approximately 0900. Our Parade Marshall for the day is Ian Hogarth. Details of the march will be briefed on the morning (order, eyes right, fall out, etc) . It is quite a walk back to the MECC from the Cenotaph and therefore two buses will run a shuttle service for those who need support to get back to the lunch venue for a 1200 start. If you are fit and well the walk will take approximately 30 minutes. Transport (time and exact place). The cost of the ANZAC Day lunch covers lunch, drinks for three hours and entertainment. Dress for this event is jacket and tie/smart casual with the jacket and hat included in your registration fee.

· **ANZAC Day Lunch** – Friday 25th April commending at 1200. The cost of the Lunch covers a meal, drinks for three hours and entertainment. Unfortunately, because of their heavy ANZAC Day schedule, the RAN Band is unable to entertain us during the lunch.

Dress for this event is jacket and tie/smart casual. If you have a preference of who you would like to sit with please advise Graham Linton by email asap.

· **Golf** – Saturday 26th April at Albert Park Golf Club. Details will be found in your Reunion Booklet.

Presidents Report on the RANCBA Reunion 2008

(Continued)

· **Gala Dinner** – Saturday 26th April from 1900 to 2359 in the Bellarine Room at the MECC. Assemble in the Atrium Room (floor below the Bellarine Room) at 1900 for pre-dinner drinks. We will move to the Bellarine Room at approximately 1930 to take our assigned seats for the Dinner. The Navy Band will be providing the music for the evening. The cost of the Dinner covers dinner, drinks for four and a half hours (includes pre-dinner drinks). Dress for this event is black tie/lounge suit. If you have a preference of who you would like to sit with please advise Graham Linton by email asap.

· **HMAS CERBERUS Church Service** – Buses for HMAS CERBERUS Church Service will leave the MECC at 0815 from outside the MECC and will travel via Frankston Station if there are any pickups there.

Return from HMAS CERBERUS will be in conjunction with the return buses at the completion of the Lunch. Buses departing CERBERUS will leave from outside Club Cerberus at 1600. This should get us back into Melbourne by about 1730.

· **HMAS CERBERUS Visit and Lunch** – The visit to Cerberus covers a tour of the Communications School, an opportunity to see other parts of Cerberus that may interest you and the lunch at Club Cerberus. The Senior Sailors mess has kindly opened their mess/bar to RANCBA members who may wish to use their facilities before the lunch commences at 1200 in Club Cerberus. Purchases as the Senior Sailors mess will be at your own expense.

The cost of attending Cerberus covers your bus from Melbourne (via Frankston Station) to Cerberus and return, lunch and drinks for two hours. Buses for HMAS CERBERUS lunch will depart from outside the MECC at 0900.

Whilst there is not much spare time during the reunion Melbourne still has much to offer those who may not be attending all events. We have included tourism information in your registration bag should you be seeking other activities between events. We have secured 100 free tickets for two of the Saturday games. First in gets the tickets by advising Graham Linton by email.

Raffle – It is intended to hold a major raffle where tickets with the draw being held at the CERBERUS lunch on Sunday. Details of the raffle will be promulgated at the registration.

I would encourage all those attending this reunion, who are not members of their state RANCBA to do so and thus provide the organisers with the opportunity of advising you of future events of this nature

Finally I would like to thank our sponsors and supporters for providing support to this national reunion. Major sponsors include the:-

Melbourne Naval Centre,
Thales Australia,
RANCBA NSW,
RANCBA Vic
The Royal Australian Navy Band.

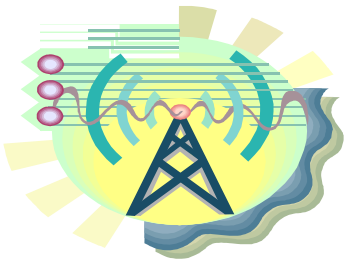
I look forward to seeing you all in Melbourne. Please enjoy your reunion.

Yours in Communicating

(osb)
Rod Withers
President

Something New!

Digital Video Broadcasting



MOBILES already store contacts and appointments, check email, edit documents, surf the internet and take photos, but soon you'll be able to put a fully fledged television in your pocket.

Thanks to a developing system called DVBH (Digital Video Broadcasting for Handhelds), users will be able to view live television broadcasts on their handset in exactly the same way they do at home.

Australia's mobile phone carriers already offer limited video services, but DVB-H works in a different way.

Rather than streaming content over the mobile phone network, signals are broadcast in the same way as conventional free-to-air television.

Existing mobile network-based streaming video services may be affected by the number of users in a given mobile network cell. As more people crowd in, the limited bandwidth becomes congested, leading to frustrating dropouts.

However, because DVB-H services uses a broadcast technique, quality is not affected by the number of concurrent users.

Another factor being carefully studied by mobile operators is how advertising will work in this new mobile broadcasting world.

It's still obviously a work in progress, but there's little doubt it will be different from the way it's handled by traditional television stations.

A number of DVB-H trials have already been carried out in Australia and full commercial services could begin in the next two years.

Once the Australian Communications and Media Authority has auctioned the radio spectrum which will include 2 channels
.

The first, dubbed channel A, is likely to be used to provide extra in-home digital services. The second, channel B, is slated for a range of other applications, including mobile television.

In anticipation of DVB-H services becoming widespread during the next few years, handset vendors have been working developing devices capable of receiving the broadcasts. None are yet on the market in Australia, but they can be expected as soon as services go live.

Overseas, Italy became the first country in Europe to offer a commercial DVB-H service when it launched one to coincide with the World Cup in 2006 and DVB-H has been selected as the European standard avoiding the issues we had with VHS vs Beta and more recently Blue Ray vs the Toshiba HD standard.

However the task is made more complex by the fact that some services will use different frequencies in different parts of the world.

Nokia has already launched its N92 and N77 handsets, both of which are DVB-H-compatible.

Meanwhile, Samsung is offering its P930 DVB-H-compatible handset and LG has released the LG U900 with a swiveling display. In portrait mode it can be used as a conventional phone and in landscape mode it can be used to catch the news.

Vendors are confident demand exists for mobile television, and broadcasters are excited about the potential for new revenue streams.

The only unknown is the level of user demand for the services.

Source : Australian IT

We would like to thank the Federal Member for Calwell for her assistance in the production and distribution of this Newsletter.

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