

PATRON

Spring Edition

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



## THE BASEGRAM

The 2007 Annual General meeting will be conducted at Coopers Inn on the 09th November 2007.

the attached form on PAGE 2 of this issue should be completed and forwarded to

Proceedings will commence at 11.00am. Coopers Inn is located at the corner of Exhibition and Little Lonsdale Streets 282 Exhibition St.

Jack Duffy RAN (Ret)  
2 Cadby Pl  
Frankston  
Victoria 3199

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Any member who thinks they might require some assistance is asked to let me know beforehand and we will make some arrangements.

by the 28th October 2007.

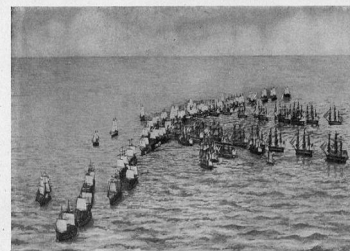
The cost of this years function will be \$35.00 per head and as this is a sit down meal and therefore to cater for as many members who wish to attend the earliest advice of you intentions will be appreciated by returning

As is our custom a game of skill will be conducted and five tickets at \$2.00 each are enclosed with your copy of the newsletter.

Please ensure that your name and any information you require updated together with your included when you reply.

### Some Famous Signals

Signal 39 as flown by Admiral Parker was the signal for "recall" or to "leave off the action".



MODEL OF THE BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR. (Reproduced by permission from the model at the Royal United Service Institution).

Lord Nelson was made aware of the signal and put the telescope to his blind eye and declared to Foley "I really do not see the signal!"

Nelson not only ignored the signal but forbade repeating the signal to the fleet and ordered the signal officer to keep the "close action" signal flying

**Source:** *Lord Nelson, The Immortal Memory* by David Howarth and Stephen Howarth, Viking 1989, page 253

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

Contact

IAN HOGARTH

Phone: 03 9338 7068  
Mobile: 0407 336641

# RANCBA Annual General Meeting 2007

Name .....

Address .....

.....

.....

Telephone .....

Email .....

WMP (with much pleasure) I will be attending the AGM

Meal and Drinks \$35

Game of Skill Tickets \$10

Subs (If required) \$10

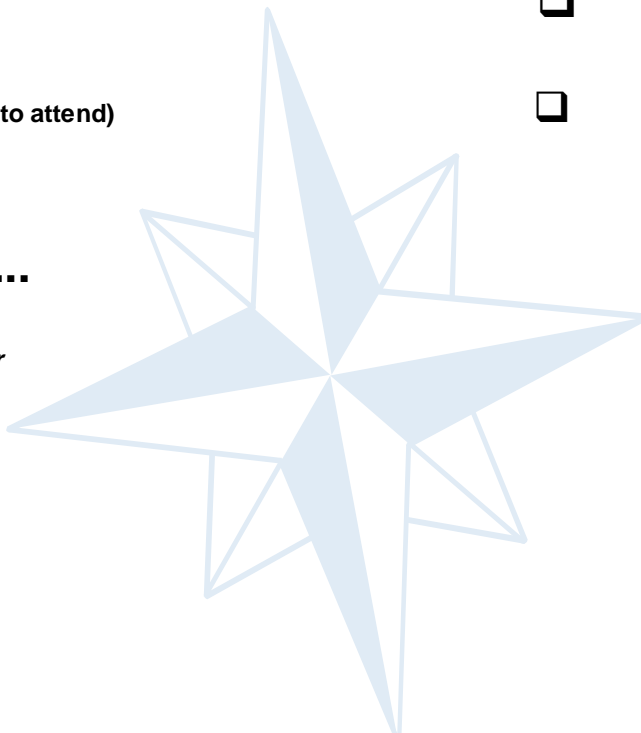
MRU (Much Regret am unable to attend)

**Total** \$.....

*Please Return to the Treasurer*

*Jack Duffy RAN (Ret)  
2 Cadby Pl  
Frankston  
Victoria 3199*

*your earliest Convenience*



## Bells – Update.

On the morning of 20 December, 2006, the three LF masts which had stood for sixty-seven years were brought down in a controlled fall.



Selected guy wires on each mast were severed using small cutting charges at ground anchor points which allowed each

mast to fall in a planned direction.

This was carried out by the Department of Defence with the sanction of the Minister for Environment and Heritage.

According to the Defence statement they were removed because they were no longer operational, their retention would incur considerable cost to taxpayers and their removal was deemed the safest option as they continued to age and degrade.

I, along with my colleagues who campaigned to save the masts, consider this an act of sanctioned vandalism.

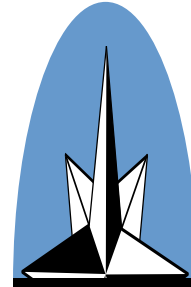
These masts were integral elements of the heritage listed LF transmitter (the one which would light up the fluorescent lamp).

Defence did, however, concede some ground to us in that they will be keeping a section of the central mast (the rest have been sold as scrap) mounted horizontally near the original connections from the helix room as a representation of the three masts.

The future of Bells, including the buildings and remaining transmitters, ancillary equipment and land, is still uncertain as Defence are planning to sell it.

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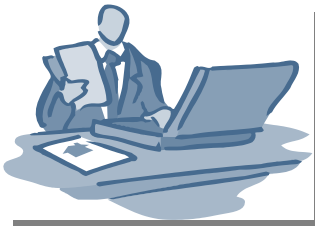
Dr Peter Dowling (ex CPORSS)  
Heritage Officer  
National Trust of Australia (ACT)



The ship was masted according to the proportion of the navy; but on my application the masts were shortened, as I thought them too much for her, considering the nature of the voyage.

William Bligh

## Treasurer's Report



Jack Duffy will present his report at the Annual General Meeting as per SOE's.

Those wishing to pay their subs may do so by forwarding them with this issue's attached form to

Jack Duffy RAN (Ret)  
2 Cadby Pl  
Frankston  
Victoria 3199

Email [Jduffy@alphalink.com.au](mailto:Jduffy@alphalink.com.au)

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

## Communicator's Birthday [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Just to introduce myself for those that don't know me I am WOCIS Tim (Doc) Holliday, the CIS Category Manager working for the CIS Category Sponsor CAPT Nick Bramwell (Director General Navy Communications and Intelligence Branch).

I was recently involved in the staffing of the Communications History for a Warfare Community publication which provided me, I believe with a better insight of the communications categories past.

However being on a tight deadline I wasn't able to consult with many in the Communications community on the project and I intend when time allows to ask for input from all members past and present to build the knowledgebase further.

In undertaking this project it became clear there exists an ethos unique in the various sections of the communication branch when compiling our history. The fact after 23 years in the Navy I was coming across information I had no idea about also was of great concern, to this end I have come up with a number of proposals for the submission which I hope will make transparent the ethos and knowledge of our category within the RAN.

One proposal is for a date to celebrate the communications community eg Communications Branch birthday and to celebrate an event which is communications related. I proposed the 9th of April as it was on this date in 1903 a world first occurred with an Australian Naval ship conducting a ship to shore wireless transmission (see the RANCBAsite for details)

However to ensure that the date which a celebration occurs is the most appropriate I would like to know if anyone considers

there is another event in that RAN Communications Branch history that equally has merit.

If approved (date to be determined) the events to be held to

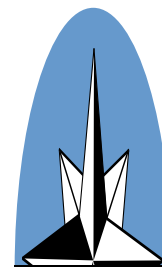
“Acknowledge the significant contribution of the generations of Communicators it is intended to celebrate this years event with a number of activities including

- A. A function for all Communication officers, Warrant Officers and Senior Sailors.
- B. A Communication exercise involving all communication mediums with all classes of ships relaying a specific message from two significant points.
- C. The presentation of a CIS Medalion to serving RAN members (also made available for purchase for all ex communicators)
- D. A BBQ lunch for all Communications personnel past and present that are able to attend at HMAS Ships Harman, Cerberus, Stirling, Cairns, Coonawarra and Kuttabul followed by social activities.

Please forward this to anyone you feel may have comment or interest and I look forward to receiving any idea's feedback regarding these and any other matters you wish to raise.

Thanking you in advance

WOCIS Tim (Doc) Holliday  
Communications Information Systems  
Category Manager  
Ph 02 99262649 (note  
Mobile 0417 252954



**HMAS  
Cerberus  
Colours:**  
The  
Establishment  
Colour was  
presented at  
HMAS Cerberus  
on Friday 7  
March 1986, by  
HM Queen  
Elizabeth II,  
during her visit  
to Australia. The  
Colour is held in  
the Maritime  
Wing of the  
Defence Force  
School of  
Signals HMAS  
Cerberus,  
Westernport,  
Victoria

## Presidents Report on the RANCBBA Reunion 2008

Dear Fellow Communicator,

Wondering what's happening with the Melbourne 2008 reunion?

You will find the registration form and details summarised on the following pages, please visit the reunion website for updates eg:- [www.rancbavic.au](http://www.rancbavic.au)

There you will find the information on how to register, updated details on what events are planned, tours organised etc for the 2008 Melbourne RANCBBA reunion and of course a wealth of other information and pictures from past re-unions, where no doubt you will recognise many of your old shipmates.

The good news is that since the last newsletter we have had 145 registrants along with 75 partners who have decided to come to Melbourne next April - which is an excellent start.

For those not familiar with your centre of operations for the reunion, we have decided upon the Melbourne and Entertainment Convention Centre (MECC) which is located in the centre of Melbourne's business district and provides excellent access to both accommodation and easy access to many of the Melbourne's distinctive landmarks and venue's, whilst public transport and parking are amply catered for.

The MECC has also won numerous prestigious awards for excellence which include being the first to be named as the world's "Best Congress Centre" by the Association Internationale des Palais de Congres (AIPC) the award is recognition of the MECC's exceptional food, brilliant facilities and professional staff who are specialists in hosting events such as ours and who will no doubt ensure that we enjoy both the facilities and events we have planned to occur at the MECC. See <http://www.mecc.com.au/www/html/77-overview.asp>

In my next report I will expand on the organised activities at HMAS Cerberus on the Sunday which include the church services, the visit to the Communications School and the changes that have taken place, the outstanding lunch and the walking tour which will include many aspects of the depot both old and new.

The Golf, which was tentatively planned for the 24<sup>th</sup> has been rescheduled at the request of some of the attendees for Saturday the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

On another note the level of work being undertaken by the organising committee continues to grow and I must thank the organising committee for their sterling efforts however it is also the appropriate time to call for additional volunteers.

If you are able to assist, please contact Graham Linton on 03 9436-7685 or email him at [ilin9269@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ilin9269@bigpond.net.au), this will ensure we have a suitably manned Watch and Station Bill to cater for every contingency.

So for those who have yet to crack on and get their registrations in then there is no better time than right now to make the commitment and get yourselves and your shipmates organised for the event.

We would of course appreciate your assistance in disseminating information on the 2008 reunion to those ex Communicators who you may be in contact with, as they and their families also form the very unique community that is the RANCBBA and we also warmly extend to them our invitation to step aboard with us at the 2008 Melbourne Reunion.

I, and the committee, look forward to again meeting our shipmates over a cold beer and will enjoy the opportunity to engage in the many happy conversations and sentiments we share.

Yours in Communicating

Rod Withers  
CMDR  
President RANCBBA Victoria

The logo for THALES, with the letters in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a teal-colored dot above it.

PROUD TO BE A SPONSER OF RANCBBA'S FIFTH NATIONAL  
REUNION IN MELBOURNE

**REUNION 2008 PROGRAMME:**

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Date	Event	Venue	Cost (each)	Comments
Thu 24 Apr 08	Registration	Bellarine Room Melbourne Exhibition & Conference Centre (MECC) (Cnr Flinders and Spencer Streets)	\$55.00 (pay in advance)	From 1000 to 1600. We have established a meeting place in the Foyer of the Crown Plaza Hotel (1-5 Spencer St), which is next door to the MECC. Own costs.
Thu 24 Apr 08	Welcome Reception	Bellarine Room	\$50.00	From 1800 to 2100
Fri 25 Apr 08	Dawn Service	Melbourne Cenotaph	Nil	Make own way. Assemble at (place) at (time)
Fri 25 Apr 08	ANZAC Day March		Nil	Shuttle buses will run from disper- sal area to lunch venue (MECC)
Fri 25 Apr 08	ANZAC Day Lunch	Bellarine Room	\$76.00	
Sat 26 Apr 08	Golf	Albert Park	\$50.00	
Sat 26 Apr 08	Ship Open to Visitors	HMAS xxx	Own cost	Make own way between
Sat 26 Apr 08	Racing		Own cost	Make own way
Sat 26 Apr 08	Gala Dinner	Bellarine Room  MECC	\$110.00	
Sun 27 Apr 08	Church	St Mark's HMAS Cerberus	Nil	Transport from City to Cerberus via Frankston Railway Station. Return at end of Lunch function
Sun 27 Apr 08	HMAS Cerberus Visit	HMAS Cerberus	\$60.00	Bus from City to Cerberus via Frankston Railway Station and re- turn Lunch and Comms School tours

**REUNION MEMORABILIA:**

Item	Cost (each)	Sizes
Reunion Jacket (included in cost of registration)	\$ 0	S, M, L, XL, XXL
Ball Cap with RANCBA Vic Reunion Logo	\$9.00	NA
Polo Shirt (dark blue with embroidered logo)	\$20.00	S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Men's – Short Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00	S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Men's – Long Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00	S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Women's – Short Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00	S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Women's – Three Quarter Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00	S, M, L, XL, XXL

## REGISTRATION FORM

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(PLEASE only use this form if you cannot register via the Web Site)

Registrant's Name: Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nee: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Partner's Name: Surname: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Nee: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Fee:- \$55.00 per person attending No Attending Reunion \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Jacket (Registrant's) Item Size:- S, M, L, XL, XXL Circle size (price covered in registration fee)

Reunion Jacket (Partner's) Item Size:- S, M, L, XL, XXL Circle size (price covered in registration fee)

### Events attending

Event	Date	Cost (each)	Number Attending
Registration (this should be same as above)	24 Apr 08	\$55.00	
Welcome Reception	24 Apr 08	\$50.00	
Dawn Service	25 Apr 08	Nil	
ANZAC Day March	25 Apr 08	Nil	
Shuttle Bus from end of march to Lunch Venue	25 Apr 08	\$10.00	
ANZAC Day Lunch	25 Apr 08	\$76.00	
Golf Albert Park	26 Apr 08	\$50.00	
Ship Open to Visitors	26 Apr 08	Own costs	
Racing	26 Apr 08	Own costs	
Gala Dinner	26 Apr 08	\$110.00	
Church	27 Apr 08	Nil	
HMAS Cerberus Visit including Lunch	27 Apr 08	\$60.00	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	

### Memorabilia

Item	Cost (each)	Number Req'd	Size (circle size)
Ball Cap (with RANCBA Vic Reunion Logo)	\$9.00		NA
Polo Shirt, collar, short sleeve (dark blue with embroidered logo)	\$20.00		S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Men's – Short Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00		S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Men's – Long Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00		S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Women's – Short Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00		S, M, L, XL, XXL
Chambray Shirt – Women's – Three Quarter Sleeve (with logo)	\$26.00		S, M, L, XL, XXL
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$</b>	

Return this form (with registration fee cheque) to: Secretary, RANCBA Victoria  
(make cheque payable to RANCBA 2008 Reunion) 115 Redleap Ave  
Mill Park, VIC 3082

(TOTAL Reunion COST = (Events Registered Cost + Memorabilia Ordered Cost) – Registration Fee paid)

PLEASE SEND FINAL PAYMENT TO SAME ADDRESS by **30 November 2007**



**MONTEREY APARTMENTS  
QUEENS ROAD, MELBOURNE  
HOUSED THE SPECIAL INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (RAN)  
THE DIRECTORATE OF NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS (RAN)  
AND THE ANALYTICAL SECTION OF FRUMEL (USN/RAN)**

Commander Nave of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) moved his Naval cryptanalysis unit called the Special Intelligence Bureau into "Monterey" Apartments in Queens Road in Melbourne. They were located on the top or third floor at the time that FRUMEL and the Directorate of Naval Communications were located in the apartment block.

Commander Newman, the Director of Signal Communications (DSC) established his Directorate of Naval Communications on the ground floor of "Monterey" Apartments.



The joint RAN/USN Fleet Radio Unit, Melbourne (FRUMEL), was established at "Monterey" Apartments in about March/April/May 1942. FRUMEL was one of two Allied Sigint organisations in the South West Pacific area (SWPA).

FRUMEL was subordinate to the Commander of the USN 7th Fleet. The other unit was Central Bureau which was attached to the HQ of the Allied Commander of the South-West Pacific area.

"Sigint" is a code name for signal intelligence. Sigint operations were so secret that they were given their own special classification of "Ultra Secret". The word "Ultra" was used as a code name for intelligence derived from interception and decoding of Japanese military and naval messages.

The analytical section for FRUMEL was based on the second floor of the "Monterey" Apartments in Queens Road, Melbourne, opposite the Albert Park Golf Course on the corner of Leopold Street. They occupied approximately half of the building while the rest of the building was occupied by Australian civilian tenants. The intercept site for FRUMEL was located at Moorabbin another suburb of Melbourne.

Editor: My thanks go to Peter Dunn for the above article which is contained in his "Australia @ War" web site at [www.ozatwar.com](http://www.ozatwar.com).

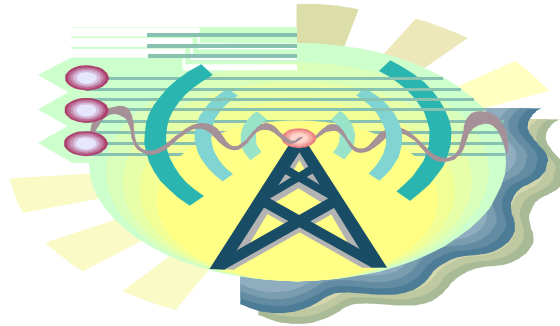


Old ships never  
die their souls  
live on in the  
Ships crest  
which hopefully  
is passed on to a  
new ship proud  
to bear the same  
name.



## SOMETHING NEW

### DIGITAL RADIO TRIALS START



ABC, SBS prep new digital radio service  
IP the preferred distribution technology  
Rodney Gedda (Computerworld) 03 September,  
2007 12:32:36

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) and the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS) corporation have started sourcing equipment and support for its new digital radio services for all state capital cities due to begin broadcasting in January 2009.

Both organizations have jointly called for proposals for providing equipment, distribution, and transmission services for the new digital radio broadcasts. The technical requirements are divided into data servers, encoding, multiplexing, and time zone delay systems; distribution; transmission; and monitoring and logging.

The new services follow a federal government policy announcement for the introduction of digital radio services. A request by the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA) was made to national broadcasters to identify costs for a shared digital radio infrastructure.

The first stage involves the implementation of six metro city transmission services, which has already been approved by the government. Regional expansion for national coverage of the new service is planned but is yet to be endorsed by the government.

The ABC and SBS have agreed to share digital radio infrastructure which will minimize distribution costs, and common services and infrastructure are required where possible for the carriage of the combined ABC and SBS digital streams on land and via satellite.

The digital radio services will be encoded in digital audio broadcast (DAB) format like MPEG4 and HE-AAC v2, and, according to tender documents, the system must be designed so that no single equipment failure can put the whole service off-air.

"Internet protocol (IP) connection is preferred for data input and output on the data servers [and] the system shall support and facilitate acquisition of program associated data such as slide show, photos, and text and its subsequent play out along with the audio program," according to the joint proposal.

SBS has nine studios in Sydney and in Melbourne and uses Netia servers for broadcasting via Klotz digital mixers.

"It is essential that the encoding system integrates with the existing program playout system in SBS given that at least two radio channels will be simulcast in AM and FM using this equipment," according to the proposal.

The ABC expects to produce 20 digital programs in Sydney to broadcast nationally, and up to 10 programs will be generated in each state, encoded in MPEG-1 layer II format.

For distribution, both the SBS and ABC are looking for a fully managed solution with an availability of at least 99.985 percent, preferably via IP. The IP networking equipment to distribute the digital radio content will need to be procured as part of the project.

Logging recorders are also required by both broadcasters in each capital city and there is a requirement to access the program loggers in any of the six capital cities remotely via IP to replay the audio and view the broadcast of any channel.

The broadcasters use Optus satellite services and the network requires geographically diverse and redundant paths to the satellite uplink.

The Australian Communications and Media Authority is responsible for frequency allocations for broadcasting services and although planning for the transmission services is yet to be completed, both broadcasters expect the new transmission services to provide coverage equal to or greater than the existing FM radio services in each capital city.