

# THE BASEGRAM

## Anzac Day 2007

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Commander Harle led the march on a sparkling autumn Anzac Day, Graham Bence, Peter Bonser, Doug Elliott, Dougie Boyle, were there to name but a few with Les Thurgood sighted over with the submariners skulking his primary part of ship



Believe these chaps were in front  
Photo: ABPH Quentin Mushins

There was of course an impressively turned out contingent of Naval Communicators from HMAS Cerberus, who unfurled the Communicators banner and ably escorted it to the Shine.

I must admit the Communications Branch Banner looks bigger every year or perhaps its just the glasses that I'm wearing however we must thank both the Officers, staff and trainee's for their very much appreciated efforts on Anzac Day.

Of course next year will see the national reunion swell the ranks of those marching and no doubt we will see

a sea of white hats sailing towards the shrine.

For those intending to join the ranks you will find the Re-union details and registration process inside this issue.

### Vale James Ware -

James funeral service was held at Abbey Funeral Chapel, Thomastown on Thursday 14 June 2007, it was standing room only with his many family and friends in attendance and included ex Naval Communicators Barry Lambert, Ron Forde, Doug Boyle, Mike Conners, Ted Calleja, Gunna King to name a few, then followed the burial service at Fawkner Memorial Park on Sydney Road.

ville, Melbourne, then back to Harman and discharge. He then joined the Department of Civil Aviation which included postings to Papua, Alice Springs before finally returning to Melbourne and then retiring around 1997.

He was actively engaged with the RANCBVA and the Naval Association holding the position of Treasurer.

The original white ensign (St George's Flag) with its red strips accompanied him on his final journey as this was the flag under which he served

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

Contact

IAN HOGARTH

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Mobile: 0407 336641

Email:  
ianhogarth@netbay.com.au

James joined the Navy around 1954 at HMAS Cerberus, did his sparkers training then served at HMAS Harman, Mel-

## Belconnen Naval Transmitting Station on the “At Risk Heritage List”

### **BELCONENNEN NAVAL TRANSMITTING STATION WHAT THE NATIONAL TRUST SAY:-**

#### **Significance:**

Important for the design and development of Australian Naval Communications in Australia 1938-2005, illustrating the significant role the base played in naval communications and Australia's defence during and after World War 2.

A rare example of the technical development of Australian Naval Communications during its development. Highly valued for its social and symbolic associations by members of the local community including former RAN members.

#### **Risk:**

The station is now obsolete and no longer in service. It is on the Commonwealth Heritage List but the 3 main LF Masts (integral elements) have been recently removed with the permission of the Minister for Environment & Heritage.

#### **Desired Outcome:**

The buildings, transmitting equipment and ancillary equipment to be retained in situ to represent the station at the level of technical development when it ceased transmitting.

Former HF aerials to be reinstated. A representative sample of the former LF aerial towers be placed, together with connecting equipment at the rear of the current station building. The whole remaining site, including the grasslands, to be opened for public visitation. The current buildings and grounds, where appropriate, to be utilised as a radio communications museum

#### **See:-**

<http://www.act.nationaltrust.org.au/BelconnenNavalTransmittingStation.htm>

The only place I knew existed where a fluoro tube didn't need to be plugged in, to turn on



Editor, who spent a few months at what was then known as the ubiquitous Aerial Farm!

and yes the place was full of bright sparks:



#### **Scuttlebutt.**

The Sailors source of fresh drinking water. Here men have ever gathered for exchange of gossip hence “scuttlebutt” rumours, unconfirmed information

## **Treasurer's Report**



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

However in the meantime if you haven't paid your subs then your contribution will be gratefully accepted by slipping a cheque into the mail and sending it to “-

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

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

## Presidents Report on the RANCBBA Reunion 2008

Dear Fellow Communicator,

Arrangements are now sufficiently complete to allow registration for our next annual reunion to commence. In keeping with tradition we have planned to hold the reunion over the ANZAC Day period in 2008. Details of the programme, is summarised over the page, are also contained on our web site at [www.rancbavic.com](http://www.rancbavic.com).

I invite you to visit our web site, get yourself up to speed on what is happening and register your attendance at our next reunion. You will notice you can complete your registration on-line through our web site, or alternatively you can return the attached registration form to the address shown above. **If you can do it, we prefer you to register by the web site.** There is further information we require if you do it this way but this is still our preferred choice.

Unfortunately the web site does not allow us to capture all of the details required for some of the memorabilia. For those who order the chambray(s) shirt in conjunction with registering over the web we will contact you separately to collect additional information to that contained on the web registration page. **If you have any special dietary requirements please advise us via email or in writing.**

I strongly encourage you to register using our web site, which will significantly reduce the amount of work required by us to manually enter registration details, while improving the accuracy of your registration requirements. My colleagues in other states who had to do this for past reunions will understand the reason for my strong plea.

Being mindful of the changeable weather in Melbourne we are including a quality, light jacket as part of your registration fee. This jacket may be a godsend should the weather turn, but will also increase the uniformity during the ANZAC Day march (jacket, white hat etc). The web site does not allow us to capture your desired size for this coat. We will seek this information from you once we have received your registration, or alternatively if you register by using the attached form you will record the size you want

For those submitting the attached registered form (i.e. not over the web), you can enter all information there. If you have the capacity, please register over the web and allow us to solicit the additional information we require through email exchanges.

When you register on-line a confirmation email will be automatically sent to you to indicate what events you have registered for, what memorabilia you have ordered, the total cost, and so on. If you make a mistake and you want it corrected please contact us via emails, explain the problem and we will deal with it (email address [ilin9269@bigpond.net.au](mailto:ilin9269@bigpond.net.au)). You can make corrections on the web page before clicking on the 'submit' button.

I am pleased to be able to tell you that we have been able to offer you a quality reunion programme for similar costs to what you paid for Canberra and/or Sydney reunions, thus absorbing six years and three years (respectively) worth of inflation and cost rises. We have been able to achieve this through the generosity of a like minded organization (Melbourne Naval Centre) and a defence company (Thales Australia).

(Cont on Page 4)

## RANCBA Reunion (Cont)

An important component of this reunion will be our visit to the genesis of all communicators, that is the one single place which was/is common to all communicators, the Communications School (now the Maritime Wing, Defence Force School of Signals) at HMAS CERBERUS. The Commanding Officer, HMAS CERBERUS has kindly agreed to allow us to enjoy their facilities on the last day of our reunion.

Please join your state RANCBA organization, pay the small joining fee and help them to facilitate events such as this.

I encourage you attend our fifth national reunion. Please spread the word that registration is now open.

I, and the committee, look forward to again meeting old friends over a cold beer and generally enjoying this opportunity to renew old acquaintances.

**Yours in Communicating**

**Rod Withers**  
CMDR  
President RANCBA Victoria

## Royal Australian Navy Communications Branch Association RANCBA



([www.rancbavic.com](http://www.rancbavic.com))

*Fifth National Reunion - Victoria*  
**24-27 April 2008**

**All Correspondence:**  
c/o Secretary, RANCBA Victoria  
115 Redleap Ave  
Mill Park, VIC 3082



# THALES

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

## Reunion Registration

### REGISTRATION:

Your registration fee of \$55.00 will help cover our reunion administration costs as well as providing you with a quality light coat with an embroidered logo and a white cap with tally band for the ANZAC Day March.

## REUNION 2008 PROGRAMME:

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	Golf	TBA	\$ TBA	
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	TBA	\$ TBA	
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	\$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

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

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

**Ne:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**e-mail** \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Ne:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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	
Golf	24 Apr 08	\$ TBA	
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	\$ tba	
ANZAC Day Lunch	25 Apr 08	\$76.00	
Golf	26 Apr 08	\$ TBA	
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>			

### Memorabilia

Item	Cost (each)	Number	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>			

**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**

## Trafalgar Day Anniversary Luncheon Invitation



Sunday 21 October 2007

Hosted by: *Naval Association of Australia - Box Hill & District Sub-section at:  
Box Hill RSL, 26 Nelson Road, Box Hill*

Stand to: 1230 - Luncheon: 1300 - Secure: 1630

Menu: Soup, Roast Beef & Veg, Dessert, Cheese plates, Coffee Tea & rum  
A cash bar will also operate.

\$37.00 per person – Includes 4 course Meal, Sherries & toasting Rum

Dress: Smart Casual, (Gents - jacket & tie please) Miniatures may be worn

Guest Speaker: Mr. Warren Pasco

Warren is the great, great, Grandson of Lieut. John Pasco, who served as “Flag Lieutenant”  
under Lord Nelson aboard HMS Victory at Trafalgar in 1805

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RSVP: by 12 October to: NAA Box Hill Sub-section, PO. Box 1303, Box Hill 3128

Please make Postal Notes, Money Orders or Cheques payable to:

“Naval Assn. of Aust. - Box Hill & District Sub-section”

Or

*Please indicate credit card provider: Visa or MasterCard*

Expiry: .../... Name on card: ..... Signature .....

*Please note:* card payments will appear as: “Addo Pty Ltd” (Box Hill RSL Club Catering)

Booking for: ..... Person(s) and enclose \$.....

Name(s).....

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.....

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Any special dietary requirements.....

Address.....

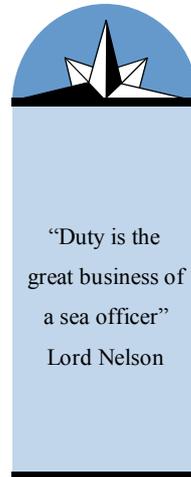
Suburb..... Postcode .....

Telephone.....Email.....

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Email: brimacombe@gmail.com



“Duty is the  
great business of  
a sea officer”  
Lord Nelson

## Internet Registration for the 2008 Melbourne Reunion

<http://www.rancbavic.com>

### SOMETHING NEW

#### INDUSTRY WELCOMES PASSING OF DIGITAL RADIO BILL (10-May-07)

Australians will be able to enjoy one of the best digital radio services in the world following the passing of legislation in Federal Parliament today allowing for digital radio to be rolled out in the state capitals by 1 January 2009.

Digital radio ushers in a new era for radio and for the 95 percent of Australians who listen to radio every week," said Joan Warner, chief executive officer of peak industry body Commercial Radio Australia, which represents 98 percent of commercial radio stations.

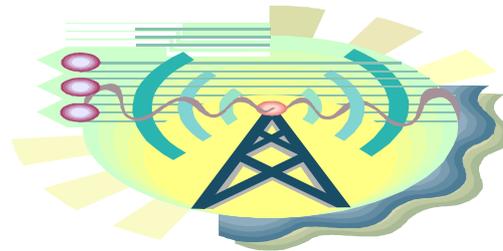
"The passing of the legislation means consumers will get vastly superior radio services sooner rather than later and it gives industry the certainty it needs to move ahead on the massive investment in broadcasting infrastructure that will be required."

Ms Warner said while the legislation covered the licensing, planning and regulation for digital radio initially in the six cities of Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth and Hobart, regional and rural Australia would not miss out.

"There are around 220 commercial radio stations who play a very important role in the lives of listeners in regional and rural Australia, and it's important that they share in the benefits that digital technology will bring," she said.

"The industry has already started reviewing the needs of some regional licence areas. The metropolitan roll out will allow us to realistically cost the regional rollout and we will be approaching the government for assistance to help regional commercial broadcasters with the costs of digital infrastructure."

Digital radio will provide listeners with more choice, crystal clear sound and many new features free to air.



### DIGITAL RADIO

Because digital technology is so much more spectrum efficient than analogue, radio stations will be able to broadcast extra digital-only channels as well as data and images such as CD covers, weather and traffic maps and news images.

Ms Warner said the Act reflected the industry's key policy requests and the vital role commercial broadcasters would play in the roll out and success of digital radio. "The industry appreciates the level of consultation we had with the Prime Minister and the Minister on this important area as well as the support of many Government MPs in helping to negotiate a workable set of policy settings."

However, she said the industry was still seeking clarification on a number of aspects of the Act. These include a statutory review of the six-year moratorium period for new entrants depending on take-up levels after five years, restrictions on the allocation of new analogue commercial radio licences and broadening of allowable digital program content from "still visual images" to moving visual images such as dynamic text, animations and short burst video, which would encourage take-up. "We understood from the Minister's policy announcement that there would be no restrictions placed on broadcasters' use of spectrum," Ms Warner said. "We will continue to work with the Government as the Act is implemented to ensure that the policy settings agreed between the industry and the Government come to fruition."

Contrary to the government's position, she said the industry considered digital radio a replacement technology for analogue broadcasting over time and not a supplementary technology.

Media contact: Judy Shaw. Ph: 02 9281 6577 or 0418 415 965.