



Submarines Association Australia NSW Branch Incorporated

ABN 11 449 001 785

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Hon. President	Geoff Anderson	Phone: 0413 980 091
Hon. Vice President	Peter Chegwidgen	Phone: 02 9793 3035
Hon. Treasurer	Peter Hall	Phone: 0415 031 833
Hon. Secretary	Ken Norris	Phone: 0421 058 513
Minutes Secretary	Carol Wilson	Phone: 02 4707 5268

General Meeting Minutes & AGM Sunday 19th August 2012 11:30 am at the City of Sydney RSL

Meeting opened at 11.40 am

1. ATTENDENCE

Geoff Anderson, Ken Norris, Gary Payseno, Peter Hall, Colin Ware, Peter Chedwiggen, Ray McMinn, John Cross, Peter Donzow, Rick Steltenpool, Peter Smith, Carol Wilson

2. APOLOGIES

Phil Collins, Tim Duchesne, Max Hardy, Cliff Hobson, Jim Dennis, Paul Cripps, Tom McCammont, Mick Lynch, David Beauchamp

3. WELCOME – GEOFF ANDERSON

Members observed 1 minutes silence and President read prayer for those members still on Patrol.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Accepted

PROPOSED: Peter Smith
SECONDED: Peter Chedwiggen
CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Ken Norris still negotiating with Stratton Hotel re: Rum price.

PROPOSED: Colin Ware
SECONDED: Peter Smith
CARRIED

6. PRESIDENT'S REPORT – GEOFF ANDERSON

Geoff Anderson presented his report as per attached.

PROPOSED: Peter Chedwigen
SECONDED: Rick Steltenpool
CARRIED

7. TREASURER'S REPORT

Opening Balance	\$ 9188.77
Income: Bank Interest April	\$ 0.22
Bank Interest May	\$ 0.23
Bank Interest June	\$ 0.20
Bank Interest July	\$ 0.20
Closing Balance	\$ 9189.62
Bank Balance July	\$ 8823.36
Cash In Hand	\$ 366.26
Closing Balance	\$ 9189.62
President's Subcon Exp.(not presented)	\$ 335.90

PROPOSED: Ray McMinn
SECONDED: Gary Payseno
CARRIED

8. SECRETARY'S REPORT – KEN NORRIS

CORRESPONDENCE IN:

Apologies as listed above
Letter from QLD President, Don Currell thanking SAA NSW for donation.
Various emails

CORRESPONDENCE OUT

Form sent to Fair Trading. Various emails.

Ken Norris spoke on "Fair Go Campaign" on pension increases.

Ken Norris and Peter Chedwigen reported on Bradley's Head HMAS Sydney Memorial gathering on 17th August. Peter Chedwigen presented brochure of redevelopment of site.

PROPOSED: Colin Ware
SECONDED: Peter Hall

CARRIED

Note: Geoff will discuss separately with the national SAA over a donation for the Bradley's Head Naval Memorial Walk. A donation of \$500 will be sought from the National organisation and matched by the NSW-SAA.

9. WELFARE REPORT

Nothing to report.

10. PLATYPUS UPDATE

Geoff Anderson reported that letter had been sent to SHFT.
Please see attached Reports from Geoff and Chris Skinner re: 45th Commissioning of Platypus and site redevelopment.

11. SUBCON12

Geoff Anderson reported a good time was had by all who attended. He also reported that Bob Trotter had obtained a \$100,000.00 grant for SAA Welfare being proceeds from a now defunct Service Club where assets had to be distributed.
Next Subcon in Townsville, June 2013.

12. SAA NSW CONSTITUTION

Geoff Anderson moved that the updated SAA NSW Constitution be accepted by the members in attendance.

PROPOSED: Peter Chedwigen
SECONDED: Rick Steltenpool
CARRIED

13. GENERAL BUSINESS

1. Next away meeting to be held in Bathurst in March 2013. Ray McMinn to organise.
2. BBQ on Spectacle Island to be held as usual in February 2013.
3. November meeting to be the Christmas Party. New incoming Committee to check with RSL Management.

4. Anzac Day. Geoff advised that he had received the following email from Lloyd Blake:

Greetings Geoff

As part of Australia's Centenary of Submarines celebrations in 2014 I asked RSL if SAA could lead the ANZAC Day March in every capital city 2014.

Locally, RSLs are happy to receive your request ASAP. Apparently there is strong competition to lead the march.

If you guys are agreeable, could I suggest you make application as soon as you can.

Geoff Anderson and Ken Norris will attend the next FNSA meeting and propose that the SAA-NSW lead the March in 2014.

5. Geoff Anderson moved that SAA NSW do Self Audit for Tax Year 2012-2013.

PROPOSED: Rick Steltenpool

SECONDED: Peter Donzow

CARRIED

6. Peter Smith informed members that there is a new Director at Spectacle Island, David Michael. The Submarine collection is safe for now. Peter also explained that the collection consisted of PRT which is owned by the RAN, loaned private items and General items collected from SubCons.
7. K13 parade to be held last weekend in January which will be the Australia Day long weekend.
8. Ray McMinn thanked the outgoing Committee for all their hard work during the year.

There being no more General Business Geoff Anderson declared all positions vacant and handed the meeting over to Peter Smith to Chair the Election of Officers for 2012-13.

No nominations had been received so it was put to the outgoing Committee if they would accept the following positions:-

President:	Geoff Anderson
Vice President:	Peter Chedwigen
Treasurer:	Peter Hall
Secretary:	Ken Norris

Minutes Secretary: Carol Wilson

Social Committee: Ray McMinn
Peter Smith
Rick Steltenpool
Gary Payseno.

Grants Officer: Ray McMinn

There being no further business the meeting shut at 12.40

Geoff Anderson
President
NSW SAA
19 August 2012

Carol Wilson
Minute Secretary
NSW SAA
19 August 2012

Report by Capt. Chris Skinner:

Saturday afternoon on 18th August marked the 45th anniversary of an auspicious day for the Royal Australian Navy – the re-establishment of an Australian submarine squadron that had been disbanded in the 1930's as a short-sighted cost-saving measure.

In less than a decade, 1942 brought the experience of war to northern Australia with the repeated bombing of Darwin and other northern cities, and right onto Sydney's doorstep with the midget submarine attack that sank the Kuttabul at Garden Island.

The defeat of the British forces on Singapore and the retreat of American forces from the Philippines to Australia made 1942 a year of national alarm and brought a great sense of urgency for Australia to see to its own defences.

Thus it was that the gasworks land in Neutral Bay was taken over to build a factory to manufacture heavyweight torpedoes, a vital war weapon for the war on Japan, to be used by aircraft, ships and submarines. The RAN Torpedo Establishment was built in little more than a year – a remarkable feat that illustrates the urgency of those times.

Each torpedo manufactured or repaired needed to be tested and adjusted for accuracy and this took place by firing each torpedo along the length of Pittwater where the firing point was at Clareville and target was Lion Island (which was beyond the range of the torpedoes so they surfaced before reaching that point). Pontoons were moored at 1000 yard intervals for observers to watch the smooth running of the torpedo and time the speed with stopwatches.

After the war the factory and other buildings continued in use to maintain and service all of the RAN's torpedo inventory (without the warheads which were added at an approved facility at Newington).

During WW2 large fleets of Allied submarines - mostly United States Navy -operated very effectively from Brisbane and from Fremantle, but without any Australian participation for our own defence!

Thus after WW2 the Australian government wanted to ensure that submarine expertise and training for anti-submarine warfare [ASW] were properly addressed, and arranged for the British 4th Submarine Flotilla to be based in Sydney at HMAS Penguin in Balmoral, and later decided that Australia should have its own submarine force again.

However Balmoral is occasionally exposed to heavy swells, causing submarines there to part their mooring lines, so to avoid this they were moved temporarily to the wharf at RANTME in Neutral Bay, a well protected location with good access to the open ocean.

The new submarine squadron needed a dedicated base for the submarines of the new Oberon class and this was created in the northern part of the RAN land at Neutral Bay, and named HMAS Platypus after an earlier submarine mother ship of that name.

The new base was commissioned on 18th August 1967 and at the very same time HMAS Oxley, the first of the new squadron boats, berthed after passage direct from the UK.

Attending the ceremony on 18th August 2012 was Jim Dennis, who had been on officer on the Oxley for the building in the UK and passage to Australia. He remembered the day vividly and with pride the extraordinary achievements of the squadron over the following years during the height of the Cold War.

Also attending the ceremony was Captain David Michael RAN who had been the squadron Supply Officer at the time of the introduction of the Collins Class submarine and the transfer of the squadron to Western Australia.

Mrs Carol Wilson was at the ceremony and she remembered fondly the day her baby was baptised on the casing of her husband's boat while alongside in Platypus.

The small group commemorating the RAN's long association with the site from the dark days of 1942 until the departure of the submarine squadron hoped the future development of the site will include the preservation and interpretation of the RAN history of torpedoes and submarines, both intimately connected with this site, and will become a place to remember the sacrifice and enterprise of submariners and their network of supporters, especially families, of those that go to sea in submarines for the defence of their nation.



GEOFF

HMAS PLATYPUS – Brief

On Saturday 18 Aug 12, I attended a briefing to celebrate the 70th anniversary of RANTME and the 45th anniversary of the Commissioning of HMAS PLATYPUS. It was held in the old marriage quarters above the Guard House.

SAA attendees were Jim Dennis, Carol Wilson, Peter Smith, Ken Williams, Ned Kelly and Lindsay Morris. Also in attendance were CAPT David Michael RANR (Who was a cadet when I was a Divisional Officer at HMAS CRESWELL back in 73-74), Captain Chris Skinner RAN Rtd and Laura Hassan and Peter Osmand from the SHFT.

Peter Osmand (Project Director) provided a briefing on the work of the SHFT who took over responsibility of the site in 2005 and in 2009 signed a memorandum to conduct remediation work. Stage 1 is complete with the removal of hazardous substances, demolition of the Admin Building and repair of the center section of the wharf. The center 116 m of the 216m wharf will remain. Stage 2 is currently underway to remove and treat the toxic waste in the ground and retain what can be used as ground fill. This will include the digging up of the driveway and the erection of a large shelter on the Northern End of the site to obscure the work and restrict the noise on the neighbours. Stage 2 should complete in Dec 2013.

Stage 3, the rejuvenation of the site, is not yet funded, though initial planning is being considered, for the Northern end including gardens and a possible spiral staircase from the upper car park. A boardwalk from the ferry to the Southern end of the wharf may be implemented to improve access.

The concerns of the SAA and the contents of our submission to the SHFT were discussed briefly, and were advised that they would be taken into consideration.

There will be Open days for the community to view the work in progress in possibly Dec 12 of Jan-Feb 13.

Capt Chris Skinner then provided a History of the site followed by an Inspection from the upper car park.

