



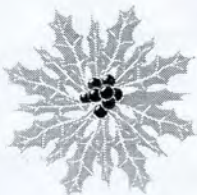
SLIPSTREAM

The Quarterly Journal of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia

and

FLY NAVY

The Official Publication of the Australian Naval Aviation Museum Foundation



1996

Christmas Newsletter



*Super Constellation
visiting the Naval Aviation Museum 1996*



Toz leading the March



Our Wedding Table Setting

Foreword

Association Members would likely now be aware of the events at the November 1996 Annual General Meeting at Tweed Heads, whereby a new interim Federal Executive was elected following the resignation of the National President Toz Dadswell, Vice President John Arnold, Secretary Ian Ferguson and Treasurer Pancho Walter.

I will not go into the regrettable reasons for these resignations here but on your behalf I wish to pay a very solid tribute to Toz and his colleagues and thank them for their distinguished contribution to the Association over the long period of their stewardships. They will hold a conspicuous place in the history of the Association.

The interim Executive, comprising of Jim Lee as Secretary, Terry Hetherington as Treasurer, Mike Lehan as Vice President and myself as President, has taken office until elections at the 1998 AGM. Our immediate tasks are to resolve the constitution and re-establish a sound basis for producing SLIPSTREAM. We will also be doing all that we can to promote the objectives of the Association, in particular to support the Naval Aviation Museum. We are all located in the Nowra area which eases communication.

As an Association we obviously have much to do toward filling the expectations and aspirations of members. Of immediate concern to the financial viability of the Museum. Operating costs are exceeding income and the Association needs to assist in fund raising to meet the shortfall. The exhibits in the Museum reflect at least something of our time in the FAA and I am sure each of us is keen to preserve and develop the exhibits in what is a magnificent, world standard facility.

As most are aware the next FAA reunion is planned for 28 October - 3 November, 1998 at Nowra. The occasion will celebrate the Golden Jubilee of HMAS ALBATROSS and will be held in conjunction with the annual Shoalhaven Spring Festival. The whole of the Shoalhaven community is looking forward to welcoming back former Navy family residents and personnel from ALBATROSS and to show off developments in the district since. We hope the occasion will be a real family event and an irresistible program is being arranged. We will try to contact as many former Trossians and FAA personnel and families through all available avenues of the media and other means. Please pass on the word.

It is time now to relax for Christmas and the New Year festivities and all of us here wish you and your families every happiness for Christmas and a bright and prosperous 1997. It is also the time to acknowledge the strong efforts of many people who have kept the Association going and ensuring its future. Thank you and all the best for the future.

Neil Ralph, President

Slipstream Editor

Robert James Perkins has volunteered to act as co-ordinator and Editor of Slipstream and the launch date for this first edition will be EASTER 1997. Please give him all the support you can by forwarding timely articles of interest to be communicated to our Members. The strength of our organisation will be determined by the art of communication, please make it work.

Bob's address is: Slipstream Editor,
PO Box A115, Naval PO,
NOWRA, NSW 2540

His home address is: 4 Journal Street,
NOWRA, NSW 2541

Phone/Fax: (044) 23 3448

The Museum Fax (044) 21 1999 can also be used.

1996 Gold Coast Reunion

The Fleet Air Arm Association Reunion on the Gold Coast 7-12 November went off extremely well and was attended by approximately 750 members and their partners. Once we got used to the one hour different time zones between Tweed Heads and Coolangatta we were off and running.

It was a great 'run ashore' marred only by the resignations at the AGM of the National Executive - which was a sad occasion for the many followers of this very hard working Executive team.

The registration day on Thursday was a reunion in its own right with many warty stories making the ANZAC room buzz with nostalgia and excitement. The stories became more graphic as the day wore on and the pub ran dry. The Association and Museum shop did some good business as well.

Friday was AGM day and it was a marathon. Interestingly, over 300 observers were in attendance, as well as delegates from the State Divisions. They witnessed the very sad occasion of Toz and his team tabling their resignations and listening to the reasons for making their decisions. A grateful vote of thanks was passed to the outgoing committee.

Saturday 9 November dawned a perfect day for the march, which commenced in Queensland and finished in NSW. We old and bolds have not lost our touch and 50% kept step with the Naval Reserve Cadet band leading the march and the other 50% chose to tune in to the Town Band that followed.

Toz leading made the suggestion that we in front compromise our steps - we did!! We must learn not to make the smallest cadet the drummer boy as his drumbeat matched his small stride - However, being seasoned matelots, we managed. The salute was taken by The Deputy Chief of Naval Staff, Rear Admiral Chris Barry who was accompanied by his wife Maxine. The RAN Historic Flight from HMAS ALBATROSS graced the sky with an impressive formation and impeccable timing - thanks to mobile phones! We all retired to the bar on completion with a feeling of complete satisfaction and pride in our heritage - thanks to The RAN - again!

The cocktail party that evening commenced in crisis as at the last minute all the bar staff walked off the job in an industrial dispute. Members with bar experience - Pancho etc - offered their services, but were declined because of the consequences. 750 thirsty sailors (ex) waiting for a drink with the taps turned off confounds the imagination. Management jumped in and a mayday call went out to other clubs. Within an hour queues were manageable.

From then on it was a great party. We went on to enjoy the rock and roll delights of the Twin Towns club disco. Kevin, did you survive?

The Sunday church service officiated by Monsignor Tiger Lyons was magnificent. At the same venue as the cocktail party the previous evening, it was solemnly transformed into a fitting setting for the 'Remembrance' day service attended by over 300 members. Tiger Lyons commenced his introduction, However, by amusingly passing reference to the blue and red flood lights

on the stage set up as the altar, being a first!! He also went on to recount the period of mandatory church parades and the skulkers who hid in various hideaways to avoid attending church. Such were the good old days!

The 'last post' was beautifully delivered by a member of the town band and provided a fitting conclusion to a great service and a tribute to Bob Bryce's organisational skills. The morning service was followed by a very successful BBQ which was well attended.

Don Parkinson recounted the story on my return to Nowra from the reunion, of skulking from Church parade in the attic of one of the junior sailors accommodation blocks - four sailors playing cards. Down below they heard noises and a call came up "Can I come up and join in your card game?" "Yes, was the immediate answer - and some seconds later appeared the duty 'crusher' (Regulating Petty Officer - naval equivalent to a policeman)".

The reunion was an outstanding success due to the first class organisation of Bob Bryce and his sub committee team. The Queensland Division lead by Barry Lister are to be commended for making us all feel so welcome and for being the perfect hosts.

We have learned a great deal and will take our Queensland experiences on board when organising the Golden Jubilee Reunion at Nowra in 1998. BZ.

Mike Lehan, Vice President



Reunion - Darcy Doyle Responding

A Word from the Secretary

I have a sense of de-ja vu here. I had thought that I had long since had my last word as Secretary of any part of the FAAA.

I attended my first Federal Council meeting in Perth WA in April 1990. At that historical meeting delegates from the individual FAA Associations voted to come together as a truly National organisation with a National Executive based at HMAS ALBATROSS.

Toz Dadswell was elected President, Les Matterson Vice President, Ken Barnett Secretary, Bob Bryce Treasurer and yours truly acting interim Secretary. Toz was a natural for President, his dedication to preserving the History of the Fleet Air Arm well known from his time as CO of RANAS Nowra and his initial gathering of the elements of a Fleet Air Arm Museum in 'D' hangar.



Fly Navy Bowls

Toz has served the Association long and faithfully in many capacities from those humble beginnings. He continues to do so, not only as a continuing member of the National Executive by virtue of his being the immediate past President, but from a burning desire to see our heritage preserved and our history written.

Les Matterson was another natural; for Vice President. He was the instigator and main stay of the hugely successful FAA reunion '88 in Nowra in August-September of that year. To my knowledge Les was at the time the only lower deck member of A FAAA in NSW. He was a member of the South Australian Squadron.

Events of poor health and personal concerns caused Les to resign his position on the Executive but he is still very active in Association affairs. Particularly in the sorting, cataloguing and stowage of air stores, for Museum and RAN Historic Flight aircraft, at the Museum complex.

John Arnold was appointed to fill the vacant position of Vice President. He was duly elected to the office at the next Federal Council meeting.

John's achievements in transforming Slipstream (MKII) from an interesting NSW Squadron Newsletter to an informative and highly respected National Journal are legend. His many other labours of love on behalf of the Association and the Museum are not generally known to the FAAA community at large. His talents and dedication will be sorely missed by those who have worked with him.

With regard to the office of Secretary, personal problems overtook Ken virtually from day one and he didn't even get to warm his office chair, keen though he was. I filled the position for six months till Ian Ferguson was elected at the Next Federal Council meeting.

No one knows better than I the hard work and midnight oil burning Ian put in to mould the individual States FAA Associations together as a cohesive family unit. Constant dealing with what eventually developed into seven independent divisions, four of which are Incorporated Associations in their own right under their respective State Acts, must take its toll.

For the office of National Treasurer, the only choice was Bob Bryce. His hard work and professional approach leading up to FAA reunion '88 culminated in a very significant financial donation to the Australian Naval Aviation Museum Capital Campaign Fund. When Bob retired to sunny Queensland his work on behalf of the FAA didn't stop. Witness the outstanding FAA reunion '96 at Twin Towns, and I haven't even mentioned FAA reunion '92, the man deserves a medal at very

least.

With Bob's departure, the able and affable Gordon Walter was elected to the position of Treasurer. Like all the recently Executive members, Gordon too had more than one string to his bow. He is much sought after as a volunteer Museum tour guide. 'Pancho' is very popular with visiting tour groups not only for his extensive background knowledge and his presentation but for his wealth of fascinating 'true stories' regarding his and others, experiences in the elite service of fixed and rotary wing naval aviation.

The events leading up to the recent resignations of the National Executive were most unfortunate; but not uncommon in any big family, or diverse groups forming an Association.

It would be an undemocratic minded person who condemned individuals or minorities (for taking a certain stand) without first reading

minutes of meetings to ascertain the veracity of arguments on both sides of a major difference of opinion.

Your new team is conscious of the responsibilities taken on and assure members that all steps to resolve present differences will be taken as expeditiously as possible.

Our team is:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| President | Neil Ralph |
| Vice President | Mike Lehan |
| Immediate past President | Toz Dadswell |
| Secretary | Jim Lee |
| Treasurer | Terry Hetherington |

Our postal address is:

Naval Post Office Box A115,
HMAS ALBATROSS
NOWRA, NSW 2540

Jim Lee, Honorary Secretary. Ph/Fax: (044) 21 7579



Reunion '96

RAN Historic Flight Happenings

The year 1996 has been eventful for the Historic Flight, with Flight gaining formal recognition by the Defence Department as one of the three official RAN Museums. With this recognition came the responsibility to submit a Business Plan and budget proposal for the financial year. These were prepared by the Flight's Chief Pilot, Lieutenant Doug Purvis, with input from almost every other active member. The proposals were accepted without change by the Naval Support Commander and the Flight is now finding maintenance and flying operations much more rewarding with the knowledge that the Navy is giving 100% support.



The crew of Traker 844 enjoy first class transport in the air and on the ground. This was at Kingaroy, Queensland earlier this year. (Property of Terry Hetherington)

With three aircraft currently operational the Flight has done a marvellous job over the last year in representing not only the Fleet Air Arm, but also the RAN as a whole, at functions as diverse as the Moruya Show, the RAAF's 75th Anniversary Air Days at Amberley and Richmond and the Formula One Grand Prix in Melbourne.

The ever reliable Iroquois never seems to be out of the skies and is a shining example of Army-Navy co-operation, as it is the Red Beret Parachute Team's first choice for their public displays. There has hardly been a weekend in 1996 where the Iroquois wasn't either being serviced by the dedicated maintainers, or it was away at some remote township or major city flying the flag for the RAN.

It doesn't matter how big the crowd, or where the show is, but the Traker is capable of stealing the limelight every time with the mighty roar of those big radial engines and its unique wing-folding system. 844 has logged well over 75 hours this year attending displays and it is a credit to the team of maintainers and fliers responsible for its performance. Bill Crowley, 844's Maintenance Manager, is hoping to have an all-over paint job completed next year to get her looking shipshape for the FAA Fiftieth Anniversary Celebrations in 1998.

Talking of paint jobs, the Dakota got the right royal treatment in August, courtesy of the management and staff of RAAF Richmond Corrosion Control Facility. After being stripped back to bare metal, Dakota 802 is now the smartest C-

47 in Australia with its Oxford Blue and White colour scheme.

Many hours of work were poured into the aeroplane before, during and after the repaint. A special mention must go to Eric Saltor, a stalwart of the Historic Flight, who for the last 12 years has unselfishly devoted countless hours in the maintenance of 802. It was a particularly proud moment for Eric recently, on the day after he celebrated his 74th birthday, to see 'his Dakota' take to the skies to attend the Fleet Air Arm Associations' reunion at the Gold Coast.

Other projects occupying the Historic Flight's time are the ongoing restoration of the Sea Fury fighter, Scout helicopter and the Firefly anti-submarine aircraft. The Fury team now have their reconditioned propeller but there is still the lingering concern of exactly what they can hang the propeller off. Anybody harbouring a fully preserved, zero time Bristol 'Centaurus' engine will immediately be honoured with a Baronetcy the moment they hand it over to Oscar Harper.

Good progress is being made with the Scout restoration, thanks largely to the efforts in September of the RNZAF detachment from a visiting Kiwi frigate. Some handy contacts have been established and the Scout team are very confident that the helo will not be too far away from its maiden flight.

After years of delays there now seems to be real hope of having the Firefly's engine fully overhauled in the USA next year, and having it improved with the installation of later series camshafts and rocker gear which should see the last of those nagging valve-train problems.



Dakota 802 arrives back at Nowra with its new paint job performed by RAAF Richmond, September '96. (Property of Terry Hetherington)

Under the guidance of the OIC, Commander Greg Tindall, the Historic Flight has matured over the past twelve months. Receiving official recognition from Navy Corporation management was only the first step toward greater achievements in the months and year ahead. All members of the Flight, whether aircrew, maintenance crew or restoration team members, deserve our full appreciation and congratulations for their efforts; and as one very senior aviator keeps reminding them, 'When it stops being fun, stop doing it!'

Terry Hetherington

NSW Division

It is quite obvious our (caretaker) Federal Executive considers 'Slipstream' to be most important to the existence of our Association, I think we can be confident that in a very short time, we will be back to all receiving our copy of that excellent and well presented journal as in the past.

The happenings of the past month or so will not be recorded as a particularly happy period of our past. Events at the time were such that the Federal Executive decided that they found it necessary to tender resignations from their respective offices. This Executive had worked tirelessly for a number of years to ensure we, as a national body, was seen to be an organisation which was worthy of respect and I am not alone in saying that they were successful.

In this column I want to record the thanks and appreciation of the NSW Division Management Committee and Members to you Toz and your Committee for the service you gave to the Association on our behalf.

Following our Tweed Heads Federal Council Meeting over the second weekend in November, we have ourselves an appointed caretaker Executive who have undertaken the task of getting us back on track.

On the subject of Tweed Heads, what a great weekend it was. The Queensland Division are to be congratulated for the highly successful outcome of the event. Thanks President Barry for having given us a welcome and happy times meeting old friends. Special thanks and congratulations go to Committee Chairman Bob Bryce who was the driving force behind the event, Alan Hill and Reg Gilbert were putting in what seemed to be 18 hour shifts every day and all we had to do was enjoy ourselves - I sure did. I can guarantee we in NSW will match your welcome when you come down in '98, but we will have to work hard to match everything else.

Must keep the column brief in this edition, I and the Management Committee wish all our members and families a very happy and merry Xmas with a great year to follow and all of us in NSW pass on those same good wishes to all Divisions.

*Max Altham,
President*



Standing: Les Cube, Garry Reid 'Prickey'. Sitting Bill Paul, Ted Smith 'Simba'



l to r: Garry Reid, Brian Sargeson, Reg Daw, Peter Penny



Rear Admiral Barry Christie, Brian Lister & Ladies

Medals Report

Most of you would be aware that the Federal Government has officially approved and gazetted the Australian Service Medal (ASM) 1945-75 clasp FESR for RAN personnel who served for an aggregate of thirty (30) days or more in the FESR between 2 July 1955 and 30 October 1971. Indeed some may even have already received the award and be looking forward to riding free in public transport on ANZAC Day. If you consider that you qualify for the award send an application, listing service details, to 'Staff Officer Medals, Department of Naval Personnel Services, D-3-14, Russell Offices, Canberra, ACT 2600'.

Please note that this award does not entitle you to Veterans' Affairs benefits. The award of the Returned from Active Service (RAS) badge and the British Naval General Service Medal (NGSM) clasp Malay for FESR service between 2 July 1955 and 30 November 1960 is still being actively pursued as recipients would be entitled to benefits.

Barry Roberts

1. The Royal Yugoslav War Cross - This medal is available to all those persons in the Allied Armed Forces including the Merchant Service who now hold the Africa Star for Mediterranean Service or Italy Star for sea support services or Malta Medal. Those nationals who served on the island of Cypress, Malta or Gibraltar alone do not qualify. Any service related to Yugoslavia may apply.

2. The Greek War Medal - This medal was primarily issued to those who served on mainland Greece or in Crete (1941-42) but was later extended to the areas of the Mediterranean surrounding Greece up to 1945. This medal is available to those persons who have qualified service in the area and at least hold the Africa Star for Mediterranean Service and/or the Italy Star for sea support service or can demonstrate service in Greece or Crete.

3. The Medaille de la France Liberee - This medal is available to all those persons of the Allied Armed Forces including Merchant Services who took part in the battle against the Axis forces from September 1939 to May 1945 in Western Europe. This includes the evacuation of Dunkirk and the landings of D. Day etc. for service from the Bay of Biscay to the North Sea. Those who served in the U.K. only are not eligible.

4. Medaille de la Reconnaissance - (Gratitude) of the Kingdom of Belgium Eligibility as for Item 3 above.

5. Medaille de Belge - Eligibility as for Item 3 above.

6. Philippine Liberation Medal - This medal is available to all those members of the Armed Forces including Merchant Services who took part in any way in any part of the battle to liberate the Philippines.

7. China War Medal - Established by the Republic of China (Formosa, now Taiwan) in 1946 and is available to all those who can prove service in the China/Burma theatre, the East & South China Seas etc., or if you now hold the Philippine Liberation medal or the Burma Star or the Pacific Star with Burma Clasp.

8. The Dutch War Cross - Available to those who can prove service in the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) or Dutch New Guinea.,

9. The Malta G.C. Medal - Available to all those who saw service in Malta or the Convoys to Malta (proof required).

When applying, please send a copy of your medal entitlements and any other information which you may consider relevant.

Please note carefully that these medals are no longer available from the respective governments and all medals are re-strikes, so therefore a charge is made. We have a limited number available to us so please order as soon as possible so that we may obtain our quota.

We are not allowed to keep stocks on hand so please be patient when you order to allow sufficient time for delivery from overseas from the respective government agencies. Sometimes up to 12 weeks.

These medals are all war medals. Please do not confuse them with the number of commemorative medals now on offer.

from Jim Lee

Please note: Members and friends of the Fleet Air Arm Association who think they may be eligible for any of the nine foreign medals listed, or the Maritime Service Medal or the General Service Cross, please send me a business size, stamped self addressed envelope, I will then return the appropriate order form.

Other medals, for which the Association of Mariners Inc. has been appointed sole distributors, include: The Korean Veterans' Medal, Vietnam Veterans' Medal and Merchant Marine Veterans' Medal.

1998 Reunion - Accommodation Information

Motels

- * Anchor Bay Motel, 113 Greenwell Point Road, Greenwell Point, (044) 47 1722;
- * Angelsea Waterfront Motel Lodges, 2 Admiralty Crescent, Huskisson. (044) 41 5057;
- * Avaleen Lodge Motor Inn, 315 Princes Highway, Bomaderry. (044) 21 8244;
- * Balan Village Motel, 175 Cambewarra Road, Bomaderry. (044) 23 1111;
- * Bangalee Motel, Princes Highway, Berry. (044) 64 1305;
- * Bayside Motor Inn, Bowen Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 5194;
- * Bomaderry Motor Inn, 321 Princes Highway, Bomaderry. (044) 21 0111;
- * Bounty Motor Inn, 271 Princes Highway, Bomaderry. (044) 21 2233;
- * City Centre Motel, 16 Kinghorn Street, Nowra. (044) 21 3455;
- * Coolangatta Historic Village Resort, 1335 Bolong Road, Coolangatta. (044) 48 7131;
- * Cross Country Motel, 242 Kinghorn Street, Nowra. (044) 21 7777;
- * Culburra Beach Motel, 56 Brighton Parade, Culburra Beach. (044) 47 2053;

- * George Bass Motor Inn, 65 Bridge Road, Nowra. (044) 21 6388;
- * Golf View Motel, 49-51 Paradise Beach Road, Sanctuary Point. (044) 43 9502;
- * Great Southern Hotel/Motel, Queen Street, Berry. (044) 64 1009;
- * Greenwell Point Hotel/Motel, Greenwell Point Road, Greenwell Point. (044) 47 1202;
- * Huskisson Beach Motel, 9 Hawke Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 6387;
- * Jervis Bay Dolphin Shores Motor Inn, 53 Beach Street, Vincentia. (044) 41 6895;
- * Jervis Bay Motel, Owen Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 5781;
- * Marriott Park Motel, Cnr Princes Hwy & Douglas Street, Nowra. (044) 21 6999;
- * Nowra Motor Inn, 202 Kinghorn Street, Nowra. (044) 21 555;
- * Parkhaven Motor Lodge, Cnr Kinghorn & Douglas Sts., Nowra. (044) 21 6444;
- * Pleasant Way Motor Inn, Pleasant Way, Nowra. (Southern end of the bridge). (044) 21 5544;
- * Riverhaven Motel, Scenic Drive, Nowra. (044) 21 2044;
- * Shoalhaven Heads Hotel/Motel, 51 River Road, Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7125;

1998 50th Anniversary Programme

Wednesday 28 October	1000	Registrations open at Museum
Thursday 29 October	1200	Registrations - continue
	PM	Divisions NAS
	1830	Combined Cocktail Party Beat Retreat
Friday 30 October	0800	Registrations - Museum
	1000	FAA AGM - Base Theatre Launch History Book by VIP Air Day rehearsal all day
	1100	Base Tours Museum Tours
	1230	BBQ Lunch Dolphin Watch/Kangaroo Valley Tours Mini Reunions SS Reunion 50th Anniversary Ball 'A' Hangar
Saturday 31 October	1100	Freedom of Entry Parade with RAN Historic Flight Flyover Race Day Private aircraft 'Fly In' Spring Festival Dolphin Watch/Kangaroo Valley Tours
	PM	BBQ Museum
Sunday 1 November	0830	Ecumenical Service Memorial Dedication
	1030	HMAS ALBATROSS Air Day
Monday 2 November		Bowls and Golf Day Tours - if sufficient interest
Tuesday 3 November		Melbourne Cup

- * The Sanctuary Restaurant Motor Inn, 4 Paradise Beach Road, Sanctuary Point. (044) 43 0603;
- * Valdemere Motor Inn, 65a Kinghorn Street, Nowra. (044) 21 0466.

Guest Houses

- * Armstrongs White House Guest House, 30 Junction St., Nowra. (044) 21 2084;
- * Bunyip Inn Guest House, 122 Queen Street, Berry. (044) 64 2064;
- * Kangaroo Valley Guest House, 258 Mt Scanzi Road, Kangaroo Valley. (044) 65 1126;
- * Victoria's Guest House, 36 Victoria Street, Berry. (044) 64 2211.

Hotels

- * Aqua Shack, 58 Hawke Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 6363;
- * Archer Resort & Conference Centre, Cnr Princes Highway & Kalandar Street, Nowra. (044) 21 5222;
- * Banksia House, 12 Elizabeth Drive, Vincentia. (02) 9876 8971;
- * Berry Hotel, Queen Street, Berry. (044) 64 1011;
- * Huskisson Holiday Units, 37 Owen Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 6580;
- * Jervis Bay Hotel, Owen Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 5001;
- * Misty Ridge, 201 Tourist Road, Beaumont. (044) 64 1966;
- * Orion Beach Cottage, 346 Elizabeth Drive, Vincentia. (044) 41 6280;
- * Parma Creek Cottage, Parma Farm, Parma Road, Falls Creek. (044) 47 8098;
- * Seaview Flats, 47 Beecroft Parade, Currarong. (044) 48 3158;
- * Tapitallee Retreat, 52 Lilli Pilli Lane, West Cambewarra. (044) 46 0452;
- * The Cottage, 40 Sydney Avenue, Callala Bay. (044) 46 5799;
- * The White House, 419 Elizabeth Drive, Vincentia. (044) 41 5489;

- * Waterside Cottages, 27 Walton Way, Currarong. (044) 48 3053;

- * White Sands Lodge, 5 Bowen Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 5900.

Caravan Parks

- * Alpha Caravan Park, 79 Island Point Road, St. Georges Basin. (044) 43 4211;
- * Anglers Rest, Adelaide Street, Greenwell Point. (044) 47 1207;
- * Easts Willows Caravan Park, Pleasant Way, Nowra. (044) 21 2977;
- * Camellia, 102 Jerry Bailey Road, Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7142;
- * Coastal Palms, 40 Shoalhaven Heads Road, Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7206;
- * Coral Tree Lodge, Greens Road, Greenwell Point. (044) 47 1358;
- * Culburra Caravan Park, Whistler Street, Culburra. (044) 47 2501;
- * Currarong Caravan Park, Nowra Road, Currarong. (044) 48 3027;
- * Feriendorf Holiday Village, 55 Radiata Road, Kangaroo Valley. (044) 65 1472;
- * Glenmack, Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley. (044) 65 1372;
- * Hampden Bridge, Moss Vale Road, Kangaroo Valley. (044) 65 1310;
- * Hidden Creek, Goodland Road, Woollamia. (044) 41 5809;
- * Huskisson Beach Resort, Beach Street, Huskisson. (044) 41 5142;
- * Huskisson White Sands Tourist Park. (044) 41 6025;
- * Jan's Riverside Park, 32 Hay Avenue, Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7211;
- * Leisure Haven, 785 Woollamia Road, Woollamia. (044) 41 5046;
- * Lone Pine, Greville Avenue, Sanctuary Point. (044) 43 0356;
- * Rest Point Caravan Park, Browns Road, South Nowra. (044) 21 6856;
- * Mountain View, Cnr Bolong & Shoalhaven Heads Rds., Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7281;
- * Nowra Animal Park Camping Reserve, Rockhill Road, North Nowra. (044) 21 3949;
- * Pine Park, West Street, Greenwell Point. (044) 47 1300;
- * Shoalhaven Heads Tourist Park, Cnr McIntosh & River Rds., Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7178;
- * Shoalhaven Ski Park, Rockhill Road, North Nowra. (044) 23 2488;
- * Shoalhaven Caravan Village, Terara Road, Terara. (044) 23 0770;
- * Tall Timbers, Shoalhaven Heads Road, Shoalhaven Heads. (044) 48 7270;
- * Treehaven Caravan Park, 278 Princes Highway, Bomaderry. (044) 21 3494.



Caught napping

FLY NAVY

THE JOURNAL OF

AUSTRALIAN NAVAL AVIATION MUSEUM

We have combined with the Fleet Air Arm (FAA) Association of Australia to send out our Christmas message because our aims and objectives are extremely similar and it is a way of reaching a wide audience in a more cost effective manner. We hope our Society Members who are not in the FAA Association have appreciated the problems we face and how important it is for aviation enthusiasts to focus our efforts in ensuring that the Naval Aviation Museum project is the success it deserves to be. We cannot survive without the manpower support from FAA Association members, other volunteers (often with no Naval background), and the financial support from our Donor Society Members. We mail out annually for donations but do appreciate the demands of modern day society.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Commodore Graham Sloper, sadly departs us in January 1997 as he retires from the Navy. His enthusiasm and confidence in this project has never wavered, despite his pressures as Commanding Officer of HMAS ALBATROSS. He's off fishing and we wish him a great catch.

Grants

The highlight of the year was to receive a \$100,000 'one off' grant from the RAN to assist with our operating budget. It's not so much the amount that is significant but the acknowledgement by Navy that the Museum does provide a meaningful supporting role and is a recognition of our position as the largest tourist attraction on the South Coast of NSW.

The Shoalhaven City Council continue to support us with \$50,000 each year until 2004 in recognition of our contribution to the development of tourism in this region.

Our most significant benefactor, Mr Ray Williams, Chairman of HIH Winterthur, has pledged \$1 million over 5 years for the construction of our theatre and we received the second \$200,000 of this pledge in October of this year.

Other continuing pledges commitments received during the



year include \$2,500 from the James Kirby Foundation, \$5,000 from Gilbert and Caldwell (Nowra), \$5,000 from RPG Management, \$5,000 from The Bruce and Joy Reid Foundation, \$5,000 from Kinhill Engineers, \$2,500 from The Advance Bank, \$5,000 from Shoalhaven Starches (Nowra), \$2,500 from Australian Co-operative Foods (Nowra), \$5,000 from Chubb Security Australia, \$2,000 from Geoff & Liz Vercoe (Nowra) and Society Members continue to donate to our cause annual

To all our sponsors we extend our extreme gratitude and appreciation. Without this support we could not hope to remain operational (as we say in the Navy), develop our displays, restore our historic aircraft and continue our major works development programme. Our aim is to excel and our enthusiasm is only restrained by our budget. However, with multi skilled dedicated staff, our volunteers and our in-built entrepreneurial skill as ex sailors, we will continue to make every dollar value added and ensure the Museum is an outstanding success: not only for the Shoalhaven but also in dedication to the Fleet Air Arm of Australia, old and new.

They departed with their heads held high with achievement, and some came back as volunteers to work on aircraft and in the Museum generally. A great scheme!



The Curator

Aircraft Acquisition

The major acquisition success story this year was the transfer of the Commonwealth owned aircraft to the Museum Foundation. The new Minister for Defence, The Right Honourable Mr Ian McLachlan MP, signed the approval in July of this year and included a:

Bristol Sycamore, De Havilland Sea Venom,
Douglas Dakota (C47A), Fairey Firefly, Fairey
Gannet,
Westland Scout and a UH1B.

Joanna Gash, our local Federal Member, officiated at the handover ceremony held at the Museum on 22 July on behalf of the Minister.

Gannet XG888

The aircraft was gifted to the Museum by the Royal Navy (RN). An ex RAN aircraft, it was purchased by the RN in the early 70's. P & O Containers Australia sponsored its sea transit and a number of other private sponsors, including MTU, covered the associated administration and road transport costs.

F14 Tomcat

Our original gifted Ex USN Tomcat could not be collected (due to a rough sea) and we gave it to the Pensacola Naval Aviation Museum. We have since been gifted another F14 and this time we have asked the USN to fly it into HMAS ALBATROSS from a visiting US Carrier Battle Group.

Winjeel

The RAAF agreed to transfer a Winjeel to our Museum and the aircraft was collected from Point Cook in early December. A lot of work is required to achieve display standard.

Macchi

The RAAF have promised the Museum an ex RAN Macchi when available.

Sea Fury

We are desperate for a Sea Fury for our collection. As our policy is not to fly aircraft unless we have two examples the RAN Historic Flight Sea Fury will not be able to fly unless we acquire another aircraft. Any suggestions?

Operations

The Souvenir Shop

Our retail operation has been gradually expanded to include a successful mail order business and we are now also responsible for storing and selling FAA Association material. We have a comprehensive range of products and a mail order catalogue. Please do not be shy - we need your purchasing support.

Museum Displays

The Old Museum

The last of the four WWII buildings - the old museum - was demolished during the year and all the display material was transferred to the main hangar in a new area called 'Memories of the Old Museum'.

SeaKing Digital Theatre

Thanks to the sponsorship of Computer Sciences of Australia

the SeaKing Theatre has received strong acclaim from our visitors. We are producing a video of the flying clips to sell in our shop.

The Mirror Landing System

The Mirror Landing System from HMAS MELBOURNE has been modified to take domestic power and became operational as a hands on exhibit thanks to Ensign Home Handyman and British Aerospace.

The Double Mamba (Gannet) and Pratt & Whitney (DC3)

These displays are now powered up and driven by small electric motors for display. Excellent value for our engineering student visitors.

Children's Play cockpits

We now have a Tracker and Gannet kiddies cockpit and plan



Volunteers

to convert a Wessex and build a Skyhawk for children hands-on interaction.

Weapons Displays

Visitors often ask where are our small arms? In fact, they are stowed in the HMAS ALBATROSS Armoury as we lack the necessary funds to develop a secure display for them in the Museum.

Aircraft Restoration Projects

Bell 47 - Kiowa

The rebuild is progressing well - it is intended to present the helicopter on an eye level pole for public display. We need a cockpit bubble - any offers?

Scout

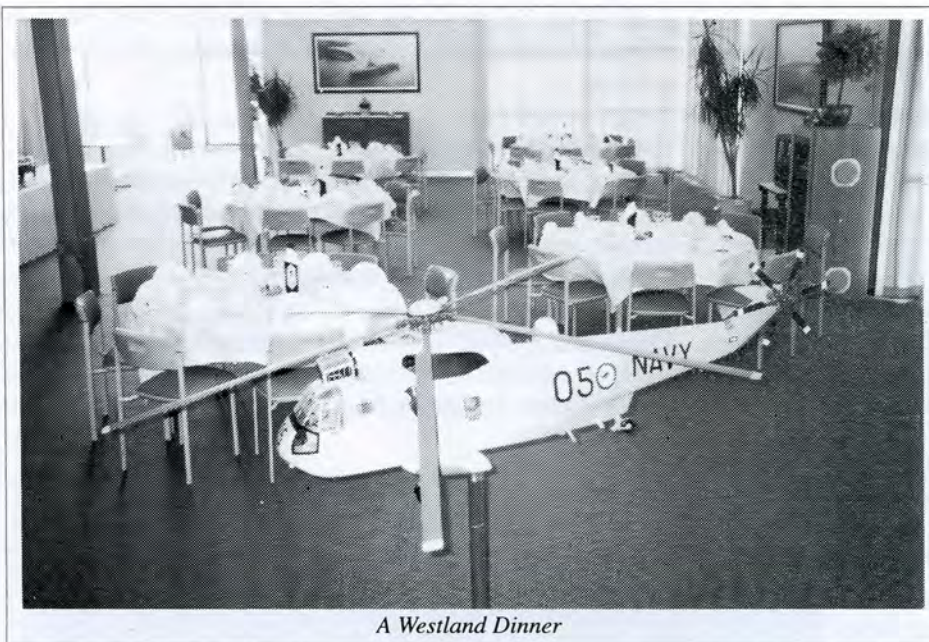
The helicopter is being stripped for painting and will make a magnificent display when completed.

Firefly

We embarked on a New Work Opportunities programme with the Department of Education and Training and took on 8 long term unemployed personnel to restore the Museum's Firefly. This aircraft was the 'gate guard' to HMAS ALBATROSS in the 50's on completion of its operational service and has had four or five coats of paint in its life. The 26 week programme enabled a complete strip down, rebuild and aircraft spray painting to be achieved - there was also a complete transformation of the crew.



Hangar 6 set up for The NSW Line Dancing Competition



A Westland Dinner

The White Ensign Function Centre

Business has been progressively expanding over the year and we are now fully equipped to cater and host wedding receptions and dinners/dances/conventions/seminars etc. Did you ever consider holding a seminar here at the Museum? Fly into ALBATROSS and enjoy our wide ranging support facilities. This year we have conducted 10 weddings, two of which included flying the bride and groom in by helicopter - something different to consider.

Visitation

We have had approximately 60,000 visitors through the Museum this year - not all paying guests unfortunately, and this figure does include Family Air Days (20,000 approximately) and Functions (5,000 approximately). Never-the-less, the visitor numbers is very encouraging, especially the increase in Bus/Coach Touring Company visits.

We charge a standard \$3.00 per head for a coach party of 40 plus and \$1.00 per head for tours. Our tours are extremely popular and we are always looking for volunteer tour guides (FAA Members?) If you are considering organising a coach trip please give us a ring to be included in your programme.

Special Guests

We do not charge an entry fee for:

- HMAS ALBATROSS/PTS personnel and their immediate families;
- Defence Personnel;
- FAA Association Members;
- Museum Society Members (ANAM,)
- Affiliated Museum Members

in recognition of the support we receive. We do ask to see ID and/or Membership Cards.

Family Air Days

Family Air Days are becoming a recognised family event on the South Coast and we have developed a significant loyal patronage. Designed to

encourage 'the kids to bring Mum and Dad' instead of the other way around, we throw in all kids entertainment for free and includes: Flight Raffles, Jumping Castles, Dodgems, Train rides, Childrens Disco. The lawns on the airfield side of the Museum make a great venue for a family picnic.

No Air Day would be possible without its aircraft however, and we are extremely grateful to all our participants which include:

- The RNZAF - A4 Skyhawks;
- The RAN Historic Flight - DC3, Tracker, UH1B, Firefly;
- RAN Squadrons;
- David Lowy - Aerobatics SU26;
- Nigel Arnott - Aerobatics Extra 300;
- Tom Moon - Aerobatics;
- Pel Air - Free Flight (raffle prize) - Lear Jet;

- Dakota National Air - DC3 Joy flights;
- Dean & Louise Tompkins - Tiger Moth Joy flights;
- Aerowasp - Bell 47 Joy flights;
- Bill Hamilton - Trojan;
- Jack Curtis - Wirraway;
- Gordon Glynn - Iskra;
- Phil Frawley - anything he can get his hands on!
- The ARMY Parachute Training School.

Our 1997 Family Air Days are:

- Sunday 26 January - Australia Day;
- Sunday 4 May;
- Sunday 24 August;
- Sunday 23 November.

Our provisional 1998 Family Air Days are:

- Monday 26th January - Australia Day;
- Sunday 29 March;
- Sunday 14 June;
- Sunday 30 August - 50th Anniversary Fly In;
- Sunday 1 November - HMAS ALBATROSS 50th Anniversary Air Day and Spring Festival.

The early planning has been made to ensure our 50th Anniversary dates are secure.



Staff preparing to receive Guests

Projects

Museum Display Hangar Functions

We have expanded our activities to hold major events in the hangar including the Launch of the latest Toyota Landcruiser, NSW Country Talent Round Up, Line Dancing Championships, Motor Club Rallies, Craft Fairs and we are now investigating Boot sales - perhaps even second hand car sales - any other suggestions?

We now have our very own mega dance floor shrouded by a suspended Army Cargo parachute in full deployment. Quite spectacular.

The Shoalhaven City Air Terminal

The Shoalhaven City Air Terminal is being transferred from the south western side of the airfield to the Museum. A small but effective bitumen hardstanding has been constructed immediately adjacent to the Museum for civilian aircraft use. The official opening has been delayed until we have a 24 hour lounge installed - probably in February 1997. However, in the interim if you wish to park your aircraft here at the Museum and enjoy our Function Centre facilities and secure car parking please ring and ask. ATC will do their best to fit you in, within operational constraints.

Aircraft Spares

We have a mountain of aircraft spares currently being catalogued by our volunteers, eventually we intend to hold a international sale. Watch this space!

'H' Hangar

Some readers may remember that we lost 'H' hangar and its contents of Trackers to a fire in 1972. Since then the Army erected one of their rigid demountable hangars on the 'H' hangar site.

Early next year that hangar will be transferred to the Museum for Historic Flight and Museum aircraft spares storage.

Joy Flights



Throughout the year we have been developing the way for the Museum to host and take bookings for Joy Flights in civilian helicopters and fixed wing aircraft as a promotion and revenue raiser. We already host the aircraft and operators, but they function independently.

NASMA

The development of the National Air and Space Museum of Australia's World Wide Web (WWW) internet site has provided a perfect vehicle for ANAM to participate in the emerging use of information technology to promote our activities.

Through the support of NASMA, ANAM now has it's own WWW site at <http://www.nasma.com/anam>. The site boasts Australia's largest collection of Australian Naval Aviation photographs apart from the Museums own research centre and the RAN. These images and associated information provide a wonderful resource to the wider community and in particular students and enthusiasts who frequent the site regularly.

Also under joint development is squadron information which will be delivered via the internet and Australia's first interactive CD-ROM dedicated to providing learning outcomes for students and teachers using aviation as a theme.

Our affiliation with NASMA has also provided much needed marketing support which has resulted in the design by NASMA of our new logo and support in the development of a new brochure for the Museum. Our relationship with NASMA will prove to be very worthwhile and provide for much more joint development projects in support of our important Australian aviation heritage.

HMAS ALBATROSS - Development

The Base is going through a major facilities development programme which will include new hangars, a new training school - including a 200 + seat theatre and syndicate rooms, new squadron buildings and administration complexes. The secure area is being moved south towards the squadrons and there will be public access to the domestic areas which will include a new undercover sporting

complex and a '7 eleven' type shopping centre - encompassing the 'Canteen', Post Office, Dry Cleaner, Petrol Station, Seamstress, etc. etc. Exciting days for NAS and the whole project should be well developed by the 50th Anniversary.

50th Anniversary

Previously discussed in the Slipstream article, the Museum is actively involved in the programming for the 50th Anniversary and hopes to bid for the catering and souvenir selling rights over the period.

The Australian Naval Aviation History

The Museum has taken over the task of co-ordinating the writing of the Australian Naval Aviation History. An author has been commissioned and all research has been completed. A historical chronology has been produced with the first manuscript draft contracted for January 1997. The Book will be launched at our 50th Reunion on Friday 30 October 1998. Pre orders are being taken at a 20% discount on the launch price of \$55.00. We need to encourage pre orders to ensure adequate funding for the printing (\$65,000). The author is being paid a 10% royalty on each book sale.

Stage 4 Museum Development

The next Stage in our development is to install a 150 sea theatre/state of the art conference centre, administration and curatorial facilities and, an additional eating area and toilet facility. It is planned to have the theatre completed and officially opened at our 50th Anniversary.



A Sea King carrying a Mark 48 Torpedo Submarine viewed from the Function Centre

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous 1997.

Mike Lehan, Museum Director, 5 December, 1996





School Experience





Museum Staff receiving their Commendation from Commodore Graham Sloper