



Volume No 1



Issue No 2

The Voice of the Naval Tankermen Association

For all the Old Salts amongst us who can remember that fine nectar of The Gods (Pussers Rum) I have it on good authority its now available in Sydney through a company called Blue Sky Beverages (details on the Ships Canteen page on the web site) or if your out Rooty Hill way call into the RSL there and buy a bottle or have a tot at the bar. Talking about drinks several of the Committee have become very proficient at brewing their own concoctions. Just our illustrious President Bob Currin, many a time I have sited Currin with a stupefied look on his face and a 20deg list to port. Seriously though the art of brewing your own has taken on a new meaning with a refined recipe for your own Tia Maria. One of our Queensland members makes a mean drop of Scotch, so how about it members let us know what you have been cooking up since we last seen you.

To All Members

It is proposed to hold a meeting for members and Non Members of the Naval Tankermen Association in 2009 possibly towards the end of winter.

Its been a while since we had one so if anyone has any idea's or information they wish to put forward please bring it along. The venue for the meeting has as yet not been decided but it is possible that it will be held at

The Rooty Hill RSL or Tamworth RSL. We need to breathe new life into our Association as the present committee are pretty frazzled especially the President and Secretary Treasurer

All details about the meeting will be posted on the web site as soon as possible

The Naval Tankermen Association
108 East St
Bega NSW 2550
Australia

Secretary's Report:

Well its been some time since the last Newsletter, its hard these days as there are only a couple of us actively working on keeping the Association afloat.

Come On Members and Non Members, we need your help, idea's and assistance. Most of all we need input for each respective Newsletter. Anything will be considered meanwhile Me and Bubbles will carry the can as they say.

As for my Secretary duties I have been slowly pulling my weight, our membership is reasonably quiet although we do have our regular members paying their fee's when they come due. And just to remind those of you that read this our membership fee still stands at \$20 and is due on April 25th of each year. You might wonder why such a date, well this was instigated some years back when we all got together in Sydney each Anzac Day to march together, but now with illness setting in and old Pussers Injuries catching up with us along with several of our active members not being able to afford travel we are now relying on you, our members to please send in your membership fee as soon as it comes due.

We still have available stocks of our Association Tie's as well as Caps so drop into the web site and check out what we do have on the Ships Canteen page. Orders for Association shirts can be made as per the Canteen page as well.

Other news that has come to light of late is the request sent to us that former members of the RFA Association in the UK wanted to form their own chapter of the Naval Tankermen Association simply called the

Naval Tankermen Association (Europe)

This of course is a great idea for our two groups to form a better understanding together and closer relationship to help each other in times of need.

The Europe chapter have modelled their Constitution on ours and many points through our constitution have been taken up by the new group.

Good luck to them in the future.

We have also gained a few more members since I last put pen to paper as they say. Our first overseas member is Larry Caruso Petty Officer Second Class of the USS Navasota AO 106, is a **Cimmeron/Ashtabula Class Fleet Tanker** built in 1945 Navasotta sore service during the Korean War as well as Vietnam and that is where Larry served aboard her. Larry resides in the state of Vermont and during winter is snowed in for days at a time as he lives some 25 miles from the nearest town.

Mururoa Vets News

Recently a book was released called "Mururoa Protest" by its author Gerry Wright. What can I say but a dam good read for those who served aboard HMAS Supply during this period of the French Nuclear tests in 1973. Gerry has detailed many points of the operation and anyone wishing to purchase a copy can do so by contacting him at the following address.

Gerry Wright
8 Rowan Road
Epsom Auckland
NZ

His email address is gerrywright@xtra.co.nz

The price of the book is \$NZ 25.00 plus \$NZ 10 PnP. He will receive a cheque drawn on a Australian Bank. There is a copy of the front cover of the book on our web site NEWS page for those who have access.



Mururoa News Cont:**Secretary / Treasurer's Report**

Since taking over the reigns of both Secretary and Treasurer for another year and that of Treasurer in a dual role it has been a challenging move at times but one that a Dibble can do justice to.

In this last couple of years we have introduced the long awaited Photo CD Album which members can purchase through me by sending a Money Order or cheque to the value of \$10 to 108 East Street Bega NSW 2550. We have sold over a dozen since introducing them and they are gaining in popularity as most people seem to want to see what they looked like 20 to 40 years ago. We have also introduced the sale of an Association Polo type shirt and there is a photo of one on the Ship's Canteen web page for anyone wishing to see what they look like along with details for ordering them. They take about 2 weeks from time of order to mailing as the embroidery is all done locally and the people doing it have to order shirts from Melbourne.

The Association financially is on a stable footing although we are not millionaires we are holding our own now with input from the sale of the Phot CD's and shirts along with membership which is slowly proceeding well. Its still surprising to make contact with old crew members no matter which tanker they served aboard.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to the Photo CD Album, without whom we would not have been able to finish the work we started.

Thank you All..

Cont..>



A very successful reunion was held on the weekend of May 16/17th 2008 in Napier New Zealand for all those personnel who served aboard Royal New Zealand Navy ships HMNZS Otago and Canterbury and the RAN fleet tanker HMAS Supply during the French Nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll July 1973.

The reunion was held at the Napier RSA club rooms

HMAS Supply crewmembers from this deployment were represented by two fine up standing gentlemen.

Alan Wilson ex: LSWM and an old stoker called Shorty Greenhalgh these Gentlemen enjoyed a great reunion. For those of you that have the internet available check out the following link.

<http://www.hmnzsotago.co.nz> for more information on the Reunion.

Don't forget those of you who can make it, there should be another reunion in Napier in 2010.

Most of our Mururoa era ex crew members are either retired or about to, with the likes of Jack Pegg and Gavin Andersen who are as they say

"On The Wallaby"

Don't be surprised if you see one of them driving about the country.

Also please note if your looking for an old shipmate drop the Secretary an email and see if he has any info on your friend's whereabouts.

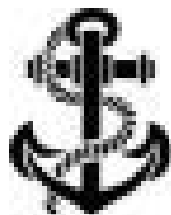
So far we have an extensive database of ex crew members not just for HMAS Supply but for our other tankers as well. So if anyone you know is not on the list please drop us a line and let the Secretary know of their whereabouts.

Shipboard Dits

The Ships Cat:

This magnificent animal arrived onboard in either Gibraltar or Malta and as you know we have quarantine laws in place, world wide, as regards animals and Australia has some of the strictest. It was decided to catch said pussy, this proved to be impossible so the next thing was to shoot the beast. Armed with .22 rifles we tried and failed (we were in ballast and the explosion risk was minimal), the cat was really smart and evaded all attempts to be put away. After Aden we had to catch the beast as we now had cargo aboard. Finally just before Colombo the cat was caught and locked in a convenient head in the after castle and the doctor was detailed off to rid us of our passenger. The big question was how much ether would do the job. A much scratched Medico and his erstwhile LSBA bagged the moggy and proceeded onto the boat deck aft of the sickbay, and emptied a full bottle of ether over the now furious cat, with the desired result, and the cat was duly given a full sea burial. What the Dr didn't even consider was that he was performing his task where the engine room air intake was located and he also did a good, but not lethal, job of filling the engine room with ether fumes. The fact that we were manoeuvring to enter Colombo at the time did not impress everyone down below.

I might well ask
(**What is it with
Tankermen in Colombo**),
well that's another story for the next issue.



Gentlemen thanks to the efforts of a great mate in supplying me with a copy of our original '**OILY Rag**' (Thanks Sam) We are able to bring to you snippets of information from the Vol 2 No1 edition 1972 (HMAS Supply at Sea)

Quotations from The Past

The objective of all dedicated military men should be to thoroughly analyse all situations, anticipate all problems prior to their occurrence. Have answers to these problems and move swiftly to solve them when called upon.....

HOWEVER When you are up to your ass in alligators, it is difficult to remind yourself that your initial objective is to drain the swamp....!!!

PERSONAL ADDS DEPARTMENT

WANTED

Urgently Any sailor with 25ft arms for removing lost gear from sullage lines. Apply **CSMTH Toovey..**

Secretary's Report Cont:

One matter that has come to light several times in the past is a request for an Association T-shirt that members can purchase. This idea has a lot of interest to the extent whereby we are calling on anyone who has an old HMAS Supply T-Shirt stashed away at home, can we borrow it to possibly re-hash the design to include all tankermen and women. Another idea is for someone amidst us who is a wiz with artistic drawing to design one for our use along the lines of a sailor dressed in cap and overalls brandishing a wheel spanner under one arm and a clip of 40/60 ammo under the other. If anyone can help it would be very much appreciated.

I will close now and get on to updating the web site, one final note to everyone if you have something for either the Newsletter or Website please send it in, don't be shy.

Ken Witchard

Sec/Treasurer tanker73@bigpond.net.au

Naval Wisdom Par Excellence

The sailor in question will remain nameless, gentlemen never reveal their sources.

Today I look back

at how wonderful being in the Navy was. I have very fond memories of Supply.

A very comfortable ship to live on. I spent a bit of time in dry-dock with

her when she underwent the refit that put on her enclosed bridge. I was

posted off her before the refit was complete. Captain Smyth and Captain

Bailey were the two captains I served under. I can remember one very dark

night coming back from Singapore. On watch on the exposed bridge at two

o'clock in the morning. My relief came up and before his night vision kicked

in he went straight over to the Captain's chair and said "OK, I'm here now,

you can piss off". The Captains chair was normally the place you would see

one of the TO's when we were just steaming somewhere. This particular night

however the captain was sitting in his chair. The Captain didn't say a word.

I had a much higher regard for him after that.

Who can remember a stoker on board the Supply who lowered the captains barge and took it for a fast trip around Sydney Harbour, with the water police and navy Bertram's chasing him, he went outside the heads and headed south till he got to Bondi and beached it on the south end of the beach and took off into the crowded shopping area he got caught and was sent to Holsworthy for 30 days, Do you know who it was, it happened in November 69 just before we went on the trip to Brisbane, with the Hobart chasing a Russian submarine.

PS: Said stoker will remain nameless to preserve good order and discipline, besides Tankermen don't give up their own!!!

The Lecherous Old Oiler

To the foreplay of signal lights across the horizon, the innocent virginal destroyer caught the glance of the decrepit, lecherous oiler, his sensuous red deck lights glimmering passionately as she waited, quivering with anticipation, for him to bring his Romeo close up, so she might hastily rush alongside his virile, erect king posts with their enormous, black, well hung hoses.

His black boot topping gleamed brazenly as he lashed out with his shot lines, the silent messengers of sadistic pleasures yet to come. With saddle whips whistling, chains jangling, wires whining, he spanned the distance and bound her fast as she felt the pulsations of his ram being tensioned.

She quivered with anticipation, her receiver anxiously desiring his ever extending hose, its well used, wrinkled, leathery, foreskin like surface rising and falling with the eternally undulating undercurrents as his ecstatically squealing trolleys bought his engorged probehead ever nearer to her well lubricated, anticipating receiver.

With a final, powerful, lunging thrust, he penetrated and skilfully lodged his enormous probehead betwixt her slippery, squirming opening, as she cried, "Pump, Pump, Pump!"

as she writhed in bondage beside him.

As his turbines whined, he felt the ever-increasing pressure pound within his bowels. The enormous swaying hose stiffened with a resounding snap.

"Its coming, Its coming!" she cried, as she sensed his virile, odiferous juices pouring faster and faster, forcing their way through her to tight constrictions, overflowing, dribbling enticingly from her snatch blocks.

"How about a blow down?" he crooned, "Or maybe a back suction?" "Oh no!" she cried distraughtly, "I never dreamt of such lurid things!"

"But I must," he responded lustfully, "Or I'll drip when I pull out!!"





This erstwhile gentleman was caught red handed enjoying himself in the RSA club at Napier NZ last year. He thought he was safe from the rest of you.

The Association Photo CD Album can be ordered by dropping the Sec/Treasurer a note with a cheque or money order for \$10 postage inclusive to the Association address 108 East Street Bega NSW 2550



Many thanks go to those people who have donated photos to be part of the collection. Thanks to everyone.

Member News

Association Membership is due April 25th each year, or when you remember.

For those who don't already have a Membership badge please make sure you state that you want a badge when posting your membership fee to the **Secretary/Treasurer at 108 East St Bega NSW 2550. Membership fee's remain at \$20.**

Affiliated Associations

Atomic Ex-Servicemen's Association:

Sec, Terry Toon 23 Eidsvold St Keperra QLD 4054

E-mail: atomicex@bigpond.com.au

New Zealand Nuclear Test Veterans Association:

Chairman: Roy Sefton 45 Newcastle St Palmerston North New Zealand

E-mail: roy_sefton@clear.net.nz

HMAS Sirius was built as a double-hulled commercial product tanker, MV Delos and purchased by the Commonwealth Government on 3 June 2004. Named *Sirius*, the ship underwent modification for under-way replenishment. In addition, a flight deck was fitted for helicopter operations.

The ship can carry over 34806 cz of fuel including 5486 cz of aviation fuel for use by RAN helicopters. *Sirius* can replenish ships at sea by day and night, and is capable of replenishing two ships at a time. She has transfer points for fuel, water and stores.



**It Lives
Yes the Pilliga Yowie does exist**

Put a Tiger in your tank



Once a Tankerman always a Tankerman

Are there any of our members who are interested in model ship construction. If so please drop the Secretary a line sometime to discuss your interests.

Anyone with stories for the Newsletter please forward them to the Secretary as soon as possible for inclusion in the next edition along with any photos that may be included with the stories, either by email tanker73@bigpond.net.au or post to 108 East St Bega N.S.W. 2550.

Tankermen Association

State Welfare Officers

Western NSW:

Kevin W. Simmons OAM JP

02 68436300

Sydney Area:

Kevin French 02 96242083

North Coast NSW:

John 'Rip' Kirby 02 65864728

Nelson Bay Area:

Jack King 02 49812055

Biloela QLD Area:

Neil Clancy 07 49922151

If we have any other ex Tankermen who are qualified as a DVA TIP or Welfare officer, please let us know so we can put you on the list. No matter where you are in Australia you may be able to assist someone.

