

FHSM NEWSLETTER

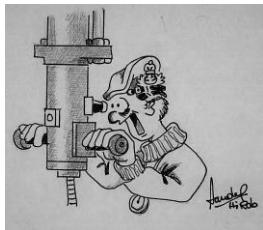
SPECIAL EDITION

“Upper Hatch Shut and Clipped”



PRESIDENTS – One all round

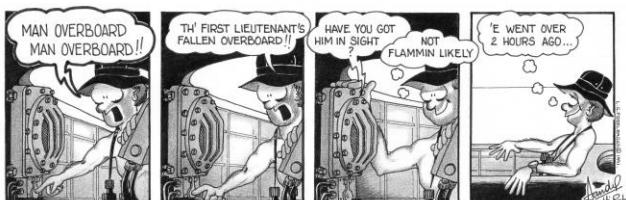
The Covid 19 Virus issues have affected us all but fortunately none of the FHSM Team have succumb to the illness yet. Being in lockdown or with restricted movements hasn't stopped our team from getting on with what's possible. It's fair to say that none of the committee are close neighbours and so we have gotten used to communicating and working remotely.



I must say it has been particularly tough for the HSM Curator Cathy Mann and her Husband and Membership officer Gordon Mann who have been doing it tough down in Holbrook. Others too have had their fair share of individual issues to cope with and I must pay tribute to this team for their tenacity under these difficult circumstances we all face.

The reason for this special edition is to give you more insight into what the FHSM Team has been up to and getting on with the tasks as best they can. If you're sitting at home and wondering what to do with yourself, look in the attic for old memorabilia and submarine stuff. As the Curator suggests this is a great time to fish out all that stuff you've been hoarding and send it to us or just let us know what you have. We have unearthed some marvelous pieces in the last few months and it won't be long till we will be able to share some of our discoveries with you.

In the meantime, keep up your spirits and I leave you with a smile and one of Sandys cartoons.



Talk to you later about this one Chief!

Michael White OAM, President FHSM.

m.white@uq.edu.au

SECRETARY - Around the Traps -

Despite the self-imposed Isolation, it has been a busy few months for most of teams. Whilst we have need to slow down some of our planned activities and promotions, we have pushed ahead with getting the framework sorted out so the various projects can be revisited and wheeled out when times get back to some semblance of normality.



Obviously, the cancellation of Anzac Day and Subcon at Holbrook have left a big hole in our expectations, but we have plans to push ahead in other areas as you will see by the individual project team reports. We would like to welcome more members to our Association, but we do understand the difficulties now as you will see in Gordons report.

The good news is that Sandy's team has been very busy and there has been quite a bit of work done on publications and posters that I'm sure you will want to support and perhaps pass on the message to others about the offerings.

Our corporate support has been amazing but like everyone else the effects of the close downs and isolation have put strains on these business's making it hard for them to support us now.

However, our good friends at SIA have stood by us and when the Museum opens again, we will be getting on with the refurbishment so necessary. Thankyou SIA for your financial and moral support, its most appreciated.

I hope that this special issue not only gives you something to read but also some insight into the hard work the FHSM team is putting in during the difficult times.

Misinformation and Rumors

Despite rumors to the contrary we are not an old boys club exclusive to ex Otway sailors. We are a support group for Australia's only submarine museum with a wealth of information on boats that go back to the AE class and right through to the current Collins class. We encourage and support the work and activities of SAA and SIA and welcome their input and help when offered. FHSM



is not exclusive to ex submariners, anyone with an interest in submarines can join and help us keep the museum alive and thriving.

Of course, we encourage the submarine community, past and present, to support their museum through membership of FHSMS as it is dedicated to their work and sacrifices. However, there are and were many who supported the seagoing submariner, partners and children, builders and support workers, specialists, medical staff and many others that kept the old boats and the new going. They are all welcome to join us.

Even if you have no direct connection with submarines or submariners you are most welcome to join and find out more about the silent world of the submariner. There will be many events and activities for you and your family to participate in and enjoy. We even have a membership for children under 10 for just \$5.

If you have any queries about our objectives and activities or how the museum is run, your welcome to email me or better still join us and find out how you can help.

Thor Lund, Secretary FHSMS

tlund@bigpond.net.au

TREASURERS REPORT

Graham Collins, Treasurer, weonawei@bigpond.com

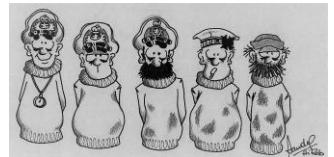
Since my previous report for FHSMS AGM dated 07 Feb. 2020, our bank balance is now \$896.04. This includes a deposit by Hume Shire Council of \$456.00 in the last week or so which was held in a trust fund from the remainder of the 'Donations' from members in 2018/2019. Addition small amounts include a donation of \$5.00, and \$0.02 interest. There are no outgoings from the account to date. No invoices or expense claims received. Balance sheet available on request.

We are preparing to get the funded projects underway when the isolation rules are relaxed. I will be working with Cathy and the SIA on the processes and delivery which will greatly enhance and improve the museum and its displays. There is more detail in the Funded Projects report if you're interested.

MEMBERSHIP Officers

Report

As we are all by now being progressively curtailed in our activities by present global events,



I am sure you will understand that promotion activity, particularly on the local front, has been brought to a standstill.

My personal situation of being employed in an essential business (Agricultural Supplies) has meant my employer has issued very strict instructions as to maintaining our ability to carry on business, this has meant my only face to face interaction outside my workplace is with the curator and a couple of cats.

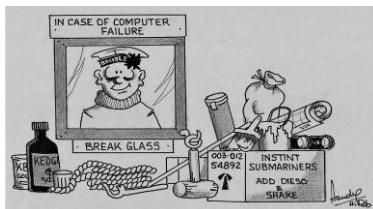
FHSMS FIRST LIFE MEMBER – Roger Cooper

It is with great pleasure that we have awarded life membership of FHSMS to Roger in recognition of his many years of work and initiatives for the museum. We would have loved to present his certificate in person but current travel restrictions and isolating make that impossible. Well done and thank you Roger for support of the museum and ongoing advice and assistance.

If you need to be told you haven't visited the museum, However, Roger is the good looking one with the medals. Sorry Roger - old picture is all we have.



CURATOR'S CORNER



The Museum was closed indefinitely a few weeks ago and the front office (aka Information Centre) is now an isolated workplace for one of the Greater Hume Council communications team.

I can work in the Museum on the weekends, but like many others I am being careful and staying home to support my essential services husband in his effort to stay healthy and safe and at work.

I will be working from home planning and designing fresh displays to complement the installation of new Gallery hanging systems. Some of this work entails re-writing labels, designing boards for printing and framing important photos to highlight their significance.

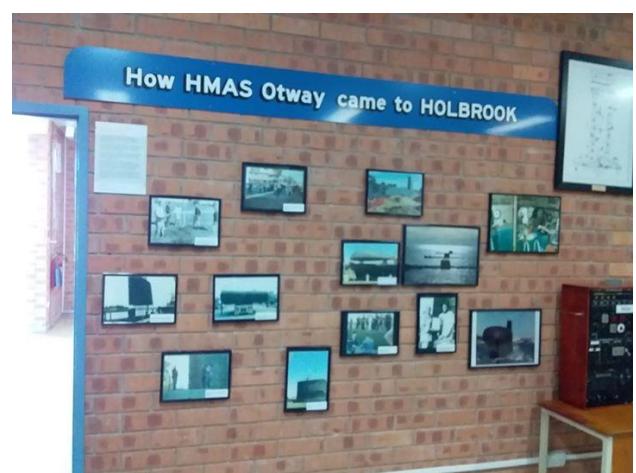
I will look at the artefacts that will be displayed in plinths, and spend some time looking through my home computer for scans etc. that I have brought home on thumb-drive over the last few years. I hope to develop supporting material for the plinths especially. I am sure this will keep me very busy for some time to come.



The desk supporting Klink and Shultz is an old school desk, stained and much battered.



The old blue cabinet was made cheaply by Jim Redwood at least 13 years ago.



Otway's story will look much better when hung properly and with supporting text.

All this and much more is being covered under the Funded Projects with huge thanks to SIA.

During this time, I thought there would be a great opportunity for many of you to bring out the old photo albums and see if you can find crew photos from any Australian submarine over the last 100 plus years.

I am happy to receive them as scans, but please keep the size down to no more than 20 mb for any email, my email program gets upset if too much tries to arrive in one go. cathy.mann@iinet.net.au

I have also listed the many books in our Museum Library- please find attached on this email- if you have any that not listed and would like to find a new home for them one day, please email me!



CURRENT PROJECTS

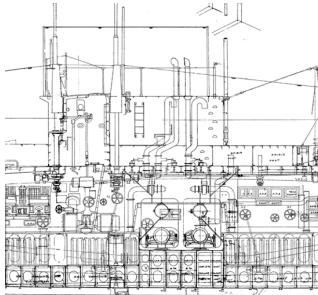
Working with the curator, Cathy Mann, several project teams have been busy developing and implementing both long and short-term projects. The following outlines will give you some insight into the project team activities. If you want to know more feel free to contact the individual team leader

Sharks of Steel, Men of Iron – **Contact Thor Lund, tlund@bigpond.net.au**

Overview -This team is focused on the AE2 control room recreation project by seeking both financial and in-kind donations from corporate sponsors.

Men of Steel -This project is concerned with gathering the oral history of submariners in association with SIA. This project will also be supported by the Visibility Team.

AE2 Project - Whilst the Virus issues have caused a setback with a potential major sponsor the project has moved forward a step. The Council has found some money to enable the ¾ scale model to be moved and mounted on a plinth with walkway steps up to the doors. This may not take place immediately, but it is ready to go once the restrictions are relaxed.



Meanwhile we have been sourcing potential CAD drawings reduced to 75% to allow fabrication or supply by sponsors. The current thinking is to construct the interior in modules which can be more easily transported and assembled

Men of Iron – We trialed a couple of interviews last year and since then we have upgraded our scripted questions and approach. Contact with the RN Submarine Museums specialist in this area has also help us get the basic right. Presently, we are working

with SIA's Peter Horobin to finalise the process, timeline for the interviews as well as likely candidates.

We have yet to decide a start date and the product deliverables, but we expect this will be resolved in April and hopefully we will start the interviews in May/June.

Funded Projects Team – **Contact Leader, Graham Collins** **weonawei@bigpond.com**

Overview -SIA has agreed to some financial support for essential Museum upgrades. We are working with SIA and the Curator to establish the process and reporting requirements.

Cathy has begun planning in respect to sourcing furnishings and other works to enhance the Museum interior for better exhibit displays and visitor experience. Graham has his pen ready to sign the cheques! It is not known at this time when the Museum will re-open, but we will be ready to proceed when it does.

HSM/FHSM Website - Contact Leader, Thor Lund **tlund@bigpond.net.au**

Overview - We originally arranged a sponsorship to develop a combined HSM/FHSM website and began by securing the domain name(s). We were fortunate that as well as financial support our sponsor provided expertise to develop the framework and essential security arrangements. Ultimately, it's planned that the HSM website and domain will be handed over to the HSM and Curator and if needs be FHSM will support or arrange sponsorship of the ongoing fees.

The loss of the technical support from our sponsor due to their refocusing their business activities during the shutdown has set us back a little. The domain name has been secured, the landing and support pages are in place and we have added quite a bit of content and some forms.

Our support expert spent his remaining time ensuring the site security was maximized so we shouldn't have any hacking problems. The remaining tasks revolve around forms and interaction material which I am working on with a beta version almost complete.



We hope to have the website up and running by end of April. Meanwhile we have kept the FHSM Team App alive and it will stay that way until the website is up and running.

SME Membership Team - Contact Leader, Gordon Mann gordon_mann@iinet.net.au

Overview *The purpose of this initiative is to engage SME (small to medium businesses) with the Museum. In return we will recognize them by special point of sale ID and feature in our newsletter and information on Regional 'Submariner Friendly' vendors. We have a logo developed and will be approaching local business for their support / membership and perhaps in-kind donations.*

I am still pursuing online opportunities in areas of social media outside the submarine community, eliciting a little interest in some of those areas. Local businesses were being approached as the local economy started recovering from the summer bushfire relief efforts, unfortunately with the downturn in through traffic (more than 50% of local business income is derived from Hume Highway traffic) due to COVID19, their thoughts are now on survival.

Sourcing membership cards and stickers has also hit a snag as the business I was directed to is now in recess until the country returns to the surface so to speak. We are working on a final design for a retailer recognition sticker that can also be used on a vehicle to suit trades and other supporters.

We have also been considering Junior membership button badges to accompany our competitions as well as the Kids art book which is soon to be released. I would like to encourage all members to spread the word about the work of the museum and encourage others to join FHSM to help us keep the museum' alive and well. Don't forget membership is open to all, not just ex and current serving submariners although I'm hopeful of more support from our submarine community.

Project Mosaic Team – Contact Leader, Cathy Mann cathy.mann@iinet.net.au

This is the first and ongoing project which has several facets. Initially designed to fund the upgrade software program and to assist in the categorisation and digitalization of the photographs and texts held by the museum it has expanded to encompass other issues.

This includes the Sound Bite project; kid's art competition, Steam Punk Challenge and the adult art competition.

The Mosaic Software - has been purchased. We set up an online exchange facility to upload and download the various pieces. So far, some 600 pics and 200 Journals have been categorised using the system we also set up an expert panel to help validate and identify various items and pictures. We will continue this work as an ongoing activity for FHSM.

Work is proceeding slowly but surely on the Mosaic entries. I am hoping that a project under early discussion will allow me to select and present more of the items of Norman Holbrook in conjunction with Murray Arts and Albury LibraryMuseum to enable the display created for the Consequences Exhibition in 2019 to be further developed.

Sound Bite project - FHSM scripted the dialogue for a shortened version of Diving Stations and an attack which was checked and enhanced. We are awaiting the voice over actors and studio to complete.

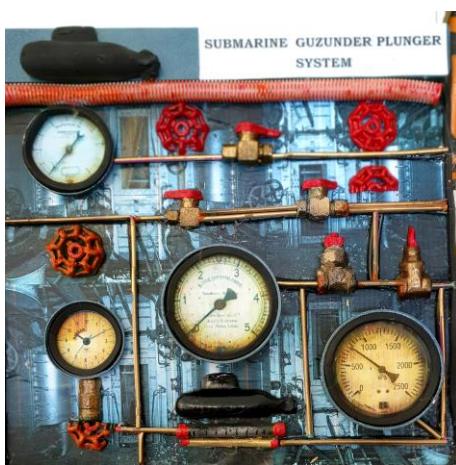
The Sound Bite project is on hold until the local Theatre Company come out of recess. The objective of the finished product is to create the effect of being at sea in a submarine, 'The submariner experience'

Competitions . The competitions are as follows: The kids colouring competition We will provide gift vouchers for the age winners 4-7 and 7-10 . FHSM has provided artwork and support materials and plastic display units for this proposed community involvement projects as well as prizes.

ANZAC Day Competitions.

The art / coloring contest is set to go with photocopying, preparing a flyer for the school newsletter and local paper all done. This competition is pending the return to school of all children and this event probably won't be run this year. However, with the lockdown a kids (and bored adults) coloring in book is available (see merchandising)

Steam Punk Challenge
Aimed at young teenage age group it is designed to be fun and use recycled material where possible.



FHSM provided a display model and support material to prompt artistic development of a submarine like pieces of equipment.

As with the ANZAC Day events, this is all set to go pending the return to school of all children and this event may not be run this year.

Art Challenge – Designed for local and regional amateur artists of all ages and writers. Entrants have the option to paint a picture of the submarine, a submariner or write a short fictional story about the submarine.

This Challenge was to be held in conjunction with Subcon. This activity could provide a fantastic lead-up to the event for the locals when the Subcon 2020 is revisited. We are waiting for a SAA decision from Cairns who were to have 2021 Subcon. It's possible they may allow Holbrook to have their postponed event in 2021, if not, then we will run the various challenges in 2021/22.

Merchandising Project Team- Contact, Sandy Freeleagus sandyhiro@gmail.com

This initiative is designed to generate funds for FHSM that can then be channeled into HSM projects and improvements.

MERCHANDISING UPDATE

So, whilst many have been TV bingeing, we've been busy developing ideas, writing and illustrating. We found it necessary to concentrate on a smaller number of projects and thus when the Virus problem hit, we were not fazed by the change to any great extent. We have concentrated our efforts on existing material and in some cases given it a new twist.

The effort has been to develop the following:



Posters – Initially, three unique posters by Sandy Freeleagus were developed. This has increased to a small catalogue of posters that can be ordered. There will also be a few numbered and signed Giclee styled exclusive posters in time when we have expressions of interest

eBooks and other – we are writing or converting a few new and existing publications for release later in the year. Originally aimed at Subcon they will now be directed more at Christmas gift giving.

Book Sales Commence!

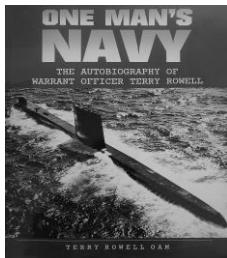
Holbrook Submarine Museum will be provided with a limited number of unique, signed copies of books written and illustrated by former submariners. These books are very collectable and with limited numbers available we think they will sell quickly.

The books have been donated for sale by the Friends of Holbrook Submarine Museum and funds raised will go to support the work of the museum and projects within the Museum.



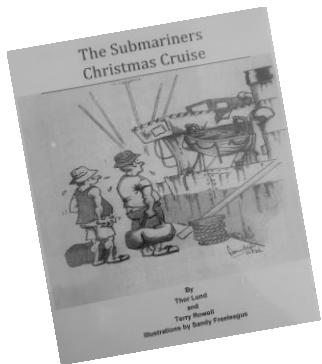
One Man's Navy – Terry Rowell's Autobiographical book on his 40+ years of service. These are signed by the author.

7 signed copies available for sale.



recipes on people you don't like when the isolation bans are lifted. Certain to keep them away for good.

The Submariners Road trip – Written by Thor Lund and Terry Rowell and illustrated by Sandy Freeleagus, this is a good little companion book to One Man's Navy and a good laugh for those of us who can remember some of those typical extended runs ashore.



The Submariners Cruise – Written by Thor Lund and Terry Rowell and illustrated by Sandy Freeleagus it is the follow-up to the Road Trip and more Submariner mayhem ashore

Note: content details of each book is available on request to: tlund@bigpond.net.au

COMING LATER IN THE YEAR:

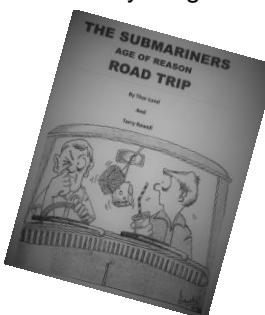
Australia's Submarine Heritage –Written, compiled and illustrated

by Thor Lund and Sandy Freeleagus it provides a written and graphical look at the history and types of submarines both Australian and USN and RN that worked out of Australia and in foreign ports and were manned in many cases by Australians. The artwork and drawings of the individual boats is worth the effort alone.



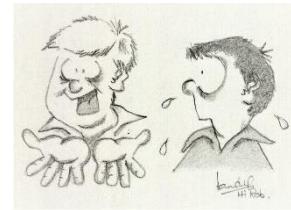
The Otway Book – Sandy and Thor are currently working on a series of volumes that will make up the book. This is derived from the original Otway Scrapbook by Thor but will extend to the deployments and activities right through the boat's life. Thor and Sandy are hoping for input from ex Otway submariners to help them fill in the gaps.

One part of the book will require research with past OTWAY crews with particular interest in the boats deployments from the 1980's through to her final decommissioning. Anyone who is interested in contributing should contact Thor Lund by email tlund@bigpond.net.au.



FROM THE TANKY'S STORE

For those of you who were tanky's or came across this breed of submariner, you will know they found many areas to store things and knew exactly where everything was (most of the time), including the non-essential items purloined from ashore. They were also a useful source of information given their proximity to the Coxn and others and were often known to spread disinformation at times to keep the peace. Good CO's and Cox'n's knew the value of this unofficial task and used it to great effect.



This is because the Tanky ranged the entire length of the boat in his quest to find places to store the many items required for a long deployment. Under bunks, in bilges, the AMS, the Forends. Any protests were quickly put down by his boss the Coxn, and you just don't upset the chefs.



This little introduction is to set the scene for a frequent column I hope to add to the Newsletter. With a wealth of historic and hearsay info at hand, I will explore the more unusual and often forgotten side of submarining and naval related oddities.

I encourage the Tanky network out there to send me your stories. But in the meantime, here's a few I've already gathered from the Tanky's network.

Change of hands - When the Tanky role changes hands due to drafting requirement, its usual for the new Tanky to do a bit of a stock take. Often with the Chefs and less frequently with the Cox'n. Some of the things unearthed in those rounds might surprise you as follows:

1. Stuffed Horses head in the AMS, wonder which scran the rest went into?
2. A glass eye glued on a porcelain plate in the Stewards store. Probably overseeing the cream biscuits is my guess, or perhaps a one eyed Cox'n left it behind
3. A king size ladies Bra under the Cox'n bunk. Not going near that one.
4. A bunch of frozen eels in the deep freeze. Must have been a RN submarine.
5. GI Joe figurines stuck to various bulkheads in the tanky's store. I can only guess they were there to ward off middle watch intruders?
6. Cans of Frey Bentos stuff dated 1953. Pommy pie in a can I think it was called. Probably made it to someone's plate

The Collectors - Submariners of the old school were renown for collecting things, legally or illegally. It was often the Tanky's unofficial job to be aware of the stuff and sometimes store it for later trophy retrieval. There was some amazing stuff brought on board submarines by sailors over the years. For example:

1. The Admirals silver dolphins off his badge. That nearly caused a diplomatic incident.
2. A Canon from a shore establishments main gate. Don't ask, I have no idea.
3. A full-sized pinball machine in the aft ends, plugged in and working. Had to be completely disassembled to get it out of the aft hatch.

And the list could go on.

Special Treats for the lads - The Tanky and the Chefs main function was to keep the crew fed and thus happy to a certain degree. Creative chefs were always on the lookout for ways to supplement the crew's diet. One chef in Scotland decided to do a deal with a local poacher and came running down the pier in Arrochar with a dead Bambi over his shoulder and the Lairds Gilly in hot pursuit. A quick-thinking duty officer saved the day with a fine bottle of the Skipper's best whisky he had been saving. Nobody got any venison either as it went overboard in the tug of war with the Gilly. Sir was not pleased and the chef disappointed but received a set of antlers for the galley. It's not true he tried to make soup out of them. They went overboard when the smell got too much.

Reindeer on Board – HMS Trident

Animals on submarines are not new and there's a story about the kidnap of Shore base Commanding Officers cat, which I will keep for another day.

Back in WW2 during arctic convoys one RN Submarine brought back a Reindeer from Russia. Whilst alongside in Polyarny near Murmansk for repairs the crew of HMS Trident were thrown a banquet by their Russian Hosts. The Skipper, Cdr Sladen was heard to confide in his Russian counterpart that his wife found it hard to push the baby's pram through the snow in the UK in winter.

The Russians gave him a live Reindeer to take home. Rather than offend their hosts, they took the gift named it Polyarny and headed south to England. They were at sea and involved in a war patrol for 6 weeks all with Bambi safely stored who knows where. I wonder which stoker gave up his bunk or was it kept in the Wardroom or Capts. cabin. Love to know that- if anyone out there does, let us know.

Turns out they didn't eat it, in fact it arrived fit and healthy and was immediately shipped off to the Regents Park Zoo. Now here's where I was able to find out some things. It appears Polyarny had a happy enough life and had some offspring whose grandchildren I would like to think might still be running around somewhere.



If you've got any stories of historic interest or otherwise feel free to send them in to me.

tlund@bigpond.net.au and mark them 'for the Tanky's store'

A semi regular contest will be the Tanky's quiz for FHSM Members only. These may appear easy but believe me they are not that simple. Do your homework guys and gals:

Tankys Quiz for FHSM Members

'Who was the youngest Australian to command a submarine'

Send your entries to:
tlund@bigpond.net.au

Free Cookbook to the first correct entry

Coming Soon

The HSM/FHSM Website is in its final stages of development and should be ready soon. Members will get an email when it's up and running.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

The next time your chatting online, sending funny emails or generally communicating with your friends and business colleagues can I suggest you put a plug in for FHSM and our work.

This Newsletter is a good start so forward the newsletter to your friends including non-submariners and even overseas friends if you like.

We look forward to your ongoing support and to welcoming new members to FHSM. Feel free to contact myself or Gordon Mann if you have any queries.

Thor Lund - Secretary FHSM

tlund@bigpond.net.au

Gordon Mann - Membership Officer

gordon_mann@iinet.net.au



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Annual membership of the friends of Holbrook Submarine Museum is \$10. 3years \$25
Renewals AUGUST each year

OBJECTIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION - is to assist Holbrook Submarine Museum and its Curator(s) with funding and Assistance to ensure the artefacts and photographic records are maintained and displays developed. FHSM supports the strategic plan of the Museum and its interface with the Submarine Institute of Australia (SIA) national objective of a virtual national submarine museum as well as the activities of the Submarine Association of Australia (SAA).

AS A MEMBER - You will receive a regular email newsletter with updates on activities at the Museum and any special events and deals on submarine merchandise. You will also receive an adult pass to the museum. We look forward to welcoming you to Friends of Holbrook Submarine Museum.

APPLICATION - Please accept my application for:

1 year \$10 or 3 years \$25 membership of FHSM. Kids under 10, \$5 yr.

I agree to abide by the rules of the association and to support its purpose and objectives. Note: copies of the Association rules are available by email.

Signed Date

Title

Given Names.....

Surname.....

Email address.....

Phone number.....

Mob

Street and No

.....

Suburb or Town State

..... Postcode

Country

Send all monies to: FHSM

Bendigo Bank – BSB – 633-000.

Account No – 170008056.

Be sure to put your name in the reference section

MAIL OR EMAIL YOUR APPLICATION TO:

The Secretary, FHSM
1/107 Bayview St, Runaway Bay, Qld, 4216

Email, tlund@bigpond.net.au