

FHSM NEWSLETTER



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Friends of Holbrook Submarine Museum

PRESIDENTS REPORT

FHSM has come a long way since its formation in 2019. Following the AGM I am pleased to announce the Office Bearers, Committee Members and Patrons for 2022 as follows:

President - Michael White OAM, QC
Vice President Cmdr Michael Carew RAN
Treasurer - Geoff Anderson
Secretary - Thor Lund

Committee Members
Graham Collins
Sandy Freeleagus
Cmdr John Goss RAN
Dr Roger Neill
Dr Doug Randell

Patrons

Our Patron from the beginning of the FHSM has been Commander Peter Horobin MBE RAN Rtd. In June 2021 the Committee appointed a second patron in the doyen of submarine heritage and preservation in Rear Admiral Peter Briggs AO (Mil), OAM (Civ) CSC RAN Rtd and we thank him for all he is doing.

Life Member - Roger Cooper was appointed as a life member during the year and continues to work for the museum.

New Curator - Morrie Jeppesen, who lives in Holbrook, was appointed to the Committee and as the FHSM representative and Honorary Curator of the Holbrook Submarine Museum.

I thank all the Committee members and others for their good work over the past year and I also thank the Submarine Institute of Australia and our major sponsors like the Bendigo Bank and Dulux Australia. I know that we have some excellent new members on the committee and they will bring new skills and energy to bear on our aims of getting behind the HSM. I look forward to working with the new Committee and Volunteers over the coming year as we all give our support to the many new projects that the FHSM and the HSM will undertake.

Michael
White
President

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Special points of interest

EDITORIAL CONTACT

Helen Wyatt

kewyatt@bigpond.com

Website:

holbrooksubmarinemuseum.com.au

What's new in the Museum



Welcome New Members

Mr Douglas Randell
Major John Hitchen
Capt Chris Skinner
Cmdr John Goss
Mr Greg Skinner

FHSM & HSM DONATIONS

We welcome support in financial as well as in kind donations. If you would like to donate money

Contact: Geoff Anderson
dogonthelap@hotmail.com

or

for artefact, pictures or other submarine related material.

Contact:
Morrie Jeppesen.
jepmurph@bigpond.com

Publication Updates

Over the past 2 months we have been working on a new range of material for the younger visitors to the museum. This included a new kids fun book and various on line games as well as a scavenger hunt to find answers to questions about submarines in the Museum. The 2022 Calendar is now available and we are working on the next edition of the submariners cookbook with its authors John Goss and Greg Skinner. 2 other publications are in the pipeline as a result of member requests after the 2 2021 webinars. Submarine escape and rescue is being developed by Terry Rowell and PLATS, the book about HMAS PLATYPUS and RANTE is well into development with many contribution

The Wooden Jolly

Roger

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*Australian submarine
heritage time line banner
being developed*

Planned for 2022

1. **J7 Recce** – We have been in touch with Sandringham Yacht club Vic with the idea of carrying out an ROV examination of the J7 wreck at their marina. They have agreed and Roger Neill has been gathering his old team from the AE2 and the Cerberus expeditions. Covid restrictions have placed this on hold, but we are hopeful this can progress later in 2022.
2. **3D Models** – We hope to produce profile models of each of the boats that saw service for Australia and mount these on plaques below the time line wall hanging that Roger Cooper is working on. We have other plans using this process and with Roger Neills capable assistance and guidance.
3. **QR Code expansion** – We expect to expand the use and versatility of the QR codes which have proven successful so far in the museum. This will expand the self guided tour aspects and ticketing arrangements.
4. **Submariners Wives and Families Book** – This is planned for later in 2022 and has not yet got a title or outline. It will however look at the lives and stories of submariner's wives, partners, and families the issues they faced whilst their spouses and partners were away at sea. This is a longer-term project which may also ultimately turn into an audio book. We will start collecting stories in early 2022 with the help of Carol Wilson.
5. **The Otway Scrapbook** – This will be an ebook and free to members. It will follow the lines of the previous scrapbook and be updated by contributions. It will also be offered as a template for other boats if they wish to do similar.
6. **Sid and Sally the Sub** -Sandy Freeleagus has developed a kids adventure book/ game call Sid the Sub. We hope to progress this early in 2022



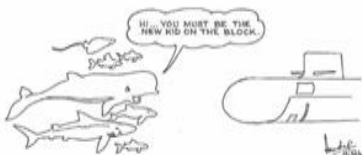
'REMEMBERING OUR PAST'

Looking back at the events that shaped our submarine heritage.

HMAS Collins during her 'deep dive to over one thousand feet on 19th January 1996.

'It was Collins first deep dive professionally conducted and witnessed by ribbed inflatable "Protector". Nobody else came to have a look! That's good because we are the Silent Service'. Geoff Rose

19th JANUARY 1996. COLLINS FIRST DEEP DIVE.



On 20 January 1976 the Australian Naval Board approved a special squadron insignia for use by Oberon Class submarines of the Royal Australian Navy Submarine Squadron.

Known as an 'O-merang' it comprised a white letter O with a red boomerang vertically imposed over it. The 'O-merang' insignia was worn on each side of the fin of the Oberon Class boats in harbour.

Following the introduction of the Collins Class submarines, the insignia was amended substituting the letter 'C' for the letter 'O'. A name change followed and the 'C-merang' was born. When Collins Class submarines are in harbour the insignia is normally displayed on a cover located on the forward casing of the vessel and at the top of the 'fin'.



Captain William (Bill) Owen, FCIL RAN (Rtd)

Captain Bill Owen graduated from the Royal Navy College, Dartmouth, in March 1945 and his submarine career began in 1949 when he joined HMS Tantalus. Highlights of the next ten years included qualifying as a naval interpreter in German in 1954 (he was elected Fellow of the (later Chartered) Institute of Linguistics in 1964 and passing the Commanding Officer Qualification Course (Perisher) in 1955.

In 1967, Bill Owen transferred to the RAN and was appointed Commanding Officer of HMAS Platypus in its formative years. He then moved to Canberra and the position of Director of Submarine Policy. Between 1971 and 1976, he initiated the first of a series of five major acquisition projects aimed at upgrading the sensors, combat system and weapons in the Oberon. This upgrade was later dubbed 'SWUP' - an acronym for Submarine Weapon-system Update Program.

Bill Owen's second posting in command of the RAN Submarine Squadron in Sydney between 1976 and 1979 saw the first of the submarines, HMAS Oxley complete her SWUP upgrade.

Bill Owen's retired from the RAN in 1983. Since retiring from the navy in 1983, he has been a consultant in the fields of government liaison, defence, and German translation.

JANUARY

1st January 1969 Formation of First Australian Submarine Squadron

15th January 1943 Lieutenant Kenneth Hudspeth was appointed Commanding Officer of HMS X-10

10th January 1969 End of Royal Navy submarine presence in Australia

31st January 1998 Commissioning of HMAS Farncombe

FEBRUARY

3rd February 1976 Captain Bill Owen appointed Commanding Officer, HMAS Platypus and RAN Submarine Squadron (see opposite)

13th February 1992 De-Commissioning of HMAS Oxley (II)

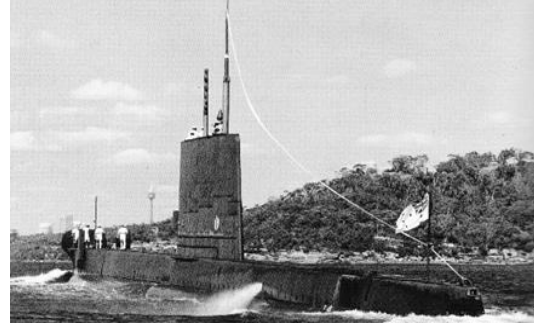
14th February 1929 HMAS Oxley (I) and HMAS Otway (I) arrive in Sydney

17th February 1994 De-Commissioning of HMAS Otway (II) and Re-dedication of HMAS Onslow

23rd February 2001 Commissioning of HMAS Dechaineux and Commissioning of HMAS Sheean

28th February 1914 Commissioning of HMA submarines AE1 and AE2 at Portsmouth, England

HMAS OTWAY FLYING HER PAYING OFF PENNANT



Life at sea— The Gucci Boat is no more

