

DECEMBER 2023



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From the Editor

Welcome to the December issue of the FHSM Newsletter. I hope you find the following pages of interest. As the Royal Australian Navy embarks on the next and exciting phase of submarine development, it remains important to recognise the rich history of Australia's submarines and the men and women who have served on them and supported them. The Holbrook Submarine Museum remains Australia's only dedicated submarine museum and we continue to enhance the collection and add to that historical perspective. In this addition we pay particular attention to the work being done to tell the story of Australia's first submarines AE1 and AE2. We hope you find the contents of this newsletter of interest. As always, we welcome contributions from members.

Wishing all of our members and friends a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Andy Clowes

Editor





From the President



As always, a lot has been going on behind the scenes to add to and improve on exhibits at the Museum and to generally advance our main object which is to “assist *The Holbrook Submarine Museum (HSM) and its Curator(s) with funding and practical assistance to ensure the museum’s artefacts, displays, and photographic records are maintained and developed*”. As you will see in this issue, Roger Neill has been continuing with his 3D printing of the AE2 model and also with the recently completed Submariner’s memorial plaque which has now been added to the museum and commemorates the three sailors who have died during submarine service in more recent decades. Our Honorary Curator, Morrie Jeppesen, has continued his enhancements to the museum exhibits and done some updates to the Oberon Room (Oberon Class). Visitor numbers continue to impress and are steadily expanding thanks in large part to the many tours conducted by Morrie. We are delighted to have now received all of the items we asked for from the scrapping of the former HMAS OTAMA, plus further items that Vice President Andy Clowes was able to procure. Initially, we and some other relevant museums were not to be allowed any of these items, but I wrote to the defence minister and that decision was reversed. We are now looking to come up with some creative ways to display these items to tell important aspects of Australia’s rich submarine history. Spectacle Island in Sydney also has a large collection of items that need preservation and the FHSM Inc is doing what it can about items of significance for submarines. The building is so neglected that it is unsafe and so workplace health and safety requirements are paramount. A tender has been called to remove and preserve these objects and one of our patrons, Peter Horobin, has been very active in helping here. Geoff Anderson is our FHSM Inc nomination to handle this aspect.

One new project that we will be starting in 2024 is the Collins Class Project. The Museum now has adequate coverage of AE1 & AE2, the J Boats, Oxley I and Otway I and the Oberon Class boats. We don’t have coverage of the Collins Class and we will pursue this next year. With the Government now firmly committed to a Collins Class LOTE (Life of Type Extension) it is timely that the Museum start a new project to cover this class from building to the upgrade. We have a provisional plan about how to do this but would always welcome anyone who thinks they can assist in this project. Please contact me or a member of our committee.

Don’t forget our list of publications that Carol Wilson sent out recently for your Christmas gifts. There are excellent publications and books for all. Why not get a 2024 Calendar, or a copy of Thor Lund and Helen Wyatt’s recent book about HMAS Otway.

Finally on behalf of Friends of Holbrook Submarine Museum and our Committee, can I take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a happy and rewarding 2024.

Michael White

President

Development Report

By Roger Neill and Thor Lund

MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The revised memorial plaque was completed and dispatched to Holbrook mid-September. We are in debt to Helen Wyatt, who was very thorough in undertaking the required research to ensure we have the details correct. I think this nicely illustrates the balance of skills that our little team can bring to bear in undertaking projects.

A tremendous amount of effort has gone into the production of this plaque and the addition of the QR code will mean that the importance of this chapter in Australian Submarine History will not be lost.

“Lest We Forget”



The completed 3d Printed Memorial plaque - The QR code provides more detailed

AE2 1/10 scale MODEL BUILD

The AE2 modelling and printing project continues to advance, slowly but surely by Roger Neill. We are currently printing the casing. The image below shows the casing and fin model as it exists today. It is 1.25 metres long and 600mm high to the top of the periscope. Probably of greatest significance is that it is apparent we will be able to successfully join the various pieces of the model. This comprises eleven separate pieces. At this stage some parts have been glued and some are simply set into position. Overall, the registration between the various pieces is excellent. The last two pieces of the casing will be printed by the end of December and then the final stage of the print is to start printing the hull.



Once complete and assembled, this scale model will be included with the AE2 exhibit in the Museum.



3D Printing to Enhance Museum Exhibits

As noted above, FHSM member and 3D printing enthusiast Roger Neill has continued with his impressive efforts with 3D printing elements of AE2 as well as other items of historical significance. FHSM Treasurer Geoff Anderson was recently given a preview of some of the work Roger has been doing in the wee small hours. The use of technology in this way will enable visitors to the Holbrook Submarine Museum to gain an extra appreciation of Australia's submarine history.



Pictured – Roger Neill showing FHSM Treasurer Geoff Anderson progress on the AE2 model which will feature in a new exhibit in the Museum in 2024.

QR CODE SCANS

The QR Codes were developed by Thor Lund and a total of 7,134 scans have been undertaken by visitors since the commencement of measurement in July 2022. From the 4th August until 1 Nov 2023, a total of 1231 QR scans were undertaken underscoring the importance of this element of the museum experience. The memorial plaque for the 3 lost Oberon submariners was recently placed in the museum (see page 3). There are no other new QR codes proposed.

Top Performing QR Scans	
OTWAY	236
Propellor Nut	227
Brothers of the Deep	88

The use of QR codes has provided a greater degree of insight into visitor interest. There were no tests or trials of new QR codes during the period. Observation of the numbers indicates that most scans (1012+ 53 self-guided outside tours) relate to outside exhibits with only 163 scans inside the museum. From the scan data it appears that the outside areas are popular with visitors using the multilingual self-guided tours.



Treasurer's Report

By Geoff Anderson.

Branch General Account		
1 July 2023 to 4 November 2023		
Opening Bank Balance	1-Jul-23	\$ 10,287.50
Income		
Membership		\$ 1,865.11
Donations		\$ 550.00
Interest		\$ 54.96
Grants		\$ -
Merchandise		\$ -
Books		\$ 121.00
Total Income		\$ 2,591.07
Expenses		
Miscellaneous		\$ 310.93
Printing/Postage		\$ 1,283.70
SIA Grant		\$ -
AE2		\$ -
Bendigo Bank AE2 Project		\$ -
Total Expense		\$ 1,594.63
Money in Bank	4-Nov-23	\$ 11,283.94
Held by GHC		
Opening Balance		\$ 1,640.72
Deposit		\$ -
Withdrawal		\$ -
Total	4-Nov-23	\$ 1,640.72
Balance Total	4-Nov-23	\$ 12,924.66
Balance By Project Remaining		
SIA Grant		\$ 2,782.18
AESMF Grant		\$ 1,840.00
Bendigo Bank Grant		\$ 2,993.78
General		\$ 3,667.98
Held by GHC		\$ 1,640.72
	4-Nov-23	\$ 12,924.66



Museum Curator's Report

By Morrie Jeppesen

A very busy period at the HSM with 8 tours in October alone for a total of 200+ visitors, including one Saturday night for 57 finishing at 2145.

The Oberang Room has been the source of constant change with 30 new photographs inserted in the "Buddy's in Boats" monitor. Several new plaques and display items have also been added in the room.

The recently procured microphone and voice pipe from OTAMA has been added to the One Man Control.

The "On Eternal Patrol" plaque has been temporarily placed in the Oberang Room and will eventually be relocated to a permanent position within the museum grounds.

New publications have been received and are now for sale at the HSM.

We are still awaiting 10 Mile Engineering for the OOW Panel and some repair to the Duck's Arse of Otway.



Updated OMC with the newly inserted ex-Otama lower voice pipe



Updates to the Oberang room.



EX HMAS OTAMA Update

By Andy Clowes

As most would be aware, the former Oberon Class submarine HMAS OTAMA had been languishing in Westernport Victoria for many years. Earlier this year a decision was made to finally scrap the former cold war warrior and she was transported to Henderson shipyard in Western Australia via the heavy lift ship MV ROLLDOCK SUN. The process of dismantling OTAMA commenced. FHSM made application to salvage certain elements of OTAMA for use in exhibits at the Holbrook Submarine Museum. Regrettably this was initially refused by the Federal Department of Defence, however a repechage was undertaken by FHSM to the Federal Defence Minister and subsequently FHSM was granted permission to remove certain items. These were duly removed, packaged up and sent to Holbrook. Many of these items tell important stories as part of Australian Naval history and, in time will be incorporated into museum displays.



OTAMA on her way to the breakers



OTAMA being slowly dismantled at Henderson Shipyard in WA.

We are grateful to all those who have assisted in procuring these important items. As can be seen from the images included here, OTAMA is now only a fond memory to those who served on her. However, a small part of this important chapter of Australian Submarine history will be preserved at the Western Australian Maritime Museum, The Australian War Memorial and thankfully - the Holbrook Submarine Museum.

Some of the items that will soon form part of the Museum exhibits are shown below.



A sample of some of the items saved from the scrap heap which will now be displayed at the museum.

Remembrance Day 2023

As is tradition at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, we took time to pause and reflect on those who have served and paid the ultimate sacrifice. At Submariners Walk and Heritage Trail in the Brisbane suburb of Teneriffe, members of the Submarine community took time to honour all who had served, and in particular those who had served in submarines. The FHSM President was able to place a poppy beside Lieutenant Holbrook VC's plaque. Some photos of the occasion are included here.



Ian Roberts, Michael White and Rod Fayle at the Honour Wall



Wreaths and poppies placed at Submariner's Honour Wall



FHSM Secretary Ian Roberts places a poppy on the Honour Wall.



*Submariners honouring those shipmates on Eternal Patrol. (Brisbane 2023)
Pictured L-R: Rod Fayle, Ian Roberts, Michael White, Don Currell, Derek Beaumont, Jim Lloyd, Andy Clowes, Buster Keaton and Darren Watson*

It was pleasing to see more than 20 submariners and some 50 guests and family members at the Remembrance Day ceremony.



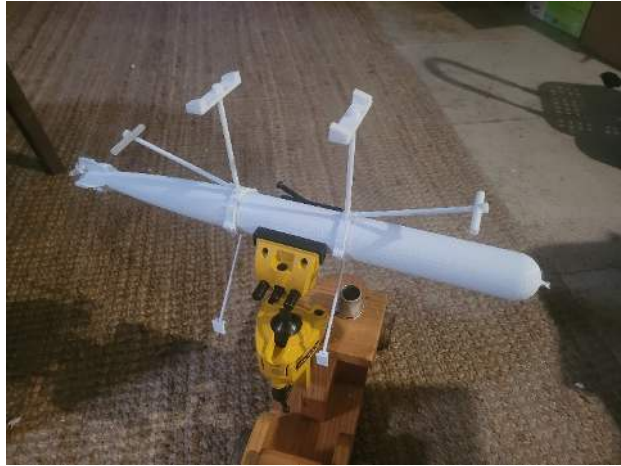
Other News

A Unique View

As mentioned above, development lead Roger Neill is using his 3D printing skills to create an accurate, 1:10 scale model of *AE2*. The model highlights features of the submarine that he believes few people would have known about and even fewer would have ever seen.

One of the features of the E Class submarines, including the Australian boats *AE1* and *AE2*, was the athwartships torpedo tubes in the middle of the submarine – one to port and one to starboard. Unlike most conventional submarines with torpedo tubes firing either forward or aft, *AE1* and *AE2* also had the ability to fire torpedoes at right angles to the direction of travel.

Roger has been able to accurately re-create this in his model. The other unique feature was that the reload torpedoes were stored in hangers prior to load as shown in the image at right. Once completed, the torpedo tubes and hangers will be incorporated into a cutaway model of the hull.



1/10 Scale model of a torpedo in its hanger

The Holbrook Inkwell

Following the successful excursion of the submarine B11 into the Dardanelles in December 1914 to sink the Turkish battleship, the grateful crew presented LEUT Holbrook, VC with an inscribed, silver inkwell.



The inkwell recently came up for auction, but its asking price was beyond what the Museum could afford. As a reasonable compromise we decided to investigate whether we could design, and 3D print a realistic facsimile of the inkwell to highlight this important story. So far, we have successfully printed the inkwell and we have sourced a silvering system with which to coat it. We are currently learning how to use this system and hopefully soon will have a new display item for the Museum.

Pictured at left is the replica inscribed inkwell prior to silver coating.

The Yellow Submarine

Next year (2024) marks the 10th anniversary of a rather quirky event in the history of the Holbrook Submarine Museum. To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Beatles hit song, “Yellow Submarine”, friends of the Holbrook Submarine Museum and members of the community created a unique event by “Yarn-bombing” the fin and casing. They did a huge amount of knitting in yellow wool and covered the bow of OTWAY.

This unique event is typical of the special place that OTWAY holds in the Holbrook community. Museum Curator Morrie Jeppesen is planning on creating a photographic display to commemorate the 10th anniversary of this unique event in June and July 2024 and invites anyone who was involved in the original event to make contact and share their photos and stories for inclusion.



Contact Morrie Jeppesen at the museum.



Some of the creations which were part of the original 2014 “Yarn-Bombing” event.

From the Bookshop

Don't forget that there are some excellent publications available from the Holbrook Submarine Museum including submarine history, exploration, some tall tales and a range of cards and posters created by our very own Sandy Freeleagus. Sandy is also about to complete a new book for kids “Sammi the Submarine” – so keep an eye out for that one. Details of all books and publications are in the recently distributed Publications Catalogue and available on the FHSM Website – Holbrooksubmarinemuseum.com.au. Happy Reading.

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