

**SAA Qld Newsletter March 2018.**

***Reminders.***

Sunday 11th March – Picnic Maritime Museum

Sunday 8th April at 1030 – General Meeting at Coorparoo RSL. Any items for the President to take to Subcon will have to be discussed at this meeting.

Wednesday, 25th April. 0530 – Dawn Service at SHWT Teneriffe

 0930 – March and Service at Coorparoo RSL

 1030 – March in Brisbane City. Those needing to ride in a jeep please contact the treasurer asap.

Please signal attendance on the SAA QLD Weebly website in the events section or contact the committee members to signal intentions.

***Update on Ross Anderson***

Update on Ross Anderson from his daughter Kirsty

To Dad’s friends and family,

Thank you for all your thoughts during this time.

As we are spread so far and wide, there will be 2 services held to celebrate his life.

Both will be held on Friday 23rd March,

One in Newcastle at Pettigrews Belmont Chapel at 3pm...

The other at Alfred James Morphett Vale at 2pm.

You are invited to attend the service of your choosing, however if you know which you will be attending please let me know.

***News about Norman (Bungy) Williams.***

The last I have heard about Norm, is he was admitted to the Palliative Care unit at the Wesley Hospital. Geoff Anderson is keeping in contact. His cancer now is very advanced and unfortunately only a matter of time.

***Members, a request from the NSW committee for Subcon 2018.***

*Items are urgently requested for the raffle to support SUBCON 2018 and the Auction on Sunday after the AGM. Please see what you can offer that would be suitable and do you have access to possible companies that can assist?*

*Ideas could be:*

Submarine memorabilia

Food/Petrol vouchers

Travel vouchers

Shopping vouchers ~ Woollies, Bunnings etc

Wine, spirit and beer packages

Accommodation vouchers etc. etc.

 *All items gratefully accepted.*

*Geoff Anderson*

A Letter to Chuck Emmett Editor  from Ken Cheung of the ‘Cathay Community Association’ Brisbane

Chuck, my apologies for taking so long to send the story of my evacuation from Teop Harbour.  The following gives a bit more background to my story.   Hatred of the Japanese by the Chinese and even Australians, particularly those who served in Asia after the second war was very intense, the last ten years or so it has mellowed a bit.  It must change because the world has changed, countries attitudes have changed.  Enemies have become friends & vice versa.  In my case, my father and three of his brothers were blindfolded hands tied & bayoneted while standing on a jetty at Rano Plantation a few miles from the small township of Gasmata on the south coast of New Britain.    An unknown number of women & children were shot on the plantation itself.  They included my relatives and many people living at Gasmata.

This was documented by the Patrol Officers report which I briefly mentioned in my story.   The Patrol Officer in pre-war and even after the war acted as Police, medical, explorer and magistrate away from the towns.  So, this was documented and confirmed by the PO who interviewed the Lululai (chief).

            I always knew that our family was rescued by an American submarine.  However, the time, place and circumstances were a mystery.  In 2012 an academic from University of Queensland wrote a book titled Chinese in Rabaul, Needed but Not Wanted.  Peters father was a Police Inspector and then in charge of the Prisons.    During his school holidays would visit Rabaul often so got to know the story of the Chinese. Prior to World War 1 Neu Guinea was ruled by Germany, it was only after the war that the League of Nations gave Australia the Mandate to administer the combined territories of New Guinea with Papua on the south into one country that would eventually be Independent.  Due to Australia's White Australia Policy, Chinese were not allowed to settle permanently in PNG.  However, because of the lack of technical skills by the local people they grudgingly retained the Chinese who were mostly carpenters, builders or mechanics.  The destruction of Rabaul by volcanic eruption and finally WW11 meant the Chinese skills were much in demand.

           Anyway, I wrote the forward for Peters book where I briefly mentioned that I was evacuated by an American submarine.  A lady (Anne Wood) contacted me from the local Australian Submarine Assoc. and introduced me to a book written by a New Guinea Planter (that is a person who specializes in clearing the jungle and planting coconuts and now coffee & cocoa.  This man named Robert Stuart spent most of his life on Bougainville, during the war he was seconded to the American Navy because of his knowledge of the country.  In one of the chapters he mentions how the **USS Gato** rescued 29 Chinese children.  There was only one lot of people rescued by submarine, so I immediately thought this must have been us.  Prior to this I did not know there was an Australian Submarine Assoc. in Brisbane.  She also told me about the River Walk and the submarine story boards at New Farm.   In 2015 I met a young Chinese Doctor, Adam Liu, his parents left New Guinea during the war but never returned. His pastime is delving into the history of the Rabaul Chinese.  I told him my story and he was able to search the Australian Archives. Because of the atrocities committed by the Japanese military and the subsequent war trials, there are a lot of records of the events and history of the war itself.  He managed to find the submarine, captains report, how we arrived in Melbourne, then Sydney, including our names.   Everything fitted in, **so that was when I decided to write to you to thank the US Navy.**

**NEWS.**

***Future Submarine Program Facing Multi-Billion-Dollar Blowout,***

***Senator Rex Patrick Says***

***Andrew Greene, ABC News Australia, January 16***

  The cost of Australia's Future Submarine program is likely to blow out by billions of dollars because it is already missing key deadlines, a former defence contractor turned senator has warned. In December, Defence confirmed two planning documents due to be released last year had yet to be finalised, but the department insisted there had been "no delays to key milestones" and no "cost or schedule impacts" to the $50 billion project.

Senator Rex Patrick, who once also served as a Royal Australian Navy submariner, has not been convinced and said some military insiders were privately conceding the submarine program was "starting to go a little bit off the rails".

"Given that the project is running across three to four decades and is a $50 billion program, these sorts of delays, they cascade through - it could be a $1 to $2 billion blowout on the evidence that we have at the moment," Senator Patrick said. Admirals running sub program has 'never run a minor project' The South Australian politician, who took Nick Xenophon's seat in the Upper House last year, also suggested a professional project manager should replace the senior naval officer currently running the program.

"Rear Admiral [Gregory] Sammut is a highly respected and highly capable naval officer, however he's never run a major project, he's never run a minor project," Senator Patrick said.

"There are a number of highly qualified, highly experienced project managers in the mining industry, in the chemicals industry, in the IT industry that can be brought in to offer assistance for this extremely important program."

Australia's submarine requirements explained. With the winning bidder for Australia's next fleet of submarines announced, attention turns to how DCNS will meet Australia's high endurance requirements.

In a statement, the Defence Department strongly rejected Senator Patrick's warnings of cost blowouts and delays to the program being run with French company Naval Group. "Requests for proposals have been issued to key equipment suppliers, and the procurement process is progressing to support subsequent design activities," the department said. "The supporting work required to achieve key milestones continues to be managed ensuring those milestones are met on schedule."

The department added that "all work continues to be conducted within approved funding" including "the development of the Australian Industry Capability Strategy, which will be done by Naval Group". Senator wanted German shipbuilder

Senior military sources have privately questioned the Senator's motivation for attacking the program, pointing out the South Australian had in the past argued German shipbuilder TKMS should have been awarded the lucrative contract.

Senator Patrick has rejected suggestions he was compromised by his past views or his decision to release leaked documents connected to Naval Group's Scorpene submarine contract with India. "I have no issue with Naval Group being the selected submarine provider, they are a highly capable submarine design and build company," he said. "However the program that they've been asked to execute, the program that's been selected by the Prime Minister, is a highly risky program, it's a new design of submarine." Naval Group has declined to comment on Senator Patrick's comments.

***$700 Million Defence Contract With Lockheed Martin Will Deliver 200 Jobs For Future Submarines Project In South Australia***

***Tory Shepherd, The Advertiser, January 24***

A $700 MILLION contract to fit combat systems into Australia's future submarines has been signed and is set to deliver 200 jobs, mostly in SA. Federal Defence Industry Minister Christopher Pyne will today announce the deal with Lockheed Martin.

Lockheed will partner with French shipbuilders Naval Group to integrate a system described as the sub's "eyes, ears and sword". Mr Pyne said most of the 200 jobs created would be in SA, and declared the contract signing a "milestone".

"These are hi-tech manufacturing jobs of the future, the jobs the Turnbull Government has committed to creating as part of our historic $200 billion defence investment over the next decade," he said.

There will be many more to come. "(This) marks a further step forward in our partnership with Lockheed Martin Australia in delivering a fleet of regionally superior submarines to Australia. "This contract will cover work to 2022, including the design of the combat system and procurement activities to select subsystem and component suppliers." Mr Pyne said the contract signing was further proof that the project "remains on time and on budget".

SA Best Senator Rex Patrick has warned of potential delays in the project, pointing to two plans that have not yet been finalised, but the Department of Defence says there are no delays in key milestones and no cost impacts.

The combat system uses the sub's many sensors to collect data, which it processes as part of its control of the sub's missiles and torpedoes. Lockheed Martin will integrate the United States' AB/BYG-1 Tactical Weapon Control System into the twelve new subs to create the Future Submarine's system.

The US system is used currently on the Collins class submarine, and on the US's Virginia-class nuclear submarines. The Future Submarines will feature an evolved version combined with other elements. Australian defence scientists have been working with the US on the Tactical Weapon Control System, which will form the heart of the new system. Naval Group and Lockheed Martin will work together, with Naval Group doing the physical integration of the equipment and Lockheed working out the information integration.

Mr Pyne said Lockheed Martin had already worked with Defence on the initial design work for the combat system. The company edged out Raytheon for this contract, and the work could ultimately be worth billions of dollars.

"This Future Submarine Combat System Design, Build and Integration Contract is another example of the Turnbull Government's commitment to Australia's defence industry, and an on-schedule achievement in the delivery of Australia's future naval shipbuilding capability," Mr Pyne said.

Please attend the functions which have been organised. Register on the SAA Weebly website. Any news items or word about colleagues who we haven’t heard about, please let us know so we can help where appropriate. Your attendance at the next meeting would be very much appreciated.

Hoping we see you all in good health and humour soon.

Ross (Wombat) Walters

Vice President, SAA Qld Inc.