

Submarine Assoc. Australia Queensland Inc



Newsletter Oct 2020

Dear Members,

Are you all ok!!

Hope all are well and taking care with the virus able to strike at any time. Can you all keep tabs on each other and if one is in need of help please let us know so we can help them.

I recently received advice from Peter Godbold family of his passing in November 2017. No one either National or ourselves knew and felt bad when the family informs us. Keep a good check on your mates.

Important Information for the Members.

SAA Qld Constitution Update

Gents, some of you may remember a update to the original constitution in January 2015. Well Gents we have to vote again on the constitution and have put this one on the website for your perusal and comment. We intend to vote on the next general meeting hopefully in early November. Anyone wishing to Propose amendments to this constitution please submit in writing to the Secretary, before the next meeting. These can then also be voted on about inclusion at the same time. We have changes to make with regard to auditing, SAA National fees and layout of the constitution itself. Please read and make sensible proposals in writing. I will have a proposal form on the website for you to use.

From SAA National Secretary

G'day Members,

In my time as President I have been warmed by the several occasions when the Submarine Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation (SAAWSF) has come to the assistance of Members and allowed them to navigate out of difficult circumstances. Tragically, there have also been several disappointments when Members deserved help but could not be because he/she was not a financial Member of the Association. Our National Secretary and SAAWSF

Trustee, David Bryant has often used SUBCON to remind Members that the Foundation is a wonderful benefit, a recruiting carrot and, is bound by administrative rules that are a function of its status as a Charitable Trust under Australian Law. Put simply, if your annual subscription is not current, then you are not eligible for SAAWSF assistance - a legal requirement, not an SAA rule.

I'm grateful to David Bryant who has put together the blurb under, which describes the history of the SAAWSF, its purpose and the absolutely essential eligibility requirements.

The Submarine Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation.

In the beginning – **The Submarine Old Comrades Association (SOCA).**

Little is known, and less is documented, about the funding of this organisation beyond the fact that it was a somewhat informal membership consisted overwhelmingly of ex-Royal Navy (RN) submariners who settled in Australia after WW2. Most meetings were held in the home of a member and to maintain the comradeship which had been forged during the War. Their monthly meetings took place in Royal Naval Club, Sydney. When *PLATYPUS* was commissioned in 1967 at Neutral Bay, their meetings shifted to those premises.

The Submarines Association Australia Welfare Fund (SAAWF).

In those early days very strong links existed between the RN's Submarine Service and the Royal Australian Navy's (RAN) Submarine Service. The first four submarines were built in Scotland, and all of the original four submarine crews did their training in the UK.

Over time, the balance of membership shifted towards an increasing majority of serving and retired RAN personnel, via a number of 'Objectives' to include:

- To keep alive the unique "esprit de corps" of the Submarine Service;
- To establish and maintain a charitable trust, being a welfare foundation;
- To assist one another as occasion may require and to encourage social activities;
- To liaise with kindred organisations, both nationally and internationally; and,
- To educate members about their entitlements and provide access to Department of Veterans' Affairs advocates

The widow of an ex-RN submariner, Mrs Elsie Harris died on November 1990. In her will, she bequeathed Ten Thousand Dollars to the Secretary of the SAA, for use as he saw fit for the benefit of the Association.

It was a result of Gordon Selby's initiative that the SAAWF was established with this money as its start-up capital.

With the guidance of ex-Submarine Squadron Commander Tim Duchesne, Rockliffs Solicitors settled the Trust Deed on the inclusion into the SAA Constitution.

In accordance with the second paragraph of the SAA-Constituted 'Aims and Objectives', the SAAWF was inaugurated by WO Dave Bryant (Rtd), and WO Dave Bryant (Rtd).

It was this extraordinary gift and the foresight of the then SAA Executive which saw a charitable Trust established that would provide help of financial need, where such help and support could not generally be accessed by other means, such as Commonwealth Government.

In 2012, Commodore Bob Trotter OAM RAN (Rtd), was instrumental in securing for the Foundation the sum of One hundred Thousand Dollars. Bob was instrumental in ensuring the longevity of the fund into the immediate future..

The Submarine Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation (SAAWSF)

With the increase in funds as a result of the Corps of Commissionaires legacy, the Trust Deed was re-written by Rockliff Solicitors in order to satisfy tax free and charitable status. The Foundation is now a registered charity, and as such the word "Successor" added in order to differentiate these changes from the former Trust Deed.

The Fund operates under a Trust Deed which is managed by Honorary Trustees, who are themselves members of the SAA. The Fund is not managed by the Association, but is accountable to the Members of the SAA Constitution.

The Foundation's Finances are audited and a Financial Report and accompanying Bank Statements are presented in detail at the SUBCON.

In addition, the SAAWSF is a registered Charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and reports to them every twelve months.

SAA Branches, Corporate bodies and Individuals over the last twenty-three years have been very generous in their support.

Since its inauguration, the SAAWSF has supported a large number of SAA Members and/or their families with grants to help with the severity of the need, and have ranged from as little as \$165 to \$12,000. The majority of grants have been in the \$1,000 to \$5,000 range.

The SAAWSF relies on donations, and these have been numerous and generous, and one of the most generous was the late Mr. John Smith and we thank him for his efforts and the continuing input into the SAAWSF Fund.

The SAAWSF Fund currently stand at One Hundred and Fifty-Six Thousand, Eight Hundred and Fifty-five Dollars Eighty-five Cents.

The SAA majority membership is getting older, and an increased call on the fund to help those in dire need or in an emergency, especially as a will beneficiary, and the Foundation is worth remembering after such a function as the Annual SUBCON.

All donations to the SAAWSF over the amount of Ten Dollars (\$10) are acknowledged with a letter from the Trustees within 30 days.

Of great importance to the Submarine Community, whether you are members of the National Submarines Association or not.

The Foundation is very much mindful of the fact that much emotion is attached to our submariner comrades who fall on hard times and need financial assistance. However the SAAWSF is explicit in the fact that financial assistance can only be assessed based upon the facts of the case.

Eligible Persons shall mean any Life Member, any Ordinary or Associate Member of the Association which has paid their subscription to the Association for a minimum of twelve (12) months AND has paid the current annual subscription to the Association.

The requirements of the Submarines Association Australia Welfare Successor Foundation (SAASF) Trust Deed are separate from the SAAWSF and are obvious specific reason mentioned above.

It is emphasised that the SAAWSF Trust Deed is a legal document, and cannot be changed, circumvented or ignored with any agreement.

I would therefore ask that if any Member has a query as to how to access or solicit support of the SAAWSF, please contact the SAA National Executive or to one of the the Trustees.

Dave Bryant.

Trustee, SAAWSF.

(For queries, I can be contacted at: dbryant.48@bigpond.com)

Another worthwhile read so you are informed of what we know but might help in claims and the future.

G'day Shipmates,

A survey of how submariners claims are treated by DVA

A common problem encountered by submariners when submitting disability claims to the Department of Veterans Affairs is the lack of medical evidence, some anecdotal, which suggests that DVA delegates deny claims from submariners because of insufficient medical evidence.

It is clear that many submariners' medical records are incomplete, especially for any injuries or illnesses suffered while performing their duties as a consequence of how medical services used to be administered in the Australian Submarine Squadron. Although DVA assesses and approves many submariners claims that are either rejected due to the standard of medical records. In many cases the submariner is forced to re-submit their claim.

It is intended to gather definitive, empirical evidence of the standard of medical proof that is being used by DVA Delegates to assess and approve submariners fairly regardless of the state of medical records and, if not, it changes its processes. To do this we need your input.

Any submariner who has submitted a medical or disability claim to DVA, for any condition, and has had this claim rejected or is currently being assessed by Ray Kemp to answer a few questions. The questions should not take any more than a few minutes to complete and can be done online.

To contribute, please contact either Polly or Ray, as follow:

- Polly: john.polglaze@pgmenviro.com.au or phone 0417 123 442 (please note that John lives in Perth if you intend to contact him)
- Ray: rr.kemp@icloud.com

Gathering these data and ensuring that DVA and the Government treat submariners fairly should help you and your fellow submariners.

Thank you for your input.

Bob Trotter OAM

National President

For those of you who are interested or just in need of a place to go in Brisbane.

After seven months of closure and a lot of hard work behind the scenes, we are thrilled that our Covid-Safe plan has finally

This means Queensland Maritime Museum will reopen on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 September.

Initially we will only open on weekends.

We have also introduced online booking in order to manage the flow of visitors through the museum.

You will be able to purchase tickets to timed sessions to ensure we maintain caps on visitor numbers and ensure social distanc

We are excited to welcome you back, and appreciate your support as we open the hatches!

Anzac Square Memorial Galleries

As you all know these are known as the Crypt under the Eternal Flame in Anzac Square. We were successful in getting permission to go with the plaques to highlight their service. Any original memorabilia or photos you all may have including letters call me | e India.Dixon@slq.qld.gov.au | w slq.qld.gov.au

SWHT Honour Wall

As you may have read in the AGM minutes, you can now pre-pay for the SWHT honour Wall at Tenneriffe in Brisbane. Contact Clarke who will give you all the information you need.

I know some will scoff at this but if you do it and put it in your will it will happen don't leave it to the families to sort out

Another Take on What happened to the Thresher in 1963?

How Tragedy Led to Change

The Thresher had just completed a months-long overhaul period when -- on April 10, 1963 -- the sub began dive tests off the coast of Queensland.

It was accompanied by the submarine rescue ship Skylark, which received garbled communications about the Thresher exploding.

The court of inquiry determined that the Thresher sank due to a piping failure that resulted in a loss of power and the inability to surface. **stands by those initial determinations.**

Bryant wanted to know more, though, and was unsatisfied with the Navy's original decision to publicly release just 19 of the documents. His Freedom of Information Act request failed to shake loose the documents that he took the Navy to court.

The families and the public have a right to know more about the decisions that led up to the accident, he said. **In 2018, B showed the Thresher "very likely had already sunk below her 1,300-foot test depth limit when she reported minor**

Noonis, who said he's read everything he could find publicly on the Thresher, said he'd like the Navy to further analyze a System, known as SOSUS.

Bryant described an analysis **Navy Reserve Lt. Bruce Rule (STIC Lead Analyst at the time/ddb) provided during 1963** April 2020 Proceedings article titled "[USS Thresher \(SSN-593\) Disaster: Ten Questions Our FOIA Lawsuit Hopes to Answer](#) **sub before implosion.**

While Noonis said he'd like to see the Navy take another look at that claim, he isn't holding out much hope -- especially s

"They were forced to release it," he said. "I don't have a lot of faith in the government coming out and changing their con

People who study technology need access to any information available about major accidents to understand the decisions

Despite the battle over the documents, though, Bryant credits the Navy with taking important steps in the aftermath of the service share any documents it has that can help others understand what went wrong.

Houston said the Thresher remains a defining event for the submarine service. Every new Navy submariner learns about

"From day one, every new submariner checking onboard discusses the impact of Thresher to the submarine force, and the

The Navy's Submarine Safety program, known as SUBSAFE, was born out of the Thresher accident. SUBSAFE has "dra submarines," Houston said.

"Since the program's inception, no SUBSAFE-certified submarines have been lost at sea," he said.

MacMillan said she's grateful the accident led to change, but said without the Navy releasing the full probe, no one can b

"Was it the main coolant pump? Was it just a push too fast for a deeper dive in the Cold War?" she said. "It really does fe

Now, as the Navy begins releasing never-before-seen documents on the accident that prompted those changes, Houston s security.

Bryant said he and his attorney feel the Navy's plan to release about 300 pages connected to the Thresher probe every mo

If the Navy refuses to declassify information they feel should be made public, Bryant said, "We're going to fight them ov

MacMillan said she hopes the documents being released prove to the public that it's possible to take on powerful organiza accident, she said, but fought to do the right thing.

"If you work long and hard enough, you can get to the truth," she said. "... As a 6-year-old child kind of still frozen in tha

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/#inbox/FMfcgxwJXwXnCqXBhVRdclMVTBrPVzp?compose=CllgCJNwgCGKnMK>

Good afternoon members

The following information has been provided by Paul Nothard, AM, CSC, CSM (Director, Office Of War Graves) that we can provide a Planning Ahead booklet to assist in this regard. Please also ensure your NOK information is recorded correctly in the War Graves.

- Eligibility for Official Commemoration: A veteran must have "qualifying service" to be eligible for an official commemoration. We are not able to recognise all types of service through official commemoration.
- Qualifying service includes "war" service or "non-warlike" service (ie/ peacekeeping, truce monitoring etc). Informal service is not eligible for official commemoration.
 - o Peacetime Defence Service (MRCA and Part VI VEA)
 - o Defence Hazardous Service (Part IV VEA)
 - o British Nuclear Test Defence Service (Part IV VEA)
 - o Peacekeeping service by a person other than a member of the ADF (Part IV VEA)
 - o Service with other nations' forces other than as a member of the ADF (regardless of any eligibility for Australian service)
- For those that meet the eligibility criteria (for example a TPI recipient who has the requisite qualifying service), the Department of Veterans Affairs will provide a commemorative plaque to the veteran's next of kin.
- Use of Service Badges. Defence have only provided OAWG with authority to provide permission to use the three service badges. Veterans should contact their respective Brand Manager (for Army, RAN or RAAF) or to the ADF Brand Manager for those seeking permission to use the ADF service badge.
- Planning Ahead. Speaking to our families and leaving behind clear instructions on the veteran's wishes regarding commemoration is an important part of the process.
 - o Unfortunately, the system that we work within requires the process for acceptance of an official commemoration to be completed before the veteran's death.
- Sending out blank forms has caused problems in the past, where veterans who are not eligible for official commemoration have been devastated to find out that the veterans wishes can't be met.
 - o While we can't send out an incomplete form, Veterans can go on line into MyAccount and select "Commemoration Planning" to complete this function across to "MyService" in the future.

The Qld TPI website has the "Planning Ahead" document on its website (<https://www.dva.gov.au/sites/default/files/files/2017-07/Planning Ahead document>) and a navigation guide for the "Commemoration Planning" page can be found at <https://connect.dva.gov.au/reconnect> to mark your preferences.

