



## Ladies' Night – from the kitchen

15<sup>th</sup> December 2007

by John "Dish-Dog" Clancy Lowe

There can be few greater pleasures in life than being married to the woman you love and all that goes with that. Saying 'thank you' to her and giving the occasional bunch of flowers is about as much as the 'average' bloke does in overt gestures. Providing a meal for our ladies in a public forum is just another opportunity for us to add to these gestures – and a gesture is all that it is. There is little that we guys can do to fully compensate them for all of their sacrifice and effort throughout the year. With that in mind 'The Team'- (read 'anybody who will put their hand up to help') swung in to well rehearsed action. Numbers anticipated, menu decided, quantities ordered and roles filled, it was simply a case of finding ways to make the ordinary 'extraordinary' for our ladies.

On arrival the ladies were presented with a beautifully wrapped gift and as they were escorted to their seats they were treated to a visual delight of beautifully dressed tables in preparation for their meal. An introductory drink was included in this warm welcome.



*A Visitor from UK Airborne Forces jokes with Audrey Bettridge and Pat Miller*

With a firm and well founded confidence in bootneck's, matelot's and airbourne's ability to overcome unforeseen challenges, rise to occasions with flair, and execute with grace and panache, the menu was

resurrected from 2006 in phoenix-like style and confidently set upon and transformed. Last year our full food catering costs per head came in at under \$3.50. This year, with thanks to the generosity of Ron Trunkfield, this catering cost was able to be pushed out to \$5.50 per head.

The first task was to ramp up the selection of canapés. Sliced plover's eggs with beurre persil (OK – parsley butter!) was the first to be addressed. (If the truth be known plovers have been having a hard time of it lately, what with storms, bush fires, poachers, etc., so with an eye to protection of the species another of the aves' young were sourced and equally delicious.) Smoked salmon and caviar were next, etc., etc. But then there was the Coronation Chicken from 1953!! Her Majesty would have been delighted had she known that it had been resurrected. (A master stroke of genius from Bert MacDonald!) This was presented on mouth watering pillows of hot puff pastry – a gourmet's delight – and so the canapés were delivered to the ladies to conclude the entrée. The main meal was at its extravagant best with an extra slice of  
*(cont'd P.2)*



*The Three Stooges.....*

specially prepared ham from the master himself, Jimmy Rea. (The man can make magic in the kitchen if you give him a prime ham!) Served first were the special orders for the 'Matador's Dalliance' – a very popular and sought after dish with the ladies at this time of year, (particularly when served to rigid standards!) After this the traditional Christmas pudding with custard and an optional 'Marilyn Monroe Special' was on offer for those whose desire was for something a little lighter and racier. It turned out to be a popular all rounder. Finishing the meal with an Irish Coffee or two (or more!).

All together the general consensus was that it was a splendid meal delivered at an unbelievable low cost. It demonstrates what good things can happen when we all work as a team. Special thanks to the Kitchen Masters Paul Patterson, Rod, Pat Trevis, Gary and Andre Nutter. These guys can anticipate, prepare and execute tasks at a pro level. As they said "It's for the ladies". They have my highest accolade.

The MC for the evening was Jimmy Lewis and we think he has found another of his many vocational talents. The carols and entertainment swept along at a great pace keeping our ladies and guests in stitches for the entire evening. We were privileged to have Ben Novak's parents, Phil and Gillian, present and we fully embrace them into the Royal Marine family.

.....and once again Ron - very many thanks from all of us for your generosity in sponsoring this very memorable night.



*Rev'd Tim on his knees to the Three Wise Women.....whilst Kay gives her Blessing!*



*Paul Patterson, Mick Bettridge and Jim Rea...the Sadists & the Masochist!*



*Pat Travis demonstrates the toilet protocols of each of the Services*

## New British Destroyers

Details have been released regarding Britain's next generation of fighting Ships. The Royal Navy is proud of the cutting edge capability of the Fleet of Type 45 destroyers. Costing £750 million, they have been designed to meet the needs of the 21st century. In addition to state of the art technology, weapons, and guidance systems, the ships will comply with the very latest employment, equality, health and safety and human rights legislation.

They will be able to remain at sea for several months, and positively bristle with facilities. For instance, the new user friendly crew's nest comes equipped with wheelchair access. Live ammunition has been replaced with paintballs, to reduce the risk of anyone getting hurt and to cut down on the number of compensation claims. Stress counselors and lawyers will be on duty 24 hours a day, and each ship will have its own onboard industrial tribunal.

The crew will be 50/50 men and women, and balanced in accordance with the latest Home Office directives on race, gender, sexuality, and disability. Sailors will only have to work a maximum of 37 hours per week in line with Brussels Health and Safety rules, even in wartime. All bunks will be double occupancy, and the destroyers will all come equipped with a maternity ward and crèche, situated on the same deck as the Gay Disco. Tobacco will

*(Continued on page 3)*

# RMA WA Annual General Meeting

## Navy Club, Fremantle

### 7.30pm Saturday 26th February 2008

The Annual General Meeting for the Association has been scheduled for 7.30pm Tuesday 26th February 2008 at the Navy Club, Fremantle.

At this AGM, Officers and other Committee Members for 2008 will be elected. These are;

- Officers
  - President
  - Vice President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
- Committee Members
  - Social Activities Officer
  - Active Aging/PTI
  - Welfare Officer
  - Bulletin Editor
  - Two additional Committee Members

All current positions on the Committee will fall vacant at this time. Neither the President – Jim Lewis – nor the Vice

President – John Watkin – will be standing for re-election.

Other business that will be transacted at the AGM will be:

- Consideration of Branch Reports and accounts for the past financial year i.e.
  - President's Report
  - Secretary's Report
  - Treasurer's Report
  - Activities Report
  - Welfare Report
- Appointment of two Auditors
- Approval of capital expenditure for the current year not previously approved
- Review and revision of the RMA WA Rules and Regulations – the Constitution
- Consideration of questions of general policy
- Any other matter formally placed on the Agenda by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008 at the latest

Those members eligible i.e. those who are financial! – need to give written notice to the Secretary of any resolutions, propositions, proposed amendments to the Constitution and nominations for office Bearers and Committee Members by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

The detailed Agenda for the AGM, together with postal vote ballot papers will be mailed out to Members by the Secretary by Friday 1<sup>st</sup> February at the latest. Postal votes must be returned completed to the Secretary by 7.00pm Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2008

Members are reminded that they may nominate themselves for committee positions, with the exception of the President's position, right up to 5 minutes before the AGM is formally opened.

Members are also reminded that only those who are financial – Full, Life and Associate Members - are eligible to vote at the AGM.

## New British Destroyers (Continued from page 2)

be banned throughout the ship, but cannabis will be allowed in the mess.

The Royal Navy is anxious to shed its traditional reputation for "Rum, Sodomy, and the Lash". Out goes the Rum ration, which is to be replaced by Perrier water, although sodomy remains and has been extended to include all ratings under 18. The lash will still be available, but only by request. Condoms can be obtained from the sick bay in a variety of flavours, except Capstan Full Strength.

Saluting officers has been abolished because it is elitist. It is to be replaced by

the more informal "Hello Sailor". All notices on boards will be printed in 37 different languages, and Braille. Crew members will no longer be required to ask permission to grow beards or moustaches, even the women.

The MOD is working on a new "Non specific" flag based on the controversial British Airways "Ethnic" tailfin design, because the White Ensign is considered to be offensive to minorities.

Sea Trials are expected to take place soon. When the first of the new destroyers, HMS Cautious, sets out on her maiden mission, she will be escorting boat loads of illegal

immigrants across the channel to ports on the South Coast. The ship is due to be launched soon in a ceremony conducted by Captain Hook, from the Finsbury Park Mosque, who will break a petrol bomb over the hull. The ship will slide gently into the water, to the tune of "In the Navy" by the Village People, played by the band of the Royal Marines.

A Navy spokesperson said, "While the ship reflected the very latest of modern thinking, they were also capable of being up-graded to comply with any new legislation. He said, "Britain never, never waives the rules!"

# President's Column

By now all Christmas parties and New Year's celebrations will have all been well and truly been put to rest. All you have to do now is to stick to those resolutions. I hope those who could, had a wonderful time and those not so fortunate enjoyed the warmth and love of their families and friends. Sadly this will be my last column as by the time this goes to print, Marissa and I will have relocated to our new venture in the Gold Coast.

I would like to mention a few highlights of my time as President of our Association. Firstly, may I say it was an absolute honour and privilege to have served as your President for the past 12 months. Only those who have held that position will truly understand what I mean. Our Association is envied by other kindred associations in Australia and certainly sets the benchmark in the manner it conducts its official and social activities. You all should be very proud of your efforts.

The year 2007 will be remembered by many for its outstanding outings in the Active Ageing arena. Camping trips, Avon Descent and the like; our outstanding turnout and our exemplary

displays on Anzac Day, Memorial Hill Remembrance Parade, Corps Lunch and of course our Ladies' Night.

It will also be remembered on a more sombre note as we said farewell to some of our long serving members and to other loved ones who passed away never to be forgotten.

I personally would like to thank my Committee for the exceptional job they did throughout the year. You selflessly gave of your time and always went the extra mile to make every post a winner; many thanks to you all.

To our members and partners who are not enjoying good health, I hope 2008 brings you peace and tranquility and better health if that is indeed possible.

Our AGM is scheduled for Saturday 23rd of February, 1930h at the Navy Club. Copy of the agenda is included in this newsletter. As I mentioned previously, our Association is undoubtedly the best organised and managed in its category; let's keep it that way by getting behind your new president and his committee and giving them the

support they need to move ahead in 2008. Remember "EVERY LIVING ORGANISM LEVELS OFF AND DIES UNLESS IT IS INJECTED WITH NEW LIFE, NEW BLOOD AND NEW ENTHUSIASM"; the same applies to our Association. Move ahead; do not look back; do not live in the past.

On a more personal note, Marissa and I will be sad to bid farewell to our friends here in WA. Some I have known for over 40 years (you know who you are); we are looking forward to new challenges and comforted by the fact we are only 4 hours away and will be making the odd trip back to WA. That of course, goes both ways. There will always be room for our friends in our new home in the Gold Coast and for those in the Active Ageing Group, a poncho in the backyard. As MacArthur said, "I shall return" and this I will do to attend our AGM and look forward to handing over the Presidency to whoever is elected. In the meantime, thank you one and all for the support you have given me during my Presidency.

We will miss you all.

Jim, Marissa and our gratis member, Sugar.

## Treasurer's Update

2007 has been a very successful year and has seen a small growth in the bank balance of both the General and Welfare accounts.

Also to be taken into consideration is the Term Deposit, which is made up of the Frank White Fund (\$2,000.00) and the Welfare Fund (\$4,000.00). With the accumulative interest the current total of the Term Deposit stands at \$7,002.08.

The General account finished the year with a balance of \$5,681.68 and the Welfare account finished with a balance of \$5,031.65. Please note these accounts still have to be audited.

Once again this leaves the accounts in a healthy position.

I would like to thank all members and their partners for the support they have given to the Association with the various donations and Poppy Day Appeal. Well Done.

To sum up I would like to say I have endeavored to do my best for the Association and will continue to do so in the future if you should wish for me to continue in the position of Treasurer.

Sandie Reid  
Treasurer RMA WA



*Sam Williams Abseiling; No Fear!*

# Secretary's Column

As 2007 wings its way into the history books, we look back on what has surely been the most testing of times for Royal since WW II. At the moment large parts of Forty are out in Afghanistan, pleased as punch to be part of the Army's Five Two Brigade, no doubt! Op Herrick 7 is the latest evolution and the series will continue for the foreseeable as the rest of the Brigade winds up for deployment later in 2008. We look back to the lads who were lost this year and to the Honours won. 2007 will be remembered as the year one of the great stalwarts of our Corps, JJ Moore passed over the bar. The Corps continues to gather strength with more new kit coming on line in 2007 and 2008 ranging from new raiders to a new standard sniper rifle in 8.59 cal and everything in between.

(Visit <http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/DefenceNews/> to keep yourself informed)

Despite the challenges faced in Afghan, Iraq and elsewhere, Royal has more than proved his worth as ever, this year. He has done so with courage, with fortitude, with professionalism surpassing all others but above all else he has done so with a sense of humour second to none!

Long may it continue!

## Afghanistan Roll of Honour, 2007

Lance Corporal **Michael Jones** Royal Marines was killed in action during operations in southern Afghanistan on Sunday 29 July 2007.

Marine **Benjamin Reddy** of 42 Commando Royal Marines was killed when his unit came under fire in the Kajaki area of Helmand Province on Tuesday 6 March 2007.



*"No Abdul, you twonk! It was three chicken dansacs, one biryani, two balti specials with Peshwari naans and poke the rice mate! Kinnel!" Major Dan Cheeseman, OC Bravo Company wonders if he should've gone to McDonalds instead.*

Marine **Scott Summers** of 42 Commando Royal Marines died as a result of injuries sustained in a road traffic accident in Afghanistan on Wednesday 21 February 2007.

Marine **Jonathan Holland**, from 45 Commando was killed by an anti-personnel mine during a routine patrol in the Sangin District of Helmand province on 21 February 2007.

Lance Corporal **Mathew Ford**, from 45 Commando Royal Marines, in Afghanistan on Monday 15 January 2007.

Marine **Thomas Curry** died on Saturday 13 January 2007 when elements of 42 Commando Royal Marines were engaged in

a deliberate offensive operation near Kajaki, in Northern Helmand, Afghanistan.

*They shall grow not old, as we  
that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the  
years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun and  
in the morning,  
We will remember them.*

*Lest we forget.*

God bless them all.

Happy New Year Royal!

Bert Mac

## (Shooting - Continued from page 7)

Some notable features of the shoot were, the claret on Mick Bettridge's face as the result of the nasty recoil of one or two of the more muscular firearms, Lee's mate had practical experience of that well known principal in physics that for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction when both barrels of the shot gun discharged

simultaneously driving him back wards in no uncertain manner. Jenny Rea sustained a cheeky hematoma on the junction of the anterior deltoid and the pectorals major (bruised shoulder) but this was all made worth while by the fact that she came second overall in the general classification. Paul Patterson was Top Gun with an

exceptionally good final score. This year renowned Para hospitality enabled us to finish off a great days fun at Jason and Kylies place where the Airborne Association people were whooping it up at their Christmas party. Thank you one and all for making this year's shoot a huge success.

# Minutes of the Monthly Meeting, RMA WA at the Navy Club, Fremantle on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2007

The meeting was opened at 20 00 hrs and the Padre recited the RM Collect,

## Apologies were received from:-

David Minear, Jenny Rae, F. Walsh, C Hooper, C W. Agate, Buster Brown, David Wilkes, G Bowden, R. Trunkfield, Andy Cads Johnson, Tom Hunter, Mick Page, Kris Lowden, J. Herd, G. Norton, Nick Bell, Jane Short, N. Aimson, Dave Devries, Garry Williams,

## Those attending

C.J. Reid, Tim Harrison, Paul Patterson, Gary Nutter, J Clancy-Lowe, E. Dunn, A. Buckley, T Lynn, B. Milton, Jim Wood, N Miller, A Moylett, Jim Rea, P Trevis, John Smith, Ken Burt, Jim Lewis, Sandie Reid, John Watkin and Bert Macdonald.

## Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were held to be a true record and there were no matters arising.

Proposed Clancy, seconded Norm Miller

## Mail Report.

Mail received from interstate RMAs RNs as per usual.

## Treasurer's Report

Treasurer reported that despite the low turnout, we had been very successful with the poppies this year.

## Welfare Report.

Paul Bosas is on the mend after his recent heart operation.

Bill Agate is fit and well although temporarily housebound. John and Sylvia have been visiting.

Ron is to have a further scan in the near future.

Vera Walsh is unwell.

## Social Report

John Clancy Lowe spoke about arrangements for the Ladies' Night which is now confirmed as Dec 15th 1830 hrs. Volunteers/assisters to be at the Navy Club for 1700 hrs.

President announced an extremely kind donation from Ron Trunkfield of \$1000 to be used for both the Ladies' night and the children. Sandy mentioned Ron intended to stay for an hour or so on the evening.

Jim Rea mentioned the Anaconda Challenge adventure race and the most excellent efforts by our Team. The event is a multi-disciplined race and we had Gary Nutter with a 1.8K swim in a very choppy sea; Paul Paterson in his canoe again in very difficult conditions; Taff Williams on the mountain bike section and young Kris Lowden making a tremendous effort with a time in the top-ten out of four hundred plus runners. There were over three hundred and fifty teams competing but for Royal the main competition was from our friends from Airborne Forces who steamed away in an early lead before Royal started to make ground and eventually take the honours. All in all, a great day for all concerned with both teams, and all looking forward to next year's event.

Jim spoke of last Sunday's abseil day at Boya Quarry and once again a top day was had by all, with mums, dads, and the kids enjoying a great morning's abseiling. Steve Jones ran a small top rope stance and gave the twelve kids a taste of climbing with a challenging and adventurous eight meter wall. Once activities were complete and stores packed away, it was flash-up the BBQ with dits in abundance. Another great day!

Pinjar Range day is now firm for Sunday 9th December.

Jim gave a brief round up of the events this year and Secretary reminded Members of the social aspect to all of these events. This was confirmed by Tony Moylett when he spoke of the very enjoyable rapport with our Airborne brothers over the Anaconda weekend.

Sandy asked for donations for the hamper for Ladies' Night to be given to Pat and Moira who would coordinate.

## A.O.B.

Allan Buckley asked if the Association would be donating a gift to Parkerville this Christmas. Padre confirmed he has spoken with them and this year they would like us to provide two DVD recorders if possible. Chris Reid proposed a donation from Members on Ladies' Night with the Association making up any shortfall from funds. Carried unanimously.

Jim Woods mentioned the possible provision of an electric motor scooter for Bill Agate. Committee had discussed this prior to the meeting and Secretary is in touch with both RMBF and RNBT as to how best to proceed with an application. After some discussion, it was agreed that once an offer is imminent, funds should be taken from Association funds and reimbursed with money from RNBT

President thanked Brian Milton for his efforts regarding the Poppies and Clancy for organising the Ladies' Night. He then announced that he has sold his house in Harbour Rise, Hillarys and would be moving to playground of the rich and famous Surfers Paradise in the New Year.

There being no further business, the President recited the Ode and he closed the Meeting at 20 55 hrs

*Jim and Marissa were lying in bed listening to the next door neighbour's dog barking. It had been barking for hours and hours. Suddenly Jim jumped up out of bed and said 'I've had enough of this'. He went downstairs. He finally came back up to bed and Marissa said, 'The dog is still barking. What have you been doing?'*

*Jim replied 'I've put the dog in our yard. Fookin' see how THEY like it!'*

*You've got to love the Irish!*

# Christmas at Parkerville

by Bert Macdonald

Monday 17th December saw President Jim Lewis, Jimmy Rea and myself on our way to Parkerville Children's Home in our role as Santa's Little Helpers. We were met there by Parkerville CEO, Mr Basil Hannah and Verna (who coordinates the individual houses)

Over the years, RMA WA have donated various items to Parkerville including a BBQ, tape recorders to help children with reading difficulty etc. and we were assured that all had been put to good use and Basil asked us to pass on his sincere thanks to you all. This year Rev Tim had made enquiries and he asked us to provide a couple of DVD recorders for use in two of the houses.

Here's the two Jimmy's, handing over the recorders to Verna. It was quite a struggle to get the President to hand over his recorder, he kept asking if they were sure they really needed two; couldn't they manage with one etc. He dripped like a tap all the way back to Perth!



*Jim Rea, Verna and President Jim Lewis at Parkerville*

## SHOOTING

**(I love the smell of cordite in the morning!)**

by Jim Rea

It's early December and that can only mean one thing - it is time for us to whack down a few rounds as part of our annual range practice. Thanks to that great father and son combination of Eddie and Paul Dunn we have exclusive access to that beautifully maintained piece of real estate up in Pinjar where we can exercise our pyrotechnic oriented senses and go back in time to when our individual ability to handle and shoot various types of weapons had far more serious consequences.

Paul Dunn with his usual military style thoroughness had made seven types of fire arms available to us. Big bang weapons are fine but with so many young people, some as young as 7, it is very essential that they be part of the fun and that's where the .22 cal weapons kick in. An outstanding feature of Paul's range activities is his attention to

issues relating to safety. For those of us who have conducted the odd range shoot we have yet to see a firearm rear up and whack somebody of its own accord; there is usually a human element involved. The fact that he removes all weapons from the firing point at the conclusion of each practice. Another aspect of the shoot that impresses is that all former armed services personnel become safety officers and coaches as a matter of routine. This means that there are at least ten pairs of eyes on the firing point at any one time insuring that fun with safety is the order of the day.

It is 0800hrs Sunday the 9th December 07, and Paul and Eddie are already flat out setting up targets, laying out the various weapons and putting sand bags in place together with ground sheets to ensure that everything is in order when the troops roll

in. Everybody now recognises that Paul Dunn is the range master and all hands remind new comers of that fact so people sign in and put their names on the whiteboard as a matter of routine.

As the numbers build up in no time at all and with very little fuss the range is live and the first rounds are zapping down range to punch holes in distant targets to hopefully register a very good score for each shooter.

As the Dads complete their practices they now become coaches and safety officers to the young shooters such as Jack, Callum, Sam, Ffion, Nadine, and Mick Bettridge's Grandson, all sub teens start to register their hits on the various targets.

*(Continued on page 5)*

# Abseiling-the Ultimate High!

by Jim Rea

For quite a while now sane people have been asking the question "why do certain individuals jump out of perfectly good aircraft, or attach flimsy harnesses to themselves and leap off cliffs and quarries?". Some of us have used these techniques for Ulu insertions where it was necessary to abseil down through the jungle canopy, to chop out an L Z (landing zone) and of course fast roping is being used right up to this day where a rapid descent is vital to enable a very vulnerable chopper to exit the scene before being the victim of deadly enemy ground fire i.e. RPG, AK47 or .5 heavy machine gun.

In this day and age, literally every man and his dog are jumping out of aircraft, climbing mountains, and abseiling from great heights and for a very good reason - the buzz factor! Recent research has shown that the above mentioned activities release four vital neurotransmitters into the system all of which are of huge benefit to our well being and can be very helpful to anybody suffering from depression. They are Adrenaline, Dopamine, Serotonin and Endorphins. These substances are the human body's



**Jimmy Rea, Verna Dunn and Paul Patterson abseiling**

natural opiates and tap into the brains pleasure zones creating an extreme natural high with no downside other than the urge to want to do it all again and again. Hence abseiling has become a very important part of our annual outdoor activities program.

[thanks Taff for your huge support ]; Steve Jones and family; Paul, Lee and Lee's mate; Bert and Jack; Dave and his son and daughter; Jeff from the Paras and his son Callum; Eddie and Verna Dunn; Rob from the Regiment and his kids; and of course Gary and Para Jason. Everyone had a go using the orthodox method as well as some of the more adventurous using the face forward run down technique.



**Jason Swales shows how it is done!**

It is 0600hrs on November the 18th when I throw the 1st 50metre rope over the side of the best stance of Boyer quarry and having set it all up I turn and find I am being glared at by two very irate people who just realised that their best spot has just been hijacked and there is nothing they can do about it. These people charge \$80 a session for the same abseiling workout that we do for free. It was only after a tremendous effort by Bert that we were able to obtain this booking in the first place. Having got the 2nd rope over the side it was now time to wait for the troops to roll in.

Some outstanding performances were Steve and his son using a tandem descent, with the little four year old showing no fear whatsoever; Para Jeff coaching his seven year old Callum to a flawless display; and eight year old Jack Macdonald and ten year old Sam Williams throwing caution to the wind and racing each other to the bottom. Verna was also a star performer despite some slipping Velcro.

One of the outstanding features of our activities crew is that everybody is a player, so in no time at all people were being harnessed up and the show was on the road. This year our group was made up of mainly family groups of Mum, Dad and the kids. Tina, Taff, Sam and Shana Williams

After the abseiling Steve set up a climbing stance for the kids which was a huge hit and shouts of " just one more go " kept ringing out as he attempted to wind things up. The day wound up with a BBQ and a few beers and we welcome everybody back next year for that opiate cocktail which made us all feel so good.

# Letters to the Editor

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

May I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

## KEITH PRICE

I am emailing on behalf of an RMC veteran who served with 919 Squad, 42 Commando between 1968 – 71 David Leslie Robinson 'ROBBO' of Workington. He would like to trace a former comrade/friend from the same squad, Keith Price 'TAFF' from Cardiff in particular or any other member of that squad. David does not have access to the internet other than through myself or other friends. Are you able to assist? Any advice or information would be much appreciated.

Kind regards, Mr. S. Wood - I will pass on any leads thank you.

## STANLEY SHACKLEFORD

My name is Sue Kirkwood and I now live in Australia - have done for 40+ years after migrating here in the 60's with my parents and family.

Recently, I came across some photos my father had taken whilst serving in the Royal Marines during WWII. The bulk of the photos are taken in Kiel during May 1945 and Cuxhaven Harbour, Germany during June 1945. Dad - (according to a postcard he wrote) Stanley Shackleford was in the 12 Platoon, 'B' coy, 28th Battalion - Royal Marines, British Liberation Army at this time. The photos feature quite a few of Dad's service mates as well as photos of Cuxhaven Harbour, RN minesweepers, German Minesweepers, German POW's etc.

I realise that, like Dad, most of these people would have probably passed away by now. However, I would very much like to contact any that may still be alive if that was possible. Some of the names on the photos are: Johnny Snape, Paddy McGrory, C/Sgt Edghill, Cpl Woods, 'Taffy' Lewis, George Ward, Joe Mulligan, R Stevens, Jock Rough, Ginger Brown, Cpl Giles, L/Cpl Passhouse, Butch Eardley, Platoon Sgt Rawcliffe. I'm sorry that these names are all the information I have. Dad wrote on the back of all his photos and so there is quite a good

record of the subject. I know that this will be a long shot but it would be great to hear from any of Dad's service mates.

I will be scanning all these photos so if you have a use for any of them please contact me with your details and I will post them to you. It would be a shame to lose them which eventually will happen over the next couple of generations.

Thank you for your assistance

Regards

Sue Kirkwood  
Proud and loving daughter of Stanley Shackleford

If anyone wants to see a photo in order to jog memories then I can forward one to you.

## COMMANDO - ON THE FRONT LINE

I have just found out that you can buy a DVD of the recent television programme from Amazon for £13.99. I don't normally promote a company, but I know that many of you would like to get your hands on the programme (it was so well received), particularly those who live overseas. It will not be despatched until January 2008.

## NATIONAL REMEMBRANCE

### HOLIDAY PETITION

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/remembermonday/>

Number 10 Downing Street has approved a petition that was launched requesting a new public holiday falling on the Monday after Remembrance Sunday in November each year.

To be known as the National Remembrance Holiday, it's purpose is threefold:

1. To emphasise the remembrance of those servicemen and women who have given, and continue to give, their lives for Britain
  2. To remind people of the importance of protecting our Nation and what it stands for
  3. To break that 3 month period between the August Public Holiday and Christmas when there are currently no long weekends, especially as the UK has fewer public holidays than most European Countries.
- If you are in agreement, please sign up to the petition - it only takes a few moments -

and it would be great if you were minded to forward the link to other people as well.

If you are not interested, just hit the delete key and I'm sorry to have troubled you.

As ever

Charlie Hobson, RMA UK

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Greetings all Members

I'm writing this message to thank you all sincerely for your kindness to Mum and I through our recent tough times with Dad's sudden illness. We have had so many phone calls and cards of love and well wishes for both Mum and Dad and I thank you all on behalf of all our family.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a special thank you to Sylvia and John Clancy Lowe for helping me out week after week and sharing in the big job of taking Mum to the hospital and sneaking Dad some decent food, to give me and my husband a break. Also I would like to thank Jane and Ron and Tony Lynne and Jim Wood for their many visits and sneaking Dad lots of goodies and keeping Dad's spirits up.

Dad is making good progress and by the time you read this letter he will finally after 14 weeks be home again with Mum where he belongs.

Thank you all very much

Love to you all..

Bill and Shirley Agate's daughter Lesley

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Dear Ladies and Gentlemen

I have a few messages for you:

## POTENTIAL NEW BRANCH IN CADIZ/GIBRALTAR AREA

If you live in the southern Spain area and would like to be a member of an RMA Branch then Rory Thomas is looking to start a branch up if there is enough support. He says:

I live in southern Spain near Cadiz. I belong to the Gibraltar branch of the RBL where I parade for the remembrance parade. There are 2 other former Royals who parade, one from Fuengejerola & one who lives near Seville. We got chatting about maybe setting up a branch in this area. Just to test the waters could you mention this idea on

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

this website. Anyone interested or know of anyone who might be interested can get contact details from Central Office.

### **DOES ANYONE KNOW A SGT CECIL FROM GRAYS - ESSEX?**

I am Tony Broomfield, ex Fleet Air Arm and a member of the Fisgard Association. I served from 1958 to 1981. My joining class entry is approaching its 50th anniversary early next year and I am looking for a great chum of mine - John Cecil. At the moment I have no luck in finding him.

John and I were on the Victorious in the Far East and met John's brother - a Royal Marine Sergeant in Singapore. I would assume his age would now be middle to late 60's. John was born in Grays - Essex.

If you have an ex Royal fitting this description, is there any chance of you passing my details on to him, and through him I may be able to find his brother.

If you can help I will pass your details on.

### **DOES ANYONE KNOW A DANIEL O'DONNELL FROM PAISLEY?**

My father was in the Royal Marines around the time I was born, 1956. My family & I have no details of his time spent with the above.

We are trying to trace any details or records you may have.

His name was Daniel O'Donnell. He lived in Paisley, Scotland. He was previously an electric welder. After the Marines he went on to join the Royal Engineers.

The furthest memories I have are being based in Osnabruck, Delmonhurst, Kleine

Moscow, all in W.Germany. My mother (his wife), was Irene, nee~ Streeting, maiden name Davies.

If you can help Barry O'Donnell know more about his father then I can put you in touch.

### **TRACING FORMER COMRADES OF PAUL NESLEN**

I am wondering if you might suggest a way in which I might be in contact with former comrades of my late friend Paul Neslen. Paul served with 42 Cdo and was killed in an accident while on exercise preparing for deployment to Bosnia approximately 14 years ago. I was Paul's best childhood friend and am still in touch with his parents. I am hoping to be able to tell his parents a little more of his service and also of how his former comrades are doing with their lives, this will be of comfort to Paul's parents who lost their only child in the service of his country.

With kind regards and thanks for any help you are able to offer. Gary Salisbury

Again please let me know if you can help in this worthy cause.

Kind regards

Charlie Hobson

Hi there,  
Please give my very best wishes to 'BILL AND HIS FAMILY' I'm arriving Perth early Jan' look forward to meeting up with you guys just as soon as I re-orientate myself

Don Purchase

## **Member's Update**

**George Bowden** had to return to hospital before Christmas to have an obstruction removed. Let's hope all went well.

**Norman Aimson** is apparently in trouble with his kidneys. Apparently, they are only working about 25% efficiency and he is only a hairsbreadth from a dialysis machine. Norman and Lil have opted to take the cruise they have booked and delayed the dialysis treatment which is to take place in hospital, and not at home. Too much equipment or something like that. The moral ..... don't live in Armadale!!

**Frank Walsh's** wife, Vera, is not at all well. Our prayers are with her and Frank

**Eileen Collins** will be 90 in February, but her Alzheimer's is getting worse.....

**Bill Agate** has re-established himself at home but is still close to being arm chair bound. The emphasis is 'close'. A recent trip to the back garden saw Bill attempting a double pike followed by a back flip. A good all round performance but he lost points on his landing! It will be a few weeks of rehab before he can return to training. At least Shirley is not being chased around the house for the moment. These bootnecks! tut tut!

**Ron Trunkfield** went to the Nuclear X-ray at RPH for a bone scan in early December. *"If I had a dollar for every time I thought of Ron I would be rich - wouldn't we all! I popped around for a quick chat and spent a few very pleasant hours. A soon to be repeated experience. Recommended."*  
John Clancy Lowe

**Paul Bosas** is recovering from two stents that he had inserted in November - although he has been suffering from a chest infection for sometime.

## **Directory Updates**

Graham Perkins is now on Broadband at [graham.perkins@bigpond.com](mailto:graham.perkins@bigpond.com)

Mark Savage, resident in Bali can be contacted at [mark@indovillas.com](mailto:mark@indovillas.com)

The new Defence and Naval Adviser to the British High Commission in Canberra is a Royal Marine – Brigadier JMF Robbins MBE. His contact details, via his PA are:

Phone: 02 6270 6650 Fax: 02 6270 6616 Email: [Maureen.clemence@fco.gov.uk](mailto:Maureen.clemence@fco.gov.uk)

The RMA Queensland web page is now up and running at [www.rmaq.com.au](http://www.rmaq.com.au)

# Conspicuous Gallantry Cross awarded to Cpl John Thompson, Royal Marines

*Royal Marine Corporal John Thompson's exceptional bravery in Helmand, which saw him in the lead of 30 massive fire-fights with the Taliban, has been recognised by the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Report by Danny Chapman.*

As a Heavy Weapons Specialist - riding in the lead WMIK Land Rover during engagements - Cpl Thomson was always the first in and last out of a battle. He was awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross in a ceremony last week for his repeated displays of exceptional bravery and leadership under fire. The medal is the second highest level of gallantry award after the Victoria and George Crosses.

Corporal Thompson was deployed to Afghanistan between October 2006 and April 2007. One of the fiercest fights he was involved happened near Gereshk, when his patrol was ambushed. He explains what happened:

*"My call sign moved forward to draw fire from the rest of the company so the Commanding Officer could get the rest out. It was a four hour battle, and we assessed there were about 60 Taliban attacking us from all directions. Ten minutes into the fire-fight my ear drums blew due to the intensity of the machine gun fire, so for the rest of the battle I couldn't hear, my ears were bleeding, but we carried on fighting."*

Corporal Thompson from 42 Commando Royal Marines was not solely involved in combat during his deployment:

*"We patrolled areas looking for things we could do to help the local people, which included getting them clean water, tools for agriculture and also helping to bring*

*western agricultural intelligence so they can change their poor wheat harvests into good ones.*

*"Only the minority of people don't want us there. The majority, children and farmers, would come out and see us. They are a really hospitable people and we would often sit and have cups of tea with them."*



**Cpl John Thompson**

But as a heavy weapons specialist, the 29 year old Marine was always at the crux of any battle:

*"One minute we'd be doing humanitarian work, winning hearts and minds, and then one minute we'd be in offensive action and really persecuting the Taliban. I could hammer the target with heavy machine guns, javelin missiles, grenade launchers and also request artillery bombs to be dropped.*

*"I don't think the Taliban are that fierce to be honest. We have superior fire power and air support, but the trouble with*

*guerrilla warfare is you don't know who you're fighting or where they are, and they put a lot of heart into their fighting."*

Meeting the Queen however was a very different experience for the Marine who has served in Northern Ireland, Iraq and now three times in Afghanistan:

*"It was massive shock to be given this award, and it feels great. It's an absolute honour to meet the Queen and to physically touch her and shake her hand, its top of the pops. My heart was thumping, I was absolutely nervous and anyone who knows me, knows that I don't get nervous.*

*"But I'm just one bloke who got a medal. Everyone else put in just as much as I did. Our drills were superb and the mix with our forces worked really well. We could switch from getting food to people and then fighting straight away."*

Corporal Thompson has been a Marine for ten years. He served in Iraq on Operation Telic 1 and got a mention in dispatches for his work there, which he said he thought was the pinnacle of his career, until this deployment to Afghanistan:

*"This tour has been the Bollocks. Every bit of my job has been covered, we worked hard and everything went right, with minimal casualties and most of us came back relatively unharmed, which is the most important thing."*

## RMA WA Branch Diary

**The Branch Diary on the back page of this Newsletter is a draft only. After next month's AGM, your new committee will review this and finalise dates, times and venues.**

**If any of you would like to see any new, additional or amended social activities, please let the Secretary know by the end of February. This will then give the new Committee the opportunity to develop an activities calendar for 2008 that truly reflects the needs of all our members**



## Royal Marines Association, Western Australia Draft Branch Diary – Provisional Only!

Month	Important Dates		Branch Activities			
	Date	Event	Date	Event	Place	Timings
<b>January 2008</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	New Years Day Australia Day	29 <sup>th</sup>	Monthly Meeting	Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
<b>February</b>	1 <sup>st</sup> 14 <sup>th</sup>	School Holidays end Valentines Day	TBC 26 <sup>th</sup>	Canoeing & Family Day Annual General Meeting	Shoalwater Bay, Rockingham Navy Club, Fremantle	8.00am onwards 7.30 pm
<b>March</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> 21 <sup>st</sup> 24 <sup>th</sup>	Labour Day Good Friday Easter Monday	TBC TBC	Bike ride followed by BYO BBQ Monthly Meeting	Possibly round the Bridges or new venue TBC Navy Club, Fremantle	8.00am onwards 7.30 pm
<b>April</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup>	School holidays start St Georges Day School holidays end Anzac Day	TBC 25 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Boat drinks and BYO BBQ Anzac Day Parade Monthly Meeting	TBC St Georges Terrace, Perth Navy Club, Fremantle	9.00am onwards 8.30 – 12.00 am 7.30 pm
<b>May</b>	13 <sup>th</sup>	Mothers Day	TBC 27 <sup>th</sup>	Games Night(TBC) Monthly Meeting	TBC Navy Club, Fremantle	6.30pm 7.30 pm
<b>June</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Foundation Day	TBC 24 <sup>th</sup>	North Bannister Camp(TBC) Monthly Meeting	North Bannister Navy Club, Fremantle	Fri night or Sat am onwards 7.30 pm
<b>July</b>	7 <sup>th</sup> 18 <sup>th</sup>	School holidays start School holidays end	7/8 <sup>th</sup> TBC 29 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas in the bush? (TBC) Xmas in the City (TBC) Monthly Meeting	North Bannister Venue TBC Navy Club, Fremantle	Fri/Sat am onwards TBC 7.30 pm
<b>August</b>			TBC TBC 26 <sup>th</sup>	Avon Descent City To Surf Monthly Meeting	Northam St George's Tce Navy Club, Fremantle	Fri pm 7.30am 7.30 pm
<b>September</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Fathers Day School Holidays start Queens Birthday Public Holiday	TBC 30 <sup>th</sup>	Thirty Miler Monthly Meeting	North Bannister Navy Club, Fremantle	Fri pm or Sat. Yomp; start time 7.00am Sunday 7.30 pm
<b>October</b>	10 <sup>th</sup>	School Holidays end	25 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup>	Corps Birthday Corps Birthday Dinner Corps Remembrance Parade Monthly Meeting	TBC Monument Hill, Fremantle Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
<b>November</b>	11 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day	11 <sup>th</sup> TBC 26 <sup>th</sup>	Remembrance Day Parade Abseiling Monthly Meeting	St Georges Cathedral Navy Club, Fremantle	7.30 pm
<b>December</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> 25 <sup>th</sup> 26 <sup>th</sup>	School Holidays start Christmas Day Boxing Day	TBC TBC	Annual Shoot Ladies' Night		



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