

2/3 A.H.S. CENTAUR ASSOCIATION (INC.)

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Secretary: Mrs Jan Thomas OAM
Treasurer: Mr Anthony P Bracken

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NEWSLETTER MAY 2013

70th ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL SERVICE TIMES

Please note change of date at some locations

Brisbane, Qld

Tuesday 14th May 2013 at 10am

St John's Cathedral, Ann Street. His Grace the Anglican Primate, Archbishop of Brisbane, the Most Reverend Dr Philip Aspinall will preside. Brisbane Girls Grammar, Brisbane Boys' College and cadets of TS Centaur will attend. Refreshments following the Service.

A Commemorative Dinner will be held at the United Services Club at 6pm.

For details please contact Miss Pixie Annat,
P.O. Box 68, Kelvin Grove 4059,
or email pannat@anglicare.org.au

Caloundra, Qld

Tuesday 14 May 2013 at 11am

at the Memorial in Centaur Park. Children from local schools will lay an individual flower on each name on the Walkway on behalf of relatives. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath please see the Secretary, Dick Alchin, before the Service begins. Refreshments at RSL.

Canberra ACT

Tuesday 14 May 2013 2pm.

Assemble in the Western Courtyard. Poppies will be offered for placing on an Empty Wreath which will be laid during the wreath-laying ceremony. Poppies also available for placing on the Roll of Honour. Guest Speakers from Radford College, Bruce, ACT. A Salvation Army band will provide incidental music, and a replica of the Centaur Plaque will be featured. Refreshments at own expense at the Terrace Café. RSVP by 7 May to Peta Thompson (02) 6232 9915 or petamc@live.com.au

Point Danger, Qld

Monday 13 May 2013 at 10am

at the Memorial (weather permitting, otherwise in the assembly hall, Centaur Primary School, Eucalyptus Drive, Banora Point). The Service is conducted by the school students. Refreshments following the Service. RSVP 1 May (07) 5524 9655

Melbourne, Vic.

Sunday 19 May 2013 at 9am

in the ANZAC Memorial Chapel, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, 300 Waterdale Road Heidelberg West. Entry via Gate 9. Enquiries Robert Winther (03) 9496 2324, or robert.winther@austin.org.au Refreshments will be served at the Darebin RSL Sub-Branch at 402 Bell Street, Preston.

Concord, Sydney, NSW

Friday 10 May 2013 at 10.30am

113 AGH Memorial Chapel, Concord Hospital, Hospital Rd, Concord. RSVP 5 May 2013 to Melva Lindley at melva.lindley@sswahs.nsw.gov.au or telephone (02) 9767 5256

Merchant Navy Sydney, and Melbourne Nurses' Annual Memorial Services

Both these Services are relevant for members to commemorate the Centaur, and all are welcome to attend.

Our President, Richard Jones, nephew of Major Gordon Jones 2/12th FA, will represent the Association at the **Annual Merchant Navy Memorial Service at Rookwood, Sydney on Sunday 14th April, 2013, at 11am**, and will lay a wreath on our behalf.

Pat O'Brien, daughter of L/Cpl Michael O'Brien, 2/12th FA will represent the Association at the Melbourne Commemorative Service for Nurses at the **Nurses Memorial Centre, 11/431 St Kilda Road, Melbourne, on Sunday 21 April at 2.30pm**, and will lay a wreath on our behalf.

Please make yourself known to Richard or Pat if you are able to attend.

Let us know if and when you are attending Services and we will ask Association members to look out for you. 02 6564 8400 or jthomas4@activ8.net.au Alternate email address: jthomas.centaur@hotmail.com Please make yourself and your Centaur connection known to organizers or our wreath-layer.

LETTERS

We love to hear from you. Your Centaur recollections resonate with others who share your experience

Ellen Behan, daughter of Tom Behan MN, used to attend regularly at Point Danger from her home in Brisbane until incapacity curbed her activities. After reading about the late Harry Pearce OAM, Ellen wrote:

“Harry and Lorna were very good to me and took me to Centaur School. I used to go to Point Danger Service and they looked after me. Harry was a real gentleman.”

From Bobbie Pettiford, widow of Allan Pettiford, survivor:

I was pleased to be able to pay a visit to the Point Danger Memorial during the year as we had a Village bus trip to Tumbelgum and paid a visit to Pt Danger on the way back. I was able to see the plaque on the Memorial which is the replica of the one on the deck of the Centaur. I noted that the Marine Rescue Service is now the new custodian of the memorial. This is good to know. Harry Pearce certainly gave willingly of himself for many years both to the school and the Memorial.

Laurel Williams, niece of Matron Jewell writes:

We were living in a small country town in WA when Mum received the news about the loss of her sister, Matron Jewell. My mother's married name was Myrtle Savage and when news came that Sr Savage had survived, the town was jubilant, only to discover that it wasn't my mother's sister who was saved.

Tom Pledger, 2/12th Field Ambulance, POW, Ambon, is a regular correspondent. Tom writes:

I was a member of the 2/12th Field Ambulance which was broken up and I was sent to Darwin and we sailed from there to Ambon Island where we were taken prisoner of war on 31/1/1942. In September the same year half of us were shipped to Hainan Island off the coast of China where we remained for the rest of the war. I was in charge of the hospital in the camp under Dr Bill Aitkin.

I was engaged to Jessie Gollan before the war. She did not know if I was dead or alive for four years but waited and we were married the day after I was discharged and had a very happy life until she died in 1995. We had twins, a boy Paul and a daughter Nan who live fairly close to me.

Tom's full story as written in his War Diary can be found at <http://www.eckert.id.au/docs/tompledger.pdf>

From Joyce Johnston, cousin of Pte Garth Aitcheson.

Our cousin, Garth Francis Aitchison, went down with the Centaur.

I remember it vividly. As I was coming home from school, my mother was leaving to go to the side of her sister Sylvia Aitchison, Garth's mother. My cousin Marie, now deceased, remembered being called home from Nundah Primary School because of a family emergency.

A nurse who survived visited my uncle and aunt and told them that Garth had been asleep and therefore knew no trauma. Garth had only recently married Doreen. I think he was only 21.

Mike Claydon, brother of Pte Jack Claydon, writes:

I was only 13 years of age but I can still hear my mother's cry of anguish as she read the telegram she had received. I don't think she ever recovered from the shock as we had only farewelled Jack not many days before. He was 18 and she had worried about him going to sea. He said: “Don't worry, Mum, it's a hospital ship...”

I often look at Jack's photo and try to imagine him married with a family, and what he would look like in his eighties. But it was not to be.

ADDITION TO THE AWM CENTAUR DISPLAY



Some time ago the Australian War Memorial received a significant donation associated with an American sailor, Gunner's Mate Talmadge Johnson, who served aboard *USS Mugford*, when she rescued the survivors from the sinking of *AHS Centaur* on 15 May 1943.

The items are two emergency lights with their battery cases. They came from one of the *Centaur* survivor's life vests collected by Talmadge after the rescue. He managed to keep these two lights throughout the war even though the life vest itself deteriorated due to humid conditions and the oil coating the vest.

The Memorial has a very small collection of items associated with some of the survivors. This is the first donation to be associated with one of the rescuers and they are very pleased to add the emergency lights to the National Collection.

Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital Melbourne

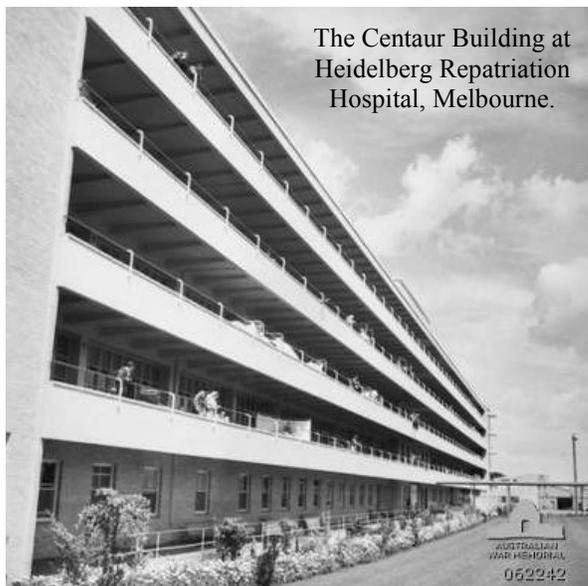
Annually at the Hospital a Memorial Service is held to remember the Centaur and those who sailed on her. The Service was introduced by Preston RSL soon after the sinking and has been held ever since. Preston RSL is now Darebin RSL, and the original military hospital is now a Victorian State Public Hospital amalgamated with the Austin Hospital. Many changes have been made over the years but the Centaur is still remembered.

Three nursing staff of the hospital were lost and their names are remembered on a plaque in the ANZAC Memorial Chapel. They were **Sister Alice O'Donnell, Sister Eileen Rutherford** and **Sister Wendy Walker**.

The original multi-storey building was named after the Centaur in 1943. On the northern entry are plaques listing those lost, the survivors, and the replica of the Centaur Plaque which was placed on the deck of the now-found Centaur. Also in the Chapel is a plaque by the Merchant Navy listing their members that were lost, including technical details of the ship. A painting of the Centaur is in the foyer of the building.

The original plaque to the nurses has now been joined by other plaques to include all who sailed on the Centaur on her final voyage.

Details of these items can be obtained from Robert Winther the Veterans Liaison Officer at the Hospital on telephone (03) 9496 2324 or email robert.winther@austin.org.au



The Centaur Building at
Heidelberg Repatriation
Hospital, Melbourne.

Dr Maurice Cleary OAM, MBBS (NX30288, 2/1 AHS Manunda,)

Maurice Patrick Cleary graduated as a pharmacist from the University of Sydney in 1938, and in 1939-40 he completed Years 1 and 2 in the Faculty of Medicine.

He enlisted in 1940 in the A.I.F. and initially joined and trained with the 2/1 Survey Regiment of the Royal Australian Artillery. In February 1941, he was transferred to the Medical Corps on account of his experience as a pharmacist, and served as Pharmaceutical Officer on 2/1 AHS Manunda, entering numerous war zones including Darwin, Egypt, Singapore and New Guinea. AHS Manunda was quite severely damaged with the loss of six lives during the bombing of Darwin.

In 1945 he was discharged, and returned to his pre-war occupation as a self-employed pharmacist. In 1952 he resumed studies in the Faculty of Medicine, graduating in 1958, and was engaged in hospital and general practice.

He was appointed General Superintendent and Chief Executive Officer at St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney and served in this capacity for 22 years. During this period the first major development program since pre WWII years was undertaken, and, in the interests of medical education in Sydney, St Vincent's transferred from the University of Sydney to the University of New South Wales to provide clinical facilities for its fledgling Medical School.

His other interests included the purchase in 1973, and the continued management of, an orchard farm property at Somersby on the Central Coast of NSW.

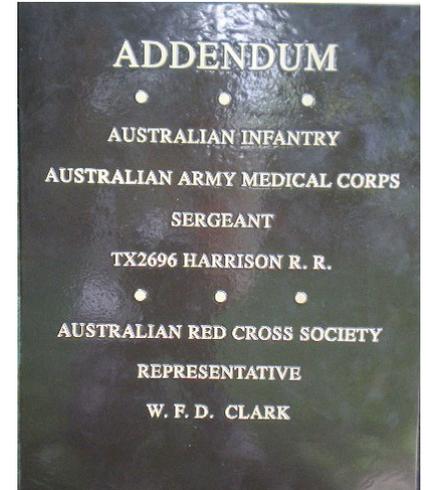
On his retirement from St Vincent's in 1983 he undertook part time work as M.O. with Qantas Airways, with the RAAF at Richmond Air Base and the RAN at HMAS Nirimba. Two years later he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to the public hospital system.

He retired from medical practice in 2002 at the age of 84 and turned his hand to writing, publishing "The Way it Was - A Story of My Life through Eighty Years of the Twentieth Century and Thereafter" and "The Way They Were - a Story of People, Prayers, and Places at St Vincent's 1950-1980".

For many years Dr Cleary was the lynchpin for the Manunda in the ANZAC Day March in Sydney. Manunda veterans under their predominantly blue banner marched beside the Oranje veterans and Centaur descendants with their orange and brown banner. When there were no longer enough Manunda personnel to march, their banner was sent to the AWM in Canberra. Dr Cleary donated their remaining funds of \$100 to the Centaur Association, and the money was used to create a Hospital Ships placard which names all four WWII hospital ships, and vicariously puts them all back in the Sydney March.

SYDNEY MEMORIAL TO THE MISSING

The Sydney Memorial to the Missing is situated in the Commonwealth War Graves section of Rookwood Cemetery at Lidcombe in Sydney. It commemorates all those who lost their lives on active service in the South West Pacific Area and for whom there is no known grave. With the recent addition of the name of **W.F.D. (Darwin) Clark, Red Cross Representative**, as an addendum to Panel 7, the Memorial now commemorates all those who lost their lives on 2/3 AHS Centaur. An unfortunate oversight has at last been set right.



Below:

In response to our request in the November newsletter for details of memorials to the Centaur or any of her personnel, Shirley Hughes, daughter of Pte D. Kevin Williams, and niece of Sgt Paul and Pte John Bracken, sent in the photo below taken following the dedication of a plaque at Yass (NSW) Ambulance Station commemorating her father and her uncle, Sgt Paul Bracken. The citation reads:

This stone was dedicated
To the memory of Ambulance Officers
Paul Bracken and Kevin Williams
Who lost their lives
When the hospital ship "Centaur"
Was sunk by enemy action
On 14th May 1943



L-R Mrs Williams, Shirley Williams (Hughes), Tony Bracken, our Treasurer and son of Sgt Paul Bracken, nephew of Pte Williams, Betty Bracken, Olive Williams, Mrs Bracken.



Unaware of our request, Tony, with a UK email name of 'War Graves' sent the above photo of a family grave in Sutton Rd Cemetery, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, England. The appropriate part of the inscription reads:

Also to the memory
Of Albert James Morris
Son of the above
Who was lost at sea 13th (sic) May 1943
When the hospital ship "Centaur"
was sunk by enemy action.

The printed edition of this Newsletter has been generously donated by Macksville (NSW) Public School as a community service. Captain Hindmarsh (lost) and the family of Pte Eric Taylor (saved) were residents of Macksville at the time of the sinking.

MEMORIAL PLAQUES AT INGLEBURN (NSW) RSL

courtesy of Reg Bonney



We would be pleased to hear from anyone who knows Sr Haultain's story or who has personal recollections of her.



Sr Helen Haultain

Top Left Plaque:

1939 WWII 1945
NX76581 SISTER
HELEN F. HAULTAIN
LOST AT SEA 14-3-1943
M.V.CENTAUR

Top Right Plaque:

1939 WWII 1945
NX38750 PRIVATE
HILARY M DONOHOE
LOST AT SEA 14-3-1943
M.V.CENTAUR

Bottom Right Plaque:

1939 WWII 1945
NX54970 WO1
CYRIL C DUTFIELD
LOST AT SEA 14-3-1943
M.V.CENTAUR

THE CENTAUR STORY IN THE HANDS OF A NEW GENERATION

Alexander Roberts, a Year 12 student at The Kings School, North Parramatta is researching the sinking of the Centaur as a major project in History Extension.

During his research he has found that a King's School Old Boy, **Acting Lieutenant Sterling Browne Westhorp**, a member of the 2/12 Field Ambulance was on board the Centaur and did not survive the sinking. Alex is seeking any information about Lt Sterling Westhorp to include in his project, but has found that information about his personal life between leaving the school and his subsequent death is very limited.

Alex's project will focus on the personal stories, many of which he has found in our newsletters, and he is keen to receive more. His project is already 150 pages long and he hopes it will become a book.

Alex reports there is a plaque commemorating Lt Sterling Browne Westhorp in the school chapel.

Audrey Johnson, daughter of W/O2 L.L.Williams, SMS, and niece of Lt A.E Johnson, SMS, reports that there is a window in memory of Sister Alice O'Donnell in St Paul's Anglican Church at Myrtleford, Victoria.



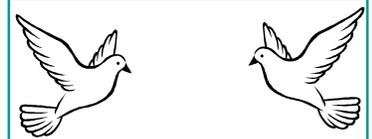
The stained glass window in memory of Sr Haultain in St Barnabas' Anglican Church, Ingleburn, sent in by her goddaughter, Yvonne Bentley.

The accompanying plaque reads:

TO THE MEMORY OF
SISTER CYNTHIA HAULTAIN A.I.F.
DROWNED BY ENEMY ACTION
ON MAY 14TH 1943
ON SERVICE WITH THE HOSPITAL
SHIP "CENTAUR"
"HENCEFORTH - A CROWN OF
EVERLASTING LIFE"
ERECTED BY THE WOMEN OF
INGLEBURN.

Also on the wall at Ingleburn is a plaque commemorating Sr Haultain's brother, **Captain Theodore Haultain** who, in May 1943, commanded the Bathurst class minesweeper, HMAS Lithgow, which was called on to search for survivors. He had met with his sister, Cynthia, as she was known in the family, only a few days earlier in Brisbane. HMAS Lithgow had been exercising with a US submarine after repairs in Brisbane and during that time had picked up a strange asdic signal, then unfortunately lost it. He returned to port on 16th only to be told the shocking news. After five days and nights of futile searching, Theo could only reflect on the brutal prospect that the asdic signal had probably bounced from the hull of the Centaur's attacker.

From The Myth of Immunity



Deep Peace of the running wave to you.

Deep Peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep Peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep Peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep Peace of the God of Peace to you.

From the chapel at Prince of Wales Hospital, Randwick, Sydney

REQUEST TO PLACE A PLAQUE ON THE WALKWAY AT POINT DANGER

The Gold Coast City Council has received a request from 32 Squadron of Small Ships to lay a plaque at the Memorial Precinct at Point Danger to commemorate the 50th anniversary of its involvement in the Borneo Campaign.

We have been invited, along with other stakeholders, such as the RSL and Centaur Primary School, to a meeting on 16 April to discuss the proposal. Warren Keats, former President of the ex-Centaur Commemorative Committee which established the Memorial and Walkway twenty years ago in 1993 has been consulted. The meeting will be after this newsletter goes to print and we will inform you of the outcome in our next newsletter.

The letter of request from the 32 Small Ship Squadron, Royal Australian Engineers Association Inc. includes the following information:

“...Between 1962 and 1966 Indonesia fought a small undeclared war with Malaysia. In 1964 the Australian Defence Force was committed to defending Malaysian territory against external attack. On 5 May 1964 two Army Landing Ships Medium (LSM) AV1358 *Harry Chauvel* and AV1355 *Vernon Sturdee* of 32 Small Ship Squadron, RAE, were deployed to Sabah as part of Operation Granite. They provided exceptional support to the Australian Army during the Indonesian Confrontation.

“The year 2014 marks the 50th anniversary of our involvement in the Borneo Campaign. To commemorate this event I seek your approval for our Association to place a small bronze plaque at the Centaur Remembrance Walk near the Point Danger Light...”

The description ‘Centaur Remembrance Walk’ is a bit misleading as the plaques on the boundary fence of the Walkway at the Centaur Memorial Precinct commemorate all shipping sunk with loss of life off the Australian coast. The Memorial is exclusively Centaur, but the Walkway is not.

If you normally receive your Newsletter electronically and are now receiving a hard copy it is because your email address is bouncing. If you have changed your email address recently please let the secretary know at jthomas4@activ8.net.au

NAVY HEALTH RESERVES QLD CENTAUR SURVIVORS’ EXERCISE

To mark the 70th Anniversary of the sinking of the Centaur, Nick Cusack, CMDR, RANR, advises that Naval Reserve members will undergo a Survival at Sea exercise on the 4 May 2013. They will drift on a raft at sea for about 6 hours to give them a brief experience of the Centaur survivors’ ordeal.

Following the exercise, at approx 5pm, a small memorial ceremony will be held at Water Police HQ - Port of Brisbane, outside at the flagpole, followed by a BBQ. Sunset is 5.14 that day.

Association members are invited to join committee members Pam Gilbert and Michael Forrest for the ceremony and BBQ. RSVP Nick at nickcusack@queenstreetdental.com or mob.0416297319. For further information contact the Association Secretary, tel: (02) 6564 8400 or jthomas@centaur.org.au.

Last Post

Dr Ian Jacobs, friend and colleague of Captain Gethryn Thomas, 2/12th FA. May 2012.

Con Gall, 2/2 AHS Wanganella, one time shipmate of Martin Pash. 4 September 2012.

Stephen Hoare, brother of Pte John Hoare 2/12th, friend of Pte Allan Boyd 2/12th, brother of our Public Officer Doug Hoare. 24 November 2012.

Dr Maurice Patrick Cleary OAM, 2/1 AHS Manunda. 16 January 2013. Aged 94.



Centaur families on holiday at Shellharbour, NSW.

L-R Rod and Enid Blackman (s/o Pte R McG. Blackman 2/12th FA); Front: Lucy Walton (d/o Pte Clem Wood, 2/12th FA) and Marjorie McSkimming, and behind them is Bruce McSkimming (s/o Pte Sidney McSkimming, 2/12th FA). The Blackmans and McSkimmings regularly attend Memorial Services at Concord, while the peripatetic Lucy and her sister Isabel (absent) can be found at Concord, Canberra or as far north as Caloundra.

MATRON SARAH ANNE JEWELL, SMS



In 1971, a new residence for the nurses at Royal Perth Hospital was opened by the then Minister for Health, Hon. G.C. MacKinnon, M.L.C. and the Lord Mayor of Perth, Sir Thomas Wardle. It was named Jewell House in honour of Matron Sarah Anne Jewell who trained at the hospital, and whose service and sacrifice on Centaur is commemorated in the new residence.

Her younger brother, Mr A. R. Jewell and his wife travelled from NSW for the ceremony. Sir Thomas Wardle who named the building was a nephew.

Matron Jewell's niece Dorothy Wedd writes: "Matron Jewell was born in 1900 and as you know she had her birthday party on board the night of the calamity. She was born in Subiaco, W.A. where the family lived. There were seven children, three boys and four girls. She was the youngest girl. My father was the middle boy, just a few years older than Anne. She was christened Sarah Anne."

From the New Zealand Free Lance, May 26, 1943

WOMEN'S NEWS OF THE WEEK

Victims of Japanese Ferocity

Last Letters from Matron Jewell in the Centaur

To hundreds of repatriated New Zealand servicemen and to members of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service the tragic deaths of Matron Anne Jewell and other members of the Australian Army Nursing Service through the foul Japanese crime of torpedoing the hospital ship Centaur come as a personal sorrow. Friendship and esteem were established through association during Matron Jewell's previous supervision of the nursing units in an Anzac hospital ship (*NMHS Oranje, Ed.*) which returned sick and wounded from the Middle East. When the ship was in port here in February last, the Australian matron and a number of the sisters renewed friendships made during their first visit in June last year.

That a number of this fine band of women must have lost their lives in the Centaur is revealed by a letter that Matron Jewell wrote on April 26 to a Wellington "Waac", Sergeant B. M. Charles, who had served as a V.A. under her last year. "Most of the sisters and orderlies came over to this ship," wrote the deceased matron.

"GOOD LUCK AND SAFE JOURNEYS"

Writing from Australia on March 2 to the Matron-in-Chief of the New Zealand Army Nursing Service, Miss L. Willis, Matron Jewell said: "I am going to organize the new No. 3 Australian hospital ship Centaur. The Matron-in-Chief wants me to get the new ship running and have a rest. It will be most interesting to go to the ship and watch it being fitted. My previous experience in hospital ships and large transports will be invaluable to me. I should love to have Sister Helliwell and some of the New Zealand girls with me." (Sr Helliwell of Wellington was the sister latterly in charge of the New Zealand nursing unit serving under Matron Jewell in the Anzac hospital ship).

"Miss Willis, I shall always remember you for your courtesy, help and understanding of my problems, for which I sincerely thank you. I wish your girls good luck and safe journeys always. I will write again later when I am settled in the new ship, which is very small, only 240 beds and already nicknamed 'Tom Thumb'."

In her later letter to Miss Charles, Matron Jewell wrote: "There is none of the luxury of the other ship, but we are very comfortable. Unfortunately there was no suitable accommodation for VAs, and I miss them all very much. We have two sisters to a ward, with the orderlies. Originally this ship was a cattle ship and the captain was very interested in our first embarkation. However, he was agreeably surprised that we could load our wounded in the same time as he took to load cattle. The wards, with the exception of one, are on one deck, with very convenient pantries, mess rooms and duty rooms, together as a unit at each end of the hospital. It is so nice having everything new, and I should think will be easy to manage. We have a small deck for sports, and a tiny promenade deck where it is only possible for two people to walk side by side. Already we have done two voyages. I do not think there will be much waiting in port for us.

"I do hope we are in port again together some day. A reunion would be grand. I will always be so interested in New Zealand and have every intention of visiting the South Island after the war. I must see Dunedin and its lovely trees. We were all so grateful to the kind folk of Wellington. They were wonderfully kind to us all.

"Please give me any news you can about the girls. Although I am no longer their matron I will always be interested in them. One cannot help but grow very fond of them all."

Their Excellencies Sir Cyril and Lady Newall and the Prime Minister and Mrs Peter Fraser were greatly impressed by Miss Jewell... (when) she was a luncheon guest at Government House. (Later) she and some of her nurses were guests of honour at a very happy and informal little gathering at the Prime Minister's residence when Mrs Fraser invited junior members of the Northland sub-centre of the Red Cross (of which she is patron) to meet them. The local VAs provided musical entertainment with such success that, on Miss Jewell's invitation, the party later went down to the ship and carried on with the concert, much to the delight of Australian sick and wounded aboard. When matron and nurses were setting off for the Northland party the diggers jokingly asked them to bring back some fish and chips "in a greasy paper." The request was nobly fulfilled to the last detail!

A handsome West Australian, Miss Jewell trained at the Perth Hospital. Before appointment as matron to the Anzac hospital ship in January 1942, her service with the Australian Army Nursing Service took her to both Syria and Singapore. She was charge sister in the Queen Mary on transport service. As a hospital ship matron she held the rank of major. She displayed keen interest in farming conditions in Australia and here. Her last words to Mrs Peter Fraser were: "I'm coming back

(not a dramatic ending to the story - the following page is missing. Ed.)

Correction:

In the article on Captain Murray, published in our last newsletter, the author's name was misspelt. Our apologies to Bill Conry for the oversight.

Good news, though, is that Bill's article has been picked up by Dave Molyneaux of the Blue Funnel Line Association in England. Dave wishes to use the article or parts of it, along with the article on Martin Pash for his Association's newsletter. Dave also pointed out that in the photo published in our last Newsletter Captain Murray is wearing the Blue Funnel Line badge on his cap.

Notice of 2013 AGM

Our AGM will be held at 2 Laughton Court, Altona Meadows, Melbourne, on 1st August 2013 commencing at 7pm.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting to be read and confirmed. The financial report for the year to 30 June 2013 is to be presented and received.

A new committee will be elected. The current executive and committee members will stand again, and having been nominated and seconded they will be elected unanimously unless other nominations are received by 1 July, 2013.

Any suggestions from members for the Association's goals for 2014 are also required to be received before 1 July 2013.

With a view to the future we would be very pleased to hear from younger members who may like to be involved in the management of the Association as assistants without taking formal responsibility.

OUR RATIONALE

To honour those who gave their lives on 2/3 AHS Centaur.

To provide a means of communication for Survivors, Descendants, Relatives, Friends & Organizations interested in 2/3 AHS Centaur

To help the healing process which for many still continues.

To ensure that the memory never fades, and the facts are not forgotten by succeeding generations.

To turn a tragedy into a triumph, and to foster a peaceful and forward-looking attitude.

The Myth of Immunity

This book by Christopher Milligan and John Foley is still the definitive book on 2/3 AHS Centaur. Painstakingly researched, it reads well and answers most of the questions.

Available to members of the Association for \$35 posted anywhere in Australia from:

Nairana Publications,
6A Doncaster St
Hendra Qld. 4011.

Quote this Newsletter.

**PROPOSED FURTHER PHOTOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION OF CENTAUR CALLED OFF**

In February we were advised by the Queensland Government Department of Environment and Heritage that the American company Vulcan Inc. with David Mearns directing had sought approval to conduct underwater exploration in Queensland waters, to begin almost immediately. Vulcan Inc. is owned by Paul Allen, the co-founder of Microsoft with Bill Gates, and was carrying out independent exploration nearby. While in the vicinity David had an opportunity to do further exploratory photography of Centaur. The proposed activities were to be entirely funded by Paul Allan

When David located and photographed Centaur in December/January 2009/2010 he was funded by the Federal and Queensland Governments and worked to tight budget and time constraints. Consequently there were some aspects of Centaur and the debris field that he could not explore and record photographically as thoroughly as he would have liked to have done, and this voyage would have given him an opportunity to do so as a side project.

Your committee was consulted, as was the Department of Veterans Affairs, to seek permission to enter the Centaur protective exclusion zone to carry out this photographic recording. Following further research and after speaking with David Mearns by phone, we gave our approval, as did the other stakeholders.

Unfortunately, both the currents and the weather precluded this activity and the opportunity has passed.

This information is recorded here because when we attempted to let members know of the decision to approve the event, we had an electronic meltdown. Our server let some messages through, spat some back, and the rest seemed to drift off into cyberspace.

**Disclaimer:-**

The views expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy of 2/3 AHS Centaur Association Inc. All care is taken to check details reproduced in these pages but no responsibility is taken for inaccuracies. Please let the editor know if incorrect details have been published so they can be rectified as soon as possible. All contributions are welcome. Copyright remains with the authors, and anything quoted from this Newsletter should include names of both the author (when given) and the newsletter.

Let us remember Centaur - a vessel of mercy on the turbulent waters of a world at war