

2/3 A.H.S. CENTAUR ASSOCIATION, INC.

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NEWSLETTER MAY 2016

MEMORIAL SERVICE TIMES

Brisbane, Qld. **Saturday 14 May 2016 at 11am.**

At St Andrew's Anglican Church Lutwyche. In attendance will be the choir of Brisbane Girls Grammar, the pipes of Brisbane Boys' College and the cadets from TS Centaur, ACN. Refreshments will be served following the Service. RSVP by 7 May to Secretary Ms Sue De Vries, PO Box 1233, Indooroopilly Qld 4068 or email: admin@centaurnursesfund.org.au

Caloundra, Qld. **Saturday 14 May 2016 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. Morning tea after the Service at Caloundra RSL. Enquiries: Mrs Erica Costigan OAM, PR Centaur Commemoration Committee at bryan.costigan@bigpond.com or telephone (07) 5492 1892

Dapto, NSW. **Saturday 14 May 2016 at 6pm.**

At the War Memorial in the small park adjacent to Dapto Railway Station. All welcome. Refreshments following the Service at Dapto RSL opposite the park. For further information or directions contact Jack Gray, 02 4283 4652, or email rwjgray@reachnet.com.au

Point Danger, Qld. **Friday 13 May 2016 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 8 May 2016 to Centaur Primary School (07) 5524 9655.

Concord, Sydney, NSW. **Thursday 12 May 2016 at 10.30am.**

In the 113 AGH Memorial Chapel, Concord Hospital, Hospital Rd, Concord. Refreshments available after the Service. RSVP 5 May 2016 to Melva Lindley at melva.lindley@sswahs.nsw.gov.au or telephone (02) 9767 5256

Melbourne, Vic. **Sunday 15 May 2016 at 9.00am.**

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.

Canberra, ACT. **Saturday 14 May 2016 at 4.55pm.**

The Centaur Last Post Ceremony at the AWM. Assemble in the Orientation Gallery with Association member, Ted Leask, by 4.30pm. Ted will have poppies for those who wish to place a poppy on the Roll of Honour prior to the commencement of the ceremony. People laying wreaths or floral tributes are asked to meet with AWM staff also in the Orientation Gallery.

RSVP Jan Thomas (02) 6564 8400 or jthomas44@bigpond.com by 7 May 2016. Please advise if you wish to lay a wreath or floral tribute during the ceremony, and/or place a poppy on the Roll of Honour.

The Centaur casualty to be commemorated will be Pte F. J. Lynagh, 2/12th Field Ambulance.

Macksville, NSW. **Saturday 14 May 11am.**

At the War Memorial on the riverbank. Association members and supporters living on the mid north coast or visiting are invited to attend. Refreshments after the Service at Macksville Ex-Services Club. Enq: Jan Thomas, jthomas44@bigpond.com or telephone 02 6564 8400.

Let us know if you are attending Services and we will ask Association members to look out for you. 02 6564 8400 or jthomas44@bigpond.com Please make yourself and your Centaur connection known to organizers or our wreath-layer.

2/1 AHS Manunda in Darwin, 1942



During the bombing of Darwin on 19 February 1942, AHS Manunda, holed up in Darwin Harbour with the American fleet, took a direct hit which killed 12 including a nurse, and wounded 47 others. Though the ship herself was critically wounded and was still under bombardment, her crew set about rescuing survivors, and her medical staff treated the injured. With the battle over, she limped back to Fremantle for repairs.

Twelve months later, her new commanding officer, Col. J. B. McElhone conducted a commemoration on board. We reprint his Address for its poignancy and universal appeal. It was given at a time when Japanese submarine activity along the eastern seaboard was at its most intense (late 1942-early 1943), and just three months before the sinking of the Centaur.

Centaur Association member **Keith Pryor** would have attended this ceremony as he replaced the purser killed in Darwin.

“Commanding Officer’s Address
Dawn Ceremony
Anniversary of Darwin, 19-2-42

Comrades... Today we commemorate the baptism by blood of our Australian Homeland. It is a day of sorrow, of thanksgiving and of hope.

Of sorrow... that so many of our comrades were called upon to make the supreme sacrifice... To them we do reverent honour.

Of thanksgiving... That many members of the ship’s staff were prepared to carry on their work of mercy in the care of the sick and wounded of Australia, our Allies, and our enemies.

Of hope... In the earnest desire that future supreme sacrifice should soon cease, and that war with its horror should be banished from the earth.

We stand today on the very spot where one year ago disaster came to this ship. It is dark, but we know that dawn is about to break. We pray that this is symbolic of the world position today...that we shall so emerge from the darkness into the light.

We remember our glorious dead... May their sacrifice not be in vain.”

There follows the names of those who ‘died in the execution of their duty, Darwin, February 19th 1942’, and is signed Col. J. B. McElhone, OC Troops 2/1 Hospital Ship “Manunda”, It is dated 19-2-43.

Sydney ANZAC Day March 2016

ANZAC Day 2016 will be a sad day for our Sydney Marchers. For the first time since the end of WWII there will be no WWII Hospital Ships in the March.

The Oranje and Centaur veterans, many of whom served on both ships, marched proudly under the Oranje-Centaur banner since 1946. They were accompanied until about ten years ago by the veterans of 2/1 AHS Manunda. We don’t know if 2/2 AHS Wanganella ever marched in Sydney, but it had a good representation in Melbourne, also until about ten years ago.

Our two (known) remaining hospital ship veterans, **Mrs Joan Fisher OAM** (NMHS Oranje) and **Mr Keith Pryor**, (2/1 AHS Manunda), both hale and hearty in their nineties are still quite capable of tackling another March - and probably, when the time comes, wishing they were - but they felt that with changes to the route of the March because of construction work in George St, maybe it was time to hand in the banner, remember times past, and commemorate closer to home.

For many years from the end of the war, the Oranje-Centaur Group veterans met after the March at **Sydney Hospital** for fellowship and refreshments. It was following such a reunion in 1985 that **Sister Nell Savage**, the only nurse survivor of the Centaur, died while waiting for transport home.

The veterans were always immensely grateful to the members of the **Sydney Hospital Ladies’ Auxiliary** for arranging the reunion till changes in the hospital administration meant the facilities were no longer available.

We would also like to thank **Commander Ken Swain, AM RAN RTD**, Chief Navy Marshal, ANZAC Day, Sydney, for his assistance over the years, especially for his sensitivity to our veterans’ wishes, and in helping them navigate the changes in RSL policy.

For many years our veterans have been assisted by serving **Navy Medics** as banner-bearers and lanyard holders. Our thanks to the medics and to **CPOMED Paul Bodensteiner RAN** for facilitating this each year. Thanks also to those **Centaur and Manunda descendants** who have supported our diminishing ranks of veterans over recent years.



Our last ANZAC Day March in Sydney, 2015, assisted as usual by serving Navy Medics. Our two veterans, Joan Fisher OAM (R) and Keith Pryor (L) are ready to lead the Hospital Ships unit.

TS Centaur Australian Navy Cadets Best in Flotilla

Submitted by LEUT Linda T Vann, ANC, C/O TS Centaur



TS Centaur, Best Unit in the Sunshine Coast Flotilla 2015

The past 12 months have been a busy and exciting time for TS Centaur. The highlight of the year was being awarded Best Unit in the Sunshine Coast Flotilla 2015. Staff, Cadets, Parents and the Unit Support Committee all played a part in achieving this award. We also recognise the generous support of the Maleny Service Clubs and the Community in general who have assisted in providing this important youth forum and ultimately achieving this award.

TS Centaur participates in a wide variety of activities which in the past year have included ceremonial activities, sailing, tall ship voyages, bush walks and survival training.

Each year Staff and Cadets proudly attend and participate in the AHS Centaur Memorial service on May 14th at Saint Andrews in Lutwyche. Parents of Cadets are also keen to attend this moving service.

TS Centaur supports the Maleny RSL by participating in all their ceremonial occasions including ANZAC Day, Vietnam Veterans Day and Remembrance Day. We also participate in their Annual Reunion Luncheon which is attended by members of the RSL Branches in the Sunshine Coast.



TS Centaur Cadets on Remembrance Day 2015

Cadets and Staff from the five Sunshine Coast Flotilla Units participated in several voyages on the Tall Ship, 'South Passage'. This is an adventure enjoyed by all. Cadets learn how to sail a large vessel, keep watch, set sails and other aspects of seamanship.

One of the highlights of the year was the Basic Survival Course run by Rich Hungerford of Bush Lore Australia in Conondale. This was a fantastic educational experience for the Cadets. They learnt how to build a bush shelter, light a fire, collect water, make damper and were given many other tips on survival. All Cadets enthusiastically participated in the activity.



TS Centaur Cadets on tour of HMAS Toowoomba

Another highlight was a tour of HMAS Toowoomba. Cadets always enjoy visits to Naval Ships, seeing the facilities, talking to the crew and gaining a better understanding of what our Navy does. This was followed by a visit to the Brisbane Maritime Museum where Cadets toured HMAS Diamantina built and operational in the mid 1940s. It was interesting for the Cadets to see the contrast between the two vessels.



Annual Presentation Parade, 2015

On Sunday December 6th family, friends and invited guests joined TS Centaur Cadets and Staff for the Annual Presentation Parade. Supported by TS Onslow Drummers, Cadets performed a march past and salute for the Sunshine Coast Flotilla Commander, LCDR Warren Blee OAM. Cadets were then presented with awards for various areas of achievement, and the Best in Flotilla Shield was officially presented to TS Centaur by LCDR Blee.

TS Centaur ACN - providing opportunities for youth in the name of the Centaur.

Remembering

Pte William Thomas Geaghan, NX46256, 2/12th Field Ambulance

Submitted by his granddaughter, Lee Mowbray

William Thomas Geaghan was born in 1904 in Grahamstown, near Adelong NSW. He was the middle child of William James Geaghan and Ellen Geaghan, nee Ballard.

William's father was an active sportsman and a gold miner, and came from a large Irish family who had settled in the Gundagai area years earlier. When William was just seven years old, his father passed away after a long illness caused by chronic inhalation of quartz dust – an occupational hazard for many on the goldfields in those days. This left Ellen, a grieving widow and sole provider responsible for William, his elder sister Emeline 9, and younger sister Elizabeth, 5. For some time afterwards, the goodwill of family and friends from Adelong and Grahamstown supported the family, until Ellen was on her feet and able to open a small grocery and fruit shop.

In 1919 at the age of 14, William began work as a Telegraph Messenger at the Gundagai Post Office, where he is recorded as earning £72 per year. In 1920 his mother Ellen and his two sisters moved to Sydney while William stayed on in the Gundagai area. He left his work at the Post Office, and began working on the New South Wales Railways training as a Fireman, initially working on the Gundagai line. Regular visits were made to Sydney to his mother and sisters, and it was around this time he met his future wife Eileen Mary Pigram who was also from Gundagai, but was living in Sydney at the time. (I suspect that Eileen may have been lodging with William's mother Ellen – although there's no way of finding this out for certain). The couple married in early 1929.

On their marriage William gave Eileen a Singer treadle sewing machine which she kept all her life.

Working on the railways was not without incident, and William was involved in a serious derailment at Coolamon that must have given his young bride great cause for worry. During an overnight shift at around 3am, William's fully laden goods train struck the catch points on a down grade and was wrecked. With the engine overturned, William and his driver were trapped for a short while under the coal of the upset coal tender. Eight trucks carrying wheat and chaff were piled up behind them and the risk of fire must have been great, yet both men escaped only shaken and a little concussed, but without serious injury.

William was a First Class Fireman when he enlisted in 1940. Hard railway work had been made even harder by frequent relocation according to the dictates of the railway. They moved from Lewisham in Sydney, to Narrandera, to Junee,

and later to Kyogle in only a short number of years in their early married life.

Along the way their three children William James (known as Billie), Chester Francis and Lorraine Margaret were born. Tragically, while living in Narrandera in 1936, William's second son Chester became ill with tonsillitis, which rapidly developed into septicaemia and he passed away aged only three years.

William was amongst a group of railway employees keen to seek exemption from their essential services duties so they could enlist in the armed forces. He enlisted at Kyogle on 10 June 1940.

He spent some time with the 9th Battalion at Rutherford before transferring to the 4th Battalion at Tamworth. Then he was taken on strength with the AAMC in Sydney on 9 October 1940, and transferred to the 2/12th Field Ambulance at its inception on 22 November 1940.

The 2/12th was founded at Sydney Showground with three companies comprising 12 officers and 250 soldiers and had the capacity to provide medical support at brigade-level including battlefield casualty collection and initial wound treatment. Most of its members came from rural NSW. William trained as a Specialist Group III nursing orderly.

Two months later, they were deployed to Cowra in support of the 23 Australian Infantry Brigade. Then they entrained in stages over the four weeks from 12 March 1941, to Katherine in the Northern Territory passing through the outskirts of Melbourne and Adelaide, then on to Terowie where they camped for eight days covered with red dust. At Alice Springs, they were held up for 24 hours as the Fink River was in flood. From Alice Springs they went by road to Darwin, an arduous journey on the unsealed road at the end of wet season.



William's unit, 2/12th FA en-route to Darwin by road

For almost a year they were camped near the Darwin RAAF base at Winnellie, where they commenced training for tropical warfare. Besides providing clinical medical support to 23rd Brigade, the soldiers of the unit undertook much of the physical construction of the fixed hospital medical facilities in the bush at both Katherine and Winnellie, building five small hospitals. The rural origins of most of its members and their background of bush carpentry, improvisation and resourcefulness then came to the fore. It was recorded that the medics took their places with hammers and nails, bailing wire, saws and “concrete mixers” (largely shovels), assisting sappers of the Royal Australian Engineers and infantry soldiers of pioneer assault units — to the extent that the 2/12th Field Ambulance was referred to humorously as the “2/12th Pioneers”.

They were camped at Winnellie during the numerous Japanese bombing attacks on Darwin. Alan Dickson says in his memoirs: “When the Japs flew over our camp just above the trees we could have had a pot shot at them, but we weren’t allowed to. They used to wave to us.”

William’s military records show that he had been on leave but returned on the first day of the bombing. Since Darwin was so isolated in those days no one knows where or how he spent his leave.

The unit remained in Darwin for the rest of 1942 and began the long journey back to NSW in January 1943. They were trucked via Mt Isa to Townsville and thence by train to Sydney where they camped at St Ives Showground. They were given about five days leave, then moved to Corrimal.

They spent about three months at Corrimal, hence the strong connection to the Illawarra where an annual Centaur Commemoration Service is now held at Dapto.



“The North Coast boys”, a photo sent by William to his family.

While William was in Darwin, Eileen took Billie and Lorraine to Gundagai where Eileen’s own family still lived. Later, in April 1943, they moved to Corrimal to be near William.

William’s unit was now deemed ready for tropical conditions and moved back to Sydney. On 11 May 1943, led by their Commanding Officer, Lt-Col. Leslie McDonald Outridge, the 2/12th Field Ambulance marched onto the wharf at No. 1 Darling Harbour to embark on the Centaur.



William in the Northern Territory

The 2/12th Field Ambulance was a particularly unfortunate unit. Following the beginning of the Pacific War, 50 members were each attached to Gull Force and Sparrow Force and sent to defend the islands of Ambon and Timor respectively. All of the members of the 2/12th serving with Gull Force were captured or killed by the Japanese on 1 February 1942, with many dying as prisoners of war on Ambon or Hainan. Those serving with Sparrow Force were also captured.

Of the 193 2/12th FA personnel who went on Centaur only 20 survived. William was not one of them.

Billie was twelve when his father died, and my mother, Lorraine, six. She was only three when William enlisted, and has very little, if any, recollections of him. Bill died almost forty years ago.

Our grandmother, Eileen, remarried in 1950 another former 2/12th Field Ambulanceman - Harvey Cowling from Grafton who wasn't posted to the Centaur but became a POW on Ambon. She rarely spoke of William. I think the tragedy was still too raw for her, although she did always tell me that he had perished on the Centaur. Unfortunately I was too young to understand the significance of it then. But it explains why there are no family stories and so few family photos.



This studio portrait of William remained on Eileen’s bedside table till she died in 1992.

Remembering

Pte. Raymond Henry George Westendorf, NX37768

2/12 Field Ambulance

Submitted by his nieces Lorelle Halbisch & Shirley Stanfield

Raymond was born on 5th March 1920 at Wagga Wagga to Agnes (nee Ayscough) and Otto Adolph Westendorf. He was the 6th child of seven children. There were two sons and five daughters. He went to school at Mangain. He had a keen interest in music, cycling some 20 km each way every week for his lessons. He lived and worked on his father's farm at Mangain until he enlisted in the 2nd Australian Imperial Force at Paddington on 2nd July 1941. Raymond wrote this poem while he was stationed near Darwin.



To My Pals Who Wouldn't Come

I've just come off duty, and another long day is through.
There are no shows where I can go so I'll drop a line to you.
Just on six months ago, when the war was in full swing
I got a notion in my head I'd like to have a fling.
Now as the days passed slowly by and nothing else was left
But to throw my pretty clothes away and join the A.I.F.

I may have made a blunder, who knows and who can tell?
All my thoughts were "lend a hand" to blow the foe to hell,
I signed along the dotted line, my spirits high no wonder,
I thought I'd kind of be my boss, but I had made a blunder

They called me up into a camp, to me this life was new:
But it wasn't long before I learnt just rightly who was who,
I had my mind all made up on what I'd like to be.
But that won't work in the army, friend, no sir, believe me.

After many days of waiting, I joined the A.M.C.
Being young and reckless from the start this was just the thing for
me,
I thought I'd be a stretcher bearer, so gallant, and so brave,
To fix 'em up and bring 'em in and save 'em from the grave.

I knew I wouldn't get a gun, that cut no ice with me –
To help the sick and wounded would suit me perfectly.
For many months I waited and longed to get away
Over with the other boys where bayonets flash and slay.

At last one day, the news came in: they had us booked to go,
Yes, my friend, the time had come when we must stage our show
The whole affair went off O.K. and I was in my glory.
It may seem strange and bunkum too, but this is one true story.

We steamed away one afternoon, no thought of fear or dangers,
Far across the sandy desert among a mob of strangers,
Were we sorry, were we sad? To leave our home and Mothers?
Oh yes, my friend, it wasn't nice, but so have many others.

I know a lot of people think that we are young and brainless,
But don't forget the olden days when our fathers finished
famous.

They did their share of fighting, and made it worth their while,
So now it's up to us, my friend, to cramp somebody's style.

And now I've told you why I joined I must complete the story,
I'll let you know just how I stand in this world of hope and glory.
You may not think that this is true, but take a tip from me,
If you ever have the guts to join don't think you're on a spree.

Have you peeled a bag of spuds, or scrubbed the cook-house
floor?

Well if you have, you'll know just what they have me round here
for.

I know I'm just a slushy – there's nothing else to do,
But when the rough stuff starts, my friend, the slushy jobs are
few.

Now when the foe gets heated up and bullets start to whine,
That's just what we're waiting for, and the slushy boys will shine.
When there's no need for three course meals, and luxuries fade
away,
The slushy boy will get his wish in a stretcher squad to stay.

So now my friend the hour is late,
And the call of bunk is far too great;
And remember, friend, should e'er we meet,
And stroll again on the old home street,
There's a lad who was willing and ready to show
That he wasn't afraid to have a go.

Westy – Darwin

*The bombing of
Darwin Harbour
February 1942*



How I came to miss the Centaur

Don Taylor, ex-2/12th Field Ambulance

My unit was 2/12th Field Ambulance, made up of A Company B Company and HQ, roughly 70/80 in each Company, plus HQ.

The unit was formed on Sydney Showground sometime in September or October 1940 and was sent to a camp at Cowra NSW. After being in Cowra for several months we were sent to Darwin. This is where my story starts as to why I was not on the Centaur when it was torpedoed.

We had been in Darwin for 4 or 6 months and everyone was fed up with route marches and bivouacs, so to break the monotony they began sending groups of, say, 100 men back down south on a couple of weeks leave. When the first group was ready to go the Commanding Officer asked me if I wanted to go with them, as my wife was expecting our first child. I declined his offer saying if I could go with the second group by that time the baby would be born and I would see them both. The C.O. said "Fair enough".

Hardly had they been gone a week when we were told that 50 men out of A Coy and 50 out of B Coy were to get ready to go overseas, and I was picked to go with the 50 from A Coy. The officers commanding each 50 tossed a coin and our 50 ended up in Timor, the other 50 went to Ambon. My luck was holding as we lost only 4 men, and those on Ambon lost 39. The spin of a coin! Saved me, maybe?

My second run of luck came about this way: With the two advance parties (that's us) taken out, the 2/12th Field Ambulance Unit was left 100 men short, so 100 men were sent up from down south to bring the Unit "up to strength". That was after the 100 on leave came back. The Unit was then sent back down south and put on board the Centaur to go overseas. Had I gone with the 100 sent on leave I would have been on the Centaur.

Neither advance party knew about the Centaur until we came home after the war, as both parties ended up POWs, and we did not receive any news for 3 ½ years. During that time my group of 50 were moved to Java where most of us including myself were picked to go up to work on the Burma/Thailand Railway, but that's another story...



Hellfire Pass on the Burma-Thai Railway, so named because the lamps used for lighting the night gave the cutting a hellish appearance.

Centaur Primary School 2016 Swimming Carnival

Centaur Primary School's Sports Houses are named for three Tweed identities who lost their lives on the Centaur, and Sister Ellen Savage, survivor. Their colours are hospital ship colours of white, green and red, with blue for the sea.

Each banner bears the name and image of its patron.



*Red: Cpl Leslie 'Joe' Moss
SMS, Kingscliff*



*White: Pte Basil Colefax,
2/12th FA Tweed River*



*Green: Pte William 'Bill' Lawson
2/12th FA Murwillumbah*



Blue: Sr Ellen Savage SMS

And the winning house was...LAWSON!



11 year old Centaur Primary School student, Rachel Presser, opened the school's annual twilight swimming carnival with a graceful synchronised swimming performance. Rachel took up the sport three years ago and recently won second place in the synchronised junior championship against the Westside Neptunes at the Chandler Olympic Pools.

Centaur Primary School - providing opportunities for youth in the name of the Centaur.

ANZAC Day 2016 March in Macksville NSW



Following the withdrawal of the hospital ships veterans from the Sydney March, the Oranje-Centaur banner will be offered to the AWM, and the Hospital Ships placard, naming all four WWII hospital ships will lead Association members, family and friends in the **Macksville March**. Association members and supporters living on the mid-north coast or visiting are invited to form up behind the placard in Winifred Street at 11am for the march to the new War Memorial in River Street where the commemorative Service will be held, followed by lunch at the ex-Services Club. RSVP for catering purposes to Jan Thomas 6564 8400 or jthomas44@bigpond.com, otherwise just turn up.

Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses, Brisbane

Providing opportunities for nursing education in the name of the Centaur.

The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses is an organisation dedicated to preserving a living memorial honouring the nurses who served in the Armed Forces of Australia at home and abroad. It was created as a tribute to the nurses who died while serving on the Australian Hospital Ship Centaur.

Of the 332 personnel on board, 268 lost their lives, including six doctors and eleven of the twelve nurses. There were only 64 survivors, one of whom was Sister Ellen Savage who was awarded the George Medal for bravery during the 36 hours that survivors drifted at sea until rescued by USS Mugford.

During 1948, the Brisbane Telegraph newspaper launched a public appeal to found The Centaur Memorial Fund that would stand as a perpetual reminder of the AHS CENTAUR and honour all nurses who served in wartime. The funds generated from the Telegraph newspaper's successful appeal were sufficient to purchase Centaur House at 337 Queen Street (where Central Plaza One stands today). This served for many years as a meeting centre and hostel for visiting and local nurses.

The dedication of the management committees over the years and their wise investments have enabled The Centaur Memorial Fund to maintain its mission for advancing professional nursing in Queensland.

Today it promotes nursing scholarship through academic awards and research grants specifically for Queensland nurses from all regions.

On the anniversary of the sinking of the Centaur each year, the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses conducts the Centaur commemorative Service at St Andrews Anglican Church, Lutwyche.



Centaur House, Queen Street, Brisbane in its glory days.

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.

Disclaimer:-

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Last Post



Robine Wilson whose late husband was a shipmate of Maurice Cairnie, ship's crew. 13 April 2015

Notice of 2016 AGM

Our AGM will be held at 2 Laughton Court, Altona Meadows, Melbourne, on 1 August 2016 commencing at 7pm.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting will be read and confirmed. The financial report for the year to 30 June 2016 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, 2016.

Any suggestions from members for the Association's goals for 2017 are also required to be received before 1 July 2016.

In order to ensure the future of the Association, we would be pleased to hear from younger members who may like to become familiar with management by taking an assistant role, or undertaking some special activity that suits their expertise. We understand that the next generation is in the busy time of life, not able to take on heavy commitments but we would urge you to consider a subsidiary role preparatory to taking over when the time comes.

*Caroline van Oosterom, granddaughter of L/Cpl Michael O'Brien 2/12th FA, has been our webmaster for many years, and now **Eddie Carthew**, nephew of Pte John Hoare 2/12th FA, has become our Public Officer. These are not committee positions but are vital in conducting the affairs of the Association in 21st century.*

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