

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

Executive Committee:

President: Mr Richard Jones
Secretary: Mrs Jan Thomas OAM
Treasurer: Mr Anthony P Bracken

www.centaur.org.au



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NEWSLETTER MAY 2012

2012 MAY MEMORIAL SERVICE TIMES

Please note change of date at some locations

Brisbane, Qld

Monday 14 May 2012 at 11am, St Andrew's Anglican Church, 673 Lutwyche Rd Lutwyche 4030. Guest Speaker: Professor Linda Shields, MD PhD FRNCA, Centaur Fellow. Brisbane Girls Grammar, Brisbane Boys' College and cadets of TS Centaur in attendance. Refreshments in the Church Hall. R.S.V.P. to Miss Pixie Annat, P.O. Box 68, Kelvin Grove 4059, or email PAnnat@stlukesnursing.org.au.

Caloundra, Qld

Monday 14 May 2012 at 11am at the Memorial in Centaur Park. Children from local schools will lay an individual flower on each plaque on the Walkway on behalf of relatives. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath please see the Secretary Dick Alchin or Erica Costigan before the Service begins. Refreshments at RSL.

Concord, Sydney, NSW

Friday 11 May 2012 at 10.30am. 113 AGH Memorial Chapel, Concord Hospital. RSVP 4 May to Melissa Puglisi at Melissa.Puglisi@sswahs.nsw.gov.au or telephone 02 9767 5356

Point Danger, Qld

Monday 14 May 2012 at 11am at the Memorial (weather permitting otherwise in the Assembly Hall, Centaur Primary School, Eucalyptus Drive, Banora Point). Service conducted by the students, and followed by refreshments. RSVP to the school, 07 5524 9655

Melbourne, Vic.

Sunday 20 May 2012 at 9am in the ANZAC Memorial Chapel, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, entry via Gate 9. Enquiries Robert Winther (03) 9496 2324. Refreshments will be served at the Darebin RSL Sub-Branch at 402 Bell Street, Preston.

Canberra, ACT

Monday 14 May 2012, at 2pm. Assemble in the forecourt of the Hall of Remembrance for a ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, followed by placing of poppies on names on the Honour Roll, and refreshments at own expense at the Terrace Café. RSVP Peta Thompson (02) 6232 9915 or petamc@live.com.au

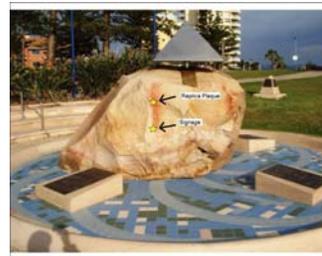
Let us know if and where you are attending Services and we will ask Association members to look out for you. 02 6564 8400 or jthomas4@activ8.net.au Please make yourself and your Centaur connection known to organizers or our wreath-layer.

Unveiling of the Centaur Plaque Replica at Point Danger

A replica of the Centaur Plaque, laid on the deck of the Centaur, was 'unveiled' by Councillor Robbins during the Service in May 2011. The Gold Coast City Council had the replica installed on the Memorial, but it could not be veiled so the 'unveiling' was symbolic. The intense blue on the explanatory signage is reflection from the sky!



The central disk on the replica represents the CD embedded into the Plaque giving the names of all on board that night, plus letters photos and mementoes from relatives.



Left. Position of the plaque and signage before installation.

The signage explains the significance of the Plaque as the headstone on the grave, and gives the date of discovery of the Centaur, the location and depth, and that it was donated by the Centaur Association on behalf of members.

After the November Newsletter went to print we discovered that Geordie Wilson from Year 6 who played the Last Post at Point Danger in May 2011 is the great nephew of Sandra Colefax, niece by marriage of Pte Basil Colefax 2/12th FA. Pte Colefax's name is commemorated in Colefax House at Centaur Primary School.



**Garnet Salmon,
brother of Pte Len Salmon 2/12th FA**

from Mary Kovacevic, Director, Drive-to-Survive Academy

I read the story of Pte Leonard (Len) John Henry Salmon by Robert Horn on your website.

I would like to add that Garnet Salmon, also known as Curly, born 30/04/1919 and brother of Pte Len Salmon, Florence, Dorothy and Joyce, passed away on the 4 November 2011 aged 92.

To a beautiful man and mate, may he rest in peace and now unite with his siblings and sister Florence whose photo he kept beside him at the Loreto Gardens Nursing home in Warnervale NSW.

He sold his home in Maitland in July 2011 to join his wife Kathleen known as 'Billie' aged 94, who is still a resident of Loreto Gardens.

He was always willing to help others before himself right to the end. I have been privileged to have known him and will keep his memories and stories forever. What a remarkable family. Keep on Trucking, Curly. May God bless Garnet Salmon. **R.I.P.**

Congratulations to Professor Sandra Legg, on receiving an AM in the Australia Day Awards. Sandra received her award for services to nursing as a clinician, educator and through executive roles, to the development of health care management systems, nationally and internationally, and to the community. *(as cited in the Sydney Morning Herald)*

Sandra is a member of the Royal College of Nursing, Australia (RCNA) and is President of the Nurses Memorial Centre, Melbourne, both organizations being honorary members of this Association.

With Christine Smith, the Administrator of the Nurses Memorial Centre, Sandra represented the Centre at the National Memorial Service at St John's Cathedral Brisbane in March 2010 to pay homage specifically to the eleven nurses who lost their lives on the Centaur.

The RCNA offers the Centaur Scholarship each year to a registered nurse who is undertaking post graduate studies.



Col Cross, brother of Cpl Harry Cross, 2/12th FA, with Jan Thomas, daughter of Capt Bernie Hindmarsh, SMS, on HMAS Manoora for the at-sea Service 24 September 2010.

Photo submitted by Col

LETTERS

Thanks for your note. Monty (*Dorothy's husband*) has been placed in care at Fingal Bay. Life's very busy going backwards and forwards. No time for the Museum (*Monarch Military Museum, Williamtown in the Hunter*)

Laurie Hindmarsh would know Monty from the early days at North Head especially as they would both be founding members of the RAAHS back in the 70s.

The Oranje members would remember the medical C.O. Archie Aspinall. His son Douglas is in the War Veterans at Yass.

Excuse writing, after cataract am waiting on new glasses.

Keep up the good work.

from Dorothy Wedd, niece of Matron Jewell, SMS

As regards the seating I sat where Pixie took me. I caught a glimpse of the Foleys and spoke to John but did not see them again. My elder son Colin and his wife Elaine always attend the Service and if possible grandchildren attend. Colin always comes with me to place the roses on the altar. I could not manage without him, I am on either a 'walker' or a crutch now as my hip replacement is not as good as it was. The other son Rob, whom I fancy you met at the Canberra Service last year had only returned from overseas the day after so was not available to go this year. I feel there is still a lot of interest in the Centaur.

*from Bobbie Pettiford,
widow of Queensland's last survivor.
Pte Allan Pettiford, 2/12th FA*

(We were concerned for Bobbie's welfare when her allocated seat at the Brisbane Service last year remained vacant. Ed.)

I read with interest your Newsletter. Please pass on my congratulations and best wishes to your committee for their work and interest on behalf of us old-timers. I see my old shipmate Martin Pash is travelling well. He is as sprightly as ever. I was deck boy and o/s with him.

from Con Gall, ex-2/2 AHS Wanganello

Congratulations, Mrs Joan Fisher, OAM

Story as promised in our November 2011 edition

Joan is one of our two NMHS Oranje veterans who lost 18 of their colleagues on Centaur. She is a living connection, a nurturer and mentor for those of us whose relatives were among those 18.

Joan spent four and a half years as a VA nursing in World War 2. She was taken on strength at 113 AGH Concord. From there she went to 114 AGH Goulburn, and thence to NMHS Oranje, the Dutch luxury ocean liner, the Queen Mary 2 of her day, which had been placed at the disposal of the Australian Military and converted to a hospital ship at the expense of the Dutch Colonial Government. Oranje was not accepted by the Axis Powers as they regarded her as the property of an occupied country, and if captured she would have been considered as spoils of war. Joan made several voyages across the Indian Ocean to Africa and the Middle East to bring back wounded Australian and New Zealand servicemen. She said they knew they were in danger when they felt the ship zig zag.

Following the handing back of the Oranje, Joan served on the Atherton Tablelands and later in Borneo.

Two years ago, Joan published her book "Come With Me" on her wartime experiences. It was launched by the Governor of NSW Wales.

For a number of years Joan was a regular speaker to Year 10 students about her experiences in World War 2. It was arranged by the Sutherland RSL, and all the local high schools were involved. They had representatives from the Army, Navy and Air Force and Joan spoke for the women who served.

Being the only lady member of the Teachers' RSL Sub Branch Joan also judged essays for 'Australia Remembers', a competition held in schools to remind school children of the debt we owe our armed forces for protecting Australia in wartime.

Living near Cabramatta, a Sydney suburb with a high multicultural population, Joan and her husband helped new Australians learn the language, often having groups at their home until they began an English class at the rear of their local church.

Joan has been a member of NSW Spinners and Weavers for 35 years and encouraged the craft in many ways including taking a group to Nepal to study their weaving, and serving a term as president. She travelled a good deal teaching the art of felting, and published a book about that craft in 1997.

Joan still speaks to small groups about her war experiences, and is amazed how interested people are to hear of those war years. Joan sees this activity as her part in keeping alive the memory of those who gave their lives for our freedom.

Some years ago Joan made a fine wall hanging of the sinking of the Centaur. In the blue sea are eighteen seed pearls, each one representing a life lost from amongst Joan's former Oranje colleagues and shipmates. Each pearl was sewn on with many tears.

Lest We Forget.



Mrs Joan Fisher OAM

Last Post

Elvey May Wicks,
17 December 2010 sister of
Fred Chidgey, SMS (survivor,
dec'd).



Bob Brown, husband of Rosemary,
daughter of Darwin Clark, Red Cross
Representative. SMS.

Elsa Gosson, 20 December 2011, sister
of Eric Taylor SMS (survivor, dec'd) and
sister-in-law of Vince McCosker, SMS
(survivor, dec'd).

Garnet Salmon, also known as Curly,
brother of Pte Len Salmon 2/12th FA,
4 November 2011, aged 92.

Sir Keith Jones, brother of Major
Gordon Jones 2/12th FA, 2 March 2012,
aged 100.

Avro Anson Propellor

Barry McCosker reports that his extensive research has not turned up any definitive evidence that the propeller in Ipswich has any direct connection to the Avro Anson of which our member **John Keith** was navigator, and which alerted the USS Mugford to the position of the survivors of the Centaur.

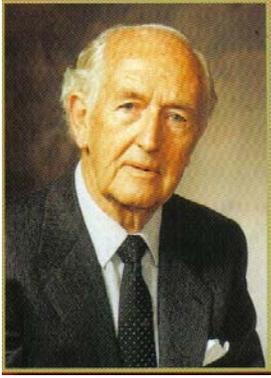
Barry believes that his father and some other survivors turned a similar propeller into a memorial to the Centaur.

SIR KEITH STEPHEN JONES

1911- 2012

By Jan Thomas,

Ref: Stephen and Richard Jones



Sir Keith Jones could well have been another Centaur casualty had he accepted the Army's offer of a berth in order to spend some time with his younger brother. Both were medical graduates who had enlisted for war service and were travelling to North Queensland for tropical training before

deployment to New Guinea. Gordon went with his unit, the 2/12th Field Ambulance, on Centaur, but Keith felt it unwise for two brothers to travel together in wartime - and he was prone to seasickness. He chose instead to rattle north on a long and uncomfortable train journey to the Atherton Tableland. He was still on the train when he heard the news of the loss of his brother, Major Gordon Jones.

Keith Stephen Jones was born on 7th July 1911 at Narrandera where his father was an engineer engaged in constructing the first irrigation channels in the Riverina.

The family moved to Newcastle where Gordon and Cecily were born, then to Manly where Keith attended the Manly Village Public School. After a short time they went to Croydon, where Keith's second sister Elizabeth was born.

Keith won a scholarship to his father's old school, Newington College, in 1924. He was a highly successful scholar and athlete. He was appointed a prefect, took out the prize for dux, won the Muir Prize for Mathematics, the McKern Prize for Chemistry and a Wigram Allen Scholarship. In athletics he won the school 880 yards and mile championships, along with equal first in the hurdles.

He had to miss the GPS Athletics in his last year as he was in the Coast Hospital with Scarlet Fever. The Leaving Certificate was getting close; Keith couldn't take his books with him as they would have to be burnt, so he had one weekend to study after leaving hospital before he commenced the Leaving Certificate. He still managed at the age of 16 to win an Exhibition to Sydney University to study Medicine.

At university Keith entered Wesley College, where he shared a room for a period with Earl Page Jnr, son of Sir Earl Page, one time Prime Minister. Keith enjoyed his life at Wesley, but when the Depression set in, work on the Hume Reservoir was cut considerably and his father was brought back to Sydney. He could no longer afford to keep Keith at Wesley so Keith went back to family life in a home they bought in Strathfield. He passed all years in medicine with Honours.

At the 1932 Australian Athletics Championships Keith was a member of the University team that set Australian records in the 4x440 and 8x880 yards relays. He also won the Intercollegiate 880 yards championship in State junior record time. He won his Blue for athletics in 1929. Keith would have been a candidate for the 1934 Empire Games and even the 1936 Olympics but the medical profession was too demanding and he retired from running.

He finished his medical studies in 1933 and did his internship at the Royal Prince Alfred and Western Suburbs Hospitals and after a series of locums went into practice at Pambula on the far south coast of NSW in 1936. That year he married Kathleen Mary Abbott, whose father was also a Newington Old Boy.

Keith had met Kath in 1930 at a dance at the Croydon Masonic Hall. Two years later he finally proposed at a dance at the old Newington Boat Shed.

The practice they bought at Pambula included a large historic house. There was a little dispensary attached to the house where Keith did his own dispensing as Pambula did not have a pharmacy.

These were the days when the doctor was on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week, often called out in the middle of a winter's night to travel to the some remote farm in an unheated car. Once he was called to Eden wharf to treat an injured sailor brought in from a ship off the coast. On another occasion when a travelling circus was in town, he answered the door one night to be confronted by an injured chimpanzee. The nearest vet was in Bega so the circus attendant brought him to the doctor. Keith retreated up the hall, the chimpanzee scrambled up the verandah post, but both recovered from their shock, and the wound was treated.

Their first two sons, Stephen and Richard, were born while they were living in Pambula, and shortly after Richard's birth, Keith joined the A.A.M.C. and departed for active service both at home and abroad. Dr Lucie Patterson an old school friend of Kath's moved in as a locum for the duration. Keith sailed for New Guinea on HMAS Manoora. True to form, he was dreadfully seasick on the landing barge.

Basic Army training at Greta.

*Front row:
Captain Keith Jones 2nd R,
Captain Hindmarsh 3rd L.*



On his occasional homecomings on leave, the family would meet him at “Bega Airport” which was a paddock on a property called Frogs Hollow. He would arrive on a Butler DeHaviland dragon, a seven-seater wood and fabric aircraft. In NG, Keith held the position of Deputy Assistant Director of Medical Services in the battle for Lae.

In 1944 Kath suffered a serious burning accident at Pambula and Keith was ordered to return to Australia. He had a hazardous trip home (the first leg in a DC3 that had lost its brakes, the second leg in a Martin Mariner that lost one of its engines). Kath survived but was to bear the scars for life. Keith was demobilized to care for her and their two sons.

Their third son Robert was born in 1945, and soon after the family moved to Manly in Sydney to allow Keith to join a general practice there. He became an honorary surgeon at Manly Hospital, and chief medical officer for the Civil Defence Organisation. He was a member of the St Matthew’s congregation for over 35 years.

Late in 1948 Keith travelled as ship’s doctor on a freighter to Edinburgh to become a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons. Kath was by then well enough to look after the three boys alone. Keith came back in August 1949 as Assistant Surgeon on an immigrant ship carrying about 1200 ‘Ten Pound Poms’.

In 1955 Keith took rooms in Macquarie St as a General Surgeon. He tutored in surgery at Sydney University and in 1957 he became a Fellow of the Australasian College of Surgeons. Many appointments were to follow, to such bodies as the NSW Medical Board, State Emergency Services, the Postgraduate Medical Committee of the University of Sydney and the Australian Council of Professions. Keith became involved in the politics and administration of medicine, helping found the Medical Benefits Fund and forming the Australian Medical Association (AMA) in 1962. He became President of the NSW branch of the AMA, and in 1973 was elected Federal President. One of his ex-students, Dr Michael Allam, later remarked that ‘Keith Jones led the AMA wisely and well through a very turbulent time’.

Keith retired from Macquarie St and the AMA in 1976, but was immediately drawn into a project by Manly Hospital to plan, build and administer a new modern medical and emergency centre, which he was to direct for seven years. He was awarded the Gold Medal, which was the highest honour of the AMA.

He was created a Knight Bachelor for his services to medicine in the 1980 New Year’s Honours. At a family dinner he produced a treasured bottle of Verve Cliquot, “To celebrate my Knighthood”, Keith said as he uncorked the bottle. It was flat!!

He served Newington as a Member of the College Council, 1951-1970, President of the ONU 1963-64 (which included Newington’s Centennial Year), and Patron of the ONU Centennial Trust 1963. He wrote in his autobiography that his family connection with Newington College spanned many years, from his father’s school days through his own and his brother’s, to his sons and grandsons. He had known all the headmasters of the College since 1900.

My personal contact with him began in 2001, when he discovered my maiden name on the Order of Service for the dedication of a Simon Poplar tree at the Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne. Richard had been at the dedication and sent the Service details to his father. Unbeknownst to me, Keith had done his basic Army training with my father at Greta in NSW. He wrote to me of his delight in finding a living relative for my father whom he, as a young doctor, had much admired. He called my father a ‘man of much medical wisdom’ and thereafter Keith and I had a very close though geographically distant relationship.

He and Kath had retired in 1983 to the Bayview Gardens Village, and here he spent almost thirty years, virtually half the normal working years, in ‘active’ retirement. As he aged, towards the end of those years, his physical world shrank from the retirement home to hostel care to a room at the War Veterans Home in Narrabeen, yet his mind was sharp and his wit keen until the end.

When I told him I was leaving Sydney for good, I said I hoped to visit him again “before I go to the country”. His immediate response was: “Are you going to call an election?” (!)

With Kath gone (2002) and Gordon’s final resting place found (2009), his sons successful and his grandchildren and great grandchildren thriving, he simply felt it was time to go, and died peacefully on 2 March 2012.

Keith was an early member of the Association and supported it generously over the years. When we began the campaign for a search for the Centaur, despite his great age (97) he immediately began lobbying amongst his many contacts for funds to underwrite the enterprise. As it happened, the State and Federal Governments took over the search and its funding. Keith’s work behind the scenes, unknown to most people, demonstrates his dedication to Centaur and the memory of those who served on her.

*Keith’s younger brother,
Major Gordon Jones,
2/12th Field Ambulance
whom he lost on Centaur.*



CAPTAIN STEPHEN FOLEY A.A.M.C. A.I.F. 2/12TH FIELD AMBULANCE

*Submitted by his niece, Carol Miller
and nephew, Michael Smith.*

Stephen Foley was the eldest of the four sons of Andrew Denis Foley and Eva Foley of 75 Mount Street Coogee Sydney. He also had six sisters. Three of his uncles, his father's brothers, had attended Riverview College on Sydney's Lane Cove River in the early twentieth century.

Stephen was born while his parents were in London only ten weeks after the first ANZACs landed at Gallipoli.

When Stephen entered Riverview on 15 February 1926 in Rudiments Class, he had come from primary school in Ballina on the north coast of NSW and he immediately established himself as an active, energetic and thoroughly agreeable young man. He charmed everyone with what Father Don Roset SJ, writing his obituary in 1943, described as his "ready wit and repartee, cheerful disposition and continual smile". Roset was Stephen's Second Division Prefect in 1930.

Stephen represented the College at the highest levels in sports. He was a 440 yards runner who competed at the AAGPS Athletics Championships in 1933, and he played five-eighths in the 1st XV of 1933 as a fast and elusive runner. His presence in the 1st X1 was a steadying influence in Riverview's Premiership side of 1933. Chasing 181 against Grammar, Riverview was 9 for 179 when Tom Magney joined Stephen at the wicket. Both batsmen showed exemplary maturity to guide Riverview to victory. Stephen also kept wickets in this side and was sage and reliable behind the stumps.

Going up to Sydney University in 1934 to study Medicine seemed a natural course for this urbane young man who was conscientious about his studies.



He played for the Sydney University Cricket Club for four seasons (1934-1938), hovering between 2nd and 3rd Grades but never quite scoring enough runs to establish himself in the higher Grades. His demanding medical studies took priority although he did regularly turn out for the Old Boys' X1 against the College 1st X1 on "Back to Riverview" days.

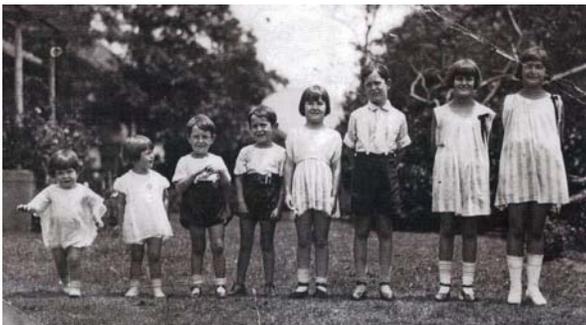
Residency at St Vincent's Hospital followed his graduation in 1940, then he spent a year in Queensland training with the AAMC. During these years he met Kathleen Lyndsay Cameron, who was the daughter of Dr and

Mrs Cameron of Mudgee, and who was with the AIF nursing service. The couple were married in April 1943 at the Sacred Heart Church, Randwick.

On 12th May 2/12th Field Ambulance boarded 2/3 AHS Centaur bound for tropical training in Cairns prior to proceeding to Lae to set up a field hospital. Stephen Foley, aged 27, died with the majority of his unit when the Centaur, clearly marked as a hospital ship, was torpedoed off Morton Island.

The Prime Minister, John Curtin, described the sinking as 'deliberate, wanton and barbarous'. The Japanese Commander of the I-177 submarine, Hajime Nakagawa, never faced trial for the deaths and never spoke about his motivation up to his death in 1986. In the two weeks following the surrender on 15 August 1945, the Japanese Government destroyed many records that could have helped any prosecution of Pacific War atrocities. This tragedy was compounded when so many young medical graduates were lost to Australian life.

Two years after Captain Foley's death, his widow remarried at St Mary's, Mudgee. She married Lieutenant Ronald Stanley Belford who had also been at Riverview (1927-1930), and whose brother Allan Belford was Dux of Riverview in 1929. Lieutenant Allan Belford also lost his life in the Second World War, dying of sickness in Goulburn during January 1945.



*The young Foleys
Above: Stephen is third from the right
Right: Stephen is top of the boys' ladder*

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 NSW at the time of the sinking.

L/CPL MICHAEL O'BRIEN VX 73345 2/12TH FIELD AMBULANCE

Submitted by his daughter, Pat O'Brien



I was nearly four when my father died on the Centaur. It was also his birthday and his wedding anniversary. My mother had a nervous collapse and never recovered. My aunts reared my sister up and I, and for twenty years little was spoken about him.

Aunty Dell, a nurse, told me little bits like he hung around the

hospital in Warrnambool where they all originally came from because he was rather fond of the nurses. He was a snappy dresser, wearing the latest in two-coloured shoes and had a car in which he was fined for driving too fast. He and a mate got a lift from Melbourne to Warrnambool on the Carlton United Brewery dray. It was fully loaded with kegs and pulled by draught horses. I think they had a good time.

He and his brother Jim enlisted in 1941 in non-combat units. Uncle Jim served as a carpenter and joiner and stayed close to headquarters in the Northern Territory and New Guinea. My father Mick enlisted at the Melbourne Town Hall aged 31 years and was placed into the field ambulance unit. Although he had a reserved occupation (butcher) he was released to serve at that relatively late age with the medicos.

Mick trained at Broadmeadows, and then entrained to Camp Hospital, Winnellie near Darwin, where he experienced the first Japanese raids in February 1942. I have photos from that time, where Mick is in a river with only his head showing. A few years ago I asked one of the Centaur survivors about the danger from crocodiles. "We were OK, we had a gun" he said. I don't think they understood how crocodiles approached their victims! In January 1943, Mick and his Unit were moved to NSW. On the way Mick caught up with his brother Jim. It was to be the last time he saw his brother.

Mick's unit was moved to Reidtown NSW to bolster the 2/12th Field Ambulance. The unit was transported on board the AHS Centaur leaving Sydney on that fateful journey, intended to disembark at the Atherton Tablelands Qld to join the 2 Australian Corps.

My only clear memory of my father comes from his pre-embarkation leave around April 1943. My mother, sister and I went with him to Anglesea, a Victorian coastal village. We were in a cabin on the river bank and my memory of him is the laughter and delight they showed toward each other. I was also told that he took me everywhere with him. He was very proud of us and I suspect that this has motivated me in my endeavours

Looking back now I don't know what has been the stronger motivation in me: my aunts who lacked partners after the first world war but nonetheless fully expressed their remarkable talents and skills in work and play; my mother who could not look after us; or my father's influence. However, I have always known that I had to be prepared to be independent. This carried me through three years of boarding school from the age of 7 years.

Grieving partners and children take many years to find a voice and express their sorrow. When the Centaur Association was formed just over 13 years ago it provided a place for the families to find courage in numbers. I am eternally grateful to the Centaur Commemoration Committee for deciding to build a monument in 1993 at Point Danger to commemorate the 50th anniversary. My sister and I attended the ceremonies, the reunion and formal lunch at Twin Towns Club and had the opportunity to meet the survivors and so many families.

I have been blessed with three children, Thomas 43, Sam 41, Caroline, 38. And the greatest thing is that by the 60th anniversary I was able to go on the Commemorative Journey with my three children and together we participated in all Services from Point Danger through Brisbane to Caloundra.

Since that time the support I have received has been a rare gift. Thomas joined the Centaur Association committee and was the President for over four years. During that time he presided over the incorporation of the Association, which had the happy and unplanned effect of putting the Association in a sound position for the later campaign for the search. He was at the helm when the committee began urging the governments to fund the finding of the Centaur. Sam has been making plans to provide the small Melbourne contingent with their own banner during the ANZAC March, as up until now we have always been welcomed by the AHS Wanganella contingent. My daughter Caroline and her husband, Pete, have been working on a website (www.centaur.org.au) which I'm sure will be a wonderful vehicle for more people to participate in the future.



Mick and Pat.

From the Tweed Border Mail by Troy Kippen

New Custodians for Point Danger Memorial

Point Danger Marine Recue volunteers will be keeping one eye to the sea and one eye to the land after becoming custodians of the Centaur Memorial.

The Memorial at Point Danger has the names of the 332 people who were onboard when the Australian Hospital Ship, Centaur, was sunk by a Japanese torpedo during Word War 2 off the coast of Moreton Island. Only 64 people survived the attack.

Marine Rescue Point Danger commander Bernie Gabriel said many volunteers had an interest in maintaining the Centaur Memorial as they were navy veterans themselves.

"We will be keeping an eye on the Memorial and contact the Gold Coast City Council for any maintenance issues", Mr Gabriel said.

The 2/3 Australian Hospital Ship Centaur Association secretary Jan Thomas said the Memorial was very important for all the families of those lost in the sinking.

"It's just a matter of someone being the guardian of the memorial," Ms Thomas said.

Ms Thomas said the original committee who looked after the memorial when it was established in 1993 were aging and it was becoming difficult for them to keep an eye on the site.

The committee approached the Tweed Heads/Coolangatta RSL sub branch about caring for the memorial and secretary John Griffin suggested that Point Danger Marine Rescue was in the best position to be guardians of the memorial.



The new custodians of the Point Danger Memorial.

*Photo:
Tweed Border Mail*

The Centaur Association would like to thank:

Dave Jeanes, ex-Secretary of the ex-Centaur Commemoration Committee which established the Memorial for bringing the matter to our attention, **Dr John Griffin**, Secretary, Tweed Heads/Coolangatta sub-Branch of the RSL for facilitating the happy outcome, and **Bernie Gabriel** and his team from the Marine Rescue for volunteering to become custodians of the Memorial.

Notice of 2012 AGM

Our AGM will be held at 2 Laughton Court, Altona Meadows, Victoria (Melbourne) on 1st August 2012 commencing at 7pm.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting and also the Special General Meeting held on 24 September 2011 are to be confirmed.

The financial report for the year to 30 June 2012 is to be presented and received.

A new committee will be elected. The current executive and committee members have agreed to stand again, and having been nominated and seconded they will be elected unanimously unless other nominations are received by 1 July, 2012.

Any suggestions from members for the Association's goals for 2013 are also required to be received by the Secretary before 1 July 2012.

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.



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