

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

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NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2015

OUR FIRST LAST POST CEREMONY AT THE AWM

Our first **Centaur Last Post Ceremony** at the AWM in Canberra on 14th May was a huge success. Some testimonials received came from:

Michael Ockwell:

My brother Anthony and I attended the Centaur commemoration ceremony last Thursday. It was beautifully done and worked so well. We thought it was so much better being incorporated into the 5pm Last Post ceremony as there were hundreds in attendance including many children from schools all over the country, all of whom are now aware of the Centaur story. We met Brendan Nelson afterwards and congratulated him. Well done to you for your organization and all your work.

Ted Leask:

You would have been very proud to have seen the Last Post Ceremony here in Canberra this afternoon. This is a wonderful way to have the Centaur honoured and remembered, as well as individual people being honoured on the day, as with Major Holland today. Apparently this new system of daily honour has captured the imagination and attendance of many each day. Today, approximately 500 - 600, could be more, hard to tell. It did start off the day at minus 5, to 17, quite nice, back to probably 5 degrees or so as darkness rolled over, with a delicate sunset.

Arthur Rich:

Well, the weather was better than you were advised but it did get a bit chilly towards the end of the ceremony. The service was very well attended with several hundred school tours children flocking on both terraces overlooking the central courtyard and the pool of remembrance. The children of some of the schools laid wreaths at the pool along with the Centaur families with a piper playing during the whole of the wreath-laying ceremony. I found it to be to be very emotional particularly when the account of the sinking was narrated.

An account of Major Holland's life and his association with the Centaur was read by an Army officer and his photo on a trestle was placed near the wreaths. I was really surprised to see how well the Last Post ceremony is attended by locals and touring groups and was also impressed by the solemnity of the occasion.

DID YOU KNOW?

from Ted Leask, Canberra

By going to the Australian War Memorial Website, any individual can ask for a significant person represented on the Roll of Honour to be honoured at the **Last Post Ceremony**, not just on Centaur Day, or because the date is significant to their loss, or because of their link to a particular campaign, event, disaster etc. But just be honoured by themselves, for their own sake.

The team at the AWM today wanted me to especially alert our members to this new way of honouring anyone whose name appears on the Honour Roll.

Live Streaming is now a permanent media happening each day, so your vision of the Centaur story being told to lots of Australians is now readily available.

The Centaur Association plans to book 14th May each year for a Centaur-specific Last Post Ceremony each one of which will profile one of the Centaur casualties on the Honour Roll.

If you would like to have your Centaur person commemorated in future Centaur Last Post Ceremonies please let us know - even those who have previously sent in a request; **a change of address and a change of computer mean some requests have been mislaid.**

With over 200 eligible casualties on the Honour Roll, and only one anniversary per year, there is not one of us who will live long enough to see them all commemorated on 14th May. We encourage all our members to take advantage of the Last Post Ceremony to have their Centaur and/or other relatives honoured this way at any time of the year.





25th Anniversary Commemorations of the Merchant Navy Memorial, King's Park, Canberra.

The Centaur Association was officially represented by our President **Richard Jones** who travelled from Sydney with his wife, **Margaret**, and also by local member **Cameron Knight** accompanied by children **James** and **Charlotte**. The day was a bit gloomy, but the weather held out, and the location is magnificent whatever the weather.

Also travelling from Sydney was Centaur Association member and Manunda Hospital Ship veteran **Keith Pryor**, a stalwart of our participation in the Sydney ANZAC Marches over recent years.

Merchant Navy veterans on our mailing list noted as being present were **Reg Bonney**, our contact with the RSL at Ingleburn, **Geoff Walls** and **Don Kennedy**. Richard represents the Association at the annual Merchant Navy Commemorations at Rookwood, and was pleased to catch up with members at this special occasion.

A poignant touch during the ceremony was the sounding of '8 bells' from the Carillon, signalling the end of the watch - the final watch for those who gave their lives.



Wreath-layers with our president, Richard Jones, on the extreme right.

The Memorial is a magnificent structure, fittingly situated by the water on the banks of Lake Burley Griffin.



During the Second World War Merchant Navy ships carrying essential cargoes were just as much at risk as Royal Australian Navy (RAN) warships. Merchant ships were attacked not only in distant waters but also within sight of the Australian coastline while traversing much frequented trade routes. Hospital ships were crewed by merchant seamen.

Merchant seamen were not well-paid, did not have comfortable working hours, and their living conditions were often very poor. And when a merchant seaman's ship was sunk, he was out of a job. Figures published by the Seaman's Union of Australia (SUA) in 1972 indicate that 386 members of the union lost their lives during the Second World War. Given the union's claim of a total membership of 4,500 at the beginning of the war, the overall fatality rate among seamen members of the SUA during the Second World War was 8.5 per cent, a rate higher than that sustained by Australia's fighting services.

Source: Don Fraser, "Men of a Service": Australian Merchant Seamen".

The largest loss of life on any merchant ship was sustained by the Centaur - 268 casualties, including 42 merchant seamen. Captain Murray went down with his ship.

A plaque commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Memorial was unveiled by Dr Brendan Nelson, director, AWM, during the ceremony.



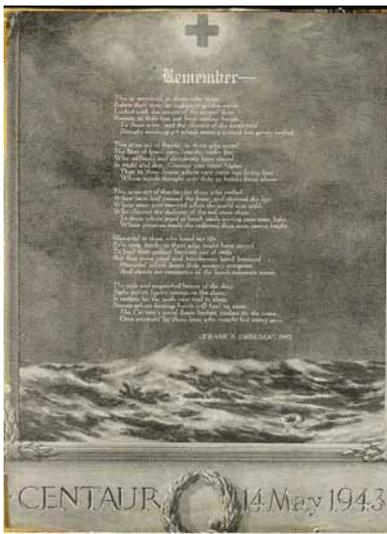
James and **Charlotte Knight**, great grandchildren of Captain Hindmarsh, Centaur's medical staff, at the 25th Anniversary of the dedication of the Merchant Navy Memorial in King's Park, Canberra on the shores of Lake Burley Griffin. In pre-war years when an ocean liner called in to Sydney, Dr Hindmarsh would put on a locum at his practice in Macksville, and sign on as 'seaman doctor' for a cruise around the islands or to Tasmania. He was on the ship that took Phar Lap to America in 1931. Dr Hindmarsh loved medicine, the military and ships. He combined all three in his service of his country on first NMHS Oranje, then 2/3 AHS Centaur on which he lost his life.



A Heartfelt Tribute

written at the time of the sinking in 1943 by one of Sydney's leading writers, Frank Greenop.

Discovered amongst her mother's effects, and contributed by Dale Liepins, Canberra, niece Cpl James Thorpe 2/12th Field Ambulance.



Remember —

Who Was Frank Greenop?

Frank Sydney Greenop was an Australian journalist, editor, linguist, poet and author. While Greenop was perhaps best known as editor of the then risqué magazine, *Man*, he also had wide ranging literary tastes and skills.

Greenop was born on 12 March 1913 in Battersea, London. In 1923 at the age of ten his family migrated to Australia. When he was thirteen his father fell ill and Greenop left school. In 1928 he got a job with The Daily Telegraph as a copy boy.

In 1937 he was picked by Kenneth Murray to be the editor of a new *Man Magazine*.

He married Margaret on 2 April 1937 and they had four children, one of whom died in infancy.

Greenop was an accomplished self-taught linguist and could speak seven languages with some fluency.

He wrote numerous articles and fiction stories for *Man*, as well as dozens of patriotic and sentimental poems, many of which were collected in a volume of his verses published by K.G Murray Publishing in 1944.

Greenop was also passionate about history and wrote a number of books on historical subjects, including *Coast of Tragedy*, a history of shipwrecks off the Australian coast; *Who Travels Alone*, the story of famous New Guinea explorer Nicholas Miklouho-Maclay and *The Life and Achievements of Captain James Cook*.

In 1947, while Greenop was 'Editor in Chief' of K.G. Murray's magazine publications, he wrote *The History of Magazine Publishing in Australia*.

During the 1950s he wrote detective novels and stories, including a series of pulp novels for the Cleveland group, using the pseudonym Robert Dudgeon. The protagonist of these stories was the detective Max Strong.

In the 1960s he also published a series of twelve children's books (the Moorrooba books), with titles such as *Lazy Loper*, *Koalas Drink Dew*, *Catapult for Tom*, *Bunyip with a Smag* and *Magpie Hero*, which were illustrated by Col Cameron.

He died at home on 15 June 1975, aged 62.

Source Wikipedia

This is memorial to those who sleep
Before their time, on unknown golden sands,
Locked with the secrets of the eternal deep
Remote in their last rest from restless hands.
 To those who, 'mid the clamors of the battlefield
 Brought soothing art which many a wound has gently healed.

This is an act of thanks - to those who saved
The lives of brave men, bravely, under fire:
Who selflessly and sleeplessly have slaved
In night and day. Courage was never higher
 Than in these hearts whose very veins ran living love,
 Whose minds thought only duty as bombs burst above.

This is an act of thanks - for those who smiled
Where pain had creased the brow, and thinned the lips;
Whose mien was tranquil when the world was wild;
Who cheered the dullness of the red cross ships.
 To those whose word or laugh made searing pain seem light,
 Whose presence made the suffering days seem sunny bright.

Memorial to those who loved not life
Ev'n unto death: to those who might have stayed
To lead their gallant brethren out of strife
But that some cruel and treacherous hand betrayed...
 Memorial which keeps their memory ever green
 And shouts for vengeance of the harsh inhuman scene.

The pale and anguished bosom of the deep
Sighs out its foamy sorrow on the shore.
Is restless for the souls new-laid to sleep.
Nurses whose healing hands will heal no more.
 The Centaur's wood floats broken, useless on the wave
 Cries payment for those lives who nought but mercy gave.

Remembering

Pte Percy Lewis Clegg, QX38694, AIF

Australian Army Medical Corps
2/3 Australian Hospital Ship Centaur (AHS 47)

*A tribute by his son, Keith,
presented during the Caloundra Centaur Commemorations,
14 May 2015*



Pte Percy Lewis Clegg was a member of the medical staff assigned to AHS Centaur. He was my father.

Percy Clegg was born in Sydney on November 28, 1903. His parents, William Charles and Emily Maude Clegg moved to Pratten on the Darling Downs, Queensland, when Percy was young.

He was educated at the Pratten State School, and later completed a number of Correspondence Courses including English/Writing and Automobile Mechanics.

He farmed with his brother, Les, at "Sunnyside", the family farm at Pratten. He was renowned throughout the district for his horsemanship and as a horse breaker. At various times he worked at the ISAS sugar mill, as a shearing contractor and shearers' cook, and at the "Netherby" cattle stud outside Warwick. And prior to his enlistment in the AIF he was a baker and bread carter in Warwick.



Percy married Priscilla Marjorie Matthews in 1933. She was the eldest daughter of Alderman R.W. Matthews of Warwick. They lived on a small farm, "Heatherleigh", at Mile End outside of Warwick. The farmhouse was built in the 1890's, had no electricity and was dependent on a rainwater tank as a water supply. Lighting was with Aladdin Lamps and the "refrigerator" was the meat safe that hung under the tank stand. The farm had a large poultry run and sold eggs, chickens and pullets, and table birds. Percy bred champion fowl as a hobby and won many grand champion awards at the Warwick and Maryborough Agricultural Shows. He was also an excellent cook and developed a collection of special recipes.

I was born at "Heatherleigh" on March 29, 1936, Keith Matthews Clegg.

Percy was very patriotic and served in the 11th Light Horse Regiment as a trooper in Warwick Group, A Squadron. He was one of the first to join the VDC (Volunteer Defence Corps) when it formed in Warwick. He enlisted in the AIF in September 1942.

MV Centaur, a vessel of the Blue Funnel line was requisitioned by the Australian Navy as a hospital ship and outfitted at Williamstown, Melbourne, in January 1943. Percy was selected as a member of the AHS Centaur Medical Staff in January 1943 and his initial training was as an orderly. His training was then upgraded at Greenslopes Repatriation Hospital, Brisbane, to that of a theatre orderly/assistant, and then upgraded further to perform theatre technician duties on AHS Centaur.

Centaur left Williamstown for Sydney on March 12, 1943, where additional outfitting work took place. She then left for Brisbane after completion of the refit together with some of the Medical Staff (doctors and twelve nurses), and arrived at Dalgety's Wharf at Teneriffe, Brisbane, at 1400 hrs on Wednesday, March 23, 1943.

The next day the remaining Medical Staff joined the ship. Percy Clegg was one of those who joined the ship that day.

The Brisbane medical group were given leave on the days before boarding Centaur and Percy went home to Warwick. While on leave he rode his pushbike from Warwick to the Pratten family farm, about 30 miles, to say goodbye to his mother, and the story has become a treasured family memory of Percy.

Centaur's second voyage as a hospital ship was Brisbane to Port Moresby and return. Among the wounded being returned to Brisbane were twelve wounded Japanese POWs. One of the POWs gave Percy some Japanese invasion money that he sent home to me. Percy wrote a letter home every week and often the letters would arrive together in a bundle. While in Sydney waiting for Centaur's departure on her fourth voyage Percy went to Taronga Zoo and bought the Zoo Book for me and took it with him on that fateful voyage.

Centaur was on her fourth voyage as a hospital ship, Sydney to Port Moresby via Cairns, when Japanese Submarine, I-177, torpedoed her east of the southern tip of Moreton Island at 0410 hrs, Friday May 14, 1943.

Pte Percy Lewis Clegg of the AAMC lost his life that day. He was 39 years of age.

Pte Percy Clegg, cont.

The effect of Percy's loss on his family was devastating. I was seven years old, and an only child. My mother's health was severely affected; the spectre of Centaur haunted her, and she suffered bouts of depression for the rest of her life. We left our farm and never returned.



While I have little memory of my father, I do have vivid memory of the day that the first telegram arrived, Monday May 17, and it read: "It is with deep regret that I inform you ...". I was at school when a grim faced headmaster came into the classroom and told me that I had to go home. I sensed that something was seriously wrong and I walked the three-mile walk home very slowly, hoping that the problem would go away before I arrived.

The second telegram confirming the first telegram arrived two days later, Wednesday May 19. My mother never recovered from the news in that first telegram.

Much has been said about the Brisbane Service at St John's Cathedral and the HMAS Manoora Service at Sea being closure for Centaur families. However I do not believe that there will ever be closure, because the wound inflicted by the tragedy cut deep, and the wound has never healed.

And while there may never be closure, there is satisfaction:

- * Satisfaction in the knowledge that the final resting place of Centaur has been found.
- * Satisfaction that Centaur is now a War Grave protected from intrusion and forever a sacred place.
- * Satisfaction that Centaur has National Recognition.

The Clegg families will forever honour the memory of Percy Lewis Clegg, this present generation and generations to come.

*Keith Clegg
(son of Percy Lewis Clegg)*



Keith with grandchildren placing fresh flowers on Pte Percy Clegg's plaque on the Walkway at Caloundra—an annual tradition in the Clegg family

Centaur Day at Caloundra was everything that Centaur families on the Sunshine Coast could hope for.

Erica Costigan OAM reports as follows:

Our Centaur Park becomes a very special location in Caloundra on the 14 May each year, and this year a considerable group of supporters, both local and from far away, gathered to pay tribute to all who were on board the hospital ship on that fateful day 72 years ago.

On a slightly cool and gusty yet pleasant autumn morning, the Caloundra Centaur Committee members, plus our RSL Sub Branch Committee and members, mingled with our "Centaur family"—ie those who have a family connection or close involvement with those in the tragedy.

A very moving and most informative address was given by Keith Clegg, only child of Pte. Percy Clegg who perished in Centaur's tragedy. Keith's son Paul, later placed the wreath on behalf of the 2/3 AHS Centaur Association. Beautiful wreaths were also laid on behalf of the Sunshine Coast Regional Council, our State and Federal Members, the Centaur Memorial Retirement Village, many Community Services and organizations, as well as some RSL groups and Committees including of course, our Centaur Committee. The Coast Guard vessel cast a wreath on the ocean just off shore from our group at the Memorial.

We shared Morning Tea at the RSL afterwards.



*Keith Clegg with a photo of his father, Pte Percy Clegg, SMS.
(Now you can see who is under the hat in the other photos...)*

Commemorations were held as usual at Brisbane, conducted by the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses, Concord Hospital Sydney, and Heidelberg Hospital in Melbourne, but we don't have any reports or photos.

Melbourne Centaur Families, please note. It is planned that following the Service at Heidelberg next year (2016) and the fellowship at Darebin RSL, members will be invited to the Shrine of Remembrance to visit the plaque at the Simon Poplar tree that was dedicated to Centaur in 2000. More in our next newsletter.

Vale

Captain John Foley

Master Mariner, Co-author of 'The Myth of Immunity'

Born 30 April 1940, Surrey, England

Died 22 June 2015, Brisbane.



Obituary: *The Courier Mail*

For a man who achieved so much in a lifetime, Captain John Foley was remarkable for one thing above all - modesty.

Well-spoken, polite and scholarly, Capt Foley was a fountain of knowledge on his favourite place, Queensland's Great Barrier Reef; his "office" being one of the most challenging sea passages on earth.

Never a day passed that he didn't thank his good fortune for a life-long association with the Reef.

John first went to sea as a fresh-faced 15 year old cadet and went on to travel the world. In Vancouver he met his wife, Denice, and in Australia he had his first acquaintance with a marine pilot and the Great Barrier Reef. Its allure charted the course of the rest of his life.

"That was enough for me," he would say. "The calm tropical seas, the maze of reefs, rocks and coral cays. I was hooked."

His desire to get back to the Reef was demonstrated by his rapid escalation through the ranks.

At 26 he was in command of the general cargo ship *Alegna* servicing Queensland coastal ports and outposts in the Gulf and Arnhem Land. On board he was "the Old Man" yet younger than most of the crew.

By 27 he had qualified as a pilot but his dream of guiding ships through the Great Barrier Reef was elusive. Despite his qualifications and experience, the authorities considered him "too young" for such a demanding role.

John was 35 when he finally received his "ticket" to pilot his first ship, the Blue Funnel Liner *Rhexenor* through the Reef. It was the first of more than 1500 reef pilotages over the next 40 years.

Some ships were fine vessels, but others could be politely described as second rate: "Absolutely nothing working on the bridge, inedible food, a vermin-infested pilot's cabin and hostile bridge personnel. The filthiest ship he had seen, the illegal long line fishing vessel *Lib Yih 202* had to be piloted under arrest to Cairns.

The skipper was about to make a run for the open sea when a federal policeman aboard with Captain Foley "drew a pistol and defused the situation".

To manage ships' shortfalls, Captain Foley developed pilotage techniques based on the compass alone, a depth of local knowledge and the best radar available: two mark 1 eyeballs.

As demanding as life at sea can be, John humbly felt that the history of the reef should be recorded to posterity, and he set about committing to paper some of the GBR's remarkable stories.

He wrote of being aboard the *World Jade* when it became the first ship to traverse the history-making Hydrographers Passage off Mackay; the story of the Quetta, Queensland's worst shipping disaster; the WW2 hospital ship Centaur; and a history of Thursday Island and reef pilots.

He was made a fellow of the Royal Historical Society of Queensland.

But Captain Foley's life was also marred by tragedy.

His son David was diagnosed with a brain tumour at age 15 and, after 25 operations, died aged 24.

Capt Foley and his wife Denice made the emotionally-charged decision to donate his organs, and as a result became actively involved in the donor movement.

He was also a major force in establishing the cruise ship industry in Queensland, identifying new anchorages in places like Kingfisher Bay, Hamilton Cove and consulting on the Brisbane Cruise ship Terminal.

In recent years he has been sharing his love of the sea and history with passengers aboard cruise ships by giving informative on-board lectures on nautical points and places of interest.

Captain John Foley, cont.

He hung up his binoculars only a few years ago, but continued in an advisory capacity for Australian Reef Pilots and the global cruise ship industry.

He saw the most dramatic changes in his lifetime at sea; from using a sextant like Captain Cook, to radar, to satellites, to GPS, to electronic charts.

He was also an inaugural director and a major figure in the growth and development of Australian Reef Pilots Pty Ltd, and was always there to mentor and advise a new legion of pilots.

Captain Foley made little of his remarkable contribution to maritime safety and history, the economic prosperity of Queensland, and indeed Australia, and for this he was held in the highest esteem by all who came in contact with him.

To quote Captain Foley's co-author (*Professor Christopher Milligan Ed*) of the book *Hospital Ship Centaur, The Myth of Immunity*: "Rest in peace, dear friend. You have done Australia proud and your written works are a testament to your character, courage, and love of the sea. You have now become part of Australian maritime history."

Dapto Commemorations

Warwick Hanson attended the Centaur Commemorations at Dapto and met several other Centaur families, including his aunt **Joan Walker** (daughter and niece of the Annis-Browns).

The Address was given by our Association representative at Dapto **Jack Grey** who had taken a dental unit to NG on Centaur's first voyage. Jack also laid the Association wreath.

The president of the Dapto RSL [Bob Winston) and several members also attended the very moving ceremony, which included Scouts, Guides and Brownies.

Questions were asked at Point Danger—where were the NZ boys? - **Mike Claydon**, brother of **Pte Jack Claydon**, 2/12th FA, with sons **Mark** and **James**, last seen in Brisbane and Point Danger for the 70th anniversary in 2013. The word from Mike is that his thoughts were with us at Point Danger on the 14 May and that he had a special Mass said for Jack with a large photo of him on the altar. They hope to join us for the 75th anniversary, God willing...

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.

Point Danger

Merchant Navy veterans stand for recognition as speaker Brian Hunt details the loss of merchant shipping off this part of the coast in WW11.

Warren Keats (R) was our wreath-layer.



A recipient of the Hindmarsh Medal with presenter Jan Thomas. Jan spoke during the Service of the significance of the Hindmarsh and Moran Medals (the latter presented at the end of the year by **Srs Mary** and **Frances Moran**), and how

anyone can aspire to receiving a medal by exhibiting courage in all their endeavours at Centaur school. Jan also spoke of the lives of the two men commemorated in these medals: both had attended the same school in Sydney, St Aloysius College, though many years apart; Captain Hindmarsh was a middle-aged man with an established medical practice and a young family. Jack Moran was a young man with his whole life ahead of him. Both families and communities were devastated by their loss.



The Centaur School Choir performs during the Service, attended by representatives of the Point Danger Marine Rescue, the custodians of the Memorial. Note the four flags: On the right is the Red Ensign the Merchant Navy flag, to its left, the Red Cross flag, Alfred Holt's Blue Funnel Line flag (Centaur was a Blue Funnel Line vessel), and out of shot, the Commonwealth flag (the Blue Ensign) under which Centaur sailed as a hospital ship.

*Association wreath-layer, **Warren Keats**, ex-president of the ex-Centaur Commemorative Committee that established the Memorial at Point Danger.*



Annual General Meeting

The AGM of 2/3 AHS Centaur Association was held as advertised on 1 August at Altona Meadows in Melbourne.

President Richard Jones gave an overview of the past year's activities.

All members of the Executive and Committee stood for re-election and as there were no other nominations, all were elected unanimously.

Committee member, Doug Hoare indicated he wishes to resign his position as Public Officer. This is not necessarily a committee position and any member of the Association can take it up. **Mr Eddie Carthew** has volunteered to become our new Public Officer, and we are very pleased to welcome him to this position. The President also thanked Doug for efficiently carrying out his duties in this position over the last ten years.

Treasurer Tony Bracken presented the **Annual Financial Statement** which is available electronically to members on request. The full **Minutes** and the **President's Report** are also electronically available.

During the year the Association has continued to direct its efforts towards honouring those we lost and supporting those who lost them, continuing to tell their stories, and vigilantly guarding the good name of the Centaur.

75th Anniversary approaches...

2018 will mark the 75th anniversary of the sinking of the Centaur. Some of our younger members (grandchildren of Centaur personnel) have suggested that we could mark the event with a book of poems, and/or a book of Centaur stories that we have collected over the years. Does anyone have any other ideas? Would you like to be put in touch with others who wish to be involved? You could form a Think Tank which would report to the Committee.

The Committee would give full backing to any reasonable suggestion, but, as mentioned above, the committee is aging. In our younger years for the 60th Anniversary we arranged a Commemorative Journey that involved taking two busloads of Centaur families, accompanied

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.

Last Post

John Barrie Guest, Centaur deck boy 1942, foundation member of the Association, 25 October, 2014, W.A.

Elizabeth Maud Collins, widow of Cpl Hilton Stuart Collins, 2/12th FA, 28 May, 2015 in Adelaide.

Capt John Foley, master mariner, co-author of *The Myth of Immunity*, 29 June, 2015 in Brisbane.



As reported above in the account of the AGM, we wish to welcome **Mr Eddie Carthew** to the position of **Public Officer**.

The public officer is the official point of contact for an incorporated association and one of the authorised signatories for dealings with the Dept of Fair Trading. The Public Officer must be over 18 years of age and resident in NSW. The Public Officer's address becomes the official address of the Association for the purposes of dealings with the Department.

We are particularly pleased to welcome Eddie as he is a next-generation member of the Association. The old guard is aging rapidly, and if the Association is to continue into the future we need younger members to be active in the administration. We understand that the next generation is in the busy time of life with families, businesses and professions to manage, but we would urge them to consider offering their services in an assistant role as they familiarise themselves with the workings of the Association.

by a busload of Merchant Navy personnel to SE Queensland where the organizers of the Services at Point Danger, Brisbane and Caloundra rearranged their times so we could attend all. It included our own Vigil at the Point Danger Memorial at 4.10am on the day itself. Our Vigil was attended by 39 stalwarts and a passing policeman—no doubt wondering why so many middle-aged delinquents were assembling in the dark! We had lunch at Seagulls, visited the Centaur Room at the Tweed Historical Society, and ended with a Commemorative Dinner at Caloundra.

But those days are beyond your present committee. If we are to do anything special we need younger blood to come up with workable ideas and form a sub-

committee to implement them.

We would love to hear from anyone with ideas, costings, market, etc. Please contact the secretary.

Disclaimer:-

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