

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



All Correspondence to:

The Secretary
P.O. Box 296
BOWRAVILLE NSW 2449

Editor: Jan Thomas
02 6564 8400

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

Centaur Commemorations 2014

On your behalf, the Association lays a wreath at all known centres: **Caloundra; Brisbane; Point Danger; Concord Hospital, Sydney; AWM, Canberra and Heidelberg Hospital, Melbourne.**

A first for this year was having our Association member **Jack Gray** lay an Association wreath at **Dapto, NSW**. Dapto's connection to Centaur is the 2/12th FA which bivouacked at nearby Corrimal for four months while waiting to embark on Centaur.

We have the usual comprehensive and interesting report from **Caloundra** on p3, and on this page a collection of photos and short reports from other centres.

RGH Concord



Centaur families with two of our WWII Hospital Ship veterans: Richard and Margaret Parry, Carol Miller, Sue Simpson, Richard Jones, Charles Brewer, Rod Blackman, Keith Pryor (AHS Manunda) Malcolm Knight with Bridgette, Joan Fisher OAM (NMHS Oranje), Enid Blackman, Isabel Fitzgerald, Lucy Walton. Also present at the Service, Bruce and Marjorie McSkimming but Marjorie took a tumble and ended up in A&E. She was later allowed to go home.



Point Danger's history and Service are written up on p 2.

*L. After the **Concord** Service Joan Fisher OAM entertains Bridgette Knight, great granddaughter of Joan's shipboard colleague Capt Hindmarsh who served on Oranje before transferring to Centaur.*

AWM Canberra



Centaur families at Canberra

Photo courtesy AWM

Commemorations at the **AWM in Canberra** followed the format set last year with a school student delivering a short general Address followed by another student with a profile of a Centaur casualty. This year's students came from Merici College.

Mercedes Bowers spoke of all units on board then focused on the 2/12th FA with emphasis on the number of brothers. Centaur had eight pairs of brothers, and one set of three. Of these nineteen brothers only three survived.

Dana Ryan followed with a profile of the three Leask brothers whose story is featured on pp 4 & 5.

The singing of 'O Valiant Hearts' was enhanced by the Australian Rugby Men's Choir accompanied by a brass quartet from RMC Duntroon.

The Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses held its formal Church Service at St Andrew's Church, Lutwyche, in **Brisbane**. Brisbane Girls Grammar, Brisbane Boys' College, and the cadets of TS Centaur regularly attend these commemorations. **TS Centaur's** story is on p6.

Heidelberg Hospital, Melbourne



L. Three generations in Melbourne are new committee member, Pat O'Brien, d/o L/Cpl Michael O'Brien, 2/12th Field Ambulance, granddaughter Caroline van Oosterom, and great-granddaughter, Frederique. Caroline is our very efficient and hardworking webmaster.

Point Danger Centaur Memorial Precinct 1993

The Centaur Memorial Precinct at Point Danger was an initiative of the Merchant Navy in conjunction with the Gold Coast City Council on public land dedicated for the purpose of recognizing and honouring the service and sacrifice of the Merchant Navy during WWII.



Centaur Memorial looking out to sea

Almost fifty years after the end of the war, there was still no recognition of the contribution of the Merchant Navy to the war effort, despite the phenomenal amount of shipping sunk and lives lost, particularly along the eastern seaboard of Australia.

A group of local Merchant Navy veterans, led by **Warren Keats** and including **Dave Jeanes**, **Don Johnston**, and the late **Harry Pearce**, together with community-minded citizens, formed the **Centaur Commemoration Committee** and put to the GCCC the proposition that they would build a Memorial to recognize this loss to the nation if the Council would provide the land.

The Council provided a prime piece of public land on the headland at Point Danger, with superb views out to sea and up and down the northern NSW/southern Qld coast. Guarded by a huge Norfolk Island pine it is a magnificent site for quiet reflection.

The main focus is the Centaur as the merchant vessel which suffered the greatest loss of life. In the surrounds of the Memorial are the names of all on board in their designated units and with their survival status

41 ships sunk off the Australian coast, including Centaur and HMAS Sydney.

The Precinct was unveiled by Senator John Faulkner on the 50th anniversary, 14 May 1993, when the book, *The Myth of Immunity* by Chris Milligan and John Foley, was launched. Of great significance was the drawing together of Centaur families from all over the world who had been grieving in isolation for fifty years. From this nucleus eventually developed the **Centaur Association** as a means of communication between Centaur families who have been meeting annually at **Caloundra**, **Brisbane**, **Sydney**, **Dapto**, **Canberra**, **Melbourne** and since 1993 at **Point Danger**. All these centres are living memorials where Centaur families and community-minded citizens gather for communal remembrance.

Each service has its own flavour and its own following. The service at Point Danger has been conducted for over twenty years by the students of **Centaur Primary School**.

For many years the Centaur Memorial and indeed the whole precinct was overseen by the late **Harry Pearce** who alerted Council to any maintenance needs. Its new guardians are Marine Rescue NSW, conveniently located on the Point at the end of the carpark.

Many monuments are established with fervour and unveiled with ceremony, then left to languish. We in the Association are concerned that the history and purpose of the Centaur Precinct at Point Danger has so far been forgotten as to allow the establishment of two unsympathetic monuments on the site. We acknowledge the value of the Services they represent—the Nashos and the 32 Squadron of Small Ships of the Vietnam War—and the valour of those who participated, but we believe that as they do not commemorate shipping sunk by enemy action with lives lost off the coast of Australia they detract from the integrity of the site.

We are concerned that the precinct could become cluttered as a general memorial area when there is already, we believe, such a park nearby. We have taken the matter up with the Council.



School Captains tell the Centaur story during the annual Commemorations 2014

AHS Centaur and HMAS Sydney

The most tragic loss on the eastern coast was the torpedoing of the hospital ship, AHS Centaur on 14 May 1943 with the loss of 268 lives.

The loss on 19 November 1941 of the light cruiser HMAS Sydney off Geraldton, Western Australia, with the loss of 645 naval seamen was the most severe.



Some of the Centaur families and Merchant Navy veterans at the Point Danger Commemorations, May 2014.



CENTAUR DAY ACTIVITIES AT CALOUNDRRA

An early morning shower then clear blue skies, but by 10am a very strong wind kept us on our toes!

Very heavy rain fell after lunch, so we were all very lucky. A good crowd represented various service and community groups and together with small groups of students from seven of our local schools, they gave great support to the Centaur family members.

A very interesting (and almost windblown) address was given by Mr Max Chapman, who moved to our Sunshine Coast a few years ago. Max was born just a couple of months after his father was lost aboard the Centaur. Pastor Arthur Fry who has been part of our ceremony for several years now, made some very moving remarks and led the prayers for remembrance, for peace, and for families.

A large group of beautiful wreaths were announced and placed at the Memorial. We have quite a group of local and "nearly local" Centaur families that are represented at our ceremony each year and our committee welcomes them very warmly. Some school students placed wreaths at the memorial, while others placed individual flowers at each Centaur plaque on the walkway during the entire wreath-laying.

This year, I was able to loan Centaur casualty Bert Brown's medals to Elizabeth Spicer, friend/carer/Godchild of dear Meg Brown, for her to wear during the Service - A special time for Elizabeth.

The ceremony, including some interviews, was covered by Channel 7 and Channel 9 TV news and as well, ABC Radio conducted an early morning direct chat with me, so the interest and the distribution of information about our special day is improving all the time.



Tayla Clegg with her grandfather, Keith, at the Plaque for her great grandfather, Pte Percy Clegg, SMS, on the Memorial Walkway.



Centaur families and the large contingent of school students gather in front of the Memorial on its magnificent site overlooking the sea.

I received an interesting phone call just after the Channel 7 News that night, from a very sprightly 96 year old lady from Maroochydore. She recognised my surname and was excited to tell me she had been an Army Nurse - a Lieutenant - on the staff of the Greenslopes Military Hospital with Bryan's father as the Staff Sergeant - AND - She had actually nursed and cared for Sister Savage. We have made plans to visit this special lady very soon. So there's some more terrific history about the Centaur, and a great sequel to our special Remembrance Day.

Caloundra holds two other functions annually, to remember the Centaur tragedy.

The RSL Centaur Memorial Retirement Village hosts a morning service the day before, for the residents, families, staff and volunteers, and this year, we were joined by 75 students from Pacific Lutheran College. Each student floated a flower in a symbolic "ocean".

For 21 consecutive years, a special "Centaur Memorial Bowls Carnival" has been held here on the weekend following 14 May. This year, Bryan and I were asked to lead the short, but moving wreath-laying at the Bowls Club flagpole. This always precedes the start of play and was attended by a large number of competing bowlers.

Caloundra will never forget!

Greetings to all, from

Erica Costigan OAM

PR, Caloundra RSL Centaur Commemoration Committee

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.

Remembering

PTES ALEXANDER, HENRY and HAROLD LEASK

2/12th Field Ambulance

Serial Numbers: NX27345, NX27346, NX27347

*from the Address delivered by Dana Ryan, Merici College
Centaur Commemorations, AWM, Canberra, 14 May 2014.*



Harold, Alexander, Malcolm's wife Orba, Malcolm and Henry Leask

There were four brothers. Then there was only one. They were all from Merrylands, NSW, where as a family they owned and operated a 9-acre market garden farm. The brothers enlisted together at Paddington, Sydney in June 1940, with consecutive serial numbers. After training in Cowra NSW, they were deployed to Darwin where they served during the bombing of the city. Following this, their unit the 192-member 2/12th Field Ambulance embarked on the Centaur for later deployment in New Guinea as a field medical unit.

Lance Sergeant Malcolm's wife Orba began having pregnancy problems with their first child and Malcolm was granted compassionate leave.

The Leask brothers' parents had recently passed away when the three brothers were killed in action on the Centaur, leaving the youngest, Malcolm, as the recipient of the three telegrams informing him that his three brothers were missing at sea, and another three later confirming they had been killed in action. Receiving these telegrams was an indescribable and life changing kind of pain for Malcolm.

This pain is still very present for his children and grandchildren, who carry the legacy of deeply compassionate parents and grandparents who understood grief, loss and life struggles in others. Further generations feel the loss of uncles they never met.

All three brothers were single and all in their early thirties at the time of their deaths.

Each of the brothers had his own distinct character. Harold was serious, responsible, dry-witted and the eldest of the brothers. Alexander was clever mechanically and was great on details. Henry, known as Harry, was a horse whisperer; he loved the country life and was known to leave home for months at a time to take up the life of a jackaroo. Malcolm was gifted in writing and was a deep analytical thinker. All adored Orba, who became the sister the brothers all dearly wanted.

The three brothers were described as 'fine, typical young Australian men'. The loss of Malcolm's brothers greatly affected him, his children and grandchildren. The Leask family was finally given some sense of closure when the Centaur was found in December 2009.

You can find Henry, Harold and Alexander's names on panel 3 at the Sydney Memorial to the Missing at Rookwood, or on the Memorial at Point Danger, and the 2/12th Field Ambulance plaque in the Hall of Remembrance at the Australian War Memorial.

Lance Sergeant Malcolm passed away in 1999 aged 84, and his wife Orba in 2000 aged 83.

The Leask brothers are now all together in death as they were in life.

Lest we forget.

Ted Leask, *nephew of Harold, Alexander and Henry Leask, and son of Malcolm, continues the family story:*

Henry, known as “Harry” used to write poetry, Banjo Paterson style, about his opinions and reflections of army life. He was known as “Has Been” and used this pseudonym when posting timely pieces to the notice board about events in Army life that he believed needed some sort of airing.

Sometimes he would be reprimanded for this, other times the comic relief was welcomed depending on the mood of the Censor.

They also, as is now commonly known, loved their sister-in-law Orba as a princess as they deeply missed doing so for their own sister Helen, Harold’s twin, who died at eight days of age. As a group of brothers they were very adoring and protective of their Orba.

Their impact upon the rural zone of Holroyd, of which Merrylands and Graystones were rural suburbs, was deep and they were highly respected. The family ran sporting clubs and events for the families and children of the district, a tradition which continued after the war with Mal and Orba and their many children and foster children. As a family their active, compassionate, caring Christian faith was warmly experienced by many through the life commitment which Mal and Orba carried through to their mid 80s when they passed away.

In the late 1990s Graystones Primary School’s Yearbook, reflected on the history of the school and its notable people, past and present. A lady by the name of Marjory, who, it is conjectured, was sweet on one of the Leask boys, wrote a wonderful heartfelt poem about them and their tragic loss at sea.

Readers are recommended to watch the various family interviews recorded at Brisbane following the National Memorial Service in 2010. They are great stories which immortalize lives lost, and are available on the Centaur Association website.

Ted Leask, proud youngest son of L/Sergeant Malcolm Christie Leask NX 27344, and Mrs Orba Amy Leask,

Proud youngest nephew of

Pte Alexander Ritchie Leask, NX27345

Pte Henry Henderson Leask, NX27346

Pte Harold Medcalfe Leask, NX27547

2/12th Field Ambulance, AIF.

Uncles who are deeply adored, regularly remembered and forever missed by their very many family, friends and acquaintances.

Mal and Orba spent the next 56 years creating lives of excellence for and with others. Their deep faith in Jesus sent them straight into active connection with people experiencing grief, life difficulties of all kinds and people in need of loving care and safe shelter.

After the war, Malcolm entered Woolwich Bible College in Sydney, to graduate as a Christian Minister, and moved to Queensland to take on a rural ministry at Boonah Church of Christ. They left the farm in the hands of tenants, a decision which they later regretted, and one which caused them to leave their ministry in Boonah. They moved back to Greystanes to find a near-wrecked family farm, which had been handed over just two years previously in pristine condition.

They had to do some serious renovations and cleaning to make the house habitable again. It took some time for their belongings to arrive from Queensland; in the meantime furniture was packing cases and timber banana boxes.

Mal and Orba undertook ministries at Holroyd Church of Christ, and Loftus Park Church of Christ. Later ministries included the Church of Christ at Asquith. At Loftus Park the church hall from Greystanes, built by the boys, was dismantled and rebuilt after the war.

Mal held evangelical crusades, and became deeply interested in family welfare. He became Family Welfare Officer with the Sydney City Mission in the mid 1960s to early 1970s at St Marys, and established offices at the newly developing Mt Druitt and Penrith areas, further west.

In the early 1970s Sir Alan Walker appointed Mal Director of Lifeline, Sydney, the world’s first 24-hour telephone crisis centre. Mal developed the first system of formal telephone counsellor training in Australia. He established many new regional and city Lifeline Centres in his six years as Director, including Port Moresby Life Centre in Papua New Guinea.

In the mid 1960s Mal encouraged Orba to set up her own Speech and Drama Studio in Castle Hill which she ran until 1994 when she retired after thirty one years of teaching.

When Mal retired from Lifeline he and Orba moved to Ettalong Beach, where their home was always open to phone calls and visits from people seeking wise advice.

Their legacy lives on through us their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and the hosts of unnamed people whose lives have benefitted from having met and known them, and experiencing their deep compassion and concern.

*Only by turning your sufferings into seeds of godlike things
can you make their memory beautiful.*

Ernest Raymond—’Tell England’



TS Centaur Sets Sail to Adventure

from SBLT Linda Vann ANC

Recently Cadets and Staff from **TS Centaur** together with Cadets from **TS Onslow** and **NTS Gympie**, joined the crew of the 'South Passage', a two-masted gaff-rigged schooner, to follow in the footsteps of Captain Cook and Matthew Flinders, for a two day voyage of adventure on Moreton Bay.

On joining the ship on Friday evening we were divided into three watches (Red, White and Blue), introduced to the crew and allocated our bunks. Each watch, guided by its watch leader and the Skipper, takes it in turn to run the ship - taking the helm (steering the ship), raising and lowering sails, lookout, tacking and gybing (turning the ship), deck check, navigating, and making entries in the ship's log.

After initial sail training on the Saturday morning it was all hands on deck as we hoisted the sails and set sail for Moreton Island. With a light SW wind, clear blue sky and a calm sea it was a perfect weekend for sailing. Whilst the duty watch ran the ship the other watches could relax and enjoy the cruise, dolphin spotting and admiring the many sailing craft and ships which we passed. During the weekend a fiercely contested knot-tying competition between the watches proved a fun way of ensuring we all became proficient in the knots most commonly used on sailing craft. Mid-afternoon we dropped anchor near the Tangalooma Wrecks off Moreton Island, lowered the dinghy and set off to the shore for some fun on the beach as well as climbing the amazing sand dunes.

When darkness fell our watches carried on into the night, monitoring our position, checking our anchor and safety from other vessels in the night, recording weather conditions and updating the ship's log.

On Sunday we set sail for Manly, dropping anchor on the way for lunch and a swim in the warm waters of the bay. We all looked back on a fabulous weekend and learning experience putting into practice many of the skills learnt at Cadets. Plans are already underway for next year's 'South Passage' sailing adventure!



South Passage

The Australian Navy Cadets is a voluntary youth organisation for girls and boys from 12 (turning 13 by December 31st) to 19. **TS Centaur** parades at our Unit Headquarters at the Maleny Show Ground each Wednesday during school term from 5.25pm to 9pm.

Good things for youth in the name of Centaur.



TS Centaur cadets on board South Passage. Note the unit's logo with its mythological centaur on their shirts.

The Oranje Story

by Lorna Howlett

Peter High, Postal Historian from England, publisher of *The Oranje Story* by Lorna Howlett, can make copies available to Association members at a reduced price. Regular price is £15 plus postage. Peter's offer is £12.50 plus postage which is £7.55 by airmail to Australia and cheaper by surface mail. Payment may be made by Paypal for convenience.

The Association bought its copy from Peter many years ago, but cyberspace being the dodgy place it is, we lost contact. Peter has again found us.

Peter also collects envelopes sent from hospital ships, and would be happy to exchange the book (including postage) for an envelope sent from either Centaur (preferably) or Oranje. Please contact Peter at: peter.high94@hotmail.co.uk

MH17

We were devastated to hear that tragedy has again struck the Burrows family of Queensland. Irene lost both her brothers, Ptes John and Allan Maynard, on the Centaur, and she and George lost their son Rodney and daughter-in-law Mary on MH370. Now Irene and George's daughter Kaylene and husband John have lost Kaylene's step daughter Maree and her husband Albert Rizk from Melbourne on MH17.

We send our condolences to Irene, George, Kaylene and John, and their extended family. We hope they will be able to find some comfort in knowing they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Vale

William Edward Johnstone, PO Cook, R28262 R.A.N.

Centaur near-miss and long-time Association member

from Jan Thomas

Bill told me he had been haunted by the spectre of the Centaur all his life. He said that throughout his life every couple of years or so, he would turn around and there would be something about the Centaur. But he couldn't speak of the significance of his experience to just anybody, so he joined the Association in its very early days to be with people who would understand his story.

"Billo", as he was known in the family, had been a bit of a tearaway kid. He didn't particularly like school and, like many young lads, had his heart set on 'running away to sea'. So when the Centaur was recruiting in Melbourne, Billo saw it as a wonderful opportunity to achieve his dream. He applied to be taken on board as a Deck Boy, and triumphantly took the papers home for his father to sign.

His mother saw that this could be the making of Billo. He would have a good job, he'd learn a trade, he'd benefit from the discipline of the sea, and above all in wartime, he'd be safe: Centaur was a hospital ship!

As Bill told me the story, his mother ranted and raved, but his father was adamant; he would not sign the papers.

Three months later when Centaur was at the bottom of the ocean, Bill said his father didn't say a word, but Bill never forgot the look his father gave him.

I met Bill many years later, first at Point Danger, then in Brisbane. The Brisbane Service always includes the Naval Hymn ('for those in peril on the sea'). I never cope well with that hymn, and I didn't have a hanky. Bill very gallantly—and silently—handed me his.

Bill's son, James Johnstone, continues Bill's story:

Dad was born on 23rd May 1928 and grew up in Marcus Ave Footscray – he was proud to be a member of the Johnstone Clan and often spoke of the good times spent with his parents, and siblings Nell, Flo and Bob. The economy was pretty tough during the 1930s and they all had to live within their means. This didn't stop any of them from pushing their parents to the limit and being typical teenagers. Dad's earlier years made a big impact on him and throughout his entire life he made the effort to catch up with his parents, sisters and brother whenever possible.

Dad spoke of his mum constantly being on his back for misbehaving and telling Billo he was in trouble. Billo didn't particularly want to go to school and left as soon as he could. He held several jobs including one at a rope and twine factory on the Geelong Road until finally in November 1945 he was accepted into the Navy. He was taught the cooking trade and he enjoyed being part of the forces discipline. He told me it wasn't easy being away at sea all those years however he admitted to having a good time with his mates once they were off ship and back in Australia. Dad served on numerous ships including HMAS Katoomba, HMAS Warramunga, HMAS Condamine and HMAS Swan.



"Billo" finally made it to sea with the Navy.

Dad received the Naval General Service Medal (Minesweeping), United Nations Service Medal and Australian Service Medal (Korea and Far East Strategic Reserve).

By the end of his naval career he had reached the rank of Petty Officer, and he was very proud of this achievement.

About mid-way through his 12½ years of Naval service Dad met my mother Wilma, and in a relatively short period of time they were married, had purchased a house in Adelaide and started to build a family. Wilma and Bill were blessed with four healthy children, Josie, Judith, Susan and myself, James. In May 1958 Dad finished Naval service and learnt the trade of Vehicle Building to supplement the family income. Bill was quite successful at this trade and eventually progressed to the sales side of the vehicle building trade - which included the sale of hearses and ambulances - over the remainder of his working days.

Dad enjoyed family life immensely and liked nothing better than to cook a meal for his family or anyone who came to visit his place in Adelaide. I guess this is what the Navy instilled in him as he found great satisfaction in making people comfortable and giving them a good feed.

In his last years he found travel tiring and enjoyed the comfort of his own home where his family could visit him.

I appreciate the consideration, time and effort he always showed to me and will certainly miss him.

Rest in Peace, Billo. Rest in Peace
31 August 2013



Last Post



Bill Johnstone, RAN, Centaur near-miss, 31 August 1913.

Rosemary Brown, d/o Mr W F Darwin Clark, Red Cross Representative, SMS, 9 March 2014.

Joan Williams, d/o Cpl Maurice Williams, SMS, 8 April 2014.

Gerard (Gerry) Evans, n/o Cpl William Arthur Evans FA/AASC 16 May 2014.

Graham Haultain, n/o Sr Helen (Cynthia) Haultain, SMS, s/o Captain Theodore Haultain, commander of HMAS Lithgow who searched for survivors, 21 May 2014

Edna Tunaley, sister of William McKinnon, MN.

Eric Hodson 2/12th FA, regular attendee at Concord, 7 September 2014.



Caitlin Munro, great niece of Pte Bill Lawson 2/12th FA, was married on Saturday, 23 August at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in

Murwillumbah. Caitlin married Nick Easton from Toowoomba. Caitlin works as a Student Co-ordinator at the Rural Clinical School of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Queensland in Toowoomba, and Nick is a Logistics Officer in the CSG project in South West Queensland. They are making their home in Toowoomba.

The photo of Caitlin with her aunt Association member **Phyll Butcher** was taken in the front room of the family home in Murwillumbah where Phyll grew up with her sister, the late Jessie Munro, and their brother Bill. Phyll still lives in the home.

Annual General Meeting

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, including a **BBC online interview** and a **letter to the Prime Minister** alerting him to members' distress caused by his remarks to the Japanese Prime Minister on the heroism of Japanese midget submariners.

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 remains our Public Officer. Pat O'Brien d/o L/Cpl Michael O'Brien 2/12th FA, from Melbourne was elected unopposed to the vacant committee position.

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.

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.

Centaur Model



This model of the Centaur came to us from a man called Steve Jones. Steve had received it from a lady named Nancy who died some ten years ago. Nobody knows who made it, or what Nancy's connection was with the Centaur. All we know is that this model, for all its inaccuracies, meant a great deal to Nancy, and because of that, Steve was anxious to see that it is properly housed where its scant story would be appreciated.

We were at a loss to know what to do with it when the Macksville sub-Branch of the RSL decided to host a display of school students' projects on military matters of local significance to mark the dedication of the new cenotaph.

A group of Year 5 boys from Macksville Public School decided to do their story on Macksville's doctor, Captain Hindmarsh of the Centaur's Medical Staff. They were going to make a model out of cardboard, but now have a properly constructed model to work on. The model's inaccuracies will be renovated—at least to Year 5 standard—and the Centaur with its story will be publicly displayed.

Disclaimer:-

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

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