



March 2019

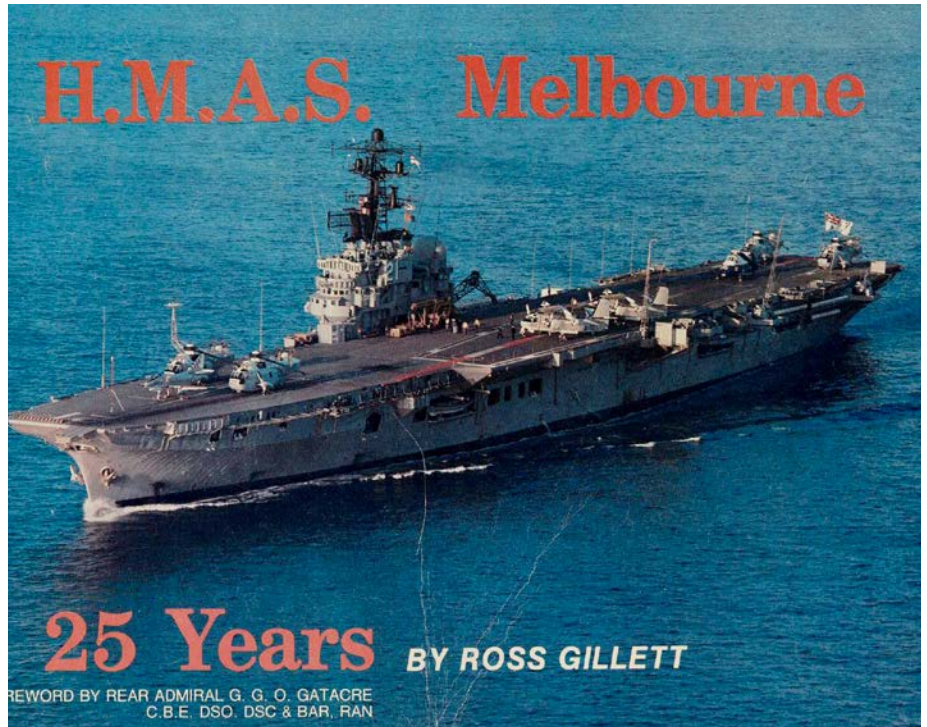
Volume 4, No. 2

SITREP

News from Lara RSL Sub Branch

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Within the Lara RSL Sub Branch Museum Collection, are hundreds of books, photos and newspaper articles. Each has a story to tell.

*This is one book, or many, that has a tale **Stranger Than Fiction**. HMAS Melbourne (R21) was a Majestic-class light aircraft carrier of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN). Operating from 1955 until 1982, she was the third and final conventional aircraft carrier to serve in the RAN. Melbourne was the only British Commonwealth naval vessel to sink two warships in peacetime collisions. HMAS Voyager, 10th February 1964 and USS Frank E. Evans 3rd June, 1969.*

The ship was laid down for the British Royal Navy as the lead ship of the Majestic class in April 1943, and was launched as HMS Majestic (R77) in February 1945. At the end of World War II, work on the ship was suspended until she was purchased by the RAN in 1947. At the time of purchase, it was decided to incorporate new aircraft carrier technologies into the design, making Melbourne the third ship to be constructed with an angled flight deck. Delays in construction and integrating the enhancements meant that the carrier was not commissioned until 1955.

Melbourne never fired a shot in anger during her career, having only peripheral, non-combat roles in relation to the Indonesia-Malaysia confrontation and the Vietnam War. Melbourne was paid off from RAN service in 1982. A proposal to convert her for use as a floating casino failed, and a 1984 sale was cancelled, before she was sold in 1985 and towed to China for breaking. The scrapping was delayed so Melbourne could be studied by the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN) as part of a secret project to develop a Chinese aircraft carrier and used to train PLAN aviators in carrier flight operations.

HMAS Melbourne was decommissioned on 30 June 1982, having spent 62,036 hours underway and having steamed 868,893 nautical miles (40 times around the world).

50 Years Ago in Australia

17th Mar Brisbane is Australia's first state capital to receive natural gas from the Moonie oilfields.

22nd Mar The Prime Minister, Mr John Gorton, has been accused of improper personal conduct following an early-morning visit to the American Embassy with a 19-year-old girl and his press secretary.

26th Mar The Nimmo Report on the national health insurance system recommends free medical and hospital services for low-income families.

March Top hits for the month was Bee Gees - I Started A Joke up to 8th then Beatles - Ob-La-Di, Ob-La-Da/While My Guitar Gently Weeps for rest of month.

Take a Break

Military Jokes

I used to be an artist in the army but I kept drawing enemy fire.

During training exercises, the Lieutenant who was driving down a muddy back road encountered another car stuck in the mud with a red-faced Colonel at the wheel. "Your car stuck, sir?" asked the Lieutenant as he pulled alongside. "Nope," replied the colonel, coming over and handing him the keys. "Yours is."

The Sergeant-Major growled at the young soldier: "I didn't see you at camouflage training this morning." "Thank you very much, sir."

The Chief of Staff of the US Air Force decided to personally recruit some pilots and he saw two young twins. He looked at the first young man and asked: "Son, what skills can you bring to the Air Force?" The young man looks at him and says: "I'm a pilot!" The General gets all excited, turns to his aide and says: "Get him in today, all the paper work done, everything, do it!" The aide hustles the young man off. The General looks at the second young man and asks: "What skills to you bring to the Air Force?" The young man says: "I chop wood!" "Son," the general replies: "We don't need wood choppers in the Air Force, what do you know how to do?" "I chop wood!" "Young man," huffs the general, "You are not listening to me, we don't need wood choppers, this is the 20th century!" "Well," the young man says, "You hired my brother!" "Of course we did," says the general, "He's a pilot!" The young man rolls his eyes and says: "So what! I have to chop it before he can pile it!"

Trench warfare should always be a last ditch effort.

When the pin is pulled, Mr. Grenade is no longer our friend. [From a US Field Manual]

Birthdays in March

Who is having a birthday this month? We promise not to give their age away!

Barbara De Raad
Andrew Donald
Faye Edwards
Kylie Grzybek
Alex Hilliard
Max Mahney
Norma O'Connor
Garry Phillips
Don Scown
George Snaith
Graeme Walker

New Member Draw

To encourage members to attend the last Friday night of every month, the Committee has introduced a member's draw, which is separate to the normal Friday night raffle.

To win, a member has to be present on the night. One member's (financial) number will be drawn. If present, they will receive the present prize pool to shop at Coles supermarket Lara.

If not present, the draw will carry over to the following last Friday of the Month, where another draw will take place. The prize will continue until the jackpot is won. The present prize pool for March is \$50. Colin Pert won \$200 in February draw.

Air Show

This weekend is the 2019 Air Show at Avalon. Edward Dingle from the Light Horse and Artillery Museum

who is having a display, would like to thank all volunteers from the Lara RSL who have given their time to help him over this weekend. He has shared how grateful he is for your help and allowing him to stay at the RSL over the Air Show time.

RSL Renovations

We are in the last stages of renovations. The outside pergola should be in place mid March. The kitchen renovations will start on Monday 4th March. This will conclude the current work.

The Committee thanks Bob Schouten for his hard work in coordinating many details of the building changes and all the volunteers who have assisted him over this period.

We are getting very positive comments from members and the general public who come into the RSL.

It is hoped that the changes encourage the general public to come to the RSL more often.

Editor

This is the last newsletter in this format. I have enjoyed the last three years in producing this newsletter in this format.

Due to stepping down from the Committee, the task will now move to another person and another format.

Thank you for all that have sent me photos, articles and jokes. I hope this last "Take A Break" will bring a smile to your face, and possibly

What's On At The Lara RSL

MARCH 2019

Friday	1st March	2:00-3:00pm	2019 AGM followed by Information Session
Friday	1st March	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Sunday	3rd March	9:00-2:00pm	Community Market with Rotary
Thursday	7th March	6:00-8:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	8th March	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Tuesday	12th March	6:00-8:30pm	Executive (6:00pm) Committee (7:00pm)
Thursday	14th March	9:30-3:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	15th March	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Thursday	21st March	9:30-3:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	22nd March	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Thursday	28th March	9:30-3:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	29th March	6:00-8:00pm	Last Friday Night Social Night - Gold Coin Supper

APRIL 2019

Thursday	4th April	9:30-3:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	5th April	2:00-3:00pm	Information Session - ANZAC Appeals Roster Launch
Friday	5th April	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Sunday	7th April	9:00-2:00pm	Community Market with Rotary
Tuesday	9th April	6:00-8:30pm	Executive (6:00pm) Committee (7:00pm)
Thursday	11th April	9:30-3:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	12th April	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Thursday	18th April	9:30-3:30pm	Museum Cataloguing/Drop-In-Center 10:00-2:00pm
Friday	19th April	6:00-8:00pm	Friday Night Social Night
Week of	23rd April	Daytime	School visits for Spirit of ANZAC Awards and ANZAC Days
Week of	23rd April	Daytime	ANZAC Appeal
Thursday	25th April	6:00am	Dawn Service Lara RSL Sub Branch (No Museum Cat)
Friday	26th April	6:00-8:00pm	Last Friday of Month Social Night - Gold Coin Supper

some laughter.

I hope the next newsletter continues to inform you with what is happening around the RSL with news, articles and humour. Thank you for your support.

New Committee

Welcome to new Committee which will be voted on at the AGM on Friday.

Nominations (all unopposed) are

President - Bob Schouten
 Senior Vice President - John Ockwell
 Vice President - Ian Jane
 Secretary - Karen Robb
 Treasurer - Andy Donald

Committee:
 Bar Manager - Gordon Ball
 Assistant Bar Manager - Alwyn Leech
 Volunteer Database - Lou Schepers
 Logistics Officer - Bob Lawson
 Committee - Vic Robb, Carson Millar and Billy Garrett

Please take the time to introduce yourself to the committee,

especially the new members. They have a lot of work ahead of them in the next twelve months and need your ongoing support for the many volunteer hours they will put in on behalf of Lara RSL members.

“They couldn’t hit an elephant at this dist...”

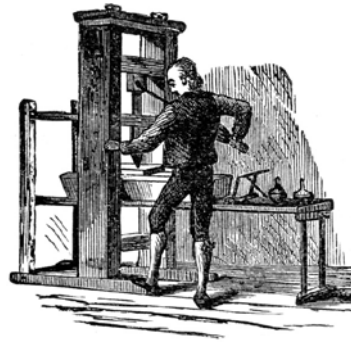
General John Sedgwick (1813-1864), last words.

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