



Mushroom News

The Official Newsletter of the Operations Room Association of Australia Inc.

Patrons:

Dr David Shackleton AO Vice Admiral RAN (Retired)

Mr Raydon Gates AO CSM Rear Admiral RAN (Retired)

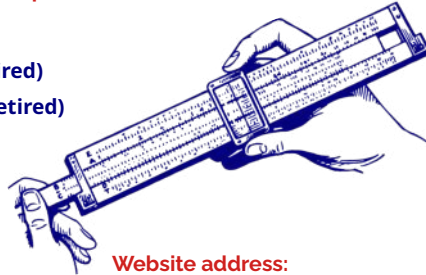
Executive:

President: Mr Gordon Lowe

Secretary: Denice Bryer

Treasurer: Mr Chris Mitchell

Webmaster: Mr Bill Furey



Website address:

<https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Dear Members and Partners,

As winter settles in and the days grow shorter, I find myself thinking about the strength of our ORA family and the moments we've shared so far this year. Our 2026 Reunion at Hahndorf Discovery Park was more than just a gathering—it was a reminder of the bonds that have carried us through decades of service, friendship, and shared history. From 13–15 March, I watched old shipmates reconnect, new friendships form, and stories flow as easily as they did in our younger days.

To Tania, Denice, and Lorrae—your dedication made the weekend unforgettable. BZ to each of you. And to our overseas members—John Gabriel, Sean Cox and Neil Bryan—your willingness to travel such extraordinary distances touched all of us. Your presence reminded me that ORA is not just an association; it's a global family.

Planning for our 2028 Reunion in Frankston is already underway, thanks to the steady leadership of Rory Munn. I'm genuinely looking forward to the chance to gather again, share more memories, and create new ones.

Throughout the year, your Executive and Committee have continued to work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their commitment humbles me. I see the hours they give, the care they bring, and the pride they carry for ORA. To each of them, a heartfelt BZ.

In recent months, I've had the honour of representing ORA in meetings with Military, State, and Federal Government representatives. On Anzac Day, I laid a wreath in Kogarah, standing alongside the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Chris Minns, and Ash Ambhaiphar MP. As I placed that wreath, I felt the weight of our shared history and the responsibility of carrying your voices forward.

Our advocacy for recognition of ADF Cyclone Tracy Responders continues. Although our petition for the National Emergency Medal was not successful, we are far from finished. A formal response was issued to the Chair of the Standing Committee on Petitions, Ms Jodie Belyea MP, from the Prime Minister via the Hon. Patrick Gorman (Reference: MC25 145962).

We will keep pushing.

The Operations Room Association of Australia Inc (ORA) acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of Country throughout Australia. The ORA recognises their continuing connection to traditional lands and waterways and would like to pay respect to their Elders both past and present. The ORA would also like to pay respect to **ALL** Serving and Ex Serving Service personnel, past and present, who have contributed to the Defence of Australia in times of War and Peace.

Contact the President:

E-mail: president@opsroomassociation.org.au

Web: <https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE (Cont)

I have also reached out to Mr Luke Gosling MP, our nominated Jurisdictional Representative, to assist with submitting a newly drafted letter—prepared by Bill Furey, Chris Mitchell, and myself—to both the Prime Minister and King Charles III. We are seeking the establishment of a new honour:

The Cyclone Tracy Responders Medal 1974–1975 (CTRM). For those who wish to view the website: Refer:- <https://adfcyclonetracyaward.com.au>

To our new Committee—Chris, Bill, Denice, Barb, Barney, Brian, Peter, Jim, Rory, Nicola, and Neil—congratulations. I am grateful to be working alongside you. A special congratulations to **Barney Hanson** on receiving Life Membership. And to **Chris Mitchell**, thank you for your years of service as Secretary. I'm glad you'll continue as Treasurer.

At the 2026 Anzac Day Memorial Service, I had the privilege of presenting ORA Challenge Coins and lapel badges to the Premier of NSW, the Hon. Chris Minns; Ash Ambhaiphar MP; Mr Tomas Gao; and Mr Grant Amer, CEO of Kogarah RSL. Moments like these remind me how far ORA has come—and how much respect our organisation has earned. I've also been in contact with Warrant Officer CSO's Eastern and Western regarding the Junior and Senior Sailors CSO Awards. Supporting the next generation of sailors is something I hold close to my heart.

On 15 May, I attended HMAS Watson for the CSO IET graduation. Standing there, watching eighteen new CSO Junior Sailors begin their journey, brought back memories of my own early days. Presenting Challenge Coins and ORA Lapel Badges to the Commanding Officer, Executive Officer, Training Senior Sailors, the CSO Training Divisional Officer, and the graduates was a genuine honour. HMAS Watson has shaped so many of us and being back there felt like coming home.

As always, my sincere thanks go to our ORA Webmaster, Bill Furey, and to Chris Mitchell and Denice Bryer, whose dedication ensures this newsletter reaches you with care and professionalism. Please enjoy this edition. I hope it brings you a sense of connection, pride, and belonging—because that is what ORA has always meant to me.

I look forward to seeing many of you in Victoria in 2028.

Warmest regards,

Gordon

PS: In keeping with our Succession Planning Criteria (SPC) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), I will not be contesting the Presidency at the 2028 AGM in Frankston. It has been one of the great honours of my life to serve as your President, and I remain committed to supporting a smooth and respectful transition.



ORA PRESIDENT



GORDON LOWE

e-mail: president@opsroomassociation.org.au

Contact the President:

E-mail: president@opsroomassociation.org.au

Web: <https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>

SECRETARIES MESSAGE

Hi, it's Grobby here,

Just reaching out to everyone to let you all know that I have taken on the job of the ORA Secretary for the next two years.

If you don't know who I am, my name is Denice Bryer (formerly Grob). I decided to come on board to make a change and move the ORA to be more inclusive and be more readily available to all members. My focus is the ORA, with things in my headlights include, Registration of the ORA being moved to another state, where the most members reside. Constitution rewrites, and gaining an ABN so that we can start applying for Grants.

Now this is going to all take time, in the meantime, I would like to open communication and transparency between our membership and the ORA Committee. I will endeavour to keep you all informed of any happenings.

We are one community and I would love to hear from you including your input about our direction and how the Association can be improved and anything else you would like to share.

With State get togethers please submit to the Webby funny dits and photos we would all love to know what you are all up to.

Your feedback would be appreciated. I have been listening to members of our committee and there are lots of great ideas floating about.

For now we have developed a Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for all future Reunions and I have a couple of ideas to help raise funds towards bringing the Reunion costs down but, this will all come down to our community's participation.

I look forward to working with you all.

Cheers,

Denice.



ORA SHOP

ASSOCIATION LAPEL BADGES



\$10 each
PLUS POSTAGE

TO ORDER YOURS CLICK ON OUR ORDER FORM

ORDER FORM

In Coloured or Gold



LIMITED STOCK

ORA SECRETARY



DENICE BRYER

e-mail: secretary@opsroomassociation.org.au

Contact the Secretary:

E-mail: secretary@opsroomassociation.org.au

Web: <https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>

Mitch's Musings - Treasurers News:



Good Day Members,
Hope that all of you are fit and well as we head into the flu season. At the recent AGM held at Reunion in SA. I have stepped down as Secretary of the Association, having been with the team since 2015 to March 2026. The first get together in Sydney for the branch 75th birthday and then setting up the ORA Association. I felt that it was time to step down as the Secretary to have a new one, with fresh ideas. Since the reunion have handed the Secretary duties to Denice Bryer. Intend to step down as Treasurer during 2027, so if anyone is interested please contact me for further details.

Mitch

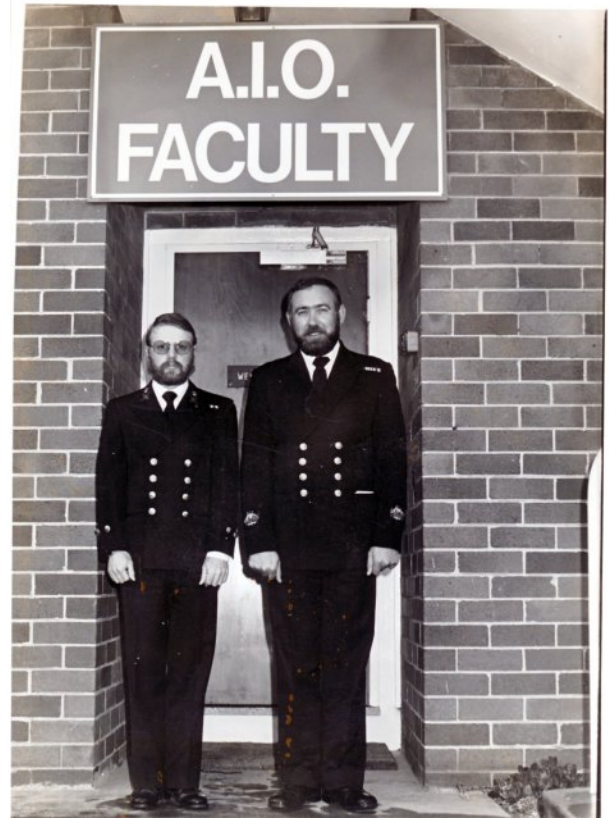
ORA Treasurer

ORA TREASURER



CHRIS MITCHELL

e-mail: treasurer@opsroomassociation.org.au



James Meredith & Bob McGregor Circa 1985

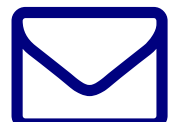


James Meredith with a PORP Course - Circa 1985

Contact the Treasurer:

E-mail: treasurer@opsroomassociation.org.au

Web: <https://www.opsroomassociation.org.au>



OUR HISTORY AND WHERE WE'VE COME FROM.

Compliments of James Meredith.

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Annex C to
AF letter 72/31/6
of 16 SEP 1939

CREATION OF THE RP BRANCH

INTRODUCTION

1. The article reproduced in this Annex was provided by LCDR Thornett and provides an interesting look at the foundation of the RP(RDF) Branch in the RN in 1940.

AFO 3368 - RDF OPERATORS - CREATION OF NEW RATING

(N. 13612/40 - 5.9.1940)

It has been decided to institute a specialised section of the Seaman Branch for RDF manning and maintenance duties.

2. For ratings qualified in RDF duties non-substantive pay at the rate of 3d. is authorised. In the case of men already qualified in this special work the payment may be ante-dated to the actual date of qualification but not prior to the 3rd September, 1939. No other non-substantive pay will be allowed in addition; the 3d. non-substantive pay will continue after promotion to higher rating. Date of qualification is to be the date of qualifying in HM Signal School, or in the case of ratings trained elsewhere four weeks after date of being appropriated for RDF duties.

3. Ordinary Seamen H.O. (preferably volunteers) but not S.S. will be selected in the main. So far as is possible men possessing quickness of mind and intelligence should be selected; a knowledge of electricity is advantageous but not essential. Candidates for commissioned rank should not be selected. Commodore, H.M.S. "Raleigh" and Commodore, H.M.S. "Collingwood" are to forward seven candidates from each establishment and Commodore, H.M.S. "Ganges" four candidates, each week to H.M. Signal School, Portsmouth, so as to arrive on Fridays. Colour-blindness will not be a disqualification and H.O. Seamen and Signal candidates found visually unfit for those branches may be included in the candidates if otherwise suitable. All men should have completed Part I training as Seamen before discharge to the Signal School.

4. The names of H.O. Ordinary Telegraphists and Naval Airmen who fail to qualify in their original branch may be forwarded to the Captain, H.M. Signal School, Portsmouth, if these men are considered suitable for the RDF Branch. Other W/T ratings will not be allowed to transfer.

5. Ordinary Seamen and Able Seamen, RMVR already employed on this work may be transferred to the special roster of RDF operators at Portsmouth (this will involve change of Port Division in the case of Chatham and Devonport). They will be

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entitled to non-substantive pay as in the case of other RDF Operators but may not hold other non-substantive rates. Those who do not wish to transfer may draw the same rate of non-substantive pay, ante-dated as necessary, for the period they were employed on RDF duties (provided that such pay is not drawn concurrently with any other non-substantive pay) but they are to revert to their normal duties as seamen when relieved by other RDF Operators. No further active service seamen will be selected.

6. RDF Operators will be employed for the main part in H.M. Ships after selection the ratings concerned will be sent to H.M. Signal School, Portsmouth, to undergo a special course lasting four weeks. A certain number will be employed in shore stations, and, after selection, these ratings will be sent to Naval Stations for training instead of to H.M. Signal School. RDF Operators will be required to transfer from sea to shore service and vice versa.

7. Sea experience will not be a qualification for advancement to Able Seaman, which will take place after 9 to 12 months, as laid down in A.F.O. 400/40. Ordinary Seamen, RNVR who have been employed on RDF duties should be advanced to Able Seamen in accordance with A.F.O. 1211/40 as regards time, paragraph 9 below being applicable for advancement by roster based on seniority, to Leading Seaman (RDF) after 6 months' service and recommendation in the usual manner. No professional test will be required for advancement to the Leading rate. All former service in man's rate will be allowed to count as if it had been rendered in the RDF Branch.

8. Leading Seamen (RDF) will be eligible for advancement by roster based on date of passing to Petty Officer (RDF) after 12 months' service as Leading Seaman.

9. Ratings in the new Branch will not be required to qualify in subjects normally required of Seaman ratings and will be placed on a separate roster. Accordingly the ordinary sea service qualification for Leading Seaman and Petty Officer is waived. They may however be employed on suitable executive duties such as patrols when not engaged on RDF work.

10. To qualify for advancement to Petty Officer (RDF) ratings will be required to undergo a course and pass an examination in H.M. Signal School. This course will be designed to fit Petty Officers to take over maintenance duties from the W/T Branch. Commanding Officers are to forward recommendations for this course in respect of any suitable Leading Seaman (RDF) to the Captain, H.M. Signal School, Portsmouth. Service documents of qualified ratings should be noted "Passed for Petty Officers (RDF)".

11. All drafting and advancement rosters will be centralised in Portsmouth Port Division. Ratings belonging to

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other Port Divisions should be transferred to Portsmouth Port Division.

12. The badge of all RDF Operators will be that of an Ordinary Telegraphist.

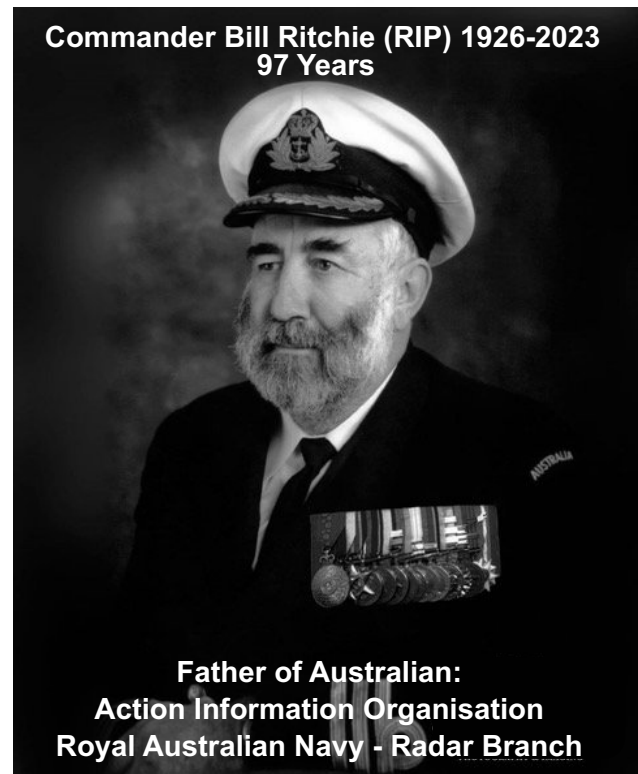
13. All H.M. Ships and shore stations concerned are to forward the following particulars to the Commodore, R.N. Barracks, Portsmouth, as early as possible:

- a. Nominal list of ratings borne for RDF operating duties, giving rating, official number, existing Port Division and seniority.
- b. Date of qualification in the case of ratings not qualified in H.M. Signal School, Portsmouth.
- c. Nominal list of Active Service Seaman ratings who do not wish to transfer to the RDF Branch and for whom reliefs are required in consequence.

14. A further AFO will be issued showing authorised complements of operators, both ashore and afloat. (AFO's 400/40 and 1211/40).



**BILL RITCHIE
IN 1944**



**Commander Bill Ritchie (RIP) 1926-2023
97 Years**

**Father of Australian:
Action Information Organisation
Royal Australian Navy - Radar Branch**

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORA REUNION PHOTOS 2026

Some Photos taken at the Reunion = Please visit our Galleries in the Members Area to view others.



Some members of the New ORA Committee



Robbie & Margaret Hill



Norm & Sue Graetsch



Dennis & Pauline Gribble



WRANS Attending the Reunion



John Rynbout, David Lane,
Tony Kellerman & Melissa Ramsbottom

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORA REUNION PHOTOS 2026



John & Diane Gabriel



Alan & Leanne Jackson



Annette, Dave, Rod & Susan Smith



Jeff & Vicki Westwood



Michael & Yvonne Hull



Peter & Samantha Hassall



Alan Warner & Denice Bryer

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORA REUNION PHOTOS 2026



Lance, Bushy, Annette,
Denice & Dave



Georgina & Steve Crook



Wally, Joan & Jim



Barb & Meikie



Meikie, Melissa & Barb



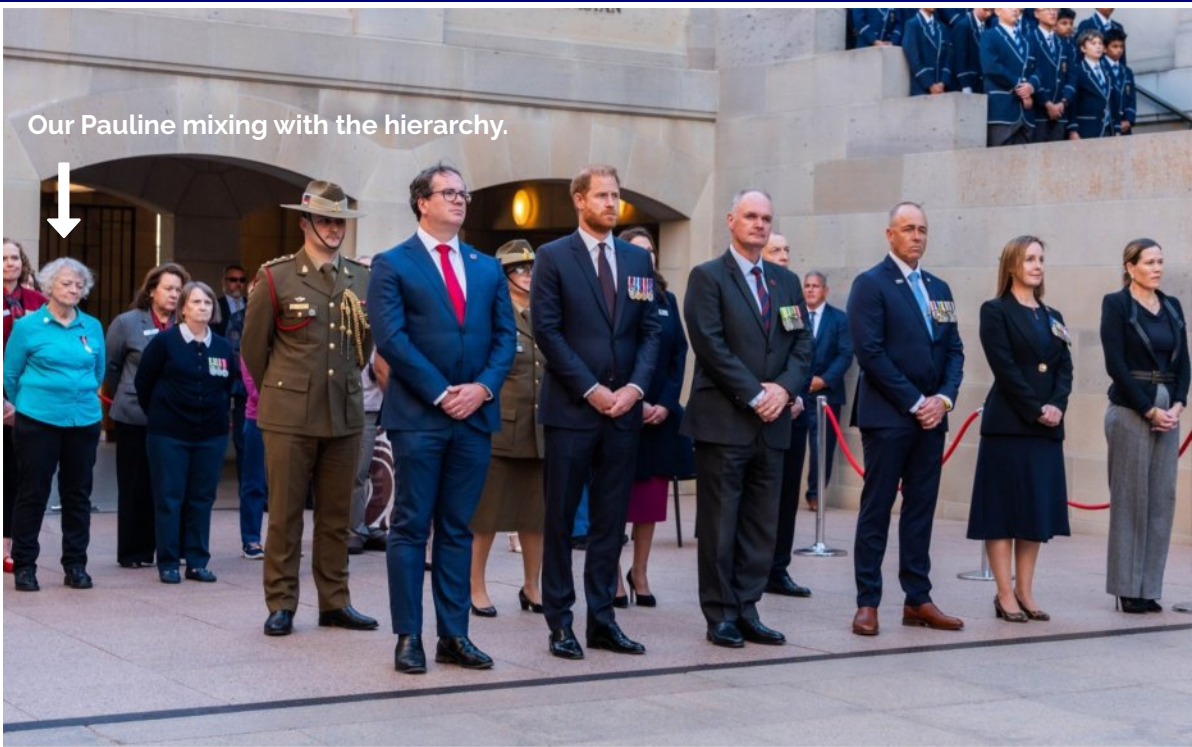
Margaret Maher



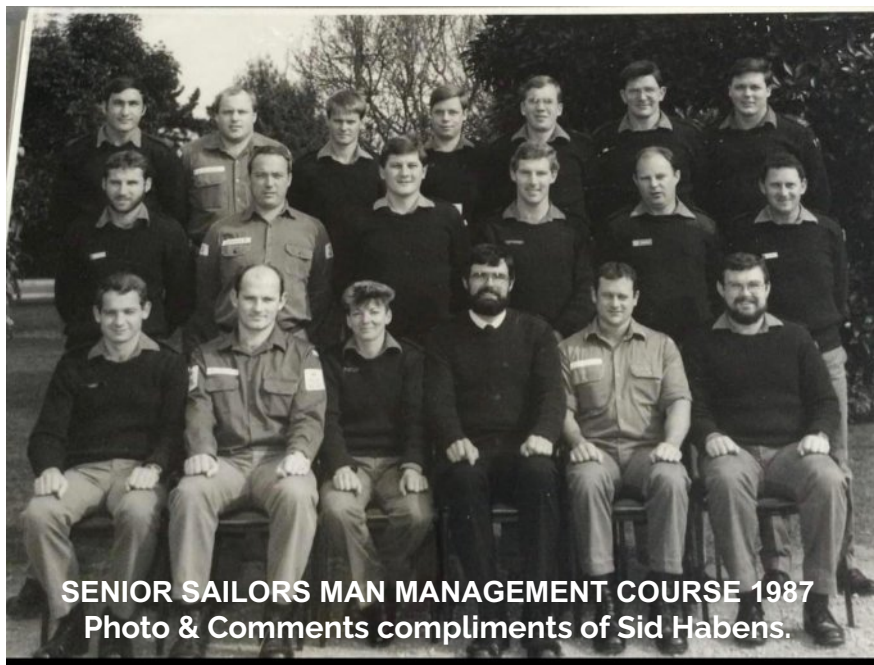
Mark & Laurel Quigley



Lance, Mark, Rory, Punj, Joffre



One of our loved Members Pauline Gribble, lives in the ACT and Volunteers At the War Memorial in Canberra, to do the last Post Ceremony every so often. Imagine to her surprise, when she turned up for her volunteer role totally unaware that Prince Harry would be there. Her Comment: **"I wish I had worn a better shirt"**. This photo was taken on the last tour when Harry and Meghan were visiting Australia in April 2026. Harry's visit was a last minute surprise.



This Photo was taken in 1987 prior to the Senior Sailors Man Management course. Bob Thomas was the instructor and decided he wanted to complete the course so tagged along. We had completed the PORP and Advanced Seamanship courses and this was the final leg in becoming fully confirmed as PORP's. Some of the RP Names in this photo:

Front Row: Dave Tunny, Peter Reed, Tracy Malloy.
Middle Row: John Bizjak, Bob Thomas (RP Instructor)
Rear Row: Sid Habens, Ross McCrae and Smiley Burnett



MEMBERSHIP & WEBSITE NEWS:

Hi Members,

If you want to update your personal information or request access to the Members area... then please click one of the following links below.



Join the ORA



Update my Info



Request Access Members Area



New Name Badges

MEMBERSHIP BREAKUP BY STATES & INTERNATIONAL:

STATE	STATE MEMBERSHIP REVIEW							MEMBER			TOTALS
	FULL	PATRON	LIFE	80+	ASSOC	HON	RIP	FEES OVERDUE	MEMBERS RESIGNED		
QLD	56	0	0	4	0	0	7	6	8	81	
NSW	53	0	0	2	0	0	3	9	2	69	
WA	36	0	0	1	0	0	5	1	3	46	
VIC	23	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	1	30	
ACT	20	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	24	
SA	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	11	
TAS	7	0	1	1	0	0	0	4	0	13	
INTL	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	
NT	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3	
TOTAL MEMBERS	208	2	1	8	0	0	17	28	15	279	
RENEWAL YEAR:	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035	
MEMBERS DUE:	42	30	43	32	19	27	5	4	1	0	

Membership Matters:

CONGRATULATIONS:

To Barney Hanson for being awarded The Ops Room Association's **Life Member Award.**

B.Z. Barney thoroughly deserved.

Membership Fees:

\$15 per year. OR Maximum of 5 years for \$70.

Once only Joining Fee and lost badge replacements cost \$50.

A List of ORA Members can be found in the Members only section of our website. This list clearly indicates your Membership Status.

Membership reminder emails, are sent out to all Members, when your memberships are due. Please make sure your email address is up to date with us. If you are still unsure of your Membership status, Please contact the Webmaster for assistance on all your membership matters.



Contact the Webby:

E-mail: webmaster@opsroomassociation.org.au

Website: <https://opsroomassociation.org.au>



DVA HAPPENINGS:



VEA and DRCA compensation claims close 30 June 2026

20 April 2026

In just under 3 months the veterans' compensation system will be easier to navigate.

The current three Act system will be simplified so that all new compensation and rehabilitation claims lodged on or after **Wednesday 1 July 2026** will be determined under a single ongoing Act – an improved version of the *Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004* (MRCA).

As part of the transition from 3 Acts to one, the *Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986* (VEA) and the *Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation (Defence-related claims) Act 1988* (DRCA) will close to new compensation and rehabilitation claims on **Tuesday 30 June 2026**.

Veterans can be assured that under 'grandparenting' arrangements payments already being received before 1 July 2026 will continue uninterrupted and be indexed as normal.

There is an exception for [clients receiving DRCA incapacity payments](#), who will transition to the more generous MRCA incapacity payments from 1 July 2026.

The move to the improved MRCA as the single ongoing Act will also see eligibility for various entitlements that had operated differently across the 3 Acts standardised from 1 July.

As part of this transition [clients with open VEA and DRCA rehabilitation plans](#) will move to the MRCA from 1 July 2026, while students receiving [support under the VEA will transfer to the MRCA education scheme](#).

While DVA cannot provide individualised claims advice, a range of resources are available on the DVA [website](#) to help the veteran community understand the changes from 1 July.

This includes:

- more than [20 fact sheets](#) and summaries for [particular groups](#), including [VEA veterans and their partners](#), [DRCA veterans](#), and the [children of veterans](#)
- [scenarios](#) that demonstrate how the improved MRCA may impact individual circumstances
- [frequently asked questions](#)

Help is also available to make a claim. You can:

- use MyService to lodge your claim
- request an online or in person meeting with a Claims Lodgement Assistant
- request a 1-1 appointment with a Veteran Support Officer
- visit a DVA office or VAN location in your state or territory
- find a free, trained and qualified advocate near you via the DVA [Advocacy Register](#) at <https://www.advocateregister.org.au/>.

The Making a Claim guide is available on DVA's website at www.dva.gov.au/claimguide.
You can also call 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) or email primary.claims@dva.gov.au.

DVA HAPPENINGS:

From 20 March, some veterans and veteran family members will receive an increase in their DVA pension and compensation payments.

The first full payment at the new rate will be the payday 16 April 2026. You don't need to do anything to receive the increase; it will be applied automatically.

Payments made on payday 2 April will cover the period 17 March to 30 March 2026, and will include entitlements calculated at both the old and new rates.

This increase helps make sure your payments keep up with the cost of living.

The majority of pension and compensation payments are indexed in March and September each year. Indexation is determined by either the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Pensioner and Beneficiary Living Cost Index (PBLCI) or Male Total Average Weekly Earnings (MTAWE). For 20 March 2026, the indexation is driven by CPI. From 20 March 2026, deeming rates will also change in line with arrangements applying to payments made by other Commonwealth Departments. Deeming rates are used to calculate deemed income from your financial investments (e.g. shares, bank accounts), regardless of actual returns.

This deemed income counts toward the income test while the actual returns are not counted. The income test, along with the assets test, determines your entitlement to Service Pension, Income Support Supplement and Veteran Payment. A new deeming rate of 1.25% (currently 0.75%) will apply to financial assets under \$64,200 for singles and \$106,200 combined, for couples. Any remaining balance over these amounts will be deemed at a rate of 3.25% (currently 2.75%). To know more about deeming rates please visit [Operation of Deeming](#) | [CLIK](#)

SERVICE PENSION (total amount)	Old rate (fortnightly)	New rate (fortnightly)
Single person	\$1,178.70	\$1,200.90
Couples (each)	\$888.50	\$905.20
Single person – transitional	\$959.70	\$977.70
Couples (each) – transitional	\$774.30	\$788.80
WAR WIDOWS (total amount)		
War widow(er)'s pension	\$1,200.80	\$1,223.40
Income support supplement (ceiling rate)	\$357.00	\$363.80
DISABILITY COMPENSATION PAYMENT (total amount)		
T&PI (Special rate)	\$1,860.90	\$1,895.90
Intermediate rate	\$1,233.70	\$1,256.90
EDA	\$1,004.20	\$1,023.10
100 per cent (inc ES)	\$646.00	\$658.20
10 per cent (inc ES)	\$71.53	\$72.75
Veteran Payment		
Single person	\$1,280.10	\$1,304.50
Couples (each)	\$998.40	\$1,017.40
MRCA*		
Wholly dependent partner payment	\$1,200.80	\$1,223.40
Special Rate Disability pension (SRDP)	\$1,860.90	\$1,895.90

DVA HAPPENINGS:

Quicker ways to book DVA arranged transport.

Many veterans call DVA directly to organise Booked Car with Driver transport, but there is a way to skip the queue!

DVA's Booked Car with Driver service supports thousands of veterans travelling to medical treatment each year. In 2025, almost 30,000 veterans used the service, completing more than 650,000 journeys to and from medical appointments.

You can speed up the process by using the MyService portal to ask DVA to arrange transport for treatment covered by your Veteran Card.

And when you have finished the medical appointment, you don't have to ring DVA to book your return journey back home. Journeys to return home can be organised by ringing the transport provider that took you to your appointment directly.

Drivers will give veterans a "Right of Return Card" on the journey to the appointment, which has all the information you need to organise the journey back home. When calling them, simply quote your DVA file number and the address, and a driver will be back to pick you up from the appointment. (If the driver has not offered you the card, please ask for one.)

Find out how on the [DVA website](#).

Dental changes leave veterans smiling:

The annual monetary limit for high cost, clinically needed restorative items (Schedule C items), such as crowns or bridges, has been doubled and the time you have to use your capped amount has been extended from one to two years.

From 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2027 your total limit is \$5,980.30 and this amount will be indexed for the following 2-year period.

This will be your new biennial monetary limit for Schedule C items. You don't need to do anything to activate the new biennial monetary limit.

Importantly, you will not be able to roll over the amount into the next two-year period because the monetary limit resets.

The capped amounts apply even if you hold a Veteran Gold Card or have dental related conditions accepted on your Veteran White Card.

In addition, dental therapists hygienists and oral health therapists have also been added to the approved list of dental service providers. This means it is now easier to access a dental practitioner suited to your needs.

To learn more about DVA's Dental Program, visit the [DVA website](#).

DVA HAPPENINGS:

Show your Veteran Card – get the care you deserve:

Health providers need to confirm what treatments are covered under your DVA entitlements. Showing your Veteran Card—physical or digital—helps providers understand your eligibility and prevents delays.

If you hold a Veteran White Card, bring details of your accepted conditions to your appointment. This helps them understand what treatment DVA will fund.

How to find your accepted conditions:

If you have linked MyService to your myGov account, you can view your accepted conditions under your DVA Veteran Card in MyService. From MyService you can generate a list of your accepted conditions to be saved as a PDF which you can choose to share with your provider.

Step by step guidance to help you find your accepted conditions is in MyService :

How to find your accepted conditions and check your legislation in MyService. If you don't have MyService it's easy to set up, visit the DVA website to find out how. Call the Veteran Access Network on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372) and ask us to send you a letter listing your accepted conditions.

Tips for a hassle-free visit:

Check before booking: Contact the health provider to find out whether they accept Veteran Cards before making the appointment.
Keep records handy: Give permission to your GP or other regular health providers to store your accepted conditions in your health records. This makes future appointments easier.

Need help?

Support is available. If you're having trouble with MyService or unsure how to find your accepted conditions,

Contact DVA on 1800 VETERAN (1800 838 372).

DVA staff and Veteran Support Officers can assist.

For further information on MyService visit :

<https://www.dva.gov.au/about-myservice>

Radar Ramblings

Author unknown

Oh lord it's hard to be humble
To be perfect in every way
So let's just sit down and we'll ponder
How each of us spends his day

I could have joined up as a greenie
And spend lots of time in my bunk
Get up once a day to do DSOT's
And three times a day to be fed scan

A cook or a victualler or steward
Or even a writer sounds gear
I'd be finished my job by secure
And off to the mess for a beer

A gunnery Jack or a TAS rate
Might sound like a piece of cake
But I think that being in eight watches
Would be a bit hard to take

They spy and the yeoman are others
Who never seem very hard pressed
If they're not drinking brews in the OPS room
They're down having a rest

There's not many other jobs vacant
The diver and doc come to mind
When you don't want 'em they're always handy
When you need 'em they're so hard to find

That's almost the end of this ditty
There's only one mob left of note
And that is the boys from the Batcave
With the easiest job on the Boat

Eight hours a day for the buffer
Six hours a day for the 'D'
That's ten hours left to be thankful
That's why I'm a PORP



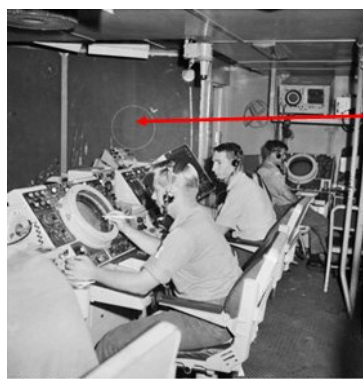
Photos HMAS Watson Circa 1985

Compliments of James Meredith





"NO SHIT" by Bob Thomas

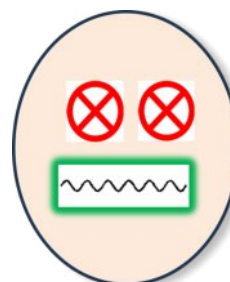


Magnetic Air Plot

The Magnetic Air Plot - HMAS Hobart, Vietnam 1970

For those of us old enough to remember, prior to the Combat Data System upgrade in the mid- seventies, RAN DDG's were equipped with NC2 plotting tables for ASW and Surface plots while the Air Plot was kept on a vertically mounted board. This was painted black with centric circles depicting range. Acting on information from the radar team, the air plotter would place or move various magnetic symbols painted with iridescent paint that would light up under the ultraviolet lighting aimed at the board. These plotting symbols pre-dated NCDS symbology and used different colours and shapes such as a wiggly line indicating a faded contact.

One particular night during the middle of the six-hour morning watch when not a lot was happening, we observed ABRP Dennis Mariner, standing under the Air Plot glowing in the dark and sporting circles with crosses for eyes and a wiggly line for a mouth. Obviously bored shitless.



Divisions - HMAS Penguin, July 1969

It was one of those rare occasions at *Penguin* when the RAN Band, who were at the time based there, were not present. There we were, all fallen in three deep in our best blues on the parade ground when the parade commander bellowed "Penguins, Penguins, Ho".

Looking around I found this highly amusing as I figured we all looked like a waddle of penguins anyway. As if this wasn't enough to get me giggling to myself, it got worse. The parade commander then bellowed "March on the Guard and Gramophone".

That was the last straw as I could no longer contain myself from bursting out laughing. Not the thing to do at divisions.



"Where's he going"

AIMS OF OUR ASSOCIATION:

- To unite former and serving RDF/RP/CSO personnel.
- Maintain the bond of friendship and esprit de corps in Naval & Ops room traditions.
- Assist with the welfare of former and serving RDF/RP/CSO/ops room personnel and their families.
- Provide a forum for RDF/RP/CSO/Ops Room matters.
- Foster the preservation of the history of Radar RDF/RP/CSO and Ops Rooms in the RAN.
- Do all such other things to promote and further the objects of the Association.
- Apply the property and the income of the Association, solely towards the promotion of the objects of the Association and no part of that property or income may be paid or otherwise distributed, directly or indirectly, to members, except in good faith in the promotion of those objects.

ORA MEMBERSHIP:

Membership within the Association may be in the form of any or all of the following classes:

- Full Members;
- Associate Members;
- Life Members;
- Honorary Members.
- 80+ Members (Conditions apply)

HOW TO JOIN OUR ASSOCIATION



(Click on hands)

If you know of anyone who might like to join our Association please send this Newsletter onto them. We are always on the lookout for new members.

OUR ORGANISATION:

The Association is a formation or gathering of former and serving personnel of the Royal Australian Navy or other Navies, who have completed:

- Radio Direction Find (RDF),
- Radar Plotters (RP)
- Combat System Operators (CSO)
- Basic Course or equivalent Courses.
- Former Special Duty Plot Radar (SDPR)
- Operations Room Officers (ORO)
- Principal Warfare Officers (PWO [D])
- Direction Officers (D)
- Air Intercept Controllers (AIC)
- Radar Plot Air Control (RPAC)

Also, anyone having served in naval ops room billets or in training and support roles of naval operations rooms. And any other individual who has an interest in naval operation rooms and the Naval Fleet in general.

ORA COMMITTEE 2026 - 2028

President:

Gordon Lowe. (NSW)

Secretary:

Denice Bryer. (QLD)

Treasurer:

Chris Mitchell. (TAS)

Vice Presidents:

Barbara Jefferys (QLD)

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Peter Kalkman (NSW)

Jim Denton (SA)

Barney Hanson (TAS)

Rory Munn (VIC)

Nicola Carson (WA)

Neil (Punj) Bryan (International - India)

Webby / Membership Co-ordinator:

Bill Furey (VIC)

Contact Webby:

E-mail: webmaster@opsroomassociation.org.au

Website: <https://opsroomassociation.org.au>



DVA Assistance:

If Members are needing assistance regards dealing with DVA entitlements, lump sum compensation, White to Gold Card, or just wanting to know where to start.

Alan Birkenhead a former RP has retired from RSL QLD as a service delivery manager, but still available to help out our ORA Members for DVA Assistance.

Sick Bay:

We are thinking of all our fellow crew members who are not feeling a 100% at this time:

BOB THOMAS - Back Surgery on the mend

"Get Well Soon Troops - We are thinking of you all"

If you know of any ORA Members in Sickbay who request visitations, please contact the Webby to try and arrange.



Subscribe to Newsletters (for Non Members)



ORA Commemorative Wall:

**They have no grave but the cruel sea
No flowers lay at their head
A rusting hulk is their tombstone
A fast on the ocean bed
They shall grow not old
as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them
nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun
And in the morning
We shall remember them
Lest we forget.**

To view all our lists of who have crossed the bar, please visit our commemorative pages in the Members area of our website.

List of Radar Branch Members who have crossed the bar recently.

VALE:

LSRPSM B. A. MCLENNAN
Non-Association Member
R65890
Aged: 76

LSRP COL FLETCHER
Non-Association Member
R112427
Aged: 72



If any member has any items for inclusion in the Mushroom News, please email the Secretary or Webmaster.

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter, are not necessarily those of the Association's Executive Committee. Articles and items are from many sources including the internet, various publications, and personal files and where possible will be acknowledged.

The editors of the Mushroom News — Chris Mitchell and Bill Furey.