



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)

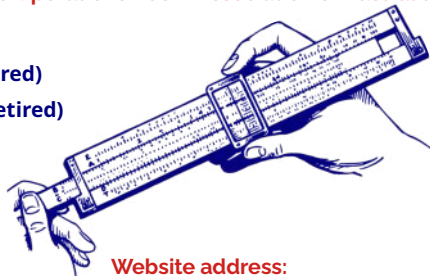
Executive:

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 spring arrives and the days begin to lengthen, it is wonderful to feel the warmth returning. It always makes me think of the incredible strength of our ORA family and the beautiful moments we've shared so far this year.

Looking back to March, our 2026 Reunion at Hahndorf Discovery Park was truly a highlight for us all. It served as a heart warming reminder of the deep bonds that have carried us through decades of service, friendship, and shared history. It brought such joy to see old shipmates reconnecting, new friendships blossoming, and stories flowing just as easily as they did in our younger days.

Looking ahead, planning for our 2028 Reunion in Frankston is already moving ahead steadily, thanks to the wonderful leadership of Rory Munn. I am genuinely looking forward to the next time we can all gather together, wrap ourselves in old memories, and create special new ones.

Behind the scenes, your Executive and Committee continue to work tirelessly with so much heart. Their deep commitment to our community humbles me every day.

I see first hand the hours they generously give, the genuine care they bring, and the immense pride they carry for ORA.

To each and every one of them, a very heartfelt BZ.

On a personal note, I want to share that I will be retiring as your President at our AGM in 2028.

Leading this incredible association has been an absolute honour, and looking ahead to the future, I want to ensure we remain in strong, capable hands. With your support, I would love to nominate Barb Jefferys to take on this role when the time comes. I know she will bring the same passion and dedication to our global family that you all deserve.

On another bittersweet note, our dear friend Chris Mitchell will shortly retire as our Treasurer. Chris has been the backbone of our financial guiding light since our very inception, starting out in the combined role of Secretary-Treasurer.

On behalf of our entire ORA family, I want to wish him the absolute best and thank him from the bottom of our hearts for a job exceptionally well done. Bravo Zulu.

Chris—you will be deeply missed in your official roles, but it brings great comfort to know we can still call on you for your warm advice, mentorship, and vast knowledge.

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)

Updates are being prepared for a new ORA constitution. We soon will let you know where to look on our website. We highly encourage all of you to take a look through these updates and share your thoughts with us. Your voice is incredibly vital in shaping the future of the association we all love.

Finally, our advocacy for the well-deserved recognition of our ADF Cyclone Tracy Responders continues with full heart.

Although our petition for the National Emergency Medal was not successful, we are far from finished, and we stand by our responders proudly.

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 MP.

The next steps now sit with the Member for Solomon, The Hon. Luke Gosling MP.

We are staying close to this, and more updates on this next challenge will be shared with you all as soon as they come to hand.

Warm Regards

Gordon Lowe
ORA President



Contact the President:

E-mail: president@opsroomassociation.org.au

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



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\$10 each

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ORA PRESIDENT



GORDON LOWE

e-mail: president@opsroomassociation.org.au

SECRETARIES MESSAGE

Hi Everyone,

Well, the last five months have been extremely busy, and it has been a pleasure to join the ORA Committee. It is wonderful to see the Committee working together to move the Association into the future.

As previously reported, the major changes and restructuring we are undertaking will take some time.

The rewrite of the Constitution is now in its third round, and we are anticipating sending a copy to all members for your consideration and approval by the end of the year. Please be aware that this will be an important step for the Association, and we will need everyone to participate and respond when the Constitution is circulated for approval. Your involvement is very important to the future direction of ORA.

Fundraising:

I have just received approval to move forward with my fundraising idea. This will involve approaching some major companies for sponsorships and donations, and hopefully we will have some success. The goal is to raise funds through voucher raffles, where our members will be able to participate by purchasing tickets online. The funds raised will then be used to support reunions and Association administration costs. This is an exciting opportunity to develop some additional income for ORA and provide greater support for our members and activities.

ABN and Grants:

We now also have an ABN, which opens the door to exploring a range of grant opportunities. So, if anyone loves writing grants or has experience in preparing grant applications, please contact me!

ORA SECRETARY



DENICE BRYER

e-mail: secretary@opsroomassociation.org.au

We would love to have you on board and make use of your skills.

Having an ABN also helps ORA establish itself as a recognised organisation when dealing with businesses, sponsors and government organisations.

State Representatives and Social Clubs:

Our State Representatives have become more active in communicating and interacting with members within their respective States.

Communication is our primary goal, along with organising functions and working more closely with our Social Clubs.

Our Social Clubs have always been there for their members, organising lunch catchups and opportunities to get together. We want to support them and make it easier for our RP community to gather, reconnect and reminisce.

There is a lot happening within ORA, and while change takes time, I believe we are heading in a very positive direction. There is still plenty of work ahead, but together we can build a stronger and more connected Association for everyone.

Thank you for your continued support.

Denice (Grobby)



Contact the Secretary:

E-mail: secretary@opsroomassociation.org.au

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



Mitch's Money Matters - Treasurers News:



Mitch's Money Matters

Hope all members are well as we come out of the winter period.

Ops Room banking books are with the Auditor to peruse. If any monies are deposited I will issue a temporary receipt number.

Both the webmaster and myself had received messages from members trying to put monies into our Westpac Bank Accounts since February of this year.

I have had a meeting with WESTPAC over this issue. The Australian Financial Regulator has informed all banks of the changes to Electronic Fund Transfers.

From one account to another. The name of the account in full ie Ops Room Association. The name of the sender as per your bank account in full. This is to stop scam and dodgy transfers.

From now anyone paying membership fees will receive an invoice, the ORA bank details, how many years membership you may require.

As we are going to acquire an ABN have been informed that we will need to change our current bank accounts. This is so the committee can put in bids for grants and donations. I will advise all of you when this happens.

I will be stepping down as the Treasurer on 30 June 2027.

Looking for a volunteer to take over the duties.

Any inquires please contact Mitch.

Take care
Mitch

**2027 MEMBERSHIP FEES
ARE NOW DUE**

WHERE TO DEPOSIT YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES

WESTPAC BANK

ACCOUNT NAME: OPS ROOM ASSOCIATION

BSB: 037 604

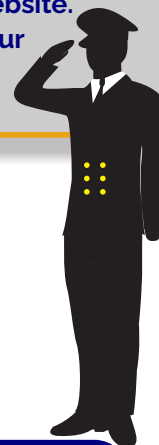
ACCOUNT NO: 334430

**Please don't forget to put your surname and or
Member No in the remarks field.**

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

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.**



ORA TREASURER



CHRIS MITCHELL

e-mail: treasurer@opsroomassociation.org.au

Contact the Treasurer:

E-mail: treasurer@opsroomassociation.org.au

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



ORA SHOP OPEN NOW

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ORA Patches



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LET'S SHOW OUR SUPPORT

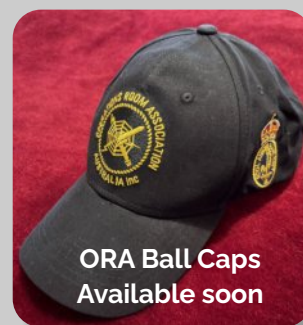
BY PURCHASING ITEMS DIRECTLY
FROM NAVY UNIFORMS

WHICH EVENTUALLY BENEFITS OUR ASSOCIATION

[GO TO SHOP](#)

By clicking the GO TO SHOP button
will take you directly to our shop within Navy Uniforms.

ORA Ball Caps



ORA Ball Caps
Available soon



“First Steps” - by Gordon Lowe

When I was eighteen, I stepped onto a ship, and the sea opened its arms as though it had been waiting for me — a young man standing at the edge of the world, ready to be shaped by salt, steel, and horizon.

For twenty years, I lived by tides and shifting skies. I rose to Chief Petty Officer Radar Plot — a watcher of storms, a reader of distance, a quiet guardian of the fragile space between danger and safety. My life unfolded across oceans like a chart drawn in light.

I saw steel collide in the dark when HMAS Melbourne met the USS Frank E. Evans — a night when time held its breath, now fifty seven years gone, yet still echoing in the deep places of memory.

I walked through Darwin after Cyclone Tracy, a city torn open by the wind, and tried — with my hands, my training, and my heart — to help it breathe again alongside the crew of HMAS Hobart.

I felt the cold bite of Macquarie Island, where a single life in danger reminded me how thin the line is between endurance and fragility.

And I learned the cruelty of water in the Bass Strait, patrolling the oil rigs where the waves rose like walls and the wind carried a hard, metallic edge.

Out there, the sea had no softness.

It heaved and snarled beneath us, a restless beast reminding every sailor that courage is not loud — it is steady, patient, and born of necessity.

Those patrols carved themselves into memory, a testament to the kind of resilience only the ocean can demand.

I lived six bright months in San Francisco, a city that felt like sunlight on the soul — a place where even the fog seemed to smile.

I circumnavigated the world in 1976, slipping through the Panama and Suez like a thread through the eye of history — a ribbon of ocean wrapped forever around my memory.

The Suez Canal — 193 kilometres of carved earth and ambition — carried us between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea, a narrow passage that has shaped the movement of nations for generations.

And beyond the moments were the missions. Across Asia, where history and politics met us at every shore as part of the Far East Strategic Reserve (FESR).

Under the watch of SEATO, standing with neighbours in the hope of peace. Alongside NATO forces, learning the choreography of allies who spoke different languages but shared the same duty.

Within the evolving frameworks of the QUAD, where cooperation across the Indo Pacific took on new meaning.

In the shifting currents of CENTO, where alliances bent under the weight of changing times.

And in the vast symphony of RIMPAC, where ships from across the Pacific moved like a single heartbeat.

In the heat of the Middle East, ancient deserts taught me humility, and the fragility of peace became something I could feel in my bones. I touched every Australian capital, walked streets across continents, and stood in places older than memory. The Navy taught me courage. It taught me discipline. It taught me how quickly life can change — and how precious every safe return truly is.

And when I finally stepped ashore for the last time, I carried with me the salt of the sea, the weight of experience, and the quiet pride of a life shaped by service, by duty, and by the endless, unbroken horizon.

Fond regards

Gordon Lowe
ORA President & Ex CPORP



A day with the Black Watch (Wee Shuggie) – Belfast 1975.



"NO SHIT"

by Bob Thomas



Story compliments of Robin Horsfall, British SASR retired

In summer 1975 at the tender age of eighteen I was deployed on my first active service tour of Northern Ireland (NI). I was joining the 2nd Battalion the Parachute Regiment in the middle of the tour because I had spent the summer with the army shooting team.

I wasn't a new recruit having already served two years as a junior soldier at a training centre in Oswestry in the west of England, but I had to wait until I was eighteen to go on active duty. When I joined up in September 1972, school leaving age was still fifteen and there were 13,000 junior soldiers age 15-17 in the British Army.

It was usual practice for troops joining their battalions late to spend a few days south of Belfast in an establishment known as Northern Ireland training and tactics (NITAT) to familiarise new troops with the tactics and laws of the situations we were likely to encounter.

On our final day, we were sent to spend twenty-four hours with a unit other than our own for familiarisation. We would then join our own battalions. My first day on patrol would be spent with the Black Watch, a regiment with a history and traditions that were the envy of all. They were without doubt the fiercest of men and at the same time the most hilarious. I had become familiar with them because my junior leader company in Oswestry had one Parachute Regiment platoon while the remaining three were from Scottish Regiments.

I arrived at 0700 in the morning to be greeted by a corporal and an old friend from junior service.

'Helooo Robbie, this is corporal McGregor ye'll be ga'in oot wi hem today.

It's good ta see ye son. First though get oot o that para regiment shite and put this on.'

He handed me a standard issue combat jacket and a Tam-o-Shanter Scottish beret. It felt so big I could have slept in it.

They stashed my Dennison Parachute Smock and maroon beret safely in a locker and Cpl McGregor told me and two others soldiers we would be going on a two-hour patrol at nine.

I had time to grab some breakfast and catch up with old pals who found it hilarious seeing me wearing their uniform.

At nine, we loaded our 7.62 self-loading rifles and ran out the front gate of the fort. Up above us providing cover, was a brick tower surrounded by wire and mesh where a single man stood behind metal shutters watching the streets.

Corporal McGregor led the patrol, and I was appointed as the third man with the tail end Charlie behind.



"NO SHIT"
by Bob Thomas



The patrol started quietly with a few people stopped and checked over the radio by our patrol commander.

We carried out an immediate vehicle check point (VCP) and then moved on through our area of responsibility. We were almost ready to return when the sound of an explosion, which was more a whoomph than a bang, echoed through the streets. We immediately took cover in the doorways and waited to be told what was going on.

The explosion was too far away to directly concern us, but it was certainly in the company's area of responsibility.

McGregor was calm and listened to his radio which was suddenly busy with a contact report.

It was important he did nothing and allowed whoever was involved to sort out the response. After a few minutes he received orders to stay on the ground and stop all vehicles and people.

There had been an attack on the fort.

This was an exciting start to a tour. First day, first patrol and something nasty had happened.

I wasn't concerned; I was with good men with experience.

Looking back McGregor was probably about twenty-two years old. That four-year difference between us was immense. He was my big brother as much as he was my patrol leader.

Instead of the expected two hours, we stayed out for nearly five and were then ordered back to camp. As we approached the fort, we saw the tower by the front gate had crumbled into a pile of rubble, it looked bad.

There was a Saracen armoured ambulance just inside the gate which we assumed was for casualties.

McGregor took us in and watched as we unloaded our weapons. After ensuring they were clear, we strolled over to get the news. 'Sergeant' what happened?

'It was an RPG' (rocker propelled grenade). 'It went straight through the wire and brought the whole lot down.'

'Who was in there?

"Wee Shuggie" Is he allreet. Was he injured?

"Naaw, he's fine.

"Where is he then, in the hospital?

' Naaw, he's in the nick. The Sergeant Major (CSM) locked him up.'

We gathered around keen to discover the rest of this story from this sergeant who by now had a broad smile on his face. 'Well laddie, when the rocket hit and the tower collapsed, the CSM was first on the scene.

He got everyone deployed and then set about digging for Shuggie. When he found him, he pulled him out expecting the worst, but Shuggie got up and started dusting himself down and seemed okay.

The CSM said, 'By Christ Shuggie, ye're a lucky wee man' 'D'ye ken what he said then? Tha stupid wee shite?

He said, 'Aye sergeant major if I had'na been asleep on the floor, I would ha bin kilt.'



"NO SHIT"
by Bob Thomas



The Great Escape – HMAS Penguin 1969.

Used in past decades for short-term corrective custody or disciplinary confinement for sailors breaching base or service rules, HMAS Penguin featured a small cell block situated near the gatehouse entry point.

One night on duty at Penguin while completing my Seamanship course, I decided that after finishing all my duties for the evening, there was no need to stick around for the rest of the night. So, after sunset I decided to jump the fence and head ashore for a while. Picking a dark and isolated location near Balmoral Naval Hospital, I climbed the fence and jumped down onto the footpath on Middle Head Road opposite the car park.

As luck would have it, I narrowly missed landing on a dog. Not just any dog, oh no, this happened to be the Provost Marshall's dog who was about 10 metres behind walking it. Fifteen minutes later I found myself in Penguin slots with several other RAN reprobates and two RN sailors who had deserted from HMS Bulwark while on a ship visit from Hong Kong.

There we were, about eight of us all in one big cell when the two RN'ers made enough of a racket that they were separated from the rest of us and moved into the padded cell. This was obviously a ploy by them as they had been locked up in here for weeks awaiting relocation to Hong Kong. The time had afforded them the opportunity to thoroughly case the joint and plan their escape. The next morning, the crushers, much to their dismay, had discovered a hole in the roof of the padded cell and no occupants.

What happened to those two RN'ers remains a mystery while my little escapade cost me the next two weeks.



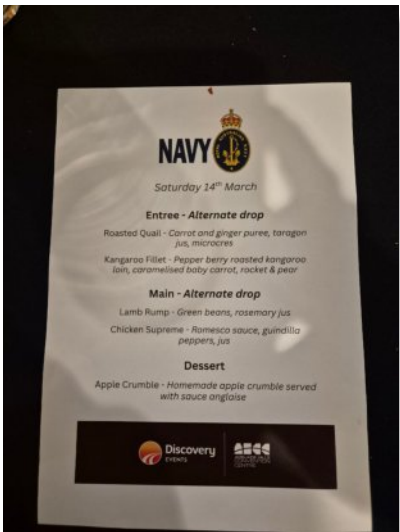
HMS BULWARK

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORA REUNION VARIOUS PHOTOS 2026

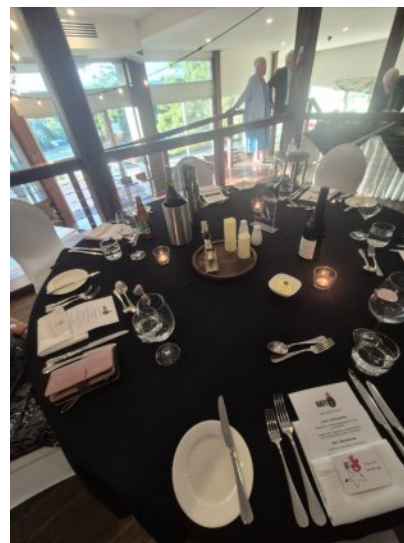
Some more Photos taken at the last Reunion



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORA REUNION VARIOUS PHOTOS 2026



SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORA REUNION VARIOUS PHOTOS 2026





MEMBERSHIP & WEBSITE NEWS:

Hi everyone,

If you want to join the Association or update your personal information, then please click one of the following links below.

JOIN THE ASSOCIATION



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**NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION
FOR NON MEMBERS**



REQUEST NAME BADGE

If you require a new ORA Name Badge, then please click on the **id card** to the left and we will dispatch one to you as soon as possible. Please be aware that it will be sent to your nominated postal address, once enough orders have been received.

Contact the Webby:

E-mail: webmaster@opsroomassociation.org.au

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



Membership Matters:

**Please Welcome
The following Members to our Association.**

Bill Ross

We hope you enjoy your time with us Bill and please feel free to contribute anytime, to the website and future Mushroom Newsletters.

Membership Fees:

\$15 per year. OR

\$70 for Maximum of 5 years.

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.

Members 80+ years of age:

For Members over 80 years young and providing we have your date of birth in our database and you have been a financial Member for at least 5 years...then your Membership will be **FREE** for life, to the Ops Room Association of Australia Inc.

Kind Regards

Bill Furey (Webby)





DVA HAPPENINGS:



National commemorative service:

25th anniversary of Australian service in Afghanistan 2001-2021

On Sunday 11 October 2026, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will deliver a national commemorative service at the Australian War Memorial to commemorate and honour all Australians who served in Afghanistan, the families who supported them and coalition allies they served alongside.

From 2001, more than 35,000 Australians served in Afghanistan and the Middle East Area of Operations (MEAO) in relation to Afghanistan. In response to the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States, Australian forces contributed to a multinational attempt to bring security to Afghanistan, stabilise the wider region, and defeat terrorist activity. For more than two decades, Australians have also contributed reconstruction efforts focused on creating safe conditions for democratic governance, mentoring and training, and humanitarian aid.

We remember the Australians who lost their lives during or as a result of their service and acknowledge the physical and mental impacts that service has had on many of our veterans and their families. On 11 October, we invite veterans, families of veterans and community members to come together and attend the national commemorative service in Canberra. The service will be broadcast live on ABC iView for those unable to attend in person. Whether you're attending the national service in Canberra, watching at home, or taking part in local community commemorative activities, we encourage you to reflect on the service and sacrifices of Afghanistan veterans in a way that is personal to you. A unique way you can share in the commemorative spirit is through a personal reflection to our [Wall of Remembrance](#). The 'Wall' is an evolving, community-led tribute where all Australians can share a contemplation or memory of a loved one connected to the ADF. As the 25th anniversary of Australian service in Afghanistan approaches, we invite you to share a tribute.

For more information about the national commemorative service, including accessibility and transport options, and to register your attendance (for free), please visit www.dva.gov.au/Afghanistan-anniversary.

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.

DVA HAPPENINGS:

Flying with your assistance dog? Here's what you need to know.

With planning, air travel with your assistance dog can be straightforward. Airlines have specific requirements to ensure the safety, comfort and well-being of all passengers and crew on board. Understanding what is involved and preparing early will help avoid delays, disruptions or disappointment on the day of travel.

Start planning early

Airlines are responsible for deciding if an assistance dog meets the necessary requirements for travel in their aircraft cabin. All passengers, including veterans, need to work directly with airlines, allowing plenty of time before flights. It's important to be aware that the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) does not have authority to approve assistance dogs to fly or intervene in airline decisions. If you intend to fly with your assistance dog in the aircraft cabin, you must contact your airline well before your travel date. Airlines require advance notice to consider requests and provide approval to fly. Flights for assistance dogs cannot be arranged at the airport on the day of departure. The approval process can take several days and may take longer if additional information is required.

You should also check the airline's website or speak directly with their team to understand their specific requirements, as these can vary between airlines and aircraft types.

Make sure your assistance dog meets airline requirements

Airlines assess whether an assistance dog is suitable to travel in the cabin. Requirements vary between airlines, but generally your dog must:

- be trained to assist with your disability
- be calm, well behaved and under effective control at all times
- be able to remain safely at your feet for the duration of the flight
- be healthy and fit to travel
- hold a current Public Access Test (PAT).

Some airlines may also apply size, weight or space restrictions depending on the aircraft being used.

Meeting these requirements is essential. Even where a dog is an approved assistance animal, airlines may refuse cabin travel if they are not satisfied that safety, behavioural or health requirements have been met.

Accreditation can make the process easier

If your dog was trained through a recognised assistance dog organisation or accredited provider, airlines can often verify training and public access standards more easily. However, accreditation is not the only pathway.

DVA HAPPENINGS:

Flying with your assistance dog? Here's what you need to know. - Continued

Veterans with owner-trained or independently trained assistance dogs may still be able to travel with their dog in the cabin, but airlines will generally require additional evidence. This may include:

- documentation outlining your dog's training
- evidence of public access and behavioural standards
- confirmation from a health professional that you require the assistance dog
- veterinary records confirming your dog is healthy and suitable for travel.

The more complete your documentation is, the smoother the assessment process is likely to be.

Bookings and seating arrangements

Airlines will generally provide space for an approved assistance dog to travel alongside you in the cabin at no additional cost.

However, airlines may limit the number of assistance animals permitted on a flight. Approval from the airline must be obtained before booking your flight as availability cannot always be guaranteed.

If you have specific seating requirements, discuss these with the airline as early as possible.

Preparing for the day of travel

Before heading to the airport:

- carry all documentation provided to, or approved by, the airline
- keep a copy of your airline approval (e.g. email confirmation) and have it accessible during your journey
- ensure your dog is clearly identifiable as an assistance dog, such as through a harness or vest
- plan ahead for feeding, hydration, toileting and exercise
- allow extra time for check-in and airport processes
- follow all instructions provided by airline staff.

It is particularly important to plan ahead for toileting. Assistance dog relief areas are available in many international and domestic airport terminals. Before travelling, check the websites of the airports you will pass through to understand what facilities are available and where they are located.

If you are travelling through smaller airports without designated facilities, plan to use appropriate outdoor areas before arriving at the airport.

A well-prepared journey can make the experience more comfortable for both you and your assistance dog.



DVA HAPPENINGS:

Flying with your assistance dog? Here's what you need to know. - Continued

It is important to understand that airlines can refuse cabin travel if approval has not been granted or required documentation is missing.

In some circumstances, an assistance dog may not be permitted to board the aircraft at all. This can result in significant travel disruption, including missed flights or the need to make alternative arrangements.

For this reason, it is always better to confirm requirements early and ensure all documentation has been provided well before your departure date.

Top tips for a smooth trip

- ☐ contact the airline as soon as you start planning your travel
- ☐ check the airline's assistance animal requirements carefully (including on their website)
- ☐ ensure your Public Access Test and other documentation are current
- ☐ submit complete information the first time to avoid delays
- ☐ speak with your assistance dog provider or trainer if you need help preparing your application.

Airlines recognise the important role assistance dogs play in supporting independence and well being.

Taking the time to prepare early will give you the best chance of a smooth and stress-free journey.





Radar Ramblings

One of the many versions of the Falcon Codes

REMEMBER THESE!



Falcon Code

- 101- You've got to be kidding me.
102- Get off my Back.
103- Beats the hell out of me.
104- What the bloody hell . . . Over.
105- It's so Bad, I cannot believe it.
106- I hate this Outfit.
107- This place sucks.
108- Thanks for nothing.
109- Beautiful just bloody beautiful.
101- Can you believe what our skipper just did.
111- Big Bloody deal.
112- Get your crap straight.
113- Bet your sweet bum, it's right.
114- Here comes another bloody "middy".
115- If you think this is so easy....then you do it.
116- What are you trying to do....kill someone.
117- Who has the guts tonight.
118- Where are the wets on this "ere tin can."
119- If it's such a big deal we will send the No1 team.
120- Go stick a broom up your clacker.
121- I love you long time...buy me an air conditioned helicopter.
122- Stuff it... just stuff it.
123- You might not like your crew, but you're crew likes you.
124- You have me confused with someone that actually gives a stuff.
125- Get your head out of your bum.
126- Say, "I don't know" one more time, guess where the mop head is going.
127- Hey shit for brains.
128- Do you need a kick in the bum to get airborne.
129- When the going gets tough...the tough get going.
130- What does it take to get a clearance out of this place.
131- Just stick to NGS and leave the ASW'ing to us.
132- The TASO is a crazy menace.
133- I'm getting out of this outfit....its unbelievable.
134- Where did you say to put the sonar buoys.
135- Time to scrub out.



BARB'S BANTER

While in London recently I decided to wonder along the banks of the Thames on the first day the temperature hit 36 degrees in London. While everyone else was suffering heat stroke, I just thought it was another summers day. (I live in south east Queensland)

On my way to Tower Bridge, I came across HMS Belfast, and just had to go onboard and check her out. When the British Admiralty discovered the Imperial Japanese Navy had started construction of the new Mogami-class light cruisers, which were superior to their Royal navy counterparts, construction of what would become the Town-class light cruisers began.

She was commissioned in 1938 in time for the 2nd World War. She took part in the Normandy Landings by providing fire power, saw active service in protecting Artic Convoys, and the Korean War.

After Germany surrendered in May 1945, Belfast was upgraded and prepped for fighting in the tropical conditions, she sailed for the Far East to be part of the operations against the last Axis power, Japan.

HMS Belfast arrived in Sydney in the beginning of August in time to see the end of WW II.

She remained in the Far East for several years and when the Korean War broke out, she supported the United Nations forces.

After several refits her last deployment from 1959 – 1962 was in the Pacific. After which she returned home and was decommissioned. HMS Belfast is the largest surviving Royal Naval surface combatant of WW II.

Because of her proud service, instead of being sold for scrap, the public raised the money to preserve her. Now as an Ex RP, I made my way down to the Ops Room, and surprise, surprise,..... nothing much had changed from my time in the TTB.

Regards Barb Jeffreys

HMS BELFAST



Admirals sea cabin



Bridge



Ops Room entrance



LORD NELSON'S FINAL RESTING PLACE

Horatio Nelson, 1st Viscount Nelson, 1st Duke of Bronte was born on 29 September 1758 and died of 21 October 1805, in the Battle of Trafalgar. He was a British Naval Commander during the Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars and renown for his strategic manoeuvrers. He sailed the world (as all good sailors do). His final resting place is in St Paul's Cathedral, London.

BARB'S BANTER (continued)

Various Views - HMS Belfast



Barb also had the opportunity to visit the Royal Yacht Britannia



Admirals Cabin



Lounge room



State Dining Room

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 [DI])
- 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:

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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>



Sick Bay:

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

GORDON LOWE - On the mend from Hospital.

"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 our 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

LSRP DUNNE, Ken

ORA Member No: 246

R37371

Aged: 94

POCSS (AC) LENNARD Paul

NON ORA Member

Aged 53



RIP



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