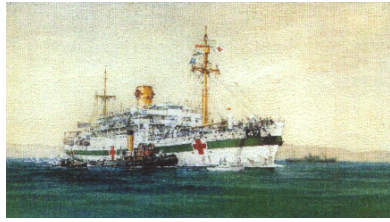


2/3 A.H.S. CENTAUR ASSOCIATION, INC.

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President: Mr Richard Jones
Secretary: Mrs Jan Thomas OAM
Treasurer: Mr Anthony P Bracken

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NEWSLETTER MAY 2017

MEMORIAL SERVICE TIMES

Brisbane, Qld.

Sunday 14 May 2017 at 11am.

At St Andrew's Anglican Church Lutwyche. Participating will be the choir of Brisbane Girls Grammar, the pipes of Brisbane Boys' College and the cadets from TS Centaur, ANC. Refreshments will be served following the Service. RSVP by 10 May to Secretary Ms Sue De Vries, PO Box 1233, Indooroopilly Qld 4068, or email:

admin@centaurnursesfund.org.au

Caloundra, Qld.

Sunday 14 May 2017 at 11am

At the Memorial in Centaur Park. Children from local schools will lay an individual flower on each name on the Walkway on behalf of relatives. Anyone wishing to lay a wreath please see the Secretary, Dick Alchin, before the Service begins. Morning tea after the Service at Caloundra RSL. Enquiries: Caloundra RSL Centaur Commemoration Committee, telephone (07) 5438 5800.

Melbourne, Vic.

Sunday 14 May 2017 at 9.00am.

In the ANZAC Memorial Chapel, Heidelberg Repatriation Hospital, 300 Waterdale Road, Heidelberg West. Entry via Gate 9. Enquiries: Robert Winther (03) 9496 2324, or robert.winther@austin.org.au Refreshments will be served at the Darebin RSL Sub-Branch at 402 Bell Street, Preston.

Point Danger, Qld.

Monday 15 May 2017 at 10am.

At the Memorial (weather permitting, otherwise in the assembly hall, Centaur Primary School, Eucalyptus Drive, Banora Point). The Service is conducted by the school students. Refreshments following the Service. RSVP 10 May 2017 to Centaur Primary School (07) 5524 9655.

Concord, Sydney, NSW.

Friday 12 May 2017 at 10.30am.

In the 113 AGH Memorial Chapel, Concord Hospital, Hospital Rd, Concord. Refreshments will be available after the Service. RSVP to Melva Lindley at melva.lindley@sswahs.nsw.gov.au or telephone (02) 9767 5256

Free parking is available in Lovedale Paddock. The Courtesy Golf Cart will transport people to the Chapel.

Anyone parking in the Hospital Carpark can have their Parking Ticket replaced with a free ticket at morning tea.

Dapto, NSW.

Sunday 14 May 2017 at 2pm.

At the War Memorial in the small park adjacent to Dapto Railway Station. All welcome. Refreshments following the Service at Dapto RSL Hall opposite the park. For further information or directions contact Jack Gray, 02 4283 4652 or email rwjgray@reachnet.com.au

Canberra, ACT.

Sunday 14 May 2017 at 4.55pm.

The Centaur Last Post Ceremony at the AWM. Assemble in the Orientation Gallery with the Centaur Association Representative, by 4.30pm. The Representative will have poppies for those who wish to place a poppy on the Roll of Honour prior to the commencement of the ceremony. People laying wreaths or floral tributes are asked to meet with AWM staff also in the Orientation Gallery.

The Centaur casualty to be commemorated will be Pte Athol Povey, 2/12th Field Ambulance.

Macksville, NSW.

Saturday 13 May 2017 at 11am.

At the War Memorial on the riverbank.

Participating in the ceremony will be the cadets of TS Culgoa ANC, South West Rocks, The Naval & Mariners Association Nambucca Valley, and members of the Nambucca Valley Band. Readers will be provided by local schools.

People will be offered a poppy for placing on the communal wreath.

Association members and supporters living on the mid north coast or visiting are invited to attend. Refreshments at Macksville Ex-Services Club. Enq: jthomas44@bigpond.com or telephone 02 6564 8400.

The Nurses on the *Centaur*

Dr Madonna Grehan

Twelve Australian Army Nursing Services nurses (AANS) were an integral part of the personnel of the 2/3 Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur*. Seven had served on 1 Netherlands Military Hospital Ship *Oranje*, during 1941 and 1942, retrieving invalided Australian, New Zealand and British soldiers from the Middle East. With the deaths of eleven of the *Centaur's* nursing officers, more than 100 years of nursing skill and experience was lost with them.

Major [Sarah] Anne Jewell was Matron of *Centaur's* AANS nurses. Born in Perth, Jewell trained and worked in Western Australia before moving to Melbourne where she was the welfare and accident nurse at the Sunshine Harvester Works for seven years. She was greatly respected by the 1,300-strong staff there. After Harvester, Jewell joined a rehabilitation doctor's practice in Melbourne. From 1940, Jewell served aboard various Sea Ambulance Transports, on HMT *Queen Elizabeth*, and *Oranje*.

Jewell's Deputy Matron on AHS *Centaur* was **Captain Mary Hamilton McFarlane**, from Cowell in South Australia. McFarlane was from a military family. Her uncle was a Brigadier, her father an ex-serviceman, and her brother was with the AIF. Well-educated, accomplished in drawing, music, and fluent in French, McFarlane was the first Australian nurse to serve aboard *Oranje* as a member of Australia's Liaison Staff.



*Sr Mary McFarlane,
Photo with permission from the
McFarlane family*

Another Victorian was **Margaret (Marg) Adams** who had trained at the Children's and Allied Hospitals in Melbourne. Adams was working at St George's Hospital in Kew at enlistment. She was keen on outdoor activities and known for her warm personality and big smile. Her good friend, **Eileen (Nan) Rutherford** was an Alfred Hospital trainee, originally from Hamilton in Western Victoria. At enlistment, Rutherford was Sister-in-charge of the Operating Theatre at Windermere Private Hospital in Melbourne, and Deputy Matron there.

Alice (Ali) O'Donnell was from a large family at Myrtleford in Victoria. After a career in the ES&A Bank, O'Donnell trained at the Melbourne Hospital in her late twenties, and became private operating theatre sister to Sir Allan Newton, a surgeon whose speciality was the thyroid gland. Four of O'Donnell's brothers were in the military.

Jenny Walker, at 24 years, was the youngest of the *Centaur's* nurses. Also a graduate of the Royal Melbourne Hospital and a veteran of the *Oranje*, she was described as rebellious, witty and immensely sociable.

Five of the nurses were from NSW: **Cynthia Haultain**, **Evelyn (Eva) King**, **Myrle (Moss) Moston**, **Edna Shaw**, and **Ellen Savage**. Haultain, King and Savage were veterans of *Oranje* and good friends. Haultain was experienced in respiratory nursing and operating theatre techniques, particularly for tuberculosis. She had trained and worked at Sydney's Infectious Diseases Hospital at Little Bay and then at a sanatorium in Sydney's West. Evelyn King, described as unassuming and reserved, was from Darlington Point in the Riverina. After training and working at Cootamundra District Hospital, King had been at Tumut for two years when she enlisted.

Myrle Moston was born at Trangie in the Central West of NSW. She was a stenographer before training as a nurse in Sydney, and was at Bathurst when she enlisted. Edna Shaw, from Sydney, trained at Newcastle Hospital. Shaw was at 102 AGH in Tamworth when she enlisted for service overseas. Her two brothers, also, were serving. Born in Melbourne **[Doris] Joyce Wyllie** moved to Bundaberg as a young child. She elected to train interstate and stayed on the staff of the Sydney Hospital after completing training there. In 1941, she was attached to Concord Hospital. Wyllie volunteered for AIF service following the death of her fiancé in New Guinea on 30 August 1942. It came on his first day of fighting there.

Ellen Savage was the only woman to survive the *Centaur's* sinking. Born at Quirindi in Central NSW, she trained at Newcastle Hospital and was working as a Baby Health Centre sister in Tamworth at enlistment. Savage was attached to Concord Hospital and in 1942 to *Oranje*. In the sinking of *Centaur*, Savage sustained multiple injuries and burns, yet within three months, she was back at work at Concord where she continued until 1946. Savage was awarded the George Medal for 'conspicuous gallantry' in the aftermath of *Centaur's* sinking. After the war, she accepted a scholarship to study nursing administration overseas. On her return to Australia, Savage joined the administrative staff at Newcastle Hospital as Matron of Rankin Park, the hospital's chest unit.

Remembering

Major Llondda Holland, NX70578, Ship's Medical Staff, Centaur

As presented at the Centaur Last Post Ceremony AWM, Canberra, 14 May, 2015



Photo reproduced with permission from the Holland family

Today we remember Major Llondda Holland, who was killed on 14 May 1943 when the 2/3rd Australian Hospital Ship Centaur was sunk by a Japanese submarine during the Second World War.

Known as "Dutchie", Llondda Llenoi Holland was born in Warwick, in south-east Queensland, on 26 October 1898, the son of Thomas and Mary Holland. The boy's unusual given names of "Llondda" and "Llenoi" were anagrams of his father's surname "Holland" and his mother's maiden name "O'Neill." His father Thomas Holland was a journalist in Warwick. In the early 1900s, he took up a position with the Daily Telegraph and the family moved to Sydney.

Llondda's older brother John James Holland served in the First World War. He was wounded in action at the age of nineteen and later died in transit to Alexandria where he is buried in Chatby Military and War Memorial Cemetery. He is also listed on the Roll of Honour at the AWM.

Cont from previous page

The shock and outpouring of grief at the deaths of the nurses was profound in Australia and overseas. The deceased nurses were, and continue to be, remembered.

In May 1943 a public subscription campaign called the Centaur Fund was launched to provide an education and recreational centre for nurses, where nurses could undertake postgraduate studies without having to go overseas. Now known as the Nurses Memorial Centre, this organisation commemorates *Centaur* and other defence nurses every year on the Sunday preceding ANZAC Day. Each year, the Centaur Association sends a representative to this Service.

Llondda Holland attended Fort Street Boys' High School on Observatory Hill in Sydney, where he excelled academically. In March 1913 he was awarded a bursary and when he sat his final examinations at the end of the following year he won honours in Latin and German. He began his medical studies at the University of Sydney in 1915.

After graduating in the early 1920s, Llondda Holland became a resident medical officer at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney where he met Dr Lorna Beveridge.

They married on 8 September 1923, at which point the bridegroom was in general practice in Macquarie Street while the bride was practising in Mosman. The couple's first child, a son, was born in 1925. The Hollands would have three more children, although their youngest died in early childhood.

By the 1930s, Dr Holland was established in an insurance practice in O'Connell Street. Sport was a favourite pastime: he was a member of the Long Reef Golf Club at Collaroy and regularly played cricket for Mosman veterans, serving on the committee of Mosman Cricket Club.

At the age of 42 he enlisted in the Australian Imperial Force in January 1941, embarking for overseas service in April with the rank of captain. On arrival in the Middle East he was attached to various AIF training units before becoming ill for a period in September. In early 1942 he was appointed to the 5th Australian General Hospital before returning to Australia, along with much of the AIF, later in the year. In July Llondda Holland was promoted to major and in February 1943 he was posted to the 2/3rd Australian Hospital Ship Centaur.

Lest We Forget

WA and SA developed Nurses Memorial Centres too, providing educational and recreational opportunities.

In QLD in 1948, the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses established a service, commemorating *Centaur's* sinking. It is held on 14 May each year in Brisbane.

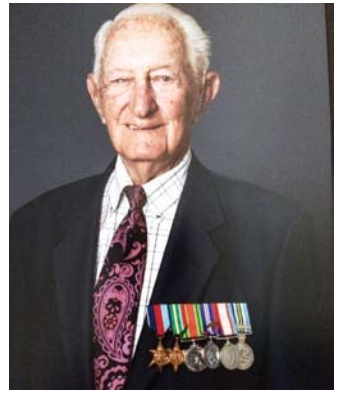
Elsewhere, nursing prizes, sundials, and memorial gates underscore the esteem that families, friends, and communities held for the nurses of the *Centaur*. As a matter of respect and gratitude, other sectors of the nursing profession also acknowledge their forbears who paid the supreme sacrifice.

Lest we forget.

Vale

Ex-Cpl Athol (Tom) Pledger, NX47190 2/12th Field Ambulance

Tom Pledger was born 15 November 1917 and died 7 April 2016, aged 98 years. He joined the 2/12 Field Ambulance, and served with 2/21st Infantry Battalion known as Gull Force. With them he was captured by the Japanese and taken POW on Ambon, and later transferred by them to Hainan Island, China. He was a POW from 1942 - 1945. Tom was a regular attendee at all Centaur Commemorations at Concord, till 'age wearied him'. This is his story, as he wrote it in 2012.



It was the 15 November 1917, I can't tell you if it was morning, evening, night or day but that was the day so they have told me since, that I was born in the town of Casino NSW. Somehow I think my parents, Harry Segar Pledger and Kathleen Emma Ruby Pledger, (nee Brown) were pleased to see me but from all accounts I was a buggler of a kid. Mum tells me my hand was smacked many a time, because being such a good child, everything I wanted was "in Tommy's hand" and of course when it was not forthcoming I yelled and so Tommy's hand got many a smack.

My father had the cordial factory at Casino and supplied the hotels and shops with cordials. He used to collect the accounts at the end of each month but he also liked a drink so would end up at the end of each month highly intoxicated and being very good hearted, lent his friends money which he never saw again. It was only natural the business couldn't stand it and he had to sell it for a song.

So when I was 18 months old we moved to Byron Bay where Dad got a job as invoice clerk for the North Coast Steam Navigation Co. which had two ships the Wollongbar and Orana. They sailed twice a week from Byron Bay to Sydney on Tuesdays and Saturdays with passengers and mostly butter from the Norco Factory, bananas and other produce for the Sydney markets.



Little Tommy

My first recollection was the day the Wollongbar was wrecked on the beach near the old jetty in May 1921. The boats used to tie up to the jetty by a rope from the bow and another from the stern to the jetty and also one from the stern to a buoy about fifty yards from the jetty. This was to keep the ship off the jetty and also when the ship was leaving the

jetty it was released last. But on this particular day there was a stiff nor'-easter blowing straight onto the bow and when they released the stern rope to the buoy it caught in the propeller and the ship had no power so went side on onto the beach.

My father and mother took me down to see the wreck and I can remember butter and bananas washed up on the beach. The ship was a write-off and some firm bought it for salvage and gradually cut it up but even today you can still see the stern post sticking up out of the sand.

Before it was finally broken up, when I would have been about 10 or 11, we were still diving on it and swimming in the cargo hold.

To-day as I sit down to try and write a little about my life after 80 years that was the first thing I can remember. The N.C.S.N.Co. finally closed down during the war because they had no ships left. Most were sunk by the Japanese. A ship's clock from the original Wollongbar was given to my Dad and it was passed on to me on his death and it proudly hangs on the wall in our sunroom where it is still ticking away. My father was with the N.C.S.N.Co. from 1919 until 1943, but as there was no work in Byron Bay they moved to Brisbane where he worked for the American Army till the end of the war.

In 1922 the company bought a new Wollongbar in England and brought it to the Bay. The Company put on an excursion from Byron Bay to Tweed Heads and back and Dad took me. The ship was crowded and the trip up was great but we struck a bit of rough weather coming back and Mrs McGouldrick, she wasn't married then, was on board and of course all the ladies were done up to the knocker, with hats and gloves. She happened to be on the lower deck when someone on the top deck was sick over the side and of course, you picked it, the wind whipped it all over Mrs McGouldrick, poor girl it totally spoilt her day.

We lived in Butler Street, right opposite the elevated water tank which watered the railway engines which were stowed there overnight. Our house was rented from Mr Grimwood, the Wharfinger who looked after the maintenance of the jetty. The house was wooden with an iron roof and water tank. We used candles and kerosene lamps; electricity did not come to the Bay until 1928. I remember old Seagull as we called Mr Grimwood, once put his old father in our galvanised water tank to cement the inside. He gave him a couple of buckets of mixed cement and left him to it, but forgot about him and as the tank was at the side of the house no-one could hear him calling, and he was left in the tank for 4 hours, till old Grimwood came back.

Another time Seagull decided to paint the roof and finished up painting himself into one corner on the high side of the house, so he yelled out to Mum and myself to put the ladder against the wall and hold it while he lay on his stomach and wriggled over the gutter and put his feet on the top rung of the ladder, but no sooner had he done this than his feet pushed the ladder sideways. Mum and I couldn't hold it so here is old Seagull hanging onto the gutter, stretched sideways with Mum and me trying to push the ladder up straight, but to make matters worse his belt broke and his trousers slipped down. He was more worried about this than falling and breaking his neck. Finally, we managed to push the ladder up straight and get him down.

I lived in that house till the day I left home when I was 18 years old and it was a very happy and loving place. Dad was the breadwinner and Mum was the home-keeper. Dad was a person who lived from day to day and nothing worried or upset him. I can only remember him doing his lolly, twice; once when the Reverend Gerry told Dad he would have to increase his stipend. Dad showed him the gate and that was the end of Dad and the church. The other time when I was about 10 and Mum told me to do something and I said "I won't", Dad said: "Do as your mother told you" and I said "I won't." At that time we had an old peach tree up the back and he just cut a switch off it and it has all little knobs on it and he gave me the only hiding I ever had from him and believe me I had bruises all over my backside for weeks. I never said "I won't" again.

Mum was the one who ran the family, she would do her block occasionally, but mostly she was very even tempered and always saw we were clean and neatly dressed and made to watch our manners. That loving and caring upbringing will always stay with me. I remember Dad used to have to dress up in a suit on Tuesday and Saturday afternoon as he had to sell the tickets to the passengers going to Sydney on the ship. Mum used to line him up and I can still hear her saying, "Pop have you got your handkerchief, keys and your teeth", as Pop had false teeth.

My Mother and Dad's sister, Auntie Ethel took me to be christened by the Rev. Gerry, (who became Canon Gerry so was immediately nicknamed "Popgun Gerry"),



I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit

at the Church of England. Dad wouldn't go, I don't know why. I was christened Athol and when they told Dad he refused to call me Athol as he said it was sissy, so he called me Tom and to this day I am called Tom, although I was christened Athol.

My grandparents were Isaac and Jane Pledger. She was the Matron of the Casino District Hospital and he was the warden. They held this position for 25 years and when they retired they lived in Cloches Street, Casino. Another early recollection was my Grandfather's funeral when I was four years old. I was sent over to stay with Mr & Mrs Leece almost opposite my grandparents' house and I was allowed to watch it from the verandah. I can remember two mourning coaches and the hearse drawn by horses coming past the house with the curtains drawn on the mourning coaches. My Grandmother lived till 1932, she was 20 years younger than Isaac.



The Family

I had two sisters and two brothers; Marie was the oldest, born in 1915 then me, born 1917 and Harry born 1919, Ray born 1921 and Ethel born 1928.

We did not see much of Marie as she was reared by her grandmother and Auntie Ethel at Casino and was only home for holidays. When she went to Lismore High School she stayed with us at Byron Bay and travelled to Lismore each day to school by train, as there was no transport from Casino and then she went to Casino of a weekend. Harry grew up at Butler Street but hated school and all he wanted to do was go droving cattle, so he left school at 14 years of age and went droving with his stepbrother, Jack Brown who lived with Mum's mother, who had remarried a Mr Driscoll. Her first husband had died months before Mum was born. Harry drove cattle all over northern NSW but after the war became Secretary of the Trotting and Greyhound Club at Tweed Heads and ran that till he retired two years ago (1996). Since his wife Thelma died he helps them out at the Club for something to do. After the war Ray escorted a batch of German P.O.W.s back to Germany and then to England where he met and married Meta, a nursing sister. They returned to Brisbane and have lived at Nundah ever since. They did not have any family.

Then along comes Ethel. I was eleven at the time and I thought she was great. I loved taking her for a walk in the big old wicker pram. She had just started school when I left home to work on the Railway and then I went off to the war so she was a young lady of 18 when I returned. We have always been very close. She married Mal Granger and had four boys. Mal died and sometime later she met and married Barrie Blackwell.

Of course there is me and you will hear enough of me in the course of this story.

To be continued next edition

TS Centaur, Australian Navy Cadets

TS Centaur ended a very successful year with our Annual Presentation Parade on December 11th. This was attended by family, friends, local community group representatives and the Federal Member for Fisher, Andrew Wallace MP. Pixie Annat and Claire Lees represented the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses and presented the Encouragement Award.



TS Centaur Staff and Cadets at the Annual Presentation Parade 2016.

It has been a busy start to 2017 with our first Parade on January 25th followed the next day by the Australia Day Ceremony and Maleny Sport and Recreation Expo.

The Flag Raising Ceremony is held on the Parade Ground of TS Centaur's Unit Headquarters at the Maleny Showgrounds and is followed by a Citizenship Ceremony organised by the Maleny Apex Club.

At the completion of the Ceremonial Activities the day then turns to the Australia Day Expo. This event showcases the Sport, Recreation and Service Clubs of Maleny and District and is a great opportunity for recruiting new members.

There was significant interest in the activities of TS Centaur with Cadets showing their skills in knot tying and boat rigging as well as having fun with the 'tug of 4' a 4-way tug of war.



*Above:
Taking instruction from Training Officer, LEUT Eddie Vann ANC*

R. Rigged, ready to sail



Cadets regularly participate in the Centaur Commemorations conducted by the Centaur Memorial Fund for Nurses, now held at St Andrew's Church, Lutwyche, Brisbane. These photos show them at a Centaur Commemoration in St John's Cathedral, Brisbane.



The year is set to be a busy one for Cadets with many activities already planned including ceremonial, sailing, kayaking, bush walking and weekend camps.

TS Centaur ANC - providing opportunities for youth in the name of Centaur

Three Jolly Workmen, looking for work...



*Martin Pash, 20, James Waterson, 20, Arthur Waddington, 21.
Centaur survivors in Melbourne 1943.*

It is perhaps not generally known that when a merchant seaman's ship sank from under him, he was out of a job - no compensation, no sick leave, no entitlements as we know them today.

There was even less consideration given to the trauma of having your ship sink from under you. "You survived; what are you whingeing about? Find another ship and get back to work" was the prevailing attitude. In the meantime if the seaman didn't have a nest egg or a supportive family, he was unemployed for as long as it took him to find work.

One such was **Stan Strack** who survived the bombing of the Koolama off the West Australian coast in 1937, only to lose his life on the Centaur. "You'll be safe this time, Stan, you're on a hospital ship". We hope to bring you Stan's story in the November newsletter.

These three Melbournians pictured above would have spent a little time in Brisbane General Hospital, then would have been discharged to find their own way home - and begin looking for another ship.

James Watterson was an assistant storeman, and Arthur Waddington an assistant steward. Martin Pash was a printer.

Martin Pash was well known to many of us as he continued through his long life to associate himself with Centaur commemorations. It was not unusual for him to travel to Point Danger or Concord for the commemorations there, then return to Melbourne in time for theirs. On at least one occasion he attended all three when well into his 80s.



Visit from the Daniel Morecombe Foundation

On the 19 October, 2016, the Daniel Morcombe Foundation visited Centaur to raise awareness of child protection. They covered topics such as recognising danger, reacting to an unsafe situation and reporting any concerns.

Centaur Primary School - providing opportunities for youth in the name of Centaur

Centaur Primary School



Spot Goes to School...

Every Thursday, Serena and Zola pop down to Centaur Primary School to listen to eager students read. Mike and Molly also come along to encourage students to build a love of reading.



Students and teachers love being part of this wonderful and valuable program.

From the Log Book



Australian Studies at Centaur Primary

As part of the Australian Unit being studied, 2R and 3/4DW had a truly amazing experience. The students learnt many aspects about campfires and fire safety. They made a damper, which was a first time experience for many of them. To make the damper, they followed a procedural recipe. Using their mathematical skills the students calculated quantities required and completed a work booklet about this topic. They also enjoyed eating the damper.



R Washing up...



Preparing the damper



75th Anniversary Centaur Book "Against the Skyline"

by Leanne Wicks, great-niece of Centaur survivor, since deceased, Fred Chidgey, SMS.

Leanne reports that her book on the taped interview with her great-uncle, which includes poetry and songs about the Centaur, is on track for publication in time for the 75th Anniversary in 2018.

Professor Chris Milligan, co-author of "The Myth of Immunity" who taped Fred's interview in 1979 has graciously written a foreword and is keen to see the anthology in print.

The title "Against the Skyline" comes from Fred's interview. He talks about the experience of floating when the submarine surfaced near them. The title reflects the image of the Centaur sinking, the submarine surfacing and the fact that poetry is a vibrant way of keeping memories and history alive.

Leanne thanks Association members and supporters for their contributions of poetry, and is happy to receive more.

You can contact Leanne at leannewicks.poet@gmail.com or PO Box 90, Kandos, NSW. 2848.

New Member

Jarvis Fuss joined the Association in November 2016. He grew up with Pte Bryan Trigg 2/12th FA. Following the sinking of the Centaur, Col. Leslie Outridge became his CO at 2/2 CCS from June 1944 until war's end. Jarvis served at Balakpapan, Borneo.

Notice of 2016 AGM

Our AGM will be held at 2 Laughton Court, Altona Meadows, Melbourne, on 1 August 2017 commencing at 7pm.

The Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting will be read and confirmed. The financial report for the year to 30 June 2017 is to be presented and received.

A new committee will be elected. The current executive and committee members will stand again, and having been nominated and seconded they will be elected unanimously unless other nominations are received by 1 July, 2017.

Any suggestions from members for the Association's goals for the **75th anniversary year, 2018** are also required to be received before 1 July 2017.

In order to ensure the future of the Association, we would be pleased to hear from younger members who may like to become familiar with management by taking an assistant role, or undertaking some special activity that suits their expertise. We understand that the next generation is in the busy time of life, not able to take on heavy commitments but we would urge you to consider a subsidiary role preparatory to taking over when the time comes.

Caroline van Oosterom, granddaughter of L/Cpl Michael O'Brien 2/12th FA, has been our webmaster for many years, and now **Eddie Carthew**, nephew of Pte John Hoare 2/12th FA, has become our Public Officer. These are not committee positions but are vital in conducting the affairs of the Association in 21st century.

LAST POST



Mrs Zena Bowden, sister of Pte Leonard Sydney Wood, 2/12th FA. 9th February 2016.

Mrs Estelle Jarvis, nursed survivors at 110 AGH (Greenslopes).

Mr Athol (Tom) Pledger, 2/12th FA, Ambon and Hainen Island survivor, 7th April 2016 aged 98.

Mr Ken Hubbard, MN, regular attender at Point Danger, 12th January 2017.

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.

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.

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.

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