



AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

FOSTERING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO GREAT NATIONS

Issue No: 27. Quarter: July, Aug, Sept. 2011

CORAL SEA COMMEMORATIONS

response disappointing

I appreciate that for reasons such as ill health and finances many Members won't be attending the Commemorations, but it's disappointing that other Members are not showing their support.

There's still time to book for the **Masked Ball Friday 6th May**, and to confirm your attendance at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at **Kings Park Monday 9th May**, - followed by a **lunch at Council House** kindly provided by our Patron.

I urge you to call Treasurer **Merv Bailey** on **9390.4919 NOW** to book your place.

Your Executive Council works very hard to keep the purpose of our Association alive.

The Wreath Laying will be filled with representatives from many Service Organizations.

In attendance at the Ball will be US Consul General Ms Aleisha Woodward; former US Consul General Dr Ken Chern and Mrs Ronnie Chern, and Mr Syarief Syamsuri the Consul General for the Republic of Indonesia.

Only \$145 per head, - a bargain!

Drinks on arrival, plus 3 course meal with drinks.

Dance the night away to the Australian Army Band Perth with music from Glenn Miller to Rock'n'Roll.



Nick & Tracy Griffiths 'in the pink'.

VALENTINES LUNCH & FASHION PARADE, A HEART STOPPER!

About 50 of our members attended our combined Valentine's Day Lunch & Fashion Parade at the Esplanade River Suites (the site of the old Pagoda Ballroom, Como) on Sunday 13th February.

There was bubbly on arrival; a wonderful sumptuous luncheon with a glass of wine; sweets; tea and coffee.

Perri Cutten Fashion House Claremont kindly provided the very professional models and fashion show, and I and a couple of other blokes had to suck a lemon to take the smile off our faces!

A wonderful event, and my thanks go to Tricia Grace and all who helped her in arranging it.



Naughty girls Pam Nevard & Nola Schlam



Fashion conscious Barbara Stace; Brenda Pullin, & Margaret Park.



PATRON

Her Worship
Lisa Scaffidi,
Lord Mayor
Perth WA

~~~~~



#### VICE PATRON

Captain Brett Wolski  
Commanding Officer  
HMAS Stirling WA

~~~~~

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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as above.

WEBMASTER

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# Meet our new Vice Patron - Captain Brett Wolski RAN

**We welcome Captain Brett Wolski RAN who replaces Captain Brett Dowsing RAN as Vice Patron.**



Captain Brett Wolski was born in Kingaroy, Queensland and joined the RAN in 1986 as a Supplementary List Officer. He underwent the typical postings for a Seaman Officer under training and was awarded his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate in HMAS Brisbane in 1989. A 12 month posting in the Destroyer Escort HMAS Stuart as Officer of the Watch immediately followed.

Brett completed an Air Defence Controller Course at RAAF Williamtown in January 1991 and joined HMAS Perth for eighteen months as the Air Intercept Controller and Officer of the Watch.

During this period HMAS Perth deployed to Greece and Crete for the 50th Anniversary of the Fall of Crete during WWII. He then posted to RAAF Williamtown as an Air Defence Controller Instructor and was subsequently promoted to Lieutenant in 1993.

He completed the Principal Warfare Officer (PWO) Course in December 1995 and then joined HMAS Canberra as the Direction Officer and Operations Officer.

Brett was selected to instruct gunnery as a member of the PWO Directing Staff in July 1997 and he remained in this posting until joining HMAS Brisbane as the Gunnery Officer and Operations Officer in August 1999.

Brett was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in January 2000. In August 2000 he posted to the Deployable Joint Force Headquarters in Brisbane as the RAN Liaison Officer, giving him a close view of the Joint capabilities of the ADF during exercises such as Tandem Thrust 01 and Longreach 01.

Brett was loaned overseas in January 2002 to fulfil the role of RAN Liaison Officer Comfifthflt based in Bahrain.

Following this he joined HMAS Mandoora as Executive Officer in July 2002. Mandoora conducted First of Class Flight Trials, several amphibious exercises and deployments to Operation Falconer and Anode during his tenure.

Promoted to Commander in January 2004 Brett undertook the workforce planning duties of Deputy Director Navy Establishments (2004-2005) and Director Navy Workforce Planning (2005-2006) at Navy Headquarters, Canberra. He assumed command of HMAS Tobruk in January 2007. The ship took part in Operations Catalyst/Slipper and Resolute and Exercises Talisman Sabre 07 and Rimpac 08 during this period.

Promoted to Captain in November 2008, Brett was appointed Director of Workforce Modelling, Forecasting and Analysis which resides in the People Strategies and Policy Group in Canberra. On completion of this posting he assumed command of HMAS Stirling and as Senior Naval Officer, Western Australia, on 17 December 2010.

Capt Wolski has completed a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies, majoring in Bahasa Indonesia and is presently studying for an MBA in his own time. He is married to Sandra and is the proud father of two children (Alexander 14, and Elena 16).



## Members!

If your birthday always fails to appear in our newsletter it is because you left it off your application form.

Email us if you want that rectified.

## April 2011

|                      | April |
|----------------------|-------|
| Marice Purser-Bailey | 3     |
| Barry Main           | 5     |
| Graham Cerini        | 9     |
| Terry Spiro          | 13    |
| Ron Privilege        | 14    |
| Arthur Auguste       | 18    |
| Roslynn Fairhead     | 22    |
| John Stratton        | 25    |

## May 2011

|                  | May |
|------------------|-----|
| Janice Sturges   | 7   |
| Geraldine Bowden | 11  |
| Kelly Rivas      | 14  |
| Pamela Nevard    | 18  |

## June 2011

|                 | June |
|-----------------|------|
| Dene Selby      | 26   |
| Ron Smales      | 26   |
| Nola Schlam     | 27   |
| Bettine Chapman | 28   |
| Byron Barnes    | 30   |

## President's Message

Your Executive Council is in it's busiest time of the year, heavily engaged in letters to Heads of Consulates, dignitaries and Heads of Service Organizations; arranging a fly-past; compiling Programmes; costing and booking venues; checking menus, - the list goes on!

For the Kings Park Wreath Laying we will unfortunately be without Vice Regal representation. Our present Governor, who has honoured us with his presence in the past will have left the position; the new Governor will not be in office; and the Lieutenant Governor unfortunately has another engagement.

Likewise, we do have a fly-past this year, but due to cut-backs I have been told not to expect one in the future.

As per page 1, Executive Council is disappointed at numbers booked for the Masked Ball. Never mind, the venue is lovely, and The Army Band Perth will not let us down. It will be a wonderful memorable night.

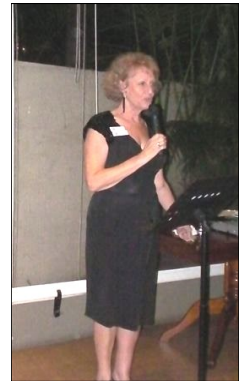


Past Presidents Brigadier William Jamieson; Marice Purser-Bailey; Brian Gotts; and Lindsay Peet (sitting), with US Consul General Aleisha Woodward, and President David Grace .

## REUNION

1st April

The Reunion of Past Members on 1st April, organized by past President Marice Purser-Bailey, brought many past Members together, as-well-as current members.



Marice Purser-Bailey giving her presentation.

We were also honoured by the attendance of US Consul General Ms Aleisha Woodward.

Marice gave us a memorable slide presentation with her interesting commentary and stories, and there were other photos and memorabilia scattered around the room for all to view.

It was obvious from many conversations which I overheard, that attendees were re-living old memories. Well done Marice for all your hard work.



US Consul General Aleisha Woodward (centre), with AAA Secretary Sandra Williams and husband Eric.

## Functions Pending

Friday 6th May

**Coral Sea Masked Ball, Duxton Hotel, Perth**

Monday 9th May

**Coral Sea Commemorative Wreath Laying, King's Park.**

Mid/late July

**Xmas in July combined Rock n Roll night.**

## Did you know?

**"They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old, - - "**

was written by the English poet Laurence Binyon (1869-1943) who worked at the Books Dept of the British Museum.

Born at Lancaster into a Quaker family, he died at Reading in my home County of Berkshire near Windsor/Ascot.

Moved by the already high casualties of the Great War, in 1914 Binyon wrote the ***Ode of Remembrance*** when he was visiting the cliffs near Pentire Head in north Cornwall.

In 1915, too old to enlist, Binyon worked as a hospital orderly, and later cared for soldiers from Verdun battlefield.

The 4th verse of his Ode is usually used and has been claimed as a tribute to all casualties of war, regardless of nation.

## Get to know your AAWA Executive Council Members

**Josephine ('Josie') Moore** I was born in Hobart, Tasmania, but moved to Perth in 1967.

I began work as a Medical Secretary, and in 1978 married a General Surgeon, and continued working. My husband had Surgical Fellowship Degrees in London and Scotland and this necessitated, at the time, travelling overseas to conferences, at which I met many Americans.

After my husband's death in 1985 I accepted a position working for the then Chairman of the Dept of General Surgery at Royal Perth Hospital. I became his private practice Manager and worked with him for 13 years. When he retired, so did I.

I have always wanted to write, but work prevented this. Working in the medical profession is a demanding experience. On retiring I wrote a series of children's books which were published here in Perth. I had geared these stories written 'against the grain' which meant they had been written in a way in which they could be used as an educational tool. I read to many schools in Perth during their 'book weeks'. Sitting on the floor with the children and reading to them, watching their faces for expression was a fascinating experience, which interested me in research for further material.

I also have written another series of the three books for children, and a short novel for children. This work is being viewed for publishing at the moment.

After visiting North Yorkshire I developed a thirst to write a novel. I began writing what was to become a saga. The work demanded a great deal of time to research, and 6 long years to write. Having completed the work of 115 chapters it is currently at Random House in London, hopefully for publication. However, like other unknown authors I feel I am in for a long wait, - if ever! But will this stop me from beginning another? No, I am already researching.

Over the last few years I have been actively involved with the Australian American Association. As I have mentioned earlier I have met many American people during medical conferences and have always felt a strong bond between Australia and America. Further association was experienced on a particular visit to America some years ago. My now ex son-in-law lives in New York with his American Wife, so with his children, my grandchildren here, there is an ongoing interest between us. During the past few years I have participated with the Australian American Association and this has been an interesting experience of enjoyment socially, and as a Executive Councillor. There is a dedicated quality presented within the current Executive and I would not feel comfortable without mentioning our President, David Grace, who has worked so very hard along with the Councillors.

I often walk along the Swan River as it reminds me so much of the Derwent River in Hobart. However, our sunshine and balmy summer evenings do not remind me of Hobart!

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**Patricia ('Tricia') Grace** My parents, who were both in the Royal Air Force in war time 1943, met at dance.

She was a cook; he was a Corporal, - an air-o fitter. Both were stationed at York (England), and they married in York Minster. My father had been born and raised in Stafford, - in the midlands, and my mother in Hartlepool on the coast of north east England.

Once married they moved to Stafford, where I was born in December 1944. They tell me it was a bitter cold morning, and my father jumped camp and travelled all night to be at my birth. When he got back to base he was charge AWL and lost his stripes! My brother Tony was born in January 1947. I remember moving to the north east when I was 5. My mother was in very bad health and needed her family around her. We moved to a village called Greatham, which was one of the happiest times of my life. Looking back, life was good.

I attended St Cuthbert's Infants School with my brother Tony. We travelled everyday six miles to school, which to small children, at 7 a.m. on cold snowy mornings, in smoke filled buses with lots of workmen, was a long time. I went to St. Joseph's Ladies R.C. Convent until I left school at 15.

I then went to work for a Jewish family in retail. They wanted to adopt me. My father wouldn't have a bar of it!

The same year my mother gave birth to my sister Jacqueline, - so there is a 16 years age difference between us.

I started a five year apprenticeship as a hairdresser in Hartlepool, during which time I went to London to Vidal Sassoons and school for an Advanced Styling Course, which I loved.

I then opened my own salon; worked hard and all hours, and was very successful. I was also interested in ballroom dancing which I used to do 3 or 4 times a week after work.

I met my first husband Malcolm at a party. He went to Aden for his 21st birthday with his brother, who was stationed there. He was away 6 weeks; came back with an engagement ring, and gave it to me while I was at work in front of all my clients. Very romantic! We married 2 years later and honeymooned in Majorca.

Our daughter Victoria was born the following year, and we bought our first home, in Billingham. Three years later my son Garrard was born.

I then did a course in men's hairstyling; sold my salon; worked and managed a salon of 16 girls for 15 months, and put the wheels in motion to come to Australia where we lived with Malcolm's brother until we found a home to buy.

I worked in a hair salon here for a year until a career change into cosmetics, which I've been in for 30 years.

I then met David and the rest is history. We were married in St. George's Cathedral 26 years ago.

I have worked for Lauder, Guerlain, and for the last 10 years, Chanel.