

Masthead



Australia

H.M.S. GANGES ASSOCIATION
VICTORIA DIVISION
(Australia)

Meetings held at the Frankston Naval Memorial Club (FNMC) 36 Barretts Road, Langwarrin South, Vic 3911

Chairman: David Lines, (0421) 068 443 ~ TyabbHookMan@GMail.com

Treasurer: Gordon Canty, (0413) 877 488 ~ CantyGB@OptusNet.com.au

Secretary: Rick Clark. (0409) 123 569 ~ Rick.Clark1@Outlook.com

FROM THE EDITOR:

I hope you like the Masthead's new format. This Newsletter is for all of us therefore, any constructive suggestions to improve our newsletter will be gratefully received. I am sorry this Newsletter is so long, but most of it is taken up with our recent holidays.

Any articles you wish to be included in future Newsletters, please, either forward it to me via email: Rick.Clark1@Outlook.com, telephone me on: (0409) 123 569, or see me at our next luncheon.

It would be good to include anecdotes from your Ganges time or interesting experiences you had whilst in the Mob.

Please don't forget our next gathering, 12:00, Wednesday, 26 May at the FNMC, 36 Barretts Road, Langwarrin South.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

Once again, our getaway trip, this time to Lakes Entrance, was a huge success, we ended up with 13 people going, and I can only thank the other twelve people for making this trip a memorable one. I was just a little bit suspicious about the Accommodation, but that suspicion quickly evaporated, when we entered our Individual units, a nice king sized Bed, a great walk in Shower, with Hot water that did not fluctuate, with the advent of some other person in another unit turning their shower on, and very clean, sometimes accommodation can be hit or miss, bulls eye this time, and right in the centre of Town, and only 4 shop fronts from the local R.S.L.

The majority of people arrived on Monday, to join Harry Harrison, myself and Janet who arrived on Sunday, just to check out the eating places we may have liked to go to. But by a unanimous vote after going to the R.S.L. on Monday night, why go elsewhere, for members, cheap drinks alongside good food, and for those that love a flutter the pokies.

Tuesday Morning: *Harry Harrison had arranged for a coach trip out to the Buchan Caves, the whole idea of this trip was to support the local Community, after the disastrous fires that we had experienced in early 2020, we could not go much earlier than we did due to COVID19. The coach duly arrived and we looked in amazement. The coach company had phoned through to Harry, do you want a small coach or a big luxury coach for the same price, so 13 people got into a 50 seater coach with all the luxuries.*



We made a coffee stop at Bruthen, then onto Buchan. We did see some of the fire ravaged countryside, but this time Buchan was spared. Lunch had to be at the Pub, didn't it, and it was, Home cooked Steak and Guinness pies, and other scrumptious offerings. It was a great day.

Wednesday: *A free day for people to do their own thing, with a B.B.Cue Tea in the Evening, Thanks to Gordon Canty as a resident B.B.Cuer, and meat from a local Butcher whose meat/sausages/hamburgers were a big hit.*

Thursday: *I had arranged for a cruise up the Gippsland Lakes to a little village called METUNG for Lunch, at a PUB AGAIN. We were blessed with the weather, beautiful calm days with the temp around 22 degs and no wind. We all enjoyed the Cruise and sightseeing, and the lunch was a bonus. Having had a good Lunch meant the majority could only fit in a light tea at the R.S.L. Club.*

Each evening at 1700, was tot time, and I can only thank all participants for donating, a choice of Pussers or Woods for a Tot, the girls had arranged to bring their own drinks, so each evening started with the right attitude. So, 5 bottles of Pussers came home.

Friday. The comment from Joan Kime was, she could have stopped another couple of days, and that would have been easy to do

Thanks to one and all for your fabulous cooperation in this latest venture. November will be next getaway.

SICK PARADE:

Florence Livingston – Gordon has been told that Flo is doing well at present however, she is rather frail. We send our best wishes to Flo and hope she recovers soon.

MEETING APOLOGIES:

- Florence Livingston



FROM THE TREASURER:

After our Getaway, our bank balance is \$3,411.25, plus a float of \$50.00, making a total balance of **\$3,461.45**. (And in the distance, I can hear Bill Agnew’s voice shout “HOW MUCH!”)

FROM THE SECRETARY: (Picture at bottom of Newsletter)

Correspondence:

- April Edition of the Simon’s Town’s Masthead (South Africa)
- February Edition of the Simon’s Town’s Masthead (South Africa)
- The 81st edition of The Plymouth Veteran Journal of the Federation of Plymouth and District Ex-Services Association
- May edition of the WA Division Hoist

If anyone would like copies of any of the above, please see Rick.

BIRTHDAY’S:

- Flo Livingston
- John Hannan

Many Happy Returns to Flo and John.

UK ASSOCIATION NEWS UPDATE:

- Nothing major.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

- Discussions will be held regarding our preferred November holiday destination and the dates.



ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Not at present.

VICTORIA DIVISION'S GATHERING OF THE CLAN'S

David Lines, the Chairman of the HMS Ganges Association (Victoria Division) gave an excellent write-up in his section above.

The Victoria Division held their much delayed holiday from Monday, 26 April, to Friday, 30 April. The feedback leads the Editor to believe that a good time was had by all. We, as a division, are becoming smaller, but we still had 13 attend the holiday, even though, due to the COVID-19 restrictions on travel, no interstate and overseas contingents join us.

We stayed at the Esplanade Motel in Lakes Entrance (which is located in south east Victoria, approx 300km east of Melbourne, on the coast), which was excellent. One of the bonuses, it is only 50 metres to the Lakes Entrance RSL - well within staggering distance! We all ended up in the RSL most evenings and found the service was friendly and efficient. The food was delicious, and there was lots of it. The servings were so large, that the Editor usually made do with just an entrée. (A few grumbles from our contingent were heard, as Gordon kept on winning on the pokies (one-armed-bandits) until he very generously bought the first round at the pub at Tuesday's lunch.)



An HMS Ganges Association (Victoria Division) meeting was held on the Monday afternoon, after which, a tot or three was enjoyed by most of us.



Three grades of rum were on offer:

- Pussers Blue Label
- Pussers Gunpowder Proof Rum
- & Pussers 15 Year Old Rum.

And, yet again, Janet and David provided the 'nibblies'. Thank you Janet and David.

On the Tuesday, we went by coach for a sight-seeing trip. The coach was excellent. Very clean and spacious. The coach driver, Kev Clark, was an excellent driver, most friendly and helpful. He was also most knowledgeable about the region and made many useful suggestions.



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We stopped for lunch in the Buchan Caves Hotel where the food was delicious and abundant.



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A Little Bit Of History (Mainly extracted from the *Buchan Hotel Caves Hotel Website*): *The Buchan Caves Hotel was built in the 1800's and started trading as the 'Buchan Inn' in December 1882. (Harry Thacker and Ken Irons helped build it. If you look closely, you can see them in the photograph below.)*



Sadly, on 8 April 2014 the Buchan Caves Hotel was destroyed by fire. Nothing could be salvaged and the Buchan community were devastated.

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The directors of the hotel at the time of the fire decided not to rebuild and the land was given to investors and previous owners, Marg and Greg (Bricky) Brick.

Not having the funds to rebuild, Marg and Bricky considered selling the land, but couldn't bring themselves to sell and leave the town without a pub. In 2015, local, Lyndel Moore, helped launch the "let's Build A Pub" Campaign. The campaign saw an amazing amount of support from all over the world. Through the crowdfunding website Pozible, the Buchan Caves Hotel raised over \$605k which assisted with the rebuild of the new Buchan Caves Hotel.

Marg and Bricky designed the new hotel with the old pub in mind. The layout is very different incorporating a large wrap around verandah and beer garden. Internally they have tried to keep the design rustic with modern fittings for functionality purposes.

As was noted above, the hotel food was excellent and abundant, as can be seen from the size of Gordon's burger.



Wednesday was a lay-day and we went our own ways. Late afternoon/evening, we had a BBQ, Gordon was the BBQ Chef Extraordinaire, who did an excellent job. Thank you Gordon.

Thursday – Our Last Evening. A big thanks is extended to Joan and Judy for patiently peeling the prawns which many of us gratefully devoured.

[A massive thank you to David Lines and Harry Harrison for arranging this holiday and many previous holidays.](#)

Photographs of the holiday can be downloaded at

<https://1drv.ms/u/s!Am4EkdY10qQE4u80G9T7M9vanSmRBA?e=UJ15u5>

If you wish to have electronic copies, please see Rick.



A big thank you from the whole of the HMS Ganges Association also goes to Harry Harrison for editing and distributing this Newsletter for so many years, as well as being our Treasurer and Secretary. **THANK YOU VERY MUCH, HARRY.** We wish you much happiness and good health in your new abode and we are looking forward to seeing you on the occasions you are able attend our gatherings, which you have always done so much for.

NEXT HOLIDAY:

November 2021	David Lines is gathering information on the two suggested locations, Moama and Yarrawonga, which were put forward at our last meeting which was held at Lakes Entrance on 28 April 2021.
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FUTURE MEETINGS/EVENTS:

<u>Wednesday, 26 May 2021</u>	<u>Meeting and Luncheon ~ Bar opens at 1130, meeting commences circa 1200</u>
Wednesday, 23 June 2021	Meeting and Luncheon ~ Bar opens at 1130, meeting commences circa 1200
Wednesday, 28 July 2021	Meeting and Luncheon ~ Bar opens at 1130, meeting commences circa 1200
Wednesday, 25 August 2021	Meeting and Luncheon ~ Bar opens at 1130, meeting commences circa 1200
Wednesday, 22 September 2021	Meeting and Luncheon ~ Bar opens at 1130, meeting commences circa 1200
Wednesday, 27 October 2021	Meeting and Luncheon ~ Bar opens at 1130, meeting commences circa 1200
Wednesday, 24 November 2021 – <u>Date, still to be confirmed</u>	Christmas Lunch ~ Bar opens at 1130

INTERESTING RN ANECDOTES

(All Contributions Will Be Gratefully Accepted)

- An interesting webpage on “the cuts” can be perused at <https://www.corpun.com/counukn.htm>
- An interesting webpage on the history of the Royal Navy Official Number can be read at [http://www.godfreydykes.info/ROYAL%20NAVY%20OFFICIAL%20NUMBERS%20\[RATINGS\].htm](http://www.godfreydykes.info/ROYAL%20NAVY%20OFFICIAL%20NUMBERS%20[RATINGS].htm)



- The following is extracted from the book *The Life and Times of HMS Ganges* compiled by Dickie Doyle:

The first HMS Ganges was a 74-gun ship, originally named Bengal, built by the East India Company, informally known as John Company, on the Thames and presented to the British Government in 1779. This was by no means the first ship to be given by John Company to the British Government. It has been always presumed that these ships were the way of the Company saying thank-you for keeping the sea-lanes open but may well also have been a way of paying their taxes and dues.

HMS Ganges took part in a number of actions at sea during her lifetime including her involvement against the Danes as part of Admiral Lord Nelsons fleet. She was finally broken up in 1816 after 34 years of service.

There were a further two ships named Ganges both armed East India Company ships until the fourth ship to be named HMS Ganges was built in Bombay. An 84 gun ship she was launched in 1821, of 2,283 tons and carried a crew of 700 men. During the 1840s there were a number of engagements in the eastern Mediterranean whilst blockading the Syrian coast.

THE HMS GANGES ASSOCIATION - VICTORIA DIVISION NEW SECRETARY

