



AUSTRALIAN AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

FOSTERING FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN TWO GREAT NATIONS

Issue No: 25. Quarter: Jan. Feb Mar. 2011



PATRON

Her Worship
Lisa Scaffidi,
Lord Mayor
Perth WA

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Commanding Officer  
HMAS Stirling WA

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## AAA XMAS FUNCTION & WELCOME NEW U.S. CONSUL GENERAL,

### - A GREAT SUCCESS

Nearly 60 people attended our 19th November combined Xmas function & Welcome to Perth new U.S. Consul General Aleisha Woodward.

The event was held on a hot evening in an upstairs room at the Melbourne Hotel, Perth, opening onto a cool wide balcony, where we were entertained 'Sinatra style' by talented singer Don King.

Good food and wine and good conversation flowed.

Our friendly new Consul General moved freely amongst guests.

A nice final touch to the evening was the cutting, by the new Consul General, of a huge Christmas cake baked and donated by Tricia Grace.

Almost all guests sampled a slice, and many took a piece away with them.

The cake was aptly iced with the American flag, and I can tell you the flag was the last section of cake to be eaten.

### NEW VICE PATRON

Sadly we have to say goodbye to our Vice Patron Captain Brett Dowsing RAN, - that macho looking fellow in the left hand box above. Brett will be greatly missed.

Brett has relinquished Command of HMAS Stirling, and his next posting will be as Defence Attache, Seoul, Korea, in late 2011.

On Brett's recommendation the Vice Patron position is being offered to the new Command of HMAS Stirling, - another Brett, - this time **Captain Brett Wolski RAN.**



AAA member Hon Michael Mischin MLC; US Consul General Aleisha Woodward, and AAA President David Grace



Josie Moore; Joan Gravell & Marice Purser-Bailey



Bill Guilfoyle; Susan Glasfurd OAM; Sonja & Captain Brett Dowsing RAN, and Tricia Grace



Tricia Grace, with new US Consul General Aleisha Woodward cutting the cake.

# President's Report & Functions Report

I sincerely hope you and your family enjoyed a safe and memorable Christmas, and I wish you good health and prosperity in 2011.

Executive Council does not meet in December, and correspondingly, with many of our members away on holidays in January, we do not hold an event in January.

We do however intend to run some exciting and varied events in the first quarter of 2011.

Chronologically:-

**On Sunday 13th February** we intend running a **Valentine's Day event, combined with a fashion show.**

Our Head of Functions Tricia Grace is finalizing this with what used to be the Pagoda Ballroom, South Perth. The event will be either a breakfast, or a lunch, and Tricia has one of our leading fashion houses and models booked. **You will be receiving the Invitation within the next 2 weeks.**

mid March A back yard St. Patrick's Night with dinner has been suggested, but I don't want this to draw members away from, -

**Friday 1st April** Long standing Executive Council member Marice Purser-Bailey is arranging a **Happy Hour and Old (meaning long standing) Members Reunion.** This is also at the Pagoda and of course is an evening event. Marice has contacted many members from the past and will present memorabilia.

**Your Executive Council works very hard on functions, so please support us by attending.**

**I regularly hear from other Associations and Clubs that their membership is declining.**

**Unfortunately this seems to be the norm, - younger people not being interested, and older people passing on.**

**Merv Bailey our Membership Officer however tells me our membership is around the same number for last year, and I can tell you WA has the largest membership of all Divisions. Well done WA!**

## **A.A.A. FEDERAL PRESIDENT VISITS WA**

We are delighted to have Federal President of the AAA **Geoff Squibb** currently visit our State. Geoff is the young bloke on the left of course.

Geoff resides in Tasmania; was elected at our Adelaide Convention last September, and is presently visiting us in a Parliamentary Bowls competition. Executive Council had the great pleasure of taking Geoff to dinner.



### **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.

### **January 2011**

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| Brian Goodman   | Jan 2 |
| Helen McCarthy  | " 13  |
| Sandra Williams | " 15  |
| Josephine Moore | " 31  |

### **February 2011**

|                 |       |
|-----------------|-------|
| David Grace     | Feb 4 |
| Paul Hamilton   | " 15  |
| Kate Michelback | " 22  |
| Lindsay Wallis  | " 29  |

### **March 2011**

|                |       |
|----------------|-------|
| Lucy Argyle    | Mar 5 |
| Richard Adams  | " 18  |
| Chuck Linkston | " 25  |
| Janet McCallum | " 26  |

## Trivia:-

Last edition I told you the composer of the *tune* of the National Anthem of the United States of America was **Englishman** John Stafford Smith (1750—1836).

Did you also know the lyrics to the popular Irish song we know as 'Danny Boy' were written by Englishman Frederic Weatherly.

Frederic Weatherly (1848-1929) was a West of England barrister, lyricist, author, and broadcaster.

It's said he wrote around 3000 songs, - one of his most famous being '**Roses of Picardy**' written in 1916, and very popular in World War One.

Weatherly had originally written Danny Boy in 1910 to another tune. In 1912 however his sister-in-law in America sent him the sheet music to the melody 'Londonderry Air', - although it may not have been called that at the time. He immediately saw how his own words to 'Danny Boy' would fit the new melody.

The title 'Londonderry Air' was used by the Northern Irish who were pro British.

The tune was not so popular with the anti British Southern Irish Republicans, who always referred to it as 'The Air From County Derry'.

Weatherly published 'Danny Boy' in 1913. It immediately became very popular in America, but many Irish immigrants arriving there had never heard of it!

Over time though 'Danny Boy' has become popular with Irish and non Irish all over the world.

Interestingly, music experts say the structure of the tune is unlike any other traditional Irish tune, and is not suited for words in any of the known Irish song meters. If so, where did the melody originally come from?

Finally, Beatrix Potter's first signed illustrations were published in 'A Happy Pair', a book verse written by Frederic Weatherly.

Did you also know that **14 years prior to the sinking of the Titanic** a book was written by William Stead.

It told the story of the biggest and most luxurious liner ever built; how on it's maiden voyage from Southampton to New York it hit an iceberg in the North Atlantic; how it's hull was torn open beneath the waterline, and how it sank with an appalling loss of life due to lack of lifeboats. Each of these events actually occurred in the real life sinking of the Titanic 14 years later. The name of the ship in Stead's book was the **Titan**.

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# Functions Pending

details to follow

Sunday February 13th (lunch event) **Combined Valentine's Day and Fashion Show**

March yet to be decided, but possibly a Paddy's Night.

Friday April 1st (evening event) **Reunion for previous Members**

## Get to know your AAWA Executive Council Members

**Marice Purser-Bailey** started her life in Palmyra, where the entire family made 44,000 bricks in order to build the family home in Bicton. During the 4 years building the house, the family of 6 lived in a shed on the block. It was completed in 1957 and a delighted family then realised the value of space & privacy.

Early in her life, Marice decided that she wanted to become a hairdresser, and began her apprenticeship in 1955. She then went on in hairdressing until 1973. During 1969-1973 Marice lived and worked in Brighton in Melbourne. During this time men never entered a ladies hairdressing salon, hence Marice rarely got to meet any interesting men, let alone learn how to talk to them. She then decided to come back to Perth and become a part of the family's Caesars Plumbing & Gas. Boy did she learn how to talk to the opposite sex. Marice became a part owner of the company and continued in the business for 22 years. At that time Marice sold to her brother Mark, who continues to own the company.

Marice came home from Melbourne in September 1973. On the first Friday in December 1973, she was invited to her first AAA WA Happy Hour, which was held at the Sheraton Hotel. From then her social life changed dramatically. At that time the AAA Endeavour Group (aged to 35) was very active and in 1974/75 Marice became a member of our AAA WA and immediately joined the E.Group Committee. The AAA E. Group held Happy Hours on the first Friday of every month except January until approx 1996. In the year that Marice was E.Group President, there were 26 ships visits to Fremantle. This meant that they were all very busy arranging functions for Navy & Marine Officers. These events included sporting events, Thanksgiving, Halloween, and bringing visitors into their homes at Christmas time to be included with families. Marice went on spending many years on Executive Council and was AAA WA. President from 1999 – 2001. In 1996 Marice organised our Annual Federal Conference which was held at the Esplanade Hotel Fremantle, and has attended 12 Federal Conferences in total.

In 2000 at the time that Marice met her husband Merv Bailey, she started to work for Scafftag which produces safety tagging systems. She then went on to manage the Australian office in South Fremantle until 2004.

In 2003 Marice & Merv married at the Araluen Country Club and lived in Casuarina. Marice then went to help out in Merv's lighting business, at weekends, and whenever needed. In 2006 they moved to Mount Nasura and have happily lived there for 4½ years.

By now you might have worked out that Marice has been a member of AAA WA, for approx 35 years, and has been on our committees for most of that time. She is dedicated to our Association and is currently planning a reunion for Previous Members for April 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 which will bring back many memories for many people.

Marice will continue to be a committed member of our much loved Australian American Association WA Division Inc.

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**Jack Suriano** (Cap'n Jack) was brought up in Melbourne, the son of an Italian father and an Australian mother, hence an Italian kangaroo!!!!!!.

He was accepted into the Royal Australian Navy Fleet Air Arm as a Naval Aviator, sent to the UK for flying and operational training with the RN.

On returning to OZ Jack joined 816 Squadron aboard the aircraft carrier HMAS Sydney bound for Korea.

On leaving the RAN Jack headed off to the UK and joined the 3M Company as a salesman; soon promoted to Sales Trainer, then to International Sales and Sales Management trainer.

Jack then met Shirley a lovely English lass whom he married and fathered 2 sons.

In 1968 he was head hunted by CSBP to set up a sales force in Western Australia. Shirley then delivered daughter Lucy.

In 1970 Jack and Shirley attended their first AAA function at the White House (Kenwick, Perth, - not Washington).

They conducted several business enterprises including Midstream River Cruises where he claimed the name Cap'n Jack.

Jack spent 15 years as a Naval Reservist during which became involved with the AAA, serving on the Committee for several years. Cap'n Jack served for 25 years as a Rotarian, and President of Fremantle Port Rotary; served as President of the Naval, Military and Air Forces Club, and is currently a member of the Western Australian Club.

On December 3<sup>rd</sup> Jack and Shirley celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary at a Mess Dinner at HMAS Stirling staying overnight in the Honeymoon Suite provided by the President of the Wardroom.

Cap'n Jack is currently Vice President of the WA chapter of the AAA and is looking forward to assisting in its future development.