

Greetings to all members and apologies for this very brief newsletter. Unfortunately, because of illness at present, Dennis Moore, our editor and publicity officer, is not well enough to compile it, though he hopes to be home soon.

For years he has done everything for newsletters, making recordings, writing articles, building it into a quarterly of current and historic interest. With his technical knowledge he has set up links with SIGINT organisations here and overseas. President Gordon Gibson, Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch and I have been left behind by technology, but Dennis has kept up with the 21st century. Now, temporarily without him we're sending out this issue by old-fashioned methods. We must put the message across that the Combined SIGINT Reunion will be held in Melbourne on November 11 & 12, 2000. We have reprinted the invitation and hope you'll send your acceptance to Bruce Bentwitch by October 6.

At the moment the number of acceptances is disappointing. There are reasons for this. The human tendency is to leave things until the last moment and there is also the fact that you might not have been able to get in touch with me. When "Reveille" and "Vet Affairs" advised readers of our reunion, they printed my name, address and phone numbers, and told people who wanted invitations to ring or write to me. The response overwhelmed. Calls came from most states. Veterans, who had left the services at the end of the war and had never attended Anzac Day gatherings or reunions suddenly found that CBICA existed.

Grown up children discovered that their parents had been with the CB, ASWG or Wireless Units. They had old photographs of the Northern Territory or Philippines. Dad had never spoken of what he did. I had long and interesting conversations with many callers. Then, early in August, a virus hit me. Coughing took over my voice, which sounded more like a barking Rottweiler than human. I spent some weeks in hospital and came home only recently. I'm sure that some letters went unanswered and that I missed out on many phone calls.

Forgive me and do get to the reunion. It's the 25th anniversary of CBICA Inc and marks 58 years since Central Bureau was set up in Melbourne in 1942. You will know people and will find familiar faces-with a few wrinkles added. Our last Melbourne reunion was held in November 1993. It was highly successful. Let the 2000 reunion excel it!

Please wear name badges for identification. (Married ex-servicewomen should give their maiden name as well).

The program has been carefully planned in collaboration with Victorian colleagues, Steve Mason, Harold Jones, Roy Ward, Geoff Patience and Bill Rogers. The Rev. Robert Brown, churchman and author, will conduct the wreath-laying ceremony and will address us. (He served with CB at Henry Street-Ascot).

After a tour of CB sites, including Domain Road ("Cranleigh") we lunch at the Caulfield Racecourse Restaurant.

Joe Da Costa will introduce our guest speaker, Mr Ron Bonighton, Director of Defence Signals Directorate (DSD), Canberra. Mr Bonighton said, in our June 2000 Newsletter:

"When I started at DSD, back in the late 1960's, we had a few people still with us who served in Central Bureau. Of course they have all long since retired, but the current generation of Siginters remembers them with great respect. Theirs was a tradition which we have been proud to inherit."

The stories about "Cranleigh" vary from teller to teller. Joe Da Costa was there in March 1940, at the time of CB's origin. He served with the AIF, was detached to 51 Aust W/T Section Darwin in May 1942, was with CB at Ascot, than was detached to 1 W.U. Townsville, and was at Port Moresby.

Another speaker at our lunch will be Lt Col (Rtd) John P.Dwyer, A.M. who is Executive Officer of the General Douglas Mac Arthur Brisbane Memorial Trust.

Frank Hughes, who with John Stumm and Betty Chessell has been deeply involved with the Trust says that Lt Col Dwyer will tell us of recent developments there.

Interesting tours are planned for Sunday. Do come! It all happens in Melbourne Cup week.

Helen Kenny-Hon.Secretary
27/1-13 Mackenzie Street
Lavender Bay
NSW 2060
Phone: 02 9954 09 40

YOUR INVITATION TO COMBINED SIGINT REUNION, MELBOURNE NOVEMBER 11 AND 12, 2000

This year 2000 Reunion of all Sigint personnel will celebrate the New Millennium and will give us the opportunity to meet again the men and women with whom we served in a common enterprise during those eventful years of World War II, an enterprise that contributed so much to the ultimate victory of the Allied Cause. To use the words of the late Nobby Clarke: "I can assure you that the efforts of the operators of ASWG and the RAAF and AIF analysts, strippers, collators and book makers working on air-ground traffic produced the most useful intercepted information in the Pacific War. So, if you want to know who were the heroes, it was all of you working together with humility and devotion. Your commitment and dedication were certainly crucial to the final outcome of the Pacific War." Nobby's words, of course, apply equally well to the "heroes" of the RAN and US SIS. Then to quote Mac Jamieson, "I feel this will be your last chance to participate in such a large reunion."

So be in it if you possibly can!

The following programme has been arranged:

Saturday, November 11, 2000

10:45 Meet at Commemorative Tree (Casuarina Stricta) in Shrine Park, (Corner Domain and St Kilda Roads.)

11:00 Wreath laying and address by the Rev. ~~Robert~~ Brown.

11:30 Board chartered buses for travel to Caulfield Racecourse. En route buses will pass CB sites in Kingsway (FRUMEL) and Domain Road (CRANLEIGH).

12:30 Gather at Caulfield Racecourse Restaurant. (Please buy your own drinks.)

13:00 Lunch at Restaurant.

Guest Speaker will be Mr Ron Bonighton, Director of Defence Signals Directorate (Canberra).

After lunch members will make their own way back to Melbourne. Caulfield Station is 150 metres from the Restaurant. The trip takes about 15 minutes.

Sunday, November 12, 2000

10:00 Meet outside Flinders Street Station, where charter buses will drive us to the RAAF Museum, Point Cook.

10:30 Tour of Museum begins. The tour is from 90 minutes to 2 hours.

12:30 Buses leave for Werribee, where we have a bistro-style lunch. (Pay for your own lunch and drinks.)

14:00 Buses take us back to Melbourne.

Accommodation

Visitors to Melbourne must find their own accommodation. Remember, our Reunion coincides with the end of Melbourne Cup Week so early bookings are advised. The following Serviced Apartments are recommended:

City Edge 92 Albert Street East Melbourne 3002-Free call 1800 809 419 www.cityedge.com \$126 for 2 per day

Albert Heights 83 Albert Street East Melbourne 3002-Free call 1800 800 117 enq@albertheights.com.au \$122 for 2 per day

If attending please complete the Acceptance Form below and return to the Hon. Treasurer Bruce Bentwitch, as soon as convenient and definitely no later than **FRIDAY 6th OCTOBER 2000**. Bruce's address is: **7 Holly Street Castle Cove NSW 2069. Phone: (02) 9417 1427.**

Costs inclusive of bus tours and Caulfield Luncheon will be \$35 per person. Cheques should be made out to "CBICA Inc."

We look forward to seeing you! Please remember to wear name tags so that we can all identify one another.

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ACCEPTANCE FORM (Returnable to Bruce Bentwitch)

I will attend the Reunion on: Both days ☐ Saturday only ☐ Sunday only ☐ (Please tick appropriate box)

Name:

Address:

Telephone number:

I shall bring..... guests (Names please))

I enclose remittance for \$.....

Signature.....