



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH



Pause to Remember

11-11-11

Newsletter

Issue 68– November 2021

NEW SUB BRANCH MEMBERS

Welcome to the following new Sub-Branch Members:

Warren Kelly

VALE

John Harris

Trevor Lawrence

Warren Kelly

Allan Howarth

Lest We Forget



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



**Sub Branch General Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month,
at 10.30am in function room at The Ary, with the exception of January.
All Members are invited to attend.**

| | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Thursday 11 November 2021 – 10.40am | Remembrance Day |
| Saturday 4 December | Merchant Mariners' Day Norah Head |
| Monday 6 December – 10.30 am | December General meeting |
| Sunday 19 December 2021 – 11.00 am | Second Wellness & Welfare Activity |
| Monday 20 December – 10.30 am | Committee meeting |
| Monday 7 February – 10.30 am | February General meeting |
| Sunday 13 February – 10.30 am | AGM |



President's Report:

After 15 weeks of lockdown, we are now all beginning to enjoy a few freedoms and get back to some normality! I hope you have all remained safe and well during, what would have been, trying times for many. Our Welfare Officers and Committee have phoned many of our members on a regular basis for a friendly chat. This was particularly welcoming for those living on their own. I am happy to say that our Committee Meetings resumed on 18 October 2021. The monthly General Meetings will recommence on Monday 1 November 2021 and I look forward to seeing many of our members joining us each month. We are also now back working out of our main Sub Branch office in The Ary Toukley.

I would particularly like to thank Committeeman Tom Hobbs for raising and lowering the cenotaph flags every day of the 15 weeks of lockdown, whilst The Ary was closed. Tom, your efforts are very much appreciated and acknowledged by many.

Bob Swift didn't stay idle either, keeping himself busy painting the fence behind the Sub Branch bus and the two seats in the carpark. Great effort, Bob, and thank you.

On the 9th November this year, we celebrate 73 years since the formation of our Sub Branch. We have come a long way since then and I am proud of our achievements over this time. Although our membership numbers are dwindling, it is great to see many attending our Commemoration Services, Sub Branch meetings and outings.

We have been advised that the Annual NSW State Congress which was scheduled to be held in Newcastle on 6-7 December 2021 will now be a virtual Congress over the two days. I will be representing the Toukley RSL Sub Branch and reporting back to the members. As I will be locked in front of a computer for two days, Vice President Ian Collier will be chairing the December 2021

General Meeting.

I have been notified that Merchant Mariners' Day will be held at Norah Head on Saturday 4 December 2021. I will advise more details when known. All Sub Branch members are invited to attend. As in previous years, the Sub Branch bus will leave from the front of The Ary for members who wish to attend. However, seating is limited to 21 persons, so if you are interested in attending and wish to travel via the Sub Branch bus, please give your name to Committeeman Rod Clark who will be driving the bus on that day.

Planning for Remembrance Day is almost complete. It has been extremely difficult to organise with changing Rules and Regulations due to Covid. However, restrictions have eased from 18 October 2021 for fully vaccinated people, and 200 people are now permitted for COVID-safe outdoor gatherings. All persons attending the Remembrance Day Commemoration Service must check in via the QR Code and show proof of double vaccination. **No vaccination (double jabbed) = No entry.** Masks do not have to be worn outdoors, except for the Committee who are checking in the members, partners and invited guests. The Main Road entrance to the cenotaph will be blocked off and manned. All entry to be via the carpark near the bus shelter. We have a Covid safety plan registered with the NSW Government. The scaled down service will commence at 11.50am.

On conclusion of the service, refreshments and snacks will be provided to those members, partners and invited guests who attend the Remembrance Day Service. A maximum of 60 will be permitted in Celebrations Function Room in The Ary. Unfortunately, some members may miss out if/when this number is reached.

The plantings at the cenotaph for Remembrance Day are now flowering and putting on a good show. The smaller, permanent, plants in the centre of the five gardens are coming along well and, so far, are all thriving.

Just a reminder that the Sub Branch Wellness and Wellbeing Function (Christmas party) will be held on Sunday 19 December 2021 from 11.00am until 4.00pm. To save any confusion, for those who have previously purchased tickets for the Christmas in July function, your money will be refunded. Tickets for the Christmas party can then be purchased. Please see Tom Hobbs at the

November General Meeting for refunds and new ticket purchase.

Unless rules are relaxed between now and the Christmas party, a maximum of 60 members, partners and invited guest are permitted to attend. By the December 2021 General Meeting we may know if there are any changes but, in the meantime, we not be able to sell any more tickets once we have 60 members and their partners who have paid their money.

The Christmas party will be a great time for members to catch up with friends and comrades. We will be going a little up-market, with canapes and champagne on arrival, a three-course meal with entertainment and a monster raffle. So get in early if you would like to attend, and see Tom Hobbs for tickets. \$20.00 each per member and partner gets you a great day out. Tables of 8 can be booked ($\$20 \times 8 = \160) with names and money.

The mural at the cenotaph is now complete and we have received many positive comments since it was put in place.

Planning for Anzac Day 2021 is well under way and, in fact, we are ahead of schedule. It is amazing what things you find to do while in lockdown! We are very hopeful of having a march and I have been liaising with Central Coast Council regarding this, in an effort for it to go ahead.

Make a note in your diary for Sunday 13 February 2022, as this will be the date when our AGM will be held upstairs in The Ary Toukley. The current Committee has another 15 months to run so the next election of office bearers will be held at the 2023 AGM.

Our December General Meeting will be the last one until February 2022.

I look forward to seeing you again at our General Meetings and functions.

Bob Wilson
President

. Keeping your Sub Branch Details Up to Date

If you have recently moved, or your details have changed, please let the Sub Branch Office know so that we can update your address and contact details.

This information is required so that we can send any correspondence and membership renewals to the correct address.

Also, if you know of a member who has moved, either to another area or to an Aged Care Facility, please notify the Sub Branch Office.

Reminder from Editor/Membership Officers :

Welcome back everyone from the editor and the membership team.

RSL NSW have created a Membership Portal which allows us/them to track membership in an easier way. We are able to store address and phone number details on the portal. This was not possible earlier and we had to rely on The Ary's records for these details and these details were not always maintained. What we need now is for our members to provide their details so that we can update the portal.

Also George Meier has arranged for a service provider to send out SMS's as a quick way of informing members of any Sub-branch information. All George needs is your mobile phone number and you can be added to the list of members receiving these messages.

Bus trip Excursion to Australian Reptile Park. 17th June 2021



On Thursday 17th June, our Wellness and Welfare excursion started at Saddles Restaurant for morning tea. The restaurant, at Mount White is fairly new, clean and friendly. A feature is the 5 saddles in front of the bar instead of bar stools. Being ably displayed in the photo by Terry Zorbas and Dave Ragan.

Next step was the Australian Reptile Park. At the Park we were encouraged to get up close and friendly with the animals. Rae Moss jumped at the chance but we weren't sure if she was thinking "Handbag, Shoes or Croc Steaks". Seeing the Spiders, Croc's, and Komodo Dragons makes people how dangerous Australia can be.



Snakes, realise

Next stop was at the Gosford RSL for lunch. For anyone been there in the last couple of years, it is a beautiful Completely renovated, airy, light and very well set out, "Bangers & Mash" on the menu were

who hasn't club. and the great and reasonably priced.



On our way home we stopped off at 'Crackneck' look-out at Bateau Bay. It was an ideal spot for a group photo and some even saw Whales way out on the horizon.



Puzzle Corner



- 1 What Japanese island is Mount Fuji on
- 2 What is the capital of Sweden
3. Hanoi is the capital of which country
4. Kotoku-in is in which country
- 5 2 pints make what
- 6 What is 41,114 rounded to the nearest 100
- 7 a companies positive resources are considered to be what
- 8 What sport did Bjorn Borg play
- 9 Glasgow is a city in which European country
- 10 What is the largest country in world by population
- 11 Which German city is famous for its October beer festival
- 12 Is everyone happy lockdown is over



"Want me to get you a shopping cart?"

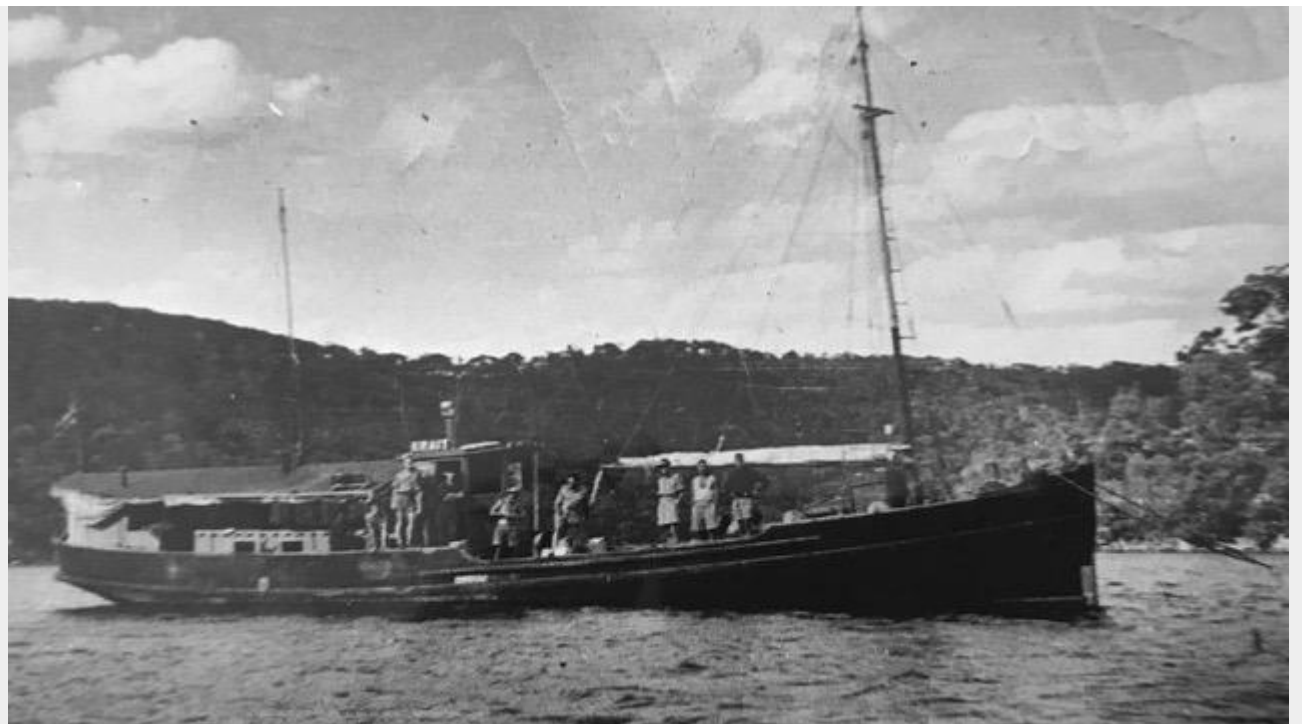
The Krait took the fight to the Japanese during World War II

Most of us will have read and seen lots to do with the KRAIT. However, among the tome below is more history of that little ship. Makes a good story better.

For nearly 20 years, Pittwater was home to one of the most fascinating elements of Australian military history – a Japanese fishing boat that was used by a group of Australians to destroy Japanese shipping during World War II.

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The boat was the Krait and the men who took it to Singapore during the darkest days of the war in the Pacific trained at a secret camp at Refuge Bay, just around the corner from Pittwater.



The Krait in Refuge Bay in January 1943.

But the boat that is now a national war memorial had humble beginnings.

The vessel was built in 1934 at the Hamagami shipyards in Nagahama, a small port on the Japanese island of Shokoku.

Built of teak, the 47t vessel was 21m long and just 3.5m wide and initially was powered by a German-built four-cylinder diesel engine.

She began her working life as a fishing boat called the Kofuku Maru, meaning Happiness or Good Fortune, and for seven years plied the waters of south-east Asia.

But the Kofuku Maru was in Singapore when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and was immediately impounded by the British authorities as a prize of war.



The Krait on Sydney Harbour.

The Kofuku Maru lay in Singapore harbour for two months until the final days before the island fell to the invading Japanese, ignored by almost everyone because of its decrepit appearance.

But Bill Reynolds, an Australian master mariner who had been working in Burma, Malaya and Indonesia for 20 years, saw in the Kofuku Maru a vessel to evacuate himself and as many others as he could ferry to freedom.

After managing to rustle up provisions and a crew, Reynolds escaped from the doomed island on February 12, 1942, and made his way to Sumatra.

Over the following 10 weeks, Reynolds and his crew made 10 dangerous trips between Sumatra and the many small islands around Singapore and rescued hundreds of people who had fled the Japanese invaders.

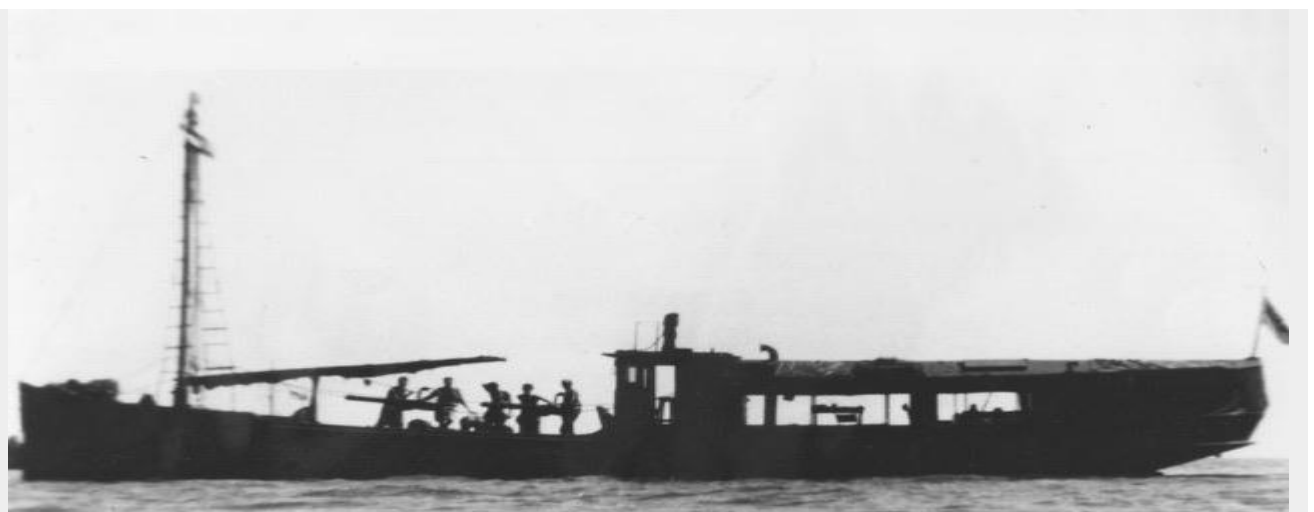


The Krait on Sydney Harbour.

In deference to his mainly Chinese crew, Reynolds renamed his vessel Suey Sin Fah, a star-shaped Chinese water flower.

When the Japanese invaded Sumatra, Reynolds decided to head to India but before he left he met a British officer, Ivan Lyon, who was attracted by the idea of using a native-style boat like the Suey Sin Fah in a commando raid against Japanese shipping in Singapore harbour.

Reynolds and Lyon met again in Bombay a few weeks later to discuss the plan, then Lyon returned to Australia to organise the logistics while Reynolds stayed in Bombay to oversee the overhaul of the Suey Sin Fah.



The Krait in Darwin just before the end of the war.

In Australia, Lyon gained the support of the authorities for the raid and established a secret camp at Refuge Bay, on the western side of West Head, to train the men who would go on the raid.

The planned raid on Singapore was called Operation Jaywick.

But while the commandos were kept busy in Refuge Bay gaining fitness, practising unarmed combat and training in small arms and explosives, Reynolds was struggling to get the Suey Sin Fah ready for the voyage to Australia.

Unable to meet the deadline, Reynolds eventually arranged for the Krait to be shipped to Australia as deck cargo on the steamer Shillong Shillong, which arrived in Sydney on Christmas Day, 1942, by which time her name had been changed to Krait, a small venomous Indian snake.



The Krait on Sydney Harbour.

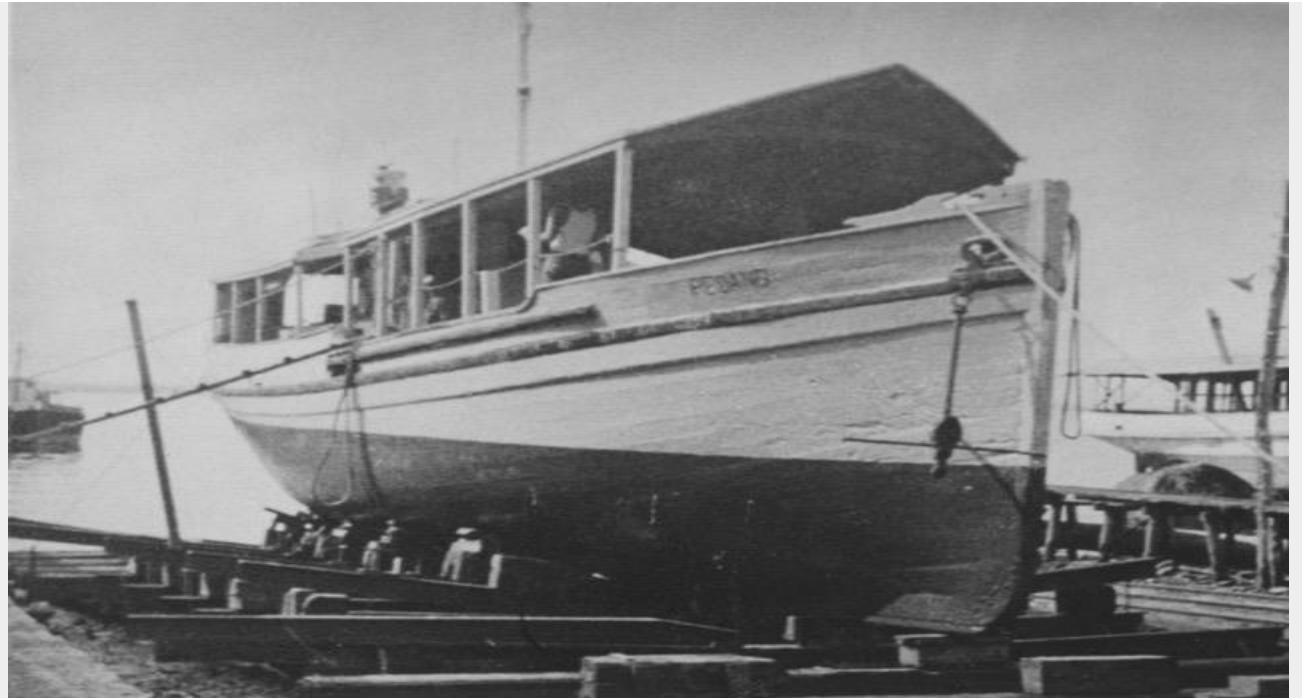
After more work in Sydney, the Krait sailed for Refuge Bay, where she arrived on January 17, 1943.

The Krait only stayed at Refuge Bay for one night – just long enough to load the men and equipment – before setting sail the following day for Exmouth on the northern Australian coast.

But the trip to Exmouth was plagued by mechanical problems and it was not until early September that the Krait finally sallied forth on her dangerous mission.

On board the Krait were 15 British and Australian army and naval personnel.

The plan was to motor to within a few kilometres of Singapore, drop six men on a nearby island and then retreat from the area, while the task of the six men was to row three collapsible canoes into Singapore harbour, attach limpet mines to the hulls of ships and then hightail it back to the small island to await the rendezvous with the Krait.



The Krait, by now called Pedang, was found in Borneo.

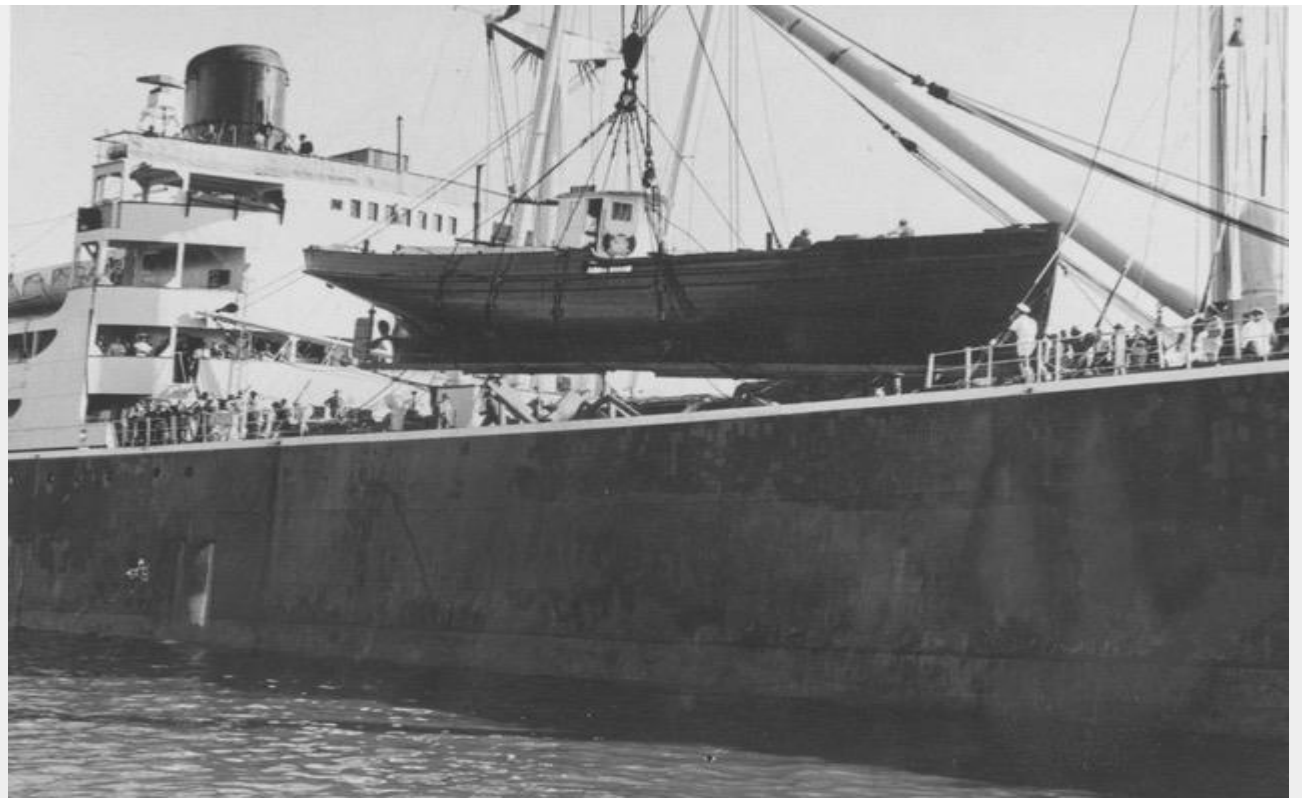
The attack was a stunning success – on the night of September 25/26, the commandos sank six vessels of varying size, including a tanker, and were able to elude the Japanese and rendezvous with the Krait a few nights later.

Seven weeks after leaving Exmouth, the Krait was back in port, the raid had been a success and the men on board were heroes, except that wartime secrecy meant that only a few people knew about the raid.

For the rest of the war, the Krait was used for less dramatic but still valuable espionage work in and around Indonesia.

At the end of the war, the Krait was taken to Borneo and eventually sold to a timber company that renamed her Pedang and used her as a workboat.

But a group of Australians tracked down the Krait and over a 10-year period and with public support, was able to arrange for the return of the Krait to Australia.



The Krait arriving in Brisbane in 1964 on the P&O steamer Nellore. Picture supplied

The heroine of the Singapore raid was shipped to Brisbane aboard the P&O steamer Nellore in early 1964.

After a quick overhaul in the riverside Brisbane suburb of Bulimba, the Krait set sail for Sydney and arrived back at Refuge Bay on April 24, 1964, but again stayed for just one night.

On Anzac Day 1964, the Krait made a triumphal entry to Sydney Harbour, cheered on by thousands.



The Krait on the slipway at Bulimba in Brisbane in 1964. Picture News Corp

But the Krait was about to become the subject of another battle that raged for nearly 20 years – who was going to look after her and where was she going to be kept, in the water in Sydney or on dry land at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra?

Initially the Krait was handed to the Royal Volunteer Coastal Patrol at Pittwater, which maintained her and used her as a training vessel for 20 years until she was taken over by the Australian War Memorial and berthed at Birkenhead Point in Sydney Harbour in 1985.

The Krait was finally transferred to the Australian Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour and opened to the public as a floating war memorial and museum in 1991.





The Krait at Darling Harbour. Picture News Corp



Sub-Branch Christmas Party

Sunday 19 December 2021

11.00am – 4.00pm

Canapes on arrival

Champagne for ladies

3 course lunch

Refreshments

Entertainment by Brassick

Monster Raffle

Tickets \$20 per person for members and partners.

***Tom Hobbs will be at Sub-branch office on Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
from 10.00 am to noon starting 3/11/21 for tickets.***

***Tables of 8 can be reserved with names and money (8 X \$20.00 pp) at time of
booking.***

Dress : Smart casual

QUOTES FOR COVID copied from Facebook

NEVER IN MY WILDEST DREAMS DID I IMAGINES MYSELF ENTERING A BANK WEARING A MASK AND ASKING FOR MONEY

NEVER THOUGHT MY HANDS WOULD ONE DAY CONSUME MORE ALCOHOL THAN MY LIVER...EVER

LOCKDOWN SEEMS LIKE A NETFLEX SERIES, JUST WHEN YOU THINK ITS OVER, THEY RELEASE THE NEXT SEASON

I'M STARTING TO LIKE THIS MASK THING. I WENT TO THE SUPERMARKET YESTERDAY AND TWO PEOPLE THAT I DON'T LIKE DIDN'T REOGNISE ME.

THOSE COMPLAINING THAT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH HOLIDAYS. WHAT NOW?

I NEED TO SOCIAL DISTANCE MYSELF FROM THE FRIDGE, I TESTED POSITIVE FOR EXCESS WEIGHT.

I'M NOT PLANNING ON ADDING 2020 TO MY AGE.I DIN'T EVEN USE IT! I DON'T KNOW ABOUT 2021. DOES IT EXIST?

WE WANT TO PUBLICLY APOLOGISE TO THE YEAR 2019 FOR ALL THE BAD THINGS SAID ABOUT IT.

TO ALL THE LADIES WHO WERE PRAYING FOR THEIR HUSBAND TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH THEM - HOW ARE YOU DOING?

MY WASHING MACHINE ONLY ACCEPT PYJAMS THESE DAYS. I PUT IN A PAIR OF JEANS AND A MESSAGE POPPED UP "STAY AT HOME"

2019 AVOID NEGATIVE PEOPLE

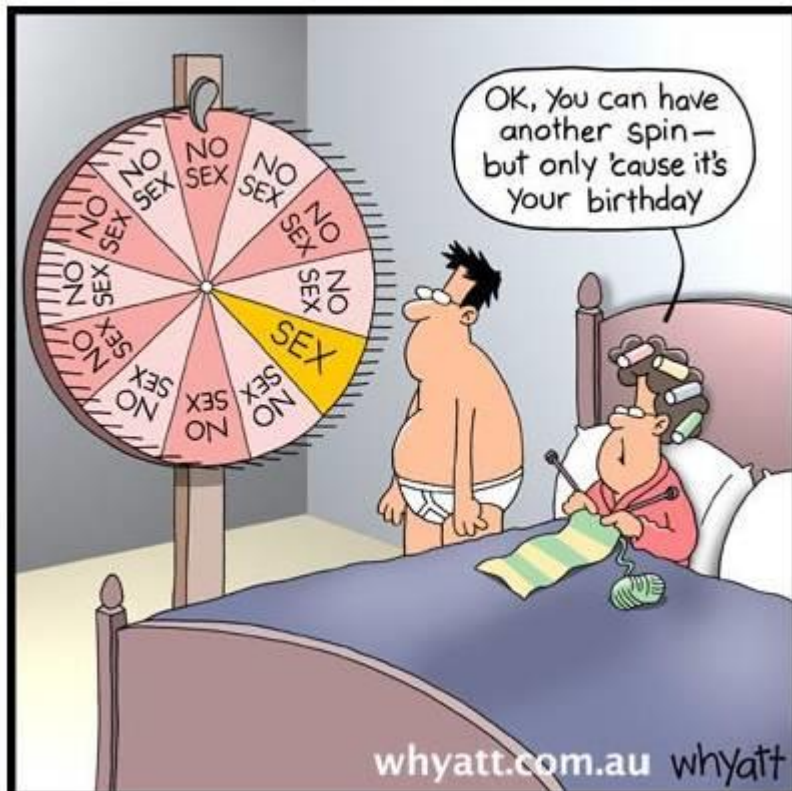
2020 AVOID POSITIVE PEOPLE

2021, AVOID PEOPLE BECAUSE YOU DON'T KNOW IF THEY ARE POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE

Puzzle Corner Answers



- 1 Honshu
 - 2 Stockholm
 - 3 Vietnam
 - 4 Japan
 - 5 A quart
 - 6 41,100
 - 7 Its assets
 - 8 Tennis
 - 9 Scotland
 - 10 China
 - 11 Munich
 - 12 Shit yeah
-



TOUKLEY RSL SUB BRANCH

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Patron: | Karen McNamara |
| President: | Bob Wilson |
| Vice Presidents: | George Meier Ian Collier |
| Secretary: | Judith Walker |
| Treasurer: | John Fraher |
| Committee: | John Noorbergen Michael Humphries Steve Edmunds Roy Norman Rod Clark Allan Love |
| Telephone: | |
| FAX: | 4396.4855 4396.9310 4396.8807 |
| ensions & Welfare: (Located at Diggers' Inn) | Graham Tredinnick 0419 634 624 |
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