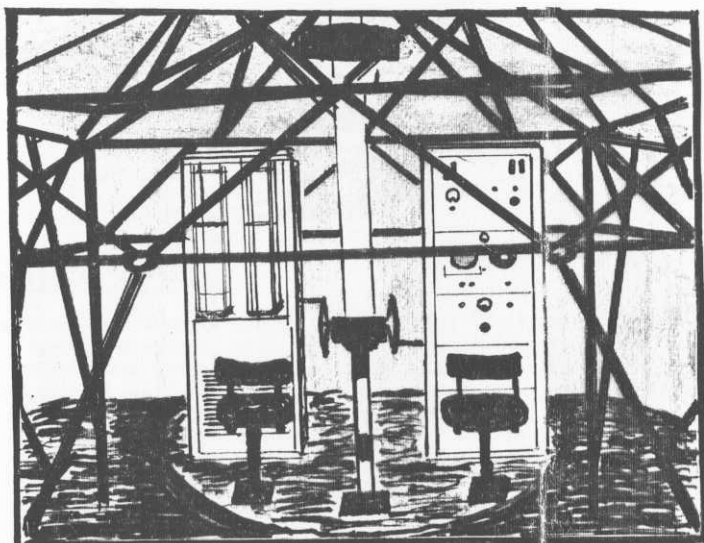


R. 1/2/05
(Hester)

Derry

ENCOUNTER 2002—WEDGE 200.

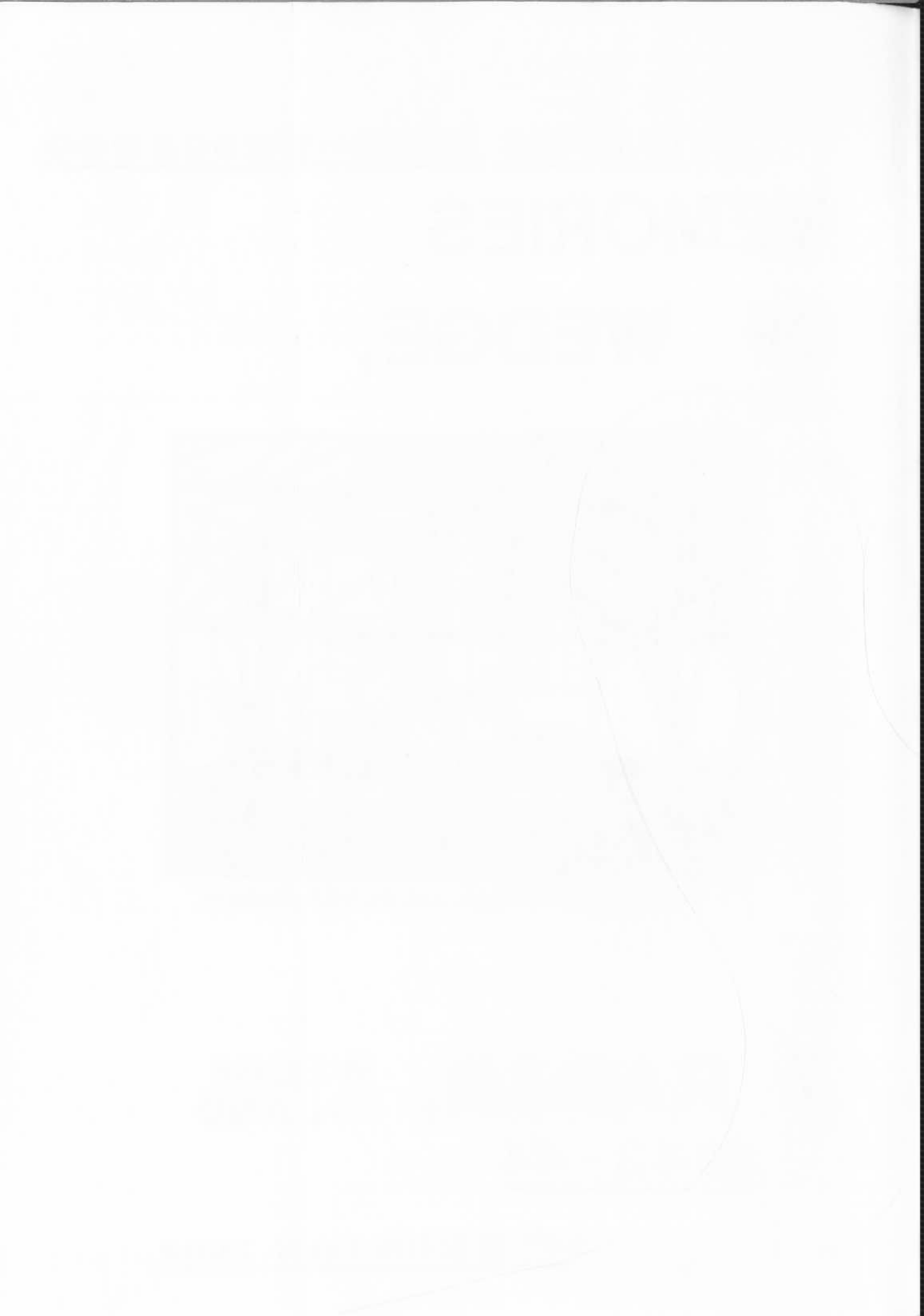
MEMORIES OF WEDGE,

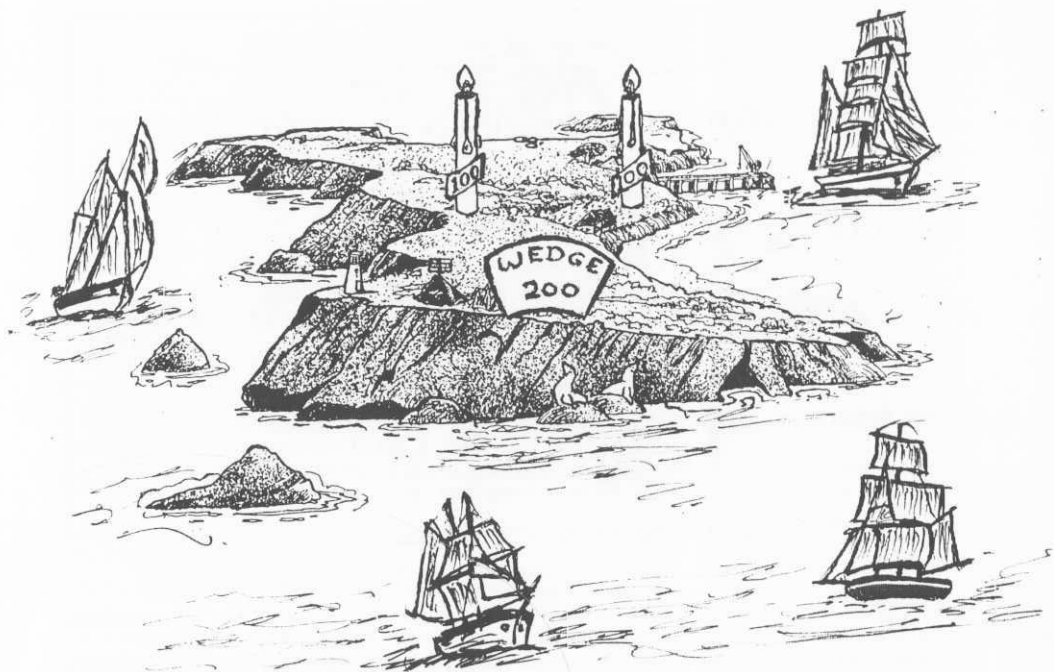


Looking into the LW/AW Mk. 2 at the A.W.M., Canberra.

**7 RADAR, WEDGE
ISLAND**
1943 - 44

14th REUNION 2002





HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO WEDGE !

We've had much to celebrate during the year 2001 - Federation Year - with reunions, special meetings, Back to the Old Town celebrations and the like and old friends have taken advantage of these occasions to get together once again and to reminisce over a cupper or two, or a jug or three. Now all that is over, and we're well into 2002. So the question now is.... what can we celebrate now?

Well, there's now ENCOUNTER 2002...the Matthew Flinders - Nicholas Baudin bit of history so important to South Oz...and it's on right now. There are 4 tall ships, inter-nation rivalry, Britannia Rules the Waves and all that. But while the fiercest celebrations will be down in the Encounter Bay region next month, we who can claim to still have a bit of Wedge soil under our finger nails can celebrate a double century for our dear old island home. So.....ENCOUNTER 2002 equals WEDGE 200.

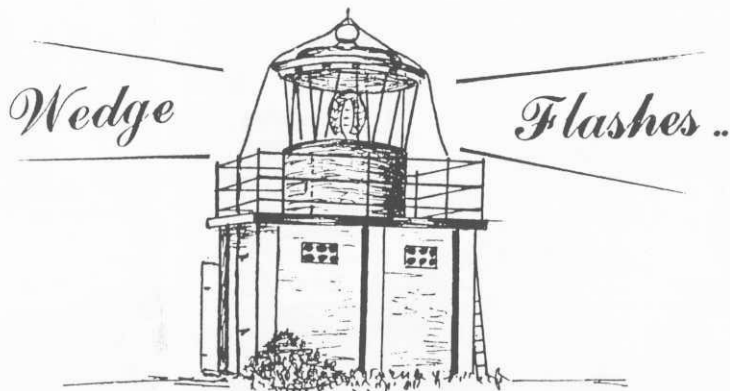


Yes ! Only a couple of weeks ago - on February 24th., Wedge turned 200. For on February 24th. 1802, Wedge was duly discovered and named by Matthew Flinders as he made his way from west to east across our southern coast-line.

Matthew had much to think about at the time. He had just lost 8 good men and true who had left INVESTIGATOR to seek water. Among these was Mr. Thistle, one of his right hand men. So Thistle Island was named, and Memory Cove, and Cape Catastrophe. No doubt Flinders then hurriedly named Wedge Island because of its shape, and then quickly left the area which held unhappy memories for him.

So 200 years and a bit later, we celebrate the Wedge Double Century...and today we say HAPPY BIRTHDAY WEDGE!

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THE SIGNALS AND RADAR LUNCH. Once again, a big plug for the pre-Anzac Day Signals & Radar Lunch to be held at the Marion Hotel on Thursday, April 18th. at 12 Noon...Numbers appear to be down a little (naturally) from the 100 or more of a few years ago, so help keep the old flag flying, and enjoy a meal at the same time, Ron Coat is our man to see, or contact Ray Deane.

At the time of writing, the intention is still to have a National Radar Reunion in South Australia in March, 2003. The Barossa Valley is the favoured gathering place for accommodation, dinners, trips etc., and doubtless many of the famous S.A wineries will be visited. Warren Mann, who has organised several reunions, will also be principal organiser for the S.A. effort.

The recent Western Australian experience was to have about 90 attendees, so probably about 100 at least would attend in S.A. So there certainly would be quite a few old mates to catch up with - particularly if you can drop a line or two, or send a Xmas card or three this year to tee up old friends.

Wouldn't it be a shocker to take 'em all out to Wedge!

Ed. Simmonds new book, Technicalities and Generalities, is now on the market on CD/ROM, or in computer form - but a printed version can be obtained for the computer illiterate (like me). There are some unique illustrations, and photos to amaze you.

And I understand 70 or 80 'new' photos and circuits will also be made available via the same method in the fairly near future.

We send our Best Wishes to all old Wedge-ie-tarians....particularly those on the sick list. And Greetings from all at the Reunion to President Doug. We certainly miss your company. And we are truly pleased to see Maurice Bottrill here with us again.

Did you see Winston's effort in the 'Tiser before Christmas? Where does he get those big words? I can tell you...it sent me scurrying backwards and forwards looking for the Oxford Dictionary.

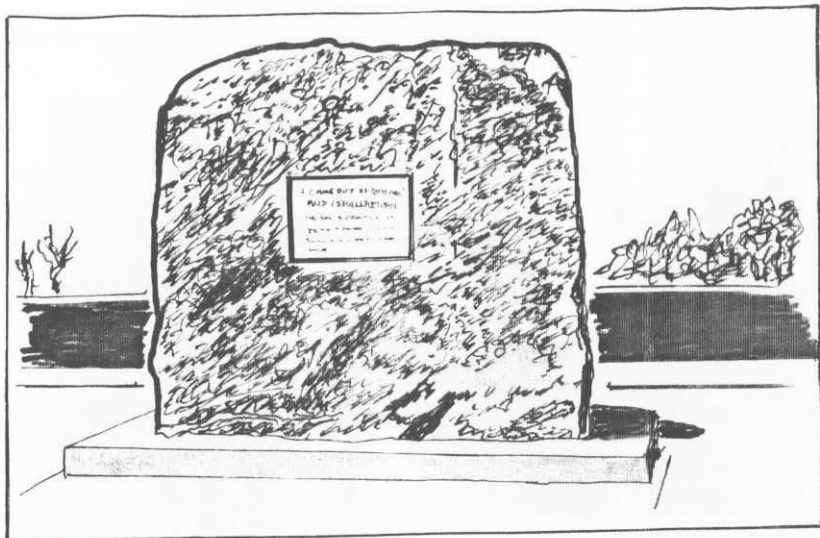
PS

DESPITE the palindromic, next year will be far from comic.
W.J. INGRAM,
Klemzig.

Finally, with the big Reunion next year, reorganising ours may be necessary.

We were so sorry to learn of the passing of Pat Bottrill during the year.

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"...AND I SHALL RETURN!"

Ierowie is a pretty quiet place these days, but back in '43 and '44 there was hardly a busier town in S. Ats. Troop trains coming and going, almost hourly, narrow and broad gauge - servicemen everywhere, for Ierowie was then the changeover point for the northern trains.

Back in '90, Winston Ingram told us a good story about Doug advising the mighty 5 star General MacArthur to fly to the Alice and then proceed by train, which he did. And at Ierowie the Press caught up with him on the station platform where he quoted those words which are still well known nearly 60 years later...."I came out of Bataan - and I shall return!"

But 60 years later that station platform is no more. The station itself has gone, so too the railway staff and all signs of railway activity.

But Ierowie has ensured its '42 moment of glory has been permanently preserved in bronze and granite. A magnificent stone and plaque marks the historic spot on a small section of the station platform where tens of thousands of servicemen climbed aboard the Narrow Gauge to continue their trek to the north. Undoubtedly this is a unique historic spot deserving special recognition.

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P.S. Next Saturday, the 23rd., Ierowie will hold its big annual day, as close as possible to the day MacArthur was in the town. Old residents, friends and whoever feels inclined to visit, all are invited.

