

HMAS MELBOURNE ASSOCIATION

2/9a Dorset Street
EPPING NSW 2121

26 May 1997

J.C. Campbell
USS Frank E. Evans Association, Inc. (DD 754)

*received
6-2-97*

Dear JC,

Greetings.

It was good to speak with you last night and establish personal contact with you.

At the outset I must apologise for not having been more prompt in responding to your letter of March 3, however, our Secretary has changed the address for mail and, unfortunately you were not advised of the change. (Would you please note the address of the Secretary as 2 Bottlebrush Avenue, Bradbury NSW 2560)

All that aside, upon receipt of your letter I arranged for a meeting of the Association's executive so that the matters you have raised might be properly discussed. The response contained in this letter is the synopsis of that meeting.

Firstly I must say that our Association will give you the fullest cooperation and assistance to make the 30th Anniversary of the collision an outstanding success, and a memorable visit for you and your members. Ron Baker will be coordinating the visit through our executive and will be receiving a copy of this letter. Ron will also be visiting San Diego for your reunion as my official representative. If circumstances surrounding my employment change I may be able to join you for the occasion but at present I don't believe that this will be possible.

In your letter you asked about the time of year, seasons, places to visit, etc, so let me try and answer a few of these questions. June, July and August are our winter months and typical temperatures range from 5-10 degrees C in the mornings to a maximum of 15-20 degrees C around lunch-time and mid-afternoon. In some suburbs of Sydney a frost will settle overnight but this is usually a sign of a fine clear day. Snow in Sydney is a rare event and has been recorded on only a few occasions since 1788 so leave your snow shoes at home but do bring some warmer clothing. As I write today has been fine with a minimum temperature of 10 degrees C and a maximum of 19 degrees C. So its jumpers in the morning and evening and shirt sleeves during the day.

Sydney to Auckland . Its about 1.30 hours to Melbourne and about 4 hours flying to Hobart. My wife and I drove from Sydney to Melbourne last week and it took 10 hours with only one break for coffee. The distances are vast.

Regarding representation from Government and military leaders , my intention is to write to the Minister for Defence and tell him what we are doing once we have settled on a program. Similarly I will write to the local Admiral and the Chief of Naval Staff and keep them advised.

JC thats about all I can think of at this stage. Please call me if I can be of any assistance ; my telephone number is 02 9876 8687 and be assured that we will do everything we can do to make your visit a success.

Kindest regards to you , your family and your Association.

Sincerely yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Brian', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Swan
Captain AM RANR
President
HMAS Melbourne Association