

### JOHN G. BETTY — RESUMÉ

I was born on 8 April 1922 and grew up in the Eastern Suburbs of Sydney, attending various State primary Schools and completing my Leaving Certificate in 1938 at Sydney Boys High School. I studied Civil Engineering at the University of Sydney completing my course in October 1943. My degree was conferred in June 1944.

In December 1943, together with Ted Peacock (CMPS) and Hugh Bubb (later to be City Engineer, Adelaide) I joined the Royal Australian Navy Volunteer Reserve as Sub Lieutenant specifically for service as a Deck Officer and Hydrographic Surveyor. During 1944, I saw service on the survey ship HMAS *Moresby* in surveys on the New Guinea coast and in the Timor Sea. During 1945 I was posted to the survey ship HMAS *Warrego* and saw service in the Philippines, Borneo and off the Kimberley coast of Western Australia. In 1946 I was appointed Commanding Officer of the survey ship HMAS *Jabiru* and carried out surveys in the Curtis Channel and the Barrier Reef off Gladstone on the Queensland coast. I was demobilised in March 1947.

A few days after being demobilised, I joined the Metropolitan Water Sewerage and Drainage Board of Sydney in their design office. I mainly worked on the design of the Warragamba pipeline and on several new metropolitan water reservoirs. In July 1948 I left the Water Board and joined the Consulting Engineering firm of A.S. Macdonald, Wagner and Priddle. My first job was the design of the buildings for the new copper smelting plant for Mount Isa Mines Ltd at Mount Isa, Queensland.

I was married in February 1949 and in March 1952 I left the Firm and, with my wife and small daughter, travelled to England where I obtained a job with Sir William Halcrow and Partners, working on the design of the buildings for several large power stations. At the end of 1952, I returned to Australia and re-joined A.S. Macdonald, Wagner and Priddle with whom I stayed for the rest of my professional career, retiring in July 1985. In 1964 I was appointed an Associate of the Firm and a Partner in 1969, joining the ACEA. When the Firm incorporated as a Company in 1972, I became a Director.

During my career with the Firm, I was responsible for the design and supervision of the construction of a wide range of structural and civil engineering projects — industrial and commercial buildings, factories, power stations, wharves, harbour works, bulk loading installations, defence facilities, coastal engineering works, bridges and highways.

Shortly after I retired I was invited to lecture for two years in civil engineering design to final year civil engineering students at the University of Sydney. During my final years with the Company, I was particularly interested in contract documentation. I felt that the subject was largely ignored in engineering schools and young graduate engineers were often left with little or no guidance. I felt that a book on the subject was overdue. I consequently wrote such a book, "Engineering Contracts", and in 1994 it was published by McGraw Hill (Europe) Ltd. To date about 750 copies have been sold world-wide.

In 1995 I was asked by the Director of the RAN Maritime Studies Programme, Mr David Stevens, to present a paper at the RAN's Second History Conference at the Maritime Museum, Darling Harbour in August 1995 on the work of the RAN Hydrographic Branch during World War II. The paper was very well received. The Navy decided to publish the Proceedings of the Conference as a book entitled "The Royal Australian Navy in World War II". This was published by Allen and Unwin in April 1996. My paper was included as one of the chapters. I am presently researching a number of aspects of Australian naval history.

John Betty  
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