



# Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division

March 2019  
**NEWSLETTER**

*“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”*

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### CRESWELL ORATION

The 19<sup>th</sup> Creswell Oration was held at the William Angliss Restaurant on 1 March 2019. The food and service were excellent. The Oration was well attended with 83 people coming to hear the latest in submarine strategy and development. CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD\* RANR sadly had to step down this year from the Australian Navy Foundation Day

Organising Committee (ANFDOC) and hand over the reins to others. However, he left a great model for us to follow.

Whilst it was disappointing that Rear Admiral Greg Sammut CSC AM RAN was not able to attend, Commodore Tim Brown CSC RAN Director General Submarines, gave an excellent Oration which was very much appreciated by his attentive audience. A full paper is attached separately and the audio file will be available on the Navy League of Australia website. See photos of the 19<sup>th</sup> Creswell Oration on **page 2**.



### 2019 INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW

On **pages 3-5**, there are photos and text by Mick Powell as well as a media article on the RAN's involvement in the Airshow.

### EXERCISE OCEAN EXPLORER

A maritime task group met up with the RAAF to locate and prosecute submarine threats on **page 6**.

### BRAVO ZULU

Ian Pfennigwerth has produced Bravo Zulu Volumes 1 and 2. Read all about it on **page 7**.

### COOK'S CANNON REPLICAS FOR SALE

Only 2 left of this limited edition! See **page 8** for more information.

### RAN BAND

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### SHRINE REPORT

Services, exhibitions and events are on **pages 10-12**.

### VALE COMMANDER NAT GOULD

See separate attachment.

# 19th CRESWELL ORATION 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2019



Allan Paul & John Bone



Diana Hill & Sue Buxton



L-R Max Chester, CMDR Peter Osbourne, CAPT David Garnock & CMDR Eric Mentz



CDRE Tim Brown & Lady Janette Murray



Jenny Smyth & CAPT David Garnock



Charles Sevier, Elizabeth Sevier, Rosemary Creswell & Judy Wilkins



CAPT Paul Willee & LCDR Bill Woodward



David Watts & CMDR John Wilkins



CAPT Sheldon Williams, Rex Williams, Ken Crook



MC Russell Pettis

Photos courtesy of Jane Teasdale and Doug Stevens



## 2019 AUSTRALIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW

The 2019 Australian International Airshow, whilst very hot and dusty, is the 15<sup>th</sup> Air show I have attended in Australia. Moving to Avalon in 1992, it is one of the top 5 Air shows in the world, and the largest in the southern hemisphere.

Although the aircraft list may have been similar to the last one, there were a few notable highlights;



An historic formation flying display by an Australian F-35, a US F-22 Raptor, and two classic F/A -18 Hornets.



F/A-18 Hornets taking on fuel with RAAF KC-30A Tanker.



P8 Poseidon in RAAF service



Major announcements were made in regards to Australian involvement with unmanned Aircraft systems, However the first Australian designed combat aircraft since WW2 (project “Loyal Wing- man”) was removed before the public days. Designed in Australia, it is the largest investment in UAV aircraft by Boeing outside the USA, with huge potential for export. The Fighter sized Aircraft is expected to conduct flight trials during 2020. With Stealth, and a large internal payload, it is expected to house electronic warfare components, but potentially be armed. With long range

and low cost, it is seen as a force multiplier, working along-side current and future manned aircraft.

*Article and photos by Mick Powell, NLA Vic-Tas member.*

## NAVY AIR CAPABILITY IMPRESSES AT THE AIRSHOW



The Royal Australian Navy has showcased its leading capabilities at the 2019 Australian International Airshow at Avalon, Victoria, which concluded on Sunday.

It is estimated that more than 200,000 people attended the Airshow, where Navy's footprint included the MH-60R Seahawk 'Romeo', Bell 429 Global Ranger and EC135 helicopters, as well as the ScanEagle and Schiebel Camcopter S-100 unmanned aircraft systems.

Attendees were also given the opportunity to try their hands at landing a helicopter on a ship using state of the art simulators.

While working at the show, Navy personnel were able to talk to members of the public about their careers and the opportunities they've had to travel and work in dynamic and fulfilling working environments.

*Author: Leut Ben Willee, Photographer CPL Nicci Freeman*  
4 March 2019 <http://www.navy.gov.au/media-room>

## EXERCISE OCEAN EXPLORER 2019



Anti-submarine warfare capabilities have been showcased during Exercise OCEAN EXPLORER 2019, which is underway in the West Australian Exercise Area.

As part of OCEAN EXPLORER, a maritime task group transited from Sydney to Western Australia to join up with Royal Australian Air Force maritime patrol aircraft in order to locate and prosecute potential submarine threats.

During the transit, simulated adversarial submarines were identified and located by a Royal Australian Air Force P-8A Poseidon aircraft partnering with Navy MH60-R 'Romeo' maritime combat helicopters from HMA Ships *Canberra* and *Newcastle* to pinpointing the threats.

Commander of the Australian Maritime Task Group, Captain Andrew Quinn remarked on the impressive joint capabilities in action during the exercise.

"Submarines complicate the manoeuvre of a maritime surface task group," Captain Quinn said.

"The world-leading identification, location and tracking capabilities offered by the Poseidon and Romeo aircraft provide a potent response to the growing proliferation of potential submarine threats in Australia's near region.

"The joint exercise undertaken during OCEAN EXPLORER demonstrates the Australian Defence Force's ability to deploy an integrated and highly effective capability to protect our nation's sea lines of communications and economic security," he said.

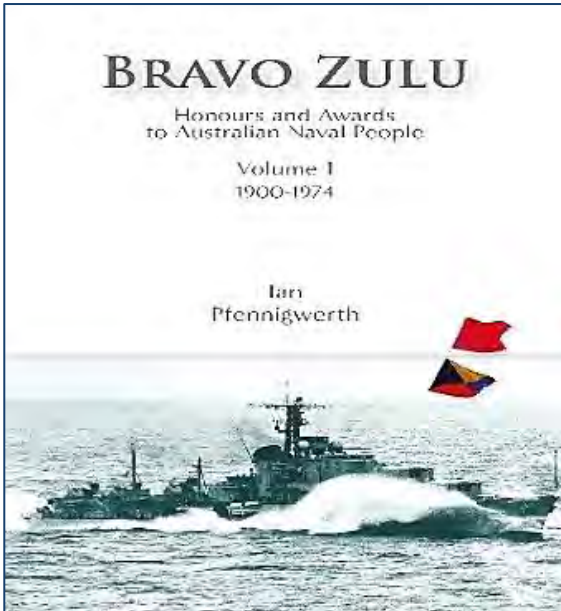
"The sophisticated combat systems in the aircraft allow us to accurately locate a submarine using organic sensors and engage with anti-submarine warfare weapons during the prosecution of a hostile adversary."

The OCEAN EXPLORER Task Group, consisting of HMA Ships *Canberra*, *Newcastle* and *Success*, is continuing its transit to Western Australia. Then, the ships will undertake a deployment to various ports in South Asia. 2 March 2019 <http://www.navy.gov.au/media-room>

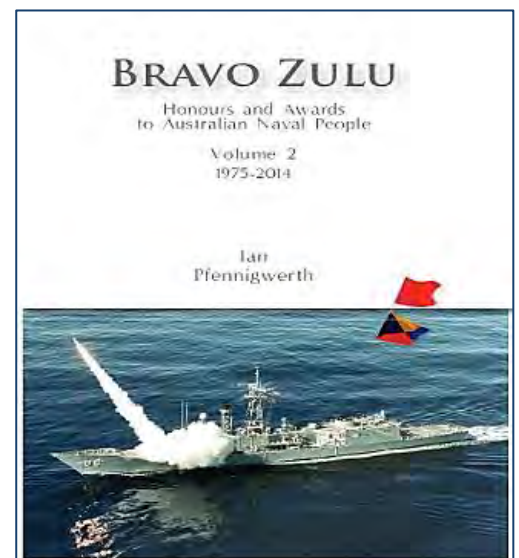


# HONOURING THE SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA'S NAVAL MEN & WOMEN

Before Federation, colonial naval officers were recognised for steadfastness and courage while serving in South Africa and China. This tradition was enhanced by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) through its distinguished record during World War I. Navy men won Australia's first awards for gallantry in the face of the enemy in 1914, and they went on to consolidate this reputation for excellence and daring in European, Middle East and Asian theatres of war and throughout the uneasy peace that followed. In 1939 RAN men - and later women - went to war again, cementing our Navy's reputation as a steadfast ally and determined enemy, and from 1946 the RAN fought in Korea, Malaya, Malaysia and Vietnam while developing its capabilities for sustainment, training and naval diplomacy in a Cold War world. Its Middle East engagement, from the 1991 Gulf War to this day, and in sensitive operations in the South Pacific and Southeast Asia demonstrated our Navy's capabilities and gained it international respect through the service of its men and women.



Now, in *Bravo Zulu* (navalese for 'Well Done'), Australians have a magnificent resume of the trials, tribulations and triumphs of their Navy in 115 years of service, illustrated by individual accounts of its men and women who received Imperial, Australian and foreign honours and awards for their service, gallantry or bravery. *Volume 1* covering the period 1900-74 was released in 2016. Launched by Australia's Chief of Navy in November 2018, *Volume 2*, covering the period 1975-2014, concluded this nine-year research project. The second book, with 882 pages, describes the development and activities of the RAN from 1975, with separate chapters devoted to the Navy's role in the 1991 Gulf War, in the 1999-2000 UN East Timor peacekeeping operation, enforcement of UN sanctions on Iraq, the 2003 Iraq War the continuing service of naval people in Iraq and Afghanistan, ashore and afloat and, of course, border security operations in Australia. Above all, *Bravo Zulu Volume 2* is about people labouring mightily to ensure that Australia's Navy is acknowledged internationally for its organisational capability and operational reach. The book is illustrated with maps, diagrams and 160 photographs.



Hardcover edition of *Bravo Zulu Volume 1* \$85; *Volume 2* \$90. Two-volume set \$170. Postage and handling \$15 per volume.

Visit Ian Pfennigwerth's Naval History site: [www.nautilushistory.com.au/](http://www.nautilushistory.com.au/)

or buy through the online re-sellers listed at <https://www.echobooks.com.au/military/bravo-zulu/>

## COOK'S CANNONS FOR SALE



The Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division has only two HMB Endeavour Cook's Cannons remaining for sale out of a limited edition of 50. The scale is one tenth of the size of the original cannon.

The barrel is made of silicon bronze. The cannon finish is 22 carat gold plating. The cannon carriage's design is similar to that of the 1770 design, using Australian Merbau timber. The mounting base is of Australian Spotted Gum.

Each cannon comes with a box and booklet outlining the production details.

This cannon project was assisted by Jeff Gray, past Commodore of the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, who was an expert in designing and building boats.

We hope that owning one of these replicas will remind you of the superb navigational and surveying skills of Lieutenant James Cook, RN.

The retail price is \$500. Please contact either Lynda Gilbert or Ken Crook on 03 9844 0106 to discuss further.



## RAN CONCERT CALENDAR



The Royal Australian Navy Band will be performing at the following locations in March 2019:

**Red Hill Agricultural Show**

Saturday 9 March 2019, 10:00am-3:30pm

Red Hill Showgrounds, Arthurs Seat Road, Red Hill, Victoria

Admission charges apply for entry to the show, please see website for details

**Inverloch Jazz Festival**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March from 11am

No charge

Contact 0434 574 516

**Moomba Parade Band**

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March, 11am

No charge

**HMAS Cerberus Concert Band**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2pm & 7pm

No charge

**Sandringham Yacht Club**

Thursday 21 March – evening. Woodwind Quintet

Contact Graeme Wallace 0418 248 983

**Whitehorse Centre Nunawading**

Friday 22 March 7.30pm

Cost \$29 (community fundraiser in conjunction with the Rotary Club)

Contact: Robyn Stokes 0406 607 310

# SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



*Bookings required for talks and events. Cost \$5.*

*Shrine podcasts are available at <http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts>*

*Website: <http://www.shrine.org.au> Telephone 9661 8100*

## SERVICES

### RAN Recruits March 2019

31 March 2019, 10:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary Shrine

Representative: Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM

## EXHIBITIONS



### RECENT CONFLICTS

Discover the human stories behind the headlines and find out what it was really like to serve in Australia's twenty-first century wars. An Australian sorting through the wreckage of the World Trade Center. A witness to a car bomb attack in Iraq. A young man wounded when his vehicle hit an Improvised Explosive Device, and the female medic who gave him First Aid. A soldier fighting the Taliban in a remote valley of Afghanistan. Photographs and video footage taken by the servicemen and women themselves show the wars through their eyes: the drama and tragedy, as well as the humour and comradeship.





## RESISTANCE

Until 4 August 2019  
South Gallery

Many Australian service men and women gave aid to the resistance, other Australians owed their freedom and their lives to it. Uncover the stories of those who through accident or design found themselves battling the enemy using unconventional means.

## EVENTS



### AUTUMN GARDENS TOUR

Friday 22 March, 10.30am and midday  
Tour departs from the Visitor Centre

Join us as we explore the plantings reflecting Australian service in war and peacekeeping, and enjoy the beauty of the changing flora of the Shrine. Discover the creative vision and symbology behind our carefully landscaped gardens. The tour includes Devonshire Tea in the Visitor Centre. Bookings via the Shrine website.



### SCREENING: WARSAW UPRISING

Thursday 28 March, midday  
Auditorium

Created from colourised archival footage of 1944, this special film screening transports you behind the lines of the Warsaw Uprising. Directed by Jan Komasa and colourised by Piotr Sobocinski Jr. Bookings via the Shrine website.



## FROM THE SHRINE SHOP



### Monet poppies umbrella

\$54.99

Protect yourself from the unpredictable Melbourne weather with this folding umbrella, featuring one of Monet's most recognisable works—it is sure to brighten up a rainy day.



### Poppies cup and saucer

\$24.99

A beautiful item from our Ashdene Poppies Australian War Memorial range. Designed in Australia. Made from fine bone china and illustrated with Flanders poppies. Microwave and dishwasher safe.



### Saving Private Sarbi

Sandra Lee  
Allen & Unwin  
\$21.99

Trained as an Australian Army explosives detection dog, Sarbi went missing in action after an historic battle in 2008 between the SAS and the Taliban in Afghanistan. Thirteen months later she was found by an American Special Forces Officer while patrolling a village in a region known to be a Taliban stronghold. This is her remarkable story, told in a style perfect for adults and younger readers alike.



### Greek-Australians in the Vietnam War

Steve Kyritsis  
\$24.99

In 2005, Steve Kyritsis began reading the Nominal Roll of the Australian men and women who served in the Vietnam War. Among the 60,000 names, he founded many Greek-Australian surnames. Himself a Vietnam veteran, Steve decided to try and contact as many of them as possible to share their experiences. These are their stories.

## The Creswell Oration

### Salutations

### Introduction

*The Constitution of Australia Act* received Royal Assent on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1900 and came into effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 1901. At this moment the separate colonies became states of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Thirteen years later, our Nation was at war.

On the 4th August 1914, Great Britain declared war on Germany.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914, the German Steamer SS *Pfalz* tried to leave Port Melbourne.

She was fired on by Fort Nepean, just south of Melbourne. These shots, incidentally, were the first fired in the war.

The *Pfalz* was requisitioned by the Royal Australian Navy, and refitted as a troopship -- HMT Boorara. She carried Australian soldiers to the Mediterranean, and Turkish prisoners from the Dardanelles campaign. In 1919, she brought Australian soldiers home.

In thirteen years we had come together as a Nation and the Royal Australian Navy was at sea in defence of the Empire.

But we tend not to hear too much about the Navy.

Tradition holds Navy as the “silent service”.

So we tend to overlook the Navy. And we subsequently tend to misunderstand naval power.

Very few people grasp the way naval planning is enmeshed with politics at the level of grand strategy.

Let me fill out those remarks.

In thirteen years, the Royal Australian Navy grew from the mish-mash of colonial navies transferred to Commonwealth control on Federation.

These -- and I will say so-called -- navies were token forces confined to harbour protection.

The significance of that remark is in the confinement of the colonial navies to harbour defence. People did not look beyond the beach to the ocean. The sense was not that we

were a maritime nation, dependent upon the sea. Look at the early Australian impressionist painters and you will see the Australian self-concept in the bush.

But when the Australian Fleet steamed into Sydney in 1913, it was a Fleet suited to very much more than harbour defence.

What happened?

How did a nation that was young, and very far from populous, and very far from economically rich manage to acquire such a fleet in such a short time?

We know that officially, the Royal Australian Navy was constituted on 10 July 1911 when King George V granted the Commonwealth Naval Forces the designation “Royal Australian Navy.”

Thus, Commonwealth Naval Order number 77 of October 5<sup>th</sup> 1911 reads:

His Majesty, the King, has been graciously pleased to approve of the Permanent Naval Force of the Commonwealth being designated the Royal Australian Navy, and of the ships of that Navy being designated as His Majesty’s Australian Ships.

But this is surface gloss.

The provenance of the Navy reflects a farsighted strategic vision: Creswell’s vision.

The *Commonwealth Defence Act* (1904) enabled the appointment by Prime Minister Reid of Captain W. R. Creswell as Commonwealth Director of Naval Forces.

It was as Director of Naval Forces that Creswell came to sit on the Board of Naval Administration.

From this position Creswell dragged the Colonial navies together into a single institution with a centralised administration.

This institution -- called the Commonwealth Naval Forces -- was organised in 1907, a mere seven years before the Great War.

But though the institution was drawn together, the ships were weak and the naval defence of Australia continued to be reliant on the Royal Navy.

And the Royal Navy ships were not much to write home about.

In 1908 when the Great White Fleet visited Australia; an officer in the US Flagship, *Connecticut*, noted that with the exception of HMS *Powerful*, the Australian station looked like an unimportant society posting, suited to cocktails, but nothing serious.



Creswell was a realist and a visionary. In September 1905 he said: the Naval Service is practically on the verge of collapse appearing to represent to the public a defence which could not be rendered if called upon.

Rather than complacency, Creswell urged action.

Very far from content with the status quo, Creswell saw the need for a great leap forward; he grasped the truth that peace is assured only by military strength.

Creswell looked ahead.

Similarly, we must now also, look ahead. We must not be content with the status quo. We must not deceive ourselves that ships, which are new now, will be the solution to our needs for ever.

### **Creswell's Strategic View**

Australia is blessed by her strategic geography, but there has never been a time when we might have claimed to be unassailable.

Creswell looked from our shores to a world defined -- as the world continues to be defined by Thucydides: The strong will do what they can, and the weak will bear what they must.

Creswell died at the age of 80, on April 20, 1933.

In the intervening eight decades, politics has not changed.

Politics continues to be Clausewitzian, all about power and dominated by war's spectre.

I reference the British diplomat Sir Ernest Satow.

Satow claims international politics depends upon "intelligence and tact."

But in fact, that is a superficial reading of the way things are.

Recall the English philosopher Thomas Hobbes who said: "Covenants without Swords are but Words, and of no strength to secure a man at all."

Politics is dominated by power, by the threat of war, and the need to avert war or to win it.

Thodore Roosevelt put this memorably: "speak softly and carry a big stick."

The Latin is well known: *si vis pacem, para bellum*. If you want peace, prepare for war.

### **Whosoever Commands the Sea**

It was Sir Walter Raleigh who said:

Whosoever commands the sea commands the trade; whosoever commands the trade of the world commands the riches of the world, and consequently the world itself.

Recalling Raleigh, my point concerns the imperative of sea control.

We must maintain the security and good order at sea.

We must make incursion perilous for our adversaries.

The sense that an incursion must be perilous for our adversary gestures to Mahan who said famously:

It is the possession of overbearing power on the sea which drives the enemy's flag from it, or allows it to appear only as a fugitive; and which, by controlling the great common [being the ocean], closes the highways by which commerce moves to and from the enemy's shores.

In the modern era, how do we do this?

In the modern era, sea control in the sense that this phrase might once have been used is not feasible for any one Nation.

Strategy, as Admiral Stansfield Turner observed, must be paid for, and the costs of overbearing, dominating power at sea are beyond the reasonable scope of any one Nation. Second, the sorts of ships which might exercise this sort of sea power are exposed to the menace of the submarine.

So, my answer is in two parts.

First, in the modern era we project power at sea in alliances.

Second, we grasp and we exploit the ominous potentiality of the submarine.

I now speak to these two points.

### **Power in the Alliance**

When Creswell conceived of the Royal Australian Navy, the fleet he envisaged was in fact a very powerful unit, designed to operate in concert with the Royal Navy.

His ideas continue to be relevant.

Today, the Royal Australian Navy is a warfighting system in its own right, but it also takes station as the constituent part of alliance and coalition structures, which aim to serve the cause of justice and good order at sea.

We are not a subsidiary power. We are a power in our own right. But we do not fight alone. We contribute to the distributed lethality of coalitions.

## **Submarines**

I return now to the submarine: the most daunting and perhaps the most misunderstood part of the equation.

Submarines change the strategic calculus in formidable and far-reaching ways.

In the maritime environment, the presence -- the POSSIBLE presence -- of submarines changes the way a surface fleet operates.

An example is from the Falklands War.

In his essay, *The Navy and the Nation*, Vice Admiral Barrett referenced Admiral Sandy Woodward.

Admiral Woodward argued, surprisingly, that Royal Navy submarines did NOT deter the Argentinian invasion. Rather, the submarine menace drove the Argentinian commanders to precipitate action.

This was because -- for political reasons -- the Argentinians had committed to the invasion around the September of 1982. They had calculated that the British had neither the force, nor the will, to prevent an invasion, nor to fight and to eject an invading force.

But; when the Argentinians noticed a Royal Navy submarine load torpedoes and leave Gibraltar in the March, they worried that their plans had been tumbled.

And they knew that the Royal Navy could sustain an SSN in the South Atlantic, and that such an SSN would make an invasion of the Falklands unworkable.

As a consequence, the Argentinians invaded within days.

Deterrence failed. The British could not deter -- they DID NOT deter -- the Argentinians.

But the strategic influence of the submarine is established.

Leaving Gibraltar, the mere possibility that a submarine might be on station upset the strategic calculus in dramatic fashion. The Argentinian command decided that the only chance of success was to launch operations BEFORE the submarine could play a part.

And of course, the strategic influence of the submarine is demonstrated in the sinking of *Belgrano*. By this action, Royal Navy submarines DID deter Argentine surface actions. In consequence, the Argentinians relied on a failed strategy of passive defence of the islands,



and projection of air power into a contested maritime domain, against a powerful and resolute British task force.

### **Australian Submarines**

In the Australian context, since we do not possess nuclear weapons, we rely upon our alliance with the United States. It is this alliance which puts the ultimate damper on incursion by any great power adversary.

In our own right, Australian deterrence obtains from the submarine: which -- by conventional means -- imposes unacceptable risk on incursion.

Our submarines are very powerful.

If any aggressor were to attempt to cross the sea to so as to do harm to our Nation, rest assured that aggressor should expect to fail. Our submarines are suited to the archipelagic Indo-Pacific region, and prepared to sink ships.

We do not keep our submarines tied up alongside. We keep our submarines at sea. Ready. There are four boats at sea now. They represent a threat to any adversary, and thus they offer to Australian diplomacy real-world power which is cardinal to real world influence.

This is the deterrence concept which was detailed in the 2016 *Defence White Paper*, where Government specified Australia's submarine capability as the Nation's big stick.

Each Collins submarine carries a large number of the Joint US/AUST Mk46 Mod 7 CBASS torpedoes. We can carry around about twenty weapons. Perhaps it doesn't sound like many: however, these sophisticated weapons are highly reliable...highly accurate...and highly effective.

In all realities, if fired, you can expect that that one weapon will find its target, and it will sink it: even the most capable of capital ships.

Since our submarines are stealthy, and since they operate over significant ranges and endure on station for considerable periods of time; we might reasonably say Australian submarines offer substantial menace and significant deterrent to any adversary.

Australia must have submarines.

Justice, the rule of law and good order at sea depend upon submarines. But they are often misunderstood and underestimated.

The same was true in Creswell's time.

Creswell was a modernist. He was ahead of his time in warning of the maritime threat to the Australian economy, and ahead of his time in urging a sea-blind Nation to build a navy.

But Creswell was focused on surface forces.

Probably he was right.

Submarines -- properly called submersibles -- were largely experimental: they were weak in stability, seakeeping, range, and capability.

With a range of only 3000 nautical miles the first Australian submarines, AE1 and AE2, had done nothing to alter preconceptions. Acquired with the Fleet Unit as assets suitable for local defence, the submarines had been alternately towed by a surface warship for much of the 12,000 nm delivery voyage to Australia. After their arrival in May 1914 both submarines had gone straight into refit. Repairs and maintenance were not completed until after the outbreak of war, and by April 1915 both had been lost, the first to accident and the second to enemy action.

Consequently, in 1915 the wider RAN understood neither the rapid advances made in submarine tactics and technology, nor the difficulties involved in dealing with submarines.

But after the War, things were different.

In fact, after the War, in a newspaper clipping held by the Sea Power Centre, Creswell says:

I do not suppose there lives any human being who could doubt the power and influence of a submarine, seeing how very nearly it decided the war against us....

It is true to say that our style is cramped, absolutely by the financial position. But at least some expenditure, even out of proportion to our means, should go toward placing us in a position to have effective submarine defence.

The more things change, the more they stay the same.

Though it is a great challenge, our Nation must build submarines.

## **Conclusion**

Our leadership in science and industry, our hopes for peace, for security, for justice, for human rights, for good order and the rule of law, our obligation to ourselves and to others require that make this effort, that we build ships and submarines, that we take chances and that we triumph over the adversity we will inevitably face.

To take risks, to serve justice: such an endeavour is in the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy.