

President's Musings – February 2019

Our first function this year is Monday February 25 and we have an excellent RAN DVD to share. Entitled Ban-Zia it covers the conflict with Japan and like Frank, I believe you will really enjoy it.

We are very fortunate to have amongst our number some excellent speakers. The Former Manager of our Museum at HMAS Cerberus, our Treasurer, Marty Grogan, has many a tale to tell. Because of my close association with Marty at the museum I have come to realise how much research he undertakes on many of the 'treasures' we have at Cerberus. One such artefact is the ships bell from our 'N' class destroyer, HMAS Nestor. The Nestor story is brief but fascinating. It involves Arctic convoys, HMS Hood, Bismarck, and a battle for survival in the Med! One of Marty's close friends actually served in, and also was sunk in Nestor. *Join us on March 25 for 'A TALE FROM THE MUSEUM, THE NESTOR BELL'*

The Creswell Oration takes place each March and this year is being held on Friday March 1 at the William Angliss Institute Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale Street Melbourne (1200 for 1230). Originally our speaker was to be Rear Admiral Gregory Sammut RAN, Head Future Submarine Program, but the Admiral has had to cancel and in his stead we have the Director General Submarines, Commodore Tim Brown. Commodore Brown has commanded both our Submarine, HMAS Sheean, and our Frigate HMAS Arunta. He has also served as the Fleet Submarine Operations Officer, and as the Director of the Future Submarine Capability.

The Future Submarine Program is the largest defence procurement program in Australia's history and on March 1, join us at William Angliss and gain further insights into this vital Defence project from our Director General of Submarines.

Cost and Payment Details.

\$40 per head by cheque or direct debit. Westpac Bank BSB:033389 Account number 107631. Please include name and send email to confirm payment to raydotgill@optusnet.com.au. Cheques to be made out to Australian Navy

Foundation Day-Creswell Oration 2019 and sent to PO Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3124

AS AN ADDED INCENTIVE THERE IS A DOOR PRIZE OF TICKETS FOR TWO TO THE AVALON AIR SHOW!!

Easter Monday this year falls on April 22nd, and as a result we will have our meeting on the following Monday, the 29th. We have another excellent DVD from the RAN Video Unit to share!

From Bravo Zulu Volume 2 1975-2014 by our friend Dr Ian Pfennigwerth

Page 88 re HMAS SWAN:

In May 1975 HMAS *Swan* succeeded in a particularly difficult rescue of the crew of a yacht in difficulties off Broken Bay NSW. In appalling weather, the frigate responded to a distress call and found the yacht *Cutty Sark* dismasted and foundering. With 75 knot winds, ten metre seas and the frigate rolling 45 degrees, efforts to bring the ship alongside the yacht almost met with disaster, but one yachtsman managed to grab *Swan's* scrambling net when the two vessels met. Three volunteers, Petty Officer David Krietling from Bunbury NSW, and Able Seamen Robert Lindsley from Bondi NSW and Dallys Ruhl from Hervey Bay QLD, all qualified divers, swam with lines 50 metres to the yacht and, with difficulty transferred the other yachtsmen to the frigate. Ruhl had to assist one who had injured his back to get onboard. When the yachtsmen had been recovered, *Cutty Sark* was cut adrift and Lindsley and Krietling made the 100 metre swim back to *Swan*, approaching exhaustion from their efforts. Krietling was awarded the Royal Humane Society silver medal, while Lindsley and Ruhl received Bronze Medals.

(Further information re obtaining Bravo Zulu Volumes 1&2 at www.nautilushistory.com.au)

Yours Aye!

Rex Williams