

President's Musings – February 2021

We wish you all a Happy New Year!

I assumed the Presidency in October 2003, and advise that I am not nominating at our AGM on February 22nd. As things are at time of writing all other members of the Committee will be re-elected as no one has nominated against them. The exception will be Sue Buxton who is retiring. My sincere thanks are extended to Sue for her wise council.

I am delighted to advise you that Captain Andrew MacKinnon has agreed to stand for the position of President. I have been his proposer and he has been seconded by LCDR John Redman. Andy's application is further supported by Frank Cronin and Marty Grogan.

Our meeting on February 22nd will take the form of the AGM, followed by the screening of an excellent video on the sinking on May 14 1943 of the hospital ship *Centaur* off the coast of Caloundra in Queensland. We endeavoured to show this video in February 2020 but our copy was unable to be screened. We purchased a new copy and are anxious to share it with you.

Our Christmas function in December was a great success, but we were only able to have 32 diners present. We intend to redress that in March by having a Christmas style gathering in the Sunset room at Waverley RSL at our meeting on March 22nd to compensate those of us who were unable to attend the function on December 14 last year.

As in December we will have all the trimmings that are normally associated with our 'End of Year' Function; being a lovely cake plus other raffle prizes! We have an excellent Speaker lined up and as always the food is very tasty and at a price of \$30 per head for a two course meal it represents excellent value. We will have bar facilities and suggest you gather in the Sunset Room at 1745 for 1800 (5.45 for 6 o'clock).

Payment Detail: Bendigo Bank Highett BSB 633000 - Account 118958503. Please include your name for identification.

We urge you to act promptly in order to secure a place. We will have to monitor numbers of diners and we don't want anyone to miss out this time! (*See Flyer below*)

On March 22nd we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the founding of our Chapter in 1971 plus the 51st Anniversary of the Naval Historical Society of Australia in 1970. Also we celebrate the NVN. It is 10 years since the formation of Navy Victoria Network and it has proved to be a fantastic asset to the 'Naval Family' in our state – BZ NVN! Google Navy Victoria Network and check it out! It's a great resource! (and, it is free to join!)

Our speaker on March 22nd is the first female Commander of the Recruit School at HMAS Cerberus. CMDR Cindy Jenkins assumed the roll in January 2020, and has a distinguished career prior to this. You can read all about it in her Service Biography! I have it very good authority that she is an excellent speaker.

A number of you may have received your first copy of our Three Headed Dog chapter newsletter. You are very welcome!

Upon perusing the latest membership lists I discovered some newly listed names and realised that you weren't receiving the THD. Through the generosity of the Hooley family we are able to supply both print and digital copies of the THD free of charge. It is published eleven times a year. We envisage having a very interesting year ahead and receiving the 'Dog' keeps you in touch. Membership of the NHS of A entitles you to be part of the Victoria Chapter and hence you will receive a copy and will continue to receive it unless you advise us otherwise. It can also be downloaded from the NVN website: https://navyvic.net/associations/nhs/thd.html. We pride ourselves that we are a friendly lot and urge you to especially consider coming to our March 22nd meeting. Many of us bring our partners and indeed it is very pleasant to have a meal in the *Warramunga* Restaurant prior to the meeting upstairs in the Sunset room. The facilities at the RSL are excellent and there is a lift to the Sunset Room. In the case of our March 22nd meeting we will have our meal and presentation in the Sunset Room – it being a special occasion!

At our December 'Get Together' we had WO Raymond 'Pedro' Rich OAM BEM RAN Ret. as our Speaker. Decorated for heroism during the Melbourne / Voyager collision of February 10, 1964, 'Pedro' held his audience spellbound whist he shared his experiences of that terrible disaster. Many of us paused to reflect on February 10th upon the tragedy which took 82 lives. Lest We Forget!

Pedro presented the RSL with a painting depicting the disaster and our friend President Mike Black rang me to advise that the painting is now part of the Naval Display cabinets in the Warramunga Room. Check it out next time you are there.

Life member George Bird, our former treasurer, and Betty Bird have been mainstays of the society for many years. They are dedicated to Navy and our NHS of A. The Bird family as a whole have supported our End of Year functions particularly. Next Month our 'Betty' turns 96 and we take this opportunity to wish Betty '*Birthday Greetings*' and wish them both health and happiness. Their dedication to fellow members was extended through picking folk up and taking them to meetings and visiting colleagues in hospital when they were ill.

BZ Betty and George!



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The Bird family

This is my last President's Musings. Thank you for your fellowship and support. I will still be involved but happily hand over my role as your President.

Yours Aye!

Rex <mark>Will</mark>iams

Cordially invites you to

Raval Historical Society of Australia – Victorian Chapter

Our March Meeting &

Christmas Style Dinner

Belated

Guest of Honour and Speaker

Commander Cindy Jenkins RAN The first female to command the Royal Australian Navy Recruit School

Monday March 22nd 17:45 for 18:00 (5:45pm for 6:00pm) to Closing Waverley RSL – Sunset Room 161 Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley

The annual Christmas raffle returns in March and prizes include Linda's Christmas cake!

Tickets:

\$30 per head for two course meal (*numbers are limited so please get in early*)

Payment:

Direct Debit – BSB: 633000; Account: 118958503. (*Please enter your name as identification*.)

or, **Cheque**; made payable to the "Naval Historical Society Victoria Chapter" *and posted to,* Marty Grogan, 549 Nepean Highway Frankston Vic 3199. Tel: 0417 377 763

Direct Debit is preferable



Service Biography – Commander Cindy Jenkins, RAN

Commander Cindy Jenkins joined the Royal Australian Navy in January 1998 from Derby, Western Australia. After graduating from the Australian Defence Force Academy, she commenced a career as a Maritime Warfare Officer. For the period of her training, she served in the Fremantle Class Patrol Boats *Dubbo, Bendigo* and *Gladstone* before attaining her Bridge Warfare Certificate in HMAS *Warramunga.* She was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2004 and assumed the duties of Navigating Officer in HMAS *Gascoyne*; the highlight of this posting being an operational deployment to the Solomon Islands in support of Operation ANODE.

Following postings as an instructor at the Navigation Faculty and Flag Lieutenant to Commander Australian Fleet, Commander Jenkins specialised as a Principal Warfare Officer and joined HMAS *Melbourne*. In 2009, she sub-specialised as a Surface Warfare officer, for which she was awarded the Captain Darling Award. Her posting to *Melbourne* included missile firings on the Pacific Missile Firing Range in Hawaii, and operational service in the Middle East in support of Operation SLIPPER. She was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in January 2011.

In 2011, Commander Jenkins commenced a posting as Staff Officer Navy International Engagement, supporting senior officers during Navy to Navy talks and high-level visits to promote cooperation and understanding among friendly navies. In 2014, she joined the Auxiliary Oiler, HMAS *Sirius*, as the Executive Officer. The highlight of her posting as XO was a high-profile South East Asian deployment that involved port visits and exercises with seven nations.

Commander Jenkins successfully completed the Advanced Command and Staff Course in the United Kingdom in 2017; the first RAN representative to do so since 2009. On promotion to Commander in August 2017, she joined the Australian Maritime Warfare Centre as SO1 Above Water Warfare and then in October 2018 posted to Deputy Director Training Authority Maritime Warfare.

Commander Jenkins assumed Command of Recruit School in January 2020.

Commander Jenkins has a Bachelor of Arts (Economics), Master of Arts (International Relations) and a Master of Business (Human Resource Management).