



Victorian Chapter

President's Musings – November 2020

At last, some light at the end of the Tunnel. Our second meeting for the year will be at Waverley RSL on Monday December 14 and will be our 'End of Year Celebration, 'Covid Style', in that we are restricted in how many we can have in the Sunset Room for a meal and 'Knees Up!' It will certainly be low key compared to last year with drastically reduced numbers. The RSL have gone out of their way to accommodate us and with a total of 30 allowed it must be first in best dressed.

As always the food is very tasty and at a price of \$30 per head the price is excellent - PLUS it includes a ticket in the raffle for Lynda's Yummy Christmas Cake. We will have a Speaker of note with full detail TBA. We will have bar facilities as per normal. Gather in the Sunset Room at 1745 for 1800.

Payment Detail: Bendigo Bank Highett BSB 633000 – Account 118958503. DO NOT FORGET to enter your name because numbers are limited we request that you email or phone Marty Grogan and advise how many places you require before depositing your money. We cannot exceed the nominated number and Marty will advise you if we can accommodate you or not.

Marty's contact details:

email: grevillethedevil@gmail.com

mobile: 0417 377 763

We hope to catch up with you on December 14, but sadly potentially 50 of you will miss out. We are unhappy with that situation and providing larger numbers are current by March 22, we envisage having a 'Knees Up' to celebrate both the New Year and also our beloved Royal Australian Navy's Birthday. The Birthday is normally celebrated at the Creswell Oration each March but unfortunately it has been cancelled for 2021 because of the time frame required and uncertainty of the situation re numbers etc. In relation to the Oration, many of us prepaid for the 2021 Oration by virtue of leaving our payment for the 2020 Oration in the system. I will leave my payment in for the 2022 Oration but if you paid in 2020 and are seeking a refund I suggest you contact Lynda Gilbert at:

lindylou3113@gmail.com

Our first meeting in 2021 will be on February 22 and our AGM will be held plus a Speaker. Full details will be in the December THD.

Changes are afoot at HMAS Cerberus. My friend of many years Captain Mike Oborn CSM RAN is being posted, and will assume Command of Shore Force. Shore Force covers

all commissioned RAN establishments and regional headquarters. We wish Mike, his wife and family all the best. B Z Sir!

Our new CO of HMAS Cerberus from December 18 will be Captain Ainsley Morthorpe CSM ADC RAN who is currently commanding our HMAS Stirling in Perth. We look forward to welcoming Captain Morthorpe to Victoria and getting to know him.

He has had a very interesting career to date and we include his biography for your interest. A very warm welcome, Sir!



Captain Ainsley Morthorpe, CSM, ADC, RAN joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1986, in the inaugural class of the Australian Defence Force Academy and graduating in December 1988. He became an Officer of the Watch before specialising as a Mine Warfare Officer, with a succession of postings in Landing Craft, Mine Hunters, a Replenishment Ship, Destroyer Escorts, Frigates and Destroyers.

In 1998 he trained as a Principle Warfare Officer, was promoted to Lieutenant Commander in 1999 and was posted to the New Zealand Navy Frigate Canterbury in 1999-2000. During this period he deployed to East Timor during INTERFET in 1999.

In 2001 he returned to Australia and posted into the Australian Frigate Sydney as the ASW Officer, which deployed to the Middle East Area of Operations following the events in the USA after September 11.

He instructed at the ADF Warfare Centre during 2003 before assuming Command of the Patrol Boat HMAS Fremantle, based in Darwin, from 2004-05.

He was promoted to Commander in 2006 and became the Head of Operations (J3) at HQ Northern Command, being awarded a Conspicuous Service Medal for his service.

In 2008-09 he assumed Command of the Navy base in Darwin HMAS Coonawarra, being awarded the Governor's Cup for the most efficient Shore Command.

In late 2010 until the end of 2012 he assumed Command of the Replenishment Ship HMAS Success.

In 2013-14 Commander Morthorpe was the Deputy Director of the Replenishment Capability in Navy HQ in Canberra.

He was promoted to Captain in 2015 and became the Director of Policing and Security for Navy in Navy HQ in Canberra, also known as the Service Security Authority for Navy.

Captain Morthorpe holds a Bachelor and Masters of Arts from UNSW.

In 2019 Captain Morthorpe assumed Command of the Navy base in Perth HMAS Stirling.

Our Sydney colleagues, Gillian Lewis and Noel Phelan provided us with a very interesting Zoom Presentation on Tuesday November 24. The clash between HMAS Sydney II and HSK Kormoran on November 19, 1941, 79 years ago, has long captured the imagination of the Australian public. The presentation was well researched, and well worth watching. Noel has another offering for us at 1000 on December 9 and is entitled 'The Sinking salvage and Scrapping of the Costa Concordia. For invitations to join the meeting, please drop me an email on rex.f.williams@gmail.com. Check out events on the NHS website for further details of the presentation.

Yours Aye!

Rex Williams

