

## President's Musings – October 2019

### Incorporating:

#### President's Report for the AGM October 28, 2019:

Our End of Year Function for 2018 proved very successful. CMDR Max Speedy enthralled his audience with his experiences of the Vietnam Conflict as 2ic of the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam. It was indeed an interesting address.

Our year began in February when we enjoyed the second DVD from the Navy video unit, on the History of our Navy and it covered between the wars and the beginning of WWII. In March we had CMDR Cameron Eastman, the Redevelopment and Project Officer for the extensive works being undertaken at our HMAS *Cerberus*. Cameron began by telling us the *CERBERUS story* from the beginnings of the base in 1920 and how it is now, like a mid-sized country town, with a number of new training buildings in the course of being built. It is still indeed the 'Cradle of the Navy', however, it also provides training for both the Army and Air Force as well. A visit to the base followed in early April to view the huge re-development programs underway.

We also enjoyed a visit to the West Head Gunnery range to witness a live firing exercise. In March West Head celebrated its 60th anniversary, and we noted with pleasure that our own CMDR John Smith, our Senior Research Officer based at the Boat Shed on Garden Island, was guest of honour at the celebrations. John was the first Officer posted in Charge of the WH Gunnery Range.

Currently our CO of HMAS *Cerberus* is Captain Mike Oborn, and many of us got to know Mike well whilst he was XO there from 2011-2014, and are enjoying having him and his family back amongst us. Mike was our speaker in May and we enjoyed hearing about his career to date and his aspirations and plans for HMAS *Cerberus*.

What a wonderful asset our HMAS *Cerberus* Museum is and how lucky we are to have the former Manager, Marty Grogan, in our midst to tell us of 'Tales from the Museum'. In June we enjoyed the story of HMS/HMAS *Nestor* and her bell. It was certainly special to have the actual bell as part of Marty's presentation.

At our July 22nd meeting we had three guests, namely our National President Captain David Michael, plus Leut Mario de Angelis and his wife Anna. During the meeting David presented Angelo with his prize for winning our annual Essay Competition, and as an added bonus David was our Speaker, recounting on his involvement in the Gulf war 1990-91.

Our LCDR Roger Buxton was a former weapons officer in the Royal Canadian Navy, and he gave us the Battle of the Atlantic Part 1 at our August meeting and Part 2 is scheduled for October 28. Roger has provided two most interesting illustrated lectures concerning how the battle was fought by sea and air by both sides of the conflict.

Our Speaker at our September meeting was our member Captain Brian Surtees. Brian spent 12 years serving in the RAF flying many different types of aircraft, but it was his time as a pilot for our Dept of Civil Aviation during the 24 years of his service to aviation in Australia, which was the subject of his fascinating illustrated talk.

I close my report with a big thank you to my colleagues who stepped into the breach when I had my medical problems. It was indeed a very interesting year and I gratefully acknowledge the six individuals who spent hours of research in providing the excellent talks we were privileged to hear. Also thanks to our members for their support, plus a big thank you to Frank Cronin and his contributors to our THD who provide such an excellent newsletter.

#### **My Musings continue....**

*As your President I am personally very chuffed that our Chief of Navy VADM Mike Noonan AO RAN is staying an extra night in Melbourne in order to honour the N H S of A Vic Chapter by attending our end of year function and joining in the fun, as well as speaking to us!*

*Marty and I anticipate that there will be approximately 100 diners in the Sunset Room at Waverley RSL on Friday December 6 and urge you to reserve your place asap. We do not want to turn folk away who turn up on the night not having secured a place. But the capacity of the room is for 10 tables x 10 diners, so how about it?*

*Payment can be made by Cheque or by Direct Debit. (We are unable to offer the 'cash payment' on the night this year). Cheques to be made out to: "The Naval Historical Society, Victoria Chapter" and posted to our Treasurer Marty Grogan OAM, 26 Forbes Drive, Aspendale Gardens 3195.*

*Direct Debit Detail: Bendigo Bank Highett*

*BSB: 633000 Acct no. 118958503 (Please identify yourself)*

*Join us for a great night on Friday 6th December. You are very welcome.*

Yours Aye!

*Rex Williams*