

President's Musings – May 2018

Our presentation in July is 'The History of the Royal Australian Navy Volume One'. This is an excellent video made by the RAN Video Unit and is first class. You will enjoy it.

We have some exciting news for you! The Hooley family are very generously funding the distribution of our 'Three Headed Dog'. This means that the society is able to provide your 'Dog' be it by electronic means or the hard copy sent by Australia Post, free of charge. Because of their generosity we are now able to substantially increase the overall reach of our Newsletter as well! Followers of the HMAS CERBERUS Face Book Pages, CERBERUS AHOY! will be able to read our Three Headed Dog each month, plus we will gain extra readership through the Navy Victoria Network. We greatly value our listings on the NVN and are delighted that the NVN Webmaster has agreed to include our 'Dog'. Our sincere thanks go to Doug and Ross Hooley, for funding us, through the estate of their father, Alan Hooley. Sincere thanks also go to Captain Tim Standen for facilitating the 'Dog' within the CERBERUS AHOY Face Book Pages, and as well our thanks go to our faithful friend and chapter member, Webmaster Laurie 'Lozza' Pegler of the NVN.

Our Society exists primarily to promote our Royal Australian Navy, and its history. To Victorians our RAN is mainly personified by our SNO, Command and personnel of our splendid HMAS CERBERUS the 'cradle' of the Navy. The support that the Naval Historical Society, Victoria Chapter, has received over a number of years, and continues to receive, from HMAS CERBERUS in the production of our T H D is also greatly appreciated. We are very proud to call our newsletter 'The Three Headed Dog'.

Just who was our benefactor, the late Alan Hooley? I only met Alan once. My wife, Jenny, happened to be hospitalized on the same floor as Alan at Epworth Richmond. The ward coordinator had advised me that a sailor was in a ward close to Jenny's and knowing my Naval connections suggested that I might like to pop in and see him. I was happy to do this and enjoyed meeting Alan. I was delighted to find that Alan was a subscriber to our 'Three Headed Dog'. We had a great chat, and found that we had a lot in common. He said how much he enjoyed reading the Dog, which I was glad to know.

Alan's son Doug has, at my request has written a brief biography his dad's Naval service and I'm very happy to include it herewith:

Alan Hooley (PM4211) joined the Royal Australian Navy at HMAS LONSDALE on 20 January 1942, shortly after his 18th birthday. He was inspired to do so by the death of his

Uncle, Ordinary Seaman William (Bill) McGregor, who was first Australian of the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme to be killed in action, in an air raid at the Portsmouth Naval Base in 1941.

From January 1942 until May 1943, Alan served in the shore bases HMAS LONSDALE, CERBERUS, PENGUIN and KUTTABUL. From May 1943 until August 1945, he served in the Landing Ship Infantry HMAS WESTRALIA as a Writer and Leading Writer. From August 1945 until October 1946 he served at HMAS LONSDALE.

L/Stoker James Henry Schofield's Odyssey-Excerpts from his Diary whilst Serving in HMAS VOYAGER 1 in the Med have been suspended until September. My apologies, but to do them justice I need to devote a lot of time to them, and I'm time poor at the moment.

Yours Aye!

Rex Williams.