

President's Musings – March 2020

At our opening meeting this year we enjoyed a video presentation 'Mighty Mo' the Battleship *USS Missouri*, which covered her involvement in both the Korean and Gulf wars. The Video we intended to screen was a copy of '*Centaur - Death of a Hospital Ship*', but unfortunately the sound track had deteriorated badly over the years and was inaudible and not suitable for presentation. We have contacted the folk who produced the video and we are in the process of purchasing a copy which we will screen on June 22nd. Our guests who came to our meeting especially to view it will be advised.

*At our next meeting on **March 23rd** at Waverley RSL, we have Leigh Webster of 'Off shore and Specialist Ships Australia' to speak to us. Leigh will be having a meal with us prior to the meeting. Why not come and join us? Several of us went to the Exhibition Specialist Ships Made in Australia-How? in November, and consequently we invited Leigh to speak to us.*

As previously mentioned, we have again decided not to have a meeting in April, but we suggest you note in your diary the date of our May meeting as we have another excellent speaker joining us. On February 10 1964, the carrier HMAS Melbourne was involved in a collision with the Destroyer HMAS Voyager off Nowra NSW, and sadly 82 lives were lost. On Monday May 25, a member of Voyager's crew on that fateful night back in 1964, LSPT(later WO) Raymond 'Pedro' Rich OAM, BEM has agreed to be our speaker.

The 'Three Headed Dog' newsletter is made available to our Members and Friends in a variety of ways, and we regard it a vital tool of communication. You may receive your monthly copy by mail, by the internet or read it on the [Navy Victoria](#) website. Through the generosity of the Hooley Family we have been able to provide the printed copy or the electronic version to you free of charge for the last couple of years. **It is our aim to continue this, knowing full well that some of our membership do not have access to a computer or much prefer to have a printed copy.** *However, our printing and postage costs have increased dramatically. Action needed to be taken!*

Careful and empathetic perusal of our Members and Friends lists have taken place and where an email address has been provided we now send the 'Dog' electronically. We suggest you print your copy off and therefore get a colour version of your 'Dog'. Personally I prefer to do this. Another benefit of this review is that we discovered a

number of our contacts were not being sent the 'Dog' and knew that they would appreciate receiving it, so we included them as well. We would love some feedback from these folk!

Being part of the Naval Historical Society for the last 20 years or so and being your President for the last 16 has been an important part of my life! Fascinated by Navy since the age of 9; I well remember being taken out by boat to our Corvette HMAS *Warrnambool* whilst she was moored in Lady Bay, and thinking how big and impressive she was from water level. I was hooked!

The first meeting of the Victoria Chapter was held in 1971 and our colleague Peter Williams was in attendance. But the first meeting of the Society was in Sydney on May 25th 1970 – fifty years ago! We are celebrating this event on Tuesday May 26 with a 'Members Open Day' at the Boatshed, Garden Island. Details are not as yet finalised, but we do know that there will be a presentation by Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Jonathan Mead followed by luncheon in the Boatshed, Building 25, and a TBC visit to a Fleet Unit. Unfortunately I won't be there but all members of the society are welcome. *A group of us plan to be at the NHSA 50th Anniversary, Patron's Day with Chief of Navy on Friday 24 July.'*

An updated history of the society is to be produced in the coming month and launched in July. This event will include the launch of this book and a service of thanksgiving in the Garden Island chapel. The draft program is as follows.

- 10:30-11:30 Service in the Garden Island Chapel led by Rev. Dr. Gareth Clayton OAM. The service will include a Colour Party parading the AWE under close escort and RAN Band ensemble.
- O/C continue to the Boatshed for book launch 'The History of the Naval Historical Society of Australia'
- Address by the Chief of Navy
- Refreshments

Join us to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of our N H S of A!

Our Navy was well to the fore in Victoria recently. No less than four of our ships visited our State in late February / early March. They were visiting us as part of the Fleet Certification Period 2020 - a high end war fighting exercise conducted in Bass Strait. HMAS *Arunta* visited Portland, whilst HMA Ships *Canberra*, *Sirius* and *Hobart* and HMA submarine *Farncomb* visited Melbourne. The highlight for Navy Groups in Melbourne was that we were able to visit our new Air Warfare Destroyer, HMAS *Hobart*, on Saturday 29 February. As I walked toward the ship I was struck by beauty of her lines. It is truly a magnificent looking ship. Upon boarding and being taken on an extensive tour I came to the conclusion not only she looks good, she packs a 'heck of a punch' as well. *Arunta*

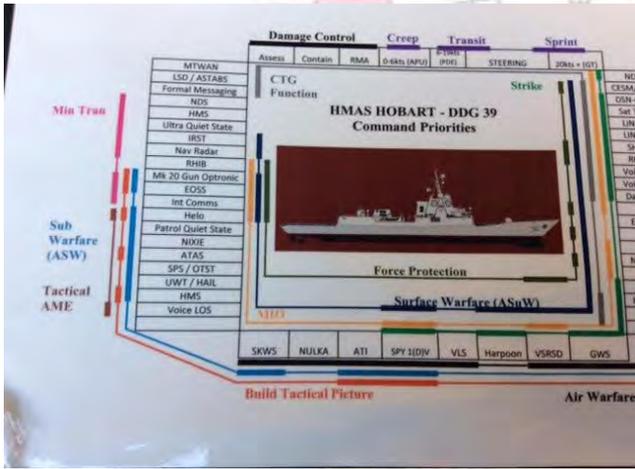
received a great welcome in Portland. Navy Daily described her visit as 'Arunta kicks goals in Portland. Once alongside, the frigate engaged in a busy schedule of sporting events and official functions.

Enjoy the photos:

Yours Aye!

Rex Williams







Australian Navy Cadets of TS Henty on HMAS Arunta in Portland, Victoria.



HMAS Arunta alongside Portland, Victoria.