



President's Musings – October 2018

On May 23rd 1998 Jenny and I were present at the launching of Nuship Warramunga at Williamstown Dockyard. We both found it an emotional moment when this beautiful ship slid down the slip way into the waters of Hobson's Bay for the first time. Amongst the large crowd present were 260 veterans of the first HMAS *Warramunga*. I counted as amongst my friends a number of those veterans who were not only members of our Chapter of the NHS of A, but were also actively involved in the Waverley RSL. Our Chapter has forged a very strong link with the RSL, and many of us dine in the *Warramunga* Restaurant prior to our meetings in the Sunset Room each month. Sadly our *Warramunga* Veterans have passed over the bar, but we are delighted to advise that the link with the original ship and her successor continues with the RSL and our Chapter.

Warramunga II will return to Hobson's bay on Friday October 19th and on that day both the XO, LCDR Warren Bechly and Ships Warrant Officer Luke McNally will be hosted by the RSL President and Vice President to lunch in the *Warramunga* Restaurant. Members of the *Warramunga* Association will be there plus Frank Cronin and I. Our thanks go to our SNO, Vic. Commodore Greg Yorke and CMDR Graeme Furlonger for their help in arranging this 'get-together', to further strengthen the links between the ship and the RSL.

HMAS CHOULES visited Port Melbourne in September and some of us enjoyed an extensive tour of the ship on the 29th. Our colleague John de Cruz Douglas has written an account of his visit to the ship and Frank has included it in this THD. I commend it to you. My overall impression gained from the visit, was that she is a very happy, efficient ship, and has proved to be an excellent addition to our fleet!

Our October 22nd meeting is also our AGM, and whilst reflecting on our activities this year for my President's Report I noted that we have enjoyed some excellent speakers. It has been very obvious to me that over the years we have been entertained by some outstanding orators, and this year is no exception. I thoroughly enjoyed the 'Career Reflections' of Captain Andrew MacKinnon at our September meeting. *Fascinating!* I was overseas when Captain Sheldon Williams spoke to us of his time in India. Having heard from my colleagues as to just how interesting Sheldon's talk was, I was able to access it by going to the [Navy Victoria Network website](#), finding Associations and clicking on Naval Historical Society. I clicked on Podcasts, and bingo! The podcast was recorded and made available to us by our Laurie Pegler. Thank You 'Lozza', it was well worth hearing, and Sheldon's very pertinent comments are there for future reference.

India has potential to become a 'power house' in our region and I was anxious to learn more about this most interesting country.

Captain Ken Greig OAM RAN (Rtd), will this month, share with us the story of how our Submarine HMAS AE1, tragically lost with all hands, 14 September 1914, was found after having been missing for 103 years. Ken was also heavily involved in the 'Silent ANZAC Project' which related to the discovery and preservation of AE2. A Submariner himself, Ken enjoyed a fascinating career as well! When is it?? Monday October 22nd at Waverley RSL. Don't miss it!

From Bravo Zulu Volume 1. 1900-1974 by Ian Pfennigwerth. CMDR Hugh Jarret was a friend of mine, and it is with pleasure I share with you the entry regarding Hugh on page 412/14: In March 1954, a cutter from the carrier Vengeance, anchored off Frankston Vic. with 28 men on board foundered in choppy seas. The ship launched a second cutter with the Fleet Gunnery Officer LCDR Hugh Jarret from Randwick NSW in charge to rescue them. By the time his boat had reached the scene the survivors were scattered over a wide area, and Jarrett brought the boat alongside the larger group, who were hauled aboard. He then swam to the rescue of one man who was sinking and brought him back to the boat and then went to the aid of others, recovering five other men. He was rescuing a sixth when he himself had to be recovered from the sea, exhausted. Jarret was awarded a Royal Humane Society Bronze Medal. (end of quote) **Bravo Zulu Volume 2 is now available. Highly recommended!**

Further information is available on Ian's website: <http://www.nautilushistory.com.au>

Yours Aye!

Rex Williams.