**REPORT TO THE AGM 27th OCTOBER 2014**

The 12 months from October 2013 - to October 2014 has been momentous, with excellent Speakers interesting films and good fellowship.

The ravages of time continue to take its toll and we have recently lost WWII Veterans Ken Baldwin and LCDR Mac Gregory. *Lest We Forget!*

We continue to gain new Members, fortunately, and they are most welcome. Overall our Membership is fairly static. Driving at night to meetings continues to be worrisome to some of our older Members, and thought has been given to starting at 1800 in daylight saving months, with a light supper followed by our Speaker/film etc. and finishing our gathering so the journey home can take place in the twilight. Further discussion on this matter can occur at the conclusion of the business part of the AGM.

 Our 'End of Year Function' on November 25th 2013 at Waverley RSL was an outstanding success, LCDR Angela Rowson was a very entertaining Speaker and we enjoyed our best attendance ever, 52 colleagues and friends got together and enjoyed good food, drink and fellowship!

February was designated 'Bring a Friend' and Antony Wilson spoke to us of his time as an Engineer Officer, 1969/70/71 in HMAS MELBOURNE II. Tony's illustrated talk took us deep into the realms of the engine room and we appreciated being acquainted with different aspects of the fabric of our last Fleet carrier. The 'Bring a Friend' concept may well be worthwhile trying next February as well?

Mac Gregory was in good form in March, when he recounted his very enjoyable and interesting experiences, over 1950/53 as ADC to the Governor General Sir William McKell CGMG. Mac met many fascinating people, Ben Chifley, Bob Menzies, Montgomery, John Foster Dulles etc and had many 'tales to tell', all of great interest!

Our first film for the year was shown in April. Very topical it was called 'Australians at war' and we viewed the episodes entitled 'The Great War' and The Australian Seaman at War'.

Over the winter months of June, July and August we enjoyed keeping dry and warm together and watching three episodes of the 'History' Channel's 'History of the Royal Navy'. This has been an excellent series and at the end of Official Business tonight we have, ***'By Popular Demand'*** the last Episode.

The Melbourne Naval Centre was filled to capacity in August to hear CMDR Jim Speed DSC RAN Ret speak of his experiences, and LCDR Roger Buxton CD RCN Ret gave an excellent illustrated address to us in September on the 'Transformation of the Royal Canadian Navy during WWII'.

We look forward with anticipation to our 'End of Year Celebration' at the Waverley RSL. Our speaker is Captain Stephen Bowater OAM RAN our SNO Victoria and the CO of HMAS CERBERUS. He has had a fascination career to date, and will tell us all about it on November 24th. He is an excellent speaker. Don't miss it!

One of the first decisions the incoming executive need to make is to consider the earlier starting time for our meetings. There are obvious advantages to this in the summer months, giving you the chance to drive home in the twilight.

YOURS AYE!!

REX WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT