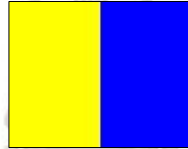




Naval Historical Society
of Australia

Victorian Chapter

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS



- Flag Kilo (I wish to communicate with you)

Judging by comments I received that evening, it seems my 22 March presentation on “The Pacific Patrol Boat Project – the early years” was appreciated by the 25 or so members and guests who attended our meeting.

We had a good gathering for dinner beforehand, though I must remind members to please advise our Secretary Rodney Phillips a few days in advance if you intend to gather for dinner in the Warramunga Room prior to our monthly meeting. This will help ensure we have sufficient table space provided by the RSL staff in this area, and avoid the possible embarrassment of some members needing to dine separately from our group. As the NHSA (Victoria Chapter) web site mentions (see www.navyhistory.org.au/about/victoria-chapter/), Rodney can be contacted by phone (0466 983 313) or email (77minstrel@gmail.com).

Our Guest Speaker list in coming months has changed, after the author Robert Hadler kindly agreed to be our guest speaker on 28 June on the topic “Mutiny, Murder and Political Controversy”. This promises to be a fascinating insight into the stories behind the two books he has published - *Dark Secrets, The True Story of Murder in HMAS Australia II*, and his latest book (due for national Press Club release on 26 May) entitled *Mutineers, A True Story of Heroes and Villains*. I'm delighted that Robert and his partner Karen can join us for dinner in the Warramunga Room beforehand.

Meanwhile I'm sure CMDR Steve Cole's presentation on 24 May will provide many fascinating insights into the modern challenges of environmental management in Navy (and Defence), and how we have moved on from some of our previous dubious practices! This should be a great night for all.

Coming events are therefore currently planned as follows:

- Mon 24 May – “Navy Environmental Management – past and present” – (CMDR Steve Cole CSM RAN)
- Mon 28 Jun – “Mutiny, Murder and Political Controversy” – (Robert Hadler)
- Mon 26 Jul – “CAPT James Stirling RN” (CAPT Ainsley Morthorpe CSM RAN – CO *Cerberus*)
- Mon 23 Aug – “Adventures in Antarctica” – (Captain Jorgen Berg)
- Mon 27 Sep – “Exploration and Hydrography in the Arctic” (Roger Buxton)
- Mon 25 Oct – “Australian Navy personnel at D-Day” – (Jan Roberts-Billet)
- Mon 22 Nov – Christmas Function (Guest Speaker – CDRE Greg Yorke CSC RAN)

Following on from our Committee meeting on 13 April, I pursued an updated list of Victorian members through the National office in Sydney. This is key to knowing who we should communicate with locally. I'm pleased to say this list has now been received, and Marty Grogan has kindly agreed to be the Membership Officer on the Committee, to keep on top of these issues. This includes establishing a process whereby we are informed when a new Victorian resident member joins the NHSA.

I raised a few other issues with our National President, which I'll continue to pursue in coming weeks. These include:

- **New Members.** How can we recruit new members locally, based on experiences of recent successful recruiting drives conducted in NSW and WA?
- **Fundraising.** We discussed whether we should undertake fundraise (other than the Christmas raffle) to assist in covering costs for recurring and one-off items, and whether we can recover some of the annual membership fees paid by Victorian members into the central NHSA fund. This would allow us to fund purchase of gift books for Guest Speakers and other non-recurring costs.
- **Visiting RAN Ships.** Though unfortunately infrequent during the COVID period, we agreed to renew contacts with relevant organisers to seek opportunities for NHSA-V members to join groups visiting RAN ships in Port Melbourne whenever such restrictions are lifted.
- **Lonsdale.** We'll assist - where possible - the NHSA's aim to compile a history of the former HMAS Lonsdale, by identifying those locally who have detailed knowledge.

As always, I welcome all ideas to help strengthen our organisation and to better serve our members – andrewmackinnon0404@gmail.com.

Yours Aye!

Andrew Mackinnon