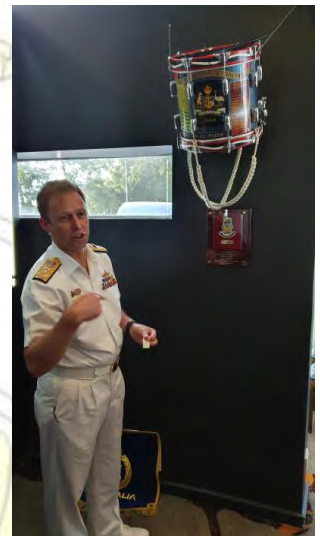


President's Musings – December 2019

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy 2020. We celebrated our years' end with style with 89 of us getting together in the Sunset Room at Waverley RSL on December 6th to enjoy a beautiful meal and fellowship!

Our Guest of honour was our Patron the Chief of Navy, VADM Mike Noonan AO RAN, and we were indeed honoured in that he stayed in Melbourne an extra night in order to be with us. His very interesting speech is available as a podcast on our sub-domain of the Navy Victoria Network website (www.nhsavic.navyvic.net) and the event was videoed by our own Brian Surtees, with the podcast being provided by our Laurie Pegler. It was indeed a momentous occasion. Prior to joining us in the



CN Unveiling the plaque at the Warramunga display.



'Sunset Room' VADM Noonan unveiled a plaque commemorating the completion of the display of naval artefacts in the Display cabinets located in the *Warramunga* Restaurant. These excellent displays are the result of the efforts of members of the *Warramunga* Association and our own Marty Grogan.

I wish to place on record my gratitude to 'Marty Grogan and his Merry Band of Helpers' who made this evening such a success. Bravo Zulu my friends!

Another 'Bravo Zulu' is due to Darryl Chang and his staff for enabling us to make it all happen. By necessity, next year will be my last year as your President. Now that I have got my 'Life Membership of the NHS of A', I can retire happy! It was a delightful surprise for both Frank Cronin and I to receive our Life Membership Certificates from our colleagues in Sydney. My certificate and the beautiful plaque I received from our 'Chief' has pride of place in my lounge room.

Our Editor, Frank, will be honouring in this THD, our good friend and colleague Lieutenant Commander John Bird RN Ret., who passed over the bar recently. A number of us attended his

funeral, but unfortunately I was in hospital and unable to be there. My sincere condolences go to his partner Jane and his children Patricia and Jeremy and his grandchildren.

We have an excellent video to share with you at our first meeting for 2020 on Monday February 24th. It is a documentary made to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the sinking of the Hospital Ship Centaur in 1943. It tells the full story of the sinking through the eyes of the people who were there, the survivors. These exclusive interviews tell for the first time of the terror, the horror, and of the acts of great courage brought about when the Centaur was torpedoed by the Japanese submarine.

Leigh Webster is going to talk to us on Monday March 23rd. Our John Redman met Leigh at the 'Specialist Ships made Australia, how?' exhibition at Dockland in November. It is a fascinating subject and we'll have further information for you in our February THD! Also in late February, early March we have the Creswell Oration on February 28th, and birthday celebrations for our HMAS Cerberus February 29th and March 1st.

HMAS Cerberus is celebrating her 100th Birthday on March 1st with a 'Bumper' Open Day Celebration, and you all are welcome to attend! You won't want to miss it! Further information as it comes to hand.

In Sydney, planning is going ahead for two significant anniversaries as well. These are the opening of the Captain Cook Dry dock which occurred on 24 March 1945 and our Society's own 50th anniversary on 25 May.

Yours Aye!

Rex Williams



CN presenting Rex with his Life Membership



CN presenting Frank with his Life Membership

