

## Addendum – President’s Report – November 2016

**Ceremonial Divisions – HMAS *Cerberus*:** On 25 November, many members of this Association availed themselves of the invitation to attend the last ceremonial divisions promulgated by the Commanding Officer of HMAS *Cerberus*, Captain Stephen Bowater, OAM RAN. Also in attendance was His Excellency, General, Sir Peter Cosgrove, AK, MC, Governor General of Australia.

HMAS *Cerberus* lived up to its well-known reputation of being one of the most unpredictable places on earth weather-wise. Cold and blustery one minute, then bright and sunny the next. The only things missing were the mosquitoes, who we all know so well from past visits this time of the year.

Upon his arrival, Sir Peter greeted those assembled with a broad wry grin, and a statement befitting his high office of, ‘*wardrobe malfunction*’ (his vast array of medals and awards had come adrift on alighting from his vehicle), not to be put off, he approached, in his words ‘*a guy in the crowd with medals on who looked like he knew what to do*’, and asked him to reattach them to his uniform. His parting comment after the deed was done was also quite amusing ‘*in the past that would have probably earned you a knighthood.*’ Well done Frank.



Ceremonial Divisions went well, and, as we have come to expect of the modern-day sailor, those participating were well turned out and are a credit to the service and themselves, in both their bearing and dress. Bravo Zulu *Cerberus*.



As an aside to the day’s official proceedings, Sir Peter was requested to rededicate the HMAS *Sydney* Room which now is an integral part of the HMAS *Cerberus* Museum, overseen by my predecessor, WO Marty Grogan OAM, RANR, in his service capacity as the Museum Curator. This room is set up as a

dedication to all four ships to bear the name *Sydney*.

It is not commonly known that Sir Peter was acting Officer Commanding, Army detachment, on HMAS *Sydney*'s last voyage to New Zealand, in April 1973. As such, he has graciously accepted membership of our association. In recognition of the occasion, he was also presented with a painting of HMAS *Sydney*, which I'm sure will bring back memories of several days when the seas were not to kind.



In recognition of his efforts as the Museum Curator, and in the setting up of the HMAS *Sydney* room, Sir Peter presented Marty with a Governor General's Medallion. Well done Marty.

Dr John Carroll.

