

## President's Report 2-2019

**Contaminated Water:** Nothing of any consequence has been received from the Minister for Veterans and Service Personnel, Mr Darren Chester, MHR, which would solve the many health problems associated with exposure to contaminated water, while serving in Vietnam, 1965-1972. A petition to the House is probably worth considering. They do work - albeit very slowly. Refer to our website for confirmation of this observation.

**Shrine Service:** There will be a service for the unveiling and dedication of the refurbished and re-sited HMAS *Sydney* 2 Plaque, and the unveiling and dedication to the new HMAS *Sydney* 3 Plaque at the Shrine of Remembrance (SOR) on Sunday 17 November 2019, 1130 for 1200. Members are encouraged to attend, as this will be a once in a lifetime occasion. Chief of Navy (CN) has nominated Cdre Greg Yorke, CSC, RAN, as his representative at this service.

All three *Sydney*'s are now positioned under the one tree (F24), which is sited on the southern side of the SOR precinct, a short downhill walk from the SOR parking area. This grand old oak is now to be known as the HMAS *Sydney* tree, in dedication to all the ships that have borne the name *Sydney*. No doubt those who served in *Sydney* 4, and those who will be serving in *Sydney* 5, will have an allocated area for any future Plaques commemorating their service.

**Shipp Division:** On 21 June 2019, there was a passing out parade for the members of Shipp Division at Recruit School, HMAS Cerberus. Four members of the Association attended on what was a cold, wet and blustery day. Thanks must go to Gary Taylor, Haydn Whitfield, Laurie Jones, and John Camilleri, the four hardy souls who took the time to represent this association on such an important occasion. Those Recruits who were presented with an award were:

Rct. EWSM, **Mathew Lister**. Physical Fitness Encouragement Award.

Rct. BM, **Cameron Neal**. Sport person of the intake.

Rct. EW, **Sarah Briese**. Academic Excellence (98.25%)

Rct. GX, **Zachery Clark**. Top Shot (45/45) (Gap Year)

Rct. AVN, **Susannah Bigg**. Leadership Potential.

Rct. GX, **Miya Ingleton**. WO-N Excellence Award. (Gap Year).

Rct. EW, **Sarah Briese**. Recruit of the Intake.

**Lt. Cdr. Peter M Cumming RAN:** In late 1962, Lt. Cdr. Cumming was serving in HMAS *Quiberon* as the Executive Officer, when he was detached to serve as an observer/adviser to the South Vietnamese Navy, from mid-December 1962, until mid-January 1963. His Report of Proceedings (ROP) makes for very interesting reading. However, his name and details of his service do not appear on the Nominal Roll of Vietnam Veterans, and yet the Army adviser who accompanied him on several occasions is acknowledged on this Roll. I have approached the DVA Nominal Rolls team to have this situation rectified, or an explanation given as to why his service has gone unrecognised.

**Out of Sight, Out of Mind:** An expanded edition of *Out of Sight, Out of Mind*, the RAN in Vietnam 1965-1972, is now in the final stages of composition, and has to be with the publisher by 28 July. It will then be due for publication in November 2019. The new book has several expanded chapters, and a new chapter which considers the many submissions received from fellow shipmates, both officers and sailors, and Army personnel, which were thought worthy of reproduction. Not included is any written submission which my editor or I thought frivolous, false, or lacking in substance.

Sincerely,

Dr John Carroll

29 June 2019