

HMAS PLATYPUS – THE EARLY OBERON YEARS



Joint Webinar
6th Oct 2000 (AEST) 2021
NAVAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AND THE FRIENDS OF HOLBROOK SUBMARINE MUSEUM



The early years of the newly formed Submarine Squadron were not easy, and many initiatives and work arounds were necessary to keep the squadron working. In this webinar we will explore the difficulties, the harmony, and the funny side of some of the issues that faced the fledgling squadron from those who were there.

- **David Michael- Your Host - *The buildings and structures services history.***

David is a former Skimmer (surface ships) and Logistician who served in most branches of the RAN from 1973 to 2009. This included five years in the Submarine Arm where he served 18 months at HMAS PLATYPUS as base and Squadron Supply Officer before relocating with the Squadron to Western Australia where he spent a further 3 years at HMAS STIRLING. He was the Squadron Supply Officer and the director of the Submarine Training and Systems Centre (STSC). In the STSC he was responsible for Collins class submarine training and the phasing out of Oberon training and the SETF. Today he is President of the Naval Historical Society.

- **Peter Horobin MBE - *The submarine operational difficulties***

Peter is a former submariner and commanding HMAS Otway in the 1970s. In the early 1980s he was the Navy project manager for the establishment of the Submarine Escape Training Facility at HMAS Stirling. From 2011 to 2015 he was leader of James Fisher Defence (predecessors to JFD Australia) delivering the Submarine Rescue Service for the RAN and from 2013, the Pressurised Escape Training service. From 2012 to 2015 he was the Director responsible for James Fisher Defence global submarine escape rescue and abandonment operations. This included responsibility for the James Fisher Defence rescue services for Australia and Singapore and the rescue team in the NATO Submarine Rescue System based in Faslane.

- **Sandy Freeleagus - *maintaining the submarines, lack of equipment and spares***

Sandy Freeleagus was a Warrant Officer Artificer and long serving submariner. His experience with maintenance and delivery of services to the growing submarine squadron at HMAS Platypus in the early life of the squadrons well known. Sandy is also a well-known military cartoonist and illustrator. Sandy left the navy on the 1st August 1981 after 20 years of service. He then did a further 20 years as a member of the Emergency Reserve during which he served a period in HMAS Platypus.

Registrations -

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