

6 May 2017

The Annual Cruise, May 6 2017 - a great success

The Annual Cruise on Saturday 6 May, 2017 aboard the Captain Cook proved to be a very enjoyable time for some 170 Members and guests who attended. The weather was excellent and so too the catering, hospitality and program of events for the day.

The Annual Cruise has well established itself as an occasion allowing Members, friends and colleagues to catch up and enjoy company in a very convivial atmosphere. We were pleased to welcome a number of new Members who took the opportunity to join.

We were honoured to have distinguished guest, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia join us who gave the Toast to the League of Ancient Mariners and who, in company with others on the program, provided informative and entertaining speeches.

No one will forget Sister Mary Leary OAM, who in delivering Grace, remonstrated with those who had already devoured their bread rolls at their tables saying that it must have been the drink that had prompted them to do so before Grace and if so, she hoped those who had so indulged, would suffer horrific hangovers the next day. Sister Mary's delightful delivery was enthusiastically received and applauded and set the tone for what was to be an enjoyable and entertaining day.

President, Capt. Murray Doyle AAM, AFNI, welcomed Members and guests. Patron of the League, Dr Paul-Scully Power AM, DSM and President led the singing of sea-shanties and we are glad to report that all those present were in very good voice. Requests have already been noted for sea-shanties for next year's cruise.

Guest Speaker was Eddie Bennet, BM, JP the most highly decorated Search and Rescue Officer in Australia. He was introduced by Dr Paul Scully-Power and we were provided with a very comprehensive talk about initiatives that are being developed to aid search & rescue. Mr Bennet is currently running the Westpac Little Ripper Lifesaver Unmanned Aerial Vehicle service, and is developing the use of drones for saving life at sea.

His presentation was followed by the Toasts; The Loyal Toast, Capt. Richard Sandeman-Gay; Toast to the League of Ancient Mariners, Sir Peter Cosgrove AK, MC; Toast to Visitors, Mr John Harding FICS, AFNI, Secretary of the League; Visitors Response, Mr Kevin Sullivan.

A musical duo provided an enjoyable tempo throughout the cruise adding to the convivial time.

Our very great thanks must go to those who worked to ensure the success of the day. It's only with their efforts that the cruises can be enjoyed by all.

The next Cruise will be held on Saturday 5 May, 2018.

Note: We were shocked and saddened to learn that the day following the cruise, Capt. Richard Sandeman-Gay who had delivered the Loyal Toast suffered a serious fall at his home and died as a result only days later. A great supporter of the League, it was tragic news indeed, to hear of this sad event.



**Patron of the League of Ancient Mariners, Dr Paul Scully-Power AM, DSM and Guest Speaker,
Eddie Bennet BM, JP**