



Dear Fellows & Members,

Our May quarterly branch meeting is being postponed one week due to the recent covid outbreak in Sydney. New date is **Thursday 20th May @1800, Level 2, Occidental Hotel.**

In what promises to be a fascinating presentation by Captain William Kent RD\* AFNI RNR (Rtd) who was in command of the British flagged cruise ship 'Sun Princess' based in Sydney when the pandemic hit. He also relieved the Captain of the 'Ruby Princess' after she had left Australia. He will describe his experiences during the pandemic and his views on the future of the cruise industry. This is a talk of both interest to all in maritime and also of particular relevance to the industry and governments from the perspective of the master of a cruise ship.



Born, bred and educated in Boston, England. Joined P&O in October 1974, first passenger ship Arcadia 1976. Apart from service in cargos ships, a product tanker and ro-ro ferry, most of his time has been in cruise ships. Gained Master's in April 1986 and command in September 2004 aboard the original Regal Princess , latterly Pacific Dawn, then command of a variety of P&O and Princess cruises vessels before retiring February 2021 upon leaving Ruby Princess.

Parallel career in the Royal Naval Reserve specialising in Above Water Warfare and Amphibious Operations, and latterly anti piracy operations off Somalia and in the Gulf of Aden with the EUNAVFOR. Promoted Commander in September 1999 and retiring in November

2015. Awarded the Reserve Decoration and Bar along with the Volunteer Reserve Services Medal. Saw active service in Northern Ireland and the Persian Gulf.  
Lives on a rural property on the Central Coast with wife Maggie. Member of the RFS and local Rotary Club.

Please RSVP myself by text on 0437681277 / [pawalshe@hotmail.com](mailto:pawalshe@hotmail.com) or Frank Pickering [fpickering6@bigpond.com](mailto:fpickering6@bigpond.com) with any dietary requirements by 1200 Monday 17th May.

Best regards,

Capt. Patrick Walsh AFNI  
Secretary SE Australia NI branch.  
Mob: 0437681277

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