

RSL NATIONAL VETERANS' AFFAIRS ADVISOR



JOHN M HODGES

Biographical Details

John Hodges joined the Royal Australian Naval College at Jervis Bay from Newcastle, NSW in January 1968.

In 1970 he was promoted to Midshipman and during his 12 months at sea served in the troop carrier HMAS SYDNEY, the destroyer HMAS PARRAMATTA and the aircraft carrier HMAS MELBOURNE. During his time in HMAS SYDNEY the ship undertook two 'Vung Tau Ferry' trips to Vietnam where John transported the Australian Army from the ship to the beach at Vung Tau as captain of one of the ship's Landing Craft. He was awarded the Vietnam Logistic Support Medal and Australian Active Service Medal during his service in HMAS SYDNEY.

Promoted to Lieutenant, John joined the RAN Submarine Squadron in October 1973, and after initial submarine training in the United Kingdom was appointed to HMAS ONSLOW. After qualifying as a submariner he joined HMAS OTWAY as the Torpedo Officer in January 1975.

John subsequently served as Navigation Officer of OTWAY, Sonar Officer of OXLEY and ORION, the Staff Officer to the Director of Submarine Policy in Navy Office and as Executive Officer of ORION and OTWAY. He was awarded the Australian Service Medal with Special Operations clasp during his service in HMAS ORION.

On promotion to Lieutenant Commander, John was selected for the Submarine Commanding Officers' Qualifying Course (the Perisher) in the United Kingdom in 1982 and having passed, returned to OTWAY, this time as Commanding Officer, in June 1983.

John left OTWAY in November 1984 and after a short period at the Submarine Warfare Systems Centre at Watsons Bay, was appointed as Commanding Officer of OVENS in March 1985 and in November successfully fired the first Sub-Harpoon anti-ship missile from a non-nuclear powered submarine at the Pacific Missile Range Facility in Hawaii.

After 18 months in command he returned to the Submarine Warfare Systems Centre as the Weapons Training Officer. In this role he was responsible for the training of Submarine Attack Teams in the Submarine Attack Simulator.

Promoted to Commander in January 1988, John was appointed for a short time to the New Submarine Project but returned to the Submarine Warfare Systems Centre as Director of Tactics and Training. In this role John returned to sea in Submarines, albeit briefly, as the Certification Officer during practice torpedo and Sub-Harpoon firings.

After completing twenty-one years service, John left the Navy in January 1989. Prior to joining ANZAC House in Sydney in 2004, John had held operational management positions with Cabletron Systems, Optus Vision and Blake Dawson Waldron.

As the Executive Officer of the Defence Service Assistance Centre at ANZAC House, John is responsible for managing the process for Applications for Review that are forwarded to ANZAC House by either Veterans or Sub-Branch Pension Officers. He also advises RSL Sub-Branch Pension Officers on Veteran and Military Compensation matters; performs the role of Pension Officer for Serving Members of the Australian Defence Force based in the Sydney area and undertakes Rural & Remote visits to country NSW advising Veterans on their entitlements.

John was appointed as the RSL National Veterans' Affairs Advisor in September 2006. In this role he is the chief advisor to the RSL's National Executive on Veterans' matters and is the intermediary between the RSL and the Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs. He represents the RSL at Parliamentary Committee Hearings that deal with Veterans' matters.

He is the Senior Vice-President of the Mosman RSL Sub-Branch, the Honorary Pension Officer & Advocate for the Naval Warfare Officers' Association, a past State and National President of the Submarines Association Australia, a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and an Associate Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management.