

The Military History Society of NSW presents

SINK THE BELGRANO!

AND OTHER NAVAL ASPECTS OF THE FALKLANDS WAR

A public lecture Capt. Warren Bairstow RANR

10:30am Saturday 3 December 2022

ANZAC Memorial Hyde Park, Sydney CBD



On Friday, 2 April 1982, Argentina invaded the Falklands Islands. The then British Prime, Margaret Thatcher, knew exactly what must be done, ‘...we must get them back.’ The Falklands were three weeks sailing time away, the seas were inhospitable and there was no British air base on land. Some advisers were not very optimistic about the chances of success. PM Thatcher asked the First Sea Lord ‘...precisely what can we do?’ The First Sea Lord answered calmly ‘I can put together a Task Force of destroyers, frigates, landing craft, support vessels. It will be led by the aircraft carriers HMS *Hermes* and [sic] *Invincible*. It can be ready to leave in forty-eight hours.’ So it happened and as the then Rear Admiral Sandy Woodward said a decade after the war, ‘...the British victory would have to be judged...as a *fairly* close-run thing...’.

Capt. Warren Bairstow RANR has significant Sea Command experience on the Australian Station and operations in HMA Ships *Gladstone*, *Arunta*, Minor War Vessel Sea Training Group and at Task Group level as Deputy Commodore Flotillas and Commander Australian Surface Task Group. Warren is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course with a Masters in Management (Defence Studies). His shore postings have been at the tactical, operational, and strategic levels in Officer and Sailor training establishments, on operations in Headquarters Joint Task Force 633 in Baghdad, the Naval Adviser London and Commander Mine Warfare, Clearance Diving, Hydrographic, Meteorological and Patrol Force. He has worked in strategic policy areas in leading organisational and cultural change in Navy in the Sea Change and New Generation Navy Programs. He was awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross, is a Member in the Military Division of the Order of Australia and is a member of the MHSNSW Council.

TIME AND VENUE

10:30AM Saturday 3 December 2022 at The Auditorium, Anzac Memorial Hyde Park, Hyde Park South, corner Elizabeth and Liverpool Streets, Sydney CBD. Admission is free of charge, but a donation would be appreciated. For info call 0419 698 783 or email: president@militaryhistorynsw.com.au