



The Old Fliers Group

Royal Aero Club of WA

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<http://oldfliersgroup.org.au>

<https://www.youtube.com/@OldFliersGroup>

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There was a smaller number of Old Fliers than usual today. A pity, as our guest speaker, Garry Coombe delivered a powerful talk.

Garry is a former submariner and a guide at the Fremantle Maritime Museum.

His topic was not our usual aviation related subject, but "AE1 to AUKUS".

The history of the submarines that have served Australia from 1913 onwards.

Our first two submarines were HMAS AE1 and AE2.

HMAS AE1 was lost near Rabaul in WW1 and HMAS AE2 in the Sea of Marmara also during WW1.

Garry then spoke of the J Class, O Class, Oberon, Collins Class and now, the Virginia Class submarines.

The strengths and weaknesses of each type.

Not many know that during WW2, Fremantle was the

second busiest submarine base in the World.

Garry went through the options Australia had in the choice of submarine to replace the successful Collins Class. Would it be diesel powered or nuclear?

Built by France, USA or us? What weapons would it carry. Australia is unique in that our submarines have vast distances to travel to be effective.

The audience gave Garry many questions afterwards.

I think that is a sign of the engagement of an audience.

We look forward to your attendance at next month's Old Fliers Group luncheon on June 26.

Steve Rogers