



NAVAL HISTORY

“The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the nation”

is
the
principal
objective
of
the
Navy League
of Australia

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RANR

Listed in the following are some of the memorable events in naval history that have transpired during the month of August:-

AUGUST 1900

It was in August 1900 that her Majesty's South Australian Cruiser "Protector" sailed for China to engage in the Boxer Rebellion.

AUGUST 1908

The United States Great White Fleet visited Australia during their World cruise, arriving in Melbourne on the 29th of the month.

AUGUST 1914

At the outbreak of World War One the Defence Minister, Senator Millen, announced in Melbourne on Sunday 9th August 1914 that approval had been given for a Military force being formed to be designated as the "Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force". The force was raised in record time and on 19th August 1914, it sailed from Sydney Harbour for active service in German New Guinea.

The Navy League member the late CMDR. Stan Veale, CMG**, RANR was a member of the force in which he served as a midshipman. CMDR Veale claimed to have been one of the first 200 Australians to go into action in World War One.

AUGUST 1941

HMAS CASTLEMAINE, the last of the 60 Australian built Bathurst Class minesweeper – Corvettes still afloat, was launched by Dame Pattie Menzies at Williamstown Victoria on 7th August 1941.

"Castlemaine" has therefore been afloat for 73 years and is moored not far from her original launching place, after having steamed some 117,000 miles during WW2 service.

I have no doubt that the reason Ex HMAS CASTLEMAINE is still afloat today, is due in no small way to the sterling efforts of Peter Williams and his loyal small band of volunteer helpers.

HMAS BATHURST the lead ship of the class and the first of 60 built in Australia was launched on the first of August 1940 at Cockatoo Island Sydney.

AUGUST 1942

HMAS ARUNTA, under the command of CMDR J.C. Morrow RAN, sank the Japanese submarine R033 off Port Moresby.

AUGUST 1942

It was the 9th August 1942 that HMAS CANBERRA was lost during the battle of Savo Island, the result of a surprise Japanese attack.

Eighty three of "Canberra's" complement were lost during the action including her Commanding Officer Captain F.E. Getting.

The United States Navy also suffered heavy losses of men and ships in this action including the cruisers "Quincy" "Astoria" and "Vincennes" with the loss of 939 lives.

AUGUST 1943

On the night of 1st August 1943, a Japanese destroyer group of the "Tokyo Express" successfully ran supplies through to Villa in the Pacific despite attempts by United States PT. Boats to frustrate the effort. As the enemy ships retired on the fulfillment of their mission, the Japanese Destroyer "Amagiri" rammed and sank PT109 commanded by Lieutenant Kennedy, USNR. Kennedy and the surviving 10 members of his crew – two were lost – reached the shore of a small island east of Gizo. From there LEUT Kennedy sent a message, scratched on a coconut shell, by friendly natives to Wana Wana Island, where Coastwatcher LEUT Evans organized the rescue of LEUT Kennedy who eventually arrived hidden under ferns in the bottom of a native canoe. Arrangements were then made for the rescue of the remainder of PT109'S crew from their island hiding place by another P.T. Boat.

And so it was that a future President of the United States of America John F. Kennedy was saved by an Australian Coastwatcher, LEUT Reg Evans RANVR.

AUGUST 1945

The Japanese Government surrendered unconditionally, thus ending World War Two.

Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey of the U.S. Third Fleet, plus units of the British Pacific Fleet formed part of various task forces in Japanese waters at that time including British and American Task Force 37 and Task Force 38 under the commands of Admiral Sir Bernard Rawlings and US Vice Admiral John S. McCain.

United States leaders initially considered that the landing and occupation force planned for Japan was to be essentially American however, the British Pacific Fleet provided a landing force for Yokosuka and the Royal Navy landing battalion was placed under the command of the RAN'S Captain H.J. Buchanan of the Seventh Flotilla in HMAS NAPIER, which was a fine tribute to this distinguished Australian Officer.

The Japanese seaport of Yokosuka remains to this day a strategic naval base with units of the US. Navy forward deployed and home based at Yokosuka. These ships include the aircraft carrier 'USS GEORGE WASHINGTON', cruisers, the command ship "USS BLUE RIDGE" and the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyers of destroyer squadron 15.

Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA DIVISION

Will be held at the Box Hill RSL, Nelson Road Box Hill Victoria

On Thursday 18th September 2014 at 7: 00PM

2014-2015 ANNUAL DUES

VICTORIA DIVISION Including TASMANIA

We extend a very warm welcome to all our Tasmanian based members.

Tasmania Established 26TH November 1900, Victoria 15 October 1915

Please forward your annual payment off **\$35** to Hon Secretary R Gill JP by 30 June and that will assist our honorary officers responsible for the administration. Payment can be made direct by internet banking direct into our account, but make sure your name is included

BSB 033 389 A/C No.: 107631 Westpac Bank

or post to

P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

Hope you are enjoying Frank McCarthy's Monthly Email Newsletter and the Navy League's Quarterly journal "The Navy" We hold occasional "Welcome luncheons" and "special events" depending on ship arrivals so let us know when you send your payment if you are interested in being notified of these events and we will update our records.

Events and news items are listed in the Monthly Newsletter which is distributed by email and for those without a personal email may I suggest that if you have family members or a friend to whom we can send it to you please let us know the email address.

Ring the Secretary 9884 **6237** if you and/or a friend would like to attend events or need advice.

Yours Aye!

CMDR *John M Wilkins* OAM RFD*Past President / Hon Treasurer

03 9842 4256

SHRINE REPORT JULY / AUGUST 2014

- Most areas of the Shrine redevelopment have reached structural completion and have been handed over by the builders.
- The rebuild of the north east public visitors' centre is progressing as planned and will be reopened as a VIP event on Monday 4th August, the Centenary date of the commencement of WW1. Also on this day will be the launch of the travelling exhibition, called "Australia will be there: Victorians in the First World War". The exhibition will be at the Shrine from 5th August to 12th October 2014 and will tour Victoria until August 2019.
- The School entry (**South East Courtyard**) is completed and is used to improve the flow of school children into the Education Centre. A covering camouflage type net is yet to be fitted, together with a large central Flanders poppy motif. These will help protect children from sunlight. Viewed from the balcony above, the courtyard is an impressive sight. The central concrete element is a pictorial reference of World War One Trenches. The pattern on the flooring is a reference to the dazzle camouflage used on many of our ships during war time. Perforations in the wall panels are a Morse code translation of Laurence Binyon's "Ode of Remembrance". Further down there is a map of the world. Red poppies may be inserted into the black perforated panels to give a meaningful effect of contrasting colours. Steps form an amphitheatre and are used to address and welcome the children. There are ramps to allow wheelchair access. A 140 seat auditorium has proved to be an important educational asset and has very comfortable seating as well as excellent viewing.
- The Green (**South West Courtyard**) is almost completed and takes its point of reference as World War Two and post WWII conflicts and peacekeeping. Specifically, it relates to the environments of South East Asia and Pacific. The pattern to the concrete represents the digital camouflage of the Australian Army. The Town Name Wall is taken from a list of Victorian place names for recruits from WWII, Korea and Vietnam. The names are drawn from the place of birth, rather than the place of enrolment. The total number of towns on the Wall is 1,826. The planting has been chosen to reflect Indigenous planting from South East Asian conflict locations eg. Figs from Vietnam and Malaysia. The use of the rails to the edge of the planting is a direct reference to the Burma Railway. Concrete reinforcing bars are visually similar to the braiding on uniforms.
- From early July, permanent and part time staff temporarily housed in Albert Road, have commenced to move to the Southern Extension offices. Transfer of staff will be completed before the end of July.
- The Exhibition Gallery fit-out is now under way, being carried out by Shrine and AWM staff. The Galleries are scheduled to be completed by 15th October, which will be a VIP event.

AS IT WAS

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history at items that involved, or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our "Keep Watch" brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports to August 2004. We note that it was around this time we reported on the following:-

HMAS ADELAIDE TO THE GULF

The guided missile frigate HMAS ADELAIDE Pendant N: 01, sailed for the Arabian Gulf on Friday July 30th 2004 for interdiction duties and to patrol and protect Iraq's offshore oil wells. For the RAN this will be of "Slipper Rotation" 9 with HMAS ADELAIDE under the command of CMDR B.R. Victor, RAN.

HMAS ADELAIDE will replace the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS STUART, Pendant No: 153, which has been patrolling the Northern Gulf since April of this year.

HMAS ADELAIDE is the first of the RAN'S FFG Frigates built in the USA at the Todd Pacific Shipyards in Seattle. Adelaide was commissioned into the RAN in 1980 and is expected to be paid off in 2006 as the last of the Anzac Class Frigates enter service.

HMAS ADELAIDE is the lead ship of her class of 6 ships, which are based on the US Oliver Hazard Perry Class Frigates.

The scheduled departure from the fleet of HMAS ADELAIDE, together with her sister ship HMAS CANBERRA, Pendant No: 02, commencing in 2006 is in line with the Australian Government's 2003 defence capability review.

Part of our "AS-IT WAS" segment for this month takes us back beyond the 10 years period as we recall the July-August 1925 visit to Melbourne by 44 ships of the United States Navy on their "Goodwill Tour" of Australia.

We take a quick look also at Melbourne's crowded Victoria Dock accommodating some of the visitors

US NAVY VISITORS TO MELBOURNE

Seventeen years after the visit to Melbourne by Teddy Roosevelt's Great White Fleet, Melbourne again played host to a fleet of USN ships with 12 calling at Sydney and 44 visiting Melbourne.

The ships visiting Melbourne were comprised of 3 battle ships 6 cruisers 28 destroyers and 7 support ships including a repair ship, stores ship and oil tankers.

Sydney's visitors were 8 Battleships and 4 Support ships.

The US Fleet was under the command of Admiral Coontz USN., who led the fleet into Port Phillip Bay onboard his flagship USS SEATTLE.

Admiral Coontz was accompanied by no less than 6 other Admirals on this cruise, together with the US Secretary for the Navy Mr. Curtis D. Williams, who represented the President of the United States of America Mr. Calvin Coolidge.

As was the case with the 1908 Great White Fleet visit to Melbourne the "Naval & Military Club" again played host to the visitors by extending the hospitality of the club to the 770 USN Officers and by assisting with their entertainment.

The residents of Melbourne were advised, via the press, that should the 11,470 visiting US sailors present gold coins as payment for goods or services the exchange rate was as follows:-

Double Eagle	4 Pounds 2 Shillings & Sixpence
Eagle	2 Pounds 1 Shilling & Threepence
Half Eagle	1 Pound & Seven Pence Halfpenny
Quarter Eagle	10 Shillings & 3 pence 3 Farthings
One Dollar Note	4 Shillings & a Penny Halfpenny

The Fleet sailed from Melbourne 7th August 1925.



US NAVY VISITORS TO MELBOURNE VICTORIA DOCK 1925

WATTLE AND ENA

Leagues Executive Committee member, Clive Woods, has kindly provided details of the Harbour tug "Wattle", which is currently undergoing restoration work at Waterside Engineering. Wattle served as a Naval Dockyard tug in Sydney Harbour from 15th February 1934, until placed in reserve in 1969.

On 4th August, 1971, she was sold to the Lady Hopetoun & Port Jackson Marine Steam Museum Limited and was removed from naval moorings on 14th August.

Wattle was subsequently purchased by Victorian interests and brought to Melbourne in 1978.

Clive has also provided more information on the Steam Yacht ENA ex HMAS SLEUTH now berthed in Melbourne Docklands. Those details are as follows:-



HMAS SLEUTH, NOW NAMED ENA, ON HER ENTRY VOYAGE TO MELBOURNE

The ENA was built by Watty Ford to the design of Walter Reeks in Sydney in 1900 for Thomas Dibbs, as the ultimate wood 100 ft steam yacht in Sydney. During WWI ENA was acquired by the RAN and acquired as an armed patrol vessel (HMAS SLEUTH) in Torres Strait and later as a tender to the training ship HMAS TINGARA. In 1933 the navy sold the SLEUTH to interests wanting to establish an apple transport from Hobart (unsuccessful). In about 1940 she was converted to a scallop boat named AURORE, then to diesel in 1945. After working around the East Coast of Australia under several owners as a shark and cray boat she returned to Tasmania and sank after hitting an object at night in 100ft south of Hobart in 1981. Raised four months later she was towed to Sydney. In 1984 after two more sinking's in Sydney was sold for restoration back to her original configuration for initial use at the 1987 Americas Cup in Fremantle. Thus began the most magnificent and immaculate restoration, managed by Nick Masterman for Pat Burke, Rene Rivkin and David Baffsky, including essentially a replica of the original coal fired compound steam engine, but diesel fired.

Subsequently ENA (renamed again) was steamed to Fremantle for the cup, returning north about, thus circumnavigating Australia. In 1991 she was sold to a Swiss Banker who maintained ENA in as new condition, under wraps at moorings in Berry's Bay, Sydney with some charters etc., until sold to the Turners in January 2014. Her condition has been described as immaculate and without flaw. ENA has now been re-registered on the Australian register as ENA 111, with Jonathan Turner as owner.



SY ENA GLIDING INTO DOCKLANDS, MELBOURNE

Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is "The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation" by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government Maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and off shore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly-based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present, and projected.
- By organizing symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interests throughout the years.
- By supporting Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.

Correspondence:- All articles for publication in the Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) Newsletter, should be addressed to the Editor, Frank McCarthy, email:- alistle@bigpond.com. All other correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) P.O.Box 2340, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149: raydotgill@optusnet.com.au.

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Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victorian Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: GPO Box 1481, Brisbane, QLD 4001.
South Australian Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
West Australian Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victorian Division. If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australian Division respectively.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA			
APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP			
To: The Hon. Secretary The Navy League of Australia			
Division _____			
I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next.			
Name: [Mr] [Mrs] [Ms] [Rank] _____			
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY			
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Suburb _____		State _____	P/code _____
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Signature _____		Date _____	
<i>Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.</i>			

