



"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

NAVAL HISTORY

The month of December is indeed a memorable period in terms of Naval History, as we cast our thoughts back in time or browse through the history books.

DECEMBER 1910

For example, and just to mention a few occasions it was on 10th December 1910 that the torpedo boat destroyers, ACNS YARRA and ACNS PARRAMATTA arrived in Port Phillip Bay on their delivery voyages from the UK. In this current period the RAN has the fourth generation PARRAMATTA and YARRA in service. HMAS PARRAMATTA No.4 is an Anzac Class Frigate and HMAS YARRA No.4 is a Huon Class Minesweeper.

DECEMBER 1941

Thirty one years later, it was the 7th December 1941 that the Japanese Navy attacked the American Base of Pearl Harbour.

Nineteen US ships were either sunk or damaged in the attack, and US casualties totaled 2403 dead and 1178 wounded. The Japanese Vice Admiral Nagumo's attack upset the naval balance in the Pacific and exposed Australia and the Islands to the North to enemy advances.

DECEMBER 1942

It was on 1st December 1942, that the BTHURST Class Minesweeper, HMAS ARMIDALE under the command of LCDR D. H. Richards RAN was sunk by 12 Japanese aircraft 70 miles South of Betano Bay Timor.

The sinking of HMAS ARMIDALE resulted in the loss of 100 lives, including ordinary seaman Teddy Sheean, a loader on ARMIDALE'S after Oerlikon Anti-Aircraft Gun. When the order to abandon ship had been given, Sheean went to the side, but was hit twice by an attacking Zero's bullets. Undaunted, he went back to his gun, strapped himself in and brought down a Japanese plane, still firing as the ship sank, still firing as he disappeared beneath the waves.

As he disappeared beneath the waves, Teddy Sheean was protecting his mates already in the water and under attack from the Japanese planes. This act of extraordinary bravery earned Teddy Sheean a "mention-in-dispatches".

The current RAN Collins Class Submarine HMAS SHEEAN is named in his honour.

DECEMBER 1950

Sixty three years ago in December 1950, the RAN became involved in one of the most dangerous naval operations of the Korean War.

Two Australian destroyers the WARRAMUNGA and the BATAAN joined three Canadian destroyers and one American destroyer in a mercy mission to the Korean Port of Chinnampo, where wounded UN soldiers and Korean refugees were waiting to be evacuated. The Chinese were advancing rapidly on the Port.

The mixed Australian, Canadian and American flotilla had to sail at night through a blinding snow storm into the mouth of the Taedong River and make their way thirty miles up the treacherous estuary through shoals and minefields to Chinnampo.

Chinnampo, was sighted at 3:00am and the UN flotilla made into Port at battle stations, anticipating an enemy attack at dawn. None came and throughout the day, the allied sailors operated a ferry service in LST'S, transports and junks between their ships and the Port evacuating approximately 8000 wounded troops and Korean refugees. Before the destroyers left Chinnampo, they fired 800 shells into military targets.

The Executive Officer of HMAS BATAAN described the scene as follows:-

"As broadside after broadside from the destroyers pours into the burning frenzy of the waterfront and bofors and pom-poms chatter their red-streaking fire into every corner and cranny where anything useful may still remain, the darkness of another winter night settles upon us. Chimneys shudder and crumble slowly into the ruins below them. Warehouses flare furiously and fade only when nothing is left to burn. Over the hills the glare from the fires started by the on-rushing Chinese forces brightens the sky and almost reluctantly, we at last cease fire and slip silently downstream to a safer anchorage. As another dawn breaks, we move again to make for the open sea and for the next Port to the South that may require our presence at its fearful death".

That was the description provided at that time by Lieutenant D Smyth RAN.

*Editors Note: The late CDRE Dacre Smyth AO Legion of Honour (France) RAN, was a staunch and loyal supporter of the Navy League and indeed Victoria's naval family.

“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 December 2003. We note that it was around this time we reported:-

1. HMAS NEWCASTLE back from the Gulf
2. A New Zealand visitor to Melbourne
3. NLA Award to TS BENDIGO

HMAS NEWCASTLE RETURNS FROM THE GULF

HMAS NEWCASTLE the Adelaide Class Frigate FFG06, under the command of Captain Gerry Christian, returned home from the Arabian Gulf of 2nd December 2003, having been away for 5 months.

HMAS Newcastle sailed into Fremantle Harbour and spent 3 days at Victoria Quay before sailing for Fleet Base East, Sydney.

HMAS NEWCASTLE has been replaced in the Gulf by her sister ship HMAS MELBOURNE FFG05.

HMNZS TE KAHA VISITS MELBOURNE

The New Zealand Anzac Class Melbourne built frigate HMNZS TE KAHA F77, visited Melbourne recently arriving at 10:00AM on Saturday 29th November 2003 and departing the same day at 4:00pm.

One of the objectives of the visit was to collect a main rotor blade for TE KAHA'S seasprite helicopter, in order to replace a damaged blade.

HMNZS TE KAHA last visited Melbourne in December of 2001. The ship is currently under the command of Commander Keith Robb RNZN with LCDR Matt Williams as Executive Officer.

Commander Robb is no stranger to the League, as we had the pleasure of his company at a luncheon hosted by the League at the Naval and Military Club during November 1998. During that timer CMDR. Robb was the Executive Officer of TE KAHA'S sister ship the Anzac Class TE MANA F111.

During my discussions with CMDR Robb, he was kind enough to put together a letter of congratulations to the winner of the NLA Efficiency award for best Australian Navy Cadet Unit.

The award this year was won by TS BENDIGO, and as I was visiting TS BENDIGO later that same day for the award presentation by Chief of Navy, I passed on the letter of congratulations to TS BENDIGO'S Commanding Officer.

HMNZS TE KAHA has just completed a series of exercises with the RAN off the West Australian Coast.

Following her departure from Melbourne; HMNZS TE KAHA was expected to arrive back to her home base Wellington New Zealand on Thursday morning 4th December 2003.

NAVY LEAGUE AWARD TO TRAINING SHIP BENDIGO

On Saturday 29th November 2003, the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie A0 RAN, Presented the Navy League of Australia National Efficiency Award to TS BENDIGO at Lake Weerona Bendigo Victoria.

Amongst the many dignitaries present, were senior members of the Australian Navy Cadet Movement and the Lord Mayor of Bendigo.

The RAN was also represented by Captain Robert Richards, the Commanding Officer of HMAS CERBERUS and currently also Senior Naval Officer-Victoria.

Federal President of the Navy League of Australia Graham Harris was in attendance, also from the League and representing Victoria were Executive Committee Members Allan Paull and Vice President Frank McCarthy.

Celebrations continued into the evening at TS BENDIGO headquarters, during which time Awards were made to individual cadets for their fine efforts over the period.

The Leagues Vice President accepted an invitation to participate in the awards presentation.

Also during the awards presentation a letter of best wishes from the CO and ships Company of the visiting New Zealand frigate HMNZS TE KAHA was acknowledged by TS BENDIGO'S LEUT Mark Pritchard.

CRESWELL ORATION 2014

This edition of the Leagues newsletter contains details of the forthcoming "Australian Navy Foundation Day" commemoration, a key feature of which will be the "Creswell Oration" to be presented by Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC, RAN.

The Venue for the "Creswell Oration" is the William Angliss Restaurant". The event is to be held on Friday 28th February 2014.

As RSVP'S are required by no later than 14th February 2014, you are encouraged to book now for the luncheon-presentation in line with the contact details listed below.

Bookings now open.

All enquires to CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD*RANR Ret'd

jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au telephone: 98424256



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As the Navy League newsletter now goes into recess for the holiday period, the Leagues President Roger Blythman, together with the Executive Committee members of the Victoria Division, take this opportunity to wish all members a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



1st March 1901 - Foundation of Australia's Navy's Commonwealth Naval Force (CNF).
 "Creswell Oration" established 2001 by Victoria Division Navy League of Australia, and then supported by Naval Association of Australia Victoria Section, Naval Officers' Club in Victoria and Naval Historical Society Victoria Chapter - who jointly form the "Australian Navy Foundation Day Organising Committee" (ANFDOC), which is administered by the Navy League.

**In the 113th Anniversary year of AUSTRALIAN NAVY's FOUNDATION
 the Annual "CRESWELL ORATION 2014" will be**

presented by RAN's Fleet Commander

REAR ADMIRAL Tim Barrett AM CSC RAN

Admiral's title for his Creswell Oration 2014 will be announced January 2014

**William Angliss Institute
 Restaurant
 550 Little Lonsdale Street
 between King & Spencer Streets.**



DATE: Friday 28th. February 2014. **TIME:** 1200 for 1230
LOCATION: William Angliss Institute Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne.
PAYMENT: \$40 per head by Direct Debit to Navy League, or by Cheque or Money Order.
 Direct debit: Westpac Bank Navy League - **BSB: 033 389 - Account No: 107631**
DRESS: Uniform, Lounge suit / Day dress - Decorations & Medals optional.
INQUIRIES: **Trams** - Latrobe and Spencer streets, **Buses** - via Lonsdale street to Spencer St.,
Rail - Southern Cross Railway Station is two blocks away. from venue
 Navy League of Australia Victoria Division: Tel: 9844 6237; Email: raydotgill@optusnet.com.au
 Tel: 9842 4256; Email: jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au
 Naval Association of Australia Victoria: Tel: 5977 5967; Email: rkime@bigpond.com
 Naval Officers Club in Victoria: Tel: 5983 2416; Email: john@brianjohnbird.com
 Naval Historical Society, Victoria Chapter: Tel: 9850 8497; Email: rex.f.williams@gmail.com
 William Angliss Institute Restaurant 9606 2108

BOOK EARLY

RSVP - Friday 14 February 2014

BOOK EARLY



NOLA



**Australian Navy Foundation Day
 Creswell Oration 2014
 P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149**



"CRESWELL ORATION 2014" Luncheon FRIDAY 28th. February 2014 @ 1200 f or 1230 start.

My Cheque/Money Order attached or payment has been by direct Debit to

"Navy League" \$ for persons

for Australian Navy Foundation Day "Creswell Oration - 2014" Luncheon at William Angliss Institute Restaurant,
 accessed from 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne - between Spencer and King Streets.

PLEASE PRINT NAME(S) -

Tel:

Email:

Address

25 Nov 2

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*.

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.
Tasmanian Division: 40 Fleetwood Drive, Speyton, TAS 7310.
West Australian Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

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	
Street _____	
Suburb _____	State _____ P/code _____
Phone _____	Mobile _____
Email _____	
Signature _____	Date _____
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.	

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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