



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

is  
the  
principal  
objective  
of  
the  
Navy League  
of Australia

**Patron:**

Governor of Victoria

**President:**

LCDR Roger Blythman  
RANR RFD RET'D

**Snr Vice President:** Frank

McCarthy

**Vice President Secretary:** Ray

Gill

**PP: Treasurer: Special Events:**

CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD  
RANR

## **NAVY LEAGUE VICTORIA CENTENARY**

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2015 the Navy League of Australia's Victoria-Tasmania Division celebrated the Centenary of the Navy League in Victoria, 1915-2015.

The occasion was marked by a splendid Dinner-Presentation held in the Upton Room of the RSL at Box Hill. Toasts were proposed by Victoria Division Past President LCDR John Bird RNVR Ret'd and short addresses were presented by the League's Victoria-Tasmania Division President Roger Blythman and Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer of H.M.A.S. Cerberus and Senior Naval Officer Victoria. These addresses were followed by speeches from the League's Victoria-Tasmania Vice-President Frank McCarthy and Federal President Graham Harris.

Their presentations covered many aspects of the League's history in Victoria. From 1915 to the present period, plus many League activities from a Federal perspective spanning the period.

An on-loan gilt bust of VADM Sir William Creswell was on display, courtesy of H.M.A.S. Cerberus Museum, as too were other items of the Admiral including his sword, medals and cocked hat, courtesy of the Creswell family. Needless to say that arrangements for the evening's celebration were all handled in an extremely fine and professional manner by the Victoria-Tasmania Division's Special Events Co-ordinator, Cmdr John Wilkins and his loyal band of energetic helpers.

The 74 who attended included the President of the Legislative Council The Hon Bruce Atkinson MLC, Local MP The Hon Robert Clarke Member for Box Hill and Federal Members Anna Burke MHR, Captain Steven Bowater Senior Naval Officer Victoria Represented CN & Fleet Commander, Rosemary Creswell, Past Victorian Presidents, and other special guests including Cdre Jim Dickson, Captain David Garnock, Cmdr Terry Makings, Cmdr Warren Kemp, Lieut. Russell Pettis, LCdr Jeff Paul A.N.C., Cmdr Jim Speed, Cmdr Frits van de Poll RNN and Mr. Rex Williams, all supported by the friends of the League who came along to support the celebration.

All those who attended received a copy of the special limited edition (100) booklet on the Navy League in Victoria 1915-2015 and a first day cover cancelled 9 October 2015 (the actual Centenary date) with its Navy League designed label stamp and cancelled on the day with Australia Post's special cancellation for the event. The evening started with champagne for all as they arrived and was considered a great success in celebrating the centenary of 100 years of Volunteers supporting our Navy through the Navy League in Australia, with Victoria initially as a Branch of the Navy League leading in 1950 to a Division of the Navy League and to now also incorporating Tasmania as the Navy League of Australia, Victoria-Tasmania Division.

Also attached is a small selection of photos from the event from the efforts of Jane Teasdale, our valued Executive Committee member.



**PRESIDENT BLYTHMAN WITH LYNDA GILBERT CUTTING THE CENTENARY CAKE**



VP FRANK MCCARTHY WITH CMDR TERRY MAKINS & CAPT DAVID GARNOCK



## 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**

It was on 10<sup>th</sup> December 1910 that the torpedo boat destroyers, YARRA and PARRAMATTA arrived in Port Phillip Bay on their delivery voyages from the U.K. 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 Mine hunter.

### **DECEMBER 1941**

Thirty one years later, it was the 7<sup>th</sup> 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 totalled 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 1<sup>st</sup> December 1942, that the Bathurst 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. 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.

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## **CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO H.M.A.S. MELBOURNE**

Well done to the Navy League's Victoria-Tasmania Division Executive Committee member, Ms Lynda Gilbert.

Lynda has been instrumental in making all of the necessary arrangements for Christmas gift packs to be sent to H.M.A.S. Melbourne.

As League members are aware, the C.O. of H.M.A.S. Melbourne, Cmdr Bill Waters, and the Wardroom Mess Committee are Honorary Members of the Navy League's Victoria-Tasmania Division.

To bring a little more Christmas cheer to H.M.A.S. Melbourne's ship's company, the League's President and Executive Committee members agreed to the gift packs being sent to the ship, which is currently deployed to the Northern Indian Ocean area of the Middle East on Operation Manitou.

H.M.A.S. Melbourne is expected to return from this current deployment during February 2016 to be replaced in the area by H.M.A.S. Darwin.



# CRESWELL ORATION 2016



1901



2016

2001-Navy League of Australia in Victoria formed & administers Australian Navy Foundation Day Organising Committee (ANFDOC) Creswell Oration with Naval Assoc. of Aust. Naval Officers' Club, Naval Historical Society in Victoria

## AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOUNDATION DAY 16<sup>th</sup> Annual "CRESWELL ORATION"



VICE ADMIRAL *David Johnston* AM RAN

Chief Joint Operations  
to present the "Creswell Oration" 2016

*"The conduct of Current and Future Joint Operations"*



**VENUE:** William Angliss TAFE Institute Restaurant  
550 Little Lonsdale Street, between King & Spencer Sts.

**DATE:** TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> Mar 2016.

**TIME:** 1200 for 1230

**LOCATION:** William Angliss Institute Restaurant,  
550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne.

**COST & PAYMENT:** \$45 per head - Cheque or :  
Westpac Bank BSB:033 389 A/C No: 107631 - Direct Debit  
Please include NAME & send email to confirm payment.

**DRESS:** Uniform S7, Lounge suit / Day dress - Decorations & Medals optional.

**TRANSPORT:** Trams - Latrobe & Spencer streets. Buses - via Lonsdale St., to King St.  
Rail - Southern Cross Railway Station is two city blocks from venue.

**INQUIRIES:** Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Div. Tel: 9844 6237; Email: [raydottail@optusnet.com.au](mailto:raydottail@optusnet.com.au)  
Tel: 9842 4256; Email: [jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au](mailto:jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au)  
Naval Association of Australia Victoria: Tel: 5977 5987; Email: [kime@bigpond.com](mailto:kime@bigpond.com)  
Naval Officers Club in Victoria: Tel: 5983 2418; Email: [john@vianichinbird.com](mailto:john@vianichinbird.com)  
Naval Historical Society, Vict. Chapter: Tel: 9850 8497; Email: [rex.f.williams@gmail.com](mailto:rex.f.williams@gmail.com)

William Angliss Institute Restaurant: Tel: 9606 2108

1<sup>st</sup> Mar. 1901 - Foundation of Australia's Navy's Commonwealth Naval Force (CNF).



**RSVP - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

**Australian Navy Foundation Day - CRESWELL ORATION 2016**  
P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

**"CRESWELL ORATION 2016"** Luncheon **TUESDAY 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 @ 1200 for 1230 start.**

**PAYMENT:** Cheque/Money Order / payment by direct Debit

"Navy League" \$ ..... for..... persons

**PLEASE PRINT or email NAMES -**

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

## **“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 and as we browse through our records and reports to December 2005, we note that it was around this time we reported on the following:-

### **T.S. ANZAC WINS THE NAVY LEAGUE SHIELD.**

The Navy League of Australia’s annual efficiency trophy for 2005 has this year been awarded to the Australian Navy Cadets at T.S. Anzac, Rockingham W.A., with T.S. Bundaberg being runners up.

The 2005 trophy award presented to T.S. Anzac was passed on from the 2004 award winners; another Western Australian unit T.S. Canning located on the Canning River in Perth W.A.

There are now 82 units of the A.N.C., including those formed under the cadets in High Schools schemes, 460 staff and 2700 cadets in the A.N.C. undertaking training at locations throughout Australia.

The words of the previous Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie R.A.N., still ring clear as I recall in Bendigo Victoria at the 2003 T.S. Bendigo award presentation when he said “That to be 100 miles from the sea, with Canberra as an exception, and to view the uniform of the R.A.N. worn with pride was indeed heartening and in fact resulted in these young people being representatives and ambassadors of the R.A.N. which applies to A.N. Cadets in many corners of this continent far from the sea.”

Many units are located in isolated areas of Australia with a limited amount of youth facilities and others help in working with disadvantaged young people.

As a result of this activity the A.N.C. plays an important and significant support role and is held in high regard by most Australians.

### **JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE M24.**

The makers of a T.V. documentary say that new evidence has almost certainly revealed the resting place of the third Japanese Midget Submarine that attacked Sydney during World War Two.

The submarine known as M24, was one of three Japanese Midget Submarines, each carrying two crew, that left their Mother submarines to reach Sydney Harbour on May 31<sup>st</sup> 1942.

The other two Midget Submarines were recovered from the bottom of Sydney Harbour, along with their dead crew members.

These two badly depth-charge damaged Midget Submarines were rebuilt to form one Midget Submarine for display purposes at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.



It was the M24 that torpedoed the converted Manly Ferry H.M.A.S. Kuttabul, serving as a sailors' sleeping quarters, killing 21 aboard.

The makers of the documentary claim that the M24 lies in 20 metres of water east of Lion Island in Broken Bay, near Pittwater, about 20 km north of Sydney Harbour.

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### **“AS IT WAS”**

H.M.A.S. Darwin FFG04 departs Australia end December 2015 for deployment on Operation Manitou to relieve currently deployed H.M.A.S. Melbourne.



HMAS DARWIN DEPARTING MELBOURNE 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER 2015

### **“ANSWERING THE CALL”**

A large gathering of Victoria's Navy family, including the Commanding Officer of H.M.A.S. Cerberus, Senior Naval Officer Victoria Captain Steve Bowater OAM, Executive Officer Cmdr Melanie Verho, Band Members and Recruits, together with ex Navy personnel and Organisation members of the Navy family in general, assembled at the Port Melbourne foreshore on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 for the unveiling ceremony of “Answering the Call”, a life-size two metre tall bronze statue of a lone sailor preparing to ship out from the Port Melbourne base of H.M.A.S. Lonsdale which, when in operation, was located near Dow Street opposite to where the statue is situated.

The statue was a project first conceived some years ago by the Naval Historical Society of Victoria's Past President, the late LCDR MacKenzie Gregory, supported also by the N.H.S. President, the late Don Boyle.

With the passing of Mack Gregory, his daughter Jayne took the project to fruition as the Committee Chairperson of “The Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia Inc.”.

With Cmdr Melanie Verho as Master of Ceremonies, the unveiling of the statue and main address of the ceremony was performed by Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN Chief of Navy and Patron of “The Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia Inc.”.

Other speakers included Graeme Uren QC, Vice President of the Foundation.

Cr Bernadene Voss, Mayor of Port Phillip.

Hon. Martin Foley MP

and

Ms Andrea Coote, Chair of Aged Care.

Music for the ceremony was provided by the band from H.M.A.S. Cerberus, with vocals for the “Naval Hymn” and the “National Anthem” being led by Able Seaman Kirsten Hobbs.

The inscription on the plinth supporting the bronze statue reads as follows:

ANSWERING THE CALL

THIS STATUE WAS ERECTED BY  
THE NAVAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION  
OF AUSTRALIA INC

IN HONOUR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
ALL NAVAL MEN AND WOMEN  
WHO ANSWERED THE CALL OF THEIR COUNTRY  
IN WAR AND PEACE

CREATED FROM THE VISION OF  
LIEUTENANT COMMANDER MACKENZIE GREGORY RAN (RET'D).

The stern of the plinth is inscribed as follows:

ON 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015  
VICE ADMIRAL TIM BARRETT AO CSC RAN  
CHIEF OF NAVY  
PATRON OF THE NAVAL HERITAGE FOUNDATION OF AUSTRALIA  
UNVEILED THIS STATUE  
ANSWERING THE CALL  
TO COMMEMORATE THE SERVICE OF ALL NAVAL MEN AND WOMEN.

The statue will hopefully serve as a permanent reminder of the Navy’s presence in Port Melbourne, and in fact in Victoria, from the mid-1850 to the present point in time.



VICE ADMIRAL TIM BARRET UNVEILING CEREMONY



ANSWERING THE CALL

## **TS VOYAGER 2015 YEAR END PARADE**

The Royal Australian Navy Cadet Unit "Training Ship Voyager" based at Williamstown Victoria, conducted their final parade for the year on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2015. The event also included an awards presentation parade.

The Commanding Officer of TS VOYAGER, SBLT Adam Hearsum, said that the unit is fortunate and grateful for the support that they receive from many organisations within the community in making the award trophies available.

The unit now has record cadet numbers on board, with 25 new recruits signed on this year.

CPO Loretta Coste further added that TS VOYAGER has now concluded another terrific year, one which again has been full of achievements and memories.

She said all staff and cadets are very proud and appreciative of what they are capable of achieving together. A listing of the relevant award recipients is as follows:-

### **TS Voyager Awards 2015**

	<b>AWARD</b>	<b>SPONSOR</b>	<b>RECIPIENT</b>
1	Best 1 <sup>st</sup> Year Cadet	Williamstown Lions Club	SMN Amber Ballard and SMN James Smith
2	Encouragement Award	Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club	SMN Cain Vesel
3	Citizenship & Community Spirit Award	Williamstown R.S.L.	A.B. Eve Alexiadis
4	Coxswain of the Year	H.M.A.S. Sydney Association	SMN Imogen Braun
5	Most Improved Cadet of the Year	Rotary Club of Williamstown	L.S. Sam Welham
6	Most Valuable Cadet	Comrades Australia	SMN Dean Gould
7	Leadership Award	Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand	P.O. Taylor Armstrong
8	Executive Officers Award	C.P.O. Loretta Coste	P.O. Lenae MacKintosh
9	Most Outstanding Cadet of the Year	Corps of Commissionaires	L.S. Winona Rivera





TS VOYAGER AWARDS PRESENTATION



TS VOYAGER CADETS ON PARADE

With the advent of the League's Lonsdale Cup set for March 6<sup>th</sup> 2016 fast approaching, we thought it might be interesting to revisit the history of the first Lonsdale, a Second-Class Torpedo Boat and The second HMAS Lonsdale, the stone frigate base at Port Melbourne.



***HMVS Lonsdale*** was a second-class torpedo boat constructed for the Victorian Naval Forces and later operated by the Commonwealth Naval Forces and the Royal Australian Navy. She was sunk on mud flats on Swan Island in Port Phillip Bay in 1912 after being stripped of equipment and machinery.

*Lonsdale* was one of several torpedo boats ordered by the government of Victoria in 1882 to protect the colony from a possible Russian or French attack, and was built by John I. Thornycroft & Company.

The torpedo boat was 67 feet (20 m) long, with a draught of 3.25 feet (0.99 m), and a displacement of 12.5 tons. She was designed with a low freeboard, to minimise her profile. The boat had a maximum speed of 17 knots (31 km/h; 20 mph), which she would use to close rapidly with enemy vessels before attacking. *Lonsdale* was initially armed with two 14-inch torpedoes carried in bow recesses, and a spar torpedo, but in 1888, she was modified to carry the two 14-inch torpedoes in locally-developed 'dropping gear'; a davit-like device for lowering the torpedoes into the water for launching. She was also armed with 2 Hotchkiss machine guns.

She was sunk on mud flats on Swan Island in Port Phillip in 1912 after being stripped of equipment and machinery.

In 1983, the remains of a torpedo boat likely to be *Lonsdale* were uncovered in reclaimed land in Queenscliff, Victoria, on the grounds of the Queenscliff Maritime Museum. As of 2016, only the boat's conning tower is exposed.



1942

1993



**HMAS LONSDALE NO.2. STONE FRIGATE PORT MELBOURNE**

**The following NLA Victoria-Tasmania Division Calendar of events spanning the period to April 2016 has now been confirmed:**

1. Executive Committee meeting days, from October, will normally be 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month at 10:00 at Box Hill RSL, except for January as shown in 2.
2. Executive Committee meeting day, January 2016, will be on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 10:00 .
3. NLA Vic Centenary First Day Covers \$10 each (limited numbered and signed edition of 150) – 6 different Post Cards \$15 each (or 6 for \$50 – very limited numbered and signed edition of 25 sets of 6). These will have a special limited edition NLA VIC Centenary Label Stamp (Australia Post to print the 320 Navy League designed Label Stamps). At NLA Vic's request Australia Post supplied a specially designed postal Navy League Centenary postal Cancel for Friday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2015, the centenary date.
4. Creswell Oration 2016 – Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016 at William Angliss \$45 per head. VADM David Johnston AM RAN Chief of Joint Operations to present the 2016 Creswell Oration entitled "The conduct of current and future joint operations."
5. *Lonsdale Cup Event* – Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2016– The inaugural annual event for a perpetual *Lonsdale Cup* to celebrate the Australian Navy's Foundation Day 1<sup>st</sup> March 1901. Details to be supplied in newsletters. It is proposed that RAN Senior Officer present the *Lonsdale Cup* and the GGGr Dau of CAPT Wm Lonsdale will present a "Wm Lonsdale" book to the winner. The *Lonsdale Cup* will be supplied by the Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division, who will retain ownership, but it will be held in the custody of the RVMYC between events.

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



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## 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.  
**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.

<b>THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA</b>		
<b>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</b>		
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 _____
<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>		