The Navy League of Australia - Victoria Division
NEWSLETTER

January 2014   Volume1 No:1

THE 2014 CRESWELL ORATION & HMAS YARRA VISIT

The coastal Minehunter, HMAS YARRA MHC87, is expected to visit Melbourne during late February of this year, in line with a "Unit Citation" presentation commemorating the loss of the sloop HMAS YARRA 2 during WW2 action against the Japanese in waters North of Australia.   HMAS YARRA 2 was lost on March 4th 1942.

The visit to Melbourne by HMAS YARRA the fourth ship so named for the RAN, also coincides with the annual "Creswell Oration" timing.

The 2014 Creswell oration will be presented by the RAN'S Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Tim Barrett, AM, CSC, RAN.   We are therefore pleased to advise that both the Commanding Officers and Executive Officer of HMAS YARRA IV, together with other crew members of the ship, will also join with us on Friday 28th February 2014 to celebrate the 113th anniversary of the foundation of Australia's navy at RADM Barrett's presentation of the "Creswell Oration".

With an RSVP date of Friday 14th February 2014 you are encouraged to book now for what promises to be another most interesting event.   Full booking details of RADM Barrett's Creswell Oration entitled "The significance of the arrival of the RAN'S First Fleet" are included in this edition of the Navy League's newsletter.

YOUNG ENDEAVOUR'S DECEMBER VISIT

A late RAN visitor to Melbourne for the year 2013, was the sail training Brigantine "Young Endeavour".

On a routine port visit YOUNG ENDEAVOUR arrived at Williamstown on 10th December. This was YOUNG ENDEAVOUR'S second Melbourne visit for 2013 having been here also with the "Tall Ships" in September.   During the September visit the League took the opportunity of hosting YOUNG ENDEAVOUR'S Officer-in Command" LCDR Mike Gough, second in command LEUT Adam Farly, together with SNOVIC'S representative CMDR Cam Eastman, to a luncheon presentation at Williamston's Royal Yacht Club.

With the two visits to Melbourne by YOUNG ENDEVOR this year, plus a visit by HMAS ships DIAMANTINA, SIRIUS and PERTH, Melbourne played host during a total of 5 port visits by ships of the RAN a far cry from 15 port visits in 2003, 16 in 2004, 19 in 2005 and 14 in 2008.   It seems that we are destined to seldom see the White Ensign in ships of the RAN visiting Melbourne, as it is seldom that the ships visit.

During YOUNG ENDEAVOUR'S December 2013 visit, command of the Brig changed from LCDR Mike Gough RAN to LCDR Gavin Dawe RAN.

TS VOYAGER 2013 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 14th December 2013.   The event also included a division's renaming ceremony and an awards presentation parade.

The Commanding Officer of TS VOYAGER, LEUT Jeff Paull, 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.

LEUT Paull further added that TS VOYAGER has now concluded another terrific year, one which again has been full of achievements and memories.   LEUT Paull 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 2013

AWARD	SPONSOR	Nomination
Best 1st year Cadet	Williamstown Lions Club	Smn Winona Rivera
Encouragement Award	Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club	AB June Vanderplas
Most Improved Cadet of the Year	Rotary Club of Williamstown	Smn Aiden McDonald
LCDR Noel Baker Memorial Award for Citizenship	Williamstown RSL	AB William Malcom
Coxswain of Year	HMAS Sydney Association	AB Hayden Richards
Executive Officers Award	SBLT Adam Hearsum	PO Luke Bennett
Leadership Award	Rotary Club of Point Gellibrand	AB Lachlan Derby
Most Outstanding Cadet of the Year	Corps of Commissionaires	LS Brittany Larkin

RAN SUBMARINES 1914-2014

At the time of Federation in1901, the value of submarines as naval warfare vessels was still a hotly debated subject in Australia, as it had been for almost 100 years within British naval circles.

Reluctance to this form of warfare continued, also in Australia until late 1909. However, with the rapid expansion of German naval power in the first 10 years of the 20th century, one of the ways of meeting the threat of German surface vessels was the decision for the Australian navy to be equipped with submarines.

The submarine was still in its infancy, the first boats for the Royal Navy had been completed only in February of 1903 and by 1911, the largest of the type, a "D" class submarine was only 620 tons submerged.

The two Australian "E" class submarines were formally ordered from England in 1910, with both due for delivery during early 1914.   Both submarines, AE1 AND AE2 duly arrived in Australia, berthing firstly in Darwin during early May, then proceeding to Sydney via Cairns arriving in Sydney on Empire Day 24th May 1914.

AE1 and AE2 spent the next few months in dockyard hands, undergoing repairs to damage incurred during the delivery voyage from England until the outbreak of World War One in which both boats engaged.

The RAN'S first experience with submarines, as part of the fleet, spanned just two years, with the first boat AE1 lost with all hands whilst on WW1 patrol in New Guinea waters on 14th September 1914, and the second boat AE2 without loss of life in the sea of Marmora, Turkey on 30th April 1915.

We therefore this year 2014 commemorate the centenary and acknowledge 100 years of submarine operations by the Royal Australian Navy.

The following data details the RAN'S submarines over the years.

CLASS -	E	J	OXLEY	K9	OBERON	COLLINS
No in Service	2	6	2	1	6	6
Entered Service	1914	1919	1927	1943	1967	1996
Surface Tons	725	1210	1354	521	2030	3051
Dived Tons	810	1820	1835	712	2410	3353
Length	181 ft	274.9 ft	275 ft	210.3ft	90 M	77.5M
Beam	22.6 ft	23 ft	27.9 ft	17.9ft	8.1M	7.8M
Spd Surface Knots	15	19.5	15.5	15	12	10
Spd Dived Knots	10	9.5	9.0	9.5	17	20
Torpedo Tubes inch	4x18	6x18	8x21	4x17.7	8x21	6x21
Crew	34	44	54	31	64	42
Range	3000@	5000@	8500@	NK	9000	11500
N.Miles	10	12	10		@12	@ 10

*Note: K9 loaned by RNN Netherlands.

Following the end of WW2, a number of RN submarines were based in Australia engaged in various tasks including training and exercises. Included amongst these boats were the "A" class and "T" class submarines operating out of Sydney between the years 1949 to 1969.

The first boats to arrive in Sydney were the "T" class HMS'S TELEMACHUS, THOROUGH and TACTICIAN followed by "A" class AUROCHS, ANDREW and ANCHORITE thereafter "T' class TABARD, TAPIR, TRUMP and TACITURN.

Some members may recall that it was HMS ANDREW that came to Melbourne in the late 1950's to play the role of USS Sawfish" in the movie "On the Beach".

Perhaps it is also apt and fitting that in this year 2014, there are signs that activity may be taking place to further establish the Oberon Class Submarine ex HMAS OTAMA at Western Port Victoria.

OTAMA, was towed from Western Australia almost 12 years ago to become a museum ashore at Hastings Victoria. The submarine has been riding at anchor in Western Port Bay since April of 2002 waiting on final decisions as to how, when and exactly where to bring the boat ashore.

PORT OF MELBOURNE SHIPS VISITS

One of the most pleasant activities of the Victoria Division of the Navy League of Australia is perhaps the hosting by the League of luncheons for Senior Officers of naval ships visiting Melbourne, all organized, arranged and under the auspices of events co-ordinator, past president CMDR John Wilkins, OAM RFD* RANR.

Since the program, under the presidency of John Wilkins restarted in 1996, the League through to the end of 2013, has hosted 85 luncheon-presentations for 101 visiting ships and two stone frigates, HMAS CERBERUS and HMAS CRESWELL.

The visiting ships hosted during that period have been from the navies of Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, United States of America, Canada, France, Japan, Italy and Mexico. Many such functions were also held during the presidency of LCDR John Bird RNR between the years 1976 through to 1992.

Whilst the year 2013 saw visits to Melbourne by ships on their way to, or on their way from Sydney's October "Feet Review", the general trend reveals a diminishing pattern of visits to Melbourne by not only ships of the RAN but also of other navies.

NAVAL HISTORY

The month of January is a memorable period in terms of Naval History.
A brief detail of some of the events that occurred during the month of January are listed in the following:-

JANUARY 1788

The supply ship HMS SIRIUS under the command of Captain John Hunter RN., as part of the First Fleet, arrived in Botany Bay. Two years later HMS SIRIUS was wrecked on Norfolk Island.

The current HMAS SIRIUS commissioned into the RAN in 2006. HMAS SIRIUS was originally the tanker MV DELOS converted to RAN specifications to replace the RAN tanker HMAS WESTRALIA 0195.

JANUARY 1865

It was at this point in time that Melbourne became involved in the American Civil War, by providing aid and assistance to the visiting Confederate Navy ship CNS SHENANDOAH.

JANUARY 1942

It was on 20th January1942, that Bathurst Class Minesweeper/Corvettes HMAShips DELORAINE, KATOOMBA and LITHGOW, accompanied by the US Destroyer USS EDSALL, sank the Japanese submarine I-124 in the Arafura Sea.
The Commanding Officer of HMAS DELORAINE, LCDR D.A. Menlove, RNR, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his part in this action.

JANUARY 1945

The Battle of Lingayen Gulf in the Philippine Islands against the Japanese took place in January 1945.   The following RAN units together with US forces were involved in this operation:-

CRUISERS:	HMAS AUSTRALIA, SHROPSHIRE
DESTROYERS:	HMAS WARRAMUNGA, ARUNTA
FRIGATE:	HMAS GASCOYNE
SLOOP:	HMAS WARREGO
INFANTRY LANDING SHIPS:	HMAS WESTRALIA, KANIMBLA, MANOORA

AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOUNDATION DAY

CNF   **RAN**

1901   1911   1911   2014

113th Anniversary year of AUSTRALIAN NAVY's FOUNDATION
The Annual "*CRESWELL ORATION 2014*"
presented by the RAN Fleet Commander
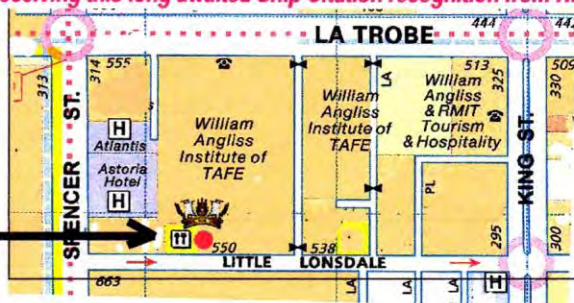
REAR ADMIRAL *Tim Barrett AM CSC* RAN

on   "*THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ARRIVAL OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY'S FIRST FLEET*"

We are also pleased to announce that the Fleet Commander approved HMAS YArra arriving in time to attend the Creswell Oration. The Yarra's CO & XO together with about 18 of the crew will be our special guests to acknowledge the honour about to be bestowed on their ship and them. We congratulate them and their ship on receiving this long awaited Ship Citation recognition from HE the GG on 4 March. Creswell's legacy is seen in the brave men of 1942 who fought to protect our right to live as a nation of free people.

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

TIME: 1200 for 1230

DATE: Friday 28th. February 2014.
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 [*add your name*]
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**

NOC

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 20

"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 January 2004 we note that it was around this time we reported on the following:-

1.   HMVS CERBERUS
2.   TERROR THREAT
3.   RAN'S 'BROLGA' SOLD
4.   HMAS PERTH LAUNCHING

VICTORIAN NAVY'S FLAGSHIP CERBERUS

HMVS CERBERUS in the news again as the ship approaches extinction.   The Iron & Timber Veteran of Victoria's Colonial Navy, launched in 1868, is about one storm away from total collapse at her final resting place in Half Moon Bay, Black Rock.
As engineering report on HMVS CERBERUS has sounded the warning that time is running out.   Having suffered major damage in a 1993 storm, plunging her main deck under water, the weight of her mighty iron upper works is taking its toll on rotting timbers below the surface.   CERBERUS will soon be beyond rescue.
HMVS CERBERUS, once the Flagship and pride of the Victorian Naval Forces was built in England in 1868 and has been described as "The forerunner of the battleship".
At the time of her construction, she was a revolutionary warship containing in her hull the basic features of more recent surface combatants.
By 1924, after 53 years of service to the Victorian Colonial Navy, the Australia Commonwealth Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, CERBERUS was listed for disposal.
In 1926, the Black Rock Yacht Club purchased the hull together with the Turrets, Guns and Anchors for 150 pounds.   The Club was interested in the hull for use as a breakwater in Half Moon Bay.
ON 2nd September 1926 CERBERUS was towed from her berth at Williamstown by the tugs "Agnes & Minah" and drawing 14 feet of water was scuttled at high tide on a sandbank in Half Moon Bay, Black Rock where the water was 15 feet deep.
Though she is still just visible today 136 years since her launching and 77 years since she was scuttled in Half Moon Bay, time and tide and the weight of her 4x10 inch 18 ton guns and turrets have taken their toll.

FOREIGN SHIPS COULD POSE TERROR THREAT

Australia was particularly vulnerable to terrorist attack from ships because of its reliance on foreign – registered vessels.
Any one of the thousands of foreign ships which dock each year in Australia Ports has the potential to become a weapon of mass destruction.
Australia is making itself more vulnerable than most countries by suppressing Australian shipping in favour of foreign shipping and relying almost totally on offshore-registered ships where the real owners or operators of freighters, tankers and bulk carriers are easily concealed, so said Peter Morris, Australian Maritime Network Chairman, according to a recent media report.
During recent review of Australian shipping, evidence was heard of a conflict between the Governments two aims of cheap shipping and strengthened border protection.

"AS IT WAS" C'TND

RAN'S 'BROLGA' SOLD

The RAN'S Auxiliary Minesweeper BROLGA was sold at auction in Sydney during December 2003.

BROLGA was one of a number of large and small auxiliary minesweepers acquired by the RAN to provide support for the now laid up two Bay Class Catamaran Minehunters, all of which took place in the late 1980's and early 1990's prior to the introduction of the 6 current Gaeta Class Italian design Coastal Minehunters, two of which are also scheduled to be put into mothballs and will presumably by HMAS HUON No.82 and HMAS HAWKESBURY No.83.

The first large auxiliary minesweeper acquired by the RAN during the period nominated was the former lighthouse tender LUMEN on 2nd February 1988, and renamed BROLGA eight days later.   The vessel was built in Fremantle in 1975 and purchased for $410,000.00 after being laid up inactive since April 1987.

In her civilian capacity, the vessel was manned by 17 crew, however, her usual naval crew numbered 8.

With Pendant No.1102, BROLGA inherited this same number from the former British built ton class minesweeper HMAS SNIPE.

BROLGA under the control of her new civilian owners is expected to join the Western Australian fishing fleet in Fremantle, back from whence she came.

As an RAN vessel, BROLGA'S main characteristics were as follows:-

DISPLACEMENT	264 TONS
LENGTH	93.4 FEET
BEAM	26.8 FEET
DRAUGHT	11.6 FEET
SPEED	10 KNOTS

HMAS PERTH NEARS LAUNCHING DATE

Tenix Shipbuilders of Williamstown Victoria, have announced the launching date of their next Anzac Class Frigate.

Nu-ship PERTH is scheduled to be launched at Williamstown on 20th March 2004.

The launching of Nu-ship PERTH will bring the total launchings of the Anzac Class ships to ten, of which eight have been ordered by the RAN and two by the RNZN.

This launching will mark the end of the Anzac Class launchings as once HMAS PERTH joins the fleet in 2006, the current Anzac project will be complete.

It could be quite some time before another navy ship is launched at Williamstown, if ever, dependent upon whether Tenix Victoria are successful with RAN contracts to build amphibious ships and, or Air Warfare destroyers.

5 December 2013

Navy updates ship colour scheme for modern war-fighting

The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, has announced that the Navy will progressively change the colour of its surface fleet to meet modern war-fighting and regional environmental conditions.

While not normally apparent to the bystander, the recent International Fleet Review with 17 international ships visibly demonstrated that colour schemes do vary significantly between nations.

These are mainly due to the regional environmental conditions faced by national navies such as the percentage of cloud cover or sunlight.

The Royal Australian Navy has traditionally used the Storm Grey colour based **upon a traditional northern hemisphere 'Light Grey' which was developed to** deter detection under overcast skies. That paint scheme was adopted in the **1950's. With predominant sunlit conditions faced in Australian waters** and significant improvements in paint technologies, the Chief of Navy decided to introduce a more appropriate paint scheme. The revised scheme and new paint technologies were reviewed through extensive consultation with the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) Maritime Group. The basis for the new scheme is around the regionally compatible Haze Grey colour, utilising new technologies in polysiloxane paints with Near Infrared Reflecting Pigments (NIRR).

Research has shown that the polysiloxane paints provide improved durability and fire resistance over older polyurethane systems. The use of reflecting pigments in the Haze Grey formulation reduces external shipboard temperatures by up to 20 degrees Celsius compared to the traditional Storm Grey. This contributes to decreased demand on shipboard environmental systems, a reduced infrared signature for the ship which decreases detection ability, a desirable outcome in combat.

The scheme will be implemented by a phased introduction in scheduled maintenance periods and will yield operational improvements as well as reduce costs and improve technical performance.

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.

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*If you live in Tasmanian please post the form to the Hon. Secretary of the Victorian Division