



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

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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## NAVAL HISTORY

The months of January & February are a memorable period in terms of Naval History. A brief detail of some of the events that occurred during the months of January & February 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 20<sup>th</sup> January 1942, that Bathurst Class Minesweeper/Corvettes HMA ships DELORAINÉ, 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 DELORAINÉ, LCDR D.A. Menlove, RNR, was awarded the Distinguished Service Order for his part in this action.

## **NAVAL HISTORY**

### **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

### **FEBRUARY 1942**

February 2017 marks the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bombing of Darwin by the Japanese on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 1942.

The attack which was the first of 62 air raids on Darwin throughout the period 1942-1943 has been likened by some as Australia's Pearl Harbour.

### **FEBRUARY 1942**

The battle of the Java Sea in which HMAS PERTH together with HM ships EXETER, ELECTRA and JUPITER, the USN Cruiser HOUSTON and the Dutch ships DE RUYTER, JAVA and KORTENAER engaged a superior numbered Japanese Fleet forcing the allied fleet to withdraw after suffering many casualties and loss of vessels.

### **FEBRUARY 1964**

The 10<sup>th</sup> February 2017 marked the 53<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the loss of HMAS VOYAGER, Australia's greatest peacetime naval disaster in which 82 personnel perished when VOYAGER and the Aircraft Carrier HMAS MELBOURNE collided during exercises South East of Jervis Bay NSW.

### **FEBRUARY 1980**

It was on the 29<sup>th</sup> February 1980, that the last RAN WW2 ship the Frigate HMAS DIAMANTINA paid off for disposal at Garden Island, Sydney. HMAS DIAMANTINA, a river class Frigate saw wartime service bombarding Japanese batteries throughout the Solomon Islands, as well as providing naval gunfire support to Australian Troops operating in Bougainville. Following VJ Day DIAMANTINA transported Senior Officers to accept the local surrender of Japanese Forces on a number of Pacific Islands, including Ocean Island and Nauru. HMAS DIAMANTINA concluded her RAN service as an Oceanographic Research Vessel but DIAMANTINA still provides a community services as a museum ship in a Brisbane dry Dock on the Brisbane River. The RAN now has a second DIAMANTINA, a Huon Class Minehunter one of six in the current RAN fleet four of which are operational with two in reserve



**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup>. March 2017**



- 1130 **Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance -**  
**HMAS Perth & USS Houston 1<sup>st</sup>. March 1942**  
**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemoration service**
- 1215 **Navy League bus** –Free transport from Shrine to William Angliss restaurant at 550 Lt. Lonsdale St. for “Creswell Oration 2017” luncheon.
- 1300 **“CRESWELL ORATION” 2017** presented at Luncheon by -  
**Deputy Chief of Navy, RADM Michael Noonan AM RAN**  
*“Personnel Challenges for the Future RAN Fleet”*

**DATE:** Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

**TIME:** 1230 for 1300 (bar open 1230).

**VENUE:** William Angliss Institute Restaurant, 550 Lt Lonsdale St.(between Spencer & King Sts).

**COST:** \$45 (Make cheques payable to Navy League of Australia Victoria.)

**PAYMENT:** Post to P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149, **OR** Pay on the day,  
**OR** Internet bank Westpac BSB 033 389 A/c No. 107631.  
 Please send email to NLA advising if internet payment made.

**INQUIRIES:** NLA 9842 4256; Email: [jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au](mailto:jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au);  
 NAA: 9884 6237; Email: [raydotgill@optusnet.com.au](mailto:raydotgill@optusnet.com.au);  
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 NHS 9850 9497 Email: [rex.f.williams@gmail.com](mailto:rex.f.williams@gmail.com)

**RSVP:** Monday 13th February 2017.

PLEASE RETURN this part to Navy League of Australia  
 P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

**Shrine of Remembrance & Creswell Oration**

**WEDNESDAY 1<sup>st</sup>. March 2017**

RSVP: Monday 13th February 2017 or email.

**IMPORTANT -** Indicate in 1. & 2. your Shrine – BUS – Creswell co-ordination selection

1. Navy League free BUS Shrine to “Creswell Oration” luncheon at 1215 **YES / NO.**

2. “Creswell Oration 2017” luncheon at William Angliss restaurant 1pm. **YES / NO.**

Please PRINT names of all persons attending with one Tel No. or Email for contact

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## AS IT WAS IN JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2007

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 of January & February 2007. We note that we reported on the following:-

1. HMAS TOOWOOMBA TO THE GULF
2. THE SEARCH FOR AE1
3. FRENCH FRIGATE VISITS MELBOURNE
4. JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE FOUND

### HMAS TOOWOOMBA SAILS FOR THE GULF

**With a full crew of 183 the RAN’S Anzac Class Frigate** HNAS TOOWOOMBA, FFH156 sailed from fleet base west on January 4<sup>th</sup> 2007 bound for Arabian Gulf.

HMAS TOOWOOMBA will replace the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS WARRAMUNGA FFH152 currently on patrol in the Gulf.

HMAS TOOWOOMBA is expected to be away for approximately six months during which time she will provide a continuing contribution to the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Iraq.

### SEARCH FOR SUBMARINE AE1

In addition to the possibility of salvaging the **RAN’S WW1 submarine AE2, scuttled in Turkey during 1915 in the Sea of Marmara**, recent interest has also been shown in locating AE2’S sister boat AE1.

**The RAN’S submarine AE1, was lost in the early** stages of WW1 when it simply disappeared with all hands during a patrol in New Guinea waters.

A documentary was aired recently on ABC TV, showing a search by retired RAN Commander John Foster centred around the waters off Miako Island, however, the equipment used at the time was limited to a search of 50 metres.

The latest search involves two of the **RAN’S survey boats HMAS’s BENALLA and SHEPPARTON**, which are equipped with deeper side scan sonar apparatus and more likely to locate the wreck than the previous attempt.

AE1, disappeared without a trace on September 14<sup>th</sup> 1914 with all 35 members of her crew. The wreck as such must be considered as a war grave.

The current search for AE1 which also involves CMDR Foster as a search team member is in fact a search **for the RAN’S first ever war loss.**

## FRENCH FRIGATE VISITS MELBOURNE

Melbourne recently played host to a French Naval visitor when the Floreal Class Surveillance Frigate FNS VENDEMAIRE F734, paid a 4 day visit arriving at Port Melbourne 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007.

VENDEMAIRE arrived in Melbourne from her home port base of Noumea in New Caledonia with Melbourne her only Australian port of call on this goodwill and training visit.

The ship fully laden displaces 3000 tonnes is 93 metres in length has a beam of 14 metres and a draught of 4.5 metres. Her main armament comprises one 100mm gun, two exocet missile launchers, 2 rapid fire 20mm cannons and 2 chaff launchers.

FNS VENDEMAIRE is currently under the command of Commander Xavier Royer De Vericort with Lieutenant Commander Loic Plouzenec as Executive Officer, the supply officer is Lieutenant Peggy McGregor, the surname inherited from her Scottish Grandfather. The ship has a crew of 92, plus at present two French Foreign Legionnaires, with accommodation also available for a further 24 special forces personnel.

**On this deployment, the ship has an “Alouette” helicopter embarked but can and does on other deployments embark a “Puma” helicopter for comparison purposes an “Alouette” helicopter weighs 2 tonnes, whilst a “Puma” weighs in at 7 tonnes.**

The visit by FNS VENDEMAIRE was the first visit by a French naval vessel to Melbourne in almost five years. The last visit being that of FNS FLOREAL the lead ship of the class.

Whilst VENDEMAIRE is a naval vessel, the CO points out that the ship has a layout not unlike a merchant vessel with her main enemy more likely to be fire, a threat that all onboard are conscious of with firefighting equipment everywhere and fire drills involving every crew member carried out daily

FNS VENDEMAIRE is one of 6 ships of the Floreal Class, VENDEMAIRE is named after the first month of the French Revolutionary calendar that lasted from 1793-1805. VENDEMAIRE means grape harvest or vintage month Her sister ships are also named for the seasonal months of this same calendar.

During the ships visit to Melbourne a number of functions were held on-board including an official luncheon at which the Victorian Governor Professor David de Kretser AC., attended together with the French Ambassador to Australia Francois Descoueyte.

## AS IT WAS IN JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2007 C'TND

The French Ambassador also attended a cocktail party held on-board VENDEMIARE at which the Navy League was represented together with the French Consul General Patricia Polites Robert Smith MLC., the French Deputy Defence Attache Major Eric Plantz plus approximately 150 other distinguished guests. CMDR Graeme Furlonger deputized for Captain David Garnock as SNO Vic for the occasion.

On the same evening personnel from **Melbourne's** RANR Dive Team 6 conducted an underwater hull inspection of VENDEMIARE in company with the ships divers as a combined training exercise. **"Dive team 6"** for this exercise was under the command of LCDR Sean Farrell RANR ex RN. **"Dive team 6" incorporates Melbourne's** Mine Warfare Group 54" and as such "Mine Warfare Group 54" now ceases to exist.

**During my visits to VENDEMIARE'S Ward Room I held discussions with the CO and XO** covering a range of general topics including **the RAN'S** French connection, through the French designed durance Class replenishment ship current HMAS SUCCESS, also the recently signed agreement between France and Australia for the joint patrolling of the Southern Ocean to combat the pirating of French and Australian **fish stocks, plus Australia's consideration of purchasing 2 of** the French Design Mistral Class LHD Helicopter landing dock ships.

**As the VENDEMIARE'S next port of call was to be Wellington New Zealand, I brought the XO up** to date with Tenix Williamstown's progress relating to *Project Protector* the New Zealand **Governments current naval ship building programme, in particular Williamstown's involvement** with Nuships CANTERBURY, OTAGO and WELLINGTON. I left copies of the Leagues magazine in the Ward Room and literature with the XO, pertaining to **the launching of New Zealand's Nuship OTAGO and** *Project Protector*.

**I was also taken on a one hour tour of the ship by VENEMIAIRE'S CO CMDR Vericourt from the** bridge to the 18kg output bakery, from the control room to the engine room and from the helicopter hangar to galley.

During the tour of the ship, we were joined by two members of the Royal Victorian Sailing Yacht Club of Williamstown, with whom CMDR Vericourt had been sailing the previous evening as a guest of the yacht club.

FNS VENDEMIARE sailed from Melbourne on the morning of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2007 bound for Wellington New Zealand, thereafter Papeete, to be followed by a maintenance period in Singapore.



## AS IT WAS IN JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2007 C'TND

### THE THIRD JAPANESE MIDGET SUBMARINE

On a Sunday morning in late 2006, seven Sydney recreational scuba divers got together at Long Reef Beach North of Sydney on a calm day and decided to head offshore to a place that they had taken notice of several months earlier.

Their fish finder equipment had noted something on the bottom some four months earlier however the weather at that point in time had been too rough to anchor and dive.

Using their GPS navigator they headed out to the same spot several kilometres offshore in their five metre dive boat.

The mystery object was in 70metres of water which meant that, once they were submerged to its depth they would have just 12 minutes on the bottom before having to resurface with two decompressions stops on the way up.

The first thing they saw as they dived was an object covered in a fishing net then, as they drew closer, they saw a propeller sticking out of the sand and then a coning tower. They had found M2, the third Japanese midget submarine missing for 64 years.

On the evening of Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup> 1942, three Japanese midget submarines entered Sydney Harbour on a mission to sink allied ships, bringing the second world wars front line to our doorstep in one of the most famous wartime incidents in Australia.

One of the midget submarines got caught in an anti-submarine net and the two man crew blew themselves and their craft up to avoid capture. The second sunk by a depth charge attack and later found its crew having taken their lives after a brave but undeniably suicidal mission.

But the third midget submarine known as M24, managed to fire two torpedoes, one exploded under HMAS KUTTABUL a converted Sydney ferry killing 21 sailors and wounding 10 more.

M24 and its two man crew disappeared and since that night its location has been a mystery.

## AS IT WAS IN JANUARY- FEBRUARY 2007 C'TND

Considering that M24 has been on the seabed for 64 years, it is in remarkably good condition however there are a number of small holes and the interior is full of mud and sand.

The location of M24 is being kept strictly confidential to prevent hordes of curious divers descending to the submarine which is being treated as a war grave. The approximate location of M24 is several Kms offshore between Long Reef and Barren Joey headland.

The two submariners whose bodies are still entombed inside M24, are Lieutenant Katushisa Ban, who still has a living brother, and Ensign Mamoru Ashibe

The divers have met with CMDR Shane Moore RAN, the director of the Naval Heritage Collection, who has confirmed that their find is in fact, the midget submarine M24.

NLA executive members will recall CMDR Moore from an exchange of correspondence through the pages of the Leagues Magazine during the period 2004-2005, relevant to the establishment of the Garden Island Museum.

CMDR Moore further added that the evidence is compelling and the simple fact of the matter is that this submarine wreck, could not be anything else other than the Japanese midget submarine M24.

Soon after the midget submarine attack on Sydney Harbour the RAN cremated the bodies of the four sailors from the other two midget submarines with full naval honours before returning their ashes to their families in Japan.

It is now considered a possibility that the Japanese Government may with the permission of the Australian Government, bring M24 to the surface and lay the sailors to rest.

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### CEREMONIAL DIVISIONS AT HMAS CERBERUS

Due to technical difficulties encountered in our newsletter item of December 2016, relative to **HMAS CERBERUS division's ceremony, we have repeated the** item in this edition achieving far greater clarity, coupled together with images of the event. Thanks to the Leagues Ms. Lynda Gilbert.

#### **Last Ceremonial Divisions for Captain S Bowater OAM, RAN, Friday 25 November 2016**

Members of the Navy League of Australia (Vic-Tas Division) attended the last Ceremonial Divisions for Captain Stephen Bowater at HMAS Cerberus on 25 November 2016. It was a cold and windy day, but the rain held off for the duration of the event.

Some 300 invited guests and 50 students from Crib Point attended the Ceremonial Divisions. There were over 2000 Navy, 30 Airforce and 12 Army personnel. The Queen gave special permission for her Flag to be used for the event and one hundred sailors guarded the Queen's Colours. Commander Melanie Verho was Master of Ceremonies.

Captain Stephen Bowater OAM RAN arrived at 10.25am followed by the Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO, CSC, RAN and the Governor General, the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove



## **CEREMONIAL DIVISIONS AT HMAS CERBERUS C'TND**

AK MC (Retd) and Lady Cosgrove. Sir Peter was awarded the Military Cross Vietnam in 1971 and is specifically remembered for his military leadership in East Timor in 1999. He gave a short address, acknowledging the original owners of the land. He noted the building of new hardware capabilities and the importance of the Navy to be able to manage the technology. He praised the Navy's contribution, commitment to each other and defence of Australia, its proud history and traditions. Inspection of the Divisions took place followed by prayers.

Award presentations for 50 years of Service were made to Mr Barry Carroll; 40 years of service to Captain Bowater; 45 years of service to Petty Officer Stephen Dean OAM; and HMAS Cerberus Sailor of the Year award went to Lt Adam Attwood.

The March Past of the Queen's colours and Divisions was followed by the departure of the Governor General.

The Royal Australian Navy Band provided ceremonial and marching music for the event



President of the NLA (Vic-Tas Div) Roger Blythman and wife Alison



The RAN Band



The Queen's Flag on display





The Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) taking the salute at the Ceremonial Divisions



Ken Crook NLA (Vic-Tas Div) Executive Member

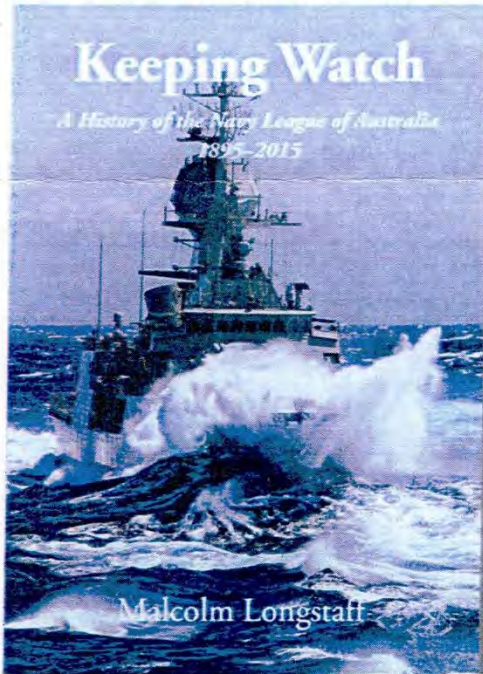




# Keeping Watch

A History of the Navy League of Australia  
1895–2015

Malcolm Longstaff OAM



Malcolm Longstaff has been an active member of the NSW Division of the Navy League of Australia since 1970. His book, recently published by the League, traces the history of its organisation from the formation of its parent, the League of Great Britain, in 1895. Formed as a result of growing public concern about the increasing naval strength of continental European powers and the League opened its first Australian Branch in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1901. Growth of the League in Australia was slow until after the early success of the RAN in World War I but, ultimately, the League was represented in all states of Australia. In 1920 it began forming units of sea cadets, known as the League Sea Cadet Corps. Responsibility for the cadets was assumed by the RAN in 1973 and they are now known as Australian Navy Cadets.

In 1950 the individual branches were consolidated into an autonomous national body, The Navy League of Australia, with each state and territory having representation on the League's Federal Council.

The League's quarterly national magazine, *The Navy*, is a highly-regarded commentator on naval and defence issues. The magazine has been continuously published since 1938.

With 280 pages including index, *Keeping Watch* has over 70 illustrations and is available as a hardback or soft-cover book. It can be ordered from the NSW Division of the Navy League of Australia using the form below. Payment can be made by cheque or by bank transfer.

**The Navy League of Australia  
NSW Division  
GPO Box 1719  
SYDNEY, NSW 2001**

Please supply me with \_\_\_\_\_ copy/ies of *Keeping Watch* as indicated below:

- ☐ Hardback at \$40 plus \$15 postage and packing per copy  
(Limited numbers of hardback copies are available)
- ☐ Softback at \$30 plus \$15 postage and packing per copy

Name:

Address:

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## Payment (please indicate)

☐ I enclose a cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ payable to The Navy League of Australia, NSW Division

☐ I have transferred \$ \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

The Navy League of Australia, NSW Division  
Westpac Bank  
BSB: 032 002  
Account No: 680624

***Please ensure that your surname and initials are  
indicated on your bank transfer***

*Orders will be dispatched on confirmation of receipt of  
payment*

## HMAS TOBRUK L50 1981-2014

The former HMAS TOBRUK L50 Heavy Landing Ship, is to continue to serve Australia as a tourist attraction to divers.

**Following 34 year of service in the RAN "TOBRUK" will be provided to the Queensland Government to be sunk between Bundaberg and Hervey Bay as a dive wreck.**

**HMAS TOBRUK'S last visit to Melbourne was in August of 2012, at the time under the command of CMDR Tim Watson.** Prior to that visit HMAS TOBRUK was in Melbourne during November of 2008 then under the command of CMDR Peter Thompson with LCDR Tony Stringer as Executive Officer.

On this occasion both CMDR Thompson and LCDR Stringer were guests of the Navy League at a luncheon-**presentation held at Melbourne's "Naval & Military Club". The prime objective of this event was to pay tribute to LCDR John Bird RNVR and to honour his past services to the League as a past President of the Leagues Victoria Division, and a Vice President in the Leagues Federal Division over a period of many years.**

HMAS TOBRUK is the second ship so named for the RAN and it is interesting to note that 61 years ago the first HMAS TOBRUK D37, was in action off the East Coast of Korea during the Korean War of 1950-1953.

It was in fact, during 1951 that the Battle Class Destroyer HMAS TOBRUK, under the command of CMDR. Richard Peek, destroyed an entire train transporting supplies to the enemy.

The late Commander Peek went on to be Vice Admiral Sir Richard Peek KBE, CB, DSC, Chief of Navy RAN and was a member of the Federal advisory council, Navy League of Australia.

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## **CAPTAIN ARTHUR PHILIP RN**

In this issue of the Navy League Newsletter we also feature a further contribution from the Navy Leagues CMDR John Wilkins in line with a speech recently presented by CMDR Wilkins at Melbourne's Kelvin Club. CMDR Wilkins focuses on Captain Arthur Phillip RN and his part in Australia's first European Settlement at Sydney Cove.

More than 50,000 years ago, global humanity arrived in Australia. Now the driest continent in the world, and they spread over all its deserts, mountains and forests leaving no part unsettled, including Tasmania. In 1770 LIEUT James Cook, RN in HMS Endeavour, having sailed to Tahiti via Cape Horn, completed his task there and sailed west discovering and charting New Zealand and then the east coast of Terra Australis, from Victoria's Point Hicks to Queensland's Cooktown, claiming it for Britain. For the next 18 years the 18<sup>th</sup> C British Government did not act on Cook's meticulous discovery and charting of NZ and Australia's east coast until the convict accommodation in England reached a crisis in 1786 and Cook's Australia was considered the best available solution for a new penal colony

In this time-line of historical events Arthur Phillip was now chosen to become a very important part of our history. Having served a two year merchant marine apprenticeship he joined



Britain's Royal Navy in 1755, serving in the Mediterranean and West Indies until 1763, retiring on a Lieutenant's half-pay and for ten years managed a farm in Hampshire. Admiralty then approved of Phillip serving in the Portuguese navy, where he was promoted Captain, and for four years engaged in the Portuguese-Spanish war and transportation of convicts. He returned to the RN in 1778 and served in India for 6 years, and again retired on half-pay. Following the battle success of the British North American Colonies against British Imperial troops, when many loyal British Colonialists emigrated to Canada and Virginia's Penal settlements no longer accepting the annual ship loads of 1000 British convicts. This saw England over the next ten years using floating hulks in London and elsewhere to hold convicts, a policy that eventually created problems.

Prime Minister Pitt, having reorganised his government, gave his Home Secretary, Lord Sydney, the task of solving this problem. So Cook's 1770 discovery and report on Botany Bay saw it chosen as the NSW Penal Colony proposal, a decision supported by Sir Joseph Banks, who had sailed with Cook

CAPT Arthur Phillip RN, aged forty-eight, was again recalled for service after nearly four years on half pay. His reputation as a competent, trustworthy officer, excellent administrator, experienced in convict transportation, farming and land management, saw him an ideal choice for appointment as Captain General of the First Convict transportation Fleet to Terra Australis and Vice Regal Colonial Governor of the proposed New South Wales penal colony, the first European settlement in Australia. Phillip, inspired by the vision of starting a new, remote, outpost of the British Empire in the South Seas, encouraged free settlers to migrate and there had been a suggestion that some Loyal British North American colonists may have been interested in this Sydney Cove proposal. Phillip urged extension of British law for settler protection and he resolved to insulate them from the contamination of convicts stating - '*I would not wish convicts to lay the foundation of an Empire, . . . . I think they should ever remain separated from the garrison and other settlers that may come from Europe*'. His attitude to convicts, and possibly those who eventually served their sentences, and his staff's management and treatment of convicts, was considered appropriate at that time in history.

### **Ships and people of the First Fleet**

Phillip had to wait on Admiralty, who in October 1786, recommissioned HMS *Sirius* a 100 ft (33 m) long, armed store ship, as the flagship for his "First Fleet". This was a time of peace which saw many unemployed seamen apply as volunteers. CAPT Phillip carefully selected these volunteers as his crew of 160 naval officers and men, including Hunter, King and Bradley. Women and boys not permitted. HMS *Supply*, a converted former, 80 ft long, Deptford Yard armed tender was also chosen with Lieutenant Henry Ball RN in command. He would have followed CAPT. Arthur Phillip's lead in the selection policy for his crew of 50. However Phillip may not have had a say regarding the Merchant seamen manning the commercial ships transporting the convicts and stores to Australia.

The eleven crowded transport ships carried 760 convicts, 24 children, guarded by 240 marines with their 30 wives and 20 children, 300 naval officers, seamen and officials, a total of some 1350 people.

CAPT John Hunter RN was CAPT Phillip's deputy, for the fleet and for the new NSW Colonial administration.

### **THE ROUTE**

The fleet's 24,000 Km route avoided Africa's west coast with its frequent calm spells and sailed to the Canary Islands, then Brazil's Rio de Janeiro and across the south Atlantic to the Cape of Good Hope to restock for the long dash to Sydney Cove.

The total journey took 8 months, 2 months in ports enroute and 6 months at sea with nearly 20% (260) dying en-route. The volunteers and convicts sailing in CAPT Phillip's fleet of ships

considered their NSW destination was the ends of the earth and so the quality of his volunteer recruits may have included some interesting personalities and skills. Unfortunately Convicts with trade skills were rare.

### ARRIVAL

Governor Phillip arrived, quickly assessed Botany Bay as unsuitable, and discovered Port Jackson "*one of the finest harbours in the world.*"

26 January 1788 the British flag was raised, the King's health toasted and the British Empire's New South Wales penal colony founded.

The first two years of settlement at Sydney Cove, Port Jackson proved very difficult for the 1090 new settlers who survived the voyage. There was an almost immediate struggle for survival and Aborigines, looking on, must have wondered at their plight, for they knew how to live off the land. The settler's British culture was diametrically opposed to the very ancient and traditional way of aboriginal living as the new settlers came bearing metal tools, fire-arms and a different culture, claiming a right to settle under the then international understanding of Terra Nullius, (land that belonged to no one).

The Aboriginal tribes unable to defend themselves if, and when, they objected watched as the next fleet brought more convicts to Sydney cove, many riddled with dysentery, small pox and venereal disease. Their progressive contact with the incredibly ancient aboriginal race caused them great suffering. More than 50% of the local tribe died from the introduced diseases. The surviving Aboriginal population now treated as trespassers in the land their forebears had occupied for more than 50,000 years.

Governor Phillip, his sailors, marines, and convicts were forced to rely on the meagre stores they brought with them as they attempted to grow their own.

The settlers were confronted by Australia's strange environment, evergreen trees, odd animals, unfamiliar drought and flood periods — an alien, hostile existence which, if they failed in their battle to understand it, they would die.

All new settlers, Phillip, his Marines, settlers and convicts, were placed on reduced weekly rations - Males — 7 lbs [about 3 kg] of bread or flour, 7 lbs of beef Q1' 4 lbs of rice. Women - two thirds Children - one third. One assumes this may have been half rations.

Over the first two years crops failed, cattle died or escaped, and a stores relief ship was wrecked, all threatening their future survival. After 2 years the rations were halved again as farming was not yet successful, although the Parramatta and Norfolk Island were showing some promise.

The relief supply ship Lady Juliana arrived 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1790 and the colonists jubilation was cut short for the Second Fleet arrived two weeks later with another 1000 convicts, half suffering from fever and scurvy and requiring immediate hospitalisation. The stores they brought were insufficient and food rationing continued.

Phillip, needed everyone to work to clear the land and grow crops to survive, but his Marines objected to labouring and acting as gaolers.

The arrival of the second fleet brought Major Francis Grose and his newly raised NSW Corps of 100 officers and men. They replaced Major Robert Ross and his unco-operative first fleet Marines who returned to England.

Major Francis Grose's NSW Corps was raised in Britain in the usual manner by conducting one or more recruiting marches across England from Chatham armed with Military warrants. He stopped at towns and hamlets to encourage local citizens to volunteer for his overseas destination and local Magistrates gave local villains the option of serving permanently overseas in the Regiment or suffer "gaol and transportation". It was also standard Military practice at that time to buy Army officers' commissions. This created command problems for they were not concerned about their senior officer's opinion of their conduct for they could buy any rank they wanted at auction if they had the funds. A Captains rank sold for up to £1,000.

Thirteen of the NSW Corps died on the voyage to Sydney. Major Grose, as the Colony's most senior officer after CAPT Phillip, now replaced the colony's civil magistrates with military officers, giving his Parramatta senior officer control over the convicts and appointing Lieutenant John Macarthur his inspector of public works. The NSW Corps set about controlling rum distribution and commenced operating illicit stills by which its members soon started acquiring more wealth and power.

NSW Governor Arthur Phillip was battling to establish the beginnings of his public service administration, the establishment of crops to make them independent as he explored and planned for the Colony's future. He had few experienced settlers or convicts to assist him. His work and poor diet affected his health and he returned to Britain in 1792, leaving Major Grose as the temporary Lieut-Governor.

Grose now imported spirits and in giving the more land grants to the NSW Corps he ensured more opportunity for them to increase their wealth and power. When Lieut-Governor MAJ Grose departed in 1794 NSW Corps' Captain William Paterson, Commandant of Norfolk Island, became Lieut-Governor.

Paterson gave more land grants to NSW Corps members and assigned them most of the convicts, consolidating their power and influence in this growing Penal Colony. By June 1795 the NSW Corp numbered 491 a big improvement on the Corps number when they arrived – 100.

1795 Governor John Hunter arrived back in the colony and Lieut-Governor Paterson returned to England where he was later appointed Lieut-Governor at Port Dalrymple, Van Diemen's Land.

Governor Hunter's return was at a time when the population was 3,000, two thirds being convicts. He was confronted by an entrenched and mutinous NSW Corps. He attempted to stamp out the illicit distilling business but failed. His opponents had more land and produced more crops than the Government farms using the many convicts assigned to them. Hunter requested more convict labourers from England.

1800 Governor Phillip Gidley King's arrival also saw him attack the spirit trade. He improved settler's conditions by establishing a Government warehouse selling goods to settlers at a more reasonable mark-up, to stop private suppliers over-charging.

John Murray's coastal exploration of the south coast in the *Lady Nelson* discovered a large coastal port which he named Port King, but Governor King formally renamed it "*Port Phillip*", honouring the founding Governor CAPT Arthur Phillip RN.

1805, in England, CAPT Arthur Phillip was promoted Rear Admiral, the year Nelson won the Battle of Trafalgar - a major change in the future direction of world history. Arthur Phillip's NSW foundation colony development was now protected from the French and Spanish by the world's most powerful Navy whose prime purpose was to protect the Empire's global trading empire and its colonies.

1806 Governor CAPT William Bligh RN replaced CAPT Gidley King and he attacked the Rum Corps, eventually arresting Macarthur. Two years later the NSW Corps seized the Governor and established their own provisional government, holding Governor Bligh in custody for a year, Macarthur now the Colonial Secretary.

Van Diemen's Land Lieut-Governor William Paterson came to Sydney to investigate but would not join the Provisional Government but did grant any land request he received.

England now acted to replace the NSW Corps and COL. Lachlan Macquarie and his 73rd Regiment arrived in 1810. He immediately redesignated the NSW Corps as 102nd Regiment and ordered it to return to England on the same ship he had arrived in. Some NSW Corps members transferred to the 73rd Regiment as a Veteran Company and others, now rich landed gentry, retired into the Sydney community where their influence over the next twenty years seemed to have been repeated when Sydney's future "Exclusives" faction was formed.

Macquarie put Phillip's foundation settlement on a correct course. A great far-sighted administrator.

1821 Governor Sir Thomas Brisbane arrived and he found an arrogant New South Wales magistracy, disloyal and factious officials and explosive rifts in colonial society. At his replacement Wellington commented that "*not all brave soldiers were able Governors*".

1824 Governor Sir Ralph Darling arrived and introduced many good changes and appointed Alexander McLeay, married to his private Secretary's daughter, as his Colonial Secretary.

1831 Governor Sir Richard Bourke, arrived and found Alexander McLeay, Colonial Secretary, now a leading supporter of Sydney's powerful "Exclusives" faction. After five years the Governor in 1836 received imperial approval to found a new settlement at Port Phillip. He appointed CAPT William Lonsdale, 4<sup>th</sup> King's Own Regiment, as his *Chief Agent of Government* to develop NSW's new remote Port Phillip District settlement on its southern shores. Lonsdale empowered to oversee Sydney public servants sent with him from Sydney, an instruction they did not like. Lonsdale was also Police Magistrate and Commandant of a company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment that accompanied him ensuring Government control in this remote Port Phillip settlement. Governor Bourke instructed Lonsdale to send him confidential reports, bypassing the Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay to prevent him from briefing the Sydney based Exclusives faction regarding Port Phillip negotiations and land sales. Governor Bourke's and Lonsdale's actions were successful. Sir Richard Bourke sacked McLeay in early 1837 and no doubt this created ill will in Sydney towards the Port Phillip District settlement and the grounds for the ongoing cultural rivalry we sometimes hear about.

By this time Sydney influence was better controlled and the NSW Port Phillip District was further protected when it became a Colony, Victoria, in 1851.

Victorians are constantly reminded every day of CAPT Arthur Phillip RN, founder of Australia's inaugural settlement, as we have the honour to have his name applied to Victoria's great bay — Port Phillip Bay, waterfront for the private enterprise settlements at Williamstown, Melbourne and Corio, settled by our first "*Boat People*" from Van Diemen's Land

### **"LONSDALE CUP 2017"**

#### **ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB - WILLIAMSTOWN**

For the second year now an event will be held by RVMYC to contest the "Lonsdale Cup". The event takes the form of a "Navigation Rally" to be held on Port Phillip, **Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017.**

The occasion further celebrates the Australian Navy's Foundation 116 years ago in March of 1901.

A senior RAN Officer will present the perpetual Lonsdale Cup to the 2017 winner on the day of the event at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club Williamstown clubrooms.

The Cup has been supplied by the Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Division, who retain ownership of the trophy cup.

A family member descendant of Captain William Lonsdale will present a prize to the winner of the contest. The Great Great Granddaughter of Captain William Lonsdale Ms. Cecillia Newman, presented last year's inaugural winner of the contest with a William Lonsdale book which was also supplied by the Leagues Vic-Tas Division.

### Australia Day Salute

Thursday 26 January, 12 noon  
Artillery Salute on the Forecourt

Australia Day celebrates diversity and tolerance in Australian society. It is commemorated annually with a 21-gun salute fired from the Shrine's Lower Forecourt by the Royal Australian Artillery. The salute is extremely loud and it is recommended visitors with small children or pets maintain an appropriate distance from the guns.

### Curator Tour: Australia's Field Marshal

Thursday 19 January, 11am  
Meet at the Shrine Visitor Centre

Join Neil Sharkey on a curator tour exploring the life and military service of Sir Thomas Blamey, one of the most controversial figures in Australian military history.

### Ryokuin: Green Shadows

Saturday 11 February, 12 noon

At the forefront of the Kokoda campaign, Papua New Guineans carried much needed supplies and delivered wounded Australians to safety, earning the appreciative nickname Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels. Join Kokoda historian David Howell in conversation with special guests: Kokoda veteran Bill Stuart of the 39th Battalion and Havala Laula, one of the last remaining Fuzzy Wuzzy Angels.



### Dogs, Dolphins and Donkeys

# SHRINE REPORT JANUARY 2017 C'TND

Monday 23 January – Friday 27 January 2017  
Daily sessions at 10.30am

Animals have shown great skill and bravery in wartime. What amazing things can your favourite animal do? Join us for this hands-on play and craft session to explore the world of service and mascot animals. This 1-hour program has been designed for children aged 4 to 10 years. Children must be accompanied by a parent or adult guardian.



## The Purple Poppy

The purple poppy commemorates the service and sacrifice of Australian animals. To be worn alongside the traditional red poppy, the purple poppy reminds us of how animals worked together with our diggers in times of conflict and peacekeeping, and continue to do so. The purple poppy range includes a pin, key rings, children's picture book and poppies on flexible stems.

*Ken Crook & Lynda Gilbert*



## Join The Navy League of Australia NOW

Become a Member - you only need an interest in maritime affairs.


Complete Application Form below, post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (includes four quarterly editions of Navy League's Journal "The Navy"), to

Hon Secretary, Navy League of Australia Division in the State or region in which you reside.

Addresses:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.  
Victoria-Tasmania Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.  
Queensland Division: PO Box 2495, Chermside Centre, QLD 4032.  
South Australia Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.  
Western Australia Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.  
Australian Capital Territory: post form to New South Wales Division, Hon Secretary.  
Northern Territory: post form to South Australia Division, Hon Secretary.

**Subscriptions due** on 1 July in each year. Your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League. **NOTE:** If your first subscription is received during 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership is 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		
_____ <b>Division</b>		
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.		

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.-Tas Div.) Newsletter, should be addressed to the Editor, Frank McCarthy, email:- ([alistle@bigpond.com](mailto: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](mailto:raydotgill@optusnet.com.au)).

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