

The Navy League of Australia - Victoria Division

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2013



Volume2 No:7

"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

HMAS SIRIUS VISITS MELBOURNE

A recent visitor to Melbourne was the RAN'S fleet replenishment ship HMAS SIRIUS Pendant No: 0266.

HMAS SIRIUS under the command of CMDR Brian Delamont RAN, with LCDR Peter Russell, CSM, RAN as navigator arrived at Station Pier Port Melbourne on the morning of June 21st 2013.

HMAS SIRIUS was in Melbourne on a routine port visit prior to resuming exercises off the Australian East Coast with HMA Ships PERTH and MELBOURNE. HMAS MELBOURNE is part way through working-up exercises in preparation for taking over from HMAS NEWCASTLE in the Middle East area of operations, later this year.

A browse through the record books reveals that:-

This is the first time a Royal Australian Navy Ship has been named *SIRIUS*. The name has been selected because of its historical connections with the First Fleet and the important role the ship played in providing logistic support to the struggling economy. Her motto is "to Serve and Provide.

Since the first HMS SIRIUS, six other ships of the Royal Navy have been named HMS SIRIUS after the brightest star in the night time sky-the most recent being a frigate which decommissioned in the late 1990's.

Built in 1780 as the Berwick for the East India trade, she was badly burnt in a fire and was bought and rebuilt by the Royal Navy in 1786, with a displacement of 540 tonnes and 20 guns. HMS SIRIUS was commissioned into the Royal Navy that same year as the "First Fleet" flagship. This expedition sailed from England on 12 May 1787 to establish the first European Colony in New South Wales.

SIRIUS sailed under the command of Captain John Hunter and carried Arthur Phillip-the Governor of the colony that was to be established. She also carried Major Robert Ross, commander of the marines, responsible for guarding the convicts in the colony.

After her arrival in Port Jackson, she remained as a supply ship and sailed to the Cape of Good Hope in October 1788 to obtain food supplies for the starving colony, a voyage that took over seven months. After returning she was wrecked off Norfolk Island on the 14th of April 1790. With the settlement still on the brink of starvation, this was a major catastrophe as it left the colonists with only one ship. Her crew was stranded at Norfolk Island until 21st February 1791 when they were rescued and eventually returned to England.

Very little now remains of the first *SIRIUS*, apart from her anchor which is displayed in Sydney's Macquarie Place, therefore it was interesting to observe a framed collection of nails used in the construction of the original HMS *SIRIUS*, nails which were salvaged from her wreck.

This collection is displayed with pride in the Commanding Officers Stateroom in HMAS *SIRIUS*, a collection of course that is now somewhere in the order of 230 years old.

HMAS *SIRIUS* is built to commercial specifications and started her Merchant Marine life as the South Korean built commercial tanker MV *DELOS*, purchased then by the RAN, converted to a replenishment type ship and commissioned into the RAN in September 2006.

Some of the main characteristics and features of the current HMAS *SIRIUS* 0266 are detailed in the following:

TYPE:	Auxiliary Oiler
DISPLACEMENT:	25016.53 tonnes
LENGTH:	183.22 metres
BEAM:	32.2 metres
DRAUGHT:	11 metres
BUILDER:	Hyundai Mipo Dockyard
NAMED:	8 October 2004
MACHINERY:	1X6 cylinder Hyundai MAN B&W marine Diesel. 1x direct drive shaft
SPEED:	15.2 knots
ARMAMENT:	Small Arms
COMPLEMENT:	72

The official motto of HMAS *SIRIUS* "to Serve and Provide" is a link to the role of the First-Fleet Supply vessel, HMS *SIRIUS* and to this present ship HMAS *SIRIUS*

Following her current training program with HMA Ships MELBOURNE and PERTH, HMAS *SIRIUS* is scheduled to join with other RAN and USN ships to engage in exercise "Talisman Saber" to be held on and off the Australian East Coast during this month of July 2013.



HMAS SIRIUS BERTHING AT PORT MELBORNE

During exercise “Talisman Saber” SIRIUS will be exercising with a US Amphibious group and possibly the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON carrier group, although at the time of my visit to SIRIUS there was some doubt as to whether USS GEORGE WASHINGTON would participate in this year’s exercise.

The exercise is a biennial Military exercise which combines Australian and US Maritime, land and Air Forces.

It is the largest joint exercise held in Australia undertaken by ADF and US Forces. It usually involves about 15,000 US personnel with about 10,000 Australian participants from all three services.

Taking a turn-about for control of “Talisman Saber”, since it began in 2005, it is the US this year who will manage the exercise. The spelling of “Saber” provides the reader with an indication of the manager of TS13, as TS15, if it continues, will be exercise “Talisman Sabre”. Much of exercise TS takes place in Shoalwater Bay, near Rockhampton, Queensland.

The visit to Melbourne by HMAS SIRIUS is the second visit this year by a naval vessel flying the "Australian White Ensign", a far cry from years ago when Melbourne would enjoy visits by at least 18 ships per year flying the colours of the RAN. During my visit to SIRIUS I left spare COPIES OF THE Leagues magazine "The Navy" and thanked CMDR Delamont for his kind hospitality.

At the completion of exercise "Talisman Saber 13" HMAS SIRIUS will return to her West Australian Base at HMAS STIRLING, thus since leaving Western Australia on this current deployment, SIRIUS will have circumnavigated Australia, HMAS SIRIUS sailed from Melbourne on the morning of 25th June 2013.

During exercise "Talisman Saber" SIRIUS will be exercising with a US Amphibious group and possibly the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON carrier group, although at the time of my visit to SIRIUS there was some doubt as to whether USS GEORGE WASHINGTON would participate in this year's exercise.

The exercise is a biennial Military exercise which combines Australian and US Maritime, land and Air Forces.

It is the largest joint exercise held in Australia undertaken by ADF and US Forces. It usually involves about 15,000 US personnel with about 10,000 Australian participants from all three services.

Taking a turn-about for control of "Talisman Saber", since it began in 2005, it is the US this year who will manage the exercise. The spelling of "Saber" provides the reader with an indication of the manager of TS13, as TS15, if it continues, will be exercise "Talisman Sabre". Much of exercise TS takes place in Shoalwater Bay, near Rockhampton, Queensland.

The visit to Melbourne by HMAS SIRIUS is the second visit this year by a naval vessel flying the "Australian White Ensign", a far cry from years ago when Melbourne would enjoy visits by at least 18 ships per year flying the colours of the RAN. During my visit to SIRIUS I left spare copies of the Leagues magazine "The Navy" and thanked CMDR Delamont for his kind hospitality.



HMAS SIRIUS



**COMMANDING OFFICER-CMDR. BRIAN DELAMONT
HMAS SIRIUS**

NAVAL HISTORY

As we look back over the years the history books reveal the following naval events that have transpired during the month of July.

JULY 1925

Eighty eight years ago under the command of Admiral R.E. Coontz USN, a fleet of 56 ships visited Melbourne and Sydney. As the US fleet neared Australia's East Coast they split into two groups, with the main group of 44 ships proceeding directly to Melbourne and the remaining 12 ships sailing to Sydney.

This event was commemorated in the year 2000, as the 75th anniversary of the event, and celebrated at a luncheon-reception which was hosted by the NLA Vic. Division for the Senior Officers of USS John Paul Jones, when the Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer visited Melbourne 13 years ago.

JULY 1942

On the 1st July 1942, a number of allied prisoners of war, including RANR Coastwatchers, lost their lives when the Japanese Transport Vessel "Montevideo Maru" transporting the P.O.W.'s to Japan was torpedoed and sunk by the American Submarine USS Sturgeon off the Coast of Luzon in the Philippines.

JULY 1950

Sixty three years ago hostilities commenced in Korea. The following RAN Ships engaged, HMA Ships Sydney, Anzac, Bataan, Tobruk, Warramunga, Condamine, Culgoa, Murchison and Shoalhaven.

JULY 1939

On the 10th of July the Light Cruiser HMS Amphion was renamed by the Duchess of Kent and commissioned into the RAN as HMAS Perth.

JULY 1943

During World War 2 on the 10th July 1943, the allies landed in Sicily. This operation was codenamed Op "Husky". The following RAN Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvettes participated in this operation:-

HMA Ships Cairns, Cessnock, Gawler, Geraldton, Ipswich, Lismore, Maryborough and Woolongong.

VALE

Navy League Executive Committee members of the Victoria Division are saddened to hear of the passing of Rear Admiral David Holthouse AO RAN RET'D, who passed away on 31st May 2013 in New South Wales at the age of 76.

Rear Admiral Holthouse, amongst his many activities including President of the Naval Officers Club, was also the Senior Vice President of the Navy League of Australia Federal Council.

Our sincere condolences are extended to his family at this sad time.

AS IT WAS

In the addition to delving back into the annals of Naval History, it can also be of interest to peruse the more recent happenings that either caught the eye of, or involved the Navy League.

In this section of our newsletter, we have a look back 10 years to July 2003 for events that transpired and note that it was around this time that:-

1. The League paid a visit to HMAS STUART FFH 153
2. Armidale Class Patrol Boat tender evaluation
3. Japanese naval visitors to Melbourne

LEAGUES VISIT TO HMAS STUART

Ten members of the Navy League of Australia, Victoria Division, including the Victorian President CMDR John Wilkins RFD RANR RTD, paid a visit on July 8th 2003 to the Anzac Class frigate HMAS STUART FFH 153.

HMAS STUART affectionately known as "*The Tartan Terror*" had been in Victorian waters since late May and was at this time undergoing routine maintenance work at the builders yard Tenix Williamstown.

A wardroom reception for the League members was arranged by STUARTS Commanding Officer CMDR David Greaves, he was kindly assisted by STUARTS Executive Officer LCDR. Michele Miller.

Following morning tea and some warm words of welcome from the XO which in turn were responded in kind with some well-chosen words by the Leagues Victorian President, the League members were conducted on a tour of "*The Tartan Terror*".

HMAS STUART is the third ship to carry the name for the RAN and follows HMAS STUART 2, WHICH WAS AN Australian built River Class destroyer escort.

The original Stuart 1, was a gift to the RAN by the British Admiralty and achieved distinction during World War 2 under the command of Hec Waller as leader of the famous "*Scrap Iron Flotilla*".

The current HMAS STUART 3 is the sixth Anzac Class ship delivered by Tenix under the combined Australian and New Zealand frigate project. Two ships have been commissioned into the RNZN with STUART the fourth Anzac Class to join the RAN.

HMAS STUART 3 has a displacement of 3800 tonnes, a length of 118 metres with a speed of 27 knots. The ships complement is 164 Officers and Sailors.

At the conclusion of the Leagues visit to the ship, the Leagues Victorian President John Wilkins accepted a commissioning print from STUARTS LEUT Malcolm Dick. The STUART print has been signed by the ships Officers and will hang in pride of place amongst the Leagues valued memorabilia.

The League members thanked the CO and XO and all Officers of HMAS STUART for their kind hospitality and a most interesting tour of "*The Tartan Terror*".

Addendum

During his address to the Officers assembled in STUARTS Wardroom. The Leagues Victorian President CMDR John Wilkins, spoke of the Leagues support for the RAN, and upon reflection I say how true that is when we look back to "the children overboard

incident” when the Government literally gagged the Navy and prevented the facts being presented.

It was a Navy League of Australia senior member of the Leagues Federal Advisory Council, Vice Admiral Sir Richard Peek KBE, CB, DSC, RAN RTD, who told the Senate hearing that Government excuses for the Military to be muzzled for national security reasons were nonsense. A sensible Government he said, would have by-passed Ministerial advisers, it would allow a ship’s Captain to report matters to Naval Headquarters, which could pass the information onto the media.

Sir Richards’s comments and statement to the Senate hearing were widely reported by the media including Melbourne’s Herald-Sun. In my opinion a prime example of The Navy League of Australia’s support for the Royal Australian Navy.

Ed: Footnote:

Sadly Captain Norm Banks, CO. HMAS ADELAIDE FFG 01, the ship involved in “the children overboard incident “and Vice Admiral Sir Richard Peek have both since passed away.

ARMIDALE CLASS PATROL BOATS

With the announcement expected in early August 2003 as to who may be the successful tenderer to build the RAN’S next fleet of Patrol Boats, it was of interest to note that ADI has been eliminated from the bid.

The ADI offer to the RAN was for a boat hull constructed from composite fibre glass type material, much the same as that of the coastal mine hunters of the Huon Class constructed by ADI in their Newcastle yard.

This now leaves Tenix and Austral as the remaining contenders for this 12 boat contract. Tenix has offered a boat constructed from steel and Austral a boat constructed from Aluminum. Whoever wins the contract, will most likely build the boats in Western Australia.

The 12 boat fleet, to be known as the Armidale Class, are expected to have 15 crews thus keeping the boats actively engaged. The Armidale Class will replace the RAN’S ageing fleet of Fremantle Class Patrol boats.

JAPANESE VISITORS TO MELBOURNE

Two recent visitors to Melbourne were the Japanese destroyers JDS SAWAGIRI DD157 and JDS HAMAYUKI DD126. Both ships are units of the Japanese Maritime self defence force and form part of the Japanese Training Squadron 2003.

The ships anchored in Port Phillip Bay on 26th June 2003 in order to clean-ship the day prior to berthing at Port Melbourne's Station Pier. As the ships arrived at their anchorage approximately 5 nautical miles off Melbourne, I had the opportunity through the courtesy of the RAN and the Victorian Water Police, to extend a warm Navy League welcome to both Commanding Officers and in turn to enjoy the hospitality of their Wardrooms.

The JDS SAWAGIRI a destroyer of 3550 tonnes is under the command of Commander Mamoru Miyazaki. The ships main characteristics include the following:-

- Length 450 feet, beam 48 feet, draft 15 feet
- 1 - 76mm Rapid Fire Gun
- 2 - 20mm Phalanx CIWS
- Asroc Octuplet Launcher
- Harpoon and Sea Sparrow Missile System
- SH60J Anti-Submarine Helicopter

The JDS Hamayuki also a destroyer has a displacement of 2950 tonnes, is 426 feet in length has a beam of 45 feet, and a draft of 14 feet. The Hamayuki is under the command of CMDR Masato Mouri, and basically features a similar weapons configuration to that of the Sawagiri.

This was the first visit to Melbourne by units of the Japanese Maritime Self Defence Force since June 1996, under the command of Rear Admiral Yamada.

The JDS Kashima TV350, is also part of this current training squadron cruise, however, on this occasion her only Australian port of call was Sydney.

Ports of call included on this current cruise were Hawaii, Tahiti, Fiji, New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines.

The cruise commenced on April 24th 2003, and is expected to conclude back at the Japanese starting point on September 8th 2003.

This current cruise 2003 is under the command of Rear Admiral Masahiko. The ships complement on board Kashima is 360, Sawagiri 200 and Hamayuki 200.

During the ships stay in Melbourne, the officer cadets engaged in this current training cruise, together with representatives of Sawagiri's and Hamayuki's ship complement, paid a number of official visits which included Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance, a memorial to Japanese sailors at the Williamstown cemetery plus the Tenix Ship Building yard which included tours of the RAN'S ships STUART and PARRAMATTA. The Commanding Officers called on various State Ministers, Senior Defence Officer for Victoria and Melbourne's Lord Mayor.

Also included in the ships port visit programme, was a welcoming ceremony held by the Japanese Community at Melbourne's Station Pier, plus an on-board reception during which time I had the honour as a Vice President of the Navy League of Victoria to be included in a time honoured traditional Japanese ceremony known as *Kagamiwani*, which involves cracking open a 5 gallon sake keg with a mallet.

The Navy League of Australia, Victoria Division, played host to the visitors with a luncheon held at Melbourne's Naval & Military Club. Included on the guest list was the Consul General for Japan, together with the CO'S of the visiting ships and two of the ships Senior Officers. An exchange of League's crest and the ships crests took place during the luncheon reception together with an exchange of memorabilia gifts.

The Japanese's ships sailed from Melbourne of the morning of 1st July as the RAN'S STUART and PARRAMATTA flashed signals of best wishes to the departing visitors from the other side of Melbourne's Hobson Bay.

The JDS Sawagiri and JDS Hamayuki rendezvoused with the JDS Kashimi off Sydney and continued together to their next training cruise port of call Port Moresby Papua New Guinea.



J M S D F

JAPAN TRAINING SQUADRON 2003

VICTORIA DIVISION

2013-2014 ANNUAL DUES

This time of the year has rolled around again and it would be helpful if you could send your annual payment off, **\$35** to Hon Secretary R Gill JP as soon as possible.

P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

Hope you are enjoying Frank McCarthy's Monthly Email Newsletter and the Quarterly journal "The Navy"

If you are interested in joining us for "Welcome luncheons" and "special events" let us know when you send your payment and we will update our records.

These events will be announced in the Monthly Newsletter and you should ring the Secretary **9884 6237** if you or a friend would like to attend.

Yours Aye!

CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD*Past President / Hon Treasurer,
9842 4256

.....

SHIPS VISITS

Due to a change in RAN operational requirements, we are now unable to conduct a welcome luncheon for the Senior Officers of HMAS DARWIN. The Navy Leagues special events co-ordinator, CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD, however is now looking at an alternative arrangement to replace the HMAS DARWIN event in August 2013, plus proceeding with arrangements for the September 2013 "Tall Ships" event.

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 _____
<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>		

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

Disclaimer: - Opinions and views expressed in editorial and contributed articles are those of the author and are not necessarily those of the Navy League. The Editor reserves the right to publish abridged articles, special features due to space constraints. The Navy League Editor and authors expressly disclaim all and any liability to any person, whether a Navy League member or not, who acts or fails to act as a consequence of reliance upon the whole or part of this publication. No responsibility is accepted by the Navy League for the accuracy of information contained in advertisements. Publication of any advertisement does not constitute endorsement by the Navy League of any product, nor warrant its suitability. Advertisements are published by the advertisers. E&OA