



## NAVAL HISTORY

**“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

The month of June is indeed a significant month in terms of Australian Navy History, as the following reveals.

### JUNE 1941

June 1: The cruiser HMAS PERTH and the destroyers HMAS NAPIER, NIZAM, STUART and WATERHEN, took part in the evacuation of Crete.

June 30: The destroyer HMAS WATERHEN was sunk off the Libyan coast by German aircraft, with no loss of life.

### JUNE 1942

June 15: HMAS NESTOR suffered severe bomb damage from an Italian air attack off the coast of Crete, at the cost of 4 lives. She was sunk by HMS JAVELIN the following day.

### JUNE 1943

June 11: The sister ship to HMAS CASTLEMAINE the minesweeper HMAS WALLAROO sank off the coast of WA after a collision with US liberty ship HENRY GILBERT COSTIN. 3 lives were lost.

### JUNE 1944

It was seventy three years ago on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944 when approximately 500 RAN, personnel participated in the allied landings at Normandy, many were R.A.N.V.R., Officers in command of British landing craft.

## NAVAL HISTORY C'TND

### JUNE 1945

June 10: Australian forces landed at Brunei Bay, Borneo from HMA ships KANIMBLA, MANOORA and WESTRALIA supported by the cruiser HMAS HOBART, the destroyer ARUNTA, and the frigates BARCOO and LACHLAN.

### JUNE 1950

Sixty seven years ago hostilities commenced in Korea. And in total the following RAN Ships engaged, HMA Ships SYDNEY, ANZAC, BATAAN, TOBRUK, WARRAMUNGA, CONDAMINE, CULGOA, MURCHISON and SHOALHAVEN.

### NAVAL HISTORY EXTRA

#### ANNIVERSARY OF HMAS MELBOURNE, USS FRANK E EVANS COLLISION

Forty eight years ago on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1969, the US Destroyer FRANK E EVANS was sliced in two in a collision with the Australian Aircraft Carrier HMAS MELBOURNE in the South China Sea. The collision resulted in the death of 74 American sailors.

Sixty one years ago your editor accepted an invitation for a tour of inspection of the FRANK E EVANS. When the ship as a representative of the US visited Melbourne for the 1956 Olympic Games.

USS FRANK E EVANS DD754 was an Allen M Sumner Class Destroyer and was known by her motto as ***"The Fighter"***.

At the time of the ships visit to Melbourne FRANK E EVANS was under the command of CMDR J.N. Behan Jnr., USN., who advised that he was part of a ***"Can do Outfit"***

The EVANS had a standard displacement of 2200 tons

Overall Length 377 feet

Beam 41 feet

Armament 6 five inch & six three inch guns plus

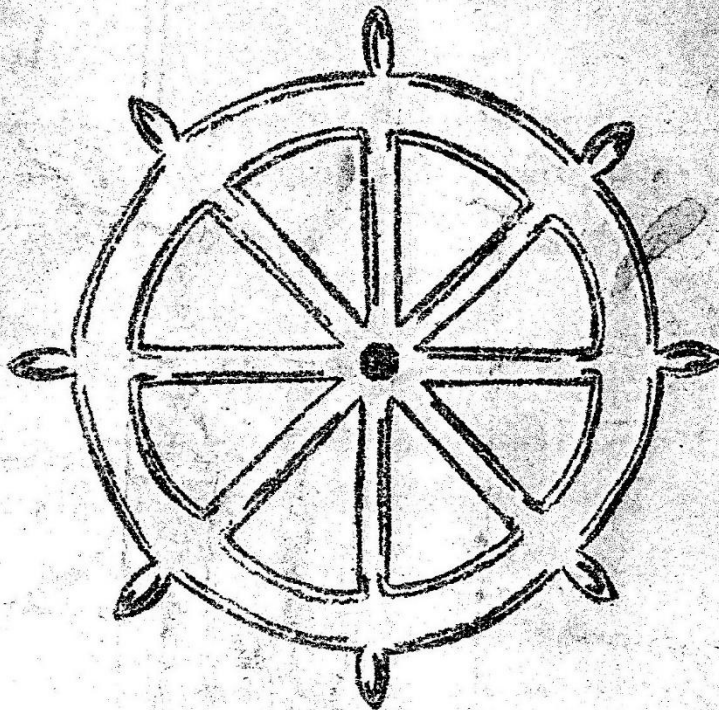
Anti-submarine weapons including five 21 inch torpedo tubes

Her wartime crew totalled 350

Speed 34 Knots

17092

# THE FIGHTER



USS FRANK E. EVANS  
DD 754

U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)  
c/o Fleet Post Office  
San Francisco, California

WELCOME ABOARD THE U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS DD-754

The Officers and Men of the FRANK E. EVANS are proud to have you visit us and are happy to show you what we can of our ship. American Destroyers are named for men who have served their country well in time of war and who have earned the right to be called "WAR HEROES". The hero after whom we are named is Brigadier General FRANK E. EVANS (1876-1941) of the United States Marine Corps. General Evans served in the Spanish American War, 1898, the Philippine Insurrection, 1903, and in World War I, 1914-1918. He was awarded the Navy Cross for exceptionally meritorious and Distinguished service.

The Destroyer named in his honor was built early in 1945 in time to participate in the OKINAWAN Campaign. After a tour of occupation duty in Korea and Japan, she joined the "Mothball Fleet".

After the outbreak of the Korean Conflict in 1950 the Evans was recommissioned, and in 1951, joined Task Force Seventy Seven. Her efforts in Korea earned her the nickname, "THE FIGHTER". During her three tours in Korea, she steamed 130,000 miles, blockaded Wonson and Songjin, fired over 1,000 tons of ammunition and won six of the ten combat stars awarded for Korean service.

## NAVAL HISTORY EXTRA

### HMAS KUTTABUL SUNK 1942

Sixty five years ago in June 1942, HMAS KUTTABUL was sunk with the loss of 21 lives, and the Dutch submarine K9 damaged during an attack on shipping in Sydney Harbour by Japanese Midget Submarines.

### ACNS CHILDERS ARRIVED 133 YEARS AGO

ON THE 25<sup>TH</sup> June 1884 133 years ago, the Victorian Colonial Navy ship CHILDERS arrived in Port Phillip Bay on her maiden voyage. During the voyage CHILDERS a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Torpedo Boat, was diverted to Suakin to participate in the Sudan War, however by the time that CHILDERS arrived the war was over and her services were not required.

The RAN now has another CHILDERS the Armidale Class Patrol Boat HMAS CHILDERS No.2 named after areas in both Queensland and Victoria.

CHILDERS arrived in Melbourne with the gunboats VICTORIA and ALBERT.

VICTORIA -TASMANIA

Tasmania Established 1900,



DIVISION

Victoria 15 October 1915

**2017-2018 ANNUAL DUES** are due for payment by

**30 June 2017**

**\$35**

Forwarding it to Hon Secretary R Gill JP at your earliest convenience, will be greatly appreciated by our Navy League volunteers handling the administration on your behalf.

**Payment ensures you continue to receive the Quarterly issue of "The Navy" and V.Pres. Frank McCarthy's monthly newsletter update.**

**If you cease receiving these contact Hon. Secretary.**

**Direct payment** to our account may be made via internet banking -,  
( *ensure your name is included* after payment *and send an email* to Hon Secretary [raydotgill@optusnet.com.au](mailto:raydotgill@optusnet.com.au) to confirm the payment made)

**BSB 033 389 A/C No.: 107631 Westpac Bank**

**or POST to P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149**

### **NOTES**

**"Welcome luncheons"** for visiting ships and "special events" are held when ship operations permit so please let Secretary Ray (03 9884 6237) know so the records can reflect that interest, and we can notify you of upcoming events.

**Monthly Newsletters** are distributed by email. Those without personal email may have a family member or a friend to whom we can send it. Please let us know that email address.

**MEMBERSHIP**: I attach a copy of our new member application form and encourage you to give it to a friend interested in joining the Navy League and supporting its objective *"The Maritime Well-being of Australia"*

**Yours Aye!**  
**LCDR Roger Blythman RFD**  
**President**

## AS IT WAS

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent Naval History at times 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 the period of the year 2007

1. SEARCH FOR AE1
2. SEASPRITE HELICOPTERS
3. HMAS CASTLEMAINE ANNIVERSARY
4. HMNZS CANTERBURY COMMISSIONS

### SEARCH FOR AE1 CONTINUED

**The underwater object detected by the RAN'S mine countermeasure vessel HMAS BENALLA earlier this year in New Guinea waters, was thought to be a WW1 RAN Submarine.**

As advised to the League by CDRE Ray Griggs at the Leagues 2007 Creswell Oration, it was thought that HMAS **BENALLA had found the wreck of the RAN'S submarine AE1 which was lost in 1914, however following further investigation by the minehunter HMAS YARRA under the command of LCDR Sean Andrews, who was also in attendance at the Leagues 2007 Creswell Oration, he advises that the object discovered by BENALLA has proven to be a submarine shaped rock.**

HMAS YARRA is continuing the search for AE1 during her current New Guinea deployment, and LCDR Andrews advised in early June 2007 that the search results to date were very encouraging.

### SUPER SEASPRITE HELICOPTERS

The decision by cabinet to support the \$1 billion Seasprite Navy Helicopter Project would appear to be a defeat for Defence Minister Dr. Brendan Nelson who wanted to scrap the project.

Dr. Nelson had threatened to sue the American manufacturer Kaman Corporation despite the Navy having altered contract requirements several times.

A further \$110 million will now be spent to ensure that the eleven super Seasprite are operational.

**Dr. Nelson's colleagues**, particularly finance minister Nick Minchin and Treasurer Peter Costello, convinced Prime Minister John Howard that it would have been unacceptable to spend another \$1.5 billion after \$1 billion had already been spent.

**The Seasprite airframes, which date from the Vietnam war period of the mid 1960's will be due for retirement from about 2025.**

I rather think that the RAN must have given up hope of getting their super seasprites, as I was advised recently by a Senior Naval Officer that super seasprite 805 squadron has been disbanded with their personnel transferred to other squadrons.

### HMAS CASTLEMAINE ANNIVERSARY

On 17<sup>th</sup> June this year the ex HMAS Castlemaine maintenance team celebrated the 65<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the commissioning of the ship.

HMAS CASTLEMAINE was launched at Williamstown by the late Mrs. R.G. Menzies on 7<sup>TH</sup> August 1941, and commissioned 10 months later on 17th June 1942.

The Ship is an Australian Bathurst Class Minesweeper – Corvette with a displacement of 650 tonnes, length 186 feet, beam 31 feet, draft 8 feet 3 inches, speed 15 knots and a crew of approximately 70.

HMAS CASTLEMAINE armament comprised of one 4 inch gun, two.5 inch machine guns three 20mm oerlikons and depth charges.

HMAS CASTLEMAINE served with distinction during WW2 in the Northern waters of Australia, New Guinea, Timor, Pacific Islands and China Sea.

## **AS IT WAS C'TND**

Perhaps HMAS CASTLEMAINE could be described as a lucky ship, as CASTLEMAINE could easily have suffered the same fate as HMAS ARMIDALE a Bathurst Class sister ship to CASTLEMAINE which was bombed and sunk by Japanese aircraft whilst operating with HMAS CASTLEMAINE off Timor during December 1942. The fact that HMAS CASTLEMAINE is still afloat alongside at Gem Pier Williamstown, just a few hundred metres from where she was launched 66 years ago is testimony to the builders who constructed her and to Peter Williams and his dedicated band of volunteers, who have been instrumental in maintaining HMAS CASTLEMAINE over the past thirty years.

### **HMNZS CANTERBURY COMMISSIONS**

At 10:30am on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007, the latest addition to the Royal New Zealand Navy joined the fleet when HMNZ CANTERBURY was commissioned.

The commissioning ceremony at which the Rt. Hon. Helen Clark Prime Minister of New Zealand officiated as sponsor lady, was held at Station Pier Port Melbourne.

Other dignitaries in attendance at the commissioning of the 9000 tonne multi-role vessel included Senior Officers of New Zealand's Navy, Airforce and Army including New Zealand's Chief of Navy Rear Admiral David Ledson.

**HMNZS CANTERBURY L421, is the first of the seven vessel "Project-Protector" programme to enter service.**

**To build the seven new ships which comprise "Project-Protector", New Zealand awarded a contract in July 2004** to Tenix Defence Ltd Australia. Tenix has undertaken to deliver two 85 metre offshore Patrol Vessels, four 55 metre Inshore Patrol Vessels and of course the ship of the moment the largest ship of the RNZN fleet HMNZS CANTERBURY.

The first of the offshore patrol vessels, NUSHIP OTAGO was launched in Williamstown Victoria in November 2006. These vessels which are helicopter capable will have an important counter-terrorism role, as well as patrol responsibilities in the South Pacific and the Southern Ocean. Together with the inshore patrol vessels, they will deliver real capability in the policing role which navies are increasingly being asked to perform.

The focus on 12<sup>th</sup> June 2007 however, was on CANTERBURY and on the major contribution it will make to the **New Zealand Navy's capabilities.**

At 131 Metres in length and with a displacement of 9000 tonnes, CANTERBURY will be the largest ship in the Royal New Zealand Navy Fleet. The ship can transport up to 250 troops, 40 light armoured vehicles, and 33 shipping containers, 4 NH90 Helicopters and 1 Seasprite Helicopter plus CANTERBURY carries two 59 tonne medium landing craft.

The principal role of CANTERBURY will be tactical sealift. It will be able to disembark its cargo of troops and equipment without access to port facilities.

Using the core capability the ship will be able to conduct military support operations including humanitarian, peace and non-combatant evacuation operations.

**CANTERBURY could be utilized to situations similar to New Zealand's past involvement in Timor and the Solomon Islands.**

Other main characteristics of HMNZS CANTERBURY include the following:-

BEAM	23.4 METRES	SPEED	19 KNOTS
COMPLEMENT	53 NAVY CREW, 10 AIRFORCE, 7 ARMY, 250 SOLDIERS, 35 TRAINEES		
ARMAMENT	1 X 25MM NAVAL GUN	2 X 12.7MM MACHINE GUNS	
KEEL LAID	6 <sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2005	LAUNCHED 11 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006	
FITOUT-COMMUNICATIONS & ARMAMENT	TENIX WILLIAMSTOWN AUSTRALIA		



## **AS IT WAS C'TND**

HMNZ CANTERBURY is under the command of CMDR Tony Millar with LCDR Mathew Wray as Executive Officer.

Just prior to the commissioning ceremony taking place, your editor had the opportunity to chat with CMDR Millar and wish him well.

League Executive Committee members may recall that the League played host to CMDR Millar, when at the time it was LCDR Millar Executive Officer of HMNZS Te Kaha, with CMDR Ross Smith as Commanding Officer of the Anzac Class Frigate.

The League hosted both Officers to a welcome luncheon at the Naval & Military Club in July 1999.

Your editor congratulated CMDR Millar on his achievements and extended best wishes from the Leagues Victoria President CMDR Wilkins and the Executive Committee. CMDR Millar suggested that I join in the commissioning proceedings and make myself at home.

-----

## **SHRINE REPORT JUNE 2017**

### **CEREMONIES**

#### **Queen's Birthday Gun Salute**



Saturday 10 June, 12 noon  
21 Gun Salute on the Shrine Forecourt

The 21-gun salute is the highest honour that can be given by a nation. In 1730, the British Royal Navy adopted the salute as a commemoration of significant anniversaries. It was later adopted as a salute to the Royal family. Join us on the Shrine Forecourt for the Queen's 91st birthday salute.

#### **Shrine Monthly Memorial Service**

Thursday 15 June, 11.30am  
Wreath laying in the Sanctuary

In the month of June we commemorate the signing of the Treaty of Versailles (28 June 1919); the Normandy landings (D-Day, 6 June 1944); the outbreak of the Korean War (25 June 1950) and the Battle of Coral-Balmoral, Vietnam (May – June 1968).

## Carry On (Victoria)



Tuesday 27 June, 12.30pm  
Wreath Laying Between Trees F48 and F15

Carry On (Victoria) is a philanthropic organisation that has provided welfare assistance to the Ex-Service community in Victoria since its formation in 1932. Its role is to never lose sight of the Carry On vision 'Lest We Forget The Living'.

## Special Air Service Regiment Association 2017

Monday 12 June 2017, 11:00am

Wreath Laying at Memorial Tree E56 - 12 Jun - Blackhawk Accident

## Shrine Monthly Memorial Service - June 2017

Thursday 15 June 2017, 11:30am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives: Shrine Life Governor Mr. Peter Whitelaw, Shrine Governor Lieutenant Colonel Don Reid

*In the month of June we commemorate the following events:*

*28 June 1919: Treaty of Versailles*

*6 June 1944: 'D-Day'*

*25 June 1950: Outbreak of the Korean War*

*May - Jun 1968: Battle of Coral-Balmoral*

## N' Class Destroyers 2017

Sunday 18 June 2017, 11:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representative: Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Chris Le Marshall

## RAN Recruits June 2017

Sunday 25 June 2017, 10:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives: Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM

Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Chris Le Marshall

## HMAS Waterhen 2017

Friday 30 June 2017, 2:00pm

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representative: Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM

## TALKS & EVENTS

### Second World War Swing

Sunday 25 June, 12:00pm



A one hour program of music from the period of the Second World War featuring original compositions dedicated to events of the time. The Air Force Band, of which the six-piece Jazz Group is an integral part, is recognised as a world-class military ensemble with a proud history of service to the Air Force and the Australian community. The band performed to a full house at the Shrine last year, so be sure to reserve your seat for this unique event before it books out.

## PODCASTS

The following podcasts are now available on the website <http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts>: FLAGSHIP HMAS AUSTRALIA II - Mike Carlton, SOLDIERS XI.

## EXHIBITIONS

### The John Charlton Boer War Memorial Window



**Galleries of Remembrance. On display from 6 June 2017.**

The Shrine of Remembrance Trustees are pleased to announce a special exhibition installation of the John Charlton Boer War Memorial Window in the Galleries of Remembrance. The John Charlton Memorial Committee, comprising members of the Euroa community and the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles have donated the window to the Shrine for permanent display. The window commemorates Private John Charlton, of Castle Creek, Victoria, who belonged to the Euroa Rifle Club before enlisting and departing for service in South Africa in 1901. Serving with the 5th Victorian Mounted Rifles (VMR), he engaged with Boer forces across southern Africa, including the disastrous battle of Willamsrust, Transvaal, where a Boer surprise attack resulted in significant casualties.

**Advance notice is given of the Australian Light Horse exhibition in October 2017, dates to be announced.**

---

*Website: <http://www.shrine.org.au> Telephone 9661 8100. Note: there is now a \$5 charge for all public programs and bookings are recommended.*

---

*Ken Crook 4 June 2017*

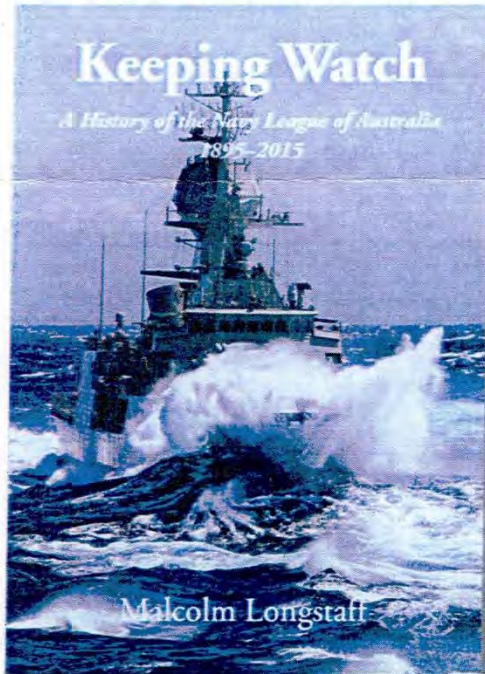




# Keeping Watch

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 Navy 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 1900. 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 Navy 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:

State:

Postcode:

Tel:

Email:

## 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*

## 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: 11 Georgetown Drive, Malibu 6169 WA  
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.

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.

<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 _____
<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>		



## THE 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)).

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.