



"The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the nation"

is
the
principal
objective
of
the
Navy League
of Australia

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AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOUNDATION DAY 114th ANNIVERSARY MARCH 1901-2015

The Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Division, The Naval Officers Club Victoria, The Naval Association of Australia, Victoria, Naval Historical Society of Victoria together with their supporters, celebrated the 114th anniversary of the Foundation of the Australian Navy when they gathered at Melbourne's William Angliss Restaurant on Monday 2nd March 2015.

The Creswell Oration was delivered by Fleet Commander Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, CSC, and Bar, RAN.

His excellent presentation entitled "**Royal Australian Navy in 2015 – Old wine in new wine bottles**", in which he drew parallels to the "then" and "now" of the RAN, took us through the history of the Australian Navy to the present RAN activities and future plans and programs.

He recalled Navy's very beginnings in the Creswell era and explained how the RAN'S future operations will be streamlined with the introduction of the new additions to the Fleet.

Coupled with a "Question and answer" session RADM Mayer's presentation covered a wide range of topics and was so well received that it drew comments from some attendee's that it was one of the best ever Creswell Orations.

In addition to Rear Admiral Mayer's presence the RAN was also represented by Senior Naval Officer of Victoria and Commanding Officer of HMAS CERBERUS Captain Steve Bowater OAM, together with Senior Officers from Nuship Adelaide 01, currently fitting out at Williamstown, including her Executive Officer CMDR Brendon Zilko and Marine Engineer Officer CMDR Henry Nord-Thomson.

Other guests in attendance included the United States Consul General Mr. William J. Furnish, Vice Admiral Creswell's family members Mrs. Rosemary Creswell and Mrs. Elizabeth Sevier. The grandson of Rear Admiral Tickell Mr. Murray Wright, the Leagues Federal President CMDR Graham Harris, Mr. Rex Williams, CDRE Jim Dickson, CMDR Terry Makings, CAPT Paul Willee, CMDR WARREN Kemp, LCDR Roger Blythman, Reverend Dr Andreas Loewe and many others.

Vice Admiral Creswell's cocked hat, sword, medals and decorations and other memorabilia were on display for all guests to view.

In addition to all guests receiving souvenir table brochures, gifts were also presented to RADM Mayer and to Creswell family members Mrs. Rosemary Creswell and Mrs Elizabeth Sevier. Also to CMDR Zilko and US Consul General Mr. W.J. Furnish.

The 2015 Australian Navy Foundation Day 114th Anniversary celebrations were an outstanding success, with due thanks to the senior organiser, the Navy Leagues CMDR John Wilkins, OAM RFD* and his loyal band of helpers.



REAR ADMIRAL STUART MAYER RECEIVING MEMENTO FROM M.C. FRANK MCCARTHY

HMAS SYDNEY VISITS GEELONG

The Adelaide Class Frigate, FFG HMAS SYDNEY, Pendant No: 03, paid a short visit to Geelong recently arriving from Hobart on 20th February 2015.

This was to be HMAS SYDNEY'S last visit to Victoria before decommissioning.

HMAS SYDNEY was built in the United States and her design is based on the US Perry Class Frigates. HMAS SYDNEY was commissioned into the RAN in January of 1983, now in service for 32 years.

The current HAS SYDNEY will eventually be replaced when the DDG HMAS HOBART No.3 enters service. The new HMAS ships SYDNEY, HOBART and BRISBANE, Air Warfare Destroyers, DDG'S, are at present under construction at the ASC Shipyard in Adelaide with modules also supplied by BAE of Williamstown.

The main characteristics of HMAS SYDNEY FFG03 are as follows:-

LENGTH	138 METRES
BEAM	13.7 METRES
SPEED	30 PLUS KNOTS
DISPLACEMENT	4200 TONNES
AIRCRAFT	2 HELICOPTERS
ARMAMENT	1 X 76MM GUN, 1 X CIWS 2 X TRIPLE TORPEDO TUBES VARIOUS MISSILE SYSTEMS INCLUDING HARPOON, STANDARD & EVOLVED SEA SPARROW
CREW	210



HMAS SYDNEY FFG03

The images here are provided by courtesy of Kevin Dunn of Fleetline and show HMAS SYDNEY 03 arriving at Geelong on her last visit to Victoria prior to paying off in Sydney on 27th February 2015.

NAVAL HISTORY

The birthdate of the Australian Navy is 1st March 1901 and so it is that the month of March is an important month for the Australian Navy, for in addition to the first of March being the Australian Navy Foundation day, it is a period to reflect upon other significant events during the month, as we recall the tragic loss of the light Cruiser HMAS PERTH in the early hour of March 1st 1942 now 73 years ago.

HMAS PERTH was lost during the battle of the Sunda Strait in WW11, together with many of her complement including her Commanding Officer Captain Hec Waller RAN. A memorial to honour Captain Hec Waller was erected in his home town of Benalla, Victoria on 14th March 2010.

Lost also in the same month of the same year, was the Sloop HMAS YARRA, again with a large loss of life also including her commanding Officer Lieutenant Commander Robert Rankin. HMAS YARRA like HMAS PERTH was overpowered by a large Japanese naval force.

In this month, we also remember that it was on the 1st March 1967, now 48 years ago, that the RAN first flew their own Australian White Ensign from their ships and from their shore establishments.

The first ship to fly the new RAN Ensign was the ANL shipping company freighter MV BOONAROO, requisitioned by and commissioned into the RAN for service to Vietnam, as HMAS BOONAROO.

It was also the 1st of March in the year of 2003, that the 4th and current HMAS YARRA a Coastal Minehunter, MHC87, was commissioned in New South Wales. So it can be gleaned from the foregoing that the month of March for the Royal Australian Navy is indeed an important period for us to reflect upon and to remember.

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League Member Peter Charlesworth has kindly forwarded a report detailing this year's commemoration service at Newport on 1/03/2015 as follows:-

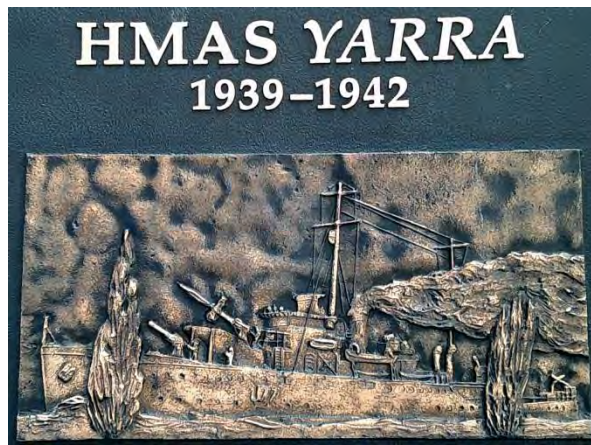
“Report on the HMAS YARRA - 73rd Anniversary of loss”



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

016263

HMAS “Yarra” in the Persian Gulf, 1942.



HMAS "Yarra" Memorial at Newport, Victoria.

Memorial Service HMAS YARRA 2

On Sunday, 1st March 2015, a service was held at the HMAS "Yarra" Memorial to commemorate the 73rd anniversary of the ship's loss, on the 4th March 1942, in World War Two. HMAS "Yarra", a "Grimsby" Class sloop, of 1,080 tons and armed with three 4 inch guns and light anti-aircraft machine guns was lost to enemy action while escorting a convoy in the Java Sea. Under the command of Lieutenant-Commander Robert Rankin, on the morning of the 4th March 1942, "Yarra" spotted the masts of three 8-inch gunned Japanese cruisers and two escorting destroyers. Ordering the convoy to scatter, Rankin turned his ship towards the enemy to close the range. Hopelessly out-gunned and knowing that it was a one-sided encounter, Rankin opened fire. With the returning fire from the three cruisers, "Yarra" was soon a blazing hulk. Rankin was killed on his bridge. Acting Leading Seaman Ronald (Buck) Taylor died manning the only 4-inch gun still firing as the sea closed over the "Yarra". 34 men survived the battle; however, only 13 of a ship's company of nearly 150 were saved, being picked up by the Dutch submarine K11. The survivors left in the water on life rafts were never seen again. Every ship in the convoy was eventually sunk.

The Memorial to HMAS "Yarra" is located on a grassy bank at Newport, Victoria, near the mouth of the river for which the ship was named. A floating Memorial Jetty jutting out into the river is nearby.

Although a passing shower threatened to dampen the service, it passed over and the service was held in sunshine.

Mrs. Christine Hirschfield – Honorary National Memorial Coordinator – introduced the Official Guests and recruits from HMAS "Cerberus" – under the command of Lieutenant Patrick Scott: OIC Taylor Division: Recruit School - Naval Cadets from Training Ship TS "Voyager" – under the command of Lieutenant Jeff Paull and members of the general public.

An address, by Councillor Paul Morgan: Deputy Mayor of Hobson Bay Council, telling of the gallant ship's last fight followed an address by Mr. Garry Taylor who told of his ancestor's heroism. The Call to Worship was conducted by Chaplain Ted Brooker and the Naval Hymn was sung by the assembly accompanied by the Hyde Street Youth Band. The Naval Psalm was read by Lieutenant Patrick Scott, Officer in Charge, Taylor Division of HMAS "Cerberus"; and this was followed by The Sailors' Prayer read by Christine Hirschfield. The New Testament reading (Mathew 8, Verses 23 to 27) was read by Mr. Garry Taylor. Chaplain Brooker read the Address, followed by the Lord's Prayer and the affirmation to our leaders. The Royal Hymn followed. The Ode was read by Lieutenant Jeff Paull, Commanding Officer of Training Ship "Voyager" Cadets. The Last Post was played by the Bugler from HMAS "Cerberus"; a minutes silence and Reveille followed. The Service ended with the National Anthem.

Floral tributes were laid at the memorial and gifts were presented to the official party. A Guard of Honour was formed by the Memorial Jetty for those who wished to strew a sprig of rosemary and rose petals into the river to honour those who perished in HMAS "Yarra" and all those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in all wars.

A BBQ sausage sizzle, conducted by the Williamstown Rotary Club rounded out the proceedings.

Written by Peter Charlesworth NLA from notes taken at the service.

1st to 9th March, 2015.



HMAS “Yarra” memorial service, 1st March 2015. The official ceremony.
Photo: Peter Charlesworth.



The Guard of Honour at the Memorial Jetty. The Official Party.
Photos: Peter Charlesworth.



Lieutenant-Commander Robert Rankin, HMAS “Yarra”’s Commanding Officer.



Acting Leading Seaman Ron (Buck) Taylor, who died at his gun as “Yarra” sank.

AS IT WAS”

Once again, we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history, at items that involved or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our “Keep Watch” brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports of March 2005.

1. Air Warfare Destroyers DDG'S
2. UMITAKA MARU in Melbourne
3. First Sea Lord pays a visit

AIR WARFARE DESTROYERS

On Friday February 18th 2005 the Leagues Frank McCarthy, together with NLA Vic. Division President CMDR John Wilkins, attended a presentation by the Victorian Government aimed at promoting Victoria's bid for the contract to build 3 Air Warfare Destroyers at Williamstown.

Government representatives at the presentation included the State Treasurer Mr. John Brumby and State Minister for Manufacturing Mr. Andre Haermeyer.

The main thrust of the presentation centred around the theme “Victoria leading the way in Naval shipbuilding capability” with the 3 “P”s for “proven” record with Anzac Project “prepared” with Williamstown site and “Partnership” as in Victorian Government investing in Industry and skills, all focal points in the presentation which included overhead slides of facts and figures plus a video of HMAS PARRAMATTA being assembled in modules. Noticeable absentees from the presentation were the member for Williamstown Mr. Steve Bracks, and the person seconded to lead Victoria's drive for the AWD contract Mr. Ron Walker. Others who were in attendance at the presentation included Rear Admiral John Lord RAN Rtd and Commodore Dennis Mole RAN Rtd.

Many in attendance were of the opinion that South Australia are the favorites to win the contract on the basis that the South Australian Government has been supportive of the project over a considerable period of time, compared to the Victorian Government who have been a little tardy in their performance or “Too little too late”.

It may mean unfortunately for Victoria that Williamstown has missed the boat.

In a recent interesting move the Bracks Government has taken control of the Williamstown Shipyard to stop it being used for other purposes.

The Premier Mr Bracks said that if developers thought that they could take advantage of the area for high rise or other residential developments etc., then they are sadly mistaken.

He further added that, if the shipyard were unsuccessful in their bid for the Air warfare Destroyers they would then need to look for other contracts.

“AS IT WAS C’TND”

UMITAKA MARU VISITS MELBOURNE

At the time of my visit to HMAS YARRA (24/02/2005) AT Station Pier Port Melbourne, the pier was under the control of very tight security arrangements in line with passenger liner visits.

Also enjoying, or taking advantage of the tight security was the visiting 2000 tonne Japanese vessel the “Umitaka Maru”.

With a stern ramp and heavy lifting equipment aft the “Umitaka Maru” bears all the characteristics of a Whaling vessel.

The sign written banner displayed amidships of the vessel indicates that the ship is engaged by the University of Tokyo in Marine Scientific Studies.

A recent Melbourne Herald-Sun report advised that Japanese Whalers started culling during February 2005 in Australian Territorial Waters of the Sothern Ocean.

The report further advises that the Australian Government will not support a Federal Court action to stop Japan killing as many as 2300 whales a season. The report goes on to say that Japan flaunts Australian Law on the grounds it is whaling for so-called scientific reasons. Japan refuse to recognise Australia’s Territorial claims in Antarctica, and Japans Government has threatened diplomatic action if Australia stops their whalers.

FIRST SEA LORD VISITS MELBOURNE

Following Vice Admiral Ritchie’s attendance and participation at the 2005 ANFD Creswell Oration, he was scheduled to meet with the UK’s First Sea Lord who arrived in Melbourne on the evening of 1st March 2005 from New Zealand.

The First Sea Lord, Admiral Sir Alan West, joined RAN’S Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie, for discussions which were followed by a tour of inspection of the Tenix Williamstown dockyard. Steel is currently being cut at Tenix for the New Zealand Navy’s “*Project Protector*” patrol boat program.

The visit to Tenix also included a tour of inspection of the Anzac Class Frigate NUSHIP TOOWOOMBA. No doubt, TOOWOOMBA’S Commanding Officer CMDR Greg Sammut and XO LCDR Dave McDonald would be a little concerned that TOOWOOMBA was not as spick and span as it would be in Navy hands for the Admirals inspection however, NUSHIP TOOWOOMBA remains in dockyard control undergoing sea trials until late July 2005 period when she will then be handed over to the RAN prior to her commissioning in Brisbane on October 8th 2005. This date is the closest Saturday date to the commissioning date of the first HMAS TOOWOOMBA, a Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvette commissioned on October 9th 1941.

OUR STORY OF TASMANIA’S NAVAL HISTORY CONCLUDES

The post-war demobilization saw Huon’s status downgraded to a care and maintenance base from 1946 until 1960. After 1960 it once again became the main support, recruitment and reserve and cadet training establishment in Tasmania. In some years, as many as ten per cent of new naval recruits came from Tasmania. The state’s training capacity was boosted in 1982 with the transfer of the Attack Class Patrol Boat HMAS ARDENT to the Hobart Port Division of the Naval Reserve.

The presence of ARDENT in Tasmanian waters was a common sight for the next decade averaging 100 days at sea per year in addition to training cruises, she also conducted fishery patrols off the southern Tasmanian coast.

Huon, amongst a number of other bases decommissioned on 17 June 1994 with the office of the Naval Officer

Commanding – Tasmania moving to new offices at Anglesea Barracks, a petition containing 23,000 signatures not enough to keep the establishment open. ARDENT sailed from Hobart for the last time that January, Huon’s buildings have since been listed on the National Estate Register. Naval Headquarters Tasmania remains an important support and training base and continues to offer logistic services to visiting warships from Australia and abroad, as well as supporting a continuing naval presence at the Royal Hobart Regatta.

PACIFIC PATROL BOAT TENDER

Australian shipbuilders will no doubt be pleased to receive tenders for supply of 21 Pacific Patrol Boats, including our local builder at Williamstown.

A press release from BAE'S Adelaide office detailing the company's interest in the project follows:-

BAE SYSTEMS WELCOMES PACIFIC PATROL BOAT TENDER

Adelaide, South Australia: BAE Systems Australia will bid to build the 21 Pacific Patrol Boats required by the Commonwealth Government.

Chief Executive, David Allott said the company's bid was already being prepared in anticipation of this Request For Tender being issued.

"This is a very important decision by the Federal Government and we thank the Minister for bringing forward this project," he said.

"BAE Systems has a strong heritage of building high quality ships in Australia, including the current fleet of Pacific Patrol Boats that have been operating successfully over many years and we look forward to submitting a very competitive bid for the replacement of that fleet."

Mr Allott said that as part of its tender, the company would seek to leverage opportunities for its Australian supply chain.

"We have a supply chain that includes around 800 small and medium Australian businesses that will be very keen to contribute to this program and to retain some of their capabilities as well.

"This capability will be critical should the government decide to maintain a sovereign shipbuilding capability in Australia."

BAE Systems recently delivered the Royal Australian Navy's largest ever warship, HMAS Canberra. The second Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD), NUSHIP Adelaide, is being completed at the Williamstown shipyard and is due to be finished later this year.

"In addition to the LHDs, we are also the prime contractor for the Anti-Ship Missile Defence Upgrade program on the ANZAC Frigates which is being undertaken at our Henderson shipyard in Western Australia (all of the ANZAC Frigates were built at the BAE Systems Williamstown shipyard), and as a subcontractor to ASC, we are manufacturing high quality blocks for the Air Warfare Destroyer Program at excellent levels of productivity. All of our highly skilled shipbuilders are extremely proud of the ships and service we deliver to the Commonwealth of Australia and we are very much hoping to continue that tradition long into the future."



AUSTRALIAN NAVY CADETS

ANC Report – March 2015

Units in Bass and Flinders closed for their summer break mid-December, but there is no time to rest these days and for the second year running a “Combined Flotillas ACT” (Annual Continuous Training) camp took place in January.

HMAS Cerberus, HMAS Harman, HMAS Albatross and HMAS Creswell played host to over 500 Cadets and Staff from Flotillas in Vic, NSW, QLD, NT & WA. General training and category courses were conducted over the 10 day period. Courses included Ceremonial Training, Engineering, Drum corps, Communications, Cooks, Sailing, Power Boating as well as promotion courses for CPO & WO.

Units start back in the first week of February and already the first few months is looking very busy as we head toward the 100 years of ANZAC celebrations. Bass Flotilla will hold its conference in February at TS Voyager and then the inter-unit sailing regatta at TS Gambier over the March Long week end. Two weeks later the Annual Unit Inspections will begin with TS Voyager being the first to be inspected. These inspections will decide the “Best in Flotilla” with the winner then in contention to be inspected for the National award; being the Navy League Shield for the Most Efficient Unit in Australia

There has been a change of Director General ANC with CDRE Geraghty RAN retiring towards the end of 2014. He has been replaced by CDRE Bruce Kafer RAN

TS Barwon will be holding a dinner/reunion on Saturday the 8th August 2015 at the Italian social club in Geelong. Past cadets, staff, committee, parents and any one that has been involved with the unit are invited. More information will be available soon or jump on to the Ex-TS Barwon face book page. TS Barwon was a Navy League sponsored unit in its early days and has had a long relationship with the league.

Over the summer break I have received numerous enquiries from potential new cadets as I am sure other units in the ANC have. With so many choices for our youth these days it’s a constant challenge to keep our numbers up, but we continue to grow.

Jeff Paull,
Lieutenant, ANC,
Commanding Officer
TS VOYAGER

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*.

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.

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Joining the League

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victorian Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: GPO Box 1481, Brisbane, QLD 4001.
South Australian Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
West Australian Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victorian Division. If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australian Division respectively.

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

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] _____		
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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>		