



**"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 115TH ANNIVERSARY MARCH 1901-2016

The Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Division, The Naval Officers Club Victoria, The Naval Association of Australia Victoria, Naval Historical Society Victoria Chapter together with their supporters, celebrated the 115th anniversary of the Foundation of the Australian Navy when they gathered at Melbourne's William Angliss Restaurant on Tuesday 1st March 2016.

This year's Master of Ceremonies for the celebrations was Mr Rex Williams President of the Naval Historical Society, Victoria Chapter.

The Creswell Oration was delivered by Vice Admiral David Johnston AM, RAN, "Chief of Joint Operations".

His excellent presentation was entitled "The conduct of current and future Joint Operations", in which he drew parallels to the Navy of the Creswell period progressing through to the Navy of today, as the ADF models itself, in part along similar lines to that of the US amphibious ready group.

Already on the way to Fiji to provide assistance in terms of disaster relief in the wake of cyclone “Winston” is the RAN’S new landing helicopter dock ship HMA Ship CANBERRA currently under the control of Joint Operations Command. Australia having always lent-a-hand in Pacific disaster relief situations now has the capability to do so on a far greater scale with the 27,000 tonne CANBERRA already deployed to the task in Fiji as a “Joint Operation”.

VADM Johnston’s question and answer session covered a wide range of topics including the forthcoming “Air Warfare Destroyers”, the White Paper, future submarines plus other Joint Operations activities involving the Australian Defence Force in particular the Middle East area of Operations including Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and the Northern realms of the Indian Ocean, all currently involving either Australia’s Navy, Army or Airforce.

In addition to Vice Admirals Johnston’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 Mrs Julianne Bowater and serving Senior Officers from HMAS CERBERUS. Other guests in attendance included Vice Admiral Creswell’s granddaughter Mrs Elizabeth Sevier family member Mrs Rosemary Creswell and the grandson of Rear Admiral Tickell Mr Murray Wright, the Leagues Federal President CMDR Graham Harris, Mrs Jenny Smyth, CDRE Jim Dickson, CAPT Paul Willee and Mrs Alice Willee, CMDR Warren Kemp, LCDR Roger Blythman, Mrs Allison Blythman, 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 and admire.

In addition to all guests receiving souvenir table brochures gifts were also presented to VADM Johnston from The Navy League of Australia, Victoria-Tasmania Division and from The Naval Association of Australia, Box Hill Sub Section.

A short tribute by Captain David Garnock CBC,RAN,RET’D to CMDR John Moller OAM RFD RANR, included congratulating CMDR Moller on his recent appointment as President of The Naval Association of Australia Victoria Division. The Tribute, coupled with some well-chosen words by M.C. Mr. Rex Williams in his closing remarks concluded the formalities of the event.

The 2016 Australia Navy Foundation Day 115th Anniversary celebrations were again an outstanding success, with due thanks to the senior organiser, The Navy Leagues CMDR John Wilkins OAM, RANR,RFD and his loyal band of helpers.



VICE ADMIRAL DAVID JOHNSTON AM, RAN AND NLA PRESIDENT ROGER BLYTHMAN



CAPTAIN STEVE BOWATER OAM, MRS JULIENE BOWATER AND MR ROBERT GRAY

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 74 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 49 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, during the conflict in that country, 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.

Editors Notes:

- (A) In March of 2014, CN VADM Ray Griggs, at a ceremony in Melbourne, was presented with the HMAS YARRA (II) unit citation for gallantry. In part the citation reads "Through their actions, the ships company of HMAS YARRA (II) displayed extraordinary gallantry in the face of overwhelming odds, which is in keeping with the finest traditions of The Royal Australia Navy".
- (B) Next year 2017, will be the 75th anniversary of the loss of both HMA Ships YARRA and PERTH.
- (C) Next year 2017, will mark the 50th anniversary of the RAN flying their own White Ensign from their ships and shore establishments.
- (D) Visitors to London may observe what surely must be the last "Grimsby Class" Sloop still afloat (same class as HMAS YARRA (II)). The RN ex HMS WELLINGTON is now moored alongside the Victoria embankment, at Temple Pier, on the River Thames. These days she is known as HQS WELLINGTON, Headquarters ship of the "Honourable Company of Master Mariners".

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2016



HEART OF A MYSTERY

IT'S a Valentine's Day mystery.

Thousands of drivers on Beach Rd, Port Melbourne this week have driven past this statue of a Royal Australian Navy sailor carrying a red rose and card.

The card appears to be from "Glender" and contains a heartfelt tribute "to my Lft Commander father — who passed away on Valentine's Day — gone but never forgotten".

Perhaps a reader can shed further light?

Love you, Dad

OUR Valentine's Day statue mystery has been solved.

Yesterday, we published a photo of a sailor statue (right) on Beach Rd, Port Melbourne, which has been carrying a red rose and card since Valentine's Day.

Now we've heard from Glender, from Mill Park, who left the rose and card in honour of her dad, Lieutenant Commander Alfred Warwick, who served in the Navy from age 15 until he died aged 62 on Valentine's Day, 1976.

"I nearly choked on my

toast when I opened the paper and saw it!" says Glender.

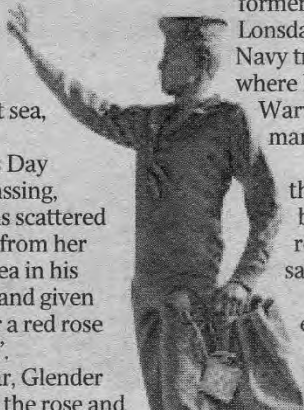
Her father's ashes were scattered at sea, so every Valentine's Day since his passing, Glender has scattered rose petals from her garden at sea in his honour — and given her mother a red rose "from Dad".

This year, Glender also placed the rose and

card on the recently erected sailor statue, opposite the former site of HMAS Lonsdale, a Royal Australian Navy training establishment where Lt Commander Warwick worked for many years.

"My husband hung them on his hands because I couldn't reach that high," she says.

"I'll be doing it every Valentine's Day from now on — unless I get arrested!"



Editors Note:

"Answering the Call" monument making its presence felt.

In one of his publications, The Navy League's CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD* RANR described LCDR A. (Alf) E. Warwick MBE RANR, as a distinguished Officer with a total of 50 years' service in the RN, RAN and RANR.

“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 January & February 2006. We note that we reported on the following:-

- Minehunter visits Melbourne
- US Cruiser visits Sydney
- Commonwealth Games visitors

RAN MINEHUNTER PAYS A VISIT

The Coastal Minehunter HMAS Norman paid a visit to Melbourne recently, arriving at 1845H on 1st March 2006 and departing at 0900H on 8th March 2006. HMAS NORMAN MHC 84 is the third ship of the RAN’S fleet of 6 Huon Class Minehunters and is followed by HMAS’S GASCOYNE NO.85, DIAMANTINA no.86 and YARRA NO.87. The first two ships of the class, HMAS’S HUON No.82 and HAWKESBURY NO.83 are being placed into the mothball fleet. The main characteristics of the Huon Class are as follows:-

DISPLACEMENT	720 TONNES	LENGTH	52.5 METRES
BEAM	9.9 METRES	SPEED	14 KNOTS
SHIPS COMPANY 38 INCLUDING 6 OFFICERS			

US CRUISER VISITS AUSTRALIA

United States ship visits to Australia continue, however, it is seldom that they call into Melbourne. The latest visitor to Australia visiting Sydney during mid-March was the USS PORT ROYAL.

It was in fact the last US ship to visit Melbourne a little over two years ago. USS PORT ROYAL CG73, a Ticonderoga Class guided Missile Cruiser, visited Melbourne in February 2004 on her way back to her US base following a deployment to the Arabian Gulf.

GAMES NAVAL VISITORS

There were a number of other naval visitors to Victorian waters during March coinciding with Melbourne’s Commonwealth Games. Some of the visitors berthed in Melbourne and some in Geelong, some were here to fly the flag and some on other business ie: engaged in anti-terrorist somewhere patrols. Amongst the visitors were “YOUNG ENDEAVOUR’ the RAN’S sail training Brigantine HMAS MANOORA L52, 8500 tonne amphibious landing platform, HMAS WESTRALIA 0195, 40,000 TONNE UNDERWAY REPLENISHMENT TANKER. A return visit by the Coastal Minehunter HMAS NORMAN, the New Zealand Anzac Class Frigate HMNZS TE-Mana F111, and the RAN’S Anzac Class Frigate HMAS WARRAMUNGA FFH152. The RAN’S YOUNG ENDEAVOUR also visited on a second occasion arriving at Station Pier Port Melbourne 29th March 2006. A further visitor to Melbourne during the period was the RAN’S Hydrographic Survey Ship HMAS LEEUWIN A245.

MEMORIAL SERVICE – LOSS OF HMAS YARRA II, 4th March 1942

HMAS Yarra National Memorial, Melbourne

The annual memorial service was held in beautiful sunshine with a refreshing breeze off the river on Sunday 6 March 2016 at 11am. Around 100 descendants attended and music was provided as in previous years by the Hyde Street Youth Band. WO Marty Grogan, Curator of HMAS Cerberus Museum and Vice-President of the Naval Historical Society of Australia Inc, Victoria Chapter, kindly provided a painting of HMAS Yarra II for the service. It was painted by one of the sailors on that ship, which of course had special significance for those present.

An introduction by Christine Hirschfield, Honorary National Memorial Co-ordinator, was followed by addresses from Councillor Paul Morgan, Hobsons Bay City Council, Reverend Andrew Knight and Kathy Roberts, Rotary Club of Williamstown. The Recruit School from HMAS Cerberus and TS Voyager Cadets were represented. Able Seaman Dorian Broomhall, Bugler, played the Last Post and Reveille.

Reverend Andrew Knight has taken over from Chaplain Ted Brooker from NSW. Andrew gave a very moving talk which touched the hearts of the attendees. It would be easy to take vengeance because of the tragedy of the HMAS Yarra II deaths and the consequent suffering of all the families involved. But this pleasure belongs to God, not man. He likened Christ's unfair death on the Cross to the unfair deaths of all those mariners and asked us to try and see hope for the future, overcoming evil with good.

Kathy Roberts gave a fascinating speech, outlining how the Memorial had come about. Dr Roland Goldberg OAM who died in 2015, was a local dentist who had served in Rotary for 30 years. He was highly influential in starting off the Williamstown Memorial, along with Angus Walsh OAM, Honorary Memorial Coordinator, and who served in the RAN in World War II. Roland negotiated for the preferred site with three different authorities and finally permission was given in writing to construct the memorial. Smorgons provided the steel reinforcing. Local army engineers prepared the site. Boral supplied the concrete and Swinburne College built the Ship's crest – a mosaic of the Kookaburra. The local yacht club provided the flagpole. Plans were drawn up and the memorial was transformed over three weekends. The Rotary Club of Williamstown, together with the Hobsons Bay City Council, maintains the memorial and repairs the ongoing vandalism. A park bench and memorial plaque was unveiled in memory of Dr Goldberg and his contribution during the service. The archway over the floating Memorial Jetty was totally designed and erected and paid for by the Melbourne Port Authority some years back - they consulted with Christine Hirschfield, sent her the plans and liaised quite regularly on its progress. The Port Authority also repaints the bollards periodically. This was kindly organised by Mr. Robert Renn; unfortunately he is retiring. The Port of Melbourne has done a lot of repair work, repainting and replacing vandalised letters as well. Their assistance is very much appreciated.

The Last Post & Reveille gave people time to reflect. This was followed by the Australian National Anthem and floral tributes scattered on the Yarra River from the Memorial Jetty. Rotary Williamstown kindly provided the very welcome marquees, sausage sizzle and refreshments.

Ken Crook & Lynda Gilbert



HYDE STREET SCHOOL BAND AT HMAS YARRA COMMEMORATION



HMAS YARRA (II)



HMAS YARRA (II) PAINTING



KEN CROOK AT HMAS YARRA (II) NATIONAL MEMORIAL

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.
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] _____		
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY		
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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>		