

The Navy League of Australia - Victoria Division  
Incorporating Tasmania

# NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2017

Volume:6 No:3

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

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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Governor of Victoria

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RANR RFD RET'D

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RANR

## **CRESWELL ORATION 01/03/1901 – 01/03/2017** **SPECIAL EDITION MARCH 2017**

### AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOUNDATION DAY 1901-2017 CRESWELL ORATION

The League is most grateful for the fine contributions by Ms Lynda Gilbert and Ms Jane Teasdale in their coverage of the 2017

**"Creswell Oration".**

Navy League Executive Committee Members Lynda and Jane have contributed the following comprehensive report together with images of the Leagues Flagship event held 1st March 2017.

List of Attendees names – see below – did not include Captain Antonio DEFRIAS US Attaché (Navy) whose attendance was unexpected and welcomed.

TABLE No. 1

RADM Michael Noonan AM
CAPT Tim Standen CSC
Mrs Elizabeth Sevier
LCDR Roger Blythman RFD
Mrs Alison Blythman
CMDR Graham Harris RFD
CMDR Warren Kemp
CAPT Nigel Porteous COMM

TABLE No. 2

CDRE Chris Ackerman RVMYC
W.O. Brendan Woodsell RAN Cerberus
Mr Roger Buxton
CAPT Neville Daniel RFD
Mr Ray Gill JP
CHAP Russell Joyce RANR
CMDR Terry Makings AM RAN
CMDR John Moller OAM RFD*

TABLE No. 3

LCDR John de Bomford RAN Cerberus
R/CDRE Doug Shields RYCV
CDRE Peter Habersberger AM RFD
Mr Doug Jenkin
Mr Vic Leigh
Mr Allan Paull OAM
Ms Jan Roberis-Billett
Mr David Watts

TABLE No. 4

CMDR Matthew Hoffman RAN XO Cerberus
Mr John Bestes
LCDR Jan Gallagher RANR
WO Marty Grogan OAM
Mr Chris Newman
Mrs Cecilia Newman (Lonsdale descendant)
Mr Laurie Peglar
CDRE Greg Yorke RANR

TABLE No. 5

Mr John deC. Douglas
Mrs Rosemary Creswell
Mr John Fabian
Mr Peter Fennell
Mr John Laughton
CDRE Michelle Miller RAN DGNP
Mrs Jenny Smyth
Naval Personnel

TABLE No. 6

LEUT Cheyne Coley RAN HMAS Leeuwin
LCDR John Bird RNR
Mr Terry Hetherington
CMDR Doug McKenzie
CMDR Jim Speed DSC
Mrs Natalie Speed
Ms Jane Teasdale

TABLE No. 7

Mr Frank Cronin
Mr Ken Crook
Ms Lynda Gilbert
CAPT Joe Lukaitis RANR
LEUTB Clint Moore RAN HMAS Leeuwin
CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD*
Mrs Judy Wilkins
CAPT Paul Willae RFD *****

TABLE No. 8

Mr David Derrick
CAPT David Garnock CSC
CMDR Luke Ryan RAN Cerberus
Mr Peter Tori
Mr Peter Wickham
Mr John Wilson
Mr Anthony Wilson
LCDR Bill Woodward

## Proceedings:

The William Angliss Restaurant looked impressive with its array of flags and Vice-Admiral Sir William Rooke **Creswell's memorabilia. As usual, the food was great and the service very impressive.**

LCDR Roger Blythman RFD, President of the Navy League of Australia (Vic-Tas Division), was Master of Ceremonies for the proceedings and ensured the event ran smoothly.

Captain Nigel Porteus started by saying grace, then LCDR John Bird proposed toasts to the Queen, the RAN and the US Navy.

CMDR John Wilkins introduced RADM Michael Noonan AM RAN, Guest Speaker, welcoming him to the luncheon in commemoration of Vice-Admiral Creswell, fondly remembered as the Father of the Australian Navy. John then recalled the previous welcome luncheon when RADM Noonan served in HMAS Parramatta.

RADM Noonan has a distinguished career. He was promoted to Deputy Chief of Navy in January 2016. He was awarded commendations for Distinguished Service for his role in Middle East Operations in 2003 and 2009. He was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2012.

**RADM Noonan's subject was the future directions of the Navy. He acknowledged** the Australian Navy Foundation Day Organising Committee and thanked them for their friendship and hosting of this event.

**This was the Navy's 116<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australia's White Ensign.** Vice-Admiral Creswell would have been proud to see the flag flying on top of the Harbour Bridge in Sydney. This is a particularly significant year as we remember that in 1942 HMAS Perth, Yarra, Kuttabul, Nestor, Voyager, Canberra, Armidale, and Vampire were lost.

He welcomed the loan of the Lonsdale Silver Collection by Cecilia Newman, descendant of Captain William Lonsdale. A portrait of Captain Lonsdale and other items were also donated to HMAS Cerberus Museum.

**Today's Navy has 16,000 full time personnel, both male and female, and is responsible for regional, national and world wide security.** Its Mission is to fight and win at sea. Threats the Navy must face include cyber warfare and terrorism. It is a complex and challenging world. War and peacetime demands from Government also include humanitarian operations and disaster relief. The Navy needs to become more sophisticated to meet these demands.

The budget for our Defence capability is \$195 billion over the next ten years. The submarine force will be increased from 6 to 12, there will be three new Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyers and nine frigates, more and larger offshore patrol vessels, new manned and unmanned aircraft, a large-hulled multi-purpose patrol vessel, the Australian Defence Vessel Ocean Protector and two large fleet support ships. The ADF will be equipped with a potent air combat and air strike capability centred around the F-35A Lightning II and the E/A-18G Growler that builds on its current fleet of F/A-18 Super Hornet, Wedgetail Airborne Early Warning and Control and air-to-air refuelling aircraft. (Defence White Paper, 2016).

The most important issue is the strategic management of the Navy workforce as it defines the success of our operations. It is not straight forward. Issues such as the ageing workforce, career and family commitments, low student enrolment in science and mathematics as well as the difficulty of having enough resources to support the ship building industry must be taken into account.

Ways of managing training are changing – there will be reduced time at sea and computer simulations will take on a bigger role to train recruits more quickly and at less cost. Ideas are being sought from all levels, not just the top.

Diversity is critical to sustaining the future workforce of the Navy. People from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are coming into the service (eg Torres Strait Islanders).

A fourth Service Chief is being set up as from 1 July this year - **“Chief of Joint Capability”** - to cope with cyber threats and a Director-General of Navy Communications and Information Warfare, Captain Brian Delamont RAN, has recently been employed.

CMDR Warren Kemp thanked Admiral Noonan for his illuminating address and noted that he is encouraged by the quality of service people today. The Navy is now able to improve its Service in consultation with our allies.

CMDR John Moller of the Naval Association thanked RADM Noonan for his presentation and gave him a large framed picture of Vice-Admiral Sir William Rooke Creswell KCMG, KBE with a copy of his biography.

**CMDR Graham Harris, Federal President of the Navy League of Australia then presented a copy of “Keeping Watch – A History of the Navy League 1900-2015” to RADM Noonan, Captain Tim Standen, Senior Naval Officer, HMAS Cerberus and LEUTB Clint Moore, HMAS Leeuwin.**

CMDR Terry Makings then announced Navy Week. Saturday 21 October is Trafalgar Day and ex-Navy fraternity and friends are invited to the Navy Ball at the Melbourne Town Hall at \$155 per head. There is a **seminar to be held at a location to be advised and the usual Seafarers service at St Paul’s Cathedral on Sunday 22 October.**

The luncheon concluded with the convivial chatter of people catching up with their friends and colleagues.

**Thanks to Ken Crook and Lynda Gilbert for welcoming guests and showing them to their tables’ also to Jane Teasdale and WO Marty Grogan for ensuring guests arrived at William Angliss from the Shrine. Many thanks to CMDR John Wilkins for the major role he played in ensuring that the event ran smoothly behind the scenes: organising the venue, banners and flags, inviting guests, sending out invitations, arranging a bus from the Shrine to the William Angliss restaurant, providing parking for VIP guests, maps and much, much more.**



DCN RADM MICHAEL NOONAN, AM, RAN



CAPT TIM STANDEN SNOVIC WITH NLA FEDERAL PRESIDENT GRAHAM HARRIS



LEUT CLINT MOORE XO HMAS LEEUWIN AND NLA FEDERAL PRESIDENT GRAHAM HARRIS



ROSEMARY CRESWELL AND CDRE MICHELLE MILLER RAN



CAPT NEVILLE DANIEL RANR WITH CDRE CHRIS ACKERMAN RVMYC





WO MARTY GROGAN AND CHRIS NEWMAN



CAPT TONY DEFRIAS US NAVAL ATTACHE WITH LCDR JOHN BIRD RNVR



JENNY SMYTH AND CAPT DAVID GARNOCK RAN RTD



CAPT TONY DEFRIAS USN WITH CAPT PAUL WILLEE RANR RFD





DCN RADM MICHAEL NOONAN AM RAN WITH JENNY SMYTH AND JUDY WILKINS

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### NAVAL HISTORY

The birthdate of the Australian Navy is 1<sup>st</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> 1942 now 75 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

## NAVAL HISTORY C'TND

In this month, we also remember that it was on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 1967, now 50 years ago, that the RAN first flew their own Australian White Ensign from their ships and from their shore establishments.

The first ship commissioned 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 1<sup>st</sup> of March in the year of 2003, that the 4<sup>th</sup> 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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### NLA NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA VICTORIA – TASMANIA DIVISION LONSDALE CUP 2017

#### ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB

For the second year since its revival, the contest for the “Lonsdale Cup” was held on Port Phillip in waters off Williamstown, 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017.

The “**Lonsdale Cup**” is a contest of navigational skills event conducted by the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club.

It is pleasing to report that the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2017 Lonsdale Cup event was a most successful occasion. The contest was won by RVMYC Commodore Chris Ackerman with crew members, Ben Ackerman and HMAS CERBERUS representatives SMNCIS Ashlea Kinnement and SMNMT Phillipa Williams.

The Lonsdale Cup this year was resented by Senior Naval Officer, /Victoria representative, the Commanding Officer of HMAS CERBERUS Recruit School CMDR Luke Ryan RAN.

Others in attendance at the presentation included the Great Great Granddaughter of Captain William Lonsdale Ms. Cecelia Newman accompanied by Mr. Chris Newman.

Lonsdale Cup – The Little Ships Club Annual race started Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March 1947 and held annually up until 1954 when the LSC joined the RVMYC and the Media sponsorship ceased. The Lonsdale Cup was reinstated by the RVMYC on 6<sup>th</sup> **March 2016, to compete for the Navy League of Australia's** Perpetual Lonsdale Cup Trophy.

A quick glance through the Lonsdale Cup history book reveals the ongoing strong connections between the Royal Australian Navy, The Royal Motor Yacht Club and The Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Division.

The following images of the event, kindly provided by Navy League Executive Member Ms. Jane Teasdale, reflect the most enjoyable time had by all at the club luncheon which followed the presentation of the 2017 Lonsdale Cup.



CMDR LUKE RYAN RAN, BEN ACKERMAN WITH LONSDALE CUP AND COMMODORE OF RVMYC CHRIS ACKERMAN



CREW MEMBERS OF WINNING BOAT **"CASA VERDE"** WITH CO CERBERUS RECRUIT SCHOOL, CMDR LUKE RYAN RAN AND MS CECELIA NEWMAN



MR CHRIS NEWMAN WITH NLA MS JAN BILLETT-ROBERTS AND MR DOUG JENKINS



NLA VIC-TAS DIVISION PRESIDENT LCDR ROGER BLYTHMAN AND MRS ALLISON BLYTHMAN





NLA STALWARTS, LCDR JOHN BIRD RNVR RETD AND MS JANE TEASDALE



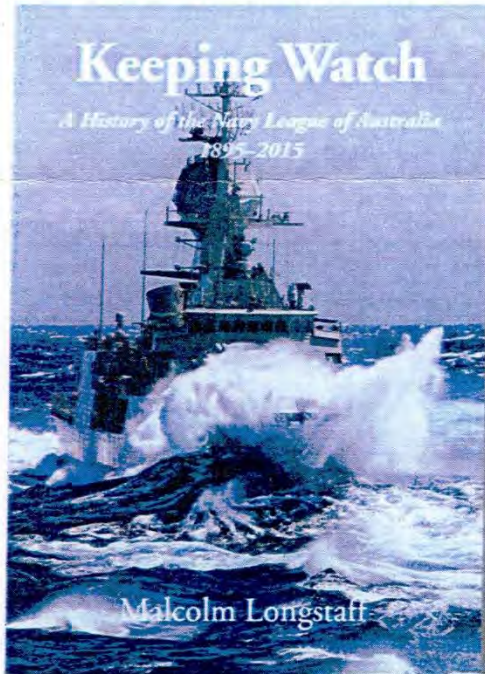
VESSELS OF THE RVMYC MOORED AT WILLIAMSTOWN



# 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:

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The Navy League of Australia, NSW Division  
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***Please ensure that your surname and initials are  
indicated on your bank transfer***

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



*Editors note:*

Due to timing and space constraints the story of the **visit to HMAS YARRA at Fisherman's Bend by The League** members will be held over until the April edition of the NLA Vic-Tas Newsletter.

Join The Navy League of  
Australia NOW

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

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

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

Addresses:

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

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

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*.

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

*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.*

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

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