

# Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division APRIL 2019

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"Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia"

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#### **Changes to your Executive**

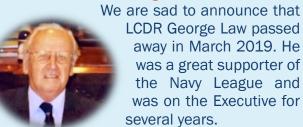
Unfortunately, due to work commitments, **LCDR Jeff Paul** has resigned from the NLA Vic-Tas Div Executive. We are sorry to see him go and wish him all the best for the future.

We would like to welcome **John Bone**, President of World Ship Society Vic Branch who has joined the Executive in the role of World Ship Liaison Officer.

#### **New Members**

Welcome to the following new members: Mr John Bone, Mr Daniel Gluer and Mr Graeme Wilson.

#### Vale LCDR George Law RNZN



#### **Creswell Oration 2020**

Please make a note in your diary that the next Oration will be held on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020** at the Wm Angliss Institute in Melbourne.

## RE: RADM GREGORY SAMMUT AM CSC RAN



Unfortunately RADM Greg Sammut could not attend the Creswell Oration this year. Frank McCarthy, NLA Vic-Tas Division's Honorary Vice President, recorded this interesting bit of history for our Newsletter.

RADM Sammut's Naval career commencing in 1984, is recorded in the biographies' section of the RAN website. It includes the many tasks and responsibilities undertaken by the Admiral including his postings to the Middle East area of operations, all of which are most impressive.

To suggest that RADM Sammut's naval career during the past 35 years has been a busy one would be something of an understatement. However, there are a couple of activities relevant to RADM Sammut that also warrant mention.

#### Firstly:

Almost 20 years ago in June of 1999, the Collins Class submarine HMAS Farncomb SSG 74, under command of LCDR Greg Sammut, fired a Mark 48 torpedo from beyond the horizon and sank the decommissioned River Class Destroyer-Escort EX HMAS Torrens DE53.

The film footage only due to the marksmanship of the HMAS Torrens' team, but also due to the photographic talents of the RAN's image specialists utilizing very sophisticated state-of-the-art equipment to record the event.

#### Secondly:

Rear Admiral Sammut is no stranger to the Navy League of Australia's Vic-Tas Division, nor to the Victorian Navy fraternity members whom may have been in attendance at the 2005 Creswell Oration at which CMDR Sammut also attended.

RADM Sammut at that time was in Melbourne as Commanding Officer of Nuship Toowoomba FFH156, which was undergoing sea trials out of the Builders' Dockyard at Tenix, Williamstown.

Other Navy representatives at the 2005 Creswell Oration included of course, the special Guest of Honour to present the 1st March 2005 Creswell Oration – Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Chris Ritchie AO RAN, together with SNO VIC Captain Bob Richards of HMAS Cerberus and the Commanding Officer of HMAS Ballarat FFH15T, CMDR David Hunter. HMAS Ballarat at that point in time was undergoing repairs at Tenix

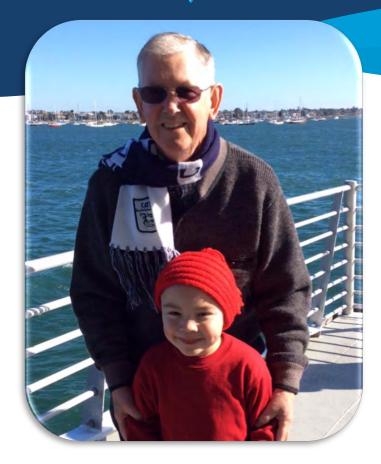


L-R Russell Pettis, CDRE Tim Brown & Frank McCarthy

Williamstown.

Unfortunately, RADM Sammut was unable to present the 2019 Creswell Oration due to other pressing naval matters. However, RADM Sammut left the ANFD Committee in the capable hands of Commodore Tim Brown to present the Oration entitled "The Future Submarine Program". Perhaps Commodore Brown may be known to some members from his time in Melbourne during 2008 as CO of HMAS Arunta. Yours truly had the pleasure of CMDR Brown's company at the cocktail party held on board HMAS Tobruk also visiting Melbourne at that time.

## PROFILE JOHN BONE, EXECUTIVE MEMBER



I was born in Geelong in 1938 and completed my education and teacher training there.

During my childhood I received a gift of a small model of an Italian migrant ship, "Roma" which began my fascination with ships and the sea. I spent countless hours visiting the wharves in Geelong and getting to know every part of the port; where the ships berthed and the cargoes they carried.

Whilst in Grade 6 I was invited on board a wheat ship to sleep overnight and to sail across Corio Bay to another wharf the next morning. I was able to visit the bridge and the engine room and see the tug at work and I was hooked for life. I even had breakfast with the officers and then rode my bike to school to tell of my first sea voyage during "Morning Talk".

On fishing trips in the Bay, I noticed a number of RAN Corvettes which were laid up for several years after World War II which sparked my interest in the Navy vessels. Any time a Navy vessel was open to the public, I would be there to look and learn more.

I discovered the World Ship Society after my 37 year career with the Education Department of Victoria and soon became part of a world wide organization that was founded in the UK during the 1950s. Members of the Victoria Branch of the World Ship Society love to visit ships and particularly on Navy Open Days where we have wonderful guided tours by enthusiastic young sailors who make us feel proud of the training and experiences they receive. I look forward to more ships' visits in the future.

I am very pleased to become a member of the Navy League and thank everyone for the warm welcome I have received.

John Bone

## **VALE LCDR GEORGE LAW RNZN**



Navy League trophy at HMAS Cerberus

LCDR George Law was a keen supporter of the Navy League and was a member of the NLA Victoria Division Executive for a number of years. During his time he arranged for the Navy League to sponsor an Annual Perpetual Trophy for the Melbourne Rugby Union Club vs HMAS Cerberus matches. George was also a keen supporter of the Geoffrey Evans Cup race held each year at the Royal Victorian Yacht Club. We are grateful for his contribution to the League.

## HMAS SYDNEY TO ENTER SERVICE IN 2019



**HMAS Hobart** 

The Hobart Class ship, HMAS Sydney, Australia's third Warfare destroyer being built at the Osborne Naval Shipyard in South Australia, similar to her sister ship HMAS Hobart, is expected to enter service this year, about one year ahead of schedule. The Sydney has a range of around 9000km and a top speed of about 28 knots. It has missile decoy technology and carries harpoon missiles.

Text from the Herald Sun 27 March 2019 p11. Photo from <a href="https://www.defencesa.com/projects/air-warfare-destroyers">https://www.defencesa.com/projects/air-warfare-destroyers</a>

## NAVAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY AUSTRALIA VICTORIA CHAPTER

Photo: Herald Sun 25 Jan 2015



The Naval Historical Society Australia (NHSA) Victoria Chapter meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month at the Waverley RSL, Coleman Parade, Glen Waverley. NHSA attracts some wonderful guest speakers and Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March was no exception.

Commander Cameron Eastman OAM RAN who is the Project Officer for the \$463.1 million redevelopment of HMAS Cerberus was invited to talk about his role. CDR Eastman is an excellent communicator. He is energetic, full of

enthusiasm and has a great sense of humour. He is a living example of the key drivers of Navy: leadership, professionalism, courage, honesty, integrity, self discipline, initiative and accountability. He allowed us a precious glimpse into his private and working life. We hung on to his every word, his talk was so interesting!

He is devoted to his wife and three children. Career highlights included gaining his Bridge Warfare Certificate on HMAS Stuart, serving on the personal staff of the Governor-General (His Excellency, the Honourable Bill Hayden) and being involved in the construction of new wharves, training facilities and various buildings on all of the naval bases over a long period of time.

CMDR Eastman noted that prior to the formation of the naval base, the Stony Point railway line was actually installed in 1880 to defend Victoria, mainly against Russian ships wanting to cash in on the gold rush. In 1911, Admiral Henderson drew up a master plan to develop naval bases around Austalia and on that basis, 1500 hectares was purchased for HMAS Cerberus to train Navy personnel. The land was cleared, the inlet dredged, the wharf constructed - and it became the primary training establishment for 2000 recruits.

Today, there are around 1500 recruits per intake attending training from all over Australia, 400 contract staff (cooks, cleaners etc) and there are 111 houses - some contain families: it is like a small country town. Facilities include magnificent sports grounds, two beautiful chapels, a swimming pool, a hospital, dental rooms, kinder and childcare centres, a museum, a cinema complex where the RAN band practices - and a cemetery! Over the last 13 years, Army and Air Force personnel have also been trained at the base with the establishment of tri-service schools.

Underground works taking place include sewer, gas, water & lighting. Some of the older buildings are being refurbished and there will be construction of new buildings to meet future technological requirements.

Captain Mike Oborn will be the guest speaker in May and will continue the conversation about the facilities at the base.

I encourage you to come to these talks to learn the latest news from RAN personnel. Enjoy the company of like-minded people and have a meal before the meeting.

Please contact President Rex Williams regarding membership of the NHS by email rex.f.williams@gmail.com

## **HMAS BALLARAT SEIZES ANOTHER 2 TONNE OF HASH**

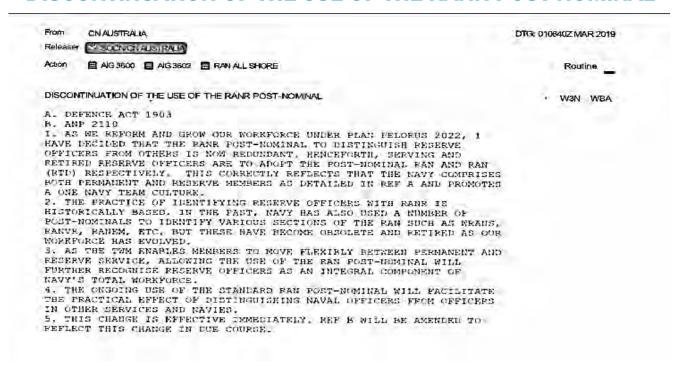


Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Ballarat has seized two tonnes of hashish worth approximately \$100 million in street value during a boarding operation on 28 February 2019. The boarding was conducted in international waters by the Combined Task Force 150 under the direction of the Combined Maritime Forces as part of Operation Manitou.

Following the suspicious behaviour of a fishing vessel known as 'dhow', the boarding team searched and discovered 100 hessian bags of hashish on board, which were transferred to Ballarat for testing and then destroyed. This is the sixth seizure of narcotics by Ballarat during her current deployment to the Middle East, departing Fleet Base West in Rockingham in October last year. Previous boardings have resulted in Ballarat seizing and destroying about 1.2 tonnes of heroin and 5.2 tonnes of hashish.

Photo and text from: <a href="http://www.contactairlandandsea.com/2019/03/10/hmas-ballarat-seizes-another-2tonne-of-hash/">http://www.contactairlandandsea.com/2019/03/10/hmas-ballarat-seizes-another-2tonne-of-hash/</a>

## DISCONTINUATION OF THE USE OF THE RANR POST-NOMINAL



## ORDINARY SEAMAN EDWARD "TEDDY" SHEEHAN



At its March meeting, your Executive decided to write a letter to the Defence Honors and Awards Tribunal in support of awarding a Victoria Cross Australia to Edward "Teddy" Sheehan The Tribunal was meeting on 25-26th March in Hobart to review the matter.

Teddy was an ordinary seaman serving on HMAS Armidale whose death during a Japanese aerial attack on his ship has become a well-known episode in Australian Second World War lore. on November 30, 1942 in Betano Bay in the afternoon, Lieutenant Commander Richards, the Commanding Officer of HMAS Armidale, signalled Darwin "enemy aircraft bombing, no fighters arrived. Japanese aerial torpedoes were unleashed, and one struck home into the port side. This was quickly followed by a second torpedo breaking Armidale's back. The Captain ordered "abandon ship" whilst Japanese air crews attacked survivors in the water.

Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheehan was from Latrobe in Tasmania. He was just 18. On seeing his shipmates being cut to pieces by the Japanese, he scrambled back to the MM oerlikon mounting fitted just aft of the bridge. He strapped himself in and sacrificed himself in order to save some of his fellow sailors. Sheehan shot down one Japanese aircraft, and was hit by the gunfire from an attacking Zero, but he maintained his fire, even though water was lapping round his feet his gun kept up its attack against the enemy. Finally, water closed over Sheehan and his gun as Armidale sank beneath him, his heroism and ordeal at last over.

We will let you know the outcome of the review as soon as it comes to hand.

Reference: https://www.defenceanglicans.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/Teddy-Sheehan-HMAS-Armidale.doc

## **2019 LONSDALE CUP**

The annual Lonsdale Cup Navigation Rally was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019 at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club. The event is held on the Sunday as close as possible to 1<sup>st</sup> March as part of the celebrations around that date. The morning dawned fine and clear. Skippers and their navigators onboard nine motor cruisers from the club contested the event. The course is based on the original Lonsdale Cup courses, where speed races with considerable prize money were held in the late 1940s.

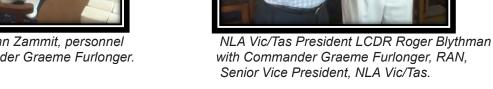
The Senior Naval Officer Victoria, Commodore Greg Yorke, CSC, RAN and four junior officers from HMAS Cerberus were invited to attend. The Cerberus personnel also joined in for the navy rally. Presentations were held after the event and CDRE Yorke presented the winning trophy. An enjoyable lunch followed hosted by the club and the NLA Vic-Tas Division. Graeme also represented for the Commanding Officer of HMAS Cerberus on the day.



Presentation of the Lonsdale Cup to the skipper and navigator of the winning motor cruiser, High Tide.



Commodore Yorke, Commodore John Zammit, personnel from HMAS Cerberus and Commander Graeme Furlonger.



## **HMAS YARRA SERVICE AT WILLIAMSTOWN**



In memory of all those who went down with the HMAS Yarra II on  $4^{th}$  March 1942, services have been held in the first Sunday in March each year at the memorial to HMAS Yarra in Williamstown. It was built with the assistance of a number of supporters, including the Rotary Club of Williamstown and Hobsons Bay City Council.

This year, there was a good turnout despite the heat, with some interstate attendees making it their annual pilgrimage! A record two hundred HMAS Cerberus recruits attended from the Rogers Division under Commander Hough. The Council was represented by Mayor Jonathon Marsden and past Mayor Peter Hempill from Hobsons City Council as well as Williamstown Rotarians.

On 12 November 2000, under the guidance of Mr Angus Walsh OAM, this memorial was dedicated to those who served and perished in this gallant ship. In particular, the bravery of Ronald "Buck" Taylor and his heroism in the face of Japanese warships is remembered to this day. Ronald was born on 29 April 1918 at Carlton, Melbourne, fourth of ten children of Collingwood-born parents George Taylor, ironworker, and his wife Elsie, née Davey. Taylor began his training at Flinders Naval Depot, Westernport. In April 1936 he was posted to the cruiser HMAS Australia. After undertaking a course in gunnery (April-September 1938) at Flinders, he served in the destroyer HMAS Vampire and in the cruiser HMAS Adelaide before transferring to the sloop HMAS Yarra, in August 1939. Yarra remained in Australian waters until August 1940 when she was dispatched to Aden to join the Red Sea Force. The ship took part in operations against Iraq in May 1941 and against Persia in August. 'Buck' Taylor was promoted Acting Leading Seaman and given command of one of Yarra's 4-inch (102mm) guns. Yarra was in the Mediterranean in November-December, escorting convoys which ferried supplies and troops to the allied garrison at Tobruk, Libya. On each of the four trips the sloop made, Taylor's gun was active in beating off enemy air-attacks. On 27 February 1942 Yarra was ordered to escort three auxiliary vessels from Java to Fremantle, Western Australia. Five Japanese warships intercepted the convoy on 4 March. Despite Yarra's gallant defence all four allied vessels were destroyed, with the sloop the last to be sunk. Taylor ignored the order to abandon ship and stayed alone at his gun, firing slowly and defiantly at the enemy until he was killed shortly before the ship went down.

Mrs Christine Hirchfield, Honorary Memorial Coordinator for HMAS Yarra II, has spent many years ensuring the Memorial is kept in good order and arranging the annual service in recognition of the ships' crew and their heroic actions; and in particular in memory of her father, Geoff Bromilow. Unfortunately, Christine is now suffering from ill health and is not able to continue her important work. However, we are pleased to report Christine has found David Leviston to take over her role and the service will continue into the future.

Reference: <a href="http://www.navy.gov.au/biography/leading-seaman-ronald-buck-taylor">http://www.navy.gov.au/biography/leading-seaman-ronald-buck-taylor</a>

## **RAN CONCERT CALENDAR**



The Royal Australian Navy Band will be performing at the following locations in April 2019:

#### Wed 10th April

Concert Band Soundwaves HMAS CERBERUS Time 2pm & 7pm Free concert

## Sun 14th April

RAN Jazz Group Nyerimilang Heritage Park Time: to be advised.

Contact Andrea Ford for further information 0409 771 526

#### Thur 18th April

RAN Concert Band DFSM Simpson Barracks 11am

Free concert, but please contact DFSM on 03 8481 7543 to register.

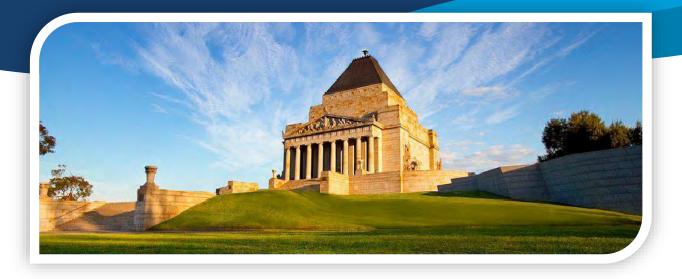
#### Thurs 25th April

ANZAC Ceremonies & City Parade

Melbourne CBD Time: 11am

Free

## SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE



<u>Bookings</u> required for talks and events. Cost \$5.

<u>Shrine podcasts</u> are available at http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts

<u>Website</u>: http://www.shrine.org.au Telephone 9661 8100

## **SERVICES**

## **ANZAC DAY**

## **Thursday 25 April**

#### **6AM DAWN SERVICE**

Come together to remember the Australian men and women who served and sacrificed in the name of peace, and those who continue to do so. Honour their spirit as we unite to observe a minute of silence. Plan your journey on public transport for an arrival time of between 4am – 5am at the Shrine.

#### 8.30AM ANZAC DAY MARCH

Show your support as thousands of veterans and current serving personnel march down St Kilda Road, starting at the intersection of Flinders and Swanston Streets, concluding at the Shrine.

#### **COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE**

Directly following the March, a service will take place on the Shrine Forecourt, including an Address from the Governor of Victoria.

#### **OPENING HOURS**

Visitor Centre and Galleries: 6.30am - 5pm Sanctuary 6.45am - 7.45am and 2.30pm - 5pm

For those unable to attend the Dawn Service, join us via live stream on **Facebook** or **Youtube** 



## Melbourne Legacy Student's Service

Wednesday 3 April, 11am Wreath laying on the Forecourt

Each year prior to Anzac Day, Legacy holds a special ceremony for school students. First held in 1932, the Melbourne Legacy Service combines education with commemoration. All are welcome to attend; group school bookings are essential.



## Maltese Australian Association—George Cross Award Day

Sunday 14 April, midday Wreath Laying on the Forecourt

This annual service marks the award of the George Cross to the island of Malta by King George VI in a letter dated 15 April 1942 so as to 'bear witness to the heroism and devotion of its people' during the tremendous hardships they suffered in the early days of the Second World War.



## Shrine Monthly Memorial Service

Thursday 18 April, 11.30am Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This month we commemorate the following important dates: 29 April 1915 – Sinking of the AE2 9 April 1942 – Sinking of HMAS *Vampire* 23 April 1951 – Battle of Kapyong



## Villers-Bretonneux Day

Wednesday 24 April, 1.30pm Wreath laying at Memorial Tree B58

Villers-Bretonneux Day marks the successful counter-attack and recapture of Villers-Bretonneux in 1918. This action played a significant role in the overall defeat of the German attack launched in March 1918. This annual commemorative service is conducted by the Friends of the 15th Brigade.

## SERVICES (cont...)



## HMAS Vampire Sunday 7 April 2019, 11:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representative:

Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM



RAN Recruits Sunday 28 April 2019, 10:00am

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives:

Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM

#### TALKS & FVFNTS



## Purpose of Futility

Thursday 4 April, midday Auditorium

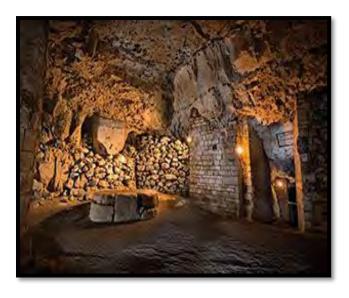
Australia had the highest levels of public education in the British Empire at the outbreak of the First World War. From the midst of destruction came an outpouring of art and creativity. Discover our literary legacies from The Great War with Dr Clare Rhoden.



## The Battle of Kapyong

Tuesday 23 April, midday Auditorium

For two days in April 1951, the 3rd Battalion, Royal Australian Regiment fought a heroic rearguard action and helped to stop a massive Chinese force at the gates of Seoul. Dr Adrian Threlfall explores Australia's largest post-Second World War battle.



## The Lives Behind the Names

Monday 29 April, 2.30pm Auditorium

Eminent French archaeologist Gilles Prilaux will trace the lives of some of the almost 2000 Australians (many of them Victorians) who inscribed their names on the walls of the caves beneath Naours, France. During his special visit to Melbourne, Gilles will discuss the history and context of his discovery, the methodology and results of his subsequent work, his collaboration with families and Australian officials and the plans for the preservation of the site. The talk will include a virtual visit of the caves.

#### EXHIBITIONS



## The Korean War

Opens 5 April 2019 West Gallery

Over 18,000 Australians fought in the Korean War (1950–53) a conflict which claimed three million lives, including those of 339 Australians. The clash between North and South Korea remains unresolved to this day. Discover the war's origins, why Australia became involved, why neither side could win, and why the war still matters today.



## **Recent Conflicts**

Permanent exhibition

Discover the human stories behind the headlines about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Find out what it is like to serve in war in the twenty-first century, and see the war through the eyes of some remarkable Australian service men and women as they fought a ruthless and elusive enemy.



Lone Pine (Pinus Brutia) outside the Visitors Centre, Shrine of Remembrance

## Report on the Autumn Gardens Tour 22nd March 2019

The Shrine of Remembrance organized a tour of the Shrine gardens led by two Shrine volunteers. We first stopped at the Lone Pine tree, which was grown from a cone bought back from Gallipoli and replaces the larger tree which died recently. The surrounding gardens abound in flowers and herbs, including rosemary, which stands for remembrance. It is also well known for its healing and memory retention properties.

Our next stop was the <u>Forecourt</u>. At one end is the Shrine (the empty grave) - which is never to be built out - and at the other end of Swanston Street is a vista of William Barak's face. The Elms planted in 1950 around the forecourt represent the largest collection in the world, as Dutch Elm disease has destroyed the majority of trees in Britain. The Elm trees commemorate the 39<sup>th</sup> Batallion which went to New Guinea to try to stop the advancement of the Japanese. Of the 1500 who were sent there, only 150 survived.

We then visited a Tobruk fig tree which has been grown from a cutting of the original Tobruk fig to commemorate the Rats of Tobruk; and despite being vandilised several times, it has survived and grown. This is one of 400 memorial trees planted for people to have remembrance days for their particular battalions.



The Tobruk Fig Tree



This slope is a hot, dry, west facing slope. Most of the plants have red flowers or leaves at various times of the year, which reflects the distinctive colour of the Shrine. The plants here include aloes, agave, golden candles, Turkey oak, lemon scented gums, Asian oaks, golden poplars and prickly pear. There is a contemplation waterfall and seating. Underground tanks have been installed for future waterproofing.



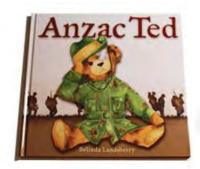
The <u>Terrace Courtyard</u>, which is only 4 years old, gives the feel of the Asia Pacific region, with ghost bamboos, cycads, figs, bananas, euphorbia, strelizia, cabbage trees, ginger plants and pleated fronds in abundance.

The last stop was the <u>Garden Courtyard</u>. The Legacy olive tree was moved into this courtyard and its root ball filled the whole area. The boardwalk represents the wooden pier that Defence personnel trod prior to setting out on ships overseas; the zig zag shapes represent the trenches; the shadow on the concrete represents war & peace.

The walk was followed by a delightful Devonshire tea. There are more walks planned for spring and we highly recommend this wonderful way of relating to the gardens and their significance to the Shrine.

## FROM THE SHRINE SHOP









## Anzac Biscuit Tin, Ltd Ed

\$19.99

The 2019 Unibic Anzac Biscuit tins, exclusive to the Shrine, depict a side view of men of the 5th Australian Light Horse Regiment, on alert, in a section of the bridgehead. This bridgehead, established on the eastern side of Jordan after the first Amman Raid, was retained throughout the summer of 1918.

#### Anzac Ted

Belinda Landsberry EK Books

\$18.99

While several children's picture books cover the world wars, none has ever made the conflict so accessible to children by telling the story of a bear who went to war. This is a story that illustrates the ANZAC spirit and one that is guaranteed to touch the heart of every reader.

## Anzac Day Medallion

\$9.99

This special Shrine of Remembrance 24K gold plated medallion is an elegant keepsake to commemorate Anzac Day 2019. Honouring the ANZAC spirit, a depiction of the Shrine is surrounded by a graphic of the rising sun and a soldier with his head lowered in reverence.

## Poppy Notebook and Pen

\$15.00

On the reverse of this poppy imprinted notebook *In Flanders Fields* by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae is inscribed. The notebook features an elastic book band, a satin ribbon page marker and accompanying pen complete with an elastic holder.

## NAVY LEAGUE SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE 30th JUNE 2019



The Navy League appreciates the support of its members, so please don't forget to renew your membership by the end of June 2019.

More ships' visits are planned for the remainder of the year and you will be advised of them as soon as the information comes to hand.

## Payment ensures you continue to receive the Quarterly issue of "The Navy".

Please forward your cheque for \$35 to Honorary Secretary Lynda Gilbert at

PO Box 146, Warrandyte Vic 3113

or pay direct to the account via internet banking.

(Ensure your name is included after payment and send an email to the Honorary Secretary <a href="mailto:nlavictasdiv@gmail.com">nlavictasdiv@gmail.com</a> to confirm).

Banking details are as follows:

Westpac Bank BSB 033 389

A/C No: 107631