

# Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division

## December 2017

# NEWSLETTER



*“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”*

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## President's Christmas Message



The recent commitment of the Commonwealth Government to funding of \$90 billion for Navy construction projects will be warmly welcomed by our members. It will provide a sea change in the capacity of the Royal Australian Navy as well as major challenges, particularly in recruiting and training, especially for the planned submarine force.

Presently we are faced with serious defence issues. The conduct of North Korea's president and issues relating to freedom of navigation and territorial claims in the South China Sea are particular areas of concern.

Closer to home, we continue to face challenges to our border security, illegal fishing and syndicates smuggling drugs, not people.

Whilst it is disappointing for Victorians that little of the \$1 billion that the Government has committed for ship building infrastructure will be spent in Victoria, the cheap green fields sites that both Western Australia and South Australia are able to provide put Victoria and New South Wales at a disadvantage. However, to be applauded is the final decision made last month to award the contract for the 12 offshore Patrol Vessels. Lurssen as the prime contractor will build the Australian PV 80 variant mostly at Henderson, Western Australia. The range and capacity of the new OPVs, expected to come into service by 2021, are much greater than our current patrol boats. They have a length 80 metres and a displacement of 1700 tonnes.

To all our members, thank you for your continued support. Have a wonderful Christmas and happy new year with your loved ones. I look forward to catching up with you at the Creswell Oration on 2 March 2018.

LCDR Roger Blythman RFD

## Latest Defence News

Australia is the world's 20<sup>th</sup> largest defence exporter. The building of the OPVs will directly employ up to 400 people and a further 600 jobs are being created in associated supply chains.

More than 50 Australian firms have been actively engaged in supplying the US Joint Strike Fighter program, which is building the next generation fighter.

Defence industry hubs are being developed in Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and Western Australia. The federal government is promoting the hubs with a \$50 million Defence Cooperative Research Centre in Trusted Autonomous Systems, complementing the Defence Innovation Hub. In Victoria, the federal government has purchased the old GMH facility in Fishermans Bend for defence, innovation and advanced manufacturing. It will also include a BAE aerospace business.

*Australian Finance Review, 29 November 2017, Special Report*

## HMAS DARWIN decommissioning



After 33 years of service and more than a million nautical miles underway, HMAS Darwin farewelled her namesake city before the warship decommissions this month.

Last year the vessel was sent to New Zealand for disaster relief following the Kaikoura earthquake, and made her seventh trip to the Middle East targeting terrorism and smuggling. While there, the ship seized almost

2000 AK-47 assault rifles, rocket launchers and just under a tonne of heroin, Commander Henry said. Three seizures of heroin were worth \$800 million.

Following 61 deployments to the Middle East, Timor-Leste and the Solomon Islands, the *Darwin* will decommission in a traditional Navy ceremony on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

<http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Nov2017/Fleet/4272/Darwin-sails-into-Sydney-Harbour-for-final-time.htm#.WiDY9EqWbIU>

## New Replenishment Ships announced

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, announced on 17 November, the names of the Royal Australian Navy's future support ships. The new fleet replenishment ships will be



named *Supply* and *Stalwart*. Marty Grogan's son Darren has been selected to be the Captain of *Supply*.

*Supply* will be the second vessel in the Royal Australian Navy to bear the name that has its origins with the armed tender ship that accompanied the First Fleet to Australia. *Stalwart* is being named after two previous Australian Navy vessels, one a destroyer that served between 1920 and 1925 and the second destroyer

tender served from 1968 to 1990. The ships will be known as Auxiliary Oiler Replenishment vessels and will replace the current HMA Ships *Success* and *Sirius*. They are being built in Spain by Navantia and the first ship is expected to be completed by 2021.

<http://news.navy.gov.au/en/Nov2017/Fleet/4249/Future-fleet-oilers-named.htm#.WiDZ6EqWbIU>



## NUSHIP Brisbane sea trials



The second Hobart class destroyer, NUSHIP *Brisbane*, has commenced her first phase of sea trials, which will test the ship's hull, propulsion and navigation systems.

The initial trial phase, which will occur over the coming months, will be followed by a more advanced phase of sea trials next year to test the ship's combat and communications systems. The start of *Brisbane*'s sea trials phase follows the commissioning of HMAS *Hobart* in September.

## Ceremonial Divisions - TS Voyager



Two Executive members attended the Ceremonial Divisions of TS Voyager on Saturday 25th November 2017. It was a sunny day and perfect weather for the Cadets to show their skills. It was a very polished ceremony, followed by a wonderful morning tea and speeches by LEUT ANC Loretta Coste as well as Commanding Officer and Captain Kerry Rayner, OAM.



Captain Rayner joined TS Bundaberg as a Cadet in the 1980s. After completing a Diploma of Education, she rejoined the Naval Reserve Cadets in 1998 as a voluntary instructor and rose through the ranks to become Lieutenant and Commanding Officer of TS Bundaberg. During her ten years there, her unit received the award of best Cadet unit in Australia.

She became Director of Flotillas and Commander in 2013.

Kerry made history as she becomes the first female to Captain in the Australia Naval Cadets in December 2016. She continues to work in the field of Education in Computer studies.

WO Marty Grogan gave the cadet unit a fitting memento of a framed picture of HMAS Voyager.



TS Voyager was this year selected as the Most Outstanding Navy Cadet unit in Victoria and will now go on to compete against three other Cadet units in Australia for the title of Most Efficient Unit in Australia.



## Profile: Curator HMAS Cerberus Museum, Warrant Officer Marty Grogan RAN OAM

Marty has the reputation of being the longest serving member of the Royal Australian Navy, and possibly the longest serving seaman in the world! He has a total of 54 years to date. Marty joined in November 1963 as a Recruit Seaman at HMAS CERBERUS at age 17 and 3 weeks. If he goes through until his Extended Compulsory Retiring Age of 72 years, he will have accumulated 55 years of Naval Service.

He is an amazingly energetic person with a big heart. Apart from his naval career, he has raised significant funds for the Museum at HMAS Cerberus as well as memorabilia for the Museum. He became a Legatee in 2013 because he saw the need to support war widows and their families, visiting them and providing advice on the complexities of getting old and entering a nursing home.

A quick run-down of his life is as follows, but doesn't do justice to all he has achieved:

- Posted to HMAS SYDNEY 3 in March, 1964 and sailed to Borneo in May 1964 in support of the Indonesian Confrontation. Older Brother Brendan (18) was also onboard.
- Selected for promotion to LS Writer in 1967 whilst serving in HMAS DUCHESS in Malaya (Far East Strategic Reserve).
- Selected for promotion to PO Writer in 1969 whilst at HMAS CERBERUS
- Selected for promotion to CPO Writer in March 1973, whilst serving in HMAS ANZAC. Captains Secretary.
- Posted to the Staff of the Australian Naval Attaché, Washington for 2 years from 1975 to 1977.
- Selected for promotion to WO Writer in June 1977, whilst serving as the Manager of the RAN Relief Trust Fund (RANRTF) at Victoria Barracks, Melbourne.
- Posted to the Flag Ship HMAS MELBOURNE as Warrant Officer (Personnel) in 1980.
- Served at sea in every Sailor Rank from Ordinary Seaman to Warrant Officer.
- Left the RAN in 1983 (after 20 years' service) to become the First Navy Credit Union Manager (outside NSW) and set up operations in HMAS CERBERUS.
- Joined the RAN Fleet Reserve (RAFR) for 5 years immediately on discharge and rendered service as required over that period.
- Joined the RAN Reserve at HMAS LONSDALE (Melbourne Port Division) In 1988 after 5 years' Service in the RAFR and recruited to a dedicated Navy Reserve Branch "Naval Control of Shipping".
- Stayed with them until downsizing of the Branch to make way for younger people.
- Reverted back to RANR General Service as a Warrant Officer Writer (Annual Exercises) and have been employed at HMAS CERBERUS continually since 2006.

Keep up the good work, Marty. It is really appreciated.



## Profile: LCDR Cassandra Mohapp RAN



LCDR CASSANDRA MOHAPP RAN the First Lieutenant of our HMAS CERBERUS was the guest speaker at a dinner organized by the Naval Historical Society of Australia Inc Victoria Chapter, held at the Waverley RSL on 27 November. Cassandra is a fabulous speaker – she revealed very personal information about herself and her father's impact on her life. She has a wonderful sense of humour which is a great attribute for her current role.

LCDR Mohapp enlisted in the RAN in 1997 as a musician, having completed a Bachelor of Music Degree, and Diplomas in Music (Performance) and Education (Secondary) at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music. Prior to joining the RAN, Cassandra worked as a music teacher in both high and primary schools. The professional theatre beckoned and Bassoonist Cassandra, was in the Orchestra pit for the productions *Phantom of the Opera*, & *Miss Saigon*.

As a Naval Musician, Cassandra served in both permanent bands of our RAN, including two years as the National Public Relations Manager for all RAN Bands. A highlight of this time was spending three months with HM Royal Marines Band, which included performing at the Royal Edinburgh Tattoo.

In 2009 Cassandra commissioned from the rank of Petty Officer to Lieutenant and in 2012 was appointed Assistant Director of Music-Navy. Command followed in 2012, as Music Director and OIC, of the RAN Band Melbourne. Cassandra led this band during the International Fleet Review in 2013 on the Flagship, HMAS SYDNEY IV. Cassandra also made history when she becomes the first woman to lead the Royal Australian Navy Band's service in Gallipoli, conducting the Dawn Service and Commemoration services in 2013. She is the navy's only current female band officer

Cassandra's fascination with the WRANS and their role in WWII and how they used Morse Code. This formed the basis of her submission of her Thesis for Master of Music – Applied Research in Music Performance. The development of this piece of music was based around Morse Code and the WRANS' names. It is an extremely moving piece of music. I urge you to listen to the recording of her wonderful talk on the website at: <http://navyvic.net/associations/nhs/recordings.html>. Congratulations to Rex Williams and Marty Grogan for organizing a great night. Everyone enjoyed themselves, catching up with friends and making new ones over a lovely meal and a glass of wine.

## Shrine Report December 2017

### Indigenous Australians at War from the Boer War to the present

#### *Shrine of Remembrance Travelling Exhibition*



Aboriginal men and women have combined modern military and uniquely indigenous skills in the service of their country, from the Boer War to contemporary conflicts and peacekeeping. This award-winning Shrine of Remembrance travelling exhibition presents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples' stories drawn from all over Australia. The opportunity to serve in Australia's armed forces gave many the experience of liberation from racial stereotypes for the first time. Oral histories reveal that while racism might emerge behind the lines, when serving at the front line,

all were alike in their concerns to survive and consider one another. The history of conflict between Aboriginal and non-indigenous Australians, combined with the lack of equal rights, throws into perspective the subject of this exhibition. Well before 1967 when Aboriginal Australians received citizenship, these stories of our shared history were unfolding. The exhibition has now visited 30 venues Australia wide and attracted over 140,000 visitors.

The travelling exhibition will be on show at Gab Titui Cultural Centre, Thursday Island from 18 March – 28 April 2018. This will coincide with 75th Anniversary of the Torres Strait Light Infantry Battalion. It has also been to the following places below. This Shrine of Remembrance touring exhibition is supported by the Federal Department of Veterans Affairs and Linfox.

2013	Various towns travelling in Victoria for 2 years
2015	Burnie, Wulara, Batchelor, Long Reach, Geraldton
2016	Kanunda, Kalgoorlie, Port Pirie, Albany
2017	Dubbo, Morton Bay, National Archives Canberra, Broken Hill

*This information was supplied by Katrina Nicolson, Exhibitions Research Officer, Shrine of Remembrance.*

### Discovering the Shrine



This plaque is at the base of a tree which is situated at the north-west corner of the Shrine Reserve, adjacent to the St Kilda Rd footpath, near Anzac Avenue.

*"In blessed memory of Australian Indigenous service men and women who served, fought and died in the defence of Australia"*



*From Hillary Rodham Clinton, US Secretary of State, November 7, 2010*

*“With gratitude for your sacrifice and the enduring alliance between Australia and America.”*  
These words are from the Visitors’ Book in the Ambulatory, near the North door entry.

*From Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II*

*“It has perhaps always been the case that the waging of peace is the hardest form of leadership of all.”*

Words on touch screen in the Peace Keeping display area, north west corner of the Galleries of Remembrance.

## SHRINE SERVICES

### Australian Intelligence Association (Victoria)

A service was held on 3 December for the Australian Intelligence Corps which was formed on 6th December 1907, disbanded in 1914 and then reformed again at the outbreak of the Second World War. Since its reformation the Corps has provided intelligence and counter-intelligence support to the Army. The service of members of the Corps is remembered on this day.

### American Ex-Servicemen's Association

A service was held on 10 December to remember the 7 December 1941, when Japan entered the Second World War by attacking the allied forces in the Pacific. The most infamous and deadly was a powerful air strike on Pearl Harbour, Hawaii. Their aim was to destroy the USA's Pacific Fleet and thus their ability to influence the War in the Pacific region.

### Friends of Gallipoli Inc.



20 December 2017, 12pm  
Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This service is being held to commemorate the beginning of peace at Gallipoli when the guns fell silent at the ANZAC sector in the early hours of the 20th of December, 1915.

## PODCASTS

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

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

*Note: there is now a \$5 charge for all public programs and bookings are recommended.*

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Ken Crook 10 December 2017