

# Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division

## February 2019

# NEWSLETTER



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

*Editors: Lynda Gilbert & Ken Crook*

***DON'T FORGET TO REGISTER FOR THE CRESWELL ORATION ON  
FRIDAY 1 MARCH.***

***OUR GUEST SPEAKER IS RADM GREGORY SAMMUT AM CSC RAN  
AND HIS TOPIC IS THE FUTURE SUBMARINE PROGRAM.***

***THERE WILL BE A DOOR PRIZE OF 2 TICKETS TO THE  
INTERNATIONAL AIRSHOW AT AVALON!***

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# HMAS YARRA 11 NATIONAL MEMORIAL



Hon. Memorial Co-ordinator Christine Hirschfield  
HMAS YARRA  
53 Cheesemans Rd  
Tanjil South VIC. 3825  
PH: 0351601448/0408821610

26<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear friends and supporters of the memorial,

As you can see, our memorial date is rolling around once again and I am pleased to advise all of you that this years' service will be being held on Sunday the 3rd March 2019, at 1100 hours — Melway Map 56, 84. (GPS co ordinates LAT: 37.843267 LONG: 144.897678, The Strand, Newport.)

Last years' service was reasonably represented and it was a pleasure to have a wonderful group of recruits from HMAS Cerberus — "TAYLOR DIVISION" and I believe they were really impressed with the proceedings as they all learnt quite a lot about why their division is called "Taylor and the history of our wonderful Yarra II and all of the ships' crew and their heroic actions.

The Hobson Bay council was represented by Cr. Angela Altair and I presented her with an official certificate of appreciation for her attendance and her input to our annual event. Never forget just how instrumental the Hobson Bay Council and its councillors have been with their continuous support since our humble beginnings under Angus's wonderful direction.

Now on a more sombre note, I am afraid that I have to inform you that this will be my final year of running this wonderful event, as unfortunately due to illness and personal reasons I have to step down. I am sincerely praying that one of you out there can put their hand up to take over the responsibility, otherwise our annual event will sadly have to finish and this would be an absolute travesty of how hard both Angus and I have worked for many years to continue and recognise the sacrifices made by all of the men on that fateful day. I can assure you that if anyone can take on the job I will certainly be able to do a proper hand over and they will not be thrown in at the deep end. Please, please consider what I am asking as this decision has not been made lightly but is a matter of necessity. I sincerely wish to acknowledge and thank the Hobson Bay Council, their Councillors, The Rotary Club of Williamstown, The Hyde Street Youth Band, T.S. Voyager Cadets and a handful of helpers who know who they are, for their loyalty and support as every little bit helps. I have enjoyed meeting so many people with a common bond and have been very proud to have served all of you to my best abilities.

Once again the coffee shop and the annual BBQ will be held after the service, thanks to Mena Walsh and the Rotary Club of Williamstown.

Take care and God Bless,

Regards, Christine Hirschfield.

# US NAVY DEALS FLOAT AUSTAL'S BOAT

Herald Sun 18 December 2019



Littoral combat ship the USS Jackson, built by Austal, which will now deliver two more ships for the US Navy.

## US Navy deals float Austal's boat

SHIPBUILDER Austal has been contracted to make another two combat vessels for the US Navy, bringing the company's forward order book to 10 ships by 2025.

The two additional ships represents Austal's 18th and 19th vessels in the Independence Class.

It has delivered nine of those ships and another 10 are either under construction or awaiting construction.

### MANUFACTURING

"This strong order book creates continuity and certainty of workload for the Austal workforce," Austal chief David Singleton said yesterday.

"For our shareholders, the order book will drive continued growth in earnings over the next few years."

In August, Austal more than doubled its full-year profit to \$39 million, driven mainly

by its US Navy shipbuilding program, as well as commercial ferry contracts.

The Perth-based company yesterday said for competition reasons the US Navy had not announced the contract value, but has stated that award is under the congressional cost cap of \$US584 million (\$814 million) per ship.

"This latest order from the US Navy is a tremendous endorsement of Austal's unique

aluminium trimaran and further evidence of the important role Austal plays in building the United States Navy," Mr Singleton said.

"We have been very successful, winning two Littoral Combat Ships per annum in competitions in each of the last three US government financial years.

Shares in Austal gained 3.8 per cent, or 7c, yesterday to close at \$1.925.



# REMAINS OF CAPTAIN MATTHEW FLINDERS DISCOVERED BY ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The Australian, 25 January 2019



Archaeologists have discovered the historic remains of Captain Matthew Flinders who led the first circumnavigation of Australia and gave the country its name.

The burial site of the Royal Navy explorer was found almost 205 years after his headstone went missing during the expansion of Euston station in London which extended to the nearby St. James's burial ground.

Archaeologists were “thrilled” to find the iconic explorer, identifying his remains by the breast plate placed on his coffin.

Captain Flinders completed several significant voyages in his lifetime, most notably as commander of the 334 tonne ship *HMS Investigator* which he navigated around the entire Island of Australia, labelled then as the ‘Unknown Coast’.

The English-born expeditioner was the first known person to sail around the country in its entirety, confirming it as a continent rather than two separate landmasses previously called New Holland and New South Wales.

Australia's High Commissioner in London George Brandis says the rediscovery of the explorer's remains means he can have a proper memorial “to mark his significance in the Australian story and also his heroic place in the great age of adventure and navigation in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries”.

# JAPAN TO GET FIRST AIRCRAFT CARRIER SINCE SECOND WORLD WAR AMID CHINA CONCERNS

The Guardian 18 December 2018

Japan is to acquire at least one aircraft carrier for the first time since the second world war, as it attempts to counter Chinese maritime expansion in the Pacific Ocean.

The government will upgrade its two existing Izumo-class helicopter carriers so they can transport and launch fighter jets, according to media reports. The plans are expected to be included in new defence guidelines due to be released next month.

This week the Nikkei business paper reported that Japan was poised to buy 100 F-35 stealth jets from the US at a cost of more than US\$8.8bn, a year after Donald Trump urged Tokyo to buy more US-made military equipment.



The reported order is in addition to 42 F-35 jets it has already bought from the US.

Japan's prime minister, Shinzo Abe, told Trump in September that high-spec military equipment would be "important to strengthen Japan's defences".

By refitting its two 248-metre-long Izumo-class vessels, which can each carry up to 14 helicopters, Japan would in effect be acquiring its first aircraft carriers since the end of the war – a move critics say violates its postwar constitutional commitment to a purely defensive role for the military.

Previous Japanese governments have ruled out acquiring aircraft carriers, adhering to the postwar consensus that the vessels' capabilities could be interpreted as offensive, in a possible violation of the country's "pacifist" constitution.

In its latest defence white paper, Japan noted that China had acquired and built aircraft carriers to enable it to expand into Pacific waters near Japan's outlying south-western islands.

Increased Chinese naval activity in waters far from its shores has added to bilateral tensions over the Senkakus, uninhabited islets in the East China Sea that are administered by Japan but claimed by China, where they are known as the Diaoyu.

"It's desirable that the Izumo can be used for multiple purposes," the defence minister, Takeshi Iwaya, told reporters this week.

The carriers will be deployed to defend Japan's remote south-western islands, according to the Mainichi Shimbun.

The defence white paper, published in August, also voiced concern about Chinese military spending and naval activity in the South China Sea.

# SHRINE REPORT



## Volunteering at the Shrine

### **We are recruiting. Volunteer Open Day on Saturday 9 February, 10am-1pm.**

The Shrine of Remembrance has 117 valued volunteers who assist with visitor engagement, interpretation, guided tours, administration, cataloguing, research and education program delivery. During 2017–18 these volunteers provided in excess of 14,000 hours across 363 days. The Shrine greatly appreciates the support of volunteers in assisting the Shrine to achieve its community engagement objectives.

Shrine Volunteers perform the following duties:

- Proactively greet and welcome Shrine visitors, answer questions and otherwise engage visitors of diverse backgrounds and ages to help make a visit to the Shrine a memorable experience
- Impart the cultural and historical significance of the Shrine and its features
- Maintain satisfactory levels of competence including active participation in regular training and development and broadening of knowledge

Please email [volunteer@shrine.org.au](mailto:volunteer@shrine.org.au) if you have any further queries. For general information about volunteering at the Shrine see the [Volunteer Position Description](#) and [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

**[Click here to submit an online application.](#)**

### **Benefits of Volunteering**

Aside from giving back to the community Shrine Volunteers are passionate people who freely provide their time and energy to support the work of paid staff at the Shrine. The benefits you could enjoy include:

- The chance to learn new or extend skills and knowledge (i.e. public speaking, personal communication, history knowledge and develop employability skills).
- Opportunities to broaden social circles and meet a diverse range of people, including staff, volunteers and visitors with similar interests.
- Involvement in commemorative activities including Anzac Day, Remembrance Day, Legacy Day and Battle for Australia Day.
- An opportunity to impart their own, family's or community's experience of wartime.
- Discounted tickets and invitations to attend Shrine public programs and events.
- Recognition of milestone years of service effective 11 November each year and formal acknowledgement at a presentation held each December.

As an organisation with strong links to the Victorian community, the Shrine is committed to an ongoing, relevant, high quality Volunteer Program. The Shrine adheres to the [National Standards for Volunteer Involvement](#).



## Shrine Tours

### Tour & a Tiffin



The journey begins by delving into history with a Shrine Tour. Once the tour is completed participants can recharge with a tasty tiffin from Jardin Tan. Produced exclusively for Shrine Tour participants, the transportable tiffin contains gourmet treats encased in a stainless-steel tiffin, which can be enjoyed at the renowned Jardin Tan restaurant located close to the Shrine, or picnic style within the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens. Tiffins can be collected from and returned to Jardin Tan, providing you with maximum flexibility.

Tour & a Tiffin options are available daily, with 24 hours notice. Tour start times: 11am & 12.45pm. Duration: 2 hours approximately. \$64 Adults, \$59 Concession \$45 Children.



## Shrine Podcasts

Over 100 episodes available  
Via the Shrine website

A popular way to stay connected to the Shrine. Tune in to our fortnightly podcast. Revisit your favourite public programs or catch up on those you missed. Recently added episodes include the artist talk on our special exhibition *Flowers of war* and insight into the leadership secrets of the Australian Army with Brigadier Nicholas Jans (Ret'd), OAM.

## Services



### National Servicemen's Association

**Sunday 10 February, 12pm**

Wreath laying in the Visitor Centre Western Precinct

'Nashos' served in Australia and overseas, including Vietnam, Borneo, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. This ceremony commemorates all those called up for National Service from 1951–59 and 1965–72.



### Darwin Defenders Commemoration

**Tuesday 19 February, 10am**

Wreath laying on the Forecourt and Memorial Tree D57

The Darwin Defenders Commemoration honours those who served and died in the attacks on Australia during 1942–1945. Veterans, dignitaries and local school children participate in this moving service aiming to remind us all of the cost of preserving peace and democracy.



### Shrine Monthly Memorial Service

**Thursday 21 February, 11.30am**

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This month we commemorate the following important dates:

8 February 1942 – The Invasion of Singapore

16 February 1942 – Bangka Island Massacre

28 February 1942 – Sinking of HMAS *Perth*

3-8 February 1943 – The Battle of Wau



Shrine Shop - All proceeds support their education programs.



## Light Horse Apron

\$64.99

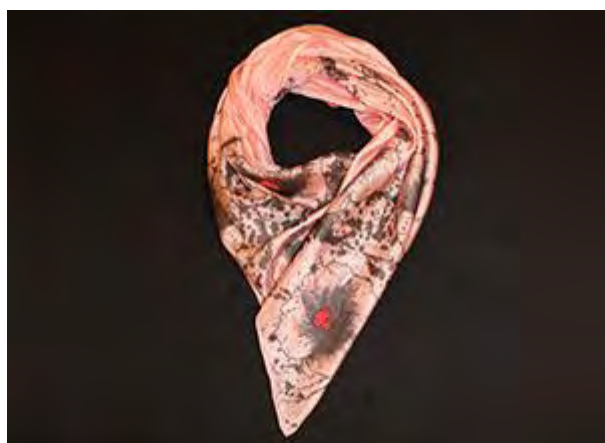
Exclusive to the Shrine of Remembrance, these distinctive aprons were created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba, and remember those who served in the Australian Light Horse. Designed and printed in Australia, on Russian linen, they make a lovely gift or keepsake from the centenary. The design features 'Soldier in Plumed Hat' by Sir Sidney Nolan OM, AC.



## Vietnam Medallion—Infantry

\$49.99

This limited-edition proof quality medallion features the painting *Contact* by Ken McFadyen, the official Australian war artist in Vietnam. The reverse of the medallion displays the Vietnam 50th anniversary insignia with the Vietnam campaign ribbons and the words Courage - Service - Mateship. Each medallion is packaged in a leatherette presentation box. Less than 1,000 medallions were released.



## Silk Poppy Scarf

\$55.99

This luxurious silk scarf features an abstract poppy design—a flattering complement to any outfit and a lovely tribute to wear to the next commemorative service you attend. Designed and made in Melbourne, a variety of available colours include soft pink, blue, yellow and white.



## Little Armistice Nurse Bear

\$21.99

An adorable bear to remember those who served with the Australian Imperial Force in the First World War as a volunteer nurse. Also available in the collection are Little Armistice Flying and Sailor Bears.

## Public Programs



### Shrine Kids

Free family activity  
Available daily

Enjoy the great out and in doors as you explore the Shrine with your family during these lovely warmer months. Borrowing a *Shrine Kids* kit bag from the Visitor Centre desk is all you need to discover a world of story-telling that honours service and sacrifice across Australia's military history. Armed with a collectible activity card, magnifying glass, kaleidoscope and other handy explorer tools, your visit to the Shrine is whatever you make it. Suitable for families with young children.



### Fearless in Serbia

Friday 8 March, midday  
Auditorium

Approaching International Women's Day, be inspired by the remarkable story of Melburnian surgeon Dr Mary de Garis. Mary was the Chief Medical Officer of a tent hospital for two years on the Eastern Front during the First World War. Discover Mary's reasons for joining the Scottish Women's Hospitals in 1916—an organisation formed to contribute all-women, mobile medical units to the Imperial war effort—and why her courageous service remains unknown in Australia. Dr Ruth Lee tells her story.



### Friends Luncheon

Friday 21 June, midday  
Visitor Centre

Join us for the first of our biannual Friends luncheons with special guests from Guide Dogs Victoria and Integra Service Dogs Australia. After a bite to eat and a catch up with Friends, discover the First World War origins of our modern-day guide dogs and hear first-hand accounts of how service dogs continue to support our veterans. Free for Friends of the Shrine. \$30 for non-Friends.

Bookings required for talks and events. Cost \$5.

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

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