



# NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

## VIC-TAS DIVISION

### FEBRUARY 2020

Editors Ken Crook & Lynda Gilbert  
 Email: [nlavictasdiv@gmail.com](mailto:nlavictasdiv@gmail.com)  
 Web Address: <http://navyleague.org.au/>  
 P O Box 146 Warrandyte Vic 3113  
 Phone 03 9844 0106

“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”

## CONTENTS

20th Annual “CRESWELL ORATION” .....	2
Our New Navy League Flag.....	3
Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20 .....	4
Australia Day Celebrations Sydney .....	5
Brisbane Region SES Flood Boat Training Day at HMAS Moreton.....	6
Innovation Unit brings 3D creativity to repairs in HMAS Parramatta .....	7
Naval Battles Between October 1944 & January 1945 .....	8
Shrine of Remembrance Report.....	9

### Vale Vic Leigh

Our condolences to relatives and friends of Vic who passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019.

### Change of Dates

The *HMAS Cerberus Open Day* on 1 March has been postponed to October due to the bushfire disaster. More details will be available in the October newsletter.

The *Creswell Oration* luncheon is now being held on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020.

### Congratulations

Australia Day Honours (OAM) were awarded to the following:

- **Rear Admiral Peter Briggs** for service to the preservation, commemoration and promotion of Australian Naval Heritage.
- **Captain Nigel Porteous** for service to the community of seafarers as well as the shipping and transport industry. He has also been the heart and soul of the Mission to Seafarers, receiving the “highly commended in the Seafarers Welfare Category of the 2019 DCN Shipping & Maritime Industry Awards.

# 20th Annual "CRESWELL ORATION"

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**  
**1200 for 1230**

*At the William Angliss TAFE Institute Restaurant*



**Guest Speaker: CDRE Chris Smith CSM**  
**Director General Littoral**

**LOCATION:** William Angliss Institute Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St, Melb.

**DRESS & MEDALS:** Uniform S7, Jacket/Day dress, Decorations & Medals to be worn.

**TRANSPORT:** **Trams** - Latrobe & Spencer streets. **Buses** - via Lonsdale St., to King St.

**Rail** - Southern Cross Railway Station is two city blocks from venue.



**ENQUIRIES:**

NLA Vic-Tas Division  
Naval Association of Australia Victoria  
Naval Officers Club Victoria  
Naval Historical Society, Vic Chapter

Tel: 03 9844 0106  
Tel: 0419 898 427  
[Tel: 0409 372 489](tel:0409372489)  
Tel: 0406 381 312

Email: [nlavictasdiv@gmail.com](mailto:nlavictasdiv@gmail.com)  
Email: [kimbla@bigpond.com.au](mailto:kimbla@bigpond.com.au)  
Email: [warwick.gately@vec.vic.gov.au](mailto:warwick.gately@vec.vic.gov.au)  
Email: [rex.f.williams@gmail.com](mailto:rex.f.williams@gmail.com)

**LUCKY DOOR PRIZE - BUFFET LUNCHEON FOR TWO AT THE LANGHAM HOTEL**

**RSVP - Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**

**PAYMENT:** \$40 per person (*includes a two-course meal with wine*)  
Cheques/Money orders to P O Box 146 Warrandyte Vic 3113.

**OR Payment by direct credit to**  
Navy League of Aust Vic Tas Division  
*Bendigo Bank Glen Waverley*  
*BSB 633 000.*

*Account No 170992929*

**PLEASE INCLUDE SURNAME**  
***No refunds available after 10<sup>th</sup> March 2020***

# Our New Navy League Flag



Many thanks to our NLA member Christine Nekrasov, her daughter Tess and Stephanie Stotler, for facilitating the production of an eps file of the above logo. It is being used to make a flag which can be flown at various events.

We are excited to announce that it will be flown for the first time at the Lonsdale Cup Navigation Rally on 1 March 2020 to be held at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club in Williamstown.

This boating event celebrates the foundation of the Australian Navy on 1st March 1901 and honours those Naval Auxiliary Patrol sailors who served as Victorian war-time volunteers for Port and Harbour security from 1939 to 1945. The inaugural race took place in 1947. The race continued annually until 1954. It restarted in 2015 with a new perpetual [Lonsdale Cup](#).

**This year, up to 10 hosted Navy League members are invited to participate as passengers in the Lonsdale Cup Navigation Rally at 0900 and/or attend the luncheon 1200 for 1230 at the RVMYC, 260 Nelson Place, Williamstown.** If there are more than ten expressions of interest, names will be drawn from a ballot.

Please contact Lynda at [nlavictasdiv@gmail.com](mailto:nlavictasdiv@gmail.com) by 19 February 2020 if you wish to attend.

# Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20



Photos taken from <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalAustralianNavy/videos/823172288095873/>



The Australian Defence Force (ADF) is continuing to support State and Territory agencies and local communities under Operation Bushfire Assist 19-20. Three Joint Task Forces have been established to facilitate ADF support to emergency services in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia.

The ADF is working alongside government and civilian agencies at all levels in support to the firefighting, relief and recovery effort by providing humanitarian, transport and other assistance such as aviation, route clearance, logistics, veterinary assistance, health services, engineering support and accommodation.



# Australia Day Celebrations Sydney



HMAS Canberra played a starring role in Sydney's Australia Day activities as the centrepiece of the traditional Salute to Australia in Sydney Harbour. The Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC QC, received the 21-gun salute fired from Bradfield Park, on board Canberra. The salute was accompanied by the Australian Army Band and followed by a Royal Australian Air Force F/A-18A/B Flypast and handling display over the harbour.

The Landing Helicopter Dock hosted hundreds of guests aboard, including fifty Rural Fire Service volunteers and their families who received a personal thanks from the Governor and a number of new citizens, who were sworn in on the ship.

Go to video at <https://www.facebook.com/RoyalAustralianNavy/videos/165210288098100/>

# Brisbane Region SES Flood Boat Training Day at HMAS Moreton



*28 State Emergency Service participants at the Flood Boat Operator training held at HMAS Moreton.*

 Published on 01 February 2020 LCDR Anne Mena (author), Mr Col Hortshoj (photographer)

A new boat ramp and training shelter facilities at HMAS Moreton were given the thumbs up by local emergency at a recent training exercise.

The facilities were used by the Queensland State Emergency Service (SES) to deliver Flood Boat Operator training for 28 operators with specialist equipment, boats and vehicles.

Commanding Officer Moreton, Commander Gerald Savvakis said the exercise demonstrated Defence support for local emergency services to prepare for, respond to and recover from disasters and emergencies.

“Moreton’s upgraded facilities provide a great opportunity for cross agency interaction and bodes well for joint activities into the future,” Commander Savvakis said.

The new boat ramp and training shelter are part of a \$16 million base upgrade to reinvigorate operational capability at Moreton. Other facilities on the base include a multi-user facility and conference centre, transit accommodation building, storage facilities and a new gangway.

Ref <https://news.navy.gov.au/en/Feb2020/Fleet/5713#.XjT4-GgzblU>



# Innovation Unit brings 3D creativity to repairs in HMAS Parramatta



*HMAS Parramatta undocking after her Anti-Ship Missile Defence upgrade at BAE Systems Henderson Shipyard, Western Australia. Ref <https://www.navy.gov.au/hmas-parramatta-iv>*

Overcoming obstacles while at sea is all in a day's work for an innovative group of sailors in HMAS Parramatta, who are putting their problem-solving skills and innovative approach at the forefront of their daily work.

HMAS Parramatta's embarked Innovation Unit demonstrated its capability during the ship's recent East Asia Deployment, using 3D printing to replicate necessary items and developing new skills. Some innovations the Innovation Unit has come up with while at sea have the potential to become the new standards and to be used across platforms.

Leading Seaman Electronic Technician Duncan O'Brien has been awarded a Commanding Officer's Commendation for his initiative in developing his skillset.

*Imagery is available on the Navy Image Gallery: <http://images.navy.gov.au/S20193099>.*

# Naval Battles Between October 1944 & January 1945

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Battles of Surigao Strait & Leyte Gulf October 1944

### 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lingayen Gulf Battle, January 1945

To turn back the clocks and roll back the calendars 75 years to the years of 1944 and 1945 would reveal the naval battles being fought by the United States Navy and the RAN against the Japanese. The naval battles fought in the Philippine Islands area of operations included **Surigao Strait** and **Leyte Gulf** in October of 1944 and **Lingayen Gulf** in January of 1945.

The RAN ships *HMAS Shropshire* & *HMAS Arunta* engaged in the action in Surigao Strait and again at Leyte Gulf and Lingayen, together with many USN ships and the RAN's HMA Ships *Australia*, *Warramunga*, *Gascoyne*, *Warrego*, *Westralia Kanimbla*, *Manoora* & *HDML 1074*.

During the battle of Leyte Gulf, a Japanese Suicide AICHI 99 Dive Bomber crashed into the foremast of *HMAS Australia*, killing 30 Officers and Ratings, including *HMAS Australia*'s commanding officer Captain Emile Dechaineux. There were also 64 officers and sailors wounded in this attack including Commodore John A Collins RAN and Lieutenant Richard Peek, RAN.

During the Philippines' campaigns, Richard Peek, for his skill and courage, was appointed OBE. He was also awarded the "Distinguished Service Cross" for his skill and devotion to duty. Some six years after the end of World War Two, CMDR Richard Peek was in command of *HMAS Tobruk* during the Korean War of 1950-1953. For his service in this conflict, CMDR Peek was awarded the United States "Legion of Merit". Commander Peek progressed to Vice Admiral Sir Richard Peek KBE, CB, DSC, Chief of Navy, RAN.

In his retirement, Sir Richard Peek accepted an invitation to join the Navy League of Australia's "Federal Advisory Council". He provided expert advice to Parliament during this period, including also on the issue of "*The Children Overboard*" controversy.

Vice Admiral Sir John Collins KBE, CB, Chief of Navy, retired in 1955 and between 1955 and 1956, he was elected as President of the Navy League of Australia's Federal Council and also President of the League's Victoria Division. At his end of year address in 1955 to all Navy League Divisions, VADM Collins said:

*"I greet all Presidents of Divisions, Vice Presidents and members of the Executive Committees and also all Officers and Instructors of the Navy League Sea Cadet Corps throughout Australia. In thanking you for your fine services in the past, I would express my confidence that the good work will be continued with enthusiasm in 1956".*

Not long after his Navy League positions were set in place, Vice Admiral Collins was appointed as Australia's High Commissioner to New Zealand.

*Note: of the many hundreds of ships and thousands of personnel engaged in the Battle of Leyte Gulf, between the USN and RAN against the Japanese, considered to be the biggest naval battle in modern history, there was also one ship of the Royal Navy, HMS Ariadne M65, a mine layer of 4000 tons displacement fully laden. Her list of Battle Honours includes Leyte Gulf 1944. The Commanding Officer of the HMS Ariadne M65 at the time of the Leyte Gulf Battle was Lord Captain Ashbourne who by 1952 had gained the rank of Vice Admiral CB, DSO, US Legion of Merit.*

*Written by Frank McCarthy, Vice President, NLA Vic Tas Div*



# Shrine of Remembrance Report



SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE  
MELBOURNE

## E-NEWS



### **Last Post Service honours the service of nurses**

**Sunday 16 February 4.45pm**

At this Last Post Service, we will be commemorating the 78 year anniversary of the massacre of Australian nurses on Bangka Island, Sumatra, on 16 February 1942.

Over 5,000 Australian nurses aided the sick and wounded during the Second World War. As Singapore fell to the Japanese, the Allied Forces evacuated by ship. Ships left Singapore carrying Australian Army nurses, injured service personnel and civilian men, women and children. Two ships were bombed by Japanese aircraft and sunk. Some of the survivors washed ashore onto Bangka Island where they attempted to surrender to the Japanese. What followed was a massacre; 22 Australian Army nurses and 60 Australian and British Soldiers and crew members were marched into the sea and killed by machine-gun fire as they stood waist deep in the surf.

Only one nurse survived the massacre. Sister Vivian Bullwinkel was taken as a prisoner of war and returned home to Australia after the war. She later gave evidence at the Toyko War Crimes Tribunal in 1947.

# Services

## **Darwin Defenders Commemoration** **Wednesday 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 20 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  
13 February 1946 – Main Australian contingent of BCOF sailed WW2  
21 February 1956 – Australians and British aircraft bomb Kluang Malayan Emergency  
28 February 1991 – The Gulf War ends

# Stay Connected



## **Shrine Kids**

Free family activity  
Available daily

Unlock the Shrine's secrets this summer. 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, and one that the whole family can enjoy. Suitable for families with young children.



### Women at the Front

Thursday 5 March, 6pm  
Auditorium

Today, women represent almost a fifth of all serving members of the Australian Defence Force. Ahead of International Women's Day, hear a tri-service panel of women candidly discuss their experiences of the modern military.



### Tracing the VC

Friday 20 March, midday  
Auditorium

Michael Madden will provide a snapshot of his remarkable journey travelling across Australia and around the world to photograph all 100 Australian Victoria Cross medals. Invited to Windsor Castle, he was the first Australian to see and hold the metal from which the Victoria Cross medals are created.

## Exhibitions



**Until August 2020**  
South Gallery

Discover the story of 5,000 Australian airmen who undertook gruelling maritime patrols with the Royal Air Force Coastal Command. Battling the German submarines which threatened to blockade Britain, the men made an essential contribution to the Allied effort during the war's longest continuous campaign, the Battle of the Atlantic.

[Bookings required for talks and events. Cost \\$5.](#)

[Shrine podcasts are available at http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts](http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts)

[Website: http://www.shrine.org.au](http://www.shrine.org.au) Telephone 9661 8100



## From The Shrine Shop



### Poppy Tie

\$40.00 each

This colourful tie is now available from the Shop. Wear your poppy tie with pride whether at the office or during your next visit to the Shrine.



will

### Lest We Forget Earrings

\$30.00

Show your support when you wear these acrylic hand-painted statement earrings. These stylish accessories make a lovely accompaniment to any outfit.



### Plush Toys

\$15.00 each Buy a super cute floppy 15cm Purple Poppy puppy, camel or donkey in recognition of the many animals who have served in war alongside their human handlers. The purple poppy uniquely honours these brave animals.