



# NEWSLETTER

## Navy League of Australia Vic Tas Division

### July – August 2022 Newsletter



## VADM Mark Hammond AM RAN

Mark Hammond joined Royal Australian Navy (RAN) in 1986 as a junior sailor electronics technician at recruit school HMAS Cerberus. Commissioned in 1988, graduated from Australian Defence Force Academy 1990. Known for his skill as a submarine commander and was RADM Fleet Commander 2020 and took over as Chief of Navy from VADM Noonan in 2022



## Chief of Navy 2022



## VADM Michael J. Noonan Chief of Navy retired 2022 stating -



"It has been my great honour and privilege to serve as Chief of Navy for the past four years.

I sincerely thank the women and men of the Royal Australian Navy for their outstanding work and dedication during my term. They reflect the very best of Australian society; Australians who are ready to defend Australia and its national interests in the maritime domain.

I am incredibly proud of the unprecedented support Navy people provided to our country during the COVID-19 pandemic, while also maintaining Navy's regular operations; protecting Australia's maritime approaches and vital trade routes, conducting essential border protection activities and maintaining a consistent presence in the south-west Pacific and wider Indo-Pacific region.

It has been a difficult two and a half years for our nation, and indeed the world, but the way Navy people have responded to these challenges is a testament to their resilience, strength and adaptability. Likewise, our people have been ready and willing to deploy at a moment's notice to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief for Australians during the bushfires of 2019-20, when floods struck eastern Australia earlier this year, and when Fiji and Tonga called for assistance following natural disasters.

From my first day as Chief of Navy in July 2018, I have highlighted the need to be a thinking Navy, a fighting Navy and an Australian Navy. We have achieved much in four years to this end, and I am particularly proud of the many things that we have achieved to improve the culture of our Navy and the workplace environment, conditions and safety for all of our people.

We have grown into a larger, more diverse workforce of more than 15,000 people, and we have enabled the Defence total workforce model to deliver a fully integrated workforce, with greater flexibility in the options to render, or in fact return, to Navy service. I am also proud to have seen the award of our Navy's only Victoria Cross for Australia to Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheean VC, and the identification of the unknown sailor from the sinking of HMAS Sydney II as Able Seaman Thomas Welsby Clark.

We have built and deepened our partnerships with Australia's Defence Industry, and with our international friends, allies and partner navies. We have launched a robotics, autonomous systems and artificial intelligence strategy to increasingly leverage emerging technology and human-machine teaming to transform, and improve, our ability to fight and win at sea.

Navy's fleet has continued to undergo its biggest evolution since World War 2 in order to respond to the changing strategic environment. Our final two Hobart-class destroyers HMA Ships *Brisbane* and *Sydney*, were commissioned into Navy's fleet – these modern, advanced warships significantly enhance the lethality of our fleet and enable interchangeability with the US Navy.

Two new auxiliary oiler replenishment ships, HMA Ships *Stalwart* and *Supply*, joined the fleet in 2021 and have significantly enhanced Navy's capacity to conduct sustained operations within the joint force.

Defence has also launched NUSHIP *Arafura*, the first of 12 Arafura-class offshore patrol vessels, and taken ownership of the first of six evolved Cape-class patrol boats.

It has been a time of considerable change, and Defence has continued to assess future capability in response to changes in the strategic and threat environment.

The most consequential of these decisions has been the Australian Government's announcement in September 2021, that at least eight nuclear powered submarines would be acquired for the Royal Australian Navy through a trilateral security partnership between Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States, known as AUKUS.

The accelerating changes to regional security, outlined in the *2020 Defence Strategic Update*, mean that conventional submarines will not meet Australia's operational needs in the decades ahead. With their superior stealth, speed, endurance and manoeuvrability, nuclear-powered submarines are the best option to meet Australia's strategic and defence capability requirements over the coming decades.

Our Collins-class submarines will continue to be Australia's most potent and agile deterrent and offensive capability until they are replaced by the nuclear-powered submarines. The Collins-class remains one of the most capable conventionally-powered submarines in the world. All six of our Collins-class submarines will undergo significant upgrades as part of the life-of-type extension program.

At this important and pivotal time, I am confident I leave Navy in great hands. **Rear Admiral Hammond** is an exceptional leader, and a submariner with experience in Australian and Dutch conventional submarines, and French, British and US nuclear attack submarines.

I congratulate him on being appointed as our next Chief of Navy.

My thanks and very best wishes to you all. **Vice Admiral Michael Noonan**

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## CDRE Greg Yorke AM CSC RAN – Senior Naval Officer Victoria.

Commodore Gregory John YORKE CSC RAN was awarded the **Order of Australia AM** for exceptional service to the Royal Australian Navy in senior command positions. Commodore Yorke displayed professional excellence, conspicuous dedication to duty and devotion to the Navy in the areas of operations, workforce planning analysis and representation. His efforts contributed to Navy's ability to balance workforce requirements against predicted future capability requirements thereby ensuring a sustainable workforce model designed to support Navy in meeting national commitments. His engagement with Victorian companies and organisations has enhanced Navy's standing and reputation.

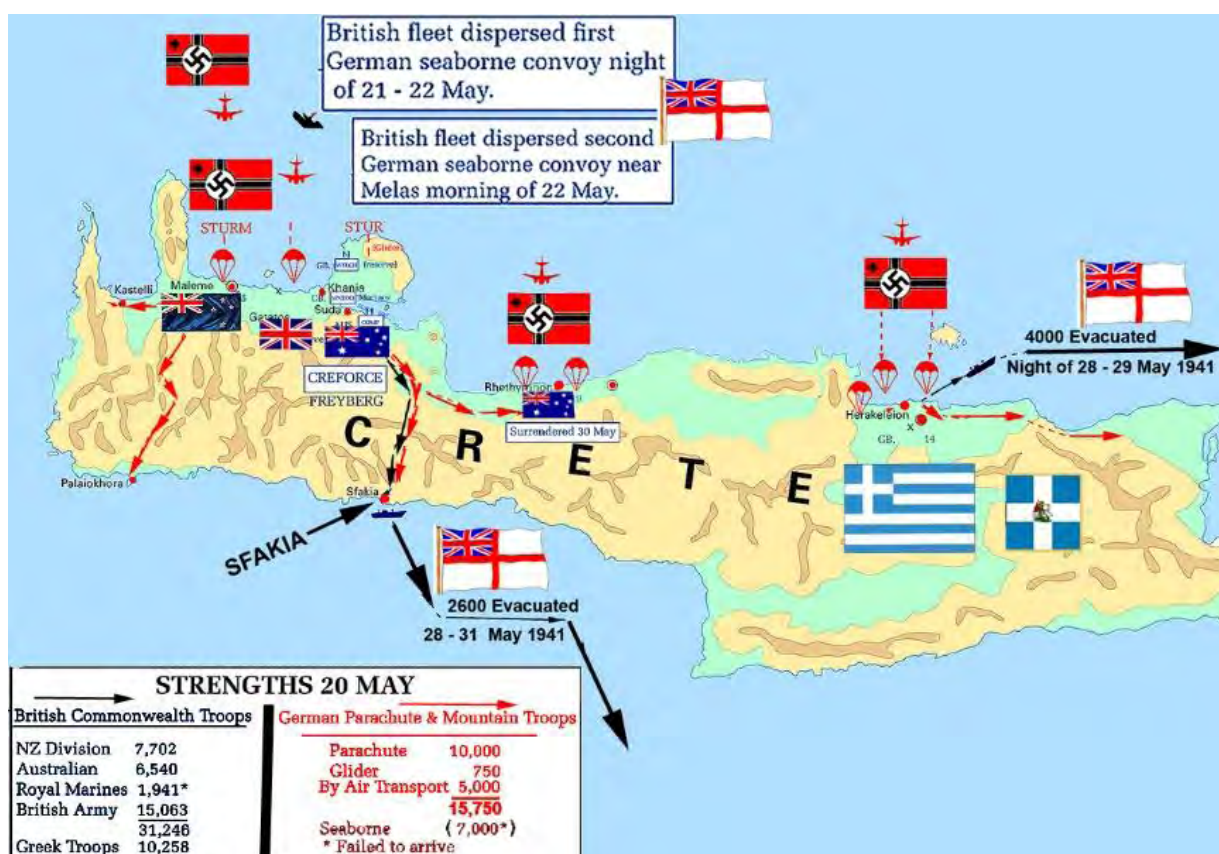
CDRE Yorke's naval career included Survey operations in the Joseph Bonaparte Gulf off Australia's NW coast navigating to Port Augusta in the very north of the Spencer Gulf and up the beautiful Tamar River to Launceston; and navigating the clear waters of a Coral Sea atoll, the Lihou Reef, some 500 miles off the Queensland coast. He attended Principal Warfare Officer course in Portsmouth, UK and served with Royal Navy on 2-year exchange including deployments on HMS *Liverpool* around UK and Europe and to the Falkland Islands and South Georgia in the South Atlantic. He was CO HMAS *Gladstone*, Fremantle Class Patrol Boat, and voyaged to Philippines as CO HMAS *Arunta*, ANZAC Class frigate. He served 3 years as Chief Staff Officer Operations Maritime Headquarters which included *Operation Falconer* (the second invasion of Iraq) for which he was awarded the **Conspicuous Service Cross (CSC)**.

Post 2005 his management consulting career saw work with multinational gold mining company in WA on a major IT upgrade and assisting NT Government with management support on NT National Emergency Response "*The Intervention*". Deputy CN offered him a return to Navy for an important and broad ranging Workforce role to review at Commodore rank as Senior Naval Officer Victoria. Westernport Victoria has the RAN's largest training base HMAS Cerberus. The next ten years needed Navy to increase its recruiting as Victoria, as only 12% of recruits joined Navy from Victoria and the next 15 to 20 years, needed much work with the State Government, Defence industry, manufacturers and academia to support Navy's \$90 billion warships and submarines acquisition. BZ



## COMMEMORATION OF THE 81<sup>st</sup>. ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF CRETE

## 22 May 2002 at Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance





# AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOUNDATION DAY – 1<sup>st</sup>. March 1901

## Annual Creswell Oration



The annual Creswell Oration with a Senior Naval Officer presenting the Oration has had to be deferred over the last two years due to the effects of the COVID pandemic but the next event is planned for 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

The location at the William Angliss College in Melbourne is scheduled subject to it being able to run the luncheon as it has been seriously affected by the pandemic.

A future newsletter will advise what planning is able to be achieved.

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## RAN Sea Cadets

It was recently noted that the Coloundra Sea Cadet building has a superb mural on its building. Well Done



# OSBORNE House (Foundation Navy College site 1913-14)

Geelong Times extract - 16 March 2022

The City of Greater Geelong announced late last week that two interested parties have been shortlisted as potential partners for the redevelopment of Osborne House in North Geelong.

Osborne House is an important part of Geelong's history. A beautiful bluestone building overlooking Corio Bay, it was built in 1858 and has had multiple community uses through the years.

Among these, the building served as Australia's first Royal Australian Naval College, and as headquarters for the former Shire of Corio.

The land itself stretches thousands of years beyond 1858, as a significant site for the *Wadawurrung* people.



The current council has been determined to keep the building in public hands and allocating \$10 million over four years towards renewal and redevelopment of the site.

Last year Expressions of Interest was announced for organisations interested in partnering with us in this redevelopment, as a mix of community, public and/or commercial uses for the site. Any work must protect and celebrate the cultural heritage of Osborne House and its surrounds. And two very well credentialed businesses are shortlisted as a result of this EOI process – the Hamilton Group and Gurner TM Nominee Pty Ltd. And they will work with city officers, and take on input from interested community groups, in coming up with a finalised design for the site. It's expected these will be presented to council for a decision midway through this year.

As Osborne House portfolio chair, I am looking forward to seeing the proposals and casting a vote in what will be a momentous decision for this important and loved part of Geelong.

Councillor *Eddy Kontelj*

The Geelong Independent - 15 March 2022 has also added its comments .

City of Greater Geelong has shortlisted two potential contractors for the redevelopment of the historic Osborne House in North Geelong. Following an expressions of interest process launched last year and a panel evaluation of submissions, the City has shortlisted the Gurner Group and the Hamilton Group for the redevelopment. The two companies will now work through a two-stage design process before the council selects its preferred candidate.

In collaboration with the City and Community members the designs and proposed uses to meet the heritage, environmental, community and cultural requirements of the project will be considered. by council in the middle of the year which has previously committed to keep Osborne House in public ownership and allocated \$10 million over four years towards its restoration and redevelopment and as a cultural heritage precinct.





The Navy League and Navy have long had an interest in this historic site.




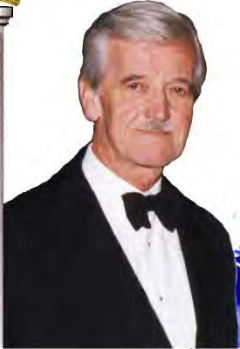


# LCDR John Bird RNR

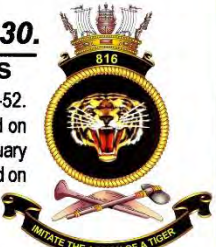

NLA Vic Tas Division's Memorial Luncheon at The Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club, Williamstown, Victoria, to remember the late LCDR John Bird RNR's Royal Navy and Navy League of Australia outstanding service.



Victoria Division  
**NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA**  
Navy Week 2008  
*Warmly welcomes*  
**HMAS Tobruk L15**  
*farewells*  
**HMAS Arunta FFH-151**  
*and*  
*honours the Past Service of*  
*Lieutenant Commander John Bird RNR*  
*Life Member, Past State President & Federal Vice President of*  
*The Navy League of Australia.*



in the  
**"Vice-Admiral Sir John Collins" Room - Naval & Military Club**  
on  
**Wednesday 5th. November 2008, 1200 for 1230.**  
**John Bird's HMS Theseus Battle Honours**  
**805 BATTLE HONOURS:** CRETE 1941, LIBYA 1941-42, KOREA 1951-52.  
**HISTORY:** Formed in the RN at Dekheila, Egypt, on 1 January 1941. Disbanded on 10 January 1943. Reformed on 1 July 1945. Became an RAN Squadron on 8 February 1948. Disbanded on 30 March 1958. Reformed on 18 August 1958 and disbanded on 30 June 1963. Reformed on 10 January 1968.  
**816 BATTLE HONOURS:** NORWAY 1940, MALTA CONVOYS 1941, MEDITERRANEAN 1941, ATLANTIC 1943, ARCTIC 1944.  
**HISTORY:** Formed in the RN in September 1939. Disbanded when ARK ROYAL sank on 14 November 1941. Reformed on 10 February 1942 and disbanded on 1 August 1944. Reformed on 1 February 1945. Became an RAN Squadron on 28 August 1948. Disbanded on 25 August 1957. Reformed on 10 January 1968.



# Celebration Luncheon in Memory of LCDR Brian John Bird RNR

10 July 2022

Celebrated by NLA Vic Tas Division at RVMYC Williamstown



Display board assembled by Jane Teasdale

A special celebration was held on 10 July 2022 at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club to mark the life of LCDR John Bird who passed away on 23 November 2019.



**LCDR John Bird RNR** - He was an Architect by Profession. He moved to New Zealand (having served in WW2 on UK Aircraft Carrier HMS *Theseus*). In NZ John was founding secretary of a new Northland Division Navy League unit and was involved with the formation of a new Sea Cadet unit. He transferred to Australia and one of his first activities was to join the Victoria Division of the Navy League of Australia, joining the Executive in 1973 and becoming State President and a Federal Vice President Executive in 1976. He retired from the State Presidency 16 years later in 1992, and continued as Federal Vice President, a position he held for over a quarter of a century. John remained a member of the Victoria Executive until 2015 and was Honorary Vice

President of the Victoria Tasmania Division until 2019 having served as a Navy League member for over 70 years.

On the day of the luncheon to remember his service the sun shone all day and attendees were treated to a wonderful view of the vessels in dock, the sea and the city of Melbourne across the bay. We are truly grateful to be able to enjoy the hospitality shown to us at the Club. It was clearly evident that everyone enjoyed themselves and were reluctant to leave. Many thanks to the Commodore Simon Mills and the RVMYC for hosting this event and thanks to CMDR Graeme Furlonger for making it happen.





*John Bird's granddaughter & daughter Briony Wright and Tricia Wright*



*Jane Teasdale, John Bird's partner of 20 years, with friends Christine & Jim Thompson*



*CDRE Greg Yorke AM CSC RAN , Alison Blythman,  
LCDR Roger Blythman RFD Pres. NLA Vic Tas,*



*CMDR Graeme Furlonger RAN,  
Pam Yorke & CDRE Greg Yorke AM CSC RAN*





*The “Mess” Table at the RVMYC Williamstown, Vic.*



This display board was assembled by Tricia Wright, John's Daughter.



**CAPT Andrew Mackinnon RAN & wife Carol    CDRE Jim Dixon AM CSC RAN & wife Anthea**



*CMDR Terry Makings RAN and wife Pam*



*Commodore RVMYC Simon Mills & wife Susan Mills*



*CAPT Neville Daniel, LCDR John Redman & CAPT Andrew Mackinnon*



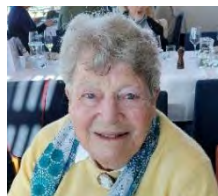
*Mrs Jenny Eldridge, LCDR Jim Eldridge, Mary Barker & LCDR Bill Woodward*



*Dr John Matthew & Jan Roberts Billett*



*Ken Crook & Lynda Gilbert*



*Mrs Natalie Speed*



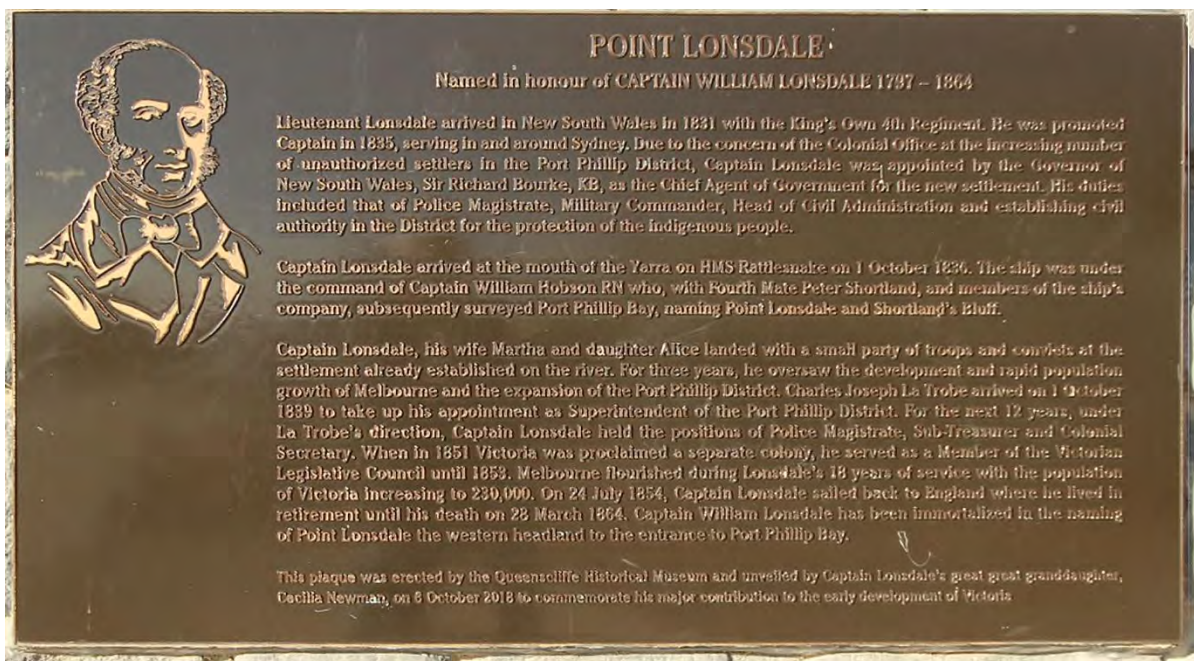


*Ron Lyon, Rex Williams NHS , Daniel Gluer enjoy a moment with Tricia Wright*

## Queenscliffe History Museum's Point Lonsdale Plaque & new Museum

This plaque was erected by the QHM T at Point Lonsdale, and unveiled by Cecilia Newman Lonsdale's GGG Dau., honouring the name Lonsdale from 4<sup>th</sup> King's Own Regiment who was founding Administrator of the colonial NSW Port Phillip District (now Victoria) 1836-1840. His name was chosen by CAPT Hobson of HMS *Rattlesnake* to identify the entrance to Port Phillip in 1836.

The Navy's **HMAS Lonsdale** (1940-1992) at Port Melbourne also honoured his name and his outstanding work as "*General Agent of Government*" in founding our State.



The QHM are just now completing construction of their new History Museum.  
**Navy League considers this is a must for visitors to see.**



**QHM – New structure**

## VISITING SHIP HMAS ARUNTA 19-21 August 2022



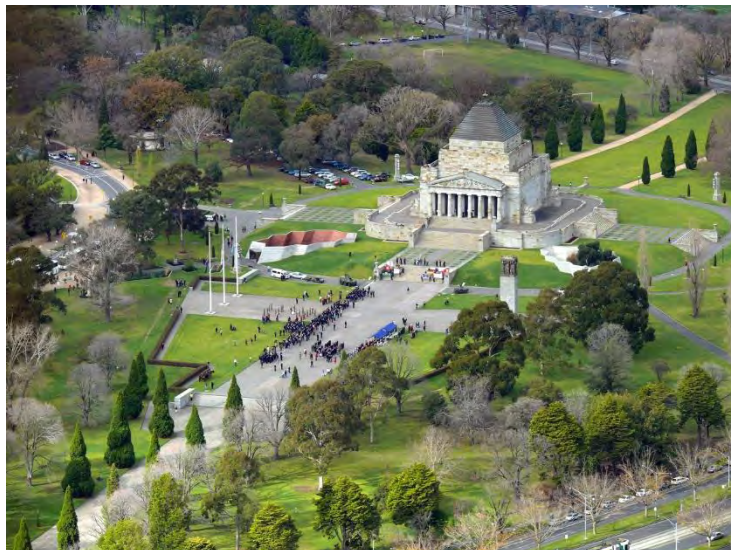
NLA members are invited to the Open Day on Saturday 20 August 2022

Navy League Welcome luncheon is also planned with the XO & CO & Commodore Greg Yorke AM CSC  
RAN Arunta's first CO, on Sunday 21 August.

Further details to be provided closer to the date

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## SHRINE REPORT



At the Shrine this month, there is a movie on AE2 (filmed by DSTO) , a story on the WWII Corvettes, a Test Cricketer display and 3 exhibitions: Lust Love Lost, Between 2 Worlds and Kin & Country.

The coffee shop and gift store are open to visitors.

For those unable to get to the Shrine, there is a virtual tour available at [Virtual tour | \(shrine.org.au\)](https://www.shrine.org.au/virtual-tour)

Exhibitions may be found at [Exhibitions | \(shrine.org.au\)](https://www.shrine.org.au/exhibitions)

### For King and Country



This special exhibition explores the extraordinary history of First Peoples' service in the Australian Defence Force.



## Lust Love Lost



The complex issues surrounding matters of love and sex profoundly affect people everywhere, every day. Wartime is no exception. Indeed, the disruptive nature of war and the extraordinary situations it brings about magnifies human experience in these areas.

## Between Two Worlds



Immerse yourself in the visual world of three contemporary artists who explore the experience of being a recent veteran. Traversing painting, sculpture and street art, each artist interrogates notions of identity, dislocation and resilience.

## Last Post Services

These 15-minute services take place every Sunday at 4:45pm and includes bugle calls and piper, Shrine Guard in historic uniform, a wreath-laying, recital of the Ode, and lowering of the flags.. Everyone welcome



**NOTE:** Due to Covid this newsletter was prepared by CMDR John M Wilkins OAM RFD\* RAN Ret'd with the assistance of Lynda and Ken who normally prepared this publication. They will be back in harness shortly as we could not do without their wonderful input.

## Join the Navy League of Australia Its Journal was founded by the Navy League N.S.W. in 1920

To become a Member of The League, you do not need to have had any previous maritime experience. You merely need an interest in maritime affairs. Simply complete the Application Form below, and post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (which includes the four quarterly editions of The Navy), to the Hon Secretary of the Division of the Navy League in the State in which you reside, the address of which are as follows:

**New South Wales Division:** GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.  
**Victoria-Tasmania Division:** PO Box 146, Warrandyte, Vic 3113. (nlavictasdiv@gmail.com)  
**Queensland Division:** PO Box 620, Morningside Qld 4170.  
**South Australia Division:** PO Box 3008, Unlev. SA 5061.  
**Western Australia Division:** P O Box 735 Fremantle WA 6959

*If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victoria Division.  
 If you live in the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory, please post the form, to the Hon Secretary of the New South Wales or South Australia Division respectively.*

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.

**NOTE:** Membership form can be emailed and payment by EFT .  
 Hon Sec will provide the BSB and Acct No.

### 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.

The NLA objectives can be summarised as "The Maritime Well-being of Australia" but the details are printed in each issue of the Journal and can be sent on request .

Name: [ Mr ] [ Mrs ] [ Ms ] [ Rank ] \_\_\_\_\_

*Please print clearly*

Street \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ P/code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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