



# NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA VIC-TAS DIVISION

**JUNE 2019**

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*"Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia"*

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### **Vale LCDR Alex McCulloch RFDVRD\* RAN RET'D**

Alex was a long-standing member of the NLA and passed away on 31 May 2019 at 102 years of age. He will be sorely missed.

Alex was interviewed by a Warrnambool journalist shortly before he died. See the article on page 5.

## Ship's Visit

**HMAS Melbourne** will be visiting her namesake city mid-September as part of her last port prior to her de-commissioning at Fleet Base East. The date of the visit is to be confirmed. Events planned around the visit include the Commanding Officer and crew exercising their right to a Freedom of Entry to the City of Melbourne. It is also planned to have the ship open for Navy interest groups as well as general public visits. The ship will be berthed at Station Pier, Port Melbourne. Details to follow as they are confirmed.

## New Members

Welcome to new member **Mr Sean Nievaart**.

## Creswell Oration

We are delighted to announce that Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Michael J Noonan AO RAN will be our guest speaker on **Friday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2020** at the Wm Angliss Institute in Melbourne.



## Naval Reserves 1859-2019

This is the 160<sup>th</sup> year of the Australian Naval Reserves. The RANR who served in WWII comprised 80% of the RAN's total Naval Force during the 1939-1945 war years. Your Executive will get back to you regarding an event to commemorate this important milestone.

# T S VOYAGER ANNUAL INSPECTION



Invited guests to the T S Voyager Annual Review



Parade of TS Voyager cadets.



Speech by the Flotilla Commander



Commanding Officer Loretta Coste TS Voyager

The Annual Inspection of TS Voyager Cadets took place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2019. The Cadets presented the Annual Ceremonial Divisions to the Inspecting Officer who reviewed the parade.

After the ceremony, the Cadets were assessed during a series of activities.

Ken Crook and Lynda Gilbert represented the NLA Vic-Tas Division.

A full report will be provided by Commanding Officer Loretta Coste in the next newsletter.

# GALA BALL AT THE ROYAL VICTORIAN MOTOR YACHT CLUB

The Lonsdale Cup Navigation Rally was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2019. This was followed by the Gala Ball and Presentation Night on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May at the Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club where the Lonsdale Cup was presented to the winner. The Navy League Vic-Tas Division Senior Vice President Graeme Furlonger attended on behalf of the League. He is pictured below with the Commodore of the Club John Zammit, who is presenting the Lonsdale Cup to the winning skipper for the 2019 event.





# A PIECE OF THE PACIFIC IN THE WEST



*Officers of the Tuvaluan Maritime Police visit HMAS Dechaineux at HMAS Stirling.*

With their beautiful, harmonious singing and a new Guardian class Patrol Boat, the maritime surveillance unit of the Tuvalu Police Force brought a distinct Pacific Island feel to Fleet Base West.

The Tuvalu Police Force maritime surveillance unit was on hand to receive NUSHIP *Te Mataili II* on behalf of the Government of Tuvalu at a recent ceremony.

The ceremony took place at the Henderson Shipyard in Perth, Western Australia and was attended by the Prime Minister of Tuvalu the Right Hon Enele Sosene Sopoaga and Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Steven Robertson representing the Chief of Defence Force.

The *Te Mataili II* is the second of 21 Guardian class Patrol Boats to be gifted to 12 Pacific Island nations and Timor-Leste under the Pacific Maritime Security Program, the successor to the original Pacific Patrol Boat Program in which Australia gifted vessels to Pacific Island nations between 1987 and 1997.

The Pacific Maritime Security Program demonstrates Australia's AUD \$2 billion commitment over 30 years to the Pacific and will support Pacific island nations to safeguard their maritime sovereignty and resources.

The larger and more capable Guardian class Patrol Boats can support mixed-gender crewing and will assist nations to combat a wider range of maritime security issues, including transnational crime and illegal fishing.



*L-R: Air Commander Australia, Air Vice-Marshal Steven Roberton; Tuvalu Police Commissioner Mr Luka Falefou; the Honourable Taukelina Finikaso, Tuvalu Minister for Foreign Affairs, Trade, Tourism, Environment and Labour; the Assistant Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator the Honourable Anne Ruston; Tuvalu Prime Minister, the Right Honourable Enele Sosene Sopoaga; Mr John Rothwell Chairman Austal; and Ms Karyn Murray, Australian High Commissioner to Tuvalu in front of the new Guardian Class Patrol Boat and members of the Tuvalu Police force.*

In addition to the gifting of 21 vessels, the Pacific Maritime Security Program includes contracted region-wide fixed wing aerial surveillance, ongoing sustainment and training support, the continuation of Defence's maritime adviser network, and infrastructure upgrades to support the safe and secure berthing of the vessels.

Since the ceremony *Te Mataili II* has been alongside at Fleet Base West and has been undergoing sea readiness evaluations prior to taking the voyage back to Tuvalu.

The crew has had the opportunity to make use of the facilities available at Fleet Base West and have been a feature with their spirited singing during Easter services.

They have also visited the submarine HMAS *Dechaineux*, which as commented by Inspector Seleganiu Fusi, Commanding Officer, NUSHIP *Te Mataili II* is a rare event for a Tuvaluan.

"The visit to HMAS *Dechaineux* has been a great opportunity to broaden our knowledge base; I can guarantee there aren't many Tuvaluans who have had the opportunity to see inside a working submarine.

"It is also a great example of the hospitality that has been afforded to us, particularly by the Royal Australian Navy. "The Royal Australian Navy's Sea Training Unit Defence Cooperation Program worked closely with us to support our preparations to receive and operate the new Guardian class Patrol boat," Inspector Fusi said.

*Navy Daily 12 May 2019. Published on 12 May 2019 LEUT Mick Wheeler (author), POIS James Whittle (photographer)*  
<http://news.navy.gov.au/en/May2019/Events/5202/A-piece-of-the-Pacific-in-the-west.htm#.XPeiLogzblV>



# HMAS SUCCESS COMPLETES HER LAST VOYAGE



Published on 03 June 2019 LCDR Dallas Gray and LEUT John Thompson (author), LSIS Christopher Szumlanski (photographer)

HMAS *Success* has completed her last foreign port visit after 33 years of proud service in the Royal Australian Navy.

*Success*' visit to Makassar in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, was also the final port visit by the Indo-Pacific 2019 (IPE19) Joint Task Group, which also included HMA Ships *Canberra* and *Newcastle*.

While in the country, members of ship's company participated in welcome events, community engagement, official hospitality and sporting activities to engage with their Indonesian Navy colleagues.

Over three days, they also discussed what *Success* does best: replenishing ships of all shapes and sizes at sea.

The Navy's first and only imam, Chaplain Mogamat Majidih Essa, also led a prayer after completion of the buka puasa, or the breaking of the fast, during the blessed month of Ramadan.

"It was a great honour to represent the Royal Australian Navy at this event," Chaplain Essa said.

"I know the locals here were very appreciative and I feel humbled."

Chaplain Essa and *Success* Chaplain Simote Finau also had the privilege to be invited for the early morning meal by a local Indonesian family.

The ship's Commanding Officer, Captain Darren Grogan, said the visit was important.

"Indonesia is a vital partner for us; we are close friends and neighbours and share the world's longest maritime boundary," Captain Grogan said.

"Our defence relationship is a longstanding one focussed on a wide variety of security-related matters like counter terrorism, maritime security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and peacekeeping.

*Success* will stop in Cairns and Brisbane on the way to Sydney for her decommissioning at the end of next month.

Reference: <http://www.navy.gov.au/media-room>

# BEACH CLEAN UP YIELDS BIG RESULTS IN THE WEST



*Published on 02 June 2019 LEUT Gary McHugh (author)*

A beach on the west side of Garden Island - an area south of Perth that houses HMAS *Stirling* and Fleet Base West - has had 200kg of flotsam (floating debris) removed as part of an environmental program organised by the Collins Submarines Program Office (COLSPO).

Lieutenant Commander Dave Reid said a number of members of the COLSPO recently spent a day combing the beach north of Beagle Bay.

"We removed approximately 200kg of flotsam from 500 metres of the beach," he said.

"This rubbish mainly consisted of old rope and floats that had washed up onto Garden Island on the prevailing tides.

"Once we've finished cleaning this area we'll move onto the next beach and start work there."

*Stirling's* Commanding Officer, Captain Ainsley Morthorpe said despite the increased size of Navy's footprint since the base commissioned in 1978, Garden Island remains a pristine environment with many unique species of flora and fauna.

"As the custodians of much of the island, Navy and Defence work diligently to ensure our presence does not have an unnecessary environmental impact on this unique island," he said.

"Navy manages the island carefully to protect its environmental value but flotsam and rubbish from the ocean ends up on our beaches, which can cause life-threatening issues for marine wildlife and shore birds.

"That's why programs such as this are so valuable and I thank everyone at the COLSPO who participated in the clean up," Captain Morthorpe said.

Garden Island is located approximately five kilometres off the Western Australian coast and is connected to the mainland by a 4.2km causeway.

Garden Island was first used as a naval base in 1829 when Captain James Stirling landed there and established a settlement of around 450 people - the 190th anniversary of the landing will be marked later this month in a commemorative ceremony.

Reference: <http://www.navy.gov.au/media-room>



# VALE - LCDR ALEX MCCULLOCH RFDVRD\* RAN RET'D



*Alex is one of our members but sadly passed away on 31 May 2019. Here is his story, as recorded in 'The Standard' newspaper in Warrnambool by Journalist Katrina Lovell on 24 April 2019.*

"Warrnambool's Alex McCulloch was one of the few Australians in Tokyo Bay in September 1945 to witness the official Japanese surrender at the end of World War II.

Mr McCulloch, 102, was just 50 metres away from the battleship USS Missouri on board the Australian corvette, HMAS Ipswich, where he was able to watch on as the Japanese formally surrendered to the Allied forces.

The occasion marked the end of the Second World War which had begun six years and one day earlier with Germany's invasion of Poland.

The Japanese surrender was actually announced on August 15, Mr McCulloch's birthday, but wasn't formally signed until September 2. Tokyo Bay was filled with battleships, destroyers, light and heavy cruisers and aircraft carriers and Royal Australian Navy vessels.

Mr McCulloch recalled coming alongside the battleship HMS King George V.

"It was like pulling up alongside a brick wall," he said.

"There were lots of boats around.

"I wasn't on board when it was signed but was say 50 metres away.

"One of the most beautiful sights in Japan was seeing the mountain with snow on top and, of course, it was cherry blossom time too."

Mr McCulloch said later he, and other servicemen who had been in Tokyo Harbour to witness the signing, got the opportunity to go on board the USS Missouri when it stopped in Sydney harbour.

He spent more than an hour on deck, but didn't get the chance to go below deck.

"It was huge," he said.

Mr McCulloch joined the navy in August 1940.

He'd left school at 15 and went to work in the briquette factory in Yallourn until floods stopped production. At age 24 he signed up.





Mr McCulloch said he mainly worked on escort ships during his time in the Navy.

"It was terrific. A terrific lot of blokes. You find the navy people stick together," he said. "I don't regret any time I spent in the service."

In June 1942, Mr McCulloch was first posted as an anti-submarine officer to the HMAS Ipswich which was used to perform escort duty along the Australian coast.

In October 1942 he was posted to the HMAS Kybra which in May 1943 escorted the torpedo-damaged SS Ormiston through the defensive minefields to the safety of Sydney harbour.

The SS Ormiston had been torpedoed off the coast of Queensland by a Japanese submarine, leaving a large hole in the port bow.

From July 1943 to July 1944, he was in command of motor launch Winbah, a 62-foot cruiser that was one of what became known as the Hollywood Fleet.

"She was very handy. Enough accommodation for 10, I suppose," Mr McCulloch said.

He said the Winbah was a luxury motor cruiser that was taken over by the Navy because so many vessels had been lost during the conflict. It was used as an escort ship in the harbour and patrolled from Sydney to Port Kembla.

He was eventually posted back to the HMAS Ipswich which was one of 60 Australian minesweepers, known as corvettes, built during World War II in Australian shipyards as part of the Commonwealth Government's wartime shipbuilding program.

Mr McCulloch said he recalled heading to the Philippines and then to Tokyo Bay in August 1945 for about three weeks and was there to witness the end of World War II.

"One thing I always remembered. You don't get a second chance at sea. You got to be very careful; careful blokes are not hurt," he said.

"A couple of the fellas did some remarkable things."

Mr McCulloch said he moved from his home of 40 years in Mount Waverly, where he worked as a teacher and principal, to Warrnambool three years ago to be closer to family."

# OSBORNE HOUSE GEELONG



Osborne House in Geelong was built 1858 for the Squatter Robert Muirhead [died 1862] and his wife Mary [nee Adams died 1863]. From 1913-1915 Osborne House became Australia's 1st Naval Training College. In 1919 Osborne House became a Naval Convalescent Hospital. From 1920-22 Osborne House became the home of Australia's 1st SUBMARINE fleet. In 1937 Osborne House was purchased by the Shire of Corio for use as their municipal offices.

In 1940 as their contribution to the war effort, the Corio Shire council moved into rented premises in Geelong to allow the Australian Army to use the property as a training base. They moved back in 1945.

For over 50 years Osborne House was headquarters to the Shire of Corio until amalgamation of the 9 municipal councils to form the City of Greater Geelong in 1993. It has been largely empty since. It is currently closed due to mould infestation. The Shire has proposed a draft master plan which has been rejected by the members of the Osborne Park Association for the following reasons:

"As presented, the Master Plan is a statutory planning document identifying potential planning zones on a map, which was not the spirit or intent of the motion of elected councillors the 24 July 2018. As defined in said Council Motion, the Master Plan was for Osborne Park and as understood by the community groups concerned, did not envisage or include the adjacent industrial and port zones or the St Helens Park and foreshore area.

That the proposed planning zones isolate the polo ground from its heritage relationship to Osborne House and the Stables and reduces the footprint of the original homestead land [refer Lovell Chen CMP 2009] That "Osborne Park" is more than the football/cricket grounds as referenced in the Master Plan: it refers to the original Robert Muirhead property of 1858 ie: Melbourne Road to Corio Bay, Swinburne Street to the railway easement boundary and the north boundary of Russell Polo Ground.

That the Master Plan fails to consider consolidation of property titles CA56A, B & C and the sports grounds to one entity to protect generational community continuity with this community owned asset That there are no specific plans mentioned in the Master Plan for the future use of Osborne House, the Stables or the Russell Polo Ground as required by the Council Motion of 24 July 2018.



That the Concept Master Plan offers no business case as required by the said council motion.

That no heritage advisor has been engaged in preparation of the Master Plan.

That no consideration has been afforded to the immediate repair of the heritage buildings or the drainage issues identified in the west car park by the Lovell Chen CMP 2009 when there is no apparent reason to delay.

That reinstatement of the heritage gardens of Osborne Park (required by the Lovell Chen CMP 2009) is noted but that the resulting relocation of the west car park behind the substation is a totally unacceptable site eliciting safety and all-ability concerns, which are not considered improved by increased lighting over the proposed boulevard access.

That the Draft Master Plan provides no review of important cultural, heritage and civic significant items on site ie: trees either planted in memorium or in the homestead era; the Abe Wood fountain; it has ignored the WW2 & Kokoda memorials on the south lawn, and has omitted to mention the heritage listed original Osborne Park bluestone entrance gates.

That the Master Plan process is considered flawed and inadequate. It was Council's express requirement in the 24 July 2018 council motion that consultants were to fully consult with Osborne Park associated community groups to determine the future use of Osborne House, the Stables, the Russell Polo ground and sporting grounds."

You are urged to take a survey on the Council website [www.geelongaustralia.com.au](http://www.geelongaustralia.com.au) HAVE YOUR SAY button re Osborne Park Master Plan. Any queries may be directed to Cheryl Scott, President, Osborne Park Association Inc, Ph: 0418324100

#### References:

Osborne Park Association,  
[www.osbornehousegeelong.org.au/](http://www.osbornehousegeelong.org.au/)

## NAVY VICTORIA NETWORK (NVN)

The NVN provides monthly information on matters of Naval interest. This network has some 1100 members. Anyone can join, it's free. There is no obligation to reveal any more than your email address. The newsletter is compiled by a volunteer to provide a link between seafarers. **If you wish to become a member, please go to the website <http://navyvic.net/> and fill in a registration form.**





## SHRINE OF REMEMBRANCE REPORT

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

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

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

### SERVICES



#### Queen's Birthday 21 Gun Salute

**Saturday 8 June, midday**

Artillery Salute on the Forecourt

On this day each year the Queen's Birthday is acknowledged at the Shrine with a 21 Gun Salute fired from the Shrine's Lower Forecourt by the Royal Australian Artillery. **Note:** The salute is extremely loud and it is recommended visitors with small children or pets maintain an appropriate distance from the guns.

#### Shrine Monthly Memorial Service

**Thursday 20 June, 11.30am**

Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This month we commemorate the following important dates:

28 June 1919–Treaty of Versailles

6 June 1944–'D-Day'

25 June 1950–Outbreak of the Korean War

May–Jun 1968–Battle of Coral-Balmoral



## SERVICES

### 'N' Class Destroyers 2019

Sunday 16 June 2019, 11:00am Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representative: Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM  
Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Jan Gallagher

### RAN Recruits June 2019

Sunday 23 June 2019, 10:00am Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives: Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM  
Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Jan Gallagher

### HMAS Waterhen 2019

Sunday 30 June 2019, 2:00pm Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

Shrine Representatives: Shrine Governor Commander Terry Makings AM  
Shrine Governor Lieutenant Commander Jan Gallagher

## TALKS & EVENTS



### 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 guests of Friends.



## Holiday Program

Weekdays during the school holidays  
11.30am–12.30pm

Let's explore the gardens and courtyards together. Discover how flowers and plants have been used as symbols of remembrance. Throughout the First World War and in the years since, brooches, medals, pins and badges have been worn to remember loved ones. In a craft session following the tour, create an entry for the Remembrance Day Poster Competition. This year's theme is *Flowers of war*. Suitable for primary school-aged children. Free program.



## Shrine Kids

Free family activity  
Available daily

Unlock the Shrine's secrets when you borrow an Explorer Kit. Armed with a collectible activity card, magnifying glass, kaleidoscope and other handy tools, your visit to the Shrine is whatever you make it, and one that the whole family can enjoy. Free and suitable for families with young children. Available daily from the Visitor Information Desk.



## Shrine Podcast

Over 100 episodes available  
Via the Shrine website or your preferred podcast app.

Tune in to our fortnightly podcast. Revisit your favourite public programs or catch up on those you missed. Recently added episodes include insights into the literary legacies of The Great War, with Dr Clare Rhoden (*Purpose of Futility*), and the remarkable story of Dr Mary de Garis—the Chief Medical Officer of a tent hospital for two years on the Eastern Front during the First World War (*Fearless in Serbia*)



# EXHIBITIONS



## Resistance

Until 4 August 2019  
South Gallery

Many Australian service men and women gave aid to the resistance, other Australians owed their freedom and their lives to it. Uncover the stories of those who through accident or design found themselves battling the enemy using unconventional means.



## Flowers of war

Until October 2019  
East Gallery

The appearance of cornflowers and poppies on battlefields at the end of the First World War symbolised for many the fragility of life and the hope of rebirth. This large sculptural steel wreath draws on stories of the First World War from local community archives and museums and considers the many ways people reflect upon the past.



## The Korean War

Until March 2020  
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.

## FROM THE SHRINE SHOP



### *Bomber Command*

Department of Veterans' Affairs  
\$14.99

Part of the series *Australians in World War Two*, *Bomber Command* is fully illustrated with over 100 photographs and art works from the collections of the Australian War Memorial, State Library of Victoria, Imperial War Museum, and Berlin Bundesarchiv.



### *One Woman's War and Peace*

Sharon Bown  
Exisle Publishing  
\$29.99

When Sharon, as a young Registered Nurse from Tasmania, joined the Royal Australian Air Force it was with the goal of providing humanitarian aid to the world. She never imagined that, on her retirement, she would have served in East Timor, Bali and Afghanistan—working to save the lives of others, but almost losing her own.



### *Little Armistice Flying Bear*

\$21.99

An adorable bear to remember those who served with the Australian Flying Corps in The Great War. Also available in the collection are Little Armistice Nurse Bear and Sailor Bear.

## 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 [nlavictasdiv@gmail.com](mailto:nlavictasdiv@gmail.com) to confirm).

Banking details are as follows:

**Westpac Bank  
BSB 033 389  
A/C No: 107631**