

Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas Division
November 2017

NEWSLETTER



“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Well-being of Australia”

Hon Vice President Frank McCarthy has handed over the editing of his newsletter and we thank him & Margaret for their past production roles

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President's Report 2017



This report to the 103rd Annual Meeting of the Victoria Division of the NLA Victoria-Tasmania incorporates Australia's inaugural and former independent branch of Tasmania. This report relates to the period ending 30 June 2017 appropriately refers to some matters that arose after that date.

The Division's activities have been constant. The Executive has met 9 times through the year and I express my appreciation to the loyalty and dedication of my colleagues:

Senior Vice President - Frank McCarthy
Vice President and Secretary - Ray Gill
Events Co-ordinator - John Wilkins
Shrine of Remembrance Liaison - Ken Crook
Yacht Club Events Co-ordinator - Graeme Furlonger
Minute Secretary and Web - Lynda Gilbert
Assistant Events Co-ordinator - Jane Teasdale
Promotional material advisor - Allan Paull

The major achievement of the year has been the establishment of the IT presence of the League aimed at bringing communication of the League aims to young people via the media that they inhabit. This is vital work if the League is to get its message across to tomorrow's decision makers.



In this, we owe our unexpressed thanks to Lynda Gilbert who has with enthusiasm and knowledge taken on this task and who has willingly accepted guidance as to the material to be included.

The Division has devoted substantial resources in time, labour, and funds in organising the Creswell Oration 2017 at which Rear Admiral Noonan RAN DCN spoke. Another very successful occasion orchestrated by John Wilkins.

We have also hosted a farewell thankyou lunch for Capt. Steve Bowater and his wife on completion of his three-year posting as SNOVIC and recently held a welcome lunch for his successor, Capt Tim Standen and his wife.

The paucity of naval ship visits means that we have had fewer opportunities to hold the traditional lunches for the senior offices of visiting vessels. It is unfortunate that visits occur with little or no warning, as was the case when HMAS *CANBERRA* was sighted in Melbourne on the anniversary of the loss of its predecessor in the Battle of Savo Island, but without participating in the commemoration of the event that took place at the Shrine of Remembrance.

I have represented the League at a number of events, including the Savo Island commemoration and other notable anniversaries held at the Shrine, at RSL events, seminars, and liaised with the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria as well as attending a meeting at HMAS *Cerberus* during the SNOVIC changeover in order to brief the incoming SNOVIC of the League activities. I have been represented by fellow executive members at events at the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria during Navy Week for the Geoffrey Evans Cup, the Royal Victoria Motor Yacht Club Lonsdale Cup in March; and we

have been pleased to host the Commodores of these clubs at our functions. Maintaining these historic links has been an important aspect of the Division's activities. Unfortunately, the weather conditions precluded the holding of the Geoffrey Evans Navy Week Yacht Race in 2016, for the Navy League's cup, recently refurbished by the League after 30 years.

I have been in regular contact with the Federal President and attended the Federal Council meeting and AGM in Adelaide along with general members of the Executive. Membership has remained relatively stable, although it is disappointing to note that there has been a slight falling off of our Tasmanian resident members and we are looking at ways of addressing this.

From afar, we pass to our Tasmanian Honorary Vice President Commodore Baird our well wishes as he continues to deal with health issues.

I am reluctant to end on a sad note, but as our Vice President Frank McCarthy stepped down from the Executive last August we marked his tremendous service to the League at a luncheon at which not only was the Division collectively able to express its gratitude but we also had the opportunity to learn of how Frank became interested in maritime affairs as a boy and how this blossomed into an interest in Navy and his accidental involvement in the League after picking up a copy of 'The Navy' in the local newsagent. It is from chance that extraordinary things grow. Frank will be a hard act to follow, and we know we can call upon his expertise – as long as it is not too often. We thank him for arranging the visit last month to the USS Bonhomme Richard in port.

Frank was elected an Honorary Vice President of the Navy League of Australia's Vic-Tas Division joining CDRE Malcolm Baird RAN and LCDR John Bird RNR.

Thank you all for your support of Navy League objectives during the last very busy year.

Roger Blythman
President

Roger Blythman was re-elected as the Victoria-Tasmania President for 2017-2018.

Frank McCarthy's Retirement speech



Navy League started for me in the Macedon Ranges where we resided, by walking into the village newsagent in Gisborne during the early 1990s where I spotted the League's "NAVY" magazine.

In browsing through the magazine, I noted that the League's policy, aims, beliefs and objectives were in line with my own and, in a nutshell, they are: "For the maintenance of the maritime wellbeing of the nation."

And so, I signed on and joined up 25 years ago.

Five years later, I was invited to join the Victorian Division Executive and did so with pleasure.

To go back further, for a starting point it's probably fair to say that my interest in ships, boats and navies, together with matters maritime, was not so much from a personal navy involvement, although three family members have had strong navy connections.

However, my interest was initially generated by a visit to Port Melbourne many years ago with my father, to view the battleship "King George 5th" on its way home to the UK following her Pacific involvement in WW2.

"HMS King George V" berthed at Station Pier on Monday 29th October 1945 and departed in Thursday 8th November 1945. That got me started at a tender young age in ships and shipping, not only with an interest in the R.N. but I also paid visits to merchant vessels and Royal Australian Navy vessels, including the on-loan carrier "HMAS Vengeance".

My mates and I could walk from Seddon, where I resided, to Yarraville in an hour or so and watch the Yarra River shipping making its way from (or to) Victoria Dock, South Wharf, or North Wharf. I could see the reconverted liners "Manoora", "Westralia", and others plying the Yarra River, following their WW2 service as AMCs and LSIs.

As the Yarraville Docks are right beside the junction of the Yarra and Maribyrnong Rivers, we would occasionally spot the odd cattle boat from King Island, heading to the Footscray Wharf with a load of stock, close to where "Polly Woodside" was berthed by Footscray's swing bridge. In those days "Polly Woodside" was known as "Rona". Of course, the Yarraville wharves offered a good opportunity for a close-up view of the freighters at their berths. Nos. 3 and 4 were for the sugar boats, one of which was the "Ormiston". Nos. 5 and 6 were the berths for the phosphate ships amongst which were sometimes "Bank" line vessels, together with the "British Phosphate Commission's" own fleet of ships including "Triona", "Trientza" and "Triaster", all carrying phosphate from Nauru and Ocean Island.

No 7 Yarraville was where the ANL's smaller freighters "Elmore" and "Euroa" berthed with their cargos of minerals from Tasmania. No. 8 Yarraville was the wharf at which the oil tankers would berth before an area beside that pier was excavated for the current Holden Dock.

Standard vacuum tankers, flying the American flag, berthed at No. 8. However, during the 1950s, the "Stars and Stripes" disappeared, to be replaced by the "Flags of Convenience" from Panama and Liberia.

My teenage mates and I would also ride our pushbikes to the Newport oil tanker wharves where the Shell tankers were berthed at Nos. 3 and 4 piers. At that time, it was at Williamstown's Nelson and Gellibrand Piers where the grain boats were taking on cargos for various parts of the world. We could also see navy vessels being built, refitted or waiting for their turn. Across the Yarra we went by the Newport Road ferry, at 3d a ticket, to the next stops which were Prince's and Station Piers, Port Melbourne, to view the freighters unloading and loading their general cargos, beside that passenger liners bringing new settlers to Australia.

Visiting naval vessels would also berth at Port Melbourne piers, both RAN and other navies. For example, 1954 brought visitors from the U.S. in the form of the aircraft carrier "USS Tarawa" and her destroyer escort, the Fletcher class "USS O'Bannon".

They were early visitors in what would become regular "month-of-May" events to commemorate "The Battle of the Coral Sea", as an annual tribute, when many hundreds of veterans and current serving Defence personnel marched through the streets of Melbourne to mark the anniversaries of the WW2 engagement, USN and RAN together. In 1954, when 3000 marched.

The year 1956 also brought many naval visitors to Melbourne for the Olympic Games, again both R.A.N. and units from other navies including the U.K. and U.S.A. Italy sent along their representative, the cruiser "Raimondo Montecucoli", a survivor of WW2.

For my 13th birthday, my Auntie Gladys gave me a cardboard telescope with a price tag marked 2/6d still attached. From the top of our backyard pittosporum tree, I could see through the telescope the Yarra River shipping, and pick out from their funnel colours the various companies and match that to the newspaper shipping movements for berth numbers.

For example, there were ships of the Blue Star Line, the American Pioneer Line, the Blue Funnel Line and lots more, all of which would confirm what I might see with a push-bike ride over the weekend. That could be anything between the Royal Yacht "Britannia" or, before "Britannia", the Shaw Saville "Gothic", or I may see a Danish icebreaker at North Wharf, perhaps a Scandinavian timber ship from Norway or Sweden at South Wharf. Once out-and-about, I might spot further naval vessels at Port Melbourne, including R.A.N. destroyers, frigates, ton class minesweepers and Oberon class submarines, or perhaps ships from others visiting navies.

During November of each year, there would be no shortage of RAN visitors. The newspapers would declare that "the Fleet was in for the Melbourne Cup". On one later occasion in 1959, I paid a visit to North Wharf to what some would know as the submarine "USS Sawfish", but was in fact "HMS Andrew", in Melbourne for the filming of "On The Beach".

And now back to more recent times with the Navy League, where I was appointed the official "Welcome Ship Ambassador" plus Newsletter Editor, Deputy Historian and Australian Navy Cadet Representative for the Vic-Tas Division. As you are all aware, it was not unusual for the Navy League to play host to senior officers from visiting naval ships and shore establishments and, on occasions, the entire crew of minor warships. "HMAS Childers" and "HMAS Yarra" come to mind.

Over the years, the Navy League has played host to numerous naval personnel of many naval vessels. In fact, as I scanned the records, I noted that the League's Victoria Division in the past 20 years has hosted 90 luncheons, with presentations for 115 visiting ships, all under the auspices of John Wilkins and his willing band of volunteer helpers.

The League's hosting of Naval personnel at such functions has by no means been restricted to R.A.N. representatives, but has also included representatives from the navies and diplomatic corps from the U.K., U.S.A., New Zealand, Canada, Italy, France, Japan and Mexico.

As the Navy League's "Welcome Ship Ambassador" I have concentrated my efforts on naval vessels of which, over the past 20 years, I have welcomed on behalf of the League a total of 240 ships, plus U.S. Coast Guard Icebreakers. Many of the calls to the visiting ships were made possible by, and through, the RAN's CMDR Graeme Furlonger, "Staff Officer" Fleet Operations.

On behalf of the League, I thank Graeme for his co-operation and kind assistance in this regard. There was at least one occasion when I thought that Graeme exhibited great tact

and diplomacy by declining an invitation to dine with the Captain of an American cruiser, berthed at Station Pier. Graeme explained to the Captain that he thought it might be more fitting and appropriate that one of the other visitors should take his place. Part way through the main course, I confided in the Captain that Graeme had mentioned he was keen to lose a couple of pounds and, as that day was Boxing Day, it was as good a time as any to start his new diet! Graeme may have a different version of this story but the forgoing is my recollection of the scenario. I felt that Graeme's sacrifice was a truly magnanimous gesture, above and beyond the call of duty.

My time with the Navy League Executive over the past 20 years has placed me in the company of, and in contact with, sailor and officers of many navies of all naval ranks, including commanders, captains, commodores, rear-admirals and vice-admirals, plus:

- Consuls
- Lord Mayors
- Consuls General
- U.S. Ambassador
- Chief of Defence Department
- Minister of Defence
- State Governors
- Governors General

I have enjoyed all of this immensely, but not as much as I have enjoyed your company here today.

Thank you all very much.

Vice President's Annual Report 2016-7

During the course of the past 12 months the Navy League of Australia, Victoria-Tasmania Division, has again had the pleasure of hosting Senior R.A.N. Officers at the Division's Annual Creswell Oration Presentation which has formed part of the Australian Navy's First of March Birthday Celebrations since 2001.



I have the pleasure of presenting this report, in line with my involvement in events, as Senior Vice President representing the President and Executive Committee Members of the League's Victoria-Tasmania Division. I report on those events, and other relevant items, as I have via the Newsletter and in this instance also in the summary format of a condensed package spanning the year gone by, in this the 103rd anniversary year of the Victorian Division. The Tasmania Division ahead of the Victoria Division by 15 years.

In September 2016 League member **Alex McCulloch** celebrated his 100th birthday at a party given in his honour at Warrnambool where Alex now resides. The League's CMDR John Wilkins travelled to Warrnambool to join in the celebrations and to convey best wishes to Alex on behalf of the Divisions members.

The Navy League's **Federal AGM** took place in Adelaide in October 2016 attracting a good number of Vic-Tas Division Executive participants and observers. Whilst in South Australia, the League's delegates and partners were conducted on tours of the Osbourne Shipyards to view the construction of the Air Warfare Destroyers and to also visit Edinburgh South Australia Airforce Base.

October 2016 saw the visit to Melbourne by **Captain Paul Mandziy** RAN CO of the RAN's LHD HMAS ADELAIDE. Captain Mandziy arrived in Melbourne by commercial aircraft from Sydney, unable to bring his ship, due to mechanical problems with the vessel, which remained berthed at Fleet Base East.

The League also played host at the same luncheon presentation by taking the opportunity to farewell SNOVIC **Captain Steve Bowater and Mrs Bowater-Woodrow**. Captain Bowater's departure followed his three-year posting as C.O. at HMAS CERBERUS. Captain Bowater advised that the incoming Commanding Officer of HMAS CERBERUS and SNOVIC will be Captain Tim Standen CSC, RAN. Members of the Navy League Vic-Tas Division attended the last ceremonial divisions for Captain Stephen Bowater at HMAS CERBERUS during November 2016. The Leagues Executive member, Ms Lynda Gilbert, provided an excellent report, plus images of the occasion.



The RAN's Collins Class submarine **HMAS FARNCOMB** paid a visit to Melbourne in November 2016 just in time for the Melbourne Cup. This was the second only visit to Melbourne for FARNCOMB since her arrival in Melbourne eight years ago. HMAS FARNCOMB commissioned into the RAN as the second boat of the Collins Class in January 1998.

A further RAN visitor to Melbourne in November 2016 was the ADELAIDE CLASS Frigate **HMAS DARWIN** FFG04 berthing at South Wharf Fishermens Bend. HMAS DARWIN had just returned from New Zealand having represented Australia at New Zealand's "Navy Fleet Review" as part of the RNZN'S 75th birthday celebrations.

The two Australian Navy Cadet units, **TS VOYAGER & TS MELBOURNE** held their presentation parades during the month of December 2016. The League's representative offered congratulations, to both C.O.'S of the units, LEUT Ferdinand Cheriaparambil at TS MELBOURNE and LEUT Adam Hearsum at TS VOYAGER for the fine turn-out of their ships' company.

News reached the League early in the New Year 2017 that the former **HMAS TOBRUK** L50 Heavy Landing ship, is to continue serving Australia as a tourist attraction to divers. Following 34 years of service in the RAN, TOBRUK will be provided to the Queensland Government to be sunk between Bundaberg and Hervey Bay as a dive wreck.

This year 2017 "**Australian Navy Foundation Day**" celebration was again most successful, thanks in the main to Special Events Co-ordinators Ms Jane Teasdale and CMDR John Wilkins OAM, RFD, RANR and their loyal band of helpers. The Creswell Oration was delivered by Rear Admiral Michael Noonan AM, RAN, Deputy Chief of Navy. His excellent presentation was entitled "**Personnel Challenges for the future RAN Fleet**". Many thanks to League Executive divisional members Ms Lynda Gilbert and Ms Jane Teasdale for their original March 2017 report and images of the event.

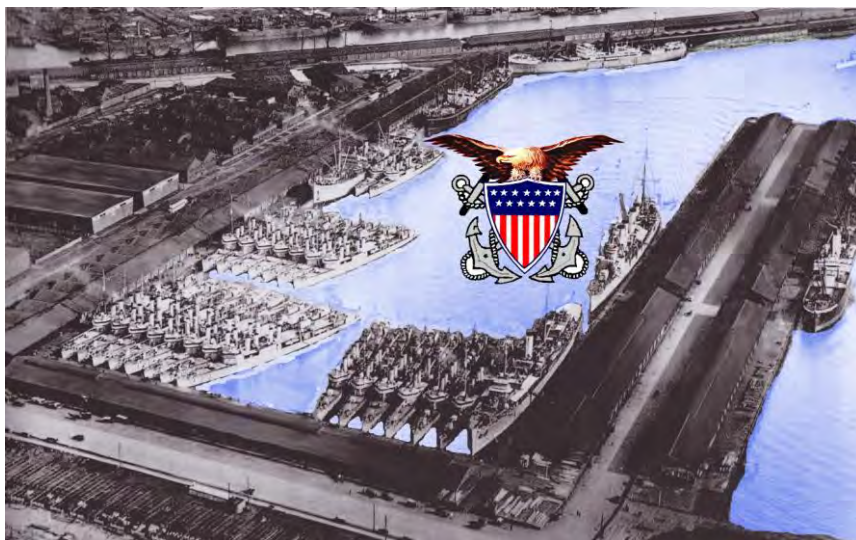
Many thanks also to the Leagues Executive member Ken Crook for his regular monthly reports detailing events at Melbourne's **Shrine of Remembrance**.



For the second year since its revival, the contest for the **Lonsdale Cup** was held on Port Phillip Bay in waters off Williamstown, 5th March 2017. The “Lonsdale Cup” is a contest of navigational skills conducted by the “Royal Victorian Motor Yacht Club” in which the contestants compete for the “Navy League of Australia” perpetual “Lonsdale Cup Trophy”. The RAN and Navy League were once again well represented at the event which was won by RVMYC Commodore Chris Ackerman. Again the League thanks Executive member Ms Jane Teasdale for her original fine report and images of the event.

The Huon Class Minehunter **HMAS YARRA MHC87** paid a visit to Melbourne during March 2017 berthing at South Wharf Fishermens Bend. During her stay League members were invited to tour the ship and partake of morning tea and refreshments. Navy League Vic-Tas Executive Ms Lynda Gilbert filed a comprehensive report of the visit and provided many excellent images of the event.

During HMAS YARRA'S March 2017 visit to Melbourne her Commanding Officer, LCDR Chris Cockerill, and members of the ship's company attended a service at the **HMAS YARRA memorial** located near the mouth of the Yarra River at Newport Victoria. The service commemorated the 75th anniversary of the loss of the 2nd HMAS YARRA to the Japanese during WW2. Once again League Executives Ms Lynda Gilbert and Ken Crook provided an excellent report, complete with images of this event.



My report in brief also includes the following: 1. Naval history dating back to the First Fleet period of 1788. 2. The visit to Melbourne by the largest fleet of Navy ships ever to enter Port Phillip, when 44 ships of the United States Pacific Fleet arrived in July of 1925. This year 2017 marks the 92th anniversary of the event. 3. January 2017 marked the 152nd anniversary of the arrival in

Port Phillip of the Confederate American Civil War Raider **C.N.S. Shenandoah**. The visit to Williamstown by C.N.S. Shenandoah commenced in January 1865. 4. Navy League events “AS-IT-WAS” 10 years ago. 5. 2017 marked the 103rd year of R.A.N. Submarine Operations, however by April of 1915 the RAN's first two submarines were both World War One losses, with HMAS AE1 lost without trace off New Guinea and HMAS AE2 sunk in Turkey's Sea of Marmara. AE1 was lost with all hands whilst AE2 was lost without loss of life, however four crew members died of disease while in Turkish captivity as POW's. The RAN has since operated J, O and K Class, plus Oberon and the current Collins Class submarines with the French Barracuda Class marked as the next Class. 6. Yacht Race by Williamstown's “Royal Yacht Club of Victoria”, sponsored by the League, for the Geoff Evans trophy, unfortunately cancelled in October 2016 due to bad weather. This event normally includes RAN participation. 7. Following on from the naval ships visits to Melbourne in November 2016, by HMAS FARNCOMB and HMAS DARWIN were the further naval visitors to Melbourne during the first half of 2017 as detailed in the following:

Feb 2017 HMNZS ENDEAVOUR, HMNZS TE KAHA, HMNZS TE MANA, ITS
 CARABINIERE ITALIAN NAVY, YOUNG ENDEAVOUR RAN
 March 2017 HMAS LEEUWIN, HMAS YARRA, HMAS SIRIUS -2nd visit HMAS SIRIUS
 June 2017 HMAS PARRAMATTA.

During the period covered by this report I acted as the League's ambassador to the best of my ability and hopefully left those with whom I made contact with a better understanding of the Navy League and our brief to "keep watch", all the while projecting and galvanising the League's statement that "the maintenance of the maritime wellbeing of the nation is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia, plus acknowledging and reinforcing that Australia was discovered by sailors, explored and settled by sailors, governed by sailors and is defenced by sailors, and that the Navy under the good providence of God, the wealth the safety and the strength of this nation chiefly depends. These last few words were taken from King Charles II articles of war dated 1672 now 345 years ago. Although these words were written before the days of US Nimitz Class Aircraft Carriers and before the days of the RAF or RAAF, there is nevertheless a strong element of truth still ringing through these ancient words for, as an Island Nation and a Continent with huge overseas trade, more than 95% of which is carried in ships and is situated at great distance from our powerful friends, we remain heavily dependent for our wealth and security on control of the seas around us and the free passage of shipping.

Therefore, again we must not forget that we are an island nation and for the sake of our safety and security, plus the strength of our economy, we are a nation that depends most on the sea for our survival, protected by a Navy, the RAN, capable of fighting and winning at sea.

*Frank McCarthy Senior Vice President, The Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania
 9 September 2017*

"Geoffrey Evans Cup" Race

This Annual Navy Week event commenced in 1981

RAN's HMAS Cerberus Yacht participated and *SCARBOROUGH OF CERBERUS* won the Cup twice and *CHARLOTTE OF CERBERUS* came second in two races.

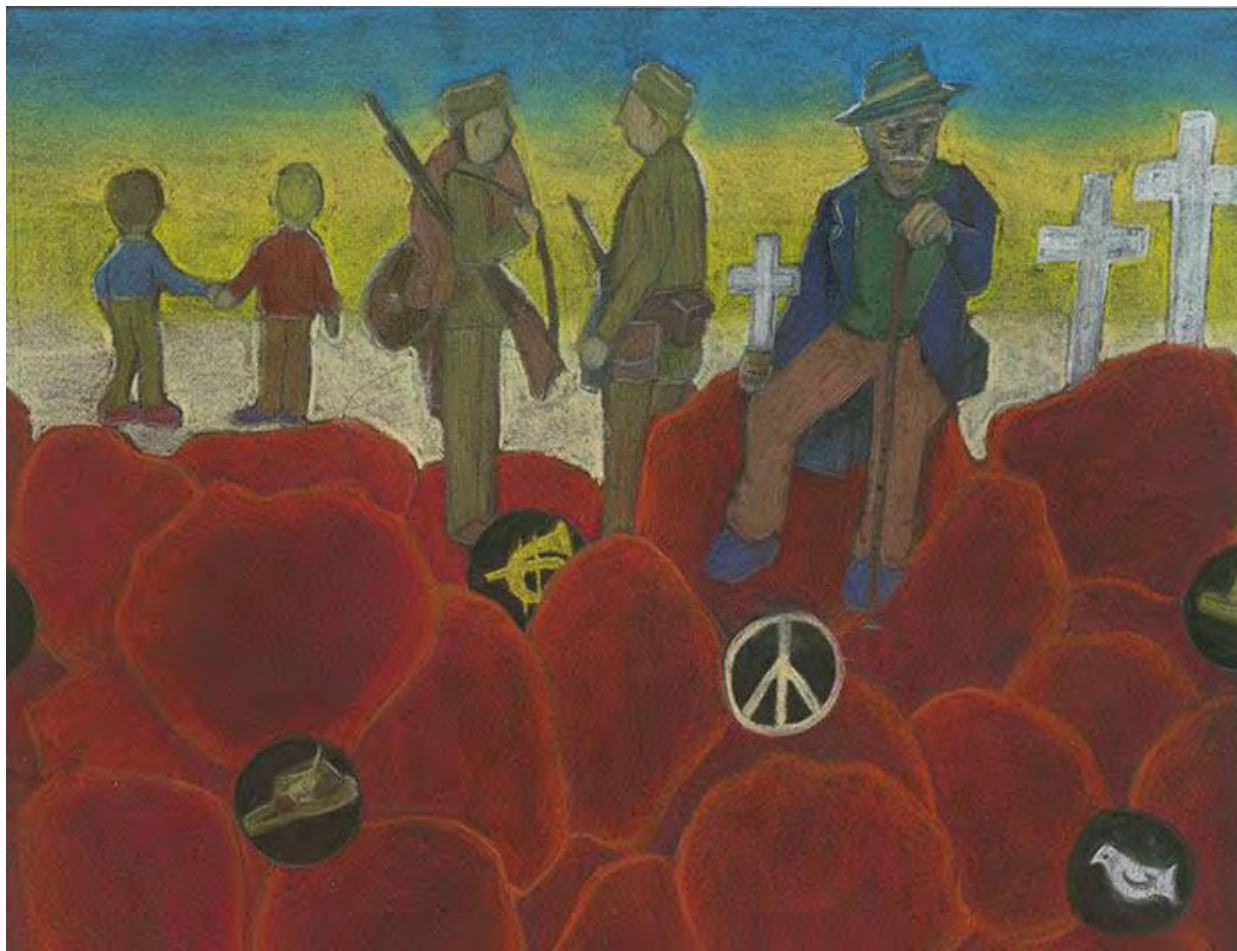


The 2017 RYCV Yacht Race results 21/10/2017 4:29:17 PM

2017 AMS RACE RESULT for Navy League Geoffrey Evans Trophy

Place	Sail No	Boat Name	Elapsd	AHC	Cor'd T	BCH	Skipper	Score	Fin Tim
1	R35	MONEYPENNY	01:48:41	0.900	01:37:49	0.956	Tony Spencer	1.0	15:18:41
2	H108	LE CASCADEUR	02:02:54	0.797	01:37:57	0.846	Ryan Blackstock	2.0	15:32:54
3	S14	GIENAH	01:47:49	0.912	01:38:20	0.964	Rod Miller	3.0	15:17:49

CEREMONIES



Remembrance Day

11 November 2017, from 10.30am

Every year, on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we pause to remember those men and women who have died or suffered in all wars and peacekeeping operations.

Join us for the Victorian State Remembrance Day Service and pay your respects to all men and women who have served. One minute of silence will be observed at 11am. The installation of thousands of hand-made poppies and the participation of the Menin Gate buglers, representing the Last Post Association of Belgium, will further add to the poignancy of this years' service. These special features are in honour of the commemoration of the 99-year anniversary of the First World War Armistice.

SERVICES

Laying Up the Old Guidon of the 4th Light Horse Regiment

11 November 2017, 3pm
Shrine Forecourt and Sanctuary



The original 4th Light Horse Regiment Guidon is being retired from service. A regimental parade, wreath laying ceremony and formal presentation of the Guidon to the Shrine of Remembrance will mark this auspicious occasion. The Guidon will be on display in the Sanctuary until 5pm.

Gurkha / Nepalese Regiments

12 November 2017, 10.30am
Wreath Laying at Memorial Tree G57



Each year the service and sacrifice of the Gurkha / Nepalese Regiments is honoured at their memorial plaque. The plaque was dedicated on Remembrance Day 2007 and is located near the Legacy Garden.

The Battle of Beersheba



Tuesday 31 October marked the centenary of the Battle of Beersheba. A special commemorative service was held with over 4000 school students and general public in attendance. View some of the stunning images from the event at <http://www.shrine.org.au/About-Us/Image-Gallery/Commemorative-Services/Centenary-of-the-Battle-of-Beersheba>

TALKS & EVENTS

Curator Talk: The Soldiers' XI

Wednesday 22 November, 2pm
Education Centre



Join Dr Ian Jackson as he explores how our soldiers have used the game of cricket as a survival mechanism, a form of relief from conflict and a morale booster when on active deployment. Discover how this game has helped forge relationships and promoted teamwork.

EXHIBITIONS

The Light Horse: Australians in the Middle East

20 October 2017 – 21 October 2018

East Gallery, Galleries of Remembrance



While Australian infantry served in the grim trenches of the Western Front, their comrades in the Australian Light Horse were fighting a dynamic campaign against the Ottomans in the desert wastes of Sinai, Palestine and Syria. Featuring historic and contemporary paintings, and memorabilia from now legendary light horsemen.

DISCOVERING THE SHRINE

- Go to the Entry courtyard to the Visitors Centre and you will discover on the North Wall the following speech given by the former Governor-General of Australia, Sir William Dean (at Gallipoli, 1999).

“ANZAC is not merely about loss, it is about courage, and endurance, and duty, and love of country, and mateship, and good humour, and the survival of a sense of self-worth and decency in the face of dreadful odds.

- See the poem on the memorial located at the horse trough situated at the footpath at the entry of Gallipoli walk and note the tribute to our war horses.
Nearly 1 million horses died during World War I. The memorial was erected by the Purple Cross Society of Victoria, a group concerned with the welfare of animals.

**“He gains no crosses as a soldier may,
No medals for the many risks he runs,
He only, in his puzzled, patient way,
‘sticks to his guns’”.**

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.



Stop Press: At the request of the Governor of Victoria, who is our Patron, a Christmas bauble was delivered to Government House to represent the NLA on the Governor's Christmas tree.

Ken Crook, 3 November 2017

NLA AGM & Federal Council Meeting



The Navy League of Australia Federal Council AGM was held on 13 & 14 October 2017. Seventeen members from Australia and one representative from New Zealand attended. It was great to catch up with friends and get to know acquaintances better.

Elections

Our current Federal President, CMDR Graham Harris RFD (a Victorian member) had previously announced his intention to step down and a new **Federal President, Matthew Rowe**, was duly elected.



L-R Otto Albert (Pres NSW), Graham Harris (Federal Pres.), John Jeremy (Snr VPRES.)

Otto Albert, AO RFD RD President NSW Division recognized Graham's 23 years of contribution, his knowledge and ability to work with the ADF and his unflappable approach to the many difficult issues he has faced over the years.

John Jeremy AM, BE FIE Aust FRINA was elected Senior Vice President.

Vice Presidents are LCDR Roger Blythman RFD and Mark Schweikert. The Secretary/Treasurer, LCDR Adrian Borwick RAN (Ret) was re-elected.

Navy League of Australia Federal President 2017-2018 – LCDR Matthew Rowe RANR



Matthew has degrees in Law, Politics and History. He is a barrister and solicitor of the Supreme Court of South Australia, a solicitor of the High Court of Australia and the Supreme Court of Queensland, a nationally accredited mediator and Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. He was the military aide (Aide-de-Camp) to Her Excellency Dame the Hon Quentin Bryce AD CVO and was chosen by Queensland Governor Ms

Penelope Wensley AC to represent Her Excellency and the Queensland people in officially welcoming HRH Prince William of Wales to Queensland during the 2011 Royal visit. In 2001 Matthew was the Relief Commanding Officer of the National Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour during the Centenary of Federation circumnavigation of Australia as well as during voyages since. He is a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Australian Naval Reserve, was awarded the Australian Service Medal for service enforcing UN sanctions on Iraq and a Certificate of Achievement in the 1999 Young Australian of the Year Awards.

Community Award

There were four nominations for the Community Award: HMAS *Stirling*, HMAS Parramatta, HMAS Success and HMAS *Waterhen*. The Community Award went to HMAS *Stirling* for their outstanding contributions to the community. During the year, the ship hosted over 363 community activities. Funds raised for charities was \$58,037 directly and \$163,000 indirectly. The Ship was involved in the Blood Drive, donating more than any other unit in WA. Staff engaged youth and indigenous groups through sport and outdoor activities; trained local community fire brigades; provided maintenance for the Leeuwin Ocean Sailing Foundation and mentored community groups in resilience and leadership.

Divisional Reports

It was interesting to compare and contrast the annual reports of all the Divisions. The NLA WA went to an enormous amount of preparation and provided a most impressive booklet, complete with colour photos. All members showed a great deal of enthusiasm for the Navy League, its aims and objectives and each Division discussed strategies to attract more members.

Defence Issues & NLA Statement of Policy

Defence issues were debated at length. The situation in North Korea led to discussion for changes to the Statement of Policy. All members are invited to review the Policy and any suggestions are to be sent to the Federal President.

Sale of Land in Tasmania

The last lot of land held by the NLA is being considered for sale. There are issues that need to be investigated further and this may take up to a year to resolve.

***The NAVY* magazine**

The Maritime Essay Award attracted 10 good papers which will be published shortly. '*The NAVY*' is a sterling publication, driven by an enthusiastic and passionate editor writing under the pseudonym Aeneas on behalf of the Editorial Board, under Otto. Aeneas is a senior academic with top level international defense experience. New South Wales is currently subsidising the magazine.

The Navy League website

The Navy League website is attracting 200 visits per day. Each Division maintains and develops its own part of the site. The Vic-Tas Division received high praise on its section. To assist Divisions, Lynda Gilbert will write a manual to help others upload information.

Life Membership

Mr Harvey Greenfield, President of the Queensland Division, and a member for 37 years, was delighted to accept a Life Membership.

Promotional Materials

Caps, ties and t-shirts are currently available for sale to members. Other promotional materials such as medallions, compendiums, scarves, and ships crests will be investigated.

The Australian Naval Cadets

The Australian Naval Cadets are having some issues that need to be addressed. Commander Jim O'Neill ANC RTD summarized these for discussion by the attendees. Graham Harris will approach Vice Admiral Ray Griggs in the first instance for further advice.

Australian Maritime Complex Presentation

Commander Jim O'Neill ANC RTD from the WA Division provided an informative and interesting presentation on the Australian Maritime Complex. The AMC commenced in 2003 on reclaimed land. There has been substantial investment by both the WA government and private companies. The AMC has the state of the art equipment, expandable dry docking which can take Collins Class submarines and FSGs. It also provides facilities for visiting ships, helicopters, tankers and miscellaneous craft.

Next NLA AGM and Conference

The next meeting will be held on Friday 26 October and Saturday 27 October 2018 in Canberra.

Defence Seminar at the Shrine

The NCC, RUSI, NAA & NLA are to be congratulated on partnering together to bring the Defence Seminar to its members on 21 October. The four guest speakers were really excellent and stimulating. Some 40-people attended the seminar; it was disappointing that there was not a full house: the speakers provided an enlightened interpretation of world affairs, current maritime issues and their impact on the defence of our nation.

Captain Tim Standen welcomed everyone and announced the \$643 million investment in Cerberus by the Australian Government, approved this week, to upgrade facilities and training of sailors who will crew our fleet of the future.



Captain Standen then introduced the first speaker, **Professor Damien Kingsbury**.

Damien is a Professor of International Politics at Deakin University with extensive experience in regional politics. He has been involved as an observer in the region, as well as conducting peace talks and resolving issues in East Timor, Aceh, Myanmar and North East India.

Australia's key challenge today is the unstable environment of South East Asia. This area is the most geographically fragmented in the world and some of its nations are client states of China. Whilst the United State is still the most dominant power in the world, it is relatively passive and its political and economic leadership is considered poor.

In contrast, China has become aggressive and rapidly modernised its military. It is offering loans to small countries in return for oil, gas, food, resources and fishing rights. China will continue to grow in power and assertiveness and is aiming for a dominant global role. Freedom of navigation around the Spratley and Paracel Islands in the South China Sea is under threat. Spratley Islands in particular has four Chinese military bases which is causing tension in the region.

Australia needs to step up and improve its training programs and military diplomacy. We need to be more circumspect. In particular, our diplomacy towards Indonesia needs to accommodate a new future. We live in insecure times, with change and flux in comparison with thirty years ago.



Commander Peter Horobin MBE RAN Rtd spoke next. He is a submariner who has also worked as a consultant to the Australian and Malaysian Governments; adviser to AIDC and deputy MD of the Submarine Corporation. His topic was the relevance of submarines in Australia's defence.

We have a small population and need to achieve maximum effect with a minimum number of people. Submarines are highly relevant to Australia's defence as history has shown. Submariners are well educated and understand the value of teamwork. Capable submariners explore their environment and the challenges of changing technology. Currently, there are plenty of volunteers to man the subs. Although satellites are a serious threat to submarines, and need to be taken into account when the subs surface, the sea is still opaque to sonar and provides a good hiding place.



The third guest speaker was **Commander Douglas Stevens, RAN Rtd**. Doug has a career - service in the Navy, Defence manufacturing, telecommunications, television and Navy consulting.

Cmdr Stevens' topic was 'Sustaining Navy's Maritime Capability'. He commented on the increasing tension in South East Asia – North Korea's nuclear threats, the freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and radical Islamism.

Three new classes of ships are currently out to tender: 12 submarines; 9 ASW frigates, and 12 offshore patrol vessels.

WA and SA are playing a leading role in the ship building, but a presence is still required on the East Coast. A Naval Shipbuilding College is commencing in the near future.

The Navy used to provide its own workshops, personnel and spare parts. Now there will be a Naval Enterprise Maintenance system, with Navy, industry and the Capability Acquisition and Sustainment Group (CASG) working together.



The last speaker was **VADM Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN**. VADM Barrett joined the Navy 1976. He received a Conspicuous Service Cross in 2006 and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia in 2014. He assumed command of the RAN on 1 July 2014. VADM Barrett has just produced a booklet - **'The Navy and the Nation'** which is available through the RUSI or Melbourne University Press. It outlines the extensive opportunities for the service and Australia if the Navy becomes a national enterprise.

Australia is the largest maritime nation, surrounded by three oceans (some 32,000 nautical miles) but only has 25 million people. 98% of our trade is by sea. 95% of communication is by undersea cable. We are dependent on shipping. There are continual challenges to our borders – illegal fishing and substances and rising numbers of illegal migrants. Environmental changes and the rising sea levels will displace populations which will be a future threat.

The Indo-Pacific region will soon be the largest producer and consumer of goods. Competition, aggressive claims on maritime, North Korean weapons testing could end in armed conflict. Maritime terrorism is increasing: HMAS Warramunga has gone on its 66th rotation since 1991.

Cyber and space based challenges, quantum computing and new weapons and systems affect us directly and new approaches are needed to be more effective. Approximately \$195 billion is to be invested over ten years in Australia's defence capability. Modern shipyards are being developed in Australia as well as skilling initiatives with the building of a Naval College. For example, welders of the future will be working with ipads to perfect cutting and design.

Australia is strengthening links with France through naval personnel working at the Hughes House design centre being built in Cherbourg near Paris. Two new tankers are being built in Spain with delivery expected in 2019-20. The new Hobart is fitted with the AEGIS system. The RAN is developing an agile response to threat scenarios – eg Talisman Sabre involved 30,000 people, 28 ships and 30 aircraft, showing our strength in the region: deterring nations through lethality.

Navy must find a new way of doing things – be flexible, agile and adaptable – to protect the National interests and the Australian Government has committed to rebuilding and expanding the Navy.

Seafarers Service

The Navy League and Naval Association again provided their banners for AN Cadets to parade on Sunday 22 October at St Paul's Cathedral. The Seafarers Service was well attended with over 1000 people participating. The service was held in the presence of Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN Chief of Navy. Captain Tim Standen CSC RAN CO HMAS Cerberus participated in the service, as did Commander Terry Makings AM RAN (Retd). There were representatives of the NLA Vic-Tas Division, Naval Commemoration Committee, Mission to Seafarers, Australian Navy Cadets, RAN personnel, members of the Merchant Navy, Company of Master Mariners, ex service organisations, political and consular dignitaries.

Present from the NLA Vic-Tas Division included our President LCDR Roger Blythman LLB RFD, LCDR John Bird RNR LM, LCDR ANC Jeffrey Paull, Ms Jane Teasdale, Ken Crook and Lynda Gilbert.

Apologies were received from Buckingham Palace. Princess Anne, President of the Mission to Seafarers, wrote a letter as this was a special occasion, being the centenary of the Mission.

For 160 years, the Mission has been providing spiritual and practical support to seafarers as well as to those in hospital, suffering from depression or experiencing injustice. The 100-year-old Mission building is open for tours every day.



Music before the service was played by the RAN band, under the direction of Leading Seaman Jeffrey McGann RAN.



The magnificent Wreath was laid at the altar by Vice Admiral Tim Barrett.

The Ode to our Sailors and Ode to the Fallen as well as the Last Post had a sombre effect on the congregation, bringing some to tears.

Watching the Colour and Flag Parties make a solemn exit was a wonderful experience.





Honour guard of Cadets



LCDR John Bird RNR LM & Ms Jane Teasdale

COMM Dinner

The Navy League's member CMDR John Wilkins was invited to present a talk at the COMM annual dinner at CQ Receptions Queen Street, Melbourne on Wednesday 25th October 2017 where he opened with a short illustrated talk on some WW2 Merchant Navy operations and the loss of lives and ships in the war and in Far East. He then referred to Churchill and his British War Cabinet, the Far East vulnerability and the involvement of SS *Automedon* during the early days of the war with Nazi Germany. This Allied Merchant Navy ship was captured, boarded and then involved in most unusual circumstances resulting in the loss of the 1940 top secret British War Cabinet Minutes covering the new Defence Appreciation of the Far East. That loss of Intelligence eventually assisted Japan's initial rapid and successful entry into the war in the Pacific against the British Empire and the USA, a loss not signalled to Australia or the Netherlands.

NHS Year End Get-Together

Monday 27th November 2017 at the Waverley RSL

This is our last get-together for the year. Being a celebration, we invite you to join us in the SUNSET Room for some beautiful food, Betty's raffle and congenial company. You will enjoy a two-course delicious meal for only \$30 per head, plus drinks at bar prices. Most folk will arrive from 6.30 onwards for a drink and a chat in the downstairs bar before going up stairs for our meal followed by our excellent Speaker.

'UNCHARTED WATERS'

LCDR Mohapp enlisted in the RAN in 1997 as a musician, completing 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. 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 counts as a career highlight, conducting the Dawn Service and Commemoration services in Gallipoli in 2013!

We will hear of Cassandra's fascination on learning of the unique teaching techniques of our WRAN telegraphists in WWII using music to expedite the learning of Morse Code as well as other fascinating tales, of what has been a very interesting career journey thus far into 'UNCHARTED WATERS'.

Please contact Marty or Rex as soon as possible.

Marty is contactable on 0417 377763 grevillethedeveloper@gmail.com

Rex is contactable on 98508497 0406 381312 rex.f.williams@gmail.com

Creswell Oration 2018

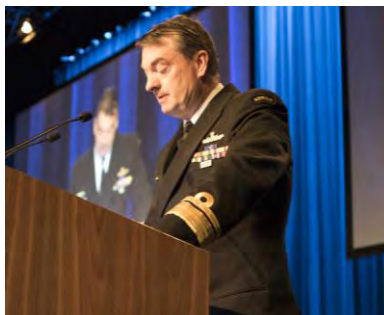


REAR ADMIRAL *Jonathan D. Mead* RAN

Commander Australian Fleet (from Friday 19 Jan. 2018)

Presents the "Creswell Oration" 2018

"STATE of the FLEET"



VENUE: William Angliss Institute Restaurant Tel: 9606 2108
550 Little Lonsdale Street, between King & Spencer Sts.

COST: \$50 – two course gourmet meal, wine, tea and coffee supplied

DATE: FRIDAY 2nd March 2018.

TIME: 1200 for 1230

DRESS: Uniform S7, Lounge suit / Day dress – Decorations & Medals optional.

TRANSPORT: **Trams** - Latrobe & Spencer streets.
Buses - via Lonsdale St., to King St.
Rail - Southern Cross Railway Station - two city blocks from venue.

ENQUIRIES:

Navy League of Australia Vic-Tas: Tel: 9884 6237
Tel: 9842 4256

Naval Association of Australia -Victoria: Tel: 0419 898 427

Naval Officers Club in Victoria: Tel: 0409 372 489

Naval Historical Society, Victoria Chapter: Tel: 9850 8497

Email: raydotgill@optusnet.com.au

Email: jmwilkins34@netspace.net.au

Email: kimbla@bigpond.com.au

Email: Warwick.Gately@vec.vic.gov.au

Email: rex.f.williams@gmail.com

Australian Navy Cadets

In 2017 TS Voyager was selected as the **Most Outstanding Navy Cadet unit in Victoria**. They will compete against 3 other Cadet units in Australia for the title of Most Efficient Unit in Australia.



Ceremonial Divisions

You are advised that they will hold their Ceremonial Divisions on **Saturday 25th November 2017**, when the National Commander ANC will be received on parade at 0900 hrs.

LEUT ANC Loretta Coste is the Commanding Officer - TS VOYAGER
Unit Support Officer - Lonsdale Flotilla

Email: loretta.coste@navycadets.gov.au Mob: 0411 566 675

NLA Vic-Tas Calendar 2017-8

HMAS Sydney I & SMS Emden battle

Remembrance Day

NLA Vic-TAS Executive Meeting

HMAS Sydney II Commemoration Service

HMAS Goorangai Commemoration Service

NHSV Annual Dinner

HMAS ARMIDALE Commemoration Service

NLA Exec Cttee Xmas Dinner

NLA Vic-TAS Executive Meeting

NLA Vic-TAS Executive Meeting

CRESWELL ORATION 2018

RVMYC Lonsdale Cup Event 2018

Thursday 9 Nov - 103rd. Anniversary

11 November 2017

Thursday 16th. November 2017- 6pm dinner 7pm Meeting

Sunday 19th. Nov - 1200 at the Shrine

Monday 20th. Nov at 1130 at the Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliff.

Monday 27th November 2017 6pm – Make your own bookings through NHS. Waverley RSL, 161, Coleman Parade Glen Waverley (Melways 71C3) is conveniently situated opposite the Glen Waverley railway station. RSL car Park is free but you need to display a ticket on your dashboard. (obtainable from reception).

Friday 1 Dec at 1000, in Shrine Sanctuary

Thursday 14 December 2017 @ 6.30pm at Box Hill RSL

Thursday 18 January 2018 @ 6pm dinner 7pm meeting

Thursday 22 February 2018 @ 6pm dinner 7pm meeting

Friday 2 March 2018 @ 1200 for 1230, Wm Angliss Institute

Sunday 4th March the NLA Vic-Tas Lonsdale Cup celebrating the Foundation of the Australian Navy 1st. March 1901 and also remembering those Yachties who freely offered their vessels and served as unpaid volunteers in the NAP during the WW2.

