



NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

VIC-TAS DIVISION

OCTOBER 2019

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“Keeping Watch over the Maritime Wellbeing of Australia”

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Photo Of HMAS Choules below, courtesy of Alf Bachelder



Dates for your diary

Friday 18 th October 2019	Defence Seminar ANZAC House, 0930-1600
Sunday 20 th October 2019	Mission to Seafarers Service at St Paul's Cathedral, 1030
Sunday 1 st March 2020	Open Day, HMAS Cerberus 100 th Anniversary

Farewell HMAS CHOULES

HMAS Choules was open for inspection on Saturday 12 October at Station Pier, Port Melbourne and the crew were overwhelmed with visitors. Below are some specifications.

Commanding Officer

[Commander Scott Houlihan](#)

Class Bay Class

Type

[Landing Ship, Dock \(LSD\)](#)

Pennant L100

International Callsign VKJC

Motto Face Difficulty With Zeal.

Home Port [Fleet Base East](#)

Builder Swan Hunter

Shipbuilders, Wallsend-on-Tyne

Laid Down

28 January 2002

Launched

18 July 2005

Commissioned

13 December 2011

Dimensions &

Displacement

Displacement 16,190 tonnes

Length 176 metres

Beam 26.4 metres

Draught 5.8 metres

Performance

Speed 18 knots

Range

15,000 kilometres at 15 knots
(28 km/h)

Complement

Crew 158 officers and sailors

Capacity

356 troops (standard) up to 700 troops
(overload)

32 Abrams tanks, 150 light trucks

Two LCVP, LCM-8

Two mexeflotes

YOUR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Annual General Meeting for the Navy League Victoria Tasmania Division was held on Saturday 21st September 2019. The following were re-elected to the Executive Committee. Congratulations to all those for their commitment to the organisation.

If anyone wishes to come to a meeting as an observer, please contact Lynda on nlavictasdiv@gmail.com or 03 9844 1016



PRESIDENT - LCDR Roger Blythman RFD RAN

HON VICE PRESIDENTS	LCDR John Bird RNR LM Ret'd CMDR Graham Harris JJB RFD Frank McCarthy
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT	CMDR Graeme Furlonger RAN
VICE PRESIDENT	Mr Ray Gill JP
HON SECRETARY	Ms Lynda Gilbert
HON TREASURER & MEMBERSHIPS	Mr Ray Gill JP & Ms Lynda Gilbert
NAVAL HISTORIAN	CMDR John Wilkins OAM
VISITING SHIPS/YC LIAISON	CMDR Graeme Furlonger RAN
WEB, FACEBOOK, NEWSLETTER	Lynda Gilbert & Ken Crook
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR	Ms Jane Teasdale
GRAPHICS DESIGN CONSULTANT	Allan Paull OAM
SHIPS LIAISON	Vacant
SHRINE LIAISON	Mr Ken Crook
EX-NAVAL ORGS LIAISON	Mr Ray Gill JP

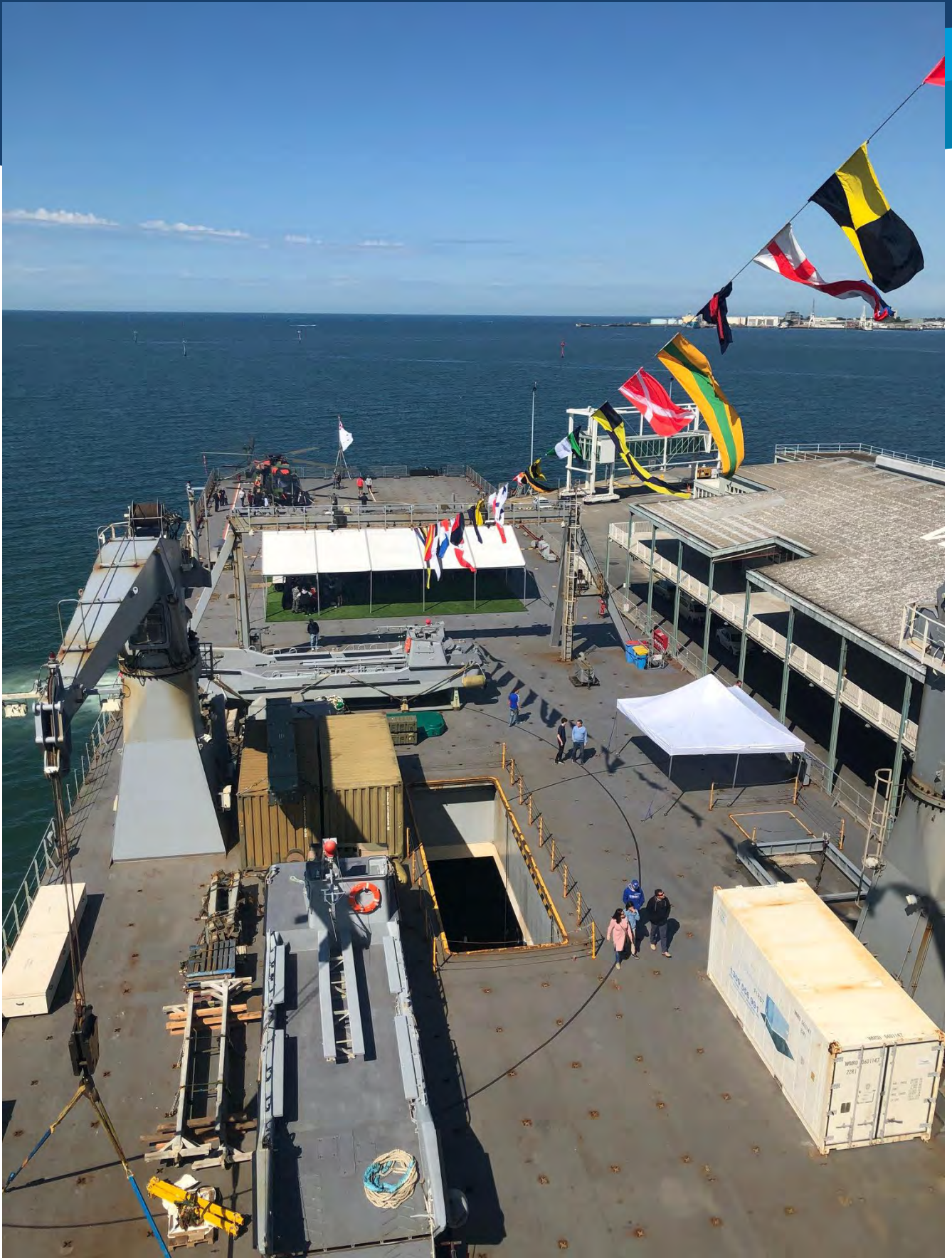
HMAS CHOULES VISITS MELBOURNE

Melburnians flocked to HMAS Choules which was open for 6 hours on Saturday 13 October 2019 at Port Melbourne. The vessel is named in honour of decorated sailor Chief Petty Officer Claude Stanley Choules, who served in both world wars. The RAN commissioned Choules in 2011 after it operated as RFA Largs Bay in Britain for 5 years. Choules is considered the workhorse of the Australian fleet.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Here are some great photos from member Alf Bachelder.



Alf reclining in the Commander's seat on the Bridge of HMAS Choules.



Deck of HMAS Choules berthed at Station Pier, Port Melbourne



Helicopter on display HMAS Choules



Landing craft HMAS Choules



Hold of HMAS Choules

Geoffrey Evans & Navy League Trophies



Geoffrey Evans Trophy



Navy League Trophy

Background to the Geoffrey Evans Trophy: Geoffrey Evans joined the RAN as a sailor in 1941 and served in the armed merchant cruiser *Manoora* before joining the new destroyer *Warramunga* before it was commissioned in November 1942. He served on that ship until August 1944. Geoffrey was appointed to junior officer rank (Sub Lieutenant), and then to Lieutenant. His full-time service ended in 1947, and then he joined the RAN Reserve when it was re-activated, retiring with the rank of Commander in 1982. Geoffrey Evans was awarded an MBE in 1967 for service with the RANVR, and the OBE in 1982 for service to the Navy League of Australia. In 1980, the Navy League Victoria, with the co-operation of the Royal Yacht Club of Victoria, initiated a yacht race as its contribution to Navy Week. The race has become a regular event in the Club's calendar with contestants sailing for the Geoffrey Evans Trophy – ensuring that his name will be remembered into the future.

Leading Seaman Jan Gilmour from HMAS *Choules* attended the Geoffrey Evans Trophy race and had a very exciting time on *Kookaburra II*. She enjoyed working with the *Kookaburra* crew and learned a lot about leadership. Jan signed up with the RAN in 1979. She left the Navy to teach, then had 6 children and rejoined in 2006. Jan boarded HMAS *Choules* in Brisbane with 140 trainees for the leg to Melbourne. The trainees are assigned duties in various departments as well as learning to keep watch, dropping an anchor, taking a ride in the helicopters and generally trying out their sea legs.

The race weather was perfect, sunny with 12-15 knot winds. The winner of the Geoffrey Evans Trophy on 12 October 2019 was the Royals yacht, **Tandeka**. Patrick Clarke received the trophy from Ken Crook. The fastest yacht, **Arcadia**, was awarded the Navy League Trophy.



Special thanks go to Commodore John Duffin and the RYCV staff for their kind hospitality and annual running of the race.



Ken Crook handing over the Geoffrey Evans trophy to Patrick Clarke on behalf of the crew of Tandeka.



Leading Seaman Jan Gilmour recounting her experiences on Kookaburra II.

TS VOYAGER

National Assessment 2019

This year, TS Voyager was selected as the Most Efficient Unit in the Lonsdale Flotilla. This means, that after their efforts in May, they were announced as the Best Cadet Unit in Victoria for 2019. TS Voyager will now go on to compete for the 'Navy League Efficiency Trophy' as the Best Cadet Unit in Australia, which TS Voyager won in 2007 and was runner-up in 2011.

Lynda Gilbert and Ken Crook attended the Ceremonial Divisions Parade on Saturday 12 October 2019, where they saw the Cadets and staff putting their skills into action. The day included a Ceremonial March Past, a Review by National Commander Captain Kerry Rayner, followed by specialised instructional classes for Cadets. Captain Rayner congratulated the Cadets and staff as they were one of 9 Units reviewed. They were by far the best Unit and deserved National Commander's Award for 2019. They are permitted to display the ANC colour for one year.



National Commander's Award



Lieutenant Loretta Coste

For Lieutenant Loretta Coste, it was a sad day, as she is moving on to become the Lonsdale Support Officer and will miss her colleagues and the cadets at Williamstown, whom she has known since 2016. She thanked the National Commander and everyone in attendance for their support, and in particular the parents, who provide food for events such as this and are also constantly fundraising to purchase equipment. Loretta was very happy that TS Voyager won the Award and wished them all the best for the future. Ashleigh Alp will take over the Unit.



Ceremonial Bearing Colours



Ashleigh Alp will take over from Leut Coste



Attendees at the National Assessment



Captain Rayner with a cadet



Ken Crook with Warrant Officer Martin Grogan OAM.



Attendee Cr Jonathon Marsden, Mayor of Hobsons Bay

Shrine of Remembrance Report



This new exhibition features many never-before-exhibited images from acclaimed Australian photographer, John Williams. Best known for his documentary street photography, John's preoccupation with the First World War was inspired by his father's service. John's war-related imagery, and photography of the battlefields of Europe, provides perceptive reflections on collective memory and memorialisation.

From the moment he looked through the lens John Williams left an indelible mark on Australian photography. Together with his second wife, accomplished photographer Ingeborg Tyssen and celebrated Australian filmmakers/photographers Paul Cox and Rod McNicol, John started The Photographers Gallery in Melbourne—a seminal exhibition space that showcased only the best local and international creative work.

This exhibition opens on 25 October.

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

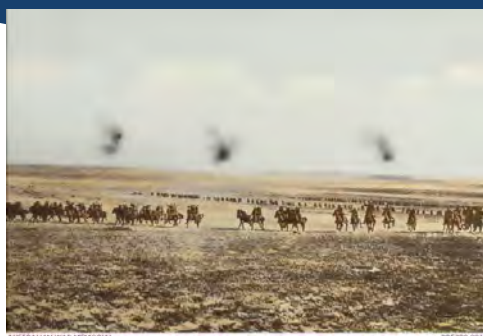
Shrine podcasts are available at <http://www.shrine.org.au/Whats-On/Video-and-Podcasts>

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

SERVICES

Thursday 17 October, 11.30am
Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

This month we commemorate the following important dates:
31 October 1917 – Battle of Beersheba
1 October 1918 – Capture of Damascus
23 October 1942 – Battle of El Alamein
3-8 October 1951 – Battles of Maryang San and Kowang San



Lessons Learned?

Thursday 31 October, midday
Auditorium, entry via Education Centre

The successes or failures of prolonged military campaigns have often been decided by the health of the combat troops. On 20th February 1942, Colonels H Fairley and I Mackerras wrote 'when exposed to malaria in New Guinea over 50% of the Australian Force may be destroyed'. Malaria did devastate the force. The cause of this near-disaster and the superb research that eliminated the threat will be discussed by Professor Geoffrey Quail. Bookings required.



New podcast: The Cinderella Service launch

Hear from Mr Robin Scott, Minister for Veterans, Wing Commander Colin Smith, Commanding Officer No. 10 Squadron and Chairman of Shrine Trustees, Air Vice-Marshal Chris Spence AO (Retd) at the exhibition launch of The Cinderella Service.



EXHIBITIONS

The Cinderella Service

Until August 2020
South Gallery

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



FROM THE SHRINE SHOP

Stained Glass Poppies Foldable Umbrella

\$49.99



A stunning stained glass poppies design on a foldable umbrella. A practical device with a “push to open” and “push to close” mechanism. Rain, hail or shine, this is the perfect addition to your bag.

Notebook and Poppy Pen

\$15.00



A beautiful red notebook featuring the poem “In Flanders Fields” by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae. Illustrated with imprinted images of the “poppy” on the front cover, this notebook is filled with white lined pages and includes an elastic book band, a ribbon page marker and a gorgeous poppy pen with a functional elastic holder.

Poppy Traveller Mug - Armistice

\$29.99



A beautiful ceramic traveller mug ideal for your morning coffee or an ice-cold beverage. A stunning poppy design to commemorate the Armistice Centenary. A unique gift or keepsake.

Armistice Centenary Medallion

\$29.99



A stunning Armistice Centenary medallion illustrating the end of the Great War with a beautiful image of doves amongst the poppies, symbolising peace.