

**The Navy League of Australia - Victoria Division
Incorporating Tasmania**

NEWSLETTER



November 2014

Volume2 No11:

"The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the nation"

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

Patron:

Governor of Victoria

President:

LCDR Roger Blythman
RANR RFD RET'D

Snr Vice President: Frank
McCarthy

Vice President Secretary: Ray
Gill

PP: Treasurer: Special Events:
CMDR John Wilkins OAM RFD
RANR

NEWS IN BRIEF

RAN OVERSEAS PORT VISITS

Recent overseas port visits by units of the RAN include the October visit to Malaysia by the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS STUART FFH153.

HMAS STUART spent 3 days at Port Kelang during her Malaysian visit. Port Kelang is in the near proximity to Malaysia's capital city Kuala Lumpur. HMAS STUART spent a period of time in Melbourne earlier this year undergoing repairs at BAE'S Williamstown Dockyard.

HMAS DIAMANTINA

The Coastal Minehunter HMAS DIAMANTINA MHC86, paid a visit to Timor-Leste during October and spent four days engaged in training exercises. HMAS DIAMANTINA embarked members of the naval component of the Timor-Leste Defence Force during the exercises as part of Australia's close relationship with Timor-Leste. It is very likely that Australia, for the first time, will offer Timor-Leste a Patrol boat from the next build of Pacific Class vessels.

The Defence Co-operation Program between Australia and Timor-Leste has now been operating since 2001.

The RAN is dedicated to working closely with Australia's partner nations in the interests of maritime security to ensure a safe, peaceful and prosperous region.

HMAS DIAMANTINA last paid a visit to Melbourne in April of 2013.

HMAS LARRAKIA

The Darwin based Armidale Class Patrol boat HMAS LARRAKIA, ACPB 84, spent four days during October 2014 in Ho Chi Min City, Vietnam.

HMAS LARRAKIA'S ships company played host to Officers and Sailors from the "Vietnam-peoples-Navy" during the port visit and arranged a tour of LARRAKIA for their guests.

As part of her six week South East Asian deployment LARRAKIA participated in the 70th anniversary commemoration of *"The Battle of Leyte Gulf"*.

HMAS LARRAKIA is named after the LARRAKIA Aboriginal people and is the only vessel of the Armidale Class not named after a regional city.

The current HGMAS LARRAKIA is the second so named vessel of the RAN and follows the World War two HMAS LARRAKIA (1) Pendant No: 81, an Air-Sea Rescue & Patrol boat which was 45 feet in length a beam of 10 feet, with a crew of 10 and a displacement of 12 tons.

Ships named LARRAKIA are entitled to carry the Battle Honour-Datwin-1942-43.

NAVAL HISTORY

The month of November is a memorable period in terms of Naval History. A brief detail of some of the events that occurred during the month of November are listed in the following:-

The first part of our Naval History segment this month is a little more than brief. It tells the story of the first United States Navy visitors to Australia in November of 1839.

EARLY USN VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

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EARLY USN VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

NOVEMBER 1839.

November 2014 marks the demisemiseptcentennial of the first visit to Australia by ships of the United States Navy.

One hundred and seventy five years ago the first American warships to visit Australia were the USS VINCENNES, accompanied by the USS PEACOCK which entered Sydney Harbour in November of 1839. The stores ship USS RELIEF arrived a few days earlier and had since departed for return alone to America.

There USN ships were part of a six ship American naval exploration expedition under the command of Lieutenant Charles Wilkes USN. The squadron comprised of the following vessels:-

Flagship	USS VINCENNES	Sloop	780 Tons	18 Guns
	USS PEACOCK	Sloop	650 Tons	22 Guns
	USS PORPOISE	Brig	230 Tons	10 Guns
Stores Ship	USS RELIEF	Fully Rigged	468 Tons	7 Guns
Tender	USS SEA GULL	Schooner	110 Tons	2 Guns
Tender	USS FLYING FISH	Schooner	96 Tons	2 Guns

The squadron sailed from Norfolk Virginia 10th August 1838 on their four year around the World expedition with 424 Officers and Sailors together with nine scientists. They returned to America via the Cape of Good Hope arriving in New York 10th June 1842.

During the expedition many islands of the Pacific were surveyed and mapped plus much of Antarctica leading to the naming of Wilkes Land. Two of the expedition's ships were lost during the voyage USS SEAGULL off the West Coast of South America and USS PEACOCK near Oregon in North America.

When Lieutenant Wilkes arrived in Sydney with his two ships USS VINCENNES and USS PEACOCK, it was cause for some embarrassment to the New South Wales Government of the day, as they arrived unchallenged in Sydney under the cover of darkness.

It is reputed that Lieutenant Wilkes later stated that had America and the Colony of New South Wales been at war, he could have sunk shipping, destroyed a great part of Sydney town, and effected a safe departure before daylight.

Following additional navy service during the US Civil War, on the side of the Union, Wilkes retired as Commodore Charles Wilkes in 1864 at the age of 66. Whilst on the retired list Wilkes was promoted to Rear Admiral in 1866 and passed away in 1877 aged 78.

NAVAL HISTORY C'TND

NOVEMBER 1914

RAN'S FIRST VICTORY

The RAN destroyed its first enemy warship on November 9th 1914. While escorting the first troop convoy from Australia to the Middle East, the light cruiser HMAS SYDNEY investigated reports of a strange warship off Direction Island in the Cocos Group. This turned out to be the German cruiser EMDIN, and although hopelessly outgunned by the more modern and faster Australian cruiser, the EMDEN stood out to engage the SYDNEY.

After an action lasting over 1.1/2 hours, the EMDEN was almost totally destroyed and was driven ashore on North Keeling Island. HMAS SYDNEY was hit by several salvos, killing 4 men and wounding 12. Casualties on the EMDEN were very heavy. 134 killed and 64 wounded, while the captain and the remainder of his crew, with the exception of a landing party which escaped in a commandeered schooner, were taken prisoner.

NOVEMBER 1940

The auxiliary minesweeper HMAS GOORANGAI was sunk and its entire crew of 24 lost in a collision with MV DUNTROON in Port Phillip. This was the first RAN loss in World War 2 and the first surface ship to be lost in wartime.

NOVEMBER 1941

HMAS SYDNEY and the German auxiliary cruiser KORMORAN met in a naval engagement in the Indian Ocean off the WA coast. Both ships were sunk, the SYDNEY with the loss of all hands – 645. She was the first RAN cruiser to be lost.

NOVEMBER 1941

The Sloop PARRAMATTA was sunk off the Libyan coast by a German submarine, at the cost of 139 lives. She was the first RAN ship to be torpedoed and sunk by submarine.

NOVEMBER 1942

The cruiser HMAS ADELAIDE intercepted and sank the German blockade runner RAMSES in the Indian Ocean.

NOVEMBER 1942

The destroyers HMAS QUIBERON and HMS QUENTIN assisted by RAF fighter aircraft sank the Italian submarine DESSIE off the coast of Algeria in North Africa.

NOVEMBER 1952

The battle class destroyer, HMAS TOBRUK, under the command of CMDR Richard I. Peek, RAN, destroyed a complete communist freight train between Songjin and Chongjin during the war in Korea.

In later years, the now late Vice Admiral Sir Richard I. Peek KBE, CB, DSC, RAN, became a member of the Navy Leagues Federal Advisory Council.

SHRINE REPORT OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 2014

On Tuesday 14th October, Shrine volunteers were taken for a second tour through the new Galleries of Remembrance. This exciting project is nearing completion for the Dedication on Remembrance Day by the Governor on Tuesday 11th November, after the Forecourt ceremony at 11am.

Audio visual and touch screen displays are being fitted and tested. They can be navigated both by disabled and able-bodied persons.

Most of the static displays are now complete and have identifying information. Amongst these precious items is the Devanha Landing Boat (probably the first boat ashore at Gallipoli). The Binnacle and binoculars from the German raider, Emden, captured by HMAS Sydney I in WWI, are also on display

The most fascinating of the 800 exhibits are: the leather flying suits on loan from the RAAF museum used by the Australian Flying Corps in WWI; a lace tapestry depicting the Battle of Britain in WWII; the Turkish flag, captured at the Battle of Beersheba in WWI (probably the last cavalry charge in history); rare uniforms and memorabilia from all three Services (Colonial to the present day); and sailors' uniforms from all conflicts. Dedicated corridors in the WWII section depict Navy, Army and Air Force service life including sections on HMAS Sydney II, prisoners of war, women's and Aboriginal service.

The Peace Gallery (final section) has a very large touchscreen with information on famous people associated with struggles for world peace, e.g. Aung San Suu Kyi; and world maps which are updated regularly to show current peace and security threats.

On Monday 13th October, a large group of workers using an overhead crane, began installing the overhead "Poppy Canopy" above the forecourt entrance to the Education Centre (picture below). It will provide shade

On Monday 13th October, a large group of workers using an overhead crane, began installing the overhead "Poppy Canopy" above the forecourt entrance to the Education Centre (picture below). It will provide shade over the area where introductory and information briefings are held.



All temporary classrooms and staffrooms have now been removed from the south east gardens facing Birdwood Avenue. Heritage Victoria has given permission for the rose gardens, hedges and paths in this area to be moved slightly further south to allow an in-line loading entry to the logistic tunnel. Gardens, hedges and all grass have been replanted.

Work has commenced on Birdwood Avenue at the bus terminals, to remove the gravel path and lay gravel coloured concrete between the Gallipoli Walk and the pedestrian crossing. This will address the problem of the transfer of gravel into the building, a welcome improvement as at least 80,000 school children and approximately 1 million visitors are expected next year (2015) - the Centenary of Gallipoli.

The fences surrounding the vast area of the southern section of the Shrine, from the building to Domain road, have been removed, and the landscaping, gutters, new paths and new grass provide a pleasant green vista from Domain Road. Many grass areas around the Shrine have been repaired and dozens of new trees planted.

A new tree in the southern (Naval) section has consolidated all of the plaques regarding the Bitu Paka landing in New Guinea.

After the one hour introductory tour, there was a common answer to the question “what do you think of the changes?” “Fantastic!”

Melbourne has acquired a marvellous new tourist attraction for exhibitions, ceremonies and Military history.

Ken Crook

15 October-November 2014

NAVAL VISITORS TO MELBOURNE

Two recent naval visitors to Melbourne were the Anzac Class Frigates HMAS ARUNTA FFH151 and HMAS PARRAMATTA FFH154. First to arrive was ARUNTA at 10:00AM 17th October 2014, followed by PARRAMATTA on the same day at 10:00PM. PARRAMATTA berthed outboard of ARUNTA at Station Pier, our first naval visitors to port Melbourne for many months.

HMAS PARRAMATTA currently under the command of CMDR Andrew Willis, recently completed a deployment to the South Pacific area as part of operation “*Solania*”, which aims to assist South Pacific Island States in protecting their fisheries and natural resources.

HMAS ARUNTA, under the command of CMDR David Tietzel CSM, RAN, has now completed her “Anti-Ship Missile Defence” upgrade which took place in Western Australia. At the completion of ARUNTA’S upgrade the ship proceeded to the North of Australia to participate in exercise “Kakadu”. Following a crew swap-over ARUNTA is now crewed by HMAS WARRAMUNGA’S crew whilst WARRAMUNGA undergoes the same upgrade in WA as that of ARUNTA, i.e.: “Anti-Ship Missile Defence”. HMAS PARRAMATTA has not yet been upgraded to this system level.

The “Anti-Ship Missile Defence” upgrade involves new forward and aft masts, fitted with leading edge phased array radar and other sensor systems, all controlled utilising a new state of the art combat management system and an advanced operations room. During the upgrades the stern area of the Anzac Class is further enclosed. HMAS PERTH FFH157 and HMAS ANZAC FFH150 have also been upgraded to this level. . “Anti-Ship Missile Defence” upgrade significantly enhances the capability of the ships weapons and sensors systems.

HMA ships ARUNTA and PARRAMATTA are part of the 10 ship Anzac Class built at the Williamstown Dockyard, 8 for the RAN and two for the RNZN.

The previous visit to Melbourne by HMAS PARRAMATTA was March of 2008, whilst ARUNTA’S last Melbourne visit was in March of 2007. During this current visit, both ships Commanding Officers received Navy League mementoes of their Melbourne visit, plus spare copies of the Leagues magazine “The Navy”.

Both ships were in Melbourne as part of the Anzac Centenary Commemoration marking the departure of the first convoy of troopships sailing to the Middle East during WWI carrying Australian and New Zealand troops. ARUNTA and PARRAMATTA sailed from Melbourne October 20th 2014 with ARUNTA bound for Albany Western Australia, retracing the journey of the Anzacs when 10 troop ships departed from Port Phillip Bay during October of 1914 with HMA ORVIETO as lead troopship.

HMAS ARUNTA met with other units of the RAN in Albany, including HMA ships SIRIUS, ANZAC STUART and the submarine HMAS RANKIN. They in turn were joined by the New Zealand Anzac Frigate HMNZS TE KAHA and the Japanese destroyer KIRISAME during which time the naval vessels were engaged in exercise "*Distant Shores*", plus further commemorations of the centenary of the first convoy of 38 total transports carrying troops, nurses, weapons, supplies and horses onward to Egypt and WWI, 100 years ago in November of 1914. The 1914 convoy was escorted by the British cruiser HMS MINOTAUR, the RAN'S HMA ships SYDNEY and MELBOURNE and the Japanese Battle Cruiser IJS IBUKI. It was on this deployment that HMAS SYDNEY would do battle with, and defeat, the German Cruiser EMDEN off the Cocos Islands. Refer to this editions Naval History Page.



HMAS ARUNTA 151 WITH HMAS PARRAMATTA 154 AT PORT MELBOURNE OCTOBER 2014



COMMANDING OFFICER OF HMAS ARUNTA (LEFT) WITH EDITOR ON BRIDGE WING OF HMAS ARUNTA
OCTOBER 2014 PORT MELBOURNE

CRESWELL ORATION 2015

This edition of the Leagues newsletter contains details of the forthcoming “Australian Navy Foundation Day” commemoration, a key feature of which will be the “Creswell Oration” to be presented by Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer, CSC*. The venue for the “Creswell Oration” is the William Angliss Restaurant”. The event is to be held on Monday 2nd March 2015.

Bookings now open.

CNF**1901 1911****AUSTRALIAN NAVY FOUNDATION DAY****RAN****1911 2015**

"Creswell Oration" established 2001 by Navy League of Australia Victoria Division, and supported by Naval Association of Australia Victoria Section, Naval Officers' Club in Victoria and Naval Historical Society Victoria Chapter - who jointly formed the "**Australian Navy Foundation Day Organising Committee**" (ANFDOC) administered by Navy League of Australia Victoria-Tasmania Division.

Celebration of 114th Anniversary AUSTRALIAN NAVY's FOUNDATION DAY
15th Annual "CRESWELL ORATION 2015"



presented by

RAN's Fleet Commander**REAR ADMIRAL *Stuart Mayer* RAN**

to speak on

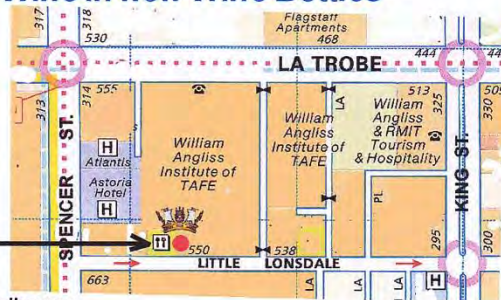


Creswell

"Royal Australian Navy in 2015 - Old Wine in new Wine Bottles"

At the

William Angliss TAFE Institute Restaurant
550 Little Lonsdale Street
between King & Spencer Streets.

**DATE:** MONDAY 2nd. Mar 2015. **TIME:** 1200 for 1230**LOCATION:** William Angliss Institute Restaurant, 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne.**COST & PAYMENT:** \$40 per head - Cheque or Direct Debit : Westpac Bank BSB:033 389 A/C No: 107631 - **include your NAME****DRESS:** Uniform S7, Lounge suit / Day dress - Decorations & Medals optional.**TRANSPORT:** **Trams** - Latrobe and Spencer streets. **Buses** - via Lonsdale St., to Spencer St.,**Rail** - Southern Cross Railway Station is City two blocks from venue along Spencer St.

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 Naval Historical Society, Vict. Chapter: Tel: 9850 8497; Email: rex.f.williams@gmail.com

William Angliss Institute Restaurant: Tel: 9606 2108 1st Mar.1901 - Foundation of Australia's Navy's Commonwealth Naval Force (CNF).**BOOK EARLY****RSVP - Monday 13 February 2015**

Australian Navy Foundation Day Creswell Oration 2015
P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

**BOOK EARLY****"CRESWELL ORATION 2015"** Luncheon **MONDAY 2nd March 2015 @ 1200** for 1230 start.My Cheque/Money Order attached or payment has been by direct Debit to

"Navy League" \$ for persons

for Australian Navy Foundation Day "**Creswell Oration - 2014**" Luncheon at William Angliss Institute Restaurant,
 accessed from 550 Little Lonsdale St. Melbourne - between Spencer and King Streets.

PLEASE PRINT all NAME(S) !-

Tel:

Email:

Address

26 OCT2014

Our story of Tasmania's naval history continues.....

TASMANIA AND THE NAVY

The main responsibilities of Captain Walton Drake RAN, as Tasmania's District Naval Officer (DN0) based in Hobart, were recruitment, training and naval reserves, assistance to visiting warships and the general responsibility as naval interests are concerned for the coastline within his district including the arrangements for rendering the Signal Station service efficient for naval purposes in case of war.

Within four years the importance of this last responsibility was demonstrated. On 2nd August 1914, two days before the official declaration of war, the Director of Naval Reserves was ordered to establish an Examination Service at all defended ports, including Hobart. The Service was in place the following day and by 5th August all ships were required to submit to an examination before entering Harbour in order to identify and ascertain the character and intentions of the vessel. Local coastal pilots were commissioned as Lieutenants, RANR to operate the examination service while three local boats were requisitioned as examination vessels. The German-Austrian liner OBERHAUSEN was detained at Port Huon within days of the outbreak of war. She was subsequently renamed BOORAL and used as a cargo carrier for the duration of the war.

“AS IT WAS”

Once again we invite you to join us as we take a look at more recent naval history, at items that involved, or caught the eye of Navy League over the years on our “Keep Watch” brief. This time we go back 10 years as we browse through our records and reports to November 2004, we note that it was around this time we reported:-

RAN NAVY WEEK VISIT

Three ships of the RAN visited Melbourne for Navy Week Celebrations over the period late October through early November 2004.

First to arrive was the Auxiliary Minesweeper MSA BANDICOOT under the command of CPO Alan Hart followed by HMAS MELBOURNE with CMDR Verran Dutschke as CO and HMAS BALLARAT with CMDR David Hunter as CO.

The main characteristics of the three ships are as follows:-

MSA BANDICOOT Y298

DISPLACEMENT	410 TONNES
LENGTH	97 FEET (30M)
BEAM	11 FEET (3.4M)
SPEED	10 KNOTS
CREW	10

HMAS MELBOURNE FFG05

OLIVER HAZARD-PERRY/ADELAIDE CLASS FRIGATE

DISPLACEMENT	4100 TONNES
LENGTH	453 FEET (138M)
BEAM	47 FEET (14.3M)
SPEED	30 KNOTS
CREW	210

“AS IT WAS C’TND”

HMAS BALLARAT FFH155

ANZAC CLASS FRIGATE

DISPLACEMENT	3700 TONNES
LENGTH	388 FEET (118.1M)
BEAM	48 FEET (14.8M)
SPEED	27 KNOTS
CREW	170

The original schedule of ships to visit Melbourne for Navy Week comprised a total of 8 ships, however, due to a combination of bad weather and mechanical malfunctions the following 5 RAN vessels were unable to attend:-

MSA WALLAROO	Y299	AUXILIARY MINESWEEPER
HMAS HUON	82	COASTAL MINEHUNTER
HMAS NORMAN	84	COASTAL MINEHUNTER
HMAS DIAMANTINA	86	COASTAL MINEHUNTER
HMAS LAUNCESTON	207	FREEMANTAL CLASS PATROL BOAT

During their visit to Melbourne the 3 attending ships were open to the public for inspection which attracted large crowds.

Members of the 3 ships complements attended church and Shrine services during the Navy Week period and the Navy League of Australia Victoria Division played host to Seniors Officers of the visiting ships at a reception luncheon held at Melbourne’s Naval & Military Club.

An approximate total of 70 guests and NLA members were in attendance at the reception including the Leagues Federal President CMDR. Graham Harris plus many Senior Members of the League’s Executive. Both Commanding Officers of HMAS’S BALLARAT and MELBOURNE addressed the NLA guests at the luncheon and provided interesting non classified details of their current activities.

The Senior Naval Officer Victoria, Captain Bob Richards, CO of HMAS CERBERUS plus retired RAN Commodores Dacre Smyth and Jim Dickson were in attendance and following presentations to the visitors of Navy League memento’s and crests by the Leagues Victorian President CMDR John Wilkins, CDRE Dacre Smyth also presented the visiting sea-going Officers with copies of his latest book of paintings entitled “Melbourne from the Sea”.

During CMDR Wilkins presentation, he also thanked LCDR Graeme Furlonger, Staff Officer Maritime Operations Victoria, for the fine work that he does in the overall co-ordination of the many necessary arrangements required for the successful functioning of naval ship visits to Victoria.

The date of the reception-luncheon 1st November 2004 was the 90th anniversary of the first HMAS MELBOURNE, a Town Class Cruiser, departing from Australia’s shores 1st November 1914 for service during WWI.

As part of the same convoy escort, MELBOURNE’S sister ship the first HMAS SYDNEY would eight days later engage and defeat the German Cruiser EMDEN.

“AS IT WAS C’TND”

HMAS BALLARAT ON-BOARD RECEPTION

The Senior Naval Officer Victoria Captain Bob Richards, together with Commanding Officer of the Anzac Class Frigate HMAS BALLARAT FFH155 Commander David Hunter, welcomed guests to a reception held on board BALLARAT as part of Navy Week celebrations. Ceremonial sunset was also included as part of the program.

Chief of Navy’s representative at the reception was Deputy Chief of Navy Rear Admiral Max Hancock.

Amongst the 200 guests on board, the Navy League was represented by Roger Blythman, Ray Gill, Allan Paull and Frank McCarthy.

HMAS BALLARAT arrived in Melbourne on the morning of the reception 12 hours behind schedule, due to the extremely rough conditions prevailing down the Eastern seaboard.

BALLARAT made her way up the Yarra River for the second time this year passing under the Bolte Bridge with upper works clearance of 32 inches to berth at Victoria Harbour in Melbourne’s Docklands.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Reference October 2014 edition of Navy League Newsletter

Dear Editor,

Just a couple of notes to add to the Armidale comments in the Newsletter. I was on the Board of DMS Maritime during the tendering proposal and led some of the company’s tendering discussions which subsequently they won.

The two additional Armidale’s were in fact built and delivered. Also, the Government funded a bare boat base at Dampier in Western Australia.

In bidding for the Armidale Contract, both DMS Maritime and Tenix had to calculate the number of boats required to provide 3200 days per year I think it was with a surge capacity for short term of another 600 days. DMS calculated 12 of their design was required and I think Tenix figure was 10 of their design. So the actual number of vessels was quite scientifically arrived at and as you can read both companies came up with like numbers.

Warm regards

RADM John Lord AM, RAN, RTD

ED: Thank you RADM Lord for your most interesting additional input.

PRESIDENTS ANNUAL REPORT

In this edition of our newsletter we have included the Victoria-Tasmania Division annual report for the 2013-2014 period. The report was presented by the Divisions President, LCDR Roger Blythman at the League’s 100th AGM.

Whilst the Tasmanian Division had a head start on Victoria, being established in 1900, the Victoria Division commenced in 1915 and will celebrate their centenary as a now combined Division in October of next year.

Navy League of Australia Victorian Division President's Report

The past year has seen a number of initiatives. These include the amalgamation of the Tasmania Division (in accordance with the determination of the Federal Council at last year's Annual Meeting) and participation in the Naval Commemoration Committee.

The Victoria Division has assumed the assets and operation of the former Tasmania Division, subject to that division being re-established at some later time. The arrangements made are in accordance with sub-clauses 80 (b) and (c) of the Constitution of the League. Meanwhile, the appropriate designation of the Victoria Division to include reference to Tasmania has been considered and is subject to recommendation to the Federal Council.

Arrangements have been made to welcome Tasmanian members to the Victoria Division, including concessional annual fees during the initial year of transfer. The take up of the offer of email receipt of communications and information bulletins has been moderate. I hope to visit Tasmania and meet members later in the year or early next year, possibly in conjunction with the Federal President.

Cash assets of the former Tasmania Division (and its branches) have been received and consideration is being given to making some donations to Navy Cadet units in Tasmania. Other assets may be provided on loan from the League to appropriate custodians. The League's historic field guns will be refurbished courtesy of the C.O. of HMAS CERBERUS. Arrangements for their transportation are under consideration.

The Victoria Division has maintained activities including:

- Publication of monthly newsletter sent by email to members;
- Welcoming the new Senior Naval Officer Victoria, Capt Steve Bowater and farewelling his predecessor;
- Publicity in respect of the LHDs fitting out at Williamstown;
- Pressing Navy to increase its presence in Victoria and Tasmania especially by scheduling ship visits;
- Input at the Shrine of Remembrance and its expansion programme so as to ensure naval involvement not swamped by army and air force.

Ship visits lunches have been limited due to the infrequency of visits by Australian or other naval vessels or lead times that have been too short to enable suitable arrangements to be

made. My thanks go to Graeme Furlonger for his liaison for such visits and Frank McCarthy for visits to ships when it has not been possible to arrange for a formal reception.

I also attended the "Naval Gazing" visit to HMAS CERBERBUS and the Annual Seafarers Service and had regular discussions with the Federal President.

The financial position of the Division is reported on separately. However, it is appropriate to note that the finances are in good order and that membership has remained fairly steady. The work of the President would be nigh on impossible to achieve without the assistance of Vice Presidents Frank McCarthy, John Bird and John Wilkins who with our Events Co-ordinator are also largely responsible for the organisation of the annual Navy Foundation Day on 1st March which is sponsored by the League and which would in no way be the ongoing success that it is without their organisation and drive.

During the year I represented the Victoria Division at a number of Naval Commemoration Committee events and planning meetings and maintained liaison with various kindred organisations.

In relation to such organisations, I pay tribute to Rex Williams who as President of the Naval Historical Society brought a significant connection with naval history a broader perspective to the Executive's considerations.

The contribution of our Vice President and Honorary Secretary, Ray Gill, is known to all but the newest members. Thankyou Ray for your tireless efforts in a portfolio that usually is heavy with criticism and light on appreciation!

I also welcome formally Jeff Paull to the Executive. His involvement will greatly enhance the interaction of the League and the Australian Naval Cadets and we very much look forward to strengthening those historic links.

To all the members of the executive committee, I convey my thanks for their support.

I also thank our Patron, His Excellency the Governor, for his continued patronage and support of the League's aims and activities.

Roger M Blythman RFD
President

Membership

Any person with an interest in maritime affairs, or who wishes to acquire an interest in, or knowledge of, maritime affairs and who wishes to support the objectives of the League, is invited to join.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objective of the Navy League of Australia is "The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the Nation" by:

- Keeping before the Australian people the fact that we are a maritime nation and that a strong Navy supported by maritime elements of the Air Force and Army and other Government Maritime agencies are indispensable elements of our national well-being and vital to the freedom of Australia.
- Promoting defence self-reliance by supporting maritime research, defence industry, Australian shipping, ship-building, port and transport infrastructure and off shore resource exploration and development.
- Promoting and encouraging the interest and training of youth in the sea.

ACTIVITIES

The Navy League of Australia works towards its objectives in a number of ways:

- By including in its membership leading representatives of the many elements which form the maritime community.
- Through soundly-based contributions by members to journals and newspapers, and other media comment.
- By publishing *The Navy*, a quarterly journal reporting on local and overseas maritime happenings, past, present, and projected.
- By organizing symposia, ship visits and various other functions of maritime interests throughout the years.
- By supporting Australian Navy Cadets, and assisting in the provision of training facilities.

Member participation is encouraged in all these activities.

POLICY

The policy of the League can be found at the back of *The Navy*.

Correspondence:- All articles for publication in the Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) Newsletter, should be addressed to the Editor, Frank McCarthy, email:- (alistle@bigpond.com). All other correspondence should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary, Navy League of Australia (Vic.Div.) P.O.Box 2340, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149: (raydotgill@optusnet.com.au).

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Joining the League


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.
Victorian Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: GPO Box 1481, Brisbane, QLD 4001.
South Australian Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
West Australian Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

If you live in Tasmania, please post the form to the Hon Secretary of the Victorian Division.

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