



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

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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## NAVAL VISITORS TO MELBOURNE

Melbourne played a part in Sydney's October 2013 "International Fleet Review" (IFR) recently when eight Tall Ships called at Williamstown on their way to the IFR via Hobart Tasmania. The Netherlands were well to the fore with three Tall Ships representing their country, those being "EUROPA", "TECLA", and "OOSTERSCHELDE", from England the "LORD NELSON" and FLYING THE Australian flags were the "ENTERPRIZE", "SOREN LARSEN", WINDEWARD BOUND" and the RAN'S "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR". The Indonesian Tall Ship "DEWARUCI" unfortunately was dismantled when 60 miles off the coast from Geraldton W.A., during very rough weather, and could not participate in the IFR events.

All of the visiting Tall Ships were berthed at Williamstown's piers during their Melbourne stop-over. The League played its part in spirit also by hosting the Senior Officers from the Naval Support Ship, RAN "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" to a luncheon reception held at Williamstown's Royal Yacht Club of Victoria. Officer-in-Command of "YOUNG ENDEAVOUR" LCDR Mike Gough and XO LEUT Adam Farley, together with SNOVIC'S representative CMDR Cameron Eastman RANR were the Leagues guests for the occasion. The League followed through with a further hosting for two more visiting ships also on their way to the Sydney IFR celebrations. The CO of HMAS PERTH CAPT Lee Goddard, and the CO of HMS DARING, CMDR Angus Essenhigh, together with PERTHS XO Chris Leece, plus The XO from HMS DARING, LCDR Steve Wall, with the British Consul General, Mr. Gareth Hoar, we all guests of the League at a luncheon presentation at Melbourne's Mecure Hotel.

Both ships arrived in Melbourne 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2013 following individual training exercises in the Pacific region. HMAS PERTH, FFH157, recently completed the final acceptance trial of her "Anti-Ship-Missile-Defence-System" (A.S.M.D.). HMAS PERTH is first of the eight Anzac Class to improve her weapons system and sensor arrays. Whilst in the USN missile test firing range off Hawaii HMAS PERTH engaged in the firing of her evolved Sea Sparrow missiles with much success. HMAS PERTH then made her way to Melbourne via New Zealand.

HMS DARING was also engaged in training exercises off Hawaii and also made her way to Melbourne, her first Australian port of call, via the Marshall Islands.

For the record, HMS DARING'S main characteristics are as detailed:-

**HMS DARING IS A TYPE 45 AIR WARFARE DESTROYER PENNANT**  
**NO:D32**

LENGTH	152.4 METRES
BEAM	21.2 METRES
DISPLACEMENT	8000 TONNES
SPEED	27+ KNOTS
CREW	APPROX 190

HMS DARING is the lead ship of the Daring Class of six destroyers. Her sister ships are 'DAUNTLESS, DIAMOND, DRAGON, DEFENDER, and DUNCAN". Whilst in Melbourne HMS DARING was berthed at the BAE Dockyard in Williamstown, where she had the opportunity to spruce up her paintwork prior to going on show in Sydney. DARING was required to look her best for the IFR as not only was the RN'S first Sea Lord, Admiral Sir George Zambellas in Sydney for the event, but also Prince Harry. HMS DARING has already been away from home for five months and it will be a further four months before she is back again in Portsmouth.

The International Fleet Review marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival in Sydney of the brand new seven-ship Royal Australian Navy Fleet, led by HMAS AUSTRALIA in October 1913. The centenary was officially celebrated on October 5<sup>th</sup> with a royal review by Prince Harry. The prince reviewed the RAN and visiting over-sea's warships.

Each warship formally saluted the "HMAS SYDNEY 1" memorial on Bradley's Head as they entered Sydney Harbour on October 4<sup>th</sup>.

The review also featured fly-pasts by 37 types of military and civilian aircraft ranging from helicopters to hornet jet fighters.



YOUNG ENDEAVOUR



HMAS PERTH



## HMS DARING



YOUNG ENDEAVOUR LUNCHEON CO. LCDR. MIKE GOUGH WITH NLA  
VIC PRESIDENT ROGER BLYTHMAN



HMS DARING WARDROOM





COMMANDER ANGUS ESSENHIGH HMS DARING  
LUNCHEON



CAPTAIN LEIGH GODDARD HMAS PERTH & CMDR JOHN WILKINS  
DARING/PERTH LUNCHEON

## **WHATS ON AT THE SHRINE**

Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance in their "Talks and Events" program for November 2013 have listed for Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November:-

### **"FINDING HMAS SYDNEY"**

In 2008 the finding of HMAS SYDNEY, sunk by the German Raider HSK KOMORAN on 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941, touched the heart of the nation and brought a measure of peace to the families of the 645 Sydney men who were killed. This talk tells of the Findings Sydney Foundation (FSF), from its inception to success, and the research that predicted the position of the raider KORMORAN and provided accurate and efficient search boxes for both wrecks.

This talk by Ted Graham and Kim Kirsner is programmed for a 5:30pm arrival with 6:00pm as the starting time. Admission is free.

### **IFR VIDEO**

Executive committee member Mr. Ken Crook advises that for those members who did not get to Sydney to view the International Fleet Review or for those members who missed the telecast of the event, the ABC plan to make the event available on DVD for sale at their ABC Shop during mid to late November 2013.

Enquires can be made on 1300650587, the website details are:-  
[www.abc.net.au/programmes](http://www.abc.net.au/programmes).

## **NAVAL HISTORY**

### **OCTOBER NAVAL HISTORY**

The month of October, in terms of Naval History, is indeed an interesting period. Some of the more memorable events spread over previous years are listed in the following:-

#### **OCTOBER 1805**

England's victory at The Battle of Trafalgar –

Two hundred and eight years ago on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 1805, Admiral Lord Nelson defeated a combined Spanish-French Fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar.

#### **OCTOBER 1944**

The Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvette *H.M.A.S. Geelong*, a sister ship to *H.M.A.S. Castlemaine* was sunk in a collision with the U.S. Tanker "York" off New Guinea on the 18<sup>th</sup> October 1944.

Fortunately there was no loss of life in this incident.



### **OCTOBER 1944**

In October 1944 at the Battle of "Leyte Gulf" the following R.A.N. ships engaged, H.M.A.S 's *Australia*, *Shropshire*, *Arunta*, *Warramunga*, *Manoora*, *Kanimbla*, *Westralia*, *Gascoyne* and H.D.M.L. No.1074.

During the Battle of Leyte Gulf, a kamikaze Aichi 99 dive bomber crashed into the foremast of *H.M.A.S. Australia* killing 30 Officers and ratings, including *H.M.A.S. Australia*'s Commanding Officer Captain E.F.V. Dechaineux. There were also 64 Officers and men wounded in this attack including Commodore J.A. Collins RAN.

### **OCTOBER 1944**

The 25<sup>th</sup> October 1944 marked the date of the Battle of Surigao Strait in which H.M.A. Ships "*Shropshire*" and "*Arunta*" engaged.

Radar played an important part in this engagement which would probably be the last of the "Battle Line" actions in the history of sea warfare.

### **OCTOBER 1954**

The daring class destroyer *H.M.A.S. "Vendetta"* was launched on the 27<sup>th</sup> October 1954 at Williamstown Victoria.

### **OCTOBER 1969**

Fifteen years later and it was *H.M.A.S. Vendetta* again, the only Australian built ship of the R.A.N. to serve on the gun line during the Vietnam War, as she fired her first shots in anger during that conflict on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1969, now forty four years ago.

## **"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 of October 2003, we note that it was around this time we reported:-

### **HMAS PARRAMATTA JOINS THE FLEET**

On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2003, HMAS PARRAMATTA was commissioned in Sydney and became ship No.5 of the RAN'S fleet of FFH Anzac Class Frigates. Under the command of CMDR. Michael Noonan HMAS PARRAMATTA is home based in Sydney at Fleet Base East. She displaces 3600 tonnes, is 118 metres in length with a beam of 14.8 metres in length, speed of in excess of 27 knots.

### **RAN SUBMARINE VISITS MELBOURNE**

On Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2003, the RAN'S Collins Class Submarine HMAS RANKIN SSG78, arrived at Port Melbourne for a 6 day visit. HMAS RANKIN is boat No6 and the last of the planned batch of Collins Class Diesel Electric Submarines.

The boat is named in honour of LCDR. Robert William "Oscar" Rankin lost in March of 1942 as CO of the Sloop HMAS YARRA, which was overpowered and sunk by a force of Japanese Cruisers and Destroyers whilst escorting a small convoy from Java.

The visit by "RANKIN" marked the third visit to Melbourne by a Collins Class Submarine. The previous 2 visits were both HMAS WALLER, firstly in October 2001, and again in April of this year.

During RANKIN'S visit, the Navy League of Australia's Victoria Division members and executive, took the opportunity of hosting HMAS RANKIN'S CO LCDR Doug Theobald and XO LCDR Dave Graham to a luncheon held in their honour at the Naval & Military Club of Melbourne.

Also during her visit RANKIN entertained 35 guests at a reception held on board whilst the boat was alongside Port Melbourne's Station Pier. I had the pleasure of representing the League on this occasion.

The normal crew size of a Collins Class Submarine is 9 Officers and 36 sailors, plus 11 trainees.

Although a little cramped by the addition of 35 visitors, a good time was had by all in the boats control room.

Commissioned on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2003, HMAS RANKIN nicknamed "The Black Knight" in line with her crest featuring the helmeted head of a knight and the colour of her hull. She is 77.8 metres in length with a 7. Metre beam, and she has a submerged displacement of 3350 tonnes.

Since her commissioning 6 months ago at home base HMAS Stirling West Australia, "RANKIN" has been engaged in exercises off the Queensland Coast including Crocodile-03.

HMAS RANKIN sailed from Melbourne on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2003 bound for her home base in West Australia, where she will undergo a maintenance period. During 2004, RANKIN will undertake a 8 month deployment to the Pacific region which will involve visits to Japan and Korea.

Following the port visits HMAS RANKIN will participate in exercise Rimpac conducted off the coast of HAWAII.

### **FISH PIRATES APPREHENDED**

The Master and Senior Officers of the Montevideo register fishing vessel "VIARSA" who arrived in Perth during early October, are expected to be charged with illegally taking Patagonian Tooth fish from Australian waters.

The vessel was chased for 21 days over more than 7200 km across the Southern Ocean, the longest pursuit in Australian Maritime history

The crew of 39 South Americans on the Uruguayan flagged vessel are being held at an Army Barracks near Fremantle.

Fisheries Minister Mr. Ian MacDonald said that the capture of the "VIARSA" was a great result for the Australian Customs and Fisheries Patrol Vessel "SOUTHERN SUPPORTER". It sends a message around the World that Australia will chase these pirates and plunderers and apprehend them if need be, to the ends of the earth.

### **ROYAL VISITOR**

HRH Princess Anne, is expected to visit Melbourne within the next few days.

During her visit, the Princess is scheduled to inspect the Ex HMAS OTOMA, an Oberon Class Submarine.

The OTAMA is currently moored at Hastings in Victoria, and is scheduled to be transferred ashore in May of 2004 for exhibition purposes.

Once ashore sections of the hull sides will be removed thus enabling walk- in walk - out access for visitors

Princess Anne was the launching lady for "OTAMA" on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1975. The boat was commissioned as HMAS OTAMA No.62 on 27<sup>th</sup> April 1978, arriving in Australia as a unit of the RAN in December 1978.

HMAS OTAMA was the 6<sup>th</sup> and last of the Oberon Class Submarines built for the RAN by Scotts Shipbuilding at Greenock in Scotland.

For your general information some of the main characteristics for comparison purposes between Collins Class and Oberon Class Submarines are detailed as follows:-

	<u><b>COLLINS</b></u>	<u><b>OBERON</b></u>
SUBMERGED DISPLACEMENT	3350 Tonnes	2410 Tonnes
SUBMERGED SPEED	20 Knots	17 Knots
CREW SIZE	45	62
LENGTH	77.5 Metres	90 Metres
BEAM	7.8 Metres	8.1 Metres

#### **RAN TANKER MAY BE SCRAPPED**

The future of the RAN'S Tanker HMAS WESTRALIA is in doubt following major mechanical failure.

The problem comes after a \$40 million refit in the wake of a fatal fire.

In May of this year, a coupling between the gearbox and the engines snapped as the ship was steaming north along the West Australian Coast.

Engineers found that at least one and possibly both engines were out of alignment with the gearbox, a serious engineering problem for a large ship.

The 30 year old ship was due to be retired in 2008, but if the problem is too serious and repair costs too high, it could have made its final journey

#### **RAN SHIPS TO VISIT FOR NAVY WEEK**

Three RAN ships are expected to visit Melbourne later this month in celebration of Navy Week.

The trio of ships will comprise the FFH Frigate and Lead Ship of her class HMAS ANZAC Pendant No.150, the Huon Class Minehunter HMAS HAWKESBURY No.83, and the Hydrographic Survey Ship HMAS LEEUWIN No.A245

It will be the first visit to Melbourne for the 2550 tonnes Cairns built and based HMAS LEEUWIN.

#### **RAN MINEHUNTER RUNS AGROUND**

The Huon Class Minehunter HMAS DIAMANTINA, MHC86, struck a Coral Reef on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2003, whilst on patrol in the Solomon Islands, ripping a hole in its fibre glass hull, and causing propeller damage. DIAMANTINA has been towed to the capital Honiara for repairs.

An Australia Defence Force spokesperson said, there were no injuries, nor was there any internal damage to the ship, however, there will be an investigation as to why the ship ran aground on the Ontong Java Atoll, the northern most point of the Solomon Islands.

# 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*.

## 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.  
**Tasmanian Division:** 40 Fleetwood Drive, Speyton, TAS 7310.  
**West Australian Division:** 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.

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

Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year, and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.

### THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP



To: The Hon. Secretary  
The Navy League of Australia

Division \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to join the Navy League of Australia, the objectives of which I support, and I enclose a remittance for \$35.00 (including \$3.18 GST) being my first annual subscription to 30 June next.

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

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Street \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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

*Subscriptions are due on 1 July in each year and your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League, except that if your first subscription is received during the period 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership will be extended to 30 June in the following year.*

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](mailto: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](mailto:raydotgill@optusnet.com.au)).

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