



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

is
the
principal
objective
of
the
Navy League
of Australia

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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 –
211 years ago on the 21st 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 18th 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 25th 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 27th 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 3rd October 1969, now forty seven years ago.

“AS IT WAS IN OCTOBER 2006”

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 2006, we note that it was around this time we reported:-

1. HMAS SUCCESS VISITED MELBOURNE
2. HMAS STUART TO WILLIASTOWN
3. NORTH KOREA'S NUCLAR TESTS
4. HMAS CANBERRA DIVE SITE IN VICTORIA
5. USS GEORGE H.W. BUSH CHRISTENED

HMAS SUCCESS VISITS MELBOURNE

A recent visitor to Melbourne was the RAN'S replenishment ship HMAS SUCCESS under the command of CMDR Andrew Davis with LCDR Paul O'Driscoll as Executive Officer.

HMAS SUCCESS Pendant No.304, arrived in Melbourne on Thursday morning 19th October 2006 from Adelaide, where the ship was RAN'S representative for Navy Week celebrations.

HMAS SUCCESS, an auxiliary oiler replenishment ship (AOR) is based on the French Durance Class Design. She was built by the Cockatoo Island Dockyard Pty Ltd in Sydney. The ship is 157.2 metres in length with a beam of 21.2 metres.

“AS IT WAS IN OCTOBER 2006” C’TND

SUCCESS was launched in 1984 and commissioned into the RAN in 1986, she has a speed of 20 knots and at 15 knots has a range of 9600 nautical miles, however this range can be considerably extended by simply drawing on her own cargo of fuel.

The ship fully loaded displaces 18,000 tonnes and has a ship's company of 220, which includes the Sea King air crew.

During the ship's stay in Melbourne, NLA Executive Members and their partners accepted the kind hospitality of the CO of HMAS SUCCESS, together with Senior Naval Officer Victoria Captain David Garnock, plus all Senior Officers of SUCCESS to join them at a cocktail party and reception held in the ship's wardroom.

HMAS SUCCESS sailed from Melbourne on 23rd October 2006, bound for Fremantle WA; where she was scheduled to engage in exercises off the Western Australian Coast with other units of the RAN, which she will support.

Part of SUCCESS'S Western Australian program, included acting as consort to the RAN'S new tanker HMAS SIRIUS as SIRIUS progresses her way through an operation readiness work-up period. SUCCESS appears to have inherited the Pendant Number 266 from HMAS DIAMANTINA No: 1 which also spent considerable time on survey tasks off the Western Australian Coast.

The Commanding Officer of HMAS SIRIUS CMDR Tim Crawford, whom NLA Vic Div members may recall was XO of HMAS SUCCESS when in June 2001 the League hosted then LCDR Crawford with the CO of SUCCESS CAPT Mike Deeks to a luncheon at The Naval & Military Club.

As reported recently, CMDR Crawford made history when he decommissioned as CO the Tanker HMAS WESTRALIA and commissioned on the same day as CO the new tanker HMAS SIRIUS.

This was for the RAN the first time that this situation has occurred since 1935, when HMAS SYDNEY No.2 was commissioned and HMAS BRISBANE No.1 was decommissioned in Portsmouth UK in a combined ceremony.

HMAS STUART DOCKS IN MELBOURNE

The Anzac Class Frigate HMAS STUART nicknamed *“The Tartan Terror”* arrived in Melbourne on 26th October 2006 at the Tenix Dockyard in Williamstown Victoria, where she will spend an extended refit period.

“AS IT WAS IN OCTOBER 2006”

NORTH KOREA’S NUCLEAR TESTS CAUSE WORLD CONCERN

Australian warships could be used to board and inspect North Korean ships to prevent weapons trafficking and enforce proposed UN sanctions.

South Korean, Japanese, US and Australian Navy ships are likely to be used under a plan to stop Pyongyang exporting its newly obtained nuclear expertise or financing its regime with illicit cargo of drugs, missile technology and counterfeit currency.

The wording of the UN sanctions, which will include the importation into North Korea of luxury goods, will be important, as a naval blockade is considered an act of war under international law.

China will no doubt be expected to play a role in pouring oil onto troubled waters.

HMAS CANBERRA TO BE SCUTTLED IN VICTORIA

It has recently been announced that the decommissioned RAN Frigate ex HMAS CANBERRA FFG02, is to be sunk off Barwon Heads and used as a dive wreck for tourists.

The Adelaide-Perry Class long range guided missile Frigate HMAS CANBERRA was secured by the State of Victoria in a tender process.

The RAN, will tow the 138M, 4100 tonne American built ship from Perth, with the Commonwealth Government contributing \$2.8 million in costs.

The ship was launched at the Todd Pacific Shipyard in Seattle USA in 1978 and commissioned in 1981.

HMAS CANBERRA served in the Gulf, Pacific, Indian and Southern Oceans, sailing more than 800,000 nautical miles.

USS GEORGE H.W.BUSH CEREMONY

The latest Nimitz Class Aircraft Carrier was recently christened at a ceremony in Virginia USA.

Named after the US President’s father George Bush Senior the USS GEORGE H. W. BUSH is the 10th and will be the last of the Nimitz Class of Carriers.

At the ceremony the current US President George Bush Junior said “*She is unrelenting she is unyielding she is unstoppable*” the President said she probably should have been named Barbara Bush.

“AS IT WAS IN OCTOBER 2006”

The Nimitz Class of aircraft carriers listing now reads as follows:-

USS NIMITZ	CVN68 Date deployed 03/05/1975
USS DWIGHT D EISENHOWER	CVN69
USS CARL VINSON	CVN70
USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT	CVN71
USS GEORGE WASHINGTON	CVN72
USS JOHN C STENNIS	CVN73
USS HARRY S TRUMAN	CVN74
USS RONALD REGAN	CVN76
USS GEORGE H W BUSH	CVN77

Already steel is being cut for the first of the next class of nuclear powered US Super Carriers.

As reported in our League Magazine, the first ship will be named for the ex US President Gerald Ford.

The USS Gerald Ford CNV78, will therefore be the first and lead ship of the Ford Class of Aircraft Carriers.

The story of “HARRYS CAFÉ DE WHEEL” - Thanks to the Leagues Ray Gill for his following Contribution.

1938 The story of 'Harry's Café de Wheels' goes back to the Depression years of the late 1930s.

With the world on the brink of a devastating war, an enterprising Sydneysider by the name of Harry Edwards opened a caravan café near the front gates of the Woolloomooloo naval dockyard. Word spread quickly, with Harry's 'pie 'n' peas' and crumbed sausages soon becoming a popular part of the city's nightlife - keenly sought by sailors, soldiers, cabbies, starlets and coppers alike. Harry operated the caravan until 1938 when he enlisted in the AIF during WWII.

During Harry's time in the Middle East, he was nicknamed "Tiger" due to his boxing prowess and the name stuck. Upon his return in 1945, Harry realised that Sydney hadn't changed much and it was still almost impossible to get a good late-night feed, so he reopened and the caravan has been operating continuously ever since.

The phrase 'Café de Wheels' came about as the city council of the day insisted that mobile food caravans move a minimum of 12 inches a day. Harry dutifully obeyed, and thus the name was expanded to Harry's Café de Wheels. Before the council's ruling, the caravan was known simply as 'Harry's'. When its wheels went missing one night, local wags coined the nickname 'Café de Axle'. Harry operated the caravan for a further 30 years before selling the business to Alex Koronya in [1975](#).

By [1988](#), Alex was getting on in years and the business had fallen on hard times. Current owner Michael Hannah made Alex an offer to purchase the business and the exchange took place on Australia Day [1988](#). Michael is the first Australian-born owner of Harry's, and his father, a Sydney cabbie, would take him and his siblings down to the 'loo for a pie at Harry's. In [1970](#), Michael returned from a tour of duty in Vietnam and his first stop after disembarking HMAS Sydney was of course Harry's. It would be another 17 years until Michael purchased the business.

Michael believes Harry's finest moment came in [1978](#) when Rear Admiral David Martin - over a pie and glass of Champagne - commissioned the caravan as 'HMAS Harry's.'

In December 2004, Harry's was classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and included on its Register. Per the National Trust of Australia, Harry's is a 'quintessential Sydney icon' and, in the Trust's opinion, falls within the following definition:

'Those places which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific, or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community.'

As the years have passed, Harry's has become a 'must' for visiting celebrities. Harry's has served the likes of Frank Sinatra, Robert Mitchum, Marelene Dietrich, Kerry Packer and, more recently, Sir Richard Branson, Russell Crowe, Kevin Costner, Brook Shields, Pat Rafter, Olivia Newton-John, Jerry Lewis, Billy Crystal, Pamela Anderson, Sara O'Hare, Lachlan Murdoch, Kerri-Anne Kennerley, Adrian Greiner, Anthony Bourdain and Peter Dinklage.

In [1974](#), chicken king Colonel Sanders stopped at Harry's and enjoyed the food so much that he ate three 'pies and peas' while leaning on his walking stick in front of the caravan.

Elton John has also been a visitor to Harry's over the years and held a press conference from inside Harry's during the [1970s](#).

And then there's the album - in [1990](#), Peter Blakely released his debut album 'Harry's Café de Wheels' which went platinum.

Harry's has become so popular with the celebrities that in [1991](#), Rupert Murdoch had pies shipped to Los Angeles for an Australian-themed Oscar's party. But you definitely don't have to be a celebrity to enjoy Harry's, just hungry. Since its initial opening in the 1930s, Harry's has withstood the test of time. Harry's lets you enjoy authentic Aussie tucker while taking a trip back through history.

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NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA-FEDERAL ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE.

The Navy Leagues annual Federal AGM and conference was this year held in Adelaide, with all States represented.

During their time in Adelaide, delegates had the opportunity, through arrangement made by the Leagues South Australia Division, to visit the ASC Osborne Shipyard and observe the RAN'S Air Warfare Destroyers, BRISBANE and SYDNEY under construction and Nuship HOBART now to the stage of undergoing sea trials.

Also included was a visit to the RAAF'S base at Edinburgh, where presentations by Senior RAAF Officers of 92 wing covered most interesting and informative briefings relative to AP-3C Orion and P-8A Poseidon aircraft. The briefings also included details of RAAF unmanned aircraft operations.



NLA FEDERAL PRESIDENT GRAHAM HARRIS ADDRESSES DELEGATES AT 2016 AGM ADELAIDE WITH NLA FEDERAL VICE PRESIDENT JOHN JEREMY (L).



NLA FEDERAL VICE PRESIDENT JOHN JEREMY (L) AND NLA FEDERAL PRESIDENT GRAHAM HARRIS ® IN DISCUSSIONS WITH SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S COMMANDING OFFICER COMMANDER PADDY O'BRIEN AT THE LEAGUES ANNUAL DINNER



FRANK MCCARTHY WITH MALCOLM LONGSTAFF

Thank you Executive Member Jane Teasdale for these Photographs.



NLA DELEGATES VISIT OSBORNE S.A. SHIPYARD, WITH NUSHIP HOBART IN BACKGROUND AND DELEGATES AT AGM ADELAIDE DINNER OCTOBER 2016

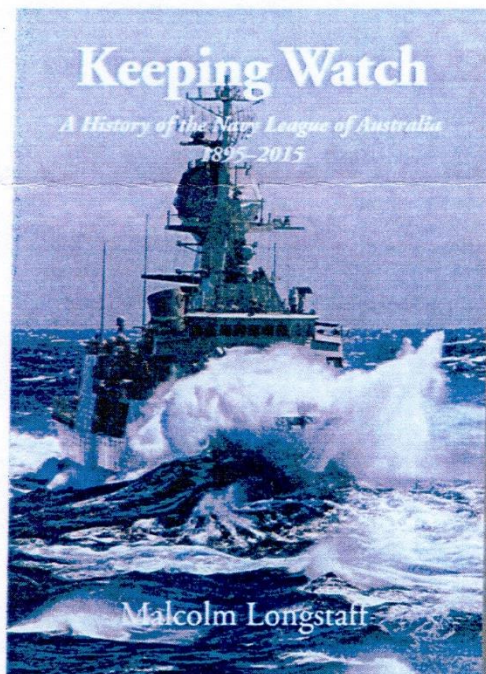




Keeping Watch

A History of the Navy League of Australia
1895-2015

Malcolm Longstaff OAM



Malcolm Longstaff has been an active member of the NSW Division of the Navy League of Australia since 1970. His book, recently published by the League, traces the history of its organisation from the formation of its parent, the Navy League of Great Britain, in 1895. Formed as a result of growing public concern about the increasing naval strength of continental European powers and the League opened its first Australian Branch in Launceston, Tasmania, in 1900. Growth of the League in Australia was slow until after the early success of the RAN in World War I but, ultimately, the League was represented in all states of Australia. In 1920 it began forming units of sea cadets, known as the Navy League Sea Cadet Corps. Responsibility for the cadets was assumed by the RAN in 1973 and they are now known as Australian Navy Cadets.

In 1950 the individual branches were consolidated into an autonomous national body, The Navy League of Australia, with each state and territory having representation on the League's Federal Council.

The League's quarterly national magazine, *The Navy*, is a highly-regarded commentator on naval and defence issues. The magazine has been continuously published since 1938.

With 280 pages including index, *Keeping Watch* has over 70 illustrations and is available as a hardback or soft-cover book. It can be ordered from the NSW Division of the Navy League of Australia using the form below. Payment can be made by cheque or by bank transfer.

**The Navy League of Australia
NSW Division
GPO Box 1719
SYDNEY, NSW 2001**

Please supply me with _____ copy/ies of *Keeping Watch* as indicated below:

- ☐ Hardback at \$40 plus \$15 postage and packing per copy
(Limited numbers of hardback copies are available)
- ☐ Softback at \$30 plus \$15 postage and packing per copy

Name:

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Payment (please indicate)

☐ I enclose a cheque for \$ _____ payable to The Navy League of Australia, NSW Division

☐ I have transferred \$ _____ on _____ to _____

The Navy League of Australia, NSW Division
Westpac Bank
BSB: 032 002
Account No: 680624

***Please ensure that your surname and initials are
indicated on your bank transfer***

*Orders will be dispatched on confirmation of receipt of
payment*



NUSHIP HOBART DDG39 AIR WARFARE DESTROYER



NUSHIP HOBARTS COMMANDING OFFICER CAPTAIN JOHN STAVRIDIS RAN PICTURED
WHEN COMANDING OFFICER OF HMAS ARUNTA.

VALE

With a heavy heart I advise of the passing of our Eldest Statesman and long-time personal friend, Fred HOUSE from Glenorchy Tasmania.

Fred was a very proud Life Member of the HMAS SYDNEY and Vietnam Logistical Support Veterans Association (Victoria) and one of our 5 remaining HMAS SYDNEY 2 World War II Treasures.

Fred was the last man alive from the Commissioning Crew of HMAS SYDNEY 2 on 23rd September, 1935.

A brief potted history of his life is as follows:

Frederick Henry HOUSE was born at Forth, Tasmania on 12th July, 1917.

He joined the RAN for 12 years on 21st August, 1934 at age 17 years and 1 month.

Sailed to the United Kingdom on HMAS BRISBANE 1 arriving in Portsmouth on his 18th birthday.

Discharged from the Royal Australian Navy on 3rd May, 1940 due to deafness caused by an exploding shell.

Visited Gallipoli on its 21st Birthday.

The 1st WWII Veteran to join Hobart RSL in 1940 with an Annual Fee of 10/-.

Still a very active Member of Glenorchy RSL where he was still representing them in Billiards, Snooker, Indoor Bowls and still winning trophies every year.

Only person to have received an RSL 75 year Service Certificate.

Still held a drivers licence and drove every day although it wasn't recommended that you drive with him. His car was festooned with Navy and Australian stickers.

For his 99th birthday he was shouted a ride in a light plane over his beloved Hobart.

A fiercely proud Tasmanian and one of natures true Gentlemen.

His home in Glenorchy, Tasmania was a Shrine to the Navy and his former Shipmates that he so passionately loved.

Now reunited with his 645 Shipmates who paid the supreme sacrifice on 19th November, 1941.

FAIR WINDS AND FOLLOWING SEAS.

Marty GROGAN

Immediate Past President and Life Member

HMAS SYDNEY & V.L.S.V.A. (Vic

Join The Navy League of Australia NOW

Become a Member - you only need an interest in maritime affairs.


Complete Application Form below, post it, together with your first annual subscription of \$35.00 (*includes four quarterly editions of Navy League's Journal "The Navy"*), to

Hon Secretary, Navy League of Australia Division in the State or region in which you reside.

Addresses:

New South Wales Division: GPO Box 1719, Sydney, NSW 2001.
Victoria-Tasmania Division: PO Box 2340, Mt Waverley, Vic 3149.
Queensland Division: PO Box 2495, Chermside Centre, QLD 4032.
South Australia Division: PO Box 3008, Unley, SA 5061.
Western Australia Division: 3 Prosser Way, Myaree, WA 6154.
Australian Capital Territory: post form to **New South Wales Division**, Hon Secretary.
Northern Territory: post form to **South Australia Division**, Hon Secretary.

Subscriptions due on 1 July in each year. Your membership will be current to 30 June immediately following the date on which you join the League. **NOTE:** If your first subscription is received during 1 April to 30 June in any year, your initial membership is 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.		

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*.