



“The maintenance of the maritime well-being of the nation”

is the principal objective of the Navy League of Australia

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RANR

USN VISITOR TO MELBOURNE

Melbourne played host to its first US Navy visitor in four years, when USS BONHOMME RICHARD, LHD 6 berthed at Station Pier Port Melbourne on 28th August 2017. The previous USN visitor to Melbourne was the destroyer USS LASSEN DDG in August 2013.

USS BONHOMME RICHARD was on a scheduled port visit to provide rest and recreational leave for her current total crew and US Marine Detachment of 2500. A limited group of Navy League members toured the ship during her Melbourne visit and provided gifts, in the form of memento's, for her Commanding Officer, Captain Larry McCullen USN, and Executive Officer CMDR Rich Le Bron USN, to mark the occasion of the first ship of the Class to visit Melbourne. The visit by BONHOMME RICHARD follows her busy current program which has included participation in exercise 'TALISMAN SABRE', held off the Queensland Coast, and in the Shoalwater Bay exercise area of Queensland. A port visit to Brisbane was also included in the ships current deployment as too was /Sydney visited in late June prior to ex 'TALISMAN SABRE'.

USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD6, is named after the ship of the same name under the command of John Paul Jones at the "Battle of Flamborough Head" in 1799.

USN VISITOR TO MELBOURNE C'TND

The ships motto is "*I have not yet begun to fight*" which were famous words spoken by John Paul Jones when he was called upon by the British to surrender after a savage mauling by HMS SERAPIS.

USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD6, is ship number 6 of 8 Wasp Class Amphibious Assault ships built by Ingalls Ship Builders of Mississippi USA. The ship was laid down in April 1995, launched in March of 1997 and commissioned in August of 1998 and is classified as a Helicopter Landing Dock (LHD).

The main characteristics of USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHD6, are detailed in the following :-

LENGTH	844 FEET
BEAM	106 FEET
DRAFT	28 FEET
DISPLACEMENT	40,500 TONS
SPEED	24 + KNOTS
CREW CAPACITY BERTHING	1200
MARINES CAPACITY BERTHING	1800
ARMAMENT	2 X SEA SPARROW MISSILE SYSTEMS 2 X ROLLING AIRFRAME MISSILE SYSTEMS 1 X 20MM PHALANX CIWS GAITLING GUNS
AIRCRAFT	5 X HARRIER STOVL, SOON TO BE REPLACED BY F35B JOINT STRIKE FIGHTERS, PLUS UP TO 50 HELICOPTERS, INCLUDING SUPER STALLION, SEAHAWK, SUPER COBRA & OSPREY VTOL.
MARINES EQUIPMENT	NUMEROUS VEHICLES INCLUDING AMPHIBIOUS ASSAULT VEHICLES AND AIR CUSHION LANDING CRAFT

USS BONHOMME RICHARD LHGD6, is home-ported and forward-deployed to Sasebo, Japan however, upon completion of this current deployment the ship is expected to transfer her home base port to San Diego, California USA. Her place in Sasebo is to be taken over by the name ship of the Class USS WASP which is relocating from Norfolk, Virginia. USS WASP has now been modernised to support the F35B Joint Strike Fighter STOVL and will accept the first squadron in Japan. Whilst based in San Diego USS BONHOMME RICHARD will also be modernized for the same purpose. Following her six day visit, USS BONHOMME RICHARD with the 31st Maritime-Expeditionary-Unit embarked, sailed from Melbourne Sunday AM 3rd September 2017.

Following pages are images of USS BONHOMME RICHARD during her Port Melbourne six day visit.









CRUISE LINER VISITS TO VICTORIA 2017-2018

Visiting naval ships to Melbourne are now apparently relegated to the “tail end” of the Port of Melbourne’s dock area at Fishermens Bend on a permanent basis during the Cruise Liner season, November-March. It is therefore of interest to check the activity at the previous area for naval vessel and berthing arrangements ie Station Pier, Port Melbourne.

With the increase in cruise liner traffic to Melbourne in recent years, Station Pier was the obvious location for this traffic with naval traffic unfortunately allocated to the less attractive area of South Wharf.

Although perhaps a little difficult to comprehend is the visit to Melbourne by the LHD HMAS Canberra, arriving 4th August 2017 and sailing 7th August 2017 in the off-cruise liner season, or in other words, with no cruise liners at Station Pier, one would have expected under those circumstances that HMAS Canberra would have been allocated a berth at Station Pier. However, that was not meant to be, as Station Pier at that point in time was undergoing repairs. The 27,000 tonne displacement ship on her first visit to Melbourne since her commissioning, was also relegated to Melbourne’s boondocks at 29 South Wharf.

If Captain Papp brought HMAS Canberra to Melbourne to show the colours, I am afraid not too many Melbournians saw the White Ensign. It seems a great pity that Princes Pier, Port Melbourne and the road access to it was not maintained.

2017-8 Cruise Liner Schedule is as follows:

Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
3	16	21	21	25	21	1	1	1

Total Station Pier = 110

Geelong	Phillip Island	Vic Dock	Port Campbell	Portland
5	3	1	1	1

Total Victorian Visits 121. 48 are turnaround = unload and reload

The above listed 121 Victorian visits involve 32 individual vessels.

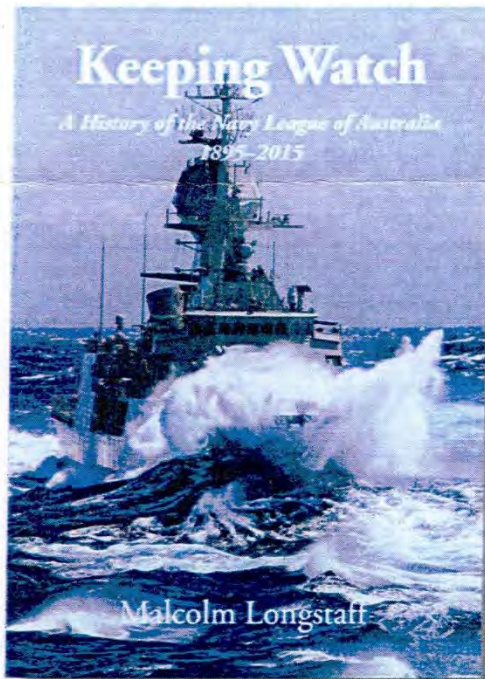
The most visits scheduled for one ship is that of “Pacific Jewel” with 20 visits, followed by “Golden Princess” with 13 visits and “Pacific Eden” with 11 visits. 15 of the vessels are making one visit only whilst the remaining 14 vessels between two and eight visits each.



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 parts 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 League 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 represented 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:

Address:

State:

Postcode:

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Email:

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*

NAVAL HISTORY

Listed in the following are some of the memorable events in naval history that have transpired during the month of September:-

1914

The year 1914, marked the commencement of WW1 and with it came the involvement of Australia's armed forces. By mid-September 1914 Australian sailors and soldiers were in action in New Guinea.

One of Australia's first engagements in the war was in the German Territory of New Guinea, Australian Naval and Military Forces were sent to the area to destroy German wireless stations thought to be transmitting messages to German naval vessels operating in the Pacific.

Some of the Australian naval ships ordered to the area included HMA ships:-

AUSTRALIA, SYDNEY, ENCOUNTER, PROTECTOR, WARREGO, PARRAMATTA and YARRA.

Submarines: - AE1 and AE2.

The RAN'S submarine AE1 sadly was lost with all hands off New Guinea during this engagement. Amongst the naval personnel participating in the destruction of the enemies' wireless stations was a young midshipman whose name would become very familiar to the Navy League of Australia CMDR. (Stan) Veale.

1926

It was in September 1926 that the former Victorian Navy turret ship HMAS CERBERUS was scuttled in Port Phillip Bay at Blackrock, to be used as a breakwater. HMAS CERBERUS remains there to this day.

1942

On September 23rd 1942 HMAS VOYAGER ran aground at Betano, Timor.

HMAS VOYAGER could not be refloated and was subsequently demolished by her own crew together with assistance from Japanese aircraft.

The crew of HMAS VOYAGER were taken off Timor in the Bathurst Class Corvette-Minesweepers HMAS'S WARRNAMBOOL and KALGOORLIE and returned to Australia.

1944

A convoy of Japanese transports and escorts which included the Rokuyo Maru with many Australian and British prisoners embarked including survivors from HMAS PERTH, was attacked by allied submarines during a voyage from Singapore to Japan.

The subsequent sinking of the transports resulted in a heavy loss of the allied prisoners lives.

Out of a total of 2000 prisoners' involved only 152 were eventually picked up by the US

Submarines Queensfish, Sealion, Pampinito, Barb and Growler.

1945

On the 2nd September 1945 the official document of surrender was signed onboard the American battleship USS MISSOURI in Tokyo Bay, thus formally ending hostilities with Japan.

Australia's naval representatives at the surrender ceremony included Commodore J.A. Collins, together with Rear Admiral G.D. Moore RAN, and HMA ships SHROPSHIRE, HOBART, WARRAMUNHA, BATAAN, NAPIER, NIZAM, BALLARAT, IPSWICH, CESSNOCK and PIRIE.

1947

Australia suffered her last WW2 casualty when HMAS WARRNAMBOOL was sunk after hitting an Australian laid mine off the Queensland Coast.

The Bathurst Class Minesweeper-Corvette suffered the loss of 4 of her complement with the remainder of WARRNAMBOOL'S crew taken off by HMAS SWAN.

FRANK MCCARTHY – RETIREMENT

Navy League members including Federal President Graham Harris, Vic-Tas President Roger Blythman, many other Senior Executive committee members, together with family and friends gathered at the Box Hill RSL on Saturday 26th August 2017 for a Luncheon-Presentation to mark the retirement of Frank McCarthy, the Leagues Senior Vice President of the Victoria Tasmania Division. Frank's retirement follows his 20 years of League service as "Welcome Ship Ambassador", "Newsletter Editor", "Deputy Historian" and "Navy Cadets Representative".

The Leagues Vic-Tas President Roger Blythman, assisted by Special Events Co-ordinator CMDR John Wilkins OAM, RANR, RFD presented Frank with a number of gifts and on behalf of all in attendance wished Frank well in his retirement.

Frank was also appointed as an Honorary Navy League Victoria-Tasmania Division Vice President.

The following images reflect the event of Frank's retirement Luncheon-Presentation at the Box Hill RSL Club Function Room.











Notice is hereby given that the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA – VICTORIA
TASMANIA DIVISION

Will be held at the Box Hill RSL, Nelson Road
Box Hill Victoria

On Saturday 9th September 2017 at 10:00AM

THE NAVY LEAGUE OF AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA – TASMANIA DIVISION

Tasmania Established 1900, Victoria 15 October 1915

2017-2018 ANNUAL DUES are due for payment by

30 June 2017

\$35

Forwarding it to Hon Secretary R Gill JP at your earliest convenience, will be greatly appreciated by our Navy League volunteers handling the administration on your behalf.

Payment ensures you continue to receive the Quarterly issue of “The Navy” and monthly newsletter update.

If you cease receiving these contact Hon. Secretary.

Direct payment to our account may be made via internet banking -,
(*ensure your name is included after payment and send an email to Hon Secretary*
raydotgill@optusnet.com.au to confirm the payment made)

BSB 033 389 A/C No.: 107631 Westpac Bank

or POST to P.O. Box 2340 Mount Waverley 3149

NOTES

"Welcome luncheons" for visiting ships and "special events" are held when ship operations permit so please let Secretary Ray (03 9884 6237) know so the records can reflect that interest, and we can notify you of upcoming events.

Monthly Newsletters are distributed by email. Those without personal email may have a family member or a friend to whom we can send it. Please let us know that email address.

MEMBERSHIP: I attach a copy of our new member application form and encourage you to give it to a friend interested in joining the Navy League and supporting its objective “*The Maritime Well-being of Australia*”

Yours Aye!
LCDR Roger Blythman RFD
President

THE RAN IN VIETNAM

The 18th August marked “Vietnam Veterans Day”. The following article pays tribute to all who served during the Vietnam War and describes the RAN’S involvement.

THE RAN IN VIETNAM.

RAN logistic support to Vietnam commenced in 1965 with the Aircraft Carrier HMAS SYDNEY tasked to transport ONE RAR to Vung Tau. HMAS SYDNEY would affectionately become known as the “Vung Tau Ferry” and eventually all personnel involved in the RAN’s logistic support to Vietnam were recognised as being on operational service when legislation was passed in 1986 confirming this fact.

HMAS SYDNEY was escorted during her 24 deployments to Vietnam between 1965 and 1972 by 11 ships of the RAN, namely the Aircraft Carrier HMAS MELBOURNE, the Battle Class Destroyer HMAS ANZAC, the Daring Class Destroyers VENDETTA, VAMPIRE and DUCHESS and the River Class Destroyer Escorts HMA Ships YARRA, DERWENT, SWAN, PARRAMATTA, STUART and TORRENS.

The two requisitioned freighters, HMAS JEPARIT and HMAS BOONAROO, also assisted greatly in the logistical operations.

On the “Gunline” Operations for the RAN in Vietnam started with the deployment of the Charles F. Adams Type Perth Class Guided Missile Destroyer HMAS HOBART in 1967. HMAS HOBART was followed by her sisters HMA Ships PERTH and BRISBANE plus the Williamstown Victoria built Daring Class Destroyer HMAS VENDETTA.

Further RAN involvement in the Vietnam War included:-

The Fleet Air Arm operating with the US 135th Army Assault Helicopter Company, they were the RAN helicopter flight Vietnam (RANHfV), the emu’s that *“Got the bloody job done”*.

The RAN with 9 squadron RAAF.

The Clearance Diving Teams 1 and 3.

Plus – The RAN Fleet Band,

The Entertainers,

Naval Staff Office,

Navy Medical Staff Ashore,

Navy Chaplains Ashore.

All of whom did great work in Vietnam and all of whom deserve to be remembered for their sterling efforts during that difficult period.

Let us spare a thought for the 13,500 RAN personnel who engaged in the conflict in Vietnam.

LEST WE FORGET

SHRINE REPORT SEPTEMBER 2017

CEREMONIES

Battle for Australia



Wednesday, 6 September, 11am Wreath Laying on the Forecourt

This service honours the courage, sacrifice and service of Australians and their Allies who repulsed Japanese attacks on Australia during the Second World War. These include battles on the Kokoda Trail, Milne Bay, the Coral Sea, and other fiercely fought actions regarding the defence of Australia in 1942 and 1943.

Battle of Bita Paka (Rabaul 1914)



Monday 11 September, 11am Wreath Laying in the Sanctuary

The Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force was formed in August 1914 to destroy German wireless stations in the Pacific, which were communicating with the German East Asian Cruiser Squadron. On 11 September 1914 the ANMEF captured the wireless station at

Bitu Paka after an engagement with German reservists and Melanesian police, making it the first Australian action of the First World War.

TALKS & EVENTS

In their Time of Need



Thursday 14 September, 6pm
Shrine Auditorium

Since the response to the influenza epidemic that ravaged the Pacific in 1918–19, the Australian military has provided overseas emergency relief after natural disasters. Join Australian War Memorial historian Steven Bullard as he explores a century of Australia's efforts to help our neighbours.

Echoes of Conflict



Tuesday 19 September, midday

Shrine Auditorium

Music has provided an evocative soundtrack to all major conflicts in the form of patriotic, emotional or protest songs to bugle calls and hymns in commemorative services. Join Vietnam veteran and classical composer Lachlan Wilson as he explores the history of music in conflict and his own orchestral work, 'Echoes of Conflict'.

Image: DeBoise Design

Turning Disaster into Triumph



Tuesday 26 September, midday

Shrine Auditorium

The battle of Polygon Wood has often been depicted as a relatively straightforward victory: the Australian infantry advanced behind an irresistible barrage that resembled a Gippsland bushfire, and there were inevitable casualties but no major hiccups. Dr Ross McMullin will explain why he thinks this interpretation is fundamentally flawed.

OTHER

Shrine of Remembrance Medal



The Shrine Medal is awarded annually to an individual or group worthy of recognition for their outstanding contribution to the advancement of community knowledge and understanding of the service and sacrifice of Victorians in war and peacekeeping. Now in its tenth year, the 2017 recipient will join a list of remarkable people that have dedicated years of service in education, commemoration and veterans' affairs within the Victorian community. The 2017 medal presentation will be held at the Shrine, following the Remembrance Day commemorative service on Saturday 11 November. For more information about the award and to access a nomination form, visit shrine.org.au/remembrancemedal.

EXHIBITIONS



Nerves and Steel: The Navy in the Pacific

Current to 29 July 2018

South Gallery, Galleries of Remembrance

A historical exploration of the naval battles in the Pacific during the Second World War. Discover the struggles and glory of the Allied forces against Japan's powerful navy and the role that the Royal Australian Navy played from December 1941 to September 1945 in securing the ultimate Allied Victory.

Soldiers XI

Current to 1 April 2018

West Gallery, Galleries of Remembrance

Explore the conflicts in Timor, Iraq and Afghanistan from the unique perspective of cricket. Sergeant H has played cricket on eleven deployments with the Australian Army: to maintain team resilience, to build rapport with locals and to de-stress after combat. Cricket once even brought together allies and enemy. Visitors will discover eleven bats each telling a story about war in the twenty-first century.

PODCASTS

Podcasts are available on the website <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.

Ken Crook 4 September 2017

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.

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: 11 Georgetown Drive, Malibu 6169 WA

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.

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.

THE 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.-Tas 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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