



BROADSIDE

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Editorial

NVN current membership: 1147

Lieutenant Commander Cassandra Mohapp, RAN was born in Cambridge Park, New South Wales and enlisted into the Royal Australian Navy in 1997 as a musician after completing a Bachelor of Music, Diploma in Music (Performance) and Diploma in Education (Secondary) at the Newcastle Conservatorium of Music.

Prior to joining the RAN, Cassandra worked as a music teacher in both high school and primary schools and enjoyed a career as a professional Bassoonist with theatre productions of Phantom of the Opera and Miss Saigon, as well as national radio broadcasts for ABC Classic FM and 2MBS.



LCDR Steven Stanke, RAN, hands over the Royal Australian Navy Band sword to his successor, LCDR Cassandra Mohapp, RAN, at the HMAS Kuttubul Heritage Centre.

Cassandra spent three months working closely with Her Majesty's Royal Marine Band Service and was honoured to be invited to perform with them in the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in 2008, a

As a Navy musician, Cassandra served in both permanent bands of the RAN, including two years as the National Public Relations Manager for all RAN Bands. During this time, Cassandra undertook professional development in Marketing and was also selected for the Longlook Exchange program.

Events Calendar

(see [Diary of Events](#) for full details)

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NOTE: Due to COVID-19, it is advisable to check with the coordinators to confirm whether the event you were planning to attend is still going ahead. We will endeavour to keep the Calendar & Diary updated as news comes to hand.

05 Apr – HMAS Vampire Service - CANCELLED

14 Apr – Soundwaves Concert

18 Apr – Emu Plains Market

21 Apr – South East Careers Day

24 Apr – Recruit School Graduation

25 Apr – Anzac Day Dawn Service – CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC

25 Apr – Anzac Day march & service CANCELLED.

01 May – HMAS Castlemaine Service

02-03 May – Lake Goldsmith Steam Rally

03 May – Battle of Coral Sea Service

08 May – Victory in Europe Service

13 May – Soundwaves Concert

14 May – N Class Destroyer Service

Latest Videos, Podcasts and News Headlines

The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website: <http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

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VIDEOS.....

- **HMAS Farncomb returns to Fleet Base West from FCP 2020**
- **ADF Skill at Arms Combat Shooting Competition 2020**

first for the RAN.

An interest in people management led Cassandra to complete a Graduate Diploma in Psychology which focussed on Social Psychology, Personality and Cognition. This, combined with an increasing passion for music directing, motivated her to seek selection as Band Officer. Cassandra commissioned from the rank of Petty Officer to Lieutenant in 2009 and was appointed Assistant Director of Music - Navy in 2012; a position of Business Administration and Governance. In July 2013, she commanded the RAN Band Melbourne as Music Director and Officer-in-Charge and led them during the International Fleet Review on the Flagship, HMAS Sydney; highlighted by the synchronisation of the soundtrack for the Centenary of Navy Fireworks display. Cassandra has many career achievements including conducting the Dawn Service and Commemorative Services in Gallipoli, Turkey in 2013 and was the first female ADF Band Officer to conduct these services in Gallipoli.

After spending eighteen years as a military musician, Cassandra was appointed First Lieutenant at HMAS *Cerberus* in December 2015; a position she held for a three year period. This role included the coordination of base wide emergency response and security matters, enforcement of Military Law and discipline, and personnel management.

Cassandra's interest in Naval history, music and psychology led her to undertake a Master of Music at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. Her thesis focussed on the inherent rhythm of Morse Code and the unique teaching techniques of the wartime telegraphists of the Women's Royal Australian Naval Service who ingeniously used music to expedite the learning of Morse Code. Cassandra was invited to present her findings at the 5th Australian Music & Psychology Society International Conference on Music and Emotion



The beat goes on with the new Director of Navy Music

- *Guardian Class Patrol Boat Handover to Fiji Ceremony*
- *HMAS Arunta fires Evolved Sea Sparrow Missile off WA coast*
- *Navy conducts mine clearance exercise*
- *HMAS Toowoomba on patrol in the Middle East*
- *The Voyage of the Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance*

NEWS.....

To combat a growing outbreak of COVID-19 on the carrier Theodore Roosevelt, the Navy has ordered the ship to pull into Guam and have the whole crew of 5,000-plus sailors tested for the novel coronavirus, the service's acting secretary announced Thursday.

Sydney residents had their first glimpse of their city's namesake ship with the arrival of NUSHIP Sydney at Garden Island today. The third and last Hobart Class Destroyer to join the Navy's fleet entered Sydney Heads and made her way through the harbour, with contractors and ship's company embarked.

The Navy's prized new super carrier was meant to be a symbol of American military might over the world's oceans, but it is the ship's toilets and plumbing system that are proving to be obstacles the service has yet to master. According to a Government Accountability Office watchdog report published Tuesday, the sewage system pipes onboard the super carrier Gerald R. Ford are too narrow to accommodate the amount of daily waste being flushed by crew of more than 4,000.

The Government's \$90 billion Continuous Naval Shipbuilding Program has reached a new milestone with construction on the first Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) to be built in Western Australia commencing.

The Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force commissioned the first of two Maya Class, Aegis-equipped destroyers in a ceremony held on 19 March in Yokohama City, Kanagawa Prefecture.

held at the University of Queensland, Brisbane in 2017.

Cassandra joined the Navy People Career Management Agency promotions team in October 2018 and broadened her experience in people management working at the coalface of Navy people for a period of twelve months, before returning to the RAN Band in December 2019.

Lieutenant Commander Cassandra Mohapp is inspired by Navy's vision for a diverse, inclusive and equitable workforce, and is honoured to be appointed the 11th Director of Music - Navy.

(Source: Navy News)

Yours Aye!
NVN Team.



- † LRO N. Dempsey, R50200, 25 March 2020. Aged 83.
- † G.P. Lewis, R104835, 14 March 2020. Aged 68.
- † WR L.D. Birtles, WR1963, 12 March 2020. Aged 94.
- † POEWE D. Haskings, R93315, 10 March 2020. Aged 74.
- † LCDR T.G. Davies RAN, 08 March 2020.
- † CPOPTI R. Phillips, 07 March 2020.
- † R.J. Barr, 05 March 2020. Aged 79.
- † CMDR W.L. Robinson, 28 February 2020. Aged 90.
- † LEUT R. Holme, 27 February 2020.
- † E.J. Hebbard, R39915, 27 February 2020. Aged 86.
- † AB B. Tidex, PM5793, 26 February 2020. Aged 94.
- † POCD I.J. Rush, R103356, 24 February 2020. Aged 67.
- † MTH I. Cuttle, 23 February 2020.
- † CMDR P.L. Mole, 23 February 2020. Aged 72.
- † LSBA S. McVicar, 22 February 2020.
- † LSCK C.R. Smee, R56992, 21 February 2020. Aged 79.
- † AB G.L. George, S10617, 19 February 2020. Aged 92.
- † LCDR T.L. Ford, O2929, 16 February 2020. Aged 74.
- † LRO J.A. Martyn, R39481, 16 February 2020. Aged 92.
- † CY F.M. Burgin, R49954, 15 February 2020.

Lest We Forget

Note: VALE Notices

If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know (webmaster@navyvic.net). We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

On March 19, 2020, Royal Australian Navy handed over command of Combined Task Force 150 (CTF 150) to a combined French/United Kingdom team.

HMAS Toowoomba exercised with French Ship Guépratte in vicinity of the Gulf of Aden recently as part of the Australian warship's support to Combined Task Force 150.

Veteran pension payments will increase in March in line with the biannual indexation process. Pension recipients including veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will see the increase from 20 March 2020.

The Department of Defense successfully tested a hypersonic glide body in a flight experiment conducted from the Pacific Missile Range Facility, Kauai, Hawaii, March 19 at approximately 10:30 p.m. local time (HST).

Last week, Australian Minister for Foreign Affairs, Marise Payne, laid the keel for the US Navy's new Independence-class littoral combat ship (LCS) USS Canberra.

The Invictus Games Foundation has announced that Invictus Games The Hague 2020, scheduled for 9--16 May, will not proceed as planned and will likely be postponed as a necessary response to coronavirus COVID-19.

The Royal Navy has lost its last link with a rare breed of men who helped deliver victory over the U-boat. Lieutenant Commander John Manners, who has died aged 105, is believed to have been the last of the Royal Navy's World War 2 destroyer captains.

Thales, in partnership with L3Harris, has successfully demonstrated the growing capability of unmanned surface vehicles (USV) to support maritime security operations with the Royal Navy and French Navy.

Captain Chris O'Flaherty of the Royal



Melbourne – A Great Maritime City

Melbourne has in effect turned its back on its rich maritime heritage. Melbourne was, and is still, a great port city. Trade by sea was, and is still, crucial in underpinning Melbourne's economic prosperity.

Melbourne remains the nation's largest port. This cultural and economic strength in Melbourne has not been adequately acknowledged in the public realm and thus far remains undervalued and inadequately exploited by government. The Melbourne Maritime Heritage Network (MMHN) was formed to address these 'deficits' and to facilitate cooperation, collaboration and coordination across stakeholder groups.

<https://www.mmhn.org.au/>

The MMHN membership is not constrained by single-interest groups or confined to specific locations. It seeks to sharpen the focus upon the richness of Melbourne's maritime heritage and upon the crucial role of its port facilities in delivering social, cultural and economic benefits to Melbourne and regional Victoria.

If you wish to join the MMHN, [download the membership form.....](#)

This month's Navy Hero is:



Third Officer Ruby Boye (29 July 1891 – 14 September 1990)

"Calling Mrs Boye on Vanikoro." So began a message from Japanese forces to Ruby Boye in 1942. What followed was a terse and direct threat for Ruby to discontinue her

operations. Over the course of World War II, Ruby Boye operated the radio at Vanikoro in the Solomon Islands as Australia's only female coastwatcher. Her service warranted a personal visit to Vanikoro by Fleet Admiral William F. "Bull" Halsey Jr, USN, and earned her a British Empire Medal (BEM).

Ruby was born Ruby Olive Jones on 29 July 1891 in Sydney, the fifth of eight children. She was working as a saleswoman when she married a laundry proprietor, Sydney Skov Boye who had previously lived in Tulagi in the Solomon Islands, in Sydney on 25 October 1919. Her full story is at:

<http://navyvic.net/heroes/boye.html>

Navy has produced a timely study of the theory and practice of naval mine warfare in a period when strategic and technological change are challenging traditional concepts of maritime operations.

Australia's strategic circumstances over the next few decades will mean we cannot afford to be without a submarine capability. But that's an area in which we are terribly vulnerable.

The Federal Government is working with local industry to increase domestic production of medical protective equipment such as surgical face masks, sanitizer, goggles and gowns amid the outbreak of COVID-19. Med-Con Pty Ltd – a manufacturer near Shepparton in regional Victoria – has increased production with the support of the Government and the Australian Defence Force.

All governments are committed to ensuring we are doing all we can to prevent suicide among our serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel following the recent Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting.

The Government is doing everything it can to protect our nation from the health and economic impacts of this global health issue, including veterans and their families. Minister for Veterans' Affairs Darren Chester said veterans and their families will benefit from the Government's commitment of \$2.4 billion to bolster the nation's health system in response to COVID-19 as this situation evolves.

The Russian Navy will be protected against adversary antisubmarine aircraft and drones. Burak-M buoys will make a sea area impenetrable. Communications by all channels will be jammed or complicated to the maximum by the new system.

The German Navy plans to send its frigate Hamburg to the Indian Ocean in June to conduct port visits and partake in

A selection of photos from Pete Johnston of the Battle of Sunda Strait service at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne and also from Arlington USA.



a regional, naval powwow on the French island of Réunion, the service announced March 12.

An initial GBP 1 million (USD 1.3 million) contract has been awarded to Plymouth-based company MSubs Ltd to build a test submarine that will be used to explore the potential capabilities of larger uncrewed underwater vehicles in the future, the UK Ministry of Defence (UK MOD) said.

At this stage of Australia's future submarine project, there is absolutely zero chance of the government adopting a Plan B.

Following weekend celebrations around the world of International Women's Day, women from across Defence participated in a day of cyber-centric activities as part of an initiative to encourage women to consider a career in cyber.

This major report shows that Australia's Future Submarine (FSM) project is extravagantly expensive, highly risky and, in an era of heightened tensions in the Indo Pacific, could compromise the future defence of Australia.

The Royal Australian Navy has conducted the first official port visit by a submarine to Brunei Darussalam.

A Maritime Advanced Force task unit has successfully demonstrated Navy's ability to open and maintain sea lanes for amphibious operations during Fleet Certification Period 2020.

A 96-year-old war hero looked on as military officials commissioned a U.S. Navy warship in honor of the veteran, the last surviving Medal of Honor recipient from the Battle of Iwo Jima.

In a move with sweeping consequences for the US Navy's battle force, the service is canceling plans to add 10 years to the expected service lives of their stalwart destroyer fleet, a cost-savings measure that would almost certainly hamper plans to grow the size of the



NUSHIP Sydney arrives in her home port.



NUSHIP Sydney salutes the HMAS Sydney (I) Memorial mast at Bradley's Head as she sails into Sydney Harbour for the first time on 27 March 2020.

fleet.

China's Defense Ministry says a report one of its navy ships fired a laser last month at a U.S. Navy surveillance plane circling overhead does not "accord with reality."

To combat the China threat, US Marine Corps declares ship-killing missile systems its top priority.

The Sea Venom missile being jointly developed by France and the United Kingdom under the 2010 Lancaster House treaties has successfully completed its first qualification firing trial.

The French town of Villers-Bretonneux launched a fundraiser in February to raise money for bushfire relief. Villers-Bretonneux has never forgotten Australia.

A high-tech Chinese research vessel has been detected mapping strategically important waters off the Western Australian coast where submarines are known to regularly transit.

A U.S. Navy P-8A Poseidon maritime patrol aircraft was lased by People's Republic of China (PRC) navy destroyer 161 on Feb. 17 while flying in airspace above international waters approximately 380 miles west of Guam.

In a moving ceremony Navy's final Air Warfare Destroyer, NUSHIP Sydney, has been officially handed over to Defence.

Naval Historical Society [President's Musings March.....](#)

Navy League (Vic/Tas) [March Newsletter.....](#)

FlyBy – A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [March issue.....](#)

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