



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

April 2014

Volume 4 Edition 4

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 907*

### **The Forgotten War of '64**

As the Nation (and Navy in particular) prepares to celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the ANMEF landing in New Guinea on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 1914 and the HMAS SYDNEY/SMS EMDEN famous sea battle on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 1914 let us all stop and think about the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 of a tri service operation that has received little or no publicity over the years.

The 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the embarkation of 111 LAA Bty RAA, 7 Field Sqn RAE, 42 Transport PL (AMP) RAASC, and elements of 5 Sqn (Iroquois) RAAF on board HMAS *Sydney* 3 into the undeclared war of The Indonesian Confrontation with Malaysia. This was the first voyage by HMAS *Sydney* into a hostile area of operations after being converted from an Aircraft Carrier into a Fast Troop Transport ship in 1963.

HMAS *Sydney* weighed anchor at 0001Z on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1964, and commenced the voyage from Garden Island to Sabah, Borneo and Butterworth on the west coast of the Malayan Peninsula.

No farewell was allowed for the ship's crew, Army troops or RAAF personnel such was the secrecy of the Operation.

Near Manus Island, HMAS *Sydney* was joined by HMAS *Parramatta* and HMAS *Yarra*, as escorts for the remainder of the voyage. These two ships had been diverted from a SEATO exercise near the Philippines.

Sailing unescorted and unannounced, two Army LSM's, from 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE, AV1353 *Vernon Sturdee* and AV 1355 *Harry*

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**02 May** – HMAS Castlemaine with Tecoma Primary School wreath laying.

**03-04 May** – Seymour Military Heritage Weekend – go to <http://www.militaryheritageweekend.com.au/>

**04 May** - RAN Recruits wreath laying

**04 May** - Battle of the Coral Sea wreath laying on WWII forecourt

**24-25 May** - The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Embarkation Commemoration

**26 May** - NHS Meeting (all welcome)

**31 May** - Indigenous Service Personnel wreath laying at the Shrine.

## Latest News

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### **ADF Gap Year program for 2015**

Assistant Minister for Defence, Stuart Robert, today launched the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gap Year program for 2015. [More.....](#)

### **HMAS Stuart remembers HMAS Sydney (II)**

Officers and Sailors of HMAS Stuart have gathered on the ship's flight deck for a memorial service to remember the 725 lives lost in a battle on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 1941. [More.....](#)

*Chauvel*, had been ordered to rendezvous with HMAS *Sydney* in Jessleton Harbour, Sabah. Both of these Army LSM'S had encountered life threatening storms enroute to Jessleton.



*HMAS Sydney III entering Jessleton Harbour*

After disembarking 7 Field Sqn RAE, HMAS *Sydney* and escorts, continued to Singapore for refuelling and replenishing ship's stores, before continuing North into the Straits of Malacca and the final destination off the coast of Malaya, between Penang Island and RAAF Base Butterworth in Kedah State.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> June, 1964, the 12 guns of 111 LAA Bty RAA with three months of ammunition, equipment and stores, were disembarked from HMAS *Sydney*, along with the additional Iroquois Helicopters for 5 Sqn RAAF.

Sadly, there were casualties suffered by 111 Battery and 3Bn RAR. In 2011, after 47 years, a new Roll of Honour was mounted in the Galleries of the Rolls of Honour at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra listing all Soldiers who were KIA, Died of Wounds or, Died of Injuries during the forgotten Campaign.

**The National Malaya & Borneo Veterans Association Australia Inc. (National Patron MAJ GEN J.C. HUGHES, AO, DSO, MC)** are holding a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Embarkation Commemoration Service for this historic event on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> May, 2014 in the RAN Heritage Area of the Garden Island Precinct at 1100.

Ferries depart from F7 Circular Quay for Garden Island, Darling Point, Double Bay, Rose Bay and Watson's Bay and the journey to G.I., takes approximately 6 minutes. It is suggested that the 09:20 and the 10:05 ferries would be appropriate and the 10:40

### **Royal Australian Navy seizes record heroin**

*On the eve of Anzac Day commemorations, Royal Australian Navy frigate HMAS Darwin seized and destroyed more than one tonne of heroin. [More.....](#)*

### **Chief of Navy decision relating to professional conduct in the inadvertent incursion into Indonesian territorial waters**

*In February this year the Customs and Border Protection Service and Defence released a joint review in relation to the positioning of vessels engaged in Operation Sovereign Borders. [More.....](#)*

### **A fair go for veterans – delivered**

*The Abbott Coalition Government has delivered its election promise to 57,000 military superannuants and their families. [More.....](#)*

### **New Approach to DVA Services in Regional New South Wales and Victoria**

*From June 2014, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) will make changes to shopfront services in nine regional areas in Victoria and NSW [More.....](#)*

**ADSO update #1 of 2014. [Read.....](#)**

**ADSO update #2 of 2014. [Read.....](#)**

**Defence Force Welfare Association monthly update [#283....](#)**

### **From Naval Tribute to New Music Work - We Salute Their Service**

*The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, today announced more than \$274,000 in funding to support projects of national significance that will honour the service of Australia's servicemen and women. [More.....](#)*

### **Letter to the Editor – Marie Claire**

*Dear Editor,*

*Don't forget to visit the [website](#), there are many more news articles and information that are not included in this newsletter.*





# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### Unknown Sailor

**DIARY NOTES**  
**Services at the Shrine of Remembrance**  
*[Everyone welcome]*

**HMAS Castlemaine & Corvettes Service**  
**2MAY14@1000**  
**Sanctuary**

**Battle of the Coral Sea Service**  
**4MAY14@1100 for 1130, Cenotaph**

**RAN Recruits Walk Round then Battle of the Coral Sea Service**  
**4MAY14@1000**

**Indigenous Personnel Service**  
**31MAY@TBA**  
**Cenotaph**

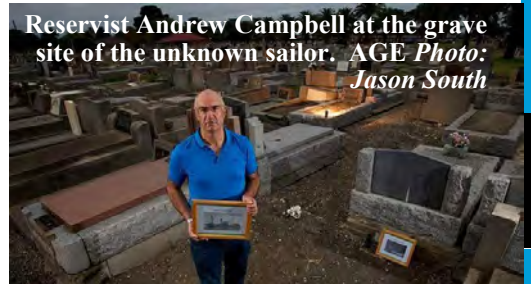
**Next NCCV meeting**  
**1030 10th June at Melb Naval Centre.**  
**All Ship/Unit/Branch Associations are encouraged to be represented!**

*Member associations of the NCCV have commenced the organisation of a Navy Ball. This extravaganza will occur on Friday 16th or Saturday 17th OCT 2015. This may well be the re-introduction of Navy Week.*

HMAS GOORANGAI encountered poor weather for two days, this finished off a week where GOORANGAI had scoured Bass Strait for sea mines. GOORANGAI settled off Queenscliff, but bad weather meant they needed to move to a safer anchorage, across the Bay at Portsea. At 2037 on Wednesday, 20NOV40 GOORANGAI sailed into the rip and was struck by HMAS DUNTOON. GOORANGAI sunk within minutes taking with it the ship's company of 24 men. One could argue that this tragedy began months earlier. The German Raider PINGUIN left Poland armed with torpedoes and mines. PINGUIN was also carrying two sea-planes disguised as British. PINGUIN was deployed, replenishing German U-Boats and then onto Australia to disrupt shipping. PINGUIN changed its look several times, leaving the Norwegian fjord as a Russian cargo ship, then to look like a ship of Greek ownership. It was in this configuration that she transferred part of her deadly cargo to German U-Boats. PINGUIN proceeded around the Cape of Good Hope where she roamed the Indian Ocean, destroying Norwegian and British merchant ships. Off Christmas Island on 7OCT40 PINGUIN captured the Norwegian tanker STORSTAD. They converted it into a minelayer loading 110 mines aboard. They then commissioned STORSTAD into the German Navy as

PASSAT. Both ships then proceeded to Australian waters to lay their mines. During November PASSAT laid 60 mines off the east coast of Tasmania then 50 on the eastern and western approaches to Port Phillip Bay. The British cargo ship CAMBRIDGE hit a mine off Wilson's Promontory, sinking on 7NOV40. On 8NOV40 the American ship CITY of RAYVILLE hit a mine off Cape Otway and also sunk. The ship's third engineer, James Bryan was killed, he was the first US sailor lost in World War II. Bass Strait was closed to all shipping, the war had arrived in Australia.

GOORANGAI's last week before 20 November was ridding Bass Strait of mines. But on the night of 20NOV40 it proved not as dangerous as its journey across the rip towards Portsea.



Reservist Andrew Campbell at the grave site of the unknown sailor. AGE Photo: Jason South

Why GOORANGAI & DUNTOON miscalculated the onset of a collision may never be known. What is known is that only six bodies were ever recovered from GOORANGAI, five were identified with the sixth buried in an unmarked grave for 72 years. Thankfully after considerable research by Petty Officer Andrew Campbell RANR that has been fixed with the unknown sailor properly acknowledged with a dedication service conducted at Williamstown Cemetery on 24APR14, SNO Victoria presided.



RANR Contingent and relatives at the Williamstown Service



### Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Author's thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available.

### Melbourne Naval Centre

MNC is an organization that has provided much needed funds to Ship Associations over many decades. In need of financial or administrative support, contact the MNC.

### Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Navy Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. An opportunity not to be missed - Log on to <http://navyvic.net/>

# President's Report

The last few weeks have seen several key occasions unfold, the Scrap Iron Flotilla lunch in late March, the Arunta lunch late April, dedication of the burial site of the unknown GOORANGAI sailor at the Williamstown Cemetery, HMAS ASSAULT Service and the inaugural HMAS VAMPIRE Commemorative Service, and of course ANZAC day. Each occasion attracted many of the stalwarts of the Navy community as we continue to beat the drum regarding improved participation by old salts, whether they be man or woman and family members. Enough said, the focus needs to be on where we can direct our support, the next flagship occasion is the Battle of the Coral Sea Service, 1100 at the Shrine of Remembrance 4MAY14. I am sure many of you are aware that the Federal Government is going to provide \$82,000 to the Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia in support of the Answering the Call project. You will also know that the NCCV generated support of this project across much of the Navy community in Victoria. In my view, it was in this ca-

capacity that Minister Reynolds approved the project. We are very pleased that the project will indeed be completed, however, we are disappointed that the Foundation deemed it unnecessary to include a cross section of the Navy community within the committee of the Foundation. The recent public announcement where Chief of Navy has sanctioned several Commanding Officers for allowing their ships to encroach into Indonesian waters shows us that the Navy is as strict today as it has ever been. With the level of technology at hand, along with the structured reporting procedures it is apparent that every movement is scrutinized, no matter where the ship or crew are. For those who have looked across to Williamstown over the past month will see the CANBERRA alongside the wharf with ADELAIDE on the other side. A very impressive sight and one of encouragement as we see these great warships take shape and begin their Navy life whilst in Victoria.

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## 75 years Ago

There is a lot of attention being directed towards the ANZAC Centenary, however, we also need to remember that it is 75 years since the start of WW2. Many who were WWI Veterans had to see their sons and daughters go off to another world war. 75th anniversary services will occur through the next six years.

We will need to consider the resourcing likely to provide the best possible outcome and ensure the legacy lives on. We are in a situation where few WWII Vets

are able to attend services focused on their legacy at a time when Australia came under direct threat. Many forget that ship wrecks are strewn along the east coast of Australia, ships lay at the bottom of Bass Strait. There are sites where 'rusting hulks' are headstones for more than 2,000 sailors. These services to recognise our ships deployed in WW2 and are no less important than ANZAC.



Father and Son as depicted in the Crypt Shrine of Remembrance

## Devanha's arrival

One of the few key permanent exhibitions to be set up at the Shrine of Remembrance will be the SS Devanha life boat. This is one of two remaining boats actually used at Gallipoli to transport troops ashore on the morning of 25APR15. The Devanha carried soldiers from the 12th Battalion and the 3rd Field Ambulance into ANZAC Cove. The Devanha will arrive at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 4MAY14 to be moved into the display site. Below is a graphic of the likely appearance of the Devanha when set for all to see.





## Internet Classroom

Recently, a group of ex-navy folk visited Noumea, Lufou and Vila (Vanuatu). They became aware that a school on the island of Ambryn was desperate to establish an 'Internet Classroom'. They decided to help, now they need you help. What is needed are your working lap top and desk top computers. They also want good working printers. Obviously, they need the leads, power source and paraphernalia to make them work. Software, including the CDs are also wanted. The RAN Communications Branch Association Victoria is taking the lead and hope the wider Navy Community will get aboard. They want your: **Laptop** computers with the power transformer, cables and carry case if possible. They also want your **Desktop computer**, again with all the bits and pieces to make it function properly, that is with the keyboard, mouse and monitor. Rod Withers, President RANCBVA Victoria is taking the lead, email to [rodneyn.withers@bigpond.com](mailto:rodneyn.withers@bigpond.com) Rod will let you know where the collection points are located. A great initiative, we congratulate Rod and the Team for their generous work to help others. We want the students in Vanuato to be able to 'Google' Rogues Yarn for a bit of entertainment!

## War Grave

Following on from page 1, below is a photograph of the headstone marking the grave of the unknown sailor lost when HMAS GOORANGAI was sunk. Top insert is CAPT Bowater, SNO and CO HMAS CERBERUS addressing the relatives and sailors present. The lower insert is part of the firing party who volleyed the ultimate mark of respect for our sailor. The new headstone highlights the closeness of his ship mate, buried in the gave site to the right, 72 years ago. GOORANGAI service on 16NOV14



## Let us be Daring

HMAS VAMPIRE I was sunk by Japanese bombers off Trincomalee on 9APR42. Built in 1917, the ship served in the Royal Navy during WWI. In 1933 the RN loaned Australia four V&W destroyers, they being VAMPIRE, VENDETTA, WATERHEN, VOYAGER and also STUART as the Flotilla leader. VAMPIRE and its sister ships were soon labelled by the enemy at the outset of WWII as the Scrap Iron Flotilla, a name worn with pride by the crew of these warships. After 72 years a Commemorative Service was conducted in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. We were privileged to have the Commanding Officer, HMAS



STUART III, CMDR Jason Hunter RAN with several of his crew in attendance. The primary group was the Carey family. The photograph below shows Alan, Jack Carey's brother with Fran, children, and grandchildren. The photographs were taken by the

NCCV Secretary, Chris Banfield, also a descendant of Jack Carey. In front of the Stone of Remembrance are the three wreaths placed by the Honorable Ted Baillieu (State Govt), CMDR Hunter RAN (Scrap Iron Flotilla), Alan Carey and son Andrew (Descendants).



→ A great time was had by all at the Scrap Iron Flotilla Association lunch, 28MAR14. CO & HODs from STUART with the Convenor, Terry



## ANZAC Centenary

In the last edition of Rogues Yarn we said that we were back on track with the Navy Community's primary project, 'Answering the Call'. The Naval Heritage Foundation Inc has been advised that they are to receive a substantial grant from the Department of Veteran Affairs. We congratulate the Foundation and look forward to seeing this project completed. As we have mentioned before, there are limited opportunities to conduct specific Navy activities in recognition of the centenary. The first major occasion will be the Battle of Bita Paka. This will be conducted at the Cenotaph Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne at 1100 on 11th September. We should all plan to make the effort and be at the Shrine for this significant occasion. Remember, it was at Bita Paka that the first Australian causality occurred, Able Seaman Billy Williams from Northcote, Victoria. Whilst not a significant Navy event, the first shot across the bows of the SS Pfalz as it tried to leave Port Phillip Bay was an unusual set of circumstances and worth researching, if you are inclined.

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



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## *Items of special interest*

**English Speaking Union** As every Association that uses the ESU (Melbourne Naval Centre) will know we enjoy the use of the venue at no cost to us. To ensure we continue to enjoy this privilege there are certain requirements to abide by. The primary need is to shut down all appliances and lighting on completion of the meeting. Should anyone not comply the ESU will charge the MNC \$50 per time. Do your best to help out folks!

**HMAS Bataan Reunion.** The Bataan Association is arranging their 23rd Annual Reunion in Adelaide, South Australia from Thursday, 11th to Sunday to 14th September 2014. Contact is John Laughton, email to [johnfl@aapt.net.au](mailto:johnfl@aapt.net.au) or post to 36 Tamarisk Road, Narre Warren VIC 3805. You can also ring John on 0417 336 423, or 03 9704 7799.

**HMAS Arunta Association** We understand that Ray Northrop has stood aside as President of the Association after many years as their leader. Ray is to be congratulated for his leadership and great support of the Tribals. We congratulate the incoming President, Ms Ellen Shields who has been a long term supporter of the Association and another hardworking descendant. Congratulations Ellen!

**Navy Ball 2015** We placed a small teaser on the front page indicating that a small team is working on organising a Navy Ball for 2015. This will be an important step in establishing a focal point for Navy Victoria, an event where we can demonstrate our collective support. Rod Withers recently sent out a note seeking to determine the interest. A response is important so we might sort out the most appropriate venue. Please let Rod know if your Association is interested and how many might attend [Rodney.withers@bigpond.com](mailto:Rodney.withers@bigpond.com)

**Communications** We again spell out the desire to have each and every ex-service man and woman join the Navy Victoria Network, go to the website. This is free and if nothing else, will give you the chance to see what is on, look at the calendar!

**Armed Merchant Cruisers** It's very pleasing to see that a small group of descendants have joined together to form the AMC/ILS Association. If you have any connection at all with this group of ships, email [AMCLSIVIC@gmail.com](mailto:AMCLSIVIC@gmail.com) to indicate your interest. Congrats to the AMC/ILS Team.

**Minor Warships** We may have some good news around minor warships soon, be ready to respond.