



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

April 2017

Volume 7 Edition 4

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1064

In our October 2014 Newsletter the Editorial was on **OUR FORGOTTEN SAILORS** which described the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme 1940 – 1945, affectionately known by very few as the Yachties.

A lot of hard work had been done before and since that date by a Naval Historian Janet Roberts-Billett MA to have these brave men recognised by way of a plaque at the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

This is now about to happen at a Dedication Ceremony being held at 1100 on Thursday 4 May 2017 in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial.



All readers are invited, but please contact Ms Allanah Bannister, Events and Ceremonies Coordinator, on 02 6243 4227 or rsvp@awm.gov.au by Wednesday 26 April 2017 to advise your availability.

Should you be able to accept this invitation, a brief regarding your attendance will be sent closer to the date.

Janet's brief for this dedication is reproduced below:

RAN, RANR and RANVR, including the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme, who served in the Royal Navy 1939-45.

About five hundred Australian volunteers (the Yachtsmen Scheme) were sent for officer training to the United Kingdom

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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24 Apr – In 1860 - HMVS VICTORIA sailed for the Maori War in NZ.

25 Apr – ANZAC Day

25 Apr – In 1915 HMA Submarine AE2 penetrates the Dardanelles

30 Apr – In 1915 HMA Submarine AE2 scuttled in Sea of Marmara.

04 May – 75th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea

07 May – Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration Service at the Shrine

Latest News Headlines

NOTE: The full articles of the news items listed below can be found on our website:

<http://navyvic.net/news/news.html>

...

Circulating coin commemorates Anzac legacy

The iconic Australian War Memorial's mosaic from the Hall of Memory will soon circulate in coloured \$2 coins unveiled by Defence Minister Marise Payne today. "Australia's ANZAC story and legacy commemorates the gallantry and sacrifice of the tens of thousands of Australians who fought and died in the First World War on our country's behalf," Senator Payne said.



Off to War

L-R Pat McCormick, Geoff Gellie, Peter Colclough, George Lanning & Ray Sinclair depart Port Melbourne aboard SS Ulysses. Three years later George Lanning assumed command of HMS Alisma. LEUT Lanning was awarded a MID on 10 Dec 1942.

from 1940-42, prior to the outbreak of war with Japan. On commissioning the men were posted throughout the Royal Navy, mostly serving in smaller ships. They

served in the Atlantic and Arctic seas, on convoy duty, the Mediterranean and the Persian Gulf, in Special Operations and Rendering

Mines Safe (bomb disposal). Towards the end of the war many were involved in the landings for D-Day while many also served in the South-East Asian theatre. After four or more years away they returned to an Australia in the throes of the final stages of the Pacific war and a much smaller navy.

While most of the men were posted back to the Royal Australian Navy, many found themselves serving in more junior positions of responsibility than they had in the Royal Navy. Nor on their return, were they accorded any acknowledgement by the Australian public for their contribution to the final Allied victory. Over the next sixty years the men made real efforts to build a collective identity and without this continuity of contact the material for this research would not have been accessible. Only the men could tell their story about their service and only, over a number of interviews, were the threads of the Yachtsmen Scheme



HMS Alisma - Flower Class Corvette. LEUT George Lanning RANVR was CO from 1 May 43 to 11 Jun 45

story brought together. Their feelings of disillusionment and melancholy about the lack of public recognition for their war service were voiced and by the early twenty-first century the men sought similar recognition to their Australian compatriots.

The men are proud of their service in the Royal Navy as

Australians and believe that as a group they are the most highly decorated servicemen of World War II. The Australian Government paid for their contribution in World War II and the Department of Veterans' Affairs readily accepted the responsibility for their care. Yet there is no official nominal roll

Australian Navy MATV completes sea trials

The Australian Navy's Multi-role Aviation Training Vessel (MATV) MV Sycamore has completed sea trials, Dutch shipbuilder Damen announced. MV Sycamore was built at Damen's Vietnam shipyard and will now be prepared for her maiden voyage to her home port of Sydney, Australia, where she is expected to arrive at the end of May.

HMAS Ballarat exercises with People's Republic of China Navy

The Royal Australian Navy's HMAS Ballarat has completed a range of maritime exercises with Chinese Navy vessel Huangshan following a successful visit to the People's Republic of China.

HMAS Vampire Commemoration Service 2017

A selection of photos from the HMAS Vampire commemoration service held in the Shrine of Remembrance sanctuary on Sunday 9 April 2017 can now be viewed in the Gallery page.

Scrap Iron Flotilla Luncheon 2017

Photos from the 2017 Scrap Iron Flotilla annual lunch held at the William Angliss restaurant on 24 March 2017 can now be viewed in the Gallery page.

Modernising rehabilitation and compensation systems delivers benefits to veterans

The time taken to process certain claims for veterans has fallen dramatically thanks to the Government's investment in updating claims processing systems, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan announced today.

Australia could benefit from shorter warship service life, study suggests
Reducing the service life of major Royal Australian Navy ships from 30

of this group in Australia or the United Kingdom. It is time that their story was told for future generations to understand and acknowledge their endurance and sacrifice in the terrible years of service in the war at sea on the other side of the world, far from their homeland.

Over 1100 Australians served in the Royal Navy during World War II. Most served as volunteers, RANVR, although a handful of RAN personnel were included. Approximately five hundred served through the Yachtsmen Scheme and there were also a number of Anti-Submarine officers who trained at HMAS *Rushcutter* in Sydney. The Yachtsmen Scheme and the Anti-Submarine Scheme ran concurrently.



LEUT Selwyn Chidgey RANVR
on the bridge of a British
Minesweeper in the North Sea.

The group of Yachtsmen Scheme volunteers were awarded 4 George Crosses (GM), 10 George Medals (GM), 31 Distinguished Service Crosses (DSC), 1 Distinguished Service Medal (DSM), 34 Mentioned-in-Dispatches (MiD), 3 Orders of the British Empire (OBE), 3 Members of the British Empire (MBE) and a Conspicuous Gallantry Medal (CGM), the only one ever awarded to an Australian.

Janet Roberts Billett MA (Melb)
Historian
April 2017.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

'Workshop' - Reinvigoration of the ex-Navy Community in Victoria

On the 4th March 2017 representatives from ex-Navy Associations throughout Victoria attended a "workshop" at the Mission to Seafarers. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss issues and develop strategies to support ex-Navy Associations in Victoria, to reinvigorate the sense of camaraderie between retired Navy personnel and to encourage their participation in social, ceremonial and commemorative events in Victoria. Noting that a number of Associations have 'gone to the wall' in the 5 years since the first workshop, some consideration needed to be given to identifying options for either perpetuating the name of struggling Associations through affiliation or amalgamation with other organisations and the display, archival or sensitive disposal of memorabilia and records held by Associations which must close. The minutes of the workshop are now available to download from the NVN website. [Download.....](#)

to 20 years could prove beneficial both for the navy and the Australian shipbuilding industry, a study carried out by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) suggests.

Melbourne-Voyager rescue crews commended

The Chief of Navy has awarded a Group Commendation to the crews of two Royal Australian Navy vessels involved in the search and rescue efforts following the 1964 collision of HMA Ships Melbourne (I) and Voyager.

Leading Maritime Art Awards Open April For Entry ANL Maritime Art Awards & Exhibition 2017

The Mission to Seafarers Victoria (MtSV) ANL Maritime Art Awards and Exhibition is a celebratory initiative, recognising excellence in maritime and seafaring subjects in art. Submissions are now open to all artists from across Australia and overseas for 2017.

VIDEO: US Strike operations on Syria

As we earlier reported, the U.S. Navy ships, USS Porter and USS Ross were involved in today's strike attack on Syria. A total of 59 Tomahawk Land Attack Missiles (TLAMs) targeted aircraft, hardened aircraft shelters, petroleum and logistical storage, ammunition supply bunkers, air defense systems, and radars.

Changes to assessing claims of sexual abuse in the ADF

The Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) has broadened the use of statutory declarations as evidence in compensation claims for incidence of sexual and or physical abuse.

Lord prays for safe descent

Chaplain Kate Lord of HMAS Cerberus will put herself in the hands of God and a single rope as she abseils 113

VALE

- † TEL L.A. Baker, R29025, 24 March 2017. Aged 88.
- † LRO E. Davern, R50325, 28 March 2017. Aged 79.
- † CMTG G. Marshall, S117584, 30 March 2017. Aged 58.
- † SAP P.J. Ray, R42872, 31 March 2017. Aged 68.
- † A/POTEL L.R. Laming, R35141, 08 April 2017. Aged 91.
- † WOETP R. Clark, 15 April 2017. Aged 66.
- † CERA R. James, 20 April 2017.

Lest We Forget

To all who read this: If you hear 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.

The Australian American Association presents



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA
Royal Australian Navy Band

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary
of the 'Battle of the Coral Sea'

Saturday 6th May 2-4pm

Band & Cinema Complex
HMAS CERBERUS
Westernport VIC 3920



\$10 entry - Afternoon tea provided
Proceeds go to Dogs for Diggers

The Young Diggers Dog Squad trains dogs to become Companion and Assistance dogs to support our serving and ex-serving Australian Defence Force members who are dealing with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

The Battle of the Coral Sea, fought during 4-8 May 1942, was a major naval battle in the Pacific Theater of World War II between the Imperial Japanese Navy and naval and air forces from the United States and Australia.



Access to HMAS Cerberus is off South Beach Road, Biltnern.
PHOTO ID IS REQUIRED. Gate will be open from 1pm.

Limited seats available - RSVP to Sam CJ Muscat (samcjm@bigpond.com)
by Friday, 28th April 2017

[Download Ticket Order Form from NVN website.....](#)

Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria's newsletter, "Rogues' Yarn" is attached below



metres down the St James building in Melbourne on 28 April. The event is to raise money for the charity and was established to give everyday people an extraordinary opportunity to help those less fortunate.

Deployed maintenance for more time on task

Navy personnel and Defence civilians have deployed as one team to complete maintenance on deployment on an unprecedented scale.

Local community commemorative projects receive a boost

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today announced that 55 community projects honouring Australia's wartime history would receive more than \$145,000 in funding.

Launch of educational book about mental health for children

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today launched a children's book series that supports children from military and emergency service families living with a parent who has a mental health condition.

Seeking descendants of Indigenous 'Diggers' of the Australian Light Horse

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan is calling for descendants of Indigenous Australian soldiers who took part in the Battle of Beersheba and the Sinai-Palestine campaign to take part in an oral history project.

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President's April musings.....

Don't forget to visit the [website](#) as there are many more news articles that may be of interest to you but are not included in this newsletter.



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

ROGUES' YARN

Commemoration services at the Shrine of Remembrance that warrant support of the Navy Fraternity, all are open to the public!

1. **RAN Recruits Pilgrimage**, wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday 30th April** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
2. **HMAS Castlemaine** commemoration service at 1000, **Friday 5th May**, in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
3. **75th Anniversary of Battle of the Coral Sea** Commemoration Service, at 1200, **Sunday 7th May** at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance.
4. **RAN Recruits Pilgrimage**, wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday 28th May** Sanctuary.

BRAVERY TRUST Supporting those who serve

If you are a current or former member of the ADF who has sustained physical or mental injuries as a result of your service and you are experiencing financial hardship you may be eligible to apply for BT assistance. Alternatively you may also be eligible to apply if you are the immediate family member of a current or former ADF member who has died as a result of their service, including those who have died as a result of their physical or mental injuries and you are experiencing financial hardship. Phone 1300 652 103, or email ask@braverytrust.org.au

Melbourne Naval Committee

MNC has an agreement with the Mission to Seafarers that allows Navy groups to meet at the MtS at no cost. Email Craig at the MtS to book: marketing@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Navy Victoria Network

Navyvic website is for anyone interested in Navy. If arranging a function, check the calendar! Provide information to navyvic to avoid conflict with others.

Disclaimer

Articles published are the Authors thoughts, they may be edited to meet the space.

Coral Sea

75 years ago the tide turned when the Imperial Japanese Navy encountered the Allied Naval Forces in the vicinity of the Coral Sea. Our contribution to the Allied Force was the heavy cruiser HMAS *Australia* and the light cruiser HMAS *Hobart* (RADM Crace, RN)



HMAS HOBART

Task Force 44. Joining TF44 from Noumea, a cruiser USS *Chicago* and the destroyer USS *Perkin*. TF44 then joined the two carrier task forces, TF 17 & TF11. TF17 comprised USS *Yorktown* (RADM Fletcher), with 3

heavy cruisers, 6 destroyers and an oiler. TF11 comprised USS *Lexington* (RADM Fitch), 2 heavy cruisers with 7 destroyers. Whilst each Task Force took up separate positions, they were to come together on 4MAY42. It was on 4MAY42 that TF17 engaged the enemy south of Tulagi. Bombers from TF17 surprised the enemy, with several bombing raids on the enemy as they were invading Tulagi. IJN destroyer Kikuzuki was severely damaged, along with 2 minesweepers and several landing barges. These actions constituted the start of the Battle of the Coral Sea. All of the Allied Task Forces then regrouped in the Coral Sea, south of Solomon Islands as the

HMAS AUSTRALIA 1939



IJN steamed into the Coral Sea past San Cristobal Island. The IJN were now aware that a carrier group was in the area, but neither knew where the opposing forces were. Remarkably on the 6MAY42 they were at one time steaming 70 Mn apart. Thursday, 7MAY42 was significant, cruisers *Australia*, *Hobart*, *Chicago*, destroyers *Perkins*, *Wallke* and *Farragut* deployed closer to New Guinea to resist any advance by the IJN from the northwest. In the meanwhile, a US spotter aircraft sighted the IJN some 195 Mn away from the remaining Task Forces. *Lexington* and *Yorktown* launched 73 bombers and 18 fighter aircraft between them. The IJN also had in excess of 36 bombers in the air. The USS *Neosho* and *Sims* were attacked and sunk. It is written that both forces were so badly battered they discontinued the fight. Remember the fearless effort of those involved in the Battle of the Coral Sea, by attending a commemoration service 1200, Sunday 7MAY17, at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Battle of the Coral Sea was a turning point in WWII and this service will demonstrate our dedication to their courageous service.



Vampire



75th Commemoration Service remembering the sinking of HMAS Vampire 1 and the service of Vampire II was conducted in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 9th April. Past crew members of Vampire II attended with families of those that served in Vampire I. The family of Chief Petty Officer Engineerroom Artificer John Carey attended and Kate Suckling, grand daughter of CPO Carey spoke of the family's understanding of his service and family life prior to his death on that fateful Thursday, 9APR42. CPO Carey was the Chief Tiff, the most experienced engineering sailor in the ship, he was lost along with the Commanding Officer and seven of their shipmates. They made

the supreme sacrifice when the ship was bombed by the Japanese. Pictured (bottom left) are LCDR Chris Le Marshall RANR, a Shrine Governor and WO Marty Grogan OAM RANR, Vice President of the NCCV. Chris and Marty placed wreaths at the Stone of Remembrance on behalf of descendants and those that served in Warships Vampire respectively. Marty delivered a short address noting the war service of Vampire I, (pictured below right). He spelt out the connection with the highly credited efforts of the Scap Iron Flotilla, the Australian Government's first military commitment at the outset of WWII. The Scrap Iron Flotilla was a force to be reckoned with, from their arrival in the Mediterranean until their departure late 1941, when they returned to Australia for major upkeep. They were soon back in the firing line as Australia came under direct threat, Vampire was deployed to the Indian Ocean. The enemy were to catch up with Vampire, in company with HMS Hermes as they skirted around Ceylon trying to avoid enemy aircraft. It's time to resurrect Vampire's battle honours.



NAA

The Naval Association of Australia is about to embark upon a campaign to recruit members. Many in the Navy today know nothing about the NAA, some think that all that participate in ship associations are members of the NAA, but this is not the case. There is a distinct lack of knowledge relating to what the NAA is all about. To help us along, the NAA provides significant input into the welfare of service and ex-service men and women and the NAA gives voice to that work through the Ex-Service Organisation Round Table (ESORT). ESORT is chaired by the Secretary, Department of Veteran Affairs, with the Minister of Veteran Affairs a regular participant at the meetings. There are four sub-committees with NAA representatives sitting at the table. Go to the DVA website for more specific information relating to topics discussed and outcomes - a worthwhile read. NAA aims to help young Australians with the aim of making them better citizens.

This work is undertaken by supporting the Australian Navy Cadet organization. Commemoration is also an important feature of the NAA commitment. The NCCV seeks to work closely with the NAA to ensure the legacy of our past and present service is properly recognised by not only the Navy fraternity, but the entire community. Commemoration is instigated by the ex-Navy fraternity, this is not the Navy's day job.

The Navy helps out whenever resources permit, but it is up to the NAA, NCCV and other service related organisations to do what is necessary to maintain the legacy of past and present service & sacrifice. Fellowship is the best known component of the NAA - maybe the glue that keeps it intact.

We may have all participated in one or more NAA social activities. Meetings are when the wellbeing of shipmates is made known to those that care to take notice.

If you are not a member, please give it some thought as your contribution will make a difference, no matter how you participate.



Coins

Coins to commemorate milestones in Australia's history are good reminders of particular events.

More recent designs have been shaped by the Spirit of ANZAC. To the left is the \$2 coin minted in 2015. This was a positive way of representing the beginning of an important time in our history. There have been many coins minted since, each a token of remembrance focused on a major engagements during WWI, WWII and post WWII. It does seem that the Korea confrontation has been missed yet again. Notwith-



standing, the latest coin minted under the banner of the Spirit of ANZAC may well be the best yet. Titled 'Lest we Forget', pictured left, this coin is a beautiful and features Napier Waller's breathtaking mosaic from inside the dome of the Australian War Memorial's Hall of Memory. A must

have for those with an interest in military mementos, particularly our numismatists. Go to: <https://eshop.ramint.gov.au/Lest-We-Forget/311264.aspx>



Navy (Defence)

Navy Week Victoria - 2017

Australian White Ensign

50th Anniversary

go to navyvic.net for more information

Navy Ball

Saturday 21OCT17

Dress: Black Tie & miniatures

Cost \$155/pp

Start time 1900

Venue is the iconic

Melbourne Town Hall

**Guest of honour will be
Chief of Navy**

VADM Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN

All service, ex-service men & women, plus families and friends are encouraged to attend.

Arrange a table, or go solo - book now!

Email Sandra: navy.week.victoria@gmail.com or

Post to 7 Clarence Place, Cranbourne East, 3977

Please include a telephone number.



Concert

The Australia America Association has worked with the RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment to bring you a great opportunity to see and hear the Band deliver a very special event. For details, or to book go to <https://australianamerican.org/>
The proceeds will go to Dogs to Diggers.



HANDS ACROSS THE SEA
Royal Australian Navy Band

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary
of the 'Battle of the Coral Sea'

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Band & Cinema Complex
HMAS CERBERUS
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Yachtsmen

On behalf of the Yachtsmen Scheme volunteers, and the very hard work of Janet Roberts Billett MA and Historian, along with a host of supporters, you are invited to attend the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme Plaque Dedication Ceremony. The ceremony will be held at 1100, Thursday 4 May 2017 in the Captain Reg Saunders Courtyard of the Australian War Memorial. To reserve your position, you must contact Ms Allanah Bannister, Events and Ceremonies Coordinator, AWM by telephone to 02 6243 4227 or email rsvp@awm.gov.au by Wednesday 26APR17. Should you be able to accept this invitation, a brief regarding your attendance will be sent soon. The AWM plaque citation reads: **RAN, RANR and RANVR**

attached to the Royal Navy 1939-1945

Dedicated to the more than 1,100 members of the Royal Australian Navy and Royal Australian Naval Reserve, and the 500 members of the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve, who through the Yachtsmen Scheme served on attachment to the Royal Navy during the Second World War.

President's Dit

The 75th anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait was a service to remind us of the huge loss of Australian and American lives. Each commemoration services is a reminder of service and sacrifice. Family and friends supported us as we went off to do our duty. Some did not return and it is up to us to ensure that the legacy of everyone's service and sacrifice is not over looked. Unfortunately many of our shipmates shield themselves from their navy experience. It is up to us to keep the gangway open so that the day they realise 'Once Navy, Always Navy' we will be there for them. This sentiment was also evident at the recent workshop held in the Mission to Seafarers. The general view was that the Naval Association of Australia could do more to accommodate the cohesion across the Navy fraternity. This was a crucial point, given the demise of so many ship associations and membership generally within our national organisations. Could this mean there is the a glimmer of hope for our navy fraternity. Participation by a few more colleagues would be a good sign!

Yours aye, Terry Makings

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Special Notes



Corrections. The March edition had two errors: we referred to HMAS Yarra as a corvette! Obviously the Yarra was not a Corvette but a Grimsby Class Sloop. The second error occurred in the HMAS Gawler article, naming of the individuals should have been L-R Mick Storrs, Gary Sproule, Leo Zusino, Chairman-Gladstone Ports Corp, Peter Coronos-former Mayor, Board member Gladstone Ports Corp & Peter O'Sullivan-CEO Gladstone Ports Corp.



Reunions. If you have plans for a reunion, why not advise the Navy Victoria Network so they can list it for all to see. If you have something scheduled in October 2017, at Melbourne maybe you could give some thought to coming along to the Navy Week gigs. Saturday 21OCT17, seminar followed by the Navy (Defence) Ball, 22OCT17 Seafarers Service.

Connectingup. Is an organisation that provides donated technology products and services from companies such as Microsoft, Cisco, Symantec and Adobe to eligible Income Tax Exempt (ITE) Australian not-for-profit groups and libraries. Through this program eligible not-for-profit organisations can access the latest products. For more info go to <http://www.connectingup.org/donations/>
Navy 1917. A century ago Australian Warships large and small served in the North Sea; Malaysia; the Mediterranean; the Indian Ocean and Adriatic as well as in Home Waters. This service earned various ships the Battle Honours 'North Sea 1915-1918', 'Indian Ocean 1917' & 'Adriatic 1917-18'. These are inherited honours carried by warships of the same name since- those stipulating the order of the ANZAC Day march in Melbourne take note!
HMAS Kuttabul Cruise. Cruise from 1030, Wed 31MAY off at 1430. Attend the commemorative ceremony, then enjoy a buffet lunch. Beer, wine and soft drinks available throughout the four hour cruise. Tickets \$80/per person, only 250 positions available, book now! To secure a ticket, contact Gary Traynor on telephone 0449692401 or email customerservice@medalsgonemissing.com