



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

August 2014

Volume 4 Edition 8

Editorial

NVN current membership: 953

If you were at any of the events in Melbourne on 4th August to commemorate 100 years since the start of the 1st World War, or at Portsea the next day for the re-enactment of the 'First Shot' by British Empire forces, I'm sure that you will agree that the 'Centenary of Anzac' commemorative period has begun with quite a bang! If the professionalism and dignity of these occasions are an indication of those to follow, then the aims of the Government to honour the service and sacrifice of those men and women who served our nation in WW1, as well as providing opportunities for the general public, particularly children, to better understand and appreciate the stories of the period are going to be well and truly achieved.

For those of you who haven't yet had a chance to get involved, the good news is that there are more events to come in the second half of 2014 where you can honour the deeds of those who served in the Navy during this tumultuous time in our nation's history. By the time you read this article, the re-enactment of the departure from Melbourne of the Victorian Naval and Military Expeditionary Forces (ANMEF) will have occurred at Flinders Street Station (17 August), but other events that focus on Navy's involvement in WW1 are planned. These include services at the Shrine of Remembrance to commemorate the Seizure of German Radio Station at Bitia Paka, Rabaul (11 September), the loss of HMA Submarine AE1 (14 September), Navy Wreath Laying Service (19 October) and the battle between HMAS Sydney and SMS Emden (9 November). There is also the Seafarers Church Service at St Paul's Cathedral on 19 October and a commemoration of HMAT Orvieto's departure from

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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01 Sep – Legacy Day

03 Sep – Battle for Australia Day

03 Sep – Merchant Navy Day

04 Sep - Book Launch 'The Search for HMAS Sydney - An Australian Story'

11 Sep - Battle of Bitia Paka service

14 Sep - AE1 wreath laying at shrine

22 Sep - NHS meeting (all welcome)

01 Oct - Wrens formed in 1942

ANZAC Centenary Events

30 Aug 14 - 30 Nov 18 - WW1: Love & Sorrow at Melbourne Museum

4 Oct - 07 Dec - Coming Home exhibition

Latest News

...

ADF supports humanitarian and disaster relief exercise in the South Pacific

Almost 200 members of the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force are joining forces with personnel from across the region in a major humanitarian relief exercise in the South Pacific. [More....](#)

Navy to receive state-of-the-art EW capability on AWDs

The RAN will receive a state-of-the-art electronic warfare (EW) system as part

Princess Pier that afternoon to mark the departure of Victorian troops for Albany, WA to join the convoy that would eventually take them to Egypt.

So as you can see, the 'Centenary of Anzac' period is well underway and everything suggests that it is likely to be a fitting tribute to the commitment and sacrifice of all those who served in the 1st World War.

Keep an eye on the following websites for more information and please get involved if you can:

<http://anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au/>

<http://navyvic.net/anzac/centenaryofanzac.html>

Now turning our attention to Anzac Day 2015, the Navy Centenary of Anzac Community Planning Committee has been working closely with the State Government, the Victorian Branch of the RSL and the command element at HMAS Cerberus to put together an appropriate WW1 Tribute during the annual march to the Shrine of Remembrance. For inspiration, we have drawn on the theme "Navy – First In and Last Out", symbolising the role of the RAN submarine AE2 (who broached the Dardanelles and ran amok in the Sea of Marmara leading up to the Gallipoli landings) and the critical role of the RAN Bridging Train, responsible for logistics at Anzac Cove (for things such as water supply, care of landing-piers, discharging of stores from store-ships and transports, disembarking of troops with their baggage and of munitions and stores). The little known RAN Bridging Train was the last Australian unit to leave the Gallipoli Peninsula - a party of 50 men was left behind to oversee the evacuation of the British forces. They left at 4.30am, 20 minutes after the last troops at Anzac Cove.

As usual, the RAN section of the 2015 Anzac Day march will be led by an RAN Colour Party, Guard and Band, followed by a formed body of uniformed sailors from HMAS CERBERUS. However, this year's march will incorporate the 'First In -Last Out' theme and direct descendents of HMA submarines AE1 & 2, the RAN Bridging Train and ANMEF will be given pride of place in Navy's Order of March directly behind the banners of their respective Associations. Mrs Jenny Smyth, the daughter of LEUT Geoffrey Haggard (XO HMAS AE2) has kindly agreed to be the official leader of Navy's section of the march. All other

of the Air Warfare Destroyer (AWD) capability, which will improve the ability to passively detect, identify and track threats including enemy ships, aircraft and anti-ship missiles. [More....](#)

Government announces mental health support for Reservists

Australian Defence Force Reservists and their families will benefit from a trial Reserve Assistance Program that offers a comprehensive range of support services for their mental health and wellbeing. [More....](#)

Navies arrive in Darwin for major maritime warfare exercise

More than 1200 people, eight warships and 26 aircraft from 15 coalition nations are arriving in Darwin today for the Royal Australian Navy's largest maritime warfare exercise, KAKADU 2014, to be held from 25 August to 12 September, 2014. [More....](#)

Cutting Red Tape For Veterans and Their Families

Current serving ADF members, including Reservists, who hold a purple ADF ID card will benefit from a new DVA and Defence move to reduce red tape in the claims application process, Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson announced today. [More....](#)

The Bravo Zulu Project

Retired Navy Captain Ian Pfennigwerth is leading a small group of volunteer researchers in seeking out the background stories behind every imperial, national, civil and foreign honour and award made to Australian naval people from 1900 to Australia Day 2014. The outcome of this enormous task will be a book, intended for a general readership, setting the individuals' stories in the historical context of the development,

direct descendants of WW1 Navy veterans will be encouraged to follow on in the WW1 section of this year's march.

HMAS CERBERUS personnel are also planning to pay tribute to the deeds of Australia's Navy during the Gallipoli Campaign by symbolically re-enacting the beach landings and evacuation using an ex-HMAS CASTLEMAINE Seaboat (see attached image), complete with personnel in AIF and Navy period costumes, hauled by a formed body of uniformed sailors, akin to a ceremonial gun carriage. It should be a remarkable sight and a very fitting tribute to those in the RAN who served in WW1.



For those who normally participate in the Anzac Day March in honour of Navy veterans in WW2 and later conflicts, the usual sections (normally represented by RAN Ship Associations) will follow later in the 2015 march. More details will become available from the RSL as planning for the event completes.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team



Keep up to date with our own Smartphone / Tablet App. Go to our [website](#) to view the brochure which explains how to download and install the NVN App to your phone / tablet.

activities and operations of the Royal Australian Navy over the past 114 years. [More.....](#)

Greater Access to Health and Wellbeing Services for Veterans and their Families through Facebook
[More.....](#)

Letter to the Editor – The Guardian Australia

15 August 2014 | On the Record

Dear Ms Wilson,

I write to express my concern regarding the reporting in the Guardian Australia Online on 14 August 2014, an article entitled 'Jacqui Lambie calls for royal commission into Defence abuse cases'. [More.....](#)

Defence Minister visits major Darwin military establishments

Defence Minister David Johnston has praised as "exemplary" the professionalism and dedication of Australian Defence Force personnel serving at key military establishments at Darwin in the Northern Territory. [More.....](#)

Team makes rejoining easy

Navy's Re-join Case Management Team (RCMT) is once again open for business and helping previous members to re-join the ranks. [More.....](#)

Book Launch

You are invited to the launch of "The Search for HMAS Sydney - An Australian Story". The book tells of the history, loss, discovery and commemoration of HMAS Sydney II located by the Finding Sydney Foundation in 2008.

[View flyer.....](#)

[View invitation.....](#)

Turkey Gifts 60 Double Passes to Australians for Gallipoli 2015

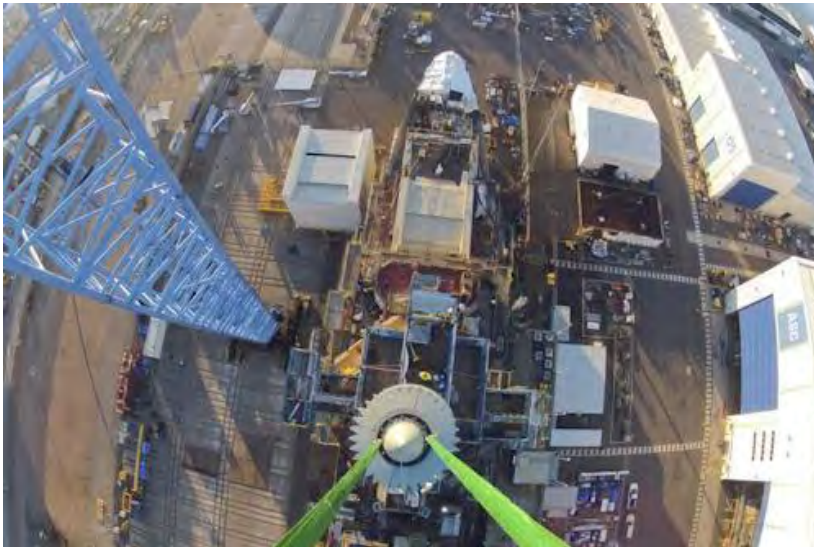
A further 60 double passes to Anzac

VALE

- † CRS R.C. Tuckwell, R30279, 14 August 2014. Aged 85.
- † RADM R. Calder AO RAN, 14 August 2014.
- † CPOMTP4 K. Marengo, R42182, 07 August 2014. Aged 73.
- † RO(S) W. B. Hill, R65303, 06 August 2014. Aged 65.
- † LRO P.J. Donald, R51200, 03 August 2014. Aged 74.
- † WOMTP3* Bill Eggins, R59777, 26th July 2014. Aged 74.
- † CDRE Clem Littleton AO RAN Rtd, 11th July 2014. Aged 71.
- † CRS P. Dobson, 27470, 03 June 2014. Aged 87.

Lest We Forget

Members: When you hear of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know. We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' page on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, Age and their date of passing. Thank you



A 'bird's eye' view from a crane of the Electronic Warfare antenna being loaded into Ship 01, the Royal Australian Navy's future Air Warfare Destroyer, Hobart.

Interests: If you have a specific interest/link you think would be of appeal to the wider Navy community, we would be pleased to hear about it. Just email our webmaster – webmaster@navyvic.net with details.

NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below

Day at Gallipoli in 2015 will be released to Australians on the waitlist thanks to the generosity of Turkey, Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson announced today. [More.....](#)

Restoration of Veteran Advocacy and Support Funding Delivered

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon Michael Ronaldson, today announced \$3.8 million in funding to deliver important support services to Australia's ex-service community. [More.....](#)

HMAS Toowoomba deploys with first female commander.

Minister for Defence Senator David Johnston today congratulated Commander Catherine Hayes, who has become the first female in the Royal Australian Navy to command a warship in the Middle East region. [More.....](#)

Naval Gazing students meet Navy's students at HMAS Cerberus

Thirty five local Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning students from Somerville Secondary College visited Navy's largest training establishment, HMAS Cerberus, as part of the Naval Gazing visit program on July 29. [More.....](#)

HMAS Cerberus gives winter warmers

Members of HMAS Cerberus came to a call of action recently to help out The Father Bob McGuire Foundation, in Melbourne. [More.....](#)

NLA (Vic Div) – [August newsletter.....](#)

NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)

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



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

Rogues' Yarn



DIARY NOTES

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

Recruits
Shipp Division
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary
31AUG14@1030

Merchant Navy
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary
3SEP14@1400

Battle of Bita Paka
Wreath Laying
Forecourt
11SEP14@1100

Loss of HMAS AE1
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary
14SEP14@1100

Next NCCV meeting
14OCT14@1030 at
Melb Naval Centre.

Chris, author of the Billy Williams article wishes to acknowledge the contribution made by Bill Mountford, V/ Pres Darebin RSL Sub-Branch, and also Ron and Barbara Mullinger, Ron is Billy Williams' Great nephew. Their willing assistance and kind kind hospitality in putting the article together was appreciated.

Able Seaman Williams

A name often overlooked when considering events of WW1, that of Able Seaman Billy Williams. AB Williams, a member of Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force (AN&MEF) dispatched to Neu Pommern (later to become known as New Britain) to destroy the German naval wireless network. Sadly he became the first Australian casualty of WW1.



The wireless station at nearby Herbertshohe (Bita Paka) was operational, defended by German soldiers. A small Australian force under the command of Lieutenant Bowen was sent to the island to seize the station. The force was fired on by an ambush party and in the fierce battle that ensued six Australians were killed and four wounded. AB Williams was the first casualty, wounded in the stomach by a sniper and later died aboard HMAS Berrima. The wireless station was captured and destroyed. In 1884 the German colony in New Guinea consisted of the eastern part of the island and several nearby island groups in the Pacific. The western part of the island was administered by the Netherlands. On 1 April 1899 following a treaty signed with Spain, the German government took control of the eastern part of New Guinea and named it Kaiser Wilhelmsland. By 1914 there were less than 1300 Europeans living in the colony, as well as a number of Japanese, Chinese and Malays. Following the declaration of war on 5 August 1914 the Australian Government created the 20,000 strong,

Australian Imperial Force (AIF), and immediately placed it at the disposal of Britain.

The British government made a request on 6 August for Australian forces to take Kaiser Wilhelmsland and by 10 August a decision had been made to dispatch a combined AN&MEF to destroy or capture the German naval wireless network. The network

was considered to be strategically important, as it was used by the German East Asiatic Squadron. On 19 August 1914 the AN&MEF was embarked on the HMAS Berrima in Sydney, and sailed north to Palm Island via Morton Bay where it was joined by the task force consisting of warships HMASs Sydney, Encounter, Aorangi, Protector with submarines AE1 & AE2. HMAS Warrego and Yarra joined the force in Port Moresby while HMAS Australia and Melbourne silenced the wireless stations at Nauru and Suva. Billy Williams, No294 was 29 years old and in Number 4 Company of the Naval Reserve. He had only one week to serve before completing his time when war was declared. He was living at home with his widowed mother Mrs Victoria Robinson and sister in Beavers Road, Northcote. Billy worked for several years in the engine room at the Melbourne Electricity Supply Company; was active in the Loyal Orange Lodge, and was a member of the Richmond Rifle Club. He is buried in the cemetery in Rabaul. *The author of this article Chris Banfield, Sec NCCV.*



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

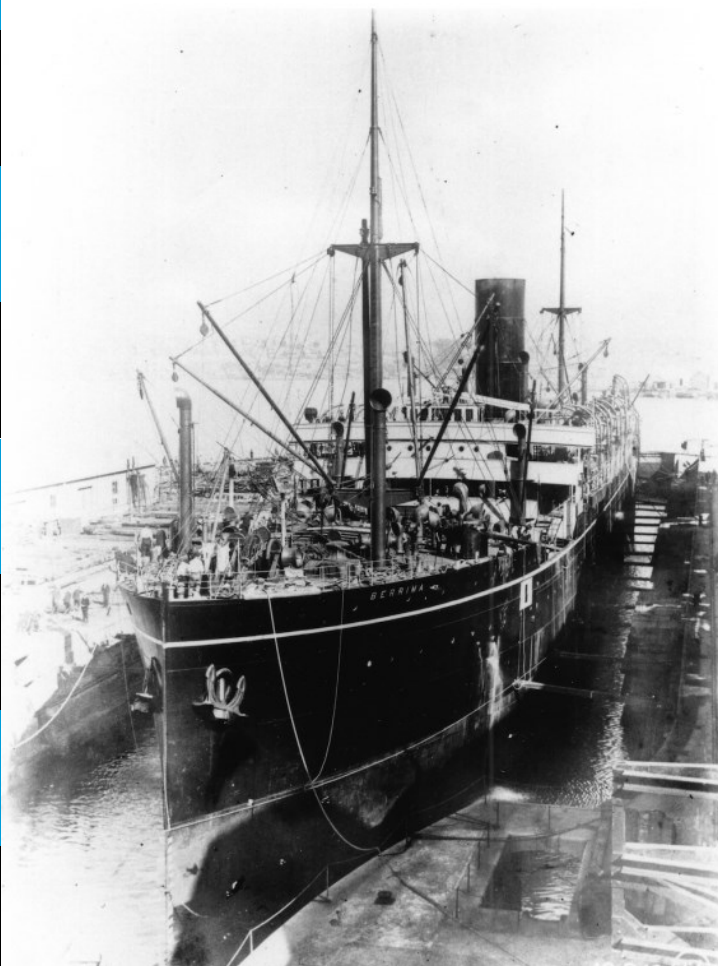
The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Navy Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. An opportunity not to be missed - Log on to <http://navyvic.net/>

President's Report

August has been a monumental start to the ANZAC Centenary. Commencing with the wreath laying commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Monday, 4th August followed by the presentation in the new education centre theatre by the Hon Damian Drum, Victorian Minister for Veterans Affairs. This was followed by a quick preview of the Galleries of Remembrance, display of the Devanha boat, and then a book launch in the revamped visitor centre. That evening, we all had the chance to attend the Melbourne Town Hall where a concert was held. This concert told the story of the commencement of WWI. Some aspects of the concert refreshed those in attendance of the actual speeches made in the Town Hall a hundred years ago. Other elements within the concert simply tracked the tragic loss of life and extraordinary impact the war had on Victoria. It was carried out with great respect for our forebears and the organisers should be congratulated for the integrity in which they executed their brief. Fantastic. The next day was the commemorative

service re-enacting the first shot, given the terrible weather we had been experiencing a few days before, it was surprisingly sunny, something that would be hard for non-Melburnians to appreciate! A couple of weeks later we managed to participate in the re-enactment of the departure of the Victorian Contingent of the ANMEF that left to join their counterparts in Sydney. The article in the R/Yarn hopefully informed those that were unable to attend just what an uplifting experience that was. We have a few more significant Navy events to commemorate under the banner of ANZAC, so we can only hope that our ship mates and families with Navy heritage know about these activities and then respond in a positive manner. Obviously our readers are part of the Navy family, but if you could see your way clear to push the relevant information out to others, a greater percentage of individuals might join in and appreciate the purpose of these commemorative services. Please give it your best shot! *Yours aye, Terry Makings*

ANMEF - 1914



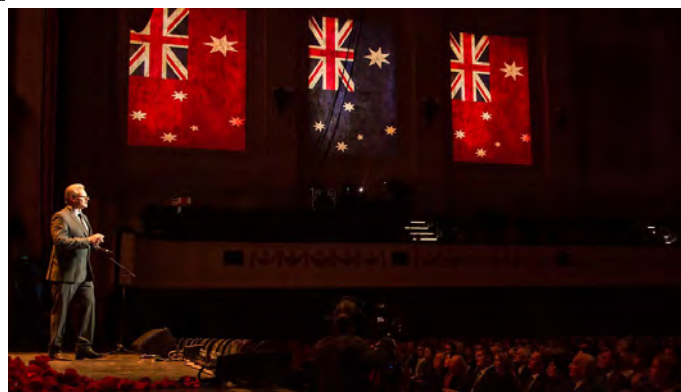
↑ The Victorian Naval contingent of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force, August 1914. The officers in the foreground are: L-R Lieutenant Bowen, Sub Lieutenant Webber, Sub Lieutenant Hext, Midshipman Hicks, Midshipman Veale and Engineer Midshipman Willian.
← SS Berrima undergoing her conversion to a troop transport at Cockatoo Island, Sydney. The ANMEF departed from CoDock on 19th August, 1914 bound for Rabaul. *These photographs are compliments of WWW.navy.gov.au*

CMDR Mike Oborn CSM RAN, XO HMAS CERBERUS, representing SNO Victoria



← **Commencement of WWI.** A Wreath Laying Service was conducted at the Eternal Flame, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne on Monday 4AUG14. The purpose being to mark the commencement of WWI. All in attendance were reminded of the significant contribution made by Victoria, 114,000 joined up, 89,000 were deployed overseas and sadly 19,000 made the supreme sacrifice. This represented approximately 10% of the population of Victoria. Following the service, most ventured into the new theatre to be addressed by Hon Damian Drum, Minister for Veteran Affairs re ANZAC Project.

→ **WWI Concert.** On Monday evening of 4AUG14 there was a concert held at the Melbourne Town Hall. Over a thousand people attended and witnessed a magnificent series of activities that demonstrated the music of the day, plus a range of theatrical scenes that highlighted the emotion of the times. In particular there were a range of representations illustrating the desire of young Australians to join up and fight for their country. The Melbourne organ was played, along with a quartet that brought the hall alive with songs and tunes of the era. A gentle reminder of how our grand parents lived.



← **Fort Nepean 5th August 1914.** Training at Fort Nepean prior to the outbreak of WWI. This piece of artillery fired the first shot of WWI, a shot fired across the bow of the SS Pfalz as it attempted to leave Port Phillip Bay on 5AUG14. The Pfalz became a troop ship managed by the Royal Australian Navy until after the war. At the end of WWI it was used to repatriate Australian Servicemen and nurses back to Australia.

→ **Point Nepean 5th August 2014.** A century on and the 'second' first shot was fired at precisely 1245, 5AUG14 by using a 150mm Howitzer. The commemorative re-enactment of the first shot was conducted at Point Nepean, Mornington Peninsula. The actual shot followed a series of simulated signals by Navy, using an aldis lamp and hoisting of flag 'Romeo' to indicate 'Stop the freighter'.



← **Re-enactment Service.** The circumstances leading up to the 'first shot' were explained. Federation Guard and RAN Band participated. Witnessed by several thousand individuals, including servicemen & women, plus a large number of descendants. Many visited the original site of the gun emplacement at Fort Nepean. The principle address was delivered by the Governor of Victoria, His Excellency the Hon Alex Chernov AC QC. The Hon Greg Hunt MP, local Federal Member also addressed attendees.

→ **Departure of ANMEF.** On 17th August 1914 the Victorian contingent of the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force left Melbourne for Sydney. A century on, a steam train left Flinders Street with a contingent of sailors and soldiers. Veterans and descendants also travelled to the Darebin RSL where a wreath was placed on the ANMEF Bitu Paka plaque.



ANZAC Centenary

Commitments related to WWI activities of a century ago have commenced in earnest. The first being on Monday 4AUG14 and suitably described elsewhere in this edition. There have been six occasions thus far, and the next is the Battle of Bita Paka, 11SEP14. This service will take place at the Cenotaph, Shire of Remembrance at 1100. Following Bita Paka will be the loss of the submarine AE1 on 14SEP14, at 1100. This will take place in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. Both of these services reflect a time when Australia encountered the first casualty of WWI and the unfortunate loss of the first warship. The AE1 has never been found. Later in the year, on 19OCT14 will be the Seafarers Church Service at St Paul's at 1030. The service this year will focus on ANZAC, recognising the wider contribution of both the Merchant Navy and Royal Australian Navy. Following this service will be a Navy Wreath Laying Service at 1230 in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. All of the above services should ideally be regarded as crucial commitments that demonstrate our support of the ANZACs



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Items of special interest

Navy Victoria Network. You will have noticed the NavyVIC website, regarded as crucial to the NCCV is listed at the bottom of every page of the R/Yarn. If you are not already part of the list of recipients of their newsletter (a once a month communique), jump on the band wagon and also make use of the site to advise contact details for your org. If you need advice regarding this, let us know!

Navy Ball. Another reminder that we are arranging a major social event on Saturday, 17th October 2015 – **A Navy ANZAC Ball.** This will be in Melbourne and be part of a revised Navy Week block of activities. Please table this at any meeting you may attend that involves anyone interested in Navy, the more the merrier. Start saving as it will not be cheap, but it will be memorable.

Vietnam Veterans Day. The annual service held at Queenscliff heard Warrant Officer Marty Grogan OAM RAN (V/Pres NCCV) deliver the address. Marty spoke of the Navy's involvement through the exploits of HMAS SYDNEY. Ordinarily the rendition on this day refers to the courageous work of the Australian Army. By all reports, Marty's address was very well received by all in attendance.

Navy Week 2015. Do you remember Navy Week? In Victoria, Navy Week started in the mid 1960s when Admiral of the Fleet Sir John Henry Dacre Cunningham GCB, MVO, DL visited Melbourne. Admiral Cunningham had been in charge of the Scrap Iron Flotilla, 'N' Class Destroyers and other Australian Warships that were deployed to the Mediterranean during WW2. Sadly, we have not witnessed Navy Week in Victoria for one or two decades. There is a move afoot to initiative Navy Week in OCT 2015. Should you have any ideas in support of such an occasion, please let us know.

Navy Community Co-ordination Committee. The Co-ordination Committee seeks to identify Navy commemoration services relevant to the ANZAC centenary period. CDRE Bob Richards RAN Rtd Chairs this committee. Most will be aware of activities that represent Navy's involvement in WWI, the committee hopes you support those planned in the coming months.

ANZAC Centenary Committee. The Hon Ted Baillieu as Committee Chair has ensured VIC makes a great contribution to the overall participation in ANZAC.

