



# NVN News

*incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

August 2015

Volume 5 Edition 8

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 997*

It has been approximately five years since the Navy Victoria Network (NVN) was established with the aim of keeping the ex-Navy community in Victoria up to date with activities that were occurring in the State. The NVN website <http://navyvic.net/> and this monthly newsletter are two of the ways that the NVN attempts to keep readers informed on a range of topics, including upcoming ship visits, local and national commemorations, news and events affecting today's Navy, ex-Navy Association reunions, as well as a Vale section to pay our respects to recently departed shipmates. Since the website's launch, it has attracted considerable interest from around Australia and it is now providing a facility for individual ex-Navy associations in Victoria to have their own page on a website. Regular subscribers to the NVN monthly newsletter have steadily grown over the years to a total of just under one thousand, which is indicative of the ex-Navy community's desire to keep up to date with what's going on in Navy circles in 2015. I'm sure you would agree that the website is a very useful resource with a highly professional look and feel. This is almost entirely due to the dedication of our tireless webmaster Laurie Pegler.

At a recent meeting of the NVN Executive, the utility of the communications media used to spread the message and the types of additional information that subscribers might find interesting were discussed. After a deal of discussion, including whether to host an NVN 'Facebook' page or venture into the 'Twitter-sphere', it was unanimously agreed that one information gap that needed to be closed was a webpage

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**30 Aug** – RAN Recruits wreath laying

**30 Aug** – Legacy Sunday - wreath laying, begins Legacy Week.

**01 Sep** – Legacy Day

**02 Sep** – Battle for Australia - wreath laying

**03 Sep** – Merchant Navy - wreath laying

**11 Sep** – Battle of Bita Paka wreath laying

**13 Sep** – Submarines Association wreath laying in memory of AE1

**14 Sep** – HMA Submarine AE1 presumed lost off New Britain

**28 Sep** – NHS meeting (all welcome)

## ANZAC Centenary Events

*ANZAC Naval Commemorative*

**Ball - *Change of Venue***

*Due to unforeseen circumstances beyond control there has been a change of venue. The venue now is:*

*The Atrium, Flemington Racecourse, 448 Epsom Rd, Flemington (10 Minutes from the CBD). Full details at:*

*<http://www.anzacball2015.org/page2.html> and*

*<http://www.anzacball2015.org/page6.html>*

devoted to the history of the Victorian Navy. Over the coming months, such a resource will be developed with the assistance of the Victorian Chapter of the Naval Historical Society of Australia. Keep an eye open for it as it promises to be both interesting and informative.

I recently had the privilege of reading a new publication by John Wilkins OAM RFD\* entitled “*Stone Frigates - Port Melbourne, Port Phillip & Victoria's Colonial and Commonwealth Navies, 1856 – 1992*”. It tells of the birth and growth of the Victorian Colonial Navy from the period of the gold rush when officials grew concerned over the security of the increasing wealth of the colony, through the decades until the decommissioning of HMAS Lonsdale in November 1992.

Of particular interest to me was the early history of Victoria's Navy, which effectively began with the arrival of HMVS Victoria on 31<sup>st</sup> May 1856. The Victorian Naval force subsequently grew to a fleet of 24 armed vessels, manned by permanent career trained crews which formed the backbone of the integrated force that, according to John, made Port Phillip the most heavily defended port in the British Empire.

John's book also identifies Victoria's significant contribution to the defence of early Australia when on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1901 all colonies transferred their Naval & Military assets to the Commonwealth. Victoria's contribution to the fledgling Australian Navy was considerable, as at the time it had a naval force outnumbering all other colonies. Of the assets transferred, John records that Victoria supplied six of the 14 warships as well as two-thirds of all career naval personnel.

The full story of Victoria's Colonial Navy will be able to be found on the NVN website in the coming months!

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team



#### **BAE PR release:**

#### **HMAS Castlemaine in Dry Dock**

On the weekend of 14/15 August, a committed team of Williamstown volunteers spent their spare time docking HMAS Castlemaine. (Full press release at:

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

## **Latest News**

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

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

#### **Notification of Investigations**

The Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) wishes to advise that 5 notices of investigation under section 196G of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 are expected to appear in the Government Notices Gazette of 1 September 2015.

#### **Giving is a great reward**

For more than 90 years Legatees have been supporting the widows and dependents of Australia's deceased veterans.

#### **Support to Former Navy Members Continues**

Members who have been found to have suffered abuse during their service are being given the opportunity to share their stories to senior Defence personnel.

#### **Landmark reforms to ADF conditions of service**

Today the Senate passed legislation that will establish a new superannuation scheme for members of the Australian Defence Force.

#### **Vietnam War Commemorative Grants**

The Australian Government is proud to launch a dedicated one-off grants sub-programme to help the community recognise the contribution of Australian servicemen and women who served our country during the Vietnam conflict.

#### **Honouring Australian Vietnam Veterans Secondary School**

- † LSSIG G.A. McConnell, R106979, 21 August 2015.
- † CMDR J. King RAN, O1637, 21 August 2015. Aged 80.
- † AB J. Woods, S4985, 20 August 2015. Aged 92.
- † CMDR K.L. Neave RAN, 16 August 2015. Aged 87.
- † POCD K.A. Gregson, R51186, 02 Aug 2015. Aged 81.
- † LS R.B. De-Lisle, R53090, 31 July 2015. Aged 75.
- † RADM J.D. Stevens RAN, 30 July 2015. Aged 88.
- † SIG M.J. Christensen, R47277, 29 July 2015. Aged 84.
- † POCD H.L. Bingham BEM, 26 July 2015. Aged 78.
- † LSSIG F. Harrison-Williams, R23587, 24 July 2015. Aged 93.
- † LSSBA(D) B. Bainbridge, PM4085, 08 February 2015. Aged 92.
- † ABRP G. Shaw, R96405, 24 July 2015.
- † LEUT V.B. Fazio RAN, O2014 (R39455), 24 July 2015. Aged 86.
- † LSQMG R. Brown, R64905, 21 July 2015.
- † LCDR C.F. Daley RAN, 20 July 2015. Aged 72.
- † Coder, T. Brunton, F4831, 03 July 2015. Aged 89.
- † TEL A.C. Penwarn, B3418, 30 June 2015. Aged 94.
- † AB A. Dickson, 34683, 08 May 2015. Aged 85.

## 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. 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.

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### Notification of Investigations under Section 196G of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986

The Repatriation Medical Authority (RMA) wishes to advise that 5 notices of investigation under section 196G of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986 are expected to appear in the Government Notices Gazette of 1 September 2015. A link to each notice is below. Persons and organisations wishing to make a submission should refer to the *RMA Submission Guidelines*, a copy of which is available on its website ([www.rma.gov.au](http://www.rma.gov.au))

[Dieldrin as a factor in malignant neoplasm of the prostate Barrett's oesophagus.](#)

[Malignant neoplasm of the brain.](#)

[Antiphospholipid syndrome.](#)

[The definition "being exposed to benzene" in the following SOPs.](#)

### Navy Week Victoria – 2015

Details of Navy week events in Victoria can be found at:

<http://navyvic.net/news/navyweek2015.html>

### Competition

*The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, today announced a one-off school competition to honour Australia's Vietnam veterans.*

### Special Train to ANZAC Naval Commemorative Ball.

*Public Transport Victoria (PTV) has agreed to provide a metro train service from Flinders Street Railway Station to Flemington Race Course on Saturday, 17th October 2015 in support of the Commemorative Ball.*

### Defence Families of Australia Conference opens in Canberra

*The annual Defence Families of Australia (DFA) conference kicked off in Canberra this week with delegates discussing all matter of issues central to the welfare of Defence families.*

### Seaworthiness strategy launched

*Navy's path to a mature Seaworthiness system was launched by Commander Australian Fleet, Rear Admiral Stuart Mayer*

*The Government's plan for a strong and sustainable naval shipbuilding industry*

### World first for West Head Gunnery Range

*Firing of a 76mm medium calibre gun integrated with a SAAB Mk3e Combat Management System and CEA CEAFAAR phased array radar from West Head Gunnery Range.*

### Navy League of Australia (Vic Div) August newsletter.....

**NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)**

**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.**

**Letter to HMAS Sydney & VLSVA Secretary David Dwyer from ex-HMAS *Sydney II* sailor Fred House.** Fred was a member of the commissioning crew of *Sydney II* in 1935.

Dear David

Bringing to your attention to an episode, which took place recently at the Glenorchy RSL, which I thought you might like to hear about and print in the Grey Funnel Line Newsletter.



I was presented with a long service certificate for 75 years in the RSL, by the President of the State Branch, Robert Dick on behalf of the Federal and State branches, for continuous service in the RSL.

I spent the first five years with the Hobart RSL Sub Branch then 70 years with the Glenorchy RSL Sub branch.

A friend of mine Allen Debman (SYDNEY 3), heard about it and wrote to the Glenorchy Sub Branch Committee where it progressed from there to Canberra, through the State Branch.

I am already in receipt of the 50 year service award.

At 98 years old, I understand I am the only member of the RSL in Australia to have this unique award.

In passing, I am still active, as the following shows.

**Monday:** Bowls practice.

**Tuesday Morning & Afternoon:** Garden and workshop

**Tuesday Evening:** Billiard Comp (I am the oldest member in Australia still playing comp Billiards)

**Wednesday Morning & Afternoon:** Southern Tasmania Bowls Comp

**Wednesday Evening:** 8 ball Comp

**Thursday, Friday Saturday & Sunday:** Fishing (weather permitting), or travel around in my Campervan.

I am asked how I keep going

**My reply:** When you retire you stop working for a boss and then start working for yourself.

I often wonder how I found the time to work for a boss.

You must keep active

Fred House

***NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below***



# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### *HMAS CASTLEMAINE J244*

#### **KEY ENGAGEMENTS**

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

**Merchant Navy Day**  
Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
1400@3SEP15

**Battle of Bitu Paka**  
Wreath Laying  
Cenotaph  
1100@11SEP15

**AE1/AE2 Submarine**  
Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
1400@13SEP15  
[note new day!]

**All Ship/Unit/Branch  
Associations are  
encouraged to be  
represented!**

**Next NCCV meeting**  
13OCT15 @ 1030 at  
Melb Naval Centre.

HMAS *Castlemaine* will be good for another 10 years. On Friday 14 & 15 August *Castlemaine* cold moved from Gem Pier to the Graving Dock at BAE (WilDock) for a 10 yearly below water checkup. The removal of 10 years of marine growth from the hull showed that the hull was in good condition, a testament to the paint quality and preparation last time the ship was docked. On completion of the hull maintenance the ship will move from BAE back to her long term berth at Gem Pier Williamstown. The capacity to keep the museum ship viable is through public donations. The *Castlemaine* receives no government funding. Docking is an



Minesweepers, besides her primary role she was used for convoy escort and support tasks for Australian and Allied troops engaged in guerrilla operations. Her battle honours include Darwin, Pacific and New Guinea. She was involved in the earlier part of the same action where HMAS *Armidale* was lost. De-commissioned in 1945, *Castlemaine* was used as a training platform for engineering and damage control instruction at HMAS *Cerberus*, this lasted for 20 years. Since 1978 the *Castlemaine* has been maintained as a museum ship by a team of volunteers. There are volunteers of various backgrounds, a WWII Veteran in his nineties amongst their ranks. The ship has been faithfully restored to its war time condition. The original machinery is functional and regularly turned over. Internal exhibits of a naval nature show the link between maritime and Williamstown, going back to colonial navy days. *Castlemaine* will be open every weekend from 29AUG, a great place to visit with friends - have a look around an historic warship of yester year. Information on the ship is at: <http://hmascastlemaine.org.au/> or facebook 'hmascastlemaine.williamstown' Article - Andrew Campbell, thank you.



#### **Ahoy There!**

You will have read plenty on the initiative to re-boot Navy Week. Please keep in mind for this to be worthwhile we need your participation. If you are thinking of engaging on any event, we ask that you advise the co-ordinator to assist with planning. Contact details at RY page 2.

expensive but necessary requirement. Special thanks to the BAE dockyard workers who donated their time for the docking. This is most commendable, particularly at a time when their further employment is uncertain. *Castlemaine*, an icon of the Williamstown waterfront is a must see for anyone interested in our naval heritage. *Castlemaine*, an Australian Minesweeper was one of 60 built during WWII by Australian Shipbuilders. *Castlemaine* was built at Williamstown and commissioned in 1942. Like the rest of the fleet of



### Disclaimer

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

### Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is a service to the entire Navy Community.

The purpose is to share information and where possible avoid a clash with other activities scheduled by others in the Navy Community.

Log on to

<http://navyvic.net>

### Melbourne Naval Centre

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

# President's Report

Count down for Navy Week Victoria 2015 is well underway. A Flagship event between now and then is the Battle of Bita Paka Commemorative Service to be held at the Shrine of Remembrance at 1100, on Friday 11SEP15. You may recall it is 101 years since the first Australian Serviceman made the supreme sacrifice, that was AB Billy Williams. There is also another key service on Sunday, 13SEP15, regarding the loss of HMAS AE1 off New Guinea. This service will also be at the Shrine of Remembrance and all Submariners should think seriously about demonstrating their commitment to those that went before. Back to Navy Week, if we in Victoria are to make a success of the various activities they need to be supported. Within this edition there is information to facilitate connection with the Champions dealing with each activity. The ball is well covered and the NCCV Executive are confident that attendance will be in keeping with the importance of the occasion. The total cost of attending all activities may be a tad more than anyone wishes to spend, but if

you pick those that suit your sporting prowess, plus the seminar you may find it isn't overly onerous. As you browse through Rogues Yarn, hopefully you have noticed over the years that the focus is largely around those occasions where a champion of the Navy fraternity has tried to promote Navy. In particular, heritage over the past one hundred years shaped by our forebears, or in some cases our colleagues is commemorated. The act of placing a tribute at a place of sanctity is a compelling deed of remembrance. Whenever we are involved in such a deed, it behoves us to reflect on the past and appreciate the present. The present day Service man and women are well trained and focused on protecting our borders, whether blue or brown Navy. Not that such high level aspirations were front of mind for most in the past, but we can signify our time as part of Defence in some meaningful way, particularly given the Australian community has demonstrated their appreciation of past service.

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## Navy Week Victoria - 2015

Navy week is back after a 15 year lapse. There are plenty of activities to entice you to participate. These activities range from a formal Ball to a yacht race on Port Philip Bay. Success of this NCCV endeavour will be measured by your participation, so go for it and let the various event champions know of your interest.

The schedule of events includes the following:

ANZAC Navy Commemorative Ball. The week starts with a formal occasion attended by Chief of Navy and the SNO Victoria on Saturday, 17OCT15. You will be entertained by the Navy Band and enjoy the company of Navy colleagues. The evening starts with a dedicated metro express train leaving Plat 8, Flinders

Street Railway Station at 1800. The train will return at 2359, in time to catch the last train home. For info, see our website or contact [daviddwyer@hotmail.com](mailto:daviddwyer@hotmail.com)

Seafarers Church Service. At 1030, Sunday 18OCT15 the Seafarers Service will occur at St Pauls Cathedral. This service has been conducted since 1907. No rsvp!

Navy Week Wreath Laying Service. At 1230, Sunday 18OCT15 following Seafarers is a service at the Shrine of Remembrance in the Sanctuary. Please attend!

Golf Tournament. All golfers have an opportunity to test their golfing skill against other like minded individuals. If you wish to play at Waverley Golf Club on

Monday 19OCT15. Please contact Rohan at email: [rohan.jennings@defence.gov.au](mailto:rohan.jennings@defence.gov.au) or ring Rohan at 03 5931 5806 or MOB 0414 871 957.

Seminar. On Wednesday 21OCT15 there will be a range of presentations before 130 individuals by ADMR Chris Barrie AC, each of the three Senior Defence Officers Victoria, RADM Peter Briggs and GCAP Annette Hollian. The theme will be WWI and now, this will be tackled from 'strategy' through each Service, Submarines and Medical. Should you wish to attend, email NCCV now.

Trafalgar Dinner. There will be a formal dinner arranged by the Naval Officers Club on Wednesday, 21OCT 15. You will need to know a NOC member if you wish to attend.

Bowls Tournament. After some 15 years absence you will have the opportunity to challenge through the lawn bowls tournament. This will be held at the Mulgrave Country Club and if you wish to strut your stuff, now is the time to contact Gregory at [gregory.mcclelland@defence.gov.au](mailto:gregory.mcclelland@defence.gov.au) for info.

Geoffrey Evens Trophy Yacht Race. The Navy League in conjunction with the RMYC have held this race for many years. Service persons wishing to race, contact [sgfurlonger@iprimus.com.au](mailto:sgfurlonger@iprimus.com.au)

## A Navy Plaque for Gippsland

The East Gippsland Sub-Section, Naval Association of Australia has arranged a memorial plaque for the Beaufort Gardens, Bairnsdale in memory of those who lost their lives during service in the RAN. The name Beaufort Gardens was inspired by the Beaufort bomber which, when constructed in Australia beginning from August 1941, was a unique and creditable industrial achievement. A total of 700 Beauforts were built in Australia. The Beaufort Gardens were established around the Beaufort Memorial which was dedicated on 14th November

1993. The Memorial records the initial presence of the RAAF units at Bairnsdale, East Gippsland and commemorates the efforts of the airmen and airwomen who served in East Gippsland during World War II of whom 192 from RAAF bases Bairnsdale, East Sale and West Sale lost their lives during local operations and training. The Hudson and Anson aircraft were also flown from RAAF bases in East Gippsland but were not made in Australia. The gardens also note the deeds of all Servicemen and women in recent conflicts, including memorials for National Servicemen, the MN, women's services & peace keepers/makers. No. 7 Squadron, equipped with Hudson and later Beaufort aircraft, established No. 1 Operational Training Unit at Bairnsdale in April-May 1942. After operational service many experienced RAAF crews were posted to Bairnsdale as instructors. They trained inexperienced crews for operational duties prior to their transfer to Hudson and Beaufort squadrons in PNG and Darwin. The hazards were such that the aircraft casualty rate at Bairnsdale and Sale was very high. The plaque will be unveiled at 1100 on Sunday, 4OCT15.

*Article by CMDR Tom Devoil RAN Rtd, EG S-Sect.*



## Navy Cadets - Barwon

Due to a host of posts to Facebook, any ex-Cadet remotely linked to TS Barwon will be aware of their reunion at 1900, on Saturday, 24OCT15 at the Bush Inn Hotel, Geelong. If you are interested in attending the reunion, have a look at the TS Barwon Facebook page, Charlie Crafter is the Co-ordinator. There is plenty of positive thinking by former Cadets & Staff generated on facebook so the reunion should be a great success. See you there! The discovery of old movies and photographs have refreshed memories, such as TS Barwon 1982 Freedom of Entry parade. These posts remind us of a Champion of the ANC, LCDR Bob Appleton OAM ANC Rtd, once a Submariner in the Royal Navy and a Veteran of



WWII. His ANC experience goes back to the days when the Navy League were the sponsors. Bob pictured left, remains active and devotes a couple of days a week to Geelong's community radio station on production work, he also looks after the records at his local church. BZ Bob.

## Victory in the Pacific

The 70th Anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific was held across Australia on Saturday, 15AUG15. In Melbourne several hundred Service, ex-Service men & women, along with friends and family attended the commemorative service before the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance. The host was Air Vice Marshall Chris Spence AO, Chairman of Shrine of Remembrance Trustees. The address was delivered



by The Honourable Linda Dessau AM, Governor of Victoria. The Governor told the gathering that Melbourne's first VP Day was a chilly morning in 1945, somewhat different to this sunny day. The Governor spoke of Prime Minister Ben Chifley declaring that the war is over and the unprecedented scenes of celebration across Australia, the result of six years of pent-up emotion! The Governor paid tribute to the one million men and women who fought for Australia around the world; noted the scale of their bravery and fortitude, sustained over such a long time. Her address covered the tragic loss of over 8,000 Australians, who made the supreme sacrifice whilst fighting on the Pacific front, with a further 22,000 imprisoned by the Japanese. Some Veterans commented on the bombing of Japan, saying two bombs were not enough, most grateful that it brought an end to the war & Victory in the Pacific.

## ANZAC Centenary

Whilst Naval activity was minimal, August was a tragic month at Gallipoli. Several days of aggressive action during August witnessed the loss of thousands of Australian soldiers. The tragedy was a repeated failure of Allied Command to make any real sense of the issues regarding loss of life. A service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance where the sacrifice by Australian and New Zealand soldiers was commemorated. The service recounted other offensives not yet at their centennial milestone. Pictured below is the mock up of the landing craft used at Gallipoli. This craft was refurbished at Cerberus and used during the march last ANZAC Day, designed to represent the Navy Bridging Team at Gallipoli, last out! **ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



## DIRECTORY for NCCV

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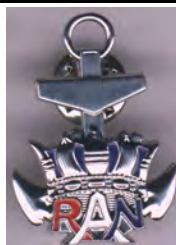
All correspondence to the email address please,  
**naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com**  
 or if postal mail is essential, The Secretary at:  
**316 Nicholson Street, East Fitzroy VIC 3065**  
 Website: <http://navyvic.net>

## Items of special interest

**Trafalgar Lunch.** The Royal Naval Association, Port Phillip Branch has issued an open invitation to the Navy Community to join them at the Frankston Naval Memorial Club on Sunday the 11OCT15 to reflect on Trafalgar and the tradition and customs set at that time. Please book before Monday 5OCT15, ring 5943 1953 [leave a message].

**RANCBANZ Cruise.** The Communicators have extended an invitation to all Navy branches, civil friends, Army and Air Force to join them on what should be another wonderful cruise. Last time they attracted a team of 142. Pushing off from Sydney on 28JAN16 and returning on 15FEB16. Visiting 6 ports aboard the 'Explorer of the Sea'. If interested, contact the co-ordinator Kath Williams at Helloworld Travel Rowville, Rowville Victoria on [kath.rowville@helloworld.com.au](mailto:kath.rowville@helloworld.com.au) or 03 9764 8487.

**Jacka VC Legend of Gallipoli.** A century ago all Australians knew the name of Albert Jacka VC. His daring action at Courtney's Post, Gallipoli resulted in Jacka being the first Australian to be awarded the VC during WWI. A rock musical at Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre will highlight Jacka's heroic feats. Go to [www.darebinartscentre.com.au](http://www.darebinartscentre.com.au)



**Sweethearts Badge.** A badge designed by the first manager of Millies at HMAS Cerberus has been reproduced for those interested in purchasing something for their best friend. Good value at \$15. Email [Marty.grevillethedevel@gmail.com](mailto:Marty.grevillethedevel@gmail.com)

**Rogues Yarn.** How many know what a rogues yarn is? See comment at bottom of this column.

**Shrine Guards.** On Friday, 21AUG15 the Shrine of Remembrance Guards marked the eightieth anniversary of their continuous duty since 1934 guarding the most valued monument in Victoria. The Shrine Guards are Protective Services Officers and form part of Victoria Police. The first twelve Officers were decorated WWI Veterans.

**Victory in the Pacific Lunch.** About 60 people attended the VP lunch at the Australia Club on Thursday, 13AUG15. The guest speaker was CAPT Paul Mandziy CSC RAN, Commissioning CO, HMAS Adelaide. CAPT Mandziy spoke of the amphibious operational role of Adelaide.

Rogues yarn was the coloured thread woven through a rope to show it was manufactured by an accredited manufacturer.