



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

December 2013

Volume 3 Edition 12

Editorial

NVN current membership: 856

The NVN Team takes this opportunity to wish all of our 856 registered members a very merry and relaxing Christmas and a great (or even better) new year! It is pleasing to note that our membership base is continuing to grow; now another 100 more than this time last year. This means that we are able to 'spread the word' more broadly throughout the ex-Navy community in Victoria and other States about events and matters of significance to us all.

Anecdotally, it does appear that attendance at some of the "usual" commemorative events is growing. And we hope that recipients of our Newsletters are reminded each month to have a quick look at what's coming up on the NVN Calendar and then make a note in their diaries to attend at least one or two of the events per year. Whilst it is always good to catch-up with the "regulars" at each of the events, we "regulars" particularly enjoy meeting 'newbies' or old shipmates. Irrespective of rank, fame, past exploits, age, gender, occupation or nationality, all currently serving or ex-Navy and ex-Reserve personnel are always made to feel very welcome at every event!

2013 was a great year for raising the profile of the RAN in Australia. Of course, the biggest and most noteworthy event was the International Fleet Review in Sydney from 3 to 11 October. Celebrating the centenary of the arrival of the first HMAS *Australia* on 4 October 1913, those of us who were lucky enough to have an opportunity to observe some of the festivities undoubtedly felt pride in having once been a part of the 'outfit' that looked so spectacular on Sydney Harbour during the Review on Saturday 5th. And I reckon that many of us would

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

...

25 Dec – Santa Claus is coming to town – **MERRY CHRISTMAS.**

01 Jan 2014 – Happy New Year!

24-28 Jan 2014 – HMAS Tobruk visits Melbourne...To Be Confirmed

Latest News

...

NUSHIP Canberra's boarding team achieves key milestone

Twenty NUSHIP Canberra personnel recently undertook the initial boarding party course at HMAS Cerberus, satisfying yet another training requirement in preparation for Canberra's delivery to Navy in 2014.

[More.....](#)

A busy year for the Fleet

2013 was one of the busiest years on recent record for the Royal Australian Navy Fleet. During a period of substantial border protection activity, and against a backdrop of international piracy and narcotics trading interdiction in the Middle East and Indian Ocean, the Navy continued to meet its mission to fight and win in the maritime environment, through the delivery of flexible and resilient capabilities to Government. [More.....](#)

What a year for our submarines

2013 has been an eventful and exciting year for the submarines of the

have happily tried to squeeze into our old uniforms again if it would have given us a chance to march down George Street with the fine young men and women of today's RAN during the Combined Navies Parade on Wednesday 9th. For those readers who were only able to watch the truly amazing fireworks and light show on TV, don't despair; you probably got a better view than those of us who were ashore or on the water that evening!

Other major events in 2013 that had a more Victorian flavour included:

- the "Creswell Oration" which was held at the William Angliss TAFE Restaurant in the city on March 1st, which celebrated the 112th anniversary of the foundation of Australia's Commonwealth Naval Forces;
- the Centenary of the foundation of the RAN Training College at Osborne House in Geelong on March 2nd;
- the inaugural "Naval Gazing" visit by representatives of many ex-Navy Associations to HMAS *Cerberus* on May 16th (an initiative which has sparked the interest of a number of Associations to subsequently arrange their own visits);
- the Melbourne International Tall Ships Festival at Nelson Pier in Williamstown from September 6th to 14th (this was a preview of an important component of the subsequent International Fleet Review in Sydney);
- the Seafarer's Commemorative Service and wreath-laying at the Shrine of Remembrance on October 20th;
- the HMAS *Cerberus* biennial Open Day on October 27th (which attracted a record crowd of approximately 15,000 visitors); and
- the HMAS *Goorangai* commemorative service held at the Queenscliff Naval Memorial Park on November 17th.

Hopefully some of these and the many other commemorative events and reunions that were listed in the Calendar grabbed the attention of our readers and inspired them to participate.

Although the Calendar for 2014 is still being compiled, we already know of a few events which shouldn't be missed! For instance, if you are an ex-WRAN, how about nominating to attend the WRANS/RAN Service Women's Reunion at the Wreath

Royal Australian Navy. Manned by enthusiastic crews and with an effective support network, the submarines were out and about doing 'their thing'. [More.....](#)

Second Landing Helicopter Dock ship departs Spain, Australia bound
[More.....](#)

HMAS Melbourne intercepts drug dhows in Middle East

Australian personnel onboard HMAS Melbourne have seized and destroyed amphetamines valued at approximately \$11.3 million during two separate boardings over the past week in the Arabian Sea as part of the Combined Maritime Forces. [More.....](#)

Coalition committed to the efficient delivery of the Air Warfare Destroyer programme

Since coming into Government, I have received detailed briefings from key stakeholders associated with the Air Warfare Destroyer program. There are clearly issues associated with this important program. [More.....](#)

Toward 2020: A Blueprint for Veterans' Affairs
[More.....](#)

HMAS Perth is Being Plundered

Survivors, historians and Defence personnel have been horrified to discover that the wreck of HMAS Perth, which was sunk by the Japanese in 1942, is being destroyed by commercial salvagers in Indonesian waters. [More.....](#)

Media Reporting of Salvage Activity on the Wreck of HMAS Perth I

Recent reporting of allegations of salvage activity being conducted on the wreck of HMAS Perth (I) off Java have claimed there is little evidence of formal action being taken. [More.....](#)

Point Casino in Hobart from 28 to 30 March? Other events in 2014 which are under consideration by the Centenary of Anzac Committee (and will probably have Navy or ex-Navy involvement) include:

- The re-enactment of the firing of the first shot (of all Allied forces) at the start of WW1 from the gun battery at Point Nepean when, at approximately midday on August 5th (a century ago), a 6 inch shell was fired across the bows of the German freighter “*Pfalz*” which was trying to escape before our Prime Minister officially declared war on Germany.
- On September 11th, a commemoration of Australia’s first land battle and the first casualty (a Navy Reservist) in World War 1 during the successful raid and capture of the German Administrator’s Headquarters and radio station at Bita Paka, near Rabaul Harbour in New Guinea.
- A commemorative service on September 14th to remember the RAN’s first shipping casualty of World War 1, when HMA Submarine *AE1* tragically disappeared without trace off Cape Gazelle in New Guinea.
- A possible re-enactment of the departure of HMAT *Orvieto*, along with 16 other Troop Ships from Port Melbourne on October 21st as part of Australia’s first deployment of troops to the Middle East.
- A service and Mess Dinner on November 9th to commemorate the battle between HMAS *Sydney* and S.M.S *Emden* at the Cocos & Keeling Islands during the first deployment of Australian troops to World War 1.

So please “stay tuned”! Future NVN Newsletters will advise you whether any (or all) of these events (and possibly others) will occur during the first year of Australia’s celebrations to mark the Centenary of Anzac. And, of course, many of our regular annual commemorative events will also be promulgated in the NVN Calendar as details are confirmed early next year.

In the meantime, the NVN Team wishes you all a happy and relaxing Christmas and a healthy and successful new year!

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

Update to investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour

Service Police from an Australian Defence Force Investigative Service (ADFIS) investigation team have made substantial progress in their investigation into matters surrounding the allegations of unacceptable behaviour in HMAS Ballarat. [More.....](#)

On The Record

Inaccurate reporting on PTSD in The Australian

I write to express serious concerns about an article published in The Australian Magazine on Saturday 7 December 2013, titled Blind Eye. The author, Mr Greg Bearup, has deliberately or negligently taken my comments out of context. [More.....](#)

Australian Centre For Posttraumatic Mental Health

The Minister for Veterans’ Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, today officially opened the new premises of the Australian Centre for Posttraumatic Mental Health (ACPMH) at the University of Melbourne. [More.....](#)

Sea Power Series

Replaces the former SPC-A Working Papers and Papers in Australian Maritime Affairs series.

Sea Power Series No 1 - A Maritime School of Strategic Thought for Australia: Perspectives. [Read.....](#)

Soundings Papers

New Series

Soundings No.1 - What is a Maritime Strategy? [Read.....](#)

Soundings No.2 - China’s Growing Indian Ocean Maritime Interests:

Sowing the Seed of Conflict? [Read.....](#)

VALE

- † LSPTI Donald Johnson, 19 Dec 2013.
- † MAA Charles Stevenson, 23347, 10 Dec 2013. Aged 92.
- † CMDR John Balcomb, R94368, 08 Dec 2013. Aged 65.
- † CDRE Bryan Cleary, 07 Dec 2013.
- † LCDR Des Rodgers, 30 Nov 2013. Aged 80.
- † LSSTD Ian Jackson, 26 Nov 2013. Aged 66.
- † CDRE Tom Fisher AM RAN Rtd., 26 Nov 2013. Aged 84.

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

Reunions we have listed for 2014

Jan '64 Waller Division - Melbourne, 17-18 Jan

HMAS Voyager Survivors' Association - Huskisson, 7 - 10 February

Cooks - Melbourne, Vic 7 - 10 March

WRANS-RAN Servicewomen - Hobart, 28 - 30 March

8th JR Intake HMAS Leeuwin - Woollongong, 24-26 April

Indonesian Confrontation 50th Anniversary Embarkation Commemoration -
Sydney, 24 May

HMS Ganges Association Victorian Division - Melbourne, 05-08 September

Pussers Greenies - Glenelg, 24-26 October

Navy Stokers - Mandurah, 7-9th November

Full details on our website

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.*

Recognition of Service on Operation DAMASK VI

The Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal has provided the report of their inquiry into the recognition of service by HMAS Canberra on Operation DAMASK VI in the Middle East in 1992 and 1993. More.....

Navy updates ship colour scheme for modern war-fighting

More....

Medical Referral Forms

DVA has changed the way there medical referral forms are to be used. You need to advise your GP to use the form that is located on their website

HMAS Sydney at Sea

A Mid Deployment Update for Family and Friends of HMAS Sydney. Read.....

The National Vietnam Veterans

***Museum** would like to cordially invite you to become a 'Friend' of the NVVM. Their Friends program was launched on Saturday 16 November 2013 at the Museum's Veterans and Families Day.*

Application Forms and a description of benefits can be found at –
<https://www.vietnamvetmuseum.org/get-involved/friends-museum>

Australian Maritime Digest - Issue
#229

Navy League of Australia - Victorian
Chapter - December Newsletter

Tartan Terror - Edition 3 - 2013

NAVY NEWS

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)

*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



DIARY NOTES

Next NCCV meeting
1030 11th February at
Melb Naval Centre.
All Associations are
encourage to be
represented!

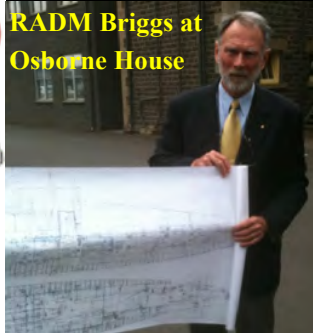
Services at the Shrine
of Remembrance
[Everyone is most
welcome to attend any
service at the Shrine]

Monthly
Remembrance
Service
19JAN14@1100
Sanctuary

Australia Day
Council 26JAN14
@1400 in the
Western Gallery

The Silent ANZAC

**RADM Briggs at
Osborne House**



← RADM Peter Briggs AO CSC RAN Rtd, AE2 Commemorative Foundation Ltd Chair holding the once 'secret' plan of the AE2. Peter was explaining how the Foundation had organised a mock up of the conning tower and part of the hull structure beneath. The mock up enabled a camera system, with specially designed lighting

and a remote operated vehicle to be tested. This test was to prove that the camera could be manoeuvred into the hull through the partially opened conning tower hatch. → The DSTO scientist with the camera assembly he developed. All of the apparatus, camera and hull came together at St Helens, Geelong during the week 9 - 13 December when the mocked up hull structure was lowered into Corio Bay.



← Left are the three hull modules built to assist prove the method of entry. These fit end to end to form a single 9 metre long section. Below the conning tower ↓ module, which was lowered onto the hull to complete the structure. RAN Diving Team 6 proved the entry method. They assembled a working platform on the hull, around the conning

tower structure. The divers then lowered the camera into the hull via the partially opened hatch. Proving the procedure was imperative in preparation of the actual dive on the AE2 mid 2014. That will be 100 years since the AE2 was scuttled after disrupting the Turkish Navy during the early landing at Gallipoli. The purpose of the project is to gather vision of the original AE2, laying in 11 metres of water in the Dardanelles. An ANZAC Centenary project, seeking archaeological data to emphasise the role of the Silent ANZAC to all generations, now and in the future. An important aspect of the project is protecting the AE2 with



cathodic protection and placing a navigation buoy to mark the site. ← Captain Roger Turner RN Rtd explains to the assembled folk the various aspects of the mock up. Attending were descendants; John Thomson relative of Leading Signalman Albert Thomson and Mrs Lowe granddaughter of CERA Gibson, both crew members were Geelong boys.



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!



President's Report



As year 2013 draws to a close we have much to be thankful for. We may be critical of some things, but now is the time to take stock of what has occurred and score our success. The primary objectives have been to increase the interest in the flagship activities and to increase membership of our Ship/Unit/Branch Associations. Whilst we may have increased attendance at flagship activities a little, membership remains static. No doubt as we set course in 2014 we need to continue our pursuit of new members. As this will be the first year of our ANZAC Centenary it may be a catalyst for creating some interest across our Navy family. There is limited interest in joining institutions and this is difficult to overcome, the formula for success has eluded us, but we will not give up! Initially, everyone should show their support by joining the Navy Victoria Network website.

We acknowledge the great support we received from Captain Kath Richards RAN, CO HMAS CERBERUS. Kath has been posted to the top staff course in Canberra and takes up this posting early in the new year. Our Annual General Meeting was conducted on Tuesday, 10DEC. I thank members who attended the AGM for their confidence as we continue into 2014. May I also thank my fellow office bearers for their support during 2013. Chris Le Marshall has stood down as V/Pres due to work commitments and I thank him for his great support. I appreciate the ongoing support of Marty, Chris and Jan. We also welcome Pete Johnston, HMAS PERTH Assoc to the committee as Jnr V/Pres. On behalf of the Executive Committee, have a Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

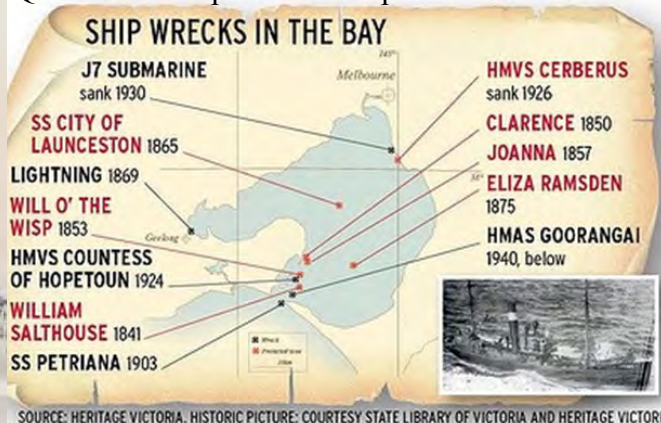
HMAS VOYAGER

10 February 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS VOYAGER. This will be a solemn occasion as we reflect on this tragic loss where 82 of the Ship's Company lost their lives. The introduction of Rogers Division at the RAN Recruit School is a fitting reminder of the acts of courage that occurred at the time of this loss. ↓ VOYAGER was a Daring Class Destroyer. British design and a classy warship admired by all.



Wrecks in the Bay

There are plenty of reasons to consider what has happened to those vessels that have sunk in Port Phillip Bay. The loss of HMAS GOORANGAI takes us to the map below indicating the several ship wrecks dotted around the Bay. Like many of the artifacts located in Victoria, these are not well known by our Navy Family, nor are they marked by interpretive signs near their resting place. At least GOORANGAI has a memorial cairn at Queensliff that presents as a point of interest.



SOURCE: HERITAGE VICTORIA. HISTORIC PICTURE: COURTESY STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA AND HERITAGE VICTORIA

Shades of Grey

If you didn't think the Navy is different these days then wait until you see a Warship in Melbourne. Whilst they don't often berth in Melbourne, if and when they do arrive you may notice they are a different shade of grey! Since the fleet arrival on the 4th October 1913 the ships side have been painted 'Storm Grey'. When the opportunity arises our Warships will be painted 'Haze Grey'. After a century of being painted 'Storm Grey', our Warships may well look like the US Navy. Most things are that way inclined, so why not change the ships side grey. Interesting to read the many reasons for the change. We might be forgiven for thinking this change is a consequence of a Chief of Navy who is forward thinking and gets things done for the betterment of the Royal Australian Navy and the Country. No doubt we will all look forward to seeing the new grey in the not too distant future in Melbourne.

Yarra Citation

A reminder that HMAS YARRA (IV) is to be awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry on 4MAR14. The crew of HMAS YARRA (II) showed *extraordinary gallantry in action off Singapore on the 5th of February 1942 and in the Indian Ocean on the 4th of March 1942*. When confronted by a greatly superior Japanese force, HMAS YARRA (II) turned towards the enemy and was sunk in action, trying to protect the convoy she was escorting. Register your interest at Navy.Events@defence.gov.au.



Hail - Farewell

We in the Navy fraternity welcome Captain Stephen Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS and Senior Naval Officer Victoria. Captain Bowater took command on Wednesday, 11DEC13. Commander Bowater is one of the Royal Australian Navy's pre-eminent exponents of Anti-Submarine Warfare. He single-handedly assured the validity of Australia's Anti-Submarine Warfare tactics by completely revising doctrine and training. Displaying outstanding leadership, commitment, dedication and passion for Anti-Submarine Warfare, he has personally trained and inspired a generation of Anti-Submarine Warfare officers and sailors. He has directly contributed to the Royal Australian Navy's combat efficiency and its international reputation for excellence.

Captain Bowater joined the Navy at 15 years of age in 1976 as a Junior Recruit. He was commissioned in 1993 after achieving the rank of CPO. He soon had his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate and then graduated as a Principal Warfare Officer. After several successful years he was promoted again and posted as Fleet ASW and EW Officer. In this role he was awarded a CDF Commendation. In 2004 he was posted to ADELAIDE as the Executive Officer. He was soon promoted to CMDR and posted to the Australian Command and Staff Course. In late 2007 Captain Bowater joined Navy Headquarters as the Director of Naval Warfare Professional Requirements. In January 2008 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for outstanding service in the Field of Operations. His successful career then

resulted in taking command of HMAS ARUNTA. We will now have the privilege of working with Captain Bowater in Victoria as he shifts here after a stint as the Junior Officers Poster and then as Director of Maritime Operations with Navy Strategic Command. During his career Captain Bowater has worked to achieve a Bachelor Degree and two Masters Degrees. Not bad for a JR trying to make a dollar, the down side is he barracks for Richmond! Welcome aboard.

The sad aspect of change of command is that we lose a friend and close ally in Captain Kath Richards. It has been a privilege to have Captain Richards deliver the address at our flagship commemorative services. Her delivery is unique and very personal with an ability to move and uplift those present. We in the Navy fraternity wish Kath all the very best as she undertakes the Senior Officers Staff Course. We will all watch with great anticipation as Kath enjoys an active and fulsome career over the years to come. Will most probably the first woman Engineer Admiral and justifiably so!

We have enjoyed a fantastic two years with Captain Richards at the helm and we look forward to the next two years with Captain Bowater. We acknowledge the positive effort and support from the Executive Officer Commander Michael Oborn also, thank you!



ANZAC Centenary

The list of ANZAC Centenary projects continues to grow as information comes to hand about intentions during 2014 through to 2018. Navy's immediate challenge is to make something significant out of those events that occurred in 1914, such as Bitu Paka. We have virtually lost sight of this important occasion, the first expeditionary force when Navy worked alongside Army. This force was sent to secure the radio station at Bitu Baka near Rabaul, German New Guinea. This became the Battle of Bitu Paka and resulted in New Guinea becoming an Australian protectorate. It also left the German Fleet operating in the Pacific without their primary communications network at hand. It was during this battle that the first casualty of the war occurred, that was Able Seaman Billy Williams, from Northcote, Melbourne. Billy was also an ex-City of Melbourne employee. Do you know of any descendants who were part of the Bitu Paka expeditionary force? If yes, please email NCCV. Set aside 11SEP14 for the service at the Shrine of Remembrance.

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



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Items of special interest

Moran Division is no more. The graduation parade of the final Moran Division occurred on Thursday, 28NOV13. This was a poignant moment for those that had joined a Moran Division in years gone by. At the parade was a group of past Moran graduates celebrating their 50th anniversary of joining the RAN. They were fortunate to have their Divisional Officer also attend, RADM R.A.K. Walls OA RAN Rtd. Amongst this group was WO Marty Grogan OAM, who organised the occasion.

HMAS WESTRALIA Service. A commemorative service for HMAS WESTRALIA was held on Sunday, 15DEC13. This is likely to be the final service arranged by the association as they intend to disband on ANZAC Day next year. A sad occasion and a clear example of how we have failed to bring new players forward to support the legacy of WWII, later conflicts and peacekeeping operations.

Battle of Cape Gloucester. The US Ambassador, John Berry made a special visit to Melbourne to meet and chat to four of our WWII Veterans. The purpose was to learn more about the Australian experience by those associated with the Battle of Cape Gloucester. The Ambassador, accompanied by the

US Consul General Mary Warlick spoke to Norm Tame (with Julie), Roy Stephens (with Lorna), Norrie McKelvie (son Warren) and Alan Hooley. The Ambassador made a presentation to each of our veterans, in the War Room, Victoria Barracks.

WRANS and Communicators Ball. We have our fingers crossed for the ex-WRANS and Communicators as they discuss the prospect of holding a ball next year. Keep your eye open for news!

Annual General Meeting. The NCCV AGM was held on Tuesday, 10DEC13 and all office bearers were elected. The list above notes those that have shown a strong interest in keeping the committee on track. The only way we can add value is for individual Associations to be members and have a voice on how we might be sustainable.

First Shot. There is some interest in discovering if the first shot fired at the commencement of WWI can be found. Whilst this may be more of a PR exercise, it has certainly generated some interest in Melbourne, as the first shot was fired on 5AUG14 from Point Nepean across the bow of German freighter SS Pfalz as it attempted to escape from Port Phillip Bay.