



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

December 2014

Volume 4 Edition 12

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 973*

On behalf of the Navy Victoria Network management team we wish all within the Navy community, particularly our registered members all the best for the festive season. We hope each and every one of you has a very merry Christmas. We also hope your aspirations for the 'New Year' are forthcoming and we see you participate in at least one of the Navy's Flagship events scheduled during the year 2015.

We also welcome Commander Melanie Verho RAN, Executive Officer HMAS CERBERUS who joined the team recently. The Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria, Melbourne Naval Centre and the national organisations will seek CMDR Veho's support as endeavour to improve the participation of the overall Navy Community in Victoria in commemorative, maritime and other Navy related events.

The NVN has been underway for four years now and whilst the number of registered members is at a healthy level, we need many more. Many of those registered are key members of Ship or Unit Associations and we urge you to promote the existence of NVN to your family and friends. Our hope is that everyone will benefit from our collection and publication of data, pointing to events and other activities that may prove to be of interest. In particular, the pilgrimages to the Shrine of Remembrance are simple and relatively short occasions that mark significant contributions made during times of Peace Making and Peace Keeping. Each of these events is under the auspices of a Ship and Unit Associations. Above all, it is most important that reference is made to the NVN calendar in order to avoid conflict with other key events. When planning your event let's try to

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**05-09 Jan** – Anniversary of battle of Lingayen Gulf

**20 Jan** – Anniversary Japanese sub sunk off Darwin.

**22 Jan** – Anniversary HMAS Patricia Cam sunk.

**26 Jan** – Australia Day

**10 Feb** – Anniversary of Voyager/Melbourne collision.

**23 Feb** – NHS meeting.

**28 Feb** – Anniversary of battle of Sunda Strait.

## ANZAC Centenary Events

*For details of all Centenary events in Victoria go to:*

<http://anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au/news-events/events/>

## Latest News

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

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

### **Minister for Defence – Statement**

*I am grateful for the trust and confidence of the Prime Minister to be Australia's fifty-first Minister for Defence. Since being appointed Shadow Minister for Defence in 2008, I*

maximise attendance by dodging other events already locked in.

We would also like to remind everyone that the involvement of descendants is imperative if we are to maintain the relevance of our respective Associations, whether they be local or national. Whilst all service and ex-service men and women are always welcome to join associations, the interest demonstrated by this demographic of our Navy community is sadly, very low! Once again, the demise of Ship Associations is inevitable unless we change the membership or consolidate. We often mention the 'paying off' of the Corvettes Association. Given there were 56 Corvettes build for Australia's use during WWII and over 10,000 Officers and Sailors sailed in these gallant ships, imagine how many descendants there must be – where are they? It is a pity that not one could be sourced to sustain the Corvettes Association at the time. If you wish to be connected to a ship or unit association, please contact the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria by emailing your interest to [naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com](mailto:naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com) and they will do their best to connect you to a relevant association. We are focused on continuation of the legacy of all ship and unit associations, such as the Corvettes and other marvellous groups of Sailors.

The recent commemorative service at Queenscliff in memory of HMAS GOORANGAI was well attended with over 100 present for the service. Given the poor weather, the normal march was called off and the service was held in the Queenscliff-Point Lonsdale RSL Sub-Branch Hall. Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer – HMAS CERBERUS delivered the address and he was ably supported by Cr Helena Cameron, Mayor of the Borough of Queenscliffe who welcomed everyone. During the service 13 wreaths were laid and the GOORANGAI wreath was later transferred to the memorial cairn. This occasion was organised by the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria with generous support from the Queenscliff RSL and crucial financial support from the Melbourne Naval Centre.

We also wish to congratulate Mr David Parker on his election as President of the Melbourne Naval Centre. The MNC has been instrumental in providing financial support to a wide range of Navy entities in Victoria for many decades and we can look

*have diligently gone about serving my party and its leadership.*

#### **Vietnam Veterans Family Study Update**

*The link below is a letter from the Repatriation Commissioner, Major General Mark Kelly AO DSC. This letter provides information on the completion of the Vietnam Veterans Family Study. Included is a Fact Sheet outlining the key findings of the study.*

#### **Keeping Watch gives at the right time**

*As Christmas approaches, four families in need have been provided with some welcome relief to ease the hardships of caring for seriously ill loved ones.*

#### **Long line of duty for HMAS Huon**

*Navy personnel have come to the rescue of sharks trapped in abandoned longlines recently, whilst on patrol east of Ashmore Island.*

#### **Governments Christmas Present To ADF Families - Higher Rents & Charges.**

#### **HMAS Cerberus Executive Officer Handover.**

#### **Navy Steam Club delivers Christmas**

*The HMAS Cerberus Navy Steam Club's 1923 Foden Steam Wagon made a delivery of a different sort as the club joined forces last week with the St Vincent de Paul Society's 'Vinnies Christmas Appeal'.*

#### **Change of Australian military command in the Middle East**

#### **Improving Primary Care Mental Health Treatment For Veterans.**

#### **Creating a sustainable naval shipbuilding industry**

*The Abbott Government is committed*

forward to the MNC continuing to achieve its objectives.

The NCCV has indicated that their member Associations are likely to conduct another workshop early 2015. This will be a follow up on the workshop held in 2012 where the future of the various ex-Navy entities was discussed. Should any individual think their ship or unit association should be invited, please send an email to the NCCV email address above and also detailed in the attached Rogues Yarn. Please keep in mind that the purpose of these workshop initiatives is to seek ideas on how best to build sustainable memberships! We look forward to you input.

Again, have a great Christmas and may your family and friends be safe and enjoy the New Year.

Yours Aye!

NVN Team

## VALE

- † CPO C.H. Francis, R38672, 19 Dec 2014. Aged 82.
- † POMTP3\* James Hearn, R55528, 17 Dec 2014. Aged 75.
- † PO R.V Radcliffe MID, 21825, 30 November 2014. Aged 95.
- † AB R.J. Warr, B2252, 25 November 2014. Aged 94.
- † CPOMUSN L. Le Dan, R57880, 22 October 2014. Aged 69.
- † AB J.E. James, R67023, 07 October 2014. Aged 64.

## 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



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.

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

*to investing in a safe and secure Australia.*

***Additional shipbuilding expertise to be inserted into the Air Warfare Destroyer program***

***Reform of Air Warfare Destroyer Program - Joint Press Conference***

***Veterans' Affairs' failures exposed in Australian Public Service Commission Capability Review***

***Veteran Support Continues Over The Christmas Period***

***Review Confirms Priorities For DVA***

***Space Surveillance Telescope – a first for the ADF***

***Veteran Creativity On Show In Victoria***

***HMAS Canberra joins the fleet***

***ADF Assistance Trust***

*If you know someone in the Defence community who is struggling to meet financial commitments.....*

***Cyber Security Review***

*The Australian Government will review Australia's cyber-security strategy to better protect Australia's networks from cyber attack.....*

***Navy League of Australia (Vic Div) December newsletter.....***

***Naval History Society of Australia (Vic Div) President's December report.***

***Armed Merchant Cruisers / Landing Ship Infantry (AMC/LSI) Association December 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



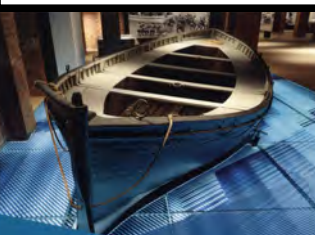
### AHEAD - ASTERN

**DID YOU KNOW**  
Everyone is welcome  
to attend any Service  
conducted at the  
Shrine of  
Remembrance

Next NCCV meeting  
10FEB15@1030  
This meeting will be  
held at the  
Camberwell City RSL  
Sub-Branch.  
Catch the #75 Tram,  
tram stops at the  
front door.

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

↓ The Devanha boat on display in the Galleries of Remembrance. If you, family and friends have not seen the 800+ exhibits, you are in for a marvellous surprise. To visit the Shrine of Remembrance, you need only arrive at or after 1000 and before 1700, except Christmas Day and Good Friday. This is a no cost tribute to Australian Service men and women.



Looking ahead we can see the Navy grow with the inclusion of 2 Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD) ships, HMAS CANBERRA III and ADELAIDE III. The deployment of CANBERRA has been long awaited, now commissioned may her contribution be for peace keeping commitments only. In the event that CANBERRA is required to assist with some natural disaster, may it be well clear of Australia. We hope Christmas 1974 (Cyclone Tracey) will never be repeated.

Although we can now rely upon CANBERRA to be ready



and able should the need arise. We also have high expectations surrounding arrival of the new Hobart Class Air Warfare Destroyers. With a displacement of around 7,000 tonnes and a good range of weaponry these ships will make a huge difference to the profile of the Fleet. No doubt each member of the Ship's Company posted to one of these great warships will think Christmas has come again. The sentiment behind being part of a commissioning crew will impress, as everyone who has experienced such a thing knows. With so many new warships coming on line in the years ahead, there will be a huge boost to moral and enthusiasm across the Navy community. Looking ahead from an ex-service perspective may take a little more imagination. There is a constant drone from the existing group of Champions on how they have to carry the load, in



many cases un-supported, however, there are many who think the future is bright provided we are positive and open to new ideas. Not an easy thing for some, but critical for us to be sustainable. Now if we take time to look astern, or to our past, we may dodge repeating mistakes. There are many good things embedded in our thoughts of yester year, Navy service for one. Whilst there we may, or may not have made the most of it. Nevertheless, we survived and should give some thought to the thousands who went before us. The deeds of the Navy only came about through the tenacity and courage of the men and women who were at the coal face at the time. We commemorate a vast number of past events each year and they are fundamental to our wellbeing. Our social gatherings are important to maintain the camaraderie we all need to reinforce our own sense of being. This and future Spirit of ANZAC years offer time to reflect on courageous deeds that occurred a century ago. A time when being a sailor was not so comfortable, domestic arrangements very ordinary. What is marvellous is the collective of all our experiences, that's what makes our community what it is today. It should guide us to a better tomorrow, all we need do is stand up and be countered.



### Disclaimer

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

### 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.

### 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

As 2014 draws to a close we have much to ponder. We have experienced the spirit of ANZAC with the commencement of the centennial year and we are also seventy five years on from the start of World War II. These significant events have drawn attention to the dedication and courage of both Australia and New Zealand people who were directly and indirectly involved. In particular, the range of commemorative activities has provided considerable opportunity for all service, ex-service men and women, along with their families and friends to reflect on the contribution made by their predecessors and ancestors. There will be many more occasions over the coming years where every individual will be invited to participate and show support in maintaining the heritage of our veterans. They served Australia at a time when tragic circumstances unfolded, where the outcome was a massive loss of young Australian lives. We now enjoy the best of living standards. Standards hard fought by young and not

so young Australians through peace making and peace keeping. We are well placed to show our appreciation for the effort of our predecessors, by our own elders. This Christmas is a time when those of us able to share goodwill need to look at how best to comfort our family and friends. There are many issues and challenges before us, but Christmas is a time to rejoice and absorb the luxury of our freedom and generous life style. Being agreeable is a small part of how we might accept new ideas. It may also be a good time to dispense with that baggage that has kept

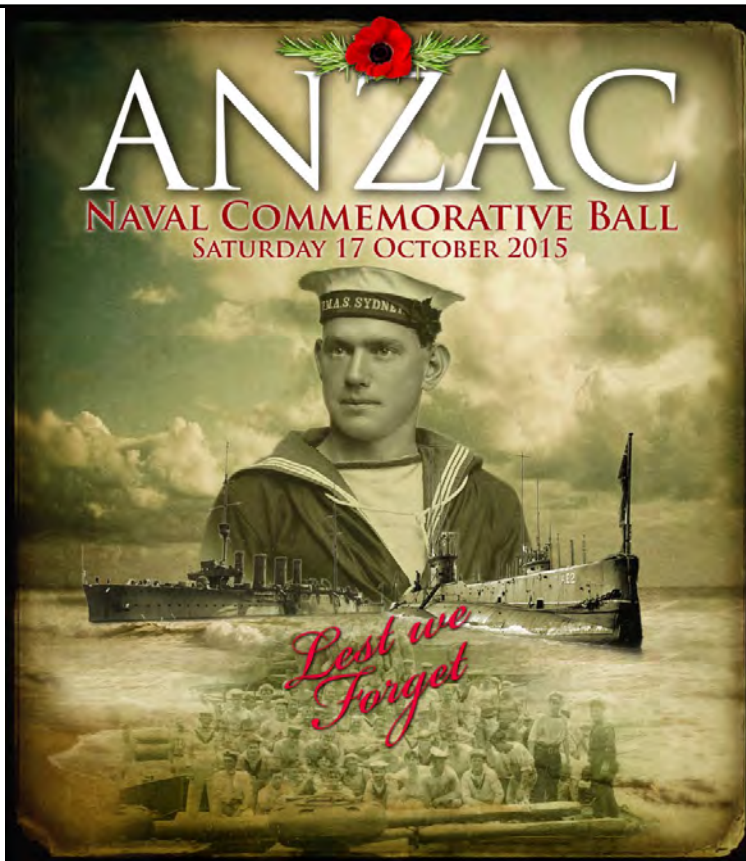
us from developing the propositions and initiatives so desperately needed for our own well being. May you experience a great Christmas and a safe return to 2015.

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*



## ANZAC Naval Centennial Ball - 2015

Time to book a table and participate in a milestone event!! We encourage everyone involved with an organisation with links to the Defence Force, including the Naval Association of Australia, Returned and Services League of Australia, or a specific Ship/Unit/Branch Association to purchase one or more tables at the ANZAC Naval Commemorative Ball. The venue will be the Victory Room, Etihad Stadium, easy to get to and close to a myriad of accommodation. It will be a 'black tie' occasion, miniature medals to be worn by those with such things. The cost per person is \$130. The organising committee has devised options for payment. If you are able to pay the FULL PRICE when booking, this would be greatly appreciated. Alternatively you may wish to pay by instalments and we are happy to oblige. The requirement being to pay for two places (\$260) to reserve a table of ten at the time of booking. You may wish to reserve your own one or two places. Contact David Dwyer, 0423 675 146 /[davidgdwyer@hotmail.com](mailto:davidgdwyer@hotmail.com) or Carmel Tom, 0418 710 510 /[carmeltom@netspace.net.au](mailto:carmeltom@netspace.net.au) to make the necessary arrangements. This will be a great occasion and we should respond now!





## NCCV AGM

The NCCV Annual General Committee was held on Tuesday, 9DEC14 at the English Speaking Union building (Melbourne Naval Centre). A good number of ship / unit / branch Associations were in attendance. Terry thanked everyone for their support during 2014, member Associations and in particular work of the NCCV Executive. A precise of the year's activities were discussed and then election of office bearers took place. Only one application for each position was received, no vote was required. Office bearers for 2015: Terry Makings, President; Marty Grogan, Vice President; Pete Johnston, Jnr Vice President; Chris Banfield, Secretary; and Jan Gallagher, Treasurer. Terry expressed appreciation of the continued support by the Executive through the new year and the ongoing support by the various Associations comprising the membership. Year 2015 objectives were discussed, they included the need to continue exploring the best method of encouraging the next generation of ex-service men and women to engage with our various organisations. In addition, the need to consolidate the various flag ship commemorative activities across the Navy community is a crucial feature of our mission.

## Proud to be first

Below is a picture tweeted by VCDF, VADM Ray Griggs as he witnessed the acknowledgement of the first female Engineer and Principle Warfare Officer to be promoted to Commodore. Chief of Navy presented their boards in his office on the day of their promotion, 5DEC14. Most will know CDRE Kath Richards from when she was the Commanding Officer, HMAS CERBERUS. CDRE Michelle Miller has been in command of a Frigate. Many have watched their careers closely, all will be excited by the Navy's diligent selection process with such good people being chosen for flag rank - congratulations!!



## Corvettes

Navy received 56 Corvettes during World War II, the only vessel still afloat is HMAS CASTLEMAIN Museum Ship, Gem Pier, Williamstown. A commemoration service in memory of the Corvettes was held in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance on Monday, 1DEC. The significance of 1DEC relates to the loss of HMAS ARMIDALE. This was the day that Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean showed incredible courage when he could have easily abandoned ship, along with his ship-mates. The tale of Teddy's exploits in those last few minutes is well known to the Navy fraternity, but the tale has not been sufficient to earn him the recognition thought worthy of his bravery. The legend of tracer bullets coming out of the sea, spraying across the sky in search of a Japanese fighter plane has been dismissed by experts as not possible. The word is that he fired for some time upon the Japanese, protecting his ship mates as they swam to anything that would keep them afloat. Again, the experts were not happy, determining that the magazine for the Oerlikon gun could only last a matter of seconds. Sad to think folklore of the last minutes of his life, as determined by his ship mates - watching from the sea, has been veiled by a blanket of scepticism by modern day desk bound experts.

## HMAS AE2

It is almost 100 years since HMAS AE2 was lost and much will be made of this as we approach 30APR15. Since the hull of the AE2 was discovered in 1998 the team at AE2 Commemorative Foundation Ltd (AE2CF) has worked tirelessly on identifying, recording and preserving the remaining features of the submarine, at its final resting place some 72 metres below the surface in the Sea of Marmara. Significant funds and enormous energy by Australia's best ex-Submariners, along with a host of technical advisors has enabled the AE2 project to discovery all manner of things associated with AE2. The project also brings focus to how courageous the crew were. The Foundation has been rewarded with success and deservedly so. Their success has been appropriately recorded for all to see, viewed recently on Catalyst, ABC2 and also through a more detailed presentation at the Shrine of Remembrance on Tuesday, 9DEC14. Those interested now have at their disposal a wide range of information outlining the construction of a mock hull, built with key internal features most likely be encountered if entering the hull. There is much to learn and a visit to the Foundation's well-constructed website at <http://ae2.org.au> tells all, from commissioning of the submarine in the UK, WWI exploits through to preservation of the wreck for posterity.

## ANZAC Centenary

This year we witness several very impressive ceremonies reflecting the Spirit of ANZAC. The first occasion was the re-enactment of the First Shot at Point Nepean, 5AUG14. This was well attended with thousands of people hearing the story of the first shot. It was coincidental that at 1245 a huge merchant ship was actually in the same spot as the *SS Pfalz* when the shot sounded. The next occasion was the departure of the Victorian contingent of the 'Australian Navy and Military Expeditionary Force' from Flinders Street Railway Station, 17AUG14. A steam train was farewelled from the Station as the Navy Band played tunes of yester year. The train arrived at Bell Street where the Hon Ted Baillieu MP & CMDR Mike Oborn CSM laid a wreath at the Darebin RSL. The Battle of Bitia Paka was commemorated on 11SEP14 at the Shrine of Remembrance, the first Australian Serviceman casualty of WWI was AB Billy Williams. The final event was the re-enactment of the departure of the first convoy on 18OCT14 at Princes Pier, HMAS ARUNTA was nearby.

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



## DIRECTORY for NCCV

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## Items of special interest

**Naval Association of Australia.** We received Christmas greetings from the Federal President of the NAA, Russell Pettis. We reciprocate and hope Russell and his State representatives enjoy the appropriate level of support required during 2015 to further the interests of the Navy and our ex-Navy fraternity. Best wishes Russell from NCCV.

### Kindred Organisations & Unit Associations

**Committee.** The KO&UA Committee meeting, held on Monday, 13th October outlined the process associated with ANZAC Day 2015. One important aspect is the need for descendants who march to be limited to the person wearing the veterans medals. This requirement should be shared with your colleagues so Parade Marshalls don't frown upon us. Next meeting, ANZAC House at 1300, 9FEB15.

### Australia Day - Flag Lowering Ceremony.

Late on the afternoon of 26JAN15 there will be a flag lowering ceremony on the forecourt, Shrine of Remembrance. Arranged by the Order of Australia Association, all interested can look on. The Army Band will attend, along with a number of Cadets. In the past this event has attracted several hundred observers as it points to the close of Australia Day.

**Descendant from HMAS SYDNEY I.** A request was reported in the HeraldSun on 18NOV14 seeking advice about any surviving children from the crew of SYDNEY I. Dianna (nee) Roberts thinks she has the unenviable distinction of being the last person whose father served in SYDNEY I. Do you know of a descendant in a similar situation?

**User Pays.** The concept of user pays is not new, but the application of this within the Navy has taken on new heights. Recruits on joining are required to pay for their 'first' and subsequent haircuts. No doubt there would be much squealing from the 'old salts' if they were asked to cough up \$15 for a haircut where the Recruit Instructor is advising the Millies employee on how to wield the clippers. What a Christmas that would be!!

