



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

December 2017

Volume 7 Edition 12

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1078



*Merry Christmas & a
happy, safe and healthy
New Year from the
NVN Team*

Residing in the best country of the world, as we settle back and enjoy Christmas 2017 and look forward to 2018, we need to be reminded of the service and sacrifice upon which our country has been established. In doing so, we need to remember the special significance of this, the 75th anniversary of the darkest year in the history of the Royal Australian Navy.

By the end of 1942, HMA Ships *Perth*, *Yarra*, *Kuttabul*, *Canberra*, *Vampire*, *Voyager*, *Nestor* and *Armidale*, together with more than 600 men had all joined the growing list of RAN wartime losses in a year during which there was little to celebrate.

For Australia's population at that time, the year began with a growing sense of trepidation. War spread to the Asia-Pacific following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. The war that had begun in Europe two years earlier had become a truly global conflict. The attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 created genuine concern throughout Australia. The Japanese forces had gained momentum southwards, and soon Malaya, Singapore and the Dutch East Indies had fallen.

Never in Australia's short, modern history had our shores been under a more immediate threat. Those concerns were realised on 19 February 1942, when Darwin suffered its first Japanese air

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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22 Jul 2017 - 29 Jul 2018 – *Nerves and Steel - The Royal Australian Navy in the Pacific December 1941 – September 1945 (Exhibition at the Shrine)*

01 Jan 2018 – *Happy New Year*

05 Jan – *From the 5-9 January 1945 HMAS AUSTRALIA, SHROPSHIRE & ARUNTA engaged in Battle of Lingayen Gulf.*

22 Jan – *On this day in 1943 HMAS PATRICIA CAM sunk*

26 Jan – *Australia Day*

10 Feb – *HMAS Voyager commemoration service at 10:30 in the Shrine Sanctuary*

Latest News Headlines

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

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

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LATEST VIDEOS.....

** HMAS Newcastle returns to Australia*

** Retirement ceremony for S-70B Seahawk and AS-350 Squirrel*

** Medical Evacuation in the Indian Ocean*

raids. The two air raids that day killed 235 people and wounded a further 300 to 400, the war had arrived on Australia's doorstep.

On the night of 28 February 1942, HMAS *Perth* was sunk with the loss of 353 crew, American cruiser USS *Houston* was also sunk with the loss of 658 crew. This occurred during a fierce sea battle against the Imperial Japanese Navy off the northwest tip of Java in Indonesia, where the rusting hulls remain today.

It was not long before units of the Australian and United States navies were in action in the Coral Sea, thwarting Japanese attempts to invade Port Moresby by sea. That battle, between the US and Japanese carrier fleets, raged for three days. It was the first great naval action fought between aircraft carriers. The Battle of the Coral Sea was significant as a strategic victory for the Allies. It marked the closest approach of hostile naval forces in strength to our coastline. It broke the long series of Japanese victories, and it showed that the Imperial Japanese Navy could be defeated.

Allied success in the Battle of the Coral Sea had tactical implications for the Japanese forces, who were then driven to make a landward approach from the northern coast of New Guinea to capture Port Moresby. Although the tide had turned, there was much hard fighting to come, and sadly many more losses.

Like the Battle of Savo Island, which was fought on August 8 and 9, and where four allied cruisers, including HMAS *Canberra* were lost, with over 1,000 sailors killed and a further 700 wounded.

75 years on from those battles, we remember the sacrifice and dedication of all our service men and women. They demonstrated their readiness to serve, to look after their mates, their ship, battalion or squadron and their nation. They demonstrated their readiness to defend the ideals that both our nations are built on: freedom, democracy, and the rule of law. They demonstrated selflessness, loyalty, and courage both physical and moral.

Every Australian should remember and be mindful of those who left the security of Australia, gave up jobs, family, friends and other loved ones to live with the daily risk of maiming or death from bullet, grenade, shell, mine, gas or bayonet.

Our attention will rightfully be drawn to the Centenary of the end of World War 1 in 2018. WWI resulted in the death of 60,000 Australian men. A further 52,000 Australians have made the supreme sacrifice in subsequent wars. May we be worthy of

NEWS.....

FOUND!

Australia's first submarine HMAS AE1 has been found, ending a 103 year maritime mystery. The fate of 800 ton AE1 and her 35 crew members has remained one of the persistent mysteries of Australia's military history.

Haunting new image of the Royal Australian Navy's first submarine HMAS AE1 is providing researchers with valuable new clues about the final moments of the boat and her 35 crew.

Chief of Navy's Christmas message

The recently-commissioned Royal Navy aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth is taking on water due to a propeller shaft leak, the Royal Navy has confirmed.

Argentina has fired the head of the country's navy in what is the first known disciplinary action related to the vanishing of submarine ARA San Juan in November this year.

HMAS Canberra, one of the two biggest ships in the Royal Australian Navy, on Friday hosted a grand ceremony which saw 1,500 officers and sailors take part in the Australian Fleet's 2017 Ceremonial Divisions.

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, today announced the introduction of the Defence Reparation Scheme for survivors of Defence abuse.

Russian president Vladimir Putin has submitted a draft bill to the lower house of the Russian Federal Assembly which would see Russia develop a fully functional naval base at the Syrian port of Tartus.

The US Marine Corps' unmanned

their sacrifice, whilst we have a Merry Christmas with family and friends and look forward to a rewarding New Year.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † CPOCD L.I. MacKay, 09 December 2017.
- † POEWR R. Coutts, R62253, 08 December 2017. Aged 72.
- † TO L.B. Parnell, R53029, 30 November 2017.
- † WRTEL A. Armstrong (nee Francis) OAM, WR505, 29 November 2017. Aged 96.
- † ABETC A. Sheen, 21 November 2017. Aged 47.
- † CPOSTD K. Woods, R50366, 17 November 2017.
- † LS J.E. Harris, S4049, 24 July 2017. Aged 95.

Lest We Forget

To all who read this: If you hear of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know(webmaster@navyvic.net). We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' wall on the website. If possible list their **Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.**



Mark Knights cartoon from the Melbourne Herald Sun - 22 Dec 2017

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



helicopter has completed a successful final flight demonstration at Marine Corps Base Quantico, the Office of Naval Research (ONR) announced.

Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) Simon Lewis said today that crucial support services for the veteran community will continue to be available throughout the Christmas and New Year period.

Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan said the nation's 39,000 Reservists would be better protected by recent changes to legislation.

The Chief of Navy, Vice Admiral Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN visited the Fleet Air Arm Museum to officially thank Mr Max Montague for his generosity in donating his HMAS Sydney III model to the museum. The model, complete with squadrons of Sea Fury and Fairey Firefly aircraft that were embarked during the Korean War, is valued between \$50-60,000.

The S-70B-2 Bravo Seahawk and AS350BA Squirrel helicopters were formally retired from active service in the Royal Australian Navy at a ceremony today at HMAS Albatross.

An important piece of Australia's military history will find a new home after the Vietnamese Government gifted the original Long Tan Cross to Australia.

Navy League of Australia(Vic-Tas Div) December newsletter is now available to [download.....](#)

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President's December musings is now available to [download.....](#)

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



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

ROGUES' YARN

Commemoration services at the Shrine of Remembrance that warrant support of the Navy Fraternity

1. **RAN Recruits Pilgrimage**, wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday 4th February** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
2. **HMAS VOYAGER** Commemoration Service, at 1030, **Saturday 10th February** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
3. **75th anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait**, commemoration service remembering the loss of HMAS PERTH and USS HOUSTON will be conducted of **Thursday 1st March** at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance.

BRAVERY TRUST Supporting those who serve

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

Melbourne Naval Committee

MNC has an agreement with the Mission to Seafarers that allows Navy groups to meet at the MtS at no cost. To book email **Ajith Jayasuriya** at marketing@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Navy Victoria Network

Navyvic website is for anyone interested in Navy.

If arranging a function, check the calendar! Provide information to navyvic to avoid conflict with others.

Disclaimer

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

A New Year Ahead



↑HMAS Hobart 3 & Hobart 2, images of the old and new in harmony. We wish all of our readers a safe, Merry and rewarding Christmas with family and friends. This is a good time of year to evaluate progress, with respect to issues of relevance to the Service and ex-Service community. Christmas affords us an opportunity to relax and give some thought to the year ahead. There is little rest for those trying to make a difference by improving the recognition of service and sacrifice. This takes form in several different ways: care of shipmates, supporting youths through the Australian Navy Cadets, camaraderie by way of social activities and low level visitation to those not so well. Finally, recognition of commemoration milestones is vital to preserving our knowledge of earlier service and above all sacrifice. Many events this year have reinforced 75th anniversary of milestones, aptly described in the Dec NVN newsletter. All of these commemoration occasions

warrant our support as they signify a serving person who has made the supreme sacrifice. Many overlook the significance of these milestones, the challenge being for descendants to know of their connection through family. Linking the several aspects organisationally is proving to be a challenge. The interests of the ex-service community is shared across many different entities, such as ship associations and like minded organisations. This challenges the overall sustainability of maintaining the legacy of Navy. Consideration of this issue requires focus through a clear lense to ensure we make the right choices. With a lull in activity over the Christmas period, maybe the Champion of each Association could think about what organisation is best suited to provide the overall coverage necessary to enrich commemoration. Commemoration is not something that need be isolated from other aspects of concern to the Navy community's well being. The primary question is how best to bring all entities together, sum of the parts!





HMAS Arrow



Mitchell Abram, ABC News wrote: ↓ Captain Robert Dagworthy RAN Rtd Cyclone Tracy survivor tells of HMAS *Arrow's* deadly sprint back to Darwin wharf. CAPT Dagworthy, Commanding Officer of the attack-class patrol boat HMAS *Arrow* when Cyclone Tracy decimated Darwin in 1974.



Cyclone Tracy hit Darwin in the early hours of Christmas morning, almost entirely destroying the city. Of the 66 people killed, 53 were on land and 13 at sea, two of those were CAPT Dagworthy's men. "We were told there was a small cyclone tracking towards Darwin, that it would probably pass close by" CAPT Dagworthy said. As a precaution, CAPT Dagworthy and his crew were ordered to go out to a Navy-provided cyclone buoy, roughly a kilometre out to sea from Stokes Hill Wharf, Darwin. "It's believed when you're at that cyclone buoy, you're there and no cyclone is going to cause you a problem." But Cyclone Tracy did cause a problem. The *Arrow's* anchor winch and cable slips were ripped clean from the deck of the ship, leaving the vessel to the mercy of the waves and winds of more than 200 kilometres per hour. "We could see red and green light as waves washed right over the ship - the rain actually took the paint off the metalwork," he said. The ship's navigation equipment was also destroyed and an airlock in the pump to cool the engine also meant they could seize at any minute. CAPT Dagworthy decided the best thing would be to ground the ship further inland, but getting there would be purely guesswork. "Running across Darwin Harbour with waves washing me down, we were forced down onto the corner of the wharf," he said. CAPT Dagworthy gave the order to abandon

his ship, and they used the waves to climb up onto the wharf. Despite his actions, two of his men, Able Seaman Ian Rennie and Petty Officer Leslie Catton were killed. By the time CAPT Dagworthy came to leave the ship, it had taken on so much water it couldn't reach the level of the wharf. "So I actually jumped into the water, was swept through the wharf and was found the next day on the mud flats," he said. CO, HMAS *Coonawarra*, Commander Viktor Pilicic RAN said he was surprised by how little is actually known about what happened. "Listening to his recounting was amazing and the fact he had to make that command decision to abandon ship it's an amazing story," he said. Teamwork saved lives, CAPT Dagworthy said "if it was not for the teamwork of his crew, more people would have died. We had been together in a small ship. You become a really great team." But he is worried people are beginning to forget what happened. "It's important to talk about it. To state the facts as they really were," he said. "I want people to remember what happened to *Arrow*, and I want people to remember the two sailors who lost their lives. My two mates."



HMAS Attack

HMAS *Attack*→, one of 20 patrol boats ordered in 1965 with *Attack* commissioned NOV67. *Attack* worked mainly to Australia's north, protecting fisheries and also support of HMAS Moresby whilst conducting survey work.



The photograph is *Attack* on the Darwin beach, the consequence of Cyclone Tracy, Christmas eve 1974. *Attack* crew was to some extent fortunate, given their harrowing experience on that fateful night. How do we imagine steaming in a cyclone with wind speeds of 217 km/h. For anyone who has been to sea, this was another life threatening experience. *Attack* paid off on 21FEB85 and on 24MAY85 was transferred to the Indonesian Navy and renamed *Sikuda*.

Post Tracey



HMAS Armidale

75 years ago HMAS Armidale sunk. A tragic loss, the consequence of being hit by torpedoes, dropped by Japanese aircraft during WWII whilst the ship was off Betano tasked with evacuating soldiers. This event is legendary, the consequence of how those that survived manage to do so and most importantly because of the heroic effort by Ordinary Seaman Teddy Sheean. Much has been said about the efforts of Teddy Sheean on that fateful day. Eye witness accounts painted a picture of a young sailor that defied the order to abandon ship. Whilst his shipmates were in the sea, desperately grasping for whatever was floating, ship's boat, rafts and other flotsam. Recorded comments by some in the water on that day said Teddy Sheean stayed aboard, manned an anti-aircraft guns, strapped himself to the gun and resisted the Japanese. LS Leigh Bool is reported to have advised that he saw Teddy remain aboard, man the gun and fire at the enemy aircraft. Damaging at least one of the Japanese aircraft that was strafing his shipmates in the sea. Another survivor who recounts his experience and that of Teddy is Ray Leonard. Ray describes the same heroic activities of Teddy and conveyed his view to the Panel charged with assessing the circumstances surrounding several legendary actions recorded during WWII. Many individuals have been disappointed that the eye witness accounts identifying



HMAS Armidale

a. DARWIN 1942

b. PACIFIC 1942

c. NEW GUINEA 1942

how Teddy remained on the ship and without hesitation took action in a manner that was destined to be to his detriment. Teddy made the supreme sacrifice at a time when many of his shipmates were struggling to avoid the Japanese and cling to something that would aid their survival. Attendance of three WWII Veterans at the Corvette commemoration service at the Shrine of Remembrance on Friday, 1DEC17 was an important reminder of the work of those 56 gallant ships. Stan Yates - HMAS *Stawell*, Allan Moore HMAS *Mildura* and Ray Leonard - HMAS *Armidale* were a significant connection to the legacy being remembered.

AMC/LSI Service

On Saturday, 9th December the Armed Merchant Cruiser/Landing Ship Infantry Association held their annual commemoration service in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. Three WWII Veterans attended, Hiram Ristrom-Co Patron AMC/LSI & former President HMAS Kanimbla Association, Bruce Candy-Co Patron AMC/LSI & former President HMAS Westralia Association, Norm Tame-Past President HMAS Assault Assoc and Ian Gardner-ex HMAS Kanimbla who travelled to Melbourne from Queensland for the service. Pictured ↓ is Hiram Ristrom with Anita Hogan (Young Veterans Assoc) standing in front of the Stone of Remembrance. Chris Harvey, President AMC/LSI Association welcomed everyone to the service and Anita read a pray to the fallen. The address was delivered by CPO Christopher Vale and his words were appreciated by the Veterans and de-



scendants. CPO Vale laid a wreath on behalf of the Royal Australian Navy. V/President AMC/LSI Max Tozer laid a wreath on behalf of the Assoc. Anita Hogan laid a wreath on behalf of all descendants. Chris Harvey, a member of the Naval Association laid a wreath on behalf of the Naval Association of Australia. The Ode was recited by



Hiram Ristrom. The last post and Reveille were called by Musician Andrew Bryce from the RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment. A Catafalque Party provide the ceremonial drill, I/C of the Party was PO Nathan Harris, the sentries were, SMN Sarah Bennett, SMN Alex Burton, SMN Mathew Joseph, SMN Ashley Ryan with spare being Nathan. The generous support from HMAS Cerberus ensured the service was particularly memorable. More ex-service men & women, along with descendants are encouraged to support this and related commemoration services at the Shrine of Remembrance.

President's Dit

The NCCV wish all of our Rogues Yarn readers, particularly member Associations' a merry Christmas and the very best for the New Year. We continue to encourage everyone to be involved in some way, shape or form in any capacity of support to the Navy and ex-Navy fraternity. The most important outcome is that you have at the very least thought about your ability to participate. Whilst we focus on commemoration there are many aspect of benefit that may benefit from your goodwill. Membership in some form is a good way of demonstrating support of the Navy fraternity. Whether that be within a Ship Association, the RSL or better still the Naval Association, each deliver creditable support in their own way. Being part of the Navy fraternity in a formal sense is more beneficial than sitting on the side lines. We value the benefits provided to Veterans, however, most forget that these did not come about by accident. They are the product of years of effort by 'members' of Ex-Service Organisations dedicated to the wellbeing of Serving and ex-Service men & women.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

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Special Notes



HDML 1321 'Rushcutter'. A small Darwin group are attempting to save and rebuild the *Rushcutter*. The *Rushcutter* is no HMAS *Sydney*, but she is definitely one of the last remaining WWII assets and, like her Coastwatch counterpart, *Krait*, should be saved for posterity. We have been asked to raise this issue with like-minded people seeking consideration of their fund raising efforts. For more information email Mark Walker at BUZ_ZOOK@hotmail.com

Contact Details. If you have contact details for the following individuals could you see your way clear to advise Ian Pfenningwerth on 02 4981 5551 or email Ian at pfennigs1@bigpond.com - CMDR David Strangward; CMDR Peter Thompson (recipient of the Tongan Order of St George) CPOETC Karoly 'Karl' Brenner; CPO Writers Bob Brimson, Anne White and Wayne Swift.

HMAS AE1 Found. After 103 years of not knowing the fate of the *AE1*, a remarkable find occurred on 20DEC17 with the discovery of the submarine's hull at 300 metres below the surface. As the Ode to our sailors informs us, 'a rusting hull is their tombstone, a fast on the ocean bed. Exciting on one hand, but utterly mournful on the other for those that regard past service and sacrifice as important to the Nation.

Navy Support. NCCV is particularly grateful for the support provided by HMAS *Cerberus*, RAN Band - Melbourne Detachment, along with the RAN Recruit School. Each has been generous in their support of commemoration activities across Victoria. Much of this support is in addition to their day job, but it occurs with genuine support.

Purpose & Motivation. Some wonder why NCCV promotes the legacy of past service and sacrifice. The answer is simple - reflection on courage and determination of our Shipmates of old teaches us the importance of maintaining a strong and professional Navy. Each activity, where this courage is exhibited is a learning moment for the wider community and an opportunity to reinforce support of Navy and most importantly its men & women. Sharing by those connected to Navy is critical.

HMAS Cerberus Museum. Security procedures at *Cerberus* make it difficult to visit the Museum, however, it is not impossible and with planning you can see the wonderful work undertaken over the past few years by WO Marty Grogan OAM, Manager of the museum and his dedicated team. All exhibits are part of the RAN historical collection, Marty and his team have much to show you.