



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

February 2014

Volume 4 Edition 2

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 885*

Earlier this month, four fortunate members of the NVN Committee were privileged to receive a guided tour of NUSHIP Canberra – the first of Navy's new Landing Helicopter Dock class of ships. The LHD Project Director Captain Craig Bourke RAN was kind enough to give us a personalised tour of this amazing new capability and although the raw statistics concerning this ship are impressive enough, being onboard and able to see first-hand was truly memorable. NUSHIP Canberra and her sister ship Adelaide (who arrived in Melbourne from Spain that very week) are sure to be 'game changers' in terms of Australia's amphibious warfare and peace-time logistic support capabilities.



*Nuship Adelaide with Canberra in the background.*

There is no doubt that these ships will be the busiest in the Fleet when they are commissioned because they possess such a wide range of capabilities. They are able to respond to a broad range of scenarios ranging from Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief to participation in an Amphibious Ready Group during wartime operations. They can 'show the flag', project regional

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**28 Feb** - Creswell Oration

**01 Mar** - HMAS Perth Assoc. (Vic)  
wreath laying at Shrine

**02 Mar** - On this day in 1874, HMVS Nelson was the first warship docked in the Alfred Graving Dock at Williamstown, Victoria.

**04 Mar** - HMAS Yarra Unit Citation on the river Yarra, Melbourne.

**24 Mar** - NHS meeting

**28-30 Mar** - WRANS/RAN Servicewomens reunion.

**28 Mar** - Scrapiron Flotilla luncheon

**06 Apr** - Daylight saving ends.

## Latest News

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### **Fond farewell**

At 2 o'clock on Thursday 20 February, forty years of naval history came to an end at West Head Gunnery Range, with the last live firing controlled by an M22 Gunnery Fire Control System, the last of its kind in operation in the world. [More.....](#)

### **P-8A Poseidon Aircraft to boost Australia's maritime surveillance capabilities**

The Government has approved the acquisition of eight P-8A Poseidon maritime surveillance aircraft. These state-of-the-art aircraft will

power, provide logistic support to land forces across the shore and act as an afloat 'command and control' hub for maritime, land and air assets. We heard of the ship's crew being able to act as the Air Traffic Controllers for military and commercial aircraft following a natural disaster in our region, the ship's capability to provide power generation for a small city, not to mention its massive cargo capacity that can easily transport over 1000 troops, their kit and transport assets and quickly move them ashore via the ship's aircraft and four embarked landing craft.

It was a tour with its fair share of jaw dropping moments, even for the most experienced naval officers in the tour group, such as the 600 man life rafts that the ship carries and the huge flight deck, hanger and vehicle decks. For those who remember the size of the aircraft carriers Melbourne and Sydney, add at least another 30% in length, width and height! The LHDs simply dwarf HMA ships Kanimbla and Manoora, which they are replacing. See a comparison below:



However, the differences are not just in size, but also in sophistication. For example, there are something like 60,000 sensors spread throughout the ship's compartments which monitor everything from fire/smoke, operating temperatures and machinery performance, all from a central location. As a result, managing Damage Control situations onboard the LHD will be very different from most other classes of ship. The means of communicating within the ship is also very advanced with all manner of computers, IT networks and video monitors fitted in almost every compartment. However, the 'old salts' among us were pleased to note that sound powered phones were still being used as a communications medium of last resort.

*dramatically boost Australia's ability to monitor its maritime approaches and patrol over 2.5 million square kilometres of our marine jurisdiction – an area equating to nearly 4 per cent of the world's oceans. [More.....](#)*

#### ***Joint Review of Positioning of Vessels Engaged in Operation Sovereign Borders is Complete***

*The Australian Customs and Border Protection Service (ACBPS) and the Australian Defence Force (ADF) have completed a Joint Review into the actions of ADF and ACBPS, including Border Protection Command, in relation to Australian vessels which entered Indonesian waters. [More.....](#)*

#### ***New \$1 Coin Shares The Spirit Of The Centenary Of ANZAC***

*The Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for the Centenary of ANZAC, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, and Parliamentary Secretary to the Treasurer, The Hon. Steven Ciobo MP, today unveiled a new \$1 circulating 2014 coin featuring the Centenary of Anzac logo and produced by the Royal Australian Mint. [More.....](#)*

#### ***Sexual violence in conflict examined by Australian Civil-Military Centre***

*The issue of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict affected environments is the topic of a new research paper produced by the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC) launched by Defence today. [More.....](#)*

#### ***HMAS Creswell hosts memorial church service for HMAS Voyager (II)***

*A memorial church service was held at HMAS Creswell on Sunday, 9th February 2014, for over 100 families and survivors of the tragic collision on 10 February 1964 between HMAS Voyager (II) and HMAS Melbourne (II)*

It was a great tour and a wonderful insight into Navy's future. NUSHIP Canberra is expected to be handed over to Navy for the usual battery of tests, trials and evaluations around the middle of 2014, with NUSHIP Adelaide around 18 months behind Canberra. Both ships will be home-ported in Sydney.

Latest reports say there is lots of activity on Nuship Canberra leading up to sea trials soon, engines being run, pods and bowthrusters being turned etc.

Our tour party also included Hugh Delehunty, the Victorian Minister for Veteran Affairs and Ted Baillieu, former Premier and Chair of the ANZAC Centenary Committee and this gave the NVN members a great opportunity to share our thoughts and plans for this very important period of national commemoration.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

VALE

- † RADM N.E. McDonald AO RAN, Rtd., 22 February 2014. Aged 91.
- † CMDR A.L. Rose, RAN, Rtd., 14 February 2014. Aged 100.
- † LME Donald Newman, R51396, 01 February 2014. Aged 80.
- † LWRSA Marjory Woolford, W833, 16 January 2014. Aged 89.

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



**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](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net) with details.

which resulted in the loss of 82 lives.  
[More.....](#)

***Ships to Decommission in 2014***

*It has been announced that HMA Ships Sydney, Tobruk, Brunei, Labuan and Tarakan will decommission in Dec this year. More on our website.*

***HMAS Melbourne seizes estimated \$AUS706 million of drugs in Middle East – [More.....](#)***

*HMAS Melbourne seizes another major drug haul in Middle East – [More.....](#)*  
*HMAS Melbourne and Pakistani warships work together to seize large quantity of cannabis resin – [More.....](#)*

***Celebrating 100 years of Australian submarines***

*Celebrations to mark the centenary of Australian submarines were officially launched today by Defence Minister Senator David Johnston in Darling Harbour. [More.....](#)*

***Minister's Transcript:***

*Thank you for coming along today to this important event. 100 years ago two British manufactured submarines sailed through Sydney Heads and gave Australia a whole new strategic capability. As many of you know I have not said very much about the ABC commentary on my Navy personnel operating out of Darwin. I have not said much because I have to confess I was extremely angry and have required a period of time to cool off. [More.....](#)*

***Navy League of Australia - Victorian Chapter - [February Newsletter](#)***

***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 8th April at**  
**Melb Naval Centre.**  
**All Ship/Unit/Branch**  
**Associations are**  
**encouraged to be**  
**represented!**

**Presentation of**  
**Unit Citation to**  
**HMAS YARRA**  
**04MAR14@0930**  
**Docklands**

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

**HMAS PERTH**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**1MAR14@1200**  
**Cenotaph**

**RAN Recruits**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**30MAR14@1030**

### Tolling the Bell

At the hour of the loss of VOYAGER the bell tolled at CRESWELL at the commemorative service to mark the tragic loss of 82 crew members of the ship.



## HMAS VOYAGER II

Monday 10FEB14 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the tragic MELBOURNE – VOYAGER collision off Jervis Bay. This was Australia's worst peacetime naval disaster, it resulted in the loss of 82 lives and had dramatic, far-reaching consequences which continue to be felt to this day.



Chief of Navy aboard HMAS CHOULES laying a wreath above the resting place of VOYAGER as the survivors commemorate the loss of 82 ship mates.

The 1960's was a decade marked by tragedies in many parts of the world with assassinations of political leaders, escalation of conflicts, the emergence of radical protest groups and outbreaks of violence against law and order being experienced on a disturbing scale. Though Australia in general felt the consequences of these less than most, it was a devastating decade for the Royal Australian Navy which suffered further with the loss of lives in a whaler tragedy

off the Queensland coast and a second collision in which MELBOURNE was involved in 1969. These inevitably had a seriously damaging effect on morale within the Service and public confidence in the Navy.

Over the years elapsed since then the RAN has rebuilt its standing, confidence and reputation. Whilst the Navy is small in size it is recognised as a highly professional arm of the Australian Defence Force which can be relied upon to discharge an increasingly wide range of tasks – military and humanitarian – with initiative, efficiency and effectiveness. Although it is of little comfort to the families and descendants of those most directly affected by the tragedies of the 1960's, they should be aware that the loss of their loved ones and the difficulties and pain they have endured since has not been in vain. It is partly as a consequence of lessons learnt from meticulous examination of the causes of those tragedies that regulations, training, operating practices and procedures have been changed to the extent that they contribute substantially to making the Service the proud, flexible and extremely versatile Navy it is today. Lest we forget.

*Article by NCCV Patron CDRE Jim Dickson AM MBE RAN Rtd*



### **Disclaimer**

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

### **Melbourne Naval Centre**

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

### **Navy Victoria Network**

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

# *President's Report*

We held our first NCCV General meeting of the year on Tuesday, 11FEB14 at the Melbourne Naval Centre, Toorak Road West. The primary agenda items were the flagship events for 2014, the first being the Battle of the Coral Sea on 4MAY14, at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance. These commemorative occasions are positive reminders to us of the effort made by so many when Australia was under threat of invasion. It is always gratifying to see the regulars at these key activities, however, it would be even better to greet more of the thousands of ex-Navy men and women, and also descendants of Veterans who reside in Melbourne. At our meeting, we also discussed progress with respect to the nominated ANZAC Centenary project for Navy, 'Answering the Call' project. This being the primary project selected by all of the significant ex-Navy organisations in support of the centennial of ANZAC. It seems there are governance issues that need to be sorted through before we actively pursue the project. Another gratifying matter was the enthusiasm demonstrated by a number of ILS and DEMS descendants. More on this next issue.

Marty Grogan and I had the honour of representing the NCCV at the Ex-Australian POWs Commemorative Service held at the Ballarat memorial on Sunday, 9FEB14. The NCCV placed a wreath alongside approximately 30 other organisations. There were several WWII POWs amongst the 500 who attended this memorable service. A remarkable commemorative service. If you have not seen the Ballarat Memorial, you should make the effort as you will no doubt be astonished at the splendor of this amazing piece of work. A commemorative service was also held on the 15FEB14 at the Shrine of Remembrance. This coincided with the fall of Singapore 72 years ago. Over 130,000 Service men and women became POWs, 15,000 being Australians.

One agenda item yet to be discussed is the level of input ex-Navy Ship/Unit/Branch Associations have into ANZAC Day. There may be a benefit in a coordinated approach, the current arrangement through the Kindred Organisations & Units Associations Committee minimizes the input from delegates (rank and file)

*Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## **HMAS YARRA**

On 4MAR14 it will be 72 years since the crew of HMAS YARRA demonstrated courage above and beyond as they endeavoured to slow a superior Japanese maritime force. At 0630 on that day YARRA became aware that the heavy cruisers ATAGO, TAKAO and MAYA, accompanied by a number of destroyers were bearing down on them. The convoy YARRA was escorting were ordered to disperse whilst YARRA deliberately turned towards the enemy. YARRA's three four inch guns were no match against the ten eight inch Japanese guns trained on them. There were three other ships with YARRA, all faced the hopeless situation together. All ships were pounded by the Japanese and sunk. YARRA notably kept on firing at the enemy right up to the moment it sunk, a mere 90 minutes after the first sighting. LCDR Robert Rankin RAN had knowingly ordered YARRA into danger to protect his convoy. The discipline of his ships company shone through as they went about their objective of saving the convoy. Leading Seaman Ronald Taylor was responsible for keeping YARRA's gun firing to the last.

## **HMAS STUART**

Navy is very fortunate to have a leader of the likes of Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN. On completion of STUART's recent deployment on border protection activities CN visited the ship to thank the Ship's Company. If CN's tweets are anything to go by, he has made an incredible effort to demonstrate his appreciation and recognition of the good work undertaken by Navy in order to their assigned objectives. Notwithstanding the sensitivity surrounding the movement of STUART during the latest deployment, no doubt CN's visit to the ship was welcomed and well received by the crew. ↓ CN & STUART's Crew in the Cafeteria.





## Bombing of Darwin

On the 19<sup>th</sup> February there were many commemorative services held around Australia in recognition of the bombing of Darwin on that day in 1942. Hard to imagine how the locals would have felt during that tragic time as this significant incursion into Australia occurred with the loss of many lives, ships and land assets. Several hundred people attended the commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. The bombing of Darwin was a stark reminder of the vulnerability of Australian to the potential of an invasion force. Whilst we may think differently today, given our knowledge of events and the logistics surrounding the movement of enemy and allied forces in the immediate north of Australia, the thinking at the time would have been one of extreme danger and trepidation of remaining in Darwin. The interpretive assets now on display in Darwin provide a meaningful level of realism.

## HMVS GORDON

More than a century ago there were a range of smaller craft used by the Victorian Navy that passed into the Commonwealth Navy at Federation. One such vessel was the GORDON, length 56 feet (7 metres), beam of 10 feet (3.1 metres) with a displacement of 12 tons, with a top speed of 15 knots. GORDON was originally introduced to the colony as a new style torpedo boat to replace the picket boats. The vessel was originally deployed between Williamstown Naval Dockyard and Point Cook. GORDON transferred to the Commonwealth Naval Forces at Federation, being part of the Navy First Fleet in 1911. After GORDON became part of the Navy it worked as a harbour tender and training ship. On 14AUG1914 GORDON was rammed by a picket boat. When raised GORDON was in poor condition and was scrapped. GORDON served with the Victorian Navy Naval Forces and then the RAN for 30 years.

## Australian Ex-POWs

The 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Ballarat Australian Ex-Prisoners of War commemorative service was held on Sunday, 9FEB14. As always, this service was well attended by more than 500 people, several being WWII Prisoners of War. The address was delivered by Dr Rosalind Hearder, author of 'Keep the Men Alive' an employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Rosalind's PHD revolved around the experience of Australian Prisoners of War and she conveyed several very interesting stories to the attendees. Rosalind's speech is at:

<http://www.powmemorialballarat.com.au/index.php/media-and-photos/speeches/2014-rosalind-hearder>

The Ballarat memorial is a wonderful site and to scan the huge number of Australian POWs is a sobering exercise. If you have not seen this memorial, we recommend you make an effort the next time you are in or near Ballarat. ↓ The Ballarat POW Memorial.



## Nuship CANBERRA

There was a rare visit to NUSHIP CANBERRA recently where Hugh Delehunty, the Victorian Minister for Veteran Affairs and Ted Baillieu, former Premier and Chair of the ANZAC Centenary Committee were given a first hand look over the ship. By all reports the Minister and former Premier were very impressed with the ship and in particular the work being undertaken by the workers at BAE, Williamstown Dockyard. During the visit, NUSHIP ADELAIDE was at Webb Dock being prepared for its shift to BAE. Today you can see both ships alongside at Nelson Pier. So far, the LDH project has been a successful collaboration between the Spaniard and Australian ship building. At 27,500 tonnes, fully laden these vessels will be the biggest ships ever owned by the RAN. The operational capabilities, in particular the amphibious facility will provide much needed support to the army. Note: if we wish to improve the profile of Navy, all ex-Navy organisations should consider inviting relevant members of the government and/or opposition to key activities. In VIC, invite the Chair of the ANZAC Centenary Committee. Below, CN tweeted CANBERRA & ADELAIDE at Dogtown.



## ANZAC Centenary (repeated)

The list of activities likely to be undertaken by Ship/Unit/Branch Associations in Victoria is yet to be fully developed. Whilst there are some well known WWI events listed on the program, the wider intentions of our many Associations needs to be drawn together for all to see. The location for a consolidated list is ideally the Navy Victoria Network website. The Navy incidents to be commemorated this year are: the first shot fired on 5AUG14, first offence and casualty at Battle of Bitia Paka 11SEP14 and loss of AE1 on 14SEP14. The Victorian Minister for Veteran Affairs, Mr Hugh Delehunty recently announced that the Veterans Council will have additional funding to support the ANZAC Centenary with allocations up to \$20K available. As the rules of engagement for the Veterans Council are quite rigorous there are discussions taking place within the Navy Fraternity on how best to facilitate requests. If need be contact the NCCV for further advice on this matter, or just go for it! A reminder, are your activities listed on the NVN calendar??

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



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## *Items of special interest*

**Scrap Iron Flotilla Association.** The association is arranging their annual lunch, scheduled for Friday, 28MAR14 at William Angliss Restaurant. The Scrap Iron Flotilla was the first Defence Force deployment of the Second World War and we are reminded of their exploits at this time each year. Those attending will meet and hear the Honourable Ted Baillieu, former Premier of Victoria and Chair of the State Governments ANZAC Centenary Committee address the workings of the committee as we move through the next 5 years. The cost will be \$35 pp, so RSVP Chris Banfield, at [scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com](mailto:scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com) or telephone Chris on 041 2832 148. Be there!!

**Navy Commemorative Dinner.** We are very pleased to announce that a NCCV Sub-Committee has been formed for the purpose of arranging a Navy Commemorative Dinner in October 2015. The committee comprises Jan Gallagher, Carmel Tom, David Dwyer and chaired by Rod Withers. It has been many years since such an event and we are excited about the prospect of creating an opportunity to bring our Navy Community together. Given the early notice there will be plenty of time for everyone to save their pennies in readiness.

**Galleries of Remembrance.** The key project being undertaken by the State Government for ANZAC Centenary is the Galleries of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance. This project is well underway with a completion date of Remembrance Day, 2014. The entire undercroft of the building has been cleared of soil and equipment to make way for new exhibition zones and improved education facilities for the thousands of school children who visit the Shrine of Remembrance every year. Visitations to the Shrine are in the vicinity of 650,000 per annum and this is expected to rise to over 1,000,000 over the next few years. This great interest in the memorial site has required improving facilities to accommodate the increased numbers.

**Western Port Oberon.** Things seem to be moving forward at Western Port as the Oberon is being prepared to be relocated inboard. The submarine will eventually be on display to the public, a long awaited proposition. The sailors that served in the Oberon's did so under demanding conditions and in locations remote from their home port. The display will be a meaningful interpretation of the dedication of our submariners over many years.