



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

February 2015

Volume 5 Edition 2

Editorial

NVN current membership: 981

Regardless of how we joined – as a Recruit at Cerberus, a JR at Leeuwin, a cadet at the Naval College or a graduate from University – those of us who were privileged to wear the uniform of the Royal Australian Navy probably look back with a mixture of pride and nostalgia on our early days in the Service. For most of us the pride of being outfitted in Naval uniform was accompanied by memories of introduction to a regime of discipline, regulation, drill and routine the likes of which we had not come across before. It was tough, demanding and sometimes even harsh - testing our inner qualities and will to succeed. It was a good initiation into life in Navy – a life which often entailed living in less-than-comfortable conditions in ships in a crowded, close-knit environment, being separated from loved ones for extended periods, carrying out hazardous operations at sea by day and night, pushing yourself to the limits to ensure you did not let the team down and facing hardships of a kind unknown to those outside the Service.

Shared adversity builds strong bonds between those who experience it. This is always particularly evident in times of conflict when the hardships placed on families and nations frequently brings out the best in terms of community spirit, selflessness and willingness to help each other. We see it in times of natural disasters like floods and bushfires and it is warming and uplifting to hear stories and see actions of assistance, generosity, sacrifice and compassion often from unlikely sources. Bonds established as a consequence of such activities are strong but unless deliberate efforts are made to nurture and renew them, they inevitably fade with time.

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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28 Feb – On this day in 1942 - Battle of Sunda Strait, HMAS PERTH & USS HOUSTON sunk after engaging Japanese forces.

01 Mar – HMAS Perth National Association Victorian Branch – Wreath Laying on the Forecourt.

01 Mar – On this day in 1909 the Commonwealth Naval and Military Force was created.

01 Mar – On this day in 1967 the RAN adopted the Australian White Ensign.

02 Mar – Creswell Oration.

04 Mar – On this day in 1942 HMAS Yarra was sunk.

15 Mar – RAN Recruits wreath laying at the Shrine

21 Mar – Operation Slipper Welcome Home Parade 2015 – Wreath Laying on the Forecourt, preceded by a march from the City to the Shrine.

23 Mar – NHS meeting - guest speaker: Captain Martin Holmes late of HM Royal Highland Fusiliers.

ANZAC Centenary Events

For details of all Centenary events in Victoria go to:

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

Latest News

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

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

The RAN in Korea

The Australian International Airshow 2015 pays tribute to Anzac and the heroes of military aviation.

On 31 August 1951, the Majestic class aircraft carrier, HMAS Sydney (III), under the command of Captain David H. Harries RAN, departed Australian waters to join the Commonwealth naval forces participating in the Korean War.

Minister for Defence – Statement on Iraq and Afghanistan and Operations in the Middle East.

Admiral Sir Victor Albert Trumper Smith, AC, KBE, CB, DSC, RAN

The Australian International Airshow 2015 pays tribute to Anzac and the heroes of military aviation.

Admiral Sir Victor Albert Trumper Smith, AC, KBE, CB, DSC, RAN, was born in Sydney on 9 May 1913. He was named after his uncle, Victor Albert Trumper, the great Australian cricketer.

Understanding DVA Card Arrangements

FAQs.

HMAS Stuart & Scrap Iron Flotilla Association

Annual Lunch – 27th March 2015

Guest of Honour: Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC, a great Australian Historian.

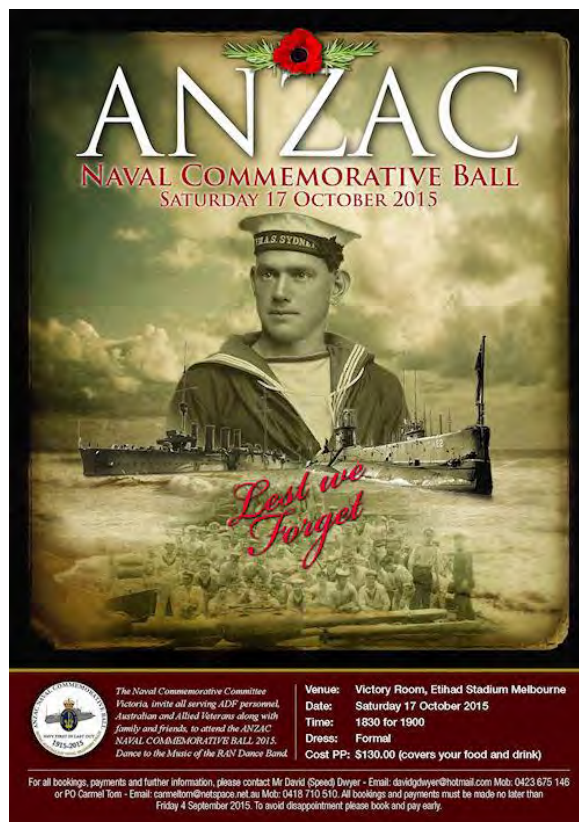
ADF Gap Year set to expand in 2016
Assistant Minister for Defence Stuart Robert this week announced the

The bonds built between Navy personnel through the course of a career are often even stronger than those established as a consequence of one particular incident or circumstance of the type described in the paragraph above. They are worth making considerable effort to refresh and renew. In this regard the first necessity is communication and it is through mediums like this website, journals, bulletins and other published documents like Rogues Yarn and the Three Headed Dog, that this can be achieved. But face-to face interaction is far and away the most effective way of reminding you of how important those bonds are and to this end it is hoped that members of the Victorian Navy community will make a special effort during this Anzac Centenary Year to attend functions/activities which will proudly show the public the vital role the RAN has played (and continues to play) in the defence of the freedoms we enjoy and too often take for granted.

The Anzac Naval Commemorative Ball scheduled to be held at Etihad Stadium on Saturday 17 October presents a unique opportunity to renew bonds with shipmates you may not have seen for years.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

Full details on the Commemorative Ball at: <http://navyvic.net>



VALE

- † LCDR D. Barnes RAN, 14 February 2015.
- † CPO W.L. Smith, S3412, 14 May 2014. Aged 100.
- † CDMR J.M Buchanan RAN Rtd., 08 February 2015. Aged 66.
- † ABTEL R.W. Paine, R50230, 01 February 2015.
- † WTR N.K. Griffith (nee Priddle), W2536, 05 December 2014. Aged 91
- † COXN J.H. Hicks, PM 4803, 31 January 2015. Aged 90.
- † POCK R. Denaro, 31 December 2014.
- † SURG CMDR S. Whitehead RAN Rtd., 14 July 2014. Aged 77.
- † LCDR R. Oyston RAN Rtd., 26 January 2015. Aged 72.

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

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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.

The following Organisations / Associations have their own webpages on Navy Victoria Network's website. (Click on any link to go to their page)

[Melbourne Naval Centre \(Inc\)](#)
[Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria](#)
[Naval Historical Society of Australia Inc \(Victorian Chapter\)](#)
[Navy League of Australia \(Victorian Chapter\)](#)
[HMAS Stuart & Scrap Iron Flotilla](#)
[HMAS Perth National Association - Victoria Area](#)
[Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships Association](#)
[Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia \(Victoria Division\)](#)
[WRANS Association \(Vic\)](#)
[AMC / LSI Association of Victoria](#)
[Australian Ex-Services Atomic Survivors Association Inc.](#)

Should you wish your association have a page just contact the webmaster at:
webmaster@navyvic.net

highly successful ADF Gap Year program will return for 2016, with applications opening on 2 March 2015.

Conclusion of Community Consultation about In-Person Service Delivery

DVA recently held a four week consultation to seek community views on whether the provision of stand-alone VAN offices in Tweed Heads in NSW and Geelong in Victoria is still the most appropriate way to support veterans.

Strategic direction of the Future Submarine Program

Today the Government announces the acquisition strategy for the Future Submarine Program. This announcement sets out further details of the competitive evaluation process that will be undertaken by the Department of Defence.

Calling for applications for Defence medals

Veterans, Australian Defence Force personnel and their families should apply now for their unclaimed medals, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Darren Chester, announced today.

Veteran Health and Wellbeing Projects Get Funding Boost

Forty projects that benefit the veteran and defence communities have received a funding boost under the Australian Government's Veteran and Community Grants program.

"Was the Navy Ready for Vietnam? Lessons and Legacies 50 Years On"

An invitation to a public seminar hosted by the Australian Centre for the Study of Armed Conflict and Society & the Sea Power Centre - Australia. Tuesday 24 March 2015 - UNSW Canberra (ADFA) Lecture Theatre North.

YOUNG AND JACKSON – THE PLAY

Young & Jackson is the prequel to Don Reid's award-winning comedy Codgers which toured nationally and is now a feature film. Like Codgers, Young & Jackson is a tender, funny and mischievous portrait of Australian men (and one young woman) dealing with the tensions of their times. Yet there is a serious intent at its heart - it sounds the depths of the reality of active duty.

Both plays are inspired by the reminiscences of some old mates of the playwright's who met at Flinders Training Depot in 1945 when aged only 17. They have remained fast friends ever since and still visit the gym regularly together to work out (sort of), chew the fat and tell the same hilarious and touching stories about being young recruits on the ran-tan in Melbourne. Their formative experiences in HMAS Cerberus all those years ago have given rise to this life-affirming piece of new Australian theatre which we'd like to share with the current RAN community - and those old salts who remember their own youthful antics...

In recognition of the contribution that RAN life makes to this play and in the year of the ANZAC Centenary, a special ticket price of \$40 (full price \$48) is available to members of the RAN community who use the code word **NAVY** when booking - for all performance and booking details, [download the flyer](#). "

NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below



Operation SLIPPER veterans to be recognised

People who deployed as part of Operation SLIPPER will have their service recognised with a series of marches across Australia on 21 March. Marches in every state and territory capital, and in Townsville, will honour about 35,000 Australians who took part in the operation.

Semaphore 1: 2015 - The Anzac Centenary

While discussing the RAN involvement in the Gallipoli campaign, this Semaphore also outlines the various anniversaries the RAN will commemorate this year.

year.

Easier Access to Mental Health Support for Veterans

The Abbott Government has made it easier for veterans to access mental health support under new arrangements announced today.

Defence Minister announces the gifting of two Landing Craft to the Philippines

Navy Tall Ship STS Young Endeavour Endeavour Rounds Cape Horn

The Royal Australian Navy operated Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour rounded Cape Horn on Australia Day, Day, 36 days into a 12-month circumnavigation of the world.

Naval Historical Society Association(Vic) -- [President's musings.....](#)

Navy League of Australia (Vic Div) [February 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

Submarines for Australia

A recent press article, Peter Jennings of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute indicated that “the tempo of federal and state election cycles does not benefit defence projects lasting decades” and that “broad bipartisan-ship on big defence projects is difficult to deliver”. The Collins submarine project was initiated in 1982 to replace the Oberon fleet of 6 submarines when the Liberal Government was in power. Open tenders, shortlisted definition studies and contract negotiations were conducted between 1983 and 1987 under Labour. They remained in power until the first submarine - COLLINS was launched in August 1993 followed by sea trials in 1994 & 1995. The Coalition parties were returned in 1996, a number of problems arose with the class that required recovery action as directed by the government. This attracted considerable media attention. From that start until now, Australia has managed the design of our own submarine fleet of 6 submarines, built and delivered them in Adelaide, and maintained, supported and operated them for 15 years. Australia now has the best conventional submarines in the region (probably the world) as well as a world class investment capability with facilities in South Australia, Western Australia and NSW together with associated industry infrastructure around the country.

Peter Jennings also says in his article that VADM Ray Griggs, then Chief of Navy and now Vice Chief of the Defence Force is quoted as saying at an ASPI conference in April 2014 that “We’re not looking at trying to deliver a science project that lives on the boundaries of the laws of physics”. It is implied here that VADM Griggs was saying that a ‘more modest design was needed, something like a modern version of the Collins Class submarines’. One take away from this is that the Chief of Navy was indicating that Navy was satisfied with the overall capability of the Collins class but would like it to be simpler and less complex, thereby improving reliability at sea.



Cameron Stewart on 7th February reported that the Japanese Defence Ministry’s advisory think tank has said that “Even if you have a Japanese submarine body, you have to put an American combat system into it and you (may) have to construct it in Australia because you have a strong labour (movement), so things are very complicated”.

Australia now has world class submarine construction and support facilities centred in Adelaide and Western Australia. This coupled with the long standing shipbuilding yards currently operated by BAE Systems in Williamstown represents a vital and professional element of our security and defence industries.

Some in Defence and possibly Government appear to believe that while we in Australia can deliver major Defence shipbuilding programmes, we have and will continue to struggle to have the capacity and scale of necessary investment and skilled resources to do so particularly when Defence and Navy now needs to consider both new submarines and new surface combatant ships to replace the ANZAC frigates in the next 15 years.

Strong leadership is therefore needed to change this perceived barrier to future Defence needs into an opportunity by assessing the way forward with a “whole of nation” approach that might ‘venture share the facilities, skills and experience’ of shipyards in South Australia and Victoria as well as elsewhere in the country.

Clearly, there is a need to seek a value for money solution under a competitive evaluation framework for new submarines. Of equal importance is the need to build on the many world class achievements and 30 years experience with the Collins Submarines. Central to our forward journey is to extract benefit from what we have learnt with the Collins programme and the engagement of the ASC as the key supplier. After all, ASC is wholly owned by the Australian Government.

Article by CAPT Peter Wickham RAN Rtd



Disclaimer

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

Navy Victoria Network

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

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

Log on to

<http://navyvic.net>

Melbourne Naval Centre

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

President's Report

Our fulsome article on page one by CAPT Peter Wickham will hopefully stir the brain cells of those within the Navy fraternity who have the capacity to actively engage in the current discussion regarding replacement of the aging fleet of Collins Class submarines. Peter joined as a youngster from Queensland, studied engineering and went on to serve in ships [or is that targets] and submarines until he payed off in 1995. For 8 years he was directly involved in the early stages of the Collins programme, a man who knows his stuff!

The people of Geelong must have been thrilled to discover Warship *Sydney* alongside Cunningham Pier last weekend. As mentioned elsewhere in this edition, the *Sydney* Ship Association was a tad disappointed to find out that HMAS *Sydney* visited Victoria for the last time before being decommissioned without any notification. Obviously security is such these days that everyday Australians are not encouraged to demonstrate their support for Navy, a pity! The NCCV General Meeting was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on the second

Tuesday of February. This meeting followed the HMAS Voyager Commemorative Service held in the Sanctuary beforehand. Our next meeting will hopefully be held at the Camberwell City RSL rooms. This is primarily to experience the location, insofar as convenience to public transport & parking arrangements. This exercise may be a prelude to the English Speaking Union facility at Toorak Road West being sold off early next year. We hope each Ship/Unit/Branch Association will send a representative to the meeting. The Executive is also considering what changes need to be made to improve access to our meetings and how best to urge others to link into our various associations. One initiative underway is to encourage the Naval Association of Australia to take a more thoughtful approach to commemoration. There is a view that endorsement and/or carriage of the legacy of our predecessors is central to the sustainability of our various interest groups - let's work together!

Yours aye, Terry Makings

RANCBA - NEW ZEALAND CRUISE 2016

The RAN Communications Branch Association (RANCBA) Victoria seeks interested personnel to come and join them on what will be a wonderful trip. 142 members of the Navy fraternity enjoyed the first cruise to the Pacific and at this stage 98 have already booked for their second cruise. The cruise will be → aboard the 'Explorer of the Seas', owned by the Royal Caribbean Shipping Company. The ship will depart Circular Quay on the 28JAN16, heads for the New Zealand Fiords. During the cruise the ship will go alongside at six ports and on one occasion remains at anchor. Duration of the cruise is 14 nights, returning to Circular Quay, Sydney on 15FEB16. RANCBA are negotiating for group benefits on this cruise, these will be advised when finalised. Right now there is a special offer: pay full fare for 1st passenger and the 2nd passenger, in a cabin, is half price. This is coupled to onboard credits ranging from USD \$200 to \$400 per cabin, plus an additional credit of USD \$100 for Serving and ex-Service military. More information regarding onboard activities, such as welcoming cocktail party, formal dinners and other bonus activities once finalised will be shared with the group. For those that enjoyed the first cruise, the extra bonus activities for this trip are likely to be similar to the excellent activities enjoyed during our last cruise.

MS Explorer of the Seas



Anybody interested should visit a travel agency and obtain a current copy of the Royal Caribbean cruise guide 2014/2015/2016 to check out the ship and cruise information. The ships itinerary is listed in the New Zealand cruise section, be aware this cruise is *in reverse* to the one listed. Anybody interested should contact our group co-ordinator Kath Williams at Helloworld Travel Rowville, Victoria by phone on 03 9764 8487 or email kath.rowville@helloworld.com.au to make arrangements. Kath will be able to answer any questions you may have regarding the cruise and benefits. The RANCBA would like any (ex) Defence family interested to join our group. We currently have a Stoker, Shipwright, Coxswain, Army and Air Force personnel in our group

Navy Week 2015

As you will be well aware, there has been no Navy Week in Victoria for an awfully long time and this year we hope to ginger up some interest to see if we can make something of Navy Week again. We all know that Navy has other things to deal with so the effort to make this work rests with the 'old salts'! At this stage there are several routine events being arranged and these are well familiar to the Navy community, they are: Seafarers Church Service and Navy Wreath Laying Service scheduled for Sunday 18OCT15; then Open Day at *HMAS Cerberus* the following weekend, 15OCT15. To realise a week of Navy stuff, we also have the ANZAC Navy Centenary Ball on Saturday, 17OCT15 as the headline event of the week. This will be at Etihad Stadium. We want each Ship or other Association, including Navy Sub-Sections and RSL Sub-Branchs to buy one or more tables (10 people at \$130/person) so that we max out the attendance at this black tie event. During the week we are planning golf/bowls sporting events and a seminar. The seminar is for the more sedate members of our fraternity, but it will be designed to excite anyone with a little interest in defence, particularly between WWI and now.

POW Service

The 11th Anniversary service of the Prisoners of War Memorial at Ballarat was held on Sunday, 11FEB15.



David Manning:
Survivor HMAS Perth
POW F/East & Japan

Attendance of well over 500 people and there was a large number of wreaths placed at the memorial as the service reflected on the losses encountered by Australia whilst these men and women were interned in Europe, the Far East and Japan. David Manning recited the Ode to Sailors & RADM Doolan recited the Ode to the Fallen.



RADM Ken Doolan
Federal Pres RSL



Representing the three services:
CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN

Scrap Iron Flotilla

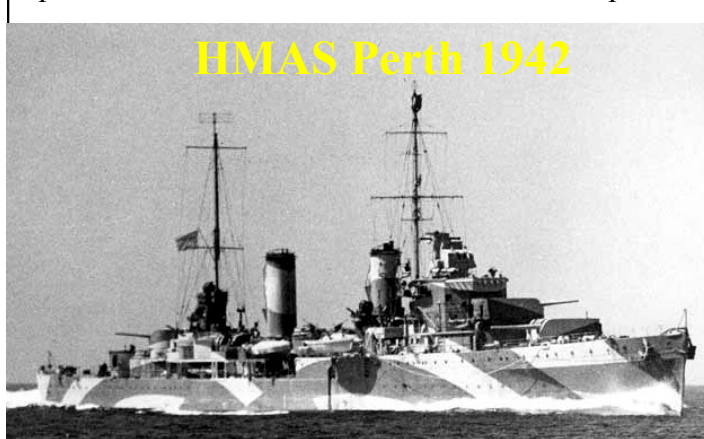


Would you like to meet one of Australia's living legends, then come along to the Scrap Iron Flotilla Association annual lunch on Friday, 27MAR15, at the William Angliss Restaurant.

Cost will be a trifling \$35 per person payable at the door, but you must make a reservation beforehand. The guest speaker is Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC, a celebrated historian. Professor Blainey is an exciting presenter on virtually any matter of great importance to Australia. He has made a positive and genuine contribution to the country by way of thoughtful conversation, conveyed by his many books. The Scrap Iron Flotilla, through its endeavours during WWII also had an impact on Australia through the success of their work in the Mediterranean and elsewhere during that conflict. Ships that inherited the Battle Honours of those earlier Warships have continued the legacy through courage and professionalism. Should you wish to attend this lunch, please advise the Association by emailing scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com or telephone 03 9429 9489 (leave message) or 0412 832 148.

HMAS PERTH

The annual HMAS Perth Commemorative Service will be conducted at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 1400 on 1MAR15. In February 1942, *Perth* survived the Allied defeat at the Battle of the Java Sea, only then to be torpedoed and sunk by the Imperial Japanese Navy at the Battle of Sunda Strait. Of the 681 sailors aboard, 353 were killed in battle. All but four of the 328 survivors were captured as prisoners of war: 106 died in captivity, and the surviving 218 were returned home to Australia after the war. *USS Houston* was also sunk on that day, with a crew of 1,061, 368 survived, including 24 of the 74-man USMC detachment, only to be captured by the Japanese and also interned with their *Perth* shipmates.



HMAS Perth 1942

ANZAC Centenary

The ANZAC Centenary Committee of Victoria met recently, the Hon John Eren MP new Minister for Veterans attended. John Eren came to Australia from Turkey as a youngster and has an extraordinary affinity between his home country and Australia. It will be an exciting time for the Minister and us over the next four years as centenary events refresh our understanding of WWI. The Minister brings a very new and enriched perspective to the role. Our next major occasion is ANZAC Day, the expectation is that well over a 100,000 people will attend the dawn service at the Shrine of Remembrance. If you intend to witness this service, make sure you are aware of the public transport arrangements as there will be no parking in St Kilda Road, close to the Shrine. There will be a major effort made to provide the 'gun fire breakfast', to be located adjacent to Victoria Barracks. Details of the march will be publicised the week before ANZAC Day, but for Navy the arrangements remain the same as usual - muster in Flinders Street-west of Swanston Street well before 0900.

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



Items of special interest

HMAS Sydney decommissioning. *Sydney* made an unannounced visit to Geelong over the weekend of 21/24 February. Given the positive support the *Sydney* Association provides to the Navy fraternity it is a pity the Association was not invited to visit the ship. Hopefully Geelong was appropriately thrilled to see *Sydney* alongside for the last time. HMAS *Sydney* proceeded to Sydney to pay off!

Sub Summit. It's timely to be involved in the submarine conversation, given the critical nature of this project. There is a high powered summit to be held in Adelaide on Tuesday, 24MAR15 with the Prime Minister, Defence Minister and a wide range of experts and commentators in attendance. Two retired Japanese Admirals will be there to put you straight.

ANZAC Navy Commemorative Ball. Just do it! The NCCV and the organising committee are very keen to receive your commitment to the black tie ball to be held on Saturday, 17OCT15 at Etihad Stadium. Contact Mr David (Speed) Dwyer email: davidgdwyer@hotmail.com or ring: 0423 675 146, or email Carmel Tom: carmeltom@netspace.net.au and Carmel's telephone number is 0418 710 510. Time to get the skates on, let us know you are in!

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NCCV General Meeting. The next meeting of the NCCV will be on the second Tuesday of April at 1030. The venue for this particular meeting only will be the Camberwell City RSL, 403 Camberwell Road, Camberwell. They schedule their meetings on the 1st Monday of the month at 1330. they can be contacted on telephone: 9882 5580.

HMAS Voyager. On Tuesday, 10FEB15 some 30 people, 4 of whom were Ex-*Voyager* men attended the service to reflect on the loss of *Voyager* II some 51 years ago and the contribution made by so many during WWII by *Voyager* I. ←LtoR



are: Don Barker, Ray 'Pedro' Rich OAM BEM, John 'Rebop' Golotta and Peter Dusting.

HMAS Bataan. TS *Bataan* annual parade will be held on Sunday, 24MAY15 at Doveton Army Reserve Barracks - time to be advised. The *Bataan* Association have scheduled their annual reunion in SEP15 at Coolangatta, Queensland. More later.

Commemorative Services. The key services are listed on the February, NVN news page.