



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

February 2017

Volume 7 Edition 2

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1056

On the morning of the 1st March 1967, the Australian National Line cargo ship *Boonaroo* was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy for war service. This event, in of itself, was not unusual as merchant ships had been requisitioned by navies for centuries. What made this particular commissioning noteworthy was that *Boonaroo* was the first vessel to be commissioned under a distinctly Australian White Ensign.

Interestingly, this distinction did not occur on 1st March 1901, when the Australian colonies transferred their naval and military forces to the Federal Government. Nor did it occur on 10th July 1911, the date when the title 'Royal Australian Navy' was granted. Rather, it was Australia's participation in the Vietnam War that was the trigger for the adoption of a unique design which at the time was described as a "*white flag with the Union Flag in the upper canton at the hoist with six blue stars positioned as in the Australian flag*".

By way of a short history lesson, prior to the establishment of the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian colonial navies had flown uniquely Australian ensigns. This was a Blue ensign defaced by the badge of the individual colony. During the 1909 Imperial Conference, the question of what ensign the Dominion Navies would fly was first raised. The representatives from Australia and Canada proposed that the ensign should be a white ensign defaced by the emblem of the particular Dominion. However, no decision was reached at the time.

In August 1910, the British Admiralty raised the issue concerning the status of dominion warships and proposed that they should fly the white ensign. Shortly after this, the

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

...

27 Feb – NHS meeting – all welcome

01 Mar – 117th anniversary of the creation of the Commonwealth Naval & Military Force

01 Mar – 50 years ago today the RAN adopted the Australian White Ensign

01 Mar – HMAS Perth / USS Houston commemoration service at the Shrine

01 Mar – Creswell Oration

04 Mar – 75th anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Yarra

12 Mar – Blue Water Men concert, RAN Veterans band at Frankston Arts Centre.

02 Apr – Daylight saving ends

09 Apr – 75th Anniversary sinking of HMAS Vampire

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>

...

The Royal Australian Navy Veterans Band Concert

From around Australia, the Men and Women of the RAN Veterans Band will gather in Melbourne in March 2017, for the 45th Anniversary of the release

Parramatta City Council sought advice as to the flag to be worn by *Parramatta* (I) as they wished to present her with one. They were informed that *Parramatta* (I) would fly the Australian Blue Ensign on her arrival in Australia and until the matter of an ensign had been resolved with the Admiralty.



The British White Ensign flown prior to the 1 March 1967

Australian opinion favoured a uniquely Australian ensign, but the Admiralty continued to resist and insisted that the

Dominion Navies use the white ensign. The Admiralty eventually won out and the ships of the newly formed Royal Australian Navy flew the white ensign. There the matter rested until 1965.

Australian warships regularly found themselves mistaken for their British counterparts. One attempt to alleviate this was made by the executive officer of HMAS *Anzac* during the Korean War, when he had a kangaroo-shaped 'weathervane' made and mounted to the destroyer's mainmast. This is believed to be the basis for the red kangaroo symbol now fixed to the funnels or superstructure of major RAN vessels.

On 28 October 1965, the Member for Batman, Mr SJ Benson MP, whilst speaking on the Naval Estimates argued that Australia should have its own, distinctive white ensign. His point was that Australian ships were engaged in a war flying the ensign of another country. The Minister for the Navy informed the House on the same day, that the Navy was already looking at possible variants of the white ensign which would carry a distinctly Australian appearance.

The Chief of Naval Staff subsequently sought the views of other members of the Naval Board and his senior officers. Following this consultation, the matter was considered by the Naval Board on 21 January 1966. The Board decided to recommend to the Government "*that the Royal Australian Navy should have its own unique white ensign*".

The Minister for the Navy, Mr F Chaney MP, informed the Prime Minister of the Naval Board's decision and the formal approval

of the iconic album "*Blue Water Men*" released by EMI in 1972 to critical acclaim. [Full details.....](#)

Houthi "suicide boats"

The "suicide boats" used by Yemen's Houthi fighters during the recent attack on Royal Saudi Navy frigate *Al-Madinah* were actually unmanned boats, a U.S. Navy Vice Admiral told *Defense News* in a recent interview.

New headphones music to the ears

Bluetooth headsets could soon be introduced onto the bridges of Australian frigates thanks to the enterprise and innovation of two young engineers onboard HMAS *Newcastle*.

Melbourne celebrates 25 years of service

HMAS *Melbourne* has celebrated 25 years since she entered service with the RAN, proving her motto, 'She gathers strength as she goes'.

US Navy carrier strike group starts South China Sea patrol

U.S. Navy's aircraft carrier *USS Carl Vinson* and the attached carrier strike group entered the South China Sea and started patrols in the disputed region, the U.S. Navy announced

RAN Sea Power Conference 2017, 3 - 5 October 2017

The 10th RAN Sea Power Conference is held as part of the biennial Pacific Maritime Congress and Exposition.

Semaphore 1: 2017 –

Commemorating 1942, The Royal Australian Navy's Darkest Year

Austal launches second Cape-class patrol boat for Australian Navy

Australian shipbuilder Austal launched the tenth Cape-class patrol boat for the Royal Australian Navy at its Henderson, Western Australia, shipyard on February 14.

of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was requested. Royal assent to the new ensign was granted on 7 November 1966.

The formal announcement of the new ensign was made by the Prime Minister on 23 December 1966. Originally, it was intended to introduce the new ensign on the 1 May 1967, but this was subsequently amended to 1 March 1967 for the *Boonaroo* commissioning. The official changeover occurred on 1 March 1967, with all ships and establishments hoisting the new flag that day.



The Australian White Ensign

While *Boonaroo* was the first ship commissioned under the new ensign, the frigate HMAS *Stuart* was the first to use

the ensign when the ship's company unofficially flew the flag on 25 December 1966 as part of Christmas Day celebrations while deployed to the Far East Strategic Reserve.

Only two RAN ships served in conflict under both the old and new ensigns: the aircraft carrier (later troopship) HMAS *Sydney* and the destroyer HMAS *Vendetta*.

Sources: The Royal Australian Navy Website and Wikipedia

This monthly newsletter is intended to be just a snapshot of what is occurring in Victoria that is likely to be of interest to you. Please visit our website at <http://navyvic.net/> where far more information can be found including: Upcoming Events and Commemorations, articles covering topics of naval history as well as developments within the RAN of today. There are links to numerous ex-Navy associations and useful links to websites of interest. The NVN website is a treasure trove of useful information and is constantly updated to make sure that it remains relevant to our now 1050 subscribers. Please visit the website regularly to keep yourself fully informed of what's going on.

Don't forget the following upcoming events – details can be found on the website:

01 Mar – HMAS *Perth* / USS *Houston* service at the Shrine

01 Mar – Creswell Oration

US Navy WWII cruiser wreck off Indonesia still intact, survey reveals

The wreck of the U.S. Navy's World War II cruiser USS Houston (CA 30) lying in Indonesian waters appears to be intact, an analysis of data from a multi-beam sonar survey has revealed.

USS George H.W. Bush starts ISIS strikes from the Med

U.S. Navy's carrier strike group has started air strikes against ISIL from the Eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Navy develops tactical unmanned aircraft capability

The next phase of introducing an unmanned aircraft system capability to the Royal Australian Navy has progressed.

New Zealand Navy studying 'liquid Himalayas'

The New Zealand Defence Force has launched a moored wave buoy which will help study gigantic Southern Ocean waves described as "liquid Himalayas".

European researchers complete naval corrosion protection study

European researchers, enterprises and academic organizations have completed a long-running study on ways to protect navy ships from corrosion.

100-year-old patrol boat has Australian Navy service history

A patrol boat that was already 30 years old when it was acquired for war service is still going strong – 104 years after its construction.

World-leading research to improve PTSD treatment for veterans

Minister for Veterans' Affairs and Defence Personnel Dan Tehan today officially launched the trial of a new intensive treatment program for current and former ADF members

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † ME M.E. Munro, R95142, 31 January 2017. Aged 67.
- † LCDR R. Hollister AM RAN, 02 February 2017.
- † CPOCK W. Chester, 07 February 2017.
- † LCDR I. McConnochie OAM RAN, 13 February 2017. Aged 86.
- † LSRO V.W. Daley, R93187, 14 February 2017. Aged 72.
- † ME G. Kuschert, R65494, 15 February 2017. Aged 69.
- † ERA V.R.R. Ward, R42645, 20 February 2017.
- † POWTR J. Spreadborough, 20 February 2017.

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.

HMAS Sydney III Model – c.Korean War



CDRE Jim Dickson and Mr. Max Montague

CDRE Jim Dickson, AM, MBE, RAN (Ret'd) inspects the magnificent new model of the HMAS *Sydney III* as it was in Korea, complete with squadrons of Sea Fury and Fairey Firefly aircraft. It took world renowned scratch model maker Max Montague 14 months to complete. Max is regarded as one of the top 10 scratch model makers in the world. He served on the carrier in 1956 during his National Service. CDRE Dickson served time on the *Sydney* as a Midshipman and posted off one month prior to Max joining the ship.

Note: Larger photos can be view in the NVN's Photo Gallery:

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

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



who have post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Senate Inquiry into Suicide

DVA Secretary Simon Lewis PSM today reminded members of the veteran and Defence communities that support is available for anyone who may be disturbed by the Senate Inquiry into Suicide by veterans and ex-service personnel public hearings.

Defence Chief launches 'Navy and the Nation'

In Canberra on 30 January, senior Defence leaders gathered at the Australian War Memorial to help launch a book that highlights Australia's reliance on sea trade and a formidable Navy to protect sea lanes and prosperity.

Mission to Seafarers Art Prize

The Exhibition of works will be open from the 6th of October to the 27th of October 2017. Many fine works will be on display and for sale.

Darwin's submarine - 75 years on

Outside Darwin's harbour, a Japanese submarine still lies with her 80-man crew on board.

US Navy might replace Kevlar with eel slime

U.S. Navy scientists are looking into the possibility of developing a ballistic protection material that would be similar to Kevlar, with the only difference being the fact that the new material would be produced from eel slime.

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President's February musings.....

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 5th March** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
2. **75th anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait**, commemoration service remembering the loss of HMAS PERTH and USS HOUSTON will be conducted at 1130, **Wednesday 1st March** at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance.
3. **HMAS YARRA** Commemoration Service, at 1100, **Sunday 5th March** at the Spotswood HMAS Yarra memorial. See the NVN Website for more details.

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. Email Craig at the MtS to book: marketing@missionto seafarers.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.

Let it Flourish

Three Australian Warships have been named *Perth*. The first was a light cruiser built by the United Kingdom in 1936, commissioned as HMS Amphion. The Amphion deployed to the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during her first three years, then in 1939 it was sold to Australia. Commissioned HMAS *Perth*, the ship set sail for the USA, to be at the World Fair, New York. The crew had travelled by ship to the UK and then proceeded on a long journey back home. After New York, steaming down the west coast of Venezuela WWII was declared. At the time, *Perth* I was the only Allied warship in the western Atlantic, her immediate duty was to search the region for German shipping. *Perth* did not leave the Caribbean area until MAR40. *Perth* arrived in Australia on 31MAR40. Between APR40 and DEC40 *Perth* undertook patrols and convoy duties along the Australian coast. *Perth* was then sent to Europe as part of the 7th Cruiser Squadron. *Perth* spent much of her time in the Mediterranean, where she was continuously under threat of air attack and endured many air raids. *Perth* was constantly deployed on convoy duties, with a major engagement occurring off Mattapan. The Battle of Mattapan was a crucial engagement for *Perth*, having a major influence over the success of that operation. It was a taxing year for *Perth*, returning to Australia for major repairs and an

upgrade. When *Perth* I was made shipshape it was back to work, critical convey duties along the east coastline of Australia then deployment to the American-British-Dutch-Australian Area in Southeast Asia. One vital task being to escort empty tankers from Australia and recoup much needed fuel from Indonesia. It was later in FEB42 that *Perth* I was in company with USS *Houston*, each had been battered by the Japanese. At this point supplies aboard were low, particularly ammunition. It was on the 28FEB42 that both ships found themselves pitched against a much superior Japanese task force. The outcome was tragic, with *Perth* I sunk minutes after midnight and then *Houston* sunk some 30 minutes later on 1MAR42. 1071 sailors were lost on that day. Those that managed to survive the loss of their ship became prisoners of war and suffered mercilessly at the hands of the Japanese. Wednesday 1MAR17 is the 75th anniversary of the loss of *Perth* and *Houston*. The loss of 1071 sailors is central to our very existence as a free Australia. As we enjoy the comfort of living in Australia, think about being thrust into the sea, pitch black, no ship with screaming injured sailors all about - only to be taken to the Burma Railway! Surely it is not too much trouble to support the service at 1130 on 1MAR17 at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. *May we be worthy of their sacrifice!*



Hunt and Strike



HMAS YARRA II (U77) was commissioned on 21JAN36. On 2MAR42, *Yarra* arrived at Tjilatjap, Indonesia with the depot ship *Anking*, the tanker *Francol*, and the minesweeper *MMS-51*: ↓ *Yarra* set out to escort the 3 ships to Fremantle. The next day they rescued 40 survivors off the Dutch ship *Paragi*. Early on 4MAR42, the ships encountered the Japanese cruisers *Atago*, *Takao*, and *Maya*. The cruisers were accompanied by four destroyers. *Yarra*'s CO, LCDR Robert Rankin RAN laid down a smokescreen and ordered the ships to scatter. The plan being for *Yarra* to delay the Japanese warships. *Yarra*'s gallant effort was futile, the Allied ships were sunk, then *Yarra* was fired upon until it too sunk. Amongst the heroic acts that occurred during that horrific encounter, the actions of Leading Seaman Ronald Taylor stand out, as reported by survivors: after the order to 'abandon ship' was given by the CO, just before he too made the supreme sacrifice. LS Taylor ignored the order, choosing to remain at this post - Captain of the gun. Shipmates who had abandoned the ship, reported seeing LS Taylor's gun continuing to fire upon the enemy, whilst the Japanese continued to shell the ship until it too disappeared beneath the waves. This heroic action by LS Taylor was made



known by one of the survivors of the ordeal. 34 survivors from the ship's company (and the *Paragi*) managed to remove themselves from the ship before it sunk. Only 13 of the 34 survivors were rescued, most succumbed to their injuries or the extreme heat of a day and cold at night. The lucky few survivors were rescued on 9MAR42 by the Dutch submarine *K XI*. The exploits of *Yarra* II will be commemorated at 1100 on Sunday, 5MAR17 at the HMAS *Yarra* Memorial, located at Spotswood, Victoria. The HMAS *Yarra* Memorial is the outcome of a significant effort by Angus Walsh OAM who was on HMAS *Yarra* II. Angus was the driving force to set up the Memorial and he was ably supported by Dr Ronald Goldberg. The organisers of the service have issued an open invitation to Service, ex-Service men and women, along with any descendants or members of the public interested in the legacy of our sailors service and sacrifice in war and peace time. Contact Christine Hirschfield by email at hirchy@bigpond.com or telephone 03 5160 1448 before **28FEB17**. *Yarra* II was awarded the battle honours: Libya 1941 and East Indies 1942. *Yarra* II was retrospectively awarded a Unit Citation for Gallantry. On 4MAR14, the anniversary of *Yarra*'s loss, the Governor General and Chief of Navy presented the Citation Pennant to the ship's company of HMAS *Yarra* IV (M 87). *Yarra* IV will be in Docklands, Melbourne over the weekend of 4/5MAR17 and if you contact Christine now you may be able to join the visitors list to tour *Yarra* IV.

Copy & Send

25 years on!

REMEMBERING HMAS YARRA WW11 And All Who Sailed in Her

Memorial Service - Newport

Please return this Registration Form ASAP and No Later than 28th Feb 2017

"PLEASE CLEARLY AND FULLY FILL OUT IN PRINTED BLOCK LETTERS
AND MARK EACH BOX"

FIRST NAME _____ SURNAME _____

ADDRESS _____

STATE _____ POST CODE _____ PHONE _____

EMAIL _____ FAX _____

	YES	NO
I will be attending "YARRA" Memorial Newport Sunday 5.3.2017.		
I will be inviting guests (Numbers Please)		
I WILL OR WILL NOT BE REQUIRING REFRESHMENTS AT THE SAUSAGE SIZZLE- IF YES HOW MANY WILL BE ATTENDING?		
I WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE RECEPTION AT THE ALTONA R.S.L. CLUB - IF YES, ADVISE HOW MANY WILL ATTEND.		
Are you interested in volunteering to occasionally clean the memorial or check on the condition of it?		
PLEASE Record the name of the "YARRA" Family Member, relative or friend you wish to remember during the service and also on to your identification name tag that is provided at the service.		

Have you any special requests, suggestions or remarks?: _____

As there are annual ongoing costs involved e.g., postage and administration costs, maintenance to the Memorial itself and to enable us to continue on with our annual Memorial Service, any assistance would be greatly appreciated - we are a non-profit organisation and rely on volunteers and monetary contributions.

THANKYOU

DONATIONS, LARGE OR SMALL ALWAYS WELCOME.

CHEQUES/MONEY ORDERS: HMAS YARRA NATIONAL MEMORIAL - VICTORIA

HMAS *Melbourne* is a proud warship that has served Australia well. With three inherited battle honours, theatres of war that provide an indelible link between today's Navy and that of yester year. The longevity of the life of our warships and the vitality of our sailors who make them as efficient as they are, stems from a proud tradition of dedicated service in a wide range of circumstances, peace keeping and peace making where and when required. 'She gathers strength as she goes'



Where fate calls

Voyager, a name shared by two great warships. The 1st *Voyager* was a member of the Scrap Iron Flotilla, one of five warships deployed to Europe immediately war was declared in 1939. *Voyager* was a ship that forged a reputation for being there when needed. *Voyager* I was lost when it went aground at Betano Bay and was then destroyed as it was bombed by the Japanese. Thankfully all of the crew and the troops being transported were able to get off the ship. *Voyager* II was not so fortunate, the consequence of a collision with the aircraft Melbourne, sunk with the loss of 81 sailors and one Dockyard worker. This was a significant loss felt by the entire nation. ↓ Pictured RtoL, Vern Bechaz,



served in *Voyager* prior to her loss and Don Barker, a survivor of the tragedy. Pictured in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance after the commemoration service. A great painting of *Voyager* II by Randal Wilson was on display.

75 years on

In 2017 the Navy, Ex-Service Associations and the Nation will commemorate the 75th anniversaries of several crucial Navy losses with a series of commemoration activities. Ex-Service Associations will host services for HMA Ships **Perth, Yarra and Canberra**. Navy will host services for HMA Ships **Vampire, Kuttabul, Nestor & Armidale**.

HMAS Vampire Service: 1 APR 17 at Navy Heritage Centre, Garden Island, Sydney. **HMAS Kuttabul** 1 JUN 17 at Garden Island. **HMAS Nestor** 16 JUN 17 at Navy Heritage Centre, Garden Island, Sydney. **HMAS Armidale** 1 DEC 17, Armidale, NSW. WWII crew members of **Vampire, Nestor, Kuttabul and Armidale**, widows and families who are interested in attending the memorial services are invited to register their interest with Navy Events at Navy.Events@defence.gov.au. Members of the public are also welcome to register their interest with Navy Events as well. These services are the most significant held in recent years. 75 years on we need to appreciate our connection to the service and sacrifice made by so many of our forebears.

Always Navy

Navy Week Victoria - 2017

Australian White Ensign

50th Anniversary

go to navyvic.net for more information

Navy Ball

Saturday 21 OCT 17

Dress: Black Tie & miniatures

Cost \$155/pp

Start time 1900

Venue is the iconic

Melbourne Town Hall

Guest of honour will be
Chief of Navy

VADM Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN

All Service, ex-Service men & women, Mariners plus families and friends are encouraged to attend.

Arrange a table, or go solo - book now!

Email Sandra: navy.week.victoria@gmail.com or
Post to 7 Clarence Place, Cranbourne East, 3977

Please include a telephone number.

Melbourne 25

If you are one of the many who served in one of the Warships named *Melbourne*, now is the opportunity to join with *Melbourne* III's ship's company as they celebrate the 25 years of the ship's contribution to Australia's defence. This will also be a great time to rub shoulders with our young men and women who we rely upon to keep the peace at sea.

HMAS MELBOURNE

25th Anniversary

RECEPTION

JOIN US IN CELEBRATING THE LEGACY

TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM
WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM.AU

ALL WELCOME

"VIRE ACQUIRIT EUNDO"



FRIDAY
APRIL 28
2017
@
DALTON HOUSE
PYRMONT



TICKETS ONLY \$125 CHECK HMAS MELBOURNE III
FACEBOOK PAGE FOR FURTHER DETAILS

CANAPES ON ARRIVAL / 3 COURSE MEAL / DRINKS PACKAGE / NAVY BAND / DOOR PRIZES

FORMAL ATTIRE

President's Dit

2017 is year of significant anniversaries, each an occasion that encourages us to remember the losses of so many of our predecessors. Many of us never experienced war, notwithstanding time off Vietnam or during other campaigns where live ammunition was ramped into the barrel, maybe it was a missile prepared for loading or even on the launcher. The point being, we need to search for our own connection with those that went before us. Understanding the importance of Navy's legacy is vital so we never forget the service and sacrifice made by so many young and not so young Australians. The participation level of many of the Navy fraternity is limited and we need to see how that trend can be reversed. We also need to validate our relevance, given there are new organisations starting up on a regular basis to undertaken work that could easily be seen as consistent with many established charters. A workshop organized for Saturday, 4MAR17 at the Mission to Seafarers will be discussing these very issues, fingers crossed that new ideas will come forward.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

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Special Notes



HMAS Duchess 2017 Reunion. Registrations are called for the 8th reunion of Duchess Crew members. Venue will be Surfers Paradise RSL, not Tweed Heads as advised earlier. Reunion dates are 6 to 8 OCT, not November!!! Full cost is only \$200, this includes Friday & Saturday night dinner, plus Sunday lunch. There will be a certain amount of dry till on Saturday night. Deposit of \$50 per person needs to be paid by 01JUL, balance to be paid by 8SEP. Contact Bruce Bowmaker at 0403 243 795 or email littlefish.in@bigpond.com alternatively Rod Clarey at 0409 267 388 or rod.clarey1@bigpond.com

50th Anniversary - Australian White Ensign. HMAS Cerberus will mark the 50th Anniversary of the change over from the British White Ensign to the Australia White Ensign (AWE) at Colours on Wednesday 01 March. The Service will be supported by the RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment. Any ex-Service person who was around in 1967 is invited to attend Colour. Due to the security measures in place at Cerberus, you will need to advise CMDR John Goss AM RANR that you wish to attend, this will allow smooth entry into the base. Therefore, if you wish to attend Colours, you will need to email John at jmarch-g@bigpond.net.au no later than

COB, Friday 28FEB17. If you have any drama you may ring John on 0408 055 336. Colours at 0800, followed by stand-easy allows time for you to travel to the Shrine of Remembrance for the Battle of the Sunda Strait Commemoration Service scheduled to commence at 1130 at the Cenotaph.

Scrap Iron Flotilla. The Scrap Iron Flotilla Association has issued an open invitation to anyone that has any connection with the Navy to come along and enjoy a three course lunch at William Angliss Restaurant, Melbourne for a measly \$35. Keep Friday 24MAR17, 1200 to about 1400 clear. The Scrap Iron Flotilla set the pace during WWII for those that served in destroyers. We now have a span of 77 years where men and women have served in these warships for the good of all. We may only have a handful of WWII Veterans, but we have thousands of men and women who served in Warships. Come and join the fun, email to scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com *asap!*

NAA. Surely all of us are members of the Naval Association of Australia? If not, time to consider why not. Okay, some left the Navy with a taste for something else, but Once Navy, Always Navy. *New rule - Partners can join as full members also.*