



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

February 2019

Volume 9 Edition 2

Website: <http://navyvic.net>



Yes, we are now on Facebook, where all our news items, photos etc. will also be published.

<https://facebook.com/navyvictoria>

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1103



Keeping Watch - a charitable fund For Royal Australian Navy families

In this day and age of unwanted telephone calls just as you are sitting down for dinner, or spam filling up your email in-box, it is easy to become tired of being asked for a donation and overwhelmed with the sheer number of worthy causes seeking your support. How do you pick one or two to support over all the others that do good work in the Community? And even if you restrict yourself to supporting the Defence/Veterans sector, there are many to choose from. Of course there are traditional organisations such as the RSL and *Legacy* and the newer charities, such as *Soldier On* or *Mates for Mates*, who seem to focus their attention on the younger generation of veterans.

This editorial is not attempting to promote any of these wonderful charities over the other – they all do great work! However, a few years ago Navy launched its own charity called *Keeping Watch* and it positioned itself to help and support an often-forgotten group - current Navy families in financial

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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01 Mar – HMAS Perth Assoc. wreath laying in the Sanctuary at 11:00

1 Mar – On this day in 1967 the Australian White Ensign was hoisted in all ships and establishments of the RAN.

03 Mar – HMAS Yarra Service at 1100 Yarra Park, Newport - off the Strand

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

25 Mar – NHS Meeting – all welcome.

07 Apr – HMAS Vampire Assoc. wreath laying in Sanctuary at 11:00.

Apr 24 – On this day in 1860 - HMVS VICTORIA sailed for the Maori War in NZ.

Apr 25 – On this day in 1915 - HMA Submarine AE2 penetrates the Dardanelles.

Apr 25 – ANZAC Day

Apr 30 – On this day in 1915 - HMA Submarine AE2 scuttled in Sea of Marmara.

Latest Videos and News Headlines

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

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

...

need. It does not try to assist veterans returning from war or war-like service – there are lots of organisations that do that, including the Department of Veterans Affairs. Neither does it try to replace the Defence Community Organisation who has a charter to assist Defence families to deal with the everyday challenges of peacetime service.

However, it is an unfortunate truth that things occur in family life which are not covered by the remit of the Department of Social Security or the Australian Health system. Some Navy families do find themselves in dire circumstances with their bank accounts drained and bills piling up through no fault of their own and it is in these times that *Keeping Watch* is likely to be able to help.

Keeping Watch helps serving members of the Royal Australian Navy and their families who are suffering hardship, normally through non-refundable grants. Some examples of the support that is available under *Keeping Watch* include financial assistance for:

- Essential living expenses after a family crisis such as a house fire, or unexpected death or serious illness of a loved one;
- Medical treatment or health support for situations not fully covered by Medicare or private health insurance;
- Child care costs when the usual at-home carer is not able to look after their young family during an unexpected family crisis.

As the Chief of Navy points out in his Foreword on their website, “... since *Keeping Watch* began in 2013, there has been over \$193, 000 used to grant Navy people some form of financial help. This is a figure we can all be proud of. It’s a reminder to each of us to care for one another on and off duty. *Keeping Watch* is regularly called upon to consider assistance to a wide range of people, each with a different story to tell.”

He adds ... “*Keeping Watch* remains vital to the well-being of all RAN members. It is important to know that help is at hand when one of our Navy family hits difficult times. Whether you are a serving member, a former member or a member of the public wanting to recognise the fine work our people do, I urge you to give to our cause.”

So if you are looking for a slightly different cause to support,

LATEST VIDEOS.....

- *HMAS Hobart Missile Firing*
- *Collins Class Submarine Formation*
- *Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour*
- *Fleet Fires Up for 2019*
- *Strategic Partnering Agreement for the Future Submarine Program*
- *Chief of Navy - 2019 - Key focuses for the year ahead*

NEWS.....

The wreckage of US Navy’s World War II destroyer USS Strong (DD 467) was discovered by the expedition crew of Paul G. Allen’s research vessel (R/V) Petrel.

Two Royal Australian Navy Unmanned Aerial Systems (UASs) are on display at the 2019 Australian International Airshow at Avalon, Victoria.

India Pakistan inching towards war. In pre-dawn darkness on Tuesday, 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets of the Indian Air Force, took off from the Gwalior airbase in central India and hit the largest training camp of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorist organisation in Balakot deep inside Pakistan.

Community and Peer Program to help vulnerable Australian veterans.

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs has instructed DVA to conduct a Dawn Service at the Australian National Memorial near Villers-Bretonneux, France on Anzac Day 2019.

As the new year began, the Royal Australian Navy’s multi-role aviation training vessel MV Sycamore was setting a course for the future, preparing for a big year of training the next generations of officers and sailors.

The Royal Australian Navy’s fleet of six Collins-class submarines will likely

Navy's own charity *Keeping Watch* is well worth considering. Information is available on the website <https://www.keepingwatch.org.au/>. The website provides instructions on how to donate on a once off or on an ongoing basis. Donations over \$2 to *Keeping Watch* are tax deductible.

Yours Aye!

NVN Team

VALE

- † POSY D.R. Muller, R94077, 16 February 2019.
- † ERA I.D. Holmwood, 12 February 2019. Aged 69.
- † CAPT J.C.L. Foot RAN, 07 February 2019. Aged 80.
- † TEL J.B. Downs PM/VR434, 03 February 2019. Aged 94.
- † CAPT J.P. Stevenson AM RAN, 29 January 2019. Aged 98.
- † LRO C.H.J. Norfolk, R52222, 29 January 2019. Aged 81.
- † LRO C.H. Norfolk, R52222, 28 Jan 2019. Aged 81.
- † CDRE C.J. Elsmore RAN, 28 January 2019.
- † J.H. Scobie, 25 January 2019. Aged 98.
- † ME D.G. Piper, R63498, 12 January 2019. Aged 71.
- † WOPTI R.J. Jeffreys, R94235, 09 January 2019. Aged 70.

Lest We Forget

Note: VALE Notices

If you know 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.**

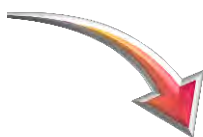
VALE - CAPT J.P. Stevenson AM RAN Rtd., 29 January 2019. Aged 98.

Captain Stevenson's highly successful and distinguished career ended prematurely as a result of the Melbourne and USS Frank E Evans collision in 1969.

A joint USN/RAN Board of Inquiry held Stevenson partly responsible stating that, as commanding officer of Melbourne, he could have done more to prevent the collision from occurring; however, a subsequent RAN court-martial cleared him of any responsibility. The integrity of the initial Board of Inquiry has since been questioned, particularly as it was presided over by Rear Admiral Jerome King USN, the officer in overall tactical command of Evans at the time of the collision.

In December 2012, Stevenson received an official apology from the Minister for Defence, the Honorable Stephen Smith, MP, in which he stated that Stevenson was not treated fairly by the government of the day and the Australian Navy following the events of 1969, and describes Stevenson as "a distinguished naval officer who served his country with honour in peace and war".

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



necessitate substantial upgrades to remain in service until the new SEA 1000 submarines start arriving.

NEW legislation introduced into Federal Parliament will provide better recognition of the unique nature of military service and further acknowledge the service and sacrifice of veterans and their families.

The littoral combat ship USS Tulsa (LCS 16) was commissioned as the Navy's newest surface combatant in a ceremony in San Francisco Feb. 16.

Here's the latest look at recent developments in the South China Sea, where China is pitted against smaller neighbors in multiple disputes over islands, coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

It has been a relentless six months in Afghanistan for Leading Seaman Medic Tahnee White, but her efforts while deployed have earned her the admiration of her Coalition peers and an American Joint Service Achievement Medal from US Special Forces.

Naval Historical Society [February newsletter](#)

Navy League(Vic-Tas) [February Newsletter](#)

VVAA [Debrief Magazine](#)

FlyBy

A periodical of the Fleet Air Arm Association of Australia. [February issue.....](#)

Visit our [website](#) or [Facebook](#) page for more news articles not included in this newsletter.



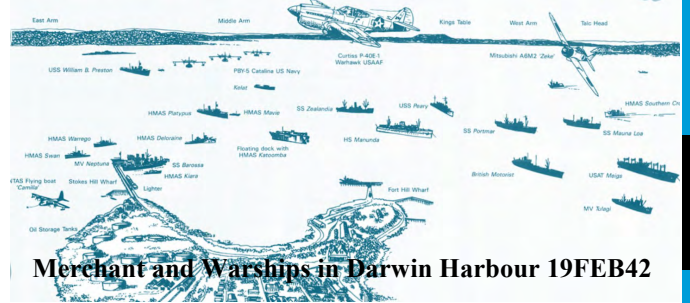
Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

ROGUES' YARN

Battle of Sunda Strait Service, 1MAR19 @ 1100 Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance
HMAS Yarra Service, 3MAR19 @ 1100 Yarra Park, Newport - off the Strand
RAN Recruits Service, 3MAR19 @ 1300 Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance
RAN Recruits Service, 31MAR19 @ 1000 Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance

Bombing of Darwin

Darwin Defenders held a service at the Shrine of Remembrance on 19FEB19 to commemorate the bombing of Darwin on 19FEB42. The obvious script to this service revolves around the magnitude of the first and second attack on the township and the response by Authorities and residents. Mr Curtin Prime Minister of Australia at the time provided a description of the bombing episode to the Australian people. Some of that description is as follows: Mr Curtin said, "The Government regards the attack as most grave, and makes it clear that a severe blow has been struck on Australian soil. In this, the first battle on Australian soil, it will be a source of pride to the public to know that the Allied forces and civilians comported themselves with the gallantry that is traditional in the people of our stock. As I have said, my information does not disclose details of casualties, but it must be obvious that we have suffered. We must face with fortitude the first onslaught and remember that whatever the future holds in store for us, we are Australians and will fight grimly and fearlessly. Let each of us vow that this blow at Darwin, the loss it has involved and the suffering it has occasioned, shall gird our loins and nerve our steel. Let it be remembered that Darwin has been bombed but not conquered." The first raid on Darwin was announced by Mr. Curtin on the afternoon of 20FEB42, from his sick bed at St. Vincent's Hospital. In an appeal to the people to "face it as Australians," he said, "Total mobilisation is the Government's policy. Until the time elapses when all the necessary machinery can be put into effect all Australians must voluntarily answer the Government's call for a complete giving of everything to the nation. The statement that has been made is official and authoritative. Nothing has been hidden. There is no ground for any rumour. If rumours circulate, take no notice of them and deal sharply with any person who circulates them." Advice given to



Merchant and Warships in Darwin Harbour 19FEB42

the general public was contrary to the actual circumstances, for instance the number of Japanese aircraft numbered 188 during the first raid, the second involved 54 aircraft. Little is discussed about the maritime environment, where 158 Mariners

HMAS Kara Kara



were lost during those air raids. Two sailors come to mind, Leading Cook Francis Emms and Able Seaman Scott. LS Emms was in HMAS Kara Kara when attacked during the

first raid. LS Emms moved from the galley to a machine gun on the uppers and challenged the bombers. He is reputed to have saved the ship and the lives of many of his shipmates. He was

HMAS Koala



severely injured during the action making the supreme sacrifice.

AB Scott was another who is reported to have continuously fought off

dive bombers and machine gun attacks on HMAS Koala. Given the face of heavy fire thereby probably saving his ship from destruction and probable loss of many of the crew. Darwin experienced 64 air attacks, the last being in 1943. The Japanese raided the Top End over 200 times, besides Darwin, the Japanese bombed Townsville, Katherine, Wyndham, Derby, Broome and Port Hedland.

Scrap Iron

The Scrap Iron Flotilla Association sets up a number of services at the Shrine of Remembrance to reflect on the service and sacrifice of the men and women who have serviced in Warships named: Stuart, Voyager, Vendetta, Vampire and Waterhen. Some folk discriminate between Warships of the same name, unfortunate and misses the point of inherited battle honours. For instance, the talley band HMAS Stuart has been worn through a range of war-like and peacekeeping environments. Each experience building on earlier courage, doing one's duty in a way that blends young, old, inexperienced, experienced and professionalism. Let's not divide our heritage into splinter groups, theatres of war. The point being that on ANZAC Day ex-Navy should be marching by Ship or Branch Name, not divided into theatres of war. The five ships that made up the Scrap Iron Flotilla have a proud history, they should be clustered together to reflect their heritage. To press the point, join us at the our lunch on Friday, 22March at William Angliss Restaurant, 550 Lt Lonsdale St. Email us at scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com or telephone Chris on 0412 832 148



Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Ship Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. This is an opportunity for all ship/branch associations to broaden their horizons, go to navyvic.net

Disclaimer

Articles are the Authors thoughts, although may be edited due to space available. No political comments included.

Melbourne Naval Committee

MNC provides funds to support welfare. A venue is available at Mission to Seafarers for like-minded groups, *no cost*. Email MtS daria.wray@missiontoseafarers.com.au or sue.dight@missiontoseafarers.com.au to make a booking.

Yarra



YARRA I



YARRA II



YARRA III



YARRA IV



One of the most courageous events in Australia's Navy history is the way HMAS Yarra II engaged the enemy on 4MAR42. With no chance of surviving, the crew of Yarra II stormed towards a fearsome Imperial Japanese Navy Task Force. There was to be no hope, but their will to do the right thing is unquestionable. Only 13 were to survive that night and the ordeal over the following two days. Rescued by

a Dutch submarine K11. There are many stories of bravery, obviously the Captain's order to face the enemy took enormous courage and then LS Ron (Buck) Taylor who stayed at his gun and maintained sustained fire towards the enemy. All was to be in vain, as two Japanese destroyers moved closer to finish off Yarra and leave.

Prisoners of War

Services commemorated the anniversary of the fall of Singapore. Service was held at: the Australian POWs Memorial, Ballarat, arranged by Trustees of the Memorial and the City of Ballarat; and at the Shrine of Remembrance, for the POWs Association.

Both relevant to the suffering and sacrifice by thousands of sailors, soldiers and airmen, particularly through WW2. Both services were attended by CDRE Greg Yorke CSC RANR Senior Naval Officer Victoria. The RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment provided the musical accompaniment at Ballarat. Ballarat may well be the primary POW service within the Nation, not only because of significance of the Monument, but the attendance of so many POWs on an annual basis. The WW2 POWs are few in number, however, the attendance of their WW2 mates is



Commodore Greg Yorke CSC RANR SNOV

Hiron Ristrom



Ex-POWs in the Sanctuary

just as important. The large number of descendants attending is also testament to the high regard the POWs are held in. CDRE Yorke also delivered the address at the Shire of Remembrance service. Pictured, L to R: Col Hamley, Jim Ellwood (in chair), Frank Holland-Stabback & Colin Fraser. A Catafalque Party led by CPO

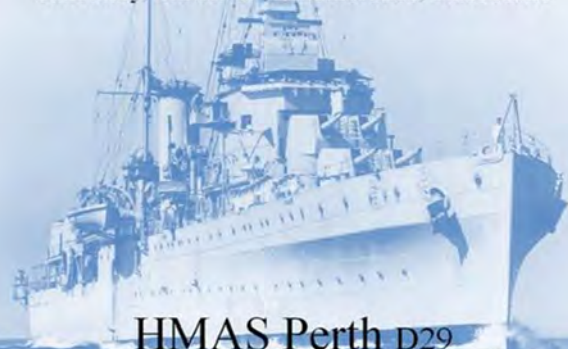
Aaron Petch did a fine job, thanks to CAPT Mike Oborn CSM RAN, CO HMAS Cerberus for his support. AB Rachael Byne, Bugler from the RAN Band Melbourne Detachment gave as good a rendition of the Last Post as ever heard in the Sanctuary. It's gratifying to see more attending these services, recounting the awful experience of so many of our Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Nurses who were subjected to wicked treatment in the hands of their capturers. It's testament to the courage of POWs as they forgive whilst they now greet their persecutors in later life. May we be worthy of their sacrifice.

Battle of Sunda Strait

The Battle of Sunda Strait stands as one of the worst episodes in Naval history with the loss of 1071 lives in several hours and many more held as Prisoners of War. History informs us that HMAS *Perth* was first sighted by the Japanese destroyer *Fubuki*, whilst on patrol north east of Bantam Bay. At around 2300, *Perth* sighted the Japanese destroyer *Harukaze* which was immediately engaged by *Perth* & USS *Houston*. Minutes later, other enemy Warships were sighted, multiple targets were engaged. *Perth* was hit at around 2325, some five minutes later another hit, followed by a third at 2350. Ammunition was depleted and CAPT Waller (*Perth*) tried to get through Sunda Strait. *Perth* was at full speed when hit by a torpedo, it was a little after midnight. A second torpedo found its mark and the ship started to sink, but not before two more torpedos hit their target. CAPT Waller ordered abandon ship. Of the 681 aboard *Perth* on that night, only 214 were to survive the War. CAPT Waller, along with much of his Ship's Company made the supreme sacrifice that night. USS *Houston* was to suffer the same fate, sadly with the loss of 658 sailors when the ship was also sunk. Witnesses said there were many Japanese soldiers and sailors in the water as well, due to the damage inflicted by *Perth* and *Houston* on the Japanese task group. A service to remember this milestone event is planned for Friday, 1MAR19. May we be worthy of their sacrifice.

Battle of the Sunda Strait

Commemoration Service
1100 on Friday 1st March 2019
Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne



HMAS Perth D29

Lost in Action

77th Anniversary

USS Houston CA30



Navy Week



Banka Island

A few Navy orientated entities are the champions behind resurgence of Navy Week in Victoria. The purpose being to promote Navy and improve the knowledge and awareness of the Veteran community, their family and interested citizens. This year will commence with the Seafarers Church Service at St Pauls on Sunday, 20OCT19. During that week, the hope is to provide sufficient opportunities for a good number of Veterans and their families to attend and participate. Should you belong to a like-minded organisation, or you have the drive to assist, please encourage your organisation to join the team or maybe get involved yourself. At this stage a ship visit is most likely, an immense boost to Navy week. With the major project of rebuilding at HMAS Cerberus, that precludes an Open Day, it may be possible next year to provide displays that illustrate the worth of the largest ADF training establishment in Australia. Whatever the outcome of our preparations, the objective is to attract many Veterans, family and friends so we can demonstrate support for Navy, concurrent with updating our understanding of today's ADF.

HMS *Yinping*



16FEB42, anniversary of the WWII massacre of 52 Aussie Army nurses at Radji Beach in the vicinity of Muntok on Bangka Island. A civilian nurse Alice Wilkinson (nee Bradgate) also perished at Muntok, having escaped Singapore in HMS *Yinping*.

Yinping, an unarmed commissioned tug, commanded by her husband LEUT Pat Wilkinson SSRNVR. *Yinping* faced a large Japanese Naval force at the northern entrance to Bangka Strait on 15FEB42 and was sunk with a large loss of life including Alice. Her husband survived, was captured and remained a POW on Bangka Island for the rest of the war. LCDR Bruce Bird RANR, former RAN liaison officer and now resident of Singapore, attended the service on Bangka Island. He layed a wreath at the Banka Island Memorial on behalf of CMDR Mike Storrs RAN Rtd, the nephew of Alice Wilkinson. CMDR Storrs arranged a fitting service at a memorial in northern Queensland in remembrance of his Aunt.

Special Notes

Annual Lunch. Although mentioned earlier in this edition, a reminder that the Scrap Iron Flotilla lunch will be held on Friday, 22MAR19 at the William Angliss Restaurant at 1200 for 1230.

Cost will be \$35pp and drinks at bar prices. Please make your reservation by telephone to Chris Banfield on 0412 832 148 or by emailing to scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com

Success Breeds Success. There are many family connections in Navy worthy of mention, but close to home for NCCV are the Grogans. Marty, father and VP, just paid off after a fairly long period (three Federation Stars) and CAPT Darren, son who has notched up a couple of decades of seetime and still in his prime. Now CO, HMAS Success then off to Spain as CO desi for a new ship mid year. A great effort by any measure.



CAPT Darren Grogan CSC
RAN with Marty Grogan OAM

Dinner Dance. Interested in a trip to Stanthorpe, the local NAA Sub-section has arranged a bonanza of an event around the milestone of the Battle of the Coral Sea. In addition to the commemoration of this important occasion,

there will be a dinner dance to share mateship. The social event is on Saturday, 25MAY19 at the Civic Centre. More information? Phone Norm on 0435 619 626 or send email to storhel70@gmail.com

All Navy Reunion. Due to continued interest and enthusiasm the next All Navy Reunion will be held in Maroochydore, Sunshine Coast over the weekend 25-27 October 2019. More info needed, go to:

Mark - allnavyreunion2019@gmail.com or phone 0438 800 799, or PO Box 615, Cotton Tree, 4558, QLD; or try Bill at bloggshayward@yahoo.com.au you may also phone Bill at 0411 024 985.

Sad Day. Our notices of those Shipmates who have crossed the bar, when known, are recorded in the NVN monthly letter. On this occasion we felt compelled to mention two individuals who crossed the bar recently: CAPT John Stevenson who experienced unconscionable treatment by the Government & Navy after the collision between HMAS Melbourne and USS Frank E Evans, also Mr Len Alexander - a Shipmate who was a member of the Naval Association of Australia, Melbourne Sub-section for 70 years. Both now in safe anchorages. The life lived by Shipmates can be inspiring and often truly reflect Navy Values.

NCCV Office Bearers 2018



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The days go past so quickly we need to make sure that every day counts. This could mean that we must plan our commitments a tad more carefully than in the past, memory lapses may mean you will miss something important. Diarising the services relating to Navy at the Shrine of Remembrance is a very good start! As you may appreciate, NCCV is pretty much involved in all Navy commemoration activities at the Shrine of Remembrance, one of ten War Memorials of National Significance. Each of these occasions warrant consideration, not all will be meaningful to everyone, but surely there is one that has meaning. During February, whilst most who survived the collision of HMAS Voyager attended the 55th reunion at Jervis Bay, there would be a great number who can relate to the struggle many have endured since that day in 1964. Much of the anguish can be derived from the loss of Shipmates. The NCCV has endeavoured to foster goodwill and a sustained approach to commemoration for over 50 years. The level of interest in maintaining the legacy of past service and sacrifice is under threat, how do we turn the tide?

Yours aye, Terry Makings