



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

January 2016

Volume 6 Edition 1

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1010

Although the main focus for commemorative events in Australia over the past 18 months has understandably been on centenaries of significant events in World War 1 (and this focus will continue until Remembrance Day 2018), we shouldn't forget that 2016 marks the 50th anniversary of a major battle involving Australians in another war. That of course is the Battle of Long Tan (18 August 1966) in the Vietnam War.

Without in any way diminishing the importance of ongoing WW1 centennial commemorations and a number of 75th anniversaries of Australian exploits in WW2, those NVN readers who are Vietnam Veterans, members of the various *Destroyer, Escort, Sydney/VLSVA* and *FESR* Associations, and those who have mates or relatives who served to Vietnam or in the RAN at that time, will obviously be keen to participate in some of the Vietnam War 50th anniversary commemorative events in 2016. Before listing these events, here's a quick refresher on some historical facts and figures from that war.

From a small beginning of just 30 Australian Army advisers sent to Vietnam in 1962, Australia's commitment to the ensuing war effort grew to reach a peak in 1969/70 of over 8000 personnel in country. It then tapered off until the last Australian Servicemen left Vietnam in June 1973. This is the longest continuous commitment of ADF personnel to any conflict in Australia's history.

Whilst the vast majority of the 59,000 Australians who served in Vietnam were from Army units, this number includes many Navy and Air Force personnel who served above and in the seas

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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07 Feb – RAN Recruits wreath laying.

10 Feb – Scrap Iron Flotilla Association wreath laying

10 Feb – Anniversary Voyager / Melbourne collision.

14 Feb – National Servicemen wreath laying

15 Feb – Ex-Prisoners of War & Relatives Association wreath laying

22 Feb – NHS meeting (all welcome)

01 Mar – HMAS Perth Association wreath laying

01 Mar – Creswell Oration

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>

Veterans to benefit from latest round of community grants

Kitchen refurbishments, installation of disabled amenities and bus trips to reduce social isolation are some of the projects to receive about \$320,000 in funding as part of the Veteran and Community Grants program, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Stuart Robert, announced today.

around Vietnam.

In early 1970, there were elements from all three armed services: a three Battalion Army Task Force with combat and logistic support; RAAF helicopters, medium bombers and transport aircraft; RAN guided missile destroyers, helicopters and logistic support provided by HMAS *Sydney* (affectionately known as the "Vung Tau Ferry"). We shouldn't forget that merchant ships such as the MV *Jeparit* and the MV *Boonaroo* also did a commendable job in shifting the vast quantity of equipment and stores from Australia that were needed in Vietnam.

A total of 508 Australians died in Vietnam: 478 Army personnel; 14 from the RAAF, 9 from the Navy and 7 civilians. Over 3000 were wounded.

So with the 50th anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan as the centrepiece, there will be a greater than usual focus on this year's Vietnam War commemorations. Some of the main events include:

Gravesite Vigils: At 12 noon on 21 February 2016, the Vietnam Veterans Association of Australia - Victorian Branch (VVAA Victorian Branch) will coordinate State-wide, simultaneous vigils at the gravesites of the 98 Vietnam Veterans buried in Victoria. Although none of the 9 Navy personnel killed in the War are buried in Victoria, NVN readers would be most welcome to attend any gravesite vigils that will be held in their local Cemeteries. For more information, contact the 50th Anniversary Commemorations Committee via email to vp@vvaavic.org.au

VetRide 2016: This national cycling event (which is open to the public) aims to honour the Australians killed in the Vietnam War. It begins at Seymour's Vietnam Veterans Commemorative Walk on 14 March and finishes in Canberra on 20 March. Entries to VetRide 2016 are now open; past and present Australian Defence Force members will receive a discount on their entry fees; for more information, visit www.vetride.org

Anzac Day 25 April 2016: Vietnam Veterans will lead the ANZAC Day march in Melbourne this year.

Vietnam Veterans Day: On 18 August 2016, a march down St Kilda Road will conclude with a commemorative service at the Melbourne Shrine of Remembrance. This will include a re-

Joint Statement on Counter-ISIL/Daesh Cooperation by the Defense Ministers of Australia, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States - In Paris, January 20, 2016

Creswell Oration 2016.

This years' Creswell Oration will be on 01st March 2016. VADM David Johnson AM RAN, Chief Joint Operations, will present the Creswell Oration 2016 "The Conduct of Current and Future Joint Operations". Full details are on the 'Flagship Events' page.

Personal histories shared at Australian National Maritime Museum

An insight into life into sailors and officers in the Royal Australian Navy is on show as part of 'Action Stations', a new exhibition at the Australian National Maritime Museum Warship Pavilion.

Recent reports on the use of mefloquine in the ADF - On the Record

In recent months there have been numerous reports regarding the use of the anti-malarial drug mefloquine in the ADF. The nature of the reporting will have caused concern for some current and former serving members of the ADF.

Indigenous graduates test Navy careers

Seventeen Recruits stood tall in front of friends and family on 16 December, at a ceremony to recognise their graduation from the fourth iteration of the Navy-led Defence Indigenous Development Program.

Australia's contribution to the fight against Daesh

enactment of the placing of the Long Tan Cross in Vietnam in 1969. White crosses for the fallen made by Vietnam veterans, a hand-made poppy and an Australian flag will be placed at the Shrine by primary school students.

Church Service of Thanksgiving: A non-denominational service will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on 5 October 2016. A commemorative plaque will be unveiled and dedicated.

Family Day at Seymour Racecourse: To close the year, a 'Family Day' will be held for Veterans and the wider Victorian based Vietnam Veteran community at Seymour Racecourse on 19 November 2016. Includes activities for all ages; special entry prices for Veterans; races will be named appropriately; transport to/from Seymour Commemorative Walk.

For more information on the commemorative and educational activities planned for the 50th Anniversary of the Battle of Long Tan and the Vietnam War visit:

www.vic.gov.au/victoriaremembers/vietnam or
www.vvaavic.org.au

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † POEMP I. Turner, R94335, 22 January 2016. Aged 68.
- † POME D.B. Grogan, R62110, 12 January 2016. Aged 70.
- † LSMTP K. Harris, S115083, 10 January 2016.
- † LTO L.J. Rodgers, R55958, 08 January 2016. Aged 75.
- † ABQMG K. Geipel, R65972, 07 January 2016.
- † CMDR W.J. Brash OBE RAN, 04 January 2016.
- † LCDR K. Farmer RAN, 03 January 2016. Aged 70.
- † LWRROM R. Phillips, W85525, 02 January 2016. Aged 71.
- † L/TEL W.A. Walsh OAM, PM4431, 01 January 2016. Aged 91.
- † RO R.W. Clifford, R50340, 27 December 2015. Aged 80.
- † POCK J.T. Ross, R62531, 26 December 2015.
- † CDRE R. Burnett RAN, 04 December 2015.
- † LCDR C.D. Dykes RANR, 15 August 2015. Aged 96.

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. 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 the date of their passing.

The US has asked 40 or so other countries, including European countries, to consider expanded contributions to the coalition, following the attacks in Paris. Australia has considered the request from US Secretary of Defense Ash Carter in light of the substantial contributions we are already making to train Iraqi security forces and to the air campaign. The Government has advised Secretary Carter that our existing contributions will continue.

Response to reporting regarding CAPT Mona Shindy - On the Record

Recently, a number of news articles and social media commentary have been published relating to comments made by CAPT Shindy. The articles are critical of CAPT Shindy's commentary and question Navy's and Defence's social media policies and efforts to support workforce diversity opportunities.

Australian and Chinese navies conduct exercises

HMAS Darwin has conducted a passage exercise with the Chinese People's Liberation Army-Navy (PLA-N) Escort Task Group 152 off the coast of Queensland. The task group consists of three ships—the Luyang Class destroyer Jinan, (DDG-152), the Jiangkai Class frigate Yiyang (FFG-548), and the Fuchi Class replenishment ship Qindaohu. (AOR-886).

1 January 2016 listing changes for over-the-counter products

As part of the 2015-16 Budget savings measures, selected over-the-counter (OTC) medicines have been delisted from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) effective 1 January 2016. The measure made provision for the impact on veterans and allowed for the proposed delistings to be considered by the Department of

	<p align="center">THE LILYDALE RSL SUB-BRANCH IS PROUD TO INVITE YOU TO THE LAUNCH OF OUR BOOK:</p>
	<p>On February 19th, 1916, 17 year old Jim Baddeley forged his mother's signage on his enlistment papers and joined the AIF underage.</p> <p>Seventy-six years later, at the age of 93, he sat down with the Lilydale RSL's historian to record his memories of his wartime experiences with the 58th Battalion on the Western Front.</p> <p>From the terrible winter on the Somme to surviving shell blast at Bapaume, from the horror of the Battle of Polygon Wood to the gas attacks at Ypres, from trench raids at Messines to the killing grounds of Villers Bretonneaux, Ville-Sur-Ancre, Peronne and Bellicourt.</p> <p>It is a story of sacrifice and endurance, bravery and loss, good times and bad times. An ordinary young Australian who survived extraordinary times.</p>
	<p>When: Friday February 19th, 2016 Time: 7.30pm Place: OTree Restaurant Cnr Victoria Rd & Albert Hill Rd, Lilydale</p>
<p>To be Launched by: Barry Dickins, writer, historian Guest Speakers: Lambis Englezos AM, historian The Hon Tony Smith MP, Federal Member for Casey, Speaker of the House For further details: antmca@bigpond.com</p>	

Veterans' Affairs' Repatriation
 Pharmaceutical Reference Committee.

Answering The Call

Photos from the 'Answering The Call' statue unveiling are now on the website.

STS Young Endeavour completes world circumnavigation

The Royal Australian Navy operated Sail Training Ship (STS) Young Endeavour sailed into Fremantle today, completing a year-long circumnavigation of the world. Assistant Minister for Defence Darren Chester was in Western Australia to welcome the seafarers back to Australian soil and personally congratulate members of the Royal Australian Navy crew and the 24 young Australians who sailed the ship on the last leg across the Indian Ocean from Cape Town, in South Africa.

Australian Defence Force support to Iraqi Forces in Ramadi

The Chief of Joint Operations, Vice Admiral David Johnston, has congratulated the Iraqi Forces on retaking key territory in Ramadi and highlighted the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the operation. After months of fighting through the complex urban environment, the Counter Terrorism Service 1st Iraqi Special Operations Force raised the Iraq flag over the Government buildings this week, symbolising the liberation of Ramadi.

Navy League of Australia(Vic & Tas)
 January newsletter – [download.....](#)

NHSA(Vic) President's December Musings – [download.....](#)

NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)

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.

Congratulations to all serving and ex-serving recipients of awards in the 2016 Australian Day Honours List including HMAS Sydney & VLSVA(Vic) secretary David Dwyer who was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia.

NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

ROGUES' YARN

Distribution:

We send the Rogues Yarn to organisations likely to have serving or ex-service men and women who served in the Navy on the books. We hope you share the Rogues Yarn with your Navy folk so that they will be aware of key commemorative services occurring in Victoria. Appreciated!



You should attend:

HMAS VOYAGER
Wreath Laying Service
Wednesday 10 FEB 16,
@ 1000 - Shrine of
Remembrance



Aust Ex-POW
Memorial Service,
Ballarat
7 FEB 16 @ 1130

NCCV will meet at
1030 on Tuesday,
09 FEB 16 at the
Melbourne Naval
Centre. Associations,
please send along a
representative.

Mélange of Purpose

The title of this lead item 'Mélange of Purpose' is directed at our various ex-service entities and the need to give serious thought to their specific objective and reason for being. The future of each Association across the ex-Service community may well be questionable as post WW2 ex-Service men and women appear to be disinterested in supporting them. Their likelihood to commit is not apparent, whilst their support is essential if our Associations are to survive. If survival is our goal, then we need to work together to realise a strategy for the future. Obviously the strategy needs to be agreeable to all champions currently leading groups across the wide spectrum of ex-Service men and women.

Survival is basically a function of membership, no members no Association! We have seen some Associations close their books because the WW2 champions who managed all aspects of their respective groups have had enough. This is understandable, what is difficult to accept is that no succession plan has been considered, or in some cases allowed to be introduced. The challenge is to identify individuals who are willing to be involved and capable of communicating effectively. Once known and recognised for their skill and expertise these individuals need to be buttonholed, encouraged to participate (albeit diplomatically). Achieving success through improved membership and ultimately recruiting potential champions needs to be a crucial and ongoing focus of each Association. The combined success of every known Association may not be critical, however, the overall involvement of a

reasonable number of our ex-Service community is essential and fundamental to the preservation of our heritage. Some may think our heritage, or the legacy of over a century of disciplined Naval service will be maintained irrespective of any personal effort made. Maintaining the legacy of earlier service is not automatic. Today's Navy is no different to when you may have been in the Navy - they have their day job, so it is up to the ex-Service community to support the various activities that remind us of past service. For the ex-Navy fraternity to be a connected community requires effort and goodwill so that an appropriate outcome is realised in the long term.

Because there are so many different interests at play, the benefit of living a united purpose that embraces the entire Navy family has to date eluded us. We need to work harder to bring those actively engaged in maintaining Associations to the table so we can discuss our collective future. Many have voiced concerns about their future, we need to hear about their difficulties. Those managing Associations who wish to pursue new horizons should make themselves known. NCCV is keen to work with others in search of advancing the involvement of others in the Navy community who have yet to engage, since paying off. The thinking above is aimed at swaying the myriad of incorporated and non-incorporated ex-Navy bodies into considering a common cause - support Navy. Given Navy has their day job, the ex-Navy fraternity has a responsibility to reinforce the legacy of old and deliver support where possible.



Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Authors thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available. Political articles will not purposely appear in R's Yarn.

Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for anyone with an interest in Navy. Also, if you are involved in arranging a Navy specific function why not provide information on the activity to the wider Navy Victoria Community. This is an opportunity not to be missed.

Melbourne Naval Centre

Any Navy organization seeking funds to assist with the purchase of equipment or conduct an event, the MNC may be able to help. All you need to do is meet their funding criteria.

President's Report

We hope all is well and 2016 has been an enjoyable start to what will be the best year possible. Whether our travel bug or other likable trait has a hold on us will be of no consequence as we seek to make the best out of each and every opportunity that presents itself throughout the year. A bit like joining up again, we didn't know what to expect, although we had great hopes regarding our ability to join in and make a go of it. On this side of that momentous occasion, when the bus stopped at the gate to the Establishment and the Instructor called out, 'this is your last chance if you want to get off the bus!' Maybe we are reminded of the adage, Once Navy Always Navy! Do you ever think about how critical most were of the day to day activities back then, much of the daily chores seem a blur, as we refer to them as the good old days. One thing we did do, was work as a team, despite the never ending rumour mongering underpinned by hard work, or maybe that is best put as hard layers. On this side of our Navy experience, now that we are in the 'big ship', we should put our minds to what our role is as part of the 'ex-Navy fraternity'. The lead article in this edition is designed to give focus to this very subject matter. There is a need for us

to look at what value we add to our various organisations and also take a close look at what our respective organization stands for. It could well be that everything is perfect, that your aspirations are being met by your direct or indirect involvement with matters relating to your Navy experience. It could also be that there is some question mark over the value and outcome of your participation. Should this be the case, then it might be time to initiate a discussion within your group of interested players and see what eventuates. Overall, the level of participation within the Veteran community is reducing. DVA is well geared to assist with virtually any issue related to the welfare of individuals and the RSL welfare resource is well versed in adding strength to your argument. The aspect of your experience that may not be exercised as much as necessary is your direct support of Australia's Defence regime. This aspect of our Navy experience needs to be kept up to date so that we can engage in conversation with others and if nothing else, give support to Navy through enthusiastic and cogent discussion. *Yours age, Terry Makings*

Navy Week Victoria - 2016

Last year's Navy Week Victoria demonstrated that there is sufficient interest across Victoria to warrant continuation of the Navy Week program. Consequently, NCCV is preparing to conduct Navy Week Victoria - 2016. As we commence preparations, if your organisation wishes to make a positive contribution to this year's Navy Week by arranging something that will add to the occasion, please let NCCV know. The objective is to establish a range of substantial activities/ events that frame the week with the intention of introducing new activities aimed at growing the level of interest. The week will commence with a major social event, either on Friday 14OCT or Saturday 15OCT. This will be followed by the Seafarers Church Service on Sunday 16OCT. Seafarers has been conducted since 1907. Navy Week will be closed off by an Open Day at HMAS Cerberus. This is planned for Sunday 23OCT. During the week there will be a Golf Tournament and a

Bowls Tournament. Each of these activities generally attract a good number of serving Navy folk. Other sporting activities would be welcome, if there is any interest in this regard it will most likely be well received. We are also planning a Seminar, this will probably be held on Wednesday 19OCT. The purpose of the seminar is to broaden the knowledge of the ex-Service community so they are better equipped to argue the case of Defence. As the ex-Service members have a responsibility to be able to support Defence, it is necessary to be current so we can put forward a cogent argument when required. Given these standard activities, if your organisation can complement them and drawn upon a different segment of the ex-Navy community then let's hear about it. In general, we are hopeful of generating some interest from those that do not normally engage with the ex-Navy community. We hope you will give the notion of supporting Navy Week serious thought as your contribution is vital to success of the week.

21st Century Warships

Many may have seen the various articles highlighting construction of the largest destroyer ever built, maybe a play on words, but *USS Zumwalt* is definitely a warship for the 21st Century. This awesome warship has a displacement of 14,798 tonnes, with two substantial gas turbines producing 105,000 shaft horse power, pushing her along at over 30



knots. Its unusual shape, shown above, has electric propulsion, new radar and sonar, powerful missiles and guns, and a stealthy design to reduce its radar signature. Advanced automation will allow the warship to operate with a much smaller crew size than current destroyers. The enormous amount of innovation has resulted to construction delays and a growing price tag. The *Zumwalt*, the first of three ships in the class, will cost at least US\$4.4 billion. The Warship looks like no other warship ever built.



Seen above, a 21st century warship with a cannon reminiscent of the first warships ever built. The inverse bow juts forward to slice through the waves, not dissimilar to the Dreadnought Battleships from a century ago. The sharp angles deflect radar signals generated from other ships. Radar and antennas are hidden in a deckhouse, made from a carbon composite material. The ship's seaworthiness will be thoroughly tested through Builder's sea trials, these trials will form the standard for a first of class Warship. Critics say the 'tumblehome' hull's sloping shape makes it less stable than conventional

hulls, but it contributes to the ship's stealth and the US Navy is confident the design will be effective. author and editor of the U.S. Naval Institute's 'Guide to Combat Fleets of the World,' Eric Wertheim, said there's no question the integration of so many new systems from the electric drive to the tumblehome hull carries some level of risk.

Operational concerns, growing costs and fleet makeup led the Navy to reduce what was to be a 32 ship build program down to three Warships. The thought is that with only three ships, this class of destroyer could become something of a technology demonstration project, he said. The goal is to deliver it to the Navy sometime next year. Eric Wertheim went on to say 'We are absolutely fired up to see *Zumwalt* get underway.' The *Zumwalt* looks like no other U.S. warship, with an angular profile and clean carbon fiber superstructure that hides antennas and radar masts. Originally envisioned as a 'stealth destroyer,' the *Zumwalt* has a low-slung appearance and angles that deflect radar. Its wave-piercing hull aims for a smoother ride.



If interested, see the following video of *Zumwalt* https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fiq0y6_cdTQ

Stealth Submarines. One of the USA's newest Nuclear Fast Attack Submarine, USS John Warner (SSN 785) was commissioned in July 2015. The submarine displaces over 7,000 tonnes and can travel at over 25 knots whilst submerged. The John Warner is the 12th Virginia Class and has inherent stealth, endurance, firepower, and a sensor suite enabling them to support sea control, power projection, forward presence, maritime security, and deterrence objectives as stipulated within the USN maritime strategy. With a modern nuclear power plant these submarines will not need to be fuelled throughout their 30+ years of useful life.



John Warner (SSN 785)
Nuclear Fast Attack Submarine

ANZAC Centenary Arrangements



There are some people who think the freedom we enjoy today was free: not quite, it was earned by thousands of Australians who have been Peace Keepers and in particular Peace Makers.

Last year we witnessed the century of arrival and departure from Gallipoli. This year we will be able to support several significant WWI battles. The Battle of Fromelles (19JUL1916) was the first major action involving Australian troops on the western front. The Battle of Pozieres (23JUL1916) where Australia suffered 5,285 casualties over a four day period. Battle of Romani (3/5AUG 1916) put a stop to the Turkish threat to the Suez Canal. Battle of Magdhaba (23DEC 1916) was the scene of an action fought in the northern Sinai Desert where the ANZAC Mounted Division defeated the Turkish forces that blocked the route to Palestine. Whilst all of the above are AIF engagements, they were significant actions that witnessed the courage, dedication and commitment of Australians to their duty.



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Special Notes

HMAS Voyager. A commemorative service will be conducted in the Sanctuary on Wednesday 10FEB16 at the Shrine of Remembrance. This service will commemorate both *Voyager* I and II. As many may know, *Voyager* I was an integral part of the Scrap Iron Flotilla and completed deployments within the Mediterranean over a two year period. The Scrap Iron Flotilla was the first deployment of Australian Defence assets at the outset of WWII. *Voyager* II was a new generation Daring Class Destroyer, sunk after colliding with HMAS *Melbourne* off Jervis Bay, 82 from *Voyager* were lost.

Awarded or Winning the VC. Some question 'winning' a bravery award. When we say someone has won our respect we intend to suggest that this is because of various merits they possess or actions they have performed. Similarly, when we speak of someone winning a Nobel Prize – or even a Brownlow Medal – we don't mean to suggest that their name has simply been drawn out of a hat, but rather that this award is due recognition of outstanding, or in any case praiseworthy achievement. On the face of it, similar considerations clearly apply in the case of military awards, winning or awarded!

Prisoners of War. The 12th Anniversary Service is scheduled for Sunday 7FEB16 at the Australian Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial, Ballarat. The service commences at 1130 and there is seating under cover for 500. The guest speaker is Pattie Wright, author of Ray Parkin's *Odyssey and Men of the Line*. Business dress & medals.

Scrap Iron Flotilla Lunch. Anyone remotely connected to Navy is invited to attend the Scrap Iron Flotilla lunch 1200 for 1230, Friday 18MAR. Captain Roy Stanbrook, Harbour Master - Port of Melbourne will be the Guest Speaker. \$35 pp, drinks at bar prices, William Angliss Restaurant. Email scrapironflotillaassociation@gmail.com

Golden Rivet. Our friends in WA have found that elusive golden rivet. We have not been able to verify the status of the rivet as yet, notwithstanding there is a need for anyone coming into contact with the rivet should take the maximum protection, just in case!

