



# NVN News

*incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

July 2017

Volume 7 Edition 7

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 1068*

Five months after the second 'Combined Associations Workshop' that was held at the Mission to Seafarers on 4 Mar 17, the organisers (from the MNC, NCCV and NAA) thought it might be worth "checking-in" with the representatives from the 23 ex-Navy Associations in Victoria who attended the workshop (and the Presidents of the other Associations who were unavailable for that workshop) and ask how they're going with the implementation of a range of initiatives that were agreed as having potential to assist with the "*reinvigoration of the ex-Navy community in Victoria*".

As a reminder, the key initiatives included:

- Encourage all members of all ex-Navy Associations (who aren't already signed-up) to register with the Navy Victoria Network (NVN) as a free and easy way to stay abreast of what events are happening in Victoria that might be of interest to ex-Navy personnel (and to read about other newsworthy nautical matters).
- For those ex-Navy personnel who aren't 'computer literate', there was a suggestion that Association executives ought to ascertain whether a close relative or friend could act as an 'intermediary' by registering with the NVN and passing hard copies of the monthly Newsletters to their less 'tech-savvy' members.
- Encourage all ex-Navy Associations to give the NVN web-master a short description of their Association, it's purpose, main annual activities and key points of contact which can be included in the 'Associations' folder on the web-site. (This will contribute to the achievement of another objective of the

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**22 Jul 2017 - 29 Jul 2018** – *Nerves and Steel - The Royal Australian Navy in the Pacific December 1941 – September 1945 (Exhibition at the Shrine)*

**09 Aug** – *RAN Veterans share their WWII experiences – Shrine*

**09 Aug** – *In 1942 HMAS Canberra was lost during the Battle of Savo Island*

**15 Aug** – *72 anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP Day)*

**18 Aug** – *Vietnam Veterans Day*

**20 Aug** – *On this day in 1948 the RAN Fleet Air Arm was established.*

**01 Sep** – *Legacy Day – please give generously*

**11 Sep** – *Battle of Bita Paka*

## 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>

...

### LATEST VIDEOS.....

- \* *Russian Navy giants arrive in St. Petersburg for navy day celebrations*
- \* *First 3D-printed submarine takes*

Workshop; that being to improve the interconnectivity and contactability of all ex-Navy Associations in Victoria.)

- Encourage all ex-Navy Associations to utilise the 'Calendar' folder on the NVN web-site as a means to advertise meetings and other planned activities for their members and other potentially interested readers of the web-site.
- Encourage the Presidents of all ex-Navy Associations to prepare a short (less than 1 page) article (once per year) about their Association and any noteworthy events they're planning (eg. reunions) which can be included in the NVN's monthly Newsletters which are distributed to over 1000 registered members and read by many more.
- For those Associations which are struggling to cover administration costs or need financial assistance to run an important event for their members, remind them that (within the constraints of their charter) the Melbourne Naval Committee (MNC) would be happy to consider requests for support.
- Reiterate that all ex-Navy Associations are encouraged to book and utilise the excellently appointed 'River Room' leased by the MNC from the Mission to Seafarers (717 Flinders Street, Docklands) for meetings and functions or, if their members are just passing through the city, remind them that they are also welcome to simply pop in and use the bar and tea/coffee facilities in this beautiful and centrally-located heritage building.
- As a means of strengthening the bonds of camaraderie within the ex-Navy community in Victoria, encourage all ex-Navy personnel to attend at least one of the 'Flagship Events' (listed on the NVN website) each year. But, of course, attendance at more of the many other events listed in the NVN Calendar is also strongly encouraged.
- Encourage smaller and/or declining Associations to consider amalgamating or affiliating with other 'related' Associations (eg. create a combined Destroyers Association) as a means to consolidate scarce resources and members, and to reduce duplication of such things as Newsletters.
- Support the NAA's efforts to develop a strategy to become the 'champion' or 'advocate' for all ex-Navy Associations' needs and concerns in Victoria, including consideration of a consolidated or more coordinated communication link, event coordination and funding processes, veterans support advocacy

*shape*

*\* Clearance Divers at Exercise*

*TALISMAN SABER 2017*

*\* HMAS Canberra Operations Phase of Exercise TALISMAN SABER 2017*

*\* Australia and US train in the Top End*

#### **NEWS.....**

##### ***USS Thunderbolt fires warning shots after Iranian vessel comes within 150 yards***

*In one of Iran's more daring challenges to U.S. Navy vessels operating in the Persian Gulf, an Iranian naval vessel came within 150 yards of a U.S. Navy ship forcing it to fire warning shots.*

##### ***China: spy ships and shy generals***

*The most obvious response to the Chinese intelligence-gathering ship snooping around in Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone in the Coral Sea would have been to put an RAAF P-3 maritime patrol aircraft right over the top of it.*

##### ***Five fifth-generation warfare dilemmas***

*The future of the ADF is 'fifth generation', or at least the Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Force think so.*

##### ***US Navy's oldest commissioned warship undocks after two-year restoration***

*The U.S. Navy's oldest commissioned warship, the USS Constitution, was refloated on July 23.*

##### ***'Girt by sea', Australia stands at the cusp of a golden era in naval shipbuilding***

*With the federal government committed to spending 2% of GDP on defence over the next decade, Australia's naval shipbuilding sector is set to undergo a renaissance that will drive the development of a new wave of skills and jobs.*

services and archival procedures for the storage and/or display of historical records and memorabilia from Associations which fold.

Any feedback from Associations on their progress (to date) to implement any of these initiatives as part of the combined effort to *“reinvigorate the ex-Navy community in Victoria”*, or questions relating to any of the above-mentioned initiatives, can be emailed to the organisers of the last workshop via:

[david.garnock@icloud.com](mailto:david.garnock@icloud.com)

The NVN team would be pleased to promulgate any “good news stories”!

Yours Aye!

NVN Team

## VALE

- † S.R. Jolly, R67223, 27 July 2017.
- † WOETP K. Musson, R62143, 22 July 2017. Aged 71.
- † CMDR A. Evans, 19 July 2017. Aged 83.
- † RADM D.F. Lynam CBE RAN, O710, 12 July 2017. Aged 91.
- † AB I.F. Murray, R53543, 06 July 2017. Aged 77.
- † POSY R.L. Harrod, R63776, 02 July 2017.
- † AB N.A. McCurry, PM4529, 17 May 2017. Aged 93.
- † LS W.J. Oliver, 22545, 23 April 2017. Aged 96.
- † LCDR J.W. Levy MBE, O682, 21 April 2017. Aged 94.

## 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](mailto: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.

### My Elderly Neighbour Jack

*From the book*

*“Worlds Apart - A Collection of Short Stories”*

*by Martin R. Oliver*

When I was a young boy I was always intrigued by an elderly gentleman who lived a few doors away from my house. Nobody seemed to know much about Jack Taylor. He was friendly enough and always had a smile and wished people a good day or good evening but, generally, he kept himself to himself and appeared to have very few close friends. He was a Rent Collector and could be seen most afternoons or evenings riding around the

### ***USS Gerald R. Ford is Commissioned***

*U.S. president Donald J. Trump commissioned the U.S. Navy's most expensive ship ever built, the USS Gerald R. Ford, in a ceremony at Naval Station Norfolk.*

### ***Talking to the chiefs: Tim Barrett, Chief of Navy***

*Australia's massive shipbuilding program must become a strongly focused national effort involving government, Defence and industry, says Chief of Navy Tim Barrett.*

### ***Deployment an open book for kids***

*A Navy family member has written a book to help children understand what their parents do in the Navy, and to help them cope when they are deployed.*

### ***To the edge of space***

*A photo shared by the Royal Navy recently took us to the edge of space in the rear seat of a Hawk jet from the Royal Naval Air Station Culdrose.*

### ***An Explanation on Commutations of DFRDB Pensions***

*The following is the text of an email to an ex-Navy member:*

*Dear Mr -----,*

### ***Australia green lights Garden Island wharf recovery project***

*A project to repair and upgrade two Sydney wharves used by the Royal Australian Navy has received green light to start.*

### ***Anzac Portal - Beyond a Century of Service***

*The new look Anzac Portal is now live!*

### ***Increasing veterans' workforce participation***

*Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today said that more veterans could now access the Special and Intermediate Rate of Disability Pension as a result of a 2017-18*

area on his bike or knocking on doors collecting the tenant's fees.

I remember him on cold winter mornings after a snow fall. He was the first person in the street with a shovel in his hand and would start clearing the snow from the footpaths of people's homes, usually for a couple of widows and old people who lived close by. He participated in very hard physical acts, even though he seemed much older than some of the elderly people he was actually helping.

Jack was still hanging around the area during my teenage years but it was a period of my life when I had little respect for elders and neither was I interested in their stories of the past. Stories of the Second World War or when a pint of beer cost just six pence and the basic salary was three pounds a week, or descriptions of their ailments such as back pain or gout etc., simply bored me to tears. My friends and I used to think that old farts who lived in the past and had never really lived at all. My priorities at that time were drinking beer in the pubs, hanging out with my mates, chasing girls, supporting my football team and listening to rock music etc. Nothing else seemed important.

It was some years later and a short time after I had joined the Merchant Navy that I met Jack again. He stopped me in the street one day and mentioned that my Dad had told him that I was at sea working as an engineer. He asked me if I could arrange to get him a Nautical Chart showing the east coast of northern Brazil and French Guiana and he would provide me with a couple of coordinates which he wanted marked on the chart (which he sent to me a couple of days later). I had no idea why he wanted it but after I joined my next ship I arranged a chart to be prepared, had the Chief Mate insert the coordinates and forwarded it back to Jack via my father and thought no more about it.

Jack thanked me a lot the next time I saw him some months later, mentioning that it was the coordinates of where he had been attacked by a U-Boat when he was with the D.E.M.S. during the Second World War aboard a ship called the M.V. Tower Grange.

It was during my next trip to sea when I learned about the Tower Grange. I was having a drink in the crew's bar after my watch one evening, when a couple of elderly oilers were discussing ships they had sailed on during the war and the close encounters they had experienced with enemy ships and planes. I mentioned to them about my neighbour Jack and that he was on the Tower Grange during that time. One of them, an Irishman, thought for a few seconds and announced: "Wait a minute! I know about the Tower Grange. She was torpedoed and sunk by a German U-Boat. Some crew members were lost and the others made it to the

*Budget initiative.*

#### ***Nuclear versus diesel-electric: the case for conventional submarines for the RAN***

*Arguing the case for nuclear-powered submarines, Tony Abbott laments that, under plans to acquire French-designed conventional submarines, the RAN will take delivery of a class that: will have less power, less range, less speed and less capability*

#### ***Career coaching for Australian Defence Force members leaving the military***

*The Department of Defence today launched an individual career coaching service for Australian Defence Force (ADF) members leaving the military.*

#### ***Taxation treatment of superannuation income streams***

*It has been a longstanding feature of the Australian superannuation system that military personnel and military invalidity pensioners are subject to tax on their superannuation income streams.*

#### ***Simulating anti-submarine warfare (by James Mugg - researcher at ASPI)***

*Anti-submarine warfare (ASW) is an arcane science (and perhaps its practitioners prefer it that way), but it's an incredibly important part of naval warfare.*

#### ***Cutting edge protection against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats***

*Our military will receive new cutting edge protection against Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) threats as a result of up to \$300 million worth of new equipment.*

#### ***Safeguarding veterans' pharmaceutical benefits***



lifeboats and were picked up very close to death some days later by a passing ship”.

For the continuation of this excellent short story go to:

<http://navyvic.net/associations/dems/myelderlyneighbourjack.html>



## Victorian Maritime Industry Inaugural Social Event



### SEEKING EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Victorian Maritime Industry is incredibly proud, rich in history, and amazingly diverse. So much so that many of us are unaware just how deep in experience and diversity our local industry really is. To promote this, the Royal Institution of Naval Architects and the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science & Technology, are proud to announce that they are planning the inaugural Victorian Maritime Industry social event.

The event is being planned for Friday, 25 August 2017, at the Boat Builders Yard on South Wharf, and will bring together maritime industry groups from across Victoria, including offshore, commercial, defence, government and recreation, as well as other organisations such as the Universities and Trade Colleges, that are vital to the future of our industry.

Throughout the night, presentations from various industry representatives are being planned to improve awareness of our industry, to encourage engagement, and identify where new collaborative bonds can be formed.

The cost is expected to be around \$60, for an all-inclusive food and drink package. To ensure we sufficiently cater for the event, **please register your expressions of interest via the contact below, by 14 July 2017.**

If your company or organisation would like to sponsor the event then we'd love to hear from you. Together we can continue to grow the event and grow industry participation. In return, we will ensure that your company or organisation is appropriately recognised on future promotional material.



**To register your interest, please contact Jesse Millar,  
Vice President of RINA Australian Division:  
[Jesse.m.millar@leidos.com](mailto:Jesse.m.millar@leidos.com)**

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



*Additional funding to ensure Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) clients would continue to have access to pharmaceuticals through the Repatriation Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (RPBS).*

#### **Response to National Mental Health Commission review**

*The Government is delivering improved mental health support for current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel and their families.*

#### **HMS Queen Elizabeth joined by frigates on sea trials**

*Royal Navy's new aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth was joined by two frigates as she embarked on her maiden sea trials.*

#### **Australian Navy's MV Sycamore arrives in Sydney**

*Royal Australian Navy's multi-role aviation training vessel (MATV) MV Sycamore arrived in Sydney harbour on Monday morning after completing her maiden voyage from Vietnam.*

#### **Funding applications open for Veterans' Health Week**

*Community groups and ex-service organisations could apply for funding to support local events organised for Veterans' Health Week 2017. Veterans' Health Week (VHW) will run from 21-29 October 2017 with the theme of 'physical activity'.*

**Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic)** President's July musings is now available to [download.....](#)

**Navy League of Australia(Vic-Tas Div)** July newsletter is now available to [download.....](#)

**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. **Battle of Savo Island** remembering the loss of HMAS Canberra, wreath laying service at 1100, **Wednesday, 9th August** at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance.
2. **72nd Anniversary of Victory in the Pacific (VP Day)** wreath laying service at 1030, **Tuesday, 15th August**, at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance.
3. **RAN Recruits** wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday, 20th August** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
4. **Merchant Navy Day** wreath laying service at 1400, **Sunday 3rd September**, Sanctuary.

**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](mailto: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. To book email **Ajith Jayasuriya** at [marketing@missiontoseafarers.com.au](mailto:marketing@missiontoseafarers.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.

## Synergy - Collaboration

"Is synergy across the Navy fraternity relevant?" Collaboration between our various organisations is not always as it could be, does that have a bearing on our future. We seem to be missing something these days; membership declining, reduced levels of interest the catch cry. Many words appear on enthusiasm, a positive environment where the social and wellbeing of our shipmates are paramount. There is also an imperative to maintain the legacy of past service and sacrifice. Past service evokes the thought of duty and dedication. With spiralling downward membership, the question, "is it worth doing something about it?" Or just give up, let things wither on the vine! Isn't the legacy of past service compelling enough. We in the ex-Navy fraternity have yet to hit on a formula to bring about change. Champions out there, each keeping their Associations ticking over, but where is their support, or are they on their own. Sometimes, or maybe always we are happy for existing Office Bearers to go unchallenged! Every member needs to be focused on helping out, even attending events does make a difference. Attendance demonstrates support, reinforcing the purpose as commemoration services frame extraordinary service and duty. Several months ago the NCCV and the Melbourne Naval Committee (MNC) arranged a workshop.

The aim was to consider the synergy across the Navy fraternity, with Ship Associations an obvious challenge. In the main, these groups originated after WWII. Some Vets were only posted to one Warship during their time in the Navy. Where individuals experience sea time in more than one Warship, they are usually able to say one posting has the edge over another. Many members who joined the Navy after 1945 can aligned themselves with a particular Association. Is this affinity to a ship the factor that has deteriorated, but how do we know! Navy's present day ethos, where a crew has the ability to move from one ship to another, without faltering may be the substantive experience we seek. Have we a mind to think there is a solution at hand? Several matters come to mind: challenge the system, put ideas forward for others to digest or take on some responsibility – show confidence in yourself and capacity to provide support; encourage others to participate - attend a commemoration service at the very least; Associations and their local Naval Association Sub-Sections should come together to benefit from a wider communications network with like minded people. We need national groups to do more when it comes to exercising an active synergy between themselves and local interest groups. Get involved and challenge the current thinking!





# Battle of Savo Island



The Battle of Savo Island is a major WWII battle where HMAS Canberra I was lost. It was 9AUG42 with the Imperial Japanese Navy bearing down on the Allied Forces. The IJN had a bearing on the destroyer USS *Blue*. USS *Blue* had not sighted the IJN Task Force, all of the IJN guns were aimed at the *Blue*. The IJN Task Force slipped past the *Blue*, proceeding past Savo Island. Shortly after passing the Island, the IJN came into contact with the Allied Force Screening Force. *Canberra* was the lead ship. It was early morning when the Japanese were sighted. At the same time Japanese aircraft, launched some two hours earlier were in the area and dropped flares. The flares silhouetted *Canberra* and *Chicago*. The IJN opened fire on the task force, *Canberra* being the lead ship took the full force of the Japanese attack and was quickly disabled. USS *Chicago* was severely damaged, although it managed to stay operational. The IJN had diminished the capacity of this Screening Force to where it was virtually ineffective. The Japanese continued their sweep around Savo Island, deploying into two columns and approached the Northern most Screening Force at high speed. Again complete surprise was achieved with just as devastating results. The Japanese ships opened fire on the Allied Task Force at very close range and in a short

space of time the US Ships *Quincy* and *Vincennes* were sunk with *Astoria* being badly damaged. During this action the Japanese flagship *Chokai* received hits knocking out the command structure. Being unaware as to the location and strength of the remaining Allied forces the Japanese did not appreciate their advantage and withdrew. Notwithstanding, on their way passed the outer screening destroyers the Japanese engaged and damaged the US *Ralph Talbot*. Soon after, the full extent of the action was evident. The Japanese had sunk the cruisers *Quincy* and *Vincennes*. The cruisers *Canberra* and *Astoria*, and destroyers *Ralph Talbot* and *Patterson* were severely damaged. Given the extent of damage to *Canberra*, The Task Force Commander, Admiral Turner ordered *Canberra* to be abandoned if she could not get underway. *Canberra* could not raise steam, all survivors were evacuated and USS *Selfridge* fired 263 x 5 inch shells, plus four torpedoes into *Canberra*. *Canberra* defied all attempts, until USS *Ellet* fired a torpedo that finally saw *Canberra* sink. At the conclusion of this action, the only warships on station were cruisers HMA Ships *Australia* and *Hobart* and USS *San Juan* with their destroyers escorts. The landing on Guadalcanal continued, despite the depleted Naval cover. This established the essential air strip and base from which the allied forces were to forge a trail north to Japan. 1,000 sailors made the supreme sacrifice and 700 were injured. (*Canberra* 84 killed, 109 injured)

## Nerves & Steel

A fantastic exhibition, Nerves and Steel is now open for display at the Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne. The exhibition was launched with a very special presentation by RADM Guy Griffiths AO DSO DSC RAN Rtd. The Admiral gave an expose of his early career as a young Naval Officer during WWII. A milestone appointment was his posting to HMS *Repulse*, he was in *Repulse* when that fine warship was sunk by the Imperial Japanese Navy. The Admiral described the experience of departing the sinking ship, swimming to a destroyer nearby and waiting in the water for his turn to be assisted into the ship. A stark distinction between the best training available and the real thing. He went on to describe vital features of his wartime commitment, including the island hoping going north towards Tokyo. In the audience was his class mate, David Manning - a survivor of the sinking of HMAS *Perth*, followed by years as a Prisoner of War. There were several WWII Veterans present, making this occasion particularly notable.



CMDR Luke Ryan RAN, Commanding Officer, RAN Recruit School also presented. CMDR Ryan spoke eloquently about the current stream of recruits entering the Navy and their capacity to maintain the legacy of service and sacrifice created by so many, including those Veterans attending the launch of the Nerves and Steel exhibition. Plan a visit to the exhibition, you have a year to do so, remember it ends 29JUL18.

## Nulka

There are some unique contraptions being designed to defend our warships, such as the Nulka Active Missile Decoy. → HMAS *Darwin* (pictured) firing a missile whilst in the Eastern Australian Exercise Area. A device that simulates the parent warship, providing a signature of a virtual image at a safe distance from the actual ship. This acts as a digital decoy for any incoming weapon relying upon an electronic signature.



A vast difference to the 40/60 bofor many of the old salts remember. As the discussion on relevance prevails, with respect to surface ships and submarines described in the Defence White Paper, the advent of these new techniques and systems begin to shape the Navy of the future. It wasn't long ago that desk top computers were apprehensively introduced, now they are a normal part of a sophisticated network supporting operational as well as training regimes. Nulka may be the start of the next generation.



## Arunta



HMAS Arunta has been welcomed home after completing the longest Middle East deployment by a Royal Australian Navy vessel since 1990. The frigate, home to a ship's company of 191 docked at Fleet Base West on 23JUL17. A nine-month deployment conducting counter-terrorism & maritime security operations. The crew intercepted 800kg of hashish and more than 500kg of heroin. CO, CMDR Cameron Steil said "The illegal narcotics had street value of more than \$186 million, according to Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission figures. "We covered a lot of ocean and we are pleased to be home," CMDR Steil said. "Since departing in November last year, we have travelled more than 49,000 nautical miles, equivalent to 2.5 times around the world." *Conquer or Die!*

## Naval Association

How many of us have given any serious thought to what the Naval Association of Australia is about. A national organisation that is not well known to most in the Navy fraternity, a tad surprising for those that have been around for a long time. Most will argue that many organisations are in decline, ex-service groups are no different, but have we asked why? If we take Australian Defence Force numbers, let's stick with Navy: 14,000 Permanent and maybe 2,000 Reservists, retention levels appear to indicate a nine year term. Taking these numbers, we may well have 1,700 potential new members each year to encourage, or is that convince to take up the challenge. You may have seen that the NAA has taken a new approach to their service delivery, naming four pillars: Care, Commemoration, Cadets and Camaraderie. There is the thought that everyone in a Ship Association is in the NAA. The membership of NCCV is made up of Ship Associations, it is obvious that they are not all in the NAA. It would be worthwhile looking at common ground between ex-Navy organisations. The segregation

that pervades virtually everything that identifies us as ex-Navy may need to be de-constructed, reviewed with an honest approach to sustainability. As noted at page 1, a workshop arranged by Melbourne Naval Committee and NCCV a few months ago came to the conclusion that the NAA is the only national network capable of delivering a sustainable future of the ex-Navy fraternity. How we respond to the challenge is under review, some folk have a desire, an appetite to initiate change. However, there are many strong, well intentioned individuals in the game that are able to make a positive impact. One area where commonality should be easy to master, is commemoration. If individuals don't want to be part of remembering the legacy of service and sacrifice of the tens of thousands that went before us, then so be it. Not supporting commemoration activities is one thing, repudiating commemoration is another. Our collective desire should be to ensure past service is never forgotten. A natural extension of this position is to understand inherited Battle Honours, the connection between past and present.



## President's Dit

*Struggling to think up new & varied ideas that will seize the moment, rouse the imagination. Our purpose is two fold: reinforce the great work by a precious few that do virtually everything and secondly to prick the conscious of anyone remotely connected to Navy to make contact. Importantly, contact needs to be made with a mind to join us and for those already engaged, to give serious thought to stepping up to the plate. New folk first, there appears to be social or procedural blocks. The notion of thinkers and drinkers can disconnect some, whilst camaraderie is imperative, it must be mindful of the personal attributes of fellow members, whether new or old salts. Entry procedures need to be reviewed, are they enlightened by modern methods. Once passed the first gateway, what will be the impact of that first impression. As we embark upon this new financial year, view it as an opportunity to re-invent ourselves! Do things differently, but don't wait for someone else to fix it. Remember, maintenance of the legacy of past service and sacrifice is surely a worthy reason to connect.* Yours age, Terry Makings

## DIRECTORY for NCCV

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## Special Notes



**HMAS Vendetta Reunion.** Planing is well under-way for the *Vendetta* reunion scheduled over the weekend of Friday 18MAY18 to Sunday 20MAY18. This special event will be held in Mildura. For more information relating to the reunion go to the NVN website where the proforma is located. If you have any questions, email [ian.kellett@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.kellett@bigpond.com)  
**Nerves and Steel.** As an adjunct to the Nerves and Steel exhibition there will be a panel discussion at the Shrine of Remembrance at 1200, Wednesday 9AUG17. This will involved WWII Veterans giving their stories as it relates to the War in the Pacific. This will immediately follow the Battle of Savo Island Service at the Cenotaph. You might ask is this worthy of our attention, when over 1,000 Allied sailors lost their lives and 700 were wounded. Casualties in HMAS *Canberra* - 84 dead and 109 wounded.

**Navy Week Victoria.** There are several key events planned in Melbourne that should not be missed. The most important being the Navy Ball. Every Serving or Ex-Service person, along with family and friends are most welcome. Go to the website for details. There is also a seminar organised for during the day of Saturday, 21OCT17 in the auditorium, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. A don't miss event!

**Naval Lore.** The 'old salts' may know, but for us ODs to pass the trivia night we need to know how Port & Starboard came about! A single steering oar or sweep was fixed onto the righthand side of the vessel, it became know as *steer board* side. This became universal, but it was difficult to put the vessel alongside whilst using the steering oar, so naturally the vessel would berth *steer board* outboard. They would then put a plank from the vessel to the jetty. This plank or board was called the *loadboard*. There was doubtless confusion over the use of the terms *larboard* and *starboard*. Then along came ships with much higher free-board, so they cut a loading door in the ship's side. These were called ports, *steer board* became *star-board* and the docking side became known as the *portside*. Imagine, you could have gone your entire life not knowing that important naval lore.  
**The Lanyard-** original use of the (uniform) lanyard was to secure the pussers dirk. The lanyard was long enough so that when aloft it could be opened whilst holding onto the rigging. It was worn under the collar for comfort, appearance, and to prevent choking if the lanyard was caught below the turk's head. Still adorns the ceremonial rig!

# **Navy Week Victoria - 2017**

**Australian White Ensign  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

## **Navy (Defence) Ball**

**Saturday 21OCT17**

**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](mailto:navy.week.victoria@gmail.com) or**

**Post to 7 Clarence Place, Cranbourne East, 3977**

**Please include a telephone number.**

