



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

June 2014

Volume 4 Edition 6

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 923*

Two years ago, twenty plus associations met to workshop what they thought relevant to the future of the Navy community ashore. It was apparent at that time that most elements of the ex-service community had experienced reduced membership. It also appeared that there was a distinct lack of interest from most who have serviced in the Navy during recent decades. What was needed was a catalyst to encourage our colleagues, our shipmates to engage, even if that engagement was for just one short activity each year.

The ability to measure the success of this workshop would normally be expected to be through increased membership of the various associations, however, this has not occurred. What has happened, albeit at a slow rate is the attendance at our Flagship Events: Battle of the Coral Sea Service, Seafarers Service, Navy Wreath Laying Service, HMAS GOOANGAI Service and the Creswell Oration. The evidence may not be significant, but it does give us some hope if we wish to remain sustainable.

Sustainable is a contemporary word, maybe it means survival while we try to just live as comfortable and stress free as possible. Nonetheless, some of us think we all have an obligation to support our heritage as warriors of the sea. Many of us just got on with the job, but there are a select few that did much more. We only have to look at the RAN Recruit School where the Divisions are now named after sailors: Shipp, Rodgers, Taylor and Emms. Each of these sailors showed courage in the face of extreme adversity. Maybe they wouldn't have joined an association either, but we can only hope their contribution will

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**28 Jun** – WRANS Association country visit to Warragul

**30 Jun** – HMAS Waterhen wreath laying at the Shrine

**05 Jul** – RANCB & WRANS Cocktail party at Melbourne Naval Centre.

**06 Jul** – Reserve Forces Day Parade

**06 Jul** – FESR wreath laying

**10 Jul** – On this day in 1911 - King George V granted the Permanent Commonwealth Naval Force the title of Royal Australian Navy.

**24 Jul** – NHS meeting (All Welcome)

**27 Jul** – Korean Veterans wreath laying

**28 Jul** – WRANS Annual General Meeting at the Bentleigh RSL

## ANZAC Centenary Events

### Chinese ANZACs Exhibition

**5th July, 2014** – 4th January, 2015  
Chinese Museum  
22 Cohen Place  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**The Armed Man:** a concert by the Consort of Melbourne, directed by Peter Tregear

**29th July, 2014** — 6:00pm–7:00pm  
Melbourne Recital Centre  
Cnr Southbank Blvd and Sturt Street  
Southbank VIC 3006

be upheld 'as we that are left grow old'.

There are countless ex-Navy men and women in the city and regionally that have yet to participate in some activity that is reminiscent of past service in the Australian Defence Force. No doubt most are well aware of the welfare effort that exists for the benefit of veterans, however, if we turn our sights away from ourselves we might just appreciate the importance of commemorating the legacy of our warrior sailors, whether that be through Ship, Unit or Branch interests. The considered view is we are dependent upon the engagement of all ex-Navy men and women so that the service to Australia by Navy does not slip into obscurity.

Centennial of the Spirit of ANZAC will be a period between 2014 and 2019 when many Australians will seek to discover their connection to the Great War (WWI). As quoted by Sir Winston Churchill, "We must look forward one hundred, two hundred, three hundred years, to the time when the vast continent of Australia will contain an enormous population; and when that great population will look back through the preceding periods of time to the world-shaking episode of the Great War, and when they will seek out with the most intense care every detail of that struggle; when the movements of every battalion, of every company, will be elaborately uncovered for the gaze of all; when every family will seek to trace some connection with heroes who landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula, or fought on the Somme, or in the great battles in France.....16<sup>th</sup> December 1918.

Look for those occasions that are oriented toward the Navy Community and make an effort to participate, take the family and reinforce your own connection with those that went before us.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team



Keep up to date with our own Smartphone / Tablet App. Go to our [website](#) to view the brochure which explains how to download and install the NVN App to your phone / tablet.

## Latest News

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### **Leading By a Nose**

*More than 340 men and women of HMAS Cerberus opted for a red 'nose job'. [More.....](#)*

### **Anzac Centenary Grants**

*More than \$2.36 million in funding for commemorative projects was announced today. [More.....](#)*

### **Air Warfare Destroyer Program**

*The Government has taken the next step to put the Air Warfare Destroyer Program back on track with the appointment of key expert advisers to assist with the implementation of the Reform Strategy. [More.....](#)*

**Chief of Navy** responds to DART report on HMAS Leeuwin abuses.

[More.....](#)

**Minister for Defence** – Statement on Report on Abuse at HMAS Leeuwin.

[More.....](#)

### **Maritime security strengthened**

*through \$2 Billion Pacific Patrol Boat Program. [More.....](#)*

### **Saluting Australia's Veterans**

*Funding has been approved for commemorative projects. [More.....](#)*

**Assistant Defence Minister** – Launch of new cyber security research centre.

[More.....](#)

**The 2014 Defence Women in Peace and Security Conference.** [Opening address.....](#)

**Defence team heads to Kiribati** to dispose of suspected WWII sea mine.

[More.....](#)

**Joining forces** - proactive policing at HMAS Cerberus. [More.....](#)

## VALE

- † LCDR Beverly Murphy, (ex-CPOEWL), 19 May 2014.  
† ABME L.G. Brown, R93172, 14 February 2014. Aged 69.

### Lest We Forget

**Members:** When you hear of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know. We would like to list their names in perpetuity on our special 'Vale' page on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, Age and their date of passing. Thank you

#### Veteran Sailor Presented With 2nd Federation Star



It was the winter of 1968, the Beatles were about to release 'Hey Jude', Australia's Rod Laver claimed the Wimbledon Men's singles title, Sir John Gorton was the Australian Prime Minister and Leading Seaman Roger Dalby, CSM, joined the Royal Australian Navy as a Junior Recruit.

Earlier this month LSCIS Roger DALBY was presented with his second Federation Star for 45 years continuous service, the only Junior Sailor to ever achieve this milestone. Presentation was made by RADM M. NOONAN AM, RAN, Commander Border Protection Command / CJTF 639, onboard HMAS Sydney in Singapore Dockyard. [Read the full story.....](#)

**Interests:** If you have a specific interest/link you think would be of appeal to the wider Navy community, we would be pleased to hear about it. Just email our webmaster – [webmaster@navyvic.net](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net) with details.

**NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below**

**Minister for Defence – Speech to the Japan National Press Club, Tokyo.**

[Read the full speech.....](#)

**Update to investigation into allegations of inappropriate behaviour in HMAS Ballarat.** [More.....](#)

**Launch - The Government has today launched the \$5 million Transition and Wellbeing Research Programme.**

[More.....](#)

**BLUElink project helps Navy understand and protect the marine environment.** [More.....](#)

**World War I artefacts from submarine AE2, sunk off Turkey, to be surveyed as part of Anzac centenary.**

[More.....](#)

**Boosting Australia's maritime capabilities.** [More.....](#)

**Joint Press Conference – Review of the Air Warfare Destroyer program.**

[More.....](#)

**Putting the Air Warfare Destroyer program back on track.** [More.....](#)

**Air Warfare Destroyer added to Projects of Concern list.** [More.....](#)

**Australian veterans of secret conflict honoured.** [More.....](#)

**NLA (Vic Div) – [June newsletter.....](#)**

**NHS (Vic Div) – [June newsletter.....](#)**

**Semaphore 5 – Operation Neptune D-Day 6 June 1944.** [Read.....](#)

**Australian Maritime Digest – [#235](#)**

**NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)**

**Don't forget to visit the [website](#), there are many more news articles and information that are not included in this newsletter.**





# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### *A Different Approach*

**DIARY NOTES**  
**Services at the Shrine**  
**of Remembrance**  
*[Everyone welcome]*

**HMAS WATERHEN**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**Sanctuary**  
**30JUN14@1400**

**RAN Recruits**  
**Taylor Division**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**Sanctuary**  
**6JUL14@1030**

**Far East Strategic**  
**Reserve**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**Dedicated Tree**  
**6JUL14@1400**

**RAN Recruits**  
**Emms Division**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**Sanctuary**  
**27JUL14@1030**

**Next NCCV meeting**  
**12AUG14@1030 at**  
**Melb Naval Centre.**

*The Royal Australian Navy has for the first time 4 Vice Admirals*  
VADM Ray Griggs  
V/Chief Defence Force  
VADM Tim Barrett  
Chief of Navy  
VADM Peter Jones  
Chief Capability Development  
VADM David Johnston  
Group HQ Joint Operations Command

As we look around it is obvious that the very existence of our ex-Navy Associations are under threat of extinction. Many of the leaders have been at the helm for decades with no logical successor in place. It might be that we have shunned someone who may have been appropriately skilled to handle the job, because we wanted to be at the helm beyond our effective watch. We have routinely written about the difficulties of retaining membership, let alone building numbers. It might be there is no future for ex-Navy Associations and ship/unit/branch Association will literally die away. The survival of rank and file groups is critical to our very existence. There must be something that will encourage our shipmates to tag along. Have we offended them so much that the thought of hanging out with us is abhorrent to the majority. There is still a strong sense of Officers Vs Sailors, rather than appreciate that at sea we were all in the same ship as it were and got on with the job. If we look across at who is doing their best to keep the Navy community front and centre, it is a mix of all ranks and demonstrates the opportunity for anyone with the capacity to 'single up', do 'warmers' or basically prepare for sea can get involved and keep us on course. Basically, we are searching for that different approach attractive to the main stream. We have persisted with our newsletters and not so recently we set up the Navy Victoria Network, all with the same objective - to keep you informed about events and snippets that might just get you to try a little harder, put on another sprayer! What is particularly difficult is getting access to old



shipmates that do not receive our newsletter or attend any social events where they might 'accidentally' come across information about Navy. If you have a technique and wish to spread the word, let us know and go for it! Apart from National structures, such as the Naval Association, Navy League and the RSL, much of the game is with grass roots interests. The diary notes on the left list those events scheduled for the next four or so weeks. Each one is open to everyone and the family is also welcome. If you wish to see what else is planned then go to our website, navyvic.net or for all significant commemoratives services go to shrine.org.au for details. Excuse the caricature above, at least the sentiment is consistent with our challenge - we want all of our shipmates to look at what opportunities exist that will benefit from their input!



### **Disclaimer**

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

### **Melbourne Naval Centre**

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

### **Navy Victoria Network**

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Navy Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. An opportunity not to be missed - Log on to <http://navyvic.net/>

# *President's Report*

Over two years ago we held a workshop where more than 20 ship/unit/branch Association came together to discuss what might be our future prospects. Since that time we have experienced a slight improvement, but not like we hoped for. Not that we had unrealistic expectations, just that it is a hard slog and solely for the purpose of maintaining what is regarded as an important legacy, that of the men and women who have put on a uniform. Obviously, some were required to do more than others, however, that should not make any difference when it comes to reflecting on our Navy service as a whole. The gauge we tend to use is membership of our various organisations, although our collective interest may also be measured by the numbers that participate in our commemorative services, most being at the Shrine of Remembrance. Hopefully we all know that there are no private services at the Shrine, everyone is welcome to attend any service held there. The only service which might seem to be limited is at 1100 on the 11th November when the Governor lays a sin-

gle wreath at the Stone of Remembrance within the Sanctuary. Well over 750,000 people visit the Shrine of Remembrance in any given year. This is expected to increase when the Galleries of Remembrance is complete by Remembrance Day this year. Appropriately timed to coincide with the commencement of the Centenary of the Spirit of ANZAC. You will see several significant occasions advertised relating to the centennial. These should stir everyone within the Navy Community as they are moments in time that warrant our respect and support. The Navy Victoria Network will routinely advise of important occasions and you should refer to that website to find out what is on. If you are an organiser, please refer to the NVN calendar before locking onto a time and date. This way we can avoid conflict with other events and therefore maximize the opportunities for everyone to attend. We far too often find ourselves competing against ourselves. Please give it some thought. *Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## *Steward Bruce Buchanan*

CMDR David Marsden RAN will pay tribute to Steward Bruce Buchanan PM2485 during a short address at the Australian War Memorial Last Post ceremony on Saturday, 28JUN14 at 1655. CMDR Marsden will describe how Bruce Buchanan was posted to HMAS GOORANGAI where he was tragically killed on 20NOV40. GOORANGAI was sunk after it collided with the HMAS DUNTROON. Bruce Buchanan was born on 23JUN14 in Daylesford, Victoria, son of George and Ruby Buchanan. He was married to Marie and a member of the Royal Australian Naval Reserve. Very little else is known about his life except that he was called up to active duty soon after the war began. GOORANGAI was a fishing trawler prior to being taken over by the Navy Board and fitted out for mine-sweeping. In early November 1940, two freighters were lost in quick succession in Bass Strait to German mine-laying operations. GOORANGAI was one of a number of minesweepers sent to destroy the mines, after two weeks she returned to Queenscliff, but a rising storm sent the ship to the safer harbour of Portsea. The GOORANGAI was navigating its way through the rip at the mouth of Port Philip Bay, when she was hit by the DUNTROON. The minesweeper sunk almost

## *AWM - Webcam*

immediately with all hands still aboard. At the time, floatation devices were thrown out into the darkness and lifeboats immediately deployed, but despite a long search no survivors were found. Over the following weeks diving operations recovered the bodies of six of the crew. The remaining 19, including that of Bruce Buchanan, were never recovered and the wreck of the minesweeper was blown up to clear the channel. After 15 months of war time activities, HMAS GOORANGAI became the first surface warship of the Royal Australian Navy to be lost in wartime. The names of Bruce Buchanan and the crew of HMAS GOORANGAI are listed on the Roll of Honour within the AWM, along with around 40,000 others from the Second World War. This is but one of the many stories of courage and sacrifice told at the AWM through the live stream at 1655 each day. To view this particular address and ceremony, log on to <http://live.awm.gov.au/> on Saturday 28JUN14. If you miss this occasion, try another day as each address reminds us of all those Australians who have given their lives for their friends and in the service of our nation.



## ANMEF Contingent

600 Victorians departed Flinders Street Railway Station on 17/18 August 1914 on their way to join the Australian Naval & Military Expeditionary Force (ANMEF) in Sydney. They left a few days later for New Guinea. They became the first group of Sailors and Soldiers to join together for a joint offensive. Sadly, this was also the first occasion for Australia to encounter casualties in a world war. Part of the ANMEF arrived at New Guinea on 11 SEP 14 and were immediately put ashore. There is some conjecture as to whether Command should have waited until the entire ANMEF was at hand before commencing the operation. Notwithstanding, those that were put ashore proceeded towards the radio station at Bitia Paka. Some hours later Australia was to suffer its first casualty, that being Able Seaman Billy Williams, from Northcote Melbourne, an ex-employee of Melbourne City Council. To increase the tragic circumstances of that day, Captain Dr Brian Pockley took off his medic arm band and handed it to one of the stretcher bearers carrying AB Williams back to the ship. Captain Pockley was himself shot soon afterwards and later died alongside AB Williams back in the ship.

## Working Together

There are several groups of individuals working together to assist to coordinate the various activities involving the Navy Community in Victoria. During this month, representatives of the Veterans Council, Naval Association of Australia, Melbourne Naval Centre and the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria met to discuss the various sources of funding aimed at supporting a range of activities needed in support of Ex-Service Organisations. In some cases the approval process can be quite onerous, however, it is important that we at least know of these different streams so we might contemplate the best way of achieve those funding needs. Other working groups include the Navy League, Naval Officers Club, HMAS CASTLEMAINE Museum Ship and others, all have a common overarching objective with a focus on Navy. Whilst there is a need to recognise the boundaries around each organisational entity, that should not preclude the necessary coordination and mutual support we long for. In some cases, the leaders within our Navy Community may not be cognisant of the mood of the ex-Navy men and women we want to entice into joining us. At times we can be so busy looking after our part of ship 'we can't see the ocean for the waves'. Try looking at what is going on outside your field of vision/interest.

## STS Young Endeavour

There is something uplifting about the opportunity for young folk to experience the traditional method of sea transport aboard the STS Young Endeavour. The Young Endeavour was a gift from the United Kingdom to the Government and people of Australia to mark the Bicentenary in 1988. The Royal Australian Navy operate and maintain the ship. The Vessel has a mere 239 tonnes displacement, is 44 metres long and has the



old Brigantine sail rig. Reputed to be an experience of a lifetime, this venture is open to all youngsters. Whilst a journey in the Young Endeavour is at a cost, if financial assistance is required then go to the website to see how this can be overcome. Fingers crossed and good luck. The website is [youngendeavour.gov.au](http://youngendeavour.gov.au) and is well worth your interest.

## Sydney/Borneo

50 years ago HMAS SYDNEY transported a sizable contingent of Australian Army personnel and equipment to Borneo in support of the confrontation in Borneo. A half century has elapsed and this was marked by a commemorative service where many members of the Ships Company posted to SYDNEY and escort destroyers at the time assembled to reflect on their experience and the significance of the occasion. SYDNEY, converted for such a job was put through her paces in what proved to be a fruitful role.

HMAS SYDNEY leaving Sydney Harbour in 1964



## ANZAC Centenary

The first commemorative activity relating to the ANZAC Centenary is scheduled for 5th August at the site of the old Fort Nepean. There will be an opportunity for everyone with any interest in the 'first shot' fired in the British Empire to be on the original site to reflect on what became a tragic period in Australia's history. See the note below in 'Items of special interest' for information on how to access the appropriate Point Nepean area. Two weeks after the first shot saw a strong contingent of Victorians deployed to Sydney on their way to Rabaul. This operation was to become the Battle of Bitia Paka. Departure was 17/18th August 1914 from Flinders Street Railway Station. There will be a ceremony at Flinders Street Railway Station on the 17AUG14 to remind us of this centennial day, the day AB Billy Williams left as part of Australia's Naval & Military Expeditionary Force destined for New Guinea, but never to return.

*We should keep in mind that  
'War doesn't determine who is right,  
just who is left!*



## *Items of special interest*

The First Shot fired at the commencement of WWI will be remembered with a notable service and the firing of a simulated shot at 1245 on Tuesday, 5AUG14 at Point Nepean. A very large crowd is expected, possibly 5,000 or more. The NCCV is arranging a bus from the CBD to Point Nepean if you are interested. The cost will be \$20/person, that will get you from the Arts Centre in the CBD, or Frankston Railway Station to Point Nepean and return after the event. If you are interested, email [naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com](mailto:naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com) to book a seat and pay on the day.

Communicators & WRANS are having a cocktail party, \$15/person at the MNC, Saturday, 5JUL14. Both are well supported Associations, no doubt because of strong leadership so the attendance is going to be good. If you are interested, you had better email [rodney.withers@bigpond.com](mailto:rodney.withers@bigpond.com) now.

HMAS LEEUWIN DART report relating to abuse of JRs was tabled in parliament on 18JUN14. CN's response demonstrated the high level of care and responsibility exercised by today's Navy. Hopefully the victims will draw some comfort from the manner in which Navy is dealing with this matter.

## *DIRECTORY for NCCV*

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CAPT Katherine Richards CSC RAN was listed on the Queens Birthday Honours being awarded the Conspicuous Service Cross. CAPT Richards is also being promoted Commodore at the end of the year and posted as Head of the RIZZO Reform Program. This program seeks to overcome the problems with technical support of our warships and also the training prerequisites. We wish CAPT Richards all the very best on her award and promotion, the consequence of a meaningful contribution to Navy as SNO Vic & CO CERBERUS.

Tribal Class Associations enjoyed their combined lunch recently at the Dandenong RSL Sub-Branch. 60 Veterans, family and friends attended making it a most enjoyable occasion. Combining with other ESOs has proved beneficial and is encouraged.

Sportsman Club HMAS CERBERUS has been demolished. You may recall the Club, prominently located at the north end of the parade ground. It is one thing to see the old buildings replaced, another when we have seen them built then demolished, maybe something to do with the ageing process!

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**