



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

June 2015

Volume 5 Edition 6

Editorial

NVN current membership: 991

As we progress through the first few weeks of winter many of our readers may be reminded of their time at HMAS CERBERUS. Whilst Leeuwin was the home for young JRs, Nirimba virtually a remote posting for our future tradies, Cerberus was the home for all General Service candidates and 90 day wonders! Cerberus seems to deliver extremes in weather; sadly we never appeared to have the appropriate uniform to ease the stress of cold and heat! Seeing the rigs available to our sailors today is enlightening, we understand they even get their slops dobedyed when at sea. Whilst we may have missed out dreadfully, the modern day Navy looks very smart – albeit without horizontal creases in their trousers.

Some may have even managed to witness the passing out parade on Friday 12 June where Shipp Division, RAN Recruit School was the latest group of sailors to join mainstream Navy. Despite the cold, Shipp Division sailors managed to execute their drill impeccably, no doubt those graduating were driven by enthusiasm and the thrill of demonstrating their competencies before family and friends. Each was presented with their graduating certificate and a number were recipients of specific awards of some note, such as physical fitness, class work accomplishments, rifle shooting and potential for leadership. The HMAS Warramunga Association figured prominently as their President, Wayne Niklus presented an award for best shot. The Warramunga Class is a permanent feature of Shipp Division. Also involved in nominating awards was the HMAS Sydney Association, where their President Dr. John Carroll made an award to a Recruit high achiever as demonstrating the most

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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30 Jun - HMAS Waterhen wreath laying

05 Jul - Reserve Forces Day parade

05 Jul - FESR wreath laying

10 Jul - 104th Anniversary of the birth of the RAN

17 Jul - On this day in 1945 HMAS Quiberon and Quickmatch bombard Japan

19 Jul - On this day in 1940 Sydney sinks the Bartolomeo Colleoni

20 Jul - VADM Sir William Rooke Creswell was born on this day in 1852

26 Jul - RAN Recruits wreath laying

27 Jul - NHS meeting (all welcome)

ANZAC Centenary Events

ANZAC Naval Commemorative Ball

Saturday 17 October 2015 in the Victory room at Etihad Stadium, Melbourne. The room has been booked for 1000. As of the 15th March 2015, 510 places have been booked.

BOOK NOW.....

[Navy Ball Flyer.....](#)

[Navy Ball Information page.....](#)

[Navy Ball Booking Form.....](#)

potential as a leader. It happens that the Recruit in question who has now commenced training as a Cook, also has a degree in criminology and a business degree. I seem to recall when completing high school was a major achievement when entering as a General Entry.

The Reviewing Officer was Navy's newest Flag rank officer, Rear Admiral Johnathan Dallas Mead AM RAN, Deputy Chief of Navy. A sign of the times, the Admiral moved freely amongst the Recruits. RADM Mead has two Masters Degrees and also a PhD in International Relations. This quantum of tertiary achievements all seems a far cry from days gone by, when qualifications were primarily determined by Navy. Augers well for Australia to have such a highly qualified and articulate Navy, people and warships to match.

Membership in the NVN has increased to a respectable 991 and there is plenty of room for more service and ex-service men and women, plus their well deserving descendants and friends to also join the list of registered members. There are no costs associated with NVN, just a requirement to support Navy. Reflecting on the purpose of NVN may be useful as a reminder to all of us. We all witness the wide range of interest groups, largely involving a relatively small number of champions destined to keep their part of the Navy fraternity alive. There is some disappointment that our National entities have yet to work through the challenge of affiliating with like-minded folk. The desire is to maximise the benefit to the Navy fraternity through an effective collegiate approach to our mutual benefit. Who takes the lead is the crucial question.

Each month we endeavour to create a newsletter that encourages you to broaden your involvement in the Navy community. You might ask why we are so persistent! The answer is all about; maritime heritage, legacy of service, young folk defending Australia, commemoration of significant Navy events and remembrance. How are you connected these days, remember – Once Navy, Always Navy!

Here we are, half way through 2015, where has it all gone! This may be a good time to think about our deeds over the past six months. For instance, ask yourself "did I take the opportunity to participate at one or more events organised by the Navy Community?"

So far this year there have been many opportunities for every one

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>

Melbourne fires Evolved Sea Sparrow Missiles

The Royal Australian Navy Adelaide class frigate, HMAS Melbourne, has successfully fired two Evolved Sea Sparrow Missiles, reinforcing her war-fighting and mariner skills.

U.S. Navy Secretary Endorses Adding Names of 74 Sailors to the Vietnam Memorial Wall in Washington DC.

On Friday June 20, 2015 the USS Frank E. Evans DD-754 Association learned that Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) announced that Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus endorses adding the names of the lost 74 sailors from USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 to the memorial in Washington D.C.

65 Years Since The Start Of The Korean War

On the 65th anniversary of the beginning of the Korean War, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, encouraged Australians to remember those who served in what is often called the 'forgotten war'.

Landmark reforms to ADF conditions of service

The Government today introduced legislation establishing a new military superannuation scheme for members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and accompanying legislation to enable ADF members to work part time.

Defence to contribute to facilities project for Darwin

of us with links to the Navy to participate. Attendance is a simple way of demonstrating your connection; that could be due to your own service experience, or that of a family member. Essentially, our collective support is necessary if the legacy left to us by those that went before us is to be sustained.

Sometimes when we reflect on our own service we may not realise a sense of importance. It is not uncommon for most to think they only did their job and nothing stands out. Whilst this view is shared by many, it could not be further from the truth. Each person who signed up and did their *Time*, can stand proud and deserves to be part of the current day Navy Community.

Readers of this NVN newsletter are part of the Navy Community in one way or another. We need to embark upon a process where we can convince one or two of your colleagues to join us. Joining us might be as simple as encouraging a Navy friend, or other colleague who may have a family connection to sign up to the NVN Website. When part of the team, the next challenge is to select and attend at least one Navy related event in Victoria.

Most Ship and Unit Associations have a ceremony or service of some sort during the year. This may be confined to ANZAC Day or to some other commemorative service during the year. For those commemorative services conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne you only need to look at their website, or the NVN website to discover what service is relevant and when they are planned. All you need do is gather the family and turn up.

In order to broaden the range of information on the NVN website, we have a facility where each Ship and Unit Association can have their own page. Your new page can provide a ready reckoner so we will all know the key features of your Association, such as Office Bearers and other pertinent information. Please keep in mind that the ease of sharing information about your Association may be the catalyst necessary to encourage others to join in.

On the matter of joining in, some of the NVN Executive have participated in a workshop involving the Naval Commemorative Committee of Victoria and the Melbourne Naval Centre. At this stage, some 21 Ship and Unit Associations have been directly involved – the purpose of the workshop being to discover what we need to do to expand the horizons of the Victoria Navy Community. Initial thoughts stem from the need to get more of

An \$18 million project to construct a Multi User Barge Ramp Facility in Darwin has been approved by Parliament.

National Search For Official Historian Begins

The compilation of the Official Histories of Australian operations in Iraq, Afghanistan and the peacekeeping operations in East Timor took a significant step forward today with the Australian War Memorial (AWM) calling for expressions of interest from qualified historians to oversee the project.

Dawn Service Anzac Day Speech

Anzac Day speech by Vietnam veteran Lieutenant Neville Clark at the Dawn Service in Melbourne. [Well worth the six minutes of viewing.....](#)

Full tax exemption for ADF personnel in the Middle East

The Australian Government can today announce that a full tax exemption will apply to military personnel serving on non-warlike Operations Manitou, Accordion, Okra (Zone B) and Augury in the Middle East region.

Minister Welcomes Malaysian Support For Repatriation of Australians Buried at Terendak

The Malaysian Government has pledged its support and offered to assist wherever possible in returning the bodies of Australian soldiers buried at the Terendak Military Cemetery in Malaysia.

Commission of Inquiry report released into the death of Able Seaman Ewan McDonald.

Navy commissions helicopter squadron

The commissioning of 725 Squadron, at the Naval Air Station HMAS Albatross in Nowra, is an important milestone for Navy and marks the

our ex-service folk engaged socially or through a commemorative service. Several of the original participants have continued to meet as a sub-committee. This sub-committee is dedicated to drilling down to discover those initiatives that will build greater interest by those yet to join in.

Our hope is for everyone to give some thought to how their past Navy experience, or linkage as a descendent is demonstrated. We are keen to ensure there is sufficient information and activity on the NVN Website to prompt participation. Whilst there are many activities of interest scheduled throughout the year, there are three key events supported by a host of Associations that clearly invite your attendance, these are: the Seafarers Church Service at 1030 hrs and the Navy Week Wreath Laying Service at 1330 hrs on Sunday, 18th October and later on Sunday, 22nd November the HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service, commences 1100 hrs at Queenscliff RSL. *Best to put these commitments in the diary now.*

Let's reinforce the message – get involved, it only needs to be one event a year to show your undeniable connection to Navy.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † SBLT A.L. Farrell, H1743, 22 June 2014. Aged 95.
- † PO J.M. Irvine, PM2199, 14 January 2014. Aged 93.
- † LS C.W. Cannon, S3651, 22 May 2015. Aged 96.
- † LCDR D. Innes, 16 Jun 2015.
- † WRTEL(T) O. Herd (nee Stone), WR347, 07 June 2015. Aged 93.
- † CEC G. Mitchell, 03 June 2015. Aged 76.
- † ABROS P. Puxty, R63314, 03 June 2015. Aged 67.

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

NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below

formal induction of the Squadron and aircraft into the fleet.

Expert Advisory Panel appointed to oversee Future Submarine Competitive Evaluation Process.

Defence to sell Leeuwin Barracks in Fremantle

The Department of Defence has decided to sell Leeuwin Barracks in Fremantle, Western Australia.

Improved Services For Veterans In Geelong

Services to Veterans in the Geelong area are set to be revamped following a review of existing arrangements and extensive consultation with the community.

Largest Investigation

This week marks the beginning of Australia's most comprehensive study into the impact of contemporary military service on the health and wellbeing of serving and ex-serving ADF personnel.

NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION - Lyme disease

*Section 196G of the Veterans' Entitlements Act 1986
The Repatriation Medical Authority gives notice to find out whether Statements of Principles may be determined in respect of Lyme disease.*

Navy League of Australia (Vic Div)
[June newsletter.....](#)

Naval Historical Society (Vic)
[President's June musings.....](#)

NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)

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



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

Rogues' Yarn



HMAS *Sydney* - HSK *Kormoran*

KEY ENGAGEMENTS

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

**Reserve Forces Day
March then Service
Cenotaph**
5JUL@1000

**Far East Strategic
Reserve, Sanctuary**
5JUL@1200

**Shipp Division
RAN Recruits
Sanctuary**
26JUL@0930

Next NCCV meeting
10AUG15 @ 1030 at
Melb Naval Centre.

**All Ship/Unit/Branch
Associations are
encouraged to be
represented!**

**RANCBA NEW ZEALAND
CRUISE - JANUARY 28th**

RAN Communications
Branch Association -
Victoria welcome all
interested individuals
to join them on their
cruise. 142 people en-
joyed their first cruise
to the Pacific. To date
98 have booked for this
second cruise. For info
email kath.rowville@helloworld.com.au

For several years CDRE Bob Trotter OAM RAN Rtd has been involved with the WA Museum/Curtin University project to rephotograph HMAS *Sydney* and HSK *Kormoran* in HD 3D Video. The project has been underway through May 2015 at the site of the two hulks. The Project Team has been working closely with a number of partners: these include Australian National Maritime Museum, the Australian War Memorial and University of Western Australia. The purpose of the project is to secure new information using high definition, three-dimensional imaging technology to record in detail the wrecks of *Sydney* (II) and *Kormoran*. The imagery obtained will allow assessment of the deterioration of the vessels; create a 'point-in-time' digital record of their state of preservation; provide important evidence to elucidate the nature of their encounter; create a unique resource to provide interpretive and educational material in a number of high profile museum venues and be available on-line. Bob reports that it is an exciting start as early ROV dives on *Sydney* and *Kormoran* have produced new photographic evidence. The vision thus far appears to confirm why *Sydney* was so quickly disabled, through catastrophic damage and the devastating loss of everyone on board. The first high resolution images taken by Curtin University on board DOF Subsea's vessel *Skandi Protector* clearly show, for the first time, a 15cm shell-hole through the bridge at the compass platform. This is a remarkable early discovery for the expedition as it provides support for the German captain Theodor Detmers' account that within the first 30 seconds of

the battle, *Sydney's* bridge was destroyed, her command structure lost, and her ability to effectively fight back severely disabled. It would appear we now have photographic evidence to support that, thanks to Curtin University's technology. Photographed below is the damaged turret on the *Sydney*.



When the wrecks were found in 2008 the shell-hole was not obvious, presenting as a shadow in the photographs taken at the time. The new imaging technology, developed by Curtin University is throwing new light on the circumstances associated with both historic sites. The photograph below shows a gun placement on *Kormoran*.



The two images above were taken from the project video recorded last month and readily available as follows
<http://youtu.be/ym-xcpaZy-E>



Disclaimer

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

Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is a service to the entire Navy Community.

The purpose is to share information and where possible avoid a clash with other activities scheduled by others in the Navy Community.

Log on to

<http://navyvic.net>

Melbourne Naval Centre

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

President's Report

Mid way through the year and time to take account of progress. You may ask 'what progress would that be?' From our perspective that would be attendance by the Navy fraternity at commemorative services or any indication that we have encouraged more service, ex-service men and women, and their descendants to participate in any activity that demonstrates support of Navy. Given this year has been underpinned by the Spirit of ANZAC, the influence of Navy Victoria Network (NVN) and the Melbourne Naval Centre (MNC) in support of the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria (NCCV) is difficult to measure, however, we remain optimistic and continue to promote the many and varied activities that support Navy. The core activities relate to pilgrimages to the Shrine of Remembrance, but there are many localized activities arranged by our many member Ship/Unit/Branch Associations worthy of your attention. The articles reinforcing the importance of your participation will hopefully bring you to at least one of the many activities made known to you.

Our greatest push is to re-invigorate Navy Week Victoria in 2015. We hope the entire Navy Community back our efforts by firstly registering interest and secondly by sharing the word with others. See articles within this edition of Rogues Yarn for advice on how to register your interest in one or more Navy Week activities. We seek to create just a tad of enthusiasm to achieve a reasonable level of success. On the matter of Navy Week, it is a little disappointing that current circumstances preclude the normal Open Day at HMAS Cerberus. This event was originally deemed to be the appropriate end for a busy Navy Week. Notwithstanding, HMAS Cerberus will no doubt provide much of the uniformed support needed to highlight the invaluable connection between current service and ex-service support of Navy across the board. If our luck holds out, we may even see a Warship in Port Phillip Bay at some point during Navy Week - fingers crossed! **Once Navy - always Navy!**

Yours aye, Terry Makings

HMAS Cerberus

In Greek mythology *Cerberus* was a ferocious dog guarding the entrance to Hades. Said to be a hideous creature, as was the new Monitor warships, hence the name *Cerberus*. HMAS *Cerberus* [the Monitor] was taken over by the Victoria Government as a guardian for Port Phillip Bay. *Cerberus* presented a rather ungainly appearance and was described in one newspaper as an 'elongated gasometer'. She spent more than 30 years at her moorings off Williamstown as a floating fortress. She was said to have kept Port Phillip Bay virtually impregnable. But those were years free from direct threat to Australia and when defence once again became a matter for concern she was obsolete. When the Commonwealth Naval Forces became the RAN in 1912 the Naval Depot at Williamstown was commissioned HMAS *Cerberus*. In 1921 the Williamstown training establishment was transferred to Flinders Naval Depot. At the same time as the monitor *Cerberus* was removed from the Navy List. The monitor remained off Williamstown for a few years before being sold, firstly to a private firm and then to the Municipal authorities of Black Rock. The Council filled *Cerberus* with concrete and sank the hulk as a breakwater where she can be seen today. A most inglorious ending for a ship which had guarded Victoria for so long.

HMAS Creswell



A century has passed since HMAS Creswell was established. The first Cadets, pictured left, initiated what has become a highly regarded

institution. After a short period at Osborne House, Geelong, Cadets were relocated to the new establishment at Jervis Bay in 1915. Creswell has been the home for most of Navy's Officers over the past 100 years. Australian Defence force Academy will eventually overtake Creswell as the primary starting place, but nothing will diminish



Creswell as Navy's Home of Officer trng. ← General Sir Peter Cosgrove inspecting Midshipmen at Creswell on the 18 June 2015.

Navy Week Victoria

The NCCV has initiated several activities in October in an attempt to reinvigorate Navy Week Victoria. You will know the ANZAC Navy Commemorative Ball is planned for Saturday, 17OCT15. On Sunday 18OCT at 1030 - Seafarers Church Service, St Paul's Cathedral. This will be followed by the Navy Week Wreath Laying Service at 1245 in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. We hope Chief of Navy and SNO Victoria will be at each of these services. On Monday, 19OCT15 we will hold a Golf Tournament at Waverley Golf Course. This is expected to be a very competitive day for all Navy golfers, more info to come very soon. On Tuesday 20OCT15 there

will be a family day at *Cerberus*, again more info to come as the detail is worked through. A Seminar is planned between 1000 - 1500, Wednesday 21OCT15 in the theatre, Shrine of Remembrance. ADML Chris Barrie and the three Senior Service Officers Victoria have agreed to present. An amazing venue and a great line up of presenters. On Friday, 23OCT a Bowls Tournament will complete the week. Both golf & bowls tournaments will reinstate Navy Week trophies of yesteryear, this will recognise the earlier efforts of so many. A small cost will apply to these events. If interested in one or more of the activities by all means let us know by email (address at bottom left of page) to register your interest. As soon as the details of events are finalised they will be publicised.

Below, Navy's new paint scheme is being rolled out, with HMAS *Perth* (152) pointing to the future with the new darker grey. Looking at HMAS *Parramatta*'s stern at Fleet Base West is in the original shipside grey.



The Expert Panel

Serious decision making is underway with respect to the selection of Australia's next generation of Submarines. On the 5th June the Minister of Defence, the Honourable Kevin Andrews MP announced that France, Germany and Japan were confirmed as potential partners in the design and build of Australia's future submarine programme. He announced the establishment of an Expert Advisory Panel, that will oversee the competitive evaluation process. The Expert Advisory Panel will ensure that the competitive evaluation process remains sound, is conducted in accordance with acceptable probity and accountability principles, and that participants have been treated fairly and equitably. The expert panel will comprise the following professions: 1 Professor Donald Winter, a former US Navy Secretary; 2 The Honourable Julie Anne Dods-Streton, a former Justice - Federal Court of Australia; 3 Mr Ron Finlay, one of Australia's leading infrastructure specialists with extensive legal experience; and 4 Mr Jim McDowell, a member of the First Principles Review Team with extensive Defence experience. The Minister Advised that significant work will be undertaken in South Australia. It is anticipated that work in SA will include integration of combat systems, design assurance & testing of land based systems.

HMAS *Waterhen*

On the 30 June 1941, HMAS *Waterhen* listing to port prior to being taken in tow, later sank at Tobruk. *Waterhen* left Alexandria, Egypt, laden with troops for Tobruk on 28 June 1941. During the evening of 29 June 1941 both *Waterhen* and HMS *Defender*, her 10th Flotilla companion, were attacked by German dive-bombers. *Waterhen* was crippled and holed but fortunately without casualties. *Defender* avoided damage and was able to go alongside *Waterhen* and take off the troops and ship's company. Despite attempts to save 'the old chook' as she was known, *Waterhen* rolled over and sank on 30 June 1941. She was the first RAN ship lost from enemy action in World War II, but the fourth ship lost from the 10th Destroyer Flotilla. The 10th Destroyer Flotilla was led by Captain Hec Waller RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS *Stuart*. HMS *Defender* survived *Waterhen* by only a few days. On 11 July *Defender* was attacked again, bombed and sunk during her return run to Alexandria in company with HMAS *Vendetta*. *Waterhen* was the only destroyer of the Scrap Iron Flotilla to be lost in the Mediterranean despite the intense work load under particularly hazardous conditions. *Vampire* was also sunk, after departing the Mediterranean and commencing escort duties alongside the RN in the Indian Ocean.

ANZAC Centenary

Navy's involvement in WWI continued during 1915, however, there were no significant events established as milestones. The Army on the other hand was engaged in major confrontations in Europe resulting in dramatic losses. For instance, the Battle of Lone Pine in August 1915 where the main Turkish trench taken by Australians in 20 minutes, followed by several days fighting resulting in 2,000 ANZAC casualties. Commonly known as the August offensive, involved Lone Pine and the Nek. This offensive committed the 8th Light Horse, 10th and the 9th attacked, Quinn's Post 1st Light Horse Brigade, plus the massive "swing" around the left flank. This was 4th Bde, with New Zealanders plus British and Indian units. The 8th Light House was almost wiped out. Notwithstanding, it will be 101 years since the Battle of Bitia Paka. Navy needs to be appropriately represented at this pilgrimage to demonstrate our respect and admiration for the effort made by the Australian Military Expeditionary Force as they claimed Rabaul Communication Station.

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



DIRECTORY for NCCV

PATRON: CDRE Jim Dickson AM MBE RAN Rtd
 PRESIDENT: Terry Makings
 Telephone: 03 9429 9489 [leave a message]
 M: 0411 135 163
 VICE PRESIDENT: Marty Grogan OAM
 Telephone: 0417 377 763
 Jnr V/PRESIDENT: Pete Johnston
 Telephone: 0419 104 473
 SECRETARY: Chris Banfield
 Telephone: 0412 832 148
 TREASURER: Jan Gallagher
 Telephone: 03 9786 5371
 PR Officer: Chris Banfield
 Editor: Terry Makings

All correspondence to the email address please,
naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com
 or if postal mail is essential, The Secretary at:
316 Nicholson Street, East Fitzroy VIC 3065
 Website: <http://navyvic.net>

Items of special interest

WW2 1st July 1945. HMASs *Arunta*, *Hobart*, *Shropshire*, *Kanimbla*, *Westralia* and *Manoora* participated in the assault on Balikpapan, Borneo.

Far East Strategic Reserve. On the 2nd July 1955, the first Australian Warships *Warramunga* and *Arunta* were deployed to South East Asia, the commencement of the Far East Strategic Reserve.

HMAS Melbourne. A rare sight is the namesake Warship in Melbourne! We seldom see a Warship in Melbourne, so it was a great sight at Station Pier.



Tribal Lunch. Tuesday 23JUN was a great day at the Dandenong RSL when Ship Associations *Arunta*, *Bataan* and *Warramunga* arranged a Tribal lunch. VIPs were CAPT Steve Bowater, CMDR Dugald Clelland, CMDR John Goss, WO Brendan Woodsell and Cr Sean O'Reilly Mayor - City of Greater Dandenong. A well attended function!

Competition 2015. DVA annual Story Writing & Art Competition is aimed at service and ex-service men and women, peacekeepers, spouses, widows, eligible children and grandchildren (over 18 years of age). Cut and paste www.dva.gov.au/health-and-wellbeing into you browser and look under the heading of Health Events. After that, you can write an article for Rogues Yarn!

RUSI. The Royal United Services Institute seek to provide meaningful presentations to those interested. Should being a member appeal to you, go to their website at www.rusi.org/contactus.

Diary Dates. Now that you have read R/Yarn, go to your diary and enter those key October dates: Ball, Seafarers, Shrine, Bowls & Golf Days, Family day at HMAS *CERBERUS* and the Seminar. Also, come along to Reserve Forces Day 5JUL15.