



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

June 2016

Volume 6 Edition 6

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1033

What is your knowledge of today's Navy?

For those currently employed in the Permanent Naval Service there is an obvious understanding of their contribution to the professionalism of the Royal Australian Navy. They may also have some thoughts about their consequential work ethic and the wellbeing of themselves and shipmates.

For those of us who no longer serve, there is a need to be mindful of today's Navy. Many who have left the Navy in the past several decades may be a tad sceptical, but take it from those that have been there, you will have a desire to connect at some time. Your time in the Navy will emerge as a credible experience and you will ideally have the wherewithal to jump at it. The potential opportunities may belong to welfare issues, social enterprise, commemoration or other related matters. Each may generate an interest relevant to the situation, but importantly it is about joining the fraternity of ex-service men and women.

Few 'eligible members of the ex-service community' take advantage of opportunities to gain an understanding of what is going on in the Defence Force today and what is intended. Those active in the ex-service community believe we should make some effort. Most ex-service men and women separated from their engagement with the Navy because of career aspirations or domestic needs that took priority and guided their interests elsewhere. Fair enough, but keep in mind that 'Once Navy – Always Navy'. These words are not just a chant, for most they represent reality! This reality may not kick in until a

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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27 Jun – NHS meeting – all welcome.

30 Jun – 75th Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Waterhen.

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

17 Jul – On this day in 1945 - HMAS QUIBERON & QUICKMATCH bombard Japan.

19 Jul – On this day in 1940 - HMAS SYDNEY sinks the Italian cruiser BARTOLOMEO COLLEONI.

25 Jul – NHS meeting – all welcome.

03 Aug – On this day in 1900 - South Australian ship PROTECTOR sails for the Boxer Rebellion under the command of CAPT W.R. Creswell.

18 Aug – Vietnam Veterans Day

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>

Navy begins shift to task groups
HMA Ships Canberra, Ballarat and Success have deployed with the Royal New Zealand Navy's HMNZS Te Kaha, to take part in Navy's first task group

decade or more has passed since leaving the Navy, but it will occur – so watch out for meaningful opportunities to get involved.

One such opportunity will be the seminar scheduled during Navy Week Victoria, on Wednesday, 19th October 2016. This will be a gathering of interested parties in the new theatre, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne. The purpose will be to broaden our knowledge of the Navy's future. In particular, the seminar will focus on the Defence White Paper and also the ship building that flows from the 2016 White Paper. Most importantly, you will have the opportunity to ask questions of several very well informed senior Naval Officers. You will also hear from the champions of several of our National organisations who may make a bid for your support.

Navy Week Victoria has had a chequered path, last year being the first year for over a decade that anything of substance had been organised under the banner of Navy Week. This year the Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria, with the help of allied organisations will again forge ahead with the purpose of demonstrating that the ex-service fraternity supports the Australian Defence Force, Navy in particular. The several activities being arranged include: Seafarers Church Service, Navy Week Victoria Seminar, a golf and lawn bowls tournament along with the Navy League Geoffrey Evans Yacht Race, followed by Open Day at HMAS Cerberus. Whilst this is a simple list of activities, it provides an opportunity for everyone to demonstrate some interest in Navy across a small range of different activities.

The Sunday morning Seafarers Church Service at St Paul's Cathedral, Flinders Street will be the start of Navy Week. Chief of Navy will be the Guest of Honour and will lay a wreath to commemorate the contribution made by Australia's Mariners since Federation on behalf of Navy during this important service. We are also likely to see a Warship in town at some time during Navy Week as well. This will be a most welcome and rare visit to Melbourne.

We encourage interest groups, such as RSL Branches, Naval Association Sub-Sections, Navy League of Australia Victoria Branch, Royal United Services Institute of Australia, Naval Officers Club, to name a few to consider arranging members,

certification. The task group was tested across the five warfare domains: land, air, maritime, space and cyber.

Final salvo for Naval officer

A naval officer who may have brought down the Japanese Zero fighter which crash-landed on Melville Island on 19 February 1942 has died in Brisbane. Lieutenant Frederick Sydney Sharp, known as Syd, was stationed at East Point on the Port War Signal Station facility which checked shipping in and out of the harbour, during the first air raid on Darwin.

Soundings Papers: Legal and Practical Challenges Associated with the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles in the Maritime Environment

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) are being developed and used by individuals, organisations and military forces at an ever increasing rate.

Death of a Royal Australian Navy Sailor in the Middle East

It is with deep regret the Australian Defence Force can confirm the death of a Royal Australian Navy sailor in the Middle East. The sailor was deployed on Operation Manitou in HMAS Darwin.

Interview With ABC 730 on Mefloquine | On the Record

In response to recent concerns about the use of mefloquine in the ADF Defence is releasing as much information as possible to assist current and ex-serving members and their families.

Using the ForceNet

Internal Navy communication and career management will get a significant boost with major improvements to the ForceNet portal. ForceNet is a secure website that provides access to Defence services

family and friends to attend the various activities. The open day at HMAS Cerberus and other activities will only be successful if we come together in support of Navy.

This year represents the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam Campaign, a conflict that touched many of the older members of the ex-service community. Coming together during Navy Week with sailors of today, will demonstrate a level of solidarity indicative of that collective effort experienced so many years ago.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † AB N. Fuller, F3325, 25 June 2016. Aged 95.
- † RO G.R. McNabb, R54574, 24 June 2016. Aged 75.
- † TEL. L.J. Passmore, F5515/R35125, 15 June 2016. Aged 89.
- † POME G. Tempest, R95055, 10 June 2016.
- † PORP J. Cairns, R63940, 10 June 2016. Aged 71.
- † ABRO S.A. Aiberti, R53246, 10 June 2016. Aged 76.
- † LEUT F.S. Sharp RAN, 09 June 2016. Aged 99.
- † LS T.P. Fisher OAM JP, F2805, 04 June 2016. Aged 96.
- † ME R. Hobson, R64627, 01 June 2016. Aged 67.
- † LS N.L. Grant DSM, PM4661, 01 June 2016. Aged 90.
- † CDRE J.D. Goble RAN, 31 May 2016. Aged 93.
- † CEWR P. McNair, 30 May 2016. Aged 68.
- † STO J.J. Quick, W2494, 30 May 2016. Aged 93.
- † LEUT G.N. Jackson OAM RAN, O59499, 26 May 2016. Aged 70.
- † COXN H.J. Lyall, H2296, 11th May 2016. Aged 90.

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' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

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

and information online.

French honour veterans during visit to Fremantle

Western Australia recently hosted over 600 French officers and sailors as French Naval Ships Guepratte and Tonnerre paid a six-day visit to Fleet Base West and Fremantle. Christophe Lecourtier, the French Ambassador to Australia, delivered a speech in a ceremony on Guepratte, awarding the Legion of Honour to Australian Second World War Veterans, George Aylmore, Ronald Milton, and Norm Smith.

Vietnam veterans' children receive education funding

The Secretary of the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA), Simon Lewis PSM, has congratulated 34 students from across Australia who have been selected to receive funding under the Long Tan Bursary scheme.

Remains of six First World War soldiers identified

The Australian Army has confirmed the identification of a further six Australians from the 250 Australian and British World War One soldiers recovered from a mass burial site at Pheasant Wood in France in 2009. The soldiers newly identified are: Second Lieutenant James Benson, Private Justin Hercules Breguet, Private Clifton Sydney Brindal, Private Sidney Broom, Private William Burke, and Private Robert Thomas Maudsley.

Navy League of Australia(Vic & Tas)
June newsletter – [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.



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

ROGUES' YARN

The Gun Line



During this 50 anniversary year of the Vietnam Campaign, we need to reflect on the work of the many Australian warships that deployed to Vietnam. The majority were escorts, providing a secure journey for ←HMAS *Sydney* as it transported much of our military might, particularly the troops. Whilst the Escorts, committed to the Far East Strategic Reserve were ever ready to support the Campaign, the real gun line Warships were the DDGs. The DDGs were our initiation into the American shipbuilding industry. HMAS *Perth* ↓



HMAS *Brisbane* ↑ made up the trio of DDGs, each were to rotate through the Vietnam Gun Line. Each proved time and time again that they were up to the mark. DDGs proved to be highly effective and with Australian crews they excelled in every quarter. Only one other Warship was to join the DDGs on the Gun Line - HMAS *Vendetta* ↓, a Daring Class Destroyer



You should attend:

*NCCV meets on
second Tuesday, on
each even month.*

*Next meeting is
9AUG16 - MNCentre.
1030 start!*

*Associations, please
send along a REP.*

**HMAS WATERHEN
Sanctuary @ 1400
Thursday 30JUN16**

**Reserves Forces Day
Cenotaph @ 1000
Sunday 3JUL16**

**Far East Strategic Res
Sanctuary @ 1200
Wednesday 6JUL16**

**RAN Taylor Recruits
Sanctuary @ 1000
Sunday 24JUL16**



was the first to arrive in Australia, in MAR66. HMAS *Hobart* ↓ arrived at



the City of Hobart on 1SEP66. *Hobart* was the first DDG to be deployed to Vietnam in MAR67, returning to Sydney in September having steamed 52,529 miles. She had expended 9,204 rounds of 5-inch ammunition and had come under enemy fire on nine separate occasions. *Hobart* was to be awarded the coveted Duke of Gloucester Cup in 1967 for being the most efficient unit of the RAN fleet. The third DDG arrived in Australia in MAR69.



with smaller guns and the need for a different stream of spare parts. At least fuel and victuals were consistent with the DDGs. It was no surprise that each of these four Warships demonstrated a superior level of skill and professionalism. Each of their Ships' Companies proved again and again that the ethos of the RAN was built on dedication to the task at hand, pursued with enthusiasm and vigour. We can be confident that the sailors in the modernised HMAS *Perth III*, whilst currently deployed to the Middle East, will continue to demonstrate these traits and the Navy values.



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.

President's Report

There have been a range of interesting events so far this year, some very personal with the passing of old Shipmates and traditional events such as commemoration and remembrance. Most of these instances occurred at the Shrine of Remembrance, with an NCCV representative attending. All of these services are special occasions, where past members who served in specific Warships, maybe ashore, or participated in a theatre of war or peace keeping mission attend with their family and friends. Their presence demonstrating support for Navy, or at the very least the legacy of the work done by current family members, or their forebears. Increasing the level of awareness of commemoration services, so that families may make that all important connection has proved elusive. Maybe the reality is that many of our fraternity are not interested, demonstrated by their lack of support. We continue to press matters of commemoration as that is one aspect of our 'time in' that isn't controversial. It may well be that commemoration is the only common thread that connects all ex-Navy men and women and their families. Even so, it still appears to be overly taxing on many of our colleagues. This non-commitment by nearly all who have left

the Navy in the past three decades is a concern for our various peek bodies as well. Some organisations have given up on the prospect of improving their membership. It would be terrific if a few ex-Navy, or their descendants would take an interest and enjoy the experience. We also need to be mindful of how we old folk present ourselves - we might be scaring them off with 'our way or the highway attitude'. We need to be welcoming and encourage participation. We might also take a look at ourselves, are we are relevant. To put some perspective into this opinion, the following words were written by an RAN Recruit recently after a visit to the Shrine of Remembrance. Keep in mind that the author was at the end of week three of their recruit training, *'When the Last Post came on today, as we stood in the Sanctuary I got goosebumps up my spine and a strong sense of achievement and pride. I loved learning about the Shrine and its history and the brave men and women during WWI and WWII. Today has motivated me more to be not only the best sailor I can, but to be the best person I can be as well.'* We all felt that at some time: *Yours aye, Terry Makings*

Navy Week Victoria - 2016

Navy week Victoria is an opportunity for all of us, particularly ex-Service men and women, along with their families to demonstrate support for Australia's Defence Force, Navy in particular. These days, there is a level of reticence amongst the ex-service fraternity to openly show their support for their former employer, albeit a crucial experience within their working life. Unlike other forms of employment, being part of the Defence Force is a unique experience fused into our persona. When asked about your time in Defence, it may conjure up a range of thoughts, but mainly it will be described as a meaningful experience. This would not be far from the truth, irrespective of why you may have separated from Navy. The focus on this year's Navy Week Victoria is the Vietnam Campaign with our eye to the future of the Navy. Due to a number of conflicting issues, we have deferred the social event, the Navy Week Victoria Ball for a year. This may result in the

Ball becoming a biennial event, funding being a crucial aspect of the planning. This year's activities are:

1. Seafarers Church Service, St Paul's Cathedral at 1030 on Sunday, 16OCT, CN has advised that he will be in attendance. Open invitation - medals please.
2. Navy Week Victoria Seminar, Theatrette - Shrine of Remembrance at 1000 on Wednesday, 19OCT. Reservations will be essential. Website for proforma.
3. Navy Week Victoria Bowls Tournament, also on Wednesday 19OCT, information will be provided. In the meantime, RSL Sub-Branch Bowls Teams should give thought to challenging for the best result.
4. Navy Week Victoria Golf Tournament, Mornington Golf Club in conjunction with the Legacy Challenge, Friday 21st October with details also to come.
5. Navy Week Victoria - Geoffrey Evans Yatch Race, Saturday 22OCT at Melbourne Yatch Club.
6. Open Day HMAS Cerberus, Sunday 23OCT. We encourage Naval Association Sub-Sections and RSL Sub-Branches to consider providing support.

HMAS Perth



Bravo Zulu

HMAS Perth 3 in Sunda Strait, at or near the site of the sinking of *HMAS Perth 1* on 1st March 1942. *Perth 3*'s Ship's Company assembled on the quarterdeck at a commemorative service to reflect on the loss of 375 Sailors when *Perth 1* was despatched by a powerful contingent of Japanese Warships. The crew that was recovered from the sea were imprisoned by the Japanese and endured unthinkable hardship. *Perth 1* honours inherited by *Perth 3* are: Atlantic 1939/40, Malta Convoys 1941, Matapan 1941, Mediterranean 1941, Crete 1941, Greece 1941, Pacific 1941-42 and Sunda Strait 1942 (identifying the sinking theatre of operation). Paul Grigson tweeted the photograph below.



Pictured is Captain Ian Pfennigwerth RAN Rtd who has written about the honours & awards to Navy personnel. These stories will be published in two volumes, the first to be released AUG16. Vol 1 covers the period 1900 to 1974, an 800 page book with 24 maps and 260 illustrations. It traces the recipients' stories, the formation and development of the RAN, its fortunes during World War I, its resurrection from the depths of the Depression, and its fine fighting record during World War II. Post-war the stories tell of our Navy's growth toward independence, the exploits of its men in Korea, Malaysia, Indonesian Confrontation and Vietnam, and its development of ships and weapons system like the Ikara anti-submarine missile. There are stories about the loss of *Voyager* and of spectacular feats in naval flying and diving. If you jump in early, you can save a few dollars. The NCCV wish Ian the best with this project as his team of researchers have put in much effort. Interested, then go to Ian's website for details: <http://www.nautilushistory.com.au>



MV Banks ex-HMAS Banks

A note from Brian Burton advises that he is seeking to purchase ex-*HMAS Banks*. Brian wants to find others interested in being involved in the project. His vision is to set up a live-aboard option. The call is for ex-Navy men and women who would like to go back to their Navy days and be part of a crew again. Obviously a crew that is a tad more relaxed. Brian wants to bring the *Banks* back to her former glory and cruise her up and down the East Coast of



Australia primarily as a Navy Museum, but also as a Naval Cadet Training Vessel and perhaps a venue for ex military personnel to have functions/events on board. The vessel is currently sea worthy, berthed at Yamba, NSW. Whilst *Banks* is in good shape, there is a need of some TLC cosmetic work. If you are interested in investing, financially or/and physically in the project as a partner or just being involved in the project as a crew member please advise Brian. There will be some costs, such as being prepared to contribute \$200 per week for on board accommodation. You will also need to help out with the cost of food and think about doing 8 hours work per week, probably in your trade. The purpose of this effort is to bring the ship back to her former glory, ships side grey, boot topping - the lot. Brian is very keen and wants to talk to anyone vaguely interested in joining the crew. Brian is a Daring man, having served in *HMAS Vendetta* 1970/1971. Contact details for Brian Burton are as follows: ring his mobile telephone 0468 942 194 or email Brian at brianburton1952@gmail.com



The 5,000 poppy project has become 500,000 poppies, above is how some of them looked when taken to the Chelsea Flower Show in the UK, earlier this year. With the help of Qantas, Victorian Government through the ANZAC Centenary Committee of Victoria, thousands of visitors to the show were apparently amazed at the display of sentiment represented by the poppy display. Even Queen Elizabeth II was impressed and met the team who originated the project in Gippsland and are now sharing it with the rest of the world. The poppies will be displayed on the Western Front as well, this will coincide with WWI centenary events in France. A great achievement!



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Special Notes

Crossed the Bar. A saying attributed to seafarers that pass away. It is a saying derived from the famous poem by Alfred Lord Tennyson. The 'bar' is a formation of shallow sand along a shoreline caused by currents, wind and tide. They are also found at the mouth of rivers creating a very shallow and unpredictable hazard for ships. 'The moaning' is the sound of the sea and waves running over the bar, particularly at night. *"Sunset and evening star, And one clear call for me, And may there be no moaning of the bar When I put out to sea."*

Youngsters. If you are under 30, don't cut & paste this address into your browser, it's for old folks:
You've Gotta Love Millennials - Micah Tyler

RUSI Presentation If you are interested in hearing MGEN Peter Haddad AO Rtd deliver a presentation on the Defence White Paper and what it means for Victoria's Industry then you had better get in quick. This presentation is at 1230, Thursday, 30JUN in the Defence Plaza, 661 Bourke Street, Melbourne. To attend you must email secretary@rusivic.org.au or ring 9282 5918 before 1400, Wednesday 29JUN. Cost will be \$10, coffee/tee at 1200 sangers later. You will also need to take along a photograph ID.

Naval Association. The NAA has amended their constitution to allow partners to join. This is a big step forward for the NAA and will no doubt encourage many wives and de-facto partners to participate. With voting rights and access to all office positions, except the President's role partners will be able to engage in all aspects of the NAA in a meaningful way. Well done NAA.

Burma Railway.

LCDR Bruce Cells RAN met with Harold Martin, a 99 year old WWII Veteran at the ANZAC Day Dawn Service conducted at the Konyu Cutting, better known as Hell-fire Pass. As a Prisoner of War, Harold survived the Thai Burma Railway. He was then despatched to Japan with the intention of being forced labour. He survived the sinking of the Japanese Hell Ship he was in when it was torpedoed and sunk. Harold was rescued by a US Submarine. He turns 100 on 1st January 2017.

