

Navy Victoria Network

June 2018

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https://facebook.com/navyvictoria

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1092

Victoria and Western Australia are indeed very lucky to recently have two Flag Rank Officers appointed to senior positions. In Victoria (Commodore Greg Yorke CSC RANR) appointed as Senior Naval Officer and in Western Australia (Commodore Brett Dowsing RAN) as Senior Defence Officer. As we focus on Victoria, whilst not a fulltime role, the Reserve days allocated should enable good headway to be made to build Navy's profile.

The terms of reference for CDRE Yorke's role, as SNO(V) are wide ranging and demand considerable expertise and effort on behalf of the CDRE. There is high anticipation across the Ex-service community of Victoria as a consequence of this command restructure. Notwithstanding these changes, Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus continues as the primary source of support. The breadth of responsibility at Cerberus has broadened with a massive re-building project at a cost of \$463m being undertaken. There is also a major re-skilling project about to commence involving technical categories. Advice is that category training for MTs commencing later this year will take individuals 24 months to complete. These additional responsibilities have lent themselves to what may appear to be resurrection of the earlier Naval Officer Commanding arrangement. Consequential Senior Officer appointments, such as the newly appointed Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus and expansion of the role of Director Technical Authority – Engineering are outlined in the attached Rogues Yarn.

Primary aspects of the terms of reference issued to the SNO(V) by Chief of Navy are as follows:

a. Widely communicate Navy's activities and presence in Victoria, including engaging Victorian based academia and policy institutes

Volume 8 Edition 6

Calendar Events (see calendar for details of all events)

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

25 Jun – NHS meeting (all welcome)

30 Jun – HMAS Waterhen wreath laying.

02 Jul – In 1950 UN operations in Korea commenced.

09 Jul – In 1928 HMAS Canberra commissioned.

09 Jul – In 1940 Battle of Calabria.

10 Jul - In 1911 King George V granted the Permanent Commonwealth Naval Force the title of Royal Australian Navy.

17 Jul – In 1945 Quiberon & Quickmatch bombard Japan.

19 Jul – In 1940 HMAS Sydney sinks Italian Cruiser Bartolomeo Colleoni.

27 Jul – Korea Veterans Day

27 Jul – Christmas in July – Mission to Seafarers.

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

on relevant strategic issues, and supporting significant Navy activities conducted in Victoria.

b. Coordinate Navy's local liaison with the Victorian State
Government, maintaining contact with the appropriate
Department of Defence representative for specific issues.
Additionally, you are to conduct broader civil and interagency
coordination and engagement on behalf of Navy within Victoria.
This will be achieved, in part, by participation in Defence
Consultative Forums and other forums with Maritime and
Defence industry involvement.

c. Establish links with industries in Victoria who are connected with Port and Maritime infrastructure. You are to examine the costs for Navy arising from strong resource sector competition and the opportunities for Navy and the ADF created by new infrastructure development.

d. Facilitate the enhancement of Navy's reputation in Victoria with the support of Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus.

e. Support visits by senior personnel and dignitaries to Victoria (including overseas military, Defence civilian leaders and officials from other Government agencies), particularly those which aim to improve awareness and familiarity with Victoria and Navy's place within the state.

f. Represent Navy on behalf of CN at official functions and events in Victoria.

The CDRE's Terms of Reference above demand a high level of skill, energy and enthusiasm. Thankfully CDRE Yorke is just the person to ensure Victoria, Navy and wider community benefit as a consequence.

Evidence of how the new arrangement works was clearly demonstrated to Navy and the ex-Navy community at the recent funeral of John Laughton. John was a stalwart of the ex-Navy community in Victoria, an intrepid advocate for HMAS Bataan. John's objective was clearly focused on perpetuating the name of his beloved Tribal Class Destroyer Bataan, the warship he was aboard when he experienced the Korean War. CDRE Yorke representing RADM Michael Noonan AO CSC RAN, the Chief of Navy Designate delivered a warm expose of John's Navy time and recognised the immense contribution made by John within the wider ex-Service Community. The comments by CDRE Yorke addressed to John's wife Lorraine and family were dignified and emphasised the wider view of Navy with regard to John. A biography of John's life is available to download from the NVN website: http://navyvic.net/news/documents/2018/Bio for John Laughton JP.pdf

LATEST VIDEOS

- Royal Navy Aircraft Carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth refuelling at sea
- Well done HMAS Warramunga
- 50,000 Mangroves planted in Fiji
- Unimogs donated to Tonga
- HMAS Anzac is welcomed home
 after SEAD 2018 deployment
- HMAS Adelaide and HMAS
 Melbourne arrive Fiji
- HMAS Warramunga Drug Interdictions
- Team Navy Tickford Racing Outplacement Program
- HMAS Warramunga seizes more
 illicit narcotics

NEWS.....

The US Navy is convinced that the next generation of ships will need to integrate lasers, electromagnetic rail guns and other power-hungry weapons and sensors to take on peer competitors in the coming decades.

Pathways to employment and the benefits of employing veterans upon transition from the ADF were the key focus of the Veterans' Employment Program roundtable in Brisbane today.

The U.S. Navy is looking at extending the life of its surface ships by as much as 13 years, meaning some ships might be 53 years old when they leave the fleet.

United States submariners lost at sea while defending Australia have been honoured at a memorial service at the National Anzac Centre in Albany, Western Australia.

Minister for Defence, the Hon Marise Payne, today announced HMAS Warramunga is returning to Australia after a highly successful Royal Australian Navy deployment to the Middle East Region.

The crew of HMAS Ararat (II) celebrated 75 years of association with

This new arrangement has already seen a change in the level of support at commemoration services. No doubt made possible as SNO(V) has an office in Victoria Barracks, St Kilda Road, South Melbourne. This location enables SNO(V) to more readily support commemoration services at the Shrine of Remembrance.

The visibility of Navy at commemoration services and similar events reinforces the connection between Navy and the wider community. For many years, Victoria has been lacking consistent evidence of Navy's presence within the State. The profile of Navy will undoubtably improve with the presence of SNO(V) being more evident, coupled with support from HMAS Cerberus.

Changes in command structure and application of revised roles for SNO(V), CO-HMAS Cerberus and Director Technical Authority-Engineering is a profound focus on Navy in Victoria. There is much to look forward to as broadening the profile of Navy occurs and the importance of HMAS Cerberus to the future of the ADF continues to grow.

Yours Aye! NVN Team

VALE

- [†] WORSS G.H. Kopp, R55707, 05 June 2018. Aged 79.
- [†] K.M. Lindner, PM5046, 04 June 2018. Aged 93.
- † SIG M.G. Hayles, F5217, 01 June 2018. Aged 92.
- [†] PO J.F. Laughton JP, R33731, 30 May 2018. Aged 89.
- [†] WRANTEL J.R. Cooper, 20 May 2018.

Lest We Forget

Note: VALE Notices

If you know of any of our Navy family that has crossed the bar, please don't hesitate to let us know (<u>webmaster@navyvic.net</u>). 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.**

The Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam Awarded Unit Citation for Gallantry

The Award's citation reads as follows:

"For acts of extraordinary gallantry in action in South Vietnam from October 1967 to June 1971.

The Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam, as part of the Experimental Military Unit of the United States Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company, exhibited exceptional and extraordinary gallantry whilst engaged in offensive operations continuously throughout its fouryear deployment. This exceptional gallantry was enabled by the efforts of its city namesake by exercising its right to Freedom of Entry to Ararat, Victoria recently.

Communities across the country are set to receive almost \$320,000 under the Armistice Centenary Grants Program to develop 50 projects to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Armistice of the First World War.

There are a just a few things that help make a deployment away from family and friends bearable - emails and phone calls home, letters and care packages and quilts and laundry bags made by Aussie Hero Quilts.

Australia will field its largest ever team at this year's Invictus Games to be held in Sydney.

Australia's Collins Class submarine fleet will receive significant sonar upgrades further extending its superiority in our region.

Three Navy personnel from HMAS Cerberus participated in a panel discussion in Melbourne recently as a part of the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) 'It's Why We're Here' program, sharing the challenges they faced and their experiences engaging with the DVA to get help.

The Royal Australian Navy has deployed a laser airborne depth sounder (LADS) flight to deployment to Rabaul, Papua New Guinea.

Chinese government-backed hackers have managed to break into a US Navy contractor's computer network.

The Royal Navy has recently tested its first autonomous minesweeping system in Dorset, South West England, evaluating its performance against modern mines.

French and UK Royal Navy ships will

the entire Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam. The Flight was a unique unit and every member, regardless of mustering or category, either performed their duties with demonstrable gallantry or were used in roles for which they were not trained and still performed bravely. The administrative and maintenance staff were required to assist in the provision of base security in addition to their normal duties and almost all of the support personnel regularly volunteered to act as aircrew employed as door-gunners and Crew Chiefs. This was in addition to the extremely long maintenance hours required to support the tempo of operations conducted by the Flight. Over the course of the operations in Vietnam, the Flight accumulated a formidable record of operational flight hours and citations for individual gallantry. This has set it apart from other operational units.

While exposed to hostile fire and at great personal risk, aircrew flew on average 50 per cent more operational hours per month than other Australian aircrew in comparable roles with other units. Aircrew were constantly engaged by the enemy, faced the danger of booby-trapped landing zones and frequently found themselves fired upon by friendly forces. The personnel who flew with the Flight arguably saw the most intense combat of any Royal Australian Navy personnel in the war. Despite the fact that none of the personnel had previous operational service and none had been under fire, they were courageous in battle, exhibited exceptional and extraordinary gallantry and did so with great skill and heroic dedication in executing a mission far removed from those for which they had been trained. Over the period of the Flight's operations in South Vietnam, five members of the unit died and 22 were wounded in action.

The extraordinary gallantry, dedication to duty and astonishing record of the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam conducting tasks far removed from the expectations of Naval service, has forever set it apart from other units. The extraordinary acts of gallantry and heroism consistently displayed by the personnel, combined with their loyal devotion to duty were in keeping with the finest traditions of the Royal Australian Navy and the Australian Defence Force."



HMAS Goorangai Commemorative Service – Sunday 18 November 2018 Full details of the march and service and Booking for the Luncheon can be *downloaded here.....*

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



be joining their US counterparts in challenging China's territorial claims in disputed regions of the South China Sea, the two countries' defense ministers have announced.

Minister for Defence Personnel, the Hon Darren Chester MP, today announced the extraordinary gallantry displayed by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) Helicopter Flight Vietnam (HFV) will be recognised by the Unit Citation for Gallantry.

The Federal Government is putting veterans first with an innovative trial of assistance dogs for veterans.

Royal Australian Navy sailors will have to be more careful on shore leaves in the future as the navy is reportedly starting a crackdown on drunken sailors in foreign ports.

The world's largest international naval exercise – Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) – will be hosting 26 nations, 47 surface ships, five submarines, 18 national land forces, and more than 200 aircraft and 25,000 personnel for maneuvers, the US Navy has announced. The exercise is scheduled to take place between June 27 and August 2.

FlyBy – A periodical of the FAAA of Australia – <u>download....</u>

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President's June musings – <u>download....</u>

Visit our <u>website</u> for more news articles not included in this newsletter.

Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

Shr^{ine} of Reserve Forces Day, 1000, Sunday1JUL18 at the Cenotaph. Far East Strategic Reserve Service, 1200, Friday 6JUL18 in the Sanctuary. RAN Recruit Emms Division Service, 1000, Sunday 22JUL18 in the Sanctuary HMAS Canberra (Battle of Savo Island) Service, 1100, Thursday 9AUG18 in the Sanctuary



The Scrap Iron Flotilla comprised five destroyers built during WWI for the Royal Navy. Vampire, Voyager, Vendetta and Waterhen participated in the Baltic until the end of 1919, during the (undeclared) Cowan's War against the Soviet Union. Deployment of RN Warships during the 1920s was dictated by a shortage of UK Defence funds. Australia was also experiencing the Great Depression. The UK Government loaned the five destroyers, Stuart, Vampire, Voyager, Vendetta and Waterhen to Australia. This loan occurred on 110CT33, the RN Warships were decommissioned and immediately commissioned into the RAN. They left the UK a week later, arriving in Sydney on 21DEC33. Australia's financial difficulties resulted in the destroyers being laid up in

reserve for different periods between 1933 & 1939. On 3SEP39, receipt of the signal 'Total Germany' the men of these Warships were roused with a sense of urgency.



Warships were dispatched to sea to check for foreign shipping; merchant or raiders. Man and machine were hardly prepared for war, work up procedures were put in place to rapidly improve the capability of Warship. On 8SEP39, all Warships were made available for service off the Australian Station. On 14OCT39, Stuart, Vendetta and Waterhen departed Sydney, Vampire and Voyager departed Fremantle on the same day, destination Singapore. They became Australia's first military deployment to Europe. The first operational commitment of the Flotilla, dictated by the Admiralty was reported as the search for the German Raider Graf Spree, which had redeployed from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. Vendetta & Waterhen scanned the Ceylon

area, Voyager and Vampire the Achin Head, Sumatra area, whilst Stuart worked with a submarine around the Maldive and Chagos Islands. There was disappointment when they learned that the Graf Spree had doubled back to the Atlantic, where she was to meet her fate in the River Plate.



The war was hotting up, questions were being asked by those that 'joined for hostilities in Australian waters only'. A situation quickly dealt with by the Flotilla Leader, CMDR Hec

Waller who explained to the Reservists the need, all accepted the situation. Arrival in the Mediterranean was met with propaganda, the Nazis' called this collection of old destroyers 'a consignment of junk' and 'Australia's scrap iron flotilla'. The name Scrap Iron Flotilla stuck, was embraced by the Aussie crews, it differentiated man and Warship from others. For two years they fought, leaving behind a score of sunken submarines, scarred

HMAS Waterhen 30JUN42



and battered cruisers and destroyers, and the mangled remains of some the Luftwaffe's finest machines. They defied Italian battleships at Clabria, and heavy cruisers at Mata-

pan. They ran the gauntlet of every type of bomber as they plucked troops from the Nazis' grasp in Greece and Crete. They ran up and down the African escarpment at will, striking the enemy with their puny guns. The only destroyer of the Scrap Iron Flotilla lost during their deployment to the Mediterranean was HMAS Waterhen on 30JUN41.

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The historic Repatriation Commission Outpatient Clinic building that stands proud at 310 St Kilda Road, adjacent Victoria Barracks has been nominally handed over to the Australian National Veterans Arts Museum (ANVAM). ANVAM got their foot in the door recently, due to the intervention of Senator Derrin Hynch. Although locked up for many years it has been on the shopping list of many ex-Service organisations (ESOs). It seems attracting at least one politician is crucial if you want to make a difference. The challenge now is to convince ANVAM that the successful application of 310 St Kilda Road will best be achieved by partnering with one or more other ESOs. 310 is pictured below, a fine heritage building with considerable space to accommodate the Museum activities along with other walk up interests, for instance: the Royal United Services Institute library and part or all of the HMAS Cerberus Museum!





Disclaimer

will not intentionally appear in R's Yarn.

Melbourne Naval Committee

MNC provides much welfare. A venue is Seafarers for likeminded groups, no cost. Email Daria at MtS daria.wray@missionto seafarers.com.au to make a booking.

Navy Victoria Network

particular it is for Ship Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. This is an opportunity for all ship/branch associations to broaden

their horizons.

Transition

Much has been publicised about transition: Articles contributed are moving from Navy to the big ship, citizenthe Authors thoughts. ship! Current interest around this matter Articles may be edited primarily stems from main stream media to meet the available coverage of the misfortune of some who space. Political articles struggle to make the change. Knowing there are issues with Veterans, young and old compels Ex-Service Organisations to take notice. The experience of mingling with like-minded folk can be exceptionally needed funds to support helpful. Some are not aware that transition starts from day one - on the day of available at Mission to joining. Understanding and being able to articulate skills acquired through training and on-job experience is most important. Few leave the service to improve their career, most separate due to a decision related to their domestics. The consequence is that individuals are thrust into a turbit phase, their expectations may well be out The NavyVIC website of sync with the reality of the situation. is there for all to see, in The upside is that there are organisations that have the interests of the Veteran at heart. The Veteran must know we are out there in the first instance for all things to work in their favour. The DVA factsheet is well worth a read, notwithstanding there is no mention of ESOs, go to the following https://www.dva.gov.au/factsheet-vcs05transition-civilian-life

HMAS Sydney V

At right is LCDR Ken Brown and CMDR Edward Seymour RAN, Commanding Officer Designate of Nuship Svdnev (V). Ken, aged 96 was a VIP Guest of the Air Warfare Destroyer Alliance on Saturday 19MAY18, at the official launch of HMAS Sydney (V), the third and final Hobart Class Destroyer. Ken joined the RAN in 1938 as a 16 year old recruit. On completion of seamanship training he posted to HMAS Sydney (II). Fortunately, Ken was posted off HMAS Sydney just before it sailed from Perth and subsequently sunk on 19NOV41. HMAS Sydney II was lost



along with the entire ship's company. Ken's Navy experience included some close calls. He was aboard HMAS Nestor, N Class Destroyer when it was sunk in the Mediterranean on 15JUN42. Ken retired after 39 action packed years in the Navy, at the age of tender age of 55. Ken attended the decommissioning of HMAS Sydney (IV) on 7NOV15 at which time VADM Tim Barrett AO CSC RAN, Chief of Navy kindly invited Ken to attend the launch of Sydney (V). Ken looks forward to attending the commissioning of HMAS Sydney (V) where he will be the guest of CMDR Seymour and the ship's company. Great to see today's Navy appreciating the service and sacrifice of the old guard.

Email: naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com

Website: navyvic.org.au

Bullwinkel

N Class

Australian Assistant Defence Adviser in Jakarta. LCDR Mark Graichen RAN (left) and LCDR Bruce Bird RANR at Radji Beach, Muntok, Banka Island. The occasion was the 76th Anniversary of the execution of 21 Australian Army Nurses on the very beach and in the water where it occurred on 16 February 1942. The nurses had survived the sinking of the SS Vyner Brooke, they spent many hours in the water before eventually reaching the beach. The only survivor of this massacre was Sister Vivian Bullwinkel. Sister Bullwinkel gave evi-



N Class Warships were Napier, Nepal, Nizam and Norman. The N Class Destroyers were a new generation of Warship, they were deployed much of the time in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. Some ventured to the Indian Ocean

and the Pacific. The N Class were fortunate as only one of their number was sunk. All of the N Class destroyers were at risk for much of

their time at sea. Whilst in harms way doing what was asked of them, concurrent with trying to avoid damage. Luck for the *Nestor* was to run out on 16JUN41 when stradled by

dence at the War Trials relating to the loss of her colleagues. After the war Sister Bullwinkel was a joint founder of the Melbourne Nurses Memorial Centre in St Kilda Road (pictured above). She did so along with Sister Betty Jeffrey.

bombs, fracturing her hull. HMS Javelin came to their aid, taking Nestor in tow. With all of the Nestor survivors aboard, only to eventually have to scuttle Nestor. All of the remaining N Class destroyers returned to the Royal Navy after WWII.

Mike



For the past 18 months, we in Victoria have been supported by CAPT Tim Standen CSC RAN, in his role as Commanding Officer, HMAS Cerberus and Director Training Authority. Chief of Navy has announced that the role of Director Training Authority - Engineering and CO HMAS Cerberus will be separated for a

trial period of two years. With the major project work being undertaken at Cerberus and significant changes proposed to engineering training the focus of command needs to be clear with each of these roles necessary to guarantee Navy's success. CAPT Tim Standen is well placed to be DTA-E given his practical technical background, skill and experience as a senior manager. Navy's dependence on skilled sailors is obvious and this change realises that need.

CMDR Mike Oborn CSM RAN is well known to the Victorian Navy fraternity, through his time as XO HMAS Cerberus. He left Cerberus to drive HMAS Sirius and returned to be OIC Bosuns School, no doubt a holding position given his success in Sirius. He has been appointed Commanding Officer, HMAS Cerberus to date



18AUG18 and will be promoted Captain on that day. I am sure all of the Navy fraternity wish CMDR Mike Oborn the very best in his new role and we look forward to continuing the great support we receive from Cerberus for commemoration and other activities in support of Navy. This adds to the earlier change in Victoria of separating the Senior Naval Officer role, the distinction of these changes auger well for Navy and Victoria as a whole. Best wishes to all concerned!

Special Notes

Top End Reunion. Plans are currently underway to hold a reunion for all who have served at HMAS *Melville* and/or *Coonawarra*, that includes all Comms Establishments and Darwin Naval Base, along with all NT Patrol Boat Crews. Join the team around Anzac Day 2019, starting with a meet & greet on Tuesday, 23APR19 through to Saturday 27APR19. Register on facebook by cut/paste facebook.com/events/451041072021229/?ti=cl If you don't know how to work Facebook, email Al Conway - allanconway@internode.on.net

HMAS Perth (1) POW. We understand that Frank McGovern is now the only HMAS *Perth* (1) ex-POW with us today. Frank is 98 years young, whilst still very independent and living at home in Randwick NSW, he is well supported by family. Frank endures a recurring back injury, something he says is "courtesy of the US Army Air Force bombing of his camp in Japan in 1945". The HMAS *Perth* Association is unaware of any other *Perth* 1 ex-POW, if anyone is aware of any individual who was in Perth 1, please let us know. **Navy Victoria Network**. Has your organisation

scheduled activities that may conflict with like-minded folk. Refer to the

NVN calendar to avoid conflict with others to maximise potential attendance. Let's work together! Ship Associations. HMAS Vampire Association, primarily located in Sydney are contemplating their future. The champions who established the group have searched for successes with the aim to keep the association afloat, however, to date no takers. Hopefully some one will step up to the plate. This again highlights the need for us to close ranks -Ship Associations need to move closer together, not just on ANZAC Day! If all of us looked at what is best to maintain the legacy of past service and sacrifice, whilst we have some fun on the way, then something positive might come of it. Navy Week Victoria. Planning is underway for a number of activities to be consolidated into Navy week Victoria. The first event will be a Seminar on Saturday 20OCT18 at ANZAC House with the Seafarers Church Service, 1030 Sunday 21OCT18. There will also be a golf tournament at Mornington Golf Course, probably on Friday 26OCT18. Please put these dates in the diary, more correspondence to follow. Purpose of these activities is to bring

NCCV

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President's dit

together Veterans, their family and

friends with an interested community.

Incremental steps towards sustainability requires all interested parties to map out a path to success. We may not be sure what success will look like in the future, however, if we enable those who have the capacity to make a difference, then our past effort to maintain the legacy of current/past service and sacrifice will continue. Looking further afield than today's champions is a constant challenge, but necessary if we are to continue along the path to success. Much of the support we enjoy today is the consequence of decades of work by the ex-Service fraternity. We are told on a regular basis that we are an aging force, well that is because we have taken the eye of the ball. It is ironic how many felt disenfranchised during the 1960s through to the mid 1970s because of political consequences. We need to ensure that is not occurring again, something has to be done to create an environment of trust and relevance between old and young, men and women veterans. There is plenty of talk, but the cohesion necessary to bring about the body of work necessary to take us into the future is lacking. Do you have the answer, that crucial solution we are searching for? Yours aye, Terry Makings

Email: naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com