



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

March 2015

Volume 5 Edition 3

Editorial

NVN current membership: 985

FIRST IN - LAST OUT

Information sourced from Sea Power Centre and Wikipedia

As the focus is very much on the Gallipoli campaign this year we thought it would be relevant to highlight the deeds of one particular Naval unit active during the campaign –

The 1st Royal Australian Bridging Train.

On 12 February 1915, the Government made an offer to the Imperial Government to provide one Bridging Train, in accordance with *Imperial War Establishments*. Within a week, the offer was accepted. Command of the Train was given to Lieutenant Commander Bracegirdle.

The 1st RANBT was formed in Melbourne on 28 February 1915 and was intended to be a horse drawn engineering unit attached to the Royal Naval Division, then serving as infantry on the Western Front.

Three hundred naval reservists, including 50 men who had recently served in New Guinea, were selected for the 1st RANBT and they began their training in horsemanship, engineering and pontoon bridging at the Domain in Melbourne.

On 4 June 1915 the 1st RANBT sailed from Melbourne in HMAT Port Macquarie bound for active service with 5 Officers, 3 Warrant Officers, 267 Petty Officers and other ranks, 26 reinforcements, 412 horses, 5 6-horse pontoons and trestle wagons, and 8 other vehicles.

Arriving at the Greek isle of Imbros, the Train received a total of

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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09 Apr – HMAS Vampire wreath laying

19 Apr – RAN Recruits wreath laying

24 Apr – On this day in 1860 - HMVS VICTORIA sailed for the Maori War in NZ.

25 Apr – Anzac Day

26 Apr – HMAS Assault wreath laying

27 Apr – NHS Meeting

30 May – HMAS Sydney III 50th Anniversary Dinner – **BOOK NOW!**

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.....](#)

For details of all Centenary events in Victoria go to:

<http://anzacentenary.vic.gov.au/new-s-events/events/>

five days of instruction on the use of their pontoons, a task which needed six days worth of unloading and reloading the equipment. After this training, they were judged ready to land under fire.

On the morning of 7 August 1915 the 1st RANBT landed under fire at Suvla Bay from the transport Itria. Its first task was constructing two piers and rowing the second into place at A Beach, a trip of approximately 2 miles, for use by the lifeboats evacuating injured soldiers. The Train assembled the 110 metre long structure in 20 minutes.

The Train set up its camp at what became known as Kangaroo Beach. It was responsible for a wide variety of tasks including: building and maintaining wharves and piers, unloading stores from lighters, controlling the supply of fresh water to front line troops, stock-piling engineering equipment, building a light railway for stores movements and carrying out repairs in an open-air workshop. These activities took place under frequent enemy artillery fire and occasional air raids

According to the Train's log, 30 September was a special day. It was the second day in a row that the base had not been shelled by Turkish artillery. Of course, they would make up for the oversight on 1 October, but for the sailors it was a welcome reprieve. While the Train wasn't itself involved in actual fighting, it was constantly shelled and bombed by Turkish forces.

The AIF Official War Correspondent, Charles Bean came to Suvla Bay specifically to report on the Train, where he found that:

"There they are today, in charge of the landing of a great part of the stores of a British army. They are quite cut off from their own force; they scarcely come into the category of the Australian Force, and scarcely into that of the British; they are scarcely army and scarcely navy. Who it is that looks after their special interests, and which is the authority that has the power of recognising any good work that they have done, I do not know. If you want to see the work, you have only to go to Kangaroo Beach, Suvla Bay, and look about you. They have made a harbour."

In November 1915, Field Marshal Lord Kitchener instructed Lt General Birdwood, to begin planning to evacuate the Peninsula. Winter was coming and already too many soldiers were being taken sick and even dying of hypothermia and frostbite, while

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>

Veterans and ADF Members Exempt From Changes to Workers' Compensation Legislation

In recognition of the unique nature of military services, ADF Members and veterans will be exempt from changes to the Safety Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 1988 (SRCA) announced in Parliament today.

Speech – RUSI Submarine Summit

Distinguished guests, industry leaders, thank you for this opportunity. It is timely, that today I have been asked to speak on 'Defining the Right Capability for Australia'.

Speech – Operation Slipper commemorative service – Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne

As a nation, we express our gratitude for the heroism, sacrifice and dedication of the Australian men and women who served in Afghanistan and the wider Middle East Area of Operations.

Pension Increase For Veterans

Veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia will see an increase to their pensions from today as part of the bi-annual indexation process.

BEST Grant Funding Round 17 (2015-16)

Applications are now invited for funding under BEST Round 17 for the 2015-16 financial year. Applications will be accepted from 16 March 2015 to 17 April 2015.

the Turks had been stubbornly holding their ground.

Once the official decision was made by the War Cabinet, preparations were made, carefully disguised to make it seem as though units that could be withdrawn to Mudros safely would be, leaving enough troops to defend the ground taken for the winter, while the bulk of the troops would return in spring for a new offensive. Troops and equipment started slipping away from the front and aboard Navy vessels from 8 December 1915.

During that time, the Train's log shows work parties completing construction of roads and buildings on the same day as other parties were disassembling other buildings and stocking supplies for transport, with shifts working around the clock.

The Train was the last Australian unit to leave the Gallipoli Peninsula, a party of 50 men under Sub-Lieutenant Charles Hicks was left behind to oversee the evacuation of the British forces. They left at 4.30am on 20 December 1915, 20 minutes after the last troops left Anzac Cove.



1st RAN Bridging Train Memorial Tree Plaque

Eight of the 1st RANBT's number died while serving overseas on active service.

The Train was Australia's most decorated Naval unit of the First World War, with more than 20 decorations awarded to its sailors.

"They were the only Australian naval unit serving in a European theatre of war. They were therefore bent on proving, both to the Royal Navy and to the British Army, that they could overcome any difficulties." – Lieutenant Commander Bracegirdle

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

HMAS Cerberus on parade

More than 700 sailors, soldiers, airmen and women stood proudly on parade at HMAS Cerberus to observe the tradition of Ceremonial Divisions on 13 March.

Government Launches Mental Health App For Past and Present Military Personnel

A new mobile phone app to help serving and ex-serving ADF personnel manage stress and build their psychological resilience is available to download for free from the iOS app store and Android Google Play.

FM CN AUSTRALIA

DESIGNATION OF NAVY'S FLAGSHIP

1. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MESSAGE IS TO FORMALISE THE DESIGNATION OF HMAS CANBERRA AS THE FLAGSHIP OF THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

HMAS Anzac deploys for Gallipoli commemorations

HMAS Anzac and the ship's company of 192 departed Sydney today for a once in a life-time deployment, supporting the 100th anniversary of the ANZAC landings at Gallipoli.:

Defence completes Key Resolve exercise in Korea

Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel have returned from the Republic of Korea after working with Republic of Korea and United States defence personnel during Exercise Key Resolve 2015.

A message from the Australian Defence Force Senior Leadership

A recent television documentary that focused on ADF veterans and their stories of dealing with PTSD and other mental health issues arising from their deployment has created significant public debate.

Local Grants To Commemorate The Anzac Spirit

VALE

- † PORP W. PRIDMORE, R56983, 13 March 2015. Aged 71.
- † AB F. Skeels, OAM, F3401, on 08 March 2015. Aged 92.
- † CPOMTP3 B.G. Zemek, BEM, R32807, 07 March 2015. Aged 86.
- † CPO A. Lower, 32326, 06 March 2015. Aged 92.
- † Arthur Spowart RAN, 02 March 2015. Aged 82.
- † CPO John MAXWELL, 27 February 2015. Aged 86.
- † CPOME R.J. Jones, R38293, 24 February 2015. Aged 85.

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



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.

**A DINNER DANCE WILL BE HELD TO
COMMEMORATE THE
50TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE FIRST SAILING OF H.M.A.S. SYDNEY
& ESCORTS TO VIETNAM:
SATURDAY 30 MAY 2015.**

**VENUE: RIDGES HOTEL,
BOBBY Mc GEE'S NIGHT CLUB,
EXHIBITION STREET
MELBOURNE**

TIME: 1730 FOR 1830

COST: \$100.00 Per person (all inclusive of your food & Beverages). Beer, Wine, Soft Drinks, 2 Course Meal and Shared Dessert Platters.

**DRESS: Semi formal
LADIES: After 5
GENTLEMEN: Lounge suit or Sports Jacket, shirt, tie, miniatures.**

TABLES OF 10

**For more Information or to book, please contact:
David Dwyer (Hon. Sec. HMAS Sydney & VLSSA/VA)
david@dwyer@hotmail.com
or Mobile: 0423 675 146 H. (03) 9720 8183**



The Minister for Veterans' Affairs today announced a further \$6.3 million to fund 461 projects under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program, and additional funding towards six grants already awarded.

100 stories reflect 100 years of Anzac
One hundred stories, reflecting on 100 years of Anzac, will be published throughout 2015 to highlight the significance of the Anzac Centenary to current serving members of the ADF.

2015 Creswell Oration

On 2nd March 2015, the Commander of the Australian Fleet RADM Stuart Meyer CSC RAN, delivered the 2015 Creswell Oration. This year's Oration was titled "Royal Australian Navy in 2015 - Old Wine in New Wine Bottles".

Government targets DFRB/DFRDB superannuation pensioners in its attack on the Service Pension

The government is targeting the Part Service Pension particularly savagely, so that any small gain through fairly indexing superannuation will, for most recipients, be more than swept away.

Fred's still flying high at 97

Nobody can accuse Fred House (HMAS Sydney II commissioning crew) of not flying by the seat of his pants. One day his friend suggests a joy ride. The next day the 97-year-old is gazing at southern Tasmania from a tiny airplane. "It couldn't have been better — I enjoyed every second of it," said Mr House.

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

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.

NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

Rogues' Yarn



KEY ENGAGEMENTS

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

**HMAS Vampire
Wreath Laying,**
9APR15@1200
Sanctuary

**RAN Recruits - Shipp
Division, Wreath
Laying, Sanctuary**
19APR15@1000

**HMAS Assault
Wreath Laying**
26APR15@1100
Sanctuary

**HMAS Castlemaine
Wreath Laying**
1MAY15@1000
Sanctuary

Correction to FEB ed.
Article relating to the
Voyager Service, LtoR
Don Barker, Ray Rich,
John Golotta and Vern
Bechaz. We named
Peter Disting, but he
was unable to attend.



Operation Slipper

The welcome home parade for all those that served Australia with Operation Slipper occurred on Saturday, 21MAR15. Every Capital City marked the occasion with a parade of service and ex-service men and women. In Melbourne the turnout brought together over fourteen hundred men and women, wearing service medals with pride.

The addresses included; the Governor of Victoria speaking of the hard work contributed by over 34,000 individuals over a long period of time. The Hon Kevin Andrews MP, Minister for Defence representing the PM was present and delivered an address, siting the importance of the work undertaken by Australians through Operation Slipper. The Hon Daniel Andrews MP, Premier of Victoria also delivered an address, focused on the hardship of Operation Slipper and in particular the sentiment of lost life and the danger faced and dealt with whilst in the Middle East. All of the addresses touched on the loss suffered by Victorian families present, who lost a family member during Operation Slipper. The Senior Defence Force Officer in attendance (below ↓) was VADM David Lance Johnston AM



RAN, Chief of Joint Operations, to the left AVM Chris Spence AO, Chair of Trustees Shrine of Remembrance then MGEN Jim Hughes AO, Veteran of 4 theatres of war. To the right is CMDR Terry Makings AM, NCCV. It was an impressive parade, led by Navy with



CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN ↑ on the forecourt with the several Ensigns ↓ displayed proudly on the steps of the



Shrine. Pictured above ↑ the Minister for Defence & his Lieutenant passing marks of respect for the fallen at the Eternal Flame. Commemorating the loss of the 41 Australians who made the supreme sacrifice had a profound impact on the four families attending. Their loss was acute, observable and a precursor to the calling of the names of all 41 soldiers lost in warlike circumstances. This being a very moving part of the service. Reciting of the Ode to the fallen and on hearing the bugle call, Last Post brought the large assembly of onlookers to their feet. There was a period of reflection before reveille and the National Anthem.



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

Our plans are progressing for Navy Week 2015. We hope you have set aside some time to participate in one or more activities as they are specifically designed for your interest. The key event will be the ANZAC Naval Centennial Ball, on Saturday, 17th October at Etihad Stadium. As this will be a busy week in Melbourne, best to reserve your accommodation very soon and most importantly book a table ASAP. We encourage every Ship, Branch or Unit Association, including crucial maritime organisations to arrange for a table or two now so that your interest in the ball is registered. Whilst it is titled Naval, we are seeking wide attendance across all three Defence Services and descendants. Elsewhere in this edition you can read about the other activities planned for Navy Week 2015, but we are keen to hear from others capable of creating a relevant and interesting activity. Give it some thought, that way we may be able to provide a range of appropriate support (except for money!). If funds are needed, contact Melbourne Naval Centre, keeping in mind their re-

duced funding due to the extremely low interest rate at the moment. Another thought relates to how we communicate with our members. This newsletter for instance is provided every month for the purpose of demonstrating that we are still here, if you have any information you wish to share with others, you know that we will do our best to accommodate you. Notwithstanding, distribution is through electronic means only as that is the most cost efficient method available to us. The consequence is that we need each ship/unit/branch/sub-section/sub-branch to be proactive and share this or the NVN newsletter with their members. Further, the NVN has a calendar specifically set up to negate conflict between events. This unfortunately has not been as successful and we would like. For instance, each of our organisations have their own events/functions, these are important, but surely we can separate them out from the Flagship Events so that we can maximize attendance by all of the Navy fraternity.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

Australian Navy Cadets



Cadets are well known to the Navy fraternity, Training Ship Units participate in many local activities. They also support Flagship Events wherever possible. Many youngsters join the Defence Force from the ANC and go on to achieve their personal goals. The ANC is supported by the RAN as a forum for the development of leadership within our youth. Given the relatively short period a teenager is allowed to remain within the ANC, every Unit is in need of new recruits. Earliest a youngsters can join is during the year they turn 13. The ANC website is at <http://www.navycadets.gov.au/> and would ideally be viewed by the younger members of our families. The newly named TS Bataan, located at Monash Barracks, Doveton is after recruits, email the CO Matthew.Hine@cadetnet.gov.au or telephone at 0401 809 315. Be motivated by the ANC values: Honour, Honesty, Courage, Integrity & Loyalty.

White Ensign

The first White Ensign had been flown by the RN since 1801 and by the RAN from 1901 through to 1MAR67. There must be about 14,000 sailors out there who served under both White Ensigns. Wednesday, 1MAR67 → witnessed the exchange of AWEs. This change was initiated by Australia's involvement in Vietnam. HMAS *Boonaroo* was the ship commissioned under the new AWE, that was



also on 1MAR67, required due to industrial unrest where the MUA would not support the Defence Force serving in Vietnam. The *Boonaroo* was leased for only one voyage to Vietnam, returning to the Australian National Shipping Line on completion. Pictured left, the Jack Staff on HMAS *Stuart* with the ANF and the AWE in the foreground.



HMAS GERANIUM

Marty Grogan OAM, V/ Pres NCCV sourced what appears to be the original ship's bell off HMAS *Geranium*. The bell was donated to the *Cerberus* Museum Manager by Ms Susan Tanck, Honorary Historian - Scouts Australia. Marty's keen eye for key Navy artifacts has enabled this bell to be seen by all. Elaborately mounted for display it has been hidden from view since the ship was decommissioned. *Geranium*, one of 56 Arabis-class sloops built for the Royal Navy, was built in Scotland and launched in 1915. The ship was operated by the Royal Navy as a minesweeper from 1915 to 1919. These Sloops of War were intended for minesweeping duties in European waters. At the end of WWI, she was transferred to the Royal Australian Navy for use as a survey ship between 1919 and 1927. *Geranium* paid off in 1927. Later in 1932, the ship was broken up at Cockatoo Island and the stripped hull was towed beyond the Heads and sunk on 24 April 1935.



Procedure Alpha

I am sure many of our ex-service folk will recall going alongside in Procedure Alfa, particularly during winter. Anyone that has deployed and arrived at Korea, New Zealand or Japan during winter might be reminded of just how cold it could be. No doubt our experience would not have been quite as dramatic as that seen below, on the arrival of a North Korea Warship into a Russian port. If there is an up side, could it be that under these circumstance the use of all that fresh water to wash down the uppers would not be necessary.



Sea Power Centre

The newsletter Semaphore, Issue 01 2015 published by the Sea Power Centre, details a terrific story by John Perryman. The article touches on the RAN Bridging Team that trained up in the Domain, Melbourne before being deployed to Gallipoli. The importance of this team stems from their direct involvement at Gallipoli in arranging and managing beach assets. These assets comprised make shift jetties and pontoons that were used for the transfer of supplies and reinforcements, made possible after the area had been secured. The article refers to how the RN used sailors in this way, no doubt because of their rope handing capability, maybe that is 'rigging' in today's parlance. It may be of interest to know that the first Bridge Team in Victoria was in the 1850s, with the Army Engineers and was based where Alexandra Gardens are today. They moved from the Gardens to Swan Street, where the Burnley Tunnel exhaust station is located. There are plaques at each of these locations to identify the fact that Army Engineers were at work in those places. Navy got involved very early in the 1900s, however, the term and the role changed soon after WWI. Perryman also mentions the RAN Beach Commandos. This group comprised 1,000 Aussie sailors & 20,000 USN sailors trained at HMAS Assault, Nelson Bar.

Pussers Tiffies take note

The gauntlet has been thrown down to all Tiffies to shift into shore rig and get yourselves to WA. 90 day wonders are also invited! Give the 3 badgeman a call.

Naval Apprentices, Mechanics & Direct Entry Tradesmen Reunion WA



There is to be a reunion of Western Australian MOBIs, Mechanics & Direct Entry Tradesmen who joined between July 1956 and June 1972, and their partners with a special welcome to widows of any former members.

Where: Fremantle Sailing Club
When: 4 November 2015
Time: 1130 Meet & Greet ~1300 Buffet Lunch

Those interested in attending please contact
Bob Mummery..
Phone: 0408 811 201
email: bandi@iinet.net.au

ANZAC Centenary

ANZAC Day will be a key activity this year and is likely to attract many Melburnians to the Dawn Service, Shrine of Remembrance and also to the march from the CBD. WWI Descendants are encouraged to watch the march and if wearing the medals of your forebears then join in the march from Swanston Street, at a little after 1100. This is expected to be a magnificent occasion where the contribution of so many Victorians, Australians can be acknowledge by the appearance of family medals awarded for their personal courage. It will be a long day with the dawn service at 0600, then the gun-fire breakfast at Victoria Barracks, wreath laying in the Sanctuary at 0820 and then the march, commencing at 0900. The final activity will be the commemoration service at 1300 from the southern steps of the Shrine of Remembrance, with the Governor of Victoria delivering the address. Navy will contribute a special part of the march with serving sailors attending to mark that Navy was first in and last out at Gallipoli. WWI Navy will be led by Mrs Jenny Smyth, daughter of the XO (Submarine) HMAS AE2.



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Items of special interest

NCCV Meeting. General Meetings of the NCCV are held on the second Tuesday of every even month, next meeting is scheduled for 14th April. The meeting will start at 1030 at the Camberwell City RSL, Camberwell Rd. Tram 75 stops near the door. There is plenty of parking next to the RSL. Please note the change of address for this meeting.

HMAS Vampire. The loss of *Vampire* on 9APR42 with the loss of ten of the ship's company will be commemorated at 1200 on Wednesday, 9APR15 in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. Family members of the Chief Tiff, John Carey, who lost his life on that day will attend and those who served in destroyers might also attend in support.

Queenscliff RSL. Congratulations to Councillor Graham Christie JP on being elected as President of the Queenscliff Pt Lonsdale RSL Sub-Branch. We are grateful to the Queenscliff - Port Lonsdale RSL Sub-Branch for their tireless support in providing the venue for the HMAS GOORANGAI Service.

Scrap Iron Flotilla Lunch. Over 50 people attended the lunch with the guest speaker, Professor Geoffrey Blainey AC delivering a very stimulating address. Again, a great job from William Angliss.

HMAS Duchess Reunion. The all-of-ship reunion is planned for Frankston on 23/24/25 October 2015. If you have a mind, email Bruce Bowmaker at d154shipsoffice@gmail.com or phone 02 9639 2974, alternatively email Col or Barbara Parry at col@southernphone.com.au or phone 0424 348 716. Keep in mind that HMAS Cerberus will have their open day on Sunday, 25OCT15 as well.

Funerals. Far too frequently family members are at a loss as to what to arrange when an ex-Service man or woman has finished their last watch. This leads to the question, "What have you written down in regard to your wishes, with respect to your own funeral arrangements?" Pressure placed on family members when you depart can be daunting, all because we didn't face up to the facts! Put pen to paper now and detail your wishes.

HMAS Anzac III. *Anzac III* will be representing Australia at Gallipoli on ANZAC Day 2015, under the command of CMDR Belinda Wood RAN. The ship will visit ports in Turkey, Italy, Malta, the United Kingdom, France and Spain. Before returning to Sydney in August, *Anzac III* will have also visited Morocco, South Africa and Mauritius.