



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

March 2016

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Editorial

NVN current membership: 1025

2016 marks the 50th anniversary of the *Battle of Long Tan* which took place on 18 August 1966. It was one of the most significant engagements involving Australian forces during the Vietnam War in which eighteen Australian soldiers were killed and another 24 wounded, while the Viet Cong lost at least 245 dead. Heralded as an Australian victory against overwhelming odds, the battle resulted in numerous unit and individual awards being presented including a US Presidential Unit Citation, the Military Cross, the Military Medal, numerous Mentioned in Dispatches, as well as 22 South Vietnamese Government gallantry medals. It is therefore not surprising that our Vietnam War veterans are being given special recognition this year, including having the honour to lead Anzac Day marches around the nation.

While the Vietnam War was not a markedly naval conflict, some 13,500 members of the RAN saw active service. The RAN's contribution was diverse and played a significant part in the Australian Forces overall commitment. Between 1965 and 1972 elements of the RAN undertook continuous operational service in Vietnam in a variety of tasks at sea, ashore and in the air. The RAN's primary contribution consisted of destroyers, Fleet Air Arm personnel attached to a United States Army assault helicopter company and the Royal Australian Air Force's (RAAF) No. 9 Squadron, a Clearance Diving Team and a logistic support force consisting of transport and escort ships. Other RAN personnel served ashore in medical teams or performed staff duties at the Australian Embassy in Saigon or the Australian Task Force Headquarters in Nui Dat. The RAN Fleet Band also

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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03 Apr – Daylight saving ends / RAN Recruits wreath laying

09 Apr – HMAS Vampire wreath laying

18 Apr – NHS meeting (all welcome)

25 Apr – Anzac Day / 101 anniversary of AE2 penetrating the Dardanelles

29 Apr – AE2 scuttled 101 years ago

06 May – HMAS Castlemaine with Tecoma primary school, wreath laying

08 May – Battle of Coral Sea commemoration service

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>

Australian support for Fiji continues

Today we announce that the Australian Defence Force (ADF) deployment to Fiji under Operation Fiji Assist will transition to a new phase.

Innovation across the Submarine Force

The wellbeing of junior submariners is the focus of an innovative program which has been created and coordinated by a junior officer and a Chief Petty Officer from the Submarine

completed a short tour of Vietnam entertaining troops during periods of rest and recreation.

Without doubt one of the smallest, and unrivalled, Australian units to serve in Vietnam was Australian Clearance Diving Team Three (CDT3). They were an elite group of 49 officers and men; divers trained in explosive ordnance disposal. The first contingent of six personnel arrived in Vietnam on 6 February 1967 and were initially attached to a United States Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team based in Saigon. They then moved to Vung Tau and assumed responsibility for the defence of shipping against enemy attack. The team was responsible for searching the hulls and anchor cables of shipping in the Vung Tau anchorages or alongside, for improvised explosive devices. Later in the war, their operational focus shifted towards the provision of explosive ordnance disposal support for offensive operations, with team members frequently being attached to American and South Vietnamese special forces. Team members were often under enemy fire while they were engaged in the destruction of bunker complexes, tunnels, trenches, observation posts and log barricades erected by the Viet Cong in the rivers and waterways of South Vietnam. As a result of their actions, seven personnel were decorated whilst others received recognition from the United States and South Vietnamese governments, including a United States Navy Meritorious Unit Commendation.

The largest single commitment by the Royal Australian Navy to Vietnam was the provision of a destroyer on a rotational basis to the United States Navy's Seventh Fleet for service on what became known as the 'gunline'. RAN warships provided naval gunfire support from March 1967 to September 1971. They also participated in *Operation Sea Dragon*, the bombardment of North Vietnamese military targets and the interdiction of supply routes and logistic craft along the coast of North Vietnam from the Demilitarized Zone to the Red River Delta.

HMAS *Hobart* was the first DDG to join the US Seventh Fleet on 15 March 1967 beginning the six monthly rotation of RAN destroyers for service on the gunline. *Hobart* and *Perth* deployed three times to Vietnam, *Brisbane* twice and *Vendetta* once. *Hobart* and *Perth* came under fire on a number of occasions. *Perth* was hit once during her first deployment and *Hobart* suffered two killed and seven wounded when she was mistakenly hit by

Force at HMAS Stirling.

Fleet's discipline and pride on show for Governor-General

The flight deck of HMAS Adelaide, with Sydney Harbour as the backdrop, provided a spectacular setting for Fleet Base East Divisions on 24 March.

Sailor's bravery at sea recognised posthumously

A sailor who sacrificed his life to evacuate his mates during a fire at sea 18 years ago has had his courage recognised with a posthumous Bravery Medal.

Officer forecasts from the South Pole

Lieutenant Wade Lamberth has been braving blizzards, ice and freezing conditions while plying his professional skills as the Royal Australian Navy's deployed meteorology officer in Antarctica.

Veteran Pensions Set to Increase

Veteran pension payments will increase in March in line with the biannual indexation process.

Dragon boaters fiery finish

The HMAS Cerberus dragon boat team have competed against the top Victorian clubs and held their own.

Release of Senate Reference

Committee report into the mental health of Australian Defence Force members and veterans

The Government welcomes the contribution of the Senate Reference Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade's report into the mental health of Australian Defence Force (ADF) members and veterans and will carefully consider the Inquiry report and its recommendations.

Indigenous ADF members inspire others to serve

Minister for Defence Senator the Hon Marise Payne, Minister for Indigenous

missiles fired from a United States Air Force jet aircraft. *Hobart* was awarded a US Navy Unit Commendation in recognition of her service in Vietnam while *Perth* received both the US Navy Unit Commendation and the US Meritorious Unit Commendation. During their service in Vietnam, the four gunline destroyers steamed over 397,000 miles and fired 102,546 rounds.

Mention "*The Vung Tau Ferry*" to any Vietnam veteran and they will immediately recall HMAS *Sydney*, the former aircraft carrier that was later converted as a fast troop transport and destined to become the mainstay of naval logistic support operations for Australian forces in Vietnam. Between 1965 and 1972, HMAS *Sydney* undertook 25 voyages to Vietnam and transported 16,094 troops, 5,753 deadweight tons of cargo and 2,375 vehicles. On every voyage HMAS *Sydney* was ably supported by at least one escort that provided a measure of protection against potential hostile forces. Escorts included HMA Ships *Melbourne*, *Anzac*, *Derwent*, *Duchess*, *Parramatta*, *Stuart*, *Swan*, *Torrens*, *Vampire*, *Vendetta* and *Yarra*.

Not widely known is the role that was played by personnel of the RAN's Fleet Air Arm (FAA), in a war that depended heavily on tactical air movement of combat troops, supplies and equipment. Between 1967 and 1971 the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV), was fully integrated with the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company (AHC) flying Iroquois helicopters in both the utility and gun-ship configurations. The role of 135th AHC was to provide tactical air movement of combat troops, supplies and equipment in air-mobile operations.

Throughout the RANHFV's deployment there were many individual acts of bravery performed in the face of the enemy. One such incident occurred on 4 December 1971 when Lieutenant Jim Buchanan, RAN, was piloting a helicopter operating in the U-Minh Forest. He was engaged in the medical evacuation of a wounded crew member from a Government patrol boat when the group came under heavy attack from enemy forces. Another patrol boat, fifty metres away exploded due to a direct hit by a B40 rocket. Realising that the boat on which he was operating was disabled and drifting towards the enemy held shore, Lieutenant Buchanan deliberately hooked the skids of his aircraft onto the boat's superstructure and towed it to

Affairs, Senator the Hon Nigel Scullion and Assistant Minister for Defence, the Hon Michael McCormack MP, have joined Indigenous Australian Defence Force (ADF) members, and community leaders, to launch a marketing campaign to attract a future generation of Indigenous people into the ADF.

HMAS Canberra hosts senior delegation in Fiji

Fijian Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama has thanked the Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin, for the Australian Government's efforts in response to Tropical Cyclone Winston, the most devastating cyclone ever to hit Fiji.

HMAS Parramatta Anti-Ship Missile Defence Upgrade more than skin deep

HMAS Parramatta, the fifth Anzac class frigate built for Australia and the sixth to enter the Anti-Ship Missile Defence Upgrade programme has commenced preparations to undock in mid-April.

White Paper myths busted by Defence Chief

Chief of the Defence Force Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin held a round-table meeting with members of the Australian media on 1 March to discuss future capabilities outlined in the 2016 Defence White Paper.

Freedom to manoeuvre for relief force

Four Royal Australian Navy Hydrographic Surveyors have been searching for the 'perfect beach' - not for relaxation - but importantly in support of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade-led Australian whole-of-government relief mission, Operation FIJI ASSIST 2016.

a safe area although he was still receiving heavy automatic weapons and 82mm mortar fire. He was subsequently awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. The gallantry and distinguished service of RANHFV members was recognised by the award of three Member of the British Empire Medals, eight Distinguished Service Crosses, five Distinguished Flying Crosses (DFC), one British Empire Medal, twenty-four Mentions-in-Dispatches and numerous Vietnamese and US decorations.

Members of the RAN also served at the Headquarters Australian Forces Vietnam and as detached medical officers. This second group were RAN doctors who served with 1st Australian Field Hospital and US Army and Navy hospitals.

So when you are watching the Vietnam War veterans march proudly during this year's Anzac Day, please give an extra loud clap to those veterans from the Navy who contributed so extensively during the conflict.

Extracts courtesy of the RAN Official Website "Naval Operations in Vietnam"

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † LEMWR G. Rice, 08 March 2016.
- † WWII SIG D.R. Fraser, 23843, 08 March 2016. Aged 95.
- † LSMTF S. Dellar, R95849, 02 March 2016. Aged 65.
- † CPORS F.J.H. Goddard, R62262, 26 February 2016. Aged 70.
- † AB A.G. Wilkinson, PM5048, 23rd February 2016. Aged 91.
- † STO W.A. Henderson, W2488, 16th February 2016. Aged 93.
- † AB P. O'Connor, PM5639, 27th September 2015. 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' page on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, Age and the date of their passing.

Chief of the Defence Force visits Operation Fiji Assist

The Chief of the Defence Force, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin has completed a two day visit to Australian Defence Force personnel currently helping the people of Fiji recover after Tropical Cyclone Winston. Around 900 ADF personnel are currently deployed on Operation Fiji Assist as part of the Australian Government contribution.

Ex-service Members' Health and Their GP

*(from Dr Roderick Bain OAM)
Members*

Could you give maximum publicity within your contacts to the following web site

www.racgp.org.au/afp/2016/march/ which is the internet version of the Australian Family Physician magazine issued to all members of the Australian College of General Practitioners. (more on our website)

HMAS Darwin seizes large weapons cache

HMAS Darwin's boarding team has uncovered and seized a large weapons cache, following a boarding of a fishing vessel. After assessing the vessel to be stateless, 1989 AK-47 assault rifles, 100 rocket propelled grenade launchers, 49 PKM general purpose machine guns, 39 PKM spare barrels and 20 60mm mortar tubes were seized.

Defence participates in the 2016 Sydney Mardi Gras

Today a contingent of 150 members from the Australian Defence Force marched alongside their families, friends and Defence public servants in the 2016 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade.

Navy League of Australia(Vic & Tas)
February newsletter – [download.....](#)

The Royal Australian Air Force's New Strike Fighter



The Royal Australian Air Force launched a new cutting-edge hot air balloon, linking the oldest and newest forms of aviation in a distinctive design, reflective of Air Force's evolution into the 21st century.

Chief of Air Force Air Marshal Leo Davies AO, CSC, unveiled the new and striking helmet shaped hot air balloon in Canberra today.

"For more than 25 years, the Air Force Balloon has travelled throughout Australia, inspiring an interest in aviation among young people, and promoting the professionalism of the Air Force and its personnel," Air Marshal Davies said.

"While hot air balloons are one of the oldest forms of aviation, they still attract a huge amount of interest from the general public and schools and pique a fundamental interest in science and technology.

"With the replacement of the old balloon, there was an opportunity to create a new, custom, modern design to inspire a new generation of Australians to learn about aviation and their Air Force."

Designed and manufactured by UK-based company Cameron Balloons, the balloon required an impressive 1574 panels to create the Air Force fighter pilot helmet shape, complete with visor, oxygen mask and oxygen hose," Air Marshal Davies said.

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

OP FIJI ASSIST 2016 begins major amphibious move

Personnel, plant equipment, tools, heavy vehicles and aid were just some of the material either flown off by Army and Navy MRH-90 Helicopters, or by sea on Landing Craft, as Australia's humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission gathered significant momentum. HMAS Canberra, stationed off the Coast of Fiji's Koro Island, began amphibious operations in earnest, with a major muscle move of material and personnel.

A year in the ADF to kick start your career

YOUNG Australians have been encouraged by Assistant Minister for Defence, Michael McCormack to consider a year in the Navy, Army or Air Force. Mr McCormack officially launched the 2017 ADF Gap Year Program at the Melbourne ADF Careers Expo, attended by students from more than 70 schools and universities across Victoria.

ADSO Calls On The Government To Fully Support Its Veterans

Military service to the nation is a bond that unites all generations of veterans. The unique demands placed on ADF members and their families in too many cases results in significant physical and mental health problems and family stresses. It is for this reason Governments have legislated for specific provisions to support our service personnel and their families.

NHSA(Vic) President's February Musings – [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

Congratulations to our Patron, CDRE Jim Dickson AM MBE RAN Rtd on achieving 80 years young on 14FEB16. Jim and his term mates celebrated their entry into the RAN some 67 years ago: Class of 1950! They entered the Navy as boys, some spent all of their working life serving and defending our Nation. We are grateful for their extraordinary dedication and devotion to duty.



Why not attend:

HMAS VAMPIRE
Wreath Laying Service
Saturday 9APR16
1200 at Shrine of
Remembrance

ANZAC Day
Wreath laying Monday
25APR16 0830 at
Shrine of
Remembrance

NCCV will meet on
Tuesday, 12APR16
at the MNCentre.

1030 start!
Associations, please
send along a REP.

Perth and Houston

HMAS *Perth* is a warship name that deserves the respect of all who have served in the ADF. *Perth* 1, a Leander Class Cruiser was commissioned in 1936 as HMS *Amphion* and renamed in 1939 as *Perth* after being purchased by the Australian Government. *Perth* showed the flag at the World Fair in New York on her way home, only to be ordered to protect tankers off the West Indies and Western Atlantic. *Perth* finally arrived in Australia March 1940. After a short refit, *Perth* was deployed to the Mediterranean, escorting supply ships on the way. *Perth* remained in the Middle East until returning to Australia August 1941, having survived many air attacks and involvement at the Battle of Matapan, along with the Scrap Iron Flotilla. CAPT Hec Waller DSO* took command of *Perth* in September 1941. *Perth* visited New Zealand and New Guinea before arriving at Java. *Perth* and USS *Houston* teamed up on 28FEB42. Both ships sailed from Tandjung Priok towards Sunda Strait. It appears that a significant Japanese Naval Force, steaming towards the Strait came into contact with *Perth* and *Houston* at around 2300. *Perth* was first hit at 2326, the second at 2332, then a third 2350 on 28FEB42. With no ammunition left, *Perth* rang up full speed in an attempt to get through the Sunda Strait, however, just after midnight the ship was struck by torpedoes and abandon ship was ordered. During this time the Japanese forces had also engaged USS *Houston*. *Houston* was hit by shells and then torpedoes shortly after midnight 1MAR42 and also sunk. Both Warships had been

surrounded by Japanese Warships and some 85 torpedoes were fired at *Perth* and *Houston* during the battle. On that fateful day the *Perth* crew of 681, 350 did not survive the sinking. A further 106 died in captivity, with only 204 men being repatriated to Australia at the end of WWII.



Above, *Perth* in distinctive disruptive camouflage paint. Below, *Houston* -



of the 1,061 aboard, 368 survived the sinking, including 24 of the 74 man Marine detachment, only to be captured by the Japanese and interned as Prisoners of War. It is said that all survivors from *Perth* and *Houston* were sent to work on the Burma Railway; *Perth* POWs building from the south and *Houston* POWs from the north. This battle caused an enduring bond between *Perth* and *Houston*.



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.

Melbourne Naval Centre

Any Navy organization seeking funds to assist with the purchase of equipment or conduct an event, the MNC may be able to help. All you need to do is meet their funding criteria.

President's Report

As we power through 2016, our collective capacity to contribute to the various ex-Navy community activities continues.

There are opportunities where families can ignite their interest around the experiences of their own ancestors and immediate family members. Just look at those events we believe you should/could attend at page 1.

We have also highlighted our intention to bring Navy Week to Victoria again in 2016. This being an ideal opportunity to join in the fun and demonstrate our support of Navy generally. Pencil in the cabaret on Saturday, 15OCT16 as it will be a great night. If you have any ideas, by all means let us know so we may take it into account.

There is a need to initiate a group to look after Minor Warships. With the loss of Minesweepers, Corvettes and other Associations some folk have no specific home. If you have any interest in helping out with this proposition, send an email to NCCV so we can compare notes. Please don't be put off by thinking any such project will consume too much time, anything is possible if we have sufficient passion. Our assumption is that there are plenty of families that have a direct connection to Minor Warships and their legacy is important.

The experience of the Scrap Iron Flotilla Association has demonstrated that there are families still learning about their ties with Navy. You may have already read, Jim Harrison ex-Stuart I attended the annual lunch for the first time. As a 94 year old Veteran, his daughter Julie realized the families connection and emailed the Association. Jim and his daughter Julie travelled from Moss Vale NSW to Melbourne to be with other Veterans and families supporting the Associations combined legacy.

With ANZAC Day fast approaching some will be thinking of where might we go after the march. Keep in mind that the Melbourne Naval Centre will be open, whilst the usual outside setting will not be provided this year, the bar will be open and a sausage sizzle managed by Paul Callanan, HMAS Warwunga Association will be underway.

The proposition of where Associations will meet in the future will be tested as the MNC seek a new place, with the closure of ESU late OCT16. If you have a view, best to let that be known as it may influence the final outcome?

Yours age, Terry Makings

HMAS Perth Pilgrimage

We are reminded of wartime tragedies through pilgrimages to our many monuments located around the country. The Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne is a major place where significant events that have shaped our Nation are routinely commemorated. The *Perth-Houston* service, described at page 1 occurred on Tuesday, 1MAR16. The service was supported by a small gathering of Veterans and families linked to Warship Perth. Below is Pete Johnston, stalwart of the Association outlining the courageous effort by *Perth*, LEUT Ricardo Elizadle USN described the



Houston's experience. They spoke of the huge loss 74 years ago when both ships were sunk. The courageous effort by so many at a time when they were in great peril. Tributes were placed at the *Perth* and *Houston* trees, Pattie Wright - author of 'Men of the Line' and 'Ray Parkin's Odyssey' gave an interesting account of how *Perth* POWs were treated and their repatriation home.



Scrap Iron Flotilla

The Scrap Iron Flotilla, Australia's first deployment at the commencement of WWII included Warships Stuart (leader), Voyager, Waterhen, Vendetta & Vampire. The Association's objective is to keep their legacy alive, connecting the support of all who have served in destroyers and their families. An event to drive forward the objective is the annual Scrap Iron Flotilla Association lunch. This year's lunch was held on Friday, 18MAR16 at the Batman's Hill Hotel, Melbourne. 58 attendees enjoyed a three course meal, in a very convivial atmosphere. They also heard a stimulating address by Captain Roy Stanbrook, Harbour Master - Port of Melbourne, Roy was accompanied by his wife, Anne. He spoke of his journey to becoming a Master Mariner. In particular, his experience of being on the Bridge of the Sir Galahad, Royal Fleet Auxiliary ship when it was bombed during the Falklands War, with the loss of 48 soldiers and crew. Roy was on the bridge at the time. Whilst he has enjoyed many exciting roles during his career, no doubt the experience in Sir Galahad was compelling and highlighted the horror of war. Five WWII Veterans attended the lunch, Jim Harris (HMAS Stuart 1) travelled from Moss Vale on his 94th Birthday to meet with another Scrap Iron man, Ern Poole (HMAS Voyager I) who travelled from Portland. Pictured right L to R: Ern and Jim. Also

Ted Hollingsworth (Minesweepers), Hiram Ristrom (Kanimbla) & John Bird (Observer RNFAA) Pictured below, Captain Roy Stanbrook presenting.



New DVA Rates

| SERVICE PENSION | Old rate (fortnightly) | New rate (fortnightly) | Increase (fortnightly) |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Single person | \$867.00 | \$873.90 | \$6.90 |
| Couples (each) | \$653.50 | \$658.70 | \$5.20 |
| Single person – transitional | \$731.50 | \$737.20 | \$5.70 |
| Couples (each) – transitional | \$590.00 | \$594.60 | \$4.60 |
| WAR WIDOWS | | | |
| War widow(er)'s pension | \$880.90 | \$887.90 | \$7.00 |
| Income support supplement | \$259.90 | \$262.00 | \$2.10 |
| DISABILITY PENSION | | | |
| T&PI (Special rate) | \$1,330.90 | \$1341.50 | \$10.60 |
| Intermediate rate | \$903.50 | \$910.70 | \$7.20 |
| EDA | \$735.10 | \$741.00 | \$5.90 |
| 100 per cent | \$473.10 | \$476.90 | \$3.80 |
| 10 per cent | \$54.24 | \$54.62 | \$0.38 |

We are advised these are the maximum rates of payment and include any Energy Supplement payable.

Navy Week

Planning for Navy Week Victoria is progressing with the week commencing on Saturday, 15OCT16. A social event, where we hope a good number of our Navy community will support is to be the first activity. More information will be forthcoming as planning progresses. This will be followed by the annual Seafarers Memorial Service on Sunday at St Paul's Cathedral. This service has been conducted since 1907 under the auspices of the Mission to Seamen and brings together both Merchant Navy and Royal Australian Navy interests. The annual Navy Week Wreath Laying Service, normally conducted at the Shrine of Remembrance will be brought into the Seafarers Service. We are looking to arrange a Bowls Tournament early in the week and on the Wednesday, 19OCT16 there will be a seminar in the theatre, Shrine of Remembrance. This will be a very interesting day co-ordinated between NCCV, RUSI and NLoFAust. There is potential to have other organisations involved. A Golf Tournament will be held on the Friday, a yacht race on Saturday, Sunday - Open Day at Cerberus.

One hundred years on - the first shot!



When the first shot was fired in 1914, it seemed inevitable that war in Europe would be over in a number of months. During these ANZAC Centennial years we know their story turned out to be somewhat different and particularly tragic. We are now nineteen months into the centenary of the Spirit of ANZAC period, have you made a link to the disposition of your ancestors. We all have history and now is a good time to realise what the journey was for our forebears during those difficult days.



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Special Notes

Limeys. Captain Cook, on his second world voyage in HMS Resolution (1772-1775), lost only one man to scurvy. He advised Admiralty that the crews good fortune was due to lemons; this resulted in their adoption for general use in British ships. Lime juice came in to use due to the plentiful supply from the West Indies, while not as effective as lemons, it did have similar properties. This is where the term *Limeys* comes as a reference to British sailors and could be attributed to the term *limers* for the RAN.



Johnnies. No doubt many, by necessity have erased Sunday afternoon sessions in the snake pit. The reputation of those scallywags is best forgotten.

Forfeited Awards. It seems a vast number of Veterans forfeited their medals during WWII. The Government has advised that Veterans, or their families may apply for any forfeited medals. For info go to website: defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au

Gary Jackson. Gary isn't too well these day, at home in palliative care. If you know Gary, why not give him a call on 03 5981 0327 - best to call around midday.

Posthumous Bravery Award. In a move unfamiliar to the Australian Defence Force a bravery award has been made to LSMTP Bradley Meek posthumously, some 17 years after the event. This award recognises his courageous effort by saving shipmates during the engineroom fire in HMAS Westralia. Bradley demonstrated the very best qualities of a well trained & caring sailor.

Melbourne Naval Centre. MNC will cease to reside at the English Speaking Union address as of the end of October this year. The MNC will seek a new abode for their own meetings and also a venue capable of accommodating Ship/Unit and Branch Associations for their ordinary meetings.