



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

March 2017

Volume 7 Edition 3

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1060

HMAS LONSDALE



November 2017 marks the 25th anniversary of the decommissioning of HMAS Lonsdale and I thought I would take a moment to reflect on the history of this establishment. The article below was taken from the Decommissioning service pamphlet 13th November 1992.

Prior to the acquisition of the old post office building at the end of Bay Road, Port Melbourne, in 1911, Naval Reserve Training was carried out in the Customs Sheds on the Town Pier at the end of Bay Street. During WW 1, the Port Melbourne RANR Depot trained a large proportion of the Reserve officers and sailors who served Australia in the New Guinea and Mediterranean Areas (127 Officers and 4155 sailors). Five

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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27 Mar – NHS meeting (all welcome)

02 Apr – Daylight saving ends

09 Apr – 75th Anniversary sinking of HMAS Vampire

14-17 Apr – Easter

24 Apr – In 1860 - HMVS VICTORIA sailed for the Maori War in NZ.

25 Apr – ANZAC Day

25 Apr – In 1915 HMA Submarine AE2 penetrates the Dardanelles

30 Apr – In 1915 HMA Submarine AE2 scuttled in Sea of Marmara.

04 May – Battle of the Coral Sea

07 May – Battle of the Coral Sea Commemoration Service at the Shrine

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>

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Upgrades complete for Anzac class

The Australian Navy's eight Anzac class frigates are now all back in the water post anti-ship missile defence upgrades, with HMAS Stuart

officers and 110 sailors from the Port Melbourne Reserve Division were among the first Australians in action in WW1.

The RANR Depot, Port Melbourne, housed in the old post office building from 1911 to 1939 became known as HMAS Cerberus 111 (1939-1942) and HMAS Lonsdale from 1942.

With the outbreak of WW1 the original depot in the old post office building in Bay Street could not cope with the demands of wartime and by 1942 was expanded to include a new large drill hall complex, about 100 yards south in Rouse Street. The new building was erected on the old reclaimed Port Melbourne Lagoon. Because of the large numbers involved and the development of HMAS Cerberus as a training establishment earlier in the century, Lonsdale's role during the period of WW1 changed mainly to that of a transit centre for the receipt and drafting of men and women of the Navy. The Lonsdale of today was officially occupied on 3rd May 1942.

Since 1950, HMAS Lonsdale's functions have been progressively amended and expanded, and although Naval Reserve training was still a major part of the establishments' function, the overall role of Lonsdale included additional responsibilities including oversight of the Victorian Division of the Naval Reserve Cadets.

HMAS Lonsdale became increasingly the focus of Naval activity in Melbourne, particularly after Navy Office was moved to Canberra. In 1953, a new three storey brick accommodation block (including a junior sailors' club in later years) was erected on the North side of Rouse Street where the WRANS' Quarters has been located during World War II. In 1956, Greenwich House, the 'new' WRANS' quarters was acquired at Toorak. In 1971, a new Naval shore patrol base, stores building and band practice building were erected on the North side along the Rouse Street frontage, whilst a new two storey RANR instruction block was built on the west side of the parade ground, to replace the old Nissan Huts that had been erected after World War II.

In 1982 the right of Freedom of Entry to the City of Port Melbourne was awarded to HMAS Lonsdale.

In 1987 with the disposal of Williamstown Naval Dockyard the stores support traditionally supplied by Lonsdale for commissioning ships was wound down. Consequently the ships

undocking at the Henderson shipyard.

Spanish frigate arrives in Sydney

Spanish Navy's Aegis-equipped frigate Cristobal Colon arrived in Sydney on Friday as part of her role in preparing Australian Navy sailors for the operation of Australia's first Aegis destroyer Hobart.

ICT changes bring capability enhancement for Navy

The biggest upgrade of Defence Secret and Protected networks in more than ten years will drive significant change for Navy, with 192 shore locations set to experience major network overhauls.

Maritime Technical College to train thousands of future shipbuilders

The Turnbull Government today announced it will establish a Maritime Technical College to identify, train or retrain Australian workers for our \$90 billion shipbuilding program.

HMAS Canberra flight trials a tri-service undertaking

The first of class flight trials that Royal Australian Navy's landing helicopter dock HMAS Canberra conducted demanded engagement of Army test pilots, Navy flight test engineers and Air Force technicians, all working on the task.

Government launches program to support children of veterans

Minister for Veterans' Affairs the Hon. Dan Tehan today officially launched the Turnbull Government's \$2.1 million pilot support program for children of veterans with mental health issues.

ADF Gap Year provides opportunities

Applications have opened for the 2018 Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gap Year program.

Advanced Russian Navy frigate Admiral Gorshkov starts final state

company was reduced to its decommissioning size.



Lonsdale takes its name from Captain William Lonsdale of the 4th Regiment (King's Own) 1779-1864.

Captain Lonsdale was the first police Magistrate Port

Philip 1836, Superintendent of Port Philip 1846-1847, the first colonial secretary of Victoria in 1851.

Lonsdale's name had previously been given to the second class torpedo boat of the Victorian Colonial Navy HMVS Lonsdale.

From 1911 to date (1992), HMAS Lonsdale had 33 Commanding Officers, some of whom have served twice in the posting with varying titles. The first Commanding Officer in World War II was Lieutenant Commander R.S. Veale, CMG, VRD, RANR and the decommissioning Commanding Officer is (was) Lieutenant Commander P.A. Rogers RAN.



Coffee and Tea Service
Maker: William Perry, London, 1841.

As a tribute to HMAS Lonsdale – the museum at HMAS Cerberus is in the process of creating a Lonsdale Room. In this room, will be items such as



Three branch candelabra
Maker: Robinson, Edgely, Aston, Birmingham, 1830.

Honours Boards and memorabilia from HMAS Lonsdale. At this time it is expected that they will also have on display the entire Silver Collection from the Lonsdale family. This collection is the only complete set of its kind in Australia. The photos you see are only a few of the items that make up this splendid collection.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

trials

The lead ship of the Russian Navy's 4,550-ton Project 22350 frigates, Admiral Gorshkov, has started the final set of state trials, Russian Severnaya Verf, part of United Shipbuilding Corporation, announced on Monday.

Navantia contracts MAN for Australian Navy tankers

Spanish shipbuilder Navantia has picked MAN to provide main and GenSet engines to power the two new fleet support tankers that are to be built for the Royal Australian Navy.

ADF rescues stranded sailors off Western Australia

Three people are recovering on board HMAS Parramatta, after being rescued from a stricken yacht in extremely rough seas, more than 1300 kilometres off the West Australian coast, in the Southern Indian Ocean.

Improving current provisions for veterans' privacy

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan outlined how the Digital Readiness Bill would provide stronger protections for veterans' privacy at the RSL ACT conference in Canberra.

\$730 Million fund for game-changing defence technologies

Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, today launched the \$730 million Next Generation Technologies Fund, a new investment in Australian defence capability and innovation.

US Navy Admiral, eight other officers charged in Fat Leonard bribery case

A retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral and eight more high-ranking officer were arrested and charged Tuesday for their involvement in a massive U.S. Navy bribery scandal.

- † LRO S.J. Fay, R57384, 17 March 2017. Aged 75.
- † LRO T.J. Harriss, R62115, 16 March 2017. Aged 71.
- † CPOMTH3 P. Robinson, R43055, 12 March 2017.
- † LWRROM R.L. Sullivan (nee Jones) W86003, 10 March 2017.
- † ME I. Douglas, R104287, 08 March 2017. Aged 63.
- † TEL R.A. Foale, R50610, 07 March 2017.
- † TO F.T. Kluth, R52485, 05 March 2017.
- † LSRP L. Hillhouse, 01 March 2017.
- † WOUC K.J. McMiles OAM, R59060, 24 February 2017. Aged 75.
- † POMTP3 G.E. Owen, R94839, 22 February 2017.
- † POE(AC) F.T. Fox, R54353, 14 February 2017. Aged 76.
- † N.B.C. Bath, PA2771, 06 February 2017. Aged 92

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(webmaster@navyvic.net). 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.

Message from CAPT David Garnock CSC RAN Rtd. – President Melbourne Naval Committee

Options for a reunion or event at the Mission To Seafarers on Anzac Day 2017.

Hi to all Victorian-based ex-Navy Association "Points of Contact".

Those of you who were able to attend the "workshop" at the Mission to Seafarers on Saturday 4 March will recall that (amongst other things) I encouraged all Victorian-based ex-Navy Associations to consider using the 'free' facilities at the Mission for their post-Anzac Day March reunions in Melbourne. This email is a follow-up invitation for you and your Associations to let me know if you're interested in availing yourselves of this excellent offer. Please consider the following Options and please urgently tell me if you're interested: [Download document.....](#)

Anzac Day Melbourne – Order of March. [Download.....](#)

Reunions

Request interest in a Reunion of the Waller Division of September 1967 Royal Australian Navy. Reunion would be planned for October or November 2017. If interested please contact Laurie Pye. email: lrpye@outlook.com or phone: 02 4384 3018

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



Defence strategy to address family and domestic violence

Minister for Defence, Senator the Hon Marise Payne, today launched the Defence Family and Domestic Violence Strategy.

Iran tests another naval missile

Iran carried out another test firing of a naval missile with the successful launch of the Hormuz-2 missile.

US Navy submarine visits

U.S. Navy's Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Oklahoma City (SSN 723) visited Australia's largest navy base HMAS Stirling.

Navy invests in vests

Sailors at the Australian International Airshow at Avalon have had a very small but very important piece of kit to show the public.

Navy's Avalon eyes in the skies

Not all aircraft at the Australian International Airshow at Avalon actually have pilots

The changing face of maritime terrorism

Maritime terrorism has reared its ugly head again—this time in Southeast Asia

Submarines and strategy

It's hard to be confident that the project to replace the Collins-class submarines is in good shape.

ADSO Update 1/2017: Enough is Enough - It's Time For a Change

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President's March [musings.....](#)

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

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

Commemoration services at the Shrine of Remembrance that warrant support of the Navy Fraternity

1. **RAN Recruits Pilgrimage**, wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday 2nd April** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
2. **HMAS Vampire** Commemoration Service, at 1100, **Sunday 9th April** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
3. **RAN Recruits Pilgrimage**, wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday 30th April** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
4. **HMAS Castlemaine** 1000 on 5MAY17. 5. **Battle of the Coral Sea** 1200 on 7MAY17

BRAVERY TRUST

Supporting those who serve

If you are a current or former member of the ADF who has sustained physical or mental injuries as a result of your service and you are experiencing financial hardship you may be eligible to apply for assistance. Alternatively you may also be eligible to apply if you are the immediate family member of a current or former ADF member who has died as a result of their service, including those who have died as a result of their physical or mental injuries and you are experiencing financial hardship. Phone 1300 652 103, or email ask@braverytrust.org.au

Melbourne Naval Committee

MNC has an agreement with the Mission to Seafarers that allows Navy groups to meet at the MtS at no cost. Email Craig at the MtS to book: marketing@missiontoseafarers.com.au

Navy Victoria Network

Navyvic website is for anyone interested in Navy.

If arranging a function, check the calendar! Provide information to navyvic to avoid conflict with others.

Disclaimer

Articles published are the Authors thoughts, they may be edited to meet the space.

Sunda Strait

A commemoration service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on 1MAR to mark the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait, the loss of HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston*. On 1MAR42 1071 sailors were lost, more did not survive the hardship of Changi, Thai Burma Railway and some Japan. Mr David Manning, WWII Veteran and survivor of the *Perth* sinking, Burma Railway and much more layed the first wreath.



The second wreath was layed by Bobby Semple OAM BEM ← President, Rats of Tobruk Association for those troops ably supported by *Perth* during deployment to the Mediterranean

RADM Mike Noonan CSC RAN, Deputy Chief of Navy layed a wreath on behalf of the RAN and CAPT Tony Defrais USN, US Defence Attache layed a wreath on behalf of the United States Navy. LEUT Ricardo Elizalde USN representing the US Consul General read a



statement of purpose and CDRE Michelle ← Miller RAN delivered a moving message of thanksgiving. A short address

was given by ↓John Perryman a Director, Sea Power Centre. John gave a more detailed presentation in the western gallery after the service. The banners of *Perth* & *Houston* were proudly held aloft by sailors from HMAS Cerberus, as the Ode was recited by CMDR Luke Ryan RAN, ↓CO RAN Recruit School. A



very smart Catafalque Party was also provided by Cerberus and the RAN Band, Melbourne did a wonderful job. Descendants of 24 sailors who made the supreme sacrifice on that fateful day in 1942 were amongst 150 people attending the service. It was a memorable occasion and heartning to see many service & ex-service men & women, along with descendants and officials present to pay their respects to the legacy of those that did not return from the Battle of Sunda Strait.



HMAS YARRA



The legacy created by the crew of HMAS *Yarra* is legendary and a special moment in Navy's history. On the 4th March 1942 *Yarra*, a small corvette encountered the might of the Japanese Imperial Navy (JIN) and endeavoured to do their duty against incredible odds. There may have been some obscure activity that may have saved the warship and its convoy ships, however, the speed and navigation attributes that detailed the circumstances were to prove too much for those brave men in their gallant



ship. 75 years ago, LCDR Robert Rankin RAN was on the bridge and gave the order to advance on the enemy, a challenge he and the crew knew was futile, but had to be pursued given their duty to safeguard the several merchant ships they were assigned to protect. It is reported that *Yarra* approached this formidable task

with the daring and courage expected of Australia's corvettes. The entire crew was committed to the job at hand, with a full head of steam they engaged methodically, demonstrating skill attained through hours of training and practice. Sadly, this was to no avail and *Yarra* was sunk. The bravery of her crew was not only demonstrated by the skill and professionalism of their Captain, but also by the tenacity of Leading Seaman Ronal Taylor → to stay at his gun - and keep shooting whilst he could.



LSIS Nina Fogliani (photographer)

The heroism of *Yarra* II has been recognised by the award of a 'Unit Citation'. This is clear recognition of how the Ship's Company went about their duty. The loss of *Yarra* II was commemorated at the *Yarra* Memorial, Spotswood, Melbourne on Sunday, 5MAR with over 150 Service, ex-Service men and women, along with descendants and dignitaries. *Yarra* IV

was in town and her crew attended.

They provided the Catafalque Party and with the support of the RAN Band it was a momentous occasion of remembrance on the 75th anniversary of the loss of *Yarra* II. Key artifacts from the *Cerberus* Museum were also displayed as participants showed their support for *Yarra* II.



Navy Week

The Ball now has over 260 seats committed and we are looking forward to many more. If you have yet to advise of your attendance, please let us know. Be reminded that it will be a big weekend to kick start Navy week, a seminar on Saturday, 21OCT17 with the Navy (all Defence) Ball that night at the iconic Melbourne Town Hall. This gala event will be followed by the Seafarers Church Service on Sunday morning, 22OCT17 in St Paul's Cathedral. Enquiries to navy.week.victoria@gmail.com are most welcome. Chief of Navy has indicated his acceptance of invitations to all three events, why not make this something for your Association/Club to be actively involved in. These activities lend themselves to being shared to demonstrate we are all of one mind, Once Navy - Always Navy. Notwithstanding we are very keen to have all Defence and ex-Defence men and women join us at one or all of these events. Nick McCallum, 7 Reporter and 3AW commentator will be MC at the Ball, why not join us for a wonderful experience!

Welfare

There are many aspects of our relationship with the Department of Veteran Affairs that are under review. Whilst there are many gateways for this information to filter down to the rank and file it might be surprising to realise just how much is going on. How many of us access the DVA website to see what changes they are making? Another question might be, how many of us know who to chat to if we have an query concerning welfare? For Navy, the first stop should be the Naval Association. That way we can discuss our concerns with someone who is familiar with Navy, but where are they and how do we get to them? A disappointing aspect of this line of questions is that many of our ship mates are not in the Navy Association. No doubt they have a very good reason, however, the gradual reduction in membership will eventually mean that the NAA as a national organisation will disappear and so will the welfare support. Most importantly, the input from NAA will be lost to the peak bodies and more specifically to DVA. NAA is a crucial gateway for ex-Navy into the workings of the Department of Veteran Affairs

A WWII Veteran

I am now 92 plus years and am in reasonable shape. Vendetta was my first ship. I was Dux of my class in the Signal School at *Cerberus* and was awarded a destroyer as a prized draft. I was in Vendetta from early March to December 1943. First as an Ordinary Signaller and then as a rated Signaller. Very good training under Yeoman of Signals Jackie Simpson!. LCDR Plunkett-Cole was the CO for most of my time and LEUT John Maxwell the First Lieutenant and LEUT Bryn Mussared the Engineer. All of the eight officers except the A/S Sub and the MO were PNF. I kept watches for four months with the navigator, LEUT Duncan Herbert Stevens. I met him socially in my post war Antarctic days. Torpedo Gunner Bill Lace DSC was the other officer in my watch. I learned a great deal in Vendetta, a wonderful experience. I was drafted to a new Fairmile class patrol boat, in which I served for 25 months. I commissioned it and I paid it off and became a tolerable seaman and gunner. Most of my service there was in PNG waters. We had silenced engines and were engaged in clandestine operations with "Z" Special Force for some months. We once ran aground at night on the strongly held Japanese island of Muschu, off the north coast of PNG, and were very lucky to refloat before dawn at 0600. After the war, I graduated in Economics from Melbourne Uni, courtesy of the Commonwealth Reconstruction Train-

ing Scheme and spent ten years in Antarctic exploration, a Public Service operation. My Navy background was of inestimable importance. I then went to Canberra, became a member of the Senior Executive Service and retired as the Commonwealth's Director of Civil Aviation, based in Sydney (I had a pilot's licence). Following retirement at 65, I was head-hunted by the airline industry and spent until age 84 in full and part time employment as a technical adviser, mostly to Qantas. I live near the Harbour, in Neutral Bay and in 2015 was awarded an OAM for services to Naval History and Antarctic Exploration. I was the Hon Sec, Editor and Grand Poobah of Everything of the Fairmile Association for twenty years. We disbanded in 2014 due (to) casualties. I believe I owe a great deal for my postwar life, especially in Antarctic and Civil Aviation operations to my training and life in WW 11 the RAN. I am grateful!

Regards, RHJ (Dick) Thompson

By the ed: the comments above are published with Dick's kind permission. They were provided by Dick in response to an invitation to the Scrap Iron Flotilla annual lunch held in Melbourne. They are shared as they express an important view about the influence of a sailor's wartime experience in our Warships. When I asked for Dick's permission he also added a small piece of information, see special notes p4



HMAS GLADSTONE

Preserving our maritime heritage is a time consuming passion led by champions who have experienced the good and not so good aspect of life within a complex industry. These champions have the passion and enthusiasm to bring many others to the table. HMAS *Gladstone II* is a project the exudes such passion. *Gladstone* is a name intrinsic to a concerted war effort, from when the first Gladstone was commissioned in March 1942 and perpetuated by bringing *Gladstone II* alongside for all to see.

The *Gladstone* Maritime History Society sponsored this most worthwhile project. Now it is up to us to promote this outcome by encouraging visits to the site. The early success of our border protection is a consequence of work by the Fremantle Patrol Boats. The display is a substantial reminder of the service given by so many. Photograph on the left groups the movers and shakers associated with the project, along with Mick Storrs, ex-CO *Warnambool* with Gary Sproule ex-CO of *Gladstone*. Great Job Boys



LtR: Mick Storrs, Leo Zussino, Chairman of Gladstone Ports Corporation, Peter Corones former Mayor & Board member GPC, Peter O'Sullivan CEO GPC and Gary Sproule



LtR: Mick Storrs, Leo Zussino

President's Dit

Change is afoot wrt the ANZAC Day March. Some suggest that marches might be cancelled in some regional areas. In Melbourne there are significant changes to the order of march, the focus has been on WWII elements. The logic of these changes is clear for Army, but one aspect applied to Navy defies logic. Banners that bear the name of Warships involved in WWII have, for some reason been quarantined from the main march. This protocol denies post WWII Service or Ex-Service men and women from marching with their ship banner where there are no WWII Veterans marching. For example, if your Warship was Vendetta, Vampire, Waterhen or Stuart, then you have to find some other banner to march behind. This appears to be the consequence of a lack of consultation with the Navy fraternity. The Navy fraternity is marginalized, demonstrated by these changes knowingly disenfranchising individuals from marching in their rightful place. This situation has been pointed out several times to no avail. The 75th anniversary of Warships lost must also take pride of place.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

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Special Notes



Counselling Service. Any Service or Ex-service man or women, or their family members can pick up the phone and call Vietnam Veterans Counselling Service 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 1800 011 046. You may also visit the [VVCS website](#) to access free and confidential Australia-wide support for mental health conditions.

Scrap Iron Flotilla. Many who served in the Navy, whether submarines or targets, even the Fleet Air Arm with family were among the many who attended the Scrap Iron Flotilla Association lunch. Several WWII Veterans were present, Hiram Ristrom, Ted Hollingsworth, John Bird and our last Scrap Iron Flotilla survivor Ern Poole, with Dot and Margaret his daughter. Major General Mike O'Brien CSC Rtd delivered an amazing presentation on the Battle of Mattapan, a great insight much appreciated by all.

HMAS Sirius. It was great to see *Sirius* in town with CMDR Mike Oborn CSM RAN at the helm - not exactly at the helm, more in the big chair on the bridge! Nice to welcome Mike back to his 'home town'. Hopefully we will see Mike back home at *Cerberus* sometime in the not too distant future.

Bravery Trust. The comments on page 1 are crucial for anyone in financial hardship. If you know any-

one who needs this immediate service, note the details and the immediate nature of the help.

Reserve Forces Day. Invitations are being sent to those who might attend the annual Reserve Forces Day march and service in July. It seems this proposal is not something of great interest to us in Victoria, given the number (zero) of Navy that attended last year! Where are our Reservists?
WWI Vet P3. What I was going to include in my earlier email was that between 1950 and 1960 I made fourteen voyages to Antarctica and the sub-antarctic islands of about three months at a time, accumulating another three plus years sea time. I was the Admin Officer of the Antarctic Division at HQ under Dr Pjillip Lawat and the Marine Operations Officer and Leader or Deputy Leader at sea. I ran the landing operations. I have also flown over a great deal of Australia in a light aircraft and until recently was swimming one km a day, mostly at Balmoral Beach. But I did swim across the Suez Canal and back on one occasion. Not a significant distance but I could not resist it. I skied for decades in Australia and also in NZ, Europe and USA. *Ed note: Dick sent this after his initial email, irresistible piece of information for us all.*