



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

May 2014

Volume 4 Edition 5

Editorial

NVN current membership: 915

Those who have gone before

As with other Navies established in former colonies of the British Empire, ours was a child of the Royal Navy. As we went through childhood we almost slavishly followed our parent service in every facet: our structure, administrative practices, training systems, uniform, operational procedures were to a great extent carbon copies of those of the R.N. It was not until after the end of WW2 that an RAN trained officer, Sir John Collins, assumed the office we now know as Chief of Navy and it was not until the 1960's that we began to effectively cut the apron strings which had tied us so closely to our parent service for over half a century. Over the past 50 years, as we matured as an adult Navy in our own right, we have progressively moved away from the style, practices and procedures of earlier years and asserted a degree of independence.

The first century of our existence as the Royal Australian Navy has included wide ranging incidents – in wars and in peace – in which individuals of all ranks have performed heroic deeds deserving of recognition by posterity; the nature of many acts of valour, professional dedication and selfless sacrifice have the potential to inspire present and future generations of those who proudly wear the Naval uniform. Many of those in this category began their RAN careers at the Recruit School at Cerberus (or Flinders Naval Depot as it was known for many years) and it is fitting that the Divisions at that starting place have recently been renamed in honour of four whose service was exemplary. They are but four of many who could be so acclaimed. We should all take pride in the memory of their

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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- 26 May** – NHS Meeting (all welcome)
- 31 May** – Indigenous Service Personnel wreath laying at the Shrine.
- 31 May** – WRANS biggest morning tea in Melbourne
- 01 Jun** – On this day in 1942 HMAS Kuttabul sunk by Japanese midget sub. 21 lives lost.
- 01 Jun** – RAN Recruits wreath laying at Shrine
- 03 Jun** – Anniversary Melbourne/Evans collision in 1969, 74 lives lost.
- 11 Jun** – On this day in 1943 - HMAS WALLAROO sunk following collision with American liberty ship.
- 15 Jun** – 'N' class destroyers wreath laying at Shrine
- 16 Jun** – On this day in 1942 - HMAS NESTOR sunk in the Mediterranean.
- 23 Jun** – NHS Meeting (all welcome)
- 28 Jun** – WRANS country visit to Warragul
- 30 Jun** – On this day in 1941 - HMAS WATERHEN sunk off Tobruk.
- 30 Jun** – HMAS Waterhen wreath laying at the Shrine
- 05 Jul** – RANCB & WRANS Cocktail party at Melbourne Naval Centre.
- 28 Jul** – WRANS Annual General Meeting at the Bentleigh RSL

deeds. A brief synopsis of the reasons for this recognition is set out hereunder.

Leading Seaman Noel Ervin Shipp. After joining as an Underwater Control rating in January 1963 Shipp transferred to aircrew category in 1967 and the following year was posted to the RAN Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHV) which integrated with the US Army 135th Assault Helicopter Company. He participated in frequent ground assaults on enemy positions and troop concentrations.

On 31 May 1969 his helicopter was involved in the extraction of units of the 7th ARVN Infantry Division. With complete disregard for his own safety he hung half outside his aircraft to bring effective rocket fire to bear on a target. His pilot was hit by enemy fire and his gunship crashed and exploded in the jungle. All four crew members perished.

Leading Seaman Ronald 'Buck' Taylor. Born in Carlton in 1918, the fourth in a family of ten, Buck Taylor struggled through the Depression years before joining the RAN in 1935. He became a gunnery sailor and in HMA Ships Vampire and Adelaide before joining Yarra just before the outbreak of WW2. During service in the Middle East in 1940-41 he was promoted Leading Seaman and earned high praise as a gun captain in actions in the Mediterranean and later in the vicinity of Singapore. On 27 February 1942, in the early stages of escorting three auxiliary vessels from Java to Fremantle, Yarra was attacked and sunk by an overwhelming Japanese force. 'Buck' Taylor ignored the order to abandon ship and stayed alone at his gun until he was killed shortly before the ship went down.

Leading Seaman Francis Bassett 'Richard' Emms. Starting life in Tasmania in 1909, 'Richard' Emms joined Cerberus in 1928 as a seaman and specialised in gunnery in 1930. Over the next 7 years he served in HMA Ships Canberra, Australia, Penguin, Waterhen, Vendetta and Brisbane before joining Sydney in the Mediterranean. With his eyesight deteriorating he transferred to the Supply Branch as a Cook and subsequently served in Stuart, Swan and Penguin before posting ashore to Melville in Darwin in 1940.

In February 1942 he was onboard the boom defence vessel Kara Kara in Darwin harbour when the Japanese carried out the first of their bombing raids on that city on 19th of that month.

Latest News

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Vice Admiral Johnston takes over as Chief of Joint Operations

There has been a changing of the guard at Headquarters Joint Operations Command (HQJOC) with Vice Admiral David Johnston taking on the role of Chief of Joint Operations following the retirement of Lieutenant General Ash Power.

[*More.....*](#)

A long-standing partnership builds regional stability

Military strength and diplomatic might will come together in Malaysia in the coming weeks during one of South East Asia's most significant regional exercises involving Australia and its regional security partners. Exercise Bersama Shield 2014 will see the Australian Defence Force join with the defence forces of New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and the United Kingdom in a critical test of interoperability. [*More.....*](#)

Popcorn, ice cream and movies - a recipe for family fun at HMAS Cerberus

A zebra with only half his stripes, a pack of hungry nut-seeking squirrels and enough movie treats to make any child's eyes light up made for an unforgettable family outing during National Families Week. [*More.....*](#)

Space agreement a milestone in international cooperation

Defence cooperation between Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and United States has been further enhanced by the establishment of a formal partnership on combined space operations.

[*More.....*](#)

ADSO update #3 of 2014. [*Read.....*](#)

Manning a machine gun 'Richard' Emms returned fire and continued to do so even after he had been seriously wounded. It is assessed that his action saved the lives of several of his shipmates. He died as a result of his wounds later that day and was buried at sea.

Chief Petty Officer Jonathan Rogers. 2 years after the end of WW1 Jonathan Rogers was born in Wales; 18 years later, 1 year before the start of WW2 he joined the Royal Navy. A seaman specialist he spent most of the war in coastal vessels. Promoted Petty Officer in 1943 he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his 'coolness and leadership' in an action off Dunkirk in 1944. He was discharged from the RN in 1946 and 4 years later he applied to join the RAN. Over the next 14 years he served in HMA Ships Sydney, Burdekin, Tobruk, Junee, Anzac, Warramunga, Barcoo and ashore at Cerberus and Rushcutter.

In January 1963 Chief Petty Officer 'Buck' Rogers joined HMAS Voyager as Coxswain. On 10 February 1964 he was conducting a tombola game in the forward cafeteria when the ship was cut in two in collision with Melbourne. Voyager's forward section heeled sharply and about five minutes later turned upside down. Survivors told how CPO Rogers had taken charge, organised men to move to possible escape compartments, assisted sailors through the nearest escape hatch and encouraged those left behind to pray and meet death beside him with dignity and honour. He was posthumously awarded the George Cross.

May the courage and example of these four men be an inspiration to all who pass through the Recruit School on their way to a career in the RAN. And may their families, descendants, and those of us who have served in uniform be mindful and proud of their deeds.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

† CMDR A.B. Calder RAN Rtd., 20761, 19 May 2014. Aged 98.

† WOWTR P. Charlton, R93178, 10 May 2014. Aged 69.

† CRS W.W. Joyce, R34722, 08 May 2014. Aged 88.

Cerberus Dogs go for pink

The Cerberus Dogs Australian Rules Football Team added a new colour to their usual blue and white uniform when they took to the field against Endeavour Hills in a Southern Football League (SFL) clash on Saturday.

[*More.....*](#)

Minister congratulates crew of HMAS Darwin on drug haul

The Royal Australian Navy has intercepted a drug smuggling dhow off the coast of Somalia and seized 449 kilograms of heroin. [More.....](#)

Delivering on our commitments to build a stronger Australian Defence Force

The Abbott Government is delivering on its commitment to build a stronger Australian Defence Force (ADF). The Budget is part of the Government's Economic Action Strategy to build a strong, prosperous economy and a safe, secure Australia. [More.....](#)

Budget 2014-15 – Defence Budget Overview

The Abbott Government has delivered on its promise of no further cuts to the Defence Budget and reaffirmed its commitment to growing the Defence budget to two per cent of GDP within a decade. [More.....](#)

Budget 2014-15 – Defence Capability

This Budget is about building a strong and prosperous economy for a safe and secure Australia, and that means a strong and capable ADF. [More.....](#)

Budget 2014-15 – Funding for Defence Operations

The Abbott Government is proud of the approximately 2,000 Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel deployed on operations to protect and promote Australia's interests and values. [More.....](#)

- † CMDR A.H.E. Cook RAN Rtd., 05 May 2014.
- † LS L. O'Donnell, R54392, 04 May 2014.
- † SBLT Pauline Humphries RANNS, 03 May 2014. Aged 91.
- † CCY R. Kennealy, R36139, 03 May 2014. Aged 84.
- † LSSTD D.J. Brown, R57052, 03 May 2014. Aged 71
- † CPORSSM D. Manners, R54566, 02 May 2014.
- † Basil Hayler, 22255, 12 Feb 2014. Aged 92.

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

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The First Fateful Shot: Port Phillip Bay, August 1914

Shortly after midday the gunners at Fort Nepean lined up the German merchant steamer – the SS Pfalz – as it bolted towards the heads and fired the first shot in a terrible war that would last four long years and scar the world. How was Australia placed at this moment in history? What were the views of the people and the government of the day? Was our military prepared or equipped for what lay ahead? These and many other questions will be posed and answered at this unique conference event. Hosted by the historic Fort Queenscliff Museum, The First Fateful Shot: Port Phillip Bay, August 1914 will examine the lead-up to the outbreak of World War I from the Australian perspective, and the events of 1914 including the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force landing at Rabaul and the islands of the Bismarck Archipelago.

For full details go to the [Military History & Heritage Victoria website](#)

Interests: If you have a specific interest/link you think would be of appeal to the wider navy community, we would be pleased to hear about it. Just email our webmaster – webmaster@navyvic.net with details.

NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below

Budget Delivers Election Commitments To Veterans and Their Families

The Abbott Government will deliver more than \$12 billion in overall funding for Australia's veteran community in the 2014-15 Federal Budget including \$6.5 billion in pensions and income support and \$5.4 billion in health services. [More.....](#)

New military superannuation scheme arrangements

The Abbott Government is introducing new modern military superannuation arrangements for people joining the Australian Defence Force (ADF). [More.....](#)

Australian Maritime Digest - Issue #234. [Read.....](#)

Semaphore Issue #4 - The Coastwatchers and Ferdinand the Bull. [Read.....](#)

Grants Boost Quality of Life for Veteran Community

19 projects enriching the quality of lives of veterans across the country have received funding worth \$236,294 as part of the Veteran and Community Grants program, the Minister for Veterans' Affairs announced today. [More.....](#)

Unknown sailor's grave dedicated

Determination to remedy a job of expediency done during WWII resulted in an unknown sailor receiving a headstone on his previously unmarked grave at Williamstown on April 24. [More.....](#)

NAVY NEWS

[Click here for the latest edition.](#)

Don't forget to visit the [website](#), there are many more news articles and information that are not included in this newsletter.



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

Rogues' Yarn



Battle of the Coral Sea—1942

DIARY NOTES

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

**RAN Recruits
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary
1JUN14@1030**

**N Class Destroyers
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary
15JUN14@1100**

**HMAS Waterhen
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary
30JUN14@1400**

**Next NCCV meeting
10JUN14@1030 at
Melb Naval Centre.**

**All Ship/Unit/Branch
Associations are
encouraged to be
represented!**

Flag Ship Activities.

*We have five occasions
when we in the Navy
Community need to
make a special effort
to attend, they are
Battle of the Coral Sea
Bita Paka
Seafarers Service
Navy Wreath Laying &
HMAS GOORANGAI
Have you noted one of
these in your diary?*

The Japanese and Allies portray the Battle of the Coral Sea as a victory. Both are probably right. The Japanese managed to sink more Allied ships than they lost. But the Allies prevented the Japanese from occupying Port Moresby. More importantly, the Japanese forces available to be committed to the Midway offensive, exactly one month later had been unmistakably reduced. The Royal Australian Navy's overall contribution to the Battle of the Coral Sea may not have been as spectacular as that of the American carriers, but the work done by the coast watchers, intelligence staff, the cruisers and other support ships and personnel all contributed

family and friends attended the service. Over 90 Recruits from the RAN Recruit School also attended the service, along with the Melbourne Detachment of the RAN Band. A contingent from the RAAF Cadet Corps, (pictured below left on the northern steps) also attended the service.



↑ Pictured above L-R, Pete Johnston - PERTH Association, Hiram Ristom WW2 Vet, KANIMBLA Association, Norm Tame WW2 Vet AUSTRALIA Association and Terry Makings. Norm Tame was at the Battle of the Coral Sea, he had interesting recollections to share with others after the service. Alan Hooley WW2 Vet, served in WESTRALIA was also in attendance. Chaplain David Underhill RANR officiated with Erin Muscat, Australia/America Association delivering the Master of Ceremony role. ↓ Below is

to the final result. We were reminded of the Battle of the Coral Sea offensive at a commemorative service at the Shrine of Remembrance by Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS and Senior Officer Victoria. Approximately 100 Veterans, Service men & women,



Pete Johnston reciting the 'Ode to the Fallen' with Chap Underhill nearby.



Disclaimer

Articles contributed are the Author's thoughts only. An article may be edited to meet the space available.

Melbourne Naval Centre

MNC is an organization that has provided much needed funds to Ship Associations over many decades. In need of financial or administrative support, contact the MNC.

Navy Victoria Network

The NavyVIC website is there for all to see, in particular it is for Navy Associations to provide information on their activities to the wider Navy Community. An opportunity not to be missed - Log on to <http://navyvic.net/>

President's Report

ANZAC Day 2014 in Melbourne was a great day and a credit to those that made the effort. Many seem to be mystified about our responsibilities as ex-service men and women with regard to continuing a minimal level of duty, despite having paid off from active service. No matter how short or long your service was (or is) in the Navy, remember the legacy connected with that service. Each of us need to focus on our power to promote support for our Defence Force, particularly the RAN. On the other hand, there are descendants that are inspired by their Navy forebears and seek to perpetuate their heritage. We congratulate the descendants who have pushed ahead, despite the obstacles some folk have inadvertently put before them. We should support those that endeavor to make a difference, together we might just keep the legacy alive. Please give this idea some thought as a global effort would produce a remarkable outcome. To make it easy, we continue to write about the Flag Ship Events, these are the principle commemorative services that

highlight significant Navy wide milestones. Other services occur throughout the year at the Shrine of Remembrance and at many memorials across the State. There has been some interest lately in pursuing the combined weight of our various organisations. If we give some thought to the breadth of the Navy Community and the obvious interest within it, we should wonder why we are not progressing more vigorously. What is it that prohibits us collecting our combined resources for the betterment of Navy, past and present. Some effort by us will go a long way to build our position of support and sustainability. The importance of treasuring our maritime heritage through commemoration is critical to the understanding of future generations. Whilst the wellbeing of our Veterans is also a key factor, that in itself will not perpetuate the great deeds and losses of the past. We need to continue to promote and demonstrate our positive support of Navy and the wider maritime industry.

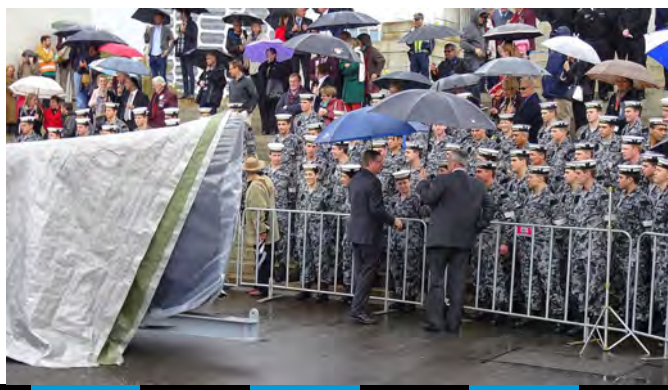
Yours aye, Terry Makings

Navy Week 2015

There is considerable discussion taking place to revive Navy Week in 2015. The planning is underway for a Navy Commemorative Dinner. Expectations are that we can create sufficient interest to gather over a 1,000 Navy folk at a suitable venue. Best to note the date in your diary now so you don't miss out on what is going to be a fantastic evening. The dinner will precede the Seafarers Church Service, a commitment that has been taking place since 1907. Seafarers will be followed by the Navy Wreath Laying Service. This service commenced in 1966 when Admiral Cunningham RN visited Melbourne. The sailors who serviced under him in the Mediterranean arranged appropriate activities to highlight his journey to Australia. All of this will occur over the weekend of 18/19 October 2015. The following week you will be able to visit the Open Day at HMAS CERBERUS. These activities will bookend what may well be an exciting week of social and professional activities. Is this of interest to you and your ship mates, let us know if you have any proposal to organise an activity to suit the occasion? With your input we might create a very busy week that will excite the Navy Community. The last Navy week was many years ago and we are keen to resurrect this formal occasion with some fanfare.

SS Devanha Lifeboat

A highlight of the Galleries of Remembrance will be an exhibit of the SS Devanha lifeboat. This boat, similar to a whaler was used at Gallipoli. The landing boat is on loan from the Australian War Memorial. The Devanha carried soldiers of the 12th Battalion and the 3rd Field Ambulance into Anzac Cove on the morning of 25 April 1915. The boat was delivered on Sunday, 4MAY14 to the Shrine of Remembrance and the arrival was witnessed by 90 Recruits from Emm Division, RAN Recruit School. The Premier of Victoria was in attendance for the unveiling of the boat prior to it being moved to its permanent location. The Premier took time out to chat to Recruits.



ANZAC Day Holbrook

The town of Holbrook, NSW hosted a large contingent of Submariners over the recent ANZAC Day weekend. The Dawn Service swelled with some 400 Submariners in attendance, they had travelled from all points of the compass to rekindle friendships and remember those no longer able to attend. This surge of numbers was particularly evident at the ANZAC Day Memorial Service later in the day where some 800 Veterans, family and friends were present. The Submariners had reunited to pay homage to those who had experienced service in submarines when times were not so good. The journey by Submariners has been one of high risk; hard working and playing hard. Much of their work being oblivious to the those on the surface (targets). Holbrook and our Submariners enjoy a special relationship and it is a credit to all concerned that they mark these occasions with such gusto. Their collective enthusiasm combined the pleasure of meet and greets, through to recognising the efforts of past and present Submariners. There is much to be said regarding the military heritage of Holbrook, from being named after a Lieutenant N.D.Holbrook VC RN, the first Submariner to be awarded a VC.

Support for Navy

Defence will build the total number from 56,000 to 60,000 people over the next four years. It seems the federal budget has at least one undisputed allocation and that is to Defence. Navy's allocation will increase from \$4.5 billion this year to \$4.8 billion next financial year and almost \$5 billion in 2015-16. Much of this increase will benefit uniformed personnel as civilian staff is reduced. Notwithstanding, rumour is that operational commitments will be reduced. Submarines & frigates, amphibious and minor warships, replenishment ships will all encounter a reduction of up to 25%. Hopefully ship upkeep will meet expected availability

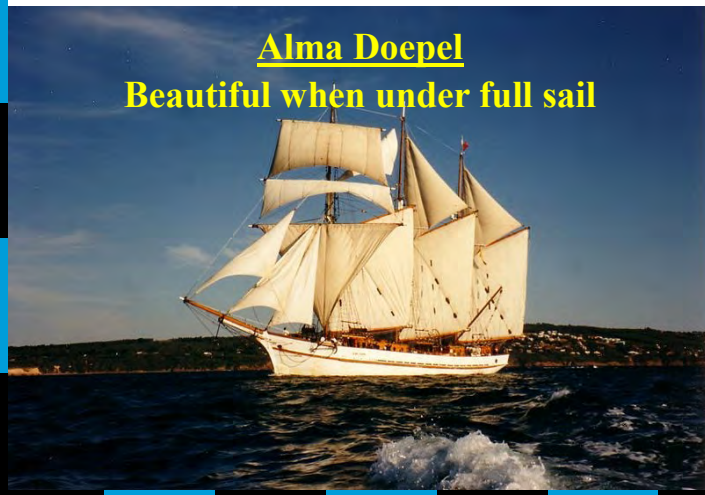
**Techport
Adelaide**



War Vessel

Alma Doepel, a three-masted schooner has her own battle honours. The vessel was built in 1903 in Bellingen, NSW, by Frederik Doepel. For many years she sailed around the coast of Australia, carrying timber, wheat and preserves. Most importantly, she was deployed in World War II as a supply vessel in Papua New Guinea. In this stealth role, the vessel sailed with the primary aim of avoiding detection by the enemy. Many soldiers would have thanked their luck stars on sighting the Alma Doepel on the horizon. This level of excitement may be resurrected when the current overhaul program is completed.

**Alma Doepel
Beautiful when under full sail**



Fleet Commander

Chief of Navy recently announced that Commodore Stuart Mayer, CSC and bar, RAN will be appointed as the next Fleet Commander as of 14JUN14 on promotion to Rear Admiral. He joined the RAN in 1984 as a Seamen specialist, having been raised in Sydney. After initial training, Stuart was awarded his Bridge Watch-keeping Certificates in the minor warship GLADSTONE and then the major warship DARWIN. He then undertook sub-specialisation training as an Air Intercept Controller and applied that skill in CANBERRA & SYDNEY. He then undertook dagger training to become a Principal Warfare Officer (Direction), graduating with distinction in 1994. Stuart then returned to CANBERRA and was then appointed to ADELAIDE. Advise is that Stuart served in CANBERRA at every rank, from trainee to Commanding Officer. If you want to know more about the Fleet Commander, see hmascanberra.com



ANZAC Centenary

As we near the beginning of the centennial of the Great War we need to prepare ourselves for the activities of commemoration that will remind us of the trauma that beset the Australian Nation. There were some 417,000 enlisted across the country. Of those 60,000 made the supreme sacrifice. A further 156,000 were injured. Victoria's contribution to this fighting force was 117,000 with 89,000 being sent overseas, 19,000 did not come home. Hard to imagine one in ten Victorians in the Service and then one in five of them buried where they fell.

The first shot of the War occurred in Victoria when a German freighter, SS Pfalz tried to dash out of the port only hours after war was declared in Australia on 5th August 1914. A suitable event is being organised at the site where the artillery fired that first shot. Parks Victoria will provide interpretive signs to inform visitors to the area of the significance of the site, with respect to the contribution by our Defence Force at Fort Nepean.

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



Items of special interest

ANZAC Day I may be time to review the arrangements for the march in Melbourne. It is difficult to know why we keep ship types apart, ie. WW1, WW2 etc. That may work well for Army, but ship names continue and identified by the Battle Honours Board, with inherited honours from earlier ships. Do you have a view, change or keep the existing line up, how about letting NCCV know.

Navy Victoria Network. The webmaster has made a few changes to the website. If you wish to see the NCCV page, then type in nccv.navyvic.net and you will go straight to the NCCV page. This goes for all Associations that have taken the trouble to have NavyVIC list your specific Association on the website. If not listed, go to navyvic.net now and have your Association particulars listed, how else will any newcomer find you and join in the fun! For those Associations already listed, just add your known prefix to navyvic.net address.

Home Port. Do you have a home port for your Ship/Unit/Branch Association. A home port that is a place where you can meet and socialise on an on-going basis? The Melbourne Naval Centre provide the opportunity at Toorak Road West, where all As-

sociations can meet at no cost. If the MNC is not part of your structure, because of distance or other cause, then look to a Naval Association or RSL Sub-Branch to establish yourselves. These places may well be the home of you banner and centre of activities. If this interests you and you need to discuss, by all means let the NCCV know.

George Washington. The following is a quote by George Washington, President USA which is doing the rounds at the moment; 'The willingness of future generations to serve in our military will be directly dependent upon how well we treat those who have served in the past.' This might help reinforce our own underlying objective.

HMAS SYDNEY. The SYDNEY 3 had disembarked the Carrier Air Group and the ship was converted to a training ship. SYDNEY 3 left on its first training cruise in MAY 1955.

HMAS VENDETTA. The VENDETTA Association has provided advanced notice regarding their annual reunion scheduled for September 2015 at Port Macquarie. Contact is Colin Hardie to colinhardie@optusnet.com.au or by ringing mobile: 0416 250 242. 'Avenge'



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