



# NVN News

*incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

May 2016

Volume 6 Edition 5

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 1032*

The Federal government's recent decision and announcement concerning Shipbuilding in Australia will be welcomed by all who take an interest in maritime matters. It lays down a roadmap for the expansion of an industry of enormous importance to the future of our nation. Over the past century the foundation stones have been laid: the decisions now taken provide a plan which hopefully will be strongly supported by politicians of all persuasion.

In 1911, less than 10 years after Federation, when visionary Prime Ministers Fisher and Deakin were being urged by the First Naval Member, Rear Admiral Creswell, to hasten the establishment of the Royal Australian Navy as an autonomous service independent of control and direction from the British Admiralty, a retired Royal Navy Admiral, Sir Reginald Henderson, was appointed to advise on infrastructure development for the RAN. In a comprehensive and ambitious report the Henderson plan examined the suitability of ports in all states and recommended a profusion of bases and sub bases around the coast with at least two in each state. Interestingly, while Port Jackson and Port Phillip were to be the commercial ports for Sydney and Melbourne, Jervis Bay was to be the same for the ACT (with a railway across the Clyde Mountain connecting the port to Canberra), Westernport was to be the major east coast Naval port

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**03 Jun** – 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Melbourne / Evans collision. 74 lives lost.

**08 Jun** – RAN Band charity concert in Morwell, Vic.

**12 Jun** – Military & General Antiques Fair at the National Vietnam Veterans Museum.

**15 Jun** – RAN Band Soundwaves concert at 1400 and 1700.

**16 Jun** – 74<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Nestor.

**30 Jun** – 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS Waterhen.

**10 Jul** – On this day in 1911 - King George V granted the Permanent Commonwealth Naval Force the title of Royal Australian Navy.

## 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>

**Atomic survivors visit Stirling**

The Australian Ex Services Atomic Survivors Association visited HMAS Stirling recently, as the group was in Western Australia preparing to travel to the site of the atomic tests at the

coast and Cockburn Sound (now HMAS STIRLING) the western one. The plan was never fully implemented but it identified the potential of our coastline and highlighted how important shipping would be to the development and defence of the fledgling country.

We have many fine ports around our coast and several of them already have well-developed, state-of-the-art shipbuilding facilities. We have highly skilled, experienced professionals in the shipbuilding industry, an abundance of natural resources, men and women with the knowledge brains and vision to enable Australia to become a southern hemisphere leader in this capacity – and now (at last!) the prospect of Federal funding to realise our potential.

It is timely that a decision of this magnitude be made just as a long-time motor car manufacturing industry is being brought to a close. Though the application may be different, the skills and crafts required in both shipbuilding and car manufacture have much in common.

Technology may provide faster, more cost effective means of transport and communication between nations and facilitate the construction of bigger, more efficient ships but nothing will ever replace the sea as the highway for world trade. Australia can play a major role in developing and building future generations of ships not only for ourselves but for our region and the world beyond. Let us hope our political masters hold true to their projections.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

**VALE**

- † LSSIG I.J. Timson, 18 May 2016. Aged 66.
- † POETW R. Clark, 17 May 2016. Aged 68.
- † TEL C. Jakeman, B3870, 14 May 2016. Aged 91.
- † LSCD D. Shaw, R118105, 11 May 2016.
- † POEC G. Barnett, 09 May 2016. Aged 76.
- † CPOMTH3 R. Pegg, 07 May 2016.

*Monte Bello Islands in the 1950s.  
Secretary of the Association Jim  
Marlow spoke about the plans the  
Association had made to erect a  
plaque on the site of the atomic tests.*

***Tailored for maritime combat***  
*Navy's 'working rig', the Disruptive  
Pattern Navy Uniform or DPNU that  
has been worn since 2009, is  
scheduled to be replaced by late 2017*

***Soil testing starts at Albatross and  
Creswell***

*The Department of Defence has  
commenced an environmental  
investigation at HMAS Albatross and  
nearby HMAS Creswell to evaluate  
the potential presence of chemicals  
which were historically used in  
firefighting foams.*

***Thinking deeper about Australia's  
offensive cyber capability***

*At the launch of Australia's new Cyber  
Security Strategy last month, the  
Prime Minister confirmed what many  
have been guessing for years:  
Australia possesses offensive cyber  
capabilities.*

***Australians Reunited – Terendak  
Repatriation***

*On Thursday, 2 June 2016 Australia  
will welcome home 33 Australian  
service personnel and dependents,  
many of whom were casualties of the  
Vietnam War, from cemeteries in  
Malaysia and Singapore.*

***Royal Commission into Institutional  
Responses to Child Sexual Abuse***

*Defence acknowledges today's  
announcement that the Royal  
Commission into Institutional  
Responses to Child Sexual Abuse will  
conduct a Defence case study.*

***How Trump would weaken America***  
*Donald Trump, the Republican Party's  
presumptive US presidential nominee,*

- † SIG C.M. Altmann, R50155, 07 May 2016. Aged 82.  
† CMDR R. Withers RAN, 03 May 2016. Aged 66.

## 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' wall on the website. If possible list their Rank, Name, Number, the date of their passing and their age.

### Upcoming Reunions - 2016

- 1, 2 & 3 July 2016  
1st Fifty Naval Apprentices 60th Anniversary Reunion, Bendigo, Vic
- 15, 16, 17 & 18 September 2016  
HMAS Bataan Veterans Reunion, Melbourne, Vic
- 7, 8 & 9 October 2016  
RAN Cooks Reunion, Sydney, NSW.
- 13, 14, 15 & 16 October 2016  
All Navy Reunion, Maroochy Waters, Qld
- 18, 19 & 20 November 2016  
Moran Division[28 Nov 1964] expressions of interest, Berri, SA

### Upcoming Reunions - 2017

- 5, 6, 7 & 8 January 2017  
58th Intake Leeuwin JR's 40th Reunion, Hobart, Tas
- 10 Mar 2017 or Anzac Day  
MV (later HMAS) Jeparit, Sydney, NSW
- 16 & 17 Mar 2017  
75th Anniversary of Commissioning of 'Q' Class Destroyers, Penrith RSL, NSW
- 22, 23, 24 & 25 April 2017  
HMAS Yarra III & IV reunion 2017, Sydney, NSW
- 5, 6 & 7 May 2017  
End Of Steam Era Reunion (expressions of interest), Canberra, ACT
- 3, 4 & 5 November 2017  
HMAS Duchess Reunion (expressions of interest), Tweed Heads, NSW

**Full details of these reunions are on our website:**

<http://navyvic.net/reunions/reunions.html>

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

*has expressed deep scepticism about the value of America's alliances. His is a very nineteenth-century view of the world.*

#### **DWP 2016: betting big at the regional roulette table**

*We now have our third Defence White Paper in less than seven years. In the preceding quarter century we managed only four.*

#### **Replacement replenishment vessels**

*The Government has signed contracts with Navantia S.A. to build Australia's two replacement replenishment ships, avoiding a critical capability gap.*

#### **Australia's future submarine—problems of politics**

*by Kim Beazley*

*While I was Ambassador to the US, I visited Electric Boat's yard in Groton, Connecticut, where the US Navy's latest Virginia class nuclear submarines are under construction.*

#### **Response to Fairfax reporting on the use of tafenoquine in the ADF**

*It is disappointing that reporting on the use of anti-malarial drugs in the Australian Defence Force continues to be sensationalist, inaccurate and highly selective.*

#### **Funding to honour Australia's Vietnam veterans**

*More than \$388,000 has been awarded to communities across Australia to honour Vietnam veterans.*

**Navy League of Australia(Vic & Tas)** May newsletter – [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

### Navy Week Victoria

*Once Navy - always Navy*

These are several key dates to note in your diary for October 2016. First event will be the Navy Ball on SAT 15<sup>th</sup> followed by Seafarers Service on SUN 16<sup>th</sup>. A Maritime Seminar on WED 19<sup>th</sup> with a golf tournament on FRI 21<sup>st</sup>. The annual Navy League Yacht Race on SAT 22<sup>nd</sup>, with the final event at Cerberus on SUN 23<sup>rd</sup> OPEN DAY with plenty to see and do!



**You should attend:**  
***NCCV will meet on Tuesday, 14 JUN at a different venue - Mission to Seafarers 1030 start!***

***'N' Class Destroyers Wreath Laying Service 1200 SAT 12JUN16***

***RAN Recruits Shipp Division Wreath Laying Service 1000 SUN 26JUN16***

***HMAS Waterhen Wreath Laying Service 1400 THU 30JUN16***

***Reserve Forces Day Wreath Laying Service Cenotaph 1000 SUN 3JUL16***

## The Turning Point

For many decades the Battle of the Coral Sea has been seen as the turning point, the time when the superiority of the Japanese Imperial Navy was denied success. Up until this point, they had moved hostilely through the Pacific, demonstrating their air superiority at every military engagement, including Pearl Harbour. It has been said that their Naval prowess was of a very high order, however, the engagement in the Coral Sea showed that their competency was wanting. The use of air power was new to the senior officers, their more junior pilot officers had relevant warlike experience. Their pilots had experienced success through air warfare. Their mission was to take control of Moresby, New Guinea, a task the Japanese were unable to execute. One of their pilots, LCDR Shigehazu Shimazaki, said *'never in all my years in combat have I even imagined a battle like that (Coral Sea). When we attacked the enemy carriers and their supporting ships blackened the sky with exploding shells and tracers. It seemed impossible that we could survive our bombing and torpedo runs through such incredible defences'*. As the Allied Forces fortunately reduced the number of Japanese aircraft, primarily through superior numbers of USA aircraft. To mark the 74th anniversary of the Battle of the Coral Sea, a commemorative service was held at the Shrine of Remembrance. The service was arranged by the Australia/America Association, the Ex-American Servicemen Association and the NCCV. The service was attended by several parliamentarians, representing federal and state governments. Also present was a

US Consul General representative, along with a number of Veterans, including Norm Tame who was in HMAS Australia at the time of the Battle of the Coral Sea. Officiating, Chaplain Paul Stuart JP RAN (below).



Below, federal government representative Senator James Patterson.



The key address was delivered by CMDR Melanie Verho RAN, Executive Officer, HMAS Cerberus representing the Senior Naval Officer VIC.





### **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

# *President's Report*

How great is winter, different wardrobe in use and a whole lot of new activities to entertain or educate us. The older members of the ex-Service fraternity will no doubt wonder what happened to summer! Well some things don't change, that is the preaching to get involved, just a little to see how you might spread the word. We are witnessing a significant change in the manner in which individuals engage in community activities and the ex-Service domain is no exception. We depend on those that champion the cause; continue to promote the Navy legacy. A legacy built by our forebears, also the magnificent effort made every day by our current service men and women as they continue to uphold our values and principles. Much of our support in this regard is demonstrated through commemoration, remembrance stemming from war like activities involving the Defence Force generally. There is also another stream of influence at play, that of education. This comprises many different streams: school curriculums that focus on aspects of a World War; formal and informal visits to our memorials, such as the Shrine of Remembrance; seminars and conferences where learned colleagues present on matters of important to the De-

fence Force of today and other methods aimed at informing us. This may not seem to be very relevant, however, have you reflected on how many of your non-service friends look to you for advice on Defence matters - they seek to learn from us about decisions and issues being pursued in the media. No doubt many are sufficiently well informed to provide feed back of some value, but there are many who would benefit from exposure to the presentations regularly publicised. For instance, the Royal United Services Institute arranges monthly presentations on matter of interest to the serving and ex-Service fraternity. Should you be interested, go to [rusivic.org.au](http://rusivic.org.au) for more information. NCCV seeks to work collaboratively with RUSI, NL, NAA, NOC and others to assist in providing the ex-Navy fraternity opportunities to improve our knowledge of Defence, Navy in particular so that we can engage in conversation in a meaningful way and above all, support our Navy of today as they go about their day to day duties. Watch out for the Seminar during Navy Week Victoria - 2016, a great chance to do just that.

Yours aye, *Serry Makings*

## *Bravery Trust*

The Bravery Trust [BT], formerly known as the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Assistance Trust, was established in 2012 with a \$14 million federal government grant. Their vision is that no family suffers financial hardship as a result of their sacrifice for the nation, where physical or mental injury has occurred. BT believe the freedoms enjoyed by all Australians are protected by the sacrifices of our veterans, their families, and the families of the fallen. It is as a grateful nation that BT provide financial support in times of need and tragedy. The BT website is worth a visit at <https://braverytrust.org.au/contact-us/> This is another very supportive mechanism for our Veterans and their families. BT is supported by Patron in Chief, His Excellency General Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC Rtd, Patrons Admiral Chris Barrie AC RAN Rtd, His Excellency General The Honourable David Hurley AC DSC Rtd, and Air Chief Marshal Sir Angus Houston AK AFC Rtd.

## *Navy Week*

Navy week Victoria deserves the support of the entire Navy fraternity if we are to experience a reasonable level of success and support for those that serve our Country today. Whilst there is a range of activities, there is a need for our different organisations to given some serious thought to what you might add to the range of activities during Navy Week. At the very least, please make sure your respective organisations are aware of Navy Week and the opportunity to learn more about today's Navy, or just join in the fun. There is an intention to send separate requests to each major organisational entity seeking their direct involvement, such as providing some form of transport to the Open Day at HMAS Cerberus on Sunday, 23OCT16. Most importantly, there is a great opportunity to arrange a function or activity during this week to demonstrate your Navy influence within your club. Hopefully, as you consider what may be done, try not to be in conflict with the other activities that also seek full participation, such as the Ball and Open Day.



NVVM



RNA Gig

# MILITARY & GENERAL SUNDAY ANTIQUES JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup> FAIR 10<sup>00</sup> TIL 4<sup>30</sup>



Specialists onsite to provide estimates, advice and information on your military and general antiques, including medals, coins, books, photos, artwork, ephemera, jewellery. Some stalls for you to peruse. Watch the famous holographic Sound and Light Show and have a browse through the Museum.

25 Veterans Drive, Newhaven, Phillip Island  
(behind the helipad) Ph: 03 5956 6400  
Email: sales@vietnamvetsmuseum.org

Standard admission fees. No need to book. Nui Dat Café open for refreshments.



With thanks to our sponsors



The Royal Navy Association has arranged a major social event at the Frankston Naval Memorial Club. The Club is located at 36 Barretts Rd Langwarrin South. The event is planned for Sunday 12 JUN 16. 'Up Spirits' (Tot or Sherry issue) at 1130 with 1205

'Hands to Dance and Skylark'. Superb Luncheon prepared by Master Chef Mr. Bruce Trappet and his crew of Assistant Chefs de Jour. Dancing to the Music of Dejavue. A Grand Raffle with Special Prizes to delight and amaze all in attendance. Cost: Members \$30, Non-Members \$35 each. **Bookings Essential by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2016** (at the latest - no time to lose). \$10 per person non-returnable deposit applies with all bookings. Table allocation by prior request. Please advise RNA as soon as possible. Bookings: Telephone (03) 5943 1953 and leave a voice message or On the List located on the FNMC Message Table.

## Hell Fire Pass

The NCCV Vice President, WO Marty Grogan OAM RANR attended the ANZAC Day service at Hell Fire Pass. Pictured is Marty and LCDR Paul Welch. Paul is currently attending the Advanced Command and Staff Course at the Thai Staff College in Bangkok. Marty commented that Paul was particularly helpful with information and assistance enabling his pilgrimage to be so memorable. Marty also wished to thank the DVA representatives that generously gave of their time and energy to ensure he and his ex-Navy travelling companions were able to see the many commemorative sites in Burman and Thailand. Marty was privileged to be able to place a wreath on the headstone of POW Petty Officer Alf Coyne at the Kanchanaburi War Cemetery on behalf of HMAS Perth Association.



## Air Supremacy



Above is the *USS Gerald R. Ford*, maybe the best way of highlighting the consequence of the 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea. The USA's newest Aircraft Carrier is a formidable war machine, carrying over 75 fighter/bomber aircraft. Having the capability of tasking this level of significant air power conveys a level of supremacy few countries could wish for. Thankfully the Alliance between Australia and the USA has at its core our mutual support. The ANZUS Alliance was agreed in SEP51, although New Zealand was suspended from the Alliance in 1986 when they banned US Warships from entering New Zealand ports due to their political position on nuclear power ships & nuclear weapons.



Alliance of Defence Service Organisations and Partners [ADSO] is an umbrella entity with a focus on the wellbeing of Service men & women. Their simple mantra is: *we've been where you are - now we are where you will be. When we finally took off our uniforms we believed our fighting days were done, we were wrong!* ADSO is helping to protect 'Service conditions' while Service men and women protect us. They are fighting for a better future when current service folk are done. ADSO has their back. Please help ADSO help them. Find out more and register to be informed at: [www.standto.orgwww.org](http://www.standto.orgwww.org) This is relevant to current service men & women.



## *DIRECTORY for NCCV*

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**Website: <http://navyvic.net>**

## *Points of Interest*

**HMAS Bataan Association National Reunion.** HMAS Bataan Veterans Association of Australia has scheduled their national reunion in 2016 to be held in Melbourne. The venue will be 'Bayview At The Park', 52 Queens Rd, Melbourne. It will be held on Thursday 15th, Friday 16th, Saturday 17th & Sunday 18th September 2016. Their National President Joe Flaherty invites all Bataan Members & all interested individuals to join them on this occasion. For information email [johnfl@aapt.net.au](mailto:johnfl@aapt.net.au)

**Honours & Awards.** A valuable reference book, Bravo Zulu: Honours and Awards to Australian Naval People 1900-2014, volume 1, 1900-1974 is now on sale. Volume 1 comes in two editions; the hardcover has retail price of \$70 and the paperback will sell at \$60. Postage will be \$13.50 for domestic purchasers. For those who wish to order the book for earlier delivery, until 30 June 2016 the hardcover edition is offered at an attractive \$60, and the paperback for \$50. These copies of *Bravo Zulu* Volume 1 will be delivered in advance of the official launch and will be inscribed by Ian Pfennigwerth if so desired. Orders can be placed on Ian's Website at [www.nautilushistory.com.au](http://www.nautilushistory.com.au) Volume 2, from 1974 will appear in early 2017.

**Reserve Forces Day.** The number of current and ex-Navy Reservists attending the Reserve Forces Day has been very disappointing over recent years. Hopefully this year will see a turnaround given the importance of the occasion. See the front page for time and day of the service.

**Ship Reunions.** Is your reunion listed, go to <http://navyvic.net/reunions/reunions.html> for details. If you have a reunion that isn't listed, send the information to our website, see below.

**FESR Memorial.** A reminder that the Far East Strategic Reserve Memorial requires the financial support of the ex-Navy fraternity. Most of the 1960 vintage sailors would have journeyed to the Far East as part of the FES Reserve. Send an email to President Les Bailey [lephils@lvv.com.au](mailto:lephils@lvv.com.au) for more details and any clarification you need.

**Naval Lore - Paying Off.** Until 1825 a portion of a sailor's pay was held back as a guarantee against desertion. It was the practice to *pay off* the men at the end of a commission, hence the expression, a ship *paying off*. The only permanent members of the Ship's company were the Captain, his lieutenants and warrant officers.