



NVN News

incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

May 2017

Volume 7 Edition 5

Editorial

NVN current membership: 1065

Registered followers of this website are mostly men and women whose active involvement in service careers took place in the second half of the 20th century. That was a nervous era dominated by the 'Cold War' which was a period of East-West tension arising from the widespread Soviet-driven effort to impose the Communist system on the rest of the world. This drive was a factor in the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency, Confrontation and the Vietnam War. Other major contributors to that uncomfortable period were fears about the triggering of a nuclear war (either inadvertently or deliberately); the dismemberment of the British Empire as former colonies gained their independence; and monumental upheavals in society as attitudes to women, lifestyle, discrimination and opportunity changed.

The Cold War effectively ended with the break-up of the Soviet Union at the beginning of the 1990's. The quarter century elapsed since then has seen dramatic change around the world as we have moved into an 'electronic age'. A communications explosion has encouraged globalisation and revolutionised our capacity to exchange information; a technological tsunami is impacting almost every aspect of business, industry, warfare and day-to-day life; automation and robotics are replacing men and women in the workforce and therefore reducing job opportunities; materialism, generous government decisions, travel opportunities and changing social mores are generating different expectations and attitudes among Australian youth. And a fast-changing world is struggling to come to terms with how to deal with Terrorism rather than a Cold War.

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

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01 Jun – 75th anniversary sinking
HMAS Kuttabul

03 Jun – 48th anniversary collision
between HMAS Melbourne/USS Evans

11 Jun – 74th anniversary sinking
HMAS Wallaroo

16 Jun – 75th anniversary sinking
HMAS Nestor

26 Jun – NHS meeting

30 Jun – 76th anniversary sinking
HMAS Waterhen

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>

...

Latest Videos.....

- * Navy mums in Vietnam
- * Exercise PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP 2017 begins in Vietnam
- * HMAS Arunta Drug Interdiction
- * Exercise BERSAMA SHIELD underway
- * HMAS Newcastle SM2 Firing
- * Battle of the Coral Sea commemorative event

News.....

It is against this background that the groundwork has been laid for a significant expansion of our Navy and the establishment of a national Shipbuilding Industry. This is good news for all Australia but particularly for those of us with ties to the sea. As the population grows, as the nation becomes progressively less dependent on others for our defence and security, as we develop closer bonds with countries in our region, and as we learn how to combat the insidious threats posed by modern warfare, a highly skilled, well-trained and versatile Navy is essential. The fact that the range of ships required will be built in country should mean that we become, in time, the leading shipbuilding nation in the southern hemisphere.

Young Australians already or soon embarking on their working lives face enormous challenges – but with those challenges come untold and unforeseeable opportunities. Nowhere will those opportunities be greater than in relation to the expansion of the Navy and the steady development of the Shipbuilding Industry. Plans for these activities present the potential for the nation to become more self-reliant, to restore confidence in our manufacturing capability and to see maritime matters attain a profile and importance far higher than that currently enjoyed. Achievement of the goals announced by the Government should also contribute to overcoming a dangerous complacency we have towards Australia's defence and security.

Those of us whose working lives are mainly or totally behind us should encourage young Australians to consider pursuing careers in these areas -in or out of uniform. Getting in on the ground floor of a development expected to grow steadily through the course of 21st century, working lives presents an exciting prospect for those soon embarking on adult life. A window of opportunity is opening for people of skill, initiative, dedication and a readiness to cope successfully with change. The challenges will be big but the rewards for those who succeed will be even bigger.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

Funding Grants for Women's Leadership Development

Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across Australia's naval sector.

Navy's LHDs under the microscope

The Royal Australian Navy's flagship, HMAS Canberra, has completed trials off the NSW coast to help engineers assess whether its mechanical problems have been caused by a serious design flaw or a less serious issue, such as degraded seals.

Long Tan Bursary recipients announced

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today congratulated the 37 students from across Australia who will receive financial support towards their post-secondary education as recipients of a Long Tan Bursary

Future USS Gerald R. Ford starts acceptance trials

The U.S. Navy's future aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) departed Naval Station Norfolk for its second set of sea trials, known as acceptance trials (AT) on May 24.

Navy safely responds to fire in HMAS Maryborough

On 26 May 2017, HMAS Maryborough reported a fire in the engine room while at sea, operating north east of Darwin. The ship's crew extinguished the fire in accordance with procedures. No crew members were injured in the incident. The ship is being returned to Darwin for inspection and an assessment of any damage. An investigation into the incident is now underway.

Naval Shipbuilding College Request for Proposal

Minister for Defence Industry, the Hon Christopher Pyne MP, today announced the release of a Request for Proposal for the Naval Shipbuilding College. The Naval Shipbuilding College is a key initiative in the Naval Shipbuilding Plan, released in May 2017.

The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to enable participation in a range of leadership development programs.

The leadership development programs are part-time and delivered nationally via WLA's blended learning model. Scholarship funding is strictly limited and has to be allocated prior to the end of this financial year (June 30).

Expressions of Interest

Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form here prior to June 16, 2017:

<http://www.wla.edu.au/assoc-june17.html>

VALE

- † LRO K.J. Weaver, R49533, 26 May 2017. Aged 81.
- † ABM D. Ryan, R59158, 22 May 2016. Aged 70.
- † CDRE D. Miller RAN, O763, 20 May 2017. Aged 89.
- † LTO W.P. Aylott, R39170, 20 May 2017. Aged 84.
- † LEUT B. Mills, O110265, 17 May 2017. Aged 62.
- † ERA K.R. Lowry, R43411, 16 May 2017. Aged 66.
- † WOMTP3 W. Treadgold, R64347, 15 May 2017. Aged 69.
- † CPORS C.C. Peterson, R62682, 15 May 2017. Aged 71.
- † CPOTAS J. Darnley-Stuart, R36772, 06 May 2017. Aged 89.
- † CPOCK J. Craib, R51232, May 2017. Aged 80.
- † SBLT T.B. Clark, PM4562, 26 April 2017. Aged 93.
- † TO S.M. Kean, R50007, 25 April 2017. Aged 82.
- † AB S.J.D. Atkinson, 32453, 04 April 2017. Aged 91.

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.

Bravo Zulu Volume 2

Honours and Awards to Australian Naval People, 1975-2014

From the author Ian Pfennigwerth

Missing Data

Thankfully, the final version of the *Bravo Zulu* Volume 2 manuscript is nearing completion, and is expected to go to the publisher in mid-June. Unlike Volume 1, where most of the data supporting recipients' stories was drawn from official records, Volume 2 stories are largely based on information provided by recipients themselves. Some gaps in our data remain, generally relating to the background to awards or

Ex-HMAS Sydney retires to Western Australia

Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan said Ex-HMAS Sydney would leave Sydney Harbour today to be towed to Western Australia for recycling.

The Strategist Six: Mark Binskin

Welcome to The Strategist Six, which provides a glimpse into the thinking of prominent academics, government officials, military officers, reporters and interesting individuals from around the world.

Securing Australia's naval shipbuilding and sustainment industry

The Turnbull Government has released Australia's first Naval Shipbuilding Plan, outlining the nation's largest ever programme of naval shipbuilding and sustainment.

Singapore Navy hosts its first international maritime review

Over 40 ships and 44 nations attended the Republic of Singapore Navy's first ever international maritime review to May 15.

2016 Client Satisfaction Survey results support client centric reform

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan said the \$166.6 million provided in this year's Budget to implement the first stage of modernising the Department of Veterans' Affairs' (DVA) processes and IT system would improve client satisfaction with DVA as results of the 2016 Client Satisfaction Survey were released today.

Yachtsmen plaque dedicated at Memorial

The gritty persistence of a Melbourne historian to have a forgotten group of Second World War sailors recognised finally paid off when a plaque was

post-award naval service. We will publish without this information but are making this last appeal for assistance to make the book as complete as we can.

If you're on this list, or know somebody who is, it would be much appreciated if you (or they) could contact Ian Pfennigwerth at pfennigs1@bigpond.com.au as soon as possible.

Chapter 3 – 1983-1990

CPOCK Arthur Brimelow OAM R64816

Chapter 4 – The Gulf War 1993

CPOMED Keith Buddle CSM S119607

POSV Gary Cameron OAM R115509

LSSN John Raffo CDS R130295

Chapter 5 1991-1995

CPODVR Michael Atkin OAM RANR A100059

WOETP Ken Cooke CSM S114397

CPOSV Raymon Cooper OAM R109183

CPOB Leslie Crisp OAM R110491

WOETS Robin Gray OAM S109714

LEUT Andrew Hamilton AM O43014

CPOSE Colin Johnson OAM R63259

WOEWO Raylene Leechman CSM W117685

LEUT William McMillan OAM O59445

CPOQMG Wayne Richards OAM R121942

WOATA Larry Russell OAM R108875

Chapter 6 – 1996-2000

LCDR Bryan Barnett OAM RANR C100077

LSWTR Margarita Buchmayer CSM W148109

CPOMT Mark Brandon CSM S131458

WOCSM Stephen Butt CSM R125262

POMTP SM Jonathan Chapman CSM S134095

CPOETS SM Jonathan Dakers CSM S131295

CPOMTP Wayne Dunn CSC S120765

CPOWS Owen Egglestone CSC R135080

CMDR Paul Field OAM O122368

CPOB Tom Hodges CSM R115191

CPOMTP SM Kim Hyatt CSM S130890

POCK John Jones CSM R129714

CMDR Susan Jones CSC L104765

POMED Adrian Leach NSC R133017

CPOB Gary Lock CSC R124206

CPONPC Anthony Mayes CSM A106165

POWRTR Brigitte Milligan CSM W127886

CAPT Phillip Parkins AM O2262

CMDR Nicholas Payne CSC O111132

CPOMED Neil Perrin NSC R109618

LSBM Andrew West CSC R147739

CPOEWO Annette Wright CSC W123834

Chapter 8 – 2001-2005

CPOB Paul Borgas CSM 8059463

POMED John Brady CSC 8083279

CMDR Peter Burley CSM 8036237

dedicated to them at the Australian War Memorial on 4 May. About 500 Australian volunteers answered a call from the British Admiralty and joined the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme.

Mental health support for veterans and their families, and medical coverage for veterans of nuclear testing

The Government will expand the range of mental health conditions current and former Australian Defence Force (ADF) members can seek treatment for on a non-liability basis as part of the 2017–18 Budget. The Government will also provide a Gold Card to cover the health care costs of the surviving participants of the British Nuclear Test program in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s and veterans who served as part of the British Commonwealth Occupation Force (BCOF).

Australian Navy contracts CHC Group for SAR services

The Royal Australian Navy has contracted CHC Group to provide aviation emergency response services out of the Australian Navy base at Nowra, on the south coast of New South Wales.

ADV Fourcroy officially joins the fleet

The first of two Austal-built Cape Class Patrol Boats has officially joined the Royal Australian Navy fleet. Australian Defence Vessel (ADV) Cape Fourcroy, was handed over to Navy by Austal and the Australian White Ensign was hoisted for the first time.

Increased reimbursement for medical expenses

Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today said veterans could now claim up to \$1,000 reimbursement for medical expenses when they have applied to the Veterans' Review Board (VRB) or the Specialist Medical

LEUT Lorinda Carlin CSM 8091076
WONPC Christopher Chamberlain CSM 8081222
CDRE Mervyn Davis AM O111159
LCDR Grant Day CSC 8089018
LSMTP Sebastian Fichera CSC 8100040
CPONPC Paul Hayes OAM R112777
WOATA Glenn Howard CSM S132835
WOCSS Ross McRae OAM 8075840
POAWA SM Eric Musch CSM 8081150
WOCSM MW Garry Osborne 8074147
WOB Roger Rigby OAM R114194
CPOET Bryan Southwell CSM 8078985
LCDR Nicholas Stoker CSM 8084687
WOET David Turner AM 8075842
WOMT Brian Wardrop CSM S131040

Chapter 9 – MEAO Since 1996

LCDR Peter Arnold CDS 8071583
LCDR Benjamin Dalton CDS 8095872
LSET David Horton CDS 8116154
LS Stephen Lambert CDS 8090561
LCDR Sean Leydon CDS 8081850
LEUT Peter Luck CDS 8096414
LSCSO Anthony Wessling CDS 8621198

Chapter 10 – 2006-2010

CPOPT Darren Dyball CSM 8079306
LCDR Mitchell Edwards OAM 8062770
CAPT Lindsay Evans CSC 8080348
CPOMTP SM Kelvin Harris OAM 8084904
LCDR James Hillock CSC 8087952
LCDR Keith Jonas OAM 8087202
CPOCSM Peter Jones OAM 8087753
CMDR Michael MacNeill OAM 80260551
WOB Alan O'Shea OAM 8048456
POETS Benjamin Robson CSC 8097997
LEUT Peter Russell CSM 8098011
CPOCSM David Smit CSM 8080279
LEUT Fiona Southwood USN&MC Commendation Medal
CPOMT Peter Strzelecki OAM 8077283
LEUT Ben Weller CSC 8248772

Chapter 11 – 2011-2014

CPOMT James Bishop CSM 8091544
CPOMT Craig Daly CSM 8985298
LCDR Simon Howard CSM 8095118
CPOB Glenn Lee CSM 8093040
CMDR Lawrence Stubbs CSC 8072537

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



Review Council (SMRC) review process.

Supporting Younger Veterans Grants
Minister for Veterans' Affairs Dan Tehan today announced \$4.25 million for a grants program to support younger veterans.

Victorian Budget 2017/18 Supporting and honouring our veterans

This special edition of the Veteran Community Newsletter is to advise you of the Government's continuing support for veterans in the Victorian Budget 2017/18. The Budget fosters support and respect for veterans with new funding for a range of targeted programs and initiatives.

Inquiry into military honours
Minister for Defence Personnel Dan Tehan has asked for an investigation into the issue of unit recognition for service with the Royal Australian Navy Helicopter Flight Vietnam (the RANHFV), and service at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral. The independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal will conduct the investigation. The fighting at the Battles of Fire Support Bases Coral and Balmoral was some of the bloodiest and intense fighting by Australians in the Vietnam War where 26 Australians lost their lives and many more were wounded.

Naval Historical Society of Australia (Vic) President's May musings is now available to [download.....](#)

Navy League of Australia(Vic-Tas Div) May newsletter is now available to [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. **N Class Destroyers**, Commemoration Service, at 1100, **Sunday 18th June** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
2. **RAN Recruits Pilgrimage**, wreath laying service at 1000, **Sunday 25th June** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.
3. **HMAS Waterhen**, wreath laying service at 1400, **Friday 30th June** in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance.

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. To book email **Ajith Jayasuriya** at 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.

Coral Sea

Commemoration of the Battle of the Coral Sea was held at the Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 11MAY17. Well over a hundred service and ex-service men and women paid their respects for the service and sacrifice made 75 years ago. Senator Jane Hume ↓



read a message from the Prime Minister of Australia directly related to the effort of Australia and America in safeguarding our shores from the Imperial Japanese Navy. Ms Jessica Mosnic, representing the Consul → General read a proclamation signed by the President of the United States of America. Then CAPT Tim Standen CSC RAN, Senior Naval Officer Victoria delivered a detailed address surrounding the movements and final cessation of fighting during the period 4th- 8th MAY 1942 when the Japanese were stopped from attacking Moresby, New Guinea. CAPT Standen explained how this was the first time

the Japanese offensive maritime force had encountered significant resistance as they move effortlessly across southeast asia. This was also the first maritime engagement where neither side was to physically see their surface bound enemy, during the five days of engagement. Whilst it was a tactical victory for the IJN, the strategic win was with the Allied Forces. The Battle of the Coral Sea service was organized by the Australia American Association in conjunction with the NCCV. Many ship associations were present along with families of those that served during WWII. Chaplain Paul Stuart RAN, Coordination Chaplain HMAS Cerberus officiated. The RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment supported the service, the presence of serving men and women provided an important emphasis on the occasion and the importance of these services. ↓ The ode



was recited by Hiram Ristrom, WWII Veteran and regular attendee at Navy related services at the Shrine of Remembrance. Hiram with Chris Harvey, President of the AMC/LSI Association. The service was supported by CDRE Jim Dickson AM MBE RAN Rtd, Patron - NCCV and CDRE Bob Richards RAN Rtd, Member Navy Victoria Network, both ex-SNOV and COs of HMAS Cerberus. Our only Victoria Veteran of the Battle of the Coral Sea, Norm Tame was in New York at the service aboard the USS Intrepid.



Centaur - 1943



During WWII, at night every city was in darkness whilst fathers, mothers, sons and daughters were absent, engaged on active service. Many were overseas, many within Australia committed to essential support roles. The practical connection between Australia and our service men and women overseas was primarily by sea. Allied Navies were tirelessly deployed across all of the world's oceans protecting trade routes with the objective of keeping the flow of food, fuel, munitions, equipment of war and most importantly the transportation of service men and women to the front or for the lucky ones returning them home. This effort was designed to protect our ports, despite this effort many merchant ships were sunk by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

In 1943, fourteen ships were sunk off the east coast of Australia, one was the Australian Hospital Ship *Centaur*. Clearly marked as a hospital ship with the customary wide green stripe well above the boot topping, interrupted by large red crosses. Whilst distinctly marked during daylight hours, at 0410, 14MAY43 after only two months as a hos-



pital ship, it was apparently insufficient for that Japanese submarine crew who fired a torpedo at the *Centaur*. In several minutes of that calamitous decision, 268 men and women were to make the supreme sacrifice. 64 survived the sinking and remained in the water until discovered during the afternoon of 15MAY17. Many were grasping pieces of flotsam and barely able to keep themselves afloat. This was to be an abhorrent occasion for the Australian community, horrified that such an event could happen, let alone so close to home. ← The stained glass window on display at Concord Repatriation General Hospital is a visual reminder to everyone, located at the site that connects both the medical influence with the ongoing support provided to our service men and women for many years since. Survivors, their descendants, indeed all descendants from the entire 332 men and women who were aboard *Centaur* on that fateful day have worked tirelessly to keep the memory of those lost, and departed since, foremost in our minds. During May, Services were held in most States commemorating the loss of *Centaur* and to remember those that made the supreme sacrifice.

Sydney I

Many artifacts are situated around Australia, a surprise was to learn that a piece of HMAS *Sydney I* was located in Wagga Wagga. Evidence shows that a derrick, off *Sydney* was negotiated as a gift from Cockatoo Dockyard to the Mayor of Wagga Wagga. On ANZAC Day 1931, the Mayor of Wagga Wagga dedicated a newly established gardens as 'Victory Memorial Gardens'. The local RSL Sub-Branch indicated that a flagstaff was necessary to complete the memorial gardens. The Mayor, also Minister for Markets, NSW Govt used his contacts at Cockatoo Dockyard in the search for a suitable piece of timber. Much to his surprise, the Dockyard offered a wooden derrick, off the *Sydney* that was stored in the yard. All they needed to do was have the derrick transported home to Wagga Wagga. A team was formed to prepare the timber so it could be used as a flagstaff. The finished item was installed and the first occasion the flagstaff was used, in October 1931, was when the ANF was unfurled on the death of General Sir John Monash.

Navy Week

Don't forget the opportunity arranged for service and ex-service men and women, plus their families and friends over Navy Week Victoria. Several activities have been planned for later this year. The first event is scheduled for Saturday 21OCT, a Seminar with the theme 'The changing environment in South East China'. This will be followed that evening in the iconic Melbourne Town Hall at 1900, with the Navy (Defence) Ball, join us for a fun night. The next morning, 1030 Sunday, 22OCT is the 110th Annual Seafarers Church Service. Each of these events is arranged to offer something to the Navy fraternity, your attendance is the key to success or otherwise for these activities. We ask that you give these activities serious thought, email one of the addresses below if interested. For the Ball, email Sandra at navy.week.victoria@gmail.com and naval.commemoration.committee@gmail.com is the address for all other activities. The RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment will entertain you at the Ball. Nick McCallum will be the Master of Ceremonies. Make it a grand weekend, book your accommodation.

HMAS Kuttabul

Yachties



Another of the tragedies of 1942 was the explosion that sunk HMAS Kuttabul, pictured above as it rests on the bottom of Sydney Harbour, at Garden Island Dockyard. Three Japanese midget submarines had entered Sydney Harbour with the sole purpose of causing mayhem. We are told that their primary target was USS Chicargo, fortune on Chicargo's side, but one of the torpedoes strayed under Kuttabul and exploded when it hit the breakwater, where Kuttabul was berthed. The shock waves crushed the hull of the old ferry and it quickly sunk. Of the 29 sailors aboard at the time, 21 sailors made the supreme sacrifice. The sinking of Kuttabul will be remembered by a Sydney Harbour cruise, incorporating a wreath laying service, on the water near the site of the sinking. If interested ring Gary Traynor 0449 692401.



The story of the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme 1940–45 was given a well earned boost when a plaque was unveiled and dedicated to their extraordinary service during WWII. The occasion, at the Australian War Memorial on 4MAY17 was an outcome supported by many, but none more than the person who initiated it - Jan Roberts Billet. Jan's tireless effort of research, writing and advocacy championed the cause. Jan realised that 500 Australians, who had made a courageous effort so far away from home was largely unknown. Serving as Officers in the RANVR they did unbelievable work. Doug Gilling, last of the Yachties, unveiling the plaque with Jan overseeing the achievement.



DVA Projects

Welfare and compensation is not something the NCCV concerns itself with normally, however, as many of our readers are members, or should be members of the Naval Association of Australia this article is to outline several initiatives being pursued by DVA. These initiatives are designed to benefit Veterans and their families. The first is a move to Digitise their operations. DVA is largely paper based and in today's world of communication they are lagging behind. This is a very big project, they are starting off by scanning incoming correspondence so it can be moved quickly between different sections to expedite approvals and improve the general flow of information. Another program is Transformation of information as it relates to serving men and women from the Defence Force to DVA. Sounds simple, however, given the barriers surrounding privacy this is a huge obstacle to overcome. Recent issues reported around violations of privacy, whether correct or not have had an adverse impact on the proposal as it relates to DVA. Then there is the Veterans' Employment Program an-

nounced in NOV16 by the Prime Minister. The aim is to raise awareness of the skills and experience Veterans bring to the workplace. Promotion of employment opportunities in the private sector is a key aspect of the program. An Industry Advisory Committee will support this initiative. Transition from Service to ex-Service is also under scrutiny. Allied Health arrangements are under active review, this will support the client-centric approach by using a GP to coordinate the Veteran's care model. One aim is to simplify DVA business rules in favour of the Veteran, so the Veteran is the focus of support. The relationship between Private Hospitals and DVA has been strengthened by way of a formal agreement. This agreement has saved considerable money, funds that can be redirected back into other services for Veterans. Suicide prevention activities are the priority, evidence provided to the National Mental Health Commission, the Senate inquiry and the Suicide Prevention Trial Site in Townsville have all contributed to a better understanding of the problem (www.beyondblue.org.au).

President's Dit

Another ANZAC Day has passed and many of our Shipmates will have participated. General consensus is that every ex-Service man and woman should front up on ANZAC Day and show their respect and support for the service and sacrifice of so many Australians that have done their duty over the past century or so. A close friend recently suggested that we should announce before any significant event, "*may I thank the Service men and women here today for their service to Australia*". This is a great idea and we should take it up, acknowledging those currently serving in the Defence Force. There are many champions amongst us that do great work, enabled us to achieve noteworthy outcomes, however, the time has come to test our purpose. Declining membership is a good indicator of our relevance. We may be overly officious, somewhat inflexible or some other factor that is turning potential members away. Being dormant delivers nothing of value to our various constituents. There is a need to address the problem, we need new ideas and positive action, what are you doing to help?

Yours aye, Terry Makings

DIRECTORY for NCCV

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Special Notes



Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. There are times when we all question our sense of being, but some of our mates experience things differently and need help. DVA has a program to assist, please see <https://youtube/QAqELqcFcBE> and call!

Women and Leadership. Women & Leadership Australia (WLA) is administering a national initiative to support the development of female leaders across Australia's navy sector. The initiative is providing women with grants of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 to enable participation in a range of leadership development programs. The leadership development programs are part-time and delivered nationally via WLA's blended learning model. Scholarship funding is strictly limited and has to be allocated prior to the end of this financial year (30JUN17). Find out more and register your interest by completing the Expression of Interest form prior to June 16, go to: <http://www.wla.edu.au/assoc-june17.html>

Mission to Seafarers. Free access to the River Room, provided by MNC is simple. Ring Ajith Jayasuriya, Club Manager on 03 9629 7083 (B/Hrs) or email manager.melb@missiontoseafarers.com Please make use of the room or we will lose it!

Top End. A vital part of the top end is HMAS *Coonawarra* employing some 650 Navy personnel. They are posted to the Northern Territory in a range of roles supporting single service and joint functions. With 12 Armadale Patrol Boats regularly on the move in the NT, *Coonawarra* is regarded as the busiest Port in the Navy. A vast change from the days of the 'Cell Bar', originally at the Administrator's office, then OFF installation.

HMAS Duchess. Now is the time to register for the 8th reunion of HMAS Duchess Crewmembers. Now to be held at Surfers Paradise RSL, **not** Tweed Heads as previously advised. This event will occur from 6th to 8th October 2017. Cost will be \$200.00, this includes dinner on Friday and Saturday nights and lunch on Sunday. If you wish to attend, then you need to pay a small deposit of \$50 by 1st July, 2017, the balance by 8th September. To confirm your attendance, contact Rod Clarey by email to rod.clarey1@bigpond.com or phone **0409267388** or call Bruce Bowmaker on phone **0403243795**, or email littlefish.in@bigpond.com

Navy (Defence) Ball. Booked? - Saturday 21st October 2017: navy.week.victoria@gmail.com