



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

November 2013

Volume 3 Edition 11

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 851*

Whilst the principal objective of Navy Victoria Network is to consolidate news of interest to the Navy family, there is also a role to engender interest in relating matters, such as our maritime artefacts. Closely related to this role is the Shrine of Remembrance and the Galleries of Remembrance project, which is the Victorian State Government's primary contribution to the Centennial of ANZAC arrangements. Centennial of ANZAC commences in 2014 and concludes 2018, although there may be activities scheduled into 2019 as closure events heralded the end of repatriation.

A constant underpinning each idea conveyed through NVN is the need to engender interest from the wider Navy family. At the moment we rely upon a small group of champions to stimulate others with an interest. A small commitment from everyone is all that is required to enable the Maritime/Naval heritage to be sustained. Consider attending a commemorative, historic and social event, it all helps to some degree be sustainable. Although the use of the word sustainable is being mighty optimistic. Whilst we are generally talking to the converted, our suggestion is that you seek out one new ex-Navy service man or woman and encourage them to attend at least one flagship event, or something that may encourage them to attend on a regular [annual] basis. Give it a go!

This brings us to what are you doing in support of the ANZAC Centenary? There are opportunities to pursue funding, if required to support your specific occasion that has its genesis in ANZAC, or more precisely World War One. As Mr Ted Ballieu, Chair of the ANZAC Centenary Committee of Victoria advises

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**28 Nov** - Recruit School Twilight Graduation - time TBA.

**29 Nov** - Ceremonial Divisions at Cerberus

**01 Dec** - Corvette Association/HMAS Armidale with Star of the Sea School 2013 wreath laying at Shrine.

**10-14 Dec** - STS Young Endeavour visits Melbourne

**25 Dec** - Santa Claus is coming to town - **MERRY CHRISTMAS**.

**01 Jan 2013** - Happy New Year!

## Latest News

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**Government committed to providing free basic health care for all ADF families**

The Government will support the families of Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel by providing free GP and basic allied health care to all ADF dependants from 1 January 2014.

[More.....](#)

**Combat experience used to clear remnants of war in Solomon Islands**

Since the events of September 11, 2001, the terms Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) have entered the common vernacular. [More.....](#)

on the website < [www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au](http://www.anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au) > that 17 troop ships departed Melbourne for Albany in September/October 1914. The website provides an opportunity for those that are related to the troops who departed in those ships to register. This may enable you to be included in future arrangements relating to the centennial of the original departure.

From Dogtown (Williamstown) the Melbourne skyline appears to be dominated by the Warship NUSHIP CANBERRA, Landing Helicopter Dock (LHD). The opportunity to tour the ship at this phase of construction is not allowed, the focus being to complete the build on time and at the agreed cost. Viewing the CANBERRA from HMAS CASTLEMAINE Museum Ship at Gem Pier Williamstown and other maritime assets in the area might cause you to think about the wide range of maritime artefacts that do exist. We have a wealth of memorabilia spread across the entire country. It might be time to produce an 'Ap' that enables an efficient tour of these assets along with a narrative and vision of each key asset. Who is willing to stand up and take on such an exercise?

The Rogues Yarn below also delivers information relating to some important events that have recently occurred, such as the flagship HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service. The tragedy that surrounds the loss of GOORANGAI highlights the dangers of life at sea. We should also be prepared to demonstrate our appreciation of the fact that the Ship's Company were just doing their job, an important job targeted at keeping our coast line clear of danger by removing 100 mines from Bass Strait. The assembly at Queenscliff attracted some 150 Veterans, ex-Navy men and women. Captain Kath Richards RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS CERBERUS and Senior Naval Officer Victoria delivered a stirring address that epitomised the plight of Australians as they discovered the loss of our first Warship in 1940, during WWII.

At this point, we ask that if you are a member of a ship association, check to see your association is listed on the Navy Victoria Network website. We have arranged to set aside a page for each association. This page can advise any enquirer of your office bearers and contact details. It may also provide any other information that may help to stimulate the interest of ex-Navy men and women that are out there in relax mode! You should also check out our calendar to make sure any known event is

### ***Afghanistan lessons improving trauma care for all Australians***

*Lessons learnt by Australian Defence Force (ADF) health specialists are helping to improve survival rates for all Australian trauma victims.*

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

### ***AUSMIN talks strengthen alliance with US***

*THE Australia-US alliance has never been stronger, Defence Minister David Johnston said today at the end of the 28th AUSMIN Ministerial Consultation held in Washington.* [\*More.....\*](#)

### ***Operation RENDER SAFE rebuilds Yandina school*** [\*More.....\*](#)

### ***Operation RENDER SAFE prepares for White Ribbon Day activities in Solomon Islands*** [\*More.....\*](#)

### ***Defence Force Welfare Association - Monthly update #281***

### ***Navy geospatial team prepares for Antarctic adventure***

*Thirty-seven kilometres south of Hobart, the idyllic shores of the D'Entrecasteaux Channel were the scene of some rather unique Navy training activity.* [\*More.....\*](#)

### ***GALLIPOLI 2015 BALLOT OPENS MIDNIGHT 15 NOVEMBER***

*The ballot for places at Gallipoli on Anzac Day 2015 will open tomorrow, the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister on the Centenary of ANZAC Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson announced today.* [\*More.....\*](#)

### ***Recruit Training impressive says FAA group***

*As part of the 'Naval Gazing' PR program conducted by the RAN, members of the Victorian Branch of the Fleet Air Arm Association toured the recruit training facilities at HMAS Cerberus on 12 November 2013.*

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

listed for all to see, advise the webmaster now if anything is missing!

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

## VALE

- † RO Robert Gibbs, R50387 1955-1961, (FltLt RAAF, O221472 1961-1973) – 15 November 2013. Age 76.
- † ORDSA Terry Hannam, R62647, 07 November 2013
- † ABMTP Ian Linning, R67029, 06 November 2013.
- † POB Donald Tallon, 8049369, 01 November 13
- † WO Ian McGRIGOR, R43412, 31 October 2013. Aged 63.

## 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



### A HMAS Sydney Family Birthday Gathering

On Saturday 2nd November, 2013, three generations of HMAS Sydney sailors gathered at the home of world renowned model maker Max Montague to celebrate their birthdays in a unique fashion. The

guest of honour was WWII veteran Dick Radcliffe MID. [More.....](#)

**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](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net) with details.

### New Commanding Officer for HMAS Cerberus - Captain Stephen John Bowater, OAM, RAN

Stephen Bowater entered the RAN as a 15 year old Junior Recruit in 1976. By 1989 he had been promoted to Chief Petty Officer Combat Systems Manager (Aircraft Controller). [More...](#)

### HMAS Cerberus News from the 1970's

Were you at Cerberus in the 70s? We've just come across issues 1 & 2 of "The Monitor". Enjoy the read.

[The Monitor Vol1 No.1](#)

[The Monitor Vol1 No.2](#)

### Set sail aboard the tall ship Young Endeavour

The ballot is now open for young Australians aged 16-23 to set sail [More.....](#)

### Navy's new charity 'Keeping Watch'

The Chief of Navy has recently announced the launch of Navy's new charity 'Keeping Watch'. [More.....](#)

### Reduced Deeming Rates Put Money Back in Veterans' Pockets

[More.....](#)

### Australian Maritime Digest - [Issue #228](#)

### Navy League of Australia - Victorian Chapter - [November Newsletter](#)

### Tartan Terror - The Official Newsletter of HMAS Stuart –

[Edition 1 2013](#)

[Edition 2 2013](#)

### 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



### *First Surface Warship Lost*

#### **DIARY NOTES**

**Next NCCV meeting is at 1030, 10 December at Melb Naval Centre. AGM to follow at 1130 where Office Bearers for 2014 will be elected**  
**All Associations are encourage to be represented!**

**Services at the Shrine of Remembrance**  
**[Everyone is most welcome to attend any service at the Shrine of Remembrance.]**

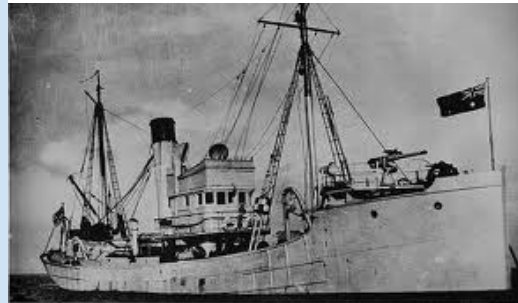
**Corvettes**  
**HMAS ARMIDALE**  
**1DEC13@1000**  
**Sanctuary**

**Landing Ship Infantry**  
**HMAS WESTRALIA**  
**15DEC13@1200**  
**Western Gallery**

↓ **WO Marty Grogan, his first day in the RAN was 25NOV63. As Mngr CERBERUS Museum he is still going strong some 50 years on. Marty is also the NCCV V/Pres. Congratulations Marty!**



The first surface warship lost by the Royal Australian Navy was HMAS GOORANGAI. The entire crew of 24 hands were lost in a matter of minutes on 20th November 1940.



↑ HMAS GOORANGAI was a fishing trawler converted at the start of WWI for the purpose of minesweeping. A job ideally suited to this small vessel of some 223 tons. Built in 1919 in Sydney, it was one of eight vessels owned and operated by the fishing company Cam & Sons Pty Ltd, all of which were requisitioned by the RAN as auxiliary minesweepers. These small vessels proved to be good at their job, demonstrated by their ability to make safe Bass Strait by clearing many of the 100 mines laid by the Japanese. It was after completing the arduous task of clearing mines that the GOORANGAI required more stores and headed to Queenscliff. Initially GOORANGAI was Anchored off Queenscliff, by all reports the weather was such that a better location was deemed necessary. GOORANGAI weighed anchor and proceeded to Port Phillip Bay. It was during this simple manoeuvre that the tragic loss of the vessel with all hands occurred. Only six bodies of the 24 man crew were recovered. One could not be identified and that leads us to another aspect

of this tragedy and that is that the remains of the unidentified crew member of GOORANGAI is at rest in an unmarked grave at Williamstown. This discovery was made by POMT Andrew Campbell after an exhaustive study of the circumstances surrounding the tragic loss of GOORANGAI. The Office of Australian War Graves has been contacted by Andrew and he is processing the relevant information required. With Andrew's dedication to this task, hopefully this error will be corrected in the not too distant future. This is a remarkable find by Andrew and he is to be congratulated for his concerted effort.

On Sunday, 17NOV13 over 150 ex-Navy men and women, families and descendants assembled to commemorate the loss of this small fishing trawler deployed to remove mines from our shoreline. Those assembled were fortunate to be welcomed by Cr Helene Cameron, Mayor, Borough of Queenscliffe and hear a moving address by Captain Kath Richards, CO HMAS CERBERUS. Chaplain Simon Cooper RANR was the officiating Chaplain and was instrumental in making the service a memorable one. We were also pleased to have Mr Simon Ramsay MP, representative the Minister attend and assist to lay a wreath. Simon accompanied Captain Richards and Mr Wal Ladlow who placed the wreath at the HMAS GOORANGAI memorial cairn. Wal is the brother of AB Arthur Ladlow, RANR aged 20 at the time of his untimely death. A wreath was placed on the existing ship wreck under eight metres of water in the Bay by divers from Diving Victoria on the actual anniversary of the loss.



### **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 in Victoria. An opportunity not to be missed.

# *President's Report*

We had the opportunity to attend another flagship event this month, that being the HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service. As listed in this edition of the RY, it was well attended and on a great day at Queenscliff. These occasions combine the solemnity of remembrance and social inclination as friends and family come together. The NCCV has been pressing for some years now the need to take account of our future prospects. On close review we might say there has been a slight improvement, but nothing overly significant. I guess the important point is we have at least lasted a little longer than expected. An important point to contemplate is that generally ship associations continue to decline. For instance, the three LSI Associations: Kanimbla, Manoorra and Westralia look like paying off! The three Presidents of those once great associations are

of an age where they need to hand over to someone else. Succession is not likely as there are no obvious candidates in the wings. This is a sad outcome, given our efforts to convince members to search out new contributors. Having said that, there are still many thousands of ex-Navy men and women to be convinced to join the ranks. We just need to provide the means of encouraging and accommodating them. I wonder at times why the Naval Association of Australia has not attracted them, nor the RSL or Navy League. Something is missing from the formula, a formula we have dismantled and put together many times. The irony is that some associations are strong, such as HMAS Sydney, Communicators and Ex-WRANS. I do note that each of these has a strong executive, a Champion. *Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## *HMAS SYDNEY Service*

On the 19NOV2013 HMAS SYDNEY Association commemorated the loss of SYDNEY in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. 645 RAN Sailors made the supreme sacrifice that day. The German raider HSK KORMORAN was sunk by the SYDNEY with the loss 317 German sailors, 397 became POWs. ↓ Pictured is Marty Grogan, President SYDNEY Association with descendants Lorraine Simpson and Margo Littler, with CDRE Jim Dickson, Patron, far right in the picture.



## *HMAS YARRA*

Navy has indicated that eligible descendants of Sailors lost when HMAS YARRA was sunk in 1942 are invited to make application to attend the presentation of the Citation in March 2014. If you know someone that may be a family member it would be appreciative if you could direct them to the application information on website:

<http://www.navy.gov.au/event/hmas-yarra-ii-ucg>

Family members who have applied before the 24 JAN14 and subsequently deemed eligible will be invited to participate in the Ceremony.

For those unable to attend the March ceremony, UCG insignia can be presented to qualifying relatives of HMAS Yarra (II)'s crew by the CO of their closest Naval establishment. Whether a family member or not, those members of the public who feel they have a connection to YARRA (II) are most welcome to attend the official ceremony. If you would like to receive an invitation to the Investiture Ceremony please register your interest, e-mail to [Navy.Events@defence.gov.au](mailto:Navy.Events@defence.gov.au).



## Noble Park RSL

John Laughton, HMAS Bataan with the Councillor Angela Long, Mayor - City of Greater Dandenong and Colour Party - HMAS Cerberus at their November commemorative service at the Noble Park RSL Sub-Branch. CMDR Aaron Nye RAN, CO RAN Recruit School was guest of honour and delivered the address.



## DEMS

Defensively Equipped Merchant Ships Association representatives Lee Molesworth, Paul Jensen and Marilyn Cole at the DEMS Memorial Cairn after the commemorative service. Marilyn and Captain Allan Knot - Master Mariner laid the wreath. Marilyn's father, Norman Kylie served in the GOORANGAI leaving weeks before it was sunk. He went on to serve the rest of WWII in DEMS. Lee & John actively seek relatives of DEMS to join the association. Contact us if you have any connection at all with DEMS, it will be worthwhile!



## HMAS GOORANGAI Service



↑ Pictured above is Captain Kath Richards with Chaplain Simon Cooper RANR nearby. The HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service attracted over 150 people. It was a brilliant day at Queenscliff with a perfect view of the entrance into Port Phillip Bay.

↓ Below we have Capt Richards and Chap Cooper leading the march, followed by PO Carmel Tom, LCDR Jan Gallagher, WO Marty Grogan and CMDR John Muller.



↓ Margaret Stowers, Gwenda Murphy, Debbie Roberts and her son LEUT Daniel Roberts with a model of GOORANGAI at the lunch. Family of Vin Murphy who arranged the GOORANGAI service for many years.



Two of NCCV's major supporters, ↓ L→R, George Coleman (Condomine) Korean VET & Ted Hollingsworth (Minesweepers) WWII Vet after assisting with preparations at the memorial cairns at the Reserve and setting up of the RSL Hall for the lunch. We thank George and Ted for their consistent help.



## ANZAC Centenary

The ANZAC Centennial Committee has expressed some interest in finding the first shell fired at the outset of WWI. This occurred in Port Phillip Bay, fired from Point Nepean on the 4th August 1914. Watch this space for more information as no doubt there will be some positive action taken to discover if the shell remains on the bay floor. On a slightly more realistic level is the proposal to arrange a commemorative service in recognition of the Battle of Bitia Paka, 11 September 2014. In past years this has been primarily organised by the Northcote RSL, however, it is now time for Navy to get involved. This is particularly relevant given the first casualty of WWI, Able Seaman Billy Williams, a sailor from Melbourne was shot as the Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Force conducted an offensive to capture the German Radio Station at Bitia Paka, near Rabaul. Soon after was the tragic loss of HMAS AE1 as it scouted around for enemy warships off New Guinea. These WWI events demand our attention as we remind ourselves of their sacrifice.

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



## *DIRECTORY for NCCV*

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## *Items of special interest*

**Ex-WRANS Christmas Lunch.** All women who have served in the Navy are encouraged to support the Ex-WRANS Association Christmas Lunch on Saturday, 14th December 2013. Any enquiries to Sandra Farlie at [sfarlie@bigpond.net.au](mailto:sfarlie@bigpond.net.au) where you can find out the detail. Join the growing number and rekindle friendships.

**RANR Officers & WOs Mess Dinner.** The dinner was held during November and attracted some 30 attendees. The venue was University House, a splendid place for such an activity. A well worthwhile opportunity for those that attended and a pity there were not more Reservists there to celebrate.

**Keeping Watch.** Chief of Navy, VADM Ray Griggs AO CSC RAN has officially launched a new Navy Charity, called *Keeping Watch*. This is a program designed to assist Naval Families in financial need. It has come to light that some members of the Navy (and their family) require short term urgent assistance to fill gaps in established systems caused by the unique nature of Naval service. For more information see [<keepingwatch.org.au>](http://keepingwatch.org.au) where you can find out how to donate, a receipt will be issued that facilitates a tax deduction.

**HMAS CASTLEMAINE.** A service was conducted in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance on Friday, 22NOV13 to reflect on the contribution made by those that served in CASTLEMAINE during WWII and post war activities. Attended by CMDR Denis Gale RAN Rtd, Peter Williams and Ian Shackleton from the HMAS CASTLEMAINE Museum Ship. Tocomo Primary School also attended as this is their adopted ship.

**Mission to Seafarers.** The mission is located at 717 Flinders Street and is treasure that may present as a venue for different occasions. Use of the mission is moderately priced and the venue provides the potential for a different experience. There is parking in close proximity and public transport is close. As a maritime environment this may become more popular to our associations.

**Annual General Meeting.** The NCCV Annual General Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 10th December at the Melbourne Naval Centre, ESU - Toorak Road West, Tram #8, stop before Punt Rd. Office bearers will be elected at this meeting and if your association wishes to vote, please seek membership at or before the meeting.