



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

November 2014

Volume 4 Edition 11

Editorial

NVN current membership: 963

A CHANGING NAVY

Those who have visited HMAS CERBERUS over recent times will have seen plenty of evidence of change. Demolition, new construction, changed traffic routeing, tighter security are all easily recognisable to the occasional visitor. Not so immediately apparent are changes in the Navy's long-established services, practices and ways of conducting business. Most readers of this web-site probably served the majority (if not all) their Navy careers in the 20th century when CERBERUS, like most shore bases, was essentially a single-service establishment operated and manned predominantly by uniformed personnel under locally resident RAN command. No longer is this the case. Sweeping changes have taken place over the past 20 years due to commercialisation, contracting out, standardisation of administrative and training practices within the ADF, the expansion of career opportunities for women, changing community attitudes, social mores, and the technological and communications explosion which is occurring (apparently at a still accelerating pace) in the early years of the new millennium.

Changes brought into effect at the beginning of November have seen the end of cooks and stewards in the Wardroom and a complete restructuring of Messing arrangements. Fortunately the majority of the uniformed personnel trained in those specialist skills were able to demonstrate their capabilities at a glittering Mess Dinner held in the Warrant Officers & Senior Sailors Mess on Friday 7th November to commemorate the centenary of the November 1914 battle when the first HMAS

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

...

01 Dec – Corvette Assoc. wreath laying

03 Dec – Australian Legion of ex-Servicemen & Women – wreath laying.

14 Dec – RAN Recruits wreath laying.

15 Dec – AMC/LSI Flag ceremony at Shrine

20 Dec – Anniversary of Gallipoli evacuation

20 Dec – Friends of Gallipoli wreath laying.

ANZAC Centenary Events

For details of all Centenary events in Victoria go to:

<http://anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au/new-s-events/events/>

Latest News

...

F-35 strike fighters for the Canberra-class?

AIR power experts and aficionados cocked a collective eyebrow last autumn when Defence Minister David Johnston announced that F-35B strike fighters could operate from the two Canberra-class flat-tops. [More.....](#)

A gift for future generations

The story of the battle between HMAS Sydney (I) and SMS Emden is one of cunning, strategy, endurance, and

SYDNEY destroyed the German raider EMDEN in the Cocos Islands in the early days of WW1. Over 150 attended what may itself, in time, be looked back on nostalgically as a historic occasion.

While the changes taking place in today's RAN are ushering in a comprehensively 'new Navy' from the one most of us knew, it is noteworthy that there have not been changes of corresponding magnitude to the benefits and entitlements allowed to veterans. Those of us who have some knowledge of how other nations treat their veterans appreciate that the Australian people, through their governments – of both political persuasions – are extremely generous to those who have been prepared to put their lives on line rendering military service. While anomalies exist (and they always will with any system of this nature) and grievances are given a prominent and sympathetic airing in the media when they come to light, the populace should feel proud and we, the veterans, should feel grateful for the treatment we are given. For our own sake and for that of our uniformed successors, long may it continue.

Yours Aye!
NVN Team

VALE

- † POCK G. Stapleton, R65593, 19 Nov 2014. Aged 65.
- † POME C. Buckle, R54337, 03 Nov 2014. Aged 76.
- † CPOWTR G. Hardwick, R63659, 31 Oct 2014.
- † ME N.V. Dwyer, R58231, 31 October 2014
- † CERA P.G. Gillespie, R53181, 29 October 2014. Aged 79.
- † WRRO B. Joyce, 11 October 2014.
- † LRO E.T. Lane, R53524, 11 October 2014.
- † LCDR J.R. Face RAN, 05 October 2014. Aged 75.
- † WRRO(S) D.A. Clemson (nee Warman), W84541, 20th September 2014. Aged 78.

The above names have been placed on our [Vale](#) page

Lest We Forget

honour. [More.....](#)

Australian Defence Force completes monitoring of Russian Surface Task Group in the region. [More.....](#)

Major Grants To Commemorate Wartime Service. [More.....](#)

Final farewell for Navy's landing craft. [More.....](#)

Projects Supporting Our Veterans Receive Funding. [More.....](#)

German envoy marks 1914 Cocos battle. [More.....](#)

ADF supports the 2015 International Airshow. [More.....](#)

Navy's MH-60R Romeo helicopters on display. [More.....](#)

Update on unacceptable behaviour incidents. [More.....](#)

Inquiry into unresolved recognition for service with the United States Army Small Ships Section. [More.....](#)

Minister for Defence Opening address to the Submarine Institute of Australia Biennial conference, Fremantle WA. [Read.....](#)

Anzac Centenary Public Fund Recommendations. [More.....](#)

Further inquiry into Vietnam Campaign Medal. [More.....](#)

Amazing book captures 100 years of pride in fleet. [More.....](#)

Chief of Joint Operations and Director General Air Operations brief journalists on ADF operations in Iraq. [More.....](#)

An Eye-Witness Account of the Sydney / Emden Battle. [More.....](#)

DFWA – Monthly [Update](#) – #285

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



The focus of this year's HMAS Sydney (I) and SMS Emden mess dinner at HMAS Cerberus was on the mannequins donated by Mr. Vern Bechaz. Mannequins of Captains John Glossop, HMAS Sydney (I) and Karl von Muller, SMS Emden, were donated to the Naval Heritage Collection for permanent display at the Warrant Officers and Senior Sailors' Mess. The life-size glass encased mannequins were a four year project by veteran Mr. Vern Bechaz, a member of the HMAS Sydney Association. "I wanted to leave something behind for our future generations. I have a passion for this sort of thing. It gives me great pleasure and if the viewer gets as much pleasure as I did, then one cannot ask for more," Mr. Bechaz said.



Keep up to date with our own Smartphone / Tablet App. Go to our [website](#) to view the brochure which explains how to download and install the NVN App to your phone / tablet.

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

End of an Era for Cooks and Stewards. [More.....](#)

ADFA 24 – The facts

The ADF rejects any assertion that it has not acted in response to historical allegations of abuse at ADFA. [More.....](#)

Announcement of overseas conditions of service for ADF personnel. [More.....](#)

Government Cuts Red Tape Facing Veterans and Their Families. [More.....](#)

Important Research Studies Released. [More.....](#)

Remembering Navy Women. [More.....](#)

Navy League of Australia (Vic Div) November newsletter.....

Naval History Society of Australia (Vic Div) President's [November report.](#)

Armed Merchant Cruisers / Landing Ship Infantry (AMC/LSI) Association [September newsletter.....](#)

NAVY NEWS – [The latest edition.](#)

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

2015 REUNIONS

10th Intake Leeuwin JR's
35th Intake Leeuwin JR's
4th Intake Leeuwin JR's
HMAS Perth 50th anniversary cruise
NAA National reunion
HMAS Quickmatch
HMAS Lonsdale
HMAS Leeuwin & Cerberus JR's

Full details of these reunions can be found on our [Reunions Page](#)



Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

Rogues' Yarn



HMAS GOORANGAI

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

**Corvettes/
HMAS Armidale
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary**
1DEC14@1000

**RAN Recruits
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary**
14DEC14@1000

**AMC/LIS
Wreath Laying
Sanctuary**
15DEC14@1200

Next NCCV meeting
9DEC14@1030 at
Melb Naval Centre.
The AGM will follow
the General Meeting.

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

The Annual General Meeting of the Naval Commemoration Committee is an invitation to all Ship/Unit/Branch Associations to meet and decide how best to shape the future of the ex-Navy community. Whilst there is a small fee of \$25/annum, this should not deter you!!

On Sunday, 16th November over 70 members of the Ex-Navy community attended the 74th Anniversary of the loss of HMAS *Goorangai* at the RSL rooms at Queenscliff. Wet weather routine prevailed as the Ocean View Reserve was battered by wind & rain. The service was supported by a team of Australian Navy Cadets from TS Tingira and TS Bataan. The Geelong Memorial Brass Band also provided their support, a primary commitment each year and an important component of the service, particularly when the normal march occurs from the RSL rooms to the Reserve. ↓ Cr Helene Cameron, Mayor Borough of Queenscliffe spoke



of the relationship between Queenscliff and the maritime fraternity. She mentioned how the local community sought to assist *Goorangai* and described the situation as it unfolded on the day.

CAPT Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer, HMAS *Cerberus* delivered the address. ↓ CAPT Bowater spoke of his own experience as CO, HMAS *Arunta*. He touched on the dangers of being at sea and the courage required by all in the crew when in warlike situations.



↑ ANC Alyce Bell reads a poem written by eleven year old Jodie Johnson. During the service 13 wreaths were symbolically layed in memorial to those that contributed so much, so that so many could enjoy the quality of life we enjoy today. ↓ The *Goorangai*



wreath was tended by CAPT Bowater, Cr Cameron and Wal Ladlow, both to Arthur Ladlow lost with the ship. ← Lewis Ferrier at the service, pictured here with Wal Ladlow. Lewis was the bowman on the life boat dispatched to search for survivors on that fateful day on the 20NOV40.

Before the Cadets departed, they and the President NCCV relocated the → HMAS *Goorangai* wreath to the memorial cairn at the Ocean View Reserve. Prepare for 22NOV15.





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

November has been a very busy month for the Navy fraternity in Victoria. With the opening of the Galleries of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne and several commemorative commitments the legacy left to us over the past century has been highlighted in a dramatic manner. If you have not been to the Shrine to see the new exhibits, then we recommend you make time for a quick look. A quick look is suggested as you will soon appreciate that many hours are required to get through all the material on display. There are several interactive pieces that provide an opportunity for those that have relatives or friends that joined up in support of the First World War, or later to view a digital register. Much has been said about the Devanha life boat used during the initial landing at Gallipoli, the Devanha boat display is magnificent!

We witnessed the commemorative services for HMAS *Sydney* I and *Sydney* II. The centenary of the fateful battle between HMAS *Sydney* I and the SMS *Emden* was recounted by the HMAS *Sydney* Associa-

tion. The Association also held their annual HMAS *Sydney* II service, held on the anniversary of her sinking in 1941. The HMAS *Goorangai* commemorative service is adequately covered within this newsletter. The Australian Prisoners of War and Relatives Association held an essay competition earlier this year and during the month announced the prize winners, they were students from Rowville Secondary College. The Association is keen to expand their initiative to lift the awareness of secondary school students of the plight of POWs. Commissioning of HMAS *Canberra* at the Fleet Base, Sydney will be recorded as another highlight of November, finally joining the Fleet after a few issues. It was good see all known WW2 Veterans that served in *Canberra*'s ship's company were invited to the Commissioning. The Navy now have a very large fleet unit to content with and no doubt *Canberra* will be effective in her various and complex roles.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

HMAS *Canberra* 1

HMAS *Canberra* 1 was one of two 10,000 ton County Class heavy cruisers ordered by the Australian Government as part of a five year development program. The program commenced in 1924, completed in 1929. *Canberra* was commissioned on 9 July 1928 at Clydebank. This was a mere two months after HMAS *Australia*, sister ship to *Canberra* 1 was commissioned. In August 1942 *Canberra* operated with the naval force supporting the American landings at Guadalcanal and Tulagi, operations which ended with her loss in the Battle of Savo Island on 9 August 1942. This sad ending resulted in 193 casualties of the Ship's company of 819. The supreme sacrifice was made by 84 officers and sailors (77 RAN, 4 RAAF, 2 RN and 1 USN). The CO, Captain Getting included. 106 officers and sailors (100 RAN, 2 RAAF, 1 RN and 2 USN) and 3 civilian Canteen Staff were wounded.

HMAS *Canberra* 1 after being damaged 1942



HMAS *Canberra* 3

HMAS *Canberra* 3 entering Sydney Harbour 2014



↑ To carry on the important legacy of *Canberra* is the inclusion of HMAS *Canberra* 3 into the Fleet. *Canberra* will be (or was) commissioned on Friday, 28th November at Fleet Base East. At 28,000 tonnes, or nearly 31,000 tonnes fully laden, the *Canberra* will be one of the largest warship ever placed in the Fleet. Considerable effort was made to ensure all known ex-members of *Canberra* 1 ship's company were invited to the commissioning. Perpetuating the legacy as annotated on the Battle Honour Board of our Warships rests with us all. The commissioning reminds us of how ships *Canberra*, with their respective crews, have done their duty in many different parts of the world.

Communications

If you are reading this newsletter you are probably receiving it by email, or have you managed to obtain a copy by some other means? We would like to know your thoughts on how best to communicate with as many within the Navy fraternity as possible. At present, NCCV only use email and the internet. This has proved effective for those that have to do the work. If there is a gap between our process of delivery and the 'wants' of those we seek to reach, then we need to know what the gap is! Once known we can consider how to overcome it. Should we be using a 'twitter' account, we have not pursued this avenue at this stage as it seems to be a bit 'out of the box' for our readers. Your feedback may change that, you may well broaden our horizons. How can we be of interest to the wider ex-Navy community. There is a constant downward spiral in membership across all of the primary ex-service organisations. Presumably something will take their place, who knows what the outcome will look like. If we can give some structure to that future model, then let's do it. If you take the time to give us your view on how best to communicate we might achieve something better! The NCCV address is below - go for it!

Navy Ball

You will all be aware that we have initiated a Navy Ball to kick off Navy Week 2015. The Navy Ball is to be held on Saturday, 17 October 2015 at Etihad Stadium. Given the expectation is that there will be considerable interest, we hope you will make the decision to attend early so that the numbers can be verified. We anticipate every Ship/Unit/Branch Association will make a concerted effort to secure one or more tables. We hope the Naval Association Sub-Branchees also look at this event as being a key commitment for their members. It is about time we in the Navy fraternity joined forces as a show of strength to demonstrate our sentiment for what was a life changing experience - that being our time in the Navy. The price of attending the Navy Ball will be \$130 per person, not cheap, however, it will be a significant occasion warranting our participation. We ask that you at the very least let your members know about this important event and please provide some encouragement so that there will be a strong representation from your Association or Sub-branch. The venue is easy to get to, plenty of public transport and accommodation nearby for those that may wish to be close for the Seafarers Church Service at St Pauls Cathedral, followed by the Navy Wreath Laying Service at the Shrine of Remembrance the next day. This will be a great weekend, make the most of it!!

HMAS PARRAMATTA

HMAS *Parramatta* is the forth Warship of this name.



Parramatta's heritage has influenced our thinking for more than a century:

D55, a River Class Destroyer commissioned in 1910. The ship was deployed throughout WWI in support of the Allied Forces. D55 was de commissioned 1928, then sold for scrap.

U44 was a Grimsby class sloop, commissioned in 1939 and soon deployed to the Mediterranean supporting the troops ashore in north Africa. This *Parramatta* was part of the "Tobruk ferry service", a group of destroyers and sloops supplying besieged ports. U44 was sunk by a German submarine on 27 November 1941.

DE 46 was a revised River Class Destroyer Escort. Commissioned in 1961, DE 46 was deployed to the Far East Strategic Reserve and the Malaysian Confrontation and also provided escort duties during the Vietnam conflict. DE 46 was decommissioned in 1991, after an extended and enduring working life.

FFH 154 a modern *Anzac* class frigate commissioned in 2003 now has carriage of the *Parramatta* heritage. FFH 154 has been deployed during several rotations to the Middle East, supporting Operation Slipper and Operation Catalyst.

Navy Week 2015

Navy Week 2015 in Victoria is destined to be an experience for all within the Navy fraternity, should they wish to participate. We in Victoria have been devoid of such an occasion for decades, the consequence of interest shifting elsewhere. One event contributing to the demise of Navy Week was Corporatisation then the eventual sale of Williamstown Naval Dockyard. You may recall, WND (Dogtown) would be open to the public one year then Cerberus would be open the following year. The opening of each Establishment year on year was the culmination of a week's activities that involved all and sundry. There were many occasions when Navy actually deployed a Warship to our shores in support of this promotion of Navy. The Navy Ball as described (left column) will be a fabulous way of commencing the week, highlighting the bond across the local and wider Navy community. Early thinking is that a formal visit to the Shrine of Remembrance - Galleries of Remembrance will be an engaging way of occupying Saturday afternoon, prior to the Ball. This will be an experience many have not had beforehand. We expect to have a seminar focused on the Spirit of ANZAC during the week and several sporting activities, such as: lawn bowls and golf. We are certainly keen to hear from any Club or Association, and Sub-Branch with an interest in arranging something during this very special week.

ANZAC Centenary

The State Government's primary contribution to the Spirit of ANZAC Centenary has been the Galleries of Remembrance at the Shrine of Remembrance. The Galleries were opened on Remembrance Day, some eighty years after the dedication of the Shrine by the Duke of Gloucester in 1934. He did so before more than 300,000 Victorians, at a time when there were a little more than a million people living in the State. You will need to set aside quite a few hours to take it all in, but a short visit to start with will establish the need to revisit and take it all in. Essentially you will see that the exhibits are divided into four key components, pre-WWI, WWI, WWII and Post-WWII. Whilst there are many specific examples of the war effort, there are several interactive pieces that enable you to see if a relative joined from Victoria to help defence Australia during war time. One significant change that has occurred as a consequence of the Galleries is the reference to individuals, this had not occurred during the previous eighty years at the Shrine of Remembrance.

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



Items of special interest

Final Divisions. CMDR Mike Oborn CSM RAN, Executive Officer, HMAS Cerberus attends his last Divisions at Cerberus as XO on 30 November. Mike has been a great supporter of the Ex-Navy community and we wish him the very best as he sets off to experience new horizons. After a stint OS, Mike is to relieve CMDR Darren Grogan CSC RAN as Commanding Officer of HMAS Sirius.



First Pay. How many of us could produce the proceeds of their first pay day? Warrant Officer Marty Grogan OAM RANR, Manager - HMAS Cerberus Museum can do just that! Pictured here with those 'pound notes' with his original ID card. Our NCCV V/Pres certainly had his thinking cap on even then.

Remembrance Day. Good to see greater interest is occurring on Remembrance Day. This was particularly evident at the Shrine of Remembrance where several thousand Victorians witnessed the arrival and address by the State Governor. Peter Isaacson AM DFC AFC DFM recited the Ode.

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Melbourne Naval Centre. The MNC has a new President, Mr David Parker. David has replaced Captain David Garnock CSC RAN Rtd who was in the office for several years. David Parker was previously the Vice President. Congratulations to David Parker for taking on this important role within the Navy community in Victoria. A big thank you to Dave Garnock for being a strong NCCV supporter, we hope this support continues.

HMNZS Te Kaha. One of the two Anzac Class Frigates, built at Williamstown for New Zealand, HMNZS Te Kaha berthed at South Wharf Pier 33 on 14th November. A reception was held aboard the Te Kaha on the very day the Captain's mother, a Melbourne resident celebrated her 87th birthday. Not a bad birthday present from the NZ Navy.

Force Commands. Four operational components within Navy were established as part of the New Generation Navy changes implemented in 2009:

Fleet Air Arm; Navy's aviation assets.
Mine Warfare; Hydrographic, Minor War Vessels.
Submarine Force; Collins class submarines.
Surface Force; covering the RAN's surface combatants (ships of frigate size or larger).