



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

October 2014

Volume 4 Edition 10

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 959*

### OUR FORGOTTEN SAILORS

Have you heard of the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme 1940-1945 affectionately referred to as the Yachties? If you have, then you are one of a very limited number of people who have.

Australia received a request from British Admiralty in early May, 1940, for arrangements to be made to appoint a limited number of men to direct commissions in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve (Known as Wavy Navy because of the distinctive gold lace curves on the sleeves of Officers to denote Rank, instead of the normal straight gold lace) and accept a number of volunteers as ordinary seamen with a view to their promotion to the commissioned ranks in the RNVR after a period of service.

The Naval Volunteer Reserve had originated in the late nineteenth century with a nucleus of men formed from yachtsmen and members of rowing clubs. While men from all walks of life ashore were theoretically eligible, naval interests and skills were considered desirable. At the outbreak of World War II the approximate strength of the Volunteer Reserve in the United Kingdom was 1000 Officers and 7000 Ratings. Many were yachtsmen who had previous sea experience in the Royal Navy or Merchant Navy but others were a mixed group of stockbrokers, barristers, bankers, authors, actors and other professionals all keen on sailing and the sea. Most temporary Officers came from the lower deck and had been marked as 'White Paper' candidates by their Commanding Officers and recommended to the Admiralty.

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**27 Sep** – NHS (Vic) AGM

**02 Nov** – RAN Recruits wreath laying

**09 Nov** – HMAS Sydney I centenary

**11 Nov** – Remembrance Day

**16 Nov** – HMAS Goorangai service

**19 Nov** – HMAS Sydney II service

**24 Oct** – NHS (Vic) end of year function

**01 Dec** – Corvette Assoc. wreath laying

## ANZAC Centenary Events

**14th Aug – 12th Dec 2014**

*"The Australian Red Cross in the Great War exhibition"*

Royal Historical Society of Victoria  
239 a'Beckett St  
Melbourne VIC 3000

**15th Aug 14 – 1st Mar 15**

*"Behind The Kitbag"*

11:00am–3:30pm

Creswick Museum, Town Hall Building

**30 Aug 14 - 30 Nov 18** - WW1: Love & Sorrow at Melbourne Museum

**4 Oct - 07 Dec** - Coming Home exhibition

**01 Nov 14** — 2:00pm–4:00pm

Knox Roll of Honour Memorial Project  
Tim Neville Arboretum

12 Nov 14 – 8 - 9:30pm

*"Farewell, Dear People" – A special*

The Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme volunteers were recruited as potential Officers through this method. Without the Volunteer Reserves, both from England and the Dominions, the Royal Navy would not have been able to continue the war at sea.

The first group of Australian Yachties of fifty-eight Ordinary Seamen and fourteen Officers embarked in RMS *Strathnaver* in September, 1940, as RANVR, although they went in civilian dress and were given no preliminary training in Australia. They were kitted out when they arrived in England and were on Australian rates of pay. Apparently the Officers (the 'A' Class) were able to have a flash, 'Australia' on the shoulder of their uniform if they applied to do so and the Commanding Admiral agreed that the Ordinary Semen could have shoulder flashes but they had to organise it among themselves.

The work of Ken Halliwell, Bob Fotheringham and Roy Hall during the 1980's resulted in 467 Yachtsmen Scheme enlistments being identified. Later work by Clive Taylor and Keith Nicol has increased the nominal roll to five hundred. The story board in the World War II gallery in the Australian War Memorial is incorrect as it states 370 Yachtsmen Scheme Volunteers. Sadly the exact figure will never be known as they generally all came home and resumed their civilian careers. They never formed an Association.

While some were lucky to keep together, many 'Yachties' served as the only Australian on board. They were spread across the Fleet in a variety of ships from Aircraft Carriers, Battle Cruisers and Destroyers to Fairmiles. The theatres of war in which these men found themselves were equally varied and many were initiated rapidly into the realities of life at sea during wartime.

However the majority of the Yachtsmen served on light coastal forces craft ranging from Trawlers to Motor Launches (MLs) to, later in the war, Landing Craft – Tank and Infantry (LCTs and LCIs) where their particular skills were important. Some volunteered for Special Forces units.

One group of the 'Yachties' were not posted to sea and they are remembered for the incredibly courageous work they carried out in mine disposal or rendering Mines Safe. These men were awarded the highest honours of either the George Cross and/or the George Medal. Lieutenant James Kessack died in action attempting to render a mine safe in April 1941. He was one of

*presentation by Ross McMullin  
Etham Senior Citizens' Centre*

***For details of all Centenary events in Victoria go to:***

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

## Latest News

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### ***Arunta and Parramatta visit Melbourne***

*HMA Ships Arunta and Parramatta visited Melbourne 17-20 October, coinciding with the centenary of the departure of convoys for the First World War from Port Phillip Bay. [More.....](#)*

### ***Further funding approved for local grants program***

*The Minister for Veterans' Affairs, Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson, today announced that a further 231 grants totaling \$1.96 million have been approved under the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program. This brings the total number of grants approved to 605 grants across 123 electorates, with \$5.5 million being made available to date for communities to implement commemorative projects. [More.....](#)*

### ***New training system for ADF helicopter crews***

*A modern helicopter training system for Navy and Army personnel has been approved by the Australian Government, Defence Minister Senator David Johnston announced today. [More.....](#)*

### ***Tanker pumping with new life***

*HMAS Sirius is back out at sea doing what she does best, refueling ships for the first time since February. [More.....](#)*

### ***Australia lends a hand in Bougainville with Operation RENDER***

five who sailed with the first Yachtsmen Scheme mobilization in September 1940 in *Strathnaver*. He had in that short time in England dealt with ten unexploded mines. The only four George Crosses awarded to Australians during the Second World War all went to 'Yachties':

LCDR Leonard Verdi GOLDSWORTHY, G.C., D.S.C., G.M., is Australian Navy's highest decorated Naval Officer. (Died aged 85)

LEUT Hugh Randall SYME, G.C., G.M. and Bar (Died aged 62)

LCDR George GOSSE, G.C. (Died age 52)

LCDR John Stuart MOULD, G.C., G.M. (Died age 47)

Three of the four died at relatively young ages and it is wondered what impact their incredible brave service had on this.



Officers from the Enemy Mines Section of HMS Vernon. The group are standing behind a recently deloused German aerial mine laying on a beach. Second from left is Lieutenant Mould, G.C., G.M. and far right is Lieutenant Goldsworthy, G.C. The mine had been booby trapped and great care had to be taken to delouse it.

No story of the Yachtsmen Scheme would be complete without the mention of their contribution to D-Day. Keith Nicol believes that about three hundred of the men must have served in the Normandy landings in June 1944.

In summary, the young Australians recruited through the Dominion Yachtsmen Scheme to be trained as Officers in the Royal Navy were successful in achieving their ambitions. They were a highly selected group whose level of education and social skills qualified them for acceptance within the RN. The achievement of gaining a commission gave them a sense of privilege and status. They were welcomed by their fellow officers and the men with whom they served and succeeded in

#### **SAFE**

Australian Defence Force (ADF) personnel have arrived in Bougainville to address a potentially deadly legacy posed by unexploded ordnance from past conflicts as part of Operation RENDER SAFE 2014. [More.....](#)

#### **Correcting the record on submarines – Opinion Editorial, Adelaide Advertiser**

The first priority of the Abbott Government is to ensure the safety and security of our country. Right now, the Abbott Government is considering options for the Navy's future submarines that will replace the Collins Class. [More.....](#)

**Chief of Joint Operations Vice Admiral David Johnston and Air Commodore 'Joe' Vincent Iervasi, deliver the second briefing in the Australia room at the Australian Defence Offices in Russell, Canberra.** [Transcript.....](#)

#### **DFWA - Media Statement - Defence Service Personnel Overwhelmingly Reject Government Pay Offer**

On 10 October 2014 all members of the ADF finally received advice via a message from the CDF that a pay offer of 1.5% per year increase would be taken to the Defence Remuneration Tribunal (DFRT) for endorsement as early as Wednesday 15 October 2014. [More.....](#)

**Message from the Chief of the Defence Force to all members of the Australian Defence Force regarding the proposed Workplace Remuneration Arrangement**  
Please click here for the full [message from CDF](#)

#### **ADF pay claim progresses**

The Government today confirmed the continued progress on the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Workplace Remuneration Arrangement

acquiring the skills and professional competence necessary within the RN in various theatres of war in the northern hemisphere. Certainly Lord Louis Mountbatten believed the Australians had special qualities and reputedly requested some of 'those hot-shot Australian' for his destroyer flotilla and Combined Operations. They earned respect, acceptance and acknowledgement. Their presence in Britain was noted and they were aware how important this was to public morale. Many of the men recorded the positive comments they received from the British public. They were proud to be Australian and were welcomed also, as Dominion servicemen supporting the mother country.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

**NOTE:** This month's editorial was extracted from a Paper prepared by Janet I. Roberts Billett, in July 2009 and presented at the King-Hall Navy History Conference, 30-31 July, 2009 in Canberra. Click [here](#) to download the complete Paper.

## VALE

- † CAPT W.F. Garner RANR, 19 October 2014.
- † CPOCK J.M. Sloper, R52339, 16 October 2014. Aged 75.
- † CPOMTH3 F. Eastwell, R42607, 12 October 2014.
- † AB A.R. Baddeley, PM2368, 08 October 2014. Aged 93.
- † LCDR K.D. Norton RAN, 30 September 2014. Aged 62.
- † ABQMG E. Stanley, R62410, 30 September 2014. Aged 70.
- † LSRP K.N. Gear, R57243, 27 September 2014. Aged 71.

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

## 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

(WRA). [More.....](#)

### **First LHD accepted by DMO**

The Defence Materiel Organisation (DMO) has accepted the first LHD, NUSHIP Canberra, from contractor BAE Systems. A ceremony took place in Canberra's hangar to mark the significance of the signing of the acceptance certificate. [More.....](#)

### **Speech in recognition of the men and women of the Royal Australian Navy delivered to the House of Representatives**

On Wednesday, 1 October 2014 a speech in recognition of the men and women of the Royal Australian Navy was delivered by The Hon Teresa Gamaro, MP, to the House of Representatives, Parliament of Australia.

*I rise to speak today in recognition of the tireless and often thankless service undertaken by the men and women of the Royal Australian Navy.* [More.....](#)

### **Defence support to Albany Convoy Commemorative Event**

Defence has confirmed significant commitment to the first major Australian-based event for the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations with Army, Navy and Air Force assets and personnel set to take part. [More.....](#)

**The Australian ex-Services Atomic Survivors Association Inc.** are the latest association to take advantage of having a website under the Navy Victoria Network's website. If you are one of the survivors and are interested in the association, why not visit the website at <http://atomicsurvivors.navyvic.net>

### **First Principles Review of Defence – Call for public submissions**

On 5 August 2014, I announced the external panel who are conducting the

# HMAS GOORANGAI

*"Lost With All Hands"*



## Commemorative Service

When: Sunday 16th November 2014

Where: Queenscliff @ Ocean View Reserve

*Organised by*

The Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria  
"Perpetuating Gallant Ships and Brave Men"

**Program** (Full details at <http://navyvic.net/flagship.html>)

11:10 AM Marchers fall in, King Street

11:30 AM Service commences Ocean View Reserve

12:30 PM Lunch RSL Hall King Street (**Must Book**)

Dress: Medals please



Keep up to date with our own Smartphone / Tablet App. Go to our [website](http://navyvic.net) 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](mailto:webmaster@navyvic.net) with details.

**NCCV's "Rogues' Yarn" attached below**

*First Principles Review of Defence. The panel has been commissioned to ensure Defence is fit for purpose and able to respond to future challenges. [More.....](#)*

*Navy League of Australia (Vic Div) [October newsletter.....](#)*

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

*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.*

## REUNIONS

**Waller Division**

**[15 January 1966]**

**50th Anniversary Reunion**

*Expressions of interest are requested from all members who joined the RAN on 15 January 66 (WALLER Division) for a 50th Anniversary Reunion in January 2016.*

*Please e-mail your interest to:*

*[ian.arnold2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ian.arnold2@optusnet.com.au)*

*or telephone (03) 9798 6506 for further details.*

**HMAS Perth II 50th Anniversary Cruise**

*HMAS PERTH NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (QLD Branch) invites past and present crew, families and friends to join in the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of commissioning of HMAS Perth II.*

*[Visit website for full details.....](#)*

*Should you wish to advertise your ships reunion, just email the webmaster with full details.*



# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### Seafarers All

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

**RAN Recruits**  
**Emms Division**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**Sanctuary**  
**2NOV14@1030**

**HMAS SYDNEY 1**  
**Centenary Wreath**  
**Laying Service**  
**Sanctuary**  
**9NOV14@1200**

**Remembrance Day**  
**Forecourt Service**  
**11NOV14@1100**

**HMAS SYDNEY 2**  
**Wreath Laying**  
**Sanctuary**  
**19NOV14@1200**

**Next NCCV meeting**  
**9DEC14@1030 at**  
**Melb Naval Centre.**

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

**HMAS**  
**GOORANGAI**  
**Service**  
**16NOV14@1110**  
**Queenscliff RSL**

October was an important month for all Seafarers in Victoria. The service at St Paul's Cathedral was one of the most significant events for the year, focused on commemoration and the traits of Seafarers. This service was held on the 19th October, closest Sunday to Trafalgar Day. This occasion brought together all manner of people who have direct or indirect links to the defence of our ocean trade routes or have a connection with the maritime industry, an industry so critical to Australia's well-being. This year the Guest of Honour was Rear Admiral Mark Purcell RAN, Head Maritime Services, Defence Materiel Organisation. Also in attendance was Captain Steve Bowater OAM RAN, Commanding Officer HMAS Cerberus and Senior Naval Officer Victoria. The readings were given by a variety of identities relevant to the purpose of the service, they included representative from the Mission to Seafarers, Royal Australian Navy, Master Mariners and NCCV. The program of readings, hymns and scripture were relevant to the occasion, particularly matching the Dean's sermon. The Dean, once a helmsman in the Royal National Lifeboat Institute network supported rescue missions along the west coast of Wales for over three years. His sermon touched on his own experience at sea and the gravity of the situation when encountering unpleasant seas. The Seamen's Anthem was sung by the choir, whilst being the words of the Naval Hymn, this was the first time in Australia that this new arrangement had been heard. Every pew was taken up by young and old with an ear tuned to the words so crucial to the wellbeing of all mariners. Included in the gathering were mariners of both Royal Australian



and Merchant Navies. Some had travelled from overseas for a reunion of Port Line Merchant Navy Master Mariners. Others from interstate, but mostly Victorians attended to show support for those that currently serve, have served and those no longer with us. The service was made very special by the attendance of the Australian White Ensign Colour Party and a flag bearing party of Australian Navy Cadets. Flags representing many Nations and a large number of house flags from Maritime Industry Shipping Lines were paraded into the Cathedral. The Royal Australian Navy Band – Melbourne Detachment played during the procession, two hymns and supported the protocol of commemoration where the Act of Remembrance took place. Two Cadets recited the Naval Ode and CDRE Jim Dickson AM MBE RAN Rtd, Patron NCCV, recited the Ode to the Fallen. The Last Post, Reveille and the National Anthem followed making it a very poignant moment as everyone reflected on those that are no longer with us. This key activity for Navy Victoria should be regarded as a mandatory commitment across all of our different Associations.



### 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

A busy time for those of us who attended the key activities conducted during the month of October. The Seafarers was a particularly well attended service with a good number of Master Mariners along with RAN and ex-Service men & women. The Navy Wreath Laying Service followed the Seafarers at 1230 on the same day. This made the journey rather quick from St Paul's to the Shrine of Remembrance. The service in the Sanctuary was an acute reminder of the contribution made over the past century. Our service men and women of today's Navy are ready to do their duty as effectively and efficiently as any of their predecessors. Notwithstanding the different technology and the current mix of women at sea. It is apparent that these changes have improved the potency of the Navy to levels unknown to the old school. The recent raising of the risk across the nation has caused some issues with respect to ceremonial activity located in public venues. One requirement has been the attendance of Victoria Police, or at a minimum their rapid availability should any-

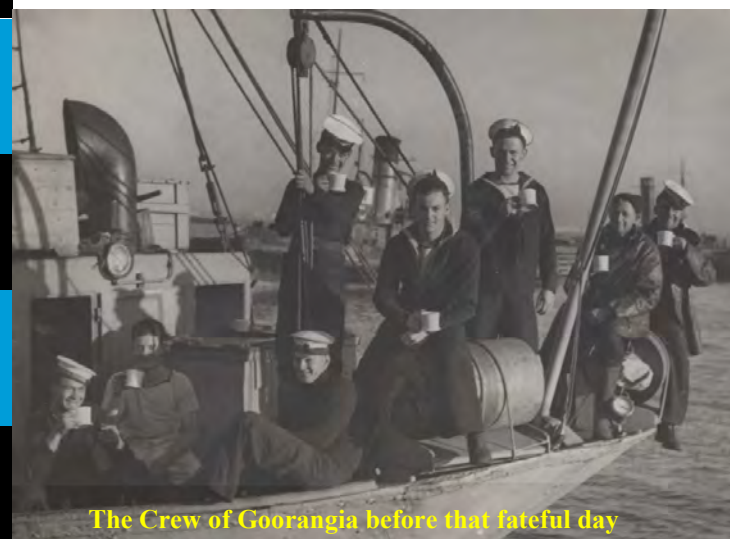
thing untoward occur. We hope this situation doesn't diminish the importance of the flagship activities planned through the next few years. We are more aware of the Spirit of ANZAC centenary events to occur due to the energetic efforts of the ANZAC Centenary Committee of Victoria, chaired by Hon Ted Baillieu. Navy has also established an ANZAC Navy Co-ordination Committee, chaired by CDRE Bob Richards to seek the best support of Naval matters through WW1. In particular, the participation of Navy and Ex-Navy on ANZAC Day in 2015 is also under review. Ideally, all Associations & RSL Sub-Branches will look seriously at conducting ANZAC services on the weekend before 25 April to maximise participation in the CBD on ANZAC Day 2015.

We are seeing fewer WW2 Veterans these days, so it is best to make the most of those opportunities when they attend the many commemorative activities. Their legacy is significant and deserves our respect. *Yours aye, Terry Makings*

## HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service

On the 16th November the annual HMAS Goorangai Commemorative Service will occur. Goorangai was the first RAN surface warship lost, circumstances surrounding the loss being such that little has been publicised since. The entire Ship's Company of 24 men were lost. The Service commences at 1130, Sunday 16th November, Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliff. If able, join a short march from the RSL Rooms at 1110.

After the commemorative service a lunch will be served in the Queenscliff Point Lonsdale RSL Rooms, King Street. The cost is a very reasonable \$25 pp and to avail yourself of this opportunity you will need to transfer the total amount (\$25x people) to the NCCV: BSB 633 000, A/C 146712294. Make sure you identify the transfer by using your family name and email NCCV as detailed below. On emailing, if you wish, nominate a ship table.



The Crew of Goorangai before that fateful day



HMAS Goorangai Service at Ocean View Reserve

# Navy Wreath Laying Service - Sanctuary



The Navy Wreath Laying Service was held in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance on Sunday, 19OCT14. About 80 people attended and reflected on the contribution made by so many sailors over more than a hundred years. RADM Mark Purcell RAN delivered the address and described the link between our forebears and the sailors of today. The photograph above shows Ms Elizabeth Sevoir laying a wreath at the Remembrance Stone whilst the Navy Catafalque party protect the sacred ground. Elizabeth placed a wreath on behalf of descendants, her connection being as the Great Granddaughter of Vice Admiral Sir William Rooke Creswell RAN,

commonly known as the 'Father of the RAN'. Other wreaths at the Stone of Remembrance were placed by RADM Purcell on behalf of the RAN, Pete Johnston V/President NCCV on behalf of all Ship/Unit and Branch Associations, LCDR Harry Kime OAM RAN Rtd State President Naval Association of Australia on behalf of the NAA. Janet Sevoir, Elizabeth's daughter placed a wreath on behalf of the Creswell family. The photograph below shows Cadets and Staff from the Flinders Flotilla with RADM Purcell after the service on the northern steps of the Shrine of Remembrance. Light refreshments were provided after the service in the Visitor Centre. Officiating Chaplain was Senior Chaplain Duncan Becsi RAN.



## Battle of Leyte

HMAS Australia Association conducted their annual commemoration service in memory of the Battle of Leyte at St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, 23OCT14. Few members of the original crew were in attendance to reflect on their experience at that fateful time. HMAS Australia was part of an armada of Warships, primarily from the USA deployed to clear the way on the journey to Japan. The time had come to destroy the enemy forces seeking to repel the Allied forces at Leyte Gulf, Philippines. The Battle of Leyte Gulf is regarded as the biggest sea battle of all time. Over 850 ships and aircraft were actively involved. The fighting commenced on 12OCT44 and continued through to 26OCT44. By the end of this relatively short period, much of the Japanese Fleet had been destroyed. Australia's involvement was through the deployment of Australian cruisers HMA Ships Australia and Shropshire, the destroyers HMA Ships Arunta and Warramunga. The amphibious landings involved HMA Ships Westralia, Kanimbla, and Manoora. This battle was a turning point as it had diminished the enemy Fleet in the Pacific to the point where it had lost any control it may have had over the Pacific Ocean. The service at St Paul's may prompt descendants to make contact with the association: [desmond.shinkfield@bigpond.com](mailto:desmond.shinkfield@bigpond.com)

## Princes Pier - 100 Years

100 years ago, thousands of Victorians embarked at Port Melbourne bound for the battlefields in Europe. By the end of October 1914, 17 troopships had left Victorian shores carrying almost 8,000 troops as well as nurses, technicians, horses, supplies and weaponry. This was Victoria's First Convoy, they were to meet at Albany before sailing to Egypt. A number of symbolic activities were arranged at Princes Pier on Sunday, 19OCT14 to remind us of the sentiment during those departures. Men/women in uniform and outfits of the day, also a number of civilians in period clothing gave a clear impression of what may have occurred those many years ago. Below, HMA Ships ARUNTA & PARRAMATTA, witness in silence the events unfold on Princes Pier as rosemary and poppies were despatched to the sea by many Victorians.



## ANZAC Centenary

We have seen a busy schedule during the past few weeks, in particular the event at Princes Pier, Sunday 19 October. The activities were varied and heightened the connection between our current population and the experience that occurred at Princes Pier so long ago. The departure of the first group of Australian Servicemen & Nurses from Melbourne to Albany, then Egypt was unambiguous and sentimental. The ANZAC Centenary Committee of Victoria, Chaired by the Hon Ted Baillieu is encouraging all Victorians to make a connection with their heritage. Everyone has a connection either directly or indirectly with WW1. If you live in a house that is over 100 years old, did a serviceman or nurse live in that house. Finding out your connection may be the source of great pride in how your family supported the war effort. Sadly, every family that lived in Victoria 100 years ago were impacted by the tragic outcome of the war. Even if your family came to Australia after WW1, we can all be grateful for the courageous effort made by so many Victorians, a job done so we might live as we do today.



## *DIRECTORY for NCCV*

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**316 Nicholson Street, East Fitzroy VIC 3065**  
 Website: <http://navyvic.net>

## *Items of special interest*

**ANZAC Commemoration Navy Ball.** We have mentioned the Navy Ball a few times over recent months, the purpose being to prompt a response from you to the organisers so that they might get a good handle on the likely numbers. Please discuss with your organisation and test the level of interest. This event will be a big deal and represent the commencement of Navy Week 2015. Refresh and send your email to: [rodney.withers@bigpond.com](mailto:rodney.withers@bigpond.com)

**Officers & Warrant Officers Mess Dinner.** The annual mess dinner will be held at 1900 on Friday 14th November, venue will again be Melbourne University. Easy to get to by public transport and plenty of parking nearby. If you are interested in attending the mess dinner, then an early response is essential. Contact [ericmushins@optusnet.com.au](mailto:ericmushins@optusnet.com.au)

**HMAS CASTLEMAINE Museum Ship.** During WW2 Australia had a ship building capability that enabled 60 Corvettes to be constructed at a number of dockyard around Australia. Victoria's effort was through the skills deployed at the Dockyard, Williamstown. CASTLEMAINE is a proud product of Melbourne. For a mere \$6 you can visit this great asset at Gem Pier, Williamstown.

**Distribution of the Rogues Yarn.** Each time we despatch this newsletter we ask that it be sent to all members of your Association. The reason is that we are trying to make sure the Flagship Events are front of mind. These events are primarily commemorative services that reflect the effort by so many at a difficult time in Australia's past. Given there are thousands of ex-Navy men and women in Victoria, it is disappointing that we are unable to stimulate sufficient interest for each person to attend at least one event. It will be a sad day if we lose our Associations because of lack of interest through poor communications. If you need a hand with trying to improve the situation within your Association, by all means given the NCCV a call, or email us at the address above & below.

**Commander Mike Oborn CSM RAN.** We have been very lucky to have Mike Oborn as the XO, HMAS Cerberus for the past three years. Mike has been extremely supportive of the wider Navy Community in Victoria. He has been very helpful when uniformed resources have been requested. We wish him our very best for when he eventually takes command of HMAS SIRIUS.