



Newsletter

Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn

Navy Victoria Network

September 2013

Volume 3 Edition 9

Editorial

In recent editions of the NVN Newsletter and the NCCV's Rogues Yarn, there has been mention of plans to commemorate the ANZAC Centenary. Even though it seems a long way into the future, there has been a great deal of planning underway at the Federal and State Government level to make the 100th anniversary our nation's involvement in the First World War a truly memorable occasion, as it should be. Most of you would have heard, for example, about the ballot to decide who has the privilege of attending the Dawn Service in Turkey in 2015 and there will no doubt be a huge upsurge of interest in all ANZAC Day events in Australia and in many other places around the world on 25 April 2015. However, the Centenary of ANZAC commemorations are not just about the remarkable deeds of the ANZACs during the Dardanelles Campaign and there will be a range of commemorative events spanning the entire WW1 period. Indeed, according to the Government website, during the Anzac Centenary ".... we will remember not only the original ANZACs who served at Gallipoli and the Western Front, but commemorate more than a century of service by Australian servicemen and women."

ANZAC Centenary Advisory Boards have been established at both Federal and State levels to advise governments on the planning and implementation of Anzac Centenary events and many of you have heard of the Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program, providing \$100,000 per Federal electorate, to enable communities across Australia to commemorate the Centenary of Anzac in their own way.

Calendar Events

(see calendar for details of all events)

...

23-25 Sep – HMAS Perth visits Melbourne

27 Sep – Recruit School Graduation

03 - 11 Oct – IFR – Sydney

06 Oct – National Servicemen's memorial parade & church service

7 – 9 Oct – RAN Seapower Conference

17 Oct – Naval Gazing schools tour

20 Oct – The 2013 Seafarers Commemorative Service & Navy Week Service

21 Oct – HMAS Lismore wreath laying with Berwick Primary School

25 Oct – Recruit School Graduation

27 Oct – 03 Nov – Melbourne Navy Week

27 Oct – HMAS Cerberus Open Day

Latest News

...

NUSHIP meets a New Ship

Ship design has changed dramatically since the first Royal Australian Navy fleet review in 1913, a fact demonstrated this week when the Royal Navy's modern warship HMS Daring arrived alongside NUSHIP Canberra in Melbourne. [More.....](#)

International Fleet Review to welcome Prince Harry

HRH Prince Henry of Wales, will take

Importantly, these national initiatives and government advisory bodies aren't out of our reach and we in the Navy Victoria Network can influence decisions that are made at these strategic level committees. For example, the Navy Commemorative Committee of Victoria's Chairman, Commander Terry Makings, has been appointed to the Victorian Government Anzac Centenary Committee chaired by the Hon. Ted Baillieu MP and two members of the NVN Executive have been appointed to local electorate Grants Advisory Committees. We do have a voice and we shouldn't be afraid to use it wisely.

At an even more local level, a joint team of retired and currently serving Navy personnel, under the Chairmanship of Commodore Bob Richards, has been formed to plan and execute Navy's participation in the Centenary of Anzac activities in Victoria. As the centre-piece of a range of planned activities it is proposed that the unveiling, on 25 April 2015, of a statue of a Sailor 'Answering the Call' overlooking Port Phillip would be a meaningful tribute to the men of the Royal Australian Navy who sailed to war from Victorian shores. Erected on a prominent site at the head of the Bay it would be a permanent reminder to Victorians of present and future generations of the contribution and sacrifice made by Navy personnel in the conflicts fought by Australia in the first century of its modern nationhood.

The concept of constructing such a statue was first advanced by Mackenzie Gregory, a survivor of the sinking of HMAS *Canberra* in WW2. The project is being pursued under the auspices of the Naval Heritage Foundation of Australia (NHFA) which was incorporated under the Associations Incorporation Act in January 2008. Backing for the concept came from many quarters. A site on Beaconsfield Parade was selected and the necessary approvals obtained but the proposal did not proceed due to the inability to gain deductible tax recipient status for donations and it was assessed that without such status it would be very difficult to raise the necessary funds. It is expected that this situation will be remedied shortly and, subject to the agreement of Victorian ex-Navy Organisations and Associations, a project team led by Commodore Jim Dickson will be formed.

So as you can see, quite a bit is already going on, but you and your Naval Association are encouraged to also get involved.

part in the RAN's International Fleet Review next month, during his first official visit to Australia. [More.....](#)

Russian Navy withdraws from IFR

The Russian Navy has had to withdraw its ships from attending this month's International Fleet Review, the Royal Australian Navy advised today. [More.....](#)

Cerberus Dives into a Dry October

Sailors from HMAS Cerberus dived into the launch of October in Victoria. Around 300 swimmers took the plunge for a good cause, taking part in a continuous 12 hour swimming relay. [More.....](#)

Registration of Interest

50th ANNIVERSARY EMBARKATION COMMEMORATION 25th May 1964

HMAS Sydney R17/A214, HMAS Parramatta FO5, HMAS Yarra FO7 111 LAA Bty RAA, 7 Field Sqn RAE, 42 TPT PL (AMP) RAASC 5 Sqn RAAF, 32 Small Ship Sqn RAE, 16 Mine Sweeper Sqn RAN. [More.....](#)

VETERAN PENSION RATE RISE ON 20 SEPTEMBER

The Minister for Veterans' Affairs Senator the Hon. Michael Ronaldson announced new pension and income support payment rates for some 290,000 veterans, their partners, war widows and widowers across Australia would apply from tomorrow, 20 September. [More.....](#)

Australian Maritime Digest - #226

The Australian Maritime Digest is compiled by the Australian Association for Maritime Affairs – www.aama.asn.au - and published monthly for the benefit of the Australian maritime community. [Read.....](#)

Online registration for the Sea Power Conference 2013, being held in Sydney over the period 7-9 Oct 13 will remain

Why not start thinking about those significant naval engagements that occurred during the 1914-18 period and submit ideas via the NVN on how they could be commemorated during the Centenary of Anzac period? What about the Battle of Bitia Paka at Rabaul on 11 September 1914, Australia's first major military engagement of the war, or the exploits of submarine AE2 between 24-30 April 1915 as the first allied submarine to successfully penetrate the Dardanelles, or the Sydney/Emden engagement on 9 November 1914 at the Battle of Cocos. There are plenty of historical naval WW1 events to choose from and while not all will make it into the Victorian or national commemorative calendar, they may warrant a smaller event held by the greater naval family in Victoria or by an ex-Navy association in its own right.

Here is the NVN message for this month – *“Don’t let all the thinking and planning be done by a few in ‘high places’ – Answer the call and come up with your own ideas.”* The Melbourne Naval Centre is always keen to receive applications to financially assist worthy commemorative causes; the Navy Victoria Network Executive is standing by to pull all of your ideas together into a coherent program of commemorative events; and the Navy Commemorative Committee of Victoria now has a seat at the Premier’s advisory committee. There has never been a better time to remember and celebrate our naval past – so please get involved!

In the meanwhile, don’t forget our next Flagship event in Victoria:

- The Seafarers Commemorative Service and Wreath Laying Ceremony
- Sun, October 20, 10:30am – 11:30am (followed by a light lunch)
- Forecourt, Shrine of Remembrance.

Yours aye,

NVN Team

IMPORTANT NOTICE

THE 2013 SEAFARERS COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE & NAVY WEEK SERVICE

Due to a number of reasons it has been decided to combine this year’s Annual Seafarers Church Service [St Paul’s Cathedral]

open until 29 Sep 13
[\(http://seapowerconference2013.com.au/\)](http://seapowerconference2013.com.au/).

Seapower's SEMAPHORE - #4 – 2013
‘CAPTAIN PENFOLD’: A Minor Prophet Of Australian Maritime Aviation
[More....](#)

'Professionalism and skill' displayed by Navy crew

An Australian Transport Safety Bureau report into the sinking of a merchant ship at Christmas Island in January 2012 has found that two Royal Australian Navy crews embarked in HMA Ships Leeuwin and Maryborough displayed ‘professionalism and skill’ while helping the merchant sailors abandon their stricken vessel.

[More....](#)

HMAS Waller conducts service over last known position of AE1

At the end of August, HMAS Waller conducted a ceremony in St Georges Channel, Papua New Guinea, to honour and remember the crew of AE1; the Royal Australian Navy's first Submarine. [More....](#)

HMAS Melbourne makes amend of her magnetic ways

The next RAN ship to see service in the Middle East Area of Operations has undergone an important treatment in Western Australia before sailing for foreign seas. [More....](#)

HMAS Ballarat commemorates HMAS Perth (I) in the Sunda Strait

HMAS Ballarat held a moving memorial service to commemorate the crew of HMAS Perth (I) whilst passing through the Sunda Strait yesterday.

[More....](#)

The Coalition's policy for Veterans

The Coalition will keep faith with Australia’s veterans by providing for the fair indexation of DFRB and the

and Navy Wreath Laying Service [Shrine of Remembrance] into one Seafarers Commemorative Service. This significant service will be conducted at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne.

**This combined service will take place on:
SUNDAY 20th OCTOBER 2013 and will commence at 1030**

The RAN Band will take part in the service. We also expect a Colour Guard and Navy Cadets to parade the Australian White Ensign, National Flags and House Flags.

The Mission to Seafarers, Royal Australian Navy, Company of Master Mariners and ex-service organisations will be represented, along with several Consuls General.

Further bulletins will be sent advising Guest of Honour and other relevant information.

All Ship and Unit Associations are encouraged to support the Navy Victoria Community.

VALE

- † EMP Arthur Furness, R58494, 20 September 2013. Aged 69.
- † CY Douglas 'Jungles' Ryan, R57608, 9 September 2013. Aged 70.

Lest We Forget

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.

NVN current membership: 836



Did you miss the Tall Ships when they visited Melbourne? Never mind; renowned photographer and NVN member Alf Batchelder, took many photos and kindly gave permission for the NVN to place them on our website. Go to our [Gallery](#) page on the website.

DFRDB military superannuation pensions. [More.....](#)

HMAS Yarra (II) Unit Citation for Gallantry Investiture Ceremony - 4 March 2014

On the 22nd of March 2013 the Governor-General, Her Excellency the Honourable Quentin Bryce AC CVO announced the award of a Unit Citation for Gallantry (UCG) to the crew of HMAS Yarra (II) "for extraordinary gallantry in action off Singapore on the 5th of February 1942 and in the Indian Ocean on the 4th of March 1942". [More.....](#)

Canberra command team gets taste of driving an LHD

NUSHIP Canberra's Command Team have had their first taste of raw LHD ship-handling, albeit at 1:20 scale, practicing and honing their LHD ship-handling skills on the purpose built model, NUSHIP Assault. [More.....](#)

Discussion Paper - The Future of Veterans' Advocacy

[The Future of Veterans' Advocacy](#)
[Veterans' Advocacy - Tip Structure](#)
[Veterans' Advocacy - Tip Response](#)

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

International Fleet Review

For all the latest on the IFR go to <http://www.navy.gov.au/ifr>

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



Heroes before Gallipoli

DIARY NOTES

**Next NCCV meeting is
at 1030, 8 October at
Melb Naval Centre,
All Associations are
encourage to be
represented!**

**Services at the Shrine
of Remembrance
[You may attend]**

**RAN Recruits
Moran Division
6OCT13@1030
Sanctuary**

**Seafarers
Commemorative
Service
20OCT13@1030
Forecourt**

**HMAS Lismore
21OCT13@1030
Memorial Tree**

↓ **HMAS GOORANGAI
lost with all hands off
Queenscliff on Wednes-
day, 20 November 1940.
Are you ready for the
Commemorative Service
on Sunday, 17 November
at 1130. If able, join the
short march at 1100 from
the RSL Sub-Branch,**

The Book 'Heroes before Gallipoli' by Kevin Meade informs us of that time when Australian Forces were the first to engage the enemy in World War One. This engagement was the Battle of Bitia Paka. Bitia Paka being a key German radio station outside Rabaul, New Guinea. The radio station was the primary means of keeping the German Fleet deployed to the Pacific informed. The firefight at Bitia Paka was Australia's first significant military engagement of WWI. 6 Australians, 1 German and 30 German New Guineans were killed. 4 Australians and 11 German New Guineans were wounded. The consequences of the Australian victory were enormous. Knocking out this German military radio network in the Pacific was an essential objective. Above and beyond that, the success of this battle brought all of German New Guinea came under Australian control. The Australian border was effectively pushed to the equator, the German threat was removed from the region. The one million New Guineans became part of the Empire. The 99th Anniversary of Bitia Paka was commemorated at the Shrine of Remembrance on Wednesday, 11th September. This occasion was organised by the Northcote RSL Sub-Branch.

Navy Victoria should review its support of Bitia Paka. Army take Bitia Paka seriously, as demonstrated at the recent service.



Above shows the involvement of Melbourne University Regiment carrying the colours of those involved in Bitia Paka. The Australian White Ensign was assiduously carried by a soldier. The address was delivered by Major Lisa Hooper, Officer in Charge, Catering School, at CERBERUS. Major Hooper described how the Military and Naval Forces joined up to tackle the German occupied New Guinea. The urgency applied by the Naval Forces as they forged ahead towards the Bitia Paka communications station. Their success is not well known although the consequences remain with Australia to this day. Next year is the centennial of Bitia Paka and Navy Victoria should be actively involved.





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

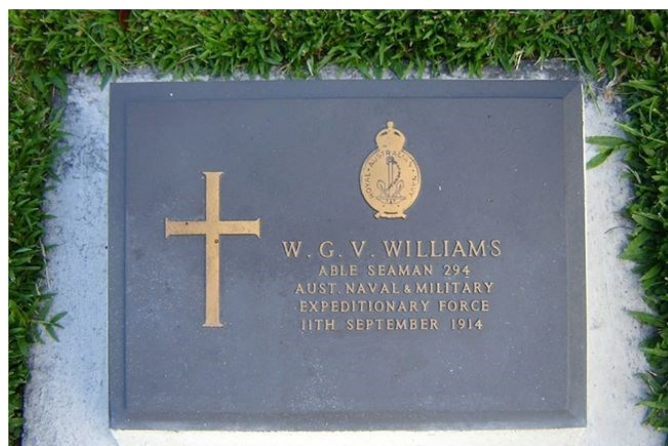
The Bita Paka story highlights the need for Navy Victoria to review what is important. Whilst much of our focus is on survival, there is a need to look to the legacy left by those that largely went before us. We have several flagship occasions where the dedicated participate, but there are other instances when the wider Navy community should engage. We expect a large contingent to join us at the Seafarers' Commemorative Service this year. A combined service where we have drawn together the church service and the wreath laying into one key service. We anticipate the attendance of over 200 people and let's hope we have good weather! HMAS CERBERUS has agreed to provide a Catafalque Party and the RAN Band Victoria contingent. A Colour Party will deliver the Australian White Ensign. I trust that everyone who attends will be quite impressed with the occasion.

Quickly following on from the Seafarers will be the HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service at Queenscliff. This is the final flagship service for the year and also deserves our support. Put 17th November in your diary and journey to Queenscliff for a 1110 step off, prior to the actual service commencing at 1130 at the Ocean View Reserve. We need to continue promoting the Answering the Call project. You will hear much more about this initiative as the schedule of activities is more clearly defined. As you may recall, all primary ex-Navy organisations in Victoria have universally agreed to support this project. This will be the Navy Victoria's contribution to the Centennial of ANZAC. I look forward to meeting up at one or more of the Flagship Events, we need your support.
Best wishes, Terry Makings

Who was Able Seaman Billy Williams

We should all know about Able Seaman Billy Williams. Not just because he was part of the Navy Victoria family, a Melburnian who worked as an electrician with Melbourne City Council before taking on full time service in the RAN as a Reservist. He did so, like so many of his mates, but he was not to know that he would become the first Australian to make the supreme sacrifice at the start of World War One. Our lead article on Bita Paka points to the first offensive of WWI and the fact that Naval and Military Forces worked together for the very first time. Billy Williams lost his life on Friday, 11th September 1914 after being shot in the stomach by a sniper as they approached the Bita Paka communications station. The Medical Officer who provided first aid to Billy Williams was Captain Brian Pockley. Captain Pockley gave up his red cross arm band to a soldier detailed

off to carry Billy Williams back to the ship. Captain Pockley was also shot that day and after being carried back to HMAS BERRIMA he also passed away. Whilst the losses were not great, they heralded a new era for Australia. Billy Williams rests in the Rabaul Bita Paka War Cemetery under this name plate



Site of Bita Paka

The stone below is a stark reminder of the Battle of Bita Paka. The stone is located in the Rabaul (Bita Paka) War Cemetery, New Guinea. This is a memorial to the first Australians to fall in World War I.

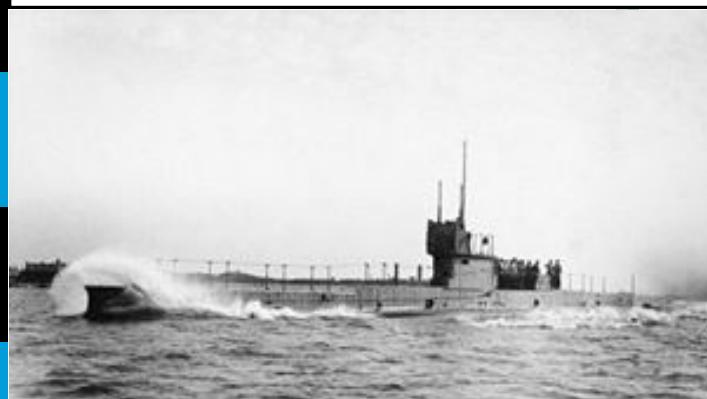


Service at Sea



↑ A very impressive memorial in Plymouth UK commemorating the major losses at sea. This year being the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic where 30,000 sailors lost their lives whilst endeavouring to maintain provisions to allied forces in Europe. Plymouth being a favourite port for Navy.

AE1 - 14SEP13



↑ AE1 off New Guinea on Monday, 14 September 1914. HMAS AE1 and AE2 were deployed as part of the Naval contingent. Navy patrolled the Bismack Sea, off Duke of York Island. Given the importance of Rabaul, as a stock pile of coal for the German fleet operating in the Pacific, security of this zone was considered critical. The land offensive to capture the radio station facilities at Bita Paka was supported by a strong Navy contingent. AE1 departed Blanche Bay, Rabaul to patrol off Cape Gazelle. When AE1 had not returned by 2000, several ships were dispatched to search for her. No trace of the submarine has ever been found. AE1 was listed as lost with all 35 crew members. Submariners remembered at a Shrine of Remembrance commemorative service on 14SEP2013.

Minor Warships

It appears time we tested the water to see if there is sufficient interest in forming a minor warships association in Victoria. If you serve, have served or maybe a descendant of a veteran who served in minor warships and have an interest please let us know. You can email NCCV at the address listed on the back page. The only cost associated with membership may be attendance at functions, pay your own way or at worst a small fee to cover administrative costs during any given year. Your support is vital if this is going to work. ↓ HMAS ARROW whilst operating as an RANR training ship.



ANZAC Centennial

The Navy Community's key objective for the ANZAC Centennial is to bring the 'Answering the Call' project to fruition. This project is being led by our Patron, CDRE Jim Dickson and we look forward to a positive result. The ANZAC Centennial Committee for Victoria will announce their role and level of involvement late October. This advice is long awaited as this information will assist to shape the many and varied activities we might seek to engage in over the forthcoming years straddling 2014 to 2018. Best keep in mind that the primary project for the State of Victoria is the Galleries of Remembrance, Shrine of Remembrance. This is a \$40+ million Project that will see the entire sub-structure area of the Shrine cleared and made into usable space. We look forward to your support.!

ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!



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Items of special interest

Flag Ship Events. The next Flag Ship Event is the **Seafarers Commemorative Service** to be held at 1030, Sunday 20OCT13, at the Cenotaph, Shrine of Remembrance. Deputy CN will be guest of honour. **HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service** will commence at 1130 on Sunday, 17NOV13 at the Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliff. This will be preceded by a short march, we will step off at 1115 from the RSL Hall, King Street. Keep watch for the invite to the lunch at the RSL Hall afterwards. Serving, ex-Navy and descendants most welcome.

Correction. In the last edition of Rogues Yarn in the article relating to Answering the Call we referred to the sailor being in 'round rig'. This was incorrect and after wearing 'square rig' for some many years we should have got that right.

Apologies to any old salts who were offended.

Taylor Division—Recruit School CERBERUS.

The inaugural Taylor Division passed out on from Recruit School on Friday, 27th September 2013.

Gary Taylor, HMAS YARRA Association presented the Division with a piece of memorabilia exemplifying the efforts of his Great Uncle, Leading Seaman Ronald Taylor who made the supreme sacrifice in YARRA I on that fateful day in 1941.

HMAS BATAAN Associaton. The Bataan Association conducted their 22nd Annual Reunion at Ulverstone, Tasmania over the weekend, Thursday 12th through to Sunday 15th September. Vice Admiral Ray Griggs AO RAN, Chief of Navy was the guest of honour at the dinner on Saturday. CN also attended their AGM on the Sunday. Bataan continues to prove that with a champion at the helm your ship association can be a strong force. Well done to John Laughton, Bataan's champion!

Signing of the Korean Armistice. Another John Laughton special—a wreath laying service at the Naval Association of Australia, Dandenong Sub-Branch, Noble Park at 1030, Sunday 3 November. This service is in recognition of the signing of the Korean Armistice, 60th anniversary. Catafalque Party and Bugler will be provided by HMAS CERBERUS. Russell Pettis, Federal President NAA and CMDR Aaron Nye RAN, CO RAN Recruit School are guest speakers at the lunch after the service. Book and pay (\$30) by Tuesday, 1 October 2013. Time is running out, so a quick ring around to fellow ship mates is in order.

If need be contact John at johnfl@aapt.net.au