



# Newsletter

*Incorporating NCCV's newsletter Rogues' Yarn*

Navy Victoria Network

September 2014

Volume 4 Edition 9

## Editorial

*NVN current membership: 956*

As this is the time for Remembrance I will use that as my theme for this piece of writing.

Having just returned from overseas and seeing the time and effort that has been put into preserving and commemorating the history of different countries and for different reasons e.g. Poland due to their countries borders continually changing; Auschwitz 1 and 2 - as educational centres and a reminder that this should never occur again.

**"The one who does not remember history is bound to live through it again"** George Santayana

*(This is one of the first signs that confront you inside Auschwitz 1.)*

Leads me to the belief that now is a really good time for all of us to become involved in some way in the history of our country, particularly the Military history. There are a lot of events coming up and they will all be advertised on the NVN website.

Your involvement could take the form of Research / Data Collection / Collecting memorabilia / Maintaining Memorabilia / Restoring / just being their.

If you have some information to share could I suggest that :

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/> is a good place to go.

Memorabilia to share: Why not get in touch with Toni Mundy or Marty Grogan at the museum at HMAS Cerberus – they have a marvellous collection and it is growing every day.

Research: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/> is also a good place to start. I

## Calendar Events

*(see calendar for details of all events)*

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**01 Oct** - Wrens formed in 1942

**05 Oct** – Daylight Saving commences

**05 Oct** – RAN Recruits wreath laying

**19 Oct** – Navy wreath laying

**21 Oct** – HMAS Lismore wreath laying

## ANZAC Centenary Events

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

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

**19 Oct - First Convoy Commemoration – Public event**

4:00pm–9:00pm at Princes Pier

A commemorative event will be held at Princes Pier, Port Melbourne on Sunday 19 October to mark the departure of the First Convoy, with troops, nurses, technicians and others leaving Australia in 1914 as participants in World War One. The event will commence at 4pm and run until approximately 8pm. For full details go to:

<http://anzaccentenary.vic.gov.au/events/first-convoy-commemoration-public-event/>

Actively being involved – why not join an association – some of the associations have a page on the NVN website with contact details – and if yours is not their yet – now would be a good time to consider that option as well.

Yours Aye!  
NVN Team

- † RADM O.J. Hughes AO RAN, 23 September 2014. Aged 79.
- † ABQMG R.J. York, R66979, 14 September 2014. Aged 67.
- † WOSTD A. Guthrie BEM, 22029, 09 September 2014. Aged 94.
- † PTI R. Briggs, 08 September 2014.
- † LSRO(S) D.J. McCann, R63997, 31 August 2014. Aged 69.
- † LCDR Mackenzie Gregory RAN, 27 August 2014. Aged 92.
- † Shipwright R.A. Layton, 26 August 2014. Aged 94.

**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



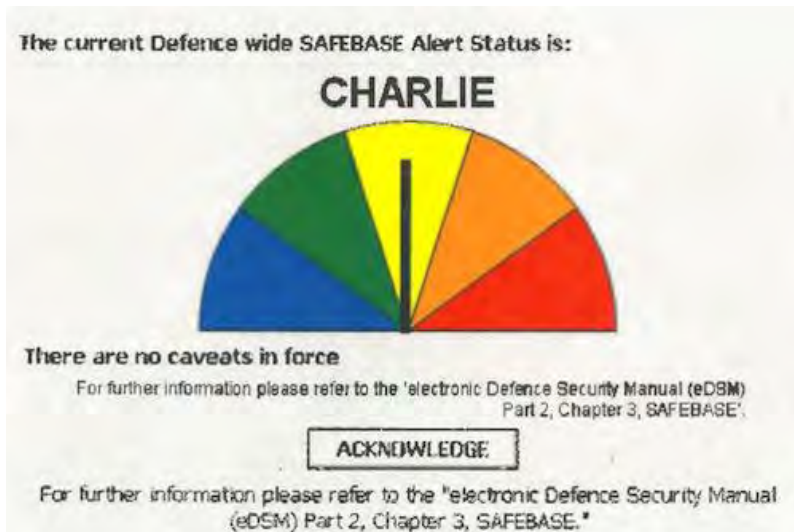
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**Submarine loss commemorated 100 years on –** The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) has commemorated the 100th anniversary of the disappearance of



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.

## **Defence raises 'Safebase' alert level**



On 12 September 2014, based on advice from the Australian Security Intelligence Organisation, the Prime Minister raised the National Terrorism Public Alert Level to HIGH.

This means that the risk of a terrorist attack on Australia is likely; but there is no known imminent threat.

Most Australians will not notice any difference in their daily life and Prime Minister Abbott has assured the public that "normal life in Australia can and must go on." The raised security level is likely to result in increased security at airports and a larger police presence at significant public events.

As a precaution, and consistent with the change to the National Terrorism Public Alert Level, Defence has decided to raise the alert level at all our bases and establishments. [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.

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

its first submarine, HMAS AE1, with memorial services in Papua New Guinea and across Australia. [More.....](#)

### **New Initiative Linking Injured Veterans to Employment –**

Recognising the unique nature of military service, I am pleased to announce a new trial initiative that will help wounded, injured or ill veterans achieve employment opportunities as part of their recovery. [More.....](#)

### **Australians sharing commemorative experiences online –**

Today, I am pleased to launch the Anzac Centenary Facebook Photo app to help Australians to get involved in the Anzac Centenary from anywhere in the world. [More.....](#)

### **Governor-General launches national ballot for Young Endeavour 2015**

**World Voyage –** The Governor-General, His Excellency General the Honourable Sir Peter Cosgrove AK MC (Retd) has launched a national ballot for a world voyage in 2015 by the Sail Training Ship Young Endeavour. [More.....](#)

### **Minister for Defence – Transcript – Interview with Justin Smith, 2UE Drive**

SMITH:

It's a big job, it's one hell of a job and I am sorry Minister but before you go, the submarines to be built in Japan, to replace the Collins Class sub, you are copping a bit of flak today has the decision been made yet? [More.....](#)

**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.**





# Naval Commemoration Committee of Victoria

## Rogues' Yarn



### *Battle of Bita Paka Service*

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

**Taylor Division  
RAN Recruits  
Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
5OCT14@1030**

**Navy Wreath Laying  
Sanctuary  
19OCT14@1230**

**HMAS Lismore  
Wreath Laying at  
Memorial Tree  
21OCT@1100**

**NCCV  
General Meeting at  
Melbourne Naval  
Centre  
14OCT@1030  
All Ship/Unit/Branch  
Associations are  
encouraged to be  
represented!**

#### Accreditation

The August edition of Rogues Yarn included a photograph of the ANMEF Victorian Naval Contingent. We are advised that this photograph came from the personal collection of CMDR Stan Veale. This photograph was distributed via the Autobiographical Recollections for a Naval Reserve Officer, edited by Richard Veal and John Wilkins. We are pleased to acknowledge the source.

Navy in Victoria had virtually forgotten about the loss of the first Australian Servicemen during that very first offensive of WWI, on the 11th September 1914. In recent times, the Navy community in Victoria has not paid homage to the legacy of these men, men who gave their lives for their friends, exactly 100 years ago. Of late, there has been much to read about the Battle of Bita Paka leading up to the formal acknowledgment on Thursday, 11th September 2014. These young men who left Australia, aboard HMAS Berrima on the 19th August journeyed to Rabaul where they were to become part of our history. Our efforts to strengthen the memory of the Battle of Bita Paka through a commemorative service on the actual date of the offensive was to

Photographs taken by  
ABIS Cass McBride



demonstrate a commitment and fulfilment of a promise not to forget. The Tri-Service Colour Party, pictured above, and a Navy Catafalque Party was generously provided by HMAS Cerberus. All paraded at the service with precision and looked very much the part. The RAN Band (Melbourne Detachment) also participated, making



the occasion an important commitment for Navy and the ex-service community generally. There were also over fifty descendants present, this reinforced the sentiment triggered by this service at this important time. Pictured above is the original banner, a banner carried in front of the Veterans of the ANMEF Landing Party in the 1930s - held in safekeeping by the Cerberus Museum. The service was conducted around the Eternal Flame, a rich reminder of the perpetual light of their gift to the nation. Ken Coughlan, Assistant Secretary, Darebin RSL was the MC. The Guest of Honour was the Hon Ted Baillieu, Member for Hawthorn and Chair of the ANZAC Centenary Committee of Victoria. Many wreaths were layed at the Eternal Flame, most notably by descendants of AB Billy Williams RANVR and CAPT Brian Pockley RAAMC. It was an impressive service, the culmination of considerable preparation to discover what really happened one hundred years ago.



### 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

We have experienced a significant month with the Battle of Bita Paka Commemorative Service and also the equally important HMAS AE1 Commemorative Service. Each had its own focus and brought together Navy, ex-Navy and descendants. Most importantly, we had the opportunity to demonstrate our recognition of service to Australia by a relatively small number of Australians, all of whom made the supreme sacrifice. Whilst we are gradually improving the level of participation on these crucial occasions there is still much more to be achieved. We all need to spread the word and whenever we meet someone who is remotely connected to Navy issue them a challenge to come along to at least one of the Flagship events organised by the NCCV. After all, these are Navy wide occasions that seek to remember the legacy of those who did it tough during past wars and peace keeping missions.

With respect to the Battle of Bita Paka Commemorative Service, Warrant Officer Bill Mountford Australian Army Rtd and Vice President, Darebin RSL Sub-Branch

has been the saviour of this service. Bill has been the driving force behind the annual service at the Shrine of Remembrance and Darebin RSL's service ensuring the importance of this occasion was not lost. The incentive being that AB Billy Williams lived in Northcote, and the Darebin RSL takes in this area. Great job Bill!

Congratulations to Ian Tanner, Secretary Submarine Association of Australia, Victoria Branch for organising the HMAS AE1 Service. This was a moving service where we were reminded of the loss of the entire crew on the 14SEP14. The Navy provided generous support for both of these services and their involvement always makes a remarkable difference. At this point in time we are keen to review our numbers and determine if able how ex-Navy organisations are going. If you can see your way clear, can you send an email to NCCV advising how your membership is tracking, we appreciate any information you can advise.

Yours aye, Terry Makings

## HMAS AE1 Centenary Memorial Service



↑ Navy Catafalque Party, comprising all Submariners during the last post at the Remembrance Stone.

↓Keith Hatfield & Ian Tanner ↓Capt Ken Greig OAM reading AE1 crew names delivering the address.



The Centenary Memorial Service dedicated to the loss of HMAS AE1 on the 14th September 1914 was conducted in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance. In attendance were Submariners from today's Navy and many ex-submariners and their families from yesterday's Navy. The President of the Submarine Association, Victoria Branch Keith Hatfield was the MC and welcomed everyone to the service. Navy Chaplain David Underhill RANR officiated. A reading was given by Bill Rostrom. Captain Ken Greig OAM RAN Rtd delivered an inspiring and moving address. He reminded everyone of the exploits of AE1 prior to its arrival at Rabaul and then the simple, but tragic loss of the submarine with all hands without trace. The wreaths were layed at the Remembrance stone by Don Didsbury on behalf of Submariners, Ian and Andrew Wilson on behalf of descendants. A melancholy part of the service was when the Secretary of the Association, Ian Tanner, read out the names of the 35 crew members who made the supreme sacrifice exactly one hundred years ago. The RAN Band, Melbourne Detachment were present and provided the music for the Hymne and National Anthem. The Bugler provided a very impressive Last Post and Reveille.



## First Convoy

There is a big occasion planned for the afternoon of Sunday, 19th October at Princes Pier. This event will commemorate the departure of the Victorian contingent of the first detachment of the Australian and New Zealand Imperial Expeditionary Forces. In particular, HMAS Orvieto was a lead troopship on that day as a flotilla of troop ships made their way to Albany. At Princes Pier there will be lots to see, of importance with be the opportunity for descendants of the thousands of soldiers that left on that day to meet and determine today's connection with their ancestors. Below is a photograph of the Orvieto after it was converted to a troop ship.



## Navy Wreath Laying



Once a year the NCCV arrange a Navy Wreath Laying Service at the Shrine of Remembrance. This service is to commemorate the overall service of those

who have been in the Navy and those that serve today. This service is planned for 1230, Sunday 19th October and will recognise the many who have made the supreme sacrifice and those willing to put their lives on the line so we might enjoy the life style we have today. Nobody joins for the purpose of laying down their lives for their friends, however, the ultimate contribution might well turn out to be just that! Pilgrimages to the Shrine of Remembrance are open to all who wish to attend. This service is aimed at every Navy, ex-Navy and their descendants to reflect on the legacy left to us by so many. We have seen a vast number of warship and other vessels actively manned by men and women with the simple objective of securing Australia.

## Navy Ball - 17OCT15

It has been a long time since the Navy Community in Victoria has enjoyed the opportunity to join together to celebrate the common bond between all sailors. Victoria is a somewhat poor cousin to New South Wales in that regard as the ever presence of warships and sailors in and around town is a constant reminder of the continued effort by the Navy to safeguard our ports and trade routes. We don't have that level of activity, notwithstanding the great work of HMAS Cerberus, consequently Victorians have to try that little bit harder to make it happen. As we have mentioned in earlier editions of the Rogues Yarn, next year we are organising a Navy Ball on Saturday, 17th October 2015. This function will recognise the Spirit of ANZAC. It will also be the commencement of a re-energised Navy Week in Victoria. To make this occasion the success we seek, it will require all ex-Navy organisations to embrace the Navy Ball as their own. It will require the setting aside of monies to pay for such an evening, probably in the vicinity of \$130/pp, however, this is the normal cost of such key events. Time to encourage your friends and family to be part of what will be a magnificent evening at Etihad Stadium, Docklands, Melbourne. Some are organising reunions and other activities over this weekend to make the most of the occasion.

## HMAS Goorangai



The HMAS GOORANGAI Commemorative Service is planned for Sunday, 16th November 2014. This is one of the Flagship events and occurs at Queenscliff. The notice paper was distributed recently, if you need more information, regarding your connection with GOORANGAI then we will be very pleased if you could make contact. If you are unsure, look up your family tree and see if any of the crew on Board that fateful day are part of your lineage. We will again have the lunch afterwards, email NCCV for info.

## ANZAC Centenary

During October there are three occasions where we can demonstrate our support for the Spirit of ANZAC, these are: the Seafarers Church Service, 1030 on Sunday, 19OCT14 at St Paul's Cathedral; this will be followed at 1230 by a Navy Wreath Laying Service in the Sanctuary, Shrine of Remembrance; later in the afternoon there will be a series of activities at Princes Pier to mark the departure of the first convey from Victoria on their way to Albany, then Egypt. Each of these three occasions provide an opportunity for us to gather together and reflect on the service of a huge number of sailors, Royal Australian Navy and Merchant Navy. We should not forget that the Merchant sailed with a constant risk of contact with the enemy, most in unarmed ships. When the activities planned for October are completed, we can look to ANZAC Day 2015. The expectation is that there will be in excess of 100,000 at the Dawn Service. The hope is that local ANZAC Day services are scheduled for the weekend before the 25th April 2015 so that everyone can go to the city.

**ONCE NAVY, ALWAYS NAVY!**



## *DIRECTORY for NCCV*

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## *Items of special interest*

**Sunday 19th October.** The 19OCT14 will be a big day. There are many pieces of information in this edition on matters of significance related to this particular Sunday. Your attendance is instrumental to the success of each occasion. The Seafarers Church Service at 1030, St Paul's Cathedral, then the Navy Wreath Laying Service at 1230 at the Shrine of Remembrance followed by a range of activities at Princes Pier reflecting on the departure of the first contingent to depart Victoria for the Middle East in October 1914. Hope to see you all there!

### **HMAS Goorangai Commemorative Service.**

The annual Goorangai Service is scheduled to occur on Sunday, 16th November 2014 at 1130, Ocean View Reserve, Queenscliff. This is an NCCV Flagship service and recounts the loss of Australia's first surface warship in 1940. For those able there is a short march beforehand. The march steps off around 11:10 from King Street, Queenscliff - Point Lonsdale Sub-Branch rooms. After the service there will be a lunch in the RSL rooms. Reservations are essential and there is a requirement to provide names and money beforehand. If you require any advise by all means contact the NCCV at the email

address or go to Navy Victoria Network, look at the news tab, go to 19 September for the proforma.

**Training Ship Bataan.** Australian Navy Cadet Unit TS Hampton Park, located at Hampton Park Secondary College has been renamed TS Bataan. This is the outcome of considerable effort by the HMAS Bataan Association in seeking to have the name of their ship feature in the Navy community. Well done to John Laughton and his ship mates for a dedicated effort. The naming ceremony was conducted at HMAS Cerberus, witnessed by the Bataan fraternity, interested veterans and friends.

**Newsletter.** The dedication of a few to produce newsletters in support of a variety of ex-Navy Associations is applauded. Request you send a copy of your newsletter to the NCCV so we can share key matters of interest with others. Either email to the address below, or send to the webmaster at navyvic.net and request it be placed in the news section. It would also be beneficial if you made sure your Association has a page at navyvic.net so that you can advise of office bearers and other details enabling potential members to make contact. Please consider, take action and share with others.